



GRADUATION MOTHER

“It was very exciting. I suddenly went from being just the person who organises the event to a parent and realised how special it is.”

These were the words of Graduation Manager, Margaret Allen, as she reflected on the recent Autumn Graduation. For the first time Margaret was both manager of the event and a parent watching her only child, 21-year-old Laura Allen, graduate with a BA in Sociology and Art History.

Margaret had even more to be proud of. The night before the Arts ceremony on Monday, 2 May, Laura had competed in the final of Miss Universe New Zealand and although unplaced, had won the “Miss Universe most beautiful hair”.

“She originally entered Miss North Harbour,” says Margaret, “and was then invited to compete in Miss Universe.” Laura is now doing

a BA Honours in Sociology with the aim of eventually working in Corrections.

This year some 6051 graduates received a total of 6579 qualifications at ten ceremonies spread over three days during Autumn Graduation. These included 125 doctorates. For Margaret, who has an MBA from Massey University and has been the Manager of Graduation for the last four years, graduation planning begins a year out. Her team of four full-time staff look at dates “and then six months out we start scheduling ceremonies and try to rotate times and days. We have to use historical data to predict numbers and then as students apply we tweak ceremonies.”

One of the keys to a smooth graduation is “being very organised and consistent with

decisions. We get lots of requests from people who forgot to apply to graduate but we can’t just slot someone in at the last minute. We also have to manage expectations around guest tickets.”

During Graduation week the hours are long and often stressful but for Margaret seeing all sorts of achievements – “disabled people escorted across the stage, students graduated posthumously, firsts in families” – makes it all worthwhile. And for her the overarching goal is clear: “to make every graduate feel the day is about them”.

See full coverage of Graduation pages 5-9

News flash: Campaign goal exceeded.
Story page 3.



The University's move to limit entry to all courses in 2009, although controversial at the time, has proven to have the desired effect of raising the quality of our students while also supporting our objectives with respect to equity of access. And, of course, it presaged the Government's move to cap the number of places it would fund. As a result, we have only a small number of unsubsidised students relative to some of the other universities.

While it is difficult to obtain hard data on the reasons for the change, anecdotal evidence from schools and parents suggests that limited entry has made a place at the University more "valuable" and thus encouraged students to work harder to ensure that they attain the required guaranteed minimum entry scores. The effects of this change can be seen in the Grade Point Equivalents (GPE) of school leavers enrolling at the University. In 2007 we enrolled 1,933 school leavers with a GPE greater than 5, and they made up 36 percent of enrolling students. Just three years later, that proportion had risen to 41 percent and 2,437 of these very able students had been enrolled. At the same time, the number of Māori and Pacific school leavers has continued to increase and their GPE distribution has also improved.

A similar pattern is evident when we look at students from RONZ ("Rest of New Zealand" other than Auckland). In just the last two years, the number of these school leavers and the number with a GPE greater than 5 has risen by a startling 50 percent! Thus we are increasingly attracting excellent students from the rest of the country as well as within our own region. This is important because high quality students are more satisfying to teach, more likely to go on to the postgraduate programme and more likely to be our successful alumni of the future. It is a process that will accelerate when our new 442-bed hall of residence comes on stream at the beginning of next year and as our new campus life activities continue to enhance the quality of the student experience.

First chair in gerontology nursing

Research into the care of older people across the country has received a big boost with the appointment of New Zealand's first Professor of Gerontology Nursing.

Professor Matthew Parsons is the newly established chair in gerontology nursing, a joint appointment between The University of Auckland's School of Nursing and Waikato DHB. The role brings together the teaching and research strengths of the University with new models of service delivery in the aged care sector driven by the DHB.

"Waikato DHB initiated this position to better respond to the envisaged growth in aged care requirements across their region and the recognised need to deliver more tailored rehabilitation services to the community," explains Matthew. "As New Zealand's largest and most rurally dispersed district health board, findings and practices we produce will have direct application across the rest of the country and further afield.

"In the broadest sense, older people require up to three times the amount of health services than does the rest of the population, with most of these services being delivered in the community. Our task will be to ensure these services are the most suitable for the individuals, the groups and the wider New Zealand communities we serve."

Associate Professor Judy Kilpatrick, who heads up the University's School of Nursing, sees the new position as fitting completely with the ethos behind the school.



"Taking sound research findings and translating these into how we treat patients in a clinical setting is precisely what the School of Nursing strives to achieve. The ability to take this knowledge and weave it into our teaching at the School of Nursing and the teaching the Waikato DHB does is the next logical step. This way we not only stay as current as possible, but we are also able to tailor our practices to the community we are serving," says Jenny.

Matthew holds a PhD and Masters in Gerontology from The University of London and is a trained nurse. He established a gerontology research unit at the University's School of Nursing and has led or participated in numerous national strategy development groups including the Health of Older Person Strategy and the Specialist Health Services for Older People framework.

Woven works unveiled

The sounds of waiata, laughter and family stories echoed through the Sylvia Ashton-Warner Library as a collection of finely crafted works by distinguished Māori weaver Hemoata Ihaka were blessed and unveiled at the Epsom Campus on 2 May.

Hemoata Ihaka's collection of kete, alongside woven pieces in various states of development, are now housed in perspex boxes and permanently displayed on the upper floor of the library. The collection was originally brought together in 1985 and was used to demonstrate to school-age students the process of raranga weaving and provide samples of various articles that could be made with New Zealand's indigenous fibres

"Given their unique history in education, these works are an important tāonga for visitors, staff and students of the faculty," said Associate Professor Graeme Aitken, Dean of Education

Over the years Hemoata passed on her skills in weaving flax kete, mats and hats and



tried diligently to encourage others to maintain her personal and traditional concepts of meticulous perfection rather than produce substandard work in favour of speed and mass-production.

Campaign target exceeded

The University's "Leading the Way" Campaign attainment reached \$151,788,370 at the end of April - exceeding the target of \$150 million - after the best-ever month for fundraising in the history of the University.

