



MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MAKEOVER FOR ENGINEERING

The Faculty of Engineering is to undergo a multi-million dollar redevelopment, which includes the creation of high-tech laboratories, a new engineering research facility and the expansion of an existing building.

The upgrade, which is estimated to cost \$216 million and take four years to complete, is on a similar scale to the construction of the Owen G. Glenn Building, which houses the Business School, and the redevelopment of the Faculty of Medical and Health Science's Grafton Campus.

As part of the redevelopment, which was approved by Council on 16 April, engineering buildings 403 and 404 at 20 Symonds Street will be completely refurbished and extended by several floors creating 5,000 m² more useable space. This will allow the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and Engineering Science to relocate back to 20 Symonds Street and free up space for the Faculty

of Science, where ECE is currently located. The Ray Meyer Building at the Tāmaki Innovation Campus is also being refurbished, and adjacent to it a new engineering research facility is to be built – providing an additional 5,000 m² of space for large scale research projects.

Faculty of Engineering Dean Professor Michael Davies says the redevelopment will transform the faculty's teaching and research facilities and benefit the entire University.

"The building programme will bring two departments back to the heart of the faculty and create state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces as well as providing facilities for research that are of an internationally-leading standard.

"All of this will be within an environment that has been designed to encourage interactions between students and staff from different disciplines. This will strengthen the collegiality that has always been a strong feature of the

faculty and encourage interdisciplinary research," says Michael.

The Council's approval recognises that the faculty has grown substantially since its current buildings were constructed, mainly in the late 1960s, and that many of the current facilities are outdated and inadequate, he says.

"It also recognises that there is continuing strong demand for engineering graduates and that the faculty has been very successful in growing its postgraduate numbers and external research income, particularly in recent years."

The University of Auckland's Director Property Services Peter Fehl says the building programme at the Tāmaki Innovation Campus is expected to commence in the next few months while the refurbished and extended buildings 403 and 404 on the City Campus will be completed in time to be occupied for the start of the 2016 academic year.



Robb lecturer

Can children's minds help us understand deep philosophical questions?

Yes they can, says this year's Douglas Robb lecturer, Alison Gopnik, a professor of psychology and affiliate professor of philosophy at the University of California at Berkeley. Alison believes that in some ways children are smarter,

more caring and even more conscious than adults are and suggests that this new view of babies and young children has brought new and sometimes startling insights about some of the big questions of philosophy: How can we find the truth? Where does consciousness come from? What is the nature of morality?

Alison is an internationally recognised leader in the study of children's learning and development. She is the author of over 100 journal articles and several books including the bestselling and critically acclaimed popular books *The Scientist in the Crib*

(co-authored with Andrew Meltzoff and Patricia Kuhl) *William Morrow, 1999*, and *The Philosophical Baby; What children's minds tell us about love, truth and the meaning of life*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2009. She has also written widely about cognitive science and psychology

for *Science*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *New Scientist* and *Slate*, among others.

Alison's first lecture on Thursday 17 May is titled "The power of possibility: Truth, imagination and learning" and looks at how even the youngest children use the same techniques for learning about the world as the most brilliant scientists. Her second lecture on Monday 21 May – "What is it like to be a baby? Consciousness, attention and memory" – shows how babies may be more conscious than adults, and in particular more vividly aware of the world around them. Moreover the consciousness of babies and young children may be qualitatively different from the consciousness of adults, in ways that illuminate the nature of consciousness itself.

The final lecture on Wednesday 23 May – "Love and law: Caregiving and morality" – shows that even infants have many of the foundations of morality in place. And yet philosophers and theologians have said very little about children. "I will argue that many of our deepest moral and spiritual feelings are rooted in the relationships between children and the people who care for them," says Alison.

All lectures will be at 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building
See www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

Auckland mooting team in world top four



From left: Matt Beattie, Benedict Tompkins, Mark Tushingham

The Law School has been placed in the top four in the world's largest and most prestigious moot court contest.

In the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Competition held in Washington DC in late March the Auckland team was narrowly beaten in the semi-finals by Columbia University (New York) on a split decision.

The team of Benedict Tompkins, Mark Tushingham, Matt Beattie and Namita Singh won the prize for the best applicant memorial (written submissions) in the competition and won the

runner-up award for combined memorials (applicant and respondent).

Now in its 53rd year, the Jessup is the world's largest moot court competition with teams from more than 500 law schools in 80 plus countries taking part. More than 115 teams competed in the international rounds in Washington, drawn from over 600 teams worldwide.

