

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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'Outstanding milestone' for academic women



Promotion to professor is awarded for professional and academic eminence at an international level.

Of 11 staff promoted to professor this year, six were women: Left to right above are Professors Linda Cameron (Psychology), Penny Brothers (Chemistry), Ngaire Kerse (Population Health), Linda Bryder (History), Gill Dobbie (Computer Science) and Manying Ip (Asian Studies).

Mary Ann Crick, Leadership Programmes Manager from the Staff Organisational Development Unit (SODU), described this result as "quite outstanding", and a milestone on the way towards gender equity.

Staff from the Leadership Programme for Women in Senior Positions gathered in Old Government House on 11 August to hear the six women newly promoted to professor speak of what helped them achieve this distinction.

Moderator for the session was Linda McLain, Deputy Director of SODU, who has a long history of developing and sustaining programmes that support women in advancing their careers.

The six new professors were invited to share two things which had contributed to their success, and to speak briefly of their plans for the future.

One theme that emerged was the need to reflect on the nature of authentic leadership, to realise what each of them had to offer in this context, and to observe the behaviour of leadership

"role models", who were mentioned several times as an important source of encouragement. Some of the six emphasised that the "real skills" involved in leadership did not always fit the familiar stereotypes.

Another common theme was the value of networking, both within New Zealand and internationally, and the contribution of the programmes run by SODU. These included the Women in Leadership Programmes – run at two levels, with provision for both general and academic staff – and the workshop on preparing for promotion to professor.

Among personal attributes seen as important were determination and perseverance; willingness to seize opportunities, and to take risks ("being willing to do things without knowing first what's involved"); hard work, organisational skills and a sense of humour.

Family support was also seen as an important component of the recipe for success.

Professor Raewyn Dalziel, who was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the time the appointments were made, said she had been delighted to see the emergence of six such prominent female academics. The increased number this year was "partly about timing, about achieving a critical mass", she said. "I hope there

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Key events

Education for emancipation

At the Gus Fisher Gallery until 3 October is an exhibition staged by Emory Douglas, Minister of Culture of the Black Panther Party, who is here as International Artist in Residence at Elam School of Fine Arts. On 12 September at 1pm at the gallery, Emory Douglas will discuss his exhibition and experiences in the Black Panther Party with Mohsen al Attar, Faculty of Law, who will address links between education, oppression, revolution and liberation.

Big debate

The Big Debate is a series of public debates hosted by the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) to foster interdisciplinary discourse on contentious issues pertinent to the creative arts and industries. The first attracted a large audience, so take your seats early for the next Big Debate – "NICAI masters supervisors should not examine their students" – at 12.15pm on 17 September, at the NICAI Student Centre, Building 421 (Architecture and Planning Building), 26 Symonds Street. For more information see info-creative@auckland.ac.nz, 373 7067.

Ultimate car boot sale

Gorgeous fashion, luxury cars and beautiful champagne will converge at the Friends of the Liggins Institute's first Couture Car Boot Sale on 10 September at Team McMillan BMW, Newmarket, Auckland. The event will showcase beautiful, top quality pieces from a range of designers including Adrienne Winkelmann, Trelise Cooper, Yves Saint Laurent, Gucci, Diane von Furstenberg, Issey Miyake. This is a rare chance to purchase pre-loved, exquisite designer pieces, with proceeds to benefit the Liggins Institute. Tickets at \$20 include a glass of Nicolas Feuillatte champagne and canapés throughout the evening. For more information, email friends@liggins.auckland.ac.nz or call 303 5972.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

The recent conviction of University of Otago tutor Clayton Weatherston for murdering his former student and ex-partner Sophie Elliott has highlighted the issue of relationships between staff and students in tertiary institutions. Such relationships do occur in what are large academic communities – in our case 6,000 staff and 38,000 students – but they can create risks for both parties, and for the institution. Most obvious of these are the inherent imbalance of power between a student and his or her tutor, and the risk that the student will be perceived by others to have been favoured (or later disadvantaged, in the event of the relationship ending in acrimony) as a result of the relationship with the staff member.

Such matters are addressed by the University's Student Charter and Policy on Conflict of Interest. A conflict of interest typically arises when a member of the University (which includes Council members, staff and students) has a relationship with another party (including another member of the University) that might cause – or be perceived to cause – them to act in a manner not in the best interests of the institution. Most commonly, conflicts of interest are thought of as pecuniary (for example a staff member who might be in a position to purchase goods and services from a company owned by family or friends and thereby to create financial benefit for that party or themselves), but non-pecuniary conflicts of interest are also of concern. It is for that reason the Policy requires any member of the University with an actual or potential conflict of interest to declare it immediately to a more senior person so that the matter can be resolved in an open and transparent way.

However, we also have to acknowledge that policies cannot mitigate the risks that may arise from relationships, and no policy could have averted the Elliott/Weatherston tragedy. As a large and complex community we must also "look out" for each other, ensuring that the vulnerable among us are protected and those who may be a risk to others are brought to the attention of senior University personnel. Staff of the University have a particular responsibility in this regard, not only to ensure that students are protected from inappropriate relationships but also more generally in providing an environment that is healthy and safe.



