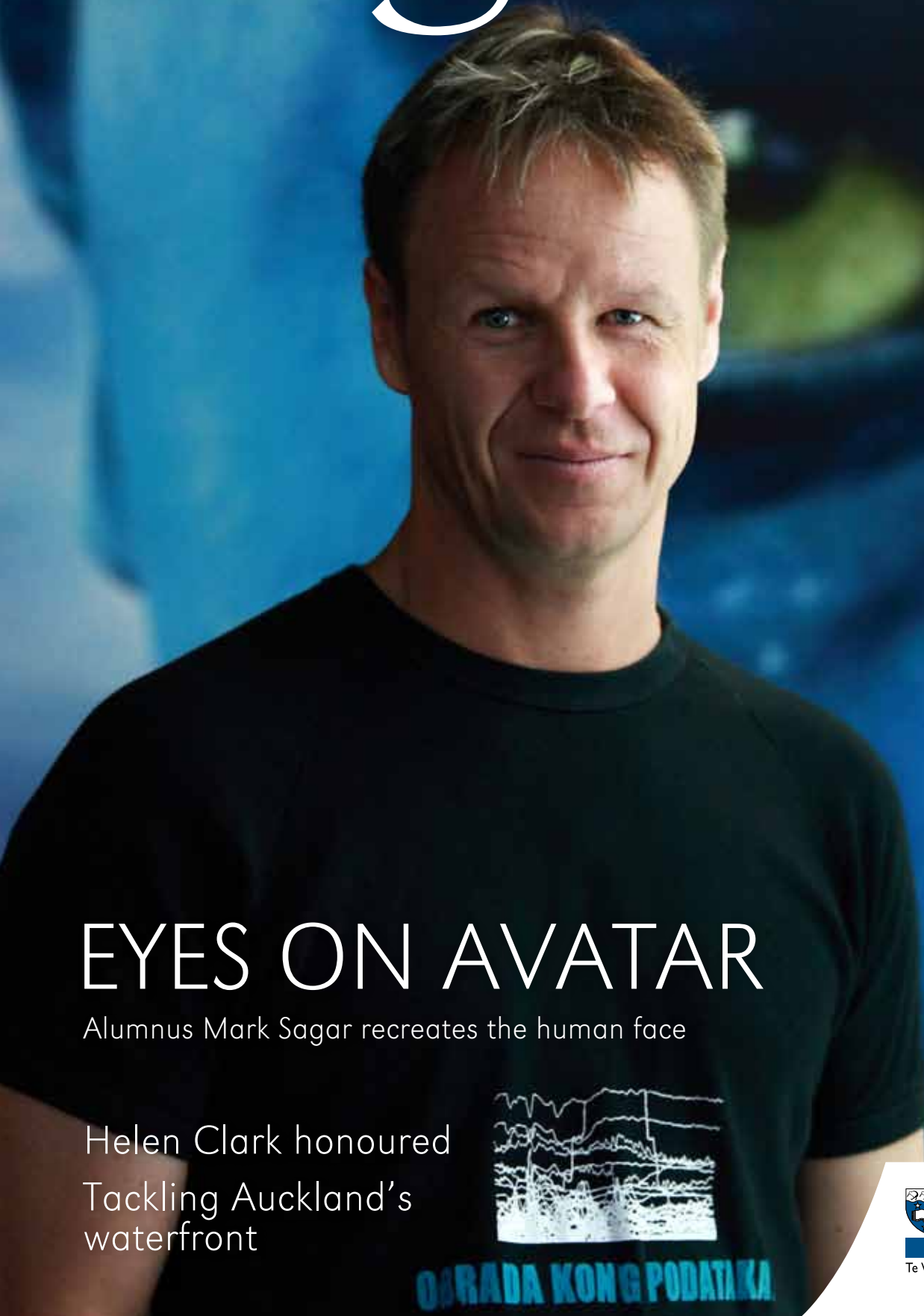


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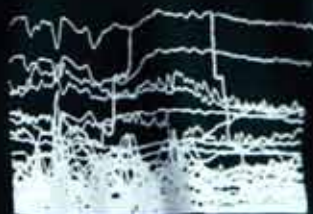
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ALUMNI MAGAZINE | Autumn 2010



EYES ON AVATAR

Alumnus Mark Sagar recreates the human face

Helen Clark honoured
Tackling Auckland's
waterfront



ORADA KONG PODATAKA

In this issue

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Alumnus Mark Sagar
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From the Vice-Chancellor

Funding for quality

Over the last 18 months we have lived with the consequences of the global financial crisis and, in contrast to some universities, we have come through it pretty well. But this experience has demonstrated that New Zealand has to make some difficult choices. One of the most important choices is how we invest in our university system.

For the first time in recent years, we are facing the rationing of access to a university education. The government, on behalf of the taxpayer, is no longer prepared to financially support every student who wishes to attend university for however long he or she wishes to attend. But further difficult decisions will be required if we are to maintain the quality of our universities, of the education we offer and the research we undertake. In particular, we will have to ask ourselves about the appropriate balance between investment in the actual institutions that teach and research, and in the students themselves.

In terms of the total government funding for tertiary education as a proportion of GDP we are above the OECD average. However, we have an unusual distribution of that expenditure. Across the OECD, an average 18 percent of the total amount each country invests in tertiary education goes to support students and 82 percent to funding institutions such as universities and polytechnics. But in New Zealand, 42 percent of the taxpayer investment supports students while only 58 percent supports the institutions.

The net result of this funding pattern, which has been evolving over the last two decades, is a highly efficient, value-for-money university system which is now under-funded and under threat.

Increasingly, our best and brightest – students and staff – are being lured away by

wealthier overseas universities, particularly in Australia, the United States and Asia. Just last year for example, the University of Adelaide offered all-expenses paid trips to New Zealand students, hoping to convince them to study there. The Australian National University advertised for professors from New Zealand, offering to take not only the professors themselves, but also their entire research groups. And our Economics Department lost six staff in just that one year – all of them to foreign universities. For many, the offers are too attractive to turn down.

While international experience is an important part of any education, we need to ensure that New Zealand universities attract and retain their share of the most talented staff and students. However, the current balance of investment in the tertiary system makes that extremely difficult, and we are at risk of creating a system that is cheap but of declining quality.

It is important to remember that investment in a university education delivers a private as well as a public return. Recent Ministry of Education statistics show that university graduates have an average 20 percent higher salary than non-graduates. In Australia, it has been estimated that having a university degree leads to higher lifetime earnings of about \$ 1.5 million, and a similar figure is likely to apply here.

Australian research has also shown that universities generate a 14-20 percent return on the public investment in them. Yet despite these benefits, and despite its high overall level of investment in tertiary education, New Zealand invests in its universities at a rate well below the OECD average – a rate just 60 percent that of Australia and 40 percent that of the US. Little wonder that those countries



can regularly send out raiding parties to capture our best and brightest.

So the challenge for taxpayers is to weigh up where funds allocated to tertiary education should actually go. Students and their families not only want access to universities but they also want to know that the universities they attend will deliver a quality education.

Although our Leading the Way philanthropic campaign is progressing well, it will produce only a fraction of the income necessary to defend ourselves from the rapidly escalating international competition for talent.

We must ensure New Zealanders are clear about what they want from their university system. Access is important, but if it comes at the cost of reduced quality that will not be in the interests of this country.

STUART McCUTCHEON

What do you think? Respond to this editorial by emailing the editor:
ingenio@auckland.ac.nz

Letters to the Editor

Challenging Dawkins

Professor Richard Dawkins is a passionate man, committed to defending the science of biological evolution against its detractors. *The Greatest Show on Earth* is part of that defence. Biological evolution provides a unifying framework of the life sciences with overwhelming evidential support. I and fellow Christians in the biological sciences unreservedly support the promotion of evolutionary science. We also urge all Christians to be receptive to, and informed by, biblical scholarship. *Genesis* was never intended to be a sourcebook of scientific data.

But histories other than evolutionary history are also important for forming us as people. Another Dawkins' project is to preach an exclusively materialistic world-view. In *The God Delusion* he savaged the historical records of the Christian faith. He stated that the biblical accounts of the life of Christ were selected randomly from a large variety of available "gospels". However, the non-biblical "gospels" were remote from Jesus' Hebrew context, lacked historical referent, and were products of the world-denying, dualistic, individualistic Greco-Roman religious scene.

Dawkins stated that the gospels were severely corrupted by accumulated copyists' errors. He seems unaware that the rich resource of Gospel manuscripts has allowed textual critics to reconstruct almost the entire original Gospel texts to a high degree of confidence. Textual criticism is a rigorous science, analogous to phylogenetic analysis of DNA sequences. Indeed if Dawkins was right all classical history could, potentially, be written off as unreliable.

Dawkins states that Jesus' command to "love your neighbour" applied only to loving fellow Jews, and that Jesus acquired this narrow perspective from the ancient Hebrew Scriptures. Dawkins' assertion is false. Jesus defined "love for neighbour" by the parable of the Good Samaritan, who showed compassion for someone from an alien, traditionally detested, community. Jesus taught his disciples to love their enemies. And the Hebrew Scriptures taught that "the foreigners residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself." Care for the foreigner, widow and orphan was central to ancient Hebrew faith.

Perhaps Dawkins takes the mantle of a "history-denier", systematically misrepresenting the formative history of

Christianity, because he does not consider it worthy of serious engagement. But in that case, how is he different from those who pillory biological history? The University of Auckland must provide a culture of academic integrity, which entails accurate representation of empirical data, and of perspectives with which one might disagree. Dawkins, no less than his Creationist opponents, fails this test.

A fully referenced copy of this letter is available on request to: g.finlay@auckland.ac.nz

Dr Graeme Finlay, from the Department of Molecular Medicine, was invited to write this response to Professor Richard Dawkins' visit to the University in March. See how alumni responded to the controversial scientist's lecture on pages 26 – 27.

The odd one out

It was heartening to read (*Ingenio* Spring 2009) of the cancer research being undertaken at The University of Auckland.

It was also refreshing to find that Lynn Ferguson is making an effort to discover ways we can avoid getting cancer, even though in her words she sees herself as "the odd one out". "Odd" because she is looking for ways to prevent us getting cancer.

What a sad comment on the general attitude of the medical profession and its associated research fraternity, who apparently require us to get cancer before they attempt to offer us any assistance.

However, does her dismissal of organic food mean that she discounts the possibility that chemical residues in the food we eat can have any influence on the occurrence of cancerous growths in our bodies? And if so, is the rejection of this possibility in any way influenced by the sources of funding for some research at The University of Auckland.

**Neil Pryor
(Dip Arch 1963)**

Professor Lynn Ferguson replies:

In response to Neil Pryor's letter I am pleased to hear that he is supportive of my work.

I wish to answer the questions as to whether I believe that chemical residues have the potential to cause cancer. Of course they can. It is essential that when permitted pesticides are used, these are in the amounts and times indicated by the scientific evidence.

However, residues of pesticides are not the only possible cancer cause, nor even considered to be a major one (if at all). My comments drew attention to the fact that some pathogens, especially fungal pathogens, may themselves produce potential carcinogens. Indeed, aflatoxin B1 is one of the most potent carcinogens known, and is produced by a fungus growing on stored nuts and grains. Even washing will not remove the toxin, which penetrates into the tissues. Furthermore, in the absence of exogenous pesticides, the plant will attempt to stop the infection by producing its own endogenous pesticides. These are more likely to be dangerous than those that are known, regulated and controlled.

And if there is, indeed, a good source of funding to study these issues in the New Zealand situation, I would be very pleased to have my attention drawn to it.

**Professor Lynnette Ferguson
Head of Nutrition,
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
MSc (Hons), D Phil (Oxon), DSc
Reg. Nutritionist (NZ)**

Send your thoughts to:

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Preference will be given to letters that address the content of the magazine.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and content.



Illustrious graduate honoured

It was a moment for the University to savour: one of its most “illustrious graduates” receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at a ceremony in the building she had opened in 2004.

“It is a particular honour to receive this doctorate in law given that I had the responsibility for passing so many of them,” alumna the Rt Hon Helen Clark (BA 1971, MA with first class honours 1974) told a gathering of family, friends, colleagues and University staff at the Fale Pasifika on 17 February.

The former Prime Minister of New Zealand was back home from New York on a few days’ leave from her current post as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. Earlier in the day she had been invested with a Membership

of the Order of New Zealand by the Governor-General and fellow alumnus Anand Satyanand (LLB 1971’ Honorary LLD 2006). Yet that event did not seem to have dimmed the pride she felt in being honoured by her alma mater.

“It is a significant honour to be recognised in this way by one’s own university,” Helen told the gathering. “I spent 14 years very directly associated with the University as a student and as a lecturer. Beyond that I kept an association with the University throughout my political career, occasionally as guest lecturer and as attender of countless official events, and of course through my husband Peter who has been a member of the academic staff here for close to three decades.”

Helen enrolled at The University of

Auckland in 1968, the first in her family to attend university. She studied history and politics and began her political career by signing up as a member of the Labour Party’s Princes Street branch.

“What a year it was to arrive on a university campus,” she remembered. “Around the western world university campuses were erupting with protest against government, against wars and against university administrations in many places. In our own country there was involvement in the Vietnam War which many of us were concerned about as well as the odd Springbok Rugby Tour.

“As well, enlightened [University] staff took it upon themselves to organise an alternative university in 1968 in the crypt of St Paul’s Church in Symonds Street and

there they exposed us to speakers who were able to range far beyond the boundaries of conventional lectures.”

Helen went on to major in Political Studies and was taught by “dedicated people” such as Bob Chapman, Ruth Butterworth, Barry Gustafon and Graham Bush. “And I was aware of other towering intellects on campus: Sidney Musgrove, Keith Sinclair, Nicholas Tarling and so many others.”

Her masters thesis was entitled “Political attitudes of the New Zealand countryside”. During her research she investigated voting patterns in rural electorates, looking at Federated Farmers and other political institutions of rural life. In 1973 she was appointed to a junior lectureship in Political Studies and then in 1976 she won a government postgraduate scholarship to explore her interest in a doctoral dissertation, but eventually she chose the political life over the academic one.

“I look back on those years of studying and then teaching as among the happiest of my life,” said Helen at the honorary doctorate ceremony. “There could not have been a better preparation for what was to follow: a very tough political career which required tremendous self-discipline and rigour.”

She recalled how an academic background led her to apply “rather more rigour to policy papers and correspondence than officials



Portrait of Helen Clark while a lecturer at the University, ca 1978. Photo courtesy the Chapman, R.M. (Robert McDonald) papers, 1933-2005. MSS & Archives 2006/2, item 298. Special Collections, University of Auckland Library.

were generally used to. My loathing of the non sequitur, the misplaced apostrophe and split infinitive led to a lot of red ink over the years and not just on student assignments, as the United Nations Development Programme will tell you.”

Helen Clark stood for Piako in the general election of 1975 and modestly increased the Labour vote even though it was a National stronghold and there was a national swing against Labour elsewhere. When she stood again in 1981, it was in the Labour heartland of Mount Albert, and the voters sent her to a seat in the New Zealand House of Representatives. The rest is history. Helen rose up through Labour Party ranks to lead the party for some 15 years, nine of them as New Zealand’s first elected woman Prime Minister, and she held on to her seat in Mount Albert until retiring from politics in 2008.

“I do see politics as an honourable profession, though perhaps more in the breach than the observance, and as one the best and brightest of each generation should be encouraged to enter as a form of public service.

“A university education was for me a transformational experience, and a major motivation for me in public life was to strive to make that experience available to everyone with potential to benefit from it. Opportunity denied because of the cost of access is a tragedy for the individual and the country, and I also think it’s fundamentally at odds with the egalitarian value system we share.”

During her eulogy for Helen at the degree ceremony, Public Orator Professor Vivienne Grey referred to the inaugural Chapman Lecture in 2000 at which Helen spoke of the need for educated and skilled people to enhance the prosperity of New Zealand and of the role that universities have to play in producing them.

“She acknowledged that role in her support for the Knowledge Wave conferences at The University of Auckland in 2001 and 2003, and her government gave it formal substance in creating the ‘Partnerships for Excellence’ that were designed to promote co-operation between universities and business and industry. These partnerships helped establish the University’s Business School, the Centre for Plastics Innovation and Technology, the Institute of Innovation for Biotechnology, the Institute for Health Innovation, and the National Research Centre for Growth and Development. Starpath was another Partnership, designed to improve access to tertiary education for New Zealanders from all walks of life.

