INGENIO
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ALUMNI MAGAZINE
Spring 2012

SUMMER SHAKESPEARE TURNS 50
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARADISE WINNING SHORT STORY
The power of philanthropy

One of the challenges in any university is to resolve the archetypal tension between alumni relations and development – in simplified terms, between friend-raising and fundraising. Both are at opposite ends of a continuum, from the more altruistic alumni engagement for its own sake to the more utilitarian use of the alumni database to support the University’s financial needs. Given that common challenge, we were very fortunate, here at Auckland, to combine both the alumni and the development functions when we moved into the former synagogue which became University House in 2003. Our early focus was on reconnecting with alumni both at home and abroad, not only by mounting a comprehensive functions programme, but chiefly through this biannual Ingensio magazine which now goes out to more than 100,000 alumni, largely in print but also to a small but growing percentage, electronically.

One issue that had to be worked through carefully was how to integrate an extensive alumni re-engagement programme with the University’s ever present and growing philanthropic needs - meat and drink in the US but not so in New Zealand, Australia and the UK. Reactions to that re-engagement programme varied from “Why are you having this function, you are only after our money?” (in New Zealand) to “What is the value proposition?” (in the more fundraising focused US). However, during the last decade, our largely biennial series of functions at home and abroad, together with excellent speakers, (often our leading researchers) have largely blunted those early suspicions.

At the same time, having visited the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Virginia, Melbourne and Sydney, we were planning and building our Development Infrastructure for the University’s first major pan-University fundraising campaign, “Leading the Way”. This has just concluded, having raised over $202 9 million (against an initial goal of $100 million!) largely for specific chairs, fellowships and scholarships.

What were the key outcomes from the campaign?

Firstly, we confirmed the vital importance of doing very thorough homework with potential donors beforehand. We discovered that being 135 years old, and being (then) 51st in the world, were of secondary importance to the University being less self-serving and more outward-looking and motivated to make a difference to the health, the economic and social wellbeing of our nation, and of humanity generally.

Secondly, we confirmed the importance of appropriate investment by respective Vice-Chancellors in providing excellent infrastructural support for the campaign committees, deans and research champions across the University from development managers, researchers and writers to communications, event management, and web and database experts.

Thirdly, we discovered that a fundraising campaign could be very transformative in terms of highlighting the practical outcomes of top-level research. We now know far more about who our research superstars are, and what they are achieving for good, across so many different fields. We also have a better understanding of their vital importance to New Zealand’s future economic and social success than that afforded by our often more publicly acclaimed sporting and other celebrities.

Fourthly, we witnessed the magic which results when a potential donor meets a top researcher and becomes intrinsically involved in sponsoring vital research – which in turn has made the University’s academics and researchers more far-aware and appreciative of the value of philanthropy.

Fifthly, we have seen a gradual and growing appreciation among our alumni, many of whom had become totally disengaged, of the fact that even small annual donations can, when aggregated, make the world of difference, particularly in providing scholarship funding to support talented students who would otherwise be unable to afford a University education.

Between 2008 and 2011, the number of alumni donating to one of the University’s annual appeals grew by 75 percent. As Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon has noted, the campaign has transformed the University’s, and its alumni’s understanding of, and approach to, the power of philanthropy. Simply put, the government cannot provide what has been described as “dream money”, which has become so vital in attracting and retaining top level researchers and teachers in the current arms race for academic talent.

In conclusion, the campaign has been hugely beneficial in informing and motivating more alumni to take a more proactive interest in their alma mater, especially older age groups who supported themselves through the University without the current impetus of having to take the initiative. I have no doubt that the increase in “giving back” to student support scholarships we have seen during the campaign is motivated by a desire to give as many talented students as possible the opportunity to gain a university degree without the long-term millstone of a huge student loan.

Long may that sentiment and support continue! Finally, may I acknowledge the great support I have received from the respective Vice-Chancellors, deans, senior management and especially our Alumni Relations and Development team during my very stimulating decade at the University.

John Taylor, who has been Director of Alumni Relations and Development at The University of Auckland since 2003, and has directed the “Leading the Way” fundraising campaign, retires at the end of this year after a career which has also included the headmasterships of Kings College, Auckland (1988-2002) and Rathkeale College, Masterton (1979-1987).
Response to our last Issue in the Autumn 2012 Ingenio: “Educational underachievement among Māori, Pasifika and low income groups is one of the greatest challenges to New Zealand’s future: What are we doing about it?”

Staff of McAuley High School wrote:
As alumn of the University of Auckland who work in education we were deeply pained by the three opinion pieces in the Taking Issue section of the Autumn Ingenio publication.

We all currently work at McAuley High School, a decile 1 Catholic girls’ school in Otahuhu. Eighty-eight percent of our students identify as Pasifika and a further five percent are Māori. Last year our NCEA results were a minimum of 21 percent above national roll-based pass rates at all three levels of NCEA. Our Pasifika students were a minimum of 13 percent above national Pasifika achievement rates, and at least five percent above the achievement rates for European students, again at all three levels of NCEA. Furthermore 100 percent of our 2011 cohort left with Level 1, 97.5 percent left with Level 2 and 71.2 percent left with Level 3.

Our Pasifika and non-Pasifika staff alike take exception to Uesifili Unasa’s claim that “the children of the poor are not taught and take exception to Uesifili Unasa’s claim that “the children of the poor are not taught and are not evidence-based, should be written by the sector. The irony is that such opinions, which are not evidence-based, are written by staff of a university that prides itself on being New Zealand’s pre-eminent research institution.

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G I Laurenon, Principal, Otahuhu College writes

As the Principal of one of the largest Decile 1 schools in the country, Otahuhu College, and one of the largest percentage of Pasifika students, I was extremely disturbed to read the article in Ingenio written by Uesifili Unasa. It is one thing to write an article to generate discussion but something else to write an opinion piece without making any effort whatsoever to discover the realities of the situation before putting pen to paper. As a graduate of The University of Auckland with an Arts degree I was dismayed and upset with the false assumptions and generalisations in the column.

I can assure you the children of the poor are being taught at Otahuhu College. Yes they dance at Polyfest and play in the 1st XV but they are mentored all year long and learn after the external exams are complete. With monstrous regularity they are reminded of the paulls of relying on professional sport as a career (not on issue for the girls). They are three of the four Head Prefects and when they leave to go to university they do degrees in medicine, engineering, commerce, law and the arts.

Through our GATEWAY programme we even got seven apprenticeships in 2011 and they are harder to get than entrance to university. To meet the challenge of getting more students into health-related careers we have started a Health Science Academy to encourage our Pasifika and Māori students to do extra science at school so as to remove a lack of science as a barrier to taking on degree courses in medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and other health-related fields. Now the Health Science Academy is in its second year over 40 Pasifika and Māori students are making giant steps towards careers in these areas. One has even been selected by the Royal Society as one of 21 students from all over New Zealand to attend a week-long science symposium in Dunedin. Textbooks are given to them and laptops are about to be issued. Extra classes are run outside of normal school hours and specialists brought in for seminars on exam techniques and study skills. To visit a Level 2 physics class being taught with 18 Pasifika girls in it shows how successful the academy concept has already been.

It is ironic, however, to read the article on page 35 of Ingenio and to see a photograph of our DXU from 2011 as a recipient of one of two “First in Family” scholarships.

Maybe we are getting some things right for the “children of the poor”. Perhaps a journey from the “ivory towers” to the depths of South Auckland to see the reality might be in order. G I Laurenon (BA 1975)
Spectacular end to Campaign

Sir John Graham, Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, Campaign patron Jenny Gibbs, Campaign Committee Chairman, Geoff Rockett, Director of External Relations and Development John Taylor, Chancellor Roger Francois

The annual Chancellor’s Dinner recognises and thanks those donors who have given substantial gifts to the University over the previous 12 months. This year, however, there was an additional reason to celebrate the final total of the “Leading the Way” Campaign — $202.9 million gifted to the University and a final total of the “previous 12 months. This year, however, there was a substantial gift to the University over the year.

Chancellor Roger Francois spoke of the importance of having a university that is internationally competitive and of the desire to contribute nationally, which was at the heart of the “Leading the Way” Campaign.

“A continuously well-educated and well-trained population is essential for our social and economic wellbeing. Education plays a key role in providing individuals with the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to participate effectively in society and in the economy. It also contributes to the expansion of scientific and cultural knowledge. This was the background against which the University’s fundraising campaign was set.”

Each year the Chancellor also induces new members into one of three societies in the Chancellor’s Circle, in recognition of their sustained support of the University. The new members of the Sir Maurice O’Rourke Society, with total contributions of more than $5 million, were Cure Kids, which has funded more than 40 child health-focused research projects at the University and the Cure Kids Chair in Child Research, and the Freemasons, who established the Freemasons Chair in Geriatric Medicine in 1986 and continue to partner with the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences to address the health concerns of the elderly.

Five new members were inducted into the Sir George Fowlds Society – Buckley Systems, the Gisborne Family Trust, Fisher & Paykel Appliances, The Kalisher Charitable Trust and the New Zealand Leadership Institute. They have made total contributions of between $1 million and $5 million.


The entertainment for the evening was provided by students from the University’s National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries - soprano Milli Dickens with pianist Den Hi Skye Lucas, tenor Taumio Fimehe and bantone Kolosi Favelouvulu accompanied by pianist Juan Kim, and The Jazz Trio.

Louise Callan

The University is currently undergoing a major redevelopment of its facilities. The $240 million redevelopment of its Grafton medical training facility is now all but complete and was lauded at the recent New Zealand Institute of Architects Awards. “In the architectural equivalent of open-heart surgery, vertical and side-stacked teaching spaces have been undagged to provide horizontal and transparent modern education learning environments,” read the citation.

