

PRESTIGIOUS MEDALS IN ABUNDANCE

University of Auckland academics received the Rutherford Medal and four other Royal Society Research Honours medals at a ceremony in Dunedin on 27 November.

New Zealander of the Year, Dame Anne Salmond, Distinguished Professor of Māori Studies and Anthropology, has been awarded this year's Rutherford Medal for her "eminent work on Māori social structures and interactions with the European world, and on European exploration and engagement in the Pacific".

The 2013 MacDiarmid Medal goes to Professor Neil Broom (Chemical and Materials Engineering) "for developing novel experimental approaches that have led to major improvements in bioprosthetic heart valve function, and new insights into joint tissue structure and osteoarthritis, and intervertebral disc prolapse".

Emeritus Professor Harold Marshall (School of Architecture) was awarded the 2013 Pickering

Medal, "in recognition of his innovative research-based acoustical designs for concert halls and the profound effect these designs have had on the design of performance spaces for music, worldwide".

The 2013 Thomson Medal goes to Adjunct Professor, Dr Peter Lee (UniServices) for his outstanding contribution to commercialisation of scientific research in New Zealand, achieved most prominently as CEO of Auckland UniServices Ltd but also through his wide variety of contributions nationally.

The 2013 Callaghan Medal for science communication goes to Dr Siouxsie Wiles from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences for her contribution to raising public awareness of the value of medical science to human health and well-being worldwide.

Dame Anne Salmond is the pre-eminent New Zealand social scientist of her generation and the

first social scientist to win the Rutherford Medal. Her work has made a huge impact and provides an understanding of cultural engagement that respects the contribution of all participants and explains complex interactions in a way that is persuasive and compelling.

Internationally, she has a reputation for scholarly, original and imaginative anthropological re-creations that have earned her rare accolades of membership of scientific associations in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Her contribution to science policy, advice and governing bodies of science agencies and institutions has been outstanding.

She is one of a small number of social scientists whose work can be truly said to have shaped thinking about the structure and nature of social and cultural relationships in New Zealand and the wider Pacific.

Anne featured in the latest *Ingenio*. See: www.ingenio-magazine.com

China in change

The University of Auckland has a vibrant and valued relationship with Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

This relationship was raised to an even stronger level through a forum held on 15 November at the Presentation Room in the ClockTower Building.

More than 50 delegates and speakers gathered from both universities – and from other universities in New Zealand and Australia – to discuss recent economic, social and political changes in the People’s Republic of China and how these will affect and influence the rest of the world.

“Fudan University and the University of Auckland have been partner universities for many years,” says Nora Yao, Director of the Confucius Institute, which was established as a partnership between the two universities in 2007 and is the joint organiser of the forum with Fudan’s Development Institute. “But this forum has brought us together in a new way. And in fact it is not only for the two universities but also included speakers from other universities in New Zealand and Australia. It will help New Zealand and Australian universities to further develop their teaching and research in China Studies and will help people from China to extend their understanding of how China Studies are taught here.

“China is now New Zealand’s leading trading partner. This puts pressure on academics to enhance mutual understanding.”

Huang Hao, Program Officer for the Academic Service Centre at the Fudan Development Institute, who was visiting New Zealand for the first time, spoke of the strong relationship between the two universities and the respect between them: “Our President has been here a number of times, is



interested in the relationship and feels we have a rich cultural connection.

“We chose the forum topic to emphasise how China is changing. Thirty years ago China was poor. Now it is advancing rapidly economically and socially. Chinese people are taking a new pride in their modern culture. By creating ties with other countries through events such as this forum we are laying the base for peaceful and productive relationships in the future.”

The forum focused successively on society, economics and culture. Professor Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Strategic Engagement, gave a speech of welcome. The Vice President of Fudan University, Professor Lin Shangli was

scheduled to speak but was unable to attend. Professor Chen Yinzhong, the President’s senior adviser for international affairs, read the speech on his behalf.

The keynote speakers were Professor Yin Xiangshuo, Vice Director of the School of Economics at Fudan University, and Glen Murphy, Regional Director of Greater China, NZTE.

Nora Yao says: “It was an exciting opportunity to be able to get together experts on China across such diverse areas. We hope this is the first of many such events.”

One participant described it as “a splendid day and marvelous event”, with “compelling presentations across the range of areas”.

Christmas book offer

In a tough publishing environment, Auckland University Press has had a spectacular year in 2013 – including launching the list into digital (see page 5).

We’re thrilled to be able to offer readers new ways to dive into great New Zealand writing. But the print book continues, and we would like to offer all staff members a special 30% discount on all Auckland University Press print titles for Christmas orders. All orders due by 11 December.

