

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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## Clinics serve students and community



*Optometry student Vipti Kapadia performs a tonometry test under the direction of Clinical Supervisor Bhanvini Solanki in the Optometry Clinic.*

The painters have packed away their brushes and left the building. The receptionists are at the front desk, ready, waiting and smiling. Now it's time for everyone who's had a hand in getting The University of Auckland Clinics up and running to down tools and celebrate.

And when the local health professionals, politicians, community members and staff gather for the Clinics' official launch in the School of Population Health at the Tamaki Campus on 22 March, they'll be celebrating much more than just the physical changes.

The University has long offered staff and the local community some very competitively priced health services at its teaching and research clinics.

What's different about these services now is they have been brought together under one shared management system, says Linda Thompson, Faculty Manager for the Faculty of Science.

Clients can still access the same range of first-class health services they have benefited from in the past: optometry; audiology; speech

language therapy; psychology services; exercise and cardiac rehabilitation; and, of course, the popular fitness gym across the road in Merton Road, run by the Clinics' sports scientists.

The main purpose of the Clinics – to support teaching and research – hasn't changed under the new approach either.

Student health professionals will still clock up the practical, on-the-job experience they need by working with clients under the watchful eyes of their clinical supervisors.

But with the advent of the new shared services model – where the Clinics share front-desk reception services, for example – clients can now look forward to better customer service, says Linda.

The Clinics have their own dedicated Business Operations Manager, Tracey Reason, responsible for leading the development of the Clinics, and will have their own website on [www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz).

The new entity is the result of a joint initiative between the Faculties of Science and Medical and Health Sciences. It spans four University

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## Key events

### At Gus Fisher

Felix Kelly: A Kiwi At Brideshead focuses on New Zealand-born artist Felix Kelly's misremembering of New Zealand, the homeland he abandoned as a young man. A painter with a romantic style all of his own, Kelly (1914-1994) established himself as a graphic designer in London in the 1930s before moving into stage and interior design in the 1950s. The exhibition is on now until 10 April.

### Grow your brain

Can old dogs learn new tricks? Hear what the brain experts have to say on that score at "Learning machines", on Thursday 18 March from 6.30-8pm at the Auckland Museum Auditorium. Dr Johanna Montgomery and Associate Professors Ian Kirk and Winston Byblow will speak at this panel discussion. For more information go to [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz)

### Brain day fun

The Centre for Brain Research's "Brain Day" is a free, public open day on Saturday 20 March from 9am to 4pm in the Business School. Get the latest tips for optimal brain health and brain development from the neuroscientists and let the kids loose in the Science Lab for some hands-on games. An expo of brain-related community support groups will give advice and support to people with brain and sensory disorders.

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

I recently had the pleasure of welcoming to our shores and to our University a new cohort of students from nearly 100 countries around the world, particularly in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

International students have been coming to New Zealand universities for over 60 years. Many of us remember with great affection the outstanding students who studied in New Zealand under the Colombo Plan. Those students now occupy influential positions in their own countries. Their ongoing connection with and empathy for New Zealand has been of great advantage to this country over the last half century.

Our international students not only have to meet high academic entry standards but they connect this country to both the established and the emerging knowledge economies globally. The strong networks of personal relationships they establish here underpin a broader national strategy to connect New Zealand's research and innovation system to the rest of the world. Without this, New Zealand's economic and educational future would be severely weakened.

International education is now one of our largest export activities, generating over \$2 billion in foreign exchange revenue annually. The jobs of a great many New Zealanders rely on the financial contribution that international students, their families and their governments make to this country through international education. But while the revenue from international students helpfully adds to the diversity of the University's revenue base, enabling us to provide a wider range of courses and better infrastructure to all our students, that is not the main reason for having international students.

Rather, we seek international students because they add to the diversity of our domestic students' experience, create lifelong relationships throughout the world, and allow us to benchmark ourselves against the world's best. Go to any top university internationally and you will find upwards of 30 percent of its research students are international (much higher than in New Zealand). For example, the United States' global science and technology leadership is based on its ability to attract these people. We need to ensure that top students from around the world are equally "at home" in our country and that they achieve a high quality educational experience and an internationally recognised degree while giving so much to New Zealand during the time that they are our guests.



## 'Convene with the Dean' teas a hit



Greg Whittred (second from left) greets staff at the morning tea.

**Everyone knows putting on the kettle and sharing a cuppa with someone is great way to get to know them and to sort out a few problems. It's a Kiwi tradition. And no one knows it better than the staff at the Business School.**

Once a month or so, 30 randomly selected staff get along to the school's "Convene with the Dean" morning or afternoon teas.

The idea, says the Dean, Professor Greg Whittred, is to bring together staff who might otherwise never meet in a relaxed, informal setting to find out what makes each other tick and to exchange thinking.

Theirs is big school with about 355 staff. "I've been here 18 months and I still don't know everyone," says Greg. "It's very easy to have an 'open door' policy, but if there's always someone in your office, then it mightn't mean much to someone whose job is quite removed from yours."

