Ingenio

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND **ALUMNI** MAGAZINE | Autumn 2009

A FAST TALKING PI

Researching evolution across disciplines

Incubating young businesses

Grafton Campus re-development

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

In this issue

Ingenio – The University of Auckland alumni magazine

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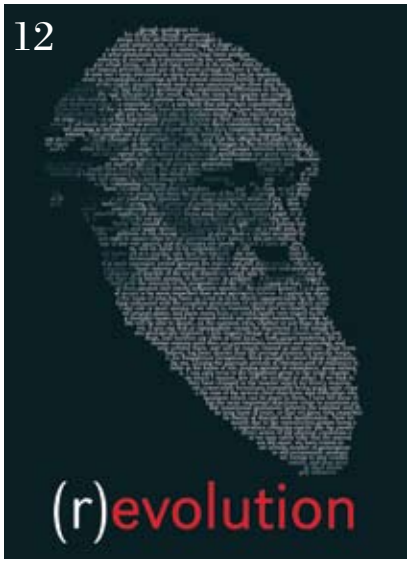

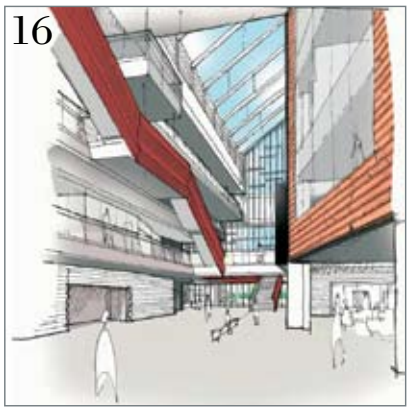

From the Vice-Chancellor

Looking beyond the economic storm

In the last issue of *Ingenio*, I commented on the University's $100 million "Leading the Way" Fundraising Campaign. Since then, the full scale of the global financial crisis has become apparent. That will undoubtedly have an impact, albeit temporary, on the University's Campaign but its effects will also touch our wider community in many ways. As Graeme Wheeler, alumnus (BE 1958, ME 1959) and Managing Director of the World Bank, pointed out in an address to our recent New York alumni event: "The losses in wealth are enormous – they are thought to total around $60 trillion or about one year's global GDP. In effect, we are seeing a revaluation of every asset across the globe."

As New Zealand's largest provider of degree education and research, The University of Auckland has a unique contribution to make in helping our country weather the recession and position itself strongly for the recovery that must ultimately come.

An immediate issue is the need to protect our students against the consequences of rising unemployment. If students are unable to secure work over the coming summer then their ability to support themselves through university in 2010 and beyond is likely to be constrained. To that end, I proposed at the recent Prime Minister's Employment Summit that the University would advance a considerable sum of money to support summer scholarships for students in exchange for a matching government contribution. That idea was picked up by Education Minister Anne Tolley and the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

As a result we will, subject to a successful ministerial budget bid, have a joint fund of $8 million to provide work experience opportunities for university students over the summer vacation. Another of our proposals to be taken up by the Employment Summit was the opportunity to grow New Zealand's export education business (now our fifth largest export industry). The University will shortly be hosting, with Trade Minister Tim Groser, a high-level meeting to look at how this important industry can be enhanced to the benefit both of New Zealand and of our large cohort of international students.

We will also be making our own major contribution to enhancing New Zealand's infrastructure. The most significant project will be a complete redevelopment of the Grafton Campus, home to the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and the Liggins Institute (see story page 16). At $240 million, this project will be of a similar scale to the much vaunted redevelopment of Eden Park for the Rugby World Cup. As well as making a major and immediate contribution to sustaining Auckland's construction industry, this project will provide us with teaching and research facilities of genuinely international quality. That will allow our researchers to create new knowledge in the medical and related fields - knowledge that will, where appropriate, be commercialised by our research company, Auckland UniServices Ltd, creating the foundation for new industries to help grow the national economy. UniServices reached an important milestone last year, achieving $100 million of revenue in just its 20th year of operations.

Finally, we need to acknowledge that the recession will have its greatest impact on the least privileged members of our society, exacerbating the significant inequalities that exist even in the good times. To that end we are expanding our support for Māori and Pacific students and those from underprivileged communities.

A new major study, *Growing up in New Zealand*, has been launched by the University under contract to the Ministry of Social Development. It will follow 7800 children and their families from before birth to early adulthood, providing invaluable information on the social and other factors that impact on their health and education outcomes. *Growing up* will be the first study of its type to include significant numbers of Māori, Pacific and Asian families, and so to reflect the ethnic diversity of modern New Zealand. At the same time we are, again in partnership with Government, establishing a programme that will see counsellors working in selected secondary schools to help students make good subject choices, and to succeed in those subjects, so that their chances of progressing to tertiary education (with the well known consequences of higher incomes, lower unemployment rates and better health) are enhanced.

These developments are, of course, all consistent with the five objectives of our "Leading the Way" Campaign: major improvements in human health; an ideal start for all our children; a strong export-led economy; the best urban living in the world; a confident and cohesive nation. They are important ideals for a research-led university such as ours, and activities in which I hope we may continue to enjoy your support.

STUART McCUTCHEON

Letters to the Editor

Critic and conscience of society

Members of a university rightly claim academic freedom. For two classes of members, academic staff and students, "academic freedom" is defined and secured by section 161 of the Education Act 1989 ("the Act"). That freedom empowers staff and students as individuals to "question and test received wisdom" and to put forward or state "new ideas" and "controversial or unpopular opinions". The person exercising that freedom sometimes claims to be exercising also the university's "role as critic and conscience of society" under section 162(4). I think such a claim can be justified only in a much qualified way.

Recently, in their comprehensive survey of the background and effects of the educational reforms of 1990, *Crisis of Identity? The Mission and Management of Universities in New Zealand* (2007), Wilf Malcolm and Nicholas Tarling have discussed (pages 227-28) the "critic and conscience" role. They point out that the role of "critic" may be mainly negative, censuring society from outside. The added role of "conscience" is positive, "opera[ting] from within society in a stance of shared involvement and responsibility". That responsibility "includes ensuring that [the universities'] academic programmes enable those within them to develop the intellectual maturity to exercise their own judgements in expression of the role".

Moreover, "A university's commitment to the search for truth in support of human well-being is a primary expression of its academic responsibility as critic and conscience of society". That is of course the established ideal of the Western university tradition.

The wording of the statute, convincingly explained by those writers, shows clearly that the critic and conscience role belongs to the corporate university.

What of the individual academic who claims to exercise it personally? Most do so in an advocacy role, to urge the redress of perceived grievances and injustices or to argue for some hitherto neglected truth. For that they have (within uncertain limits) the protection of academic freedom (even for writings and speech that may be outside their expertise or little more than polemic). So also do those who argue in opposition to them. New wisdom must be tested as much as the "received wisdom" it seeks to augment or replace. The process of testing involves the whole academic community (including students) in whatever field of knowledge is being considered. The process accommodates the teaching and writings of all those who participate in the university's corporate role by sharing in the "involvement and responsibility" described by Malcolm and Tarling.

This participation is, in principle, distinct from any advocacy role for any moral or political cause that an academic may as an individual pursue in exercise of academic freedom. He or she should accept the distinction and, as a scholar, be able to stand back from the advocate's role.

One specific difficulty must be mentioned: might a university's position in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi affect the above? Is a university required under the Act to "adhere" to the "principles" of the Treaty, with whatever implications that may have? Both Elizabeth Rata (*Ingenio*, "Cultural Relativism", Autumn 2007, page 38) and Raymond Nairn (*Ingenio*, "Another perspective", Spring 2007, page 40) refer to a university as so required. If it were, I would share Dr Rata's concern that it has "taken on a political position" that might in some situations impede the free exercise of the critic and conscience role. Fortunately a university is not so bound. The statutory requirement (s181) is not that it "adheres to" the Treaty principles, but that it "acknowledges" them. This admittedly vague requirement has the merit that it leaves a university free to maintain (as it should) Western ideals that some too easily dismiss as pejoratively monocultural and in need of radical, even revolutionary, reform. (As urged, for example, by Jane Kelsey, in L Simmons (ed), *Speaking Truth to Power: Public Intellectuals Rethink New Zealand* (2007) 141, 158-59).

I follow John Bishop (see his "The Treaty and the Universities" in Oddie and Perrret (eds), *Justice, Ethics and New Zealand Society* (1992) 109, 122-23) in affirming strongly that universities are custodians of the Western tradition that led to their foundation; those of matauranga Māori are the wananga. Whatever tensions there may be in this relationship have to be recognised and are themselves a matter for debate.

Emeritus Professor FM (Jock) Brookfield, (BA, LLB, 1951), DPhil (Oxford 1973), former Dean of the Faculty of Law and author of *Waitangi and Indigenous Rights: Revolution, Law and Legitimation* (updated 2006, Auckland University Press).

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Preference will be given to letters that address the content of the magazine. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and content.

Honorary doctorate for Helen Clark

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

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

The degree recognises Helen Clark's enormous contribution to New Zealand and on the international stage, says the Chancellor, Roger France.

As a Member of Parliament since 1981 and Prime Minister for nine years, Helen Clark has made a mark nationally and internationally in a way that few leaders can aspire to, says Mr France. "She became highly respected at home and abroad for strong, principled and intelligent leadership. The experience, knowledge and networks built up in this role will enable her to make a powerful contribution in her new position as Head of the United Nations Development Programme.

"As well as being a distinguished graduate and former academic staff member of the University she has shown a consistent interest in her alma mater. She attended many University functions, encouraged the teaching and research activities of the University and supported the two Knowledge Wave conferences."

Helen Clark attended Epsom Girls' Grammar School and then studied at The University of Auckland, majoring in politics. She graduated with an MA (Honours) in 1974 with a thesis on rural political behaviour and representation.

Helen was junior lecturer in Political Studies from 1973 to 1975, studied abroad on a University Grants Committee postgraduate scholarship in 1976, and then returned to lecture again in Political Studies at Auckland from 1977 until her election to Parliament in 1981.

New Chancellor

Roger France, a prominent chartered accountant and company director, has been elected Chancellor of the University.

The Chancellor chairs the University's governing body, the Council. Roger also presides at graduation ceremonies and confers degrees, and represents the University on formal occasions.

Mr France succeeds Hugh Fletcher who stepped down after four years in the role and still remains on the University Council.

Appointed to the University Council in 2001 Mr France has chaired its Finance Committee and has been Pro-Chancellor (the Chancellor's deputy) for the past two years.

For 15 years he was a partner of what is now PricewaterhouseCoopers, concentrating on corporate advisory work. He served for a period as managing partner in Auckland and on the firm's governance board. Earlier he spent nearly ten years as chief financial officer of two large listed companies.

Lindsay Corban has been elected Pro-Chancellor in place of Mr France. Mrs Corban joined the Council when the University amalgamated with the Auckland College of Education in 2004. She had been a long-serving member of the College Council.

Tall poppies

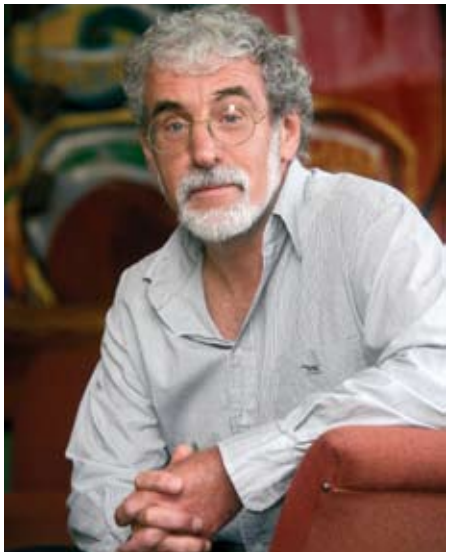
Professor Peter Hunter, Director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, and alumnus and business leader Dr John Buchanan (BSc 1964, MSc 1965, PhD 1968) were among the outstanding Kiwis to receive World Class New Zealander awards at a gala dinner in Auckland in April.

Seven awards were presented by Kea New Zealand and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise to the country's greatest "tall poppies" for giving their time, knowledge and skills to help New Zealand companies and industries succeed internationally.

Professor Hunter won the "Research, Science, Technology and Academia" category. He is best-known for his pioneering mathematical modelling of the human heart. He also heads the institute's flagship Human Physiome Project, an international network of researchers developing mathematical models of all aspects of human physiology.

British-based John Buchanan, one of New Zealand's most astute expatriate businessmen, won the "Finance, Investment and Business Services" category. He is chairman of the UK Friends of the University of Auckland and an adviser to the Business School.

New Deputy Vice-Chancellor



Professor John Morrow, currently Dean of the University's Faculty of Arts, will take over as the University's new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) from the beginning of July.

John replaces Professor Raewyn Dalziel who has been in the role since 1999.

John completed his BA and MA degrees in Political Science at the University of Canterbury and graduated with a PhD in Social and Political Thought from York University in Canada in 1980. He then returned to New Zealand and took up a junior lectureship post in Politics at Victoria University of Wellington. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1988 and to a personal chair in 2001. From 1997-2001 he was Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research).

John joined the academic staff at Auckland in 2002 as Professor of Political Studies and in 2003 became Dean of Arts.

"I have really enjoyed working with my colleagues in the Arts faculty during my term as Dean," says John. "I'll miss this in the new role but I look forward to engaging with academic issues across the University and in the wider community."

Exceptional service

Professor Raewyn Dalziel will take research and study leave when she steps down from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) role at the end of June.

When she took up the position in July 1999,

it was agreed that she would return to the Department of History at the end of the three-year contract. Several extensions of the contract and ten years later, she plans to do this.

Raewyn gained her BA, BA (Hons) and PhD in History at Victoria University of Wellington and on 23 April this year her alma mater acknowledged her contribution to New Zealand history and tertiary education with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

After completing her PhD, Raewyn studied at the Institute of Historical Research in London on a postdoctoral fellowship before returning to take up a lectureship in History at

The University of Auckland in 1972.

Publishing on New Zealand politics and social history, she worked widely across the spectrum of New Zealand history and also took an active role outside of the University, on curriculum development, as Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs and the New Zealand History Research Trust, a member of the National Archives Advisory Committee and on government working parties on tertiary education. She served a term as president of the New Zealand Historical Association and on the Humanities Panel of the Marsden Fund.

In 1990, then an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Auckland, Raewyn was appointed as Head of Department and served in this role from 1990 to 1993 and again from 1996 to 1999. She was appointed to a Chair in 1996.

She has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University since 1999 and from July to December 2004, in the interregnum between John Hood and Stuart McCutcheon, was Acting Vice-Chancellor. In 2001 Raewyn represented the tertiary education sector on a Prime Ministerial delegation to Korea. In 2004 she was awarded the ONZM for services to education.

"Raewyn has been an extraordinary servant of this University", says Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon. "She is probably unique in her knowledge of every facet of how the institution works, her willingness to take on any task, often without being asked, and her utter dedication to improving the quality of everything The University of Auckland does."

To mark the University's 125th birthday in 2008, *Ingenio* published an article in the Autumn 2008 issue by Raewyn titled "From the 1970s" in which she wrote about the changes she has witnessed during 36 years at the University.

New head of Elam

One of New Zealand's most respected figures in the arena of fine arts has been appointed Professor of Fine Arts and Head of Elam School of Fine Arts.

Jonathan Mane-Wheoki (Ngapuhi/Te Aupouri/Ngati Kuri) is an art historian, architectural historian and a cultural historian. His broad range of professional experiences and research outputs encompasses many disciplines, from architectural history to music. For the past five years he has worked as Director of Art and Collection Services at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

Moving easily across the worlds of Māori and Pākehā, Jonathan is widely regarded as a pioneer for the development of contemporary Māori and Pacific art and art history. Although his academic background is in early modern European art and architecture, he is also involved in an analytical survey of contemporary Māori art; projects on major historical New Zealand artists; and he is embarking upon a global study of indigenous art. A collaborative examination of the history of Māori art from ancient times to the present day is in the pipeline.

High-flying alumna on sabbatical at University

Karen Willcox (BE 1994), who leads an international research effort to drastically reduce the fuel consumption and carbon emissions of 737-size aircraft, is on a year-long sabbatical in the University's Faculty of Engineering.

An associate professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where she teaches aeronautics and astronautics, Karen says reducing fuel consumption can be done, and should be done. "But it isn't going to stop climate change," she adds.