Please order at <http://store.press.auckland.ac.nz/> using the code staffx13 (a handling cost applies).

Highlighted Events

Genomics pioneer

Professor Leroy Hood, one of the world’s most influential scientists, will deliver a public lecture at the Grafton Campus on 2 December at 5.30pm.

Professor Hood is a world-renowned inventor, entrepreneur and visionary whose discoveries have permanently changed the course of biology, and revolutionised the understanding of genetics, life and human health. He and his colleagues at Caltech created the technological foundation for the sciences of genomics (the study of genomes) and proteomics (holistic study of proteins in cells and tissues). Their technologies, such as DNA sequencers, have become an essential part of mapping the human genome. They have created the platform for genome and proteome research through systems biology and systems medicine.

Cool assessment

Drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, are a major cause of harms to individuals and society. In 2010, Professor David Nutt from Imperial College, London, convened a panel of experts to rate each of the 20 most commonly used drugs in the UK today, in terms of harm to self and harm to others. The panel comprised experts on the pharmacological, psychological, social and legal aspects of drug harms.

In a public lecture entitled “Drugs without the hot air: A proper assessment of drugs harms and their relative dangers”, Professor Nutt will share findings from this assessment and from his recent book.

The lecture will be at the Grafton Campus, Lecture Theatre 503-028 at 6pm on 6 December.

Golden age

Renowned conductor Professor Uwe Grodd from the School of Music will present his inaugural lecture on Austrian composer and pianist Johann Nepomuk Hummel. Entitled “Johann Nepomuk Hummel and the end of a golden age”. The lecture will take place on Thursday 5 December at 5.30pm at the School of Music Theatre, 6 Symonds Street.

Teaching and learning

The School of Medical Sciences teaching and learning showcase will take place on 29 November from 1-4pm in Lecture Theatre 505-007 at the Grafton Campus.

Teaching pioneer

Six of our top teachers have received Teaching Excellence Awards from the University this year. Here we profile Professor Peter Adams from the School of Population Health, who received one of three awards for Sustained Excellence in Teaching and has been named, along with Dr Kylee Quince in Law and Dr Deborah Walker-Morrison in European Languages and Literatures, as one of the University's three nominees for the National Tertiary Teaching Excellence awards.

During his 22 years in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Peter has advanced the teaching of communication skills to medical students and has pioneered the teaching of programmes in alcohol and drug addiction and in mental health, family violence and gambling.

He has also introduced a strong theoretical element to many of the social and community health studies carried out at the School of Population Health, especially by doctoral students.

"In the early 1990s, we advocated the much wider teaching of communication skills to medical students ..." says Peter. "These skills are now embedded in the medical programme, making more use of actors, in both training and assessment.

"Students have to interview role-playing actors and learn to recognise and articulate the symptoms and behaviours that they are observing. Each student's performance is video-taped and the students are evaluated on how insightful they are and how they assess their own performance."

Peter's Teaching Excellence Award follows on from the FMHS Butland Teaching Award, which he received earlier this year in the same category.

He develops, co-ordinates and teaches three postgraduate courses and, as Head of Social and Community Health for 11 years, helped establish another 20 or more courses and programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

"Twenty years ago, we recognised the need for alcohol and drug teaching, and have developed



that more over the last 14 years," he says. "From the teaching of alcohol and drug addiction in the medical programme, I recognised a need for qualifications in the wider workforce."

Peter developed the post-graduate certificate in alcohol and drug studies and slowly built that up. It is still one of only two major programmes available to people working in the alcohol and drug field in New Zealand.

"It became a basic qualification for those working in the field who didn't have qualifications, mostly people in their 40s and 50s," he says. "Now we are aiming to engage new graduates."

Peter is the Director of the Bachelor of Health Sciences programme, was acting Associate Dean Postgraduate for six months in 2012 and is now the Acting Head of the School of Population Health. His academic training included a Master of Philosophy and a Master of Psychology (both with first class honours), a PG Dip in Clinical Psychology and a PhD in Psychology.

The other three teachers who have received Teaching Excellence Awards for 2013 from the University are Dr Jay Marlowe (School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work) and Rob Batty (Commercial Law), who both received awards for Early Career Excellence in Teaching, while Dr Charlotta Windahl (Marketing) won the award for Innovation in Teaching.

From the Vice-Chancellor



I was very proud to attend the Prime Minister's Science Awards held at the Royal Society of New Zealand on 12 November, particularly so because staff of our University - Drs Siouxsie Wiles and Ben O'Brien, and Professors John Boys and Grant Covic - between them carried off all the prizes for research and for science communication.

