



Engineering doctoral students Kelly Wade and Samantha Rogrigues look after the joint and spinal tissue biomechanics display, funded by AMRF, Wishbone Trust NZ, Woolf Fisher Trust (MPPT) and the NZ Equine Trust.

The contribution charities make to University research was highlighted at the Celebrating Research Excellence event held on 10 May.

Each year charities such as the Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust, Neurological Foundation and Woolf Fisher Trust (MPPT) fund University research to the tune of \$10 million. At this year's Celebrating Research Excellence event, charities supported ten display boards showcasing leading research projects. These included a display of joint and spinal tissue biomechanics; a study of the way the brain develops using a human visual system; showcasing super-resolution imaging and a quest to find if Queensland's coral coast was linked into the Lapita Cultural Complex of Pacific colonisation 3,000 years ago.

Charities involved in the displays were: Auckland Medical Research Foundation, Wishbone Trust NZ, Woolf Fisher Trust, NZ Equine Trust, Neurological Foundation, NZ Optometric Vision Research Foundation, Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust, Neurological

Foundation, Cognition Education Research Trust, The Australia and Pacific Science Foundation, Lottery Health Research, National Heart Foundation, Sir John Logan Campbell Medical Trust, and Child Health Research Foundation.

Award Winners

The research promise shown by six academic staff spanning five faculties was recognised at the Celebrating Excellence Awards.

Early Career Research Excellence Awards each worth \$25,000 were presented to:

Dr Michelle Dickinson (Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering) for her work on the influence of ocean acidification on calcified sea creatures.

Dr Richard Ekins (Faculty of Law) for his investigation into the implications of the nature of legislative action on the practice of judicial review of legislation.

Dr Christine Rubie-Davies (Teaching, Learning and Development, Faculty of Education) for her work investigating teacher and student beliefs,

and the impact of these beliefs on student outcomes.

Dr Matheson Russell (Department of Philosophy) for his study on the condition of plurality – the condition of being one among many, and the agency and vulnerability we experience in the social world by virtue of our embodiment.

Dr Benjamin Thompson (Department of Optometry and Vision Science) for his work on the treatment of amblyopia (or lazy eye) in adults, and the effects of a novel "at home" treatment using an iPod touch device.

Dr Silas Villas-Boas (School of Biological Sciences) for his work which investigates the biology and metabolism of *Epicoccum purpurascens*, the results of which are expected to assist with future research involving genome sequencing and metabolic engineering.

The awards recognise and promote excellence and research leadership potential among emerging researchers.



At the recent Universitas 21 Presidents meeting, held at the University of New South Wales, I was asked to speak on the funding challenges faced by New Zealand universities. I explained how, for several decades now, government policy had restricted our income from domestic students, tilted the playing field for research funding against us, and left us vulnerable to the impact of poor performance by other organisations on the international student market. This had led to a continued erosion of our income per student, a financial measure that is strongly and positively related to institutional quality.

The Government's Budget, delivered on 19 May, continues that trend. The student tuition component of Government funding will rise by 2 percent but the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is projected to rise by over 3 percent and our costs typically increase by 1.6 times CPI. This means a reduction, in real terms, of around 3 percent in our funding. Government constraints on student fees will ensure that we cannot recover the deficit from students. Meanwhile there is no new investment in research, representing a further cut in real terms.

On the positive side, the Budget allocates 40 new places for medical students from 2012 (to be allocated between Auckland and Otago) together with \$10million per annum to support marketing of New Zealand programmes to international students. The provision by which international students may study for the PhD at domestic tuition rates is retained, and there is some tinkering with student loans – though not enough to address the major impediment that a large interest-free loan balance constitutes to further investment in the institutions.

Overall, and acknowledging the challenges posed to this country by the Canterbury earthquakes, this is not a Budget that will help create the kind of innovative economy and society that New Zealanders and the Government claim to want. What it will do, unless we are very careful in how we use our limited resources, is to ensure that New Zealand's universities will fall behind those of our competitors who, despite the global financial crisis, continue to invest heavily in their university sectors.