“The architects [Asman]’s thoroughgoing commitment to sustainable design is evident in the building’s planning, operation and material selection.”

Traditional divisions between departments have been replaced with theme-based research while open-plan, multi-disciplinary teaching and research spaces have been created, radically transforming the way more than 4,000 students and 1,500 staff go about their work.

Design work has also begun for the redevelopment of the Engineering and Science faculties, which will both be the subject of major building renewal programmes.

The Faculty of Science is the highest-ranked and largest in New Zealand, and its research activity, staff and student numbers are forecast to grow substantially over the next ten years. The $500 million redevelopment, led by the University’s Property Services and architectural firm Architectus, will give 38,000 m2 of new or refurbished space to accommodate most of this growth and bring together scientific disciplines previously dispersed across the campus.

Fletcher

Campus redevelopment

The School of Environment, Institute of Earth Science and Engineering, National Science Infrastructure, Department of Psychology and School of Chemical Sciences will move into a new purpose-built Science Centre tower joining colleagues from Physics, Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science accommodated in buildings in the same complex and increasing the opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The Faculty of Engineering is undergoing redevelopment working with architects Jasmax to create high-tech laboratories, a new engineering research facility and the expansion of the existing buildings on the City Campus.

“This is part of a ten-year campus renewal plan valued in excess of $18 billion that is bringing our facilities up to the highest possible standard,” says Vice-Chancellor, Professor McCutcheon. “It demonstrates our commitment to science and engineering, and reflects the importance of science and innovation to New Zealand.”

The University is also going through “due process” for its proposed purchase of the $270 million former Lion Breweries site in Newmarket. If successful, the University will use the site for long-term development of a mixed use campus, with space for purpose-built teaching and research facilities, student accommodation, business development and other facilities.

For more information on the “Proposed Newmarket Campus” see: www.auckland.ac.nz/newmarket

Fletcher

100 years after we began our first university project, an extension to Knox College at Otago, we are still facilitating the education of New Zealanders, delivering, for the University of Auckland:

› Grafton Medical School Campus refurbishment

› Faculty of Science (Building 303) refurbishment and new science undergraduate laboratories
A new urban focused Master of Urban Planning will provide you with the knowledge and skills required for an increasingly complex and diverse urban world.

Urban Planners play a key role in shaping New Zealand’s urban futures—economically, environmentally, socially and culturally. This professionally accredited practice degree will examine:

- Urban sustainability
- Urban design
- Urban economics
- Social and cultural matters
- Infrastructure design
- Policy formulation and implementation

Want to take a leading role in shaping our urban future?

In May this year, Sir Ralph received the inaugural CIO Lifetime Contribution Award for his significant contribution to the information technology sector. He is an Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Computer Society (HPNZCS), an Ambassador of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, and is also a former Chairman of the Business Round Table.

He was knighted in 2009 and named Outstanding Māori Business Leader for 2010.

**Planning urban**

How do we make urban intensification happen in the right way? And if we’re going to give up our traditional quarter acre section lifestyles, what are the trade-offs for living in terraced or high rise housing?

Growing cities like Auckland are facing these sorts of questions, and are the reason the University’s School of Architecture and Planning is moving the planning discipline’s focus towards urban planning with a new taught Masters of urban planning degree.

“With 85 percent of New Zealanders already living within the urban environment (our cities and towns), and the global trend of population movement from the rural to the urban environment, the new degree is relevant both here and internationally,” says Lee Beatte, head of Urban Planning and deputy head of the School of Architecture and Planning.

**The Auckland Council recently released its spatial plan, the Auckland Plan, as a strategy for managing urban growth that involves limiting urban sprawl and seeking to accommodate the majority of Auckland’s future growth (between 60 to 70 percent) within an urban growth boundary.**

“This will mean greater density in the existing and emerging centres, potentially using multisabrey, multi-unit housing forms, so the city is facing big issues in terms of how it balances intensification and the right housing technologies,” says Lee. “The Masters of Urban Planning students will gain the skills and knowledge required to address these, and other complex issues being faced by our ever increasingly urbanised world.”

**Bill Williams: July 20 1947 - August 26 2012**

It is with considerable sadness that we have put together this issue of Ingenio. The first without the much-valued input of Senior Communications Adviser Bill Williams who died on 26 August, after a brief illness, just a few months short of his retirement.

Bill, who had worked at the University for 25 years, played a key role in each issue of Ingenio. He contributed story ideas, produced beautifully written features, was always a willing sounding board, and above all was the magazine’s subeditor and proofreader extraordinaire. Very few mistakes passed unnoticed on Bill’s watch.

Bill was a University treasure and formidable “walking encyclopaedia”. Staff across the University sought him out with their questions, and on the rare occasions when he didn’t have an immediate answer, he made it his business to find out.

Generous with his time, thoughtful, kind, acutely intelligent and in his own quiet way witty and irreverent, Bill is deeply missed by all who’ve worked on this issue of Ingenio, by his colleagues here in Communications and the many staff members he has worked with across the University. You can read a full obituary on Bill written by former registrar Warwick Nielson in University News issue 15, 13 September 2012 or at www. http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/the-media/tm-publications/tm-uninews

**Evolve**

The University’s commercialisation company, Uniservices is producing its own new quarterly publication Evolve. Evolve is a window into some of the exciting advances Uniservices and its commercial partners are leading in research, technology, and education.

“It illustrates the role of Uniservices as a business friendly and well networked company embedded in New Zealand Inc.” says Claudia Vidal, Uniservices General Manager, Business Operations. “It is an inclusive publication for our wide variety of audiences in New Zealand and overseas, and across many industry sectors and governments.”

www.uniservices.co.nz/aboutus/evolve.aspx

**Top ranked**

The University of Auckland has once more been ranked as the top university in New Zealand in the latest 2012-13 Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

It was placed 161st in the world, an improvement from its 171st ranking last year, and is the only New Zealand university to feature in the top 200, and to be among the top eight universities in Oceania.

Two other rankings this year have placed the University at the top in New Zealand. The University of Auckland was the only New Zealand tertiary institution to be ranked in the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings when it was placed 83rd in the world. It recently also became the first New Zealand university to enter the top 200 of the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Rankings of World Universities.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon says: “The University’s strategic focus is on achieving a level of excellence and the results are testimony to the quality and commitment of staff, and a reflection of the University’s research strength.

“Without a doubt universities provide a rich source of innovation and skilled graduates to industry and to our wider society. The University of Auckland is New Zealand’s largest research organisation and our diverse research supports our innovation economy.”

Times Higher Education’s methodology uses 13 performance indicators across five broad categories: teaching, citations, research, international outlook and industry income.

Other New Zealand universities ranked under the Times Higher Education World University Rankings system are: Otago 226-250; Victoria 251-275; Canterbury 301-350; Waikato 301-350, and Massey 351-400.

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Nothing will come of nothing

A nd what a grand event this will be, bringing together a wealth of creative talent - designers, actors, musicians, technicians - reuniting some of the many theatrical people who have made their start in Outdoor Summer Shakespeare and later made their mark in a much wider world.

New Zealand-born Lisa Harrow played Ophelia in the first-ever Summer Shakespeare production of Hamlet in 1963, and left soon after for the London Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Invited to join the Royal Shakespeare Company, she later played such roles as Olivia in Twelfth Night (with Judi Dench), Desdemona in Othello, Portia in The Merchant of Venice and Juliet (to John Hurt's Romeo), as well as collecting numerous film and TV credits.

King Lear was the first Shakespeare play in which Lisa played a major role. "I was a 15-year-old schoolgirl at Auckland Girls' Grammar," she told Judy Wilford, "conversing with her on skype and email from my home in Vermont." I remember sitting on my back steps at home pondering the enormous agony of the play, the appalling acts of cruelty so easily entered into by some and accepted by others, the brutality with which honesty, integrity and decency are silenced - and the utter lack of a happy ending. "That is the challenge of the play. Is Shakespeare telling it as it really is, or is he offering us a vision of how life would be if we remove grace, forgiveness, compassion, understanding and love - above all love - from the choices we make as a species?"

This production, to be performed at the University in March 2013, will be a homage to Professor Sidney (Miu) Muirgros, a much-respected and long-remembered teacher in the Department of English and the driving force behind Outdoor Summer Shakespeare. It will celebrate the 50-year history of the event, and provide a base of support for the work of the Summer Shakespeare Charitable Trust, formed to build a platform for future development.

Chair of the Trust is prominent New Zealand actor and director Michael Hurst, who is playing the Fool in King Lear and assisting Lisa as co-director.

Three years ago," says Michael, "Professor Tom Bispham from the Department of English asked if I would be interested in some kind of organisation to ensure the existence and well-being of Summer Shakespeare, because it had been flickering in and out of existence - a sputtering flame. "When I first came to Auckland it had been absolutely the thing you went to - it was outdoors, the productions were varied and they were amazing."

"My first outing with Shakespeare was directing one in 1987. Measure for Measure, then King Lear. I know friends and colleagues who came through Summer Shakespeare; the list is quite impressive. "So we formed the trust and have been looking to overhaul the system: to make sure it’s robust and can work in what is now a very different environment. We’re really pushing to create a support structure that has some financial basis, to ensure that the productions are run well and are reported on well. Patronage is important because we are a charitable trust and that gives a whole tax incentive so we’ve taken all the next steps and are gaining some really strong support out there."

"We want to make Summer Shakespeare one of those events on the calendar that people really want to go to..."

one of the world’s greatest dramas. As an actual play, he says, it ranks Hamlet higher, "but as a dramatic poem Lear is one of the greatest works ever written... Shakespeare has taken such extravagant risks, pushing the form of drama to its outer limits." Mac once saw an interview with actor Sam Neill (former partner of Lisa Harrow) who was asked if he would ever play a classic role like King Lear. "Sam said, ‘I couldn’t do it, but my brother could.’ And in this production, Sam’s brother will. For Emeritus Professor Michael Neill (described by Lisa as a “sort of brother-in-law” - that by the time he is an old man. The key to Lear is that he is an old man. The key to the part is that it is all about voice."

