Kia ora, Tālofa lava, Ni sa bula vinaka, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālō e lelei, Fakatālofa lahi atu, Malo ni, Mauri, and warm Māori and Pacific greetings to you all.

As Dean of this outstanding faculty I would like to welcome you. Located in the heart of Auckland, Tamaki Makaurau, we are enriched by the presence of Ngāti Whātu Orākei, the people of this place on whose land we stand.

We are a faculty that stands tall among our international peers and are consistently ranked among the world’s top 50 arts faculties by the QS World University Rankings. We take great pride in our comprehensive study offerings, the excellence of our research, and the inclusive environment we provide for our diverse community of students and staff.

We strongly believe in the value of Māori and Pacific knowledges and identities, and are equally proud of the global range of topics that our scholars study. We appreciate the qualities and values each student brings to us during their time here. Our students can succeed here as themselves, being true to their values and beliefs, within our welcoming and supportive environment.

Thank you for exploring the opportunities we can offer you. I very much look forward to welcoming you as a student to our faculty.

Professor Robert Greenberg
DEAN OF ARTS

Tui, tui, tui tuia.
Tuia i runga
Tuia raro
Tuia i waho
Tuia i roto
Tuia i te here tangata.

Bind, bind, bind us together.
May it be woven above,
Enmeshed below,
Entwined outside.
And within our very beings,
Interlaced by threads of
human love.

Welcome to TUITUI!

Tuitui contains stories of our successful Māori and Pacific students. We share these stories to show that you as Māori and Pacific students and your whānau and ainga are welcome here. This is a place where Māori and Pacific students not only survive, but thrive. As our ancestors showed their courage and skill as they journeyed across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa / The Pacific, so we welcome you here as you continue on your educational journey.

We offer a wide range of support for you as a Māori or Pacific student as you study and excel with us. This ranges from Tūkana community of learning through to Arts+ peer support through to Unibound to support you as you transition into university life and study. We also provide various forms of financial support.

We recognise that we are in Aotearoa and the Pacific in 2019. As such, we are committed to embedding Māori and Pacific values into the entire life of our faculty. This means that the gifts and knowledge and strengths that you bring as Māori and Pacific students into the classroom and into our faculty life are welcomed and incorporated, alongside the highest levels of global knowledge that our academics excel in.

And when you graduate, you will be in demand. A Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Auckland will enable you to engage with a rapidly changing society, equipping you with a range of global skills and knowledge that are in high demand from employers. From central and local government through to private enterprise, from media companies through to iwi and community organisations, all want what our graduates have to offer. You can build a career, and serve your people.

Tuitui means to bind together. So come, be bound together with knowledge and skill and strength.

Tui, tui, tui tuia!

Dr Hirini Kaa
KAIARAHI, FACULTY OF ARTS
"Upon entering my mother’s village stands a 5.2 metre stone structure, shaped like a door, called Ha’amonga ‘a Maui. In Tongan, to ha’amoa is to carry or support. The side rocks are ha’amoa or supporting the middle beam. The middle beam has a compass that allowed my ancestors to tell the long days from the short days. This stone structure was a measuring tool, it was an embodiment of their knowledge, it was an embodiment of my education and it was an encompassment of my ancestral success. This knowledge of the world that my ancestors were in was passed down to the next generation; it was instilled in my mother, which was passed down to her kids and, now, to her grandchildren.

"My father is Manase Tapueluelu from Neiafu and Vaimalo, Vava’u. My mother is Tupou Kaufononga Tapueluelu from Niutoua, Kolonga, Tatakamotonga and ‘Eueiki, Tongatapu. I was born and raised in New Zealand, more specifically, South Auckland, where I still reside."

"The search for education was the main reason my parents decided to move to New Zealand – to allow me and my siblings a chance at education beyond what they had. For my parents, an education equated success. My parents would sacrifice financial help from us kids by saying, "just study and we’ll look after everything you need", and they did.

"School started for me at home, where my mother tongue was Tongan. Our church established a Tongan immersion school; my mother wanted me to be a part of that. Coming from a Tongan Christian family, church life is huge. From Sunday school, to youth group, to band, to choir, to evangelism group, to women’s group, every group you name, I was a part of. Church plays a big part in my life and the people I congregate with are a crucial support system, especially my peers.

"Despite not having much money, my family’s support and ‘ofa (love) transcended that lack of money, because it was ingrained in me that there are people that are in worse conditions than I was. My motivation to study was definitely my family. It’s my family and community’s prayers and ongoing encouragement that pushes me in my studies."

