The Blaze O'Connor Prize was established in 2009 by the Department of Anthropology to honour Blaze O'Connor, who died of cancer.

Blaze received her BA from The University of Auckland in 1995, with a double major in Anthropology and Art History. She received the Senior Prize from both Departments, and was a recipient of a University of Auckland Masters Scholarship. Blaze was awarded an MA with first class honours in 1997, and went on to receive her PhD from University College Dublin in 2006. Blaze was one of the top MA students to graduate in Anthropology from The University of Auckland.

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