



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SON AMONG GRADUANDS

A special moment came early at the first Autumn Graduation ceremony this year when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, capped his son Alex with a Bachelor of Engineering and then finished it off with a celebratory hug.

"It was a wonderful moment for me because of course you rarely get to cap your own son or daughter – I suppose it's something that only Chancellors and VCs get to do, and then only a couple of times at most."

Alex, the eldest of the Vice-Chancellor's two sons, is now working as a graduate engineer for international engineering firm Aurecon.

Alex was one of 541 Engineering graduands – among them 36 doctoral students – who received their qualifications at the first of 10 ceremonies this week.

Some 6,862 graduates received a total of 7,048 qualifications at ceremonies spread over

three days (30 April, 2, 4 May). These included 165 doctorates.

Business and Economics was the faculty awarding the most qualifications with 1,442 followed by Arts (1,316), Science (1,216), Education (983) and Medical and Health Sciences (770).

There were 476 in Creative Arts and Industries and 253 in Law.

University Chancellor Roger France as well as the Vice-Chancellor and Councillor Ian Parton personally conferred 5,069 degrees and diplomas, bestowing the rest (1,979) "in absentia" on those not attending.

Speakers at the ceremonies included Dr Mark Sagar, who has won two Oscars for his pioneering work in computer-generated faces; Kerrin Vautier, a Director of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and chair of Auckland City Mission; Jonathan Mason, Fonterra's Chief

Financial Officer; Professor David Skegg, distinguished former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago; and Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of New Zealand and founding director of The University of Auckland's Liggins Institute.

The free Graduation Gala Concerto Competition on Saturday 5 May (7.30pm) packed out the Auckland Town Hall. Three School of Music student soloists, accompanied by the University's Symphony Orchestra conducted by Uwe Grodd, competed for a grand prize of \$5,000, each performing a concerto. A special feature of this year's concert was a performance of Mozart's *Dies Irae* for choir and orchestra by The University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra and massed choir.



New reasons to celebrate

The Celebrating Research Excellence event is always a festive occasion.

Taking place in the week of Autumn Graduation, it gives a chance for the University's top researchers to enjoy the accolades they so richly deserve, and for all staff who contribute to the advancement of research to take pride in the results of their efforts.

This year's theme was excellence in commercialisation and this was reflected not only in the displays of some of the University's most innovative research but also in the introduction of the new Vice-Chancellor's Commercialisation Medals, developed by the University and UniServices.

The inaugural medals were presented by the Hon Stephen Joyce, Minister for Science and Innovation (among other portfolios) to Distinguished Professor Bill Denny and Professor Bill Wilson, innovators in the world's biotechnology sector and leading anti-cancer drug developers, and to Professor John Boys and Associate Professor Grant Covic, recognised for

their extensive commercialisation of Inductive Power Transfer.

Mr Joyce spoke of the success of The University and of UniServices in supporting New Zealand's economic development. The University, he said, was leading the way in New Zealand and had used its funding well, with the help of high-quality decision-making.

Peter Lee, CEO of UniServices, said the criteria for judging the

medals, agreed jointly by UniServices and the University, included "the number of patents and patent applications...; the amounts spent by business in developing and acquiring the technology...; and the number of licences and spin-outs, which indicate the number of new jobs created for New Zealand".

Introduced by Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and presented by Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, were the Early Career Research Excellence awards, received by Dr Donna Addis (Psychology), Faculty of Science; Dr Zaher-Ud Din Babar (Pharmacy), Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences; Dr Davina Caddy (Music), Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries; Dr Peng Cao (Chemical and Materials Engineering), Faculty of Engineering; Dr Martin East (Curriculum and Pedagogy), Faculty of Education; Dr Nicholas Rowe (Dance Studies), Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries; and Dr Donald Wlodkowic (Chemical Sciences), Faculty of Science.

Photo: Left to right are Peter Lee, Hon Stephen Joyce and Professor Bill Wilson.

Most recipients responded with warm appreciation for the support they had received, from family and friends, from the faculties and the University.

One award-winner expressed his thanks "for maintaining a faculty in which anything is possible".

Associate Professor Carolyn Daley, Dean of Graduate Studies, in introducing the winners of the Best Doctoral Thesis Awards, described them as "the best of the best", with 19 finalists of such a high standard that selecting the top five had been even more difficult than usual. The award-winners were Dr Ben O'Brien (Auckland Bioengineering Institute), Dr Isuru Jayasinghe (Department of Physiology), Dr Cherie Lacey (Department of Film, Television and Media Studies), Dr Cedric Simon (Leigh Marine Laboratory), and Dr Marjorie van Roon (School of Architecture and Planning).



Minister Stephen Joyce inspects the displays.

Highlighted events

Mining children's minds

Can children's minds help us understand deep philosophical questions? Yes they can, says this year's Douglas Robb lecturer, Alison Gopnik, professor of psychology and affiliate professor of philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley. An internationally recognised leader in the study of children's learning and development, Alison gives the first of three lectures tonight, Thursday 17 May at 7pm in the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building. It is titled "The power of possibility: Truth, imagination and learning". The second lecture, "What is it like to be a baby? Consciousness, attention and memory", is on Monday 21 May and the third, "Love and law: Caregiving and morality", on Wednesday 23 May. See www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

Midsummer madness

On an enchanted summer's evening, four young lovers find themselves entangled in a bewildering game of lust and longing. In a magical forest where a powerful fairy king and queen are at war, nothing is quite as it seems: mischievous spirits run riot, confusion reigns and love conquers all. On now until 26 May in the Maidment Theatre is the Auckland Theatre Company's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies. It is directed by Colin McColl and Ben Crowder, with a cast that includes Brooke Williams, Laurel Devenie, Stuart Devenie and Andrew Grainger. The performance is suitable for those 12 years and over. For telephone bookings and enquiries, phone (09) 308 2383. Session times vary according to the day.