Project 'vital' for our future

Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Kath Clarke, Human Resources Director, are delighted to be joining forces in advancing a programme which both see as "vital" to the future of the University and its staff.

This is the Future Research Leaders' Programme (FRLP). Developed by the Australian Group of Eight Universities (Go8) and described in the last issue of *University News*, it is a structured nine-module training programme for researchers, particularly those at the early or middle stages of their careers.

The University of Auckland, having ascertained the value of the programme and obtained its New Zealand licence from Go8, is now customising the materials to the New Zealand environment. Next month will see the start of a pilot version of the programme, running until the second half of next year.

The intention, after completion of the pilot and fine-tuning of its content to the local conditions, is to make it more widely available to researchers within the University, and to make it available also to other universities in order to raise the standard of research all over New Zealand.

With its focus on both research advancement and staff development this project offers an ideal opportunity for collaboration between the Research Office and Human Resources.

Jane Harding describes it as "a new and exciting programme, critical to the University's ability to sustain and build its capacity for the future.

"There has never been a formal, structured training for researchers, and particularly for research leaders," she explains. "Research training is usually completed in the context of PhD study and postdoctoral research, with informal support from supervisors and research team leaders, and occasional courses on specific topics such as applying for research grants. This applies to universities all over the world.

"The University of Auckland has enormously talented researchers. We hope this programme will

help them get further faster."

Kath Clarke is just as positive about the advantages of the programme from the perspective of Human Resources. "Having a cohesive multi-module career development programme is one of the most important advances of the last few years," she says, "as a tangible development for career advancement.

"In terms of attracting and retaining academic staff a project of this kind affirms the University's commitment to staff development."

From the time Kath first became acquainted with the programme during the quarterly meetings of the Go8 Human Resources Directors, she was keen that The University of Auckland should be involved.

"The Federal Government of Australia invested \$1.7 million towards research and development of the programme," she says. "We have a wonderful opportunity to utilise the research, rather than start from the beginning ourselves.

"A bonus is that the licensing agreement allows us to make changes to accommodate any needs that are specific to New Zealand. This, for example, will allow us to incorporate Māori and Pacific perspectives."

Changes are required also in references to New Zealand funding bodies and to employment legislation, which differ from those in Australia. Practical case studies in the modules will be altered as well, to make them less "Australia-centric" and more relevant to this country.

"Go8 made it clear," says Kath, "that they wanted just one licence-holder for New Zealand, and that once we had tailored the material for New Zealand we could then sub-license the programme."

The pilot about to take place is expected to include 30 people, selected by Deans and academic heads. Ongoing reports will be provided in *University News*, on the SODU webpage and the staff intranet.

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will be more women applying every year from now on."

The forum was one of four being held this year for participants in the Leadership Programme for Senior Women, which is open to both general and

academic staff working in senior positions.

The six new women professors have been invited to summarise what they said in the forum for the wider staff. Look for their summaries on the staff intranet over the next few days or weeks.

Fostering positive race relations

The University's Centre for Asian Health Research and Evaluation was one of 12 organisations to receive awards from the Human Rights Commission, recognising their outstanding contributions to positive race relations.

The awards were presented on the evening of 24 August at the 2009 New Zealand Diversity Forum in Wellington.

The winners were selected from more than 200 organisations participating in the New Zealand Diversity Action Programme facilitated by the Human Rights Commission.

Amritha Sobrun-Maharaj, Director of the Centre, said the award had come as a pleasant surprise to her and the other staff of the centre.

"We didn't expect an award because we just quietly do the work we do. However, it is very good to receive the recognition."

The Centre has a permanent staff of four, with other researchers contracted at times to work on specific projects. The other three members of the permanent staff are Sun Kim, Centre Coordinator and Research Assistant; Dr Fiona Rossen, Senior Research Fellow; and Dr Sherly Parackal, Research Fellow.

The work of the Centre is focused on research and evaluation, sometimes involving collaboration with groups in the community. Current projects include an investigation into the settlement patterns of Asian families in New Zealand, work on the Asian stream of the obesity guidelines, design of a service to work with refugee youth recovering from mental health conditions, and a study of the

impacts of work experiences of Asian immigrants on the well-being of their families.

In another current project researchers at the Centre are looking at cardio-vascular disease in the Mt Roskill area among people of South Asian origin who have been identified as being at high risk. Working in collaboration with the Auckland District Health Board, they have investigated risk factors, have designed a programme and are now helping implement the programme in the community.

The centre has also developed a curriculum for training those entering the mental health workforce. This is now being used in several other New Zealand universities at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Every second year the Centre organises the International Asian Health and Wellbeing Conference, with keynote speakers from all over the world. Attended by Ministry of Health and other ministry representatives, policy makers as well as academics, the conference provides an excellent forum for disseminating knowledge and ideas throughout the community. The next conference will take place in July next year.

Amritha believes the Centre is playing a strong role in raising awareness of issues relating to Asian and other immigrant groups.

