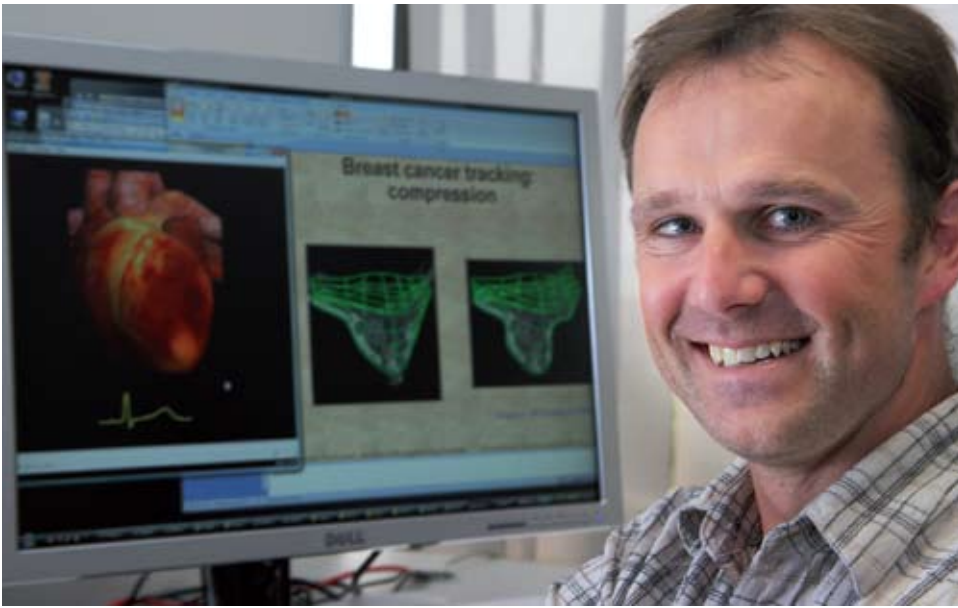


THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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Cook Fellowship helps build knowledge base



Martyn Nash at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute.

Associate Professor Martyn Nash (Engineering Science/Bioengineering Institute) has won a prestigious James Cook Fellowship to further his research into the heart and the breast.

The \$220,000 Royal Society of New Zealand award allows Martyn to spend two years focusing solely on his research. The fellowship is awarded to "forward thinking" researchers who can make a significant contribution to New Zealand's knowledge base.

Martyn uses advanced computer modelling techniques to understand the biology of the human body and better inform diagnosis and treatment of life-threatening illnesses. He will use the fellowship to concentrate on ventricular fibrillation and breast cancer.

He aims to develop an anatomically realistic computer model of the human heart to study ventricular fibrillation – an uncontrolled twitching of the muscles in the heart's lower chamber. Often caused by a heart attack, ventricular fibrillation can kill a person in minutes and accounts for many deaths in New Zealand.

"Understanding the drivers of this condition may lead to new treatments to prevent or eliminate it," Martyn says.

His second goal is to develop a realistic 3D computer model of the breast based on medical imaging to help clinicians better detect and diagnose breast cancer.

"Recent advances in biological modelling and supercomputing have enabled the development of new techniques to model human organs and significantly improve our ability to treat and diagnose life-threatening illnesses," he says.

The Auckland Bioengineering Institute is known worldwide for its pioneering work developing sophisticated computer models of organs, particularly of the heart and breast. Martyn also has close affiliations with Oxford University in Britain, where he spent six years as a post-doctoral research scientist after completing his PhD at The University of Auckland.

Martyn is the third member of the Department of Engineering Science since 1996 to be awarded such a fellowship. The other James Cook Fellowship winners from Engineering Science were Professor Peter Hunter in 1999 (now director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute) and Professor Andrew Pullan in 2003 (now Head of the Department of Engineering Science).

Key events

Lantern Festival

This year marks the tenth anniversary of a hugely popular event on the Auckland City calendar, the Chinese Lantern Festival, held in Albert Park and Princes Street on the borders of the University and this year flowing also into the student quad. Asian food outlets will line the quad, along with the information booth of the Confucius Institute, whose staff will be on hand at their site on the grass behind the Maidment Theatre to give information and show DVDs on the institute's activities and on Chinese culture. The festival runs from 6 to 8 February, opening 5-10pm each day. Among special events to be held at the University will be two exhibitions, as listed below. For information on these and other events associated with the festival, check the news on the staff intranet and the events listings on the University's website.