Included in the new total are:

- \$5.5 million pledged from an anonymous donor to establish the Marijana Kumerich Chair in Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

This is among the largest philanthropic contributions in University history.

- \$3 million from the Energy Education Trust and the Plowman family in a matched gift for a Chair in Resource and Energy Economics at the Business School.

This is the first fully endowed chair fund held by either The University of Auckland Foundation/ School of Medicine Foundation or the University.

- \$300,000 pledged by Ben Preston, via Friends of The University of Auckland in the US, to a lectureship in climate change research.
- A \$150,000 bequest received from the late Gus Fisher to the Foundation, for general use, and the Liggins Institute.

"Despite the global recessionary times our Campaign has continued to develop a momentum of its own - long may that last," said the Director of External Relations, John Taylor.



Biotech building opened

Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. John Key last month opened state-of-the-art facilities housing the Institute for Innovation in Biotechnology. Hosted by the School of Biological Sciences, the institute brings academics and industry together to share infrastructure, facilities, and expertise. "[It] is at the cutting edge of an international trend toward

academia and industry working more closely together, to increase opportunities for innovation and accelerate scientific discovery to market," says Director Professor Joerg Kistler.

Photo: John Key, Joerg Kistler and Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon

Welcome to international staff

Settling into a new country can be challenging not only for new staff but also for their partners, children and other family members. With this in mind Ann-Maree Duxfield, the University's Immigration Adviser, arranged an event recently to welcome newly arrived international staff.

Staff and their partners from 11 countries, and faculties and services divisions across the University took the opportunity to meet new friends and share experiences. In opening the event, Kath Clarke, Director of HR, acknowledged the international perspective new staff bring to colleagues and students, and encouraged them and their families to learn about and experience the richness of Māori and Pacific cultures in the University and its communities.

Associate Professor Peter Van De Weijer (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) who is from the Netherlands attended the event with his partner Ingrid. "It was inspiring to meet colleagues from a range of nationalities and different walks of life. The University has given us great support and we are very happy to be here".

Staff who attended the event expressed their gratitude for the support and advice they have received from their departments and from Ann-Maree. In the last year Ann-Maree has assisted over 120 new international staff and their families, and has recently been instrumental in advocating for an amendment to the Immigration Act to include a new category of academic visitors which will make it easier for international visitors to the University.

Auckland academic heads APRU

"APRU [the Association of Pacific Rim Universities] is the forum where current and emerging global powers in research and innovation engage," says Dr Christopher Tremewan Pro Vice-Chancellor (International).



Chris takes over as Secretary General of the influential university association in June and his appointment was recently announced in Beijing by Chancellor Henry Yang of the University of California, Santa Barbara who is also the chair of APRU.

On accepting the APRU role, Chris, who has been Pro Vice-Chancellor/Vice President (International) at Auckland since 1999, expressed his enthusiasm for the challenge: "It provides the platform for universities with a huge combined education and research base to respond to geopolitical shifts not only in higher education but in the political, economic and social landscape of the world's most dynamic region. The challenge is to find ways to focus this expertise on issues such as climate change, public health, inequality, energy and water while countries are competing economically."

The 42 member universities of the APRU mirror the APEC economies and are the leading research universities from the US West Coast, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Japan, China, Korea, Southeast Asia and Australasia. The most well-known include Stanford, Berkeley, UCLA, Tokyo, Kyoto, Peking, Tsinghua, National University of Singapore, Melbourne, ANU and Sydney.

The University of Auckland has been very active in APRU, hosting the annual meeting last year and the research symposium on earthquakes, tsunami and volcanoes later this year. "Auckland has important contributions to make," says Chris, "especially in biomedical engineering, earth science, food technology, geothermal energy, population health and environmental science."



Body and mind

What is the place of dance in people's lives? Does it help to foster and maintain cultural values? How does it contribute to social cohesion?

These are some of the questions Associate Professor Ralph Buck and Dr Nicholas Rowe from Dance Studies are seeking to answer in a joint international project called "Our dance stories", for which they are collecting personal narratives of dance from artists, teachers and students.

Ralph and Nicholas aim to develop 12 books, each to be located in a geographic area defined by a body of water (rather than by the usual national, continental, ethnic or religious boundaries).

The first three books are set in the South Pacific, the South Mediterranean and the South China Sea.

Ralph and Nicholas have both had powerful personal experience of the transformative power of dance and have expertise in the kinaesthetic growth of communities. This gives them a quiet confidence in the value of their work to the communities of their informants.

Says Nicholas: "By listening to dance practitioners, by seeking their own analysis of the role of dance in their lives and then amplifying their voices, we feel we are helping to sustain the function of dance in the communities and to affirm the value of the dancers."

Says Ralph: "I'm passionate about dance because it engages people's bodies and their

minds and their spirits. Locals who have offered their stories have said they are proud to be involved. Interviewers have all reported back that everyone is excited about the books and glad that someone is valuing the 'local and personal' rather than the global."

The "Our dance stories" project was made possible by two Faculty Research Development Fund (FRDF) grants. Nicholas and Ralph were invited to present it as a best-practice research case study at the 2nd UNESCO World Conference in Seoul in May 2010.

Photo: members of the Vou Dance Company, the first Fijian company to blend traditional Fijian Meke with contemporary dance.

Understanding microbes

Dr Gillian Lewis, recently appointed Acting Director of the School of Biological Sciences, has been promoted to professor.

Gillian leads the microbiology research group in the School of Biological Sciences, and is also well-known as a commentator on water quality issues. Her work focuses on applied freshwater ecology, in particular the microbiology and restoration of degraded water bodies.

She studies natural and contaminating microorganisms in water, such as human viruses that find their way into water and shellfish, and investigates how certain microorganisms can be used as indicators of the human health risk of water sources, and how microbes can be used to reduce contamination in the natural environment.

"Microbial communities - both the good and the 'bad' - are hugely important to how aquatic ecosystems work and how we can use and

protect them," says Gillian. "Without understanding the microbes, you can't understand an ecosystem."

Over the last ten years she has focused in particular on stream biofilms - sheets of bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms that stick to each other and to surfaces in the environment. Her work involves learning more about the makeup of these complex communities, how the species interact, and how they may be used as indicators of the health of streams.

