

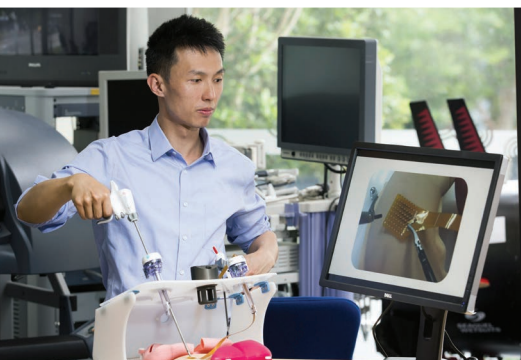
Uni NEWS

April 2019



TRIBUTE TO MOSQUE VICTIMS

- Vice-Chancellor's special message
- Poem by Selina Tusitala Marsh
- The challenge ahead



Gut instinct

PM's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist
Peng Du: getting a buzz out of the stomach



Plane passion

Lech Janczewski: cyber security and an
enduring childhood hobby



Jolly good fellow

Top honour for art historian Erin Griffey



From the Vice-Chancellor

The unparalleled act of terror that led to so many men, women and children losing their lives in Christchurch on 15 March will haunt New Zealanders for a long time.

It is difficult – perhaps impossible – to understand what leads people to take such ghastly actions, particularly in a country such as New Zealand where peace and tolerance are not only the norm but values to which we aspire.

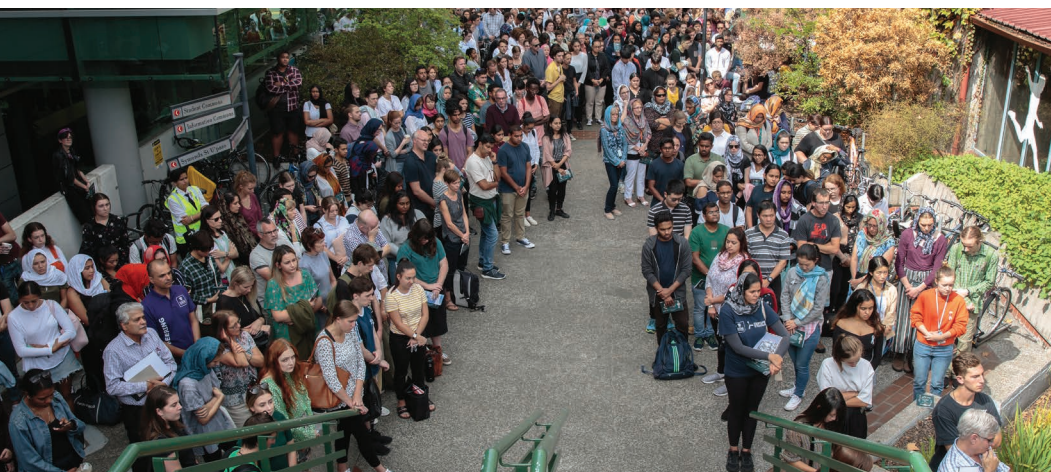
All of us in the University join in expressing our sympathy for the victims and their families, our solidarity with New Zealand's Muslim communities and our concern for those who are also members of our University family. Several of our staff and students were among those who had family members killed or injured.

As the events unfolded that day, and over the days that followed, many staff and student leaders in the University reacted quickly to ensure our people were kept abreast of developments, that they felt as safe and protected as possible, and that they had professional support as they dealt with the resulting bewilderment, grief and sometimes

anger. One of our new staff members commented to me that we “seemed to have a good plan for dealing with this”. It's true that we did have a plan, but we also had a large number of staff and students who just got on and did the right thing. I am grateful to all those who worked so hard to support other students and staff. Having met with some of the leaders of our Muslim community, I am aware that they too were very grateful for the care and aroha extended to them from across the University.

Over the coming weeks there will be, as there have already been, many events to acknowledge this tragedy and those who suffered, to reject the mindless hatred that led to such violence, and to reaffirm our commitment as members of a community that sees tolerance and respect as among its most important values. But even after this horrific event, we had young Muslim women in the city abused for wearing their traditional dress, and threatening graffiti daubed on a wall at the Newmarket Campus. Clearly we still have work to do to create the kind of tolerant and welcoming society to which most of us aspire.

It is work to which we in the University, and as members of the wider New Zealand community, must all recommit ourselves in the wake of this tragic event. – *Professor Stuart McCutcheon*



Top: Muslim prayer service inside the Rec Centre on 22 March. Outside, students and staff took part in a vigil.

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X ZERO tolerance for discrimination
He wāhi whakatoihara kore



www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/zerotolerance

THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Professor Sally Merry, Head of Department, Psychological Medicine, School of Medicine, considers the long-term impact of the terror attacks.

All of us have been left with a heavy heart following the tragic events in Christchurch. The first and natural response is to ask how this act of terror could happen in peaceful Aotearoa. The scale of the act of murder and the chilling and pitiless way it was carried out on men, women and, especially, children leaves a nation in mourning for those killed, a collective need to support friends and family and dismay at the psychological assault on values and beliefs we hold dear.

The immediate focus was to look after the Muslim communities in Christchurch and throughout the country. Yet, in the aftermath, some of the commentary and feedback from communities who experience abuse and discrimination and fear for their safety on an almost daily basis has been that Christchurch was an act that was waiting to happen.

This is uncomfortable to hear but it cannot be dismissed as it comes from the many diverse communities that are part of New Zealand.

Inherent in that is the experience of exclusion and casual or intentional racism. In the context of our University community, we would hope that all our students and staff, be they Muslim, Māori, Pacific, Asian, African or any of our diverse community, do not experience this and feel safe as they go about their lives. But anecdotally we know that this is not always the case.

If a positive can come from a national tragedy of this scale, it should be that it prompts us to think and act on what it really means to be an inclusive and

diverse society. Are we really listening closely to our colleagues and friends who come from diverse communities? Are there appropriate support services in place to meet their needs and aspirations?