Policy analysis for amazing children



"Who is this guy who doesn't even work in the sector? He's an academic."

That luke-warm, stakeholder reaction to Associate Professor Michael Mintrom's acceptance of the Government's invitation to chair the Early Childhood Education Taskforce was quickly dispelled as he introduced blue-skies thinking into government policy-making.

This week, the nine-member taskforce launched its report "An Agenda for Amazing Children".

Thoroughly grounded in research evidence, the report highlights actions needed to achieve a high-quality ECE sector. Those actions include re-prioritising government spending, reforming ECE funding mechanisms, improving access for children from low-income families, and giving more support to parents.

"There is good reason to put more resources into our youngest citizens," says Michael. "That's what longitudinal and cost-benefit studies tell us. Investments in the early years generate big returns, helping people go on to lead more productive lives and make fewer claims on society.

"Funding high-quality ECE is a form of nation-building. We're saying: 'If you get this right then you will nurture amazing children, and amazing children set the foundation for an amazing country.'"

Although his taskforce role was arm's length to his role in the Department of Political Studies,

much of Michael's research has focused on educational change, and the effects of reforming governance systems. He was shoulder-tapped to chair the Taskforce because of his reputation both as a policy intellectual and as someone able to effectively lead team-based policy projects. "It was also about managing a consultative process and being viewed as an honest broker," he says. "Taskforces are set up by governments to be independent and they are expected to deliver unlikely messages. In that sense, chairing a taskforce to propose new policy directions is compatible with the 'critic and conscience of society' role listed among our academic duties".

Michael also used his Taskforce role to apply ideas developed in the University setting concerning smart delivery of policy advice. "I was keen to offer advice in ways that broke from business-as-usual reporting. So over the life of the Taskforce, we used Facebook to keep stakeholders informed of our activities. All of our meeting notes were immediately placed on our Taskforce website. The final report is accompanied by short videos on our website where we explain our recommendations for people with limited time. For those who love details, we built a web-based funding model where you can test the effects of parameter changes on families, services, and the fiscal bottom-line. We've pushed the potential of current website technology to showcase innovation in policy advising."

Echoing others in New Zealand, Australia, and Britain, Michael suggests that governments should make more effort to engage academic expertise for policymaking purposes. "Our taskforce process offered a clear example of how expertise and knowledge located in universities can be deployed strategically for the good of the country."

The ECE Taskforce website is: www.taskforce.ece.govt.nz

Megan Fowlie

Victorious 1987 All Blacks reunite

The All Blacks who won the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987 are holding their first full reunion in October at the business end of the 2011 tournament.

Between the quarter- and semi-finals, all 25 players and management will come together for a black-tie dinner for 750 in Auckland to fundraise for the University's John Drake Memorial Scholarship.

John Drake, a redoubtable prop forward in the victorious 1987 team, died in December 2008 aged 49. The scholarship honouring his

name is awarded annually to an outstanding all-around school leaver enrolling at The University of Auckland.

The dinner, at the Ellerslie Racecourse on 11 October, will feature a live panel discussion by former All Black greats Sir Brian Lochore, Sean Fitzpatrick, Grant Fox and David Kirk. All were key to the 1987 side, Sir Brian as coach and David Kirk as playing captain (in the absence of the injured Andy Dalton).

The dinner is open to anyone interested: www.1987-rugby-reunion-dinner.com



High ranking for sciences

The University has scored exceptionally well across all Science disciplines in the QS World University Subject Rankings released in May.

In the Life Sciences Auckland came 27th in Psychology and 39th in both Medicine and Biological Sciences. In the Natural Sciences we were placed 30th for Mathematics, 34th for Environmental Science, 43rd for Chemistry and in the 51-100 range for Physics and Astronomy, Metallurgy and Materials, and Earth and Marine Sciences. Auckland scored 40 for Computer Science and Information Systems and 55 for Engineering and Technology.

