



Over 2,600 students graduated from the University last month. We'd like to welcome them all to our alumni community.

A selection of informal photographs from all of the graduation ceremonies and events are available on the Alumni and Friends website.

[Click here to view the galleries.](#)



### Barack Obama for President: The political transformation of American politics?

The Political Studies department presents a free public lecture by Professor Frank Fischer on October 13. The presentation examines the current political electoral campaign for the presidency of the United States. Can a black man become the President of the world's most powerful nation? If yes, what will it mean for the future of the country?

[Read more on the Faculty of Arts website.](#)

**Lucky number eights celebrate at Engineering Alumni Dinner**

### → Upcoming events

10 October  
[Hong Kong Alumni & Friends Reception](#)

13 October  
[Seoul Alumni & Friends reception 2008](#)

13 October  
[Barack Obama for President: The political transformation of American politics?](#)

15 October  
[Beijing alumni & friends reception 2008](#)

16 October  
[Gallipoli and Beyond: Returning to the Battlefields of the Great War](#)

16 October  
[Cambodia: Helping to Rebuild a Country after Genocide](#)

17 October  
[Shanghai Alumni & Friends reception 2008](#)

21 October  
[Inaugural lecture by Professor Klaus Bosselmann on "Losing the forest for the trees: Reductionism of the environment in law and policy"](#)

25 October  
[University of Auckland Pacific Ball](#)

3 November  
[Public lecture on "Keeping culture free: The choices law and technology force us to make about the future of the Internet and the progress of](#)



More than 500 engineering alumni filled the Marquee on the grounds of Old Government House to celebrate the Faculty of Engineering's 2008 Alumni Dinner on Saturday September 27. Those alumni who graduated in a year ending in an 8 were particularly encouraged to attend the dinner.

[Click here to read a report of the event.](#)

[Click here to view the photo gallery.](#)



### **Buzz & Singstar Party puts Alumni Scholars to the test**

The achievements of our current Alumni Scholars were celebrated earlier this month with a 'Buzz and Singstar' party at University House.

[Read more on the Alumni and Friends website.](#)



### **2008 Young Alumnus of the Year honoured**

Internationally acclaimed pianist John Chen was presented with his 2008 Young Alumnus of the Year award at a private ceremony held at the Fale Pasifika on 22 September.

[cultures"](#)

12 November  
[Wellington Alumni and Friends Reception 2008](#)

22 and 29 November  
[Introduction to Postgraduate Study](#)

### **→ Book of the month**



**Heaphy (Settler, Explorer, Artist)**  
By Iain Sharp (UoA alumnus), Auckland University Press, PB; RRP \$65.99; Alumni price \$55.25

"In this lively and illuminating book, Iain Sharp brings to life the paintings and the man . . . fills out a vital chapter in the history of this country's art and brings to life one of the most extraordinary and multi-faceted personalities in settler-era New Zealand." - Gregory O'Brien

[Go to the AUP website](#)

[Get the 15% alumni discount](#)

### **→ Latest headlines**

9 October  
[Royal Society awards for University researchers](#)

8 October  
[Emerging electrical and computer research on show](#)

[Read more on the Alumni and Friends website.](#)

## Political Studies postgraduate students in weekly TV segment

Seven postgraduate students from the Department of Political Studies are gracing the nation's television screens with their political expertise. Supervised by Dr Jennifer Curtin, the students will appear on Agenda, TVNZ's Sunday morning programme dedicated to political commentary and analysis. In a new segment called Fact Finder, one student each week examines three statements made by politicians and assesses whether they are right or wrong.

[Find out more by visiting www.AgendaTV.co.nz.](http://www.AgendaTV.co.nz)

## Sharing their success



*Telling his story: Patrick Leung graduated with a BCom/BSc and now works for Google New York*

The University of Auckland has launched a family of four television commercials.

Interviewed by Nick Dwyer, two students and two graduates talk about their experiences at the University and how they're making their mark on the world - from Auckland to New York.

9 October  
[The genetics of handedness](#)

7 October  
[Earthquake engineers scoop international prizes](#)

7 October  
[What drives evolution?](#)

3 October  
[Research boost for \\$2.6 billion plastics industry](#)

2 October  
[School of Music produces classic comic opera](#)

1 October  
[University of Auckland students publish annual short story collection](#)

30 September  
[University award for outstanding service](#)

29 September  
[Portal linking scientists and public to aid clinical trials](#)

26 September  
[Elam Artist in Residence offers practical responses to global problems](#)

26 September  
[From milk bottles to roof tiles - Waiheke set to be a leader in recycling](#)



## In every issue

WANT TO SHARE THE NEWS?  
[Send this message to a friend](#)

[To view the four commercials click here.](#)

## Introduction to Postgraduate study

Returning to study after some years away from University can be a daunting prospect. You know that the sophisticated skills provided by postgraduate study are respected and valued, but it's a big decision to commit to further study. The Centre for Continuing Education and School of Graduate Studies will offer a FREE two day workshop in November for those considering postgraduate study.

If you are a graduate who has been in the workforce for some time and are considering further study then the *Introduction to Postgraduate Study* workshop may be for you.

[Read more on the Postgraduate Study website.](#)



### University of Auckland Hood Fellow bridges sciences, humanities, humanitarianism

Later this month, visiting Hood Fellow Professor Alan Lightman will deliver three public lectures spanning science, literature and his own international charity work, three areas to which he has devoted his life.

[Read more on the University website.](#)



### iPod Nano provides incentive in Spring Graduation competition

Last week Alumni Relations Manager Amanda Lyne awarded one lucky new graduate, school teacher Puna Posimani, an iPod Nano following a competition aimed at encouraging new graduates to update their contact details during Spring Graduation.

[Read more on the Alumni and Friends](#)

HAVE YOU MOVED?  
[Update your details if they have changed](#)

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

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125 YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE  
1883-2008

[website.](#)

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### **Portal linking scientists and public to aid clinical trials sweeps Entrepreneurship Challenge**

A venture that will help scientists reduce the time and cost of setting up clinical trials claimed top prize in the final of the Spark \$40K Challenge at The University of Auckland on 26 September.

[Read more on the Business School website.](#)

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### **Pacific alumni celebrate 125th Jubilee**

Pacific alumni are invited to a ball to be held on 24 October as part of the University's 125th celebrations and the establishment of a University of Auckland Pacific Alumni group.

[Read more on the Alumni and Friends website.](#)

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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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