"Aircraft overall contribute a small amount to human-induced carbon emissions globally, about four percent," she says. "But in saying that it is still important for aircraft to play their part. An aircraft operates for 20 or 30 years so any actions we take now will last well into the future, and we can do better."

Karen leads the international research project in partnership with Boeing, NASA, Purdue University, Stanford University and MIT. "This project isn't about making small improvements in fuel efficiency," she explains. "We are looking at the whole design process and integration of systems from aerodynamics, to better controls, and smart computer systems, to dramatically change the way an aircraft uses fuel. The key thing is there isn't a single technology which is going to achieve the results we want," she says.

Karen is pursuing her research while on sabbatical in the Department of Engineering Science and says she is thrilled to be back working alongside the academics who taught her the fundamentals of Engineering Science. **Stop press: as we go to print, Karen has learnt that she has made it on to a shortlist of 47 individuals from which NASA will select 10 to 15 people to train to be astronauts this year.**

"I've always been interested in space and air travel so naturally I'm pretty excited to be considered by NASA. I'm trying not to think about it too much until they make a decision," she says.

Accolade for University publisher

Elizabeth Caffin, who managed Auckland University Press for 21 years, received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from the University last month.

The award recognises her contribution as managing editor and then as director until mid-2007. In output, range, quality and electronic innovation AUP strengthened its local and international standing as a publisher of high quality books during Elizabeth's time.

While Elizabeth was at the helm, AUP published 359 books as against 192 in the previous nearly 60 years. Some 47 received awards including 14 prestigious Montana Book Awards and many more were finalists for awards (sometimes up to five in one year).

Under her leadership AUP became the leading publisher of New Zealand poetry, entered new areas such as art history, politics and contemporary issues, while continuing to produce major books in New Zealand history, archaeology, biography and memoir, and on Māori and Pacific topics. These have contributed to the understanding New Zealanders have of themselves.

She sought books of depth and originality which are accessible to the thoughtful reader. She also moved AUP into electronic and internet publishing, putting out collections of Māori waiata and contemporary poetry with CDs and working with the NZ Electronic Poetry Centre.

Animal protection scrutinised

The fraught legal relationship between humans and animals is explored in a book launched at the University in March.

Animal Law in Australasia, the first scholarly book on the topic published in this part of the world, is co-edited by Peter Sankoff, a senior lecturer in law at The University of Auckland.

It is surprising that such a book has been so long in coming, says Peter. "Post-colonial Australia and New Zealand were built in part upon the backs of animals.

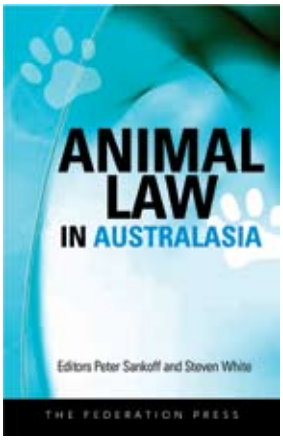
"Today, farmers raise several hundred million animals for slaughter every year, and animal-based industries producing meat, dairy products, eggs and wool form a key part of our economies."

Until recently animals were regarded as property and could be treated as their owners saw fit. "We could breed them, sell them, kill them – even torture them – without running foul of any law."

The once radical notion that inflicting pain and suffering on animals by humans should be constrained is now commonplace across the Western world, says Peter. "This is reflected in elaborate regulatory regimes ostensibly committed to protecting animals from human mistreatment."

It is now commonplace for the popular media to debate the ethical acceptability of live sheep export, battery hen cages, sow stalls and other practices exploiting animals. "However, there has been very little assessment, or even understanding, of how the law addresses these practices."

The book, the work of New Zealand and Australian specialists in animal welfare law, takes up this challenge. It asks whether existing laws really do protect animals, identifies where the law is inadequate and proposes how it can be improved.



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She's a fast talker

Alumna **Selina Tusitala Marsh** is opening doors into Pacific literature. She talks to Tess Redgrave.

"I'm a fast talkin' PI
I'm a power walkin' PI
I'm a demographic, hieroglyphic fact-sheetin' PI"

It's a late summer's evening and a large crowd has gathered at the University's Fale Pasifika for the launch of alumna Selina Tusitala Marsh's first collection of poetry *fast talking PI*.

The 37-year-old Afakasi (part-Samoan or half-caste), dressed in a traditional Samoan dress called a Puletasi, chants the title poem in time to the strumming of a ukulele. As she performs the audience laughs and cheers, some echoing "PI" after her.

The eight-minute-long performance poem which has entranced audiences from Mangere to Queensland is inspired by both American poet Anne Waldman's "Fast speaking woman" and Selina's mother (Lina Tusitala Crosbie) who died at the end of January this year.

"Mum was the original fast talker," laughs Selina as we talk in her office in the University's Department of English.

"One of the memories that inspired this poem is of when I was a teenager walking to school with my friends and Mum drove past in her little roofless sports car – she was quite a non-conformist Samoan – and she yelled out 'rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr'." Selina imitates her mother speaking so fast that I can't understand a thing she says.

"My friends looked at me and said 'Was your mother speaking in English?' 'Yeah!' I replied and they went: 'What'd she say?' and I went 'Selina, the key's under the door mat, the Crunchie bar's on the bench, don't fight with your sister, listen to your brother'.

"'Oh man', my friends said, 'she's a fast talker...'"

Selina does not talk as fast as her mother (though she can when she wants to), but nonetheless she is upholding the tradition of the surname Tusitala inherited from her mother's family (her grandfather was called Tusitala Tusitala). Tusitala, means "writer of tales" but is more commonly translated as "teller of tales" and in Selina's poetry collection, which comes with a CD and is dedicated to her mother, she tells tales about her life as an academic and a mother, about mixed ancestry, history and about her favoured creative place as "a darling in the margins" in a nod to former black American poet and feminist Audre Lorde.

"Selina is the sassy hip-hop streetwise Samoan siren of South Pacific poetry," says acclaimed writer and University of Auckland Professor and Distinguished Creative Fellow in Literature, Witi Ihimaera. "Her aesthetics and indigenous politics are meld-marvellous and her ideas will blow you away."

Selina is a "tusitala" and much more. The first Pacific Islander to receive a PhD in English at The University of Auckland when she graduated in 2005, she is paving the way for Pacific literature, and poetry in particular, to come out in the sun and shine for a wider audience. In many ways she is what she herself calls the "calabash breakers" in her poem by the same name. Calabash breakers cross boundaries, "stroke the lines of our stories", "reign in the dark hour" and "catch bigger suns".

After being head girl at Avondale College in 1988, Selina began her study at The University of Auckland with a BA in English and then went on to an MA for which she studied the films of Whoopi Goldberg looking at black, feminist theory.

"But then I realised I was going round the globe looking at black women's work when I was living in supposedly the largest Polynesian city in the world ... and where were the critical writings about Pacific women's literature?"

So when it came to choosing a topic for her PhD, Selina decided to uncover the huge critical silences surrounding Pacific Island literatures, especially literature by women and "to meet the challenge that Pacific literature generally seemed to be the poor cousin of English literature proper".

For her doctoral thesis she began researching the work of five "first generation" Pacific women poets who had begun to publish in English from 1979 onwards. They were Jully Makini (Solomon Islands), Grace Mera Molisa (Vanuatu), Haunani-Kay Trask (Hawai'i), Konai Helu Thaman (Tonga), and Momoe Malietoa Von Reiche (Samoa).

"These women were all basically making known the parallels between a feminist agenda and post-colonial agenda," explains Selina. "They were saying the power structures we critique in this colonial system are reproduced in our cultures so we need to not only empower the nation but we need to see that as connected to the empowerment of women and children.

"In a post-colonial era men took over the positions of power in the Pacific and the women and children still had no voice. Poetry was used as a political voice. These women were all quite remarkable boundary-breakers."

After marrying David (also a Afakasi who like Selina has a Samoan mother and Palagi father) Selina spent two years during the early part of her PhD on a Fulbright scholarship to Hawai'i University and Samoa. During her thesis research she decided to start her family and ironically her three sons provided the final motivational thrust to complete her PhD.

Selina Tusitala Marsh at Pasifika with members of the Nuiean Avatele Liku family. Image: Dean Carruthers.

"I remember when I first became pregnant a male colleague said to me you can say goodbye to your PhD now," recalls Selina. "I was so upset and I thought – I'll show you."

And show them she did. Selina finished her thesis "Ancient banyans, flying foxes and white ginger: Five Pacific women writers" in 2004 concluding that like the multiplying banyan tree "exploring and analysing works that have largely been ignored ... and uncovering the 'roots' of Pacific women's literature, inevitably aids in fostering new roots, new growth, new lines of poetic inquiry, and more importantly, new poems".

In May 2005 Selina graduated the same day her eldest son Javan was in Starship Hospital receiving donor bone tissue to fill in a tumour found the previous Christmas. That year she also joined the University's Department of English as a lecturer. Now, as well as teaching a Pacific Poetry masters course, in this year's second semester she is introducing a new stage three Pacific literature paper called Te Torino (the spiral).

"The course examines Māori and Pacific literature and uses the spiral as a theoretical paradigm to approach the texts," she explains. "The spiral symbolises a more holistic indigenous epistemology with which to approach text as opposed to an exclusive linear one."

Selina has also pioneered the development of a Pasifika poetry sister site on the New Zealand Electronic Poetry Centre hosted at the University (www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz/pasifika/index.asp). It features interviews and videos of performance by poets like Tusiata Avia, Albert Wendt, Robert Sullivan, Sia Figiel and Sina Va`ai, Professor of English at The National University of Samoa.

For Selina the Pasifika website is a tool for teaching and is also part of her outreach into the Pacific communities of Auckland. As well as her academic work she talks and performs in schools when asked and has just joined the Faculty of Arts' Schools Partnership team as a Pasifika representative.

By all accounts her streetwise, performance-style poetry resonates with the people she wants to reach. Last November she gave the prize-giving speech and a performance at the Southern Cross Campus in Mangere.

"It was the most incredible performance," she remembers, her smile widening, "especially the call and response between audience and poet. Normally when I read *fast talking PI* I chant to the music and people laugh here and there, or clap a little bit. At Southern Cross I couldn't even get through the second stanza because the students were screaming so loudly at me about the kind of PI they were.

"I had been sitting there thinking I hope I can touch these students. I hope they don't see me as representative of an elite institution that they are never going to get to. But it was amazing ... the normally eight minute-long spoken word poem took about 15 minutes because after each stanza I had to stop and let the screaming and cheering die down."

A few days after her book launch Selina Tusitala Marsh was again out in the community, this time performing "fast talking PI" at Auckland's Pasifika 2009.

"Bloodless coup jimmy choos
Lover blood clot melting pot
Shark-toothed brothers let loose
White Sunday lippy BA
I'm a fast talkin' PI".

Ingenio has five copies of Selina's book to give away to the first readers who email the editor at: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz


(r)evolution

From dinosaurs to Mr Darcy

Charles Darwin's theory of evolution has been called "the best single idea anyone ever had". Judy Wilford speaks to a diverse selection of evolutionary researchers across the University about Darwin's continuing influence.

Pictured from left: Allen Rodrigo and Brian Boyd.

Think of Charles Darwin and what leaps to mind? Fossils, finches and the Galapagos Islands? Primates and humans? The missing link?

How about Hepatitis B and HIV, the existence of which Darwin never dreamed about; or the songs of the New Zealand saddleback, which he probably never heard; or even the invention of the outrigger canoe, a technological prerequisite for the great waves of migration across the Pacific Ocean over a period of 5,000 years.

Take it further and think of the novels of Jane Austen, the murals of Michelangelo, or the brilliantly zany picture books of Dr Seuss, relished as much by the parents who read them aloud as by the children entranced by the stories of *The Cat in the Hat* and *Horton Hears a Who!*

What draws these together is that they all form part of research taking place at The University of Auckland, spread across a number of departments and faculties, involving dozens of eminent researchers, but all based on concepts that originated with Darwin - and with most of the investigators using the approaches and methods developed in evolutionary biology.

"Darwin's writings on evolution were revolutionary, igniting a scientific and social powder keg whose reverberations can still be felt today," says Professor Allen Rodrigo from the School of Biological Sciences. "His legacy has extended beyond biology, beyond natural science and into the humanities and social sciences."

"Science and the arts or humanities seem like very different enterprises with different directions and standards," says Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd from the Department of English, a world-renowned literary figure who earned his fame through his work on Vladimir Nabokov and other Russian writers. "In 1959, physicist and novelist CP Snow deplored the gap between the sciences and the humanities. I predict that this gap will barely exist by 2059 and that the theory of evolution will be the hinge connecting these two vast planes of human endeavour."

Allen and Brian stand, in this sense, at either end of the spectrum of evolutionary researchers at The University of Auckland.

Allen's concern, at the scientific end, spans the fields of bioinformatics and evolutionary biology, looking to answer questions on the nature and rates of evolution and to create a framework for analysing and gaining insights from the vast amounts of genetic data that can now be gathered, thanks to recent dramatic advances in technology.

The focus of interest for Brian is on the evolution of art, and especially the art of storytelling, as a human behaviour; on the vital importance of the imagination in the survival and advance of the human species; on the role of pretend play and storytelling in strengthening the imagination; and on how an understanding of human nature as it has evolved clarifies what's at stake in fiction. "Mate choice" for instance is central to natural selection and to Darwin's other key theory, sexual selection. Seeing the choices of partner Jane Austen's heroines make in the context of evolutionary pressures can cast a surprising new light on these novels and help explain their universal appeal despite their restricted social range.

Allen Rodrigo has been hooked on diversity since his childhood in Singapore, a nation with a rich mix of traditions and beliefs. What he later found fascinating, during his undergraduate studies at a time of rapid advances in computing, was the "emergence of process and pattern from apparently random and variable biological data by using mathematics and statistics". And of course, this diversity is precisely the base on which natural selection depends.

Evolution took a great leap forward in the 1930s, Allen explains, when evolutionary theory was informed by a new body of knowledge about genetics. "Darwin had always struggled with the question of what was the mechanism for heritability. Understanding of genetics provided a framework for looking at the evolutionary processes."

Now Allen believes we are on the cusp of a new revolution, which will require a new framework, a new way of conceptualising the type of data that need to be collected and the conclusions that may be drawn from it. This, he believes, should incorporate a way of predicting evolutionary processes, allowing biologists to look forward as well as back. The challenge for Allen and his team is to help develop this framework by studying the constraints on evolution and the rates at which organisms can evolve.

His specialisation in the evolution of fast-growing viruses such as FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) and Hepatitis B gives him the chance to contribute to this.

"Viruses change very rapidly and therefore can provide a kind of laboratory for evolutionary processes," says Allen. "The changes they evolve through over 20 years are equivalent to changes in animals over five hundred million

"In 1959, physicist and novelist CP Snow deplored the gap between the sciences and the humanities. I predict that this gap will barely exist by 2059 and that the theory of evolution will be the hinge connecting these two vast planes of human endeavour."

years, which is the time it took for an animal to evolve from a simple sponge-like ancestor."

Already he and his colleagues are able to predict the kinds of changes that can be seen in a virus when a drug is administered - or when it is taken away. They are now beginning to understand the differing responses in the hosts to the viruses. "It turns out we can predict by looking at the signature of evolution of a virus in a patient whether the patient is going to live for a long or a short time, whether he or she is going to clear the virus or co-exist with it."

Every human patient, it is now understood, has a different immunotype. Allen's current work, with Dr Bill Abbot, is to look at how the Hepatitis B virus changes according to the different immunotypes within a particular population of humans.

The other huge – and related – challenge for Allen and his colleagues is to find meaningful ways of analysing the vast amounts of data now becoming available.

"It took 15 years to sequence the first human genome," he says. "Now, with the great advance in technology since 2004, we are gathering and sequencing phenomenal amounts of data from entirely different environments – for example, the marine environment, the soil, and the gut. The new technology has made it possible to sequence a human's genome in less than three months. We can now sequence a mammoth genome. We have the science to construct extinct species. What we haven't yet got is the high-level framework to ask the right questions of this great array of data. We see the tidal wave approaching and we are frantically trying to build our canoe."

Brian Boyd faces two tasks as he looks at literary evolution.

