

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 40 | Issue 14 | 6 August 2010

Protecting our future



An endangered Mexican Muscovy duck has taken up residence on the campus of Tecnológico de Monterrey, nests in hollow trees and has up to 17 chicks at a time. Staff and students are proud that these members of an endangered species have settled in and appear to be thriving.

Imagine a campus with its own farm, composting units and vegetable gardens, supplying healthy food not only to staff and students but also to an adjacent student-run café that sells delicious organic vegetable pies and muffins.

Imagine another campus on the edge of a large city, fenced to protect its wildlife, including endangered species.

And a third campus, tightly-squeezed into the heritage district of a city of four million people, with its staff and students working to achieve sustainability within the constraints of a traditional approach to building and conservation.

Different universities around the world follow similar trajectories in their journey towards achieving sustainability on campus, says Dr Lesley Stone, The University of Auckland's Sustainability and Environmental Coordinator. However, the specific activities and the means they use to reach their goals differ according to the size, shape,

terrain and location of the campuses.

Lesley had the opportunity on a Universitas 21 Fellowship of visiting all three campuses mentioned above: the University of British Columbia in Canada, Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico, and McGill University in Canada (in order of mention).

She came home overflowing with ideas for the continuing development of sustainability at The University of Auckland.

The University of British Columbia, widely recognised as a role model for sustainability internationally, has created an impressively "green" campus, with buildings, for example, constructed of recycled bricks, with no mechanical heating or cooling. The university has its own energy plant, from which steam is piped through the buildings, and its newer buildings are designed around "the natural movement of air, with heat rising and cool air falling".

One initiative Lesley admired provides for

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Key events

Chapman lecture

Fifty years ago Robert Chapman, later to become foundation professor of Political Studies, delivered a University of Auckland Winter Lecture entitled "No land is an island: Twentieth century politics". In the 2010 Professor Robert Chapman Lecture, Emeritus Professor Barry Gustafson will look at the continuing development and transformation of New Zealand's political culture before considering whether Chapman's thesis is still relevant today.

The lecture takes place at 6.30pm on 9 August at the Maidment Theatre.

Boundaries of compassion

Theories of competition and individualism lie at the heart of the neo-liberal economic agenda. In the annual School of Theology Lecture, Professor Kevin Clements from Otago University will argue that these theories are based on a profound misunderstanding of the key drivers of human behaviour.

A 6.45pm reception will precede the lecture, to be held at 7.30pm on 18 August in the Library Lecture Theatre B15.

Talking science

The Faculty of Science invites you to the inaugural Talking Science event on "Global warming: Why can't scientists agree?"

These informal evenings will feature entertaining debate with the country's foremost authorities on topical scientific issues. In the first session the University's leading environmental scientists present their perspectives on the most contentious issue of our generation. Panel moderator is Professor Grant Guilford, Dean, Faculty of Science. Panellists are Professor Glenn McGregor, Dr Anthony Fowler and Dr Jim Salinger from School of Environment. This free event takes place at Strata Postgraduate Lounge, Level 4, Kate Edger Information Commons, 6pm-9pm on 19 August. RSVP by 5pm, 17 August, to Liz Atkinson on alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz or ext 85266.

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The recent suggestion by Minister for Tertiary Education Steven Joyce that some tertiary funding should be tagged to students' success in finding jobs is interesting in the context of our strategic objective to create "a student environment..... [that encourages] students to reach their full potential in a climate of academic excellence". Responding to the Minister's suggestion, some commentators drew what they saw as an obvious contrast between the vocational ("practical") focus of the polytechnics and the academic ("theoretical") approach of the universities. Such an analysis is flawed, for two reasons.

First, many university graduates are trained for vocations – as doctors, nurses, teachers, architects, engineers, lawyers, artists, historians, accountants and scientists. All of these – and the many other careers our graduates enter – are practical and useful applications of knowledge acquired at university. It is no coincidence that their advanced knowledge and skills lead to our graduates being valued more highly; ie paid more by employers than holders of other qualifications. Thus, for example, masters and doctoral graduates can expect salaries three years after graduation that are respectively 16 percent and 46 percent higher than those of bachelors graduates, whose salaries are in turn 50 percent higher than those of people holding level 1-4 certificates and diplomas.

Second, and more important than salaries immediately after graduation, is the fact that the job market is not static. Today's graduates will, with increased lifespan and activity (itself largely a consequence of university research), likely retire in about 2060 – as far in the future as the 1960s were in the past. Many of the jobs that existed in the past do not exist today – who remembers car assemblers, wharfies, milliners? Meanwhile, new careers have emerged – for example, almost every role today associated with the vast electronics industry (computers, cell phones, electronic transactions, gaming) has been created in the lifetime of a 1960s graduate.

And so the issue is not how well we train graduates for the jobs of today, though that is important. Rather, it is how we prepare them for careers not yet imagined, far less invented. And it is the skills we impart to our students, in "a climate of academic excellence" – the ability to imagine, to strategise, to plan, to adapt, to write, to manipulate numbers, and to work with others – that will most effectively equip them for the future.



New teaching scholarships



Hon Anne Tolley with Professor Stuart McNaughton at the launch of the scholarships.

New scholarships worth more than \$1 million are being offered to teachers to complete high-level research in the Faculty of Education.

The Woolf Fisher Lead Teacher Masters Scholarships were launched by the Minister of Education the Hon Anne Tolley on 22 July.

The Woolf Fisher Trust has generously donated \$1.25 million to fund the scholarships for existing teachers in Auckland and Northland to obtain masters degrees. Scholarship recipients will learn how to use evidence from their schools to design more effective teaching to lift and extend student achievement in their schools.