The brush and the senses

An exhibition at Old Government House presented by the Confucius Institute and entitled "BRUSHSENSES, the art of Chan Wan Yiu and his classes in the Confucius Institute" will be introduced by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, at a preview to be held for University staff at 4pm on 5 February at OGH. The show will be formally opened by Mayor John Banks, with invited guests, at a cocktail event at OGH on 6 February. Since 2006 artist Chan Wan Yiu has taught Chinese painting and calligraphy at the Confucius Institute. He has taught at institutions in Hong Kong and New Zealand, and over 40 years his works have been exhibited in many countries. This show will run from 6-28 February from 11am to 5pm weekdays.

Painting and obscurity

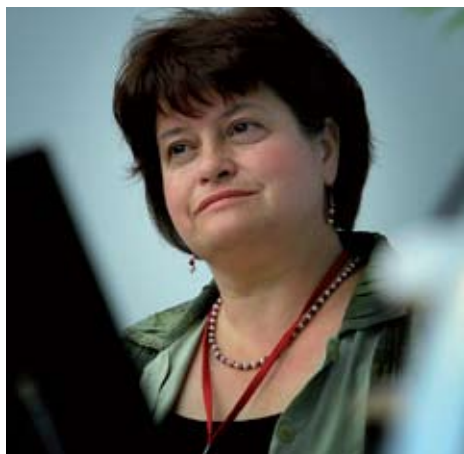
An exhibition by Gon-Jer Wang, a doctoral student at Elam School of Fine Arts, will be on display at the George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes Street, from 5-10pm during the days of the festival, 6-8 February. The title of the exhibition is "Painting and obscurity: Experiencing the poetry of Wang Wei".

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Anthropologists do it well



Veronica Strang at the conference.



Marilyn Strathern receives congratulations from Manuka Henare.

When it comes to convening a meeting, it helps to have a professional understanding of social interactions and rituals, says Professor Veronica Strang (Anthropology).

With Dr Mark Busse (also from Anthropology) in December of last year, Veronica co-convened the highly successful annual conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth (ASA), with the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand (ASAANZ) and the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS).

The five-day meeting was the largest anthropology conference ever held in the Southern Hemisphere, attracting 438 visitors, including 140 from New Zealand, 171 from Australia, 71 from Britain (from a total of 600 British members), and others from the United States, Canada, Europe and Latin-America, along with a team of 27 from The University of Auckland. After the meeting ended its

organisers received “a flood of positive emails”.

Veronica believes the success of the gathering was partly due to the framework of ritual and the opportunities for social interaction. “The powhiri really did break the ice. People loved it. It also helped to have a central meeting space in the Owen G Glenn Building and plenty of informal occasions for socialising.”

In addition, the delegates enjoyed the half-day excursions in the middle of the conference, which included trips to the Museum, to the gannet colony at Muriwai and to Waiheke Island. On Waiheke “we couldn’t get half of them back on the boat. They stayed to have fish and chips on the beach, and caught a later ferry.

“People are much more imaginative and creative when they can relax as well as work” she added. “The conference did what it was supposed to do: it generated lively intellectual discussions, and produced exciting new ideas.”

The choice of theme for the meeting was also critical, she believes, with many participants attracted by the contemporary relevance of the topic of “ownership and appropriation”, a theme which fulfilled its promise to be both broad and productive.

The goal of the conference was to extend the parameters of social and cultural anthropology by shifting the focus from property and property relations to notions and acts of owning and appropriating. As the convenors observed: “These issues are particularly relevant in New Zealand and Australia, both ‘settler’ societies in which processes of appropriation and claims to ownership are intrinsically linked to issues of identity and belonging.”

The scope of the conference also reflected the myriad and important contributions anthropologists make across the globe and in diverse disciplines.

One focal point of the meeting was the Hood Fellow lecture of keynote speaker, Professor Marilyn Strathern, a world-renowned anthropologist. Her address was followed by her inauguration as life president of the ASA, marked by a ceremony unique to this country and to this part of the world. It included a Māori cultural performance created especially for the occasion and a gift of pounamu presented by Dr Manuka Henare (Business and Economics).

In the aftermath of the conference the task of the convenors is to edit a volume based on its content. “The major theoretical contribution from this conference will be in the form of published work, both in the conference volume and in the international journals of anthropology,” says Veronica.

Another tangible result has been a decision by the New Zealand and Australian societies to hold a joint trans-Tasman conference every third year.

Reception in Beijing

The University of Auckland’s new international academic partnerships with a number of prestigious universities in China were officially inaugurated on 11 December.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Associate Professor Christopher Tremewan, hosted the reception in Beijing that gathered more than 50 delegates from partner universities from all regions of China.