Gillian attended Menzies College in Southland and earned her undergraduate degree and PhD at the University of Otago. She has held academic appointments at the University of Otago, The University of Auckland, and Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, as well as working as a visiting lecturer at the University of North Carolina and as an environmental scientist at URS New Zealand Limited.



She has provided advice on water quality to government agencies such as the Ministries of Health and Ministry for the Environment. Among her many roles with professional bodies she is a former president and vice-president of the New Zealand Microbiological Society and a mentor in the Women in Science leadership programme.

Photo: Professor Gillian Lewis.

Staff doctorates

Education PhDs



From left: Dr Clea (Te Kawehau) Hoskins (Ngati Hau, Ngapuhi), a lecturer in the Faculty of Education's Te Puna Wananga, and Dr Kim Elliot, a Senior lecturer in Youth Work in the faculty's School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work, both celebrated receiving doctorates at Autumn Graduation.

Te Kawehau conducted a case-study of a Treaty of Waitangi co-governance relationship operating in a central Auckland school, with which she has a long-term relationship, for her PhD. Kim investigated health teachers' beliefs about and experiences of spirituality in secondary school-based sexuality education for her EdD. Hers was the first New Zealand thesis to investigate the connection between sexuality and spirituality in a secondary school context.

General staff graduates

Backed up by research

"Often general staff have knowledge of their area based on day to day experience, but that knowledge isn't valued unless it can be backed up by research."

This is one of the reasons Margaret Taurere, the University's Māori Equity Adviser, has beavered away for the last ten years to complete her EdD which she received at Autumn Graduation.

"I wanted to demonstrate that it's possible for general staff to obtain academic qualifications if they have the support of their superiors and I think my study has given me greater credibility," says Margaret.

She looked at the role of careers advisers in schools and the support they provide for Māori students for her doctoral thesis. She found that the choices available for Māori students depend on the decisions careers advisers make for them "and the advisers are influenced more by their personal values than by education policy."

Nursing PhDs



Three academic staff members from the School of Nursing, all working in the field Gerontology, received PhDs at Autumn Graduation.

Dr Kathy Peri (left) investigated a physical activity programme for older people living in aged care facilities; Dr Stephen Jacobs' (middle) PhD research developed a process for implementing new community health services for older people while Dr John Parsons developed a study to determine the impact of a goal facilitation tool on home-based support services for older people.

The three academics are members of the University's Applied Ageing Research Group which balances gerontology teaching with research into service improvement.



Margaret joined the University in 1993 as a Māori Liaison Officer, and the retention and recruitment of Māori students remains a major part of her role.

"I think the reason I've stayed in the job so long is because I believe access for Māori students to the University is really important."

(continued page 6)

EU FP7 Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowships

For EU researchers to come to NZ for 1-2 years to carry out research, in order to benefit the EU via strengthening international links and knowledge transfer. Closing date for applications at Research Office 28 July 2011. A workshop will be held at the University on 22 June – to register please contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84886.

Royal Society NZ - Japan Postdoctoral Fellowship

One-two year fellowships to conduct co-operative research with leading research groups in Japan. Closing date at Research Office 23 June 2011. For further information please contact Chris Tews, RSNZ Fund Specialist, c.tews@auckland.ac.nz, ext 88301.

Maurice & Phyllis Paykel Trust

M&PPT Travel Grants: Funding (usually in the range of \$1,000-\$3,000) to eligible applicants for assistance with the costs of travel relevant to their research in a health-related field. This may include travel to scientific meetings, visits to research centres or short travel periods. For full information and online application form visit www.paykeltrust.co.nz/travel.

M&PPT Conference Support Grants: Funding (usually around \$5,000) for the support of scientific conferences in health-related fields organised by academic institutions or professional organisations within New Zealand. Priority is given to conferences with an emphasis on research and research training. For full information and online application visit www.paykeltrust.co.nz/conference.

For both M&PPT grants, internal (Research Office) deadline for submission to portal is 25 May. For further information please contact Angela McMahon, Research Administrator, a.mcmahon@auckland.ac.nz, ext 86615.

Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE)

The 17th AINSE Conference on Nuclear and Complementary Techniques of Analysis and 10th Vacuum Society of Australia Congress will be held at the Australian National University on 5-7 December 2011. See www.ainse.edu.au

AINSE provides funds to use nuclear research facilities for both researchers and students at the ANSTO site at Lucas Heights, Sydney, as well as fellowships and student top-ups.

For further information please contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84886.

General staff graduates continued

A meaningful journey

It was the satisfying end of an eight-year journey for Te Kororia Netana (Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Rangitīhi, Ngāti Whatua, Te Aupōuri, Whakatohea) when she stepped on stage to be awarded a BA majoring in Museums and Cultural Heritage at Autumn Graduation.



Kori, who is currently Executive Assistant to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), enrolled part-time in her BA just before she joined the University staff nine years ago as a desktop publisher for CPD (now CAD).

"It's been really hard work but I've had a lot of support, which means a lot to me," she says. Obviously it's been rewarding too because she's already enrolled for a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts also majoring in Museums and Cultural Heritage. For her dissertation Kori will study the use of New Zealand indigenous pigments by Māori, researching foraging and production techniques. She hopes to review Italian fresco methodologies and chemical compositions of oil binders and pigment production to ascertain if there is a correlation between Italian fresco painting and indigenous New Zealand pigment use. The research could provide answers to questions of preservation and offer restorative alternatives to current practices.

"The findings of this research will be indispensable for contemporary Māori artists who wish to return to traditional practices of indigenous pigment use."

Kori is pictured here with her son Lucas Netana-Rakete (left) and husband Manga Rakete.

Staff business

General Staff members Julie Bradley (right) and Bernadette Carpenter were awarded Postgraduate Diplomas in Business at Autumn Graduation.

Julie, who is Regional Manager at the International Office, studied Marketing while Bernadette, the Arts Students Centre Manager, was awarded her diploma in Administration.