The Jessup simulates a fictional dispute between countries – this year over who can represent a state following a coup, the use of force by a regional international organisation, state immunity and the legality of the destruction of a cultural site – before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations.

Teams prepare oral and written pleadings arguing both the applicant and respondent sides of the case.

The Auckland team was representing New Zealand for the fifth year running after again winning the main national inter-university competition.

Benedict spoke on both sides of the moot (although on different issues, so as not to get confused), with Mark and Matt alternating. Namita was the team's researcher. They were coached by senior lecturer Dr Caroline Foster and alumnus Isaac Hikaka.

Benedict, Matt and Mark have all finished or are near finishing LLB(Hons) or LLB degrees. Benedict will start work on his return from the United States at Luke Cunningham & Clere, the Wellington Crown Solicitors. Mark is working as a junior at Bankside Chambers, Auckland, while Matt is about to start at Martelli McKegg.

Namita, the only member of the team with international law training, is currently undertaking a six-month internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, working on the trial of Radovan Karadzic.

The generous support of the NZ Law Foundation and the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law helped make possible their success in the Jessup.

"The team and coaches worked incredibly hard in the months leading up to the Jessup and their success is very well deserved," says Dr Andrew Stockley, Dean of Law at Auckland. "Theirs is a fantastic achievement against the world's best."



Fluid debate

How do artists, scientists, educators and environmental researchers engage in critical debate with the public about water issues?

This was the question tackled by Fluid City, a free public interactive event held over two days at Wynyard Quarter on Auckland's waterfront.

Timed to coincide with UN World Water Day on 22 March, Fluid City involved researchers from NICA, Science and Education. Featuring a mobile scientific laboratory, audio-visual sound walks and choreography specific to the site, it gave Aucklanders a chance to engage with contemporary water issues in exciting and innovative ways.

Drs Clark Ehlers (Biological Sciences), Dr Charlotte Šunde (Planning and the Thematic Research Initiative) and Alys Longley (Dance Studies) caught the public eye the moment they entered the Wynyard Quarter. Dressed in biohazard suits they were riding bicycles and towing mobile installations that looked a little like industrial cylinders (see photo).

Clark's cylinder opened to reveal a mini laboratory containing microscopes and test-tubes, giving Aucklanders the chance to observe the microbiological life in different Auckland waterways – from the pristine streams of the Waitakeres to other less than pristine waterways elsewhere.

Charlotte presented The Roaming Cinema, a closed container that featured a colourful

animation showing the dynamic patterns and presence of water in our everyday lives while the Story-Telling Vessel, led by Alys and Dr Katie Fitzpatrick (Education), contained upturned bucket seats and listening stations where people could hear stories about water and contribute their own. The stories included critical insights about Auckland's water from Professor Gary Brierley (Geography), Dr Marjorie van Roon (Planning) and Dr Te Oti Rakena (Music), and poems and stories from local and national writers evoking different senses of water and its meanings.

During the scheduled performances of a site-specific choreographed dance called Blood of Trees, the audience was given headsets with a unique sound recording connecting them to the history, ecology and mauri (life force) of the environment. Directed by Dr Carol Brown (Dance Studies) and composer Russell Scoones, the stunning work was the culmination of a two-week research process for 15 professional dancers and University of Auckland student dancers.

Fluid City is funded by Transforming Cities: Innovations for Sustainable Futures – a Thematic Research Initiative (TRI) of the University, involving a large number of diverse disciplines. Other academics involved, in addition to those mentioned above, were Kathy Waghorn (Architecture), who ingeniously designed the mobile installations, and Rosemary Martin (Dance Studies).

www.fluidcity.auckland.ac.nz



We are currently in the middle of one of the major celebratory weeks of our annual calendar, Autumn Graduation. In the ten ceremonies to be held at the Aotea Centre this week, some 4,923 graduates and diplomates will receive their qualifications, including a remarkable 133 doctoral graduates. They are among our 322 doctoral completions in 2011, almost double the number we had when we embarked on our current strategy to enhance the postgraduate programme just six years ago.

Graduation ceremonies are always wonderful events, marked by a mix of ancient European tradition and local culture – evident most obviously in the dress and adornments of Māori, Pacific and Asian graduates. The excitement of graduates is palpable and pride of their families and friends very evident in the many flowers, gifts, lei and hugs the graduates receive.

