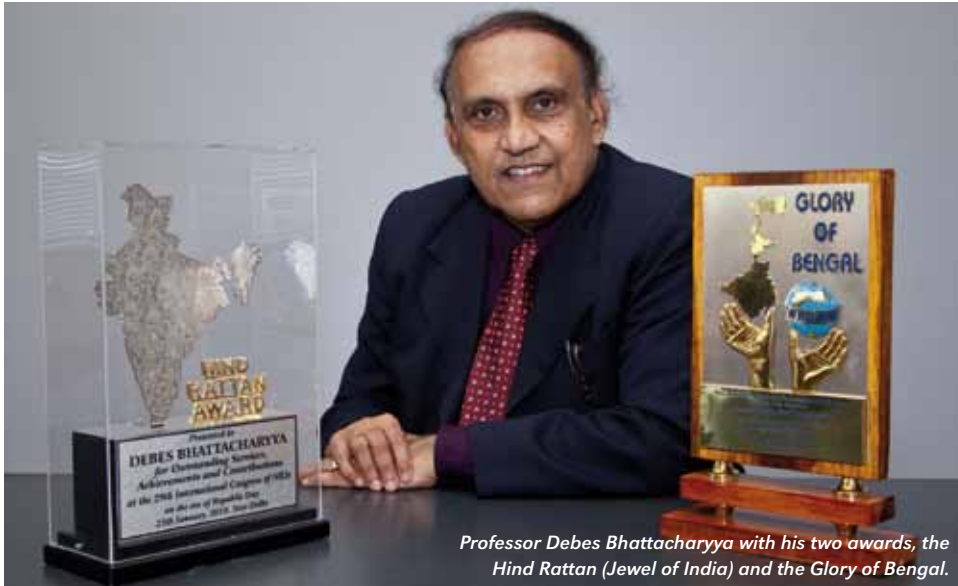


THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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Jewel of India and Auckland



Professor Debes Bhattacharyya with his two awards, the Hind Rattan (Jewel of India) and the Glory of Bengal.

It is more than 30 years since Professor Debes Bhattacharyya left India, the country of his birth, and 20 years since he joined the staff of The University of Auckland.

Now he has been awarded two of India's highest honours for former residents. He received the Hind Rattan (Jewel of India) for his significant professional contributions and, in a separate event, was awarded also the Glory of Bengal, for outstanding contributions by a person of Bengali origin.

Debes, who holds a personal chair in Mechanical Engineering, established and leads the Centre for Advanced Composite Materials, which operates from a purpose-built facility at the Tamaki Campus.

Composites are engineered lightweight materials with superior qualities, used by industry to develop new products and technologies. Debes and his researchers from the centre have engineered new materials for everything from food packaging to aircraft and medical devices, collaborating with many New Zealand and international companies. The materials produced in the centre include novel products using renewable and recyclable materials, already in global demand for their eco-friendliness. Ideal for applications such as aircraft and boat-building and automotive interiors, these new technologies

are created by adding natural fibres to plastics.

Debes is only the second New Zealander to receive a Hind Rattan. About 30 of the awards are given annually in New Delhi by the NRI Welfare Society of India at an elaborate ceremony attended by Government ministers.

"I was very humbled to receive this award. There are millions of Indians living around the world so to have been selected is a great honour. The Hind Rattan is usually dominated by Indians living in the United States, and it is quite rare for it to be awarded to an engineer. In fact, at first I thought it was a hoax until my family convinced me it was authentic," he says.

The Glory of Bengal, awarded in Doha, Qatar, is given to about 12 Bengalis living around the world, being commonly awarded to singers and actors as well as to doctors and engineers.

Debes attended both award ceremonies earlier in the year.

Born in Calcutta, Debes attended the University of Calcutta before moving to Western Australia, and then to Auckland, where he joined the University in 1980.

This year he was made a Distinguished Fellow of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ). He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Key events

Looking to 2020

We will live longer than our forbears, but will this be with regret? Professor Alistair Woodward, Head of the School of Population Health, will discuss the implications for social policy, education, health care and economic development as our life expectancy increases.

This lecture, to be held on 5 May, is the second of four in a series entitled "Auckland's 2020 vision: An eye to the future", being held on successive Wednesdays from 12noon-1pm.

On 12 May Professor Andrew Barrie (Architecture and Planning) will look at how architecture and urban design shape the way Aucklanders currently live, and will explore potential future directions.

Professor John Hattie (Education), will conclude the series on 19 May by outlining the impacts on Auckland of current and possible future policies in education.

For more details and to enrol online go to www.cce.auckland.ac.nz

Facing the data mountain

The 2010 Peter Gibbons Memorial Lectures – which describe developments in computer science for a "general but technical" audience – will address the issues around making sense of the huge amounts of digital information being created and stored worldwide. This is estimated at a "zetabyte" of information (amounting to a billion trillion characters) to be created in this year alone.

The speakers will be Professor Ian Witten (University of Waikato) with "How the dragons work" on 5 May, followed by Professor Gill Dobbie (University of Auckland) with "There's gold in them thar mountains", Alec Holt (University of Otago) with "The health care revolution" and Associate Professor Neil Brownlee (University of Auckland) with "Internet challenges".

Each lecture begins at 6pm, with refreshments from 5.30pm. Please RSVP to robyn@cs.auckland.ac.nz for catering purposes.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Two recent announcements by Government signal major changes in how research is positioned and funded within New Zealand.

First, the Government announced on 25 March that it would merge the Ministry and Foundation of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST and FoRST respectively). This reflects a view that there are efficiencies to be gained by having fewer, larger government agencies. However, the Government statement also emphasised that: "One of the key issues is the independence of the contestable funding process.....deciding particular grants will be at arm's length."

This is a very important undertaking given the second announcement, on 29 March, that Government had accepted most of the recommendations of the Crown Research Institute (CRI) Taskforce. A key recommendation was that a considerable sum of FoRST funds – likely to be well in excess of \$100 million per annum – be reserved for the CRIs. This is in addition to the ca \$50 million already reserved annually for CRIs through the "Capability Fund". Some of this funding is intended to be used in collaborative projects, but it will undoubtedly result in a major net loss from the contestable pool.

The CRI Taskforce examined ways to enhance the performance of CRIs, but interestingly did not look at the relative performance of different research providers. Had it done so, it might have observed that over the last 15 or so years, the universities: have won an increasing share of FoRST funding, something that could only reflect the high quality of their grant writing and research; increased their share of New Zealand's gross expenditure on research and development from 24 to 35 percent, while the CRI share fell from 39 to 26 percent; and were the only sector to increase publication rates, while continuing to contribute 50 percent of the patents emanating from the public science institutions. Curiously, the response to this success has been to further reduce the opportunity for the universities to contribute to New Zealand's research enterprise through contesting for FoRST investment in R&D.

Thus while the desire of Government to protect the CRIs and give them greater stability is understandable, it must be prepared to balance these changes by having the remainder of what are now FoRST funds exposed to genuine contestability. Anything less than that will seriously damage the contribution research can make to New Zealand's development.



Top doctoral theses acclaimed

Five PhD theses on subjects ranging from apples to slipped discs have been rated the most outstanding of the 246 successfully examined in 2009.

The Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis has gone to Dr Jeremy Corfield and Dr Richard Easley (both studying in the School of Biological Sciences), Dr Jennifer Kruger (Department of Sport and Exercise Science), Dr Enid Lam (Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology) and Dr Samuel Veres (Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering).

They will be presented with their certificates at the University's "Celebrating Research Excellence" function on 4 May during Autumn Graduation week.

Faculties nominated 14 theses, judged on their demonstrable significance, the originality and excellence of the research, exceptional academic and intellectual achievement, and timely completion.

The thesis topics were:

Dr Jeremy Corfield (main supervisor Dr Stuart Parsons, co-supervisors Dr Fabiana Kubke, Professor Martin Wild): "Evolution of the brain and sensory systems of the kiwi". The evolutionary pressures under which kiwi developed are unique as is their nocturnal, ground-dwelling niche. Their brain and sensory structures have evolved neural adaptations that accompany the very different behavioural strategies associated with their unique niche.

Dr Richard Easley (main supervisor Associate

Professor Joanna Putterill, co-supervisor Dr Andrew Allan): "Regulation of anthocyanin accumulation in apples by the transcription factor MdMYB10". This thesis uncovered the genes responsible for the control of the plant pigment anthocyanin in apples, with a view to developing new varieties of fruit with enhanced colour and elevated health properties.

Dr Jennifer Kruger (main supervisor Dr Bernadette Murphy, co-supervisor Professor Hans Peter Dietz): "Pelvic floor muscle function in elite nulliparous athletes". Changes to pelvic floor muscle function brought about by long-term high impact exercise may cause difficulties to women giving birth. New and improved technology – ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging – sheds useful new light on this tendency.

Dr Enid Lam (main supervisor Dr Maria Vega Flores, co-supervisor Professor Kathryn Crosier): "Regulation of stem cell development by Runx transcription factors". This thesis breaks new ground in the study of the physiology of the blood. It describes, for the first time, formation of blood stem cells from the layer of cells lining the aorta.

Dr Samuel Veres (main supervisor Professor Neil Broom, co-supervisor Dr Peter Robertson): "Studies on the internal failure mechanics of lumbar intervertebral discs". The thesis investigated the microstructure of tissue failures in spinal discs ruptured by undue pressure. Using mechanical testing followed by micro-computed tomography and microscopy, the contributions to disc failure by flexion, torsion, and loading rate were explored.

Enhancing lives and international relations

"It's fun to have them around for dinner and it's cool to learn about their cultures," says 12-year-old Sasha, a member of a family that has joined the Alumni Host Family Scheme.

Sasha's mother Jane is just as enthusiastic. "One of the amazing things is that our kids benefit so much from the contact with people from other places," she said.

"You read about different places in the newspapers, but you get much greater insights into what's behind the headlines when you talk to someone who comes from there."

Two to three international students are grouped together to have dinner at the home of one of our alumni in Auckland. This allows the students to socialise outside their immediate group of friends, learn more about New Zealanders in a relaxed and social setting, and share their experiences with New Zealand families.

It is a great way to help make international students feel at home in New Zealand. It also provides the opportunity for the hosts to hear about the students' lives and their country of origin.

One of the students who had dinner with the Pelz family – Jane and her husband Jeff, with their children Sasha and Joshua – was a masters

student from the Maldives who had been working with Tsunami victims before she came to Auckland.

"Our conversation was just fascinating," says Jane. "We talked and talked about the Maldives, and even ended up looking for her house on Google Earth."

Paul and Jo Gilberd, hosts in the scheme since 2007, say they "thoroughly recommend participation in this programme which has at its heart the growth and development of enhanced international relations".

If you are interested in participating or would like to know more about this wonderful opportunity please contact Judith Grey on j.grey@auckland.ac.nz or phone 09 373 7599 ext 82309.



Dancing in Beijing



The dance troupe reflects New Zealand's diverse population with students from Māori, Samoan, Fijian, South African, Chinese and New Zealand European backgrounds.

Eleven young dancers and one music student from the University's National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries will travel to China in May with their lecturers to showcase New Zealand arts and culture at the Beijing Modern Music Festival.

Representing New Zealand for the first time on the large international stage, the group will perform amongst an international line-up from North America, Europe and China.

This is the first delegation from New Zealand to appear at the annual music festival, and it has been given an entire evening to showcase its members' talents and the music and dance of New Zealand.

The main performance feature, "Woven", choreographed by postgraduate student Juanita Jelleyman, is one of seven pieces in the 90-minute ensemble. Reflecting New Zealand's cultural diversity, the piece weaves together threads of Māori, Pacific and contemporary New Zealand movement. Music by composer (and student from the School of Music) James Bryant accompanies "Woven" with a New Zealand-infused soundscape of haunting vocals and electronic Māori and percussive sounds to create an exciting backdrop. In addition there will be pieces of electroacoustic music by School of Music students and staff.

The New Zealand delegation includes students from Māori, Samoan, Fijian, South African, Chinese and New Zealand European backgrounds, bringing together an engaging collection of eclectic pieces of electronic music and contemporary dance, influenced by the cultural heritage of New Zealand and the Pacific.

Head of Dance Studies, Associate Professor Ralph Buck, adds that it will also build the confidence and identity of the emerging artists on

tour, placing "their learning, knowledge and skills in an international context from which they can view the peculiarities and distinctive cultural elements of New Zealand and Pacific culture. The students will return wiser and more confident, with a greater appreciation of their own strengths."

Following the Beijing performance the Auckland-based group will perform at the Nanjing Arts Institute where they will also run cultural dance workshops including a Māori Kapa Haka workshop, for staff and students.



Composer James Bryant, a student in the School of Music, created a New Zealand-infused soundscape.

In brief...

Journalism in strife

"The end(s) of journalism" is the theme of this year's Winter Lectures starting on 20 July.

"Is serious journalism dying? Will time, technology and turpitude kill the messenger and, if so, should anyone mourn?" are questions to be addressed by journalists, commentators and academics in six lunchtime lectures.

Details are at www.auckland.ac.nz/winter. Abstracts of lectures will be posted by mid-May.

AUP Director to chair trust

Dr Sam Elworthy, Director of Auckland University Press, has been chosen as the new chair of the Michael King Writers' Studio Trust.

Sam joined the trust in 2009 and was elected chairman at its annual meeting in March. He replaces Bob Ross, who remains on the trust and continues to serve as deputy chairman.

Sam says the Michael King Writers' Centre has been a dynamic force in New Zealand literature over the last few years. In 2010, the centre has been able to offer four paid residencies to writers, ranging from eight weeks to six months, thanks to support from Creative New Zealand. It also provides accommodation and working space to a growing number of visiting authors, and last year held its first residential workshop, which was about writing history and biography.

Fulbright applications invited

Fulbright New Zealand invites applications for the International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards. Valued at over NZ\$350,000 each, these awards are for promising graduate students to undertake fully-funded PhD study at top American universities in fields of science, technology or engineering.

About 40 awards are offered each year to graduate students from around the world who demonstrate unique aptitude and innovation in scientific fields, leadership potential and the ability to be a cultural ambassador for their country. Candidates are nominated by their home country's Fulbright Commission and selected by rigorous international competition.

The closing date for applications to Fulbright New Zealand is 3 May.

Seelye Fellow to lecture

Clare Hanson, Professor of Twentieth Century Literature at the University of Southampton, will be visiting the University from 10 to 21 May as a Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust Visiting Fellow.

A leading authority on the interplay between literature and science or medicine, and on popular science as a literary genre, she will work with members of the Liggins Institute and the Department of English in areas which bridge traditional and perceived gaps between the sciences and humanities.

She will also give a public lecture that will bring a new focus to an old controversy. Entitled "Eugenic values, eugenic costs", the lecture will take place at 6pm at Lecture Theatre OGGB 3 in the Owen G Glenn Building.

Professor Hanson will give two seminars for staff and students: "A lost illness: The insanity of pregnancy", which includes *Wuthering Heights* as a case study, will take place at the Liggins Institute on 12 May at 4pm; and "The rise of the meritocracy" will take place at the Department of English on 19 May.

For bookings or for more information email ligginscommunications@auckland.ac.nz.

Leading thinker

Emeritus Professor John Butcher from the Department of Mathematics has been named a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

He is one of 34 mathematicians worldwide to receive this distinction in 2010 for their key contributions to applied mathematics and computational science. The Fellowship acknowledges recipients as leading thinkers in their field.

SIAM President Professor Douglas Arnold from the School of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota said the Society "takes great pride in the accomplishments of these 34 outstanding SIAM members. Men and women from four continents and numerous disciplines, they exemplify SIAM's vision of the central role mathematics plays in the advancement of science and technology."

John Butcher's Fellowship was for developing the foundations of the modern theory of Runge-Kutta methods.

The Fellows will be recognised in July during the 2010 SIAM annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On the roof of the world



Emmy with children at Qinghai Lake, Qinghai Province on the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau.

Everyone has cell phones, Chinese noodles travelled via the Silk Road to Italy to become pasta, and train journeys can take 24 hours, in what is one of the most sparsely populated areas on earth.

Welcome to the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, China.

It is also the land that produces 25 percent of the world's tomato sauce. "And they grow the best tomatoes ever," says UniServices Communications Manager Emmy Macdonald, who joined her husband Professor Gary Brierley from the School of the Environment while he was on sabbatical working on the Three Brothers Project, a partnership between The University of Auckland and the Universities of Qinghai and Tsinghua.

Emmy spent much of her time on the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau, more than 2,000 kilometres west of Beijing and more than 4,500 metres above sea level.

There she travelled on field trips with the scientists – not only from the "Three Brothers" universities but also from the University of Wollongong in Australia and from the Chinese Academy of Sciences – documenting their work and experiences in an extensive collection of photographs.

"Think of it as wild frontier land, but one that is developing very quickly," says Emmy.

"Ten years ago there were hardly any phones; you had to book and then queue to make a telephone call. Now, everyone has a cell phone."

It's not just the pace of change in China; it's the way it's happening in a country where distances are vast and the scale is breathtaking. The Yellow River is ten times the size of the Grand Canyon and its terraces run for miles. The Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau is four times the size of France.

"We were at the source of the Yellow River, one of China's three largest and most important rivers, with scientists who'd come to study this important water system. It's also a very holy

place for Buddhist monks. We met up with some monks who were very friendly and curious. They whipped out their cell phones from their long robes to take photos of me."

At a temple on a mountain top, Emmy watched young children in a meditation class playing electronic games on handheld devices. "It is a remote and isolated agricultural society confronting the electronic age full on.

"This is part of the great drive to connect China. The government is building roads to connect villages, ending their reliance on horse, yak or motorbike for transport. Put this alongside the proposed Beijing-London high speed train, and you can see how western China is proposing to open, develop and embrace new technology."

Emmy also had her breath taken away literally. "They love chilli, on everything." Chilli grinders on the plateau are the size of concrete mixers. "The food is amazing!"

At Qinghai University in Xining, Emmy delivered a lecture on "Living in New Zealand" to postgraduate students, particularly those who wished to hear and practise their English or to learn about postgraduate study at The University of Auckland.

In Beijing she conducted workshops on communicating science, with earth scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and specialists in physical geography.



A fruit shop near Guide, also on the plateau.

Just one year after becoming an associate of the Photography Society of New Zealand, Liz Harley, subject librarian for Science in the University Library, has earned a Fellowship of the society, through a distinctive series of photographs of possums.

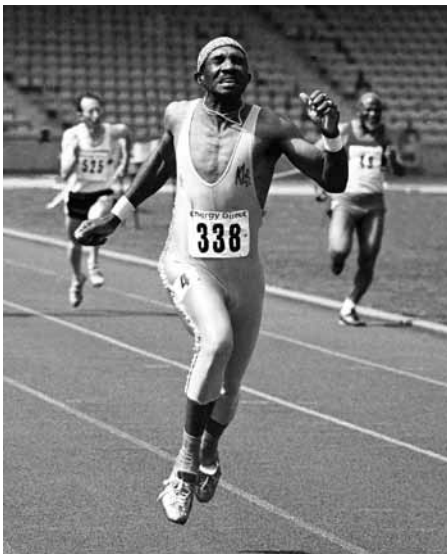
"We have possums visiting our home in the eastern suburbs and, coming from England, I don't have the same attitude toward them as most New Zealanders," she says. "In this series of photographs I really wanted to show people that possums aren't just something to treat as road kill – they have feelings and character."

Fellowship of the society, which may be awarded to professional or amateur photographers, recognises outstanding ability with special regard to creativity, distinction and individuality, and denotes a person who stands in the front rank of photography. Just two to four people become fellows each year and this was a particular distinction after only one year of membership.

In fact, 2010 has already proven very successful for Liz, who won first place in the Royal Easter Show with an image of Auckland City as seen from her car's wing mirror, and top print in the New Zealand section of an annual trans-Tasman competition for her photograph of an athlete winning a race with an expression of pain.

Having begun with a traditional film camera, Liz found the first generation of digital cameras held little appeal. But when partner Glynn Owens, a professor in the Department of Psychology, bought her a Nikon D70s four years ago, she was so impressed with improvements in the technology that she returned to the hobby after an extended break. She now uses a Nikon D700 and chooses to process and frame all of her own images.

For more information about Liz and her photography see the staff intranet: <http://staff.auckland.ac.nz>



"The Agony and Ecstasy" by Liz Harley won at the trans-Tasman competition this year and has won a number of awards previously, including the trophy for best photojournalism print at the PSNZ 2008 National Exhibition.

'Three strikes' law is unjust

The proposed "three strikes" law is fundamentally flawed. It is indifferent to retribution – that is, to punishment that fits the crime.

The proposed law imposes punishment without adequately considering the gravity of the wrong the offender has done. This is arbitrary and will often stop the courts punishing serious wrongs more severely than relatively minor wrongs. That is unjust to victims as well as offenders.

The three strikes law lists just over 40 qualifying offences. When someone is convicted of a qualifying offence – strike one – the judge issues a first warning. If he later commits another qualifying offence – strike two – the judge issues a final warning and orders that the sentence be served without parole. If he then commits another qualifying offence – strike three – the judge has to sentence him to the maximum sentence for that offence and order that the sentence be served without parole.

This legislation does not just target repeat rapists and murderers. The strikes may be for entirely different qualifying offences. The three strikes might be indecent assault, robbery and aggravated burglary.

After two warnings, doesn't an offender obviously deserve the maximum? No, because not all crimes are the same.

An offender deserves more punishment if, for example, he abuses the victim's trust, if his crime is premeditated, if he was especially cruel to the victim, and if he tried to coerce the victim into remaining silent. An offender's crime is also worse if he has committed similar offences in the past.

However, an offender deserves less punishment if, for example, he was a minor party in the offending, if he turned himself in or made a guilty plea, if he is remorseful and apologises to the victim, or if he testifies against other offenders.

The basic problem with the three strikes law is that it ignores almost everything relevant to assessing what an offender deserves.

Two men who commit a street robbery, which is not carefully planned and doesn't involve actual violence or the use of weapons, would ordinarily receive a sentence of 18 months to three years – less if the offenders plead guilty.

If one of the men has two strikes, even if relatively minor and dating from 30 years ago, he has to be sentenced to 14 years (the maximum penalty for aggravated robbery), while his partner in crime may be sentenced to one year. This is a dramatic inconsistency and unjust: it doesn't reflect what they deserve.

The sentence is perverse in another way. This relatively minor robbery is sentenced in the same way as a carefully planned, vicious and extremely violent armed robbery. That's grossly unfair to the victims of the more serious crime.

One armed robber may be the ringleader who brutally assaults the victims. The other may be a relatively minor party – the getaway driver – who is pressured late in the day to participate in the crime, but who doesn't himself hurt the victims and wasn't even aware the ringleader was carrying weapons.

Under the three strikes law, the ringleader may well be punished less severely than the minor party if the latter is on his third strike. To the victims, it'll be clear that this is wrong.

The injustice will be even more obvious if the minor party turns himself in to the police, pleads guilty, apologises to the victims and testifies against the ringleader. The three strikes law treats all of this as irrelevant: the maximum sentence is still mandatory.

But wait, isn't there an exception if the maximum would be manifestly unjust? The ACT Party, the Sensible Sentencing Trust and the Hon Judith Collins have all asserted as much. Unfortunately, it isn't true. The legislation makes the maximum mandatory; the only discretion left to judges is to decline to make the offender ineligible for parole if this would be manifestly unjust.

The three strikes law will require the courts to sentence relatively minor offences in the same way as – or more harshly than – extremely serious offences.

On a third strike, breaking into an empty warehouse with a knife or crowbar (aggravated burglary) receives the same sentence – 14 years – as kidnapping a little girl in order to rape her and then, fearing detection, attempting to murder her to cover one's tracks.

Likewise, a woman who in a rage seriously assaults (GBH) the man she has just discovered has been sexually abusing her children receives the same sentence – again, 14 years – as a gang enforcer who beats a witness half to death to corrupt a trial.

And an offender who accidentally kills someone (manslaughter) receives a life sentence and at least a ten-year non-parole period – the same punishment as for murder.

The three strikes law stops judges asking what punishment an offender deserves to fit the crime. That's not retribution, that's simply injustice.

Dr Richard Ekins (Law)

About Hans



This is an abbreviated version of a eulogy delivered by Dr Greg Anson at the funeral of Dr Hans Edge (Johann Auton Edge, 1973-2010), a lecturer in the Department of Sport and Exercise Science who was tragically

killed in a cycling accident on 25 March.

Hans received a Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science from Waikato Institute of Technology in 2000. In 2002 he was awarded a Bachelor of Science with first class honours from the University of Western Australia and in 2007 he completed his Doctor of Philosophy, also at the University of Western Australia.

Hans was a talented and enthusiastic teacher, much admired by his students. He taught Exercise Physiology – how the body responds and adapts to exercise. His enthusiasm as a teacher was infectious and rubbed off on students who queued up to work with him on his many research projects.

Universities expect their academic staff to be active researchers. In this domain, Hans might have been diagnosed as “hyperactive”! He was passionate about research. His creative and curious mind led him to all sorts of questions about the effects of exercise on performance. He

wanted to know everything and his questions ranged from exploring how skeletal muscle worked at the tiny molecular level to the mechanisms of change in muscle involving nutrition, protein signalling, and mitochondrial adaptation.

Barely satisfied with one large question, Hans’ research journey took him along multiple pathways, examining type 2 diabetes and glucose control, metabolic acidosis and muscle loss. His creativity was rewarded last year when he was successful in obtaining a highly prized Marsden FastStart research grant. Less than one in ten applications for these research grants is successful. A first for Hans, a first for a very proud Department of Sport and Exercise Science!

Of course, Hans knew (at least, I think he knew) he could not answer all these questions single-handedly and his solution revealed another unique attribute of this remarkable young man. I’m sure many business executives would, if they had known, paid handsomely for Hans’ entrepreneurial skill. He was able to sell “collaboration” as though it was a rare commodity on the research stock exchange.

His enthusiasm, passion and research questions led to “collaborations” within the department, across departments and faculties at The University of Auckland and way beyond, to capture the interest and participation of talented collaborators at Massey University, Charles Sturt University, the University of Melbourne, Sydney University, the University of Western Australia,

the University of Verona (Italy), University of Westminster (UK) and McMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

Hans was like one of those stretchy web nets that keep the contents in the boot of your car from escaping – he stitched up research deals around exciting questions.

And behind these creative collaborative endeavours there was another Hans, devoted husband of Emma and father of Madison, Jakob and Bella. This other Hans was at times an impetuous child with a cheeky grin. There are many stories his colleagues will always remember that feature him in the leading role.

Just a few weeks ago at the beginning of the academic year the department hosted a staff-student sports day and BBQ to welcome our new first-year students. There was soccer, touch rugby, frisbee and more. In the middle of it all was Hans, showing off his physical skills, probably recruiting participants for one of his many projects. Later in the day, as was often the case, I heard small footsteps in the hallway near my office – Madison and Jakob dropping in to visit “Dad” at the office with Emma, probably checking that Hans’ office was not overwhelmed by his over-used exercise gear!

We miss you hugely Dr Edge. You will not be forgotten and will continue to provide warm rich memories for us and your Sport and Exercise Science family.

Greg Anson

General staff awards

Applications and nominations for General Staff Professional Development Awards are called for twice a year - in May and November.

The call for applications and nominations will open on Monday 3 May and close at 5pm on Monday 31 May.

These awards provide an avenue for general staff (either individuals or teams) to make an identifiable contribution to the University in administration, management, technical or professional services by furthering their professional development.

Awards are available for professional development activities such as attending or presenting at conferences, visits to other higher

education institutions, staff exchanges, specialised training, coaching, mentoring, shadowing and further study.

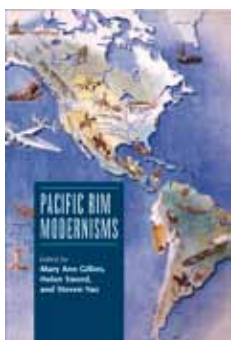
An information session to help you prepare your application will be held on 11 May, 10-11am in Room 115, Level 1, Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes Street. Please register by emailing sodu@auckland.ac.nz.

All applications and nominations should be made on the official application form. To access this form, find out further information and see previous examples of development activities for which staff have been awarded funds, please visit the Staff and Organisational Development Unit (SODU) website at www.auckland.ac.nz/

sodu and click on the “Awards, scholarships and fellowships” link.

The following people received Professional Development Awards in the November 2009 awards round: Andrew Jankowitz - Human Resources, Angela Smith and Fred Luatua - University Careers Services, Emma Kelly - Research Office, Katrina Duncan - Auckland University Press, Kaye Hodge - Centre for Academic Development, Ranmalee Mada - Vice-Chancellor’s Office Support Services and Tessa Sillifant - Centre for Academic Development. Full details can be found on the website listed above.

Pacific Rim Modernisms



Here is a book which explores the diverse and complex ways in which writers, artists, and ideas associated with the Pacific Rim – a region that geologists have termed “the ring of fire” – have contributed to

modernist culture and identity.

Edited by Dr Helen Sword from the Centre for Academic Development, with Professor Mary Ann Gillies from Simon Fraser University in Canada and Professor Steven Gao from Hamilton College in New York, the volume features essays by invited contributors who trace appropriation, migration, and exchange across Pacific Rim geo-cultural sites, including Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Latin America, New Zealand and the United States.

The first section of the book, “Riffs on a rim”,

theorises and interrogates the Pacific Rim as a conceptual construction and alternative model for the understanding of modernism.

The second section, “Terrains”, examines the influence of canonical (that is, Anglo-Euro-American) modernism on specific Pacific Rim locations and cultural traditions, and vice versa.

Section three, “Tectonics”, explores the development of new forms of modernism through close attention to the works of individual Pacific Rim writers and artists.

Finally, a postscript by poet-essayist Rob Wilson

From the Collection



Richard Lewer (b. 1970), *10th Floor Jumper*, 1997. Graphite and mixed media on acrylic, 1000 x 1000mm
The University of Auckland Art Collection

It should have come as little surprise, when Richard Lewer graduated from Elam School of Fine Arts in 1992, that he would soon be seeking new challenges abroad.

In that same year he won Elam's Senior Prize and was finalist in the Bledisloe Medal for Landscape Painting. He took first place for stage design in the 1995 Stage Challenge and won Omni Graphics' Billboard of the Year award in 1996. The following year he won the prestigious Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award at the Robert McDougall Gallery in Christchurch and also moved to Melbourne. Numerous awards and grants have followed, including winning the Wallace Art Paramount Award in 2008, and this year he is a second-time finalist in the second

Basil Sellers Art Prize, staged at the Ian Potter Museum in Melbourne.

As a high achiever, it is not surprising that Lewer likes to do things the hard way, setting up problems that influence his results. In his most recent works he has been painting with enamel, a sticky substance that is difficult to control. The work that won him the Wallace Prize was produced on felt from a pool table, a surface that already comes with streaks and stains that are testament to its former life. It is exactly these traces of activity that fascinate Lewer, who has made many works based on famous crime scenes.

The physical challenges of sport are another area of interest and Lewer is a keen boxer, having

reflects on the global legacy of modernism: the Pacific Rim postmodern.

Appropriately, given their wide sweep in space and time, the 14 essays reflect a range of scholarly perspectives and methodologies. The collection expresses varied viewpoints, divergent voices, and even contradictory definitions of modernism itself. By placing a region previously neglected by modernist scholars, *Pacific Rim Modernisms* seeks not only to redraw old boundaries but to open up the modernist landscape to new mappings and new debates.

Winning streak

The Centre for Continuing Education has won no fewer than four international awards across its Conferencing, Professional Development and Lifelong Learning programme areas.

For more details see the staff intranet <http://staff.auckland.ac.nz> or watch out for the next issue of *University News*.

originally learned to box for a project in which he challenged a fellow artist to a bout in a proper ring with a professional referee. The pressure to perform in sport was the focus of an exhibition of paintings at Orexart Gallery earlier this year, and it is these same anxieties that he wrestles with as an artist, whether it is the laborious production of enormous graphite drawings or working on the move during a residency.

10th Floor Jumper was produced in the year Lewer moved to Melbourne, as he adapted to a new environment. "Melbourne was, at the time, a huge city for me," he says. "My studio was on the tenth floor of a very old heritage building in the main street of Melbourne; it had extremely large windows that felt like you could actually step over the edge.

"I let the urban environment dictate the materials for this first body of work in Australia, and based the work on everyday found materials such as cladding found in trams and panelling in bus shelters." Working with a variety of graphite mediums on perspex, he created scarred, scratched and stained panels resembling those he observed in the streets. Along with these graphite works, exhibited at Orexart later that year, he installed a large perspex environment in which 20,000 flies were let loose with a pair of electric zappers.

"The installation is about the process of elimination: to take away," he explains. "The work is a narrative with many layers. These layers are dissolved and what is left is the bare evidence of existence. These layers, marks and stories are also hidden within my paintings. Both the flies in the installation and the graphite marks in the paintings tell their stories from within a framework of plastic."

Last year Lewer had a retrospective titled *Nobody Likes a Show Off* at Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, and there is another retrospective, *I Must Learn to Like Myself*, currently taking place at Waikato Museum until 15 August. Both exhibitions are riddled with self-doubt and demonstrate the various ways he continues to challenge himself. There are paintings of famous sportspeople, crime scenes, and also many that acknowledge his Catholic upbringing. There are confessional statements scrawled on peg board, as if they have been indelibly etched into the confession booth's walls, and images of notorious murderers painted on the acoustic panels of a police interview room.

Lewer is currently undertaking a residency in New York as part of the International Studio Curatorial Programme (ISCP), which is part of the package from winning the Wallace Award. Although he says New York is a lot safer than he expected, with a high police presence, he has managed to befriend his local NYPD precinct and is now cruising with them on patrols, looking for good stories.

Andrew Clifford

What's on

FRIDAY 30 APRIL

Lunchtime concerts

Featuring piano, voice and flute students from the School of Music. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music. Free. All welcome.

Department of Philosophy seminar

Prof Robert Nola, UoA: *Do naturalistic explanations of religious belief debunk religion?* 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2. Queries to philosophy@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 1 MAY

Exhibition talk

Dr Jessica Halliday, architectural historian; leader of the NZ Architects of the Postwar Period oral history project: *Miles Warren and brutalism*. 1-2.30pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

MONDAY 3 MAY

Graduation

The procession for Arts, Creative Arts and Industries, Law, and Medical and Health Sciences leaves from Alumni Marquee, Old Government House grounds at 9.15am and crosses Princes Street to enter Bowen Avenue at 9.30am.

Ceremony times at the Aotea Centre: 10.30am: Creative Arts and Industries 1.30pm: Arts 4.30pm: Arts, Law 7.30pm: Medical and Health Sciences.

TUESDAY 4 MAY

Communiqué

Namita Kambli, PhD student, UoA: *New media and the changing nature of urban place*. 12noon-1pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

School of Music research seminar Emeritus Professor Heath Lees: *The creation and rise of the showman Wagner-pianist*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Queries to concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz

NZ Institute of International Affairs Auckland Branch/Department of Political Studies seminar

Randy Berry, Principal Officer/Consul General, US Consulate General, Auckland: *Observations on the path to peace in Nepal*. 6-7.30pm Case Room 3, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Rd.

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY

Graduation

The procession for Business and Economics and Education leaves from Alumni Marquee, Old Government House grounds at 9.15am and crosses Princes Street to enter Bowen Avenue at 9.30am.

Ceremony times at the Aotea Centre: 10.30am: Business and Economics 1.30pm: Business and Economics 4.30pm: Business and Economics, Education 7.30pm: Education.

Peter Gibbons Memorial Lecture Series 2010: Facing the data mountain

Prof Ian Witten, University of Waikato: *How the dragons work*. 6pm Rm 342, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. RSVP to robyn@cs.auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 6 MAY

Dreamweaver introduction

12.30-4pm CAD, Level 4, 76 Symonds St. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone 373 7599 ext 88140 with queries.

Department of History seminar

Phil C. W. Chan, National University of Singapore: *Identifying the schizophrenias of self-determination in China and the West*. 4pm Rm 59, History Department.

Graduation Gala Concerto Competition 2010

7.30pm Auckland Town Hall Concert Chamber, Queen St. Celebrate the achievements of the University's new graduates at a concert featuring some of the School of Music's top young musicians. Free. For further information phone 923 7707.

FRIDAY 7 MAY

Graduation

The procession for Engineering and Science leaves from Alumni Marquee, Old Government House grounds at 9.15am and crosses Princes Street to enter Bowen Avenue at 9.30am. Ceremony times at the Aotea Centre: 10.30am: Engineering 1.30pm: Science 4.30pm: Science.

School of Music lunchtime concert

Featuring music from guitar and jazz students 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

SATURDAY 8 MAY

Pacific Graduation Dinner

6.30pm Manhattan Function Centre, Corner Dominion Rd and Jasper Ave, Mt Roskill. \$35 per person (includes a buffet dinner and live band). Join us to celebrate the success of our Pacific graduates. RSVP and payment by Monday 3 May. Cash preferred. Strictly no door sales. Entry by ticket only. Graduate gowns optional. Queries to m.gabriel@auckland.ac.nz or ext 85893.

TUESDAY 11 MAY

Communiqué

Lada Hršak, Croatian-Dutch architect based in Amsterdam: *Local stories*. 12-1pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

School of Music research seminar

Prof Robert Constable: *The Stuart Piano String Coupling System*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Queries to concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz

Bioengineering research seminar

Derek Reynolds, Reytek Ltd, Bedford: *UK Computational models for drug discovery*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY

Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Keiko Sakui, Kobe Shoin Women's University, Japan and Neil Cowie, Okayama University, Japan: *EFL teachers' understanding of learner motivation: Implications of theory and practice*. 12noon Rm 103, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant.

THURSDAY 13 MAY

Lab teaching resource for new lab teachers

1-2pm Rm 420, Kate Edger Information Commons. Find out about and offer feedback on the new web-based training resource for teaching assistants and lab demonstrators. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

School of Music lunchtime concert

Featuring organist and School of Music Senior Lecturer James Tibbles. 1.05-1.55pm Maclaurin Chapel. Free.

Stand up science

5pm Old Government House. Showcase your research and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Present your research as a one-minute overview and network with other scientists and engineers in a relaxed and engaging forum over drinks and nibbles. Please RSVP to secretary@stratus.ac.nz by 3 May. For more information see www.stratus.ac.nz

Communiqué

Akihisa Hirata, Akihisa Hirata Architecture Office: *Tangling*. 6pm Engineering Lecture Theatre (Bldg 401), 20 Symonds St.

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 or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Fully furnished seaside apartment.

Available for month by month lease at \$600 pw including power. Two bdrms + study. Private and quiet location 30 meters from Milford Beach. Separate access, off street parking. Phone (021) 655 5008.

House sit available in Glen Eden villa from end of June to middle of September while owners on academic leave. Use of car can be arranged. Companionable cat. Some flexibility possible round September leaving date. Contact Murray (021) 0260 5109 or m.edmond@auckland.ac.nz

Lovely three-bedroom Westmere house for rent,

5 September 2010 to 3 January 2011. Fully furnished, including wireless, washer, drier, dishwasher, highly sociable and much-loved cat. With bath and shower. Big back yard, with storage shed and OSP. Walking distance from shops, parks, zoo and Auckland's best butcher. Ideal for visiting academics. Rent negotiable. Must love cats! Email aotearose@gmail.com

Westmere house. Available 29 May to 4 August 2010. Could possibly extend slightly either side of these

dates. Minimum period four weeks. Sunny, quiet, architecturally designed, two-bdrm, three levels, two with decks and sea views, sub-tropical garden. Fully furnished. Two minutes to Garnet Rd cafes, harbour and park. \$590 pw, but would negotiate for close to full term. Can send photos. Phone (027) 623 9999 or 360 7456.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Character 1920s apartment in Shortland St.

Minutes from ferry and around the corner from the University. Freehold 76 sqm of charming, spacious and sunny living. Two dble bdrms + study with designer kitchen. Open home: 93 Shortland St, Sat/Sun 2-2.30pm. Set date of sale is 18 May. Contact Jeanne Clayton on (027) 288 8097, Custom Residential.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

For a limited time: \$20 hearing tests available for children aged from 6 months to 5 years. Please phone the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic, Tamaki Campus for an appointment on 373 8791 (ample free parking).

Found at General Staff Conference.

A grey cotton Jeanswest jacket. Available for collection from the Communications Office, Level 10, Fisher Bldg or email j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz

Accountancy and taxation services.

Salary or wage earners. Get a tax refund from IRD. No refund = no fee. Other services too: income tax returns, rental accounts for both individuals and LAQCs, GST returns, company formations. Reasonable fees. Please contact: S J S Accounting & Taxation Services Limited. Phone (09) 629 4663 or (027) 459 8621.

Love A Fare Catering: Want to plan a special night for Mother's Day, a birthday or anniversary? We cook a three-course meal in your own home using an individually designed menu (with matched wines), do the cooking dishes and then disappear into the night so that you can enjoy your exquisite dinner for two! We can also cater for that special dinner party for you to be able to impress your guests with the food but also play the good host. To discuss your requirements, please call Michelle on 0220367693 or email loveafare.catering@gmail.com

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@extra.co.nz or abar175@auckland.uni.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 or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

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

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