Both were able to combine study and fulltime work with the help of Staff Scholarships and "very supportive" departments.

"It was very challenging at times," says Bernadette who has an MA in Philosophy, "but it was nice to re-engage with academia."



Record for Bioengineering

A record nine students from Auckland Bioengineering Institute were awarded PhDs at Graduation and seven are continuing work at the Institute as Research Fellows.

They are from top left: Kenneth Tran, Ben O'Brien, Kerry Hedges and Jessica Jor. From bottom left: Jennine Mitchell, Ehsan Vaghefi, Harvey Ho and Bo Li. Not pictured: Xinshan Li.

Three doctorates in one family

The Barker family from Remuera now boasts three doctorates from The University of Auckland.

Dr Mary Barker (right) graduated PhD in Art History with a thesis on "A disquieting presence: The Virgin Mary in Rembrandt's 'Protestant Art'". Her husband Sir Ian Barker, a long-serving Chancellor (1991-99), on the left is wearing the regalia for the honorary LLD degree bestowed on him after he finished his term.

All five of their children graduated from Auckland including son John who gained a PhD in Law and Geography in 2004.

Back in 1994 Sir Ian personally capped Mary BA in Italian and Politics. She went on to complete an MA in Art History with first class honours three years ago.



Teaching Excellence Awards

Six academic staff were awarded Teaching Excellence Awards for 2010. Associate Professor Toni Ashton of Medical and Health Sciences deferred her award to September Graduation. Excerpts from the citations for the other five awardees follow:

Sustained Excellence in Teaching

Dr Ross McDonald, Management and International Business, Business School



“Ross McDonald is an exemplary teacher...not only is he concerned with the delivery of his often challenging and thought-provoking course content, but he also ensures a novel teaching and learning experience.

“Ross persuades his students to think critically about the world and the systems in place that are often taken for granted. He does this in a manner that subtly balances being both gentle and accepting, whilst also being candid and provocative. Students come out of the other side of his courses being thoroughly challenged with a new-found perspective of the bigger picture.

“A Facebook group was created in Ross’s honour over five years ago, where students have called Ross ‘inspirational’, ‘an absolute legend’, and even, ‘an undercover superhero’.”
Sian Coleman

Professor Robin Kearns, School of Environment, Faculty of Science



“Professor Kearns brings full commitment, openness and compassion, as well as an experienced academic intellect, to each and every supervisory interaction. This means that he is a conscious partner in the supervisory process, he makes an effort to really ‘be there’, and his

attention to the supervisory relationship enables open and frank conversations.

“Robin works extremely hard to find opportunities that will develop his student’s academic experiences in the subject areas that interest them and approaches his graduate students as valuable colleagues. He facilitates co-authorship, participation in research projects within and beyond the University, and makes a special effort to introduce graduate students to other academics as colleagues of merit. As a result Robin’s students maintain contact with a variety of international academics and foster a range of professional connections.”

Tara Coleman

Early Career Excellence Award

Dr Nicholas Gant, Department of Sport and Exercise Science, Faculty of Science



“Nick’s ability to inspire students to fulfil their academic potential belies his relatively short teaching career.

“Not content to merely stand and deliver conceptual material Nick’s use of innovative teaching methods and resources ensures his lectures are always captivating.

“Even fewer teachers possess the skill and patience Nick routinely employs to create a well supported, self-directed learning environment.

“It is rare to find such a combination of passion, commitment, understanding, expertise, and teaching skill. Nick displays all of these traits and in doing so unknowingly equips his students with skills that extend far beyond the walls of the lecture theatre, the laboratory and the examination hall.”

Jonathon Rawstorn

Excellence in Postgraduate Research Supervision

Professor Louise Nicholson, Deanery, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

“Over 21 years, Louise has supervised students across the spectrum; from honours projects to doctorates. Louise exercises a ‘duty of care’ that is exceptional.

“She works tirelessly to ensure that students gain access to international research leaders, so

they are able to pursue collaborative opportunities and to discuss future career options. As a result, her students are found across the world from Perth to Los Angeles, Auckland to Oxford and beyond.

“Louise has also exercised faculty-wide leadership to develop an environment that supports young researchers. Her support of initiatives such as HealthX and Chiasma assures students of the opportunities to present to a critical audience in a supportive environment.”

Joanne Davidson



Innovation in Teaching

Te Oti Rakena, School of Music, National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries



“Since joining the University in 2007, Te Oti has established a strong record of innovative teaching. The core elements of his approach are threefold: it is informed by its Pacific context; the research context of the School of Music; and the long tradition of classical voice training. From these sources, he has forged a unique pedagogy that is perhaps best reflected in his Performance Ensemble course Tuia, tui, tuia.

“This course is highly innovative in the way it has successfully reframed the conventions of traditional conservatoire training. It incorporates elements of Tikanga Māori, and enriches studio learning by drawing upon the diverse cultural and community backgrounds of all participating students. Classical European and indigenous Pacific art forms are equally respected. And, uniquely, singers are taught together with dance students to give full bodily expression to practical and theoretical knowledge from both disciplines.”

Marlena Devoe

Four new Fellows

Four people who have made “a unique and valuable contribution to the University” were awarded University Fellowships at Autumn Graduation. Here are excerpts from their citations, delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon:

Associate Judge David Abbott has been a longstanding member of The University of Auckland Society, which grew out of the original Alumni Association formed to provide advocacy and support for the University and its alumni. He was elected its President in 2003 and has led the organisation through a number of challenging years of transition to develop new roles for it alongside the University’s growing Alumni Relations Office.

Under his stewardship, the Society has financially supported many worthy causes including sponsoring The University Strings, the Blues Awards Annual Dinner, and the annual Postgraduate student competition (Exposure), as well as hosting a number of popular Society events each year for its members.

Associate Judge Abbott has been a strong advocate for the University and has actively encouraged Society members to support the University on legislative issues, perhaps most notably the Education Amendment Bill in 2008.

Associate Judge Abbott gained an LLB (Hons) from The University of Auckland in 1970 and was admitted to the Bar in 1971. In 2005 he was appointed an Associate Judge of the High Court at Auckland.