"It's very pleasing to see the across-the-board improvements in these rankings from last year," says the Dean of Science, Professor Grant Guilford. "We are in esteemed international company which is a testament to the quality of our staff."

Department of Psychology staff (pictured above) held a small party to celebrate their ranking. Just behind the University of Queensland and Peking University, the department scored better than their colleagues at such prestigious institutions as Johns Hopkins, the London School of Economics, the University of California (San Diego, Davis and Irvine) and Melbourne's Monash University.

"We have excellent people, both academic and general, and we're doing well in all the things measured in the rankings - our teaching, professional training and research," says Head of Department, Dr Doug Elliffe.

In particular Psychology scored highly in research with 68.1 citations per FTE in 2010. The highest was Princeton University with 98.1 while highly ranked universities such as California,

Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, Georgia Tech and Peking all had lower scores on citations than Auckland.

"We have very few weak links in terms of research," says Doug "and several of our senior staff have particularly impressive and long-standing reputations: Professor Russell Gray's work on the use of tools by crows and the evolution of language; Professor Michael Davison's work on choice; Professor Mike Corballis's work on many aspects of cognitive neuroscience; Professor John Duckitt on prejudice; and Professor John Read on psychosis."

Doug Elliffe also cited the work of the department's younger researchers: Dr Donna Rose Addis, who won the Prime Minister's Science Prize and a Rutherford Discovery Fellowship last year for her world-leading research on memory and imagination that may lead to new therapies for diseases ranging from Alzheimer's to depression; Dr Quentin Atkinson who has recently published two major studies on the diversity of the world's languages in both *Nature* and *Science*; Dr Chris Sibley, who is one of the world's most productive younger researchers in social psychology, and just last week won an international award for his contributions to intercultural research; and Dr Ginny Braun, whose famous paper on qualitative methods has attracted more than 1,000 citations

"But really the department is full of high-fliers as shown by the promotion of three new professors (Ian Kirk, Suzanne Purdy, and John Read) in the most recent round," says Doug.

The QS World University Rankings for Arts and Humanities were announced in Vancouver on 30 May after the *News* went to press. See: www.topuniversities.com

Highlighted Events

Hood Fellow lecture

Hood Fellow Peter Head CBE FEng FRSA, gives a lecture on 3 June titled "Seeking a resilient development model in a resource-constrained and debt-laden World."

Peter is a civil and structural engineer who has become a recognised world leader in major bridges, advanced composite technology and sustainable development in cities. He led Arup's planning and integrated urbanism team globally until 2011, was appointed by the Mayor of London as an independent Commissioner on the London Sustainable Development Commission in 2002, and is currently a strategic adviser to the Chair of the C40 Large Cities and Climate Leadership Group and the Clinton Carbon Positive Programme.

Peter's lecture is from 12noon-1pm at the Federation of Graduate Women's Suite (1st Floor), Old Government House. RSVP to c.stevenson@auckland.ac.nz

Large-scale genetic studies

Don't fret that advances in large-scale genetic research will lead to disease-prediction kits and problems getting health insurance - the studies are uncovering little that is useful for predicting health, says the University's first Professor of Biostatistics, Thomas Lumley. And much-vaunted "personalised medicine", where analysis of people's genetic traits would lead to individualised treatments, is unlikely to happen. "We're not finding very much that would be useful," says Thomas, a distinguished new appointment to the Department of Statistics, who moved to New Zealand late last year from the University of Washington, Seattle. He will expand on large-scale genetic studies and what they mean for medicine and health in his inaugural lecture: 8 June, 6.30pm at the Conference Centre Lecture Theatre (Building 423, room 342).

Matariki lectures

Professor Jonathan Mane-Wheoki (Ngāpuhi, Te Aupouri, Ngāti Kuri), Head of Elam School of Fine Arts and Dr Deidre Brown (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu), Senior Lecturer at the School of Architecture and Planning give lectures on 5 June, at the Engineering Glass Box, Eng 1439, 20 Symonds Street to mark Matariki. In his lecture "Te Timatanga: The foundations of contemporary Māori art" 1-2pm, Jonathan considers the roles played by pioneering Māori artists who first engaged with international modernism. Deidre's lecture 2.30-3.30pm "Matariki rising: Designing for new stars and big ideas" looks at the practice of sharing culture from a design perspective.

