



A record 160 people turned out for the year's first Combining Parenting and a Career (CPC) seminar.

The presentation "What can parents do to help their children succeed at school?" was delivered by Professor Stuart McNaughton, head of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre.

Acknowledging that the title of the presentation came from a 2011 OECD report, Stuart highlighted three "high impact" areas for parents to focus on with their children: reading, talking and engaging.

By reading early and often with children, talking about and elaborating on the content of books, and engaging with them around stories, ideas and activities that trigger their interest, parents and carers can help build and strengthen their children's comprehension and language acquisition skills.

Stuart encouraged the audience to think of teaching as a continuum, from "explicit" to "embedded".

As children grow up and enter formal learning environments, teaching becomes more explicit; thus, the more parents, carers and whanau are able to embed learning opportunities into a diverse mix of engagement styles (such as talking, reading, singing), the greater the potential impact on their children.

From the audience he fielded a variety of questions that ranged from the pros and cons of introducing digital technologies to primary school children, ("there's no evidence that shows they're bad for learning," he said.), to whether Year 8 children should be feeling pressured by spelling tests ("kids of that age should not have examination stress"). He also responded to a concern from a dad that his eight-month-old

wanted to be read the same book every night ("repetition is good; take your cues from your child.").

"My first love is literacy. But literacy and achievement are not the be all and end all of learning," said Stuart, who noted that the New Zealand Curriculum celebrates emotional and social outcomes as well as academic success. "First and foremost, make sure your child is happy."

The Combining Parenting and a Career seminars are part of a joint initiative by the Equity Office, Tertiary Education Union and Human Resources.

For more information about Stuart's presentation, as well as previous CPC seminars, visit www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/cpc

Clear-sighted partnership



Judith McCool

How can we most effectively prevent blindness in the Pacific?

This is a key question University of Auckland researchers will be tackling as the result of targeted funding from The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ.

The Foundation, which works to eradicate avoidable blindness and restore sight in the Pacific, is funding two research scholarships to support Master of Public Health students in the School of Population Health (Global Health).

The first two students to win scholarships have already begun researching diabetes eye health

in Fiji, where the Foundation has been involved in diabetes eye care training and service provision since 2010. They are working in partnership with The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ and the Pacific Eye Institute in Suva, a training centre for Pacific eye health workers established by the Foundation in 2006.

One of the projects is looking at how local GPs perceive the importance of eye care when patients present with diabetic symptoms. Regular eye screening is vital for patients with diabetes and early intervention will help to ensure their vision is not affected by the disease.

"High blood sugar affects the retina and if left untreated can cause diabetic retinopathy, a condition that results in vision loss and even blindness," explains Dr Judith McCool, senior lecturer with the Global Health group and supervisor of the masters' projects. "A survey of local doctors will give us a better understanding

of how they approach eye health in diabetic patients."

The second project is looking at the impact of the Foundation's programmes on diabetes management and policy in Fiji. Through key informant interviews, the research will help The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ to target its interventions where they can be most effective.

To further support their work in the Pacific, The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is also helping to support a part-time fellowship position at The University of Auckland's Department of Ophthalmology.

Professor Charles McGhee, from the Department of Ophthalmology says they already have several experienced candidates interested in the fellowship

The Fred Hollows Foundation carries on the work of a very special New Zealander, the late Professor Fred Hollows (1929-1993). Fred was an internationally acclaimed eye surgeon and social justice activist who championed the right of all people to high quality and affordable eye care.

First in the family



The inaugural "First in Family" scholarship has been awarded this year thanks to the exceptional generosity and foresight of New York-based alumnus Grant Biggar.

Grant has established The Biggar Family Scholarships for students who haven't had exposure to higher learning within their immediate family. He saw the potential of this scholarship to change the lives of generations of New Zealanders.

"My family supported and encouraged me to attend university - it's just what we did. I wanted to start this scholarship to help those who may not have the same influences or support. If the scholarship enables exceptional students to attend university, who otherwise wouldn't have, then I'll consider it a huge success," Grant says.

Grant studied Accounting and Finance at Auckland and is currently the president of the financial trade execution company Creditex. This

is his first gift to his alma mater, and he is confident he will be making a difference with these scholarships.

"I want my contribution to be more direct than a general donation. I like to know that the scholarship is directly supporting a student

with financial hardship to achieve."