“Her government promoted excellence in teaching when it established the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards in 2002 and excellence in research when it introduced Performance Based Research Funding in 2003. It also lifted the burden of interest from the large loans that students now incur. The University of Auckland has benefited from these innovations; they have stimulated

“**I look back on those years of studying and then teaching as among the happiest of my life. There could not have been a better preparation for what was to follow: a very tough political career which required tremendous self-discipline and rigour.**”

a change in the culture, particularly in research. The matching of research performance with funding has increased the emphasis on graduate research and the completion of dissertations and theses; and the increased importance of the publication of research and the generation of external research income has had a major impact on academic aspirations.”

After defeat in the 2008 election Helen stood down from leadership of the Labour Party and in April 2009 she became the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. She is the first woman to lead the organisation and is also chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee consisting of the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

You can read more about Helen’s work with the UN at: www.undp.org/about/helen-clark.shtml

Services streamlined

The University of Auckland Clinics have been launched at Tamaki Campus with benefits for the local community as well as university teaching and research.

Services range from hearing and tinnitus clinics to eye examinations and vision assessments, speech language therapy, counselling, cardiac rehabilitation and high-performance support for athletes.

The clinics, which previously operated as separate entities within their academic departments, are now managed as a single entity with shared services such as reception and booking.

For further information about the services and how to access them, see, www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz

Brilliance affirmed

Professor Richard Faull from the Department of Anatomy with Radiology has been named Supreme Winner at the 2010 World Class New Zealand Awards.

These awards are presented annually by Kea New Zealand and Trade and Enterprise New Zealand to recognise outstanding individuals who have made major contributions to this country's success on the world stage.

Richard is an internationally recognised expert on neurodegenerative disorders, perhaps best known for research showing that the adult brain contains stem cells. This groundbreaking work countered the long-held belief that adults have a finite supply of brain cells that cannot be replaced, and offers hope to people with neurodegenerative disease or brain injury.

Leading thinker

Emeritus Professor John Butcher from the Department of Mathematics has been named a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

He is one of 34 mathematicians world-wide to receive this distinction in 2010 for their key contributions to applied mathematics and computational science. John's Fellowship was for developing the foundations of the modern theory of Runge-Kutta methods.

The Fellows will be recognised in July during the 2010 SIAM Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Jewel of India

Professor Debes Bhattacharyya (pictured above) from the Department of Mechanical Engineering has been awarded the Hind Rattan (Jewel of India) for his significant professional contributions and, in a separate event, has received the Glory of Bengal for outstanding contributions by a person of Bengali origin.

Born in Calcutta, Debes relocated to Western Australia and then to Auckland, where he joined the University staff in 1980. Now a member of the Royal Society

of New Zealand and a Distinguished Fellow of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand, he established and leads the University's Centre for Advanced Composite Materials.

Debes is only the second New Zealander to receive a Hind Rattan, which are presented annually in New Delhi by the NRI Welfare Society of India at an elaborate ceremony attended by Government ministers.

The Glory of Bengal, awarded in Doha, Qatar, is given to about 12 Bengalis living around the world.

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PHOTO: DEAN CARRUTHERS

An eye on the prize

Oscar-winning alumnus Mark Sagar, who has hit the headlines for his work in several high-profile movies, speaks with Danelle Clayton.

Weta Digital's Mark Sagar has a passion for recreating the human face, whether on a screen or on a sketchpad.

It has taken him from a Mechanical Engineering PhD to key technical roles in films like *Avatar* and *King Kong*. Earlier this year, his contributions to the motion picture industry were recognised with an Academy Award.

Mark was one of four awarded a Scientific and Engineering Oscar for a lighting stage and facial rendering system, used to create realistic digital characters in *Spiderman 2*. It essentially helps computers make digital characters look real on the big screen, and was later used in *Superman Returns*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and *Avatar*.

The technique meant the subtle qualities of the skin, such as colour, texture, shine and translucency, could be digitally reproduced in an entirely convincing way. Based on research by Paul Debevec, a professor at the University of Southern California, the lighting stage illuminates an actor's face from 500 different angles, telling a computer how to light a digital version of the actor in any conditions.

The technical Academy Awards were held in Beverly Hills in February, a few weeks before the glitzy televised Oscars ceremony. "It's not nearly as glamorous as the main awards, but it was the most glamorous thing I've been to," Mark says, grinning widely.

Mark completed a Bachelor of Science, and a PhD in Engineering at The University of Auckland. His research, completed in the late 1990s, was a landmark study in how to develop an anatomically correct virtual eye and realistic models of biomechanically-simulated anatomy. It was one of the first examples of how believable human features could be created on a screen by combining computer graphics with mathematics and human physiology.

"Combining computer graphics with something organic, the eyeball, was a fantastic place to start. The eye is the visible part of the brain. It's the main interface with the world and the most challenging part of the face to make believable in a digital form," Mark says.

His supervisors, Professor Gordon Mallinson, Head of Mechanical Engineering, and Professor Peter Hunter, Director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI),

say Mark was a unique researcher because he had both outstanding artistic and mathematical abilities.

Mark was born in Kenya to an artist mother and systems analyst father. His mother taught him from an early age about the fundamentals of drawing faces. Before his PhD, he spent three years travelling the world sketching portraits, eventually returning to Auckland to study.

"He came into a group that was pioneering mathematical modelling of biological functions, and he added an extra layer by thinking about how we could do it in the most visually realistic way, so it made sense to clinicians," Peter Hunter says.

"You couldn't do this research unless you were an artist," says Gordon Mallinson. "It is almost like he had full use of both the left and right hemispheres of the brain, which is quite rare."

Mark's virtual eye was made for a surgery robot being developed by Peter's brother, Professor Ian Hunter, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. After completing his thesis, Mark relocated to the States to join Ian's lab.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 20th CENTURY FOX

"I'd been making eyeballs but I was definitely interested in extending this to faces. It was a natural progression, influenced by my portrait work. My goal was to make a completely photorealistic digital actor that people wouldn't suspect isn't real. I really wanted to push it as far as we could go," he says.

Mark ended up in an MIT spin-out company, set up in Hollywood to realise the potential of their anatomically-based graphical animations to the film industry. One of their first projects was a digital animation of actor Jim Carrey's face, pulling complicated expressions. It never made it to the big screen, but it was viewed by "everyone" in Hollywood, creating a buzz. The company went on to make short films, demonstrating the scope of what was now being achieved in digital animation, including a film called *Young at Heart*, which portrayed a young actress as a very convincing 80-year-old woman.

And then the dot-com crash came. It wiped out the production company; however Mark was able to move on to LA-based Sony Imageworks, where the Academy Award winning lighting techniques were used in his first blockbuster film, *Spiderman 2*.

It was also where he returned to his main passion of recreating facial expression. He continued working on motion capture techniques, which essentially record an actor's movements and expressions to create a computer-generated character.

In 2004 he relocated to New Zealand, where he joined Weta and was given the

opportunity to work on Peter Jackson's *King Kong*. On this film he was able to push the boundaries of motion capture techniques much further in an effort to give a gorilla highly believable expressions and emotions.

"It wasn't a speaking part, so capturing the subtleties in the eyes and emotions was critical to how that character came across," Mark says.

"What I love about film is you get crazy problems like how to convert human expressions into gorilla expressions. No-one has ever had to solve that before. But if you get it wrong, people know straight away."

A few years later the technology took another huge leap forward when Mark and his Weta colleagues started collaborating with James Cameron on *Avatar*. The possibility of working with Cameron pushed the team to make the motion capture system work in real-time.

"He wanted to capture actor's faces during a scene using helmet cameras, and convert that information instantly into digital alien characters," Mark says.

"The great thing about working with James Cameron is he knows when something can be achieved that's never been done before. He understands that as long as the resources are put to one of his visions, it can be done."

Mark says the blue-skinned alien characters in *Avatar* are so believable because a great deal of effort and attention went into the eyes. Every subtle contour of the eyelid and movement of the eyeball had to be just right.

"The success with *Avatar* is the shock

people get when a very alien creature comes across in a natural way. They think 'how did that get past that part of my brain?' And in *Avatar* it's not just the faces in the film; they've meticulously created an entire visual world – every blade of grass, the wind through the trees, the light bouncing off leaves – it's incredible."

Mark insists though that we are still at the tip of the iceberg. His goal remains to capture a sense of consciousness in his characters that is completely indistinguishable from a real human.

"At some point in the future we should have a decent enough computational model to create the external manifestation of consciousness. It's so cool to explore because it taps into what it means to be alive; people just know when something is alive or not.

"The problem with film though is it's a passive medium, and we could take this so much further, into new forms of entertainment, human computer interactions, and into the medical fields, helping surgeons with simulated patients; the possibilities are endless."

To get there Mark hopes we can create more synergies between different fields, from psychology and human behaviour to biomedical engineering and the arts, with a common goal in mind.

"There are so many technologies that haven't yet been applied to creating virtual humans, and with places like Weta and ABI, we have the creative excellence in New Zealand to do it really well."

A master plan for Auckland's waterfront – what should it entail?

We asked members of our staff and alumni community.

“Auckland’s citizens have been short-changed through fragmented development”

Forget party centrals. Ditto cruise ship terminals and rugby stadia. Monumental architecture can help, but waterfronts are essentially where humans connect with the theatre of the sea.

Successful waterfronts emphasise the public realm – ample landscaped and connected promenades, parks and squares providing the places and spaces for social interaction and serendipity. They focus on people, not real estate bonanzas. Intensive cultural and everyday activities are blended with appropriate commercial and residential activities. Innovative architecture and public art are combined with maritime heritage and the marine environment. Barriers are dissolved through quality design and efficient public transport. They come about through inspired city vision and are reinforced by effective governance. They are seen as a long-term investment, where citizen engagement is welcomed, where equity and the evolution of an authentic and atmospheric sense of place remain abiding principles.

Despite an abundance of plans over many decades aspiring to these factors, Auckland’s citizens have been short-changed through fragmented development – often an impulsive response to a transitory sporting event. Commercial objectives are more often favoured over public imperatives, urban design guidance is ignored, and parcels of the public realm have passed into private ownership. The public and quasi-public agencies responsible for the governance and development of Auckland’s waterfront are constantly restructured and frequently

charged with profit, not public obligations. This has amounted to a farrago of introverted shopping malls and office blocks, car parks, blank walls and elite residential neighbourhoods with all the panache of suburbia.

Auckland’s waterfront is a metropolitan asset, not a cash cow. It has the potential to be a distinctive cultural and recreational regional locus, to add to the city’s competitive advantage, to reunite citizens with the sea. Its importance is recognised in the super city mandate with the establishment of a waterfront development agency to provide strategic direction and coherence. There is much to suggest, however, that this agency will perpetuate regional fragmentation and operate as a single player devoid of democratic accountability. Comprehensive planning integrated with broader regional priorities, sound resourcing, enlightened governance, and community inclusion are essential if Auckland’s waterfront opportunities are to be realised and embellished.

Elizabeth Aitken Rose
Acting Head of the School of Architecture and Planning

“Do we really want a ‘grand gesture’ for our waterfront?”

There are few things more important for Auckland in planning and environmental terms than good management of its

waterfront and environs. And yet the history of Auckland’s waterfront is littered with examples of environmental neglect, ad hoc development, and planning failure. Recent examples include the tatty collection of shops, gas stations and fast-food outlets that mark the Eastern gateway to the city, and the visual barrier created between downtown and the harbour by insensitively designed and located office and apartment blocks.

Under existing governance and property ownership arrangements, responsibility for the waterfront is shared between a range of agencies and organisations with differing responsibilities and agendas, including a city council, a regional council, central government agencies, a port company and the private sector. The new super city proposals appear to offer limited opportunities for rationalisation of the governance structure, although the planned ‘Waterfront Development Agency’ holds promise provided issues of representation and accountability can be satisfactorily resolved.

Whatever governance arrangements eventuate for Auckland, it is crucial to balance the many competing uses of the waterfront in an integrated, equitable and sustainable manner. The prime objectives must be to maintain and enhance the environmental and aesthetic quality of the waterfront, while maximising access to, and use of, the waterfront by the people of Auckland. Visual sight-lines, open spaces and physical access to the water must be maintained and enhanced, and more sustainable transport options such as pedestrian and cycle-paths, water transport and light-rail provided for. Imaginative living options such as residential marinas and house-boat precincts should be considered. The “tank farm” redevelopment provides

a unique opportunity to provide for these matters in that area.

From time to time there are suggestions for some “grand gesture” intended to imprint an international identity on the city. There are successful precedents for this – “Christ the Redeemer” in Rio; the Golden Gate in San Francisco; the Opera House in Sydney. These were achieved with bold vision, sufficient funding and a determination to see the project through to fruition. Sadly these are characteristics we seldom display with major public projects.

So even if we could agree on the *what* - and fund the *how* - do we really want a “grand gesture” for our waterfront? Nature has created one of the most beautiful harbours in the world, and despite a legacy of design mediocrity and planning compromise, Auckland is still a beautiful city – small, but well-formed. Let nature’s work be our icon.

David Grinlinton,
Associate Professor of Law

“A priority should be that it speaks more clearly to Māori aspirations”

Auckland has become the city it is because of the waterfront. The edge between land and sea along the Waitemata has been, over generations, where kaimoana has been gathered, commerce established and newcomers welcomed. Until the age of affordable air travel, it was the city’s front door.

For too long and in too many ways, this front door has been locked up and less than inviting. Fences, sheds and cranes are symbols of security and industry. They have their place but Aucklanders deserve more room to move along this zone that helps define our city.

Auckland is, above all, a watery city but one whose history has involved a frequent turning away from the sea with too many sight-lines now obscured by office towers and apartment blocks.

To plan for the waterfront needs a bold commitment to urban design. Thoughtful design is the difference between cities being ordinary or extraordinary places. A city committed to careful design underlying all aspects of urban development could indeed become a super city in experience and not just in name.

We only have one waterfront. It warrants careful consideration for its capacity to be a place of significance and an expression of our

place-in-the-world. A priority should be that it speaks more clearly to Māori aspirations – both to honour heritage and give tangata whenua a firmer symbolic place in the city.

Car parks and roads have no place at the waterfront. Indeed, if ferries not four-lanes had been a priority, we would have a very different city today! The waterfront needs to be pre-eminently a walking place. It needs to encourage people to linger. Spending time within such precincts promotes not just sociability; it invariably leads to spending money. Pedestrian-friendly design is good for the economy.

As Kiwis we go to the beach to slow down and reflect on who we are. Our waterfront should allow this. It is our downtown coast. To craft a place that is rich in symbols and remembrance of who we are, and a place where walking is the norm, is to restore a human scale to this precious meeting of land and sea.

Robin Kearns,
Professor of Geography
School of Environment

“A city centre needs people to keep it alive 24/7.”

New Zealand is a maritime nation. Our history records voyages by our Māori forefathers, whose astonishing feats of navigation and seamanship are evident.

Later voyages of discovery by Tasman and then Cook recorded New Zealand on world maps only 240 years ago, long after all the major land masses were involved in world trade. New Zealand’s entry into world trade is as recent as 100 years ago, with the development of refrigerated shipping.

“Our youthfulness is a consequence of our remote location in a distant part of the world’s oceans.

Despite the ubiquitous nature of the internet and the relative convenience of world aviation New Zealand can still celebrate its maritime characteristics. We field a huge proportion of competitive sailors; we are amongst the most travelled populations; most of us live within 100 kilometres of the sea. We are a maritime people.

Recently an eminent professor from the University of Delft proclaimed Auckland as one of a few great port-cities, one where maritime commerce and urban development comfortably co-exist. It was a timely reminder of one of this country’s great strengths and an important identification for Auckland.

Much has been said about Auckland’s CBD waterfront and its comparison with Wellington’s water edge. Just as Wellington has developed a water-frontage of which it can justly be proud, so Auckland must seize the opportunity to build its port-city image.

Interestingly Wellington’s waterfront improvements were not the product of the Council of the day. Rather it was recognition of its potential that activated a small number of Wellingtonians led by Sir Michael Fowler who interrupted a progression towards commercial uses for vacated port land and buildings. As a consequence councillors were replaced by another set of representatives who put in place the first parts of the waterfront we see today. Sir Michael Fowler’s mayoralty resulted.