The function was held to celebrate both the new and the established international relations between Auckland and top universities in China. These relations enable exchanges of knowledge in the form of collaborative research projects, guest lecturers, and student exchanges. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude for the efforts made by Chinese universities and colleagues over the past year, which have resulted in the gathering of partners at “this momentous occasion”.

Among the distinguished guests were Director Yang Jun from the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges of the Ministry of Education, Deputy Director Li Xin from the

Department of International Cooperation of Ministry of Science and Technology, and Mr Zou Dongyun and Mr Li Jianmin from the China Scholarship Council, as well as representatives from Chinese universities: President Zhan Tao from Jilin University; President Wu Ganguo from China University of Geosciences; President Zhu Chongshi from Xiamen University; Vice-President Dong Shuanglin from Ocean University; Vice-President Sun Heyi from Harbin University of Technology; and Vice-President Chen Xu from Tsinghua University.

Five Memoranda of Understanding were signed during an official ceremony by the Vice-Chancellor and five senior Chinese university representatives from Harbin University of Technology, Jilin University, Ocean University, China University of Geosciences, and Zhejiang University. These agreements formalised the intention to encourage the exchange of materials and publications, research staff and doctoral student exchanges, joint research, and meetings for research in the form of conferences and workshops.

On the same occasion, three Letters of Understanding were signed with senior

representatives from Harbin Institute of Technology, Jilin University, and Ocean University of China. These institutions will benefit from the China Scholarship Council (CSC) agreement with The University of Auckland.

Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), recently travelled to Nanjing to formalise the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and The University of Auckland, which began in 2006. Through this agreement, scholarships will be provided to up to 40 high-calibre PhD candidates from top Chinese universities in relevant research programmes.

Selected students will attend The University of Auckland and perform study and research in areas of joint interest, including communication and information technology, life sciences and public health, material sciences and new materials, energy and the environment, engineering including biomedical engineering, applied sciences and economics, as well as the arts and humanities.

All parties expect that these international friendships will be further enhanced in 2009.

Gifts lend elegance to special room



Dr Lindo Ferguson (left) with Professor Stuart McCutcheon at the formal presentation of the items loaned and now gifted by Dr Ferguson.

Antique artworks and furniture have been gifted to the University by a former Chancellor, Dr Lindo Ferguson.

These items have embellished the Vice-Chancellor's Suite at Old Government House since he lent them during his term as Chancellor between 1980 and 1986.

Many staff will be familiar with them without being aware of their origins or what they represent. There is a pair of nineteenth-century oil paintings, a pair of Georgian-style armchairs (with serpentine-shaped arms and raised on cabriole legs), a nineteenth-century oak dresser adorned with hand-coloured floral plates, a print of Wells Cathedral by Richard R. Vinter, and an Italian carrara marble statue (of a young child wearing a bonnet).

At a small function in November to acknowledge Dr Ferguson's generous gift he was presented with framed photographs of the two paintings.

The paintings, which have gilt, foliate-wreathed frames and are reputed to be French, are by an unknown artist in the manner of Jean Honore

Pathways to university study

The University has renewed its partnership with Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT).

Since 1999 the partnership has allowed students from MIT's catchment to enter foundation programmes as well as study for University qualifications in education, health and visual arts.

The University of Auckland at Manukau Programme has also enabled appropriately qualified students to access programmes and resources at each other's institution.

In future a bridging programme offered at MIT will enable students to take the Institute's Bachelor of Engineering programme. A successful first year in the degree will then provide a pathway to The University of Auckland's Bachelor of Engineering.

At the signing of a new deed of cooperation between the two institutions on 14 November, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, described it as "a very important relationship for us".

Fragonard. One is of lovers being serenaded and the other of three figures in a glade. They were purchased by Dr Ferguson's great-great uncle, a financier, while he was living in Paris.

Thanking Dr Ferguson, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said he understood the space had once been devoid of all but plastic furniture and the walls completely bare.

The items loaned and now gifted by Dr Ferguson had bestowed the "style and grace" that had been a feature of the room ever since. "It is wonderful to have them here as a permanent part of the University."

Given Dr Ferguson's keen interest in historic houses it was "very appropriate" that his artwork and furniture were in Old Government House, said Stuart. Dr Ferguson and his wife Laetitia run the historic Northland homestead, Butler House on Mangonui Harbour, built in 1847.

In reply Dr Ferguson confessed himself "overwhelmed" by the occasion. "That such small gifts as these have evoked such a response is for me very humbling."

"We have been talking a lot over the last year about how we can reach Māori and Pacific communities and how to ensure that people who might otherwise be prevented by personal circumstances from attending university are able to take advantage of the opportunities we offer."