"Success for me goes beyond financial wealth, it is about being able to give back to the communities I come from. For me, being successful is being able to navigate living in the diaspora as a Tongan and going beyond the expectations, stereotypes and labels that exist. It is about stepping beyond the limitations and boundaries others have boxed me into.

"My advice to school leavers who are thinking about studying at the University of Auckland would be to do it! Don’t ever think you are not good enough, because you are. You represent a lineage of hard working people who have helped you get to where you are now; it is a matter of taking the baton and continuing your part of the journey, and then other students will come in after you. Lead in the knowledge that is flowing through your veins, speak in your silence and offer the knowledge that is locked up in your heart. So, do it, and go for GOLD!"

Kesaia Tapueluelu is studying towards a Master of Theology.
Dion Teina Westrupp

"Tēnā koutou katoa,
Nō te tairāwhiti whānui a hau,
Ko Puketapu te Maunga,
Ko Te Arai te Awa,
Ko Takitimu te Waka,
Ko Whakatō te Marae,
Ko Ngati Maru te Hapū,
Ko Rongowhakaata te Iwi,
Ko Dion Teina Westrupp
tōku ingoa."

"My mother is from Australia,
she is Pākehā, and my dad is
from Gisborne. My grandparents
on my mother’s side are Pākehā
and Chinese. My koro on my
dad’s side is from Gisborne and
my nan is from Mahia.

"I first went to high school
in Australia and then moved
back to Gisborne Boys High.
The transition from school in
Australia to Gisborne was major,
but it was an experience that
I am forever grateful for and
appreciative of. If I didn’t go
to Gisborne Boys, I don’t think
I would have ended up at the
University of Auckland.

"I attended a trip in year 13
for Māori students from outside
of Auckland. It exposed me to
life at the University of Auckland
and convinced me that this was
where I felt that I needed to be."

"Through all of this,
I have reconnected with
whānau, met
new whānau, improved academically,
and grown my knowledge of
tikanga Māori, Kapa Haka and te reo Māori.
I am an active member
of both Te Rākau Tūrū (the Māori Law Students Association)
and Ngā Tauira Māori (the Māori Students Association) here at uni. I am also
part of a senior kapa group that has had a major impact on my life."

"My hopes are that studying
at the University of Auckland will
equip me with the tools that will
be essential in giving back to my
whānau and te Ao Māori.

"I would advise school
leavers that studying at the
University of Auckland is not
a walk in the park, however,
it is all worth it in the end.
It will change your life."

Dion Teina Westrupp is studying
towards a Bachelor of Arts (Māori
Studies)/Bachelor of Laws.
Eden Tongia

“Kia orana and Fakaalofa lahi atu, my name is Eden Tongia and this is my educational story.”

“On my father’s side – my Pākehā side – it is considered the standard to go to university and finish with at least a BA. On my mother’s side – the Rarotongan, Niuean side – I was the first in our family to go to university. My mother was the first girl at her high school to finish a technical drawing paper with full marks, but unfortunately had to drop out of school to work full-time in order to support her family. A lot of the time it feels like the sacrifices made by earlier generations have enabled me to go on to fulfil my own potential.

“My parents were immensely proud that I’d got into university. It’s been incredibly important for me and it’s genuinely exposed me to so many experiences I never would have had otherwise. There have been occasions over the past few years – specifically around assignment time – where I’ve found myself second-guessing my path in life, but those moments always pass.

“A lecturer in my third year shoulder-tapped me to take on the role of a Tuākana mentor and I was immediately excited by the idea. As someone who struggled with my first two years of university life, it felt imperative that I do my best to try and catch other students who may possibly be quietly slipping through the cracks. It also presented me with an opportunity to try and reconnect with a side of myself I had always felt removed from. As a half-Pacific, half-Pākehā woman, you always feel like you have one leg in each world. It’s been great to figure out how to manage that balance, and being surrounded by the other Pacific mentors has helped me feel a lot more confident in my identity.”

“I intend on working in a museum environment once I leave university, so studying museum and gallery practices will hopefully help make that process a lot easier. Going into postgraduate studies should also help, as I’ve narrowed my studies considerably into the field I’m aiming for.

“If you’re thinking about studying at the University of Auckland, my advice would be to commit! Throughout high school I got accustomed to pulling last minute miracles and getting by. When you get to university, that doesn’t work so well anymore. Build a family for yourself here, if you can – it makes everything so much easier when you have a support system in place, and it can be integral to your success at times. Also, don't feel super pressured to have all your plans together and ready by the end of your first year – I’ve changed potential career paths a few times, and so has almost everyone else I’ve met. You’re still growing. You’ve got time.”