The soon to be elected Auckland Council must create the vision for Auckland’s CBD waterfront and direct its Waterfront Agency to implement that vision. Places for the port, active and passive recreation, commercial, retail and residential occupancy must be combined into an urban place which people wish to use, visit and enjoy. A city centre needs people to keep it alive 24/7. It also needs an economic, wealth-creating purpose to sustain investment and to refresh its environment. A blend of occupancies assists a city to be of interest to visitors, residents and business. A successful port city needs this blend.

Our principal cities’ waterfronts – Wellington, Auckland and elsewhere – can capture the nature of our maritime existence and celebrate it for the world to see.

Sir Ron Carter
Distinguished Alumnus of The University of Auckland, Chairman of the Committee for Auckland, a not for profit private sector organisation interested in the enhancement and development of Auckland

What do you think a waterfront master plan should entail?

Write to us at: Ingenio, Communications and Marketing, Private Bag Box 92019, Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland 1142
Or email: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz

New knowledge

Māori researchers are bringing a distinctive insight to issues in our society. Prue Scott investigates.

Integrated system for sustainable solutions

Lake Rotoitipaku and the nearby ngāwhā (springs) in the Bay of Plenty on New Zealand's Pacific coast are sacred to Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau.

But over the years they have become a waste site, polluted through industrial activity. The mauri (life-force) of the lake, ngāwhā and adjacent wāhi tapu (sacred area) has been significantly diminished. And the iwi – the tribe – want it restored.

Enter earth system scientist Dr Dan Hikuroa (of Tainui and Te Arawa ancestry and pictured right), who blends mātauranga Māori (the body and tradition of Māori knowledge) and western science to deliver a new approach to land, lake and waterway rehabilitation, and to sustainably developing natural resources.

"Earth system science is the study of the Earth system," explains Dan, "with an emphasis on observing, understanding and predicting changes involving interactions between land, atmosphere, water, ice, biosphere, societies, technologies and economies. Implicit in this is the understanding that everything is connected, and therefore Earth system science corresponds closely with Te Ao Māori view of the world and is a natural starting point for integration of science and mātauranga."

Traditionally, different experts would assess in their areas of proficiency and each would write a report. "Earth system science says you need to assess each element as part of a whole, otherwise you can't restore the mauri," explains Dan. "Everything is connected, so you can't just focus on one aspect, because adjusting that could have ramifications for the entire system."

To achieve that integration Dan is using a decision-making framework, the Mauri Model, created by Dr Kepa Morgan from the University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The Mauri Model starts from the position that empirical and holistic systems, western science and mātauranga Māori are of equal value; and then you integrate them. Dan, whose PhD from The University of Auckland was in stratigraphy, paleontology

and sedimentology, lectures in the School of Environment and researches through the Institute of Earth Science and Engineering, using both systems.

The goal of the work, he says, is to create a pathway towards fully restoring the mauri.

"But this is not just about the lake," says Dan. "It's also about ensuring the trustees are getting the right information in a way that makes sense to them and enables them to make informed decisions for the future of their lake, ngāwhā and wāhi tapu."

Dan's current work includes a geothermal project, for which he is creating a Kaitiaki Geothermal Development Model (KGDM) designed to blend Resource Management Act consenting requirements with kaitiakitanga (or guardianship) principles.

Kaitiakitanga is about caring for the environment and handing it on, intact and preferably enhanced, to subsequent generations, he explains.

The aim is to assess and develop the geothermal fields in a way that meets the needs of everyone from engineers to consenting bodies and kaitiaki (guardians). The model will help identify the most universally acceptable sustainable options, particularly for the surrounding communities.



Finding a way in the justice system

"When you send a Māori woman to prison, you're effectively damning her whole family," says Senior Law Lecturer Khylee Quince, whose interest in criminal law has led her to uncover some realities on how Māori women fare in the justice system of New Zealand.

"She is the one who still runs her family from prison, whereas the men in prison are with their mates, able to rely on women, including partners, mothers and sisters, to keep the family going at home."

In the prison system, as Khylee has discovered, there is a gender and ethnic imbalance that has a negative impact on Māori women. Māori women are worse off than Māori men, and Māori women are worse off than Pakeha women and Pakeha men.

Just one example is the Māori focus units in prisons, designed to help inmates value their culture and understand how it influences them, while at the same time providing support to assist them in changing their behaviour. These units have existed since 1997 – but are not yet open to women, as Khylee points out.

"There are seven focus units for Māori men, and you don't actually have to be Māori to be there. Māori women were the fastest growing inmate population over the past five years and yet facilities and programming have not kept up with these changes."

Khylee says the discrimination faced by Māori women (and imprisoned women in general) results from governments making decisions for economic rather than "appropriate" reasons. "If a Māori mother on home detention can't go to the supermarket, is her partner going to stand for that?"

These are not just New Zealand problems. "You see the same issues between men and women in other societies, from Native North Americans to the Irish."

A 2009 sabbatical in Canada saw Khylee, who is of Te Roroa/Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Porou descent, making new international connections across the criminal justice field, sharing the New Zealand experience of youth justice and ethnicity through lectures, and seeing how indigenous students are supported into legal studies and careers.

Khylee's trip has generated articles for legal publications and a chapter on Māori concepts in privacy for a new book on privacy law published this year.

All of this knowledge takes her closer to her goal – of influencing Corrections and Justice policies around the sentencing and treatment of Māori.



Clear sight through engineering

Bioengineering research fellow Jason Turuwhenua (of Ngāti Porou and Tuhoë descent) was working at a medical software company which was having problems with the standard calculations used for lenses to correct cataracts.

To get the best result visually, the lens must be of a particular shape, but in some instances the lenses produced in accordance with current calculations were not optimal.

Prompted by this, Jason began his research to develop a physically accurate computer model of the human eye, based on mathematical equations. Offering advantages to Māori of course – but also to people all over the world – this is a project with huge potential, as Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga recognised when it agreed in 2009 to support the research.

“This isn’t just about eyes, it’s also about engineering, because that’s where solutions to problems like these will come from,” says Jason, who holds a Master of Science (MSc) and PhD from Waikato University.



Part of the attraction for Jason is the lure of computer modelling. “If you want to produce a really good, general method for understanding where light is going, and ultimately understand how a particular treatment is going to affect what you see, you need to build well-informed computer models.”

Ultimately, Jason hopes the project will produce something we will be able to see on a computer screen that can be “poked and prodded” virtually. The idea will be to

develop a system that will help advance understanding of potential treatments from an engineering point of view.

“For people with keratoconus – a condition where the cornea thins and becomes more conical – you could simulate the visual impact of this disease,” says Jason “You could perhaps show a family member what the patient is seeing, and then demonstrate the progression of the defect and how it might be improved by some form of surgery.”

Jason calls these uses short-term spinoffs, something of advantage that we can do now. But ultimately his work is about modelling the eye to help correct sight problems which will become more prevalent as the population ages.

Identity and diversity

Dr Carla Houkamau (of Ngāti Porou descent) was the first Māori to do a PhD in Social Psychology at The University of Auckland – after starting out with a conjoint BA/BCom.

“Psychology has always been an area Māori have found problematic. It’s about individualised thinking and that’s very contradictory to the Māori world view,” she says.

Now a lecturer in Management and International Relations in the Business School, Carla is interested in how people form perceptions of themselves by virtue of their category memberships, with a particular focus on Māori.

“We all belong to categories – male/female, Māori/Pakeha, able/disabled, old/young, the list is endless. We form perceptions of ourselves and others based on our categories,” she says.

“In diversity management I look at how different groups interact within organisations, or how different social categories interact, and how we respond to one another.”

Given that New Zealand is becoming more and more diverse both within Māori contexts and from the arrival of new immigrants, Carla is interested in how we might use this growing diversity to advance and enhance the New Zealand economy.

“I look at how managers can help diverse groups (in terms of ethnicity, age and nationality, for example) communicate more effectively. In turn this can help work teams produce more innovative and creative solutions to problems – simply because they bring a greater range of perspectives and experiences to the table.”

Carla has written extensively on issues related to diversity, cultural identity, cross-cultural perspectives in psychology and management and is currently teaching a



“**Carla is interested in how we might use our growing diversity to advance and enhance the New Zealand economy.**”

range of subjects at the Business School. She has also presented papers at conferences here and overseas.

Carla looks at how our ideas about Māori as a group infiltrate and permeate the environment and how they affect individual Māori in terms of how they conceive of themselves and their own identity, and how this is affected by the way others interact with them.

This research has led to discoveries about the impact of colonisation on Māori women. Carla’s thesis compared different generations and how they experienced their Māori identity and the intergenerational themes. At the time there were no studies that tracked women in this way.

“I’ve shown how historical events have shaped the context in which individual women were raised, their experiences of being a member of a social group, and how that in turn influences their self perceptions and life trajectories. I have also looked at how that influences their children... and ultimately, how this affects Māori behaviour and perceptions.”

This material contributes to effective diversity management, which requires a high level of self-awareness. “It means educating people to understand that their perceptions of other groups may be based on stereotypes they hold which are often unfounded.”

Positive change

"As one of New Zealand's eight Centres of Research Excellence, our task is to conduct research to bring about positive change," says Professor Charles Royal, the new head of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence, based at The University of Auckland.

Charles sees research as a creative activity. It is fundamentally about the creation of new knowledge. And in the case of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the creation of new knowledge is undertaken so as to bring about positive change in the world.

Charles who is of Ngāti Raukawa, Marutūahu and Ngā Puhī descent is Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga's first full-time director. At the time of his appointment in November 2009, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga chair Sir Tipene O'Regan said: "He has standing in so many of the communities we engage with and brings exceptional strengths as a researcher and as a leading creative Māori thinker."

Charles has an impressive record of writing, editing and composing in the creative arts. His research interests lie with the creative potential of mātauranga Māori particularly in relation to the whare tapere (traditional houses of performing arts), the whare wānanga (traditional institutions of higher learning) and indigeneity.

As the recently appointed – and first – Professor of Indigenous Development in the Faculty of Arts, he sees indigeneity, an emerging field of study, as increasing in importance beyond so-called "indigenous communities".

"It is fundamentally about reawakening a sense of kinship between peoples and between peoples and the natural world environments in which they dwell.

"Once indigenous people move beyond the rightful quests for social justice and cultural revitalisation, they come to understand that they possess something deeply necessary in the world today. This is the gift of indigeneity itself. Just as the 'West', the 'East', 'Islam', 'Christianity' and so on have their gifts for humankind, so indigenous peoples too have offerings to make."

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga conducts Māori-relevant research that leads ultimately to creating harmonious and mutually enhancing relationships between



people, and between people and the natural world.

This signals the way ahead and underlies Charles' vision for the centre over the next 12 months.

"I hope the year will be distinguished by an intensified focus upon our research goals across the real-world needs and opportunities for economic development, the environment, health and social welfare, education and indigenous knowledge.

"This work needs to translate into real change. We identify problems, needs and opportunities and develop appropriate research projects and programmes. That's not to say there won't be blue skies research, but the focus falls upon how research contributes to positive change – and not just for Māori but for the world at large.

"We have been given a tremendous

opportunity to explore distinctive approaches to the creation and application of knowledge, approaches that can be drawn from and inspired by indigenous knowledge generally and mātauranga Māori specifically. We are a multi-disciplinary centre. Space has been created for the arts, sciences and humanities, interwoven with indigenous knowledge, all leading to some kind of positive change. This is a wonderful opportunity and we have to make good on it."

Charles says that the centre's relationship with Māori communities is vitally important.

"That involvement is crucial not just to the success of any research project but also in giving the community a sense of ownership that leads to greater self-empowerment."

Science hands-on

School students are entering the exciting world of scientific discovery, thanks to a unique programme offered at the University's Liggins Institute. Pauline Curtis investigates LENSscience.



Jacquie Bay (centre) works with two Southern Cross Campus Senior School students

Seventeen-year-old Leon Forbes from Tamaki College is making discoveries about human health that could be published alongside those of career scientists.

His research, which uses donated tissue to examine how the chemical bisphenol A (BPA) may travel across the placenta and affect gene activity, is part of the LENSscience student-scientist mentor programme.

"There's simply no way a secondary school could provide the materials and expertise that Leon is working with. This kind of research is far beyond what could be achieved in the classroom," says LENSscience Director Jacquie Bay.

Alongside his counterparts, who are

studying topics such as the stomach contents of banded kokopu and the causes of the spread of sea lettuce in the Manukau Harbour, Leon is part of the first student intake to complete four years of mentored research through LENSscience.

It is hoped that many will carry on to postgraduate science, and Leon says the experience has certainly made him reconsider his choice of tertiary study, but according to Jacquie the wider LENSscience programme, which includes day programmes at the Liggins Institute, residential summer programmes, teacher professional development, Māori and Pasifika initiatives, scholarships and awards, and a flagship seminar series broadcast

nationwide, is not all about turning talented students into scientists.

The primary goal is to improve scientific literacy – the ability of New Zealanders to follow and critically evaluate science. This reflects concern amongst scientists and science educators that many people do not understand the complex scientific issues entering everyday life, such as genetic engineering, assisted reproduction and climate change.

A longer-term objective is to improve public health. The Liggins Institute and the National Research Centre for Growth and Development (NRCGD), the two organisations that host LENSscience, invest

much of their research effort into ensuring a healthy start to life and the education programme is a way to share that knowledge.

"We do believe that we're reaching families and communities through young people and, while it's a long-term process, research we are undertaking over the next few years is looking at the extent to which this is working," says Jacquie.

If students' comments are anything to go by there is cause for optimism. Sosaia Pahulu, a Year 10 student from Tamaki College attending a recent "Healthy Start to Life" day programme, says she enjoyed learning how to measure her pulse and blood pressure and how a mother's diet affects the foetus. Classmate Esther Natua was fascinated to discover how genetic traits can skip a generation and how our bodies are affected by the environment.

As might be expected, older students like Callum Welch in Year 13 at Westlake Boys' High School also have an eye on life after school. Of a day programme about the role of biotechnology in scientific research he said: "It's good to have hands-on experience of what scientists really do, and see how you can make a living from what you learn. I didn't know about the breakthroughs being made by New Zealand scientists - it shows you what's achievable."

Students say one of the best parts of the day is the opportunity to meet university scientists and ask questions about their work and careers, and Jacquie agrees that this is an extremely valuable experience.

"Most students have very stereotypical ideas about scientists and think they're part of an exclusive community," she says. "They are surprised to discover that scientists are everyday people they can relate to. Our research has shown it changes students' perceptions of who scientists are and what they do."

As a science teacher with 20 years' experience, most recently as Head of Science at Diocesan School for Girls in Auckland, Jacquie knows that providing this kind of exposure is beyond the capacity of most schools.

She says that science practice and science education existed in isolation from one other for too long, and that making connections between the two communities is one of the best ways to support quality secondary science education.

While relationships with scientists might sound like an optional extra, changes in the school curriculum make them increasingly important. Jacquie explains that secondary school science is no longer about rote-learning facts, figures, and formulae. The emphasis is on understanding the nature of science - how scientists think, how scientific

knowledge is developed, and the role of science in society - with all other learning coming from this foundation.

"Students must also be allowed to do real science. We wouldn't expect English students to learn about Shakespeare without being allowed to read the works, and we can't expect science students to really grasp the subject without first-hand experience. They must have the opportunity to immerse themselves in science and really engage with it," she says.

Despite these requirements, however, the programme's own survey showed that, before LENSscience, most school students had little or no experience of scientific research and had never met a scientist.

Like school teachers, scientists at the Liggins Institute and NRCGD were concerned that, without their help, schools may struggle to provide students with the experiences they need to fully understand science.

In particular as biotechnologies began to enter the curriculum, Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, who then led the two research organisations, wondered how schools would keep pace with the complex, rapidly-evolving

**“
It's good to have hands-on experience of what scientists really do, and see how you can make a living from what you learn.”**

and expensive field, let alone provide hands-on experience in the basics. As an advocate for public awareness and understanding of science, he also believed that scientists had a responsibility to communicate and translate science to the wider population.

He therefore worked with Dr Bev France from the Faculty of Education, a former science teacher with an interest in biotechnology education, and Liggins Institute Communications Manager Pandora Carlyon, to successfully apply for funding from the Tertiary Education Commission to create partnerships between the University and secondary schools.