Alison Paterson was acknowledged for her outstanding contribution as the first chair of the board of the National Research Centre for Growth and Development (NRCGD).

Mrs Paterson joined the NRCGD Board of Governance at its inception in 2003 and has been chair ever since. The NRCGD has a complex structure, with multiple partners geographically spread across the country. The board, under Alison’s chairmanship, has had to steer a course through a complicated structure

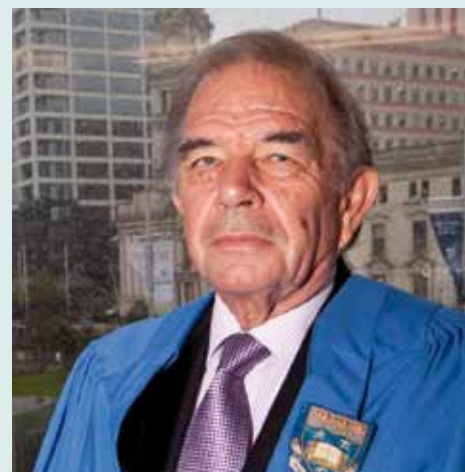
of responsibilities and interests. The wide respect in which Alison is held both by fellow members of the board and by members of the centre reflects not only her abilities as chair of the board, but also her clear and genuine commitment to the centre and her desire to see it succeed and excel as a Centre of Research Excellence.

Alison been an active champion for the NRCGD both within the University and in the wider community and has also been a strong advocate for development of leadership capabilities within the Centre’s Management Team – encouraging formal training in leadership and in public communications, and sometimes as a consequence incurring a significant increase in her own workload.

William Falconer CNZM, LLB, was acknowledged for his outstanding contribution to the University through his role as the founding chair of the board of the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery.

Mr Falconer was invited to join the board of the Maurice Wilkins Centre in June 2003 and has since since guided the development of the Centre throughout the subsequent seven years. The current strength of the Maurice Wilkins Centre as a national scientific centre of excellence is in no small way a tribute to his expert stewardship.

Possibly his most critical contribution to the centre came early in 2007, when the existing Centres of Research Excellence were required to compete for a further six-year period of funding. Here, Mr Falconer was of enormous value as a “sounding board” for the Director, Distinguished Professor Ted Baker, as he prepared his presentation for the site visit. Most importantly, when he was asked for his views on the Centre by the site visit panel, he delivered such an authoritative analysis of its place in the New Zealand scene that this was certainly a key factor in ensuring that the Maurice Wilkins Centre was selected for a further six years of funding, at a significantly enhanced level.



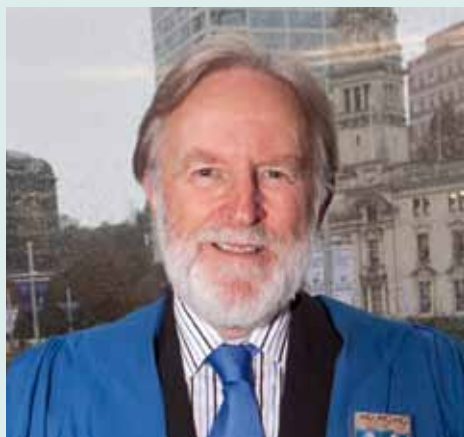
Sir Tipene O’Regan was recognised for his role as chair of the board of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, a Centre of Research Excellence.

Sir Tipene joined the board as chair in May 2006. His term has recently been renewed, reflecting not only the high value of Sir Tipene to Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, but also his contribution to Māori and indigenous development, in academia and communities.

Sir Tipene is widely respected by both the academic and lay members of the board. Under his chairmanship, even the more difficult meetings have run smoothly and harmoniously. He is always accessible, available and prepared to provide advice and guidance. He has been proactive in improving monitoring, reporting and decision-making processes. He has led the board through a successful mid-term review and reapplication process in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Recently, he led the centre through the development of a new strategic direction, research plan and structure.

Sir Tipene is an outstanding ambassador for the vision and mission of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and of the Centres of Research Excellence as a funding model.

Photos: Above: William Falconer. Below from left: David Abbott, Alison Paterson, Sir Tipene O’Regan



Disproving myths about Auckland

Auckland doesn't care about the rest of New Zealand and gets more than it should of the national cake.

This is one of the myths about Auckland that historian Dr Helen Laurenson disproves in her PhD thesis "Myths and the city: A social and cultural history of Auckland, 1890-1990".

"A lot of invective was hurled at Auckland at the time of the 1950 Empire Games," says Helen. But it was misplaced, she says, and "the recent concern Auckland has shown for Christchurch entirely disproves the myth".

As the oldest graduate, aged 74, at Autumn Graduation, Helen disproves any myth about being too old to change career. When she turned 60 in 1998 she came out of retirement from her career as a librarian and began studying history. For her MA she studied the rise and fall of department stores in New Zealand which was eventually published as the book *Going Up Going Down* by Auckland University Press.



Now she is busy turning her PhD thesis on Auckland myths into another book for AUP.

"Being an older student has been absolutely wonderful," she says. "The University is known for its support of mature students and I've felt very supported."

A first



New Zealand's first Doctorate of Pharmacy was awarded to Wellington pharmacist John Dunlop at the Medical and Health Sciences ceremony.

John, who qualified as a pharmacist in 1962, works as a clinical advisory pharmacist with a group of general practice doctors. His doctoral research investigated the practicalities of a clinically trained pharmacist, independent of any association with a community pharmacy, working collaboratively with heart care patients within the primary health care environment.

The aim of his study was to demonstrate a reduction in the rate of drug-related morbidity and mortality, by having a clinical pharmacist actively engaged with the patient and the patient's general practitioner undertaking clinical medication reviews and making recommendations to optimise therapy.

"I wanted the learning for myself," John told Uninews, "but I wanted the doctorate to benefit the profession."

All in the family

Rapson



Ken Rapson, Director of the Schools Partnership Office, donned gown and trencher at Autumn Graduation to see his daughter Kate graduate with an MBChB.