The "Convene with the Dean" teas give Greg's staff an opportunity to get to know him personally. "It's important that staff see I'm genuine about building the school in a manner which is consistent with their interests. The teas help get us all get onto the same page about the need for change."

The school's Development Manager Brad Weekly went along to the last get-together earlier this month. "It was a great opportunity to catch up with Greg and to get some feedback on a few things," he says.

The "Convene with the Dean" teas started before last year's Staff Survey results came out, at a time when the school had already recognised it needed to broaden internal communication channels.

So when Greg received his school's results echoing that same sentiment, the findings reinforced the value of keeping the tea cups flowing and the cakes coming.

Greg believes in the value of staff surveys. "Sometimes they throw up surprises; sometimes they simply confirm accepted thinking. But they also point to areas which warrant further investigation. And until you scratch the surface and find out the underlying causes [of problems], it's hard to find cures for them."

From the University-wide Staff Survey results, the Senior Management team gleaned several key areas to target for improvement, among them: career development for general staff; leadership and communication; and work organisation and operating efficiency.

Business and Economics promptly set up internal working parties to tackle each area. "We're trying to dig down into the data to find out what people really mean by their responses in the survey. We hope to come back with our recommendations later this semester."

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departments: Audiology, Optometry and Vision Science, Psychology, and Sport and Exercise Sciences.

Uniting the services under one umbrella was first mooted about seven years ago and subsequently championed by Emeritus Professor Dick Bellamy, Professor Iain Martin (Dean, Medical and Health Sciences), former Professor of Psychology Dr Di McCarthy (now CEO of the Royal Society of

New Zealand), and Adrienne Cleland (Director of Administration).

A governance board, chaired by Professor Grant Guilford (Dean, Faculty of Science), oversees the Clinics' operations. "The enhanced supervised clinical training provided by the Clinics will benefit our graduates and, through them, communities throughout New Zealand," says Grant.

# Fruitful summer for scholars



Left to right are 2009/2010 Summer Scholars Jennifer Bull, Lisa Vandenburg, Lisa Young and Tele'a Andrews.

The new Minister for Tertiary Education, the Hon Steven Joyce, joined staff and summer scholars in the Cap 'n' Gown Lounge last month to celebrate the successful 2009/2010 Summer Research Scholarship programme.

In his first official engagement as Minister, he congratulated the University and the staff who gave their time to the programme over the summer.

A record 861 students received Summer Research Scholarships to work on approved projects last summer. Each project was worth a stipend of \$5000 and involved about 400 hours of research over a ten-week period.

Summer Scholar Tele'a Andrews worked on the Literacy Professional Development Project with the Faculty of Education, analysing and coding transcripts. "It was an opportunity to try my hand at qualitative data analyses and coding – skills I've found most employers value but are unwilling to trial students with.

"I was a Politics major in my undergraduate and honours years, so being about to work outside my own discipline was great experience."

Says Lisa Young of her Summer Scholarship, which saw her examine microfinance initiatives: "It's been brilliant. I was able to put into practice what I learnt throughout the year." Lisa is studying



for a Master of Professional Studies in International Relations. "It's given me a really good insight into the development field."

Students from every faculty tackled a diverse range of research – everything from examining the innovation networks operating in the Tāmaki Transformation Project to, rather pertinently, studying mobile phone dependency among New Zealand university students.

"Summer scholarships," said Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), "are a fantastic chance to try things out, to find out how research might work and where you might be going in your career."

The idea to increase the number of summer scholarships offered at New Zealand universities emerged from last year's Job Summit.

The Government offered the University \$1 million on the proviso it matched that sum. The combined funding supported approximately 500 additional scholarships over and above the roughly 200 scholarships the University had financed in previous summers.

An additional 1600 Summer Research Scholarships were funded through universities across the country.

# Super-resolution microscopy breakthrough

It's a breathtaking breakthrough: new super-resolution fluorescence microscopy techniques refined in the Department of Physiology have succeeded in creating images of heart cells showing molecular details so small they have never been seen before.

This new-found ability to produce crystal-clear, three-dimensional pictures of the tiny proteins in the heart responsible for triggering its pumping action – molecules which are just 30 nanometres in size – promises to bring biomedical science closer to understanding precisely how the heart regulates the force of every beat.

"To our knowledge, ours is the first work that has succeeded in producing images of single proteins with the contrast and specificity of fluorescence microscopy," enthuses Associate Professor Christian Soeller.

The Physiology team, with postdoctoral fellow Dr. David Baddeley and project leaders Christian and Professor Mark Cannell, had a paper on its latest microscopy advancements published in the prestigious journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* (PNAS) recently.

Their work, which built on techniques first developed at Harvard University in the United

States, has seen the team custom-build a new microscopy system from scratch.

What they have developed – a molecular resolution fluorescence localisation microscope – has jumped ahead of the commercial sector in the race to further develop super-resolution technology. "Right now you can't buy this equipment off-the-shelf," says Christian.

Microscopy has undergone a revolution in the past three years. The microscopes of yesteryear were largely restricted to looking at things the size of the wave-length of light they used – which meant they could not produce accurate images of objects smaller than about 250 nanometres.