With Grant unable to attend the scholarship interviews himself, Grant's mother, Raewyn, and his brother, Kevin, served on the panel. Overwhelmed by the quality of the candidates, the panel chose to award the scholarships to two talented undergraduate students this year, Anna Cooper and Travis Fenton, who are studying Performance Music and Media Studies respectively.

Development Director Champak Mehta, who was also on the selection panel, said the experience was both rewarding and heartbreaking. "Everyone who made it through to the final selection had a demonstrated tenacity and focus to succeed in the face of some significant challenges; it was hard not to be personally affected by their circumstances. In the end, Anna and Travis had a slight edge over the others and the panel was delighted to be

able to help two very talented, bright, driven individuals to make their tertiary education aspirations become reality."

Anna is a passionate flautist and former member of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra. She has moved to Auckland from Gisborne and now lives in our newly opened hall of residence, University Hall. She appreciates the extra encouragement the scholarship has given, as well as the opportunity to stay nearby and to work hard without having to divide her time between University and a job.

"I think it would be really difficult studying performance music and working long hours, so this scholarship is helping me to concentrate on my studies. It's also helping me stay focused and motivated knowing I've got the support of the Biggar family behind me."

Anna is amazed at the family's kindness and is very appreciative of being able to meet them during the selection process and then informally at a celebratory morning tea.

"It is so generous; I can't believe the scholarship is for three years! I'm also happy I got to meet Raewyn and Kevin on the panel for the scholarship. They are such lovely people for doing this."

Scholarship recipients Anna Cooper (second from left) and Travis Fenton (far right) met up with Raewyn and Kevin Biggar at a morning tea hosted by the Scholarships Office and Alumni Relations and Development at Old Government House on 4 April.

Down with pain



A jet-injection device that can administer drugs with less pain and more accuracy than syringes and hypodermic needles has been developed by researchers at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US.

The needle-free device delivers a tiny, high-pressure jet of medicine through the skin without the use of a hypodermic needle. It's capable of delivering doses of medication in different quantities to various depths and can inject medication through the skin near the speed of sound.

The jet-injection research was published in the journal *Medical Engineering & Physics* and Dr Andrew Taberner, a senior research fellow at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and a senior lecturer in Engineering Science, is leading the New Zealand research at ABI's bioinstrumentation Laboratory. The MIT team is led by New Zealander Ian Hunter, the George N. Hatsopoulos Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Andrew says the device, which is being tested in the lab, can be programmed to deliver a range of doses to various depths and is an improvement over similar jet-injection systems currently commercially available.

"Jet injectors are not new but this is the first time that anyone has used a highly controllable linear motor to precisely jet-inject, which allows the user to control drug injection speed and makes it possible to rapidly repeat injections," he says.

The jet-injections are less painful than a hypodermic needle because they leave a hole about the quarter of the size of a needle or

about the diameter of a human hair. The device, which has been likened to a Star Trek hypospray, uses a magnet and a tiny piston to deliver the jet of medicine through the skin.

"The device could have many benefits including increasing the compliance rates of diabetics who have to regularly inject themselves with medication. If you are afraid of needles and have to frequently self-inject, compliance can be an issue," says Andrew.

The technology's benefits also include reducing the potential for needle-stick injuries. It provides an alternative for those with needle phobias, he says.

Andrew explains that since the device can automatically reload and deliver many injections over a short amount of time it could have advantages in third-world countries where mass vaccinations are carried out. The device could also be used for diagnostic purposes both in humans and animals because it has a "drawback mechanism" that gives it the ability to take liquid samples from patients. It also has potential applications in animal care and in food production.

Andrew established a student exchange programme between the University and MIT which has been running for the past three years. Students on the exchange programme are currently working on the jet-injection research.

"Our students are highly-regarded at MIT which is arguably the top technology university in the world."

Andrew Taberner (left) with doctoral candidate, Rhys Williams.

