



EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY

“Te Hana has been well and truly put on the map by The University of Auckland. Before, we had nothing; now, we have plenty.”

With those words, a kaumatua and Te Hana Trust board member Ben de Thierry thanked the students and staff involved in the Te Hana Community Project, one of 11 recipients of this year’s Excellence in Equity Awards.

The biennial awards, presented by the Vice-Chancellor, aim to acknowledge and stimulate the University’s equity-focused research, teaching and learning. Close to 150 people gathered at the Fale Pasifika to celebrate a record 20 applications to this year’s event. The entries ranged across faculties, service divisions and disciplines and included initiatives focused on Te Tiriti o Waitangi - the Treaty of Waitangi, student achievement, staff development, physical accessibility, health research and community engagement.

The Te Hana project is a Planning immersion studio led by the School of Architecture and Planning at the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI). An immersion studio

involves students working with a real community – Te Hana near Wellsford – on issues which are important to the community. Te Hana is an open marae created as an educational and tourism venture and it provides an important entry point for professional planners working with Māori.

Led by Dr Bruce Hucker, Lena Henry and Professor Dory Reeves, the Te Hana Community Project involves three cohorts of third-year Planning students.

Key to the building of enduring relationships between the University and the community was a commitment to achieving mutual benefits and mutual well-being.

The strength of relationships built through the Te Hana Project was evidenced by the 24-strong contingent of Te Hana kaumatua and residents (who ranged in age from 20 months to over 70 years), as well as University students and staff, that flanked Ben de Thierry at the awards presentation.

He described Te Hana as the “gateway” into and out of the Auckland Supercity. As a result of the project - which includes planning and

re-design of public amenities, urban design of the streetscape, and the re-establishment of the wharf – the Te Hana community has been empowered to engage with Auckland Council’s strategic plans.

Planning lecturer Lena Henry, who has worked with Te Hana for the past three years, said the community was delighted to make the drive to Auckland for the ceremony.

“Our whanau really appreciated the child-friendly atmosphere and hospitality that was shown to our guests, especially those from outside the University and unfamiliar with University protocol. We were so pleased that our project was able to honour the Te Hana community through this award and occasion.”

A Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Te Hana Community Development Charitable Trust is in development.

For more information about the University’s Excellence in Equity awards, including video interviews with the winning entrants, visit www.auckland.ac.nz/equityawards

Graduation

Day of celebration

There were plenty of happy, smiling staff among some 2,984 graduands at Spring Graduation on 2 October.

A goal achieved



Long-time Professional Staff member and, manager of the Business School's Department of Property, Myriam Benito, was one staff member with a reason to celebrate.

Myriam completed her MCom thesis in May on Leadership and Governance within the Igorot –the collective name of several Austronesian ethnic groups from the Cordillera, Northern Luzon in the Philippines, where she is from.

"I'm excited to be at Graduation because I want the Vice-Chancellor to know that I finally accomplished my goal," Myriam told the News. "I bumped into him at Albert Park on a Friday afternoon in late 2010 and I told him why I was taking home a bag of books to read from the library on the weekend because I was doing a thesis on indigenous leadership.

"I was lucky because where I come from I wouldn't even stand a chance to walk and talk casually with the Vice-Chancellor."

Pitch perfect graduate



Faculty of Education lecturer Dr Penelope Watson took to the stage at Auckland's Aotea Centre in two distinct costumes – in PhD regalia and in the garb of a Czech innkeeper.

Penelope received a PhD during Spring Graduation and appeared the same week in the

NBR NZ Opera Company's production of *The Bartered Bride*.

For her PhD she researched the effect on boys of a choice to join the school choir, going against gender stereotypes.

Generations of talent



Dr Ngarino Ellis (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou), a lecturer in Māori and indigenous art history and Art Crime in the Department of Art History, received a PhD for her research into the carving styles of Iwirakau, a nineteenth-century East Cape carving school.

Ngarino studied six of the school's main carvers and 20 lesser-known ones in order to track change in Māori art.

Ngarino's father, Emeritus Professor Robert Ellis, who taught at Elam School of Fine Arts for 40 years, is one of New Zealand's pre-eminent artists.

New knowledge opens doors



Studying and working as a nurse has been "stressful and exciting," says Jacky Watkins, who completed her Master of Nursing degree while working as a nurse educator at Counties Manukau Health.

Now Jacky's study has opened up even more exciting opportunities, including a scholarship awarded by the New Zealand Gastroenterology Nurses section to attend the United European Society of Endoscopy and GE Nurses and Assistants annual conference in Amsterdam, where she will present information from her research.