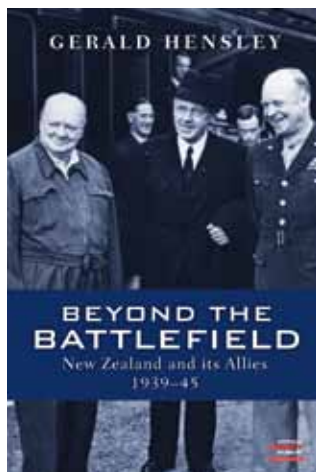
"We are increasingly being seen as the national centre for information on Asian health. This is obvious from the number of calls we receive from other organisations."

Another of the 12 awardees is the New Zealand Chinese Association Auckland Inc, which organises regular activities, including Chinese New Year celebrations and the annual Going Bananas conference, held recently at the University's Owen G Glenn Building.

The award were presented by Governor-General Sir Anand Satyanand. Also present was Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bris.

In his lecture Mr Hensley will focus on the slightly fraught and sometimes bumpy relationship between Australia and New Zealand during that period.

Gerald Hensley is a qualified historian who served for many years in the Foreign Service and as head of the Prime Minister's Department. As a young man he knew major participants in the events he scrutinises like Walter Nash, Carl Berendsen and Alister McIntosh, and he is well qualified to interpret the way New Zealand responded.



Seventy years on

The seventieth anniversary of the declaration of World War Two will be marked at a free public lecture at the Maidment Theatre on 21 September (5.30-6.30pm).

Gerald Hensley, a former Foreign Service Officer, senior public servant and now a well regarded historian, will be speaking on "Beyond the battlefield: New Zealand and its allies 1939-1945".

The lecture is based on his book of the same title commissioned by the National Army Museum Literary Award Fund and published by Penguin in early September. The book describes how New Zealand, as a small nation, took its place in Allied councils of war and later played an important part in post-war diplomacy leading to the establishment of the United Nations.

Rather than being a formal diplomatic history it relates to the human side - the irritants, the cross comments and the uncertainties which show how history is made.

In brief ...

Recognising excellence in general staff

Nominations are being called for The University of Auckland General Staff Excellence Awards for 2009. These awards recognise and reward excellence in a wide variety of activities that contribute to the University's teaching, research and community service endeavours.

The General Staff Excellence Awards were established in 2003 and have been awarded annually since 2004. Following a review in 2008, the awards have been re-launched in 2009 to facilitate wider participation and recognition for a greater range of activities, in line with The University of Auckland Strategic Plan 2005-2012.

There are ten Excellence Awards that may be made each year. General staff, including teams, may be nominated for technical/professional services and administration in one of the following categories:

Excellence in:

1. Innovation
2. Leadership
3. Teamwork

Excellence in contribution to the following strategic objectives:

4. International standing
5. Research and creative work
6. Teaching and learning
7. Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ The Treaty of Waitangi
8. Engagement with communities
9. Excellent people
10. Resourcing and organising for quality.

The awards are contestable across the University and each award carries a citation presented by the Vice-Chancellor and a monetary prize.

All nominations should be submitted on the official nomination form. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu and click on the "Awards, scholarships and fellowships" link to access the guidelines and nomination forms. Nominations will close on Friday 30 October.

Please direct any enquiries to Jemimah Wilson, Staff Development Coordinator, je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz.

Albert Wendt now fulltime writer and artist

Albert Wendt was appointed to the English Department's newly established Chair in New Zealand and Pacific Writing in 1988.

A graduate of Victoria University, he had taught at Samoa College from 1963-74, where he rose to become the youngest principal in the history of the school, before being headhunted by the University of the South Pacific. While at USP he established and directed the university's Centre in Samoa, and was then invited to fill the world's first Chair in Pacific Literature in 1982. To these distinctions, he soon added a three-year term as the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and an extended stint as Coordinator of the UNESCO Project for the Study of Oceanic Cultures.

Albert's academic eminence alone would have made him a valuable acquisition for Auckland – especially given its rapidly growing contingent of Pasifika students; but he was also, by then, the Pacific's most internationally celebrated writer – the author of three important novels (among them his masterpiece *Leaves of the Banyan Tree*) and two volumes of poetry, as well as numerous short stories and critical essays. His appointment, in the wake of C.K. Stead's retirement, thus helped to preserve the English Department's long-standing tradition of hiring prominent writers – M.K. Joseph, Bill Pearson, Kendrick Smithyman, Riemke Ensing, and Mervyn Thompson among them – to its staff. During his 18 years at Auckland, despite a heavy teaching and administrative schedule (including three years as Head of Department), Albert continued to write, publishing three more novels (including his monumental reimagining of Samoa's colonial history, *The Mango's Kiss*), two more volumes of poetry, three collections of short stories, several major anthologies of Pacific writing, and a full-length play, *The Songmaker's Chair*, which was staged at the Auckland Festival in 2003.

Albert's prominence as a writer helped to turn Auckland into a major centre for the study of Pacific writing – especially once the recruitment of the novelist Witi Ihimaera established a similarly prestigious platform for Māori literature – attracting the interest of graduate students and visitors from all over the world. In an equally important development, Albert and Witi were also responsible for launching Creative Writing as a discipline within the Auckland curriculum, laying the groundwork for what, with the introduction of a masters degree in the field, would become a significant addition to the department's offerings.