One, discussed in the first half of his new book *On the Origin of Stories*, is to examine art and storytelling from the perspective of natural selection, asking the evolutionary questions: "Is art adaptive? Does it have hard benefits in terms of evolutionary competition? Does it actually mean we survive and reproduce at higher rates than those who have a lesser inclination to art?"

Says Brian: "I would argue that it does. A work of art acts like a playground for the mind: a swing or a slide or a merry-go-round of visual or aural or social patterns. Like play, art succeeds by engaging and rewarding attention, since the more frequent and intense our response, the more powerful the neural consequences.

Russell Gray on the roof of King's College Chapel, Cambridge, a structure exemplifying one of the many parallels between evolutionary and cultural advances: that both can carry, alongside the change that is of direct adaptive benefit (in this case the arches that support the structure), other changes that are by-products of that change but may also prove to have uses of their own (in this case the "spandrels" or intervals between the arches, often used as spaces for murals). Photograph by Matteo Mameli.

"The appeal of physical play helps animals develop the skills to cope better with key behaviours. In the same way the cognitive play of art helps us produce and process information in our key human modes of sight and sound and sociality."

Storytelling has a particular contribution to make, he adds, in supplying examples to help solve problems of cooperation. "Good stories communicate, in memorable and emotionally saturated forms, ideas of sociality that will help make a society more cohesive and therefore successful."

In a social world based on cooperation as well as competition, human beings need to be able to understand "not just the actions but also the desires, the intentions and even the beliefs of others". Biologists believe that the need to understand others has been one of the drivers of our evolution towards high intelligence.

The second task for Brian – forming the focus of the second half of his book – is to look at the evolution of sociability and cooperation through specific texts, and to analyse what makes a story appealing to its audience.

The texts he chose were *Homer's Odyssey* and Dr Seuss's *Horton Hears a Who!*, the first selected to show "how sophisticated stories could be, even almost at the beginning of alphabetic writing", and the second "to show a work of genius aimed at an audience as young as possible in biological development".

Brian has also analysed some of the work of Jane Austen with a focus on "something at the centre of her novels which is also at the centre of evolution: mate selection".

Strategies men use for selecting mates and criteria females use for evaluating men are surprisingly similar across the world, he says, with both males and females placing "kindness" and "intelligence" top of their lists, while "access to resources" comes next for women and "good looks" for men.

"It has been said in anthropological and cultural studies that there are no constants in male/female relations, that romantic love is a Western invention. Some people have even claimed it was invented by the troubadours in the 12th century. That is quite firmly disproved by neurological and comparative psychological evidence. People everywhere have romantic attachments, as do animals that have monogamous relationships."

What distinguishes Jane Austen from other writers, says Brian, is her "brilliance at people reading people.

"She sets up a simple little incident that characters will read in half a dozen different ways. And we will be able to deduce so much about the characters by the way they read an incident or by the way they read others reading the incident. And of course the time we're most intensely scrutinising others is when we're choosing a partner for life, and so the urgency or the exactitude with which we have to read others goes up. And that is the key to Jane Austen's success."

Strong support for this line of thinking

comes from world-renowned primatologist Dr Frans de Waal – 2009 Robb Lecturer at The University of Auckland – whose work on primate behaviour has convinced him of the power of empathy as a tool of survival for all primates, including humans.

Of the economics of cooperation, Frans has this to say: "The whole [current] economic crisis is because people have too much belief in competitive principles and that's not really in accordance with how human nature is designed.

"I think human beings have a highly cooperative society. That's how we survive. Our economy is based on reciprocity and cooperation, and in that context it is important to work out how others feel, what they want and how they will respond to us."

All of these researchers agree that the one great thing about Darwin's vision is its generality.

"Evolution is possible," says Allen Rodrigo, "in any system that has heritable traits that may confer an advantage, mutation and competition. Language therefore fits those criteria, as do knowledge systems and religions."

And indeed Professor Russell Gray from the Department of Psychology is using the tools of evolutionary biology to gain profound insights in a field where opposing theories have been hotly contested over more than 200 years.

For work published in *Nature* in 2003, causing quite strong ripples across the academic world, Russell and his colleagues used the tools of evolutionary biology to trace the origin and diffusion of Indo European languages through detailed comparison of data from different languages formalised through the creation of phylogenetic trees.

Their conclusion was that these languages originated around Anatolia some 8,500 years ago, which "fits precisely with archaeological evidence on the origins and spread of agricultural settlements", says Russell, and could rule out the competing theory that the languages spread much later, "by conquest, and after the horse was domesticated".

In work published in *Science* in March this year, the insights – just as dramatic – were closer to home, with language trees built from detailed comparison of key words from 400 Austronesian languages giving a precise picture of a rapid migration from Taiwan to Polynesia over the last 5,000 years. This is again very much in line with the archaeological data, and bears strong parallels with the genetic information that is emerging not only from the study of mitochondrial DNA and the Y chromosome in the Polynesian populations, but also in a study of the evolution of bacteria carried in their digestive tracts.

"By analysing linguistic and cultural data using computational methods, we are able to integrate inferences from genetic and archaeological data. So taking an evolutionary framework enables us to formally synthesise different lines of evidence to give a more robust picture of our past," says Russell.

He also sees the evolutionary framework as "an immensely powerful tool for giving remarkable insights into how cultural advances have been shaped by important technological inventions".

For example it was the quantitative language trees, with their clear revelation of the pulses and pauses of migration, which confirmed the vital importance of the outrigger canoe. After a thousand-year pause it was the invention of this technology that allowed for the movement of peoples from Taiwan to the Philippines over 350 kilometres of strongly north-flowing seas, and the subsequent rapid expansion over 7,000 kilometres to the outer edges of Polynesia – in just 1,000 years.

NZ Saddleback.
Photo: Dianne Brunton.

Other research using similar tools is a study of the evolution of bird song in separated populations of the endangered New Zealand saddleback, conducted by PhD student Louis Ranjard with his supervisor Dr Howard Ross from the School of Biological Sciences in collaboration with Associate Professor Dianne Brunton (Massey).

The song of birds is an interesting study for evolutionists, since it combines inherited and learned behaviour.

"Songbirds learn their song," says Howard. "Though they have a genetic template for song, that is not sufficient. Birds raised in the absence of song will sing, but it won't make sense."

Louis's study has shown that even over 40 years – the longest period of separation of the four saddleback populations being studied – measurable differences have already emerged from their patterns of song. This probably represents a form of cultural evolution.

"Russell Gray is the one who led the way on studies of this kind," says Associate Professor David Bryant from the Department of Mathematics. "He showed how we could use technology from biology to model the way languages have developed and spread. Other researchers were inspired by his success to look at other cultural artefacts in this way."

For David himself, who has expertise in music as well as mathematics, it seemed a natural next move to attempt to analyse the patterns of music, for example in the rhythms of drumming or hand-clapping, to see if these could also be said to "evolve" and to discover what this could reveal about the movement of peoples.

This study (of hand-clap rhythms in the west of Africa) brought some insights which David hoped could later be applied in the South Pacific. The study is now on hold, awaiting collection of more data and the development of more powerful frameworks for analysing it. However, David, who uses his skills as an applied mathematician and statistician to create the tools needed by other evolutionary researchers, is convinced of the value within a university of exploring a variety of perspectives on the same questions.

Russell Gray believes the University is now in a "great position to build on its wonderful strengths in evolutionary biology". Researchers have already begun discussing the feasibility of a cross-campus course, bringing together students from arts (such as anthropology, ethnomusicology, history and literature), from sciences (such as biology, mathematics, physics and computer science) and from bio-medical sciences, who share an interest in evolution.

So what is it that evolutionists have in common, given the variety of their interests and disciplines?

"First," says Allen Rodrigo, "most share a fascination with the diversity that lies at the centre of evolutionary theory."

And second?

"Of all the biological disciplines, evolution is the one that most encourages philosophical thought. 'What does this mean in the context of who we are? What is human nature? Is consciousness unique to the human condition? How can we envisage a God?' So someone who grows up thinking about those issues is likely to be drawn to evolution."

He thinks again: "Or physics."

This is the first in a series on the future of the University and the 2012 "Leading the way" Campaign – where vision, strategic planning and philanthropy meet.

Transforming Grafton Campus

A major redevelopment of Grafton Campus is underway. Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, **Iain Martin** shows the plans to Louise Callan.

Iain Martin looks at concept drawings in his office.

Professor Iain Martin is a happy man. Since taking over as Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS) in 2005, the goal of creating an environment that helps attract and retain the best and brightest in staff and students on the Grafton Campus has occupied much of his time.

"It was the first project we started when I arrived," he says as he spreads rolls of architectural and design plans. "I looked around and rapidly came to the conclusion that a radical redevelopment of the Grafton Campus was required."

In his temporary offices overlooking the often clogged entrances to the southern and north western motorways, rolls of working drawings are always at hand. Working alongside the Director of Property Services, Peter Fehl, he has passed barely a week in the last three years without spending time on the task.

In March, this drive and commitment produced results. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, announced that the University Council had agreed to a major redevelopment of the Grafton Campus which houses most of the Medical and Health Sciences Faculty and part of the Faculty of Science (Optometry). Work will take place over the next four years at an estimated cost of $240 million. It includes refurbishment of the existing buildings to provide high quality research laboratory space, a major upgrade of the central plant and infrastructure, most of it now 40 years old, and the construction of new space to provide extended student facilities to accommodate the School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, faculty administration and the Liggins Institute.

At the beginning of April, in a taste of the development to come, the first component of the campus redevelopment, a new purpose-built research laboratory complex, was opened on level five of the current FMHS block, home to a cluster of some 150 researchers.

This first stage of the grand project was undertaken ahead of the main build because the pressure and need for a dedicated space was so great. In the weeks preceding the formal opening, Iain Martin had a stream of staff who will be moving into the new labs passing by his office, smiles on their faces, thrilled with their new facilities. Even better, the laboratory development had been completed on budget and on time. Iain gives credit to Peter Fehl and his team at Property Services for this achievement, together with the architects and contractors who have delivered what he calls a superb new space. He sees it as a reassuring beginning to the undertaking, particularly because it has been at the most complex end of such a project – a refurbishment of a 40-year-old building with all the unknowns that entails. Approximately half of the cost of the development will go to refurbishing existing buildings.

Iain's decision to re-create the faculty's principal campus was based on three main issues – capacity, capability and the aesthetics of environment.

"We are about people, and that has to be number one, two, three on the faculty's list of priorities," he says. "To recruit the very best staff and students, we need an environment that makes them feel a valued part of the faculty and University, and that makes the most of what we have to offer. Grafton Campus is lacking in that respect currently and certainly has little if any potential left for future expansion."

It is more than 120 years since the first vestige of medical training was introduced in Auckland with the appointment of a lecturer in Anatomy at what was then a college of the University of New Zealand. The previous year, 1883, one of the University's first philanthropists, Dr Thomas Moore Philson, had donated his retirement fund of 270 sovereigns (worth $95,900 today) to provide books for medical students in Auckland. The Philson Library still carries his name. It would be another 80-plus years before the curriculum for a School of Medicine was developed and the first Dean, Professor Cecil Lewis, appointed. In 1974, the first cohort of students graduated from the school – 53 in all. The new Grafton Campus had been completed for just a year.

Since then academic units have been set up at Auckland City Hospital, Greenlane, Middlemore and Waikato hospitals and most recently in Northland. Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy were introduced and accredited, the Liggins Institute established as the University's first large-scale research institute, and the School of Population Health opened at the University's Tamaki Campus.

Today 3200 equivalent full-time students are studying at FMHS with 800 staff and 600 honorary clinical teachers. The faculty's clinical teaching spreads from Kaitaia in Northland south to Rotorua, while medical students from overseas have been part of the student body since 1984.

> **"We are about people, and that has to be number one, two, three on the faculty's list of priorities."**

When Iain talks lack of capacity, the increase in numbers alone leaves little need for explanation. "Capability" problems have emerged from the enormous changes in teaching, training and the dissemination of information. Research, too, has changed out of all recognition. Teams now are much bigger and there is a huge load on the building's support services and infrastructure, designed for a very different way of working: some parts of the building can no longer be used because they cannot be serviced properly.

"The University has recognised these needs and has supported the project," says Iain. "At the same time we are looking for the opportunity to partner with friends and supporters who wish to be associated with this very exciting development."

He describes the project as an evolution, the next stage in the development of the faculty.

> **Our work has to make a difference, otherwise there's no point. And the numbers show that we have an impact.**

"It is challenging. We are not designing the buildings in a way that is fixed around the work we are doing now, but for what may happen in the future. If we look back, there is no way people would have foreseen where we are now; there is no reason to see us as any smarter than them. I don't want someone to come back in ten years time and say, 'What did they think they were doing!'"

His task, he says, quoting French author Antoine de Saint Exupéry, "is not to foresee the future but to enable it".

At present the shape of things to come is laid out in page after page of schematics and drawings schematics anddrawings from the development's architects, JASMAX of Auckland and Daryl Jackson Architects Pty Ltd from Melbourne. They show the reorganisation of the loading dock and basement to make the space work better and to meet modern operating standards; a significant upgrading of plants and infrastructural support; a general refurbishment of the bulk of the existing buildings; and a new building in Boyle Crescent which will house part of the Liggins Institute, two new lecture theatres, the nursing and pharmacy schools, optometry and administration.

But perhaps the most visible transformation will be in the area around the front of the current building on Park Road. Parking will move underground with the old hard surface courtyard softened and greened with planting, providing a connection to the trees and green of the Auckland Domain across the road. Entry to the main faculty complex will be through a light, airy, glassed atrium. The Dean believes the new environment will have a huge impact.

"It really will be a campus that will have a great working feel about it for staff and students. It will equal anything in Australia, important given that this is where we frequently lose staff to."

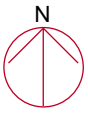
The new improved working environment with all its extended capabilities is still only one half of the equation in raising the faculty to the next level of excellence in scholarship, learning and research. The ability to recruit and retain the best and brightest in staff and students also requires more direct philanthropic support. High on the faculty's list is repatriation fellowships to attract talented early to mid-career researchers back to Auckland by offering them a package of support that might include a post doctoral fellow and laboratory costs.

Other staffing needs requiring support are more area-specific – professorial-level positions in cancer biology, genetics and clinical genetics, paediatric oncology, immunology and pharmaceutical sciences. On the student side there is an ongoing need for scholarships for honours students and postgraduates.

The end point is in the faculty's mission statement: To improve the health and wellbeing of our local, national and global communities through excellence in teaching, research and service. It is re-stated in two of the strategic goals of the University's "Leading the way" Campaign launched last November: the health of the nation and the development of our children.

"Our work has to make a difference," says Iain, "otherwise there's no point. And the numbers show that we have an impact. We are ranked 26th in the world in biomedical research. We already punch well above our weight."

KEY



The University of Auckland Grafton Campus

Doing business better

At a recent business lunch my host, a senior member of a large industry organisation, leaned earnestly across the table and inquired "What is the purpose of the Business School? Don't tell me teaching and research", he said. "I am not interested in your activities; I am interested in your purpose."

I reflected momentarily because it is easy to fall into the trap of telling people what we do, not why we do it.

Ultimately a university's role is "the betterment of the human condition". A scientist might do this by inventing a new vaccine or cure, a medical specialist a new procedure, an engineer a new device. These things are relatively easy to see or recognise and few would question their value. The business scholar's purpose is no different. Business is the principal engine of economic growth, employment creation and prosperity; the vehicle for improving "living standards" and the "quality of life" not just for individuals but for entire societies. In the midst of today's economic crisis there would surely be few who do not believe that better business practices (if not also values and ethics) are required to move things forward.

The study of business matters. Learning how to "build" or "do" business better matters. Better business models, better business processes, a better fit between people and tasks, improved productivity, better decisions and better regulatory and policy frameworks are just a few of the foundations we need to build "a bridge to a better world". And therein lies our purpose. Business education is a powerful agent for change, for generating insights through engagement with ideas and knowledge, for questioning today's practices to help generate tomorrow's answers, for engaging with and making a difference to business practices and the communities in which we live.

Presently students and staff of The University of Auckland Business School (UABS) are engaged in a variety of initiatives of real social and economic benefit to this nation. To illustrate we are:

Building the nation's financial literacy. A group of students who are social entrepreneurs have developed and are delivering financial literacy programmes in low-decile high schools. At the other end of the spectrum researchers in our Retirement Policy Centre are developing a web-based platform for the aged to enhance their ability to manage their retirement savings.