"New Zealand has one of the largest differences in educational equity in the western world. Low literacy levels among Māori, Pacific and children

from low socioeconomic communities pose one of the greatest challenges to this country's future," says Professor Stuart McNaughton, Director of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre. "It is vital that more teachers are trained to deliver research-based programmes that have been proven to raise achievement in schools in order to turn this situation around."

Over the next five years the scholarships will fund the release of four suitably qualified and outstanding teachers each year for one year's full-time study in the Woolf Fisher Research Centre.

The Centre has spent 12 years developing a model to raise and extend student achievement, working in more than 50 schools and with more than 10,000 children. It has successfully raised literacy levels in urban decile 1 schools to within the national average, and has improved results in a range of other schools including rural and small town schools.

It is recognised as one of New Zealand's most successful projects to improve educational results for Māori, Pacific and children from low socioeconomic communities.

"These scholarships are just the start. We hope a national training programme can be established so that every school can benefit from the Woolf Fisher model," Stuart McNaughton says.

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third- or fourth-year students across the university to complete research projects on sustainability which give them credits towards their qualifications. This programme, called SEEDS (Social, Environmental and Economic Development Studies), encourages staff to come up with an idea – for example, using compostible utensils in the cafeteria – and take it to a "SEEDS" coordinator, who then finds an academic supervisor and a student to conduct the baseline research needed to bring the idea to fruition.

"UBC does about 90 of these projects a year, elevating awareness among students and contributing to the pool of knowledge on sustainability," says Lesley.

At Tecnológico de Monterrey in Monterrey (the central campus of a private university with 33 campuses spread across Mexico), Lesley was impressed by the focus on conservation of, and education about, flora and fauna in the university grounds. The university publishes a map showing where the trees are located and which species of animals, birds and insects are attracted to particular areas.

Another strength of Monterrey is in its work on social sustainability in local communities. Each programme at each level must include a paper on ethics and social responsibility, with at least three courses in every programme devoted to sustainability issues.

"Monterrey has a policy of educating the educators," Lesley explains, "through workshops for academics on how to create ethics and sustainability courses relevant to their programmes."

Lesley was keen to visit McGill University partly

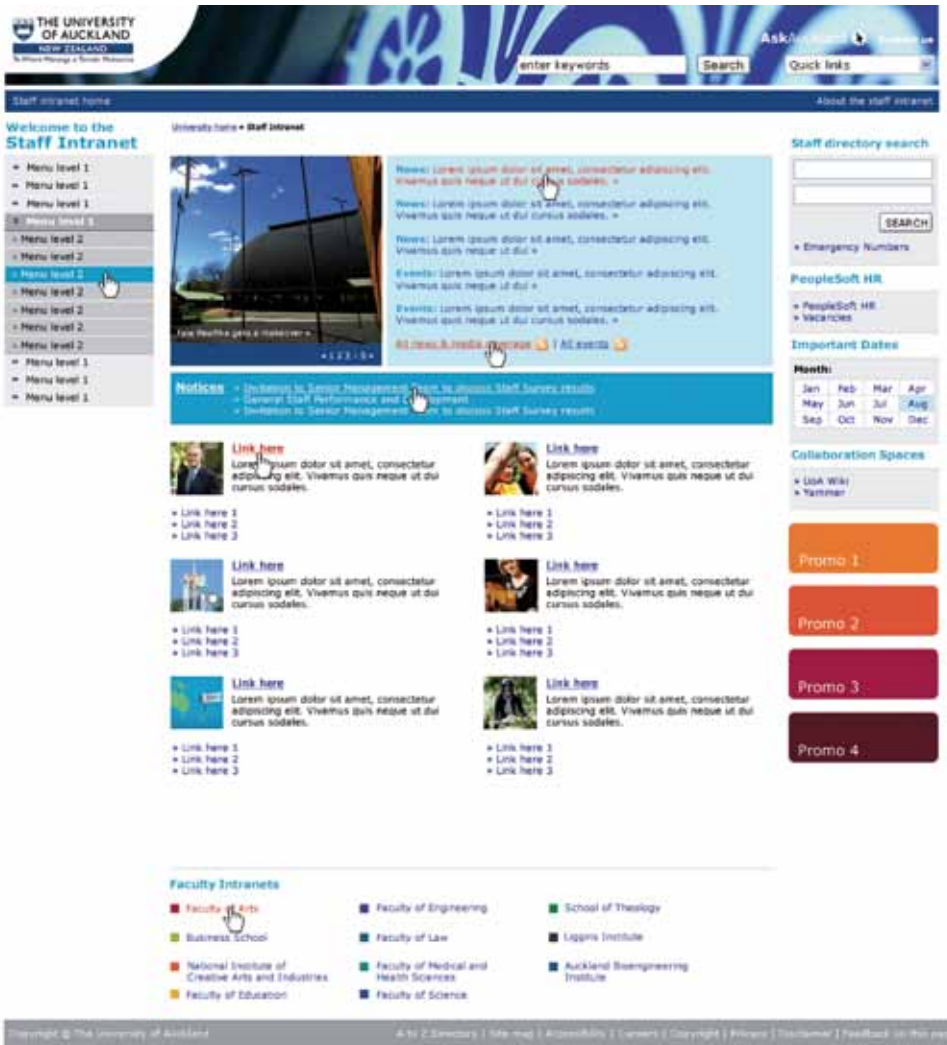
because, as the highest-rated university in its country, it has something in common with The University of Auckland. And in fact, its progress in sustainability is following a similar path, though (because of its heritage buildings) its building and refurbishment programme necessarily takes a traditional approach. It has an Architecture Advisory Committee on refurbishment, which helps balance heritage requirements with environmentally sound decisions.

McGill is building a reputation for engaging its students in sustainability issues, and in fact a student initiative – as Lesley explains – raised C\$400,000 for sustainability research over the next three years.