Since that time the programme - christened LENSscience - has been further supported by the Liggins Institute, NCGRD, Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate, Lion Foundation, Ministry of Education, Te Puni Kōkiri, Friedlander Foundation, BioRad, and Manzana as well as anonymous donors, so that almost all of its initiatives can be

offered to schools free of charge.

Jacquie jumped at the opportunity to lead the development of LENSscience and has gathered around her a team of highly experienced teachers and technicians.

With limited resources early on, and the intention to focus on day programmes, small trials were run at each secondary school year level to determine which students would benefit the most. The results led the team to concentrate in 2007 on Year 10 students at low decile schools and Year 13 students from schools across the spectrum. More day programmes are now offered to a wider range of students, but the same format continues to be used, combining theory with hands-on experiments and "meet a scientist" sessions.

Providing teacher professional development alongside initiatives for students has been a core principle from the start, keeping teachers up to date and connected with the science community and each other through seminars, workshops, and invitations to research presentations. LENSscience also made a commitment to increase Māori and Pacific representation in the science community, for example through selection of schools for the day programme and inviting Māori and Pacific students to join the mentor initiative.

Perhaps the earliest indication of the programme's success was the deluge of messages from teachers who couldn't initially take part. "We had some quite upset teachers email us from schools outside Auckland complaining that it wasn't fair and asking what we were doing for them," says Jacquie.

LENSscience has now expanded into e-learning with an award-winning interactive seminar series for senior biology students and special lectures transmitted around the country via satellite television or the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network, with interactivity via Web 2.0 tools.

Jacquie says it has been extremely satisfying to develop an education programme from scratch based on her own experience of what schools need. Each part of the programme has been carefully aligned with the curriculum, showing direct links between current research at the Liggins Institute and NRCGD and what students are learning at school.

"Everything we do is in partnership with the schools, contributing to the learning environment within the school by offering something from without," she says. "It meets a very real need to allow teachers and students to make connections with New Zealand science. It's all about making science more real."

Prosecuting to protect and serve

Law alumna Anita Killeen has made her mark prosecuting white collar crime and working to combat animal abuse. She speaks to Judy Wilford



A stroll around Anita Killeen's office is like a journey through her life. And what a whirl of a journey it has been so far.

In just 12 years since she qualified as a lawyer, Anita (LLB 1998) has packed in more experience and action than many people manage in a lifetime.

Commencing her career as a commercial litigator with Phillips Fox in Auckland after graduating as a Senior Scholar, Anita was then appointed for two years as a Senior Judges' Clerk at the Auckland High Court, a position highly sought-after by the most talented young lawyers after their admission

to the bar. From there she moved directly to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), where she began as a prosecutor and advanced rapidly through the intermediate steps to become chief prosecutor in 2007, leading a team of five prosecutors, appearing as counsel in SFO cases, and instructing and liaising with the 22 members of the external SFO Prosecution Panel. Her fervent energy needn't be stated. It is a prerequisite for this kind of job.

Over the last two years, as a board member for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Anita has also become a prime mover for reform of animal welfare law. The day before I spoke with

her she had been in Wellington putting in submissions for a bill to go before Parliament to change the regulations governing prosecutions for animal abuse.

The question that leaps to mind is this. What drives these two passionate interests? White collar crime seems a world away from animal welfare.

For Anita, however, the answer is obvious: they are closely connected, and both deeply tied to her philosophies of life and the law. "When I went to Law School I definitely wanted to be a prosecutor. For most things I do, the motivations are to protect the vulnerable and to protect and serve my community."

And she has dealt out this protection to devastating effect, achieving a conviction rate of 100 percent. Every defendant Anita has prosecuted has been convicted.

Dealing with white collar crime, she says is “fascinating work. These are challenging and highly complex cases which have devastating effects on the community. But when people think of fraud or financial crime they don’t often see the real victims of the offending. Having done this work for a number of years, I find that’s the hardest part of the job: seeing the devastation to people from losing their life savings.

“Being involved with the SPCA is equally rewarding, because the victims are vulnerable and need to be protected.”

When Anita joined the Board of the SPCA her first question was “the obvious one that a lawyer would ask: ‘How do we deal with our prosecutions?’”

The answer came as quite a shock: “We need to be very careful about which cases we prosecute because there isn’t much money and we can’t take many cases to court.”

“In any other law enforcement context,” says Anita, “if an organisation is tasked with legislation to prosecute offences, it gets the resources to effect that work.”

Instead the SPCA, funded through donations, was able to prosecute only a limited number of cases – with the related dilemma of how to make a choice between, say, saving 100 puppies or prosecuting one offender.

Anita’s actions were fast and decisive: she established the most impressive panel of prosecutors that exists in the country – comprising top barristers and Queens Counsel – to give their time and skills free to prosecute animal cruelty cases. The result has been a rise in profile for these types of cases, with at least one recent serious offender receiving a three-month jail sentence.

“There are a lot of very senior lawyers in Auckland who feel just as strongly as I do about animal welfare,” she says “and they are equally concerned about protecting the vulnerable in society. How we protect our most vulnerable – animals, children and the elderly – says a lot about how our society operates. To have a situation where the SPCA couldn’t afford to prosecute people doing the most serious type of offending was simply not acceptable.”

The next step she hopes for is a change in the law to strengthen the penalties for cruelty to animals, which is looking likely to be passed quite soon, thanks to the interest and assistance of parliamentarians such as Simon Bridges. The change has now been presented as a government bill and has gained strong support right across the House.

Anita attributes her rapid advance in

the legal world to a combination of hard work, genuine passion for criminal law, and being focused and pro-active about her own professional development, which has included prosecuting on secondment at the US Attorney-General’s Office in Manhattan, New York, and at the Crown Prosecution Service in London. Among the objects, icons and memorabilia which richly adorn the shelves and walls of her office (including a fascinating “rogues’ gallery” of defendants she has helped prosecute) are certificates in leadership from Harvard Business School in the United States and from the Institute of Strategic Leadership in New Zealand, as well as a framed outline drawing of a human-shaped “target” for FBI training, complete with bullet holes from her time at the FBI firing range in Los Angeles.

Richard Ekins from the Faculty of Law, a friend and former fellow Judges’ Clerk (along with John Ip, also now on the Law Faculty staff), describes Anita as “a born prosecutor because she has a massive interest in criminal practice, especially criminal profiling. She’s a person who reads for relaxation about how to

**“
She has dealt out this protection to devastating effect, having achieved a conviction rate of 100 percent.”**

understand the criminal mind.

“She’s also a nice combination of soft and caring, and tough and determined,” he adds. “This makes her an excellent friend and colleague, as well as an extremely effective prosecutor.”

A significant part of Anita’s professional development has been “the mentors who have willingly guided me and given advice when I needed it.

“You can’t ask for help on a platform of nothing. You’ve got to be seen as someone who wants to work hard and get ahead. But I think this kind of support and friendship happens naturally when you’re working hard alongside people who recognise talent, ability and potential for the future.”

In return she is delighted to give similar guidance to those who are less experienced than she is. She is a mentor for young women lawyers through the Auckland Women Lawyers’ Association, teaches both for the Institute of Professional Legal Studies and on the Litigation Skills course for the New Zealand Law Society, and has tutored at the Faculty of Law.



PHOTO: TODD EYRE

Those who inspired and encouraged Anita as a student were Professor Julie Maxton, former Dean of Law, Professor Rick Bigwood and Associate Professor Scott Optican.

“Rick Bigwood and Julie Maxton lectured with such passion and energy, they really made learning law a joy. They made commercial law topics that seemed terrifying really common-sense and easy to understand.

“And I took every single class that Scott Optican offered. He has a Socratic method of enquiry. He questions students, engages them and makes sure they are questioning what they learn, and always asking why things are as they are. He’s challenging, engaging, has a tremendous intellect and is very funny.”

Says Scott: “I think Anita’s the greatest. She’s one of my favourite students ever. And the only one in all my years of teaching who has risen so far in prosecuting white collar crime.

“Anita always went for the more sophisticated high-end cases, involving paper trails and big, big business. The work is more complex and takes more time than the murders or rapes which get more media coverage. And she is a really tough prosecutor.”

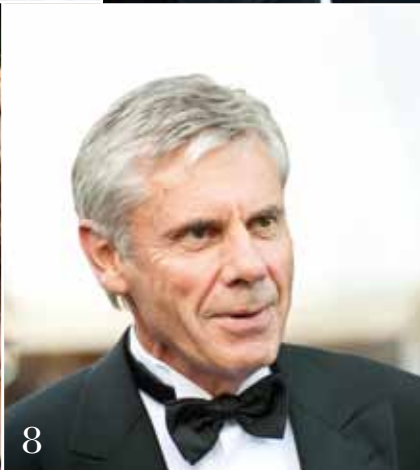
As this article went to print we learned of the restructuring at the Serious Fraud Office, with the prosecution work now being outsourced to law firm Meredith Connell.

Anita was not yet in a position to confirm her next role but said she was very excited about her future in the law and the opportunities that come with change.

She will be spending part of the New Zealand winter in Europe studying at the London School of Economics. Whatever next step Anita takes, her future will be bright.

2010 Distinguished Alumni

"We're proud of your distinction, but we're in the mood to play," said the Alumni Orator, Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Professor Jane Harding, at the Distinguished Alumni Awards which was held in the Alumni Marquee on the grounds of Old Government House.



1. Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and DAA winner Dr Thanh Nguyen, Distinguished Alumni Award winner Michael Parmenter €100,000, 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Professor Stuart McCutcheon 10. Emeritus Professor Michael Parmenter (left), philanthropic partner Anne Salmond, guest speaker 14. Emeritus Professor Michael Parmenter, Emeritus Professor Michael Walker (left) and Pro Vice-Chancellor

Alumni Awards dinner

Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd, at the DAA Dinner,



by Vice-Chancellor (Research), left, with Professor Raewyn Dalziel **2**. University of Auckland Society President Judge David Abbott, left, with Thao Nguyen **3**. John Roughan, Assistant Editor, New Zealand Herald. **4**. Sarah Taylor, left, and Irene Fisher **5**. Director of External Relations, John Taylor, left, and **6**. Bachelor of Performing Arts students performed "Lagata", a selection of traditional and contemporary dance from Aotearoa and the Pacific region. **7**. DAA winner Justice Lowell Goddard **8**. University Chancellor Roger France **9**. Labour MP Raymond Jianqiang Huo, left, and the Vice-Chancellor, David Mace of the Freemasons Roskill Foundation, left, and Klaus Heymann, founder and owner of Naxos Global Distribution **11**. The Vice-Chancellor, Gus Fisher and Michael Fisher **12**. More than 500 guests were seated in the Alumni Marquee at the DAA Dinner **13**. Distinguished Professor Dame **14**. Nevil Gibson, Editor in Chief, National Business Review **15**. The Alumni Orator, Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd **16**. DAA winners Judge Andrew **17**. Emeritus Professor Ranginui **18**. Orator (Māori) Jim Peters



Celebrated Alumni

From left: Dr Jessie Jacobsen, Michael Parmenter, Judge Andrew Becroft; Dr Thanh Nguyen, Emeritus Professor Richard (Rick) Sibson, Dr Jennifer Plane Te Paa.

Our 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award winners join an illustrious group who encompass what the University is ultimately about – producing outstanding graduates who will in turn contribute to the greater good. More than 500 people gathered at the DAA Dinner on 5 March to honour our newest DAA recipients and to enjoy their wit and wisdom.

Judge Andrew Becroft

BA, LLB(Hons) 1984

“Mr Vice-Chancellor, I can’t help but recall that 38 years ago when you were a seventh former and prefect at Rongotai College, you gave me, a skinny shy third former, one of my first detentions, for the heinous crime of wearing my hard shoes on the grass. It was with a delicious sense of irony that just three hours ago I could stand again with my hard shoes on your grass.”

Judge Andrew Becroft has been Principal Youth Court Judge of New Zealand since 2001, and is a strong advocate on youth issues.

He is particularly committed to upholding the twin emphases of New Zealand’s youth justice system: community-based diversionary responses to most youth offending; with

the Youth Court reserved for only the most serious offenders, heavily reliant upon the decision-making of the world-leading Family Group Conference process.

Andrew is a former council member of the Auckland District Law Society and the New Zealand Law Society. He is an editor of LexisNexis publication *Transport Law*. He is currently the Patron of the New Zealand Speak Easy Association Inc.; the Family Help Trust; and the Collaborative for Research on Youth Health and Development. He chairs the Government’s Independent Advisory Group on Youth Justice. He is also President of the NZ Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship.

Michael Parmenter

MNZM, MCPA(Hons) 2008

“Dance is a very recent arrival in the halls of academia. As I stand here as a representative of a complex network

of activity, only a limited amount of which is my own, I want to thank The University of Auckland and the alumni association for this honour. It’s great to have dance recognised in this way.”

Michael Parmenter is one of New Zealand’s leading and best-known dancers and choreographers with an international career spanning nearly 30 years.

He has studied in New York with Erick Hawkins and in Japan with Min Tanaka. He has performed with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company and Stephen Petronio and Dancers in New York, Compagnie Ljada in Switzerland, and a variety of companies throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Michael’s choreography ranges from innovative solo works to large-scale opera-house productions, in New Zealand and internationally. He directed Michael Parmenter’s Commotion Company from

1990-2008 and has choreographed works for the Footnote Dance Company and the Royal New Zealand Ballet, collaborating with acclaimed New Zealand composers.

He is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and scholarships, and is a renowned teacher and public speaker. He is currently undertaking his doctoral study conjointly at The University of Auckland and the University of Paris-I (Sorbonne), Paris.

Dr Jennifer Plane Te Paa

BTheol 1993, MEd(Hons) 1995,
PhD Berk. 2001

“All here present are in some way responsible for nurturing and sustaining the tremendous enduring public good and public honour that academic endeavour, academic excellence and academic success inevitably bring.”

Dr Jennifer Plane Te Paa has been Ahorangi or Principal of Te Rau Kahikatea at St John's College, Auckland, since 1995. She is the first lay, indigenous and single woman ever to be appointed as head of an Anglican theological college throughout the Anglican Communion.

In 2008 the London *Daily Telegraph* named her 20th among its 50 most globally influential Anglicans, calling her “an influential voice in Anglican liberal circles” for her outspokenness in condemning homophobia, and her claim that the obsession of the church with trying to determine who should be allowed to remain within its fold distracted it from the suffering of the world.

Jenny has written widely on identity politics, particularly on race and ethnicity within theological education. She holds a number of significant positions in international organisations including the Inter-Anglican Theological Education Commission, to which she was appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Emeritus Professor Richard (Rick) Sibson

BSc(Hons) 1968, MSc Lond. 1970,
PhD Lond. 1977

“One of the scruffy aspects of geology is the need to come to a conclusion from an imperfect and incomplete data set. That, actually, turns out to be a pretty useful generic skill. I have been told that in World War II the best second guessers of the U-boat pack locations were in fact

geologists, ahead of mathematicians and physicists, who said ‘We don't have enough data’.”

Emeritus Professor Richard (Rick) Sibson is recognised internationally for his pioneering research linking the structure of crustal fault zones to the mechanics of shallow earthquakes. His work on the factors governing the depth of seismic activity in deforming continental crust and also on the role of faults as intermittent conduits for fluid flow are not only of scientific interest but are also widely utilised by the mineral industry.

His distinguished career spans appointments at Imperial College, London, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of Otago. It is marked by awards and distinctions including elected fellowships to the Geological Society of America, the Royal Society of New Zealand, the American Geophysical Union, the Royal Society, London, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His most recent honour was being awarded the 2010 Wollaston Medal, the highest award of the Geological Society of London.

Dr Nguyen Van Thanh

BE(Hons) 1971, PhD 1975

“In 1966 New Zealand reached out to me in Vietnam and touched my life. It gave me a scholarship to go to New Zealand to study and I selected The University of Auckland. In 1975 I left New Zealand. Twenty seven years later ... a knock on my door, and a representative of the University appeared. We talked and we talked. New Zealand had made the first move again. The first time I thanked you, the second time I was honoured.”

Dr Nguyen Van Thanh is founder and CEO/President of NVT Technologies Inc, an engineering company spanning many states in the United States, and is a notable philanthropist.