Facilitating entrepreneurship. In just six years the UABS entrepreneurial ecosystem has transformed programmes and lives. SPARK, a student-managed initiative, has led to the creation of at least 35 companies. These have raised over $43 million in capital and grants, created more than 170 jobs for New Zealanders and now sell products/services in over 20 countries. Many of these companies are at the forefront of technology. For example, Coda Therapeutics (revolutionary wound healing), Power by Proxi (inductive power technology), Brightminds (affordable ways of treating children with mental health problems), INRO (robotic forklifts), Transfercar (cost effective car relocation for rental companies), Guinea Pigs (pioneering ways in which patients for clinical trials can be found faster and at lower cost) and Scrubs (a website aimed at increasing the retention of doctors in New Zealand and improving the quality of its healthcare).

Complementary to the UABS ecosystem is The ICEHOUSE, one of New Zealand's most successful business accelerators (see profile of the ICEHOUSE on page 20). Since 2001 The ICEHOUSE has worked with 65 start-ups who have raised over $30 million in capital and created over 280 new jobs. Some 40 firms have also been helped along their growth path by consulting projects of 300 hours provided free of charge by student teams from our recently re-engineered MBA programme.

The launch of The University of Auckland Business School's Entrepreneurial Challenge, with a $3m gift from New Zealand philanthropist and businessman Charles Bidwill, will assist New Zealand businesses that have reached a critical point in their growth and development to move to the next stage.

Growing the nation's pool of business-savvy scientists. Born out of SPARK, Chiasma, another student-led initiative, builds a bridge between the biological sciences and the biotech industry. And in a unique alliance the Business School, the School of Biological Sciences and the Law School, in partnership with industry and NZTE, have developed a Master of Bioscience Enterprise that has a

compulsory internship/research component that has proved enormously successful.

Enhancing national productivity. Our Centre for Supply Chain Management is embarking on a study of the freight task and infrastructure capacity in the upper North Island with a view to improving the efficiency and productivity of an essential component of New Zealand's supply chain.

Addressing environmental challenges. Our Energy Centre is working with industry on renewable energy (including hydro and geothermal) as well as with the forestry sector on carbon sinks aimed at addressing some of the challenges created by the Kyoto protocol (work this team recently had the opportunity to present to Cabinet).

Capacity building. The School has recently assumed responsibility for the New Zealand Asia Institute and is refocusing its attention on enhancing the capability of New Zealand organisations to engage productively with Asia and, in light of the Free Trade Agreement, particularly China.

In short, the Business School – our people and our programmes (both teaching and research) – is increasingly engaging with, and making a difference to our community. In doing so we are helping build that "bridge to a better world".

Professor Greg Whittred is Dean of The University of Auckland Business School and is on The ICEHOUSE board of directors and the New Zealand Leadership Institute.

Growing business

The ICEHOUSE is New Zealand's premier business growth centre. Its CEO, alumnus **Andrew Hamilton**, gives Tess Redgrave the inside story.

In 2003 MCom was a small, innovative company run by two West Aucklanders who were aiming to provide mobile phone financial services to banks and mobile network operators in New Zealand and Australia.

Today MCom is consistently rated the number one brand in the global market. It provides mobile banking and mobile payments software to some of the world's biggest banks such as Westpac, Credit Agricole, Washington Mutual, Bangkok Bank and GE Money, and it has penetrated markets in Australia, New Zealand, the US, Canada, the Middle East and South East Asia.

In 2001 Trevor Hamilton owned two dairy farms producing 300,000 kilograms of milk solids.

Today Trevor's company Dairy Farming Business owns seven farms, four in the South Island and three in the North Island. With a total of 5,200 milking cows, it will produce two million kilograms of milk solids for the 2009-2010 season. Over the past eight

From right: James Madelin and Naomi Wiggins of Orbis, and Andrew Hamilton.

years, the company has had 60 percent compounding growth in net worth.

In 2005 Grant Sargent, a technician in the Faculty of Engineering's Robotics and Intelligent Systems research laboratory and Glen Slater, who has a Master of International Business from Waikato University, teamed up with a group of enthusiastic University of Auckland Engineering students to establish a pioneering robotics company (see story in *Ingenio*, Autumn 2006, page 12).

Today their robotic forklift company called INRO is partly owned by Stephen Tindall of The Warehouse and KIWI, Fonterra, smart angel investors and venture capitalist partners. It has a factory base at Penrose and currently has a $600,000 FRST research grant to work on advanced vehicle automation that could revolutionise the efficiency of industrial supply chains. Last summer the company hosted five engineering interns from The University of Auckland.

Ask why these three companies have been so successful and you will find they have one key ingredient in common. They have all been through The ICEHOUSE – an Auckland-based business growth centre founded in 2001 by The University of Auckland Business School and funded through endowments from New Zealand and international companies such as BNZ, The Boston Consulting Group, Telecom, and Microsoft, HP, Ernst & Young and Minter Ellison Rudd Watts.

Since its beginning, the ICEHOUSE has put 65 start-up companies through its ICE Accelerator incubation programme and over 2,000 owner/manager companies from as far away as Australia through unique ICE Bridge learning and development programmes. Its investor group ICE Angels has invested some $16 million in start-up companies to date and the company's ambitious overall strategic aim is to deliver to New Zealand 70 internationally capable companies per year to 2014, driving the country into the top half of the OECD.

The idea for The ICEHOUSE originally emerged after David Irving, a former chief executive of Heinz Wattie's and honorary Professor of Enterprise and Management at the University's Business School, went on a programme for senior executives at Stanford University in the US.

"I came back thinking we need a programme like that for owner/managers in New Zealand," recalls David who immediately set about designing a programme.

"The first question I asked myself was: 'What troubles the owner/manager the most?' The answer is loneliness and not knowing what they don't know. Most have no planning and have learnt how to run their business on the street. They are also unlikely to trust anyone to help them."

At the same as David was focused on owner/managers, businesswoman and alumna Bridget Wickham (MA 1974, BCom 1987) was looking at setting up an incubator for start-up companies from The University of Auckland.

"We both had ties to the University and the Business School, but we knew that we needed to create something that linked us into Auckland City," explains David, who in March handed over the chairmanship of The ICEHOUSE to new chairman Greg Cross, previously the CEO responsible for driving growth in revenues and market share for Microsoft and Advantage Group. "So the Business School founded The ICEHOUSE with what I like to call non-competing, competitive partners."

The vision then was to foster new start-ups and create a learning environment that would help owners and managers transform their companies.

To see The ICEHOUSE in action today, *Ingenio* met CEO and alumnus Andrew Hamilton (BCom 1993, LLB (Hons) 1995) at the company's warehouse-style offices at the Textile Centre in Parnell.

As we talk, members of the 12 start-up companies currently on the books at The ICEHOUSE come and go from circular hubs nearby. "That guy there is a developer for a company working on an occupational health product," explains Andrew. "Over there they've developed a professional photography add-on called 'The Orbis Ringflash', which is now being marketed globally."

Andrew, 40, has been CEO of The ICEHOUSE since its inception and is clearly a driving force in its success. A one-time car-cleaner for Michael Fay while on his OE in San Diego during the 1991-92 America's Cup campaign, Andrew worked for Russell McVeagh, Skellerup, Masport and was director of Fletcher Building's venture capital arm before joining The ICEHOUSE. Today he is also director of Start-Up Media – a multi-media platform organisation focused in the online start-up and eCommerce markets'; is Chair of the Angel Association New Zealand; a director of ANZATECH which guides companies into Silcon Valley, USA; and is deputy chair of the Auckland Metro Project to make the region a more innovative place.

He is passionate about New Zealand business and says he is deeply rooted to the New Zealand cause. "When I was younger I aligned myself to New Zealand sporting success but now I'm more focused on the business success of our owner/managers and entrepreneurs. Making a difference to New Zealand is the oxygen that keeps me going."

"New Zealand is a highly creative nation," he adds, "but we're not an innovative nation because we haven't turned those ideas into businesses that create wealth in global terms."

And this global perspective is where The ICEHOUSE is focused.

Most start-up companies that join the incubator have got an idea for a product and want to make sure it's viable, explains Andrew. "They'll spend three to six months working on that with us. Half the companies who come in here don't last six months because they work out their product isn't going to fly. If an idea is viable then they'll spend another six to seven months with us developing the idea and getting it into the market in New Zealand. During the second

> **We both had ties to the University and the Business School, but we knew that we needed to create something that linked us into Auckland City.**

year they'll start looking off-shore."

The ICEHOUSE has 12 permanent staff in marketing, sales and delivery. It then has a vast base of networks and contacts including more than 100 mentors drawn from the Business School and wider New Zealand business community.

When MCom joined The ICEHOUSE in 2003 for example, CEO Adam Clark remembers "the stream of good speakers and advisers that came through The ICEHOUSE who we were able to talk with". He says MCom also benefited from the vast network of The ICEHOUSE "and the contacts we were able to leverage".

The ICEHOUSE draws on the expertise of the University Business School and the wider New Zealand business community to run its unique ICEBridge owner/manager development courses. These account for nearly 70 percent of its business today and by teaching things like leadership, good management practice, marketing and governance, aim to "help owner/managers to identify and overcome road-blocks, and give them the tools to move their business forward".

Among the programmes is a special ICEBridge Agribusiness Programme tailored to the needs of owner/managers of agribusinesses, including food and beverage processors, growers and farmers.

"I took the Agribusiness Programme at a time when my business was changing fast and I needed to upskill and learn staff management and business growth skills," says Trevor Hamilton, owner/manager of Dairying Farming Business.

"The course taught me to let a deal go by if the returns didn't stack up and made me more aggressive to growth within the business. I was able to set forward planning goals and it is fair to say The ICEHOUSE gave me more confidence. Networking with motivated people has had a major effect and tends to inspire one further I think."

On average, says Andrew Hamilton, the owner/managers going through ICEHOUSE programmes are growing their Earnings Before Income Tax (EBIT) 31 percent per annum.

The ICEHOUSE is run as a charitable trust and maintains a close relationship with the University's Business School. One of the more interesting initiatives that has come out of the relationship between the two is the University's annual SPARK Entrepreneurial Challenge, which aims to turn first-class ideas into world-class businesses with the first prize a six-month residency in the ICE Accelerator programme.

A company that has flourished as a result of SPARK is INRO. It won the 2005 competition and spent two years at The ICEHOUSE.

"We were a bunch of part-timers," remembers INRO CEO Glen Slater. "We had to be: INRO wasn't really a company at that stage, so we had to earn a living elsewhere, finish our studies, and work on the business. The ICEHOUSE was vital as it was a 'place of work' that we could come to and know we were all there for the same purpose. Without it we would likely have lost focus during those early years.

"All new companies have to find capital somewhere," adds Glen "and no new entrepreneur has the slightest idea where to start. The ICEHOUSE has a whole suite of training and tools for companies, but in the end the single most valuable is how to take the first steps in capital-raising. With ICEHOUSE training, we were able to raise over $3million in 2007."

Glen says associating with The ICEHOUSE gave INRO credit when dealing with customers and with government funding. "We were clearly a group of young, inexperienced guys with a new business – the fact we were in The ICEHOUSE was a risk-reducing factor for our investors, our customers, and government agencies such as FRST or NZTE."

This year the Business School, with help from The ICEHOUSE, is launching another project that will benefit New Zealand entrepreneurs. It is the Charles Bidwill/University of Auckland Business School (UABS) Entrepreneurial Challenge.

"It will be led by the Business School and project-managed by The ICEHOUSE and will have investment capital available for a small number of New Zealand SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprises) looking to grow," explains Andrew.

Despite the global recession, he remains optimistic about the growth of entrepreneurship in New Zealand.

"Sure it is tough to raise money or get customers generally at the moment," he admits. "But it's almost bi-polar. The new companies coming in are insulated while the ones that have been here two, three, four years are probably suffering more because the capital's dried up and the customers are a bit more reticent."

But, he concludes: "You can choose to be affected by the recession or you can find opportunities."

See: www.theicehouse.co.nz

Pictured left: Andrew Grant.

Courage, resilience and 'mucking in'

The sounds of conch shells and drums added to a distinctive Pasifika flavour at this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA) Dinner, where the Samoan Prime Minister, the Hon Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, and filmmaker Toa Fraser were among those being honoured.

Some 470 guests, including senior staff, previous DAA winners, donors and friends of the University, local and central government politicians, and media attended the festive event, which was organised by External Relations and held in the Alumni Marquee in the grounds of Old Government House.

DAA recipients the Hon Tuilaepa Malielgaoi, former politician Sir Douglas Graham, author Lynley Dodd, and Toa Fraser were led into the marquee with a Cook Islands Tu'oro performance, which was followed by a Mihi.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, saluted the achievements of our DAA recipients and invited guests to also turn their minds to creating an even better future for the University. He suggested that rather than hunker down through the current economic crisis, our response should be to minimise harm to our economy and position ourselves strongly for when economic recovery comes.

"That will require two things. The first is the creation of a well-educated, adaptive, ingenious population – a key role for universities since we are the major providers of degree education and of teacher education and almost the sole providers of postgraduates. The second is international quality research and development, innovation and technology transfer. Here too the universities – and particularly The University of Auckland – are leaders."

Guest speaker alumnus Andrew Grant (BE 1989), Managing Partner of McKinsey & Co in China, proposed that an appropriate response to the economic crisis at this time would be a discussion around who we are as a nation rather than what we do.

Referring to research conducted by McKinsey & Co, he said that for the world's truly great organisations it is less often about the "what" and more often about the "who" of their companies that sees them through in tough times like these.

"It's the characteristics and mindsets of the leaders and the employees, the principles and values that they adhere to, rather than their goals, strategies and plans – all important things no doubt, but not sufficient."

He spoke of three positive attributes that New Zealanders needed to bring to the fore: courage to respond boldly and "punch above our weight"; our neighbourly spirit and willingness to "muck in"; and resilience. He also described three attributes that would not be helpful: complacency, or a belief that we might be insulated from the international crisis; "winging it", or the attitude that an 80 percent solution would be good enough; and meanness of spirit towards others, rather than backing the agents of change.

Video footage from the evening will be posted on the Alumni and Friends website (www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz). This will include the Tu'oro and Mihi; introductory comments from the Director of External Relations, John Taylor; the speeches from the Vice-Chancellor and Andrew Grant; citations from the alumni orator, Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd; and the presentation of the awards by Dame Cath Tizard, Patron of The University of Auckland Society and Judge David Abbott, President of the Society. A recorded message from DAA recipient Professor Ngaire Woods, who received her award in London on 16 March, will also be available to view.

Helen Borne

Our 2009 Distinguished Alumni

Tales of alleged cheating at the Law School, smashed sculpture and bruised egos at Elam art school, and life-changing learnings were recounted with much humour and nostalgia as the University's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented in March.

Lynley Dodd (DipFA 1962)

Hairy Maclary of Donaldson's Dairy would sit alongside Dr Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat* for memorable childhood literature in many New Zealanders' minds. The story of the canine's adventures was also the beginning of international fame for its author, Lynley Dodd.

Back at the University and Elam School of Fine Arts for the first time in 50 years, Lynley was "wallowing in nostalgia" at the DAA Dinner. She described the dusty sculpture studios, the smell of oil paint and turps and her horror one day at discovering that her bust of Julius Caesar's head had been destroyed by the crash of someone's miniature moon rocket.

Lynley graduated with a Diploma in Fine Arts from Elam in 1962. She spent five years as an art teacher before embarking on a career as an author and illustrator of children's books in 1973. Three years later she wrote and illustrated her first solo effort, *The Nickle Nackle Tree*, which is still in print, and in 1983 came the first of the series of *Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Dairy*.

Lynley is one of New Zealand's best known authors, her career in children's literature spanning over 30 years and as many books. Lynley's books have sold over six million copies worldwide. She has received many prizes and accolades including the New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year in 1984, 1988 and 1992; the Gaelyn Gordon Award for a Much-Loved Book in 2006; and the Margaret Mahy Medal for Services to Children's Literature in 1999. In 2002 she was made a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

The Rt Hon Sir Douglas Graham (LLB 1966)

Like Lynley Dodd, Sir Douglas Graham's association with the University dates back 50 years. He recalled a Law School that was "quite tiny", some hard-earned grades and a particularly memorable class in Equity in which a very stern professor announced that, for the very first time in the history of the Law School, there had been a case of alleged cheating. The room froze as the professor announced gravely that the students concerned would have to be expelled and produced the note that had been passed from one student to another during a term test. It read: "I've had an absolute gutsful, I don't understand any of it, and I'll see you in The Grand in five minutes."