"I’ve never done Lear before," he adds with a smile. "I’ve never been old enough before" (which echoes what Mac Jackson refers to as "a green room paradox" - that by the time an actor is mature enough to play Lear he no longer has the huge stamina it requires). It was at Michael’s suggestion that King Lear became the chosen play for the 50th anniversary. The production, through not yet planned in detail, is already vivid in Lisa’s mind. "I imagine a dark world, where brooding sculptures form iconic images that can be used..."
University anthropologists have embarked on a major dig that promises to revitalise New Zealand archaeology and uncover new clues to our past. Rose Yukich investigates.

An archaeological island paradise

reinvigorate the cultural heritage that Ahuahu has to offer. It’s a fantastic island, and this is a wonderful opportunity for The University of Auckland to give back to the community through the results of our research work.

Ahuahu’s attractions include its accessibility, its compact nature and — most importantly — the fact that development on the island has been the major archaeological remains from 800 years of occupation are richly varied and well preserved. Since the 1850s when Ahuahu first passed into European ownership, little impact farming has been the major commercial activity. It is thought to have been first settled around the same time as the mainland, possibly as early as the mid-14th century. At 16 square kilometres the island was able to support either a seasonal or semi-permanent Maori settlement, as evidenced by numerous pā sites and hāpū pā. Given its crucial location for seafarers, Ahuahu is mentioned in the canoe traditions of a number of iwi. Auckland Museum’s Curator of Archaeology Louise Furnee elaborates:

“It’s a very exposed coast and even nearby Mercury Bay is not safe in a strong easterly wind. It is most dangerous in a strong nor-easterly. The island’s harbour is the place where everyone has always run to for shelter. If you think of the sea as a super highway — Māori are going backwards and forwards up and down the coast in ocean-going waka the whole time. In rough weather, Ahuahu’s the place they headed for. It’s a portable x-ray fluorescence machine is used to identify a rock’s geo-chemical signature, enabling Rebecca and Alex’s students to learn that experience behind them.”

The surprising mobility of people, for example, becomes evident by taking a closer look at the origins of the tool-making materials they carried with them on their travels to and from the island. Back in the University’s lab, a portable X-ray fluorescence machine is used to identify a rock’s geo-chemical signature, enabling Rebecca and Alex’s students to learn that experience behind them.

“Our aim is not to limit ourselves to an academic discipline in New Zealand. More recently, Emeritus Professor Garth Strehlow will lend expertise in his own boat during the 1980s to conduct further research. Building on this legacy, the Anthropology Department has joined forces with Auckland Museum to work on a comprehensive 10 year research plan for the island with the ultimate aim of developing a heritage protection programme. The project embraces a variety of people with complementary skills and interests. Contributing to the collaborative venture are members of Ngāti Hine whose cultural links to Ahuahu stretch back hundreds of years, along with input from the island’s owner Sir Michael Fay, whose support and enthusiasm has enabled the project to get underway.

“12 in a meeting of minds,” says Head of Department Professor Simon Holdaway, who is co-leading the project with Professor Theng Nials Ladelwaged. “We are bringing together different aspects that represent all our interests in the island in a 21st century way incorporating cultural and scientific strands. Modern archaeology is now a multi-disciplinary endeavour. All the archaeologists in the department are part of the project. It is a big deal getting teams of people into the field, collecting sufficient observations to analyse the range of processes that add to our understanding of the past. You can’t do it anymore by single scholars trying to run entire projects.”

The collaboration over Ahuahu will yield a most basic level with the “stuff” past humans have left behind or discarded. Finds from this year’s field school include the bones of sea lions and whales identified by butchering implements, fire debris, razor sharp obsidian blades, thousands of leftover basalt flakes from adze-making, and signs of posthole construction. But archaeologists do a lot more than collect individual artefacts. Using a laser theodolite, each excavated site occupies the field team in the intensive recording of the immediate context, of all objects found and their proximity to one another. The data is then computer rendered into a 3-D visual model. This information dense image provides a glimpse into what people might have been doing on that particular spot, but as more sites are investigated a bigger picture emerges.

“We are really looking at everything,” explains Dr Rebecca Phillips, a teaching fellow from the Anthropology Department and convenor of this year’s field school together with PhD student Alex Jorgensen. “We are interested in the human interaction with the environment on the island, how people gardened, how they used the landscape for subsistence, how they accessed stone material sources and how their trade networks might have operated. We want to understand the settlement patterns on the island and how the nature of people’s engagement with the wider region changed over time.”

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The collaboration over Ahuahu will yield a

number of benefits both within and beyond the University. One of the aims is to revitalise New Zealand archaeology by offering an exciting local opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to get hooked on the country’s pre-European past, and to

Quite quickly that the island’s slightly warmer than the mainland, it’s frost-free and has fertile soil, so you can get your gardens going out there,” says Louise.

A sub-discipline of anthropology, the practice of archaeology is concerned at its

So much artefact material has already been unearthed from the project that the department has for the first time created a volunteer programme to help deal with the large volumes. “Undergrad students, who haven’t necessarily participated in the

THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS A RICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD … IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW HUMANS CAME TO IMPACT UPON THE ENVIRONMENT FROM DAY ONE. YOU CAN’T DO THAT ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.”

From second left: Alex Jorgensen and Rebecca Phillips poring over material from the summer dig with students...
Dr Rochelle Constantine’s studies of some of the world’s most endangered whales and dolphins are critical to finding practical solutions for their conservation. She talks to Pauline Curtis.

A rare breed

I’m an eternal optimist – you have to be in this field,” says marine mammal scientist Dr Rochelle Constantine with a warm laugh. Rochelle studies the behaviour of whales and dolphins (cetaceans), and while it might sound like a dream job, it’s by no means easy.

The animals can be enigmatic, and building a picture of their activities can take years. “There are not big boxes,” she says. “You don’t lift your lid and your bugs are still floating in your box.”

One species her group studies, the Gray’s beaked whale, is only seen when near death and about to wash up on shore. Another, the humpback whale, travels thousands of kilometres across vast ocean spaces, and identifying individuals – a critical step in the research – relies on the flick of a uniquely marked tail or sliding close enough for a photo.

Rochelle’s optimism is called upon not only in her day-to-day research, but in its application. Many species she studies are close to extinction. She was part of recent work, for instance, showing there are just 55 adult and juvenile Maui’s dolphins left in New Zealand – the only place in the world they are found.

The fate of many cetaceans is tangled with legislation, how an industry is run, or how people view the environment and their impacts on it. As a scientist her role is to provide the best possible information for decision makers.

“I’m a firm believer that the science is what it is. We hand it out, we make sure that it’s interpreted well and used honestly … but that point is where we stop. We’re not advocates.”

It’s an effective approach. Her postgraduate research with dolphin watch and humpback whales in the Hauraki Gulf have been a focus. Her research group has shown that ship strike is the likely cause of death for most Bryde’s whales found dead in the Gulf, and the whales are highly vulnerable because they spend much of their time in the top few metres of the water.

Like many New Zealand animals, the whales are unusual by world standards – in the Antarctic regions, and the poor nutritional signs of improvement, it’s on a much slower trajectory.

Rochelle took part in work that challenged conventional thinking, showing that the humpback whales behave differently from their cousins in the Northern Hemisphere where most of the research had been done.

Like the northerners, they tend to return to breed in the same place they were born, meaning that whales around Tonga, for instance, are genetically distinct from those in New Zealand. But a significant number also hop between breeding sites, reflecting the easily-travelled geography of the South Pacific, which is dotted with islands, atolls and reefs.

A picture is also emerging that the whales travel south-east on their annual migration to Antarctica to feed. Oceanic’s whales may therefore end up in the “no-man’s land” of the Bellingshausen Sea.

While little research has been done there, it’s known to be less productive than other Antarctic regions, and the poor nutritional environment may be one reason for the whales’ slow recovery.

Rochelle hopes to satellite tag whales to test this theory, but she doesn’t have the money. 

“I like seeing the results,” Rochelle says, when asked where she finds her passion. “I like seeing that things might change … [that] the results are going to have a tangible effect for these animals’ welfare.”

She wants her work to lead to changes to legislation, how an industry is run, or how people view the environment and their impacts on it. As a scientist her role is to provide the best possible information for decision makers.

“It’s unacceptable [New Zealand is] watching the Maui’s dolphin decline and that we have this rate of ship strike of Bryde’s whales. It’s noted at an international level…”

“...it’s good – the science is becoming useful.”

Much of her time is also spent studying humpback whales as part of the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium and Southern Ocean Research Partnership.

Oceana’s humpbacks are one of only two populations that are still endangered. Elsewhere, the species is recovering well and, while our population is showing signs of improvement, it’s on a much slower trajectory.

Rochelle took part in work that challenged conventional thinking, showing that the whales behave differently from their cousins in the Northern Hemisphere where most of the research had been done.

The work led to restrictions on how long ships can stay out on the high seas, and was encouraged to return to study.

Though she might not say so herself, Rochelle had the same attributes she now looks for in her students: “Someone who’s engaging, bright, proactive, can get on with a team, drive a boat, back a trailer, and come home safely – that’s a rare person.”

That combination of skills and life experience were exactly what Professor Scott Baker, who became her supervisor and later a collaborator, wanted in a student working with dolphins in the Bay of Islands. It was that work which hooked her in, but after answering the questions that interested her, she moved on to other challenges: “Tourism is our second biggest earner of income. But finding money for the research, even work that produces real solutions, is extremely difficult – it’s not the funding magnet that people assume. Rochelle typically patches together small grants from many sources, donating her own time and even air points for research trips. She describes her work as “a Telethon – thank you for your kind donation”.