Kate is currently working as a house officer in the Geriatric Ward at Middlemore Hospital and says she "loves being a doctor". Her older brother Sam graduated with a BCom (Hons) in 2006.

Ken and his wife Denise (BCom) are also graduates of the University. Ken has an MSc and, after 31 years working in secondary schools, joined the Schools Partnership Office in 2006.

Myers

Graduation ceremonies are especially meaningful for Professor Michael Myers and his Titirangi-based family. Not only has the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management head's wife and three

children joined him in studying at, graduating from and working for the University, but the family owes its very existence to a graduation ceremony back in 1978.

"My wife Kathleen (who now works part-time for UniServices) and I first met at a graduation ceremony," Michael explains. "We both graduated with a Master of Arts (first class honours) - Kathleen in Spanish and me in Anthropology.

"We had never met before, but were seated next to each other due to our surnames."

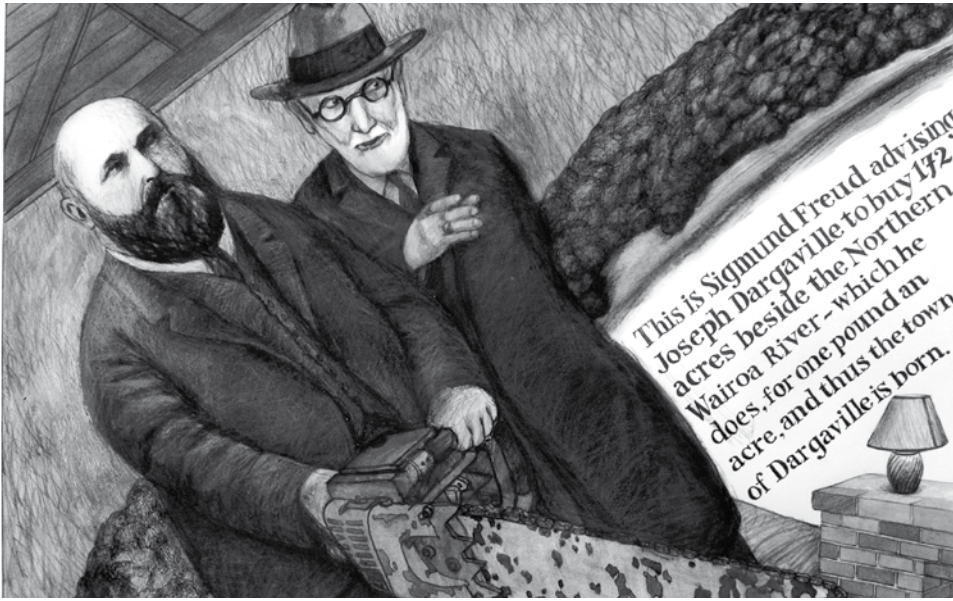
Last week the family celebrated an offspring hat-trick, with son David graduating with a Bachelor of Property and now working for Property Services. Daughter Erica is currently doing a BCom (Hons) in Marketing, and has in the past worked as a student adviser.

Eldest daughter Sarah, now a full-time mum, did a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science, subsequently working at the Medical School running a research lab.



Alumna Julie Maxton, the new executive director of the Royal Society of London, was at Graduation to see her son James graduate with a BA/BCom.

Here Julie (who features on the latest *Ingenio* front cover) enjoys a friendly moment with University Registrar Tim Greville



Kiwis are accustomed to the hectoring tone of recent published histories which apportion the blame for the rape of the natural resources of Aotearoa to their colonial ancestors. Imagine how these moralising tales could have been jollied-up with drawings such as this illustration from alumnus Graham Percy's book *Imagined Histories* (2007).

Thinking about the brisk nineteenth century deforestation of his homeland from an artist's retreat at Crear on the western coast of Scotland, Percy pops an enormous chainsaw in the hands of the portly opportunist, Joseph McMullen Dargaville (1837-1896). Dargaville holds his weapon of mass destruction down low so that it appears like an extension of his body. With no scabbard to protect the bar and chain, the metal of the tool seems to have become marked with rust-like patches. Or could these be the patterns seen in cork, alerting us to the county of origin for this Irish-born founding father? Whatever the reference, these patterns

and the downward tilt make the protrusion towards the viewer seem disappointingly detumescent.

Perhaps the energy of attack synonymous with the settler's attitude to the land has gone into eclipse since the chainsaw-wielder has been stilled. Or is this just a pun on the brand of chainsaw he carries? The writing is clearly on the wall for him and us, illuminated by the cosy glow of a table lamp atop the mantelpiece of a modern brick hearth. The appearance of the neatly-lettered serif font announces authority, but the absurdity of what is written leaves us to draw our own conclusions about where truth lies. Apparently Dargaville is poised ready to heed a few words advice from the twentieth century icon, the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). Chopping down trees could be construed as Oedipal and related to a desire to castrate the father, but Freud is not so crude as to point this out. Instead he dispenses some practical capitalist advice – after all, Freud's own father

was a wealthy wool merchant. Why doesn't the doughty Dargaville give up the life of timber wholesaling and pursue the much more lucrative business of land speculation?

Dargaville did indeed purchase the Tunatahi block of 171 acres from Parore Te Awaha in 1872 (Percy has spliced the date with the amount) and developed the town which is named in his honour at the junction of the Wairoa and Kaihu Rivers. A diagonally battened tongue and groove timber door floats into the scene over the men's heads, perhaps a reference to how Dargaville swiftly sold his timber interests to the Union Sash and Door Company in 1876 but continued to enjoy a mighty income derived from the leases on all the buildings in the township that he owned.

