



Dear alumni and friends,

Our congratulations to the 5747 students graduating this week. We will be publishing informal photo galleries of all the ceremonies in our next issue.

In the meantime, you can join us in celebrating their success at the [Graduation Gala Concerto Competition](#) on May 7.

(Photo - Divya Venkatraman's degree is conferred by Chancellor Roger France)

## The sensory evaluation of wine - course discount for alumni



The Wine Science Programme at the University of Auckland invites you to spend a day immersing yourself in the taste and language of wine with internationally renowned lecturers Andrew Yap and Dr Laura Nicolau. What's more, University of Auckland Alumni are eligible to receive a special 10% discount on the course fee.

[More about the wine course and how to claim the discount](#)

## Ancient Egypt - free public lectures

The Faculty of Arts is pleased to invite you to share the experiences of two staff and their different interests in ancient Egypt.



### The desert and the sown: How mobile was the earliest agricultural society in the Nile Valley?

Over the next three years, students from Auckland, Los Angeles and Holland will survey the shores of the ancient Lake Qarun. The team will record stone artefacts and bones of animals to determine how mobile people were in the period immediately before the establishment of Pharaonic civilisation.

This talk by Associate Professor Simon Holdaway reports on work carried out by Auckland archaeologists in November/December 2008 and takes place on Tuesday 12 May.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7 May
  - [Graduation Gala Concerto competition](#)
- 12 May
  - [The desert and the sown - public lecture](#)
- 13 May
  - [The combinatorics at the heart of the problem - public lecture](#)
- 14 May
  - [Egyptology - public lecture](#)
- 18-22 May
  - [Postgraduate Information Week](#)
- 20 May
  - [Making software testing easier - public lecture](#)
- 20 May
  - [Developing Darwin's computer - public lecture](#)
- 27 May
  - [Tax reform in New Zealand in a global financial crisis - how is the system coping? Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series public lecture](#)
- 3 June
  - [Technologies for deep learning - public lecture](#)

## LATEST HEADLINES

- 5 May
  - [Leading urban designer joins University of Auckland](#)
- 1 May
  - [Graduation enlivens central city](#)
- 30 April
  - [International report highlights health challenges for Māori children](#)
  - [University of Auckland Distinguished Professor receives top international scientific accolades](#)
  - [Top scholar to study teachers in Timor-Leste](#)
- 24 April
  - [Modelling the Taupo Volcanic Zone](#)

[More information about Associate Professor Holdaway's lecture](#)



### Egyptology

For the past two years Dr Jennifer Hellum from the Department of Classics and Ancient History has led a student study trip to Egypt. The trip is intended to give the students of Ancient History some experience in the realities of working in a Muslim developing-world country. Jennifer will talk on Thursday 14 May on the tour she led in 2008.

[More information about Dr Hellum's lecture](#)

## Vice-Chancellor publishes latest Commentary



*Commentary* is an occasional publication produced by the Vice-Chancellor's office. Its purpose is to provide research-based analysis on issues of importance to New Zealand's tertiary education and research sectors.

The latest issues looks at the research undertaken by our universities and the positive contribution that this research makes to economic growth.

[Read Commentary on The University website](#)

[Read about the extension of the Vice-Chancellor's term of office](#)

## O'Rorke Hall reunion



Time has certainly flown by. O'Rorke Hall has been open for 60 years! It is with great pleasure that we announce a reunion, to be held on Saturday, July 4, 2009, for those who attended O'Rorke Hall between 1949 and 1979. A buffet lunch will be provided at 12:00pm, followed by tours of the hall at 2:00pm and an afternoon tea at 4:00pm. We hope you will join us in celebrating O'Rorke Hall and all of its history.

For further information, please contact Annalise Davidson, Operations Manager

**phone:** 09 373 7599 extension 35002

**email:** [ororkehall@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ororkehall@auckland.ac.nz)

## Graduation Gala Concerto Competition 2009 - celebrate success



Please join us at the Graduation Gala Concerto Competition. This concert will showcase the talents of School of Music soloists Joon-Han Jung (piano), Tiantian Xu (piano) and Christine Kim (flute). The Gala will be

23 April

■ [New Director focused on preserving te reo](#)

22 April

■ ["Welfare mess" needs review](#)

16 April

■ [Five top theses honoured](#)

### BOOK OF THE MONTH



#### The Dragon & The Taniwha: Māori and Chinese in New Zealand

Edited by Assoc Prof Manying Ip (UoA alumna), Auckland University Press, PB; RRP \$49.99; Alumni price \$42.50

The relationship between tangata whenua and NZ's earliest, largest, non-European immigrant group is examined here for the first time. Race relations here are usually examined in terms of Māori and Pakeha; investigating Māori-Chinese relations over 150 years reveals a much richer, more complex social fabric and offers a nuanced study of contemporary shared identities.

■ [Go to the AUP website](#)

■ [Download the AUP order form](#)

### WRITERS FESTIVAL



held at the Auckland Town Hall at 7:30pm on Thursday 7 May. All are welcome to this free event. No tickets are required but please arrive early to secure seats as this event has been extremely popular in previous years.

[Read more about the Graduation Gala Concerto Competition](#)



The University of Auckland is well represented once again at the annual Auckland Writers & Readers Festival with several of our staff and alumni giving readings and presentations. Charlotte Grimshaw, Jenny Carlyon and Selina Tusitala Marsh are among those appearing.

[Visit the Writers Festival website](#)

#### IN EVERY ISSUE

Want to share with a friend?  
Have You Moved?

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We welcome your feedback

[Tell us what you think of @ Auckland](#)

## Incredible Science - new website for children



The Faculty of Science at The University of Auckland has launched a new website where children can learn about being a real-life crime scene investigator, growing crystals, making green cheese, and the theory behind origami.

These are just some of the fun, informative videos and experiments featured on the Incredible Science website, which has been launched in the build up to this year's Incredible Science day on Monday 6 July.

[Visit the Incredible Science website](#)

## Honorary doctorate for Helen Clark

The Council of The University of Auckland will confer an honorary degree on the former Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Helen Clark, one of its most illustrious graduates.

She will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) at a ceremony to be held at the University later this year.

[Read more about Helen Clark's honorary doctorate](#)

## Computer Science research explained in inaugural Peter Gibbons Memorial Lectures



In 2008 the Department of Computer Science initiated an annual series of lectures intended to describe ongoing research in Computer Science to a wider public. The lectures are named "The Gibbons Lectures" in memory of Associate Professor Peter Gibbons.

For the inaugural series of four lectures in May and June this year, the organising committee has selected as its theme those topics that Peter Gibbons himself made contributions to and to which we give the title "Computing: From Theory to Practice". All lectures will be delivered at the University of Auckland Conference Centre, gathering at 5.30 for a 6.00pm start.

The lectures are free and all are welcome.

[More information about the lecture programme](#)

[Donate to the Peter Gibbons Memorial Lecture fund](#)

## Postgraduate Information Week: 18-22 May 2009, The University of Auckland

More events have been confirmed for Postgraduate Information Week.

Events throughout the week allow you to visit your faculty of interest for information sessions and display presentations, and give you the opportunity to discuss your research or study interests with postgraduate advisers and current students. You can also network with academic programme staff and other like-minded students.

For information about the events happening in all of the faculties and to register your attendance visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/postgradweek](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/postgradweek)

Until next month,  
The Alumni Relations Team  
The University of Auckland  
[www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz)

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