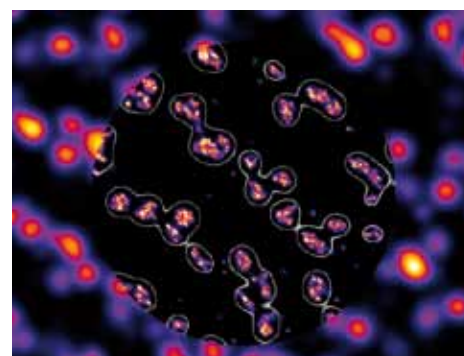
"That was small, but still much larger than the things most biologists really want to see – the single molecules within cells that are important for their function," explains Christian.

But recent advancements in the field have netted scientists the ability to see objects significantly smaller than that.

It means they can now study the finer details of structures, such as those within the brain's synapses for example, and get a precise fix on their exact positions within those structures.

"Super-resolution techniques will be a major new

approach in all biomedical sciences, particularly since conventional labelling techniques and all kinds of cells and tissues can be used. If other researchers would like to explore the approach with their samples we are happy to share our know-how," says David.



*High-resolution fluorescence imaging based on the localisation of single fluorescent molecules to determine the structure of ryanodine receptor clusters at molecular resolution. The image shows receptor clusters in the surface membrane of a rat heart muscle cell both at conventional resolution (outer area) and super-resolved (inner circle). Note the vastly improved detail in the super-resolved region.*

# Tween thinking on sex



They're swamped with provocative images in the media and drowning in manufactured drivel chronicling celebrity "lifestyles".

The assumption is that today's highly sexualised popular culture forces tweenage girls to grow up too soon – skewing their views on sexuality and tossing them a shaky moral compass.

But early findings from a study of 71 New Zealand tween girls aged between 11 and 13 suggest it's the assumptions that have gone overboard.

Rather than passively soaking up sexualised messages in the media, impressionable preteens

make plenty of judgments about sexualised popular culture. Case in point: when 15-year-old actress Miley Cyrus posed provocatively for the cover of *Vanity Fair*, no group was more outraged, it seems, than the starlet's tweenage "Hannah Montana" fans.

The photos of the semi-naked Cyrus were "yuk", "gross" and "uncool" according to tweenagers surveyed in the "Girls, tween popular culture and every-day life" study funded through the Royal Society of New Zealand's Marsden fund. And Cyrus was suddenly out of favour with her young fans as a result.

The study's principal investigators, Dr Tiina Vares, of Gender Studies at the University of Canterbury, and Dr Sue Jackson, of Victoria University, presented their preliminary findings at the recent "Sexualities against the grain" day-symposium hosted by the Department of Psychology's Gender and Critical Psychology Group at Old Government House.

The study has a wealth of data from tweenage girls, gathered from video diaries and focus groups. "Something that has generally been left out of the 'too sexy, too soon' debate is the voice of the girls themselves and how they make sense of and engage with popular culture. That's where our study comes in," says Tiina.

Tweenagers are picking up on the "too sexy, too soon" debates, says Tiina, and demonstrating that they do have critical engagement with the issues.

Professor Annamarie Jagose (Film, Television and Media Studies) gave a keynote address on "The political dimensions of erotic life: Feminism, optimism, fake orgasm". And Professor Leonore Tiefer, from New York University, gave her keynote presentation on "Assembling a feminist sexology", which she later followed up with a free public lecture titled, "Is sex more like dancing or digestion? Unpacking the medicalisation of sexuality".

The first report from the "Girls, tween popular culture and every-day life" study is due in the middle of the year.

## New associate professors

Five more newly appointed associate professors tell us about themselves



### Dr Chris Bullen

(Director, Clinical Trials Research Unit)  
I graduated from Auckland School of Medicine and spent almost eight years as a "bush doctor" in Papua New Guinea, before returning to Auckland to

train in public health. As a public health physician, focusing on communicable disease control, I was one of the initiators of the Healthy Housing Programme, now a mainstream feature of Housing New Zealand's operations and a NZ Health Innovations Award winner. I became intrigued with the idea of undertaking randomised trials on preventative health measures to build a better evidence base. The Clinical Trials Research Unit offered a perfect base for learning about the complexities involved in designing and running trials – and it was here that I began working on tobacco smoking research. Tobacco control is now my research focus, the subject of my PhD and the target of my efforts to build research collaborations in the Asia-Pacific region where smoking is still very common and takes a huge toll on people's lives. I enjoy travelling, tramping, eclectic styles of music, reading and spending time with my family.



### Dr Karen Waldie

(Psychology)  
I received my PhD in 1998 from the University of Calgary, Canada, and I've been a member of the University's academic staff, in the Department

of Psychology, since 2001 following a fellowship at the University of Otago Medical School. My research is in the area of developmental cognitive neuroscience and focuses on three main topics: brain laterality; the neural basis and long-term outcome of developmental disorders such as dyslexia and ADHD; and the impact and predictors of neurological pain syndromes such as migraine.