After studying at The University of Auckland as a Vietnamese recipient of a Colombo Plan Scholarship, Thanh moved to the United States to join his family from Vietnam. In 1980 he began NVT, working from modest beginnings in his garage. NVT undertakes projects designed to improve the sustainability, productivity and environmental acceptability of its clients' facilities and also provides the operational, management

and maintenance support to biological and physical research facilities, campuses and national laboratories.

Thanh visited his home country in 2002, and then became sponsor of two scholarships for Vietnamese students to study for a PhD at The University of Auckland. He is Commissioner of The Smithsonian Institution/ National Portrait Gallery, to which he has made significant donations.

2010 Young Alumna of the Year Dr Jessie Jacobsen

BSc(Hons) 2004, PhD 2008

“I would like to thank those families who are affected by Huntington's disease and other neurological disorders. It is truly inspiring how they share with us what they deal with on a day to day basis. This keeps me very grounded in our research and why we do what we do.”

Dr Jessie Jacobsen played a major role in developing a sheep model for studying Huntington's disease, for which there is currently no cure. This work could lead to treatment and therapies to provide a better future for patients.

Her PhD researching Huntington's disease won her the MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Award in 2007 and awards at two international conferences. In 2008, she worked for eight months as a postdoctoral research fellow in the laboratories of Professor Richard Faull and Professor Russell Snell.

In 2007 and 2008 Jessie served on the Huntington's Disease Association (Auckland) committee and in 2008 she was Quizmaster of the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand Brain Bee national final in Auckland.

In December 2008 Jessie was awarded the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand Philip Wrightson Postdoctoral Fellowship to study with Professor Marcy MacDonald - part of the team that identified the Huntington's disease gene in 1993 - at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in the United States.

Video recordings of the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner and the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Day presentations can be viewed via the Alumni and Friends Website.
www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/

Alive in the moment

Associate Professor Uwe Grodd has been called “the busiest musician in town”. Tess Redgrave finds out why.

“Uwe Grodd has been, and I think will always be, one of the most influential people in my life. Not only is he a really great musician, he is one of those rare teachers who are really committed to his students and cares about them holistically. He knows exactly what to tell them and, more importantly, what not to tell them before they are ready to hear it. His warmth, creativity in approach and wonderful personality make every lesson inspirational...”

This praise for Associate Professor of Flute, Uwe Grodd, comes from Tianyi Lu, one of 20-odd of his current students at the School of Music. Incidentally Tianyi, an undergraduate flute and conducting student, is one of three finalists in the University’s Graduation Gala Concerto Competition on 6 May – an event Uwe will run as conductor of the University’s Symphony Orchestra.

If you’ve been to a Graduation Gala competition, its predecessor the Graduation Concert, or attended any number of classical music events at the University, you’ll have seen Uwe Grodd in action. Tall and lithe with signature longish, wispy graying hair and a playful smile, he’ll either be standing on a rostrum before a choir or orchestra or be among the performing musicians.

Uwe is also well-known in the wider New Zealand and international classical music community. As well as his full-time job at the School of Music he is Music Director of both Auckland Choral – Auckland’s largest choir – and the Manukau Symphony Orchestra. He regularly performs in New Zealand and overseas as a solo flautist and guest conductor and is increasingly renowned for his research and recordings of late 18th and early 19th century classical music. In 2000 this culminated in his receiving first prize at the Cannes Classical Awards for the Best 18th Century Orchestral recording for his CD of Symphonies by Johann Baptist Vanhal – a Mozart contemporary – conducting the Esterhazy Sinfonia, Hungary.

“Musically, they don’t come much more special than Grodd,” the *New Zealand Herald’s* classical music reviewer, William Dart, wrote recently. “The man redefines what it means to be versatile.”

Yet ask Uwe Grodd what the highlight of

his illustrious career has been so far, as I did when we met in his upstairs office at the School of Music, and his answer is intriguing.

“The concert,” he says after thinking about it for a while. “For me the highlight is always that one hour where the performers and audience meet. Music is a time art not a space art; therefore it is happening only at that moment in time. That is a reality that can’t be frozen ... that’s where I live!”

Uwe has always lived with music. Born in Germany in 1958, he grew up in Calw, a small town in the Black Forest, and began his musical career at age five or six playing the recorder. By the time he was 10 he was singing with the local choir which, continuing a 300-year-old tradition, performed a Bach

“**For me the highlight is always that one hour where the performers and audience meet. Music is a time art not a space art; therefore it is happening only at that moment in time. That is a reality that can’t be frozen ... that’s where I live!**”

Cantata every Saturday afternoon. However, while preparing for a performance of the *Bach B-Minor Mass*, his voice broke.

After that, “there was nothing – just a void” until he heard Debussy’s *Syrinx* for solo flute played in an old Romanesque church “and I found a new voice at 13, which is pretty late to start an instrument”.

Over the next few years Uwe studied the flute intensively, training under concert flautist Mary Jaksch in Ludwigsburg, then Werner Peschke, flautist with the Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, at Mainz University, and later Robert Aitken – a famous Canadian composer, conductor and flautist (and regular visitor to The University of Auckland). At the same time he developed an interest in conducting – “the ultimate experience of bringing a myriad of energies together for

one reason, one sound!” – and after meeting famous conductor Sergiu Celibidache in master classes was inspired to learn the craft. “Celibidache was an ‘Übermensch’, a genius, one of those personalities that changes lives.”

“For me, careers, flute and conducting have always run in parallel,” he says now. “It has been fascinating to do both, but I have paid a price for it. When you do both, you can’t pursue one thing intensely all the time, therefore your career starts slowly.”

In 1983, Uwe arrived in New Zealand and landed a job in Nelson conducting the Radio Nelson Chamber Orchestra at the Nelson School of Music. The next year he got a part-time job teaching flute at The University of Auckland and commuted from Nelson, not wanting to leave his conducting job. “There were only ten concerts a year, but it was a real orchestra. I also had a choir and a youth orchestra to look after. I did all the repertoire I wanted and made all the mistakes, so it was a perfect apprenticeship.”

In 1990 Uwe moved to Auckland and was appointed to a half-time lectureship in flute teaching. Soon after he initiated the establishment of the University’s annual Graduation Concert (now the Graduation Gala Concerts Competition), with the inaugural one held in 1994. “It’s an old European tradition that the music school plays a concert at graduation,” he explains. “That’s how Brahms wrote the *Academic Festival Overture* which uses the melody of *Gaudeamus Igitur* which we always sing at the end of the concerts.”

Later the move to a full-time position at Auckland enabled Uwe to pursue what has become a special passion for shining a light on early classical music. He now records as an exclusive artist with Naxos Records International, the world’s largest selling music label.

But why early music?

“When you look at the Swiss Alps you see Mont Blanc,” he responds. “But the region itself is impressive as a whole because of all the mountains on either side. The problem we have today with music from the 18th century is that we only look at three peaks: Mozart,



Haydn and Beethoven. But they wrote less than one per cent of all the symphonies that were written during their lifetime. Meaning we are basing our understanding of that classical period on less than one percent of the material – that’s bugged me!”

As well as Vanhal, Uwe has unearthed and recorded previously unheard-of works by Austrian composer, piano virtuoso and a brilliant pupil of Mozart’s, Johan Nepomuk Hummel (1778-1837), Joseph Martin Kraus (1756-1792), a composer who is referred to as “the Swedish Mozart” because he spent most of his adult life in Sweden, and Beethoven’s longstanding friend and pupil Ferdinand Ries (1784-1838).

“It’s an extraordinary thing when you take an old manuscript off the shelf,” says Uwe. “You have to take it all apart in order to understand it and be able to give it a scholarly edition. You have to modernise the script. Then you have to edit it, add all the dynamics and articulations and phrasings and so forth. The intense research is where you’re working the most, and then you play it and then you record it.”

Last year Uwe recorded music for flute and piano by Franz Schubert from his own editions and later this year Naxos will launch previously unheard and unpublished music as Volume Four of Ferdinand Ries’s nine piano concertos, which Uwe recorded with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

In the meantime he is stepping out of the 19th century in July to record New Zealand composer Jenny McLeod’s adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen tale *The Emperor and the Nightingale* with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. “I’ve always performed and commissioned New Zealand music,” he says, “and I think this piece could be as good as Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf* if only the world could hear it. So I’m going to make sure the world does!”

But before that, the world will get a chance to hear Uwe’s choral interpretation of Johannes Brahms’ *A German Requiem* when Auckland Choral performs it with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra on 29 May.

Early last year Uwe was invited to be Music Director of the choir. Despite being “as busy as hell” he decided to take it on as an opportunity to go back to his roots and those early years as a child when he sang in the Black Forest.

The *Requiem* is also very close to his heart both because of his German heritage and “because the text provides a sense of comfort and a sense of your own well-being when you hear it. Rather than being in the Catholic tradition of a requiem mass, it combines one of the greatest romantic composer’s musical writing with a text I can relate to 100 percent as a human in this world having experienced loss and love. Really it is an all-embracing work.”

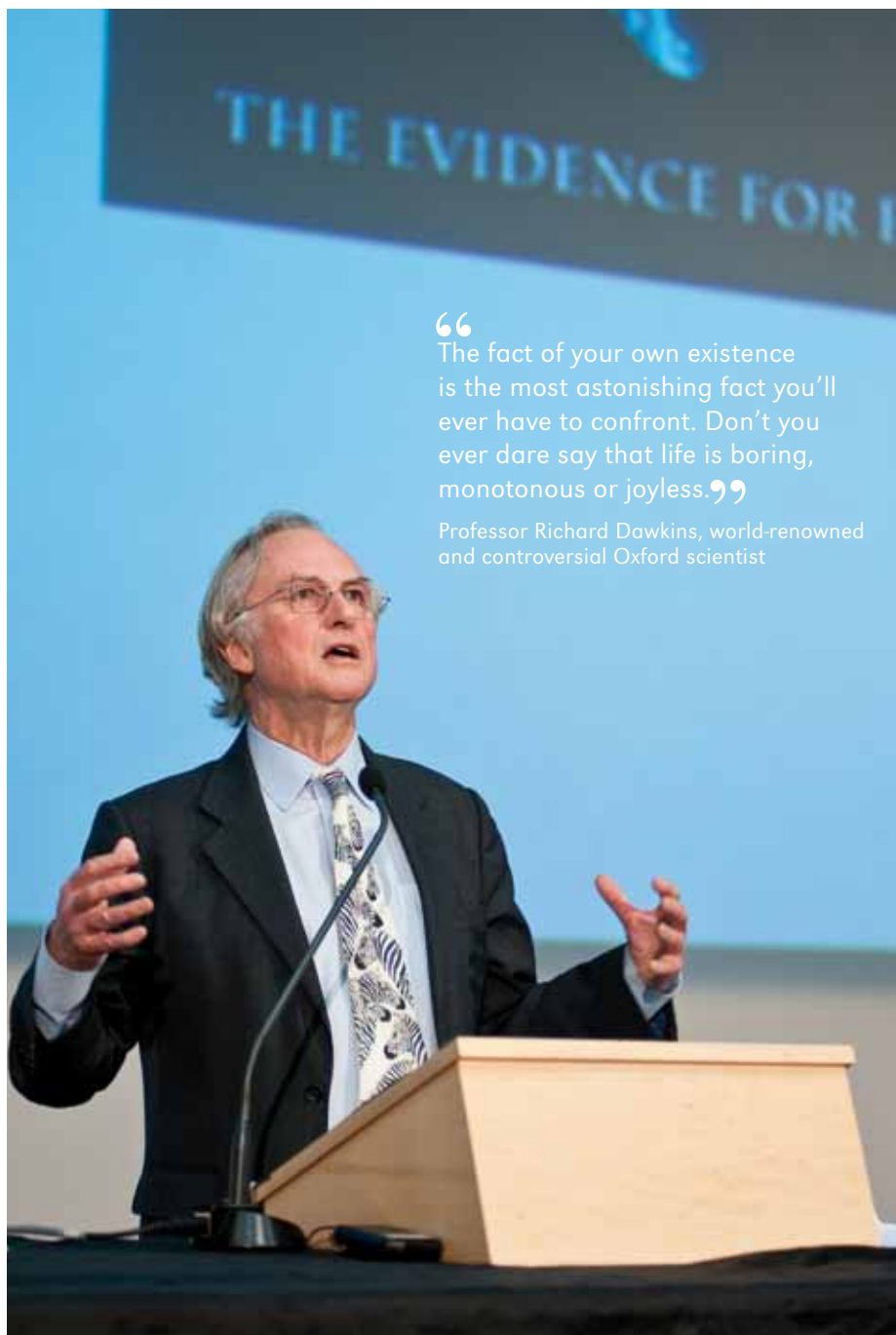
For the last year Uwe has been living with the *Requiem* absorbing and understanding the text and the music. The last three months have been spent working with the Auckland Choral’s 100-plus singers.

Now it is all coming together with soprano Ileana Otto-Johansen, bass Grant Dickson and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra on board.

When the conductor steps onto the Town Hall stage (his “favourite acoustic”) in a couple of weeks’ time, he’ll have just on 200 musicians poised behind him. As he bows before the audience and then steps onto the rostrum, he will be exactly where he wants to be – “alive in the creative moment between the audience and myself”.

www.auckland.ac.nz/gradgala
www.aucklandchoral.com
www.uwe-grodd.com

Richard Dawkins live – alumni respond



“
The fact of your own existence
is the most astonishing fact you’ll
ever have to confront. Don’t you
ever dare say that life is boring,
monotonous or joyless.”

Professor Richard Dawkins, world-renowned
and controversial Oxford scientist

Richard was a very thought-provoking person. It was an honour to experience his mind at work. He enhanced my knowledge enormously. He presented a great deal of well-thought-out factual scientific information. It is up to the individual to discern and interpret this in their own way, what is right for them. I think there is a point where science can meet symbolic philosophies; both are historically relevant and need continuous investigation. – **Isabel Fish**

Excellent compelling speaker; I especially liked the question and answer session, which he handled extremely well. His suggestion that evolution needs to be taught to seven and eight-year-olds is right on the mark and then he gave excellent examples of how the evidence could be presented to students of this age. – **Bruce Clarkson**

I respect that Professor Dawkins has given up much of his professional and personal time to educate a wide section of the community on the compelling evidence of evolution... at a time where dogmatic faith-based belief systems are strongly influencing education and other policy-making – especially in a country as influential (both economically and socially) as the USA. We run a huge risk of our secular policy-making, based on reason and the scientific method, being supplanted by dogma and ignorance. – **Robert B Scott**

It was too short for any themes to be developed in a meaningful way. I am glad I had read *The Greatest Show on Earth* before I went as a lot of the talk was taken from that or his other books. – **Anonymous**

Excellent explanations with rich detail and touches of humour that also showed the depth of his knowledge made for a clear speech that steadily put a solid argument together. I did think it a shame he read from his speech – which made the delivery a bit less exciting than the information. – **Anonymous**

It was wonderful to see some of his recent original thinking of content not present in any of his books. Few authors are able to accomplish such a feat with that much clarity. All of his arguments are accessible (in terms of understanding) to every person who has the ability to read them; there are no special clubs, lineages, experiences or payments required in order to see the wonder which Richard lays bare. – **Angus Blair**

Known in some quarters as “Darwin’s Rottweiler”, Professor Richard Dawkins ignites strong emotions wherever he speaks. Alumni tickets to his lecture at the University on 13 March sold out in just two hours, and tickets to the subsequently-organised live screening sold out in less than a week. We invited those alumni who attended to share their views on Dawkins’ lecture and his arguments. Here is a selection of feedback received.

In his latest book, *The Greatest Show on Earth*, Richard Dawkins refers to the “40-percenters”:

“I shall be using the name ‘history-deniers’ for those people who deny evolution: who believe the world’s age is measured in thousands of years rather than thousands of millions of years, and who believe humans walked with dinosaurs. They constitute more than 40 percent of the American population. The equivalent figure is higher in some countries, lower in others, but 40 percent is a good average and I shall from time to time refer to the history-deniers as the ‘40-percenters’.”

We asked alumni attendees why they thought 40 percent of the population favours creationism.

Because pre-science beliefs, myths, and prejudices have become intertwined with the development of individuals through parents, schools, and religious communities and their leaders. Unfortunately, we have yet to find a non-religious way of imparting social ethics and moral values for the survival of our societies devoid of religious dogma.