I estimate that I have attended or had a role in nearly 200 graduation ceremonies in my career. This week has been special for Deborah and me, though, because our eldest son graduated from the Engineering programme and I had the privilege of capping him along with some of his colleagues. It is interesting to reflect at such a time, and in a very personal way, on how the University adds value to the lives of its students – not only in an academic sense and by enhancing their employment opportunities, but through the relationships they build, the broader interests they develop, and the personal growth they achieve. We are fortunate to be part of an institution that adds so much to the lives of (mainly) young people and that does such a wonderful job of helping them and their families to celebrate their many achievements.

Of course, such celebratory events do not happen by chance. It is important therefore to acknowledge not only the academic and professional staff who have taught and supported our students to the point where they are able to graduate, but also Margaret Allen and her graduation team who, together with many volunteers, make these events possible. And of course we should acknowledge our Chancellor, Roger France, and Pro-Chancellor, Ian Parton, who will by the end of the week have shaken nearly 5,000 hands between them!

Musical highlight on 5 May

The Graduation Gala Concerto Competition promises to be as sensational as ever, as its three talented finalists – on violin, bassoon and piano – compete for the grand prize of \$5,000 and the opportunity to further their careers.

The concert will begin with Natasha Port performing *Bassoon Concerto in F major, J.127, Op.75* by Carl Maria von Weber, followed by Stella Kim performing movements 1, 3 and 5 of Edouard Lalo's

Symphonie Espagnole for violin and orchestra in D minor, Op.21. Nayoung (Jane) Koo will then perform movements 1 and 3 of *Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor, Op.22* by Camille Saint-Saens.

A special feature of this year's concert conducted by Professor Uwe Grodd is a performance of Mozart's *Dies Irae* for choir and orchestra by The University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra and massed choir.

Senior lecturer champions children's literacy



The University will host the World Kids' Lit Quiz, a literature competition for children, in July, thanks to Wayne Mills, a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Education.

The Kids' Lit Quiz, an annual literature competition for children aged 10 to 13, is the brainchild of Wayne. He established it more than 20 years ago because "I was frustrated that young students were encouraged to compete in sports, science and maths but not reading. I never saw kids being rewarded for reading and I wanted to make it fun, interactive

and challenging."

"This age group is a critical period for young readers. Reading for pleasure can drop off as students get older and are required to do so much directed reading for their studies. If we capture them now then we can set a pattern for the future."

Mr Mills compiles all the questions and hosts all the national and international quiz events.

No quiz is ever the same. Each heat and final has 10 questions in 10 different categories, from visual literature, comics and nursery rhymes to questions on fish, folktales and royalty.

As quizmaster Mr Mills will probe contestants' knowledge on anything from *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* to *Spongebob Squarepants* and the classics. There is no set reading list for the quiz. "As soon as you do this" he says "it becomes a test in disguise and kids love the fact that there are no limits and that it's a genuine challenge of their literary knowledge."

Teams from Australia, Canada, China, Scotland, South Africa, the US and New Zealand will compete for the world literacy title at the University's Owen G Glenn Building on 4 July.

Kids Lit Quiz finalists will be officially welcomed to the University with a pōwhiri on the Tūtahi Tonu marae at The Faculty of Education's Epsom campus. After competing in the final, teams will travel to Hobbiton in Matamata to see the *Lord of the Rings* set, visit Rangitoto Island to witness the setting for Maurice Gee's fantasy adventure *Under the Mountain*, and watch a presentation of Margaret Mahy's book, *The Great Piratical Rumbustification*. Popular New Zealand authors Maria Gill, Des Hunt and Stu Duval will also talk with finalists about their books and writing.

Mr Mills was awarded the Margaret Mahy Medal in 2008 for his contribution to children's literature and literacy. Last year he received the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Education, specifically for his contribution to the Kids' Lit Quiz.

To enter a team in the New Zealand regional heats and for more information about forthcoming regional heats, the national and world final, visit www.kidslitquiz.com.

Makeover television and the American Dream



New Professor Katherine Sender brings international expertise in popular culture, gay media and marketing and reality television to the Faculty of Arts.

She joined the Department of Film, TV and Media Studies this year from the prestigious Annenberg School for Communication in the US. Of British origin, she is also an accomplished documentary film maker.

One of her main research areas is how audiences engage with reality TV, especially "makeover" television - which will be explored in

her new book due out later this year, *The Makeover: Reality Television and Reflexive Audiences*, New York University Press.

"Makeovers have been a big part of American society since the 1930s - when they started appearing in women's magazines, then on daytime television talk shows. It is the American norm to self-reinvent and is part of the American dream. What we see on reality TV is another manifestation of that."