Apart from his departmental work as a teacher and administrator, Albert acted as an inspirational mentor and role-model for Pasifika students, and was an energetic advocate for their interests throughout the University. He helped establish and develop the Centre for Pacific Studies, and was a member of its



advisory committee until his retirement in 2006. The magnificent Fale complex, which functions both as a home for Pacific Studies and as a cultural focus for the wider Pasifika community, was a product of his vision and tireless commitment. Outside the University Albert served from 1994-98 as a member of the Creative New Zealand Arts Board, chairing its Pacific Arts Committee; and in 2000 he was appointed Deputy Chairman of New Zealand on Air, a position he held until his departure for Hawai'i in 2004.

Albert's reputation as a writer, together with his achievements in fostering Pacific Studies at both USP and Auckland, had led to his being offered a prestigious visiting position at the University of Hawai'i. In 2004 he took leave of absence from Auckland and joined the Hawai'i English Department, together with his partner, Reina Whitiri, whose record as the director of Auckland's highly regarded Wellesley Programme made her another attractive recruit. In the course of his four-year tenure of the Citizen's Chair, Albert helped to develop the University of Hawai'i's own Center for Pacific Island Studies, and to build up a remarkable cadre of postgraduate students from the indigenous population. It was in Hawai'i, too, that Albert was at last able to indulge a passion that had gripped him since his schooldays and to mount his first solo exhibition of his paintings.

In 2006 Albert became aware of the funding crisis affecting the Auckland English Department, and decided to retire from his chair. One advantage of this difficult decision has been that, since coming back to New Zealand in 2008, he has been able to devote himself almost entirely to writing and painting. He held a second successful exhibition of his paintings at the Fono McCarthy Gallery in Parnell soon after his return, and in July of this year celebrated the launch of his verse-novel, *The Adventures of Vela*. A new novel, a specially commissioned film-script, and a sixth volume of poetry are on the way.

Albert's achievements have been widely honoured. In his native Samoa, where he holds the Ali'i title of Faumuina in the Aiga Sa-Su'a of

Lefaga, he was awarded the Order of Merit in 1994; he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2000; and in 2008 he was invited to become an Honorary Fellow of the Modern Language Association of America. He has received honorary doctorates from the University of Bourgogne (1994), Victoria University of Wellington (2005), and the University of Hawai'i (2009), while his writing has attracted numerous awards, including the Wattie Book Award (1980), the Commonwealth Book Prize (SE Asia and Pacific, 1995), Creative New Zealand's Senior Artist's Award (2003), the Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture (2004), and the Montana Book Award (2004).

Albert's retirement has left a serious gap in the University and in his old department – one that has been only partially filled by the welcome appointment of one of his former students, Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh, to a half-time position in English; and the impending retirement of Professor Witi Ihimaera in 2010 will further imperil the position of Māori and Pacific literature within the department's curriculum. The English Department's original decision to establish senior positions in these fields was driven in part by a felt need to respect Auckland's special character as the largest Polynesian city in the world, and by a wish to cater for the special needs of Māori and Pacific Island students; but it also reflected a determination to develop Auckland as an internationally recognised centre of excellence for the study of Māori and Pacific literature in English. The department's original intention was to nurture that development by progressive recruitment of appropriately qualified staff; subsequent developments (especially recent funding problems) have made it difficult even to ensure proper succession – let alone plan for growth in the field. In its desire to honour the contribution of Albert Wendt, to preserve his extraordinary legacy, and to fulfil its obligation to the cultures of the Pacific, the University will need to find imaginative ways of addressing this situation.

Emeritus Professor Michael Neill (English)

Culture in context

Scholars in Pacific Studies and leading members of Pacific Island communities from all over Australasia and further afield will gather at the University's Fale Pasifika for a "talanoa" or "conversation" on cultural views and practices.

Talanoa Oceania is a large international conference unique to this part of the world, the second of its kind ever to take place and the first to be held in New Zealand. Talanoa Oceania 2008 took place in Sydney in September last year.

Supported by the School of Theology, the Centre for Pacific Studies and Trinity Methodist Theological College, the conference will focus on people of Pacific Island ancestry born or residing overseas (mainly in New Zealand and Australia), and on how the culture and practices brought from the islands are viewed and applied in different contexts.

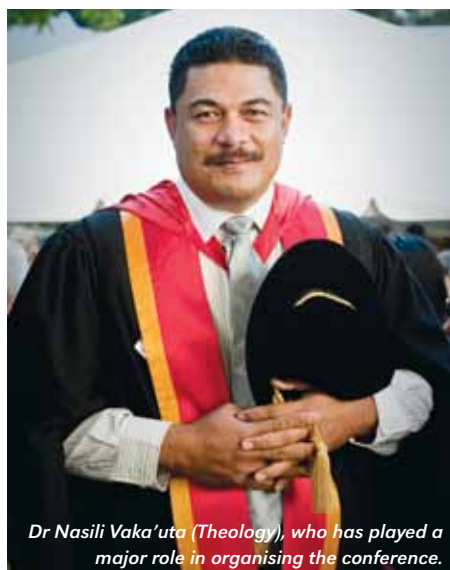
Presentations will focus on three significant concepts: lotu, which is concerned with faith, worship and beliefs; tikanga, which refers to laws, customs and correct cultural practices; and tabu (tapu), which relates to what is sacred or holy, prohibited or forbidden.