Helping children succeed

Most parents know instinctively that being actively involved in their children's education will give them a good head-start in life. But with many parents facing competing demands at work and at home, finding the time can be a major challenge. Professor Stuart McNaughton, Director of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre, will discuss in this lecture what parents can do to help their children succeed in school, including offering evidence-based strategies that require genuine interest and active engagement, rather than endless hours and specialist knowledge. Admission is free and the session will be held on Tuesday 22 May from 1-2.30pm in the Conference Centre Lecture Theatre Building 423, Room 342, 22 Symonds Street.



Signed up for training

“Thank you for taking a long but all-too-short trip to be with us for this occasion,” said Professor Iain Martin, the University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Strategic Engagement.

He was speaking at the signing of a formal agreement between the Confucius Institute at The University of Auckland and Shanghai Jiaotong University in China, which took place on 24 April in the Chinese Cultural Centre in the Owen G Glenn Building.

This agreement marked the launch of the Shanghai Jiaotong University Training Centre for Graduate Students, the formalisation of a cooperative enterprise which has arisen over the last few years and has involved the mentoring by the Confucius Institute of trainee teachers from Jiaotong University while they worked with New Zealand teachers in primary and secondary schools.

Present at the signing were the members of a delegation from Shanghai Jiaotong University, comprising Vice Director of the Council, ZHANG Shengkun, who is also Dean of the School of International Education; DU Chao Hui, Executive Vice Dean of the Graduate School; LI Bailing, Professor of the School of International Education; and MO Xiaoling, Assistant Dean of the School of International Education. They were visiting Auckland from 22 to 26 April.

Professor Du, in speaking of Shanghai Jiaotong University as one of the oldest and best universities in China, with a 160-year history,

emphasised the value of its close relationship with The University of Auckland.

“Our students are very happy here. I think the centre will be successful and we will have many chances for cooperation in the future.”

Also speaking at the event was one of the three masters students from Shanghai Jiaotong who are at present working here as teaching assistants.

“When I learned I would have the opportunity to come to New Zealand for a year, my initial response was excitement,” said Song Jiao.

“Then the panic came and questions started looming in my mind. Would the children like me? Would I be a good teacher? Would I miss my home and my family too much? Like a little girl, I asked my mother ‘Should I go?’

“My mother said, ‘Of course you should go. You’re 24 years old. It will be a wonderful experience for you.’”

Now Song Jiao has been here in New Zealand two months and acknowledges that her mother was right. “I like it here. I’ve worked at three lovely schools. All the children are lovely, polite and creative, a joy to teach.”

Song Jiao is one of 22 masters students from six Chinese universities who are being mentored at the Confucius Institute in Auckland. Three of these are from Shanghai Jiaotong University.

Photo: Professor Zhang Shengkun listens as Song Jiao speaks to the guests.



Much has been made in recent years of claims (some of them by staff at other universities) that the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) has reduced the degree to which university staff are willing to engage with New Zealand businesses. Such statements pose a potential threat to the future of the PBRF and the over \$70m it brings into the University each year given that the present Government is very focused on economic development as a key outcome of its investment in research.

Many of us have suspected that these claims are nonsense, not least because we know that significant numbers of researchers who perform very well in the PBRF are also very active in commercialising their research (most obviously in the science, business, engineering and medical fields). And a new study from the Ministry of Education (“Commercialisation of university research”, R. Smyth and W. Smart www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/tertiary_education/commercialisation-of-university-research), confirms that view. Using data supplied mainly by the University Commercialisation Offices of New Zealand it shows that, in the five years following introduction of the PBRF in 2003, university contract research income and number of invention disclosures rose substantially, in most cases by more than 50 percent. Market value of university start-up companies rose until 2007 when, not surprisingly, it fell as world markets collapsed. On this basis, at least, there is no reason to tinker with the PBRF.

These results are in many respects unsurprising. The PBRF has encouraged and supported increased research activity and quality, and has done so across a whole range of disciplines. Some of that research will have potential benefits for industry and, through Auckland UniServices Ltd, our research commercialisation company, we are better placed than we ever have been to create partnerships between our researchers and the business community. Indeed, the report shows that our University ranked third in Australasia for research income from industry per academic staff member. But much of our research does not have direct economic outcomes, and nor should it. Instead it contributes to fundamental knowledge and to the social, cultural and environmental advancement of New Zealand. For those disciplines too, the PBRF remains an important mechanism to incentivise and support research of the highest quality.

Most attractive employer

The University of Auckland has received the 2012 Randstad Award for the most attractive employer in the Education sector.

It was also named in eighth place in the overall rankings for the most attractive large New Zealand employers.

Human Resources Director, Kath Clarke, who accepted the award on behalf of the University at the Randstad Awards dinner on 3 May, was delighted – for very good reasons.

“This is not an award for which organisations can apply,” said Kath. “It is an entirely independent award, based on a large public opinion survey.

“It is a wonderful affirmation of the efforts we have been making to ensure that the

University is a vital and vibrant place to work and to respond to feedback from the staff surveys. One of our aims is to create a culture where people are supported to develop their potential and achieve what they aspire to. The draft strategic plan has an emphasis on people and objectives that will help us focus on making the University a great place to work – for current staff and for the young people who will be commencing their careers over the next few years, with different expectations from those of previous generations.

“It is very positive that New Zealanders are recognising that universities – and this one in particular – are excellent places to work and achieve career aspirations.”