Professors Boys and Covic are - though they might not think of themselves this way - an interesting case study of the importance of intellectual freedom. They have spent 20 years developing a technique by which electric power can be transferred without wires across an air gap. This is, of course, counterintuitive, since we are taught from an early age that air is a very effective insulator. Furthermore, for much of the period during which they undertook this research, there was no industry whose needs it addressed. It is presumably for these reasons that they received little support for the research from public funding agencies. Yet they have now created a technology that will likely become the gold standard for charging electric vehicles worldwide, that will have a wide range of other applications (for example charging artificial hearts), and that has been the subject of the most successful commercialisation of intellectual property in the history of New Zealand universities.

The current public policy environment for research in New Zealand is one that clearly does not favour the creation of disruptive technologies of this type. For some years now, the emphasis has been on research that has direct relevance to existing industries at the expense of more fundamental research, the kind that typically leads to new breakthroughs. Governments have sought to exert a greater influence over universities, not only in how research is funded and managed but also in how the institutions are themselves governed. Yet such an environment is clearly not conducive to the kind of intellectual "freedom to operate" that promotes original enquiry and allows new ideas to flourish. If we genuinely want to support the development of innovative industries in this country, and more generally to promote an openness to new ways of thinking about the challenges that face us, then governments need to nurture intellectual freedom just as much as universities do.

Bargains galore at Elam art fair

A run-down retreat in picturesque Huia will benefit from some of the proceeds of the sale of artworks by students and graduates of the University of Auckland's Elam School of Fine Arts.

Organised by the Elam Students' Association, the Elam Art Fair runs over two days at the George Fisher Gallery at 25a Princess Street. A diverse collection of artworks will fill the gallery with bargains. For example, the selection includes photographic prints for \$20 or a medium-sized painting for \$250.

Proceeds will be shared between the artists and the Elam Students' Association, with a third of each sale going toward the restoration and maintenance of the Fisher Lodge retreat at Whatipu Road.

It is hoped the funds raised will cover rates, expenses and the cost of installing a rainwater collection system at the old building, which is owned by the students' association. It was bequeathed to Elam students in 1959 by Archie Fisher, a former director of the school.

The students' association is putting major effort into restoring the property to a usable condition, hosting events and class gatherings at the house, which is available for student use at a reasonable nightly rate.

Once further work is done, the association hopes to establish a residency programme and to offer night classes and weekend workshops at the retreat.

The Elam Art Fair takes place on Friday 6 December and Saturday 7 December from 11am to 4pm. All are welcome.

The most important thing in the world



Left to right are Jin Tong, Zhu Shuang and Han Qiang.

A group of young Mandarin Language Assistants (MLA) were the guests of honour at a celebration hosted by the Confucius Institute at the Owen G Glenn Building on the evening of 8 November.

The MLA programme, which has provided important support over the last four years for the teaching of Mandarin language in schools, has this year been extended to the universities of Waikato and Otago and next year will be introduced also at the University of Auckland.

This year there were 24 Mandarin Language Assistants – 12 sponsored by the Ministries of Education in New Zealand and China and 12 sponsored by the Confucius Institute. In addition there were four Teaching Assistants supported by both the Confucius Institute and the Office of the

Chinese Language Council (Hanban). They, in total, have contributed to the Chinese language programmes in 81 schools around New Zealand (up from 44 in 2011).

For the students the evening marked their graduation from the MLA programme (with receipt of their certificates) and the culmination of an exciting year in New Zealand; after the school year ends they will return to their universities in China (Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong and East China Normal) to complete their masters degrees.

Nora Yao, Director of the Confucius Institute, welcomed the guests and introduced the speakers, who included Professor Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategic Engagement,

and Rhys McDonald, with a message from the Ministry of Education. Sandra Jenkins, principal of Freeman's Bay Primary, spoke of the programme's benefits to schools, while David and Debbie Ellery, homestay parents, spoke of what they had gained from being involved. Three students from the programme reflected on homestay life, school life and the kiwi experience.

Said Ding Fangchao: "With our homestays ... we have been to the movies, concerts, barbecues and community dinners; we have travelled together; we have been to the beach, park and zoo. Thank you for filling our lives with so much variety and making us feel warm for remembering our birthdays ... and for being there for us when we were sick."