These three words and their equivalents have multiple meanings in the various languages of Oceania.

Speakers, drawn from as far away as the Wallis and Futuna Islands and the United States as well as Australasia, will present on a wide range of topics, including "The role of remittances in community economic development in Tonga", by Iani Nēmani from New Zealand's Department of Labour; "Sacred (tapu) nature of our cultures," by Don Ikitoelagi from Sydney, Australia; and "Lotu and custom in Uvea Island", by Hapakuke Pierre Leleivai from Wallis and Futuna Islands.

Keynote speakers are Dr Jenny Te Paa, Principal of Te Rau Kahikatea at St John's College in Auckland, and Dr Melani Anae and Dr Melenaita Taumoeofolau, both from the Centre for Pacific Studies.

For more information, contact Pervin Medhora in the School of Theology on p.medhora@ auckland.ac.nz or ext 86672.



Dr Nasili Vaka'uta (Theology), who has played a major role in organising the conference.

Viewpoint

Violence in contact sport needs more critical examination

The recent brawl involving secondary rugby players and spectators highlights both the disturbing and paradoxical nature of our more popular contact sports.

It is now timely to re-examine the sports that our children play and question the direction and values they advocate.

Consider the paradox in sport where spectators view and approve of the violent actions performed within the rules of our contact sports, such as rugby and league. These are actions that society condones in the sanctioned areas of sport, but condemns in other social situations where they would be illegal. We accept this violence in sport, and indeed come to expect it as a naturalised part of the game, as long as it is ritualised and controlled by rules and referees.

What is not so palatable for most people is when these lines are crossed and players punch or kick others outside the rules. Normally this would be dealt with by the officials both on and off the field, but in the case of the secondary schools rugby match this was the catalyst for a more extreme version of sporting violence involving spectators. There is a variety of reasons why up to 100 players and spectators should become involved in such an abhorrent act.

The sports event itself was a precipitant to the brawl. Crowd hostility can be aggravated by player violence (in this case a punch), perceived unpopular decisions made by officials (players sent off), a losing scoreline, together with the collective behaviour of fans all producing tensions likely to spill onto the field. In professional sports there are systems in place to control the crowd; here there were not.

Coupled with this is that the organisation and structure of sport encourage expressive and aggressive behaviour by both the players and the fans. Part of this is the fanaticism that is encouraged, with fans having a supposed vested interest in the outcome of matches. This can be combined with aggregation; the physical closeness to each other and to rival fans, the tension and noise that crowds are exposed to, and the revelry that accompanies matches, all adding up to precipitate crowd aggression that can spill into violence.

A fractured society also produces disaffected groups who are able to re-establish forms of group identity, either under the banner of the old school, or vicariously through their son's sporting team. This kinship can produce blinding loyalty and aggressive and distorted forms of masculinity as seen with football hooliganism. Challenges to this "sporting family" and its hyper-reality, either through taunts, losing or having a team member attacked, can again lead to player and crowd violence. It can also

lead to school leaders engaging in "them and us" rhetoric rather than examining the larger issues of masculinity they espouse.

The young men playing rugby in this case are learning to engage in violence in sport and earn respect for and rewards for this violence. It is seen as part of their gendered self to view their bodies as machines and as weapons. Violence is perceived as an essential feature of being male, but more discerning men accept that it is a socially learned part of only a certain kind of maleness. Unfortunately many of the players and some of the spectators have yet to learn alternatives, or even realise that they exist.

Young men engage in sporting rituals where they are encouraged to rise above the pain and remain stoic. Buck Shelford's torn and bloodied testicles and his ability to play on were seen by many as heroic, attributes of manliness, while more critical commentators would see this as a perverted ideal of manhood called hypermasculinity. The violence inherent in contact sport needs more critical examination as to the destructive forms of manliness it values.

The type of sports we play and enjoy watching, and the values they espouse, reflect our culture. In New Zealand sport reflects not only the problem of violence in society but also reproduces it by actively adding to the problem. More positively sport enjoys a privileged position in our society and as such can serve as a path for social change. Perhaps this recent brawl will spark debate and questions over the violence in sport and its role in shaping men.

Graeme Severinsen

School of Critical Studies in Education
Faculty of Education

Digital faith

A panel discussion at The University of Auckland, organised by the School of Theology and Bible Society New Zealand, will explore the impact of the internet on Christian communication.

The speakers are Mark Brown, CEO of Bible Society New Zealand and founder of Anglican Cathedral in Second Life; Dr Stephen Garner, who lectures in "Theology and popular culture" at The University of Auckland's School of Theology; Heidi Campbell, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Texas A&M University in the United States; and Dr Tim Bulkeley, Lecturer at the School of Theology and at Carey Baptist College.

Heidi Campbell is author of *Exploring Religious Community Online* and Tim Bulkeley is developer of the Amos Hypertext Commentary and pod-Bible projects.

The panel discussion will take place on 5 September, 9am-12noon at OGGB4 Lecture Theatre, Level O, Owen G Glenn Building.