The qualifications offered to MIT students and opportunities for staircasing flowing from the partnership are "very important from our point of view", he said. "It is good to have the Programme renewed."

The Chief Executive of Manukau Institute of Technology, Dr Peter Brothers, said: "There is great ability in this relationship to serve students who have the potential to succeed in The University of Auckland but are not sufficiently well prepared. If by working together we can offer pathways which will support the ambition of such students, we are doing a very valuable service."

... in brief

Annual review

The General Staff Annual Salary Review process has been completed for the 2008/2009 year. The number of staff who were assessed as part of this process was 2150. Of those 28.65 percent received a salary increase, 17.34 percent received a bonus payment and 4.51 percent received both a salary increase and a bonus payment. Therefore 50.5 percent of general staff were assessed as exceeding criteria and received financial recognition.

The average salary increase for staff who were assessed as exceeding criteria was 2.75 percent. This is in addition to the 3.5 percent salary increase that all general staff received on 1 May and the .51 percent all general staff received as part of the tripartite increases. Both the percentage of staff receiving an increase and the average percentage increase are up on the last couple of years.

New role for John Morrow

Professor John Morrow will succeed Professor Raewyn Dalziel as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) when she completes her current term in that role on 30 June. As well as being a distinguished academic, John Morrow has had considerable experience in academic management. He has been Dean of the Faculty of Arts at The University of Auckland for nearly six years and prior to that held the post of Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Victoria University of Wellington for four years. He has thus worked at a senior level across both the academic and research domains.

Universitas 21 Fellowships

Each year the University awards up to four U21 Staff Fellowships, each to a maximum value of NZ\$10,000. The Selection Panel has awarded U21 Fellowships to Mary Grigor, General Manager, Bioengineering Institute; Dianne Head, Marketing Manager, Communications and Marketing; Claire Murray, Team Leader of Student Mobility, Auckland International; John Smart, Director of Research Management, Research Office. Each will travel to other Universitas 21 institutions to share best practice and strengthen links with those institutions. Profiles of some of the recipients and details of their plans will appear later on the staff intranet.

Tribute to come

The University of Auckland was saddened to hear of the passing of Pakariki Harrison. An obituary will be included in a forthcoming issue.

Honoured at New Year

Among those recognised for their services to society in the New Year Honours list were past and present members of staff of The University of Auckland and a line-up of eminent alumni.

Of four who became Distinguished Companions of the New Zealand Order of Merit (DCNZM), two were alumni of Auckland: Dr Claudia Orange OBE, who was on the staff in the History Department from 1975 to 1983 and received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University in 1997, and the Hon Margaret Wilson, also a former staff member, who received the honour for services as a Member of Parliament and as Speaker of the House of

Representatives.

Companions of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) included Emeritus Professor John Werry, appointed as the first Professor of Psychiatry at The University of Auckland in 1970 and honoured for his services to child and adolescent psychiatry. Also named were Professor Ronald Goodey, an honorary academic (Department of Surgery) who received the CNZM for services to otolaryngology and Professor Ronald Jones, an honorary academic (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) who received the honour for services to women's health. Prominent alumnus Michael Rann, Premier of South Australia

from 2002, was honoured for services to New Zealand-Australia relations.

Among those named as Officers of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) were Professor Alan Merry, HOD of Anaesthesiology, honoured for services to medicine, in particular anaesthesia, and Dr John Langley, former Dean of Education, who received the honour for services to education.

Named as Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) were Associate Professor Michele Leggott (English) for her services to poetry and honorary academic Dr Johan Morreau (Paediatrics) for services to community health.

New Chancellor



Roger France

Roger France, a prominent chartered accountant and company director, has been elected Chancellor of The University of Auckland.

The Chancellor chairs the University's governing body, the Council. Mr France will also preside at graduation ceremonies and confer degrees, and represent the University on formal occasions.

Mr France succeeds Hugh Fletcher who has stepped down after four years in the role and will remain on the University Council.

Appointed to the University Council in 2001 Mr France has chaired its Finance Committee and has been Pro-Chancellor (the Chancellor's deputy) for the past two years. For 15 years he was a partner of what is now PricewaterhouseCoopers, concentrating on corporate advisory work. He served for a period as managing partner in Auckland and on the firm's governance board. Earlier he spent nearly ten years as chief financial officer of two large listed companies.

Mr France's directorships include Air New Zealand Limited where he is deputy chairman and

chairs its Audit Committee. He is chairman of the private investment company Tappenden Holdings and until recently was a director of Fonterra.