As a psychiatrist I know that providing support for those experiencing trauma is important, but I also know that what might feel right for me may not be the right response for everyone. It is important that as well as providing information informed by research, we are also informed by what people tell us is likely to be helpful to them.

We need to deal with the urgent matters at hand, but once these are settled we will need to deal with the longer-term effects, for we will not forget this day. For the families and communities directly affected, there will be a need to face a future without loved ones. In the wider New Zealand community, we should be thinking about the nature and impact of this terrible event on the Muslim community, and to heed the repeated concerns raised by them and others about how they have not always felt at home here, and how they have at times experienced exclusion and abuse.

We have an opportunity to consider how we can create the places and opportunities to listen and learn from our diverse communities. We need to stand alongside them and challenge the racism and bullying they have been subjected to and work together to create the society we aspire to have – one we can be truly proud of. We need to say very clearly “this is not us” to those in our society who seek to divide, exclude and harass.

The challenge in the months and years ahead is how to bring truth to the words “They are us”.

Christchurch Mosque Shootings

A poem by Associate Professor Selina Tusitala Marsh

Poet, how are you to write?
How are you, on our darkest day
To find and offer light?

Its relentless embrace
Surrounding us from
All parts

All places

I'm texting with Riz Khan
Who offers
Condolences
Offers love and peace
An emoji of praying hands
For our Muslim brothers
And sisters lost
In mosques
In Christchurch.

In this world.

We are 200 ethnicities here
We are 600 languages here
We remain so.

And if my evangelistic In-Law
Finally walks through
The dark and dusty village
Of her beliefs about ‘muslims’

Riz mirrors
The horror of an open
Mouthed world weeping
For Masjid Al Noor
For Linwood Masjid

Finally sees herself
Kneeling in a mosque
Head scarved
Hands steeped in prayer
Sees her own bowed body
Bloody in worship
Sees the same spirit
Shafting through the air

It must be of a Big Love
Aroha Nui

A Strong Love
Aroha Toa

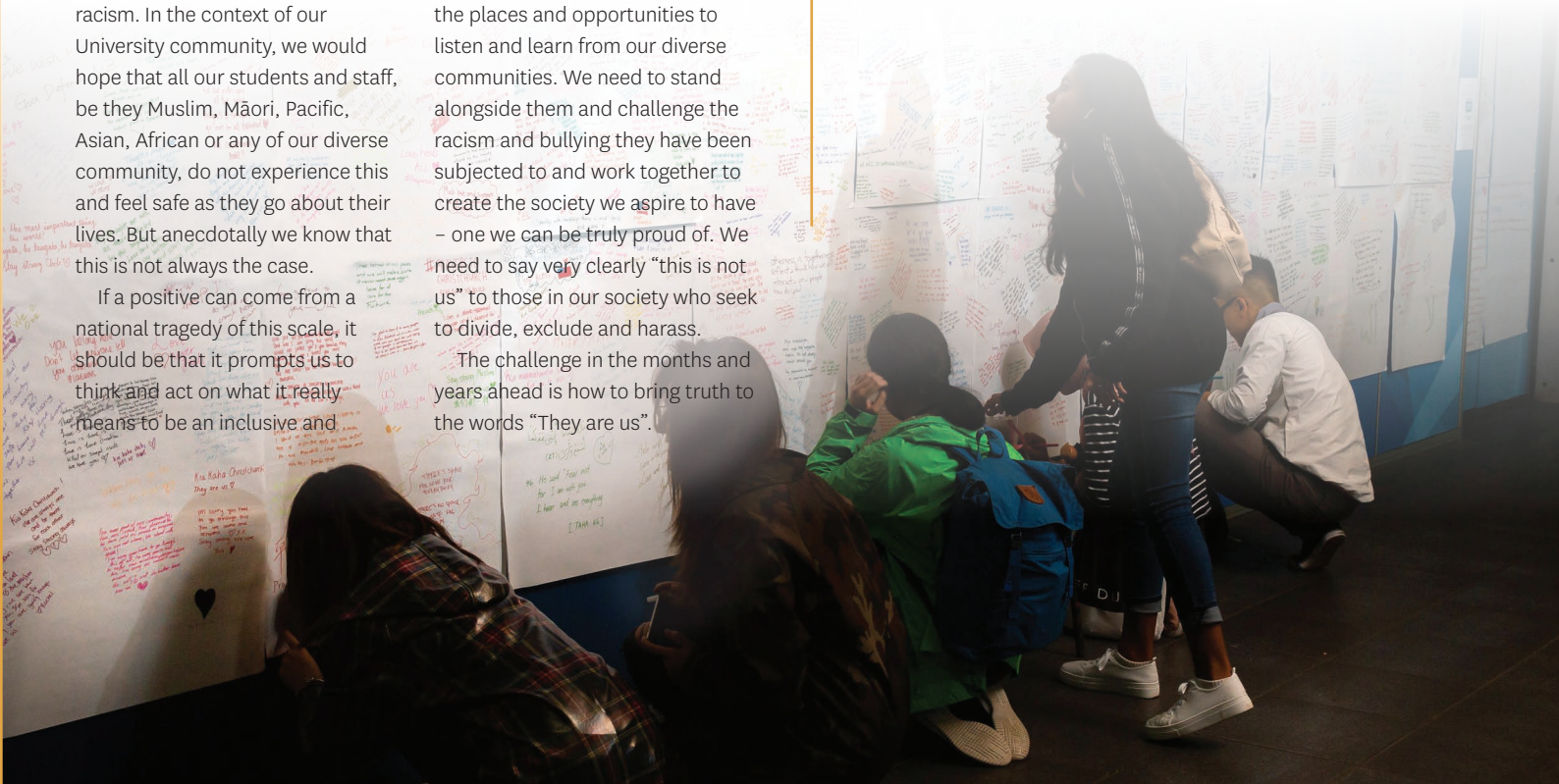
Then there's the light, Poet,
There's the light.

Of which the poet writes.

A big, strong, call to arms

Riz sends me pics
From Windsor
A dawning sun inhaling fog's breath
The Long Walk.

Of love





Pride of Auckland

The 2019 Distinguished Alumni. From left: William Pike, Simon Talbot, Moana Maniapoto and John Bongard.

The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award winners came from all walks of life but were united at two inspirational events in March.

The first was Bright Lights, held at the Orange Coronation Hall in Eden Terrace, a panel discussion with the winners, hosted by journalist Finlay MacDonald. The second was a formal dinner held in a marquee in front of Old Government House, attended by 400 people.

This year's winners were Moana Maniapoto (LLB 1984), John Bongard (BCom 1982), Simon Talbot (BHB 1998, MBChB 2001) and William Pike (BEd Tchg 2007, BEd Tchg Hons 2008).

Singer-songwriter and documentary maker Moana Maniapoto (MNZM) admits she was surprised when she was first contacted by the University, joking at Bright Lights, "Are you sure you're not looking for [lawyer] Moana Jackson? People often get us mixed up... did you actually see my marks for my law degree? I was an 'A' student but it was 'A' for Average."

But the Distinguished Alumni Awards are about so much more than grades. They are to honour Auckland alumni who have gone on to make major contributions to society.

John Bongard (ONZM) is the former chief executive and managing director of Fisher & Paykel who these days runs a charity, the Rising Foundation, with wife Diane. He says he came from an "economically challenged background where Christmases weren't that fantastic", raised by a solo mum in Papakura.

Simon Talbot is an eminent reconstructive surgeon who has led teams to complete ground-breaking double arm transplants. He is the director of the Upper Extremity Transplant Programme at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and an associate professor at Harvard Medical School.

Young Alumnus was William Pike, whose leg was amputated following the 2007 eruption of Mt Ruapehu. He's an educator and the name behind the William Pike Challenge Awards running in schools around the country. The challenge encourages young people to break out of their comfort zone.

See video of all four speakers at Bright Lights at tinyurl.com/BrightLightsVideo

Nominations for the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards can be made at tinyurl.com/DAANominations

BOOST TO FUTURES

New figures show that in 2018 close to 400 staff or former staff made a gift to the University. Their generosity helped fund spinal-cord injury research, save endangered little blue penguins and support students struggling financially. Of the 400 donors, 132 were first-time givers. The fundraising came through the University's "Campaign For All Our Futures", which was launched in September 2016 and runs until the end of this year. The campaign is built on asking and answering more than 130 "Can we..." questions, created by faculties and research institutes. The idea was to focus on where most progress could be achieved if philanthropic support was received. By the end of 2018, 6,622 donors had given to the campaign – not just staff but also alumni and the general public wanting to support the University's work with organisations such as the Neurological Foundation and the Cancer Society. While there were a number of six-figure donations, the median gift was \$50, showing the value of multiple modest donations. Through this type of "crowdfunding", large numbers of people pool their gifts for a specific purpose and see the impact of their giving.

See more: tinyurl.com/GivingAuckland and the types of questions tinyurl.com/CanWequestions

* Figures compiled by Alumni Relations and Development and the University of Auckland Foundation.

396

Staff and former staff who donated to the For All Our Futures Campaign in 2018

1,221

Staff and former staff who have donated to the campaign since 2016

911

Students who received almost \$4.14m in donor-funded scholarships

\$39.5m

Donated to For All Our Futures campaign to support research at the University

HOKINGA MAURI CEREMONY

On 11 March, around 100 people filled the ClockTower Atrium to witness an important step in the University's commitment to honouring Te Tiriti, actively supporting Māori and Pacific aspirations and achieving equity success.

The Hokinga Mauri ceremony marked the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equity, Trudie McNaughton, transferring the governance, funding and administration of the University's Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) funding for Māori and Pacific students to the Pro Vice-Chancellors

Māori and Pacific, Professor Cindy Kiro and Associate Professor Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa.

This change means that key decisions about Māori and Pacific students will be made by members of their community, with support from the Equity Office.

All three Pro Vice-Chancellors say the partnership will ensure that by working together they will achieve far more than they could individually.



Fellow fit for a queen

Traipsing through Somerset House in London, where she studied for her MA and PhD at the Courtauld Institute of Art, had a profound effect on Associate Professor Erin Griffey.

Somerset House was the former palace of Queen Henrietta Maria (1609-1669), the French wife of Charles I of England. The historical richness of the area in which Erin was studying left its mark.

"Although the building was completely rebuilt in the 18th century, there was such a sense of her history there," says Erin, a lecturer in Art History. "I regularly walked along streets she would have walked along. The Strand, for example, was the home of all the great houses of the nobility in the Tudor and Stuart periods."

Erin is an international specialist on early modern portraiture and 17th-century Stuart court culture. She's just been recognised for her research on Queen Henrietta Maria by being made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

So how does someone who grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, studied in London and who has worked at the University of Auckland since 2002, end up being noticed? "Your name has to be put forward by a fellow," says Erin.

"Then a number of other existing fellows endorse that nomination and then it goes through to an election. The idea is that you're an academic who has contributed original, important academic research in antiquities and history."

The University of Auckland has two other fellows in the Society of Antiquaries, both admitted in 2010 – Professor Simon Holdaway (Anthropology) and Professor Peter Sheppard (Archaeology) but Erin is believed to be the first woman from New Zealand.

After Erin finished her PhD in the UK, a job came up at Auckland but she admits it was an emotional wrench leaving London. "I desperately wanted to stay. That's where all my art history research had been done – there, France and the Netherlands. For my PhD I had worked on Netherlandish art. There were many Netherlandish artists active at the Stuart court because of the connections between the Netherlands and Britain at that time. Political, cultural and commercial links as well as confessional, in terms of both being officially Protestant."

Within a year of starting at Auckland she began a research project on portraits of dwarves at the early modern court. "It was just a fun project but once that got published that really motivated me to start working on the Stuart court," says Erin.

"There were a group of really fascinating portraits of Henrietta Maria's court dwarf, Jeffrey Hudson. What I realised was, there was a lot about Henrietta Maria and the performing arts, theatre in particular, but very little about Henrietta Maria and

the visual arts. She was really into luxury goods, interior decoration, furniture, that kind of thing."

That started Erin on a path of exploration and she's "still down there mining". She goes to the UK several times a year to maintain her research.

"I couldn't be a fellow if I didn't go there regularly because all of my work is in the archives, art galleries and palaces."

At Auckland she teaches art history at all levels. "I'm also teaching a new paper 'Art for the City and the Court' in the 17th century. It explores the Stuart Court in London and the Orange Court in The Hague, which are deeply interconnected."

Her students are intrigued and inspired by Queen Henrietta Maria. "Henrietta Maria was charming, deeply loyal and principled. She loved the finer things – she had highly discerning, sophisticated tastes.

"She also had a really strong sense of her own self-worth. This is not someone who ever doubted herself. That's certainly an appeal for my students, many of whom are female.

"They are really empowered by learning about women who had real agency in the political and cultural arenas."

She was, however, deeply polarising as queen



'They are empowered by women who had real agency in the political and cultural arenas.'

– being Catholic and heavy-handed about it while married to the Anglican King Charles I.

"Henrietta Maria was very happy to be vocal and upfront about her Catholicism. That really rubbed people up the wrong way. She actively tried to convert senior courtiers."

While many of her nine children died as infants, four of them produced offspring, ensuring a strong lineage. Two – Charles II and James II – became king of England. "She was enormously proud of her son becoming king in 1660. She felt very validated and couldn't sleep, she was so excited."

Henrietta Maria's self-confidence shines through in the portraits of her – many of which feature in Erin's 2015 book *On Display: Henrietta Maria and the Materials of Magnificence at the Stuart Court*. The book, like Erin's lectures, features not just portraiture but also material culture – such as fashion and furniture.

"The most enchanting portraits are by Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painted of her in the 1630s," says Erin. He also painted a portrait of her with Jeffrey Hudson, then aged 14, and Pug the monkey, around 1633. Van Dyck depicted her in a bright-blue satin riding costume, in keeping with the strong influence the French woman had exerted on Stuart court fashion and protocol. Erin has another book due out in July that reflects some of that influence, called *Sartorial Politics in Early Modern Europe: Fashioning Women*.

In March Erin delivered a talk on Tudor and Stuart portraits at London's National Portrait Gallery. The event, booked earlier, fell on the same night the Society of Antiquaries was meeting, meaning she couldn't accept her fellowship in person. Later in the year she'll go to London and be formally admitted as a fellow – another good reason to return to the heart of her historical research.

■ Denise Montgomery

Above: Associate Professor Erin Griffey is believed to be the first woman in New Zealand to be admitted to the London Society of Antiquaries.

Left: Queen Henrietta Maria with Jeffrey Hudson, 1633, by Anthony van Dyck, National Gallery of Art

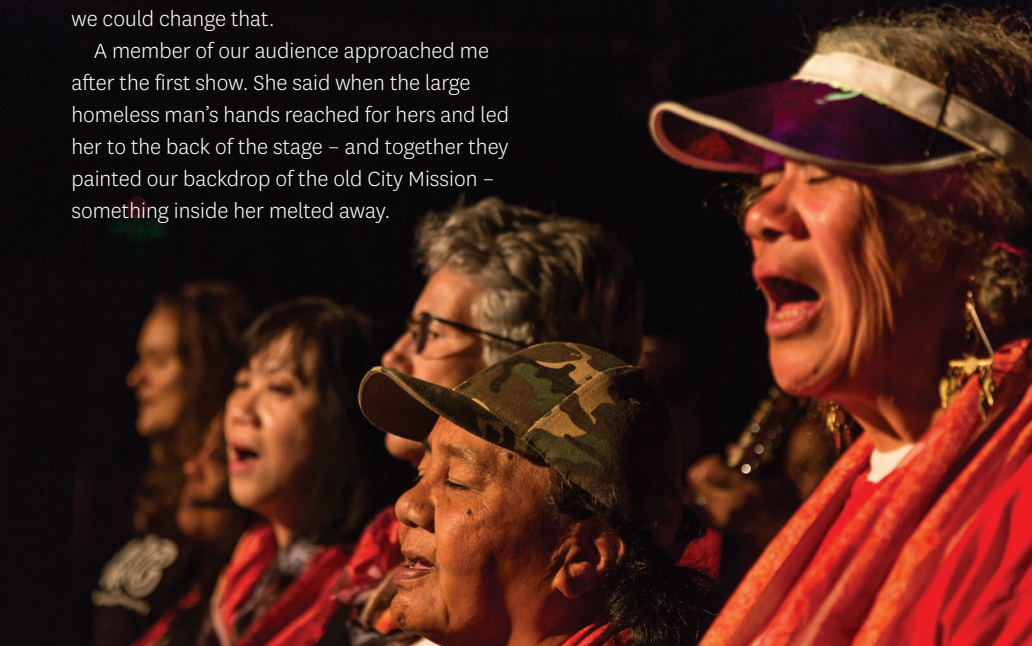
MELTING BARRIERS

Hobson Street Theatre Company is made up of people who are, or have been, homeless.

I directed *That's What Friends Are For*, an interactive show in the Auckland Fringe Festival, with the audience working with us to make our play. In a city where there is little positive interaction with the homeless we wanted to see if we could change that.

A member of our audience approached me after the first show. She said when the large homeless man's hands reached for hers and led her to the back of the stage – and together they painted our backdrop of the old City Mission – something inside her melted away.

The barriers she had put in place no longer made sense, she said. She was simply with another human being, painting. She spoke of how important it was to make something beautiful with someone who she initially feared. – *Professor Peter O'Connor, Faculty of Education and Social Work*



Good pipes

A virtual organ at the School of Music allows students to create the sounds of 14 organs from around the world, dating back to the 17th century.

The organ looks like a traditional organ but doesn't have pipes. Instead, it has a computer loaded with the sounds of the pipes. "Each pipe has been sampled multiple times and sounds very much like the original organ," says Associate Professor James Tibbles, renowned organist and historic keyboards expert.

The organ was commissioned from the Netherlands and funded by benefactor Graeme Edwards. "We could select instruments from central Germany and north Germany, as well as from the 17th and 18th century from France, Spain and Italy. We selected some very large ones, with thousands of pipes, and small ones with just a few hundred. One of the organs sampled was played by Mozart and Liszt."

James says the virtual organ also captures the acoustics of the church in which it was played, as well some of the idiosyncracies of each instrument. "The old organs sound a bit wheezy from time to time. You can de-select those extra features if you want to, but personally I'd prefer a sense of realism."

"It's many steps on from the electronic keyboard. It's a man-on-the-moon-step. I can now teach our students on an organ of 17th or 19th-century France ... rather than driving around Auckland trying to find organs that work!"

Polyfest: all the realities

As the largest school-based cultural festival and one of the largest events in New Zealand, the 44th Polyfest from 13 March hosted more than 11,000 performers from nearly 70 schools. Once again the University of Auckland sponsored the Samoan stage, of which it has been a long-time supporter.

Polyfest is staged at the Manukau Sportsbowl and more than 100,000 people were expected. On the Friday the University tent was visited by hundreds of prospective and current students, teachers, families, community members and leaders, including local and national politicians. We were also privileged to meet Governor-General, Dame Patsy Reddy.

The University was particularly excited to debut a new virtual reality experience at Polyfest. This was called 'Malaga VR' (Malaga is the Samoan word for a journey) and is designed to engage

students while offering a primer on undergraduate studies at the University. The VR experience placed participants on a double-hulled Polynesian canoe with constellations overhead representing each of the University's faculties, showing some of the major programmes available. An animated character offered further guidance and the VR experience culminated in a drumming game, which proved especially popular.

In response to the horrific events in Christchurch, the biggest and final day of Polyfest was cancelled. Though this was a disappointing outcome for students who had been rehearsing for months, there was strong support for the decision in the interest of everybody's safety and wellbeing as the Polyfest community grieved for the Christchurch victims. – *Associate Professor Damon Salesa, Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific*



GUT INSTINCT PAYS OFF

Dr Peng Du, from the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, has become the 2019 Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist

It was meeting the Kiwi Nobel Prize laureate Alan MacDiarmid that inspired Dr Peng Du towards a science career.

MacDiarmid had given a seminar at the University of Auckland after he'd shared the year 2000 prize for chemistry, and made an impression on Peng. Now Peng, a senior research fellow and lecturer at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and Department of Engineering Science, is the Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist of 2019, receiving the award in Wellington on 12 March.

Although engineering science may seem an unsurprising path for the son of two biologists he says his college years didn't start off well.

"I was in the 'lower-tier' class in third form but worked my way up."

That work saw him gain direct entry to university from sixth form, but he decided to return to school for another year to widen his interests. "I was really into classical history. I spent the final year of my schooling doing Shakespeare and classics ...

"I had a very passionate history teacher which is why I pay a lot of attention to more than just teaching techniques. Knowledge is important, but the passion with which you demonstrate your subject will influence people – maybe not immediately but it will eventually."

There was another reason for completing that final year at school.

"In seventh form we were allowed to leave the school grounds so we had the privilege of smuggling pies back for the sixth formers!"

Peng lectures a compulsory maths paper for engineering – around 960 students a week. The rest of his time is spent researching – working on ways to measure electroactivity in the gut to investigate gut health.

"Right now we are pretty much focused on diagnostics. We are still trying to understand the basic science between the gut and health. Monitoring the gut's electroactivity allows us to see how effective certain treatments are.

"For example, if people take drugs to increase the movement of the gut for digestion, right now there's a subjective assessment on whether it's working. We ask 'do you feel better? What is your pain score?' But through our monitoring method, we can quantitatively track the response of the gut to existing treatment."



Dr Peng Du overlooking a 'torso tank', a benchtop model for investigating bioelectrical activity in the gut. Inset: Receiving his award from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Initially the monitoring involved invasive techniques – requiring surgical access to the gut. But now Peng is part of a team developing the use of patches that work the same way in which heart electrical activity is measured through an ECG.

"For an ECG they put a few electrodes on you and within a few minutes can tell if something is wrong with your heart or not, so we're basically

***'This gives me freedom to explore the unexpected. That's often where exciting things happen.'* – Dr Peng Du**



trying to replicate that. But it's been challenging because the signal strength of the gut is about one-tenth that of the heart."

In the future they're hoping to manipulate any faulty electrical activity in the gut in the same way a cardiac pacemaker does. This could help morbidly obese people, offering an alternative to gastric bypass or banding.

Importantly, Peng's research means

collaborating with medical surgeons.

"When I did my PhD, I worked alongside two medical doctors, which gave me the opportunity to work with clinicians, people who are not within my own field and that's when the magic happened ... when we combined engineering with medical research.

"It's through this kind of research that I was exposed to the real world. That's the point – whatever I did from the beginning had a goal of being applied in research in clinics and hospitals."

This prize, worth \$200,000, allows him to accelerate his research pathway. "It means understanding the technique and science faster to get this monitoring device. And importantly it allows flexibility so I'm not strictly limited to one objective.

"This gives me freedom to explore things that are unexpected. That is often where exciting things happen."

But he won't give up teaching. He's passionate about sharing his knowledge and knows the impact this can have on students.

"I did biomedical engineering and during that degree I met my late supervisor Professor Andrew Pullan. He got me started on this field of research in the gut. At the time, he was doing his own transitioning from cardiac research ... he wanted to explore a new area. He called it the final frontier of electrophysiological research."

Pullan died of melanoma in 2012, aged just 48.

"Every year I still pay a little tribute to him in the class I teach because he used to teach the same one," says Peng. "I put his photo up. Andrew always saw and expected the best from everybody."

■ Denise Montgomery

RESEARCH

Rat tales

A new study has explored the lineage of New Zealand's rat population.

While most of us are looking at ways of extinguishing the vermin, Associate Professor James Russell, who led the study, says it's important to know the origins of our rats if we are to deal to them. Using population genetics to trace local rats' ancestry, a team from the Faculty of Science tracked the spread of New Zealand's two most common rat species.

"The genetics show how quickly rats would have overrun New Zealand when they arrived, and eaten their way through our bird and reptile populations," says James.



James Russell, above, recently returned from studying rodents on Auckland Island. Left: *Rattus rattus*.

The results showed widespread genetic diversity for *Rattus rattus*, the ship rat, suggesting at least four different invasions in the North and South Islands and offshore islands. Each new invasion was trackable through new genes being introduced into the gene pool.

The study found the less common, but still widespread, *Rattus norvegicus*, or Norway rat, had more limited diversity within its gene pool, with two main invasions – one on the North Island and some offshore islands, and the other on the South Island, potentially with English and Chinese origins. By the 19th century those two species had displaced the

resident *Rattus exulans* – the kiore or Pacific rat – which became restricted to remote parts of both main islands and a few offshore.

"Using these results, we can trace new arrivals of rats across New Zealand which will be critical if we are serious about reaching our goal of being predator-free by 2050," says James.

"Just like human ancestry genetic tests we can work out which island a rat originally came from when it turns up somewhere unexpected."

Read the study at *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*: tinyurl.com/RatStudyDetail

It's a clincher

Around 50 percent of women suffer some sort of pelvic floor disorder or urinary incontinence although it's not something that gets talked about around the water cooler.

But researchers at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute have developed a gadget that can help improve bladder control, without surgery.

Dr Jenny Kruger (pictured below) and the Pelvic Floor Research Group say Kegel exercises – in which a woman exercises the pelvic floor – are the most effective way of improving bladder control.

Problem is, many people haven't heard of them or those who have may not know how to do them properly.

"Squeezing your pelvic floor muscles requires a lot of coordination," Jenny says. "It's not intuitive. Some people get it with one instruction, but research shows that 30 percent of women don't.

"If you don't activate the right muscles, you're not going to get the benefit. Typically what happens is you give up, because it's not working."

Jenny and her team have developed FemFit®, a thin, flexible prototype pressure sensor that's inserted like a tampon. It's like a fitness tracker

for the pelvic floor, allowing women to track their pelvic floor performance on a smartphone and identify if they're doing the exercises correctly.

The device has eight evenly spaced pressure sensors, which signal pressure measurements from different parts of the vagina. This allows women to identify if they're exercising the muscles at the bladder neck or not.

"You might be doing Pilates or squeezing your abdominal muscles and think you're working your pelvic floor muscles but you're probably not," says Jenny.

The device also allows women to personalise the gadget, depending on, for example, whether they've just had a baby.

It's hoped it will be available commercially by the end of the year. In the meantime, Jenny says the team's study shows that Kegel exercises work the pelvic floor muscles significantly more effectively than any other exercises, such as abdominal exercises.

And if you're wondering about the name, the exercise is named after Arnold Kegel, an American gynaecologist who devised the perineometer, which measures the strength of voluntary contractions of the pelvic floor muscles. Drop that in at the water cooler.

Read the full story: tinyurl.com/KegelABI



Lech is an associate professor of information security at the Business School.

How long have you been working at the University of Auckland?

I arrived in New Zealand 33 years ago on a Saturday and was teaching on the Monday.

You are Polish but you didn't come to New Zealand from Poland did you?

No, I had been working in Nigeria for three years. I survived two military coups there and after the last one I thought 'enough is enough'.

Tell us about your role.

My field is information security, especially cyber warfare and cyber terrorism. You have to be up to date. I have to change 5-10 percent of my security courses every year.

But engineering was your first calling?

Actually I wanted to be a pilot first. But then I put my glasses on and my dream of becoming a pilot vanished. So I decided to be a plane designer. But when I finished high school they closed the aerodynamic faculty at the technical university so I picked something close, which was electronics. I have two masters degrees and a doctorate in engineering.

Were you inspired by any teachers?

In junior and high school the teachers were very good but not technically inclined. It was all about history, music, the arts. So they were not for me. My best influence was my father – he was a civil engineer, one of the best in Poland.

What was your first job?

I did my masters at Warsaw Technical University and then was working in the R&D Institute designing electronic circuits. My father told me "son you need to know the world from a different perspective". So I went to Toronto University where I studied further.

How did your career go in Poland?

Poland was a communist country but I was doing pretty well because of my strong engineering background and keeping my mouth shut about the politics. I rose in the hierarchy of power in a government organisation. Between me and the Minister of Machine Industry there was only one person. I was managing director of the computer centre that provided data for the Minister. About 500,000 people worked in more than 200 enterprises, producing everything that has wheels as well as wings, electronics and military hardware. But I was not a Communist Party member. So ... you know ... later I was removed from the job.

Was that a political removal?

No, it was simply because my deputy was a party member and I was not a party member. And there was martial law so although I was removed from that position I was immediately offered a very

good job. So it was not a big deal. They also said if I would like to apply to work abroad I could. I thought 'why not' and got a special passport and started searching for a job. Nigeria employed me so I went there.

Do you go home often?

Yes – I was there last year for a conference. I do get to travel a bit to discuss global cyber security. I've been to all the continents, except Antarctica – there's no university there!

What did you love doing as a child?

Building scale-model planes. I still do. As you can see I have a very unusual-looking office.

Do you have a favourite plane?

Yes, the SR71 – the Blackbird. I was in the US and was privileged to touch a real one. They were decommissioned in 1999.

Do you provide any guidance to government organisations?

I do some international consulting – I've done some work for the governments of Malaysia, China, Saudi Arabia and Poland.

What do you try to achieve in your role?

I'm trying to raise awareness about technical issues. I use a comparison between information security and car safety. I am old so I remember how it used to be when you wanted to start a car – sometimes you had a crank, a switch, a choke. You worried if the car would survive a bump in the road. Now all those functions are embedded – it's simple and safe. Online security should be like that; we shouldn't all have to have a great knowledge of security issues. It should be embedded into hardware and software in every workplace. We shouldn't need pages of information about passwords.

Why do people fall for phishing?

People need to use common sense. Remember the 'I Love You' virus? It came into our department, purporting to be from a staff member. But I knew none of my lady friends would send that message! So I knew there was something fishy – or phishy – and I killed it without opening it. Not everyone did – the subject line intrigued them – so they opened it and it was very infective.

What's the profile of a phisher or hacker?

The most dangerous are employed by big government agencies specialising in electronic spying, data collection or cyber attacks. They are highly qualified people but you don't hear about them. Their salary is well in excess of \$US100,000. Then there's quite a substantial group hacking for money, especially ransomware. Below that are 'script kiddies'. They use tools they get from the internet, for example for distributed denial of service attacks that choke your system to death. Finally there are 'white hackers', sometimes called penetration testers or pen testers. They are hired by an organisation to break into a system.

What do you like outside of work?

Scuba diving and sailing. My favourite spot is the Bay of Islands.

SHINE A LIGHT

Do you know of a staff member who has hit a milestone or has a personal achievement worth sharing? Or maybe just a great life story. UniNews would love to hear about it. Email: uninews@auckland.ac.nz



Lech Janczewski's office reflects his childhood passion.



LIBRARY LANDMARK

This month marks 50 years since the opening of the University of Auckland Library.

During the summer of 1968-69, around 300,000 books were moved from the old library in the ClockTower to the new General Library building. The 14,000 cartons of books were packed, moved, unpacked and shelved in ten days.

The Library, which took more than two years and cost \$2.5m to build, was quickly open for

business and by April students were reportedly appreciating “the functional, aesthetically satisfying building, and the greatly increased seating, at individual, mostly screened, tables.” This was in marked contrast to the cramped conditions they had endured in the ClockTower.

Designed by architects Beatson, Rix-Trott, Carter & Co to eventually house 500,000 books and seat 1,100 students, the Library initially occupied the lower four levels, while the English Department and Law School occupied the upper floors.

Among the facilities were dedicated study areas for visually impaired students, a bindery and air-conditioned storage for rare books and archives. A commemorative brochure noted that the building’s main design feature was “the truly impressive main floor and ingenious ceiling-lighted mezzanine”.

The library also showcased the works of leading New Zealand artists, including Don Binney, Kees Hos, Colin McCahon, Irene O’Neill, Stanley Palmer, Alison Pickmere and Leonard Prager.

The building was due to be officially opened by Arthur Kinsella, Minister of Education, on Saturday 26 April 1969. However, a ‘chill’ laid Kinsella low and Rob Muldoon, Finance Minister, was the last-minute stand-in. So last-minute that the plaque unveiled by Muldoon (dubbed in *Craccum* as the “effective miser of Education”) bore Kinsella’s name. According to the *New Zealand Herald*, Muldoon quipped: “This is the most inaccurate thing I have done for some time.”

Although Vice-Chancellor Kenneth Maidment said the Kinsella plaque would probably remain, its whereabouts is now unknown while one bearing Muldoon’s name is preserved in Special Collections.

History professor Keith Sinclair, in a 1970 article on progress at the University, reminded readers that, “in 1950 the library was so small that it was more of a promise or an aspiration than an actual scholarly library. Now it is rapidly

BACK IN ACTION

The Gus Fisher Gallery on Shortland Street re-opens on 6 April after major restorations to its Grade I-listed Art Deco heritage interior.

Showcasing contemporary art alongside a strong representation of artists’ film, the new artistic programme pays homage to the building’s former life as radio and television studios. The revamped space – with a new floor, lighting and a restored radio tower – allows the gallery to honour the building’s architecture.

Its first exhibition features local artists alongside artists from China, Canada and the US. It’s called *We’re Not Too Big to Care*, a slogan that comes from a 1980s TV commercial by the Four Square grocery chain and reflects “the dehumanising nature of mass production and its impact on the individual”.

Artists include the likes of Billy Apple, John Baldessari, Angela Tiatia, Cao Fei and Hikalu Clarke – 16 in all.

Lisa Beauchamp, curator of contemporary art at the gallery, says the slogan *We’re Not Too Big to Care* resonates in 2019.

Lisa took up her role last May and says despite Gus Fisher being an art gallery she is thinking beyond art. “I’m keen to embed a new vision for the gallery which will reach out to both arts and non-arts audiences in meaningful and fun ways and by programming exhibitions and events that are socially responsive, inclusive and encourage debate.”

She says exhibits will run for longer, around two and a half months. Exhibitions will be complemented by public programmes and off-site projects, the first of which will be in May at St Kevin’s Arcade.

“Exhibitions will bring a different feel to the space every time,” says Lisa. “I won’t be holding back in my curation of exhibitions, and if they’re anything like my dress sense then expect a lot of colour!”



What: We’re Not Too Big to Care
Where: Gus Fisher Gallery
When: 6 April to 15 June
Read more: tinyurl.com/GusFisher

growing and is incomparably better.” Opinion was less positive in the pages of *Craccum*, however. Perhaps damning with faint praise, the new library was, according to unnamed architecture students, “of a simple design and was thus efficiently erected, and it is possible to praise its architects for putting up such a structure in a hurry when it was needed.”

■ Ian Brailsford, Special Collections

Rob Muldoon in the library on 26 April 1969. Below: Library staff and student helpers shelve books in early 1969. Photos: MSS & Archives E-10, 11.5, 11.6. Special Collections, University of Auckland Libraries and Learning Services.



Photo: Angela Tiatia, *The Fall*, 2017, (image still from film) © the artist, image courtesy of Sullivan + Strumpf

ON THE MAT

Talanoa Fogafala represents the time when a Samoan family settles on their sleeping mats and starts to tell stories.

Some stories are sad, some are funny. The metaphor aptly describes the content of a poetry and art collaboration between the Faculty of Education and Social Work and the faculties of Art and Education at the National University of Samoa (NUS).

The poems have four themes – voices of nostalgia, resistance, injustice and voices of love. As the themes suggest, the poem topics range from wistful memories to family violence, from poverty to love and affection.

The collaboration began as a chance conversation between Associate Professor Carol Mutch from the School of Critical Studies in Education and senior lecturer Leua Latai from NUS who agreed that some Samoan academics would share their poems with their New Zealand counterparts. The poems duly arrived and a group of poets brought together by Carol and Associate Dean Pasifika, Jacoba Matapo, read and responded to the Samoan poems with poems of their own. The partnered poems were returned to Samoa where Fine Arts students from NUS illustrated them with traditional and contemporary artworks.

Funding was then sought to publish the collection in book form. The Oceania Comparative and International Education Society covered the cost and the book was pre-launched at a ceremony hosted by Pasifika Success at the Faculty of Education and Social Work and then at a more formal launch at the NUS. As a response to a poem by Leua Latai, *Where I'm From*, Claudia Rozas Gómez from the School of Critical Studies wrote of her Chilean homeland.

La Pampa

(A response to *Where I'm From*)

*I went to the desert and
heard the wind talk;
memory let loose upon
my other skin.*

*The chattering and
the heaving,
like charged fingers
pressed against my chest*

*and I was able to breathe
again.*

Did you know?

At archives.library.auckland.ac.nz you can keyword-search across nearly 1,100 archival collections in Cultural Collections, encompassing 139,000 archival records, 1,700 subject terms and 2,800 creators' names. See: tinyurl.com/UoAArchives

CLASSIFIEDS

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HUMAN RIGHTS: WHEN ARE THEY RIGHT FOR TONGA?

At a time when human rights are in sharp focus, a small island nation does not yet have the words to describe the concept.

It strikes me that Tongan people are sharply divided into two camps by the English language and the global knowledge embodied in it. The first group is the minority English-speaking group. Knowledgeable of the ins and outs of today's globalised world, they are 'modernists', educated, have been overseas and include many in government, in the public service and in the professions. It is they who push for democratic change and seek to ratify human rights treaties like CEDAW (the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women).

The other group, the majority of Tongans, are the 'traditionalists'. Mainly Tongan-speaking, they have traditional beliefs in the society being made up of the king at the top, then the nobles or chiefs, then the commoners at the bottom. They speak little or no English, not enough to engage politically in modern ideas of government. They follow the advice of their religious and political leaders. For them, democracy is new and foreign, and their knowledge is largely gathered from hearing discussions on the radio, at kava parties, village weaving or ngatu-making gatherings, church or family gatherings.

The knowledge gulf between the two camps is huge, resulting in traditionalists not fully appreciating Western-derived concepts like human rights, which go beyond Tongan society to the universal human society. When the government announced its intention to have CEDAW ratified, more than 10,000 people petitioned the king that

it was contrary to Tongan culture and religion. The king stopped the ratification.

In Tonga, indeed in much of Polynesia and the Pacific, human rights conflict with cultural 'rights', or the cultural roles, of Pacific peoples. Tongan people, a product of centuries of monarchy and social hierarchy, are never born free or equal, and Tonga has no word for 'rights' as in 'to have rights', nor a conventional way of saying that one has a voice in something. Tongan language now has *totonu* (rights), *totonu 'a e tangatá* (the rights of humans) and *'i ai honau le'o* (they have a voice), but these have developed as literal translations of English expressions. Tongan pro-democracy activists are devising Tongan translations for concepts such as 'accountability' and 'transparency' so that they can talk about them in Tonga, but these are not yet fully understood by most Tongans.

So in a nation trying to introduce human rights and democracy, a first obstacle is to have Tongan words for these ideals. It is quite common for people who talk about democracy and politics to code-switch to English because there are no conventionalised ways of talking about these ideas in Tonga. In fact, the traditionalists are not being deliberately traditionalist. In the Tongan cultural context it is simply the way to be, because the Tongan world-view, as reflected in the language, lacks such liberal ideals as democracy and human rights principles.

I sometimes wonder whether Tonga's democracy includes homosexual people. There are no words in Tongan for the concepts homosexuality, gay, gender or sexual orientation, let alone concepts like bisexual and transexual. These are concepts that Tongan people are exposed to only through the English language. They are not yet part of the traditional Tongan world-view.

Even considerations of the rights of women, who make up half of the Tongan population,

may not yet be part of Tonga's democracy. In the Tongan world-view, women and men have complementary collaborative roles which they adhere to in order to run the family. Men (fathers, husbands) rule and head the family; it is they who make the really important decisions. Women (wives, mothers) take care of children and run the domestic sphere of day-to-day life. So men and women are necessarily unlike and unequal, but their roles fit together to complete the holistic scheme of running the family. Politically then, men have more power than women. This seems contrary to human rights, which says that men and women should have equal rights, hence CEDAW. As for children, their role in the family is to obey what they are told. Because children only do what they are told in Tongan culture, they have very little, if any, cultural rights, let alone any political influence in the family. Yet the United Nations has a document outlining the Rights of the Child. These are the human rights of children.

On Friday 15 March I was judging at the Polyfest Tongan Stage when the final day was cancelled in case of any risks to our children performers and their families, but also to show solidarity with the Muslim community in their loss, which is also our New Zealand loss, our human loss. It brought home sharply what human rights are – the right to be free of all forms of discrimination and racial and religious violence. If Tongans can see that, then they will see it is ok to meet human rights half-way. Because, as poet John Donne wrote, "... never send to know for whom the bell tolls – it tolls for thee".

Dr Melenaita Taumoevalau is Tongan and a senior lecturer at the Centre for Pacific Studies, Te Wānanga o Waipapa. The views in this article reflect personal opinion and are not necessarily those of the University of Auckland.