Emeritus Professor Geoff Braae (1928-2009)

Geoffrey Peter Braae was born at Whakatane in 1928 and educated at Opotiki High School. From there he enrolled in 1946 into the BCom programme at Auckland University College, intending to become an accountant. However, he was susceptible to the powerful influences of Colin Simkin, Professor of Economics, and his younger colleague and later Professor of Econometrics Rex Bergstrom.

The upshot was that Geoff became an economist, and a very good one. In 1950 he won the Senior Scholarship in Economics, and went on to do his masters. In 1953 he took up a Junior Lectureship at Massey. A British Council Scholarship took him to University College, Oxford, where he graduated DPhil in 1960, with a thesis on fluctuations in investment in housing in Britain and America 1919-39.

In 1959 Geoff returned to a lectureship at Otago. However, in 1962, Simkin snapped up

both Braae and his Otago colleague Harro Bernadelli, appointing Geoff to a senior lectureship.

Geoff's qualities were well and quickly recognised back at Auckland. He was promoted to associate then full professor in 1964 and 1970. He stepped forward, in a period of some difficulties in terms of loss of staff along with increases in student numbers, to play an important role in the affairs of the department, taking on two full terms as the Head.

He also served twice on the University Council, on numerous university committees, and, in 1977, as Dean of Commerce. From 1985-87 he was a University of Auckland representative on the Wellington Grants Committee for salary negotiations. When he officially retired in 1987 he had completed a quarter century of unbroken service at this University.

Geoff Braae was one of the trio of Economics professors - with Conrad Blyth and Alan Catt - who successfully took the department through the great period of university expansion and transition in the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

His admirably compact work schedule largely reflected Geoff's formidable skills and efficiency as an administrator. Geoff did of course publish, and publish well, especially in his early career, but his main scholarly contribution was as a mentor, thesis supervisor, and demanding

teacher who brought out the very best in the very best students.

His colleagues recall the excellent and convivial parties and dinners hosted by Geoff and his wife Pam, and the contribution this hospitality made to the cohesion of the department and the care of new staff.

Geoffrey Braae was a fine member of this and the wider community, and though it is sad to note his death it is a pleasure to honour his memory. He was a good man; a straight-shooter. Our condolences go to his family.

Condensed version of eulogy given at Senate by Professor Tim Hazledine, Head of the Department of Economics



Books

Tongan texts for children

A Master of Architecture student Sēmisi Fetokai Potauaie is co-illustrator of three new bilingual books in Tongan and English that were launched at the Fale Pasifika on 15 August by Dr Melenaita Taumoevalou, Director of Pacific Language Studies at the Centre for Pacific Studies.

Sēmisi, who is a multi-media artist, practising architecture, sculpture, painting, tattooing, weaving and graphic designing, won a coveted Commonwealth Connections International Arts Residencies award for 2009. Nine of the 12-member book production team, including the other illustrator and one each of the authors and translators, are graduates of The University of Auckland.

The three books were published by Kula'Uli Publishing (NZ), in conjunction with Vava`u Academy for Critical Inquiry and Applied Research, Tonga and New Zealand, as part of their new Pacific book series on children's stories.

A revolutionary, cutting-edge project, the series is based on the classical Tongan abstract modes of story-telling (talanoa), image-producing (tāfakatātā) and image-colouring (tāfakalanu), in connection with intersecting human meanings (heliaki), intersecting images (kupes) and intersecting red-black colours (kula`uli) respectively. The series is therefore original, creative and innovative in many ways.

While children are the target audience, the books are useful for people of all ages and

through all levels of schooling and popular use. The books include a glossary of Tongan words and notes for parents and teachers on how to aid children's learning through the medium of reading.

Not only will the new series greatly enrich the supply of Pacific published material for children, but the imaginative nature in which the texts, images and colours are arranged and used will help lift the children's reflective and inventive thinking.



Politics of change

Among keynote speakers at the Critical Studies in Education Symposium 2009 to be held at the University on 9 October, will be Professor Alison Jones. The symposium theme is "The politics of change". For more information and to register, please go to www.education.auckland.ac.nz/crstiesymposium



From the collection



Bill Culbert (b.1935), *Decanter, London, 1985*.
Black-and-white photograph, 190x190mm
The University of Auckland Art Collection

The unlikely pairing of wine and filament light bulbs has long been a recurring motif in the highly sociable work of Bill Culbert, as has the fluorescent tube, all of which act as metaphor and evidence of the ways we think about light, energy and materials.

Culbert is the subject of a substantial new book *Bill Culbert: Making Light Work*, written by poet, writer and curator, Ian Wedde (recipient of a Distinguished Alumni award from The University of Auckland in 2007) and published by Auckland University Press. This humble use of materials and the convivial way Culbert works is a constant theme in Wedde's book.

Culbert was born in 1935 in Port Chalmers, an environment he would return to in 1978 after a 20-year absence in England and France. This is where he established a friendship with fellow

artist Ralph Hotere with whom he had frequent collaborations, combining their complementary interests in light and dark spaces, often inspired by nearby Aramoana spit.

Culbert studied at Canterbury University School of Art, where he was one of a large group of artists sharing a flat in Armagh Street, including Gil and Pat Hanly, Ted Bullmore and school friend Quentin McFarlane, a lively scene described by Hamish Keith in his autobiography, *Native Wit*. Culbert gained a scholarship in 1957 to study at the Royal College of Art in London, where he found himself in a similarly social environment that included former Armaghians Gil and Pat.