How New Zealand addresses its challenges is also critical. “We’re not strong in conservation, as we’re on big at the International Whaling Commission about not killing whales [that] it’s unacceptable we’re watching the Maui’s dolphin decline, that we have this rate of ship strike of Bryde’s whales. It’s noted at an international level, and we risk tarnishing the image we like to see if we do nothing to protect them.”

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Conduct in the region. “We want to see best practice in the South Pacific and thankfully the Pacific Islands have really embraced that.”

She would like to see a greater commitment to conservation in New Zealand, though. “Tourism is our second biggest earner now. People come to New Zealand because of our natural beauty – and one of the very big draw cards is our cetaceans.”

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Jane says her activism "comes partly out of my understanding of the world as an intellectual, and partly out of my values". Her father, a public servant, helped mould those values. "He’d been a working class kid who was largely self-educated and ended up head of a government department. He always encouraged me to question and think independently, and to argue."

Jane was born in Sydney in 1955, where her father was posted on travel commissioner, and her family moved several times before settling in Tawa when Jane was at secondary school. "When you move around as a kid you learn to be pretty independent and a survivor."

Her father died in 1986, a point in New Zealand history when public service-bashing was at its peak. "He was very distressed about the restructuring," Jane recalls. "I’m pleased he didn’t see what happened subsequently."

Jane is still close to her mother, who is now 95. "Most of my time not working I spend taking my mum out on excursions in her wheelie bin."

"A few years back, she bought a BMW convertible because the wheelchairs fit it (and, OK, she’s always wanted one)."

After gaining a law degree at Victoria University, Jane did a postgraduate law degree at Oxford followed by a postgraduate sociology degree. "It was an important time intellectually: there were a lot of legal issues at Cambridge, a lot of political economy, which I hadn’t formally studied at Vic, a lot of race theory. I became much more out there in terms of political activism after England."

The basic insight of political economy, she explains, is: "you have to understand law in terms of power dynamics, including cycles of capitalism."

Back home, she got a lecturing job at the University in 1979 and bought a house in Mt Wellington for $28,500, where she still lives. (Among other things she has constructed a "haven": a 9m by 7m book-lined office.)

She became active in Waitangi protests and race issues, bringing her expertise to the legal dimensions. "My first research project here was with the Black Power, analysing interactions with police and the courts."

"Whilst it was hostile and difficult, especially under Muldoon, the University was much more supportive. People were pursuing political freedom, the conscience and role of academics, so it was for new academics.

Expectations and pressures on academics today make it much more difficult to take the risks of doing those sorts of things and still end up getting to the top," Jane says.

"When Labour was elected and started introducing Rogernomics I got involved because of the confusions that made with the Treaty of Waitangi. That work then took on a life of its own and extended into another domain from the early 90s when globalisation issues came into it."

Campaigning against titans like the World Trade Organisation and deflecting virulent personal attacks by opponents takes a particular mettle. How does she keep doing it? "There’s something Noam Chomsky once said: “You have to be able to look yourself in the eye in the mirror in the morning.”"

She takes seriously the watchdog interpreter role of a public intellectual, and resents the growing focus on tangible and bankable, rather than public good, outcomes from academic research. "The performance-based research funding and KPIs of modern academic life: "I’m getting more crotchety in my later years. Some might say I’ve been crotchety all along."

There have been victories. One of her proudest: helping defeat the OECD’s proposed multilateral agreement on investment, dubbed by some "a bill of rights for transnational companies".

Over the years, she has recognised the same neoliberal agenda designed in different benign-sounding clothes. "In 1995, I was arguing a leaked chapter from the secret Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), a trade deal under negotiation between the United States, New Zealand and other countries, which Jane says will have huge ramifications.

"Number one, because it’s the US [driving it], and number two, because it will impose even more external rules and constraints on what future governments can do than in existing agreements. Labour’s leaders haven’t grasped the dangers of such agreements: it’s a threat from implementing some of their policies, for example, in relation to privatisations, ACC, financial regulation, or any other area."

She says: "It’s simply a way of hijacking the Constitution and the treaty." She worries about the "manifestly failing" New Zealand economy, which, she argues, is "a product of globalization economic policies, the neoliberal economic reforms unleashed in the 1980s, which combined meticulous legal-political analysis with a call to action, and became required reading for a generation of social justice-minded New Zealanders."

From the early 1990s, she broadened her critique to globalisation, arguing that bodies such as the World Trade Organisation, and the free trade agreements it enforces, and the free trade agenda in particular, is "a haven": a 9m by 7m book-lined office.

Today, her work has three strands: public education, such as her videos on the stock market control and the like; teaching; and opinion pieces in local media and in academic settings. "I try to stimulate them to engage with the issue." She says she’s had an email saying, "I don’t always agree with what you say, but I really enjoy the intellectual stimulation, and the fact that you’re not afraid to say what you think, but we need to think about how the meltdown might arrive and create a constituency for pursuing those alternatives."

"We need to anticipate and how the meltdown might arrive and create a constituency for pursuing those alternatives."

"But we need to think..."

She’s a popular and exacting teacher – a cracking critique of the social toll of so-called Rogernomics, the neoliberal economic reforms unleashed in the 1980s, which combined meticulous legal-political analysis with a call to action, and became required reading for a generation of social justice-minded New Zealanders.

A very public intellectual...
Dad pulls into the lane for international departures and mumbles “bloody-er off” as he takes the parking space allocated. In the short-stay zone he parks away from the other cars. All I feel is my body off the sit-up, my bare forearm brushes the baked steel and it burns like an oven door. He walks into the terminal with me, but was the crowds and says, “Actually, I won’t stay.”

There are gaps in the fence for a lid to crawl through. It’s just Mum’s inside. Shane’s at school and Alix is at work so that number I bought someMarkies with my pocket money because Shane says that’s what they do at playtime. I’ve been practising in the dirt next to the cubby cars while the grass won’t grow.

Dad’s gone on one of his trips to the mine. The night before he left mum and dad yacled at each other and I just left the toybox in my room. I look through the gap in the fence. I squeeze through. My knees get dusty and red and my sleeves tangle on a rail. I leave a small hole.

Out there, summer and winter are different hues of the same burn. In the middle of a reddened nothing, Dad showed me the mine where he used to work. It was then, goring out the earth laced with precious rust. Flecks to my face like beads of sweat. Look at that!” Dad says. “It’s like a giant,” I said. “I’m so glad you’re still here. It smells like steel beasts, out of cola with the rest of the world.”

“Clazy,” I say, and I shoot the flies off like a horse. Apart from the men and the flies, the only living things were the flies that lived in the cracked earth, dreaming their grassy dreams of rain.

Through the fence there a massive dum and more dust red below the blue and blue. There are neck-high stacks of bluffs. I can feel a pin-prick of heat through the hole in my taliet. The ground is flat. I see right its edge. At the edge there is no colour at all; and the sky moves lines in the bathtub.

That’s a huge hole in the earth. Metal giants sit at all; the do. “You remember the old house?” Dad asked “Sorta?”

Outside the fence, the sun had etched its patterns on the watched ground. Out there were snakes. Mum had told me. I had wanted to hunt them. I had spent weekends sitting on the lawn imagining replanting coils of their tails. I had seen it in photos. It looked like a portable stove.

“Incredible,” I said. Mum had told me that story too. She’d said it too. I had taken him out to the mine. He had gone to the pub with a dirty red fistful. “Jonnie!” – and when the word touched my ears, the way I was, I had not moved.

“Call me again –” Jonnie – “And when the word touched my ears, the way I was, I had not moved. But then I felt my feet thrumming from the hot and sharp bark and it’s like I have come too far to go back. I pull a marble from my pocket and throw it at the sky. It flies up and not far away and makes no sound and doesn’t roll. Somewhere in the air, driving away from the mine.

“Enough for another 80 years,” Dad said. “What?”

“Iron one. Just bloody think of it.” The ate’s air-conditioning was thudding, its perseverance on the pattern of a schoolgirl’s letters. “Bloody hell, that first time I got paid,” he said. “It was cash back then; ten-dollar bills. That first pay day I had a brown paper bag full of money. Full of money. That’s a lie, he, the small, you know?” Yes, I knew the smell, smoky and deep. “I took it back to your mother and said, ‘look at this’ and threw it at the dustbin. The money flattened all over the caravan.” He laughed. “You won’t remember the caravan, you were only ten.”

The sun had touched my ears, the way I was, I had not moved. But then I felt my eyes thrumming from the hot and sharp bark and it’s like I have come too far to go back. I pull a marble from my pocket and throw it at the sky. It flies up and not far away and makes no sound and doesn’t roll. Somewhere in the air, driving away from the mine.

“Okay,” I said. “I don’t want it to be another ten years.”

“Sorry,” he said. “I can pay for your airfare. Get in that car and go somewhere, anything.” He pointed at his thumb over his shoulder at the caravan, like its wheels were cast from gold and the trailer from platinum. I looked back at the orange boulder. That’s where I left my gone. Through the caravan some eyes searched for clouds in the yellow-bushed desert of the sky.

“Okay,” I said. “Sorry,” he said. “I don’t want it to be another ten years.”

“The outback is no place for a woman,” he said, “Have you ever seen anything like that?”

“After reading the pile of anonymised stories submitted, we have committed our shortlists and discussed how these diverged and overlapped. We were judging stories, not writers – and it was with surprise (and delight) we were judging stories, not writers.