The book draws from a large-scale study by Katherine and a team of research fellows, documenting people's reaction to four makeover shows: *What Not to Wear*, *The Biggest Loser*, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, and *Starting Over*. The findings, she says, help to counter the stereotype of reality TV audiences as either "cruel or stupid".

"The results counter some of the negative criticism of reality TV audiences, which tended to see viewers as cruel, or docile and willing to take any advice given out on the programme. We didn't think that was accurate and in fact found people to be much more sympathetic to the people in the shows and critical of any instructions given out, particularly consumer advice," Katherine says.

Connected to this research, Professor Sender is also editing a new documentary: *Brand New*

You: Makeover Television and the American Dream, which includes interviews with leading scholars in the field.

An authority on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender media and marketing, Katherine will also continue to explore gay representations in the media and is gathering data for a cross-cultural study of museums that include explicitly sexual content.

"I'm extremely pleased to be part of this department. I've found it to be collegial and I admire the multi-disciplinary nature of the faculty, and the opportunities for research and production collaborations."

Katherine is the author of two previous books: *The Politics of Reality TV: Global Perspectives* (New York: Routledge. Co-edited with Marwan Kraid, 2011) and *Business, not Politics: The Making of the Gay Market* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004). She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Sussex, UK, and a master's and PhD in communication from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA.

Katherine is joined in the department by her partner Dr Valentina Cardo, who specialises in political communication, new media, feminist political theory, politics and popular culture.

Committed to campus



"If you believe in something you make it work," says Heather Peters, who is moving on after two decades at the helm of the Faculty of Education's Tai Tokerau Campus.

Heather, who finished as Academic Director at the Northland campus on 5 April, has been in charge of the Whangarei-based campus since its inception in 1992.

The first few years of the campus consisted of "two classrooms and a common room, which was the size of a telephone box," says Heather.

The student roll numbered 30 – a far cry from the 180 students enrolled today.

"In those days you could call it pioneering. Although it was very difficult to work without many resources, basically we wanted to make it work because we knew if we didn't, in terms of the programme and in terms of the success of the students, it wouldn't have continued."

Heather, who is from a prominent Northland family, says it was the Northland community

itself who pushed for the teaching training campus.

"In 1992 there was a demand from mature adults in the area. They were asking, 'Why we can't have teacher education in Northland. Why should we have to go to Auckland?' . . .

Auckland College of Education does have a reputation for listening in most cases, and they heard the call and addressed it."

Faculty of Education Dean Dr Graeme Aitken said, at Heather's farewell event, that the Tai Tokerau campus wouldn't have succeeded without Heather's leadership and commitment.

"It hasn't happened without somebody who is fully committed to this place, fully committed to the communities of the north and fully committed to engaging with them on behalf of the Auckland College of Education and more recently on behalf of The University of Auckland."

Graeme said Heather had done much more than dedicate 20 years to the Tai Tokerau campus. "If you think about the programmes that have been developed here, and the size of the campus over that time - the primary teacher education programme, an early childhood programme, which we don't have at the moment but we would love to provide again, a secondary programme, a postgraduate programme, the Huarahi Maori programme, the foundation programme and the New Start programme - all of those have come through the leadership that Heather has shown, her initiative, her drive, her vision, through her commitment to make things happen here on this campus for the people of the north."

New Associate Professor



Associate Professor Gordon Miskelly (Chemistry) joined the University 1995. Prior to that he had completed his BSc(Hons) and PhD at the University of Otago, then undertaken postdoctoral fellowships at Stanford University and Caltech before starting his academic career at the University of Southern California.

His research interests during those early years evolved from porphyrins and inorganic chemistry to electrochemistry and photochemistry. At Auckland, Gordon applied his knowledge from these fields to analytical chemistry, then with the creation of the Forensic Science programme in 1996 he moved much of his research focus to this field.

His recent research has focused on fingerprint enhancement reagents, trace analysis of residues at clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, and the development of simple optical sensors that might be used to detect arson accelerants or other volatile organic compounds. Gordon notes that colour was part of what attracted him to chemistry, and his recent research on optical sensors and spectral imaging of fingerprints has allowed him to revisit this interest.

Gordon and his wife Denise enjoy hiking, and have both walked the 100-kilometre Oxfam trailwalk twice.

Future Research Leaders Program (FRLP)

FRLP is a development programme designed to build research leadership capacity in University environments. FRLP has eight independent modules. Coming up are

- Governance and compliance: protecting yourself, your research and your University – 8 May all morning.
 - Intellectual property, knowledge transfer and commercialisation – 12 June all day.
- Register through frlp@auckland.ac.nz. More information, including the 2012 schedule, is available from the staff intranet.

Lotteries Health project grants announced

Congratulations to the five University of Auckland researchers awarded Lotteries Health project grants this round. Funding was awarded to Isabella Cheung, Department of Ophthalmology; Dr Marewa Glover, School of Population Health/Centre for Tobacco Control Research; Professor Andrew Hill, South Auckland Clinical School/Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre (ACSRC); Dr Euphemia Leung, ACSRC; Frederique Vanholsbeeck, Department of Physics.

Cancer Society funding announced

Six University of Auckland researchers and students have been awarded funding by the Cancer Society this year. Project funding has been awarded to Associate Professor Mark McKeage, Department of Pharmacology; Dr Maggie Kalev, Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology; and Dr Nula Helsby, Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology. Scholarships have been awarded to Raymond Yung, Hye-won Catherine Han and Stacey Ann D'Mello.

Results of Rutherford Discovery Fellowships review

In April the Minister of Science and Innovation announced the results of a review of the Rutherford Discovery Fellowships. The review was carried out in response to concerns that the new Fellowships define "early career" too broadly and that there was a lack of sufficient domestic post-doctoral opportunities in New Zealand. As a result of the Review a number of changes were announced. For details see <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/rutherford-discovery/>

2012 MSI round underway

The Research Office submitted 38 applications to the Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI) in the week of 1-4 April, bidding for an estimated value of \$30.4 million per annum (excl GST), and a total value over the lifetime of the contracts of \$109m. The bids were across a range of areas, with decisions expected in August.

From the collection



Developing an abiding love for the natural and life sciences during two years of medical intermediate studies at Otago University in 1961 and 1962, Peter Peryer moved back to Auckland and finished his bachelor's degree majoring in English and Education.

His diploma from North Shore Teachers' College prepared him for a career as teacher in primary schools, and in 1972 he completed a Master of Arts in Education while teaching. He also held a position lecturing in English at Auckland Teachers' College for a short time. Acquiring his first camera in 1973 he learned how to develop prints through the Camera Club at Otahuhu Intermediate where he was relieving, and set up a darkroom in his Campbell's Bay home. In January of 1974, he was accepted for a photographic workshop held at Elam School of Fine Arts with John B. Turner, Tom Hutchins and Larence Shustak. This was to be a turning point, and at age 34, Peter Peryer

finally left the starting blocks as a photographer.

Forty years later, he has produced a wealth of memorable imagery. Though a decade old, this photograph of the business end of a pair of Trade Aid salad servers is representative of his current approach. Calling time out on the fast feed of electronic visual imagery, Peryer

requires his viewers to stop and look again, and to reconsider those things dismissed as ordinary and the ubiquitous. Dumb objects from the everyday world are isolated and made to seem eloquent and unique. In this case, there is a degree of anthropomorphism, so that the real world referent for the fork and spoon – their scale and their humble role in the salad bowl – gets pushed to the back of the mind and they come to life like the toys in the Nutcracker Suite. No longer mere tools to be deployed as instruments of service, these two implements are a differentiated mating pair. Their geometricized shapes are gender abstractions, like 1970s painter Michael Illingworth's Mr and Mrs Piss Quick, the fork male and the spoon female. It is possible to read a hint of personality or gender conditioning there, with the fork facing us boldly, its tines asserting themselves rakishly upright while the spoon turns shyly

away, leaving us to admire the gleam of light off rounded shapes.

Peter Peryer seems to enjoy drawing attention to the humour involved in making a meal out of these two, putting them together self-importantly in the centre of his image like a king and queen. Salad servers make the perfect wedding present – is this the portrait of a marriage? Like a long-time couple, the fork and spoon are well-adjusted to their roles, two halves of a whole arrangement, and the one useless without each other – what is a fork without a spoon when it comes to dishing up the lettuce? On the other hand, does the image call into question compulsory heterosexuality? Two forks do the job just as well, as do a pair of spoons. Long live the civil union in the cutlery drawer.

All this concentration on the associations of each shape neglects the symbolic potential of the material the fork and spoon are made of. Manufactured from a grainy coconut wood, they hail from the islands. As objects of design they have simple styling where form follows function. Akin to Gauguin painting in the South Seas, they are messengers of modernism, bringing us the Bauhaus via Fiji. They represent a European tradition refreshed by a quick dip in the Pacific ocean. Rather than surfacing in South Auckland, they would be most at home at a palagi picnic. Like a bone carving in the boardroom, could they be a comment on the fashion for sporting ethnic associations from a safe distance?

Peter Peryer, Fork and Spoon 2003, 180 x 240mm

Peter Peryer's portraits are on show at Gus Fisher Gallery as part of the Auckland Festival of Photography from 4 May to 23 June 2012.

Linda Tyler

Books



*art is like that wild hare
running running running
in the headlight beams*

Written by Professor Murray Edmond (English) and illustrated by Joanna Forsberg, *Three Travels* is the 30th publication of the Holloway Press, launched at the Gus Fisher Gallery on 27 April by guest speaker Lisa Samuels.

Travelling changes your world and the world changes as you travel. This volume consists of three poetic records – a bike ride into eastern Poland ("Narrow Roads to the East"), a trip to the Highlands of Scotland ("Ancestral Routes"), and a circumnavigation of the volcanic plateau of Te Ika a Maui/the North Island of Aotearoa/New Zealand ("Coming Round the Mountain").

The poetry is loosely based on Japanese poem sequences, strings of haiku or tanka (with accompanying prose), but there is nothing rigidly "authentic" about the use of such forms: Michele Leggott christened these so-called haiku, "bike-ku," as they recall the mode of transport as much as the poetic form. Each sequence begins with a photo, and the book slips easily into a pocket for comfortable companionship as you travel.

Three Travels is linotype set in 12pt Helvetica Condensed by Longley Printing Co. and letterpress printed by Tara McLeod on a Littlejohn cylinder press. The edition comprises 75 copies, signed, and the price is \$150.

What's on

THURSDAY 3 MAY

NZ Asia Institute panel discussion
Changes facing women today in Indonesia and Iran: Why previously-banned books are now being published.
4-5pm Rm 325, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Visit www.nzai.auckland.ac.nz

2012 Gibbons Lecture

Prof Jack Copeland, Dept of Philosophy, University of Canterbury: *Alan Turing and the secret cyphers: Breaking the German codes at Bletchley Park.*
Refreshments 5.30pm; lecture 6pm, venue tba.

Holocaust Awareness Week lecture

Zeev (Tibi) Ram: *I survived Auschwitz.*
6pm Lecture Theatre 315, Arts 1.
Queries to aunsnewzealand@gmail.com

SATURDAY 5 MAY

Graduation Gala Concerto Competition 2012

7.30pm Auckland Town Hall. Free. Performances by finalists Stella Kim (violin), Natasha Port (bassoon) and Nayoung (Jane) Koo (piano). Featuring The University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Uwe Grodd. Special performance by The University of Auckland massed choir.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 7 MAY

Coursebuilder: Creating online courses

2-4pm CAD IT Training Rm 202, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Learn how to use CourseBuilder (CB) to create online courses. CB is an online tool for developing educational websites created by the University's Centre for Academic Development. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception on ext 88140.

TUESDAY 8 MAY

Oxfam's Biggest Coffee Break

10am, iSpace, level 4, Kate Edgar Building. Gold coin donation for every cup of Fair Trade Coffee. Donations go to Oxfam. Battle of the Bands champions The Residents will play an acoustic set.

Also on 10 May at 1pm.

Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/adventure

CommuniQue 2012

Peter Connolly: *Myths of open systems-oriented design of cities/landscape.*
12noon-1pm Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, Bldg 423, 22 Symonds St.
Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 9 MAY

Department of Sociology seminar

Dr Colin Cremin, UoA: *From austerity to icommunism: splitting the fetish from the commodity.* 11am Room 901, HSB.

Dept of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Malin Ågren, Lund University: *Number problems in bilingual French-speaking children: An effect of type of task, age*

of onset or amount of exposure? 12noon DALSL Meeting Rm 206-408, Arts 1
Queries to jason.brown@auckland.ac.nz
Confucius Institute/School of Asian Studies joint seminar
Prof Yu Hai, Fudan University, Shanghai: *Shanghai in multiple perspectives.*
4-5.30pm Case Room 2, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

THURSDAY 10 MAY

2012 Gibbons Lecture

Prof Brian Carpenter & Prof Bob Doran, Dept of Computer Science, UoA: *Alan Turing and the Computing Engine: Turing's achievements in practical computing.* 6pm Rm 423-342, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

FRIDAY 11 MAY

Europe Institute lecture

Prof Norman Davies: *European history. What non-Europeans don't always know.*
3pm Case Rm 2, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Poetry Slam

6.30-9.30pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Compete or come along to watch budding University of Auckland Poets slam their way to glory! Hosted by the NZ Poetry Trust head, Gus Simonovic. Great prizes for the winning poetry slammers!

Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/adventure

SATURDAY 12 MAY

Alumni Society author talk

Prof Brian Boyd: *Why lyrics last.* Time & venue tba.
An author's talk and Society pre-reception at Auckland Writers & Readers Festival. Staff can purchase a limited number of tickets at www.society.auckland.ac.nz for \$30pp (includes one free beverage and finger food). Queries to Judith Grey, phone 923 82309.

SUNDAY 13 MAY

Alumni Society author talk

Honoured NZ Writer 2012: Maurice Gee. Time & venue tba.
An author's talk and end of Auckland Writers & Readers Festival post-reception. Staff can purchase a limited number of tickets at www.society.auckland.ac.nz for \$34pp (includes one free beverage and finger food). Queries to Judith Grey, phone 923 82309.

MONDAY 14 MAY

Death by PowerPoint and how to avoid it

2-4pm CAD Seminar Rm, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Create PowerPoint presentations that will keep your students awake and engaged! Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception on ext 88140.

WEDNESDAY 16 MAY

Public lecture

Dr Barry Milne, COMPASS: *Assessing socio-economic position through occupation: An update of the NZ Socioeconomic Index.* 11am HSB 901.

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 Andrew (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

Auckland (Devonport) villa, fully furnished, private garden, July 2012 - February 2013 (flexible). Walking distance to beaches, shops, and ferry to city/University. Two-three bdrm, two lounges, study, central heating, Sky/Internet/phone package included. Ideal for sabbatical visitor. N/S. \$620 pw (neg). Contact devonport_rental@yahoo.co.nz

Auckland - Freemans Bay/Ponsonby apartment. Fantastic views of city and harbour from lounge, bdrms and Waitakeres and upper harbour from kitchen. Available mid June - mid Nov 2012, however dates are flexible. Private walkway to Ponsonby Rd, taxi stand, Link Bus etc. Fully furnished, two bdrms, plus study, two bthrms, two balconies. Phone/Wifi Broadband package available. Would suit visiting academic. NZD630 pw. Contact Brian on (021) 169 8917 or (09) 378 1832 or email brianpet@xtra.co.nz

Devonport cottage for rent. Available immediately - from 6 to 12 months. Right in the village with sea views and minutes from the ferry. Open plan living space opening onto private courtyard. Master bdrm with ensuite and a two further bdrms. Separate studio. Furnished or unfurnished. Suit couple or family with up to two children. \$700 pw. Contact gfgainsford@gmail.com

Flatmate required. Looking for a flatmate to share a home at stunning Piha. Furnished bdrm in a four bdrm, two bthrm, two lounge home with stunning views. \$130 pwk + \$20 to cover power, Internet etc. Sharing with home owner and student daughter. Contact sherin by email at sherinlouise@gmail.com
Fully furnished three-bdrm/two-bthrm house near Mt Eden Village and The University of Auckland Epsom Campus. On bus routes to University of Auckland City Campus. Available July to December 2012. \$500 per week negotiable. Contact rob.marg@xtra.co.nz or phone (09) 630 0360.

Holiday or short-term accommodation: Sunny, self contained, fully furnished studio in Devonport. Small kitchenette, ensuite, Queen and sofa bed. Beaches close. Five minutes by car to Devonport village and ferry to CBD. \$120 per night. Longer stays negotiable. Great for holiday or visiting staff. Phone (021) 174 4405 or donjenni@clear.net.nz

Parnell. Delightful ground floor of house to let, cottage style, secure, sunny with garden and harbour outlook. Fully furnished to high standard. Quiet street. Dble bdrm and study/bdrm, one bthrm with bath and shower (over bath). Generous living area. Polished floors, Persian rugs, carpeted bdrms and hallway. Sheltered large deck, BBQ, lawn area. Single carport. Close to hospital, University etc. Gas heating and water included in rent of \$620 pw. Suit single or professional couple. Photos and chattels list available. No agents fees. Phone Mary or Tom on 379 3928 or (021) 832 654 or email marham@xtra.co.nz