Roger France said: "I am honoured to have been elected as Chancellor by my colleagues. The University is in great heart and our priority must be to maintain the momentum generated in recent years, which has placed the University firmly within the top one percent of universities in the world. A key element in meeting that challenge will be a huge investment in infrastructure which needs to be made over the next decade to ensure we continue to have a world class university in Auckland for our students and staff."

Lindsay Corban has been elected Pro-Chancellor in place of Mr France. Mrs Corban joined the Council when the University amalgamated with the Auckland College of Education. She had been a long-serving member of the College Council.

What's on

MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Department of Electrical and Computer (ECE) Engineering seminar

Dr Georgios Papafotiou and Dr Tobias Geyer, ABB Corporate Research, Switzerland, and ECE, UoA: *Model predictive direct torque control*. 11am-12noon Briefing Rm, Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Rm 257, Bldg 303, Science Centre. Queries to Dr Patrick Hu, email a.hu@auckland.ac.nz or phone 373-7599 ext 84535.

THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY

Bioinformatics Institute/School of Biological Sciences symposium

R(evolution) - a celebration of Darwin 9am-5.15pm Fisher and Paykel Auditorium, OGG. This symposium brings together leading national and international thinkers who will speak of the impact of Darwin on their research in biology, medicine, history and literature. This event has been designed to appeal to a general audience so if you are interested in the connectedness of all living things and the interplay between science and society, then you will enjoy this.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Boarder wanted: located in St Heliers with family. Very large sunny downstairs bdrm, with separate bthrm and direct entry into room. \$200 pw includes water, power, SKY and Internet. On local bus route. Phone Kate on (021) 855-735.

Central, secure one-bdrm apartment in desirable heritage 1920s building. Spacious, quiet location. Walking distance to Queen St, bus, train and University. One person or couple. Furnished including fridge. Onsite building manager. Extremely sunny with shared garden. Bond 4 weeks + 2 weeks in advance. \$500 pw. Available January. Email katewright@xtra.co.nz

City apartments for rent available all shapes and sizes, great deals, great location for University. Contact City Sales on 303-0601 or log on to www.citysales.co.nz. Call now to get the best deal.

Flatmate wanted for double room in Grey Lynn villa. Clean, tidy, friendly, 30+ n/s to share with two women. Nice, quiet home with garden and lock-up garage. Easy walk to city and University. Room available now. \$190 pw + exps. Phone 360-1566 or email jeanne.donald2@dol.govt.nz

House share available now in Mt Albert.

Two bthrms, shared kitchen. Large garden. Frequent buses to University. Carparking in drive. Own room with Internet connection. \$200 pw neg. Phone (09) 630-5303.

One Tree Hill. Three-bedroom semi-furnished house to rent from February for academic year. Sunny garden, close to bus, train, motorway for easy access to uni/town. Walking distance to primary school, major park. \$450 pw. Contact gribben@math.auckland.ac.nz

Parnell. Available one large, sunny, fully furnished bedroom. Close to bus, shops, 25-minute walk to University. Would suit mature academic staff member or PhD student. For details phone (09) 379-8334.

St Johns. Three dble bdrm, one bath, two toilets down quiet ROW. Airy, sunny, fenced with garden and views. Tidy condition. Walk to Tamaki Campus and Glen Innes rail station. Tandem dble garage/carpport. \$495 pw neg for right tenants. Phone (021) 265-6999.

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

Dreaming of Italy? Is it the art (the works of Piero della Francesca), the architecture, the wine, the hill towns, the food or the people that excite you? Sansepolcro has them all. Come and stay

with us ... at the edge of Tuscany and Umbria. Stay in our mini-apartments or B&B and enjoy your Italian dreams! Contact Colin and Val Stevens. Casa Mila, Via Firenzuola 49, 52037 Sansepolcro, Tuscany, Italy. Phone/fax +39 0575 733 477, email thestevens@libero.it Website www.casamila.it

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Convenient and fully-furnished apartment in Quest on Eden building. 54sqm with high ceilings. Queen bed, queen sofa bed in lounge, cutlery and dish service for four persons. Storage room, vacuum cleaner, washer/dryer, heated towel rail, refrigerator, microwave, toaster, kettle, shower, patio with table and two chairs. Must see to appreciate. Who needs a carpark when you're this close to campus? \$197,900. Call Mary at (09) 489-9836, available immediately.

MISCELLANEOUS

Carpenter/builder available. Over 30 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References available. Phone Chris on 828 2298 or (027) 293 2279.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see Next Week Online: www.auckland.ac.nz/nextweekonline

Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost \$20 (incl GST).