Combining parenting and a career



Toby Scott

Getting orientated

Six members of The University of Auckland Orienteering Club have been selected to attend the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Poland. Engineering students Toby Scott, Gene Beveridge, Mathew Ogden, along with Science students Laura Robertson, Kate Morrison and 2nd year Medical and Health Sciences student Anna Gray head to Wejherowo-Rumia in north Poland in July to compete with 75 teams from around the world.

For founder of the University club, Toby Scott, competing this year in Poland and being selected for the Open World Champs in France in August is the culmination of many years enjoying and competing in orienteering events, after being introduced to the sport by enthusiastic teachers at Remuera Intermediate School. He then participated in events like the Summer Series which is held in parks around Auckland. "They are a good introduction to the sport because if you go straight out into the forest, like we orienteer in Woodhill Forest, it could be quite daunting," he chuckles.

Toby, who is in his third year studying a conjoint Mechanical Engineering and Science degree, and fellow team-mates know each other through attending national competitions and decided to put the University Club together last year to build up more interest in the sport and to provide training opportunities for each other.

The club is now busy fundraising for their trip to Poland and have set up a couple of events in Woodhill Forest over Queen's Birthday Weekend as part of the Super Series, an important event which attracts competitors from all over New Zealand including a team from Australia.

After placing 33rd in last year's sprint race at the Junior Champs in Denmark, Toby wants to get in the top 20 this year. "For New Zealanders, sprint is easier because the urban environment is similar."

Kate Pitcher



Maternal nutrition around the time of conception can have a significant impact on pregnancy.

That was one of the primary take-home messages at the University's "Combining parenting and a career" seminar. Addressing a predominantly (but not entirely female) audience of around 40 people, Associate Professor of Neonatology at the Liggins Institute Frank Bloomfield delivered an overview of best-practice research before and during pregnancy.

As Acting Director of the National Research Centre for Growth and Development (NRCGD), Frank is a neonatal paediatrician whose research interests focus on fetal and neonatal nutrition and growth, including long-term consequences of altered growth trajectories. His presentation

reinforced some of the better known advice to women who are either pregnant or considering becoming pregnant - restrict caffeine and alcohol, take folic acid to help prevent neural tube defects and try to ensure iron levels are adequate.

But he also emphasised that good maternal health prior to and around conception can significantly reduce the risk of pre-term and low-birth-weight babies. And he noted that maternal undernutrition at this time can have long-term effects on offspring, potentially increasing the risk of obesity, glucose intolerance and type 2 diabetes. He also cited studies showing that dieting around the time of conception is associated with pre-term birth.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity) Trudie McNaughton said the strong attendance at the seminar was evidence of the need for, and success to date of, the Combining Parenting and a Career initiative. She said in the first ten months of its launch, 50 staff had contacted a Parental Leave Adviser to get information or discuss an issue. She noted that Frank's presentation reflects the evidence-based expertise available at the University.

"We have a wealth of research evidence around the University which can inform and support the potentially life-changing decisions our staff and students make."

Frank's presentation will be posted soon on the Equity Office website to enable ongoing dissemination of this information. www.eo.auckland.ac.nz

Amber Older



New staff member

Dr Caroline Blyth has joined the staff as a lecturer in Biblical Studies in the School of Theology.

Caroline's interest in biblical literature began when she returned to tertiary education after

previously studying psychology and working within the field of mental health.

She completed her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at Edinburgh University and, since 2008, has worked at St Andrews University and Edinburgh University, lecturing in biblical studies, biblical languages, and religious studies.