Said Zheng Dandan: "There is a Māori proverb, 'He aha te mea nui te ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!' Translated, this means, 'What is the most important thing in the world? It's people! It's people! It's people! What is the most important thing at a school? It's the children ... We would like to say thank you to all the children we have taught. Thank you for their company and their delight in learning Mandarin. They are the best evidence of our year spent in New Zealand because we can see how much they have learnt about our language and our culture."

Said Jin Tangli: "We realise that although New Zealand is small it has many beautiful places and good things to see and do. In China we say: 'A little body often harbours a great soul!' And New Zealand has a great soul."

Art in the dark

Conjoint BA/BFA (Hons) student Brittany Myburgh has scooped first prize in the University Design Competition hosted by Art in the Dark with her work Ultra.

Her winning installation used ultraviolet (UV) light and elastic strung between trees to create large luminous intersecting triangles that viewers could walk underneath and through. Changing from purple, to pink, to white as it moved in the breeze, the work utilised the substance phosphor present in the elastic to make the UV light visible.

It is the first time Brittany has entered the popular art event held each year in Western Park. The award comes with a \$1,000 prize pack from Philips. More of her light work can be seen at this year's Elam Graduate Show.

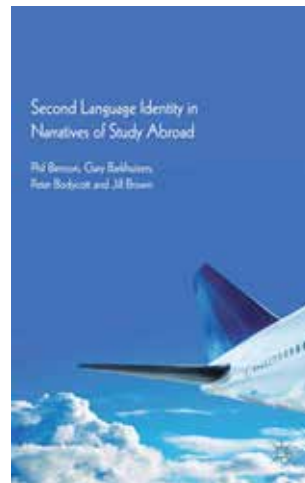
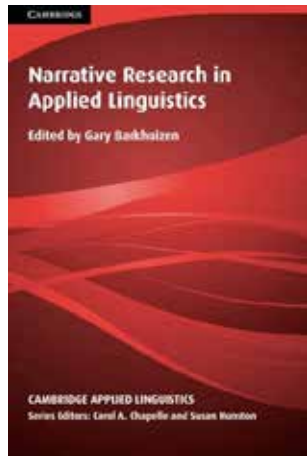
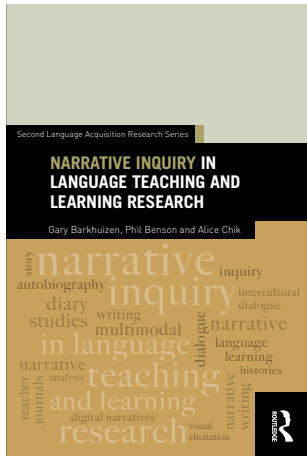


Next year it could be you!

On Friday 15 November 20 successful Doctoral Academic Career Module participants graduated after their year of learning from and engaging with current academics at the University of Auckland, and alumni of the University with academic positions in New Zealand and overseas.

Supported by the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund 2011, the module was facilitated by Dr Sean Sturm and Dr Ian Brailsford (Centre for Learning and Research in Higher Education, CLear). Participants were awarded and celebrated in the presence of Professor Graeme Aitken (Dean of the Faculty of Education), Dr Caroline Daley (Dean of Graduate Studies), Professor Helen Sword (Director of CLear) and several of the participants' supervisors.

Triple contribution



Gary Barkhuizen, an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics, has recently published three books. They share a common theme of narrative research in various areas of applied linguistics, particularly language learning and teaching.

The first, *Second Language Identity in Narratives of Study Abroad* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), co-authored with research collaborators in Hong Kong and Australia, is based on a large-scale study supported by a major grant from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council. The book outlines a new model of second language identity that incorporates a range of language and personal competencies and draws on in-depth analyses of the narratives of Hong Kong English-learners who visited a number of countries where English is the dominant language.

The second book, *Narrative Inquiry in Language Teaching and Learning Research* (Routledge, 2013), co-authored with Phil Benson and Alice Chik, introduces narrative inquiry methods grounded in empirical research within the fields of language teaching and learning.

Narrative Research in Applied Linguistics (Cambridge University Press, 2013), is an edited volume with contributions from world renowned narrative researchers. It illustrates a range of methodological processes which underpin narrative research, relating these to narrative theory. They include innovative approaches to analysis and presentation of data such as drawings and drama.

Together the books make a considerable contribution to recent narrative work in applied linguistics.

Classics now in ebook library

Auckland University Press has mined 50 years of great publishing to bring back its classic books as ebooks in multiple formats for readers in New Zealand and all around the world.

With the support of Creative New Zealand, Copyright Licensing New Zealand and the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund, the Press has created this ebook treasure trove of more than 240 classic New Zealand books, some long out of print.