From the Vice-Chancellor



We are rapidly approaching the end (29 June) of the four-month consultation period on the draft Strategic Plan 2013-2020. I want to thank the staff and other interested parties who have already made submissions on the Plan. Your feedback and suggestions have been productive and useful. A number of important issues have come out of these discussions and I thought it would be worth bringing them to your attention. They include:

- The extent to which the University of Auckland should have a national versus international role
- How much attention should be paid to university rankings as benchmarks or as targets given that the rankings vary in how they measure "excellence" of universities
- How we can best ensure that the current interest by governments, in New Zealand and internationally, in research that has immediate economic benefit, does not undermine our ability to support fundamental research and research in the humanities, social sciences, creative arts and related disciplines
- How we can maintain a large, diverse, multicultural and vibrant university in economically difficult times and how best to address the needs of under-represented groups
- How we can balance our need to engage with the commercial, political and other sectors with our commitment to academic freedom and autonomy
- How we can best use our limited resources to provide a quality university environment for staff and students
- Whether we should have a specific target to create a significant endowment for the University

There is still time to send us your comments. After consultation closes on 29 June we will collate the various comments and submissions that have been received and summarise them for the University Council. That summary, together with a revised version of the Plan, will be discussed by the Council at its August meeting. Once a final version is agreed upon by Council, the Strategic Plan will become the University's guiding document for the next eight years, determining how we take the University forward and how we invest our limited resources in achieving that vision. Engagement by all stakeholders in the development of the Plan is therefore very important.

Feast of photos



BuyNow computer store, Beijing, Hebei Province, China



View from family home, Dabairo village, Tangxian, Hebei province, China

Elam. His exhibition includes about 40 photos taken in China in the last three months – mainly in Beijing and in Hebei Province, 200 kilometres south of the city. One theme in the exhibition is people photographed on the Beijing subway. “The rest are random, he says, “though I do like to capture people going about different aspects of their lives”.

Another exhibition on campus that is part of the festival of photography is *Agitate* at the George Fraser

In 1974, then-teacher Peter Peryer was accepted for a photographic workshop tutored at Elam School of Fine Arts by among others, lecturer John B. Turner. It was the beginning of an illustrious career for Peryer.

Now in a nice little twist of fate both former pupil and lecturer are exhibiting their photographs on the University campus as part of the 2012

Auckland Festival of Photography. While Peter’s portraits, including one of former head of Elam, Michael Dunn, are at the Gus Fisher Gallery, John’s *Postcards from China* (two of which are seen above) are at Projectspace B432.

John, who is director of Photo Forum Inc. and co-editor of the forum’s magazine, retired last year after 40 years teaching photography at

Gallery. It features analogue photography by Studio 4 or Honours level students at Elam. Featured work explores the processes of the analogue: its physicality, darkroom processes, and photographic materiality, concerned with keeping its techniques alive in contemporary photography and showing that it is still a useful process for expressing artistic ideas.

Pure bright Merlot earns Five Nations invitation



Goldie Wines has been invited by New Zealand’s own Master of Wines Bob Campbell to submit one of its premium wines into the Five Nations Wine Challenge.

The vineyard, owned by The University of Auckland, will be submitting the Goldie Esslin Merlot 2010, one of 100 New Zealand wines selected to compete against wines from Australia, South Africa, Argentina and Chile.

The wine received a silver rating, with a score of 91 out of a possible 100, from Bob Campbell,

who called it a “pure, bright Merlot from an outstanding Waiheke vintage; an elegant rather than blockbuster style that shows real energy and drive; plum, floral and a hint of pepper with a seasoning of classy French oak; a great first release under this new label that sets a high standard for future vintages.”

Goldie Wines General Manager Ken Christie (pictured above) is understandably proud of the nomination. “I know how much thought goes into these selections, with such a vast range of wines

to choose from. It’s particularly gratifying given the wine is young and has excellent cellaring potential before reaching its peak.”

The Five Nations Wine Challenge is open only to those personally invited by one of the five judges of the competition. There are 16 classes and each judge is asked to nominate up to seven wines from at least 14 classes; the greater objective for each country is to win not only the classes but also the “Country of Show”. The Goldie Esslin Merlot 2010 will be entered into the Merlot class.

Wines from each country are sent to Sydney with enough time to allow for cool storage before the competition. In competition, wines are identified only by number, with judges asked to judge 35 wines in all classes. Scores are then tallied with medals and trophies, including the trophy for Nation of Show, awarded according to aggregate scores.

“It’s great to be getting such praise from the wine community, with Bob’s invitation and recently with Raymond Chan’s five star review of our Cabernet Merlot Franc. It shows us that the reputation and standard set by the Goldwaters has continued on under University ownership.”