Caroline's research has focused on the issue of gender violence in the Hebrew Bible, comparing ancient and contemporary attitudes towards rape and challenging the silence of rape victims both in the biblical world and in the world today. Her PhD thesis on this subject, entitled "The narrative of rape in Genesis 34: Interpreting Dinah's silence", was published last year by Oxford University Press. She continues to be passionate about considering the contemporary significance of this ancient literature and her current work involves examining biblical texts through the contextual lens of mental illness and trauma.



Gillian Lewis and Brendon Dunphy with pupils from Mangere College.

Choice

The University participated in Workchoice Day for the first time on Tuesday 17 May.

WorkChoice Day has been running nationally for 17 years, and gives Year 12 students an insight into workplaces and career options. Promoting academic careers is identified as an activity in the HR and the VC's Offices' Annual Plans.

Participating in WorkChoices Day is a small way we can start to introduce students to the possibility of a career as an academic, particularly to students from lower decile schools and young women.

Kerryn Patten, Human Resources Project Manager worked with Professor Gillian Lewis, the Director of the School of Biological Sciences, to plan visits by two groups of 20 students from both Mangere College and Auckland Girls' Grammar to discover the joys of being a

professor in the sciences. Gillian talked with great enthusiasm about her role and introduced the students to a classroom and teaching laboratory. She also involved colleagues who have important roles supporting her teaching and research, including postgraduate students, technical and administrative staff.

Feedback from the students and their teachers was extremely positive: "This has really opened the students' eyes to the variety of careers available at the University - they left feeling inspired and impressed with the passion the academics had for their jobs" (Grace Konrath, science teacher, Auckland Girls' Grammar School).

"Given the success of the day we plan to participate next year and involve other faculties and service divisions," says Kerryn.

Planetary wanderers

New Zealanders involved are former students, including Dr Ian Bond who now leads the New Zealand contribution from Massey University. The work has been published in the journal *Nature*.

"These planets are unattached to stars. It is possible that they were born as normal planets orbiting stars, but were subsequently 'kicked out' of their planetary systems, never to return. They are sometimes referred to as 'rogue' or 'orphan' planets," says Phil.

The researchers scanned the centre of our Milky Way galaxy between 2006 and 2007, finding what appear to be ten free-floating planets roughly the mass of Jupiter. It is now estimated that there are twice as many free-floating planets in the galaxy as stars. Phil says that future studies will aim to find smaller free-floating planets, closer to the size of Earth.

Image drawn by Jon Lomberg.
A portion of the centre of the Milky Way galaxy with free-floating planets in the foreground.



"Free-floating" planets roaming interstellar space have been discovered by New Zealand and Japanese scientists, through a project co-established by University physicist Associate Professor Phil Yock. Many of the

Research Essentials Seminar Series

Researchers and research support staff are invited to attend a new 12-part seminar series designed to help you advance your research, build networks and benefit from in-depth discussion with experienced researchers. In June the following seminars are offered:

2 June: "Māori and research: Exploring opportunities, benefits and distinctiveness"
Speakers: Professor Charles Royal, Faculty of Arts; and Dr Dan Hikuroa, IESE

16 June: "Research integrity and ethics"
Speakers: Dr Meredith Blesing and Lana Lon, Research Office

23 June: "Working with end-users of research: Importance of applied and translational research"

Speakers: Professor Ralph Cooney, Faculty of Science and Gary Putt, UniServices

Time: 1-2pm

Venue: Case Room 2 (260-057) Level 0, Owen G Glenn Building

More information on the series is available on the staff intranet: Research >About Research at the University of Auckland >Research

International Research Team Development Awards Annual Forum

Researchers interested in finding out more about collaborating with overseas partners and accessing international funding opportunities are invited to an annual forum hosted by the recipients of the International Research Team Development Awards. IRTDAs are a new University initiative designed to support international research teams. The first recipients of these awards will talk about their experiences in building international collaborative networks and gaining research funding from overseas sources. The teams are working with collaborators in diverse areas of the world (North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Latin America and the Pacific). The keynote speaker, Professor Ian Reid (FMHS) will talk about the importance of international collaboration for University of Auckland researchers. Robyn Hill, from the Strategic Development Unit, will provide an overview of the Worldwide University Network (WUN) which the University has recently joined, and the associated opportunities. WUN provides for researchers to engage in multilateral research collaborations and access to international funds in conjunction with collaborating partners.