The new ebook library includes a wealth of wonderful books including Keith Sinclair's *Origins of the Maori Wars*, MPK Sorrenson's three-volume, collected letters of Apirana Ngata and Sir Peter Buck, Heather Nicholson's award-winning story of knitting *The Loving Stitch*, Ian Wedde's *Spells for Coming Out* and Roger Horrocks's biography of Len Lye.

All Auckland University Press electronic books are available in epub and mobi for e-readers and most are also in pdf for scholarly libraries. Through partnerships with Faber Factory and IPG Books, Press ebooks can be bought through all major retail channels (Amazon and Apple, Whitcoulls and PaperPlus, Google and Barnes & Noble, and lots more) and they are also available in libraries.

The Press's commitment to getting the full range of its publishing into digital formats created some challenges, according to Press Director Sam Elworthy. "Over a hundred of the titles were published long before PDFs, so we sent hard copies off to India for conversion and then checked them back in New Zealand. For many of the old books, our information on the author and the title was shaky. Finding covers, updating websites, contacting authors and their estates – all of this work allowed us to get to know again the amazing depth of the Auckland University Press list."

From now on, the Press will be publishing almost all new titles in electronic and print editions at the same time.

The Royal Society of New Zealand - The Marsden Fund

The Marsden Fund is for investigator-initiated "blue skies" research. Funding is for excellent fundamental research that generates new knowledge and provides researchers with the opportunity to investigate novel ideas for three years. The fund is structured across a broad discipline-based framework, supporting both emerging and established researchers, and encourages New Zealand's leading researchers to explore new ideas. Two categories of grants are available: Fast-Start grants for emerging researchers – PhD conferred within the last seven years (funding is set at \$100,000 per year for three years); Standard grants are open to established researchers as well as emerging researchers. Funding is generally up to \$300,000 per year for three years.

The Research Office deadline for preliminary proposals is 18 February 2014. All proposals must be submitted via the Research Management System (InfoEd) as well as the Marsden portal by this date. If invited to submit, full proposals are due in June. Information can be found at www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/marsden.

To register contact ro-submissions@auckland.ac.nz or for more information contact your Faculty Research Manager.

AMRF Travel grants

Auckland Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) Travel Grants Round 1 for travel after 1 March are closing in the Research Funding Module on 24 January 2014. More information can be found at www.medicalresearch.co.nz. Contact ro-submissions@auckland.ac.nz

e-release of Requests for Proposals

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) would like to advise that the Health Innovation Partnership (HIP) Request for Proposals (RFP) in ischaemic heart disease and pulmonary disease has been re-released. Registration opened on the HRC's online submission system (EASY) at midday on Tuesday, 12 November 2013. The revised RFP and amended application form and guidelines can be found on the HRC and HIP websites.

The process was temporarily halted due to the timing of the release of information that the HIP believe will assist applicants in designing proposals that answer the National Health Committee's information needs. The HIP RFP in the area of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease was released on Monday, 18 November 2013 and registration was opened on Tuesday, 19 November 2013.

Existing registrations for both RFPs will be carried through unless applicants inform the HRC otherwise. Existing applicants are also welcome to submit a new registration.

If you have any queries about these RFPs or the application process please email the Submissions Group with HRC Heart & Pulmonary Disease in the subject line.

From the art collection

An interest in transience and intensity – materialised in small boats and the presence of the sea – are central to the work of Suzy Pennington, and this early piece illustrates the inception of these themes. The New Zealand artist died of cancer in Wellington on 29 September.

“Beyond horizontal” is a large-scale tapestry work situated outside the theology office in the Arts building. This piece marked Pennington’s transition from textile craft to a more conceptual practice during the 1980s and, on a broad scale, mirrored the increasing reflexivity of many in the New Zealand craft community. This is one of Suzy’s earliest exhibited artworks; she would go on to exhibit extensively in Poland, Lithuania, Zimbabwe and India, reflecting an affinity with craft-based and folk art practices. Following studies in industrial design at the Wellington Polytechnic School of Design, Suzy completed post-graduate studies in textile design at the University of Leeds. Manipulating textile was a natural extension of her interest in fibre and texture.

The piece makes use of embroidery and tapestry processes but is distanced from a more formalised production. Nothing is quite complete. The edges are frayed, threads hang from the upholstered ribbing of the upper



Suzy Pennington, (1946-2013), *Beyond Horizontal*, 1984, suspended sculptural wall hanging, dyed cotton and canvas, 2140 x 1160mm

diagonal form and unhemmed strips produce an uneven texture. Reflecting on her craft-based training, Suzy investigates the minutiae of fibre to the fuller form of fabric.