The Five Nations Wine Challenge presentation tasting and winner’s dinner takes place one month after judging and will be held in Sydney in October.

New associate professor



Associate Professor Maxine Pfannkuch (Statistics) was a secondary school teacher in Auckland for many years before switching to training secondary mathematics teachers at the Auckland College of Education.

Her third career led her to the Mathematics Education Unit at The University of Auckland where she completed a PhD in statistics education in 1999 under the supervision of Professor Chris Wild.

Her collaboration with Chris has continued through a number of research projects. Currently she is the principal investigator for a large research team, involving statisticians, researchers, teachers, and lecturers. Her research is focused on improving the quality of the statistics content that is taught in secondary schools and university introductory courses. The research of the team has led to explicating conceptual foundations for

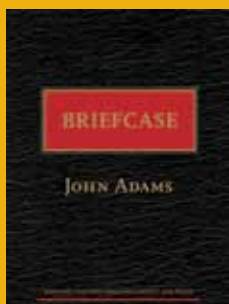
statistical inference and consequently to their introduction into the school curriculum. The team has also introduced new ways of conceptualising inference to The University of Auckland introductory statistics course.

Through designing innovative dynamic visualisations, verbalisations and other resources for learning statistical inference and through interrogating and learning from students' reasoning, the research team has created new conceptual infrastructure to assist students to visualise statistical processes. This means they can access concepts that were previously considered too advanced for them. The team has been acknowledged for its work by being invited to read a paper at the Royal Statistical Society in London in 2010 and being awarded a *Journal of Statistics Education* best paper award by the American Statistical Association in 2011.

Maxine still has strong links with the teaching profession. She gives many presentations and workshops to teachers and also liaises with people involved in curriculum and assessment development.

After so many years in education she continues to enjoy learning about how students reason in statistics, working with research teams, debating ideas with postgraduate students and other researchers and teaching undergraduate statistics students. She predicts that the major changes occurring in statistical practice and in technology will have far reaching consequences for learning statistics in the future.

Award for daring debut



District and Family Court judge John Adams has won the 2012 NZSA Jessie Mackay Award for Best First Book of Poetry for his collection, *Briefcase*, published by Auckland University Press.

This is the fifth year in a row that an Auckland

University Press book has won the best first book of poetry award.

Briefcase lends an ear to the languages that law speaks through its many agents. Centring on a domestic violence case, the collection also deals with the hurts we do to one another, and the capacity of language to mediate hurt and desire for healing.

The judging panel considered *Briefcase* to be a daring debut that marries law and poetry; a challenging, creative and moving collection.."

Said Anna Hodge: "In this disordered novella in legal documents, John pushes the languages of law and other human arrangement right to the edge of – and off – the page. Encompassing the difficulty of erecting tents, the disputation of question and answer, the blunt instrument that a stapler may be, *Briefcase* is a wisely amusing and amusingly wise collection."

Briefcase was published with assistance from Creative New Zealand. The first draft was written while John Adams completed his Masters in Creative Writing at The University of Auckland. Published in October 2011, the book has already been reprinted.

Royal Society of New Zealand – The Freemasons Roskill Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship

This fellowship provides funding for two years to enable recipients to undertake a full-time research programme within New Zealand or in the United Kingdom.

It is concerned with advancing knowledge in areas that are related to ageing, with an emphasis on understanding the biology of the ageing process and/or the discovery of potential new therapeutic targets. However, the focus remains broad-based and also supports ageing-related research in more applied or basic areas.

Award amounts: for research in NZ, an annual stipend of \$65,000 plus research costs of \$10,000; for research in the UK, an annual stipend between £28,000 and £30,000 (depending on experience), supplemented with employer contributions to National Health Insurance and United Kingdom superannuation if required.

In addition, the UK Fellowship pays research costs of £10,000 p.a., conference travel of £5,000 p.a. plus annual return airfares to New Zealand over the two-year award to enable the fellow to maintain contact with New Zealand colleagues and family, with the intention that the fellow will return and contribute to research in New Zealand.

University deadline is Wednesday, 25 July. Contact Chris Tews, Fund Specialist, Research Office, ext 88301, c.tews@auckland.ac.nz

Royal Society of New Zealand – New Zealand Postdoctoral Fellowships

These provide funding for two years to provide early career support to enable recipients to undertake full-time research programmes within New Zealand with the aim of building capability in the areas of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Applications are encouraged from within New Zealand and from those who are living overseas and would use the Fellowship to return to continue their research careers.

Award amount is an annual stipend of NZ\$65,000, in addition NZ\$26,000 to support direct and indirect research costs of which up to NZ\$5,000 can be used to support conference travel.

University deadline is Wednesday, 25 July. Contact Chris Tews, Fund Specialist, Research Office, ext 88301, c.tews@auckland.ac.nz



Cutting out photographed sets of printer's type with embroidery scissors to form the names of New Zealand's biggest corporations in 1986, Megan Jenkinson presciently depicted the flimsy basis for the sharemarket speculation which would lead to the crash of October 1987.

As Brett Wilkinson, a young executive with Rainbow Corporation, would later explain, "The listed companies [were] geared up and reported valuations largely based on dubious valuations. It was one giant pyramid game."

Pyramid schemes are illegal and involve promising enormous financial returns to those who get others to pay up to join in. They are the ultimate in non-sustainable business models, rather than being investments based on the sale of products or services. Money flows upward, and any financial outlay is immediately lost by people at the bottom as only the pharaoh, or those at the top levels in a pyramid scheme get money sent to them. Small-time investors in the share clubs that abounded in New Zealand in the 1980s would have recognised this analogy. To emphasise her point, Jenkinson reproduces a monochromatic image of Egyptian pyramids behind her triangular assembly of names, and makes reference to the "building blocks of tombs of the dead kings" in her title and inscription. Filling their limestone tombs with a hoard of golden treasure for the journey, the Egyptian pharaohs were on their way to the afterlife where they would meet their gods and achieve immortality.

Notoriety rather than immortality now attends the names of some of the executives of New Zealand's biggest corporations in the 1980s. After 1984, financial markets were deregulated making credit more easily available globally. Cash to buy shares could quickly be raised, meaning whole companies could be easily obtained, unfortunately bringing

accompanying sleight of hand such as insider trading. The wholesomely named Rainbow Corporation, which was first listed on the stock exchange in May 1984 had as its chairman Allan Hawkins who was found to have fraudulently acquired his own pot of gold. When he was jailed for six years in 1992 for having had \$66.5 million in fees paid to him through Equiticorp's complex foreign exchange transactions, his companies were described in the media as being like a house of cards.

This is another metaphor which Jenkinson skillfully deploys. A female hand reaches out to give the E of Chase Corporation's name a tap, and in so doing dislodges the N of Lion Breweries and brings down the I of Alex Harvey Industries. Rather than the unseen hand of the market, this is the action of Prudentia, one of the Cardinal Virtues, offering a corrective to unbridled greed. At the end of 1986 when this work was made, Brierly Investments, Fletcher Challenge and Chase Corporation were the

three largest listed companies, and their activities had a major effect on the New Zealand economy. Chase executives Colin Reynolds and Seph Glew featured on the cover of *Metro* magazine as the darlings of Queen Street in April 1985. They were the archetypal corporate raiders, taking over companies that were under-priced and then selling off their assets to make a quick profit.

Jenkinson responds to the havoc being wreaked around her by pointing to the importance that the virtues derived from the Greco-Roman tradition have had in European culture historically. Invoked in the title of the work is Plato's ideal state. The Greek philosopher recommended not freedom or economic well-being, but justice as the route to the good life for societies. As a commentary on the behaviour of multinational corporations, Jenkinson runs a text from Cicero's *On the Nature of the Gods* under a similar image published in her book, *Under the Aegis: The Virtues*. There she names and shames Newscorp and McDonalds atop Fletcher Challenge, with ironic use of the quote "what contrivance, what tools, what levers, what engines, what workmen, were employed about so stupendous a work?" Rather than make her art overtly didactic, she delivers a political message relevant to her times with subtlety and a wealth of classical allusion.

Megan Jenkinson, Prudentia Endeavours to Construct a Model of Plato's Ideal State with the Building Blocks of Tombs of the Dead Kings, 1986, cibachrome collage, 185 x 270mm.

Linda Tyler

Books



Over many years, Ian Athfield and his team at Athfield Architects have reshaped New Zealand architecture – from the Buck House at Te Mata

Estate to Wellington's Civic Square, from Jade Stadium to Athfield's own sprawling settlement on the Khandallah hills.

Reflecting on half a century of work, this landmark book by Dr Julie Gatley, a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture and Planning, introduces a major body of architecture that will lead readers through modernism, postmodernism and beyond.

Its four-part structure traces Athfield's formative years; the fledgling firm and its radical 1960s and '70s houses; its important break into commercial work; and finally its impact in the public, urban and institutional realms.

Athfield Architects combines newly commissioned photography, evocative original architectural drawings and a rich text informed by extensive archival research and interviews with key figures in the firm. Taking us from the slums of Manila to the streets of post-quake Christchurch, this major book, published by Auckland University Press, shows how New Zealand's leading contemporary architect is transforming the way we all might live.

What's on

THURSDAY 14 JUNE

BrainWaves seminar

Victor Borges, Mei Ping, and Dr Priscilla Logerot: *Sensory systems*. 4-5pm Seminar Room, Bldg 501-505, Grafton Campus.

- Victor Borges, Visual Neuroscience Lab, Dept of Optometry and Vision Science: *Functional magnetic resonance imaging of the visual cortex in unilateral open-angle glaucoma*.

- Mei Ping, Psychophysics Lab, Dept of Psychology:

Estimating olfactory thresholds with psychometric functions.

- Dr Priscilla Logerot, Neuroethology Lab, Dept of Anatomy with Radiology: *Auditory processing in the midbrain and role of auditory experience*.

Queries to sara.reid@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 15 JUNE

Film, Television and Media Studies seminar

John Street, University of Anglia: *Style as substance? The power of celebrity politics*. 4pm Pat Hanan Room 501, Arts 2.

SATURDAY 16 JUNE

Exhibition talk

Kyla Mackenzie talks about the works of John Weeks in response to Weeks' inclusion in the exhibition *Te Ata tu: the new light*. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 18 JUNE

Centre for Medical and Health Sciences Education research seminar

Sue McNaughton, David Cumin, Matt Gers, Craig Webster and Jennifer Weller, Centre for Medical and Health Sciences Education: *Accessing clinical wisdom: Mapping clinical students' experiences of integrated conceptual expansion and Simulation for OR teams: a view from the shoulders of giants*. 12.30-1.30pm Seminar Room, Bldg 501-505, Grafton Campus.

Queries to cmhseadmin@auckland.ac.nz

Postgraduate opportunities in social work: Information session

6-7.30pm Music Auditorium, B Block, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom. Find out more about our postgraduate programmes in social work, entry criteria, support services, timetable for Semester Two and more.

Free parking available at Gate 2.

Please register your attendance at <http://pgsw2infosession.eventbrite.com>

Queries to d.matthias@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 19 JUNE

Centre for Longitudinal Research seminar

Prof Jeffrey Simpson, Psychology, University of Minnesota: *Evolution, stress, and sensitive periods: The Influence of unpredictability in early versus late childhood on sex and risky behavior*. 10-11am Rm 220. Bldg 730, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

Queries to m.heathcote@auckland.ac.nz

Tōmaiora seminar

Dr Ricci Harris and Dr Donna Cormack, University of Otago: *Researching racism and health*. 12.30-1.30pm Rm 220. Bldg 730, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

Bioengineering research seminar

Distinguished Prof Paul Rainey, James Cook Research Fellow, NZ Institute for Advanced Study, Massey University, Albany, and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Plön, Germany: *Experimental evolution of a transition in Darwinian individuality*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Exhibition opening

Invisible Cities. 5.30pm, George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St.

A site-specific installation which responds directly to the physical gallery space in the way that a city grows and engages with its natural environment. Runs until 23 June.

Queries to l.williams@auckland.ac.nz www.georgefraser.auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE

Technology and Privacy Forum

Prof Clark Thornborson, Computer Science, UoA: *A graphic expression for privacy and identity claims*. 12noon-1pm Case Room 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

RSVP to sharon.newton@privacy.org.nz

FRIDAY 22 JUNE

Coursebuilder: Creating online courses

10am-12noon, CAD IT Training Rm 202, 2nd Floor, Fisher Building, 18 Waterloo Quadrant.

Phone 923 7951 for more information or to enrol.

US Embassy/Auckland History Teachers' Association/Department of History workshop

Presenters: Peter Field, Dept of History, University of Canterbury; Jennifer Frost, Dept of History, UoA: *US history in a global context: an interactive workshop for secondary history teachers*. 1.30-5pm Rm 206, Owen G Glenn Bldg. The presentations will include an overview lecture, discussion, teaching strategies and resources (including bibliographies, primary sources, brief secondary readings, classroom activities). This free workshop is open to approximately 20 teachers. RSVP to Jennifer Frost, j.frost@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 23 JUNE

Exhibition talk

Sam Hartnett, technician at the Centre for Art Research, leads a discussion on maintaining the University's Waipapa Marae tekoteko. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 26 JUNE

Bioengineering research seminar

Prof Richard Gardner, Professor of Microbiology, School of Biological Sciences: *Breeding a better wine yeast*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE

Fifth International Asian and Ethnic Minority Health and Wellbeing Conference 2012

7.30am, School of Population Health, Tāmaki Innovation Campus. Runs until 28 June.

Speaker: Prof Raj Bhopal, Assoc Prof Chee Ng, Prof Derrick Silove and Prof Elias Mpofu, Centre for Asian and Ethnic Minority Health Research (CAHRE).

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Kiwi academic living in the States

planning to be back in NZ next summer would like a housesit from around December to March. Skilled gardener. Reply james.carmody@umassmed.edu

Looking for a housesitter over

summer? Retired UK couple visiting their grandchildren in Auckland are looking for housesit/s over late November-January. Houseproud, reliable, honest and mature; contact mosels20@btinternet.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

Compared with the 1990s and early 2000s when many quite controversial structural and organisational reforms were introduced into the New Zealand public health system, health reform is now largely off the public radar.

However, incremental reform of the system continues, with many changes being made to the roles and functions of key agencies, plus new ways of providing services being introduced throughout the system.

Many of these changes are aimed at what the Ministry of Health calls “the sustainability challenge” where the focus is how to do more with less.

At the highest level, the government has shifted some of the responsibilities for allocating resources away from the Ministry of Health and District Health Boards (DHBs) to new or reformed central agencies. These include the National Health Board, which is now responsible for funding, monitoring and planning of DHBs as well as for managing capacity development (including capital, IT and workforce). They also include the National Health Committee, which is charged with assessing the cost-effectiveness and prioritising new and existing (non-pharmaceutical) technologies and programmes.

The expectation is that both of these agencies will contribute towards making savings within the system and hence reducing the rate of growth in health expenditure.

The DHBs are also responding to the need to reduce expenditure. To date, this has been largely by seeking internal efficiencies. However, as the squeeze gets tighter it seems inevitable that front line clinical staff will be affected

sooner or later. The recent resignation of the head of Dunedin Hospital’s emergency department because of perceived inadequacy of staffing may be indicative of things to come.

At the primary care level, the focus of current reform is on providing a wider range of services in the community rather than in a hospital setting. This includes establishing Integrated Family Health Centres through which care will be provided by multidisciplinary primary health care teams, and greater use of information technology such as telemedicine, phone triage, and health advice via email.

These new models of care often involve the shifting of professional boundaries, with pharmacists providing vaccinations, practice nurses undertaking a wider range of roles and responsibilities, and nurse practitioners prescribing a limited range of pharmaceuticals. Potentially these changes could make primary health services both more accessible and more efficient. However changing modes of practice and shifting professional boundaries can be difficult and controversial. More fundamental changes will need to be made to current funding arrangements for primary health care if health professionals are to be encouraged to pursue some of these new models of care.

One particularly concerning aspect of current health policy in New Zealand is a quiet yet definite shift away from any focus on the two key objectives that guided developments in the public health system during the terms of the Labour-led Governments from 2001 to 2009. These high level objectives were to improve population health outcomes and to reduce

disparities in health.

Instead the focus now has shifted towards securing improvements in six health targets where short-term political gain can be made from regularly publicising improvements in these targets (such as increasing the number of elective surgical procedures).

However, the causes of poor health outcomes and of health disparities have more to do with

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socio-economic factors than with health services. If the sustainability challenge is really to be addressed, health resources need to be directed into programmes which influence the fundamental causes of ill-health, thereby preventing the onset and progression of chronic diseases and reducing the need for treatment services in the longer term.

Otherwise, any achievements in containing health expenditure are likely to be short-lived.

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