Sharing the pleasure of Jacky's achievement on the day was her husband, Dr Lionel Watkins, a senior lecturer in the Department of Physics.

Sustainable chains



Hendrik Reefke, a professional teaching fellow in the Business School's Department of Information Systems and Operations Management, was awarded a PhD for his research into sustainable Supply Chain Management.

Sharing the festivities



It was a family affair for the Ips at Spring Graduation. An Hertogen, wife of senior Law lecturer John Ip and daughter in Law of Professor Manying Ip of Asian Studies, graduated with a PhD thesis on international law.

An's thesis looked at the legal position of states when they are affected by actions of other states: for example, different positions on climate change and on issues like the regulation of greenhouse emissions.



Stuart McCutcheon and Madame Liao

Valued connections

The University of Auckland was host to no less than 29 Chinese universities at an event that gave many opportunities for fruitful contact among staff and students and, in the process, enhanced the University's highly-valued China strategy.

This event, held on 26 September - for the first time ever at The University of Auckland - was organised by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) in association with the University's International Relations and Student Engagement Offices. It featured exhibitions from the visiting institutions, some of which already have relationships with The University of Auckland.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, in opening the event with Chinese Consul-General Madame Liao, gave a warm welcome to the guests, especially CAO Shihai, Deputy Secretary General of the CSC. He also gave a special acknowledgement to his four fellow university presidents who attended the event.

Said Stuart: "Our China strategy concentrates on developing deep University-level relationships with a select group of Project 985 institutions, and leveraging these partnerships to provide opportunities for academic activities and research projects, funded through China and New Zealand sources, to develop. We also encourage our faculties and researchers to develop a wider set of relationships of specific interest to them."

He emphasised the significant part the CSC has played in bringing Chinese PhD students to Auckland: "After the Council visited us in 2007, at the time of the third exhibition of this type, an agreement was signed in 2008 to receive students on CSC scholarships into our PhD programmes. As a result of this agreement, 64 students from Chinese institutions are currently at this University on CSC scholarships, including

students from five institutions exhibiting today."

Cao Shihai expressed his hope that "not only would Chinese students come to study in New Zealand and learn about its culture and history but New Zealand students would do the same in China and as a result would create an understanding, on which a foundation for better cooperation between the two countries would be laid."

Dr Matthew O'Meagher, Senior Adviser, International Relations, said: "There always has to be some degree of reciprocity in relations. The CSC has been a generous funder of our students; they're key partners for us. They've often hosted The University of Auckland at events in China. This was a great opportunity to return their hospitality and offer a reciprocal gesture of goodwill and partnership."



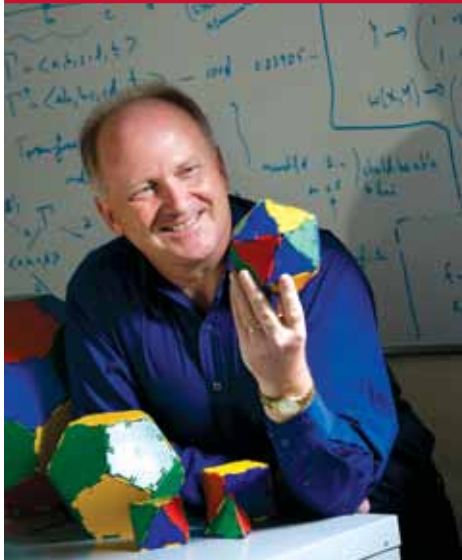
There is no doubt that a university education offers graduates and their families significant private benefits - in salary, employment opportunities and health outcomes - as well as the public benefits that accrue to a well-educated society. However, not all those who have the academic potential to succeed at university, as students or as staff, have the same opportunities to exhibit that potential. Creating an environment that celebrates diversity and recognises that academic potential can be exhibited in a variety of ways is therefore an important strategy for the University as we seek to create benefits for all New Zealanders.

I was therefore very pleased to be involved recently in the 2012 Excellence in Equity Awards. These awards, which are organised by the Equity Office, recognise staff who have made a particular contribution to creating a more equitable environment both within our University (for staff and students) and in the communities we serve.

It is not possible to list all the winners here but a brief description of a few projects will give a sense of the breadth of work that is going on in this area. These include recognition of the support and manaakitanga provided to staff, students and visitors through Waipapa Marae; projects which support the academic development and success of Māori and Pacific students in the Department of Mathematics, School of Environment, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and Centre for Academic Development; work by Property Services to make our campuses and buildings more accessible to those with disabilities; the Faculty of Education Rainbow Group, which seeks to provide an inclusive culture for and understanding of people of all sexual and gender identities; and a number of projects working with external communities to enhance the health and welfare of their people.