Cascading layers of stitched and frayed cloth create a rippling texture upon the sheet of raw

cotton fabric. A sense of perspective is offered by a dyed gradient and thicker gathering of folds towards the bottom. A wave-like texture hints at the strong role that water would play throughout her artistic career.

From opposing corners, two rectangular forms give a sense of movement towards and away from the layered horizon. Their fleeting movements suggest something of the sublime, of form oscillating from solid to vapour. This movement enables the forms to surmount the horizontal axis implied by the ripples of frayed cloth and suggests a dynamism that transcends the framing of the tapestry. A dialogue is apparent as this diagonal force intersects the tranquillity of the ocean-like expanse. The vitality of the oblique forms offsets the stillness suggested in the horizon.

“Beyond Horizontal” demonstrates an affinity with natural elements – well expressed within the craft movement – but also a concern with artistic intent. An interest in the counterpoint between human intensity and the changeability of the ocean would become more pronounced in Suzy’s later artworks, but would remain embedded in these woven and distressed textile surfaces.

Amy Pennington

From the cultural collection

Auckland

December 8th, 1890

To the Chairman of the Council

Sir,

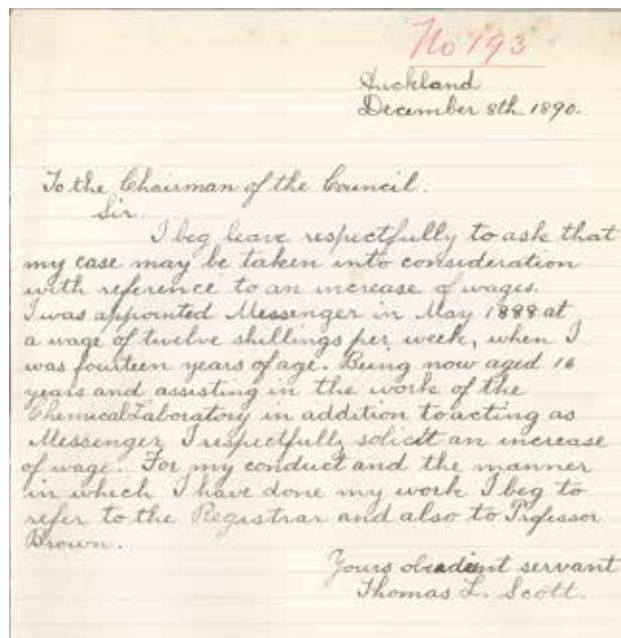
I beg leave respectfully to ask that my case may be taken into consideration with reference to an increase in wages. I was appointed Messenger in May 1888 at a wage of twelve shillings per week, when I was fourteen years of age. Being now aged 16 years and assisting in the work of the Chemical Laboratory in addition to acting as Messenger I respectfully solicit an increase of wage. For my conduct and the manner in which I have done my work I beg to refer to the Registrar and also to Professor Brown.

Yours obedient servant

Thomas L. Scott

This letter is one of the thousands which are held in the Vice-Chancellor’s Office Archives which is, in effect, the administrative archive for the early years of the University and its various official records. The early archives include letters on a wide variety of topics with the Registrar receiving all non-academic incoming mail – requests for lecture timetables, invoices and acknowledgement cards are common. There are also a number of volumes of handwritten replies to letters, and applications for some of the roles in the University, including those for the first four professors.

From the 1930’s on, the archives tend to be of the more formal official records of the University – reports, minutes and event programmes – which provide accounts of decision-making and background information to the various developments and directions of the University. The archives continue to be used for operational reference and also by an increasing number of researchers.



And did Thomas L. Scott receive his pay rise? Yes, recorded in the Council Minutes for the 8 December 1890. On the motion of Colonel Haultain, resolved that the wages of the applicant be increased to fifteen shillings a week.

Elizabeth Nichol
Records Management Programme Manager

Glimpse of the future



Artist: Suji Park. Photo: Sam Hartnett.

Auckland art lovers will be able to view the work of a new generation of artists and glimpse the future of contemporary art at the annual two-day Elam Graduate Show.

The exhibition by over 130 final-year students from Elam School of Fine Arts will feature a diverse range of artwork by BFA, BFA(Hons), PGDipFA and MFA students including painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, moving image, performance and new media.

The School has a reputation for producing New Zealand's foremost artists and the exhibition always attracts thousands of people. Get along to view the cutting-edge art.