– Lloyd Evans

Creationism does seem to fit the evidence, particularly when you look at the evidence for yourself and compare it in an unbiased way against the two competing theories.

– Jim Finnigan

The question makes the assumption that evolution and creationism are mutually exclusive. This is probably the common view but there is a broader view of “creationism” beyond the literal translation, for example, expressed in the *Bible*. There is little profit in my view, except for the populists like Dawkins, in pitting the evidence for the theory of evolution against a belief in a

Creator. The example Dawkins used that a superior being couldn’t have “twiddled the knobs” to make sure the forces were “in balance” to allow for the formation of our universe is precisely the reason people believe in a God. – David English

I think the reason that 40 percent of the population of the United States believes in creationism over evolution is simple ignorance. Evolution is not well taught, neither in the US nor in New Zealand, and greater education about the overwhelming evidence that supports the theory is the best way to combat this ignorance. If it were better understood, that percentage would be much lower.

I think another contributing factor is the media’s obsession with presenting so-called balanced stories. In an article on evolution this often means that the opposing theories of evolution and creationism are presented as equally valid and equally supported by evidence, when in reality they are not.

– Laura Niall

Many religious people come to the table with the premise that there is a creator God that fits this definition and with that premise examine the evidence. An atheist comes to the table with the premise that there is no God and with that premise examines the evidence. I however am convinced as a creationist that if both sides dropped the presumed assumptions and let the evidence speak for itself and stopped trying to make it fit a theory then we would all have to agree that there is a creative intelligence behind everything. That is why there are so many creationists.

– Aaron Geddis

I am sometimes puzzled by the continuing belief in creationism or intelligent design. Dawkins did offer two hypotheses as to why human beings have such a strong tendency to seek supernatural explanations. I must say I didn’t think his suggestions were entirely adequate. The main underlying problem today seems to be simply that many people have never had a thorough exposure to science.

The amount of superstition and pseudo-science circulating in our local culture is pretty startling. Science teaching in schools deserves a lot more support, along with universities and other centres of pure scientific research.

– Roger Horrocks

40 percent of whose population? I assume you are referring to the USA. Because of who colonised America. Millions were religious refugees fleeing persecution in Europe and elsewhere. When you are hounded you tend to hold fast to beliefs no matter how irrational they are. Add to that the huge (tax free?) industry that is American televangelism and vested interests are going to make sure creationism stays alive and well.

– Peter Smith



Richard Dawkins signs copies of his book *The Greatest Show On Earth* after his lecture.

Editor’s note: In a *New Zealand Listener* survey of 2006, 33 percent of respondents said they believe that “all changes to and development of our natural world over time are directly due to divine intervention by a god or higher being” and 23 percent said they believe that “the world was created by God in six days as described in the book of Genesis in the Christian Bible”.

Professor Richard Dawkins’ lecture and two exclusive interviews conducted by Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd are available for viewing at the Alumni and Friends Website: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/

Medicinal chemistry pioneer returns

Internationally renowned biochemist and alumnus Cedric Hassall paid the Chemistry Department a return visit in February.



Professor Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, who in 1932 wrote: "If chemistry is to provide the help that biology so urgently needs it must approach living organisms not as chemical stores but as seats of chemical events."

Those words made a strong impression on the then young Cedric, who focused his own research primarily on the organic chemistry of molecules of value to medicine.

With another Nobel Laureate, Lord Todd, he researched new antibiotics at the University of Cambridge. After he became the first professor of chemistry at the then new University of the West Indies his research included investigations into a local condition known as vomiting sickness. This was shown to be due to a previously unknown amino-acid, hypoglycin, isolated from the ackee fruit of the *Blighia sapida* and first brought to Jamaica by Captain Bligh. At the University of Swansea, Wales, he continued researching biologically active natural compounds before transferring to Roche Products Ltd as the Director of Research in Britain and Coordinator of Chemistry for the parent company Hoffmann La-Roche.

It was during this phase he designed new medicines. In New Zealand, if you have high blood pressure you may well be treated with "Inhibace", a potent ACE-inhibitor he designed.

Cedric and his wife, Dr June Hassall, now live half the year in Whitianga on the Coromandel Peninsula and the other half in Westoning, in Bedfordshire, England – conveniently located between Cambridge, Oxford, Heathrow and London. Cedric is currently completing a popular science book, provisionally titled *Younger When Older*, which brings together research relating to ageing and the factors that lead to living longer and more comfortably. He is a strong believer in the way that our minds influence our health, as well as the critical effects of diet and exercise.

"I believe it's very important to accept that as human beings our good health and comfort are related to our attitudes and our enjoyment of the life which we have come to experience."

During a lecture to enthralled medicinal chemistry students, the remarkably youthful and engaging 90-year-old expressed his delight at how far the University had come over the last 70 years.

When Cedric Hassall did his MSc degree in the early 1940s the University was still young; postgraduates had to head overseas to do PhDs; and molecular biology and bio-organic chemistry were hardly born.

After seeing Professor Margaret Brimble's medicinal chemistry laboratories and touring the Chemistry Department with the Head, Professor Jim Metson, Cedric described the laboratories as "a world-class facility doing research of a very high standard".

Cedric was a most interesting and interested visitor to the department, Jim said. "In addition to his ready engagement with research students, with the academics, and his visits to the major research facilities, he was particularly interested in the undergraduate teaching laboratories. He noted that the health of a department in a laboratory-based discipline such as Chemistry was most apparent in its teaching facilities."

A Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), this cosmopolitan member of the

international chemistry fraternity has spent the last two and a half decades of his "retirement" advising on science and medical research in universities as far-flung as China, Africa, Malaysia, India and the Middle East.

Cedric's enthusiasm for biochemistry is as lively as ever. "These are exciting times for the scientist engaged in research on natural products," he said, referring to the remarkable advances in instrumentation which now allow the study of macromolecules in processes such as photosynthesis.

He regaled his younger lecture audience with stories of the hazards of working in the laboratories of the late 1940s. "Highly flammable solvents were distilled on benches next to naked gas lights," he said.

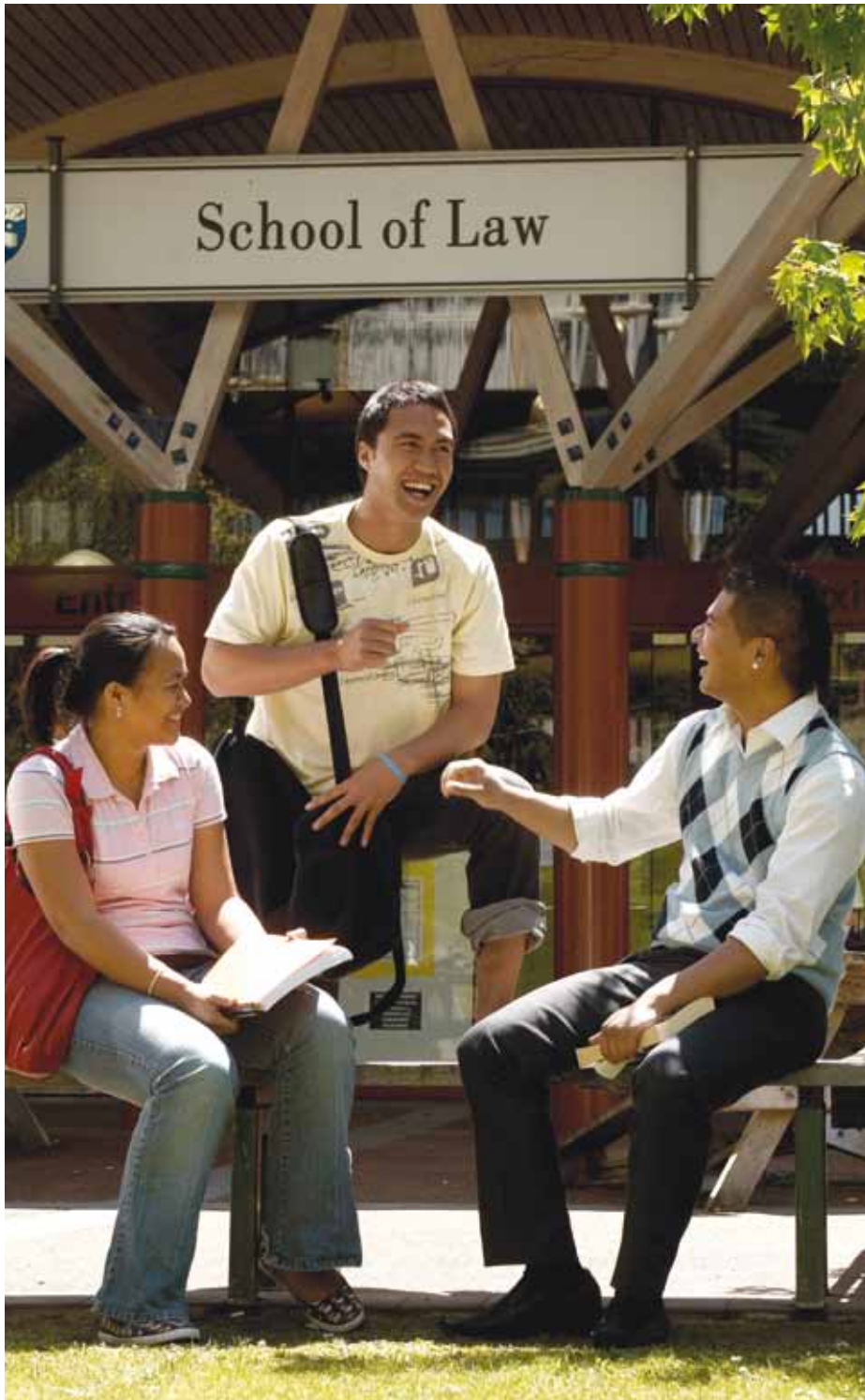
"Cedric's willingness to engage with the younger generation of medicinal chemists on this special occasion provided them with an exceptional role model," Margaret Brimble said. "It was inspiring to hear him not only recount his successful career as an educator and an academic with a passion for his subject (medicinal chemistry) but also his illustrious career as a successful scientist and entrepreneur."

In 1945 Cedric met Cambridge's first professor of biochemistry, Nobel Laureate

This is the third in a series on the future of the University and the 2012 “Leading the Way” Campaign – where vision, strategic planning and philanthropy meet.

Law aims for the top

A key part of the Auckland Law School’s vision for the future is to find better solutions to past – and future – legal issues. Andrea Rudy finds out how it is going to achieve this.



“A great law school must contribute to the issues of the day,” says Professor Paul Rishworth, Dean of the Faculty of Law. Acting on that principle, the faculty has identified commercial, public, international and environmental law as key areas of expertise where it can make a tangible difference to current practice. Faculty research is especially strong in these areas.

“Law lies at the heart of most human enterprises, whether it is in setting the rules for markets and commerce, resolving commercial and property disputes, establishing systems of government, or reckoning with global problems such as climate change, terrorism and the movement of peoples,” explains Paul.

The Auckland Law School’s aim is to be in the top tier of the world’s law schools and, according to Paul, this is an ambitious but also very realistic vision.

In 2006, an international review panel concluded it was a very good law school with national and international standing. It recommended how it can achieve “greatness”, noting that “in public and commercial law the school’s senior staff are world authorities”.

The foundation of a great law school rests on its ability to recruit and retain the best academic staff. This requires the support of, and integration with, the wider law community. “There is a vital synergy between legal academia and law practice,” says Paul. Law scholars can look at the bigger picture. They also provide the principled analysis of law that assists policy-makers, lawyers and judges in their day-to-day work. In turn, the interface with the external legal community exposes academics to new and developing legal problems.

The profession has been offering increased support in recent years by providing moot judges, specialised course teachings and, not least, funding. Partnering with the law community is crucial if the Auckland Law School is to remain a top-tier school that contributes better solutions to global problems, and also helps New Zealand society.

An example of a well-targeted gift is the \$100,000 donated by alumnus Greg Horton (LLB Hons/BCom 1993) and his wife Shelley. When fully subscribed this fund will support student scholarships, faculty fellowships and two research centre directorships.

Greg is one of a number of accomplished alumni who, after graduation, went on to great success before returning to support his university. He worked at leading New Zealand and US firms before becoming a partner in Harmos Horton Lusk Ltd, an Auckland-based specialist law firm that is also actively supporting commercial law students through an annual \$10,000 scholarship.

“**The Auckland Law School’s aim is to be in the top tier of the world’s law schools and, according to Paul, this is an ambitious but also very realistic vision.**”

With philanthropic support from alumni, the wider law community and friends, the Auckland Law School is setting its sights on becoming a global player. In Paul’s words,

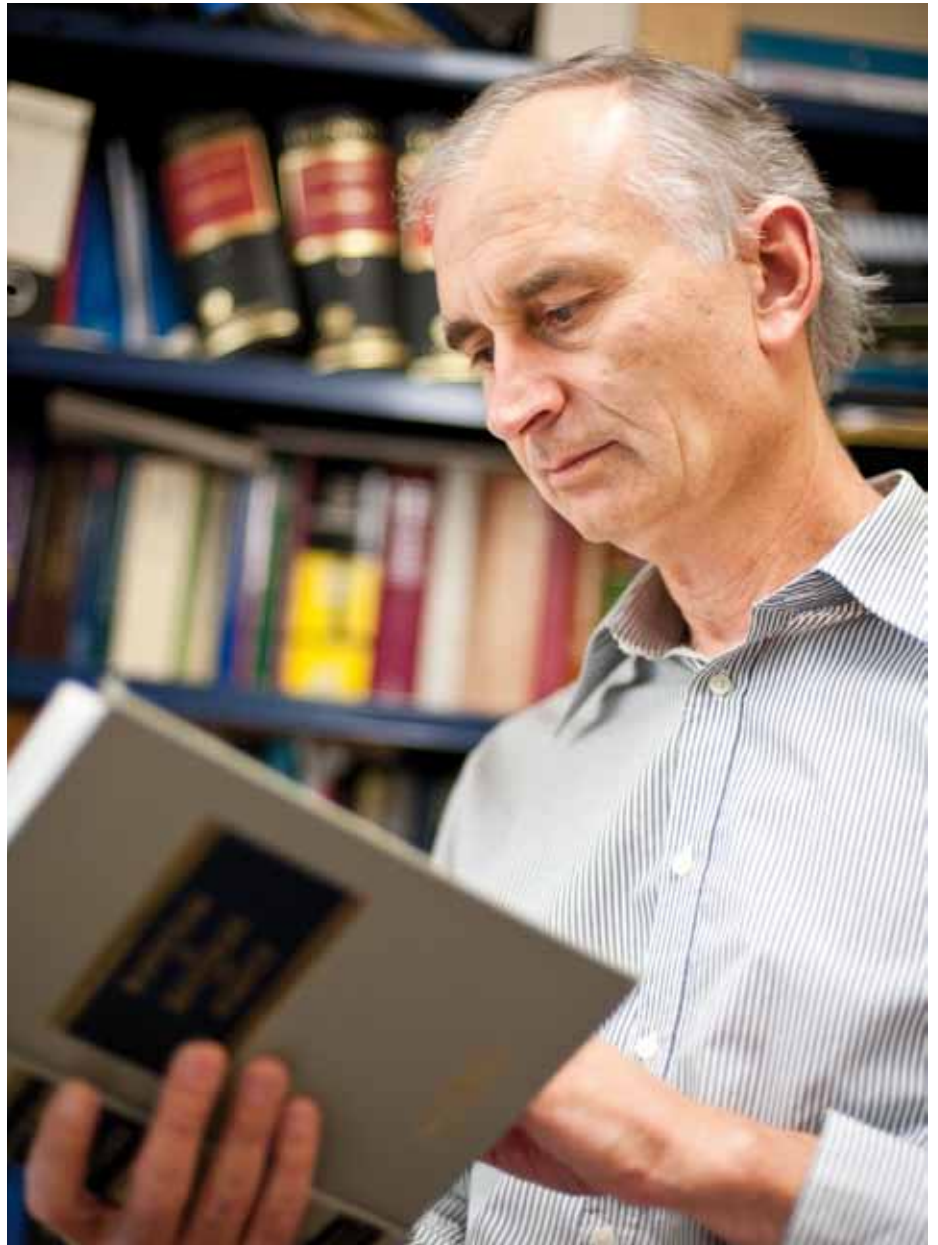
“it is vitally important for New Zealand law, for the national legal profession, for our graduates and for the Law School itself to ensure that it is, and is seen to be, an internationally recognised law school with a global vision”.

Commercial law – anything but static

Law lies at the heart of all human interactions, from family disputes and international trade to regulating pollution levels, music piracy and everything in between. Our interactions are infinitely various and, according to Professor Peter Watts a self-possessed academic lawyer who happens to be a world expert in several branches of commercial law, there is no mechanical system to address our ever-changing connections. If problems could be resolved by formulae, we wouldn’t need lawyers.

Sitting down in his relaxed office where old (first editions of law books and dusty lithographs of bygone judges) meets new (electronic databases and daily e-notices of the latest overseas cases), it is easy to see how tightly intertwined past and future law-making really is. Lying amongst the tidy and not-so-tidy piles of papers, folders and books dotting the floor is the work of a scholar whose contributions to his profession have made him a well-known and frequently consulted expert worldwide.

The content of the law is often contentious and even where this is not the case it is easy for a court to reach the wrong result. The fact that judges are not specialists, combined with the pressure of time, make occasional errors inevitable. Counsel arguing a case can also misunderstand the significance of past cases and existing statutory provisions. This is where commercial law academics contribute to the community. They deliver critical commentary on the day-to-day work of the courts and provide analytical strength in the constant demand to provide optimal answers to new questions; not just for judges but for practising lawyers as well. In turn, dialogue with practising lawyers keeps the



academic community abreast of current legal issues in the world of business, often before disputes arise.

“There are endless examples,” says Peter. One in particular that comes to mind is a case where a Jamaican footballer travelled to the UK in search of a club position. With the season about to start and time running out, he signed on to a sports agency to find him a placement. Acting as his agent, the company secured him a spot on the Dundee Football Club, and took 10 percent of his salary as the agreed commission. Shortly afterwards, the club contacted the agency for its help in obtaining the player a work permit. The agency subsequently did, but charged a premium of £3,000 based on the urgent nature of the request.

For about a year and a half everything went well but then the agency and player had a falling out. The latter brought a suit for breach of fiduciary duty against the agency for helping the club obtain his work permit for a fee. Although the £3,000 was far less than the 10 percent player commission, the English court took a strong stance on the case because of the potential for corruption when an agent works for both sides in a negotiation. Not only was the agency stripped of the £3,000 fee, but it lost all the commission. This last step Peter sees as an error.

His article on the case for the *Law Quarterly Review* led to his being consulted (without fee) by English counsel for the agency, who sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords on the basis of Peter’s reasoning. The case having already been through three levels of court, it is perhaps not surprising that the House did not grant leave for a fourth hearing. Peter nonetheless maintains that the line of cases relied upon

by the lower courts misconceived both equitable and common law principle. His research may one day have an impact, however, because there are already two other English disputes on the same point. Other published work of his has been used successfully to obtain leave from England’s highest court, and the current president of that court recently referred to one of his articles in his judgment.

Recently he published *Directors’ Powers and Duties*, a detailed treatment of the division of power between shareholders and directors, duties of care and skill, the duty to act in the company’s best interests, and the duty not to profit from position. He is about to finalise the manuscript for the latest edition of the Commonwealth’s leading text on the law of agency, *Bowstead & Reynolds on Agency*, which has been through 19 editions since first being published in 1896.

It is this type of comprehensive scholarship that provides the basis for new rulings, guidance to commercial lawyers and an essential learning tool for students.

What could be considered a complicated and dense topic to someone outside commercial law is thankfully a passion for Peter and other experts. “It’s like a hobby, solving legal problems,” he says when describing his enthusiasm for the field. “I’m endlessly fascinated by finding rational solutions to disputes.” Without this dedication and contribution to the discipline, those of us working in almost any other industry might one day be faced with a less just result in a legal dispute.

So if law is at the heart of all human interaction, perhaps it could be said that academic law is often at the heart of commercial disputes.

“

What could be considered a complicated and dense topic to someone outside commercial law is thankfully a passion for Peter and other experts. “It’s like a hobby, solving legal problems; I’m endlessly fascinated by finding rational solutions to disputes.””

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Instant fame

Alumna, University PhD candidate and former professional dancer Marianne Schultz (MLitt, 2009) won Best Research (NZ) at this year's Documentary Edge Festival for her film *Dance of the Instant*.

While researching for her honours degree, Marianne became interested in "The New Dance Group", a Wellington dance collective active from 1945 to 1947, which she describes as "the first group of people to do modern dance in New Zealand". The dark, international focus of their work reflected their post-World War Two environment.

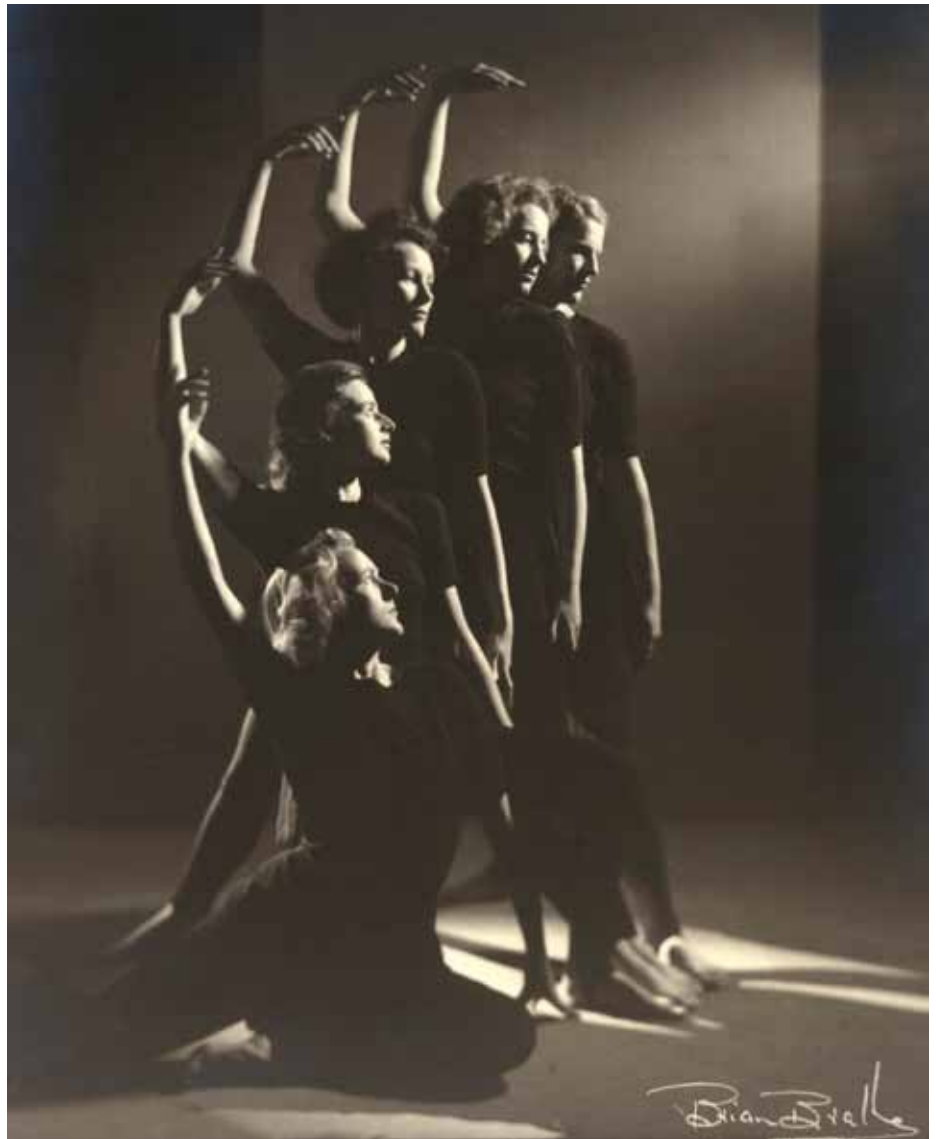
Marianne approached filmmaker Shirley Horrocks with her research. With her background in documenting art, Shirley was the perfect person to produce and direct New Zealand's first historical dance documentary.

Marianne recreated dances based on archival footage. "The physical reconstruction was a challenge for the dancers," says Marianne. "They didn't have much reference for the types of movements I was asking them to do." Her young dancers found it difficult to recreate the intensity of the original performers, who were "living through a really horrible time".

Dance of The Instant also won Best Short Documentary (NZ) and Best Educational Documentary (NZ) at the Documentary Edge Festival, held in Auckland and Wellington.

Find out about the University's Postgraduate Week, 17-21 May.

www.auckland.ac.nz/postgradweek



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Alumni achievers



GREG SANG (BE 1989) was the project director for the world's tallest building – the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. The \$1.5 billion “vertical city”, officially opened in January this year, is the tallest man-made structure ever, at 828 metres. Greg Sang works for developer Emaar Properties and was responsible for all aspects of the building's design and construction, overseeing a team of the world's best engineers. At the official opening by Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Greg told international media that the Burj has “refuge floors” at 25 to 30-storey intervals that are more fire resistant and have separate air supplies in case of emergency. The tower's reinforced concrete structure, he said, makes it more impact-resistant than steel-frame skyscrapers.



Greg's next challenge will be an even taller tower - the Kingdom Tower (over one kilometre tall) planned for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
www.burjkhalifa.ae

NATASHA BECKMAN (MA 1999) is currently the manager of London's Urban Soul Orchestra - a contemporary and versatile string ensemble with a groovy twist, incorporating different elements such as percussion, bass, DJ and vocals. Natasha has worked in arts management since graduating. She spent several years at Auckland Museum working in a number of different roles and was the first Visual Arts and Public Programmes Coordinator for the Auckland Festival in 2007. International work includes an internship at the Smithsonian Institution (Washington DC) and working as Visual Arts Officer for the Arts Council, England. As well as managing Urban Soul she is a contract orchestral manager and ran the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in 2007 and the BBC Electric Proms at the Roundhouse in 2008.

ANTHONY HOETE (BARCH 1990) has broken new ground by using one million lego blocks to clad a school façade in the borough of Hillingdon, in west London. Anthony is the founding partner of UK-based WHAT architecture. He is no stranger to school typology, having won a Royal Institute of British Architects Award (RIBA) in 1997 for his Rooftop Nursery daycare centre in east London, which included a lurid green playing space. Anthony held design workshops with Hillingdon pupils who were asked to design a 380 x 380mm Lego motif, which was then stored on a database and incorporated in the façade panel. Lego bricks were supplied from Denmark.

VANESSA JOHNSON (BA 2000, GRAD DIP TCHG (PRIMARY) 2004) began writing her first “chick lit” book in 1996. Now Penguin have just published her first book *Lush* about Lydia Kyriacos, who lives in a stylish flat in Notting Hill Gate, has a successful banker boyfriend, a great job in the West End and friends who can always be relied on to keep the party going. But something's not right.

RACHEL PARIS (LLB(HONS) BA 2000) broke new ground in the New Zealand legal community when she was recently promoted to partner at commercial law firm, Bell Gully. She is the first partner to be appointed in a part-time capacity at her firm.

While combining her legal profession with motherhood, Rachel also pursues an interest in media and film – co-authoring a feature film screenplay currently in production with South Pacific Pictures. “The screenplay project is a way of leading by example to my younger colleagues that they need not be confined to the role of ‘traditional’ lawyer,” she says. “We can pursue our passions and contribute to the cultural fabric of New Zealand while maintaining office jobs.”

Rachel began her legal career at Bell Gully in 2000 after graduating with a conjoint law and arts degree, coming top of Law School and her honours programme. In 2003, she came first at Harvard Law School in the specialist International Finance LLM Programme with her dissertation, cited as “influential” by a *Wall Street Journal* editorial in December 2007. While at Allen & Overy's projects group in London (2003-2005), Rachel

advised blue-chip clients on the financing and structuring of major infrastructure and acquisition projects. Later, at leading UK media law firm, Olswang, she advised companies such as Disney and Warner Bros on film production financing. Last year Rachel won an Emerging Leaders Award at the Sir Peter Blake Trust's Leadership Awards.

ALISA WILLIS, (BMUS 2000, BMUS (HONS) MUSIC 2001) is the new Associate Principal Flute with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra.

LIZ FARRELL (BMUS 2002, BMUS(HONS)2003), a flautist has started a fixed contract with Kiel Philharmonisches Orchester.

LIAM MALLETT (BMUS 2004, BMUS (HONS) 2005 (HONS)) also a flautist has started his trial at the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.

If you would like your contemporaries to know what you are up to, email the editor: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz

Distinguished Alumni Awards nominations



Among the University's Distinguished alumni are (from left to right) The Hon. Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, Chris Liddell, Dame Lynley Dodd, Sir Ron Carter, Professor Ngaire Woods

The University of Auckland has bestowed 78 Distinguished Alumni Awards since 1996. With an alumni database of over 132,000 we are asking alumni and staff to put forward suggestions of who else our selection committee should consider for this honour. Either email us a suggestion at alumni.auckland.ac.nz or download and fill out a nomination form by visiting www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz. Nominations close for 2011, on Wednesday 30 June 2010. The awards are presented at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in March in Auckland.

Young Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award

The Young Alumnus/Alumna of the Year award was introduced in 2006 to recognise alumni under the age of 35 who have already shown outstanding achievement in their careers. Previous award winners are Dr David Skilling (2006), Mahe Drysdale (2007), John Chen (2008), Toa Fraser (2009) and Dr Jessie Jacobsen (2010).

To nominate someone please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz to download a form



John Chen (2008)



Dr Jessie Jacobsen (2010)

Alumni & Friends Events Calendar 2010 (May-November)



Auckland (Graduation Gala Concerto Competition)	Thursday 6 May
London	Thursday 10 June
Shanghai (NZ Universities Alumni Reception)	Monday 14 June
Hong Kong	Thursday 17 June
Beijing	Thursday 17 June
Wellington	Thursday 26 August
Auckland (Golden Graduates)	Wednesday 8 September
New York	Monday 13 September
Auckland (All Black Alumni Event)	Wednesday 29 September
Whangarei	Wednesday 17 November

Please note informal Alumni & Friends events being run by our Volunteer Alumni Coordinators (VACs) both locally and overseas will be promoted directly to alumni living in their catchment area.

For further information or to ensure you receive an invitation to an event being held in your area please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update to update your details.

Host family dinner



The Host Family scheme enables international students to enjoy kiwi hospitality and to share their experiences. Now in its fifth year, the scheme offers great social occasions for everyone involved.

We are always on the lookout for new families to add to our list, as the popularity of hosting international students for a dinner is increasing.

This is a great chance for alumni and staff to become more involved with the University and its students in a very social and enjoyable way.

Read more on the Alumni and Friends website, www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz, under benefits.

If you are interested in hosting students to dinner contact Judith Grey: email j.grey@auckland.ac.nz or telephone: (09) 373-7599, ext. 82309.

International alumni network

If you live in or near any of the areas below and would like to be involved with local alumni, we encourage you to make contact with your Volunteer Alumni Co-ordinator (VAC). If you would like to consider being a VAC for your area, then please contact Jamie Himiona at j.himiona@auckland.ac.nz for further information.

AUSTRALIA

Brisbane

Allanah Johnston, a.johnston@business.uq.edu.au

Melbourne

Rupert Saint, rupert.saint@bigpond.com

Perth

Anne Morrell, anne@sgc.com.au

Sydney

George Barker, BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au
Regan van Berlo, rvb@karaka.com.au

CANADA

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Allison Hall, allisonhall77@hotmail.com

CHINA

Beijing

Vivian (Yang) Jiao, vivianny@gmail.com
Joy (Fengxin) Ding, dingfengxin@bfsu.edu.cn

Chengdu

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Hong Kong

Raymond Tam, tmkraymond@yahoo.com.hk

Shanghai

Vincent Cheung, agl_vincentcheung@live.hk

EUROPE

Germany

Philipp Schuster, philippschuster@hotmail.com

Scandinavia

Duncan Lithgow, duncan@lithgow-schmidt.dk

Belgium

Ken Baker, eualumni@skynet.be

Ken also welcomes contact from alumni in Europe where there is no VAC in their area.