All five stories commended by the judges can be read online at www.ingenio-magazine.com

About the winner

Winning author and former staff member Allan Drew got his BSc from The University of Auckland in the 1990s in molecular biology, and worked for 15 years in medical research and medical publishing before returning to university to study English. He gained his Graduate and Postgraduate Diplomas in Arts at Massey University, and chose to return to The University of Auckland when he was accepted into the Masters of Creative Writing (MVC) programme. In the last couple of years he has had fiction and poetry published in several literary journals. His MVC project is in short fiction, and looks at how he has had fiction and poetry published in several literary journals. His former project is in short fiction, and looks at how he has had fiction and poetry published in several literary journals. His former project is in short fiction, and looks at how he has had fiction and poetry published in several literary journals. About the winner. About the winner. About the winner.

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Suicide rates in New Zealand are among the highest in the developed world. Helen Borne asks: “What can we do to bring these rates down?”

Suicide is preventable

Tackling suicide

New Zealand’s suicide rates top the English-speaking world and have been a longstanding source of national embarrassment. Public passivity, unfunded fatalism, unfunded research, and unfornicated public policy on this issue continue to cost our country both lives and money.

To arrest high suicide rates, we must first challenge our misconception that suicide cannot be prevented. It can. The false allegation that there is no point in investing in suicide prevention because “suicidal people are intent on killing themselves and will always find a way to do it” ignores the facts: evidence shows that people who survive suicide attempts are generally reformed to have done so.

Moreover, the vast majority of people with suicidal ideation do not die by suicide. Additionally, research into means restriction, and research into treatments for depression, drug, and alcohol abuse further substantiate the claim that suicide prevention strategies save lives.

A second myth is that “We must talk about suicide.” Not only is this refrain simplistic and contrary to evidence-based best practice, the refrain is widely accepted and spread. It is regularly reinvigorated as new research findings emerge; we must establish an expert advisory panel to lead this strategic initiative.

Finally, we must frame suicide prevention positively. We need to capture public and professional confidence that suicide is preventable. We must focus on suicide prevention, not suicide.

Annette Beaurais
Senior Research Fellow
Department of Surgery
G Luke Larkin, Professor of Emergency Medicine
University of Auckland.

Connection is vital

For all peoples hurt is hurt, and pain is pain. Yet finding appropriate ways to cope with this hurt and pain may be the difference. Culture matters. Culturally distinct approaches will address the disproportionate impact suicide is having upon our Pacific peoples in Aotearoa New Zealand, particularly amongst our Pacific youth.

There are cultural nuances which cannot be explained solely within a Western framework. Evidence suggests that in the absence of research that comprehensively examines the interface between diversity characteristics and suicide, the field of suicidology and mental health in general will continue to focus on universal approaches, thus neglecting opportunities to save lives by promoting diversity and culturally relevant and effective approaches.

From a Pacific perspective our communities need to openly talk about suicide. It is considered by most a taboo topic, and sadly this has been to the detriment of our Pacific youth. By destigmatizing the issue we may remove any barriers that prevent our Pacific youth and families from seeking help. We as Pacific communities need to confront the tough issues like sexual orientation, acculturative stress, intergenerational conflict, harsh physical discipline, sexual abuse, identity, and bullying.

Teaching healthy thinking

Dr Jemaima Tiatia
Research Fellow, Centre for Pacific Studies
University of Auckland

It is these factors, amongst others, which are killing our youth.

Our traditional Pacific values can at times be diluted by Western ideals. This affects some of our New Zealand-born Pacific youth who may have difficulties in balancing the Pacific value of communalism and the modern stresses of individualism in this country. Our youth need to see the beauty of our traditional Pacific concepts. They need to be taught respectfully the concept of self-control rather than feeling controlled by those in authority, particularly when the lessons involve physical discipline. Within most Pacific social hierarchical structures, when a young person expresses anger towards an elder, it is a sign of disrespect and a breach of cultural conduct that can potentially harm the relationship. Nurturing and taking care of relationships – tuu keva is key for most Pacific peoples. A phone call to a stranger? That is not us. Connection is vital.

Dr Jemaima Tiatia – teu le va is key for most Pacific peoples.

Dr Jemaima Tiatia
Research Fellow, Centre for Pacific Studies
University of Auckland

For free, professional and confidential helpline counselling services please contact Lifeline Aotearoa:
(09) 5222 999 within Auckland
0800 543 354 outside Auckland

www.spinz.org.nz

Autumn 2012
Poetic justice

Ingenio

OPINION

Poetic justice

John Adams

Briefcase


“Brieﬁcase is a daring debut that marries law and poetry,” said literary judges when it won Best First Book at the New Zealand Post Book Awards in July.

Just as art imitates life so John’s life, at 65, is a daring combination of law and poetry.

A keen reader whose mother gave him Briefcase is a daring debut that marries law and poetry, says John sitting relaxed in the comfort of his whanau villa on a quiet Friday afternoon. “I decided I wanted to explore whether I had any talent in the area of writing.”

With family encouragement, John enrolled in Jean Rissler Jones’s “The nuts and bolts of writing” run by the University’s then Continuing Education arm. “Jean pushed me to be real about what I wanted to do with my writing,” he reﬂects. “We had to share stuff we’d written. It gave me some courage I suppose. What really advances you as a writer is developing your critical facility.”

After two more Continuing Education courses and a correspondence course through Massey University, John started to believe in himself as a writer. When, against all his expectations, he was accepted into The University of Auckland’s Masters of Creative Writing, he decided to give the fulltime course a go, staggering his leave through the year so he could be on campus on Tuesdays.

“It was an amazing year,” he recalls.

Encouraged to write on a daily basis he found himself imagining the case of Jason and Veirty Button. On Valentine’s Day the imaginary couple got into a ﬁght and Jason threw a stapler across the room hitting his wife Veirty in the face.

“I’ve pressed over many domestic violence cases in the criminal and family court and like many there was a real issue of doubt about this case,” says John. “It’s a narrative element to it so the poems and short narrative pieces vaguely revolve around the incident and i play with court processes … I have a cross-examination for example.”

Starting a new career late in life has been a revelation for John. He now sees himself as a lawyer, and a writer. He has a book of short stories ready to go and a play in the wings. He’s happily taken a pay cut to divide his month between law work and writing and study. He has completed a graduate diploma in English at his alma mater, and is now doing a postgraduate diploma studying a paper on Joseph Conrad and Herman Melville.

Next year he will be a visiting fellow in, signiﬁcantly, English at Cambridge University studying literary tropes in judicial discourse.

“I’m going to be looking at a number of judgments perhaps back to 100 years ago and some recent ones, and I’ll see what smilies and metaphors are embedded in the text,” he says. “The subtitle is “What does the Law imagine it is doing? Will it be looking at the way it populates its discourse with images.”

He pauses and smiles. “Yes, inevitably they’ll stay it.”

As a writer John sees himself as a work in progress. “I’ve just turned 65,” he points out. “I imagine I will have an active career writing until another long pause and then a quiet smile … until I’m 85 maybe.”

Tess Redgrave

In the course of the 20th century from the terrible damages of war, the scourges of class and capitalism, the gains were of poetry, my friend, the language was its arms and seek to be buried there forevermore!”

It was about men and masculine anxieties, and it said “Sometimes in the cycles of living, loving and just plain surviving, we men can lose ourselves.” I had just published a History of Manliness to question precisely the widely spread idea that there is an ongoing crisis in the kingdom of males in the West. So, I became instantly curious: has New Zealand been spared, or contaminated? And, as a former New Zealand rugby player who had arrived in Auckland with the same favour as that of a pilgrim setting foot for the ﬁrst time on the Promised Land, I could only incredulously ask myself: might there really be male trouble in All Blacks territory?

Well, after a few months of investigation, I am afraid I have neither good nor bad news, and nothing really out of the ordinary to report. In New Zealand, as well as in many places in the Western world, there is this general feeling of a weakening of the masculine condition, and at the same time a noisy celebration of big muscles and sporting prowess. Here, as elsewhere, you would ﬁnd the widely spread and extremely repetitive idea that men of yesteryear were stronger and braver than their contemporary descendants.

Here, as in many places, the masculine bodies and minds have suffered in the course of the 20th century from the terrible damages of war, the scourges of unemployment and economic depression, and the erosion of conformity and bureaucracy in mass urban society. Here, probably faster and less reluctantly than in many other places, men have accepted renouncing some of their privileges and participated in the advancement of equality between the sexes.

But what the history of manliness teaches us in the ﬁrst place is that the masculine condition does not, in spite of all appearances, belong to a state of nature, and that it is culturally fabricated, and historically changing.

What Simon de Beauvoir once famously said about the “second sex” applies to the “first” as well. “You are not born a man, you become one.” Masculinity is learned and transmitted, and virility has its genealogy, which goes way back to what the Romans called vir and virtus – the male strength and courage of warriors. This is why most men and boys like war stories, though war has unfortunately ceased to be the integral part and ultimate challenge of masculine experience that it used to be in our part of the world.

War may be over, but the ghosts of ancient warriors still cast their long shadows over the history of manliness.

Vir and virtue

Shortly after arriving in New Zealand last year Professor Jean-Jacques Courtine was browsing in one of Auckland’s public libraries when he came across a brochure which stopped his eyes.

Jean-Jacques Courtine is Professor in European Studies at The University of Auckland, Professor Emeritus at the University of California (Santa Barbara) and Sorbonne (Paris III). He works on the cultural history of the body. Among his books: Histoire du corps, XVI-XVIIIème siècle (History of the Body, XVI-XVIII C, 3 vol., 2005-6); Histoire du visage, XVII-XVIIIème siècle (History of the Face, XVI-XVIII C, 3rd ed., 2007); Histoire de la virilité, de l’Antiquité au XXIème siècle (History of Manliness, from Antiquity to the XXth C., 3 vol., 2011). His work is translated into 16 languages.

“War may be over, but the ghosts of ancient warriors still cast their long shadows over the history of manliness.”
Dream storyline

The University of Auckland arts alumna (BA 1997, MA (Hons) 1999) is living her dream as a writer on Shortland Street – New Zealand’s longest running television soap.