Sir Douglas graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from The University of Auckland in 1966. After a 20-year legal career, he entered Parliament in 1984. In 1990 he was appointed Minister of Justice, overseeing the reform of major company and securities law. A year later he became the Minister in charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, a role for which he is widely acknowledged and lauded.

In 1998 he was appointed to Her Majesty's Privy Council and was knighted the following year. In 1999 Sir Douglas retired from politics, taking up a visiting fellowship at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and a series of directorships. He is currently chairman of OTPP New Zealand Forest Investments Ltd, Deputy Chairman of the New Zealand Superannuation Fund, Commonwealth Special Envoy to the Kingdom of Tonga, and an associate of The Boardroom Practice Ltd.

Sir Douglas lectured in the professional legal ethics and advocacy courses at The University of Auckland for ten years. He has been a member of The University of Auckland Society and a contributor to alumni scholarships.

The Hon. Tuilaepa Malielegaoi (BCom 1969, MCom 1970)

When the Hon. Tuilaepa Malielegaoi gained his Master of Commerce degree at The University of Auckland it was "so that I could go back and start serving my country". Forty years later, on receiving a DA Award, his commitment to his people is still at the fore.

"I consider it an honour to rededicate the award to our people back home, the people whom we serve."

Tuilaepa holds a bachelors and a masters degree in accounting from The University of Auckland. When he graduated in 1970 he was the first Samoan to gain a masters degree in Commerce. He returned to Apia where he spent ten years working in senior roles for various Samoan ministries. Between 1978 and 1980 he worked as an expert in trade transport and communication at the General Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States in Brussels, Belgium, winning a seat in the Samoan Parliament on his return in 1981.

Tuilaepa has held ministerial portfolios in Finance, Economic Affairs, Transport, Police and Tourism and was Deputy Prime Minister between 1988 and 1998. He is currently serving his third term as Prime Minister and, in addition, is Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Police and Minister of Telecommunications.

Professor Ngaire Woods (BA, LLB(Hons) 1987)

Professor Ngaire Woods remembers some "fairly merciless shredding" of her arguments back at Law School but suggested that this training may have held her in good stead as she addressed guests at the DAA Dinner via a recorded video.

"It was only when I came to Oxford and subsequently taught at Harvard that I was able to look back and realise that The University of Auckland is a genuinely world-class place. Its teaching its students to be rigorous and competitive in a way that competes with the very top universities in the world."

A graduate of both the Arts and Law faculties, Professor Woods holds a BA in Economics and Bachelor of Laws (Hons). She successfully applied for a Rhodes Scholarship, studying at Balliol College, Oxford, where she completed a Master of Philosophy in International Relations and later a DPhil. She went on to win a prestigious J. Arthur Rank Research Fellowship at New College before accepting a position at Harvard. This was followed by a fellowship at University College, Oxford.

Ngaire Woods is one of the world's leading experts on global economic governance. An adviser to the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Ngaire is Professor of International Political Economy at Oxford University. She is the founder and director of the Global Economic Governance Programme, an adviser to the UN's Human Development Report, has served on an external evaluation panel for the International Monetary Fund, is a board member of the Overseas Development Institute, London, is a governor of the UK's Ditchley Foundation and an adviser to the British Prime Minister on international affairs. She is also a popular media commentator.

Professor Woods' DA Award was presented at an Alumni and Friends reception in London on 16 March.

Richard Chandler (BCom 1979, MCom 1981)

In his citation for Richard Chandler, Alumni Orator Professor Brian Boyd commented that "Richard seeks to do well by doing good." Richard is one of New Zealand's most successful entrepreneurs and investors and a significant international philanthropist who in 2008 was named by *Forbes* magazine as one of Asia's top 50 philanthropists.

Richard was unable to attend the DAA Dinner but conveyed in a message to guests how honoured he was to have been nominated and his regret at not being able to receive his award in person.

Richard Chandler is founder and chairman of Singapore-based, multi-billion dollar private investment group Orient Global. His 20-year career has been shaped by his passion for the positive role that capital and principled entrepreneurship can play in developing sustainable prosperity for financial and social businesses.

In 2007, Orient Global launched a US$100 million Education Fund, which has already made significant grants and other investments in Africa and Asia. A contribution to Sir Edmund Hillary's Himalayan Trust funded the provision of 38,000 books for children in Nepal.

Richard completed a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting at The University of Auckland. He gained a Master of Commerce in 1981, leaving New Zealand in 1986 to establish Sovereign Global with his brother, Christopher.

Together the Chandler brothers targeted undervalued business-sectors in countries undergoing transformational economic change: Brazilian telecommunications during the transition from hyperinflation to economic stability; and Russian oil and gas during the changeover from communism to capitalism being just two examples. At the time of Orient Global's formation in 2006, the brothers had built an investment company with net assets of more than US$5 billion.

Young Alumnus of the Year, Toa Fraser (BA 1998)

Toa Fraser paid tribute to the teachers who inspired him at University and who continue to inspire him. He dedicated his award to "a great New Zealander" and mentor who passed away two days prior to the DAA Dinner.

"Allen Guilford was one of New Zealand's great cinematographers. He was a mentor to me as a child. He taught me a lot about film: he invited me onto film sets as a kid; he gave me my first job in the film industry with a music video."

Toa completed a Bachelor of Arts in English, with a minor in Film, Television and Media Studies at The University of Auckland. In 1998 he won the Chapman Tripp Best New Play and Best New Playwright Awards, aged just 23. This was followed by the *Sunday Star Times* Bruce Mason Award in 1999, and a year as Writer in Residence at the University of the South Pacific.

It was his second play, *No. 2*, which captured the theatre world's attention, securing the Festival First Award at the 2000 Edinburgh Festival. The play was later adapted for the screen with Toa as writer and director in his debut as a film-maker. *No. 2* went on to win the 2006 World Cinema Audience Award at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival, and was nominated for the Sundance Grand Jury prize. In 2007 Toa was invited to direct *Dean Spanley*, which premiered to rave reviews in Toronto and London and stars Peter O'Toole, Sam Neill and Jeremy Northam.

Toa has worked with major names in the film industry, including iconic New Zealand director Vincent Ward. He has directed two feature films, written five plays and has been nominated for 16 national and international awards, ten of which he has won.

Dean retires

Alumnus **Dick Bellamy** has studied and worked at the University for some 50 years. He looks back with Bill Williams.

Pictured right: Dick Bellamy in the lab and at his beloved O'Neills Beach on Auckland's West Coast.

Dick Bellamy has experienced his alma mater from every conceivable angle: as student, teacher, researcher, generator of outside funding, local president of the academic union, director and then dean, on the governing body; and from a distance as a local body politician.

After 50 years' association with The University of Auckland he stepped down as Dean of Science last December and formally "retired" without becoming much less visible.

Such are his dedication and affection for the institution that mention "Dick" and staff at most levels know at once it is him.

His ubiquity across campus and his willingness to speak his mind and proffer advice, always in a constructive and genial manner, made him something of an identity; infuriating gadfly to some, far-sighted mover and shaker to others. A tireless conversationalist, he was invariably the last to leave any event.

Since first enrolling at the University in 1958 Dick, a leading molecular virologist, has seen it transformed. The campus, comprising mainly old houses and hotels, was cluttered with unsightly temporary structures. Lecturers wore gowns, students jackets and ties.

Then modest in size, facilities and academic reputation with staff of variable quality drawn particularly from Britain, the University has developed into a force on the world stage.

Academic standards have "risen out of sight", he says, both among staff and among students at an advanced level.

The School of Biological Sciences, where he spent most of his career, "is now the biggest and most successful group of university biologists in the country. When SBS is combined with Biomedical Sciences at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Auckland is significantly ahead of anywhere else in New Zealand and arguably competitive with Australia."

Dick has watched the University reach out to its communities in ways that he long advocated. Relations with alumni and fundraising activity, non-existent 20 years ago, are now flourishing as is the relationship with schools (and hence the able students whom the University wants to attract).

The Alumni Marquee on Old Government House lawn, now an integral part of graduation as well as being the venue for other large university functions, was his idea.

The academic route which Dick followed was not pre-ordained. His father was an accountant who became company secretary for L.D. Nathan, and his late brother ("much cleverer than me") was an engineer who finished up as Dean of Computing and Information Sciences at Monash University in Melbourne.

Showing little aptitude for physics and the mathematical sciences at Auckland Grammar School, he tried biology and found it to his liking. His interest was sparked by weekend expeditions into the bush with his father.

At university he completed his BSc and MSc in Botany. Its "element of modern biology" appealed as did the expanding botany library where he recalls the excitement of seeing the first issue of the *Journal of Molecular Biology* on the shelves.

The Thomas Building was still several years away and the equipment in the 1930s Biology Building was "pretty primitive. All the scientific grunt was then in the DSIR at Mount Albert."

And so it was to the DSIR that Dick progressed to undertake his PhD. "Dick Matthews took up the Chair in Microbiology but did a deal for the department to operate there while the Thomas Building was constructed. It was the first positive interaction between the University and what we now call a Crown Research Institute."

The accommodation – prefabricated shacks – was nothing fancy but his supervisors, the legendary Dick Matthews and Dr Rod Bieleski (also DSIR), were top calibre and cutting edge.

Dick's doctoral research examined nucleic acid metabolism in tobacco cells. "These were the early days of molecular biology and it was a very exciting time."

Embarking on postdoctoral work Dick defied the trend by heading for the United States rather than Britain, the destination then favoured overwhelmingly by gifted New Zealand students.

He had secured a position in the new Department of Cell Biology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Outer Bronx. There he worked on the replication of reovirus, a newly-discovered group which possesses a genome of double-stranded RNA (ribonucleic acid).

Like many talented Kiwis of his generation he was tempted to remain overseas. The call of family determined otherwise as did a fortuitous job offer from Dick Matthews, head of the University department by now named Cell Biology instead of Microbiology.

Back then (1968) young academics in his field "had to be pretty determined" to forge a worthwhile career in this part of the world. "You communicated by letter and simply organising a trip abroad required a month's exchange of correspondence. Scientific supplies came on the slow boat from England – air freight was in its infancy.

"The journals we read here were at least 12 months old whereas today at an international meeting you don't talk about anything unless it is coming out next week."

Travel overseas for academics was more expensive and much less frequent than now. Dick aimed to attend conferences and visit

> **How a botanist became a microbiologist; making a living out of diarrhoea.**

colleagues across the world every 24 months.

Meanwhile his department, along with Chemistry and Geology, was showing the way for the rest of the University by gaining grants for equipment from external – mainly US – sources. "We were staffed largely by people with North American experience in how things needed to be done."

Until the mid-1970s Dick was a Senior Research Fellow dependent on competitive funding grants ("soft money") from the Medical (now Health) Research Council to keep his appointment going. This rather precarious existence helped hone his entrepreneurial instincts.

Later Dick became Director of the Centre for Gene Technology, a "ginger group" where academic, government and industrial scientists collaborated on molecular biological research. "The recombinant genetic engineering revolution was upon us and we had to take advantage of it."

The same revolution was the catalyst for bringing together the different biological disciplines. Following a high-level review in 1989, Biochemistry, Botany, Cellular and Molecular Biology (as it now was) and Zoology were merged into a School of Biological Sciences.

The next challenge for Dick, by now a full professor, was to serve as the school's inaugural director. Blending these disparate groups proved a protracted, often vexed business.

"If it hadn't been for the unswerving support of Colin Maiden (Vice-Chancellor) and Ted Bollard (a senior member of the University Council and his ex-DSIR boss) it probably would have faltered." He also owed much to loyal colleagues like Professor Euan Young and Sandra Jones, the School Registrar.

All the while he maintained his ground-breaking research on the role of rotaviruses as infectious agents in such ailments as diarrhoea among infants and the young. Indeed one of his recent presentations made before retiring was entitled "How a botanist became a microbiologist; making a living out of diarrhoea".

The scale of his academic contribution is impressive. He has been principal research investigator for 43 externally funded research projects which brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars, and has 98 original papers in refereed journals and review articles to his name. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of NZ in 1989.

In addition he has supervised 41 MSc and PhD students, many of whom have gone on to stellar careers across the world. In turn he recruited a cosmopolitan crop of talented staff and research students.

After ten years at the helm of SBS he faced an even more formidable assignment as Dean of Science, the University's third largest faculty.

A decade on he can take pride in greatly improved facilities such as the new Computer Science complex, the revamped laboratories in Chemistry, Physics and Biological Sciences and, just under way, a major extension to the Thomas Building. A South Pacific Centre for Marine Science is in the offing at Leigh while a Wine Science Programme has been consolidated at the Tamaki Campus.

What gave him most satisfaction, though, was creating opportunities "that have enabled bright young staff to get established". What a university needs even more than top-notch physical infrastructure, desirable as this may be, is individuals with "get up and go".

He is grateful to the University in many ways, not least for being allowed to involve himself in the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, the Environmental Defence Society, the Auckland Regional Council (where he chaired the Bus Transport Committee), the Auckland Museum Council (as President), and innumerable other outside bodies and activities.

Mind you, he has given plenty back, serving on countless university committees, chairing the Association of University Teachers' Auckland branch, and sitting on the University Council for several years. His many contributions to science, education and the community were recognised in 2005 when he was made a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit.

What now for Dick after devoting himself to academia through half a century of almost revolutionary change? He certainly won't be idle, remaining on the boards of UniServices and DNA Diagnostics Ltd (a DNA testing laboratory), and "doing the odd job for the Vice-Chancellor".

Nor is he much less in evidence day to day. When *Ingenio* interviewed Dick a hard-hitting op-ed piece by him criticising government moves on the electrification of Auckland's rail network had appeared that morning in the *New Zealand Herald*.

The pace will slow sufficiently, though, to "catch up on 20 years' deferred maintenance" on his house in Mt Eden and help restore the native bush on the hillsides surrounding his weekend and holiday hideaway north of Bethells Beach.

He also keeps himself busy clearing the Te Henga-Goldies Bush Walkway. The lure of the natural environment that triggered a distinguished and rewarding career is, for Dick, as potent as ever.

Into the limelight through a finely honed lens

Our **Film, Television and Media Studies Department** is heaping success upon success. Amber Older reports.

You may not realise it, but if you've been to the cinema or watched television in New Zealand lately, chances are you're already familiar with the University's Department of Film, Television and Media Studies (FTVMS).

Staff, students and alumni have all been making an impact and the department is reaping the rewards of an approach that simultaneously delivers rigorous academic teaching while maintaining very close links to industry.

In the past year, Associate Professor Annie Goldson's documentary *An Island Calling*, about a double gay murder in Fiji, has won awards here and abroad, including Best Documentary at the 2008 Qantas Film and Television Awards. Senior Lecturer Shuchi Kothari's co-written *Apron Strings* made its world premiere as the opening-night feature at last year's Auckland International Film Festival. Along with her colleague, Senior Lecturer Sarina Pearson, Shuchi wrote and produced *A Thousand Apologies*, a six-part, pan-Asian comedy sketch show which earned enthusiastic reviews when it aired last September on TV3.

Recognised as some of New Zealand's finest film and television makers, Annie, Shuchi and Sarina can claim at least partial credit for the department's strong and ever growing reputation among scholars and industry professionals alike. To sit down with these academics, along with their equally heralded colleagues Senior Tutor and freelance producer Margaret Henley, part-time Senior Lecturer Vanessa Alexander (who directed feature film *Magik and Rose*) and Head of Department and acclaimed novelist Professor Annamarie Jagose, is to discover a department committed to excellence across its programmes, all of which are impressive in terms of scholarship, creative practice and relevance.

"We have an excellent mix of screen practitioners who are committed to teaching, and academics who work in the creative industries. That crossover is important," says Shuchi, an Indian-born New Zealander who teaches screenplay writing in the postgraduate Screen Production programme.