Date: Thursday, 30 June

Time: 2.15 - 5pm

Venue: Room 439, Engineering Building, 20 Symonds Street

Drinks and nibbles will be served. For catering purposes, please register before 17 June via email to: researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz

Enquiries to: Seishi Gomibuchi
(s.gomibuchi@auckland.ac.nz)



Décor often says a lot about people's social position, their taste, their interests and perhaps what they do for a living. The creator of the Peanuts cartoons, Charles Schultz, once exhorted people to dress up their living spaces: "Decorate your home", he said, "it gives the illusion that your life is more interesting than it really is." Painter Graham Fletcher has chosen to explore the connotations of the use of South Pacific elements in interior decoration for his recent Doctorate in Fine Arts, and the Lounge Room Tribalism series is the result.

Lounges are, by definition, places to sit and relax. The one pictured here has particularly hectic furnishings – floral chair covers, pink and purple occasional seats and curtains, a planter full of hungry tropical foliage – and seems to be heavily romancing the 1950s. A strategically placed typewriter and loaded bookshelves hint at an educated occupant, while the covered bird cage suggests some symbolism may be at play.

Alongwith the built-in "entertainment unit" featuring the accoutrements of modern living, a television and record turntable, there are four

elements forming the corners of a diamond at the centre of the composition. Up on the wall, three greenstone mere, retired from their previous occupation of clubbing prey or people to death, hang in an innocent triptych. To the left, positioned on the window-sill, a Melanesian bust of a warrior surveys the scene. Opposite him, another head, perhaps female, certainly non-European, directs our gaze to the foreground carving, tilted up on a tabletop so it can be more easily seen. The oblique angle of this feature repeats the geometry which links the four ethnographic artefacts in the room, four corners to a theme which is also reinforced by the darker colouration of the connected elements. What can these silent sentinels be giving witness to?

Graham Fletcher explains: "I have observed a number of private collections of similar tribal and 'primitive' art within a range of urban homes, from middle class villas to the general décor of student flats. Modern art, contemporary furniture and household items are interspersed with cultural objects and artefacts from the tapa cloth adorning a feature wall in the lounge to the carved Tangaroa in the bathroom. Pacific art is now popular in modern interior decoration and is used as an indicator of taste and social status as well as being an important element in new conceptions of New Zealand national identity...Within these dynamic spaces a sort of cross-cultural intermingling occurs between Western and non-Western cultures, suggesting complex relationships of assimilation, resistance and interdependence. I describe this domiciliary cultural eclecticism as 'lounge room tribalism'."

Fletcher goes on to explain that as an artist of mixed Samoan and European heritage, he reads this type of interior decoration as creating an "intercultural space". By being used to add an exotic element to the decorative schema of room, the Māori and Pacific Island artefacts are divorced from any meaningful context and are left looking a little lost and lonely.

Lounge Room Tribalism is on loan to City Gallery, Wellington for an exhibition devoted to Graham Fletcher's work until 31 July 2011.

Linda Tyler

Graham Fletcher, Lounge Room Tribalism, 2010, oil on canvas, 1500 x 1200mm

Choir on international tour

The University's Chamber Choir has just left on its inaugural international tour which includes visits to some of Britain's most historic venues.

The Chamber Choir, led by Karen Grylls, has 27 members, all of whom are either current

students at, or alumni of, the University.

From 30 May to 14 June, the choir will tour in Singapore and the UK. Concerts are scheduled at St Paul's Cathedral London, St James's Piccadilly, St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle and Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. The

choir will also perform a special concert with the Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir at Singapore's Esplanade Concert Hall.