But the most dramatic shift came when Culbert, who until now had been a painter, relocated to southern France in 1961 with his wife, Pip, and spent two years renovating a rundown farmhouse in Croagnes. Raising a family and living frugally in what was then a humble area, he established a strong interest in the materials available in a local refuse centre. By 1968 his work had escaped the limitations of the canvas, venturing into the more dynamic arena of social space with found objects and light.

Culbert employs an economy of means and wit to toy with the interplay of natural and artificial light, and the way this can be contained, conducted, reflected, spilt or captured in documentation. To illustrate these dynamics, Culbert often presents light in juxtaposition with found objects, which brings a social dimension to his work, not only from the simple elegance and humour with which he combines parts but also from the second life he gives used materials. This often includes reference to the convivial situation of drinking.

One of Culbert's best known motifs is a small wine glass filled with red table wine and casting a shadow that resembles a paradoxically dark light bulb. A subtle but sophisticated sculptural gesture, his liquid-light shadow pieces have been captured in photographs, drawings and as installations. The University of Auckland Art Collection owns a 1997 version of *Small Glass Pouring Light*, as well as five other photographic works, including *Decanter, London, 1985*, which features as a promotional image for the exhibition *AC/DC: The Art of Power* at the Gus Fisher Gallery until 3 October.

However, actually in the exhibition is *The Last Incandescent Light Bulb, 2008*, a reworking of the earlier photographic piece, re-titled as a monument to the phasing out of incandescent bulbs in favour of the allegedly more efficient "energy saver" bulbs. This governmental intervention is similar to the inbuilt obsolescence many manufacturers impose on consumer technology, requiring consumers to constantly replace appliances as they break down or become outmoded. This dovetails nicely with the exhibition's themes, which explore the social, corporate and political power structures that inform the ways we think about and use energy.

Also in *AC/DC is Light Vessels, 1996*, a pair of large rectangular chambers which slowly ebb and flow with light in a manner Culbert likens to sunrise and sunset. It employs a similarly liquid analogy to his drinking works, transferring light from one chamber to another like the pouring of liquid. It is lit with two bulbs, one emptying as the other fills, maintaining a constant 1000-watt glow.

Andrew Clifford



Sēmisi Fetokai Potaauine plays the ukulele at the launch.

What's on

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

The Pohutukawa Tree

By Bruce Mason. Presented by The Auckland Theatre Company. Until 26 September, Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. For bookings phone 308 2383. Directed by Colin McColl. Starring Rena Owen, Catherine Wilkin, Stuart Devenie, Hera Dunleavy, Peter McCauley. Design by Tony Rabbit, Nic Smillie.

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

Film screenings

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. AC/DC curator Andrew Clifford presents Electric Cinema, a presentation of high-voltage films, including works by Billy Apple, Phil Dadson and Disinformation. View www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

Bioengineering research seminar

Nic Warren, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Garbage in, garbage out: Only if mucociliary transport is working*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Room, 70 Symonds St.

Public forum

David Bellamy with a youth panel: *Moa's Ark revisited: What we can do to switch the world back into more biodiverse and hence more sustainable working order?* 7-9pm Rm OGGB4, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to contact@nexusnz.org

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

The managerial mentor

8.30am-4.30pm. Coaching and mentoring approaches for face to face conversations with staff. Rm 336, Level 3, 1-11 Short St. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (Code HRMNTNTR). For queries phone ext 89630.

The 2009 Maurice Wilkins Centre Lecture

Prof Sir Martin Evans, Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2007. 6-7pm Fisher and Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Refreshments from 5pm.

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

Food seminar

11am-12.30pm. Eating to support a healthy and active lifestyle. Presentation Rm, Level 2, ClockTower. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (code HRWFD). For queries phone ext 89630.

NZ Drug Discovery Symposium

9am-6pm Fisher and Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

RSVP to Peter Lai, ext 83180 or email p.lai@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Public seminar

Emory Douglas, Elam International Artist in Residence and Mohsen al Attar, Faculty of Law: *Education for emancipation*. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Dept of Political Studies seminar

Assoc-Prof Martin Wilkinson: *Organs, money, and ethics*. 12-1pm Meeting Rm G02, 16 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

School of Music research seminar

Doug Nyce: *A report on the philosophies of music education operating in New Zealand primary, intermediate and middle schools*. 1-2pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Alona Ben-Tal, Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Massey University: *New insights on the respiratory system gained by mathematical modelling*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

Inaugural Lecture 2009

Prof Cristel Russell, Marketing, UoA: *Consumers in a branded world*. 4-5pm Decima Glenn Rm 310, Level 3, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Auckland branch of Society for Legal and Social Philosophy seminar

Ron Paterson, Health and Disability Commissioner: *Regulating for compassion?* 6pm Small Lecture Theatre, Bldg 803, Faculty of Law, Eden Crescent. Queries to Jim Evans pj.evans@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Liggins Institute Seasons of Life lecture series 2009: Darwin's legacy

Distinguished Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, Liggins Institute: *Darwin and medicine*. 6-7pm Robb Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Rd, Grafton. RSVP to 303 5972 or email friends@liggins.auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Doctoral morning tea

10-11am iSpace, 4th Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons. This is a chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues. This event is supported by the PGSA, Graduate Centre, Auckland International and WAVE/AUSA.