It is this programme that is perhaps the most visible component of the department – and a glance at the programme's teaching staff makes clear why. Shuchi's *Apron Strings*, as well as her short film, *Coffee and Allah* (co-produced with Sarina), were both warmly received at festivals around the world. Shuchi's latest film, *Firaaq aka Separation*, is an ensemble film that takes place over a 24-hour period, a month after the horrific communal carnage in Gujarat in 2002. Upon its debut at the Telluride Film Festival, Salman Rushdie praised the film because it "allows the humanity of its characters to shine through the darkness, even the horror, of the events it describes, and because of the skill with which the many narrative strands are interwoven".

> **"I want the industry to see how good our students are, to understand that we are very much on the front foot."**

As a documentary filmmaker for more than 20 years, Annie Goldson is recognised internationally for such works as *Punitive Damage* (1999), *Georgie Girl* (2002), *Sheilas: 28 Years On* (2004), *Pacific Solution* (2005) and *Elgar's Enigma* (2006); in 2007 she became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for her services to film. For Annie, the relationship between film production and scholarly excellence are inextricably linked.

"Even though I am increasingly working more as a filmmaker than an academic, I felt drawn to an academic career and have a strong publishing record. Particularly in the documentary genre, the research I undertake is highly academic – I do extensive reading and critical analysis as I develop a film. The only difference is the output, which takes the form of a documentary rather than a book," says Annie, who will soon travel to Cambodia for her next documentary – a film that will follow rowing champion Rob Hamill's journey to Cambodia, where his brother was tortured and murdered by the Khmer Rouge regime in the late 1970s.

Vanessa Alexander is a multi-award winning writer, director and producer best known for her feature *Magik and Rose* and her Emmy nominated television series *Being Eve*. Teaching half-time in the Screen Production programme, she regularly works in the industry as a director (*Outrageous Fortune*), script editor/development producer (*Burying Brian, The Pretender*) and as a board member for the New Zealand Film Commission. Vanessa says continuity between the industry and the academy is crucial to a department's "relevance" and the students' "success".

"There is arguably no film school in New Zealand that offers teaching from so many staff who are still actively involved in the industry at such a high level," says Vanessa. "I believe this is why so many of our students are successful in creating work that has a life in film festivals here and internationally. We know how to help them."

This awareness is present even at an undergraduate level. Margaret Henley oversees

Clockwise from left: Annamarie Jagose, Annie Goldson, Sarina Pearson, Margaret Henley, Vanessa Alexander and Shuchi Kothari.

FTVMS alumni who have earned national and international praise include Young Alumnus of the Year 2009 Toa Fraser (BA 1998), Roseanne Liang (BA/BSc 2000, MCPA 2003), Susan Potter (LLB 1990, MA 2004), Kirsty MacDonald (BA 2005, MCPA 2007), James Frankham (BArch 1998, MA 2007), Leo Woodhead (BA 2006), Alex Lee (LLM 1986, MCPA 2004), Paul Scantlebury (BCom 2003 , MCPA 2006), Briar March (BFA 2004).

the department's television journalism, sports and studio production courses, which focus on honing students' technical skills. Margaret believes FTVMS academics have an important role to play in helping students get jobs. To that end, she regularly invites broadcast, sport and production professionals to join her classes. Visiting sport media are interviewed by students as part of their live, in-house media sport magazine show, *Full Credit*. The chance to see students perform under pressure in the studio, as well as behind and in front of the camera, gives media professionals a valuable opportunity to identify talented individuals who could potentially become their future employees.

"I want the industry to see how good our students are, to understand that we are very much on the front foot."

Margaret says there is another bow in the department's quiver: the fully-operational television studio in the Kenneth Myers Centre (74 Shortland Street), formerly the home of Radio New Zealand Broadcast House and TVNZ.

"Industry people love coming back to the KMC – it really counts for a lot in getting them to visit a class. Sky Television's Director of Sport Programming and Production Kevin Cameron came in recently and was reminiscing to students that he used to have the job of ironing the isobars onto the weather map," laughs Margaret.

While production skills, networking opportunities and creative drive are integral to the department's reputation across the industry, the department is equally committed to delivering academically rigorous programmes that emphasise critical and historical perspectives. Sarina Pearson, who produced the TV documentary *A Taste of Place* and co-produced several short films including *Fleeting Beauty* and *Clean Linen*, says working within the University allows FTVMS staff and students to be less focused on the bottom line.

"We encourage our students to experiment, to try things out on a conceptual level. Our people are engaged with ideas that don't necessarily reflect a commercial engagement. Of course we teach students how to navigate the commercial realities of the industry, but they also learn about the conceptual framework. Even if students don't 'succeed' in some ways they will in others. We want them to ask, 'what did we learn from this?'"

Although Annamarie Jagose is the first to admit she "doesn't know one end of a camera from the other" her skills as a theorist, writer and critical analyst set a high standard for the department's scholarly outputs – as reflected in the 2006 PBRF rankings, which place the department first among its competitors. She says the research undertaken by FTVMS academics can be "clustered" into three categories, all of which reinforce the department's position as a research leader.

"Our three primary areas of research reflect the scope and diversity of our teaching staff. Several academics are examining how media ethnicities have been historically represented and are now being reclaimed and re-examined by different indigenous, national and diasporic peoples. Other staff are focusing on the New Zealand film and media industries in relation to a wide range of topics such as the history of New Zealand cinema, mainstream news broadcasting, Māori television and mediatised sports events. Several members of the department are exploring popular culture through popular music, reality television and new media technologies like the internet and cell phones."

Despite its vast collection of accolades and achievements, smug complacency does not exist within FTVMS. Perhaps inspired by the strong sense of collegiality and support that emanates from staff and students alike, there is a strong determination to see the department grow in resources and reputation.

Ask any of these academics what their ten-year vision is for the department, and the answers range from "delivering the most competitive Screen Production programme in Australasia" and "building the flow between academia and the industry" to having a "purpose-built cinema on campus" and being "more cutting-edge with technological resources and creative engagement so that on a conceptual level we keep ahead of the curve and stay relevant".

However these aspirations are realised, it is clear that the fundamental ethos of the FTVMS department will remain: to create what Annamarie describes as a "vital and exciting environment in which students critically analyse and participate in the ever-changing film, television and media industries".

For more information see:
www.youtube.com/ScreenProduction
www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/departments/ftvms

Green roof flourishing

Auckland city will soon be sprouting "green roofs" if the results of a study in the Faculty of Engineering are anything to go by.

The city's first green roof was planted on top of the Engineering tower on Symonds Street two years ago as part of an Auckland Regional Council-funded study.

Dr Elizabeth Fassman, from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, says emerging results show the roof is soaking up about 75 percent of rainfall. A snapshot recording between 5 September and 5 October 2008 recorded 101mm of rain, seven storms, and only 25mm runoff.

Green roofs are tipped as a solution to reducing the stormwater runoff that pollutes our waterways and can lead to flooding. The study is helping to determine the best plants and materials to retrofit existing buildings with green roofs.

"We're learning that things change from storm to storm, but overall I'd say we're really pleased with performance and fully believe it is a viable stormwater control technology - with the added factor of multiple environmental benefits from a single technology," Elizabeth says.

Elizabeth, postgraduate students and Landcare Research are involved in the project. They have been trialling a mix of hardy native and foreign sedums and different lightweight mediums on the roof.

The sedum mexicanum and the native New Zealand iceplant have emerged as early flourishers. Pumice, zeolite and composted pine bark have emerged as favoured substrates, or planting mediums. Soils are not used because they are too heavy.

The study has also helped to determine if only native plants can be used.

"We think if you wanted a green roof with a diversity of only native plants you would need a substrate depth of at least 100mm, which might be too heavy for a retrofit solution, but certainly acceptable for any new construction," Elizabeth says.

Elizabeth is due to present a "how to guide" to green roofs to the ARC in July.

Danelle Clayton

Raising children well

"There's nothing more important than raising your children well," says Professor Matt Sanders, leader of a new parenting research group at the Faculty of Education.

"It is the greatest challenge we face in a lifetime and it's a job most tackle with virtually no preparation or education for the role. All parents should have access to high quality parenting programmes that work."

Matt has been advocating this message for decades as the founder of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. Triple P is a tool used by parents worldwide to deal with behaviour problems in children and adolescents, based on the evidence of 30 years of research and clinical trials. A University alumnus, Matt started developing the programme as a postgraduate student in Education Psychology in the 1970s. He is now Director of the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland, and the Triple P Programme is run in 17 countries.

The programme has only recently made its way back to New Zealand, with the appointment of Matt as an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Education, where he is establishing a Triple P Positive Parenting Research Group. The group will evaluate a new web-based interactive DVD version of the programme with 160 families. Further research will study the engagement of fathers in parenting programmes and family-based interventions for children who have been bullied.

Matt, who is a father of two and grandfather of two, says one of the most basic things the Triple P Programme advocates is the need to parent strongly, consistently and positively.

You can contact the Triple P Centre: Ph 09 579 1794, email: admin@triplep.co.nz, or see www.triplep.net

Danelle Clayton

Emily Baragwanath (BA 1999, MA 2001) is now Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Last year, having recently completed her studies at Oxford University, she published *Motivation and Narrative in Herodotus* in the Oxford Classical Monographs series and was awarded the triennial Conington Prize for the book. The award is for the best doctorate out of Oxford Classics each year.

Andrea Corbett (PGDip HSc 2002) has been awarded her doctorate by Monash University, Melbourne. Dr Corbett completed her thesis study into the interface between the tertiary and primary health care sectors in rural New Zealand.

John Seong Lee (Lee Seong-uk) (BA 2002, LLB 2002) is a prominent member of the newly established New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Korea called the Kiwi Chamber. See: www.kiwichamber.com/ Mr Lee is a foreign legal counsel at Kim & Min law firm, and he is also a member of the bar in New South Wales and New York.

Patrick Leung (BCom 1994, BSc (Hons) 1995) has recently moved from New York City where he worked as a software engineering manager for Google Check Out to Palo Alto to join Playlist.com as Vice President, Engineering. Playlist is an online music community that serves an audience of over 40 million music fans.

Peter Romhany (BMus 1990) is head of Music at Morpeth Secondary School in inner city London. He is a consultant for BBC Education and the Institute of Education and has run national teaching workshops. He has also worked with top artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Joan Armatrading, Philip Glass and the Lincoln Jazz Orchestra.

Ron Sang (BArch 1964) is one of several artists who will be speaking at the Rising Dragons, Soaring Bananas conference held at the Business School from 18-19 July. Ron who works full-time as an architect in Auckland is renowned for his books on artist Michael Smither, potter Len Castle and most recently artist Ralph Hotere.

Carmel Sepuloni (BEd 2001, PGDip 2006) is New Zealand's first member of Parliament of Tongan descent. Carmel, a newly-elected Labour List MP, has worked as Equity Manager for the University's Faculty of Arts, and then Project Manager for a Pacific Workforce Development Research Project at the School of Population Health.

The daughter of a Samoan-Tongan, "Labour man" father and a New Zealand European mother (from a resolute Tory farming family), she was born and raised in Waitara. During the 90s, approximately 1500 jobs were lost in this small town of only 6000 people – directly impacting Carmel and her family and all those she had grown up alongside.

"This was undoubtedly when my interest in politics began," says Carmel, who was also fascinated by the contrasting political views of her sheep farming maternal grandparents and freezing worker union activist father. "The heated political dialogue for our immediate family generally sprang to light whenever we watched the six o'clock news in the evening – the most passionate outbursts occurred and the most colourful language was used whenever Robert Muldoon or later, Jim Bolger, appeared in a news piece."

Richard Wagener (BCom 2002) is a Business and Sports Development Manager for the Joshua Foundation, a mission NGO in Tanzania providing development and education to East Africa.

Susan Yoffe (BA 1992, MA 1994) is a trustee for the Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust which won "Honorable Mention" in the 2008 Asia Pacific UNESCO Heritage Awards for restoration of bach 38 on Rangitoto Island - the first time a New Zealand project has received such an accolade. Interest in conserving the historic baches on Rangitoto began in 1993 when Susan researched the holiday communities that formed on Rangitoto each summer for her masters in Social Anthropology.

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

Carmel Sepuloni.

Message from the Alumni Relations Manager

We were delighted to have more than 1,000 alumni & friends attend the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner and Speaker Day at The University of Auckland in March. Subjects ranging from politics and developing sustainable prosperity to global economic governance, film-making and the much-loved tales of *Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Dairy* featured at the Speaker Day. You can now view video coverage of the Speaker Day presentations at www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz

Given the current global economic crisis many of our alumni may be considering their career options. Remember the University employs many of its alumni in academic and general staff positions. The staff vacancies website contains all current staff vacancies at the University, and is updated weekly. To search for job opportunities visit: www.opportunities.auckland.ac.nz

We currently publish *Ingenio* magazine twice a year and it is mailed out to a database of around 100,000. About 5,000 alumni receive an electronic version. If you would prefer to be environmentally friendly and receive the magazine electronically instead of in hard copy please visit: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update

Our @auckland newsletter contains relevant information on the latest University news, research, events, benefits and services. If you would like to receive this monthly e-update please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update and provide us with your current email address.

Live well!

Amanda Lyne
Alumni Relations Manager

CONNECTING
& CELEBRATING
ALUMNI

Volunteer alumni co-ordinators and alumni clubs

We are working with a number of our international and nationally-based Volunteer Alumni Co-ordinators (VACs) to setup and run their own alumni clubs. These clubs will provide informal and inexpensive social networking and professional development opportunities for alumni and friends, particularly those overseas who wish to maintain a link to Aotearoa and the University.

We currently have 28 VACs around the globe (listed on the next page), who act as a main point of contact for alumni living in a local region. We have recently developed an Alumni Clubs Handbook and Events Guide, which outlines the procedures for becoming a VAC, how to start-up or rebuild a University of Auckland alumni club, while offering practical advice for alumni wishing to further serve their alumni community and alma mater. If you would like to receive a copy of this handbook for more information on volunteering please contact Sarah Crosswell at alumni@auckland.ac.nz

Alumni survey report

In October and November 2008, all 46,000 of our alumni community for whom we hold an email address, received an email from Colmar Brunton inviting them to complete a 15-minute electronic survey on The University of Auckland's Alumni Relations Office. Some 5,531 of you responded, which is a higher than usual response rate for this type of survey. The survey aimed to gather feedback on our core services so that we can improve them and provide you with better ways to connect with each other and with the University.

The results received have been collated and are being analysed and will be used to inform our strategic priorities for the future. A more detailed report will be included in the next edition of *Ingenio* but I would like to thank all those who participated in this research project. Your support and feedback are highly valued and warmly received.

Congratulations to alumna, Leesa Russell, on winning the Apple iPhone draw.

Leesa graduated with a BA in Sociology (Minor in Philosophy), and achieved a MA in Sociology (while working as a Research Assistant for the Cardiovascular Research Laboratory at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences). She currently works as Research Ethics Coordinator at the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

Postgraduate Information Week

With the job market tightening now may be a good time for local alumni to consider further professional development. The University is holding a Postgraduate Information Week in Auckland from 18-22 May which will enable you to visit your faculty of interest for information sessions, display presentations and to discuss your research or study interests with postgraduate advisers and current students. You need to register to attend so please visit www.auckland.ac.nz/postgradweek for further information.

Rising Dragons, Soaring Bananas International Conference, 18-19 July, Auckland

The University of Auckland is once again proud to support the New Zealand Chinese Association Auckland Inc's conference which has been organised in association with the International Society for Studies of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO). "Rising Dragon, Soaring Bananas" celebrates the journeys, stories and identities of high-profile New Zealand and overseas born Chinese. Breakout sessions will draw on experiences of Chinese communities across the globe. The venue is The University of Auckland Business School, Owen G Glenn Building. Speakers include: Robyn Wong, Mai Chen, Ron Sang and Jock Phillips. Please visit www.goingbananas.org.nz for further information and to register for the conference.

Regency Duty Free

The Alumni Relations Office (ARO) has had a lot of requests from alumni wanting a replacement Regency Duty Free Discount Card. Unfortunately Regency Duty Free has lost out at Auckland Airport as second duty-free provider (DFS Galleria has been retained) to the Melbourne-based James Richardson Group. The ARO is still in negotiations with Regency Duty Free and hope to be able to offer a new duty-free discount card in the near future to alumni with a provider. Regency will retain a retail presence at Auckland Airport until August 2009.