“When I first started here I was aware of all the writers’ names – they were a bit like rock stars to me.”

Kirsty was working towards a PhD in English Literature looking at film adaptations of Jane Austen’s works when after “a spur of the moment decision,” she entered a writer’s audition for a new television series called Love Bites based on the film Hopeless.

“Ts was the first audition script without much idea about what I was doing,” she remembers. As a result she was asked to come on board. “It kind of freaked out so I went to the University library and got all these books out on screen writing and read them all.”

Abandoning her PhD, Kirsty worked on Love Bites and took a semester screenwriting course at the University. “I had always wanted to work in television and film but I think when I did those papers it just crystallised and solidified, and I was like I have to do it. I just enjoyed it so much.”

A writing job on the second series of Being Eve followed and from there she was offered a script editor’s position on Shortland Street and soon moved into dialogue writing, and then into storyline writing and editing.

“It’s a decade on since her first writing gig and she has helped pen NZ television programmes such as Mercy Peak, The Pretender, and the Go Show.

But Shortland Street, produced by South Pacific Pictures at its Henderson base in west Auckland, is Kirsty’s staple. Ingenio follows her to the writer’s room off a long hallway, its walls plastered with giant photographs of past and present characters. The storylining magic happens around a large square table.

This is where ideas are dissected, criticised and discussed.

“An idea is always worth pitching because even if it’s not the one we go with, it might spark an idea from somebody else and then that leads onto something else, which will lead to an exciting story so you can’t have too many inhibitions or censor yourself. You’ve just got to put it out there,” says Kirsty.

“A lot of our ideas do come from real life,” she adds. “Truth does seem stranger than fiction sometimes. Sometimes we will write stories based on these real life stories and we will get feedback saying ‘that is ridiculous that would never happen.’”

Drastic storylines are Kirsty’s favourite to write but on the whole if the story is interesting, engaging and entertaining she will generally enjoy writing it.

Shortland Street has a medical advisor, who works with the writers two days a week, ensuring the medical elements of the storylines are authentic and suggesting interesting medical cases they can incorporate into their stories. “Our poor nurses get quite frustrated sometimes because we tend to be a little bit fanciful on medical things, and she needs to pull us back into reality.”

Kirsty’s favourites Shortland Street episodes include a 90-minute special to celebrate the soap’s 20th anniversary and the serial killer storyline involving nurse Joey Henderson. “It was a successful storyline which attracted a lot of viewers. It was a good intrigue story that kept people guessing.”

She loves all the characters but admits to having a soft spot for Shortland Street stalwarts Rachel McKenna and Chris Warner, and Brooke Freeman because she is a bit of a chameleon and has a bad streak.

“It’s always fun to have characters that are morally able to do bad stuff,” says Kirsty. “You get very attached to all of the characters, even the villains. Your job is to get into their heads and understand them so you can motivate them in different stories.”

Kirsty watches every episode without fail. “It’s important to watch it because you get to see how the stories play out and if they worked. If it doesn’t quite work, it’s good to think, ‘okay what can we do differently next time?’”

She hasn’t yet managed to get her husband Rob to watch an episode. “I think it had much fun and enjoy your job so much but that is another reason why I value it.”

It is also a great time to be involved in NZ television because it’s booming. “The whole culture around television and film has changed. We used to have back in the day is completely gone and now television is booming.”

The whole culture and zeitgeist that we used to have is back in the day is completely gone and now New Zealanders are happy to watch local programmes, to embrace them, and to enjoy them. Outrageous Fortune did a lot to help with that but I think Shortland Street has also.”

“If it’s always fun to have characters that are morally able to do bad stuff.”

While most people can rattle off the names of their favourite actors, it’s the writers’ names on the rolling credits that catch Kirsty McKenzie’s eye.

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“Race was one of the ways we were integrated into large societies – empires. We were brought in without being equal despite professing equality.”

of Pacific Studies at The University of Auckland and teaches Pacific Studies and History. “My father wanted me to be an engineer and I think my mother wanted me to be a lawyer, which is probably very typical for first generation university families,” he says. Despite his parents’ wishes, he was immediately drawn to Samoan role model, author and historian Albert Wendt. During his first-year course with Wendt, Damon began to realise “how much history matters.”

Damon went on to complete his MA and was the first person of Pacific Island decent to become a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. After that he taught at the University of Michigan from 2002-2011, returning to his current position at his alma mater this year.

He has recently joined the ranks of historians such as Dame Anne Salmond, Jamie Belich and Keith Sinclair winning the prestigious international Emerit Scott prize for his book Racial Crossings: Race, Intermarriage, and the Victorian British Empire which came out of his doctoral thesis. Published by Oxford University Press, it is described in the citation as “a landmark contribution to the scholarship on race and racial boundaries within modern imperial regimes.”

“Racial Crossings is a story about how race becomes the way that you can preserve inequality as you speak of equality,” says Damon. “My book tries to reconceive what race means. Scientific racial theories mattered.”

Damon has a strong connection to his father’s village in Samoa those of his grandfather, Nacaulu and Fakaupe, and that of his grandmother, Satapula, from where his title Toeolesulusulu derives. As part of his commitment to the village, he is researching the history behind land taken for an airport during World War II. “The understanding was that it would come back to us but it hasn’t. There’s a big airport there now and a country booming on tourist dollars. Partly we want an acknowledgement that this shouldn’t have happened to us.”

One of his next book projects is a history of Samoa but in a way that is attentive to how Samoans tell their own histories. “It’s a history from the ‘bottom up’ and a project that makes sense to me,” he says. “Most Samoan histories focus on the chiefs, but in the time I’ve spent in the archives, so many of the stories I find moving and engaging are not necessarily about the chiefs. If you want a surefire way to get 60-year-old, or older, Samoans to talk about their childhoods you ask them about watching old-style Westerns! These are the kinds of stories I mean, the ones that we tell ourselves.”

Read Damon Salas’ “My story” on the University website at: www.auckland.ac.nz/university/for/the-media/our-stories/damon-salas

Tess Redgrave

A quick-firing storyteller

Toeolesulusulu Damon Salsea (BA 1994, MA 1996) grew up in a family of storytellers.

He recalls one of his Samoan father’s favourite tales: “My father went to a parent/teacher evening at Glen Innes Primary School, which was a pretty hard-bitten school back then. We kids had pinned up on the wall what we wanted to be when we grew up. “Apparently I had written I wanted to be a university lecturer,” laughs Damon. He can’t remember that but his father, who was then a factory worker at Fisher & Paykel in East Tamaki, may have known something his son didn’t. Today Damon is Associate Professor

Albert Wendt, and teaches Pacific University. “Generation university families,” he says. “We used to think my mother wanted me to be a lawyer, which is probably very typical for first generation university families,” he says. Despite his parents’ wishes, he was immediately drawn to Samoan role model, author and historian Albert Wendt. During his first-year course with Wendt, Damon began to realise “how much history matters.”

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Alumni achievers

Be enabled

"I'm sleeping so much better" and "I wish I'd done this sooner" are just some of the accolades alumnus Hannah McQueen (BCom 2001, MFA 2001) hears from people who seek her expert financial advice. Since she started her financial consultancy business Enable Me five years ago, Hannah's expertise has been in hot demand. She has presented on TVNZ's show Save Our Home, and strategized and helped create a complex formula on how to get ahead financially and still have a lifestyle they want.

Leonid Frants (BSc 1984, MSc 1985)

Ivans with his family in New York, where he established OneMarketData software company in 2005. He has recently established three scholarships within The University of Auckland's Computer Science Department to honour some of the early members of the department and specifically its founder John Butcher whose "academic brilliance and wonderful personality were key to creating a unique educational atmosphere". Two of Leonid's scholarships respectively support a masters, honours, or PhD level student. Another scholarship funds a student during their final year of undergraduate study.

Distinguished alumnus Mike Rann

(BA 1974, MA 1976) has been asked to become Australia's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Mike was elected to the Australian Parliament in 1985 and led Labor in South Australia for a record 17 years. Born in Britain, he has close connections in British politics, business and with science, educational and arts institutions. Through his work with the UK based The Climate Group, he has developed a good relationship with the governments of Wales and Scotland.

Roderick Fry (BCom 1992) runs, with his French wife Laurence Varga, a Paris showroom-cum-workshop called Moaroom, a galerie d’art Neo-Zelandais, which represents a small range of New Zealand designers and artists the couple believe deserve a larger showing in Europe. Roderick is also designing his own pieces, notably a table called Pi – one of the serpentine table with reused timber pieces called Pi – one of the couple believe deserve a small range of art.

Rodick Fung (BHB 2006, MCHB 2010) is doing an MSc in Performing Arts Medicine at University College London (UCL). This is an innovative new course designed to provide clinicians with specialised knowledge of Performing Arts Medicine. Dickson is a trained doctor and recently completed a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance at the Universities of Auckland and Canterbury. "As a music student with a medical background, I have encountered numerous promising performers who have suffered injuries and had to take significant amounts of time away from playing, due to pain," he says. "My aim in taking this course is eventually to return to New Zealand to develop a clinical practice in the field of Performing Arts Medicine.

Dan Bidois (BA/BCom 2006, BCom Honours and former AUSA President) has been appointed as a policy consultant in the Private Sector Development Division of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), based in Paris. He says once this contract finishes in late 2013, he will return home and hopes long-term to be an economic leader, either in business or government.

Brigid Hawley (BA/BCom 2007) has recently been appointed Kee Director for UK and Europe and is responsible for the day-to-day operation and growth of Kee UK. Bridgid has been successfully supporting New Zealand’s trade development in China for the past four years. As the foundation manager of the New Zealand Government’s Beefhead Programme in Beijing, she works alongside top New Zealand exporters as they establish a business presence in the China marketplace. She is bilingual in written and spoken Mandarin Chinese and English, and comes from a multicultural background (Vietnamese/English/New Zealander).

Allmana Ruth Brown (BA 1979, MA 1982) was 56 when she started her own building and renovating business in Christchurch. Ruth’s Renovations. More than 24 years on she’s still working in the trade and has no plans to retire. Now her skills are sorely needed in the earthquake ravaged city where there are many home owners with small jobs big contractors don’t want to touch and a massive shortage of skilled tradespeople. “I don’t mind doing the small jobs that people want done to make life comfortable, like doors unstuck or shelves put up,” she says.

Ruth has had no formal training (though she’s built a Sunburst dinghy). She’s never had to advertise either, picking up work by word of mouth. One of her regular clients is the Women’s Refuge homes around Christchurch; she says the women living in those are often threatened by men and find it reassuring to have an older woman fixing problems around the homes. At times she even gets to put her counselling skills (part of her BA) to good use over a cuppa.

A mother of five children and grandmother of nine, Ruth is a keen kayaker in her spare time and also runs homework maintenance night classes for women. Contact Ruth at: ruthj@clear.net.nz
Events from 2012

One and two: University alumni and friends enjoyed a presentation from Distinguished Professor Richard Faul (photo two, left) at the home of the Royal Society in London on 21 May.

Three and four: The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences hosted a much-anticipated reunion over Queen’s Birthday weekend for its first-ever graduates from 1974; and the classes of 1982 and ’87, ’92 and ’97, and 2002, all celebrating significant anniversaries of their graduation, 30 years, 25, 20, 15 and 10 respectively.

Five and six: Over 100 Christchurch alumni and friends attended a popular and very timely presentation on 19 June from Professor Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Strategic Engagement and Dean of National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) on the future of our urban cities.

Seven and eight: Speakers Professor Charles McElerey (photo seven) and PhD researcher Stacey Dr Meikle (photo eight) captivated the audience of donors, staff and friends with tales from their personal journeys to success at the celebration of giving event hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on 26 June. Professor McElerey spoke of how a $1000 scholarship in his early student days transformed a “dissolute” Glaswegian youngster into a passionate researcher.

Nine: Labour list MP Jacinda Ardern (left), Professor Jenny Dixon (centre) and Wellington Central MP David Robertson (right) joined Wellington alumni and friends eager to learn how the University turns research into business from the guest speaker, Uniservices’ Dr Peter Lee (photo ten).

Ten: Alumni of both Epsom Girls Grammar School and The University of Auckland posed with fellow alumna and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, The Rt Hon. Helen Clark (second from right) at the New York alumni reception on Tuesday 4 September.

Eleven: Alumni and friends at the Wellington alumni reception on 15 August.

Twelve: Alumni of both Epsom Girls Grammar School and The University of Auckland posed with fellow alumna and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, The Rt Hon. Helen Clark (second from right) at the New York alumni reception on Tuesday 4 September.

Thirteen: Alumni and friends at the New York alumni reception.

Fourteen: Professor Charles Alcock explored the “invisible” with his presentation on the concept of darkness in modern astronomy and cosmology at the alumni reception in Boston on 6 September.

Fifteen: Alumni and friends at the Boston alumni reception.

Sixteen: The UoA capella octet delighted the guests gathered at the Golden Graduates Luncheon at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland on 7 September with their entertaining and light-hearted choral music.

Seventeen: Golden graduates from 1962 were photographed with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon (back row, fifth from right) and Director of Alumni Relations and Development, John Taylor (back row, fourth from left).
Celebrating success 2013 University of Auckland Distinguished Alumni Award winners announced

All awards have confirmed their attendance at Auckland Live and the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in February/March 2013. They are:

Dear Jerry Evans, Science (Scientist who founded a new life sciences start-up called Chrysalis in San Diego),
Norman Godden, Business with an Arts degree (Sheffield’s Managing Director for many years and the driving force in establishing the Energy Education Giving Programme which sponsors a chair in Energy Economics at the Business School),
Kim Goldwater, Engineering (Entrepreneurial wine maker),
Honourable James McKay, Law (Barrister, NZ permanent representative to the United Nations, New York),
Andrew Patterson, NICAI (Leading New Zealand architect, Patterson Associates).

Young Alumnus of the Year

Simon Denny, NICAI, (artist with an international reputation, based in Germany).
To purchase your tickets to the Awards Dinner on Friday 1 March 2013 online please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz

The Announcing Auckland Live! 28 February 2013

The popular Auckland Live! showcase is back on 28 February 2013, bringing you an exciting up close and personal experience with six of New Zealand’s most successful University of Auckland alumni. Don’t miss this candid, entertaining evening with the winners of the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards - six high achieving and internationally successful alumni in the fields of business, creative arts, wine making, law, science, and architecture, all hosted by Qantas Media Award winner and alumnus Linley Macdonald. This year Auckland Live! was a sellout, so mark 28 February in your diary now, and visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz in December 2012 for early bird ticket sales.

Society Estrella concert, 18 November

Estrella is a unique combination of four pianists, all two pianists, Sami Kim, Gemma Lee, Judy Lee and Cindy Tsao are currently studying at The University of Auckland and have recently returned from a successful tour in the UK. The University of Auckland Society have sponsored a specially commissioned work by Gareth Farr which Estrella incorporated into their UK performance. Invitations to the November concert will be posted mid-October. This is a Society member invitation-only event. To learn more about Estrella see www.estrella.co.nz

AUSA Outdoor Summer Shakespeare

The Old Arts Quad will come to life in March 2013, with the 50th Anniversary of Summer Shakespeare and the celebratory production King Lear, featuring notable University alumni and staff (see our cover story page 10-11). Bookings through the Maidment Theatre at www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz or Book Line +64 9 308 2383 Alumni discount of $22 each.

University Auckland Campus Tours

The Society has formed a sub-committee to re-establish Campus Tours of the University. There are a diverse range of historic buildings on campus ranging from the former glory of Old Government House to the Old Tuck Shop (now the wall). What better way to bring these wonderful buildings to life than to hear tales of their past lives. If you have any stories that might be of interest, or you know someone else who has, please contact society@auckland.ac.nz

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-ordinators (VACs). If you would like to consider being a VAC for your area, then please contact Jamie Hillman, j.hillman@auckland.ac.nz for further information.

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Belgium
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Ken also welcomes contact from alumni in Europe without a coordinator in their area.

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Simon Hollander, ruhi@australianyoho.co.jp

ALUMNI NEWS

November 18
Auckland/Estrella Quartet (two pianos, eight hands) Concert
Auckland/Society ACM and Christmas Reception
Auckland Live!
Auckland/Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
Hamiton Alumni & Friends Reception (Maadi Cup)
Vancouver Alumni and Friends Reception
Auckland/Autumn Graduation (dates TBC)
Auckland/Graduation Concerts Gala Competition (date TBC)
Kuala Lumpur Alumni and Friends Reception
Singapore Alumni and Friends Reception
School of Music
Old Government House
University of Auckland
Alumni Marquee, OHH lawn
Lake Karapiro (TBC)
TBC
TBC
Asta Centre
Town Hall

For more 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. Please note that informal alumni and friends events being run by our Volunteer Alumni Co-ordinators (VACs), both locally and overseas, or by University staff, will be promoted directly to alumni living in the catchment area.

ALUMNI NEWS

January 18
Jilly Engineering Alumni Reunion
Norman Godden, Business with an Arts degree Alumni and Friends event calendar highlights November 2012 to May 2013

Month
November 18
December 11
February 28
March 1
March 20
May 6
May 7
May 2, 6, 8, 10
May 9
May 19
May 20
Location/Event
Auckland/Estrella Quartet (two pianos, eight hands) Concert
Auckland/Society ACM and Christmas Reception
Auckland Live!
Auckland/Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
Hamiton Alumni & Friends Reception (Maadi Cup)
Vancouver Alumni and Friends Reception
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Kuala Lumpur Alumni and Friends Reception
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ALUMNI NEWS

February 28

ALUMNI NEWS

March 18

ALUMNI NEWS

April 18

ALUMNI NEWS

May 18

ALUMNI NEWS

June 18
INNOVATIVE TINNITUS STUDY

An innovative multi-modal treatment programme for tinnitus will be trialled by researchers from the University’s Centre for Brain Research in a study made possible by a donation from Link Research and Grants.

The treatment programme will use neuroimaging to ‘prime’ people’s brains to be more responsive to sounds.

“This research is very important, not only for understanding tinnitus but understanding the brain itself,” says Mattéa de Néra on behalf of Link Research and Grants.

Link Research and Grants has a long-term interest in supporting tinnitus research worldwide, and is a strong advocate for New Zealand research. This gift will cover the cost of the project, including several research positions as well as equipment and related expenses.

The study builds on previous work at the Centre for Brain Research on how to prime the brain to be more responsive to rehabilitation for stroke or low eye. It’s a multi-disciplinary project involving experts in audiology, medicine, behavioural medicine, pharmacology, vision science, and sport and exercise sciences.

“We’re trying to provide the means for the auditory system to ignore tinnitus,” explains lead researcher Dr Grant Searlefield, Head of Audiology. “When people experience tinnitus they become attuned to hearing it in preference to other auditory stimuli – it’s a magnet for attention. To break the cycle they need to be trained to attend to other things.”

The trial will use people’s sense of vision and touch to achieve this. “In the past it was assumed that tinnitus was primarily an auditory phenomenon, but it has become clear that tinnitus is caused by a much more distributed network within the brain that can be influenced by a number of senses,” says Grant.

T

he Cartwright Trust has recently gifted the University $50,000 and pledged a further $150,000 towards a programme to deepen understanding of diverse creative processes and the transformative capacity of the arts. This is in addition to a $10,000 gift the University received from the Cartwright Trust in 2011, when it was the recipient of the Arts Foundation Award for patronage.