ISRAEL

Ofir Goren, ofir.goren@solcon.co.il

INDONESIA

Jakarta

Iman Paryudi, paryudi@rediffmail.com

JAPAN

Tokyo

Simon Hollander, nzhikozaemon@yahoo.co.jp

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur

KC Yong, keecyong@streamyx.com

If you would like to put yourself forward for any of these positions, please contact Jamie Himiona with your CV at: j.himiona@auckland.ac.nz

SINGAPORE

Anne Dumas, annetran160@hotmail.com

TAIWAN

Taipei

Mago Hsiao, mago.hsiao@nzte.govt.nz

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San Francisco

Tanja Srebotnjak, tanja.srebotnjak@ecologic.institute.ac.nz

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Wayne Huang, wayne@seenet.co.nz

Wellington

Marion Corrden, marioncorrden@clear.net.nz

UAPA – Pacific Alumni

Nuhisifa Williams, ns.williams@auckland.ac.nz

Pharmacy in New Zealand

Natasha Bell, nbel020@aucklanduni.ac.nz

Currently in process of setting up

- Korea in New Zealand
- Chinese in New Zealand
- Adelaide, Australia
- Shanghai, China

We are currently searching for VACS in these regions

- Vancouver, Canada
- Seoul, Korea
- Chandigarh, India
- Whangarei, New Zealand
- Hamilton, New Zealand

In brief

Recently published books by Auckland alumni



Walls to Kick and Hills to Sing From: A Comedy with Interruptions, published by AUP, is a new poetry collection from alumnus

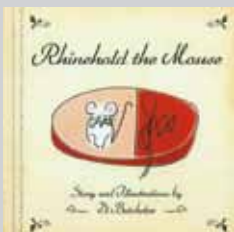
and associate professor of drama, Murray Edmond (BA 1972, PhD English 1997).

Arranged in six acts, "Exposition", "Complication", "Revelation", "Peripety", "Catastrophe" and "Dénouement", it merrily experiments with voice and performance, including, in various forms, monologues, dialogues, choruses, songs, scene sets and storyboards. Murray, who has taught theatre and drama at The University of Auckland for 25 years, is the editor of the peer-reviewed poetry journal *Ka Mate Ka Ora*. His poems are included in *Contemporary New Zealand Poets in Performance* (AUP).

Rhinehold the Mouse

When alumna Di Batchelor (BEd 1999) was a teenager she kept two pet mice, Henry and Anabel, in the glasshouse where she propagated plants after school.

Years later, at Teachers College and researching children's author Dr Seuss, Di says she found almost every sentence she heard magically translated into a Dr Seuss-type rhyming couplet. She used this new-found gift to entertain her young nieces with a story and pictures drawn from her own memory. The result is *Rhinehold the Mouse*, published by Fraser books.



If you have published a book in the last six months, or will do so in the next, email the editor: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz

South-West of Eden

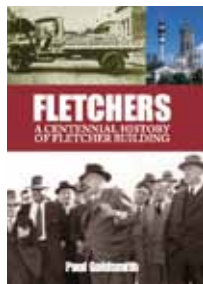


"I said many times I would not write autobiography – partly because it might signal, either to my inner self, or to others, a "signing off" as a writer; and partly because I did not want to mark off areas that were fact in my life from those that might yet be invented. Fiction likes to move, disguised and without a passport, back and forth across that border, and prefers it should be unmarked and without check-points."

Happily, Distinguished Alumnus CK Stead (BA 1954, MA 1955, DLITT 1982) has changed his mind. In *C.K. Stead South-West of Eden: A memoir 1932-1956*, published by Auckland University Press, he writes of a life "lived by history" – running wild in Cornwall Park, joining the Labour Party aged seven, and discovering poetry in a third-form English class. In a virtuoso performance, CK Stead wonderfully illuminates 23 years of his time and his place.

Note: CK Stead has just won Britain's *Sunday Times* short story competition with his story "Last Season's man". His poem "Ischaemia" won first place in the open section at the 2010 International Hippocratic Prize for Poetry and Medicine.

Fletchers



"The idea that an old company is superior is nonsense. A business is only as good as the people that are in it at the time."

Who would deny JC Fletcher's dispassionate assessment of business reality? Most of New Zealand's great business icons of the twentieth century have withered, disappeared or been swallowed by other firms. But a century after James Fletcher began his work in Dunedin in 1909, Fletcher Building continues to perform as one of New Zealand's largest and most trusted companies, with a significant international presence.

Fletchers: A centennial history of Fletcher Building by alumnus Paul Goldsmith (BA 1992, MA 1995), published by David Ling to mark 100 years of Fletchers, tells the story of how Fletchers, in its many manifestations over the decades, has transformed New Zealand's built environment by constructing such renowned structures as The University of Auckland's ClockTower and the Museum of New Zealand: Te Papa Tongarewa. Equally, the company has helped shape the country's economic development by creating efficiencies of scale in construction and building materials, and by pioneering many new industries.

Beyond contempt



This book by alumnus Tony Stroobant (PhD Theology 2007) asks why, despite much progress in Jewish-Christian relations over recent decades, there is still Christian anti-Jewishness in the everyday life of the church. Why does it seem so deep-rooted and difficult to educate against?

As well as tracing the origins of Christian anti-Jewishness and examining some of the negative stereotypes regarding Jews and Judaism, *Beyond Contempt: Removing Anti-Jewishness from Christian Worship*, published by the Faith & Order Committee, Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa, offers practical strategies for eliminating anti-Jewishness from Christian worship.

Tony, who is currently Christian Co-President of the New Zealand Council of Christians and Jews and a Methodist minister in Auckland, suggests his book will interest those responsible for leading worship, as well as those concerned for improving interfaith relationships.

Sara Hughes



This publication is an overview of the work of artist alumna Sara Hughes (BFA 2000, MFA 2002) from the past seven years, containing two essays by German authors, Christoph Tannert and Christina Vegh.

Sara's work has an ongoing concern with "what we see" and "how we see" and she is interested in the structures through which information is communicated, particularly in relation to our media-saturated world that has become mediated and regulated by information flow.

Her current projects investigate imagery and data relating to patterns of behaviour and configurations of spectacle and national identity as portrayed through the use of colour, consumerism and propaganda. *Sara Hughes: Feedback Runaway* is published by Revolver.



Daniel Waswas (b.1973) / *See You Too*, 2007, acrylic on canvas

Art at Epsom

When the Auckland College of Education merged with the University in 2004, the University's art collection was significantly enriched, as Linda Tyler reports.

Visual arts are central to the New Zealand education system, and have held a correspondingly strong position in teacher education.

Teacher training facilities established art collections long before universities, using the art works they acquired as teaching resources to demonstrate techniques as well as to enhance cultural appreciation and awareness in trainee teachers. Consequently, among the assets acquired in the merger of the Auckland College of Education with the University on 1 September 2004 were over 280 art works produced by staff and students from the College's long history.

Rich in ceramics and textiles, the Epsom collection has brought diversity to the University's art collection, and also distinct value, with its strong representation of Māori and Pasifika artists, many of whom trained to be teachers at ACE.

Conveniently, delving into the Epsom collection leads to encounters with signposts marking the history of art education in Auckland. The earliest work in the collection is a watercolour of a street in Rouen, dated

1930, by Ivy Copeland. In 1926, 31-year-old Ivy Copeland (1895-1961) became the first Elam-trained graduate to be appointed as a lecturer at the then Auckland Training College. With her flair for portraiture and love of colour, she empowered her students to wield their coloured chalks with confidence.

Fond memories of Miss Copeland have been recorded, with one student quoted in the recent history of the College declaiming that "her hints were a revelation... From being unable to draw faces I learned to do quite passable portraits in pastels, and my blackboard pictures had depth and life."

Despite such appreciative remarks, Ivy Copeland left her position after only four years.

Art teaching lapsed at Auckland until 1940 when Scottish-born Robert Donn (1878-1968) was transferred north from Dunedin. Trained at the Glasgow School of Art where the arts and crafts movement reigned, with integration of design and craft with fine art, Donn encouraged the decorative arts at the college, including mural decoration, bookbinding, needlework, pottery and metalwork. One of his second-year students was Bob Lowry

(1912-1963) who in 1941 began handsetting the type and designing linocut covers for the college magazine *Manuka*.

After two years, Donn left Auckland and the Canadian J.D.Charlton Edgar (1903-1976) took over as head of the art department, where he remained until 1965. By 1960, the art department under Edgar's leadership had gathered enough ballast to present an exhibition of art by past and present students as part of the Auckland Festival.

Manuka noted that this occasioned "the first presentation of [Ralph] Hotere's work to the public and it is a tribute to Mr Edgar's perception that he gave so much wall space to an hitherto virtually unheard-of painter".

During Edgar's time at Auckland, the Department of Education revisited its 1949 decision to consign third-year students specialising in art and craft to Dunedin. Several marine-themed paintings from the 1980s in the Epsom collection by Peter Smith (b.1925) are a record of the arrival in 1953 of an important and creative educator who set up a training course for secondary school art teachers at Auckland Teachers' College. His intake of students was limited to graduates from the country's only two art schools: the Canterbury College School of Art and the Elam School of Fine Arts at Auckland University College.

Peter Smith's students were often only a few years his junior: for example sculptor Arnold Manaaki Wilson (b.1928), who had been Elam's first Māori graduate in 1955. Students of Smith's who would go on to become influential educators themselves, include Ted Bracey (1936-2009) and Quentin Macfarlane (b.1935).

While most of the art works in the Epsom collection date from the latter part of the twentieth century, the collection continues to develop with acquisitions of works by important graduates, such as expatriate artist Bill Culbert (b.1935).

In 2005, the School of Pasifika Education commissioned a work by the celebrated Papua New Guinean artist, educator and Elam School of Fine Arts graduate Daniel Waswas (b.1973). In this work, Waswas celebrates the value of education in fine arts at Auckland, and the opportunity it has given him for self-expression. This painting's theme is the integration of mind, body and spirit; and in it the artist has attempted to depict bringing an inner world into the outer world of concrete reality. His aim, appropriately enough, was to illustrate pictorially the Latin origins of the word "education", meaning to lead out.

Hopenhagen or Flopenhagen?

Jenny Chu is a fifth-year BE/LLB student at The University of Auckland. She is an Environmental Officer with the University's Environmental Programme and was one of 12 members of the NZ Youth Delegation to Copenhagen last December. She writes of that experience here.



The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen last December was billed as the world's best chance to achieve the next major breakthrough since signing the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

Apart from the government officials, there were thousands of NGO observer delegates at the conference. The record numbers of 45,000 registrations (despite the fact that the venue could only hold 15,000 people at one time) and attendance by 120 heads of state and government raised the climate discussions to a new level.

Official UN statistics show intensive negotiations were conducted over 1,000 official, informal and group meetings. Observers discussed climate change in more than 400 meetings, and media attended over 300 press conferences. There were over 200 side events and 220 exhibitions presenting the latest views on topics from building a resilient community to evaluating the effectiveness of the clean development mechanism and various technical, marketing and financial solutions, not to mention "green" products promotion by corporates from diverse sectors.

Along with the other 11 members of the New Zealand Youth Delegation (NZYD) I

went to Copenhagen hoping that a fair, ambitious and legally binding international treaty on climate change issues would be produced. The NZYD was formed last year with the main objectives of supporting positive decision-making by the government delegations as well as presenting the New Zealand Government with the New Zealand Youth Policy Document. Our accredited observer status gained us entry passes, allowing us inside the Bella Centre, where the official negotiations were held. This means that we were allowed to observe the negotiations, except those that took place behind closed doors.

Before and during the conference, our delegation mainly worked on projects in three teams: communications, policy and actions.

The policy team was responsible for producing the New Zealand Youth Policy Document through engagement with local youth around the country, as well as for understanding what was going on each day in different paths of negotiation, explaining it back to our group, and deciding where we could use our energy to affect what was going on at the daily meetings with the government delegation.

The actions team took care of the logistics for our major campaigns. This meant presenting messages from youth on a 10 metre by six-metre Team New Zealand spinnaker donated by the Sir Peter Blake Trust and in letters to our Prime Minister, as well as collaborating with international youth delegations on the organisation of the Conference of Youth, a capacity-building and strategy-planning forum. This was held before the UN Climate Change Conference for more than 1000 youth delegates from all over the world.

The communications team was in charge of writing press releases, interacting with New Zealand and international media, and making speeches as well as producing a daily electronic newsletter during the conference, which briefly summarised NZYD's stance on the negotiations from that day, highlights of the negotiation scenes and how youth back home could influence the policy.

With respect to the outcomes of the conference, namely the Copenhagen Accord produced on the last day, it reflected progress in a number of areas such as the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund that provides aid for developing countries to face the impacts of severe climate change, and guidance on improvements to the clean development mechanism and deforestation policy. However, the accord was non-binding and the emission-cutting targets in the accord were weak and unclear, which poses challenges for the upcoming negotiations to lift this agreement to a stronger legal treaty.

While it is easy to believe that the failure to achieve a treaty in Copenhagen would sap momentum for moving forward, a lot is happening to build on the actions of individual nations in spite of the lack of a legally binding international agreement. I was delighted by New Zealand's initiative on leading a Global Research Alliance with 28 other states to reduce the emission intensity of agriculture. With the agriculture sector contributing to a third of global greenhouse gas emissions and half of our country's emission, I believe this is an area where New Zealand has a huge potential to make a substantial difference on a global scale.

With the next UN climate change talks in Mexico approaching this November, it should be noted the Copenhagen talk was just the end of the beginning, as pointed out by Mexico's chief delegate Fernando Tudela. "We do not want to get ensnared in the legal stuff so that we will be prevented from moving. What we want is to achieve a sensible global mobilisation... If a legally binding treaty is possible and helps, we are all for it. But it's not a pre-condition for moving in the right direction."

At the end of the day, whether or not the Copenhagen talks be judged as Hopenhagen or Flopenhagen, we are the ones that have the power to take local actions that shape the future of our community now.

Sporting chances

Sport on campus is advancing into a bright new era, says alumnus Tim Brightwell, the University's first Sports Manager.



The University of Auckland has a great sporting history, one that rivals any other university in the country.

Top-level athletes from across all codes have chosen to further their academic careers by studying here. These illustrious performers range from top sailors (Russell Coutts and Tom Schnackenberg), the greatest cyclist in New Zealand history (Sarah Ulmer), a top international rower (Mahe Drysdale), and two of the greatest rugby captains (John Graham and Sir Wilson Whineray) to some of the most talented young sportsmen and women in the country, who will be competing at the Commonwealth Games later this year.

We have clubs bearing the University name, such as the Auckland University Rugby Football Club, that consistently compete at the highest level of regional and national club competition in their chosen codes. We also have some of the best research facilities, along with researchers who are making discoveries, in areas such as Sport and Exercise Science, which help to give our athletes and teams a competitive advantage in world competition.

So why don't we hear more about these highlights and achievements, along with those of the hundreds of club-level players who compete in their chosen sports? Why

don't we know these names? And what do we do to support sport for all students of the University, from the top athletes to the club players and to those who play sport in a way that gives great pleasure, as a social competition with friends.

The answer is that we are starting to!

Sport at the University is on a resurgence, thanks to the hard work and support of a number of different groups. In 2009 we hosted the first University-sponsored sports tournament where five teams competed for the Wilson Whineray Trophy. In partnership with the Auckland University Rugby Football Club, the University named Matthew Mattich as the first recipient of the John Drake Memorial Scholarship.

We've also started to put in place the structures to allow us to provide support and openings for students who want to pursue sporting opportunities as well as their academic goals.

As part of the new "Campus Life" initiatives I was appointed Sports Manager, the first to hold that role at the University. One of my tasks is to oversee the five interfaculty tournaments – twenty20 cricket, basketball, netball, soccer and rugby – that students can participate in. Another is to work with local and national sporting bodies to develop

stronger competitions.

I am also helping develop an overall strategy that will pull together the different strands of sport at the University – the support structures, the awards ceremonies, all the facilities – so that they can work together along the one path that will see sport become more prominent and more accessible on campus.

This strategy and these actions are all driven by recognition of the role that sports can play at the University.

Involvement in sports isn't just about maintaining fitness, but also about building friendships and bonds that come through people competing together trying to achieve a common goal. It's about creating high-achieving, well rounded students who can apply the same focus to sporting and academic endeavours.

Tim graduated from The University of Auckland with a BCom in 2008. As a student he was sports officer for the Auckland University Students' Association.

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