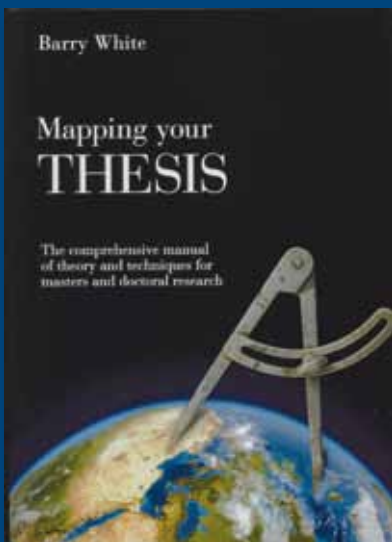
This depiction of Dargaville's epiphany displays the pencil skills which Graham Percy honed as an illustrator for the *School Journal* like many other Elam graduates, but the humour which illuminates the texts and subtexts of a blended European and New Zealand history is uniquely his own. Ever the kiwi abroad, Percy views New Zealand fondly from a distance, re-making the past to entertain both himself and whoever else gets the joke.

Over 60 of Graham Percy's drawings are on display at Gus Fisher Gallery until 25 June and five Percy drawings have been gifted by the artist Mari Mahr to The University of Auckland in recognition of her husband's connection to the Elam School of Fine Arts (he graduated with a DipFinArtsHons 1960). These will go on display in the Sylvia Ashton-Warner Library at the Epsom Campus at the end of the exhibition's eighteen-venue tour in 2014.

Linda Tyler

Graham Percy, This is Sigmund Freud advising Joseph Dargaville, 2007, from the series Imagined Histories, 2007, pen and wash, with pencil and acrylic, 460 x 610mm.

Books



Mapping Your Thesis is published by ACER Press and written by Dr Barry White who leads the Masters and Doctoral Research Development team at the Centre for Academic Development.

With 13 chapters covering over 360 pages, this book offers a rigorous dissection and synthesis of the process of writing a masters or doctoral thesis. Its purpose is to raise awareness of, and provide grist for reflection on, the critical choices research and thesis writing currently involves. As such it serves as a reference and resource text for both research candidates and supervisors.

Running as a leitmotif throughout is the notion that no conceptual construct can be complete unto itself: concepts can only be defined in terms

of their dynamic relations with other constructs. It is this interdisciplinary purview and mixed methodological approach that distinguishes *Mapping Your Thesis* from other thesis guides.

The book argues that the style of writing and words deployed in a thesis are as important as all other aspects of the research undertaking. By first identifying and then unpacking the complex cognitive processes involved in research writing, this resource, in one fully integrated volume, provides the foundations for presenting a thesis using sound academic discourse.

What's on

FRIDAY 20 MAY

11th Annual Child Poverty Action Group post-Budget breakfast 2011

7.15-8.45am Function Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Tāmaki Innovation Campus. Join us for breakfast and an analysis of how the 2011 Budget affects children and young people. Speakers: Prof Paul Dalziel, Professor of Economics, Lincoln University, member of Alternative Welfare Working Group; Assoc Prof Susan St John, Dept of Economics, UoA, CPAG Economics spokesperson; Assoc Prof Papaarangi Reid, Tumuaki and Head of Te Kupenga Hauora, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, UoA.

\$30 waged, \$15 unwaged.

RSVP to admin@cpag.org.nz

School of Music lunchtime concert

Chamber music ensembles. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Featuring School of Music chamber music groups. Free.

- Fulbright Graduate Awards seminar for students: 12noon-1pm, Lecture Theatre 423-342, Conference Centre.
- Fulbright Scholar Awards seminar for academic staff: 1-2pm Lecture Theatre 423-342, Conference Centre. Visit www.fulbright.org.nz for further information.

Communiqué Autumn lecture series

Albert Refiti, Samoan Tufuga Builders Guild and AUT. 12noon-1pm Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. Queries events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Federico Formenti, Department of Sport and Exercise Science: *Regulation of human metabolism by hypoxia-inducible factor*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Spark Ideas Challenge

Prize-giving 2011

5.45pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Guest speaker is Shaun Jacka, from Mum's kitchen to Harrods (UK) - world's most prestigious store; CEO and founder of Piako Gourmet Yogurt; Winner of UABS Entrepreneurs' Challenge 2010. Join us to celebrate with the winners of the Spark Ideas Challenge!! Visit www.spark.auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 21 MAY

Public art event

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Invent your own animal alphabet with award-winning designer and Elam graduate, Nell May. An activity for children both young and old. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 23 MAY

Tuākana: Creating a safe and effective learning environment

10.15am-12noon CAD Seminar Rm, Fifth floor, 76 Symonds St. This workshop is for UoA Tuākana tutors and co-ordinators with teaching and mentoring responsibilities primarily to Māori and Pasifika students. What are safe and effective learning environments? What conditions are necessary for both the Tuākana and the Tēina to feel safe and therefore participate in the Tuākana learning community? In this workshop we will explore these questions and determine how best to synthesise a learning environment where all participants are safe and able to learn to the best of their abilities.

Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

Teaching with the writer's diet

3-4.30pm CAD Seminar Rm, Fifth floor, 76 Symonds St.

Help students in any discipline improve their academic writing by using 'The Wasteline test', a free online diagnostic tool. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

TUESDAY 24 MAY

Fulbright NZ Outreach Tour 2011

Your chance to find out about Fulbright exchange awards to the USA.

- General employer fair: 10am-2pm, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road.

FRIDAY 27 MAY

School of Music lunchtime concert

1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Featuring the School of Music Chamber Orchestra. Free.

Retirement Policy and Research Centre/Public Policy Group/Dept of Sociology/Child Poverty Action Group panel discussion

Reflecting on the May budgets, the recession, and the vulnerable in NZ and Australia. 2-5pm Case Rm 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Speaker: Dr Ben Spies-Butcher, followed by a panel discussion. RSVP to t.menezes@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 28 MAY

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Don Wood, an Auckland Grammar classmate of Graham Percy, discusses Percy's design work. While studying at the School of Architecture, Wood co-founded Ikon Gallery and employed Percy as their graphic designer. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 31 MAY

Communiqué Autumn lecture series

Tamara Azizian: *A school in the desert*. 12noon-1pm Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Queries events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz

HTML introduction workshop

1-4pm CAD, 4th floor, 76 Symonds St. Later followed by HTML intermediate. Visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops (IT Literacy).