Rob Gardiner and daughter Sue from the Cartwright Trust have been meeting with staff from across the University to consider ways we can challenge our communities to explore the arts-led creative process, how it may be enhanced and used to affect change, drive innovation, solve problems and improve lives.

With widespread interest both within and outside the University, a new creative thinking board has been formed and will be tasked with progressing the project and raising additional funds to support it. Professor Jenny Dixon, Dean of the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries and newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor Strategic Engagement, will chair the Board and is enthusiastic about the project’s momentum. “I think this is very timely for New Zealand. The University of Auckland could really lead the way with creative thinking. It’s exciting to have been involved from the very beginning and I’m looking forward to developments in the project next year and beyond.”

From Mistao to a Ponsonby garden

In Hawai’i, Emeritus Professor of English, Albert Wendt, watches the changing shadows of the Koʻolau mountains from his verandah; considers the nature of ma‘u, the seat of life; walks protected in his partner’s perfumed slipstream to work; and writes to fellow poet Kim Wise and Dr Grant Searlefield, part of the tinnitus research team.

Professor Geoff Ricketts (Chair of the University of Auckland Foundation), Sue Gardiner (Trustee of the Cartwright Trust), Rob Gardiner (Chair of the Cartwright Trust and Patron of the Creative Thinking Board), Amy Malcolm (Development Manager), Jenny Dixon (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Strategic Engagement) and John Taylor (Director of Alumni Relations and Development).
500-year-old book

A rare and valuable book printed in 1564 by the renowned scholar-printer Henri Estienne (known as Stephanus) has been donated to the University General Library’s Special Collections.

The volume is the 1564 edition of the eight books of the Historia of the Peloponnesian War by the Athenian Thucydides. It is among the oldest books in the library and was donated by the Newsholm family, who have several alumni among its members, some of whom belong to the Classical Association, which fosters interest in Ancient Greece and Rome in the local community.

The story of the ancient tome’s journey to the University began when alumna Marjory Newsholm (née Anderson BA 1941, MA 1942) was in London in the post-war years. On the day before she left London in November 1941, she went looking for the translation of Pliny’s Letter to the Reverend Melmoth, which she found in a small, downstairs bookshop in Whitehall, near Westminster. She was offered the Thucydides by the shop owner as an extra, and bought it for two guineas. The book was in pristine condition after four hundred years, but it was brought back to New Zealand, where it has since been lovingly restored by the Newsholm family.

Markings on the title page shed some light on two possible previous owners of the book. Initial research by Special Collections suggests the monogram stamp and “1695” date can be attributed to Narcissus Lutrell (1637-1732), a Member of the House of Commons, parliamentary diarist and book collector.

More research is required, however, into the inscription at the foot of the page, which reads “Godfriedus Montana” (or “Montaus?”). The French Calvinist Henri Estienne (1528-98) was one of the most distinguished scholar-printers in the history of printing. There is a description of the contents of his 1564 edition of Thucydides, and the later edition of 1588, in Catalogue translationum et commentariorum: Mediaeval and Renaissance Latin translations and commentaries, Volume 8 (2003); pp. 144-52, which is available online in the General Library. The contents begin with his dedication to the German scholar Joachim Cameranus (1500-1574) and his address to the readers, both in Latin (Estienne emphasizes the amount of sweat that has gone into the work; maximis mea audivistis). This is followed by the ancient testimonia on Thucydides and his Greek text, with the comments on the ancients scholars in the margins.

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Benevolent by-product

Dan Binney 1940-2012

As a student of Elam, Don (DipFineArts, 1963) had made Design his major, and trained as a teacher after completing his diploma in 1967.

After he had spent a few years in the art department of Mt Roskill Grammar, the popular success of his paintings enabled him to become a full-time painter. Critics wrote about the way his birds seemed to dominate their environment. He explained that the effect was governed by how he had learned to draw. “As an ornithologist you learn how to identify a bird from the feeding glimpse — you pick up the nuances of body shape and the specifics of body movement — if there is a distortion of proximity then it is literally the legacy of 35 years of looking through binoculars.”

Don’s name became synonymous with bird paintings, but the descriptor soon became derogatory. In an interview with Sheridan Keith in Art New Zealand in August 1984, he lamented: “You know I’m probably one of the best-known New Zealand artists... but I think a lot of people have only a superficial insight into what I’m doing. And they can therefore write me off — ‘Ah, Binney — yeah, he cleaned up a few birds in the early sixties, and he’s still doing the same thing now.’ Sort of over and out.” For the catalogue to his retrospective exhibition at Fisher Gallery in Putarua in 1989, Don included a fall from grace in his picturesque prose. “By 1980 New Zealand’s affable book-pocket-cultural revolution was in full swing, berserk regionalism and urban self-consciousness were on the march. Don had become the most public victim of drift and disillusionment, the paradigm not just for the nation, but for the arts.”

While disappointed, he was undeterred and continued to steadfastly examine the environment, shifting his medium to lithography to complement his crayon drawing skills. He was rewarded by an OBE for services to the arts in 1995. Speaking at the opening of his 2012 exhibition, he explained that he had no alternative but to see art as a medium to communicate with the rest of us about the things he cared about. “I would like it finally to be clear that why I paint is that I am holding on to my faiths, my own creeds, my own deep loyalties and interests. This is the reason I continue to do what I do.”

The University of Auckland’s holdings of works by Don Binney spanning from 1974 to 1998 while he was on the staff of Elam is the largest of any public collection in New Zealand. Amongst these are his most significant paintings such as Kereru over Wellington (1984) and Te Reka iwi Tapu iwi iwi (1999). A posthumous exhibition of his paintings in the remaining years of his life was enjoyed at the Fisher Gallery in Putarua in 2012.

Don Binney’s love of the land is a legacy of hundreds of spectacular paintings of birds swooping over stylised hills and coasts.

“The by-product of Don’s love of the land is a legacy of hundreds of spectacular paintings of birds swooping over stylised hills and coasts.”

Linda Tyler
**Staying in the game**

How do we keep “Kiwi kids” interested in sport at a tertiary level? This is something the University is trying to answer and has partnered with Sport NZ, Auckland Council, Auckland Regional Sports Trust, College Sport and technology provider All Teams, to run a three-year project called “Sport Beyond Schools.”

The objective is “to improve the sport and recreation pathways for students from school to The University of Auckland and in doing so increase participation in sport and recreation by 16-20 year olds”, says Nikki Henderson, the University’s Sport Development Manager and a former Physical Education teacher at Rutherford College.

“We’re going to track students when they first join up with a club or sports programme and monitor their involvement during their degree,” explains Nikki. “We’re hoping that we’ll be able to pinpoint when they are no longer registered, whether that’s in their second or third year, and hopefully get some insight as to why they stopped and what we can do to keep them involved.”

An important part of this is ensuring that the sports clubs have the right structures in place, both from an administrative and an operational perspective, with the view that as the teams grow in capacity and capability, the results will come.

“Ideally, the strength of university sport will increase and we’ll see university teams and clubs winning regional competitions,” says Louis Rattray, Director for Sport and Recreation at the University.

“Ultimately, it’s about creating an engaging environment for the students so that they continue to be involved in sport after they leave secondary school, and have an even stronger connection to the University after they graduate.”

Chris Marshall

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**The Les and Milly Paris Collection**

Entries are now invited for our next auction of Important Paintings and Contemporary Art to be held on November 27th.

**Contact**

Ben Plumbly, Director of Art
ben@artandobject.co.nz
021 222 8183

[Image: Les Paris in his Wellington Law office with university crest on wall and Goldilocks Quarters in the background.]

With a sales total in excess of $4 650 000, numerous artist record prices set and a sales-by-volume figure of over 90%, The Les and Milly Paris Collection is the most successful auction in the field of art, antiques and collectibles in New Zealand history.

**Note taken...**

If you haven’t heard of Notable, it is just a matter of time before you do. Notable was launched in July this year by fourth year University of Auckland software engineering students Jordan Thoms (left) and Hengjie Wang.

The internet note taking application created by the duo was ignited by internships the pair did earlier this year as part of their degree at the heart of Silicon Valley in San Francisco. Notable currently has 450 users from various faculties. Fellow student Alliv Samson (pictured right), who graduated with her BA in Film & Television, Media Studies and Political Studies from the University last year, is responsible for the creative design and marketing of Notable. The team from Cecil collaborated with Hengjie and Jordan to enable Cecil to be synchronised to Notable so students can load their lecture notes onto the programme.

The problem Notable aims to solve, says Hengjie, “is the ability to take notes next to your lecture slides so you don’t lose the context of what you’re actually writing.”

Not only is Notable a note taking tool, it allows students to share their own notes, comments and questions with each other in real time, and live during lectures.

With the average class size at the University being 150 strong (Engineering and Law can go up to 1000), Hengjie and Jordan’s aim was to develop a way of breaking down barriers between students in classes of this size.

Jordan is excited to note that people from other universities around New Zealand and Australia are signing up. And notable has been lauded by University lecturers such as Chris Marshall from the eLearning Group at the Centre for Academic Development. “Notable is very simple to understand and easy to use, but powerful. By enabling students to access course materials online and add their own notes directly alongside each page, whether during a lecture or off campus, it encourages students to take more ownership of their learning.”

Notable recently qualified for the University’s $100,000 Spark Entrepreneurship Challenge, so the business partners are now concentrating on their business plan and getting ready to pitch to investors.

See: www.notable.ac/about

Kate Pitcher

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*Image: Les Paris in the Wellington Law office with university crest on wall and Goldilocks Quarters in the background.*
“I chose postgraduate study at The University of Auckland to provide inspiration for my career.”

Hear Natasha’s story at: www.makeyourmark.ac.nz