From left: John Taylor, Director of External Relations, Gordon Nicholls, Bill Taylor and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon. Image: Kathryn Robinson.

First Science PhDs return to campus

"We learnt to climb out of an upper level window of the Chemistry laboratories in Old Choral Hall, then traverse along the window ledges to the office/lab window of our superviser Dr [later Professor] I.H. Briggs; we devised a technique to open the window so we could get access to needed equipment."

Such are the memories of alumni Gordon Nicholls (BSc 1946, MSc 1947, PhD Chemistry 1949) and Bill Taylor (MSc 1946, PhD Chemistry 1948) who made a special visit to the City Campus at the end of January. The two scientists began studying at Auckland University College in the 1940s during the Second World War.

They remember "the gas pressure was lousy during and just after the war" so they'd often wait until everyone had gone home and cooked their dinner before there was enough gas pressure for their experimental work. "But for that we needed access to Briggs's lab". The unorthodox night forays were fruitful in that Briggs without comment began leaving his door unlocked.

Both Bill and Gordon, along with fellow student and later renowned New Zealand cot death campaigner, Dr Jim Sprott (BSc 1944, MSc 1947, PhD 1949), were the first Science PhDs from Auckland University College after the degree of Doctor of Philosophy had been reintroduced around the end of the Second World War.

Bill, who is now 86, went overseas soon after completing his degree and worked as a research associate of Professor Vladimir Prelog in Zurich. He has since spent most of his career working on the chemistry of natural products in the United States based in New Jersey at Ciba (Novartis). He has now retired to Radford in the Appalachian Mountains.

Gordon has also had a prestigious career. In 1949 he became a US Public Health Service, National Cancer Institute, post-doctoral fellow at the University of Rochester, New York, and then in 1953-54 he was a research associate of Dr J.W. Cornforth at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), in Mill Hill, London. There Gordon and his associates anti-tubercular research led to the substance now called Macrocyclon. He returned to Auckland to research work with New Zealand Forest Products and in 1985 in recognition of his research publications he was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Science at his alma mater. Gordon's three daughters each have University of Auckland degrees in Science. He now lives in Auckland and maintains links with the University.

Interestingly both men's early mentors, Cornforth and Prelog, jointly won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1975.

Up coming Alumni & Friends events for 2009

Seoul (Korea) Alumni & Friends reception (VAC event) ..... Friday 22 May
San Francisco Alumni & Friends reception ..... Tuesday 23 June
Los Angeles Alumni & Friends reception ..... Wednesday 24 June
Tauranga Alumni & Friends reception ..... Wednesday 5 August
Hamilton Alumni & Friends reception ..... Thursday 15 October
Auckland (Golden Graduates) function ..... Wednesday 21 October
Christchurch Alumni & Friends reception ..... Friday 6 November

International alumni network

If you live in or near any of the areas below and would like to be involved with local alumni, we encourage you to make contact with your Volunteer Alumni Co-ordinator.

*There will be positions for VACs opening up in Jakarta (Indonesia), San Francisco and Shanghai. If you would like to put yourself forward for any of these positions, please contact Sarah Crosswell with your CV at alumni@auckland.ac.nz

Australia
Brisbane – Allanah Johnston
a.johnston@business.uq.edu.au
Melbourne – Rupert Saint
rupert.saint@bigpond.com
Perth – Anne Morrell, anne@sgc.com.au
Sydney – George Barker, BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au
Regan van Berlo, rvb@karaka.com.au

Canada
Calgary – Allison Hall, allisonhall77@hotmail.com
Vancouver – Nigel Toy, nrltoy@stgeorges.bc.ca

China
Beijing – Vivian (Yang) Jiao, vivianny@gmail.com
Joy (Fengxin) Ding, dingfengxin@bfsu.edu.cn
Chengdu – Hua Xiang, xianghua@swufe.edu.cn
Hong Kong – Raymond Tam
tmkraymond@yahoo.com.hk
Shanghai* – Jessie (Li Jun) Lin, lijunlin908@msn.com

Europe
Germany – Philipp Schuster
philippschuster@hotmail.com
Scandinavia – Duncan Lithgow
duncan@lithgow-schmidt.dk
Belgium – Ken Bauer, eualumni@skynet.be
Ken also welcomes contact from alumni in Europe where there is no VAC in their area.

India
Chandigarh – Rahul Gautam
rahul.gautam@idp.com

Indonesia
Jakarta* – John Wishart, jwishart@jisedu.or.id

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

Japan
Tokyo – Simon Hollander, nzhikozaemon@yahoo.co.jp

Korea
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Malaysia
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Singapore
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Texas – Jyoti Maisuria, j.maisuria@gmail.com
Washington, DC – Ruby Manukia
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Primary matters – Goodfellow Unit turns 30

When the University Grants Committee turned down a proposal from the then Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Medicine, Cam Maclaurin, because it didn't fit their funding remit, he put it to one side. But he didn't forget it.

What Dr Maclaurin had proposed was a continuing education programme for Auckland general practitioners, led by GPs for GPs, similar to a successful model he had seen in Canada.

Support, when it came, was from an unexpected source - his cousin Douglas Goodfellow who was also a patient of his. It was during a doctor-patient session that Douglas mentioned he was looking for a suitable way to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Amalgamated Dairies, the firm his father Sir William Goodfellow had founded. Dr Maclaurin told him about the idea he had put before the University a couple of years earlier. It was a perfect fit.

"Douglas loved the idea of doing something for GPs," says Professor Ross McCormick, director of the Goodfellow Unit from 1998 until 2008. "He is a man capable of seeing issues very clearly. He saw that people need the services of a GP long before they need high tech medicine."

Douglas Goodfellow agreed to fund a Sir William Goodfellow Directorship for the proposed unit, if the University accepted the idea. It did; and in 1978 the first director was appointed.

"Dr Philip Barham was a very experienced GP from Dargaville and a brilliant appointment, even if I say so myself," Dr Maclaurin says with a smile. "He had exactly the right characteristics to commend the programme to his peers. During his first year Phil went around GPs in Auckland and Northland to find out what would help them. From that he designed a programme of activities, meetings and discussion groups to help practising GPs keep up to date and up-skilled. There was not much ongoing training for GPs then."

In its first years the unit consisted of Dr Barham and his PA, Ina Hamilton; but gradually more staff were co-opted. Many were GPs who worked unpaid to support the sole provider of quality face-to-face continuing medical education for the region's GPs. At weekend symposia it was not unusual to have 150-plus GPs in attendance. By the end of the 1980s the unit was moving into distance education, an innovation for the University, offering diplomas in geriatrics, accident and medical care, and sports medicine. It had also begun to take on contracts, such as a Northland rural practitioner education contract and the long lasting TADS (Training and Development Services) contract.

As the unit's scope expanded, practice nurses, Māori and Pacific nation health workers and pharmacists registered for professional development courses and postgraduate studies. And with the introduction of videos, email, video conferencing, internet discussion groups, and CD ROMs, the student spread reached as far as the islands of Palau and Yap in Micronesia.

In 2008 and 2009, the unit had to limit numbers to the annual Goodfellow Symposium to 500 when demand exceeded the hotel venue's capacity. At this year's symposium they signed up the two thousandth member of the website's Goodfellow Club. The unit's website contains case studies, research, study material and quizzes, and is known for the innovative way it presents information and learning programmes.

As other groups and organisations have moved into some of the unit's original course areas, its directors have kept initiating and innovating in response to need. The current director and holder of the Goodfellow chair of general practice, Peter Huggard, is keen to take the unit into the area around "wellness" and "well being". There were workshops last year and at this year's symposium poet and GP Glen Colquhoun took two hugely successful creative writing workshops.

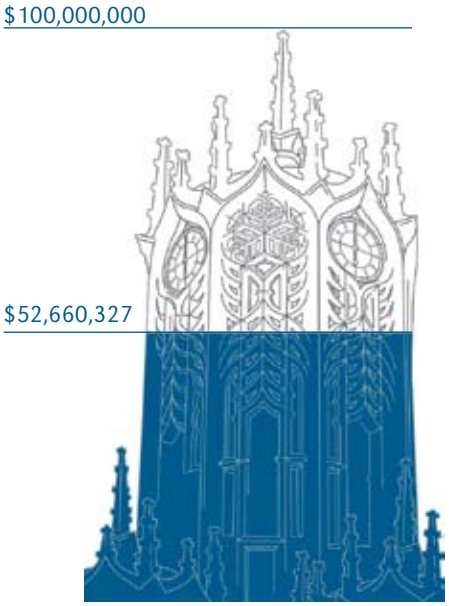
Today the Goodfellow Unit sits within the Department of General Practice and is housed at the School of Population Health on the Tamaki Campus. It works closely with the Faculties of Medical and Health Sciences and with Education. It also has a special relationship with Mercy Hospice as part of the longest-running palliative care education programme in the country. It operates now under a tripartite board of The University of Auckland, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the Goodfellow Foundation.

Bruce Goodfellow says that his father, Douglas, knew the Goodfellow Unit would grow. "The Goodfellow Unit today owes a great deal to all those who have contributed over the years to making it such a successful operation in primary health care," says Bruce "It is well established and very obviously capable of significant achievement in the future."

The Goodfellow relationship with the unit and its staff is more than as a provider of funding and all that that enables. "The Goodfellow family are valued by the director for far more than their financial support," says Professor McCormick. "The mentoring and personal support they gave, I will value for the rest of my life." **Louise Callan**

From left: Cam Maclaurin, Ross MacCormick, Peter Huggard and Bruce Goodfellow at the 30th birthday celebrations.

Campaign passes half way mark



Attainment for the University's "Leading the Way" Fundraising Campaign has reached $52,660,327, more than half-way towards the target of $100 million.

The Campaign was publicly launched last November (see the Spring 2008 *Ingenio*), with an impressive $48 million already raised in gifts and pledges prior to the official launch event. Further contributions over the past few months have seen the total increase by more than $4 million.

Included in the new figure are gifts and pledges from individuals, families and trusts in support of a wide variety of specific projects or research areas, often reflecting an area of interest for the donor or sometimes made in memory of a close relative. Most of these fall under the Campaign's five themes, the areas of strength in which the University is focusing its efforts: the health of our nation; the development of our children; the growth of our economy; the future of our cities; and the expression of who we are.

Health-related research in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences has received strong support with recent gifts and pledges for research into lymphoma and leukaemia, psychology, optometry, biomedical research or medical research.

The Liggins Institute, which plays a key role in the "development of our children" theme, received a donation to provide scholarships for students from low decile schools to attend the Liggins Education Network for Science (LENS) residential summer programme in biomedical science. Other examples of recent gifts include those to help support the Business School, and scholarships in Chinese studies and for the support of disabled students at the University.

Supporting "baby docs"

Nurturing our best people is central to the University's vision and the "Leading the Way" Campaign. Sometimes this support comes via a gift that can be enormously rewarding for both the donor and the recipient, with significant benefits to the wider community.

Spending two months on a sixth year Medical School elective in Vanuatu, supported by a Dr Newton Wickham CBE Elective Scholarship In Pacific Island Health, allowed Dr Ciaran Thrush to work in a clinical environment with limited resources. He returned to New Zealand with a greater sense of confidence in his clinical abilities and in his ability to adapt to different environments and challenges.

He said the community in Vanuatu embraced the medical students – or "Baby Docs" as they called them – and the students were often involved in running the emergency department, helping in the wards and operating theatres and running the hospital.

After retiring from more than 40 years in the dentistry profession, Dr Wickham, better known as "Wicky", volunteered his professional skills to benefit communities in developing countries in the South Pacific. This led him to establish a scholarship to enable University of Auckland medical students to spend some of their practical training time in countries that could most benefit. He believes that by making an endowment gift, he can contribute in a lasting way and inspire an altruistic orientation in others.

"I hope the scholarship recipients may some day be able to help in the way I have been fortunate enough to," says Wicky.

Helen Borne

Athletic club celebrates 100 years

Below: Auckland University College Athletic Club's Harrier Team, 1955. From top left: Terry Russell, Don Smith, Brian Davis, Warren Travers. Bottom: Peter Aimer, Graham Robinson.

When the first students founded the Auckland University College's Amateur Athletic Club (AUCAAC) they had, in the words of secretary N.R.W. Thomas (LLB 1920), two purposes: "to send an efficient team to compete at the annual [universities] tournament and to promote a social life among college students".

On the first count the fledgling club failed miserably regularly coming home with the tournament wooden spoon prompting reports like that in *Kiwi* magazine in July 1923: "Auckland with six points strengthened their permanent claim to the wooden spoon."

On the second count, the club excelled becoming famous in its early years for the dances put on by the Ladies Committee – who incidentally weren't allowed to become athletes until the 1930s probably because of attitudes like the following written in a letter to *Craccum*, May 10, 1932: "To my mind the athletic woman is about as far from the ideal as she could be. She develops arms and legs which are abnormal and repulsive, her speech is vulgar and her outlook is comparable to any young office girl ... this really explains why so many men drink at the Tournament Ball there is so little to keep them sober."

The First World War put a temporary stop to AUCAAC's social activities. Of 91 club members, 73 volunteered to go to the First World War, 35 becoming officers. Among them was alumnus Ormond Burton (MA 1921) who was a sergeant, and in spite of being wounded, led his "platoon with undiminished dash" winning the Military Medal. Ironically during the Second World War, Burton went on to become a renowned conscientious objector, imprisoned four times.

Some 15 members of the AUCAAC were killed during the First World War and many more were wounded which probably contributed to it languishing until 1920 when the first truly formidable New Zealand athlete joined its ranks. This was Reginald Mafeking Webber who won the tournament mile in 1920, 21 and 22 and the three mile in 1920, 21, 22 and 23. In addition Webber was national and Australian champion and described as "one of the most brilliant athletes New Zealand has ever produced".

Today, having just celebrated its 100th birthday, the club can proudly look back on many, many years of athletic prowess, and despite a familiarity with the annual tournament's wooden spoon, enjoy the fact that many of New Zealand's famous athletes have circled in its orbit.

In 1931 for example, club member Geoff Sceats was New Zealand high jump champion; in 1934 alumnus and international athlete, Harold Brainsby (BA 1934, Dip Journ 1938, LLB 1938) won the bronze medal in the triple jump at the British Empire Games in London.

One of the club's most famous athletes, named club athlete of the century in 1983, was John Macfarlane Holland known as "Dutch". He competed in the 400 metre hurdles in the 1948 London Olympics and won a bronze medal at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and a silver at the 1950 Empire Games held in Auckland.

Three other club members represented their country at the 1950 Auckland Empire Games: Colin Kay, a former mayor of Auckland and University Council member 1982-3, Emeritus Professor of Physiology, Jack Sinclair and alumnus John Myles (BA 1958; MA 1961).