High point of family life

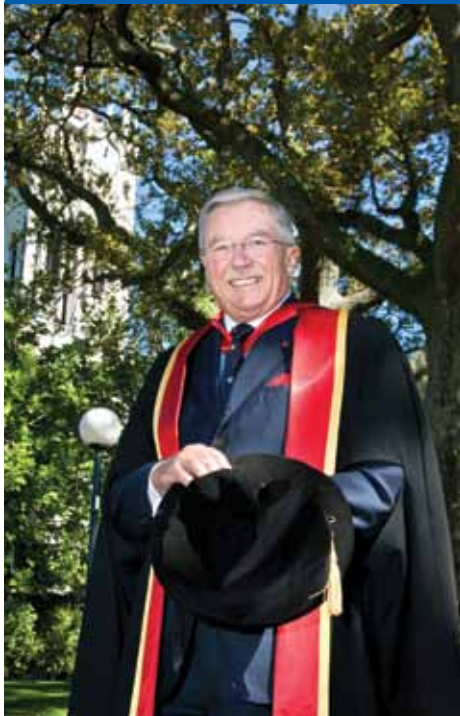
Auckland Mayor Len Brown was among the throngs of beaming parents at Autumn Graduation as his eldest daughter Samantha graduated with a Bachelor of Planning (BPlan Hons).

The 24-year-old, who took a year off during her degree to have her son Luca, said it felt great to be "finally finished and with honours".

Samantha is working as a planner at an Auckland consultancy firm. She said the occasion was special not only for herself but for her tightknit family who had been through a lot. "It had been a particularly hard time, with Len having his heart attack and mum having had cancer."

Len who was a "very proud" dad watched the ceremony from the stage: "It's the high point of family life really, when one of your children qualifies, especially when it is the first of your children and it's in planning."

PhD for District Court Judge



Every morning District Court Judge and new doctoral graduate, David Harvey, gets up at 5am and swims a kilometre at Newmarket's Olympic pool.

It's a routine that over the last six years has enabled him to do his job at court while simultaneously researching and writing a thesis for his PhD in Law, teaching a Law and Information Technology elective course for third and fourth-year Auckland Law students and, on top of all that, publish a new edition of his text book *Internet.Law.NZ*

"Generally I plan my day in the pool," says the former international Mastermind champion. "I'm then into the office by 7am and have completed a couple of hours of my own work before I start the day job."

David's PhD thesis, supervised by both Law and History academics, studies the development of the printing press, the various regulatory structures that developed around it and its use by law printers, lawyers, law students and the

State between 1475 and 1642. The thesis takes the theory of Professor Elizabeth Eisenstein in her book *The Printing Press as an Agent of Change* and considers it within the context of the intellectual activity of the English legal profession in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

"It's difficult to work out the drivers of change so I thought I would examine the way a technology acted as an agent of change within a particular intellectual or literate elite and then develop an analysis of the technology on behaviour," says David.

Rather than travel overseas he used modern-day technology to speed up his research process, studying early English books online and digitising secondary material. He says the academic discipline of doing a PhD has brought rigour to his role as a District Court Judge.

"You learn to footnote everything. It imposes very high standards. And I think the PhD's been of considerable assistance."

A day to remember



"I feel very good, it has been a long road but it's definitely been worthwhile," says Manuel Seidel, who graduated on Monday 30 April with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering.

Manuel explains: "It's really exciting because it wasn't a traditional PhD, where you'd be sitting in the lab or in front of the computer; it was more practically orientated, which is really fantastic."

Standing next to proud father Dr Rainer Seidel from the Department of Engineering, Manuel is excited about his chosen career path.

"Do something that is multi-disciplinary, step outside the box, engage with other people and

work as a team: that's the key thing."

While studying, Manuel worked closely with companies, helping them to understand the challenges they face moving along the path towards sustainability. And, along with his father's PhD students and with help from the Spark Entrepreneurship Challenge, he set up the environmental management consultancy called KBS Sustainable Innovation Partners and developed the web-based environmental management software system, ecoPortal.

"This is definitely a special day and something to remember for sure".

Hard work rewarded



Aue Te Ava, a researcher for the Pacific Island Family Study on health and wellbeing at Auckland University of Technology, celebrated receiving a doctorate in education from The University of Auckland at Autumn Graduation.

"It's a great feeling to graduate today after all the hard work," he said.

Aue's research explored how Cook Islands core values identified by community elders could be incorporated into culturally responsive practice in the context of physical

education teaching with Year 9 and 10 students in three Rarotongan secondary schools. His findings showed that students valued the opportunity to engage in cultural activities within their physical education programme.

Originally from the Cook Islands Aue completed his bachelor and masters degrees from Brigham University in Hawaii before moving to New Zealand in 2002.

He received a doctoral scholarship from the University of Auckland plus funding from the Ministry of Education to complete his doctoral research.



Triple treat

The Namik family came together to celebrate a trifecta.

Brothers Salim (right) and Hazim graduated with PhD's in Engineering while their younger sister Hanna was conferred with a BSc in Biological Sciences.

"I feel so happy, I really feel so happy," says their mother Ban Ezzat who, along with husband Said Namik, flew in from Dubai for the occasion.

Salim, Hazim and Hanna moved to New Zealand to study at The University of Auckland and Ban visits every year: "I see my children in June, July and August and go back to Dubai because their father is working there," she smiles.

The family, who are originally from Iraq, laugh a lot and there is constant teasing between the boys and their sister about which graduation hood is the best colour. For elder brother Salim, who is now a Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, achieving academic success has

never been about competing but about "achieving as much as possible and doing the family proud".

Both brothers want to work in New Zealand eventually. Hazim, who is a Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering, has a one-year postdoctoral position as a research scholar at the University of Texas in Dallas, while Salim is considering his options but hopes to find a position in radio and telecommunications engineering. Also on the table are academic and postdoctoral positions and fellowships.

Salim and Hazim cite the highlight of their studies as being "the great bunch of people we studied with", as they are among seven fellow students who also graduated with PhDs at the Monday ceremonies and have been together since their bachelor days.

Hanna has already embarked upon her next course of study. This year she is enrolled in Optometry.

In his own words



Leon Evans with his mother at Autumn Graduation.

Leon Evans, who graduated Master of Engineering in Medical Devices and Technology, describes the path that took him through this new programme, offered for the first time in 2011.

The story begins at the beginning of 2011. After being with Fisher & Paykel Healthcare for

three years as a graduate mechanical engineer (from Canterbury) the company offered to fund me through the newly created programme. This sounded like just the challenge I was looking for.

I was fairly certain I wanted to continue growing my career in the field of medical devices, and the programme really confirmed this and

stimulated my interest in the industry.

I enjoyed the great selection of lecturers and guest speakers, each presenting his or her successes or failings in the field, allowing students to gain real-life insights and learn from their experiences. We had stimulating debates on common dilemmas faced during the design,

manufacture and implementation of medical devices. We also had plenty of classroom time to learn from presenters and from our class mates. In addition, half of the programme consists of a research project in conjunction with industry. Mine was concerned with optimising vent holes in adult CPAP interfaces (machines for sleep therapy, which help with breathing difficulties). The purpose was to increase patient comfort and make them more relaxed about using the machines.

The course has spurred me on to seek a greater understanding of the market place our devices are being used in. After four years of engineering design I am now sales representative for F&P Healthcare in Victoria Australia, where I am gaining insights into our customers, users and patients that I could never get sitting behind a desk.

Sweet gift for graduation



Louise Menzies, a contemporary artist and part-time lecturer at the Elam School of Fine Arts, graduated with a Masters in Fine Arts at Autumn Graduation.

"The lei I was wearing had been given to me from a close friend's mother because she knew my mum wasn't going to be there. It was really special to be wearing it," said Louise.

The 31-year-old's final show for her masters, titled *The Garden of MB*, was a 16mm film projection of the St Kevins Arcade. The installation included a series of potted palms, markers for camera positions that mapped the early twentieth century architecture of the arcade.

Support was the key



Few could have had a more challenging start to their doctoral studies than what faced Suzanne Ackerley when she began her PhD in Clinical Neuroscience.

In 2006 Suzanne was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, first noticing a symptom just before starting at the University. "I left my physiotherapy job on the Friday, felt a lump on my neck on Sunday and started my PhD on Monday. Over those first few weeks at the University, I was busy getting tests and scans done."

Far from deterring Suzanne the news seemed to strengthen her resolve to undertake research and pursue a long-held passion to help people in some way.

"I've always wanted to do research into stroke rehabilitation and so as long as I could continue

to do it, I would keep doing it. If anything, the research was an opportunity, at quite a crazy time, to feel a little bit normal. It gave me a good break from thinking about my health."

Suzanne's research, supervised by Professor Winston Byblow of Sport and Exercise Science and Dr Cathy Stinear of the School of Medicine, looked at how rehabilitation could be improved by priming the brain before therapy using either an auditory cue or non-invasive brain

stimulation. The desired effect in both cases is an increase in "neural plasticity" - new neural connections formed in the nervous system which help lead to a recovery of function.

"We are basically asking how we can boost what we get out of therapy for stroke. I looked at how we can improve arm and hand movement, by combining priming techniques with physiotherapy. It was exciting to find that the control of hand and arm movement by the stroke side of the brain could be improved even in patients who had experienced a stroke years before."

When people practised movements paced with a metronome, neural plasticity increased, with further improvement when the metronome was set to the patient's preferred speed. In separate studies Suzanne also found

improvements in precision grip with the stroke-affected hand when patients were primed with non-invasive brain stimulation before therapy.

Suzanne's work has since been published in *Clinical Neurophysiology* and, most notably, *Stroke* - the world's leading stroke journal - with her work recognised as one of the top 25 advances in brain recovery and rehabilitation in 2010.

Having gone through chemotherapy, radiation therapy and two stem cell transplants during three years, it's easy to see the awarding of her doctorate as an extraordinary achievement. But for Suzanne it has simply been a way of life, made possible with a supportive team around her.

"I've had a lot of support from everyone - my medical team, my family, my supervisors and the department, which allowed me to do what I could manage while I was getting treatment. No one gave up on me and so I didn't give up on myself in terms of striving for the goals I'd set. I don't think you could do something like this without everyone supporting you or giving you a boost when you needed it.

"They say you should move 'one day at a time' but I think 'one milestone at a time' is a good way of putting it because whether it's a work milestone or a health milestone, you just pitch yourself a goal and you go for it."

A first for Engineering



Emily Voyde, 28, became the first woman of Māori descent to receive a PhD in Engineering at Autumn Graduation.

Her PhD in Civil Engineering investigates the ability of an extensive living roof (or green roof) to provide onsite source control for stormwater mitigation. This is a relatively new stormwater management technology internationally, which has never before been studied under New Zealand climate conditions.

Emily is now working at Auckland Council as a stormwater technical specialist and is researching new stormwater management guidelines for the city. She is also working part-time at the Faculty of Engineering as a research assistant investigating storm hydrology.

Fellowship for a good southern man



Brian Allison is a southern man.

He attended a high school in Alexandra, where he developed the intellectual self-sufficiency that comes from learning in small groups. He took a degree in commerce from what was then the University of New Zealand, and the skills he acquired in accounting and finance found him good employment in a partnership.

But Brian Allison was used to higher country, so he set his sights on a career as a company director, on boards that make decisions affecting New Zealand's whole future. The success he had there brought him to the attention of The University of Auckland, which in 2001 invited him to become one of the directors of its UniServices.

UniServices' mission is to identify ideas with likely commercial value and to connect a good concept with a viable opportunity. Government and businesses come to Uniservices to find university expertise to meet their needs. Equally, researchers go to Uniservices seeking out investment groups which might turn their dreams into commercial reality.

Brian added membership of the Board of UniServices to his portfolio because, though the position did not have a high remuneration, he saw that it would offer variety and high intellectual challenge, and because it served the public good.

He was right in his assessment and remembers in particular the development of the new anti-cancer therapies discovered by researchers in the Medical School. These were drugs that targeted tumours with hypoxic conditions, that is, tumours with reduced oxygen flow, which were particularly resistant to normal cancer therapies. UniServices facilitated the application of these new treatments, creating the basis for the company now known as Proacta Therapies. The University of Auckland now profits from an exclusive worldwide licence for all intellectual property developed as a result of this research, and still conducts the basic science in its laboratories.

The advances made at the University in the development of inductive power technology also passed through UniServices in Brian's time. Again the University profits from this research through the retention of licences that fund continuing local research as well as local applications of the inductive technology.

Brian has brought to projects like these a free-ranging interest and imagination as well as an accountant's brain. It is interesting to see how these are reflected in his leisure pursuits. He is an avid reader of the complex stories of international corruption and money laundering in the imaginative worlds created by the novelist John le Carré. He follows the arguments of the philosopher Karl Popper on the nature of totalitarian governments, as he reflects on our electoral system in New Zealand. A more unusual pursuit, but one involving another immensely significant achievement of the human imagination, is quantum theory. He says he teaches himself quantum theory in order to keep his mind active. I can think of less demanding ways of activating the mind than through complicated mathematical equations. But Brian came from the south, and southern man has always been a little different from the rest.

Brian says that he "pulled the plug" on his directorship at UniServices to make way for others with something new to offer. The University respects his decision, but hopes that in time to come he will remain plugged in to our circuit in some other way of his choosing, perhaps even by inductive power technology.

Meanwhile, in order to show its gratitude for his contribution while his plug was still in the socket, The University has awarded Brian Allison an Honorary Fellowship of The University of Auckland.

Vivienne Gray, Public Orator

Stages of success



Supervisor and student stepped out on the same stage as Dr Felicity Goodyear-Smith (right), Goodfellow Postgraduate Professor in General Practice and Primary Health Care, was conferred with her MD at the same ceremony at which one of her students graduated with a PhD in General Practice.

Dr Helen Petousis-Harris's PhD was on factors associated with reactions to vaccines, while Felicity earned her MD with a thesis based on her years of developing, evaluating and validating a tool called CHAT, now available electronically as eCHAT.

This is a primary care tool designed to help patients to identify

unhealthy behaviours such as smoking, drinking, drug use, gambling or exposure to abuse. It also allows them to pinpoint problematic mood states such as depression, anxiety or anger, and to indicate which (if any) they would like help to address. Patients can answer the questions on an iPad in the surgery.

"It starts a conversation between doctor and patient," says Felicity, "and lays a base for shared decision-making and self-help."

The tool is still being trialled but is also being used. It has received a lot of international interest, says Felicity, especially from Australia, the UK and Canada, and is now being used in Alaska, in a community setting with Inuit youth.

And how does it feel to receive the MD?

"I have been a researcher for the past decade, was promoted to professor a couple of years ago and have been supervising PhD students for some time. It feels great now to have actually graduated with a doctoral degree myself."

Selina Marsh off to poetry Olympics



Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh (English) is taking part in the largest gathering of the world's poets ever held.

Poets, rappers, spoken word artists, singers and storytellers are gathering for the Poetry Parnassus festival in London from 26 June to 1 July.

It will feature poetry from each of the 204 nations competing in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Selina will represent the country of her maternal grandfather's birth, Tuvalu. She was selected from 6,000 public nominations made for the event.

"Vaelei Tusitala is my grandfather's name. He was born in Tuvalu and moved to Samoa to study at Malua Theological College. Tusitala means teller of tales. It's a legacy handed down to me from my grandfather," Selina says.

The Poetry Parnassus is an opportunity for her to tell tales about Tuvalu on a global stage. She will perform a sequence about the impact of global warming on one of the world's lowest-lying nations.

"I hope to bring awareness and understanding to a beautiful island nation, its peoples and its ways. I will also perform poems based on diasporic perspectives on the faatele, a customary Tuvalu dance. It's a privilege to represent my grandfather's island and I hope my voice honours Tuvaluans everywhere."

As part of the festival poets will perform at free events, and will contribute a poem to a landmark anthology to be published celebrating the gathering.

Poetry Parnassus is part of the London 2012 Festival, a 12-week celebration running from 21 June until 9 September, bringing together leading artists from across the world to the UK.

From the Sorbonne to Auckland



Jean-Jacques Courtine has left the Sorbonne in Paris to join the Faculty of Arts as a Professor of European Studies.

He will significantly enhance teaching and scholarship in the School of European Languages and Literatures, where he will teach

courses on European masculinities and the culture of emotions.

He was most recently a Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the Sorbonne (University of Paris III), one of the world's oldest and most prestigious universities.

His main areas of research are firstly, language, memory and the history of public speech and secondly, the body, gender and visual culture. This second line of research, on the history of the body from the 16th to the 20th century, has resulted in many best-selling scholarly publications.

Among them his three-volume *History of the Body*, of which he is a co-editor, is the first comprehensive history of the human body ever written, covering the Renaissance to the present day.

"The book shows how the body and the way we understand it are constantly made-up, rewritten by history, by the past as well as the

culture of the day," Jean-Jacques says.

Another major project he co-edited, the three-volume *History of Manliness, from Antiquity to the 21st Century*, was published in October 2011. A former top rugby player in France, Jean-Jacques is well-placed as a scholar on masculinity and virility.

"From antiquity to the modern day, the model of masculinity is always evolving. But a constant has been the use of masculinity and virility as a justification for men to be tough, aggressive and physical. This book questions whether this is the real nature of a man, or a social construct. Again it looks at the profound influence of war, the ultimate test of masculinity, and how masculinity is expressed and has changed in the absence of war."

Jean-Jacques has also held posts as Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Southern California (1989-1993) and at the University of California, Santa Barbara (1993-2003).

International event boosts arts education

The United Nations Education Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) will spend next week celebrating the inaugural International Arts Education Week at its Paris Headquarters.

Associate Professor Ralph Buck, Head of Dance Studies at NICA, will attend this high profile event, which includes a symposium and official ceremony officiated by the Secretary General of UNESCO and ministers of the Korean Government.

Ralph, who chairs the Executive Council of the World Alliance for Arts Education, has been invited to be one of two arts education experts to moderate the symposium that will focus on the implementation of the Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education and cultural diversity in and through arts education.

To be celebrated in the fourth week of May every year, International Arts Education Week will honour and celebrate arts education in diverse societies and cultures and will showcase

practices, traditions, innovations, projects and research.

Ralph has worked with a team of international experts in advocating for this event.

For more information about the event and about UNESCO's advocacy of arts education, go to www.unesco.org

Rhodes Scholar returns



The first Pacific Island Rhodes Scholar, Dr Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa, has returned to the University after a decade teaching at an elite US university.

The celebrated Samoan academic was part of a unique cluster of Pacific researchers at the University of Michigan, where he specialised in the British Empire.

The University of Auckland/Oxford educated scholar says he is thrilled to be based once again in the Pacific. He has joined the Centre for Pacific Studies in the Faculty of Arts as an Associate Professor.

"I am honoured to be back at a University that is home to so many great Pacific researchers and to be teaching Pacific undergraduates. Forty percent of Pacific undergraduates in New Zealand are at this University. It's very important to me to be a part of that," he says.

A Pacific historian, Damon says the Pacific is becoming increasingly important economically, politically and environmentally. Despite this, he observes that New Zealand does not necessarily see itself as part of the Pacific region.

"New Zealanders have a category of Pacific Islander that doesn't include themselves, even though they are right here in the Pacific.

"Yet the Pacific is such an important region. It commands critical resources, including, of course, fish. It is the major field for studying climate change, and the bridge between China and the US. Countries are competing for strategic alliances with the Pacific and the rivalry between China and the US will increasingly be played out there. Pacific Islanders know this, they are very much aware that the Pacific is where the future is being made."

Damon is interested in how small Pacific nations deal with and negotiate large and powerful government influences without losing their identity or control over their own lives – something he says Pacific nations are already very good at.

Auckland born, Damon made his name in New Zealand when he won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford and then a National Library research fellowship to write a people's history of Samoa in the 19th century - the first time the award had been given for Pacific studies.

He has written extensively on the history and colonisation of the Pacific and is a contributor to the *New Oxford History of New Zealand*. His recent book *Racial Crossings* (Oxford University Press 2011) examines race and intermarriage in the Victorian British Empire.

He is also an editor of a new book to be released later this year, *Tangata o le Moana: New Zealand and the People of the Pacific*, which is the first illustrated history of its kind to tell the stories of Pacific people in Aotearoa. It accompanies the exhibition of the same name at Te Papa Museum of New Zealand.

Top award for Peter Hunter



Professor Peter Hunter is to receive a lifetime achievement award from the world's largest international society of biomedical engineers.

Peter, who is the Director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, will be presented with the award by the IEEE Engineering in Medicine

and Biology Society (EMBS) at its annual conference in San Diego, California, on 29 August.

The award recognises Peter's pioneering contributions to multi-scale physical modelling of biological systems, in particular his work on the Physiome Project, a major international project that aims to build sophisticated computer models of all the human body's organs.

The award is given annually to an individual for his or her outstanding contribution and achievement in biomedical engineering as an educator, researcher, developer, or administrator who has had a distinguished career of 20 years or more.

IEEE EMBS, the largest international society of biomedical engineers, has 9,100 members in more than 97 countries.

National Heart Foundation – Fellowships and Grants

Funding for heart research, to enable cardiologists and researchers to carry out research and undertake training. Applications for research fellowships, small project grants, grants-in-aid and travel grants are invited. University deadline is Friday 25 May. Contact Julia Zhu, Research Administrator, Research Office, ext 83986, julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz

Neurological Foundation – Travel Grants

Applications for travel grants are invited from either a principal investigator or a named associate in a Project Grant funded by the Foundation, or holders of a Foundation Scholarship or Fellowship. University deadline is Friday 25 May. Contact Lorraine Scott, Senior Research Administrator, Research Office, ext 88652, lo.scott@auckland.ac.nz

Maurice & Phyllis Paykel Trust – Travel Grants

Grants-in-aid to provide assistance with the costs of travel relevant to research in a health-related field. Includes travel to scientific meetings; visits to research centres and short travel periods to work in research laboratories or undertake research training. The award amount is usually \$1,000-\$3,000. Researchers seeking funds for personal attendance at a conference must apply using the Travel Grant category even if the conference will be held locally. (Conference Support Grants are not available for this purpose). University deadline is Friday 25 May. Contact Lorraine Scott, Senior Research Administrator, Research Office, ext 88652, lo.scott@auckland.ac.nz

Ministry of Science and Innovation on behalf of The Ministry of Primary Industries (formerly MAF) has issued a Request for Proposals for Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change research. Funding available is \$7.1m, covering the following themes:

- Impacts of climate change and adaptation.
- Mitigation of agricultural and forestry greenhouse gas emissions.
- Cross-cutting issues, including economic analysis, life cycle analysis, farm catchment systems analysis, and social impact.

Funding will be provided for short-term (one to two years) or medium-term (up to three years) projects. Applications are via the MSI portal. University deadline is Wednesday 30 May. Contact Jonathan Lane, Fund Specialist (MSI & TEC), Research Office, ext 84279, j.lane@auckland.ac.nz

From the collection



Established in 1964 by Auckland gallerist Kees Hos and philanthropist Dr Walter Auburn, the New Zealand Print Council flourished for over a decade before slowly going into eclipse.

Guaranteed exhibitions in the nation's major public galleries as members, artists quickly joined. Mervyn Williams, a Whakatane-born artist who had studied painting at Elam part-time in 1957 and 1958, but who never completed his diploma, was one of the first to take up membership. Working as a dinnerware designer for Crown Lynn in West Auckland alongside Frank Carpay, he had met immigrant artist Ted Dutch who taught him how to make serigraphs or silkscreen prints.

In the silkscreen process, the artist blocks out ink using a stencil placed under its screen of fine silk, and on top of the paper. When a rubber

squeegee or scraper is used to push ink evenly over the screen, colour coats only that part of the paper which is not covered by the stencil. A multiple set of prints can be "pulled" using this method, with a new screen for each colour. Although it is quick, easy and relatively cheap to prepare prints to make many copies of an image in this way, it is highly skilled. The screens have to align exactly or else there is a messy edge to the colour blocks, known as "bad registration". The usual edition size is 60 to 100 prints, with the artist including only the best results in the set. Many materials can be screenprinted, not just paper, including plastic, metal, stone and T-shirts.

Over half the prints in the Print Council's shows were silkscreens, with the medium growing in popularity as Pop Art came into fashion. Bold, bright colours and patterns were familiar from advertising in the postwar consumer boom, and had come to be appropriated into works in art galleries during the era, as part of a strategy by British and American Pop artists to have art value of commercial processes reassessed. Screenprinting was highly suitable as a process to print flat and dense colour, and is seen to effect here in the bright contrasting stripes of red, white and blue, cleanly printed.

Six major touring exhibitions were organised by the Print Council between 1967 and 1976, with the first opening at Auckland City Art Gallery. Ambitious in scope, it included 74 works by 16 artists including Mervyn Williams, and helped develop a domestic market for artists' prints which were more affordable than paintings but still original works of art.

By 1973, the Print Council was in trouble financially, and its final exhibition was held in

Masterton in 1976, with the Wairarapa Art Gallery (now Aratoi) accepting all the prints from the Print Council's collection into its art store. Capitalising on the Print Council's promotional efforts, dealer Barry Lett commissioned 12 artists to produce an unsigned, uneditioned and unnumbered set of prints called the Barry Lett Multiples. Costing just \$35 for the full set of 12, prints were made to meet demand, with the aim of making art more accessible to a wider audience.

Abstraction is Mervyn Williams' interest, but here he has combined an image of an object at the centre of his pattern, like the body of a spider surrounded by legs. It is a detailed technical drawing of a compressive mechanical device to symbolise pressure and stress, surrounded by optical patterns. In Greek myth, Dionysus granted King Midas his wish that all he touched would turn to gold, but Midas let his greed blind him to the consequences. Soon (to his regret) Midas's food, drink and even his lovely daughter were irrevocably golden. Williams' title is redemptive: *Midas finds his Soul*, but the artist has written that he thinks of the image as cautionary: "It symbolises certain ill-considered tendencies in our society...[which] endlessly exploit both physical and social environments to render them ultimately unsuitable for human habitation."

Mervyn Williams, Midas finds his Soul, 1968, screenprint

Linda Tyler

Books



It takes courage to challenge entrenched beliefs – and time to change them.

Sir Peter Gluckman (Liggins Institute) and Professor Mark Hanson (University of Southampton) have spent much of their distinguished careers amassing scientific evidence that patterns of adult health and disease risk are established early, even before we are born. They say the current prevalence of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease results not from perverse human behaviour – "the sins of gluttony and sloth," as they put it – but from a mismatch between the way our bodies have evolved to use and store energy, and our modern-day lives.

Peter and Mark have been frustrated by authorities' blinkered insistence that the epidemic of non-communicable disease – which saps developed nations' health budgets and threatens to overwhelm

the developing world – will be cured through a sole focus on changing adult lifestyles. In *Fate, Fat and Disease* (Oxford University Press) they present non-scientific audiences with persuasive evidence showing why exercise and diet are just not enough.

They encourage officials, individuals and communities to focus on prevention, calling for better health and awareness amongst young women and men, before they start their families.

International organisations can no longer ignore the social, cultural, and biological factors that make different populations and people respond differently to living in the modern nutritionally rich world. They suggest that, rather than a villain, the food industry represents a potential ally in a smarter, integrated approach to a global problem.

What's on

THURSDAY 17 MAY

WebQuests for inquiry-based learning

1-3pm CAD Seminar Rm 210, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. In this two-part session, participants will be introduced to WebQuests as an online teaching tool; making use of current and valid web resources. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or call CAD reception at ext 88140.

2012 Gibbons Lecture

Assoc Prof Ian Watson, Dept of Computer Science, UoA: *Alan Turing and the artificial brain: The development of artificial intelligence*. 5.30pm Conference Centre, Rm 423, 22 Symonds St.

First Sir Douglas Robb Lectures 2012

The philosophical baby: What children's minds can teach us about the big questions. Prof Alison Gopnik: *The power of possibility: Truth, imagination and learning*. 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free, all welcome. No booking required. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

FRIDAY 18 MAY

Pro Vice-Chancellor Tāmaki Innovation Campus seminar

Prof David Raubenheimer, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University: *The geometry of nutrition: the protein leverage hypothesis and why the Atkins diet won't work for gorillas*. 3-4pm Lecture Theatre 732.201, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

SATURDAY 19 MAY

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Dr Erika Wolf discusses the work of Peter Peryer. Erika lectures on both historical and contemporary photography in the Department of History and Art History at the University of Otago. She co-edited the recent anthology *Early New Zealand Photographs: Images and Essays*. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 21 MAY

SPSS core skills workshop

9.30am-4pm CAD Training Rm 202, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Phone 923 8140 with queries or to enrol. **Second Sir Douglas Robb Lectures 2012**

The philosophical baby: What children's minds can teach us about the big questions. Prof Alison Gopnik: *What is it like to be a baby? Consciousness, attention and memory*. 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free, all welcome. No booking required. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

TUESDAY 22 MAY

Combining parenting and a career seminar

Professor Stuart McNaughton, Director, Woolf Fisher Research Centre: *What can parents do to help their children succeed in school?* 1-2.30pm Conference Centre Rm 342, 22 Symonds St.

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Cathy Stinear, Clinical Neuroscience Laboratory, Dept of Medicine, and Centre for Brain Research, and Prof Winston Byblow, Movement Neuroscience Laboratory, Dept of Sport and Exercise Science, and Centre for Brain Research: *Brain connectivity after stroke: a framework for individualised rehabilitation*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Public lecture

Prof Julie Kerr-Berry, Minnesota State University: *Dance education in an era of racial backlash: Moving forward as we step backwards*. 5.30-6.30pm, Rm 501, Bldg 421, 26 Symonds St. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY

Department of Sociology seminar

Helen Warren, Senior Lecturer, Addictions, AUT: *Personalising and individualising addiction as a social construction of power*. 11am HSB 901.