The show takes place from 10am-5pm on Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December at Elam School of Fine Arts, 20 Whitaker Place; 5 Symonds Street (Elam B); and at the George Fraser Gallery at 25a Princes Street. The event is open to everyone and is free.

What's on

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Europe Institute seminar

Dr Alexander Stubb, Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade, Finland: *Europe: Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*. 4pm, Decima Glenn, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg. RSVP to m.kanazawa@auckland.ac.nz

Child and Family Research seminar

Prof Marie Connolly: *Just talking about it or doing it? Taking children and young person's rights seriously in practice*. 4pm, J3 Lecture Theatre, Epsom Campus, Epsom. Register at <https://strengtheningpracticeseminars.eventbrite.co.nz>

Inaugural Lecture

Prof Michael Parekowhai, Elam School of Fine Arts: *From Henderson's valley to Venice's Canalazzo, 2011*. 6pm, Main Lecture Theatre, School of Engineering, 22 Symonds St. Queries to e.janman@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Elam Graduate Show 2013

10am-5pm, 20 Whitaker Place, 5 Symonds St (Elam B) and 25a Princes St (George Fraser Gallery). Runs until 1 Dec. Queries to elamoffice@auckland.ac.nz

Exhibition event

1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Linda Nochlin asked "Why have there been no great women artists?" in 1971 and recently Georg Baselitz declared that women can't paint. Linda Tyler, Director of the Centre for Art Studies will provide a comparative analysis of the auction prices of male and female New Zealand artists in the twenty-first century, focusing on the prices reached for works by women artists. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER

Inaugural lecture

Prof Andrew Jeffs, Institute of Marine Science: *Spiny lobsters: Sentinels of ocean change*. 4pm, BLT100, 5 Symonds St. All welcome to this public lecture. Refreshments from 5pm, SBS Common Rm, Thomas Bldg, 3a Symonds St.

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER

Narrative and Metaphor SIN seminar

Assoc Prof Toni Bruce, Education: *Writing as a form of knowing: Creative play with 'data'*. 4.30-6.30pm, Rm 205, H Block, Epsom Campus, Epsom.

Inaugural Lecture

Prof Frank Bloomfield, Liggins Institute: *Has neonatology come of age?* 4.30-6pm, 505.707, Grafton Campus, 85 Park Rd, Grafton. Queries to ligginscommunications@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural Lecture

Prof Uwe Grodd, School of Music: *Johann Nepomuk Hummel and the end of a golden age*. 5.30pm, School of Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St.

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER

Elam Art Fair

11am-4pm, George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Runs until 7 December. An opportunity for the public to purchase works by Elam students and graduates. Queries to elamoffice@auckland.ac.nz

Centre for Addiction Research public lecture

Prof David Nutt, Imperial College London: *Drugs without the hot air: A proper assessment of drug harms and their relative dangers*. 6-7pm, Rm 503-028, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Bldg, 85 Park Rd, Grafton.

"A life in science" public lecture/ Q&A session

Prof Cecilia Bitz, climate physicist, University of Washington: *The future of Arctic and Antarctic sea ice*. Registration 6.30pm; event 7pm, MLT1 Lecture Theatre, Bldg 303, 38 Princes St. All welcome. Book your free ticket now at ceciliabitz.eventbrite.co.nz

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

12th International Conference on Frontiers of Polymers and Advanced Materials

Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Runs until 13 December. Visit www.icfpam2013.com/

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER

Inaugural Lecture

Professor Philip Baker, Liggins Institute: *Passing the mother test*. 5-6.30pm, 505.011, Grafton Campus, 85 Park Rd, Grafton. Queries to ligginscommunications@auckland.ac.nz

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 David Feng (09) 303 0601 or (021) 246 6710 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Delightful townhouse, close to Rose Gardens, French Market, Judges Bay public transport, shops, hospital. Fully furnished including linen, two bdrms, two bthrms, quiet and sunny. Gas heating and hot water. Balcony, green outlook, garage and outdoor area. Suit mature couple. No letting fee. \$615 pw. Available 28 November. Phone (09) 379 3928, (021) 832 654 or email marham@extra.co.nz

Large, furnished, executive home Waiheke Island, above beautiful beach. Stunning sea views. Available 1 July 2014 to 31 October 2014. Close to village, ferry and all amenities. Primary schools and excellent high school.