I am currently completing a large functional MRI study to determine the neural basis of dyslexia and dyscalculia (funded by the Faculty of Science Research Development Fund). I am also very excited to be a Named Investigator for the new national longitudinal study "Growing Up in NZ". Most importantly, I have a two-year-old son, Zachary, who is my greatest inspiration and achievement.

### Dr Niki Harre (Psychology)

I was appointed to a position in Applied Social Psychology in 1998, and for many years my research focused on injury prevention, especially



on the road. I collaborated with local councils and schools on several initiatives, and did theoretical work on why risky activities are such a magnet for young people. Meanwhile, I developed a graduate course in community

psychology in 2000, which I still teach along with undergraduate social psychology. I love teaching and I was a secondary school teacher in my former life. I've been chair of our department's Academic Committee on and off for several years. In 2003 I was appointed as a consultant by the Foundation for Youth Development to oversee the development of a new evaluation strategy for Project K, a major youth programme that operates in 13 regions throughout the country. I am still supervising graduate student projects based on the Foundation's programmes. More recently I have become deeply interested in, and concerned about, sustainability. I co-edited a book titled *Carbon Neutral by 2020: How New Zealanders can tackle climate change* with Quentin Atkinson in 2007. My research currently focuses on activism for sustainability and the process of creating a "sustainability culture" within organisations and communities.

# Step change: success for who is the “only option”?

A paper released recently by the Inter-Party Working group for School Choice proposes significant changes to the way our education system is structured. The paper, “Step change: success is the only option”, which was written jointly by the National, ACT and Māori Party, proposes that students have greater choice in where they go to school. It recommends that a task force be appointed to implement the changes by 2011.

Given the current unrest in the schooling sector with the introduction of National Standards, it seems a brave move to suggest further major changes. The “Step change” policy is targeted at the bottom 20 percent and top 5 percent of school achievers and its purpose is to improve the schooling outcomes for those students. Among a range of recommendations, it proposes students to be able to move between schools (including private providers) in order to complete the subjects that they and their “education broker” feel best meet their needs.

The practicalities of such a proposal seem challenging, especially in larger centres where moving from school to school could have students tied up in travel for the better part of the day. And what happens in smaller and rural centres where there is no choice? Such a system hardly seems equitable for those students.

At the centre of the proposal is the notion of personalising learning for students: meeting

student needs so that they can enjoy greater success.

But surely, isn't that what schools should be doing now? Do we not already have the structures in place for students in the existing school system to be able to make choices? It is certainly what we have been told the education system is trying to do. We already have schools working together to offer subjects where student numbers are low. Schools can offer correspondence courses for students where the subject is not offered and there is also the choice for students to learn online via a burgeoning array of education choices.

Such a major change seems unnecessary. It was not a recommendation from the Secondary Futures Project, which was set up to identify optimal solutions for schooling in the future. Surely that is where we would expect to see such a recommendation emerging.

But what troubles me most is how in New Zealand education we always want to come up with new, bright ideas and to put them on top of a whole lot of already bright ideas. At what point do we say it's time to re-assess all the initiatives and programmes in place, rather than keep coming up with new ones?

The Te Kotahitanga project is an excellent example of a programme that works. And we have the evidence to prove it. Rather than come up with another bright idea, maybe we should

look at all our current initiatives – do a stock-take to maximise the best ones and throw out those that aren't working. This rationalisation across our system makes better sense especially when our resources are limited.

So do we need a step change? I believe that our first priority is to look at our current system. This includes looking at current school performance and school systems to see which schools and which systems are the most effective for our students – and that means effective for all students. They all deserve the very best education that they can get. We should focus on getting the basics right rather than introducing more upheaval for students, parents and teachers. We need top-quality teachers and top-quality schools that have systems in place which offer choice to students. We are well on track to doing that and our qualifications system offers the flexibility to be able to personalise learning for our students.

So let's get all of our education deckchairs lined up and facing the same way rather than bringing in a new set. It shouldn't be too difficult to do. We have the information that tells us what works. Let's use our resources to pull all of that information together and make some informed decisions so that all students in New Zealand can get the choices and the personalised learning they need from the school closest to them.

**Debra Masters, Associate Director, Visible Learning Labs, Faculty of Education**

## New associate professors continues



### Dr Shane Xie

(Mechanical Engineering)  
I am a mechatronics researcher with a background in robotics control and biomedical engineering. After obtaining a PhD degree in mechatronics at Huazhong University

of Science and Technology in 1998 I worked at the University of Canterbury for three years as a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FoRST) postdoctoral research fellow, where I also received my second PhD degree in industrial engineering in 2001, before joining The University of Auckland in 2003.

My principal research interest is in the development of new mechatronic technologies for a wide range of applications from rehabilitation, medical surgery and disabled assistance to industrial applications. My research develops new mathematical modelling techniques, mechatronics methods and experimental measurements to better understand bio systems, design smart and robust medical devices, and automatically

control them as they interact with humans.

A major (FoRST) programme in my group concerns novel technologies for developing wearable assistive devices. The programme brings together researchers from Engineering, Science and Medicine, and focuses on developing new human-robot interfaces, novel sensing and actuation techniques, and advanced robot design and control technologies. Another FoRST programme enables my group to work with our industrial and international partners on developing novel computer software tools.