Communique 2012

Taira Nishizawa: *Wooden works*. 6-7pm Lecture Theatre 401, Bldg 401, 20 Symonds St.

Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz

Final Sir Douglas Robb Lectures 2012

The philosophical baby: What children's minds can teach us about the big questions. Prof Alison Gopnik: *Love and law: Caregiving and morality*. 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free, all welcome. No booking required. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

THURSDAY 24 MAY

Centre for Earthquake Engineering Research/Dept of Civil and Environmental Engineering seminar

Prof Ian Buckle, University of Nevada, Reno, USA: *Earthquake engineering in a flat world: Improving the performance of civil infrastructure*. 6-7.30pm Rm 401.401, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

Queries to n.chouw@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural lecture

Prof Anthony Endres, Economics: *The international financial system in the age of complexity*. 6-8pm OGGB 5, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

SATURDAY 26 MAY

Exhibition talk

Assume Nothing: Elam lecturers James Cousins and Dr Simon Ingram discuss recent developments in painting. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

SUNDAY 27 MAY

The Auckland Chamber Music Society Prize

2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. An afternoon of student ensemble performance by top School of Music chamber groups as they compete for this valuable annual prize. Free.

WEDNESDAY 30 MAY

Department of Sociology seminar

Denis Hippert, PhD student (Paris Descartes-Sorbonne), Honorary Research Fellow, UoA: *Falling in love: a dramaturgical approach*. 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

Birkenhead: Four bdrm house next to forest reserve, quiet and private, available July 2012 to January 2013. Furnished, piano, decks, etc. Would suit visiting researcher/family. Easy access to schools, library, beaches; easy bus and ferry to University and CBD. Rent, utilities, and car use negotiable. Contact lisa.samuels@gmail.com

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

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 pw negotiable. Contact rob.marg@xtra.co.nz or phone (09) 630 0360.

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

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Are you looking for a mature, reliable couple (n/s) to care for your home (and pet?) while you are away? Academic recently moved to Auckland. Current house-sit finishes late June 2012. Term negotiable 4-12 months. Areas within 45 minutes of Epsom Campus preferred. Email Karen at k.major@auckland.ac.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

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 Nicola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs, or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz Visit www.rainey.co.nz

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JOURNALISM IN CRISIS

There has seldom been a time in the past century when journalism has not been “in crisis”.

Shortcomings have been found in journalism and its institutions since Upton Sinclair wrote his 1919 muck-raking exposé, *The Brass Check*, with its brothel-keeping allusions. Now, once again, journalism is “in crisis”. The Leveson enquiry is grappling with allegations of criminal wrongdoing by Britain’s tabloid press but there is a broader dilemma that makes this “crisis” different: The issue may be the survival of professional journalism.

The crisis was underway when I retired from daily journalism in 2005. The internet had already eroded newspapers’ “rivers of gold” – classified advertising – and digital technology had fragmented the market that had previously been held by free-to-air broadcasters. All traditional media had to compete more aggressively for shrinking audiences and, as a result, the journalism changed to become more entertaining and attention seeking.

Since 2005 the editorial budget cuts made by profit-driven owners of news media companies throughout the English-speaking world (and beyond) have seen newsroom resources fall below the point where we can credibly expect journalists to meet all of the public service roles that were traditionally expected of them. Whole areas of reportage – such as courts and local government meetings – have been side-lined and specialist journalists have become generalists. Newsroom numbers have fallen to the point where the vast majority of journalism graduates in the near future will work on the

other side of the fence in public relations or marketing.

I saw my retirement from daily journalism as only a waypoint, a time to change direction. I came to The University of Auckland to gain masters then doctoral degrees in order to add scholarship and theory to my practical experience in the hope that I can contribute more constructively – and objectively – to the debate on journalism’s survival. My doctoral thesis examined the role of trustee-ownership in preserving what I called democratically significant journalism. The topic was chosen because I have become convinced that the problems facing journalism cannot be solved without also addressing the structures within which it resides.

The early history of journalism was driven, as Alexis de Tocqueville observed, by the need for political and intellectual associations to have a means of communication that “echoes a doctrine or opinion common to a large number of men”. This civic function prevailed, along with a growing role as a check on power, but was overlaid by commercial interests around the turn of the twentieth century. When media companies became listed on stock exchanges the profit motive became their principal driving force. While the good times rolled – and advertising revenue kept rising – this did not present a problem and the incentive to become a public company became almost irresistible. Companies that were once owned by individuals or small groups for civic purposes now passed into the hands of shareholders who saw the enterprises as merely another (often lucrative)

investment in a manufacturing enterprise. In the process news became another commodity, to be marketed and sold like other manufactured goods.

Unfortunately, the good times have not continued to roll and the business model that governs mainstream media companies has, by some estimations, deep fissures in it or, by other accounts, is irrevocably broken. Fissures, yes, but not yet completely broken. What is evident, however, is that, while the revenue growth that drew investors to newspapers, radio and television stations has faded, the expectation of a return on investment remains. Hence, recurring cuts have become commonplace in newsrooms and content has become increasingly populist in a desperate bid to attract dwindling audiences. Professional public issues journalism is under increasing threat while it resides primarily in corporate structures designed for other times.

For many years academic institutions, The University of Auckland included, have studied what is wrong with journalism. There is now a pressing need to study ways of rescuing journalism and placing it in structures that recognise both new commercial realities and the old civic purposes to which it should be put. If that is not done, a time may come when academic institutions study what is wrong with society after professional journalism has gone.

Dr Gavin Ellis, a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Studies, is a former editor-in-chief of the New Zealand Herald. His PhD was conferred on 4 May.