35 minute ferry ride to Downtown Auckland, walk to University. \$NZ 700 pw. Email b.barton@auckland.ac.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Short-term rental required of three-bedroom house or apartment (preferably furnished) for visiting professor and family on sabbatical at the University of Auckland in Semester 1, 2014. Non-smokers. Dates: January 2014 to May or mid-June. Please contact kwilson@gettysburg.edu for further information, or Lynette Tippett, School of Psychology, ext 88551, l.tippett@auckland.ac.nz

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Waiheke Bach, quiet end, sea side of road near Orapiu ferry. Amazing views, private mooring. 1930s family bach with two bdrms and sleep-out. Good condition. Suit family or couple. Reasonable rental. Phone 624 5422 evenings or (021) 688 558. Email jaldeng@xtra.co.nz

FOR SALE

Reliable car for sale. Great car for visiting academic or student. Toyota Tercel, 1996. One NZ owner and cheap to run, petrol, 1490cc engine. Anecdotal quote from mechanic "nothing wrong with this car - will keep going and going". All service and mechanic work records held. Regretfully selling. \$1,950. Phone (021) 882 685.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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



MENTAL HEALTH LAW

The New Zealand Herald has done a sterling job in portraying the reality that a number of sports stars, people we often look up to, have mental health issues. The fact is that mental ill-health in one form or another is as common as influenza, and recognising that it is a normal feature of human life helps to undermine the unfortunate stigma that often remains associated with it. This stigma is highly problematic because it may add to the distress caused to those who have a mental disorder, and that may cause people not to seek treatment, often prolonging the ill-health as a result.

There is, however, one significant difference between mental ill-health and other illness, which is that there may be instances - at the extreme - in which society intervenes and provides treatment even if it is not sought. This infringes the normal principle that people make their own decisions about medical care.

In 1992, the New Zealand Parliament took a significant step forward in trying to regulate the circumstances in which some form of compulsion may be used. It enacted the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992, which contained an emphasis on the rights of those placed under the Act and ensured that various protective mechanisms were in place. It also introduced such provisions as the community treatment order mechanism to allow compulsion in the community.

The Mental Health Act was enacted at a time when there was a growing focus on the rights of people. The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 had recently been put in place. Just over a decade previously, in 1978, Prime Minister Robert Muldoon had secured New Zealand's full entry into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations by ratifying the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights respectively. They had become operative in 1976, and so New Zealand was a fast follower in becoming bound by them. The standards guaranteed include the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the right not to be subject to arbitrary detention or to improper interference with autonomous choices.

As the Mental Health Act has now been in place for 21 years, a review of its operation has recently been carried out by a group of 30 people who work with it and related pieces of legislation. Those included nurses and psychiatrists, senior Ministry of Health advisors, lawyers and law reformers, and academics, including one who has been treated under the Act. Twenty areas have been subject to scrutiny and commentary; the process of writing involved symposia at which authors were able to critique each other's drafts, thereby ensuring a multi-disciplinary focus in the finished work.

So what were the conclusions? Generally, the view was that the 1992 Act is largely fit for its purpose, though with a number of caveats, and a range of views and concerns. A number of positive features have been identified. One is the structured process whereby decisions on the use of compulsion are made in a framework that involves the need to assess whether it is really necessary. Another is that there are both clinical and then judicial processes to review whether detention needs to be maintained. A third is the role of the District Inspector, who operates as a roving check on whether rights are being respected.

There were some grumbles as well. Over time, it seems that the Act is being used more, perhaps as society becomes more averse to risk. There is a statistical over-representation of Maori that calls for an explanation, and an apparent link with social deprivation, which is of concern. What was most troubling was the relatively limited proper research on the operation of the Act, even though this is an area that involves vulnerable people and a relatively subjective area of medical law: the need for evidence-based practice is therefore key.

Some research was included in the review. This included research on how District Inspectors operate, including the limitations placed on them by resource constraints, and the mechanism of requiring a second medical opinion before medication is given without consent.

One important aspect of the developing human rights framework is also worth highlighting. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 marks an important step forward. This is a Convention that was drafted in consultation with organisations representing the various communities of disabled people, which assists its sensitivity towards rights as perceived by those most directly affected. New Zealand is a party to this Convention. Our typical approach is only to become bound in international law if the government believes our domestic arrangements are compliant. However, there are some doubts about whether they are. One issue that some of the reviewing group thought should be further considered was whether a lack of capacity to consent to treatment - or at least a restricted capacity to consent - should be part of the test for non-consensual treatment. This would be consistent with the non-discrimination principles central to the CRPD.

Open discussion around mental health and mental health law is worthwhile: it affects many people, and policies should be developed through a transparent process. An ongoing and informed debate will, it is to be hoped, ensure that our legislative framework remains at the forefront of good practice.

Kris Gledhill, Co-Director, New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice.