

2026 BLUES AWARD WINNERS



Arts and Cultural

James Christopher Boland

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts and Education

James won the Joynt Scroll for the second time, improving his speaker ranking from eighth to second. He also won the Officers' Cup for the first time, ranking third overall and being named best speaker in the final, before reaching the octo-finals of the World Universities Debating Championship.

Elri Bosman

Faculty of Arts and Education

Elri competed at the World Championships of Performing Arts in Las Vegas, progressing to the top 60 from 942 vocalists. She won gold medals in Rock and Variety, silver for Original Work and bronze medals in Gospel and Open, as well as the Senior Rock Division world title and a New York Film Academy scholarship.

Judy Catherine Fong

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts and Education

Judy won the Joynt Scroll and Officers' Cup, New Zealand's two major national university debating tournaments. She ranked fourth overall and fourth for reply speaking at the Joynt Scroll, and sixth overall and third for reply speaking at the Officers' Cup. Internationally, Judy was the second-ranked adjudicator at the Australasian Women and Gender Minorities Debating Championships.

Samuel David Foote

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Business and Economics

Samuel's team represented the University of Auckland and New Zealand at the 2026 International Chamber of Commerce Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris, placing first among 54 teams from 33 countries. Samuel's communication, teamwork and adaptability contributed to the team's success following months of intensive preparation.

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BLUES ²⁰
AWARDS ²⁶

Benjamin Mark Jones

**Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts
and Education**

Benjamin's team represented the University of Auckland and New Zealand at the 2026 International Chamber of Commerce Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris, placing first among 54 teams from 33 countries. Benjamin's communication, teamwork and adaptability contributed to the team's success following months of intensive preparation.

Tristan Lu

Faculty of Arts and Education

Tristan won a national solo guitar competition in Beijing, demonstrating a high level of musical skill and performance ability. He also reached the final round of the 2026 Natasha International Fingerstyle Guitar Competition with an original composition, competing against more than 200 entrants worldwide. These achievements reflect Tristan's preparation, discipline and commitment to music.

Jumana Maash

**Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts
and Education**

Jumana's team represented the University of Auckland and New Zealand at the 2026 International Chamber of Commerce Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris, placing first among 54 teams from 33 countries. Jumana competed in five of the six rounds, including the live-streamed final, following months of intensive preparation.

Xiaoyu Man

Faculty of Arts and Education

Xiaoyu was a core screenwriter for Sniper Butterfly, broadcast in December 2025. Centred on mutual redemption between a wounded urban woman and a disadvantaged rural teenager, the series gained national visibility, was shortlisted for iQIYI's annual screenwriting award, received multiple Tencent honours and topped Zhejiang TV's drama ratings chart.

Jayah Tohu-a-rongo Marsters

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts
and Education

Jayah represented New Zealand at the 2026 Presidential Office Concert in Pingtung, Taiwan, performing before 10,000 people, including Taiwan's President and the Chief of the Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan. Jayah also contributed to Te Kapa Haka o Ngāti Whakaue retaining first place in Rotorua and performed with Te Whare Tapere at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre.

Chloe Georgina Mills

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts
and Education

Chloe's team represented the University of Auckland and New Zealand at the 2026 International Chamber of Commerce Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris, placing first among 54 teams from 33 countries. Chloe's communication, teamwork and adaptability contributed to the team's success following months of intensive preparation.

Harper Kathryn Te Oriwa Smith

Faculty of Medical and
Health Sciences

Harper excelled in debating nationally and internationally, winning the 2026 Joynt Scroll and being named best speaker. Harper was also a semi-finalist and best speaker at the Officers' Cup, a quarter-finalist and the fourth-ranked speaker at the Australian British Parliamentary Debating Championships and an octo-finalist at the World Universities Debating Championship.

Emma Haley Walker

Faculty of Arts and Education

Emma, who performs as Theia and is also known as Em-Haley Kūkūtai Walker, uses music and oratory to advocate for Māori and Indigenous rights. She performs across Aotearoa and internationally and delivered two interventions at the United Nations in New York during the nomination period.