"A student set up a referendum asking if students would be willing to contribute 50 cents per credit (amounting to around \$20 for an undergraduate student). The students supported it. The university is matching it dollar for dollar, and the money is to be used for contestable sustainability projects to be carried out by students, staff, or teams comprising both."

Another source of funding for McGill's sustainability initiatives comes from its alumni. It has sustainability included in its endowment programme.

"People in the universities were generous with their time and took me everywhere," says Lesley. "I got a really broad sense of what was happening, and came back confirmed in my belief that the key to advancing sustainability is about elevating people's consciousness in a variety of ways and building a culture where excellence and sustainability are inextricably linked."



The front page of the new staff intranet.

Exciting changes are on the way for the central staff intranet.

The new intranet will have a more inviting look, as you see above, with a more dynamic and compelling way to share the University's news. But in addition you will notice differences in both content and structure.

Gabriella Davila, Communications Manager, who has overall responsibility for the intranet's content, says the new intranet will provide information in a much more intuitive way. One of the main aims of the changes is to make it easier for staff to do what they want to do and find the information they need."

"Staff come to the intranet with a purpose," says Frazer Orr, web content publisher in the Communications team. "They want to check their leave balances, look up an extension number, enrol for a staff development session or find and fill in an application form.

"We have tried to make it as easy as possible for staff to complete those tasks, and to take a more direct route to wherever they want to go."

Frazer has played a strong role in restructuring the content and is happy with the result. Over the last few months he and his team have refreshed all content on the intranet, rewriting and standardising style, checking for accuracy and updating links.

"There was a variety of quality in content," he says, "with some of it well-written and up-to-date, and some needing a fair amount of work, perhaps because staff members had passed on to other duties or different positions.

"All content is now up-to-date and reliable, and has a staff member responsible for looking after it," he adds.

In addition there is a new calendar listing events, key dates and training courses, and a new section which brings together resources for heads of departments and general staff managers. This includes profiles of HODs and managers, speaking of their roles and their concepts of leadership.

Service divisions are now reviewing the revised intranet, and the launch of the new site is planned for 9 September. According to Project Manager Antoinette Keshu, feedback has been positive and people are happy with how it looks, making information much easier to find. "It's a very satisfying stage because you can see the manifestations of the planning and work over the last six months. Now we can see the intranet growing in front of us."

A large number of people have been working very hard, with staff from all service divisions contributing content, and a team from Information Technology Services (ITS) building the site.

At the core of the transformation is the change

Research on the run

In a new competition to be hosted in September by the School of Graduate Studies, masters students doing 90-point theses and PhD students will be given just three minutes each to explain their research.

The Three Minute Thesis Competition – also known as "Thesis Idol" – is run in universities worldwide. Competitors must explain the gist of their thesis within this limited time, with one single PowerPoint slide permitted as a visual aid.

The University of Auckland competition is structured in heats with a University final.

The heats will be held on 1 and 2 September, and the finals will be held at OGGB from 4pm on Friday 3 September, and will be followed by a prize-giving, pizza and drinks. The finals are free and open to everyone to attend. They promise to deliver a fun afternoon of humour, competition, celebrity judges, networking and spectacle.

The winner, first runner-up and second runner-up will each receive a watch from Citizen watches. The winner will also receive \$1000. Each finalist will receive a \$20 University Bookshop voucher. The University of Auckland winner will be flown to Queensland to compete in the Trans-Tasman competition, which will be held on 21 September 2010.

Any current University of Auckland student studying towards a 90-point masters thesis or a PhD (apart from PhD candidates who sit their oral examination prior to 1 September) can enter by accessing the website www.auckland.ac.nz/3minutethesis

Winning works

The best "works on paper" prize presently available in New Zealand has been shared by three students from Elam School of Fine Arts.

Toby Raine, Heidi Brickell and Amelia Hitchcock have been jointly awarded the Lola Anne Tunbridge Scholarship, a \$10,000 prize given annually to an Elam artist who excels in the exploration of contemporary themes in watercolour.

to a new content management system (CMS). Instead of ShadoMX, the intranet will now be using Jahia, which is used for the University's external website and is "user-friendly" for staff updating content.

The intranet project is now in a major technical phase, with ITS staff working hard to make sure it will all be running smoothly by the date of the launch.

And even after the launch staff will be constantly refining and improving the intranet, which will need to be well-looked after to make the most of all the hard work up to this point.

Read more about the staff intranet upgrade at: <https://wiki.auckland.ac.nz/display/ITPRO/Staff+Intranet+Migration>

Mobile access to Library



Brian Flaherty checks out the University Library's catalogue.

Want to renew one of your library books while you're sitting on the bus going home? Or perhaps check out the University Library's Catalogue and place a request for something out on loan?

As long as you've got an internet-enabled mobile phone or wireless device such as iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad, then you can now access the University Library's Catalogue from anywhere, at any time.

Working with US mobile applications company Boopsie, the Library has recently launched its custom-built, free mobile phone application. Mobile users can go to the Library's Mobile web page www.library.auckland.ac.nz/mobile/ for instructions on how to download for iPhone, Android and other phones.

"Staff and students are using a range of devices to access information resources now," says Brian Flaherty, Assistant University Librarian for IT who has worked on the project with the Digital Services team, Peter Jansen and Yanan Zhao. "We believe we have to deliver Library services across multiple platforms, and to whichever device staff and students are using", whether a phone, iPad, or desktop machine.

To access the Library Catalogue on your phone you just start typing in the first couple of letters and watch results return as you continue typing. Boopsie makes use of the Smart Prefix system to reduce keystrokes and re-indexes the Library database to improve response times.

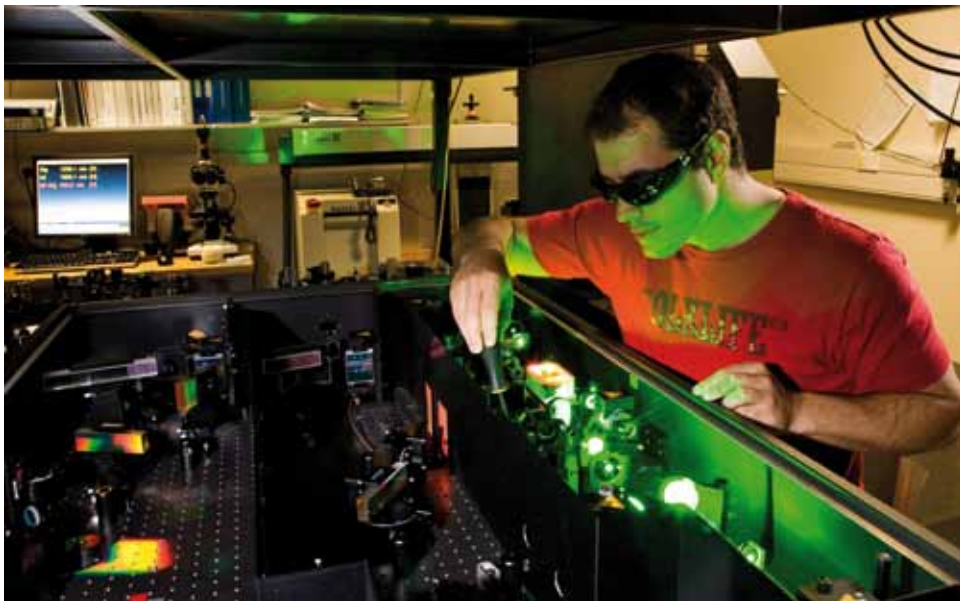
"We've already had good feedback from users both on and off-campus. There is also the convenience of using a phone around different floors of the Library to search for a book," says Brian. "With the Library mobile application they don't need to write down call numbers on pieces of paper and then check back with a Library PC if the call number has been written down incorrectly - it's all there on the phone!"

As well as accessing the catalogue and your library account, you can use your phone to discover items recently added to the Library collections, book a Library course, or find out the latest news through blogs and the University's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Contact information and opening hours for each library location are also included and a Library locator button lets you locate each of the University's 13 libraries through Google Maps.

See: www.library.auckland.ac.nz/mobile

New micromachining at the cutting edge



Dr Charles Rohde, postdoctoral researcher and user coordinator at the Photon Factory.

A certificate of appreciation much smaller than the head of a pin was presented to Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon last month, proving that good things really can come in tiny packages.

Printed on a light-sensitive plastic coated on glass, the certificate demonstrated the laser micromachining capability recently acquired by the University, with support from the Vice-Chancellor through Major Items of Research Equipment (MIRE) funding and a Strategic Development Grant; and with the assistance of the Faculty of Science and Department of Chemistry.

Stuart received the certificate at a celebration event hosted by the Department of Chemistry to showcase new and improved major research facilities housed in its basement. Operating at the intersection of chemistry, physics, biology, and engineering, these facilities are available to students and researchers from across the University as well as external academics and industry.

The new micromachining stage is part of the Photon Factory - a laser facility for basic and applied research. The factory produces extremely short, high-energy laser pulses that allow

researchers to monitor chemical and physical reactions produced by light as they occur. With so many reactions occurring in response to light - from chemical decay to solar energy conversion - the applications are vast.

The micromachining stage means the lasers can be used to carve materials from glass to metals on the micron scale (one thousandth of a millimetre) and to build components on the same scale by solidifying polymers. Just two of its current applications are manufacturing cutting-edge optics for physics research and helping make solar roofing tiles a reality.

The custom-built stage is unique in New Zealand and can be used for industry-standard work, or finer-scale research applications.

Also shown at the celebration event were the new cleanroom-based Microfabrication Facility, an X-Ray Diffraction Laboratory, and major upgrades to the University's NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) Centre and Free Radical Research Facility.

The Microfabrication Facility offers services such as micro-scale lithography; characterisation and testing of the tiny devices constructed; imaging; and metal evaporation.

This fine-scale work must be done in a cleanroom - a controlled environment with reduced airborne pollutants and carefully regulated temperature, humidity and light. Two of the facility's current projects include developing micro-devices for the controlled release of drugs, and studying the metabolism of single cells.

With the assistance of MIRE funding, the NMR Centre has recently acquired several new

instruments, including a new robotic sample changer that allows the facility to be used around the clock. NMR spectroscopy is used to determine the composition and purity of a sample or its molecular structure. This is an essential tool for organic chemists, structural biologists, forensic scientists and other researchers.

X-ray diffraction is another method of determining molecular and crystalline structures, and the University's facilities for examining crystals and powders have been extended with a donation from Rio Tinto Alcan of a second powder x-ray diffractometer. The single crystal facility is used by chemists to determine the structure of small molecules whereas the powder facility is dedicated to materials science applications, such as examining novel catalysts for the aluminium industry.

The Free Radical Research Facility looks at how exposure to free radicals affects samples. It can evaluate the effects of exposure to radiation and is used for applications ranging from food science to drug development, such as examining the activity of antioxidants.

Professor Jim Metson, HOD of Chemistry, says the facilities represent "a major advance in our research capabilities and support programmes, with wide impact across the University and with national and international collaborators".

They are already being used by local industries, as well as in collaborative projects with the Departments of Physics and Mechanical Engineering, the School of Biological Sciences, the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and the Light Metals Research Centre.

Conflictz

The first electronic database of New Zealand scholarship on conflict of laws has been established at the Auckland Law School.

Conflictz, as it is known, provides a comprehensive, systematic and up-to-date repository for lawyers, academics and students. It lists publications dealing with New Zealand conflict of laws/private international law in the areas of jurisdiction, choice of law, and recognition and enforcement of judgments in international cross-border litigation.

Drawing on the work of 45 authors it spans over 700 key words ranging from "Abandonment of domicile of choice: intention" to "Workmen's compensation statutes".

The database is the work of senior lecturer Dr Elsabe Schoeman who spent several years bringing the project to fruition.

She was assisted by staff of the Digital Services Department at the University Library, who designed the database, and received generous sponsorship from the New Zealand Law Foundation.

Two criteria determined Conflictz's content: whether the publication was produced by a New Zealand researcher, and/or whether it addresses issues relevant to New Zealand private international law.

What do New Zealand children find stressful and how do they cope?

In an era where time is increasingly precious, "stress" is a word used frequently to describe the cause and effect of life's challenges. Even though it may not be part of children's everyday lexicon, they can define it with clarity.

"Sometimes you get stressed when you're in fights and work too hard and when you're going through bad things with your family or friends. It's when you're tired and worn out and sometimes when you're sad. It's just when you can't be bothered doing things you can't do and trying out new things." (10-year-old)

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, children's stressor check-lists were based largely on the opinions of adults and included items, such as "family conflict" and "death in the family", still relevant today. Increased consultation with children during the 90s revealed new stressors, perhaps analogous to the growth of electronic mass media communications, including "war and terrorism" "natural disasters", and "strangers". During the first decade of the 2000s, emergent stressors reflected experiences of "time paucity", for example "too many things to do" and accelerated pseudo maturity – "liking someone", or "boyfriend/girlfriend problems".

By 2010, in results from a University of Auckland study undertaken around New Zealand with children (eight to 12 years) not in known stressful situations, contemporary stressors included children's "concerns about their own future".

"Sometimes I worry about my future. I'd like to worry less about the disasters and just get on with my life" (10 years) and: "I worry about the future, if I have children, would there be a future for them?" (10-year-old).

The stress of "worrying about what's going on in the world", was also evident.

"I'm scared of global warming cause they say Antarctica is melting and that means the water is going to rise and all the land is going to be buried by water and I'm going to drown." (10 years)

While the 29 stressors identified were divided into four categories – family, school, interpersonal, intrapersonal – the highest number was recorded within the family. Stressors associated with parents included children's concerns about "fighting and arguing".

"Sometimes I can't do anything cause I get little panic attacks. It scares me cause my dad is bigger than my mum and when they are both in the room arguing I get all hot and I can't breathe properly. I worry that my dad might hurt my mum. Sometimes I feel dizzy." (10-year-old)

While children could articulate that discord in families is normal, those living in homes where conflict is common appeared on the alert in their environment.

"It's what might happen, that's what usually gets me stressed with what might happen" (aged 10).

While stress associated with "parental separation

and divorce" is well documented, children today, "informed" by the media and the commonality of the experience amongst peers, experience another common stressor – "whether parental conflict may lead to separation and/or divorce".

"Sometimes I would just try to show that I am not worried and try to be calm. I just hide myself inside myself...the worries I mean. Later I think, my parents...they haven't divorced, they are still together, but it is just a worry. I'm just worrying that they may get divorced and then I have to choose which parent I have to go with" (11-year-old)

Children provide insightful commentary about their environments and based on the number and depth of their views on "living with parents who are stressed", it stands out as a major stressor.

"Usually she is a happy cheery lady, and she's all just down now, I don't know, she's just different and it stresses me out. I just go up to her and hug her. I just try and talk about things to distract her." (11-year-old)

Many are acutely aware of parental stressors, the signs and the impact within the family. Importantly, the observer, protector and caregiver roles that children adopt are palpable.

"You can see it in her eyes, she is tired and she doesn't look as happy as she used to look. It makes me sad because mum is so tired, she doesn't concentrate. Sometimes I just want to grab her and take the stress away" (10-year-old)

Children's stress can be directly linked to the inability of adults to shield them from their own personal relationship challenges and stressors. While life stressors can be seen as unavoidable and the ability to cope a significant life skill, the importance of adults modelling effective coping strategies and maintaining awareness of what children find stressful is critical to wellbeing. Creating an environment where children learn to talk about their stressors, seek support and experience the benefits of these connections and communications establishes patterns for a lifetime.

"While you have still got your children, just spend a lot of time with your children, so you know them and so you can easily tell when something is wrong with them and quickly help them before it gets too big to solve. While they are young, get to know them better and keep in close contact with them when they are older". (10-year-old)

Fiona Pienaar
School of Population Health

Gus Fisher will be greatly missed



Gus Fisher ONZM, friend and generous benefactor to The University of Auckland and a regular participant in the University community over the past decade, died on 20 July aged 89.

“Gus has been a wonderful friend and supporter of the University in so many different, valuable ways, and he will be greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to Rene, Michael and Dianne and their family,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

Gus Fisher’s outstanding support of the University is best known through his remarkable gift of the exhibition gallery at 74 Shortland Street that is named in his honour: the Gus Fisher Gallery. Established in 2001, it was set up to

provide exhibitions of the visual arts and to foster research and creative work of the highest national and international standards. Gus was passionate about art and believed that good cultural understanding was important for a healthy society; he was proud to support what was to become an established feature of the Auckland art scene.

Ten years later, in April 2010, the gallery provided the ideal venue for a presentation to Gus and Irene Fisher as recipients of the fifth annual Arts Foundation of New Zealand Award for Patronage. Fittingly, it was also home to a recent exhibition that told the story of the House of El Jay, the top-end women’s fashion company founded by Gus, who was a pioneer of the New Zealand fashion industry and held a licence to make Christian Dior garments in New Zealand for 33 years.

In 2004 Mr Fisher’s generosity and family history led to the creation of the Gus Fisher Postdoctoral Fellowship, specialising in neurodegenerative diseases and the quest for a cure for Parkinson’s disease. This was the first fellowship related to Parkinson’s research offered in New Zealand. Mr Fisher’s hope was that a cure might be found for the disease from which his mother died, and that this fellowship would benefit not just the University, but the world.

Gus Fisher’s enrichment of the research culture of the University went even further when he became a founding donor to the Hood Fellowships Fund, a programme which supports international academic exchange through hosting eminent scholars from offshore institutions and funding outstanding academics of our own to travel to the world’s most prestigious places of learning. He and other family members were among guests at a celebration of the Fellowships at the University in June, when former Vice-Chancellor Dr John Hood visited Auckland.

In 2005 Mr Fisher was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from The University of Auckland for his contribution to the development of academic programmes, the Fisher Parkinson’s Fellowship, research and infrastructure at the University and his key role in establishing the Gus Fisher Gallery at the Kenneth Myers Centre.

Mr Fisher also gave significant support to a number of organisations including the Auckland War Memorial Museum and community drug education and rehabilitation programmes. He was awarded a Mayor’s Living Legend Award in 2007 and in June 2009 became an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to philanthropy.

Evolution, Literature and Film



Early this year Stanford English Department’s Terry Castle commented in the *New York Times*: “The smartest literary scholars right now are interested in evolutionary psychology and brain science.”

Brian Boyd, University

Distinguished Professor of English, organised the world’s first Literature and Evolution conference, held at the University of Auckland in December 2006.

He brought here Joseph Carroll, the founder of evolutionary literary studies, and Jonathan Gottschall, the most productive younger scholar in the field, along with anthropologist Ellen

Dissanayake, the first to write at length about evolution and the arts (*What Are the Arts For?*, 1988) and University of Canterbury philosopher of art Denis Dutton.

Since then, they have published *On the Origin of Stories: Evolution, Cognition, and Fiction* (Boyd, Harvard, 2009: described as “subversive,” “thought-provoking,” “path-breaking,” “masterful,” “entrancing,” “amazing”), *The Art Instinct* (Dutton, Bloomsbury/Oxford, 2009), *The Rape of Troy: Evolution, Violence, and the World of Homer* (Gottschall, Cambridge, 2008), and *Literature, Science, and a New Humanities* (Gottschall, Palgrave, 2008).

In addition, Joseph Carroll has founded the highly successful *The Evolutionary Review* – and the three literary scholars have another four evolutionary books in the pipeline.

Evolution, Literature, and Film: A Reader, edited by Brian Boyd, Joseph Carroll and Jonathan Gottschall and published in New York by Columbia University Press, 2010, offers the first self-

contained reader for teachers and students interested in evolutionary approaches to literature and film, with contributions not just from those already mentioned but from a certain Charles Darwin, and from recent Auckland visitors, biologist Richard Dawkins, biologist and anthropologist David Sloan Wilson (coming here again this October as a Hood Fellow to further evolutionary studies across at least three faculties), psychologist and Robb Lecturer Steven Pinker, and film scholar and Hood Fellow David Bordwell, among many others.

Texts under the microscope include folk and fairy-tales; Homer’s *Iliad*; Shakespeare’s plays; works by Wordsworth, Dickens, Emily Brontë, and Zora Neale Hurston; sci-fi, comics, and slash fiction; and films from Europe, America, Asia, and Africa. Each of the critical essays explains how and why evolution contributes to a study of human minds, behaviour, cultures, and arts.

High accolades for psychologist

Once every three years the New Zealand Psychological Society presents the Sir Thomas Hunter Award for distinction in research. This year the honoured recipient of this prestigious prize is Associate Professor John Read from the Department of Psychology.

The award acknowledges his “major contribution to research on the effects of psychosocial life events, including childhood trauma, on the development of psychopathology”.

It also strongly confirms his place in the company of New Zealand’s most eminent psychologists.

The committee, in its citation, refers to John’s influential journal articles, chapters and books in this field; his addressing of the issue of the stigmatisation of people with mental health problems; his work on the evaluation of mental health services; and “the significance of his efforts to translate research into practice through his national and international presentations on

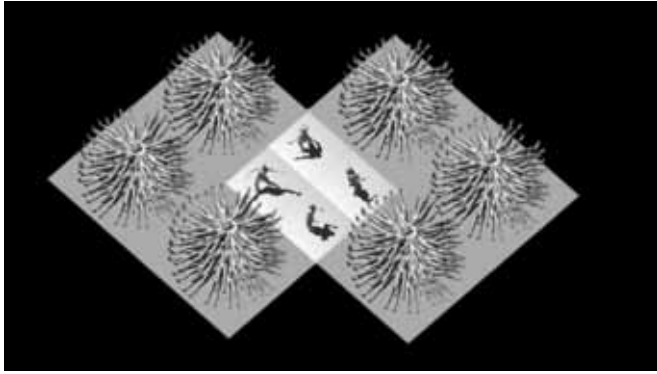
psychological treatments for persons with schizophrenia”.

The award was presented at the New Zealand Psychological Society’s annual conference in Rotorua.

John is invited to present the “Sir Thomas Hunter Address” at the 2011 NZPS conference.

For more information see the News section of the staff intranet.

From the collection



At the beginning of the 21st century, photography was fighting hard for equal representation in art galleries and collections.

Unlike with painting, there is a perception that anyone can take a photograph (most people have at some stage), and that reproducibility undermines the unique status of a photograph.

To help remedy this perception, works are sold as unique, editioned or numbered prints, and in specialised formats such as large-scale cibachromes. At about this same time, The University of Auckland Art Collection, which already owned a small number of photographs, including an Anne Noble purchased in 1983, established a particular focus on collecting contemporary photographic works and we now have more than 100.

Before the decade was over, it was also decided that the collection should also take an interest in video art (which, as a collectable commodity, faces a similar dilemma to photography). This was quite possibly the first New Zealand university to do so.

In late 2009 three video works were purchased. These are by Walters Prize finalist and Elam lecturer Alex Monteith, Australian-based expatriate Daniel Von Sturmer and alumnus Gregory Bennett.

Bennett completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Elam in 1989, winning the Senior Prize in Fine Arts in 1988 and the Annual Prize in 1989. He went on to work in the University's Audiovisual

Library and then as tutor and senior technician for the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies. He returned to Elam in 2003 to undertake a Master of Fine Arts degree, which he completed the following year with first class honours.

Bennett has special interests in 3D animation, digital media and animation theory, and his digital prints and animations explore the ergonomics of the human body through the rhythms of movement and the idiosyncrasies of computer rendering. By keeping his work stripped back to the barest essentials, he not only presents a bustling study of bodily motion reminiscent of Eadweard Muybridge's early photographic studies or Leonardo da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man*, but also the quirky malfunctions that result from translating human ergonomics into computer programming.

In Bennett's earlier works, rows of automatons would move in unison to establish patterns and rhythms. Using computer animation, impossibly tight configurations of figures would generate new, oscillating forms, reminiscent of the flamboyant

Arts

fantasy scenes of Broadway choreographer Busby Berkley.

BLACKNOISE was included in the 2008 Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition *The Swarm*, which looked at group dynamics and collective intelligence in art. Many of the works explored the way individual elements could combine to create a group infrastructure that yields more power than the sum of its parts.

Unlike the previous floating repetitions BLACKNOISE starts to group figures into a tableau. Hordes gather in more unruly bunches but become even more faceless amidst larger groupings. They are also placed in different arenas, creating a more complex ecosystem of settings populated by a variety of characters tirelessly performing their respective routines in service of a mysterious greater purpose.

Bennett's futuristic visions are those of science fiction, particularly the dystopias of George Orwell, not to forget William S. Burroughs' *Wild Boys* or William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, in which independent will struggles in the face of larger social forces and group mentality. There are advantages to losing yourself in a gang – safety in numbers – and it is difficult to resist the pull of the group. These are the strange dynamics of Bennett's metropolis, where the citizens are cogs in a giant machine.

Andrew Clifford

Gregory Bennett (b.1965), BLACKNOISE, 2008, Single-screen digital video, screen and DVD player, dur 19 mins 52 secs looped, unique edition, The University of Auckland Art Collection

Confucius delegates converge on Auckland



The Oceania Regional Meeting of Confucius Institutes, hosted by Auckland Confucius Institute from 12-15 July, proved to be the ideal size for successful sharing of ideas, information and approaches.

Nora Yao, Director of the Auckland Confucius Institute, was delighted to see the excellent communication and fruitful exchange of ideas

between the 70 delegates from about 20 Confucius Institutes from right across Oceania and south and west Asia.

Among the guests were members of a delegation from Hanban in China, which provides funds for Confucius Institutes across the world, and a further delegation from Fudan University in Shanghai, the Auckland Confucius Institute's partner in China.

The meeting focused on sharing between institutes about their programmes; on teacher training; on developing local teaching materials; and on advancing programmes in schools.

The Confucius Institutes aim to support learning of Chinese language and culture around the world. Nora and her colleagues therefore welcomed the words of Prime Minister John Key, in a media

interview within days of the meeting, that learning Mandarin is important for New Zealanders.

For three consecutive years, the Auckland Confucius Institute has won the Confucius Institute of the Year award, from among all the institutes world-wide, which now number 316.

Nora reports that the conference brought a great deal of publicity for the Auckland Confucius Institute (and for the University), not only through local media such as the *New Zealand Herald*, but also through the work of overseas journalists who attended the meeting.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutchen with Asian Studies student Alannah Manson, and Mr Zhao, Deputy Director-General of HANBAN. The Vice-Chancellor opened the exhibition of Mandarin language teaching materials, sent by HANBAN.

Art and mind

You still have a chance to see an exciting science-art collaboration, featuring innovative artwork inspired by the cutting-edge science under way in the Centre for Brain Research.

Participating artists have created striking new art and sound installations, on display until 7 August in an exhibition called "Do You Mind?" at the Ironbank complex in Auckland's Karangahape Road.

Fifteen up and coming artists are taking part in

the project, with practices ranging from organic sculpture to contemporary watercolours and from sound production to oil paintings. Under the curatorship of Auckland arts management company The Busy Nice, the artists were paired up with early-career brain researchers. Among the artists taking part is Alexander Hoyles, whose works centre round reinterpretation of scientific and theological theories; photo-based artist Rita Godlevskis, who takes a research-based

perspective; and *Metro* magazine illustrator Henrietta Harris. The 15 partner scientists are members of the University's Centre for Brain Research, and range from postgraduate students to early-career neuroscientists. By translating science into unusual media the aim is to communicate neuroscience to new audiences.

The Royal Society of New Zealand kindly supported this exciting project, along with venue support from Samson Corporation.

What's on

FRIDAY 6 AUGUST

Department of Psychology seminar
Assoc Prof Jie W. Weiss, Dept of Health Science, California State University, Fullerton: *A descriptive utility model for lifestyle choices*. 1pm HSB 604. Queries to d.addis@auckland.ac.nz

Composition workshop
Dr Eve de Castro-Robinson: *A search for unity*. 4pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST

Professional Practice: exhibition response
Jim Barr talks of his long association with Julian Dashper as both a collector and collaborator. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

MONDAY 9 AUGUST

Planning and designing for eLearning
10am-1pm CAD, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. This session introduces participants to principles of educational design for blended and online learning. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

2010 Professor Robert Chapman Lecture
Emeritus Professor Barry Gustafson: *No land is an Island: Twenty-first century politics*. 6.30pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St.

TUESDAY 10 AUGUST

Fourth 2010 Winter Lecture
Dr Luke Goode, Dept of Film, Television and Media Studies, UoA: *The end(s) of journalism: Citizens as gatekeepers*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Chair: Russell Brown. Free. All welcome. For further information please phone 373 7599 ext 87698. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

ILA/NZIIA/Faculty of Law lecture
His Excellency the Rt Hon Sir Kenneth Keith, Judge of the International Court of Justice: *Judging at home and abroad: Similarities and differences*. 6pm Stone Lecture Theatre, Bldg 801, 9 Eden Cres. RSVP to ext 85971.

WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST

Dept of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar
Dr Jenny Jones, UoA: *Complexities of*

Mother Tongue policy implementation in multilingual and multiethnic Kenyan schools: The case of the Sabaoi. 12noon Rm 103, Fisher Bldg.

Department of Psychology seminar
Dr Audrey McKinlay, University of Canterbury: *Mild head injury in childhood: Not just a bang on the head: Evidence from a birth cohort*. 4pm HSB 604. Queries to d.addis@auckland.ac.nz

Fast Forward lecture series
Hitoshi Abe, Atelier Hitoshi Abe, Los Angeles. 6.30pm Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, Bldg 401, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

THURSDAY 12 AUGUST

Dept of History seminar
Rob Whitbourne, UoA: *The kūmara trail: From the East Cape to Cusco*. 4pm Rm 59, History Dept.

FRIDAY 13 AUGUST

Sound performance: Gate and Rachel Shearer
7pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. A live performance in the gallery's Grand Foyer. Gate's first LP in over a decade, *A Republic of Sadness*, has just been released on US label Ba Da Bing. \$10, no bookings. Phone 923 6646.

SATURDAY 14 AUGUST

Artist talk
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Artist and musician Michael Morley responds to Professional Practice exhibition with a talk about the use of records in his own practice, his connections to Julian Dashper's record-making, and relationships between painting and music, image and sound.

SUNDAY 15 AUGUST

Chopin/Schumann extravaganza
1-4.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Piano students present piano sonatas and variations to commemorate the work of Frédéric Chopin and Robert Schumann. Twenty performances will take place and audience are welcome at any stage during the event. Free.

MONDAY 16 AUGUST

Department of Classics and Ancient History seminar
Dr Ralph Covino, University of Tennessee - Chattanooga: *When history failed the Romans*. 6pm Lecture Theatre 029, ClockTower, 22 Princes St.

TUESDAY 17 AUGUST

Fifth 2010 Winter Lecture
Dr Joe Atkinson, Dept of Political Studies, UoA: *The end(s) of journalism: Politics as comedy*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Chair: James Griffin. Free. All welcome. For further information please phone 373 7599 ext 87698. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

Bioengineering research seminar
Assoc-Prof Georgy Gimel'farb, Dept of Computer Science, UoA: *Accurate image modelling for computer-assisted medical diagnostics*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Hood Lecture
Michael F D Young, University of London: *A curriculum for a knowledge society: Lessons from the sociology of education*. 6.30pm J1 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus, 74 Epsom Ave. Reception to follow. RSVP to d.leyland@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST

Dept of Computer Science seminar
Fuad Tabba, The University of Auckland. *Adding concurrency in Python using transactional memory*. 12-1pm Computer Science Rm 279, Bldg 303S.

Introducing learning journals into your courses
2-4pm CAD, Level 5, 76 Symonds Street. Use learning journals to help students clarify their thinking and strengthen their writing. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at 88140 for assistance.

Faculty of Education open evening
4-7.30pm Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom. Come and see what's on offer for 2011.

School of Critical Studies in Education lecture
Prof Michael F D Young, University of London, Hood Fellow: *Knowledge and Education: From the new sociology of education to social realism*. 4.30pm Owen Gilmore Lecture Theatre N303, N block, Faculty of Education, 60 Epsom Ave.

Fast Forward lecture series
Leigh Auton, Manukau City Council. 6.30pm Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, Bldg 401, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

School of Theology lecture
Prof Kevin Clements, Foundation Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies, Previous Director, NZ Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago: *Enlarging boundaries of compassion*. 7.30pm Library B15.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

A one-bdrm 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.

Apartments for rent. Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call Shirlene Brebner on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Pet sitters required for three weeks in October. We have two cats, two small dogs (who think they are cats) and two tame laying hens all who enjoy the company of humans. Ideally one of the pet sitters would work from home. The house is large and comfortable, right in the village of Mt Eden and one bus stage from University. Phone 630-6111 Katherine or Brendan (answer phone) or email ellamore1880@gmail.com

Ponsonby housemate. Ponsonby villa close to shops. House has three bthrms. On the link bus route to University. Fully-furnished, quiet. Suits visiting researcher or PhD student. N/S. \$180 pw + expenses. Phone 360 2202 or 0274368836.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Room wanted in established flat/house for University staff member. Furnished preferred, close to University City Campus. Reliable, tidy and dependable with impeccable references. Can pay up to \$200 pw. Contact Sabine on s.kruekel@auckland.ac.nz or phone 0226923486.

MISCELLANEOUS

Carpenter/builder available. Over 30 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References. Phone Chris on 270 0745 or (027) 293 2279.

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. Contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.