Outside of work I spend most of time with my family. I enjoy fishing and playing basketball, and I am a fine Go player as well.



### Dr Bruce MacDonald

(Electrical and Computer Engineering)

I completed a BE (First Class) and PhD in the Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Canterbury. After working with NZ Electricity for three years and spending a year

at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in Wellington, I moved to Canada and spent ten years in the Computer Science Department of the University of Calgary. Then I returned to New Zealand in 1995, joining the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Auckland. The department was starting a new development in computer systems engineering and I was involved in setting that up. I also started the Robotics Laboratory. Our long-term goal is to design intelligent robotic assistants that improve the quality of peoples' lives.

My main research interests include human-robot interaction and robot programming systems, with applications in areas such as health-care and agriculture. One of our current projects is to develop robots to help care for older people, which is a multidisciplinary project undertaken jointly with Korean researchers.

# Medicinal chemistry pioneer returns



Internationally renowned biochemist and alumnus Cedric Hassall paid the Chemistry Department a return visit last month.

The remarkably youthful and engaging 90 year old expressed his delight at how far the University had come over the last 70 years during a lecture to enthralled medicinal Chemistry students.

When Cedric did his MSc degree in the early 1940s the University was still young; postgraduates had to head overseas to do PhDs;

and molecular biology and bio-organic chemistry were hardly born.

After seeing Professor Margaret Brimble's medicinal chemistry laboratories and touring the Chemistry Department with the Head, Professor Jim Metson, Cedric described the laboratories as "a world-class facility doing research of a very high standard".

A Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), this cosmopolitan member of the international chemistry fraternity has spent the last two and a half decades of his "retirement" advising on science and medical research in universities as far flung as China, Africa, Malaysia, India and the Middle East.

Cedric's enthusiasm for biochemistry is as lively as ever. "These are exciting times for the scientist engaged in research on natural products," he enthused, referring to the remarkable advances in instrumentation which now allow the study of macromolecules in processes such as photosynthesis.

Cedric regaled his younger lecture audience with stories of the hazards of working in the laboratories of the late 1940s. "Highly flammable solvents were distilled on benches next to naked gas lights," he said.

In 1945 he met Cambridge's first professor of biochemistry, Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, who in 1932 wrote: "If chemistry is to provide the help that biology so urgently needs it must approach living organisms

not as chemical stores but as seats of chemical events."

Those words made a strong impression on the then young Cedric, who focused his own research primarily on the organic chemistry of molecules of value to medicine.

With another Nobel Laureate, Lord Todd, he researched new antibiotics at the University of Cambridge. After becoming the first professor of Chemistry at the then new University of the West Indies his research included investigations into a local condition known as vomiting sickness, shown to be due to a previously unknown amino-acid, hypoglycin, isolated from the ackee fruit of the *Bhignia sapida* and first brought to Jamaica by Captain Bligh. At the University of Swansea, Wales, he continued researching biologically active natural compounds before transferring to Roche Products Ltd as the Director of Research in Britain and Co-ordinator of Chemistry for the parent company Hoffmann La-Roche.

It was during this phase he designed new medicines. In New Zealand, if you have high blood pressure you may well be treated with "Inhibace", a potent ACE-inhibitor he designed.

Cedric and his wife, Dr June Hassall, now live half the year in Whitianga on the Coromandel Peninsula and the other half in Westoning, in Bedfordshire, England – conveniently located between Cambridge, Oxford, Heathrow and the city of London, where, incidentally, he regularly lunches at the Royal Society.

# Spain's star rising in changing world



PHOTOS BY WOLFGANG THIELE

Spain's pre-eminent historian of the "history of ideas", José Luis Abellán, says Spain and Latin America will achieve "cultural unity" and emerge as one of the New World's key geo-cultural "blocks".

The 76-year-old author of the seven-volume *Critical history of Spanish thought* travelled to New Zealand to present at "Historical crossroads: Spain from the Second Republic to the twenty-first century", the three-day conference hosted by the Department of Spanish last month.

Looking at the future through his geo-cultural lens, Professor Abellán asserted that the globalised world will be made up five key cultural "blocks": the Arabic world; China; the Anglo-Saxon world; the United States; and the united Spanish block.

As he foresees the new cultural world order, this Spanish block could well be the bridge between Europe and America "because Spain is

part of the Americas and Europe".

Professor Abellán has worked extensively on nineteenth- and particularly twentieth-century Spanish history and thinking. "In fact," says Professor Christine Arkinstall (European Languages and Literatures), "you can't conceive of the history of Spanish thought without him."

The aim of the conference was to offer a framework for debate about Spain's political, ethical and cultural legacy – particularly between the defining period of the Second Republic through to Spain's full integration with the European Union, says Senior Lecturer Dr Wendy-Llyn Zaza.

"The conference proved a fantastic forum for engagement with the local, national and international research community," says Wendy-Llyn. "We had close to 50 delegates from as far afield as France, Britain and the United States – people from literature, history, sociology, media studies and philosophy – which has created dialogue across disciplines and institutions."

Delegates were left with a favourable impression of the University and are looking forward to keeping in contact, says Wendy-Llyn.

The Vice-Chancellor, the Ambassador of Spain to New Zealand, Marcos Gómez Martínez, and the Honorary Consul of Spain in Auckland, Antonio Regueiro-Díaz, opened the conference.

Meanwhile, "Evocations of Spain", an exhibition of paintings by artist Jayne McKelvie,

representing Spain from 1931 up to the present day and timed to coincide with the conference, drew an enthusiastic reaction from visitors to the George Fraser Gallery.

## Climate change expert coming

Lord Stern of Brentford, author of the influential *Stern review on the economics of climate change*, will deliver the 2010 Sir Douglas Robb Lectures at the University in September.

"Climate change: The economics of risk, growth and inequality" is the theme of his lectures on 8, 9 and 10 September (7pm, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road).

He will deliver three lectures: "Managing climate change and promoting development: risks, scale and values"; "Policies for low-carbon growth and development: Creating a new era of progress and prosperity"; "Progress towards a global deal".

Formerly Chief Economist of the World Bank, Lord Stern is IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government and Chair of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics.

Further details of the lectures will be available in due course at [www.auckland.ac.nz/robb](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/robb)

## From the Collection



Denys Watkins, *Encounter of the Third Kind* 2008, acrylic on linen, 1825 x 1525mm, The University of Auckland Art Collection

Recalling Stephen Spielberg's 1977 science fiction blockbuster *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* with its title, this large acrylic painting in ice-cream colours seems spookily familiar

Maybe it is the vapid expression of the neatly coiffed fellow at centre? Resplendent in his walk

shorts, sweatshirt and oversized sneakers, he seems proud to show off his hosing styles in the foreground. With his oversized head and tiny arms, he seems an earthly manifestation of something weird and otherworldly. He is way too alien to belong to the same species as the legions of smiling Dads who deploy garden equipment in the hardware store catalogues that populate the mailbox around Father's Day. Despite his attempt to win us over with a grin, we can only pity him his lack of water pressure, as the thick sinuous snake of green that he grips overpromises and underdelivers.

This funny blue chap is clearly no fireman, turning his back on the several ominous clouds of black smoke issuing forth from holes in the suburban miniature which tilts up behind his stolid legs. Nor does he relate to the urban reality of the apartment building behind, which seems to have lost its façade in some apocalyptic bomb blast. Instead the little man stands isolated and dislocated, smiling bravely in the face of his redundancy.

Ultimately, despite inviting some kind of narrative reading with its human element, the stacked layers of imagery remain enigmatic,

like the title of the exhibition from whence the painting comes: "Outside In". According to the gallerist who sold this work to the University's collection, "It appears to comment on some of the large issues in life, war, regeneration and the eternal struggle of man to create order out of chaos", while reviewer John Hurrell was reminded of a lyric by Bonnie "Prince" Billy, "Death to everyone is gonna come, and it makes hosing much more fun".

With lots of interesting relationships between areas of colour and positive and negative space, this painting is one of seven works by the artist owned by the University, and is testament to the artist's technical mastery. Originally trained as a graphic artist at the Wellington Polytechnic School of Design before travelling to London to study first at the Central School of Art and Design and then at the Royal College of Art, Denys Watkins has had a career in art spanning four decades.

An exhibition of drawings by Elam Senior Lecturer Denys Watkins will be the inaugural event at the Elam School of Fine Arts gallery Projectspace in Building 431 until 13 March. The drawings, completed over the last two decades, range from ideas jotted in sketchbooks to activities expanded on through the process of drawing. *Encounter of the Third Kind* is currently available for loan and can be requested by emailing [a.clifford@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.clifford@auckland.ac.nz)

Linda Tyler

## Concert finale for new students



Hundreds of new students were entertained by the up and coming rock band Midnight Youth at a free concert in the Alumni Marquee on Old Government House lawn.

The free Friday afternoon concert, also featuring the all-female band Ivy Lies, capped four days of Orientation Welcome activities.

These started with a powhiri and welcome

from the Vice-Chancellor at Waipapa Marae on 23 February attended by more than 1500 students. Two thirds of them spilled onto the grass either side of a specially erected marquee, and onto Wynyard Street.

Ngā Taura Māori performed the haka powhiri while Kaumātua Hone Sadler led the whaikorero (formal speeches).

With their first classes less than a week away the newcomers then plunged into a busy round of learning support lectures. Faculties each offered advice and support with special programmes on the Grafton, Epsom and Tamaki Campuses as well as the City Campus. There were separate orientations for Māori, Pacific, international and mature students, and a function for scholarship winners.

Many of the students teamed up with Uniguides, trained mentors who introduced them to the University and its services and are giving ongoing encouragement and support for the first few weeks of semester.

The entire Orientation Welcome went "really well", says Bronwyne Hawkins, Group Manager Student Contact and Support, with some lectures oversubscribed and the 110 Student Ambassadors, in their distinctive blue t-shirts, being singled out for praise by the students. "There was a nice atmosphere across campus."