Treetop, quality apartment. Bdrm, dressing room, bthrm, kitchenette/dining, sunny deck. A retreat at the back of a villa in Herne Bay. New appliances, gas hot/cold water, carport included. \$475 pw. Quiet area, suit visiting scholar. Phone (09) 376 9589 or (021) 026 77942. View on trademe.co.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

Childcare. Excellent early childhood services available, fun for children of all ages. Safe, educational, close to your study or work place. Very affordable, high standard of care and learning. Grafton, Epsom and City Campuses. Contact Cherie, Manager EC Centres, (021) 417 832 or Sangeeta, Centre Leader, Park Ave ECE Centre, Sangeeta.mehta@auckland.ac.nz

Clean water for families - benefit concert, Mothers' Day, Sunday 13 May, 2.30pm, St Stephen's Chapel, Judge's Bay, Parnell. Artists: Margo Knightbridge (mezzo), Iain Tetley (tenor) with Warwick Gibbs (piano). \$30, to benefit UNICEF, to buy a water pump for a village in Laos. Bookings essential, church holds 45 people only. Cushions recommended, seating is wooden pews. Phone 636 4419 or email Claire@unicef.org.nz

Editing and proofreading services for all academic, literary and general writing (short or lengthy items). Please contact Dr Jan White, (021) 025 87579 or email jweditingservices1@gmail.com

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PRACTICAL ECONOMIC AND POLICY SOLUTIONS

John Maynard Keynes, the economics scholar whose revolutionary ideas became more thoroughly applied than those of any other last century, said economists should be humbly useful people, like dentists.

Becoming the founding director of the Centre for Applied Research in Economics (CARE) in the Department of Economics a year ago makes me realise Keynes's long-standing vision. The way I see it, applied or translational researchers turn "frontier research" into actionable change. The idea is so powerful, and one's advocacy of it so humble and so useful, that the change spreads of its own accord.

By contrast, frontier research itself is proprietary and strongly identified with the scientist – making superstars of a few, and helping the University improve its ranking. Applied researchers, on the other hand, are often anonymous. But because change is most powerful when ideas are democratised, applied researchers are not the stars rolling back the frontiers of human knowledge that the current celebrity culture of universities seem to demand.

Yet, for all these stars in our midst, most of the world operates far short of the research frontier. Walk into a New Zealand business place, hospital or government department and review their practices and you will rapidly conclude that they have operationalised only a fraction of leading-edge science. News from the frontier won't reach them for years.

Why is that? It's because too many frontier researchers think that publishing is the end of

the matter. That some invisible air currents will circulate their great ideas and turn them into implementable tools and policies. That selfless politicians and enlightened bureaucrats maximising social utility will scan the latest journals, eager to take up those ideas on sheer merit, and that grateful communities will embrace breakthroughs – no matter how disruptive.

Instead, what we have is only fitful circulation, politicians who more readily listen to interest groups and donors than to researchers, and a community already sold a bill of goods by ideology parading as science.

CARE's vision and approach

The idea behind CARE is to push practice to the frontier faster. CARE advocates for practical economic and policy solutions, even though the frontier research might not have originated from us. We academics are conditioned to think we should spread only the results of our own research – not the great ideas of others. Yet an equally useful role for an academic is to filter the great ideas from the good, translate them for local conditions and then diffuse them to the relevant end-users in ways which can be evaluated.

This is scientists as lobbyists – but lobbying from an evidence-based position rather than an ideology. And if we do not step in to fill the policy and operational vacuum, less disinterested lobbyists will.

CARE's recent collaboration with the Greater

Auckland Integrated Health Network on Predictive Risk Modelling, which automatically harvests databases to help GPs quickly identify high risk patients; and my publicising the evidence that better talent management skills could greatly lift our workforce's productivity, are two examples led not by my own research but by a healthy appreciation of what can work in New Zealand.

Like other centres, we also of course connect scholars with each other and foster academic growth. Likewise, our high-level goal is widely shared: to "promote the prosperity and welfare of New Zealand". To this end, our scholars collaborate with public, private and non-governmental partners.

More distinctively, CARE's approach is project-based and problem-driven, and frequently centres around themes. As we are funded by UniServices, we seek out commercial research contracts and partnerships.

We are also aware that proposals and projects in many disciplines can work better given a translational and applied-economic component. We have already collaborated with colleagues from Education, Medicine and Engineering. We are very keen to engage in multi-disciplinary projects and I would encourage our colleagues across campus to contact me at r.vaithianathan@auckland.ac.nz if they believe an economic input could benefit them.

Associate Professor Rhema Vaithianathan