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Thor Besier, ABI: *Imaging and musculoskeletal modelling to investigate the mechanical aetiology of patellofemoral pain*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE

Fermata time out to talk music seminar

Dr Davinia Caddy: *How to hear classical music*. 5.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

THURSDAY 2 JUNE

Secrets of effective university teaching

10am-12noon CAD Seminar Rm, Fifth floor, 76 Symonds St. Join us to hear a panel of UoA Teaching Excellence Award winners share the philosophies, 'secrets' and strategies that have made them excellent teachers. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD, ext 88140.

Research essentials seminar series

Prof Charles Royal, Arts and Dr Dan Hikuroa, Institute Earth Science and Engineering: *Research Communications for Researchers (new programme): The Treaty of Waitangi: Why I must care, what I must know and how it affects my research*. 1pm Case Room 2, Owen G Glenn Bldg. Queries to m.suarez@auckland.ac.nz

Department of History seminar

Prof Elizabeth Rankin, Art History, UoA: *Picturing protests: Artists against*

apartheid and the Springbok rugby tour protests in NZ. 4pm Rm 59, History Dept. Queries to a.harris@auckland.ac.nz

Student jazz ensemble concert

6.30pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St.

Large ensemble concert. School of Music students perform a mix of jazz standards, modern pieces and original work. Free.

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

Ponsonby. Self-contained half villa for rent in Ponsonby. Fully furnished, linen supplied plus heat pump, bath, verandah. Spacious, pleasant. For rentals longer than two weeks the rate is \$430 pw. Looking for quiet single or couple. Contact Miriam on (021) 501 081.

Roths Bay. One-bdrm freestanding garden flat. Quiet, private. Close to bus, beach, shops. \$300 pw includes reasonable use power. Phone Dave on 476 4428 or (021) 401 771.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Outstanding tenant seeks long-term rental.

University employee/mother with toddler and house-trained cat seeking long-term rental in inner-Auckland suburb (Point Chev, Westmere, Grey Lynn, Mt Eden preferred). Two-three bedrooms, non-smoking, child-friendly home with enclosed outdoor area and off-street parking. If you are looking for a responsible, reliable tenant who will take excellent care of your property, please email amberwrite@hotmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Children's hearing tests. Hearing tests for children aged from 6 months up to 5 years old are available every Monday during semester time at The University of Auckland Clinics at the Tāmaki Innovation Campus. All children will be tested by final-year Master of Audiology students, under the supervision of an experienced audiologist. The cost is only \$20. To make an appointment please call The University of Auckland Clinics on 923 9909 or email clinics@auckland.ac.nz For more information about all our services please visit our website www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz.

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A VOICE FOR PACIFIC ISLANDERS

How do we ensure that Pacific Islanders are part of Auckland in “a very real way – and are encouraged to be part of it?”

This question is top of mind for University Chaplain Uesilifi Unasa as he gets down to business in his new role as chair of the Super City’s Pacific People’s Advisory Panel.

“The Mayor has put out a discussion paper on the dreams and aspirations for Auckland,” he explains, “and the first job of the panel is highlighting what issues there are for Pacific people, and what their aspirations are for the next 30 years. The Council and Advisory panel are holding four workshops and consultation meetings across the city and we’ll be there as the Pacific face of Auckland Council business.”

Uesilifi is drawing on governance and strategic roles he’s held in the New Zealand and Samoan Methodist Church to lead the panel which is made up of eight professionals ranging from qualified town planners, a clinical psychologist, a journalist, educator and television producer, and representing Samoan, Cook Island/Niuean and Tongan nationalities.

Uesilifi also brings a wealth of experience and community and church involvement to the role.

Born in Samoa, Uesilifi was named Westfield after the Auckland Westfield freezing works where his father was working at the time. (In the Samoan language, Westfield translates to Uesilifi.)

When his family immigrated to New Zealand nine years later, Uesilifi went to New Lynn

Primary School followed by Kelston Intermediate and Kelston Boys’ High before enrolling for a BA in History and Political Studies followed by an MA in Political Studies at The University of Auckland. He then trained for the Methodist Ministry at Piula College in Samoa, did a postgraduate degree of divinity at Knox College in Dunedin, more training at Trinity Methodist Theological College in Auckland and then took his first post in Dargaville.

His next period of service in South Auckland at the Mangere Otahuhu Parish gave him a totally different and multicultural experience. “It grounded me in the realities of life for those who are poor and struggling in New Zealand.”

After a period as District Superintendent (the Methodist equivalent to Bishop) at Dunedin City Methodist parish, he joined the University more than six years ago and has worked hard to make Maclaurin Chapel a “sanctuary in the busyness of University life.

“I think I have a diversity of experience in terms of understanding Auckland and its different socio-economic groups and populations,” says Uesilifi. “I grew up in West Auckland, ministered in South Auckland and now I live in central Auckland.” He also has an understanding of tertiary education in Auckland and says his involvement as University chaplain has confirmed “the vital contribution tertiary education makes to the prosperity and wellbeing of our society. Especially for the Pacific peoples in Auckland City, tertiary education is one sure

step of addressing head on the adverse effects of inequality and marginalisation from important decision-making processes”.

He is mindful that the Pacific population is an increasing part of the Auckland context and that things like education, employment and business while issues for the wider community are acutely challenging for the Pacific community.

“My vision is that Auckland affirms and celebrates its Pacific-ness. Moreover that it recognises that presence in the involvement in the life of the city in two ways: firstly in the decision-making processes of the city and secondly in resourcing the Pacific presence in the community. For example the University having a Fale in the middle of its campus is an important commitment to the interest and aspirations of Pacific people and festivals like Pasifika are iconic events that affirm the Pacific presence in the city.”

Though he has watched the University make significant strides in engaging with the Pacific community since he’s been here, he suggests there’s more to do to “make the engagement real and appropriate”.

He sees his role as chair of the Pacific Panel complementing the University chaplaincy and as being consistent with the University’s commitment to engage widely with its Auckland community.

“I think it will allow the chapel to be involved in the University’s aspirations to be the conscience of Auckland City.”