While in the UK, the choir will perform an eclectic repertoire of English and contemporary New Zealand and Pacific-inspired choral works.

Included in the performance are works by English composers Bullard and Tippett, and New Zealand works by Andrew Baldwin and Kate Bell, both members of the choir. The choir will also perform *Through Coiled Stillness*, a specially-commissioned piece by School of Music lecturer

Leonie Holmes; and *Si Manu Laititi*, an arrangement by choir member Steven Rapana. The Māori waiata *Aio* by Tuirina Wehi and *Tuwhiti Happy* completes the programme.

"We recognise that we are ambassadors for the University and for New Zealand when on

tour overseas, and the choir's repertoire reflects the pride we take in such a role," says Karen Grylls. "The opportunities that this tour will provide - including singing together daily - will stay with the choir members for life."

Books



Capitalism's new clothes: Enterprise, ethics and enjoyment in times of crisis, published by Pluto Press, is written by Dr Colin Cremin, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology.

In broadsheet newspapers, television shows and Hollywood films, capitalism is increasingly recognised as a system detrimental to human existence. In this book Colin investigates why, despite this de-robing, capitalism remains a powerful and seductive force.

Using materialist, psychoanalytic and linguistic approaches, Colin shows how capitalism, anxiety and desire enter into a productive/destructive relationship. He identifies three related kinds of social engagement.

These are enterprise and employment, ethics and progressive social action, and enjoyment and consumption. As these ideological strands overlap and reinforce one another, the exploitation, violence, injustice, alienation and ecological destruction the system breeds is revealed, but not necessarily identified or addressed as a failure of capitalism.

Colin teaches social theory and visual culture and has written in the areas of cultural sociology, critical management studies, postmodern theory, ideology and subjectivity. He is on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Zizek Studies*.

What's on

FRIDAY 3 JUNE

Hood Fellow public lecture

Peter Head, CBE FREng FRSA: *Seeking a resilient development model in a resource-constrained and debt-laden world*. 12noon-1pm FGW's Rm, OGH. Queries to c.stevenson@auckland.ac.nz

School of Music lunchtime concert

Composition and early music. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Featuring School of Music students from the composition and early music departments. Free.

Department of Philosophy seminar

Thomas Pogge, Yale and ANU: *How the global order harms the poor*. 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Room 501, Arts 2.

Student jazz ensemble concert

Large ensemble concert. 6.30pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. School of Music students perform a mix of jazz standards, modern pieces and original work. Free.

SUNDAY 5 JUNE

Matariki public lectures

1-3.30pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

• 1-2pm - Prof Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Elam School of Fine Arts: *I Te Timatanga: The foundations of contemporary Māori art*.

2.30-3.30pm - Dr Deidre Brown, School of Architecture and Planning: *Matariki rising: Designing for new stars and big ideas*.

Free. Register at www.forms.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/nicai/matariki-2011-registration

WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE

The art of graduate research supervision

1-4.30pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St. A half-day interactive workshop that explores supervision as a complex teaching and learning practice requiring a range of skills and understandings. There are opportunities to raise questions and share experiences of supervision and every participant receives a resource booklet containing many suggestions for good supervision. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

Inaugural lecture

Prof Thomas Lumley, Statistics: *What have we learnt from large-scale genetic studies?* 5.30pm for refreshments; 6.30pm for lecture, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. All welcome.

THURSDAY 9 JUNE

Inclusive teaching: Multiple means of delivery

10am-12noon CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Avoid raising barriers to achievement by delivering information in varied ways. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

FRIDAY 10 JUNE

Student jazz performance concerts

Postgraduate recitals. 6.30pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. School of Music postgraduate students perform a mix of jazz standards, modern pieces and original work. Free.