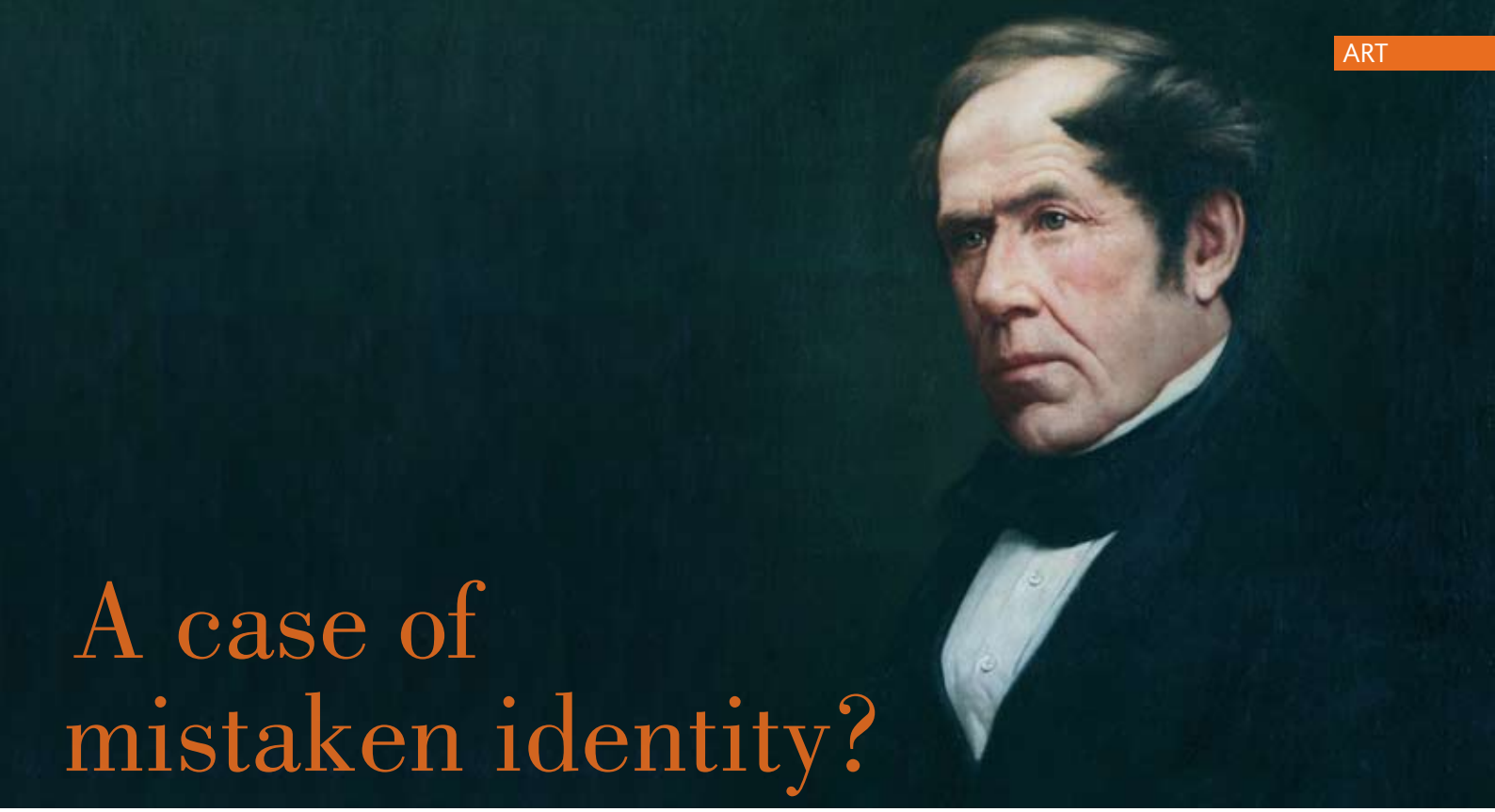
Another famous club member (now a life member) is long distance runner Dick Quax, who was a silver medallist in the 5,000 metres at the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

In 1931 a separate harrier section of the club was formed. This later joined the main club and in the 1980s the AUCAAC morphed into the Auckland University Track Club (AUTC).

Today the AUTC is a club of veterans with about 30-odd members who compete at national level in road and cross country events. It is headed up by president and Emeritus Professor of English, Don Smith (BA 1955, MA 1956) who ran the 880 yards at the 1958 Cardiff Empire Games and the same again at the 1960 Olympic Games where Peter Snell won the gold medal in the 800 metres.

Don joined the club in 1952 and though he doesn't run now, he says his motivation for being a member is the same: "You join because you love running."

See www.sportsground.co.nz/autc



A case of mistaken identity?

In the Spring 2008 issue of *Ingenio* (page 38), art historian Dr Erin Griffey recounted that in 1953 a painted portrait of a man, signed by artist Louis John Steele in 1893, was noticed in a shop in Auckland. Archie Fisher, Head of the Elam School of Art from 1924 to 1959, decided that it was a youthful portrait of Sir Maurice O'Rorke, copied by Steele in 1893 from an official portrait photograph; and accordingly the Auckland University College Council paid 10 guineas (10 pounds and 10 shillings) to acquire it for the University Art Collection.

When Dr Garry Tee from the Faculty of Science saw the article, he immediately recognised the portrait as the pioneer botanist Dr Andrew Sinclair (1794-1861), copied from the official portrait photograph of Sinclair which he had published in *The University of Auckland News* (March 1980), in his article on "Charles Darwin's correspondents in New Zealand". That photograph shows Sinclair aged about 55. It was printed in Peter Newton's book *Mesopotamia Station: A survey of the first hundred years*, published by The Timaru Herald Co Ltd, 1960.

Born in 1794 at Paisley (in Scotland) to a very poor family Andrew Sinclair graduated MD in 1818 from Edinburgh University and became a surgeon in the Royal Navy, with intense interest in natural history especially botany. He gathered natural history specimens at many places around the world (including the Bay of Islands in 1841, with the naval surgeon Dr Joseph Dalton Hooker and the missionary printer William Colenso), and he gave those collections to the British Museum and to Kew Gardens. Consequently, many plants became named after Dr Andrew Sinclair, including 16 plants in New Zealand.

In 1843 Dr Sinclair was the surgeon on a convict ship transporting convicts to Van Diemen's Land (later called Tasmania), after which he went to Sydney. Captain Robert FitzRoy had been appointed as Governor of New Zealand in succession to Captain William Hobson, and in Sydney en route to New Zealand he met Sinclair and they became close friends. FitzRoy realised that he would need some assistance in governing, and he persuaded Sinclair to accept an appointment as Colonial Secretary. Consequently, from 1844 to 1856 the government of New Zealand, under the Governor, consisted essentially of Dr Andrew Sinclair.

> **"Many plants became named after Dr Andrew Sinclair, including 16 plants in New Zealand."**

When Dr Andrew Sinclair's brother died, his widow and her children: Andrew Sinclair (1833?-1923), Jessie Sinclair and Agnes Sinclair (1826-1884) joined Dr Andrew Sinclair in Auckland in 1852. His two nieces assisted him with organising his collections, and his nephew (Andrew Sinclair the younger) became Auckland's Chief Surveyor from 1856 to 1892.

In 1856 constitutional changes abolished the post of Colonial Secretary; and so Dr Sinclair retired willingly at the age of 62 and went to England where he was elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society. At the beginning of 1858 he returned to New Zealand to continue botanising. In 1861, aged 66, he botanised in the Southern Alps with Julius Haast, reaching Mesopotamia Station which had been founded a year previously by Samuel Butler. Sinclair tried to ford the Rangitata River, and drowned. His gravestone is preserved at Mesopotamia while Haast named a mountain, a river and a mountain range after his friend Sinclair. The shortest street in Devonport is named after him too.

At Auckland in 1867 Dr Sinclair's niece Agnes Sinclair (1826-1884) married Thomas Bannatyne Gillies (1828-1889), a 38-year-old widower with four small children. He was a prominent politician, Supreme Court judge, founder of the Auckland Institute, and a founding member (in 1882) of the Council of Auckland University College.

Thomas and Agnes Gillies had two sons. In 1884 Agnes died, and Thomas founded the Gillies Scholarship in physics and chemistry (in honour of his wife) and the Sinclair Scholarship in botany and zoology (in honour of her uncle).

The Steele portrait, dated 1893, dates to after Dr Sinclair's own death and that of his niece. Presumably a relative of Sinclair commissioned it, and provided Steele with the photograph. The most plausible candidate is his nephew Andrew Sinclair (the younger), who had just retired after 36 years as Auckland's Chief Surveyor.

Dr Garry Tee and Dr Erin Griffey

In brief

"Everyone Speaks English, Right?" A Cross-Cultural Postmodern Perspective on Language in Business, published by Saarbrücken: VDM Verlag Dr. Müller. Alumna Karin Speedy (BA 1992, MA 1994, PhD 2003) uses Jean Baudrillard's theory of the cyclic superposition of the singular, universal and global as a framework and applies it to the case of New Zealand-French business communications questioning the beliefs underpinning Anglophone reliance on English in the postmodern business world. Examining historical shifts in attitudes to language, it argues that the universal ideals of unity and openness popularly associated with globalisation are myths.

Church and State in the Post-Colonial Era: The Anglican Church and the Constitution in New Zealand, published by Polygraphia. Alumnus Noel Cox (LLB 1981, LLM 1995, PhD 2001, MTheol 2008) explores aspects of the basis of the legal authority of the Church, as a tool in exploring the relationship of church and State in a post-colonial world. It takes as its particular example the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, but examines issues and concepts which have a much broader, indeed universal, relevance.

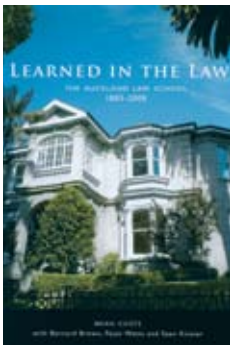
Seen this century: 100 Contemporary, New Zealand Artists A COLLECTORS' GUIDE, published by Random House. Alumnus Warwick Brown (LLB 1964) has come up with an up-to-the-minute list of the 100 "ones [artists] to watch" in New Zealand's art scene. He gives the collector an invaluable tool by highlighting who is on the rise, who will become the next thing and whose work should be bought now before prices skyrocket.

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

The Dragon and the Taniwha

How have two very different marginalised groups in New Zealand society – Māori and Chinese – interacted over the last 150 years? *The Dragon and the Taniwha: Māori and Chinese in New Zealand*, published by Auckland University Press and edited by alumna and associate professor of Asian Studies, Manying Ip (MA 1978, PhD 1983), looks at the relationship between the tangata whenua and the country's earliest and largest non-European immigrant group for the first time.

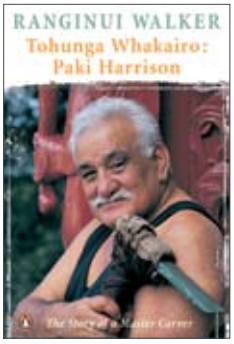
Do Māori resent Chinese immigrants? Do Chinese New Zealanders understand the role of the tangata whenua? Contributors tackle such questions from many angles. They analyse how Chinese have been featured in Māori newspapers and on contemporary Māori television and how the Chinese media portray Māori; they examine the changing demography of the Chinese and Māori populations and they assess how Māori and Chinese are represented in New Zealand literature.



Learned in the Law

From modest beginnings in 1883 when Judge Seth Smith was appointed a part-time lecturer in Law, the Auckland Law School has developed into one of the leading law schools in the Southern Hemisphere, the largest in New Zealand, and has acquired an international reputation.

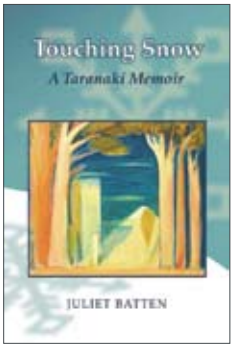
Drawing on University, faculty and departmental records and other sources, *Learned in the Law: The Auckland Law School 1883-2008*, published by the Legal Research Foundation, is mostly written by Emeritus Professor Brian Coote (LLM 1954). Topics covered include controversies over the introduction of full-time study, Law School governance and the deanship, and whether the Law School should have to take over the teaching of non-lawyers. There are accounts of such things as claims for defamation, student pranks, and the assertion by a judge that legal executives were of more use than Law School graduates.



Tohunga Whakairo

Paki Harrison was widely regarded as New Zealand's greatest master carver, a man with a huge reputation as a leading tohunga of the art form. Named as one of New Zealand's Icon Artists in 2005, he was responsible for carving ten of the most important new North Island meeting houses in recent years, in particular the outstanding Tane-nui-a-Rangi house at The University of Auckland Marae. He also taught, researched and wrote extensively on the art of the tohunga whakairo and possessed immense knowledge about the traditional arts of the carver.

In this major biography, published by Penguin Books, alumnus and Emeritus Professor of Māori Studies, Ranginui Walker (BA 1962, MA 1966, PhD 1970) traces Paki Harrison's life and work.



Touching snow

Set in Taranaki in the 1940s and 50s, *Touching snow: A Taranaki Memoir*, published by Ishtar Books, vividly evokes rural New Zealand, the era of the Tangiwai disaster, Hillary's ascent of Everest, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth and the entry of the first Māori teachers into mainstream schools. Author alumna Juliet Batten (BA 1964, MA 1967, PhD 1969) is a teacher, artist and psychotherapist and is well known for her books on personal growth, rituals and the seasons.

Men's Common Room Circular

Since its establishment 75 years ago, *Craccum* has been called everything from a "smutty rag" to a satirical commentary on student preoccupations. Despite this, the magazine has the largest circulation of any student magazine in New Zealand, with about 10,000 copies a week, and is renowned as the challenger of mainstream media.

So what is *Craccum*'s age-old secret to raising eyebrows?

The first issue of *Craccum* (whose name is a jumbled acronym of Auckland University College Men's Common Room Circular) was published on 10 March 1927 and was a far cry from today's glossy pages and coarse language. The early editions of *Craccum* had all the qualities of a well-presented notice-board: club and societies' announcements, as well as the then Auckland University College's students' achievements. The editors sprinkled the articles with expressions like "petticoat government", "serfdom" and "student merriment". In short, the publication was a polite commentary on wholesome student activity.

However, the radical change of the political climate during the 1960s and 1970s saw *Craccum* march to the forefront of controversy and criticism. Progressive articles on such themes as the "Pope on the Pill" and "The facts about Lesbianism" sat alongside more political stories about the cold war, the nuclear arms race and the US civil rights movement. *Craccum* had left its student rag days behind and moved into the more sophisticated echelons of journalism. On the one hand, the magazine took a strong stance in supporting the liberal issues of the period while on the other hand, the climate of the times demanded people, and journalists alike, pick a side. *Craccum* was not the only publication to echo the slogans of the civil rights movement.

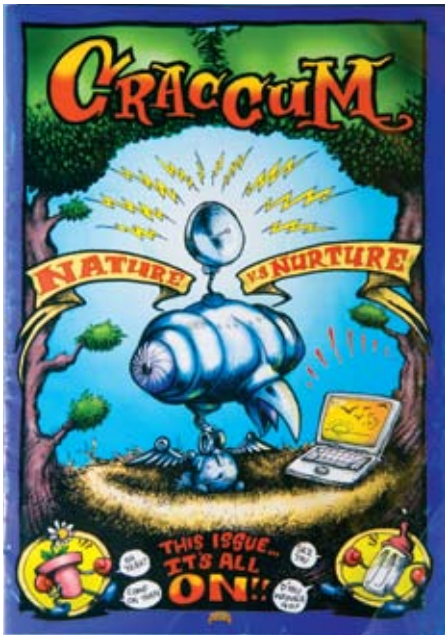
The student population of the 1960s and 1970s was a much more radical and politically active version of the left-wing enthusiasts we have on campus today. This supports the most basic ingredients for *Craccum's* success: the editors have to keep it current and relevant to the student body of the time.

Although recent years may not have been as rich in social movements as they were in the 1960s and 1970s, *Craccum* stills finds a way to stimulate controversy with articles like "*Craccum* rates the rape drugs" (2002) – a guide to date rape drugs – and "Suicide and how to do it" (2000). Today the mainstream media is much more accepting of the ideas behind the articles, although still critical of *Craccum*'s approach. Whether outraged or inspired by its content, one notes the cleverness with which the pieces are written, aiming to break the silence of taboo topics.

Today with a diverse student population numbering some 38,500 students, *Craccum's* content has to cover a lot of ground in order to bring in a bigger crowd.

Co-editors for 2009, Matthew Harnett and Valentine Watkins, have already stepped up to the challenge of sustaining *Craccum's* reputation for controversy with stories like "Should We Legalise Incest" (2009) along with student-relevant stories like "A Student Recession" (2009). As Matthew points out, the only way to evaluate *Craccum's* success is to check "how many *Craccums* are left in the box" after distribution each week.

Perhaps *Craccum*'s continued success is a result of student input which keeps it fresh and edgy. *Craccum* welcomes contributions from students ranging from spending time in the office checking grammar to writing articles. Since AUSA became voluntary for students to join, the funding has dropped dramatically, and although AUSA still maintains *Craccum* on a basic level, the magazine has to fend for itself financially in all other aspects. Hence, there are only four paid



positions this year and around 20 dedicated volunteers who contribute on a regular basis. Bearing in mind that *Craccum* cannot afford to pay any of the volunteers, Matthew Harnett estimates that about 100 students will "put something into the magazine" this year.

After decades of informing the students about how best to get involved, advising the first-years what to look forward to during Orientation Week and discussing sensitive political issues, *Craccum* has achieved the right balance between student notices and controversy. This year, Matthew and Valentine will not only entertain students with quirky stories from around campus but will also continue to bridge the gap between the mainstream media and the readers of *Craccum*.

Tamara Lobzina (BA 2009)

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