# What's on

## FRIDAY 12 MARCH

### Lunchtime concert

School of Music students from the voice and flute departments. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free. All welcome.

### Department of Philosophy research seminar

Jeffrey Masson, UoA: *Reflections on the us/them phenomenon*. 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2, 18 Symonds St. Queries to Maria Rillo-Stol, ext 83938 or email m.rillo-stol@auckland.ac.nz

## SATURDAY 13 MARCH

### Exhibition talk

Joanne Drayton: *Felix Kelly and the expatriates*. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Joanne Drayton, Associate Professor at Unitec School of Design and author of biographies on Edith Collier, Rhona Haszard, Frances Hodgkins and Ngaio Marsh, discusses NZ expatriate artists of the early 20th century, how they navigated the newness of Camden Town painting, of British neo-romanticism and surrealism, and negotiated its reception at home.

## TUESDAY 16 MARCH

### Communiqué

Lena Henry and Rau Hoskins: *Māori and the future of local government*. 12-1pm Design Lecture Theatre, School of Architecture and Planning.

### School of Music research seminar

Ed McDonald: *Creating the classical gig: Exploring new roles for the classical performer*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Queries to concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz

### Bioengineering research seminar

Ehsan Vaghefi, UoA: *The microcirculation system of the ocular lens: A convergence of experimental and theoretical results*. 4-5pm 5th Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

## WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH

### School of Teaching, Learning and Development seminar

Visiting Scholar Professor Ben Levin, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto: *What role can research play in guiding education policy and practice?* 4pm J3 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, Epsom. RSVP to foed-research@auckland.ac.nz

## THURSDAY 18 MARCH

### Project introduction workshop

1-4pm CAD, Level 4, 76 Symonds St. Enrol at [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) or phone 373 7599 ext 88140 with queries.

### Spark launch

5.30pm Level 1 Foyer, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Spark invites you to come and hear how prominent NZ entrepreneurs have turned their first class ideas into world class businesses and how Spark is helping more kiwis do the same. Guest speakers: Ian Taylor - founder of Taylormade Media and Animation Research Limited. Creative innovator extraordinaire - from Bluebird Chips' skiing penguins to revolutionising sporting coverage.

Steve Dunstan - co-founder of Huffer. From \$14k to a multimillion dollar international clothing company. RSVP at [www.spark.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.spark.auckland.ac.nz)

### NICAL lecture

Honorary Visiting Professor, Max Gimblett discusses his practice 1963-2010. 6-8pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

## FRIDAY 19 MARCH

### Department of Philosophy research seminar

Dorothy Grover, University of Canterbury. *On describing the world*. 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Room 501, Arts 2, 18 Symonds St. Queries to Maria Rillo-Stol, ext 83938 or email m.rillo-stol@auckland.ac.nz

## SATURDAY 20 MARCH

### Brain Day 2010: Unlock the secrets of your brain

9am-4pm Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. The Centre for Brain Research and the Neurological Foundation present a free public open day as part of International Brain Awareness Week.

For further information please email [cbr@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:cbr@auckland.ac.nz) Visit [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/cbr/newsandevents/brain\\_day2010.aspx](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/cbr/newsandevents/brain_day2010.aspx)

### Screening: Brideshead Revisited

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Hamish Coney, Managing Director of Art+Object and Brideshead enthusiast, introduces a specially selected episode of *Brideshead Revisited*, the 1981 Granada TV serial (adapted from Evelyn Waugh's 1945 novel featuring the character of the artist called Charles Ryder, based on Felix Kelly).

## MONDAY 22 MARCH

### Women to Watch seminar

Prof Linda Bryder, Dept of History, UoA. 5pm Federation of Graduate Women's Rm, First Floor, OGH. Presented by The Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust. Drinks and nibbles to follow. RSVP to [janebellamy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janebellamy@xtra.co.nz) by 15 March.

### Communiqué

Howard Davis: *Post-industrial craftsmanship*. 6-7.30pm Design Lecture Theatre, School of Architecture and Planning.

## TUESDAY 23 MARCH

### School of Music research seminar

Dr David Lines: *Digital media in music education*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds Street. Queries to concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz

### Exhibition opening

Maria Walls: *Real Life Studies*. 6pm projectspace B431, Ground floor, 20 Whitaker Place. Until 26 March. Visit [www.projectspaceB431.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.projectspaceB431.auckland.ac.nz)

## WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH

### PASW (SPSS) introduction workshop

1-4pm CAD, Level 4, 76 Symonds St. Enrol at [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) or phone 373 7599 ext 88140 with queries.

## THURSDAY 25 MARCH

### Confucius Institute free Chinese movie

*1 Become 2*. 6-8.30pm Rm 1.401, School of Engineering.