Department of History seminar

Prof Gregory Claeys, Dept of History, Royal Holloway, University of London: *Exporting Comte's utopia: Positivist anti-imperialism in Britain, 1850-1920*. 4pm Room 59, History Dept, 7 Wynyard St. Queries to Linda Bryder, email l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural Lecture 2009

Prof Peter Malin, Institute of Earth Science and Engineering, UoA: *Drilling*

earthquakes for love and energy: Alpine Fault, San Andreas Fault, and geothermal power. 6-7pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

A one-bedroom apartment is available in The Auckland, Rutland St, City, just behind the Public Library. Fully furnished, immaculate, everything included. North-facing, sunny and warm. No smokers. \$300 pw. Contact Bryan on 480 5857.

Nice fully furnished bedroom in sunny house with a large garden. Lovely quiet area with plenty of space. Close to Eastridge and Mission Bay; bus stop nearby, and not far from the Orakei Rail Station. Parking on the street. To share with one person and a cat. It would suit someone with a sense of humour and a relaxed attitude to life. \$180 pw + expenses. Phone 528 5591 or email bgoodwin@woosh.co.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Apartment required for fortnight over Christmas/New Year 2009.

To sleep three, central location, clean and tidy. Phone 846-6982 or email m.knightbridge@auckland.ac.nz

House-sitter. Medical doctor in Auckland on 12-month contract December 2009 to December 2010. Prefer long-term house-sit close to central Auckland during these dates. Experienced house-sitter. References available. Please contact Steve on (027) 277 9918 or s.thrupp@globe.net.nz

Sabbatical couple and three teenagers looking for rental/sabbatical house/flat in Auckland between December and mid-March 2009-2010. Please contact Christina Wikstrom christina.wikstrom@edmeas.umu.se or John Hattie, j.hattie@auckland.ac.nz
Wanted: Four-bdrm family-friendly house within easy commuting distance of AUT City Campus. New lecturer in School of Hospitality and Tourism at AUT. Family coming out in January 2010. Looking for rented accommodation for six months (Jan - June 2010). Would prefer Ponsonby - Pt Chev area but happy to consider others. Email erwin.losekoot@aut.ac.nz

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

Greek apartment: Study leave or holiday. An Auckland academic's retreat is available to rent any time. Located within three hours of Athens Airport, Tyros is an ideal base for study leave in Europe. It is well served by buses to Athens. The Tyros apartment is brand new within a classic Peleponnese village with its bay and beach-front tavernas. Visit the website www.tyrosapartment.com Email t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz

Olympics in Vancouver/summer in Auckland house swap: Are you an Olympics fan with dreams of attending the Vancouver Winter Games? A lovely family home (three bdrms, two bthrms

and a guesthouse-cum-office in the backyard that can sleep more) located with easy access to Olympic venues (UBC ice rink, downtown Vancouver opening ceremonies, Richmond Oval), airport (less than 10 minutes away), Cypress Mountain (30 mins by car) and Whistler Mountain (less than two hours away) is available for house swap from end of January through early March, 2010. The house features mod-cons and is very airy and comfortable. Owner and his daughter are keen athletes/windsurfers so a house that is close to Auckland beaches, great outdoors and urban amenities would be ideal. Contact mbeaudry@direct.ca

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Epsom unit for sale. 3/495 Manukau Rd, Epsom. Two-bdrm, Grammar Zone. Comes with alarm, private balcony, carport, visitors carpark, extra lockable storage unit. Steps away from amenities, bus stops. Ten minutes walk to ASB Showgrounds, Alexandra Park, Cornwall Park. GV: \$315,000. Will consider all offers. Private sale. Viewing from road welcome. Viewing inside by appointment. Contact Antoinette, email a.vaha@auckland.ac.nz or text (027) 292 5581.

MISCELLANEOUS

For a limited time: \$20 hearing tests available for children aged from six months to five years. Please call the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic, Tamaki Campus for an appointment. Phone 373 8791 (ample free parking).

Research Cooperative. <http://cooperative.ning.com>, an international NPO and network for research students, researchers, science writers, technical communicators, illustrators, editors, proofreaders, translators, and publishers. All languages, topics, countries. Volunteer or paid services. Administration contact researchcooperative@gmail.com

Travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. For more information contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or phone 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

We are looking for non-identical twins between the ages of 16 and 50 for a project run by the Department of Psychology. Testing involves brain scans at the Centre for Advanced MRI (Medical School) to determine both anatomical and functional asymmetries, and tests of handedness. Please contact Professor Michael Corballis (09 3737599 ext 88561, m.corballis@auckland.ac.nz) or Dr Gjurgjica Badzakova (ext 88515, g.badzakova@auckland.ac.nz) for further details.

What is your plan B? Relying on your job or putting plans in place to make sure your financial future is secure? Call Steve on (021) 605 443 and take a look at a proven part-time business.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events

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