SATURDAY 11 JUNE

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Linda Tyler, Director, The University of Auckland Centre for NZ Art Research and Discovery discusses Graham Percy's thesis on the typography of biscuits. Tea and biscuits will be served. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 16 JUNE

Research essentials seminar series

Dr Meredith Blessing, Research Office and Mrs Lana Lon, Research Office: *Research communications for researchers (new programme): Research integrity and ethics*. 1pm Case Room 2, Owen G Glenn Bldg. Queries to m.suarez@auckland.ac.nz

Dean's Distinguished Speaker series

Jim McLay, NZ's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN: *A company director goes to New York*. 6-8pm Decima Glenn Rm, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to <https://secure.business.auckland.ac.nz/DDSSJimMcLayJune2011>

Classifieds

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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

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NEWS TRACKS DOWN WAR BRIDES

Imagine this: It is 1941 and Greece is under Nazi occupation. New Zealander Peter Blunden has been captured during the New Zealand Army's defence of Crete. He manages to escape from a prisoner of war train heading for Germany and spends a year sheltering in a safe house owned by Mrs Tasonla, a dressmaker in northern Greece.

Sixteen-year-old Thalia Christidou is the youngest apprentice at Mrs Tasonla's house. One of her jobs is to clean the living room, where one curious door is always locked. "I was forever looking through the keyhole and pushing the broom under door, I just had a feeling that there was someone in that room."

Cloistered in the dark behind the door, Peter Blunden sees the broom and looks through the keyhole, never imagining he is watching the woman he will grow old with...

This is one of three stories that history student Gabrielle Fortune (pictured) was told after an article on her PhD research into the study of foreign brides of New Zealand servicemen from World War II featured in *University News* in November 2000.

Now the moving full story of Peter and Thalia Blunden is published as "A husband hidden in the cupboard" in the Auckland Museum's current exhibition *Mr Jones' Wives: war brides of New Zealand servicemen*.

Little did Gabrielle know when she asked for *University News* readers to contact her with war bride stories, that the three stories that emerged

would form the major part of her thesis and subsequent national exhibition that has sprung from it.

"Professor Tom Nicholson [former professor of Education at Auckland] introduced me to his father-in-law who lived in Christchurch. It was Peter Blunden," explains Gabrielle.

Lesley Murgatroyd who worked in the Medical School put Gabrielle in touch with her mother Nora who served in the British Forces during the war. Nora was stationed at RAF Tangmere (south of England) from 1941 to 1945 where she met Sergeant Jim Brash of the RNZAF who was chief armourer for his squadron. The couple married in February 1944 and Nora sailed to New Zealand from Liverpool in February 1945 on board the *Rangitiki*.

Another University professor directed Gabrielle to the story of Keith Beresford who met his English-born bride at a dance in Cardiff while serving with the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Eileen boarded the *Rangitiki* for its voyage to New Zealand in 1946. "She felt exhilarated to leave her old life for a new one," says Gabrielle. "As the crowded ship sailed through the tropics she spent most nights sleeping on the open deck."

Gabrielle interviewed about 60 women for her thesis which she completed in 2005. "I've had a lot of fun," she says. "The interviewees were very generous."

When she began seeking out war brides, they didn't ask: "Why do you want to know about

me?" Instead they asked 'Why has it taken so long for someone to ask?' They wanted their story told but they didn't want it romanticised."

Some 3700 women (and 1000 children) who had married or been betrothed to New Zealand servicemen during World War II were repatriated to New Zealand. They came from 37 different countries (most from Britain and Canada). While most arrived on specially chartered ships at the war's end others came as early as 1942 or as late as 1948.

"I thought the war brides were remarkable. There was a quiet endurance about them and terrific commitment," says Gabrielle who is now an Honorary Research Fellow in the History Department. She is currently researching the social aspects of war and war commemoration for journal articles and though she hasn't needed to yet, she knows that if she wants to hear personal stories, then *University News* is as good a forum as any.

"It does seem easy now to meet war brides but you know in the planning stages of my PhD research I only knew one!

"I wanted to try and achieve a national input, not one top-heavy with examples from Auckland, one with women who had lived in rural as well as urban areas. The publicity in the *University News* achieved just that - it brought me contacts across the country - for which I'm forever grateful."

Tess Redgrave