# Classifieds

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**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 Chris or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email [rentals@citysales.co.nz](mailto:rentals@citysales.co.nz) or log on to [www.citysales.co.nz/rentals](http://www.citysales.co.nz/rentals)

**Apartment for rent,** 3/11 Whitaker Place. Unfurnished, two-bdrm art deco apartment. Garage, private courtyard, modern bthrm, heat pump. Two visitors' parking spaces for the block. Very close to University. Available 26 March. \$550 pw. Bond one month's rent. One week's rent in advance. Contact Marion + 64 27 291 0823 or [marionheppner@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:marionheppner@yahoo.co.nz)

**City apartment.** One-bdrm furnished apartment with courtyard. Quiet, warm. Lower Hobson St. Available 19 April to 1 September (end date negotiable). \$320 pw (water, electricity, telephone included). Contact [b.barton@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:b.barton@auckland.ac.nz)

**Orakei** sunny two-bedroom home available for 8 months starting 14 June. Owner going on leave until mid-February 2011. Off-street parking, large garden, sundeck. Close to shops and buses. Phone Nancy on (09) 521-6482 or txt (021) 025-72431 or email [n.november@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.november@auckland.ac.nz)

### Remuera furnished three bedroom apartment.

Sunny, quiet, large living/dining, separate bthrm and toilet. Views of city and Mt Hobson. Deck, courtyard, dble carport. EGGs and AGGS school zone. Easy drive/bus to University, close local shops. Available mid-March to mid-November, possibly longer. \$650 pw + power, water, phone, Internet etc. Contact Barbara on 520 2028, (027) 435 9355 or [bjfurlley@hotmail.com](mailto:bjfurlley@hotmail.com)

### St Johns furnished house to share.

Dble and sgle room. Two lounges, rumpus, two bthrms, two toilets. Share with quiet single girl, 22. Large sunny home, private grounds, great outdoor living, dble garage. Good bus route. \$300 dble with ensuite, \$150 sgle + power etc. Available mid-March. Contact Jonnie on 528 9616, (027) 200 3444 or [rangatoua\\_cottage@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:rangatoua_cottage@yahoo.co.nz)

### Spacious two-bedroom apartment

to sublet while we are overseas for May and June (available after 26 April). Walk to ferry downtown, forest and cafes nearby, fully furnished, Broadband Internet included. \$300 pw + electricity. Phone Dan on ext 86636 or Brigitte (09) 418 0024 to view.

**Waiheke family house.** Exceptional living on Oneroa clifftop, views both directions, three bedrooms + self-contained studio, large living spaces and decks, Sky, Broadband. Walk to shops and beach, three-minute drive to ferry. Available mid-April to September 2010 (end date negotiable), \$550 pw. Car and/or city pad available, rates negotiable. Contact [b.barton@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:b.barton@auckland.ac.nz)

## ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

### Two Finnish linguistics professors

on sabbatical leave are looking for accommodation in Auckland during April

and May. We hope to find a furnished flat with two or more rooms at a location within reach of public transport. Please contact us at [stefan.werner@uef.fi](mailto:stefan.werner@uef.fi) or [pirkko.muikku-werner@uef.fi](mailto:pirkko.muikku-werner@uef.fi)

## MISCELLANEOUS

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

**Do you have hot flashes?** If you experience hot flashes, you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational oral medication. You may qualify for this study if you:

- Are a postmenopausal woman between 35 and 60 years of age.
- Have 50 moderate-to-severe hot flashes per week.

If you qualify, you will receive study-related care and study medication at no charge. For further information contact Jo Morris, phone (09) 524-3342 or 021-178-7083 or contact Dr Helen Roberts, [h.roberts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:h.roberts@auckland.ac.nz)

**First Steps, Parnell.** Education and care centre, 7 Ngaoho Place. Enrol now and receive one week's free fees. Part-time and full-time spaces. Open five days a week from 7.30am-5.45pm. 20 ECE hours. WINZ subsidy available. Great adult to child ratio. Individual learning programmes for each child. Call now on (09) 373 3477.

### Rajasthan and Pushkar Fair Group:

Experience of a lifetime, visit Pushkar Fair and Rajasthan, land of Maharajas in Nov 2010. Visit our website for more details [www.exoticholidays.co.nz](http://www.exoticholidays.co.nz) or email us on [info@exoticholidays.co.nz](mailto:info@exoticholidays.co.nz) for tour options or ask us to customise or tailor-make for you. Planning a trip to Asia or the Middle-East? Contact us for a quote before you book elsewhere. Serving universities for over five years. Bringing you the best of Asia and Middle East holiday options.

**Stepmothers needed.** Are you a stepmother in a family with stepchildren between 12 and 18 years? Have you lived in this stepmother family for at least one year? If you are interested in participating in a study on stepmothers, or would like more information please email Adrienne at [a.bartle0@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.bartle0@xtra.co.nz) or [abar175@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:abar175@auckland.ac.nz). Approved by the UoA Human Participants Ethics Committee (reference number 2009/242).

**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](mailto:Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz) or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

**Two energetic young cats looking for a good home!** Two attractive one-year-old cats are looking for a new home. Millie is a pretty calico cat (white and ginger) and Louie is a full tabby. Both are house-trained and have lots of energy! Currently residing in the Howick area. Please contact Karen on 373 7599 ext 87467 or [ke.jackson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ke.jackson@auckland.ac.nz)