These award-winning projects of course represent only some of the work that is being done across the University to help create a more inclusive society, but they are certainly indicative of the breadth of that work. I congratulate all the winners, together with the many staff who contributed to a most fitting awards ceremony.

International honour for Marston Conder



Distinguished Professor Marston Conder has been selected to join the inaugural group of Fellows of the American Mathematical Society (AMS).

An invitation to become a Fellow of the Society recognises outstanding contributions to the creation, exposition, advancement, communication, and utilisation of mathematics.

The distinction is a further honour for Marston, whose work is internationally renowned. Last year alone he was named the first Maclaurin Lecturer by the American and New Zealand Mathematical Societies, was appointed the first Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at The University of Auckland, and received a prestigious James Cook Research Fellowship – awarded by the New Zealand

Government to researchers who have achieved national and international recognition in their area of research.

Marston's expertise is in algebra, in particular the study of symmetry. He specialises in the development and use of combinatorial group theory and computational methods to study the symmetries of discrete structures. These structures occur in a wide range of fields, including many other branches of mathematics as well as molecular chemistry and the design of computer architectures and efficient distribution networks.

The first group of Fellows of the AMS will be officially inducted at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego on 11 January 2013.

Turning courses into careers

The Department of Statistics has launched an e-book, *Career Pathways*, to help students and staff understand the range of industries and roles available to graduates who have studied statistics.

The 35-page e-book outlines new graduate and career progression roles, profiling jobs as varied as product development engineer, psychologist and secondary school teacher.

Career Pathways outlines the “nice-to-have” and “need-to-have” papers to get such jobs. Employers talk about what skills and attributes they seek for these roles, as well as outlining where experience and promotion can lead. The e-book also tells the stories of graduates who work in roles as varied as Deutsche Bank investment analyst, Sovereign actuary and New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research biometrician. The graduates talk about what excites them about their jobs and the papers they took to get there.

Says Chris Triggs, Head of the Department of Statistics: “It’s important that students can see where their qualifications might take them, and that we better understand how our courses contribute to their futures. Now, with this e-book, we can answer with real confidence their questions, such as ‘Where will statistics take us?’ and ‘What difference does statistics make in the real world?’”

The e-book arose out of the fact that hundreds of University of Auckland students take first-year statistics as a prerequisite for another subject – commerce and psychology among them. In fact, nearly two out of every three students take at least one undergraduate stats paper.

To find out statistics’ relevance to a range of jobs and how the subject can complement a career choice like commerce or psychology, the Department interviewed 35 companies as diverse as Westpac, Telecom, Meridian Energy, Fisher & Paykel, Fonterra and the IRD. “We wanted to demonstrate to students the relevance of statistics to their major, be that ecology, finance or marketing. Our intention is that by showing relevance we will better engage students that come to us from across the University, and in so doing, provide a better service to the ‘home departments’ of these students”, says Chris.

The companies explained how statistics rounded out a range of roles, and they delivered a remarkably consistent message: the amount of data available to organisations is exploding, and as understanding of its value grows, the demand for statistical skill is increasing. Good quantitative skills will earn graduates interesting, exciting, and challenging jobs in many industries and countries.

One of the employers who took part, Department of Conservation statistician Ian Westbrooke, said that whatever a student’s major, statistical nous conferred an advantage: “If you have any skills in the quantitative side, cultivate them.”

Duncan Smith, Manager of Marketing Science for research company Colmar Brunton, said statistical skills were “key ... there are so many different opportunities and lines of work and businesses that need statisticians – you can almost take your pick.”



A satisfied graduate

One of The University of Auckland graduates profiled in *Career Pathways* is Nick Gray, who has a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and Statistics. He works as an interest rate trader for Deutsche Bank in Sydney. “I may be a little biased,” he says, “but it would be hard to find another subject that is so widely applicable and useful to employers across the globe as statistics.”



Million-dollar milestone

The Lion Foundation's outstanding support of the University's Hood Fellowship programme has passed the \$1 million mark, a milestone which was marked with a reception at University House on 24 September.

As a result of the Lion Foundation's generosity, 76 Hood Fellowships have been awarded since the programme began in 2004. This has enabled 21 of our own outstanding academics to travel overseas to engage with their international peers and has brought 55 outstanding offshore academics to Auckland to enrich our University and wider communities. Five incoming and two outgoing Hood Fellowships have been announced in the latest round:

Incoming Fellowships:

Professor John Darnell – Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale University,

Nominated by Dr Anthony Spallinger, Arts (Classics & Ancient History)

John Darnell is a recognised authority on ancient Egyptian international relations, warfare, the exploration of the Libyan (or Western) Desert, a researcher dealing with early dynastic Egypt as well as a scholar who has covered Egyptian religion.

Professor Joanna Aizenberg, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard.

Nominated by Associate Professor Jadranka Travas-Sejdic, Science, (Chemical Sciences)

Since joining Harvard University in 2007 Joanna Aizenberg has continued pioneering research in biomimetic material synthesis. Her research has contributed significantly to the understanding of some of the basic principles of biomineralisation and how biology solves complex problems in the design of functional inorganic materials.

Professor Arturo Arias – Spanish and Portuguese, University of Texas at Austin.

Nominated by Dr Kathryn Lehman, Faculty of Arts (Spanish, SELL)

Arturo Arias is a world-class scholar on Indigenous literatures and postcolonial studies and a major figure in the Indigenous Research Centre. His fellowship will bring together top Indigenous researchers and creative artists from

Aotearoa and Abya Yala Latin America to share ideas in two areas of specialisation: indigenous creativity and indigenous epistemologies.

Professor Thomas L. Good - Department of Psychology, College of Education, University of Arizona.

Nominated by Professor Christine Rubie-Davies, Education (Learning, Development and Professional Practice)

Thomas L Good is a pre-eminent researcher in socio-psychological effects on learning. He is an outstanding educational psychologist who has shaped research in classroom instruction and effective teaching.

Professor Stephen Orgel – Department of English, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

Nominated by Professor Tom Bishop, Arts (English)

Stephen Orgel is among the most distinguished scholars of early modern literature and art, particularly eminent in Shakespeare studies, and the study of Stuart court theatre.

Outgoing Fellowships:

Professor Toni Ashton – Medical and Health Sciences (Department of Health Systems, School of Population Health)

Toni Ashton's work is focused on the funding and organisation of health systems and on health reform, primarily in New Zealand. She will undertake comparative health policy analysis and economic evaluations of health care interventions. Her fellowship will involve the application of economic theories and methods to analyse specific issues in the health system.

Associate Professor Helen Sword – Centre for Academic Development (CAD)

Helen Sword will use her fellowship to disseminate research finding from her new book, *Stylish Academic Writing*, collect research data for her book-in-progress, *How Academics Write*, and explore possibilities for future research collaboration.

Left to right: Geoff Ricketts (Chair, University of Auckland Foundation), Cecilia Tarrant (Trustee, University of Auckland Foundation), Mike Smith (Chair, Lion Foundation), Professor Merryn Gott (Outgoing Hood Fellow 2011) taken at the Lion Foundation function on 24 September.

Research funding

Cancer Society – research grants

These provide funding for research aimed at detecting and treating cancer more effectively. Research grants are also available through the Society from funds raised by the Movember campaign. The Movember Foundation is an Australia-based, not for profit, charitable organisation that organises the Movember event each year. The organisation has selected the Cancer Society of New Zealand as one of two beneficiary partners. Grant applications for research related to men's cancers, in particular the causes, detection, diagnosis and improved treatment of prostate cancer, will be considered for this. Information and application forms can be found at www.cancernz.org.nz. Research Office deadline 19 October 2012: contact Julia Zhu julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz, ext 83986.

Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand – travel grants

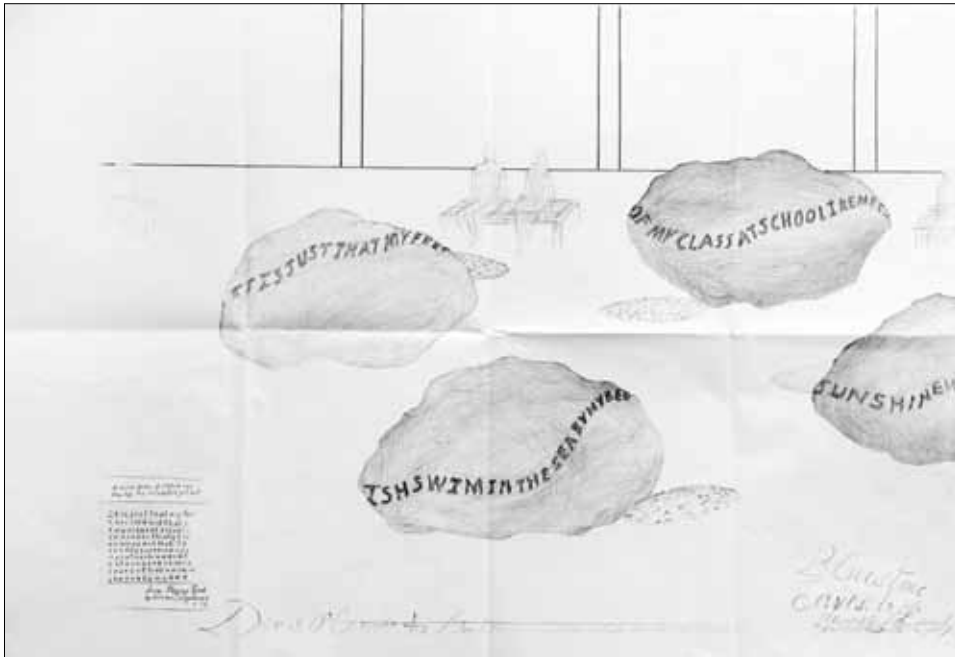
These are for health professionals, including but not limited to scientists, clinicians, doctors, nurses, laboratory staff, support workers and counsellors, to attend local and international meetings and keep up to date with the latest advances in the field of haematology. Part or full costs are covered for accommodation, flights and other travel, conference registrations, and other expenses related to attending such meetings. Information and application forms can be found at www.lbcgrants.org.nz. Research Office deadline 24 October 2012: contact Julia Zhu julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz, ext 83986.

Neurological Foundation – travel grants.

For NF Principal and Associate Investigators and other researchers who have made a significant contribution to a NF-funded research project, from initiation to presenting results based on the research funded. Information and application forms can be found at www.neurological.org.nz. Research Office deadline 25 October 2012: contact Lorraine Scott lo.scott@auckland.ac.nz, ext 88652

New Zealand Optometric Vision Research Foundation - research grants

These provide funding for research and vision care projects in Optometry and Visual Science. Information and application forms can be found at www.nzovrf.org.nz. Research Office deadline 23 November 2012: contact Julia Zhu julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz, ext 83986.



Sited in the courtyard of the Population Health complex at Tāmaki campus are four bluestone basalt boulders with inscribed text.

They originate from the Mount Wellington quarry, a 220-acre site in Lunn Avenue established by Winstones in 1936. Operating until 2001, it employed 120 people and was once the country's main source for volcanic stones for roads and walls. Now G341, the ubiquitous Auckland kerbstone is quarried and manufactured in China, and mechanised, modern quarrying has shifted south to Bombay. A new residential suburb, Stonefields, has risen where stonecrushers once ruled.

Artist Denis O'Connor, who grew up nearby in Glen Innes, was commissioned to make this work by Peter Simpson, the curator of art works for the Tāmaki campus. In his concept proposal, he wrote: "To redress the extraordinary exploitation of this unique volcanic resource, I would like to honour the locale (especially the significant landmark of Mt Wellington) by preserving these

four representative stones." Acquiring the stones was not an easy business. The sculptor's original approach to Landco (the Todd Property Group) was politely declined, but he persevered, and in a chaperoned tour of the massive quarry site chose four two-tonne examples that could be removed by HIAB hydraulic truck-mounted cranes.

Thompsons Memorials of Henderson sandblasted the lettering onto the stones once they had been situated on the Tāmaki site. The words come from a poem which emphasises the importance of childhood memory and the New Zealand environment to health. Entitled "A short poem dictated one day by an intubated patient" published in the book *Playing God* by doctor and poet Glenn Colquhoun, the poem is reproduced there as a block with no punctuation or spaces between the words but reads as: "It is just that my feet are cold and that of my class at school I remember thirty-two names and that I feel the sunshine when you touch me and that

unspeakable colours of fish swimming the sea by my bed."

Denis O'Connor chose this text, he says, for its appealing representation of a patient's voice as well as the way in which it was printed with each letter and word spaced evenly and continuously. The letters appear on the stone in a continuous line ribboning around the forms like an arterial circulatory system, and resonating with the use of this type of stone historically in the creation of the region's roading. O'Connor writes: "The poem also suggests eavesdropping and guardianship and echoes the conceptual framework of the tableau's symbolic logic."

Beneath each boulder is an ellipse of coloured stones, lying flush with the surface of the courtyard like a small pool of water. Comprising aggregate inlays of agate, quartz, sandstone and sodalite, with the constituent gemstones polished to create flashes of colour, these subsidiary stones are meant to be suggestive of shadow voices, murmuring beneath the main narrative of the rocks above.

O'Connor writes that his approach to this sculpture was determined by the recreational function of the courtyard area – it was designated for repose, companionship and even meditation. The planting and seating was designed to harmonise with the formal elements of the tableau of stones in order to establish a sense of sanctum: "Something suggestive of an impressionistic zen retreat, or a jeweller's arcadia! I believe the luxurious colour codes and provocative dream-like metaphorical narratives of the natural materials enhance an architecture devoted to healthcare, and will cope well with the rigours of the weather!" he writes, "after all, it is said that stone weathers best nearest the quarry."

Denis O'Connor, Maungarei Eavesdrop, 2004, sculpture. (Illustrated with concept drawing)

Books



In *Risk*, the most recent book by Emeritus Professor CK Stead, recently-divorced New Zealand lawyer Sam Nola returns to London, where he spent two years in his early twenties.

It is late 2002, and on both sides of the Atlantic the case for military intervention in Iraq is being made – or fabricated. But Sam has never had it better: a grown-up half-French daughter from a long-ago affair has just got in touch, and he has walked into a lucrative role in the banking sector. It is only when he learns of the deaths of two friends within a week that intrigue begins to intrude on his contentment,

and life begins to feel a little more precarious.

Shadowing the rollercoaster of events in the aftermath of 9/11 through to the eve of the global financial crisis, *Risk*, published by MacLehose Press, is a lucidly-observed, witty and politically wise novel of our times.

"Stead's prose is deft; he writes with a glancing tact and a poet's eye for the telling detail," writes Charlotte Moore in the *Daily Telegraph*.

"C K Stead is challenging, fun, urbane and brilliant ... read him," writes John D Falbe, *Spectator*.

What's on

THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER

Inaugural lecture

By new professor at the UoA.
Prof Robert Amor, Dept of Computer Science: *\$10 million a day: The promise of construction interoperability*. 5.30pm Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, 22 Symonds St.

Classics and Ancient History seminar

Prof Emeritus Richard Daniel De Puma, University of Iowa: *Etruscan forgeries: The arts of profit and deceit*. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre B10, General Library.

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

Outlook information management workshop

9am-12noon, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops and click on IT Training

Web 2.0 Tools for teaching workshop

1-4pm, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops and click on IT Training.

School of Music lunchtime concert

Composition, early music and guitar. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

A series of free concerts showcasing School of Music students.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

Llewelyn Jones Piano Composition Prize concert

4-5.30pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Free. Original piano works by composition students will be performed at this annual competition, founded in memory of noted Auckland pianist and composer Llewelyn Jones.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

Diwali

6pm, Level 1 Foyer, OGGB, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Free Indian food, beautiful lights, performances and henna tattoos. Plus a special showing of the critically acclaimed film *Monsoon Wedding*. Traditional dress welcome.

SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER

Exhibition talk and film screening

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. A screening of Douglas Wright's *Faun Variations* (1987), influenced by Russian choreographer and dancer Vaslav Nijinsky. Artist Sriwhana Spong responds with a discussion of her own interest in Nijinsky, and her films based on research and reimagining of dance history.

www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra concert

7.30pm, Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Uwe Grodd (conductor), Milla Dickens (soprano). Claude Debussy, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Exsultate, jubilate*; Ludwig van Beethoven, *Eroica*.

Cost \$15/\$10/\$5. To book phone 361 1000 or 0508 iTICKET.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER

Future Research Leaders Programme

Grant and Contract Administration module. All morning, level 3, Short St. Registration to frlp@auckland.ac.nz

Excel introduction

9am-12noon, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Phone 923 7951 for more information or to enrol.

Future Proof lecture

Assoc Prof Carol Boyle: *Greening infrastructure*. 12noon-1pm, Design Theatre, Building 423, 22 Symonds St. Free. Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/future-proof

Bioengineering research seminar

Assoc Prof Iain Anderson, ABI and Dept of Engineering Science: *From jellyfish to soft machines*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Graduate Diploma in Teaching information evening

6-7.30pm Neon Foyer, Engineering Bldg, 20 Symonds St.

Come and find out how you can use your degree to become a teacher after one year of full-time study. Current students and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Register at <http://uaa.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/5/61>

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Dept of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Shaofeng Li, UoA: *The interactions between corrective feedback and language aptitude*. 12noon DALSL Meeting Rm 206-408, Arts 1.

Queries to jason.brown@auckland.ac.nz

NZSO Foundation violin master class

Nicola Benedetti. 5.30-7.30pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Free.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

Excel charts

1-4pm, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Phone 923 7951 for more information or to enrol.

Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity seminar

John Sawyer, Principal Specialist Nature Heritage, Auckland Council: *Can we reverse the decline? Community approaches to rescuing NZ's native plants*. 3.30pm Rm 234, Bldg 733, Tāmaki Campus.

The Narrative and Metaphor Special Interest Network presentation

Marek Tesar: *The story of power: Archives and their guardians*. 4.30pm Room H205, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom.

RSVP to e.fitzpatrick@auckland.ac.nz

Dean's Lecture Series

Engineering the future: Perspectives on innovative manufacturing and materials. 5.30-8pm Lecture Theatre 401.439, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

Speakers:

Garth Galloway, Kim Campbell and Prof Xun Xu.

Queries to foe-events@auckland.ac.nz
RSVP to www.bit.ly/QkejZy

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER

Lilburn Composition Prize concert

Original works from composition students will be performed in this annual competition. 7.30-9.30pm, Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Free.

Proudly supported by the Lilburn Trust
Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Marianne Schultz (History) discusses the development of contemporary dance in NZ, particularly the role of Limbs Dance Company where Douglas Wright began his dance career in 1980.

www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER

Future Proof lecture

Paul Downton: *Urban fractals: Shaping the future a neighbourhood at a time*. 12noon-1pm, Design Theatre, Building 423, 22 Symonds St.

Free. Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/future-proof

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Gib Bogle, ABI: *Modelling some aspects of lymphocyte biology*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER

Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Henry Davis and Lisa Matthewson, University of British Columbia: *Towards a scientific approach to linguistic typology*. 12noon DALSL Meeting Rm 206-408, Arts 1.

Queries to jason.brown@auckland.ac.nz

UoA Library seminar

Assoc Prof Alex Holcombe, University of Sydney: *Our scholarship system is broken. Can open access fix it?* 1-2pm. Conference Centre, Bldg 423, City Campus. No bookings required.

Inaugural lecture

By new professor at the UoA.
Prof Tom Brittain, School of Biological Sciences: *In biology a little chemistry can go a long way: Seeing the wood for the trees*. 3pm, Lecture Theatre BLT100, 5 Symonds St.

Adult admission information evening

6-8pm Fale Pasifika, 20 Wynyard St. For people over 20 who have not achieved a university entrance qualification. Our advisors will be able to provide advice on your tertiary study options. For more information call 0800 61 62 63 or apply online now at www.auckland.ac.nz/specialadmission.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

A refreshing haven for a month (14 Nov-15 Dec 2012), convenient, central location (Glendowie, St Heliers Bay). Offering three bdrms, office, family room, SKY, Internet connection, superb outdoor entertaining area, swimming pool, lovely sea views. A bargain at \$700 pw. Phone (09) 575 5738 or email riddellbones@hotmail.com

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 David Feng (09) 303 0601 or Lauren Valcarcel (021) 103 4865 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Flatmate wanted for beautiful villa and garden in Ponsonby. I have a downstairs bdrm available for rent in my peaceful home. This includes a dble bed, wardrobe, desk and Internet. The house is only a 30 minute walk into university or a 15 minute bus ride that leaves from the top of the street. Would suit a visiting scholar or academic. Preferably vegetarian who values honesty, with a sense of humour. \$235 pw including electricity, phone, Internet, gas, water etc. Phone Sarah on (021) 022 12812 or email goldensguppy@gmail.com

St Johns: Looking for a professional couple/family to rent our house for one-two years. The house is fully furnished has three bdrms and 2.5 bthrms, two storied with lovely views. Situated on St Johns Rd it is close to all amenities. Available end of October. Please call Christine on (021) 165 8853 for details.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Waiheke cottage for Christmas holiday.

Lovely Kereru Cottage, 10 minute walk to Palm Beach, two bdrms (twin and queen), sleeps four, very private, fully furnished, TV, Broadband, books, CD's, DVD's. Surrounded by lovely bush and view of the sea. Just made available on weekly basis from 17 Dec to 2 Feb. Priced from \$1,200 (pre-Christmas) to \$1,500 per week (Christmas-thru Jan). For photos and full description contact t.agee@auckland.ac.nz or phone ext 85832 or (027) 714 1485.

FOR SALE

Handmade diamond engagement rings and jewellery

personally designed for you by Julian Bartrom. Winner of "The People's Choice Award" NZ Jewellery Competition 2011. We are continuously striving to provide a service that is superior; fine gemstones and workmanship in gold, silver, platinum, offered at affordable prices. Phone 525 3935, email workshop@julianbartrom.com or visit www.julianbartrom.com

Notice of tender: The School of Music has a harpsichord for tender. It is Flemish, single manual (2 x 8'), a Zuckerman kitset, assembled by Paul Downie, Auckland. For a pdf of the harpsichord or further information contact Robyn Taylor-Wright r.taylor-wright@auckland.ac.nz Tenders to Robyn Taylor-Wright by hand in a sealed envelope at the School of Music Reception (Bldg 250, 6 Symonds St) or to r.taylor-wright@auckland.ac.nz (subject line: Tender-Harpsichord) by 5pm on Friday 19 October, 2012. Please note - a reserve has been set by the School for this item.

MISCELLANEOUS

City Legal Services. Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm centrally located at L1 Princes Court, 2 Princes Street. We are near the University, with good parking. We can assist with property transactions, trusts, wills, administration of estates, enduring powers of attorney and relationship property matters. Please phone our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs, or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz Visit www.rainey.co.nz

Travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. Contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.



SOME UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTHS

It's surprising that the Education Review Office (ERO), the agency established to provide clear public information on school effectiveness, is ceasing to cite decile ratings in their reports, at a time when the government is pushing for increased information to parents via National Standards statistics.

I was principal of a lower-decile Auckland high school when the new funding system was introduced, to compensate for the unforeseen consequences of the 1990's zoning policy, when so-called "white flight" exposed uncomfortable realities of disadvantage in our communities. And while the late twentieth century saw real progress in overcoming inequalities of race and gender, social class has proven far more intractable. However it's really important to be aware that there are no "sink schools" in New Zealand. Our high position in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) "league tables" is because public schools have quality teachers. Inspiring leadership is also regularly found in lower decile areas as well as in privileged environments.

As a principal I welcomed not only the extra funding, but the decile descriptor that represented an impersonal mathematical measure of community resources. It meant I no longer had to deal with the offensive question: How many Māori and Pacific Islanders go to your school? Comments like this were in marked contrast to exemplary leadership from our board of trustees chair, whose community commitment extended to the family home. This became a fun study centre for her daughters' friends in their senior high school years, producing outcomes of academic excellence, not only for her children but for other students whose parents did not have the background or facilities to provide this level of

support. Such altruism still exists, but these days because of parental fears that a significant lower-decile presence in schools might harm the learning of their own children, it is far more common to seek the security of housing in wealthier zones, private schooling, or out of zone enrolment, rather than supporting a local school where the decile may be lower than family aspirations.

When the decile system was introduced in 1995 it was under the name "equity funding". New Zealand's weakness in this area remains a deep and enduring problem. Targeting always stigmatises and this has been particularly true for schools where the decile number has been widely and incorrectly seen as a measure of quality – which may well be the rationale behind ERO's decision. And surely it is morally wrong for schools to be labelled as inferior because they are undertaking the most difficult job in education?

Deciles are an imperfect measure. They give no indication for example of family and cultural patterns of educational priorities within migrant groups, which frequently make it possible for excellence to be achieved in one generation. However what deciles do indicate reasonably well are the varying levels of difficulty schools need to overcome in order to reach national goals of excellence for all. It's for this reason there's no equity funding for decile 10 schools, which are particularly well-situated to take advantage of community resources in both money and professional skills, while also benefiting from the lucrative market in fee-paying foreign students.

Recording of deciles coincided with a huge increase in marketisation of education, which incentivised public schools to promote themselves at the expense of neighbours. Ratings which

reveal a decile advantage have been the best marketing tool of all. Lack of information from ERO will not suppress the current demand for decile knowledge and may even have the perverse effect of boosting the credibility of media league tables – which to their credit do try to show achievement in decile bands, even though educators always identify a range of errors in the calculations.

The problem is inequality, not its labelling, but how helpful it would be to use the label to stimulate thoughtful debate. When I was a principal I valued receiving reports from ERO on areas of general importance that had come to their attention during reviews. No other state agency is as well-positioned to make informed comment on the broader social truths of deciles, which represent the baseline from which schooling achievement is built. It would surely be of significant public interest to hear about the reasoning behind ERO's change of policy and the wider issues driving it.

Dealing fairly and intelligently with uncomfortable truths is one of the big challenges of democracy. While it is true that the term decile has been unhelpfully hijacked as a marketing tool, it is also true that until the term came into use, denial of advantage was commonplace within public education. Good news is that the need for this compensatory funding has never been challenged, while recent nationwide reaction to the government's intention to increase class sizes showed a profound commitment to fairness. I therefore believe that our increasingly-educated public has the capacity to understand complex decile issues, provided they receive clear and reasoned explanation.

Ann Dunphy, Faculty of Education