Eden Tongia is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Art History.
Miraneta Tafue Lemalu

“Talofa lava o lo’u igoa o Miraneta Tafue Lemalu. O le tala’iga lea o lo’u o laga fa’aalea’oa’onga.”

“My mum left her family in Samoa at the age of 16 and stayed with our uncle here in New Zealand, and my dad also left his family in Samoa at a young age to work and to send money back to his family and parents. I am truly blessed that my parents sacrificed a lot for me and my siblings. Their humble beginnings and all the sacrifices they have made have shaped who I am today.

“My educational journey was quite challenging when I was in high school and all I thought about was sports. I really loved playing netball and kilikiki (Samoan cricket) – this was basically the only reason why I loved going to school. It wasn’t until I injured myself that I realised that I needed to get my act together and look for a second option. I really loved helping people and my mum had always wanted me to be a doctor, which is why I took all the sciences at high school.

“When I first started at the University of Auckland I wanted to pursue the medical and health sciences pathway, I did not think that I would ever do a Bachelor of Arts (BA). But it was doing a Pacific Studies paper that led me on a journey of double majoring in Pacific Studies and Geography under the BA degree.”

“I became a Unibound mentor as it was my last semester as an undergraduate student and I wanted to give back to the preparatory foundation programmes that helped me get through when I left high school. I try to ensure that the students I mentor feel they are valuable in society, that they know that their stories and struggles are important and that they are enough to make changes in our Pasifika and Māori communities.

“Heading into my Honours in Pacific Studies, I have never felt so prepared and focussed. I hope that once I complete it I will push further and aim towards a Masters and then a PhD. I am very passionate about Pasifika health and ways to better improve access towards primary care services such as GP clinics for our Pasifika families. Growing up in Manurewa, the heart of South Auckland, I see first-hand the need to provide more equitable health services.”

“Success, to me, would be to better improve the health and wellbeing of Pasifika families. This has been my driving force throughout my studies. I believe this can be done by helping to educate our Pasifika communities on the health services that are available, and the ins and outs of the health system. I also believe in the importance of educating health professionals on the various cultures and values that make up Pasifika communities, as there needs to be cultural understanding in order for health services to benefit these communities.

“I know that it was on the shoulders of my ancestors, great grandparents, grandparents, parents, aunties and uncles that I have been able to push through all the struggles that have come my way on my academic journey. Now it is my time to offer my shoulder to the younger generation of the Pasifika community, to allow them to aspire to whatever they want to become in the future.”

E FOFO LAVA LE ALAMEA, ILE ALAMEA RESOLUTIONS ARE FORMULATED WITHIN PEOPLE

Miraneta Tafue Lemalu is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Pacific Studies.
Arts+
Arts+ connects you with a mentor within your Arts courses, from Orientation right through to your exams. Arts+ will be there for you from day one to help you transition into University and to support you in your studies. Your mentor will be at your first tutorial to help you get to know each other.
www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/arts-plus

Tuākana Arts
Tuākana Arts is the Māori and Pacific academic community in the Faculty of Arts. We’re here to help you through your journey at University, and to achieve your full academic potential. We offer wānanga, workshops, mentoring, and many other services for our teina. The principles of kanohi ki te kanohi and whakawhanaungatanga are vital to everything we do.
www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana

Unibound
If you are a Māori or Pacific school leaver, UniBound can prepare you for study at the University of Auckland.
www.unibound.ac.nz

Tertiary Foundation Certificate (TFC)
The TFC programme supports the University’s belief that anyone capable of studying at tertiary level should be given that opportunity. The major factors for your success in this programme are regular attendance, motivation and determination to maintain the necessary effort.
www.tfc.ac.nz

Useful web addresses
The Bachelor of Arts
www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ba
The Faculty of Arts homepage
www.arts.auckland.ac.nz
Māori students at the University
www.auckland.ac.nz/maori
Pacific students at the University
www.auckland.ac.nz/pacific
Entry requirements
www.auckland.ac.nz/admission
How to apply for admission
www.auckland.ac.nz/applynow
Fees and finances
www.auckland.ac.nz/fees
www.auckland.ac.nz/studentloansandallowances
Scholarships
www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships
Accommodation
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For frequently asked questions
www.auckland.ac.nz/askauckland
Arts graduate careers
www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/graduates

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"Tusitala"
teller of tales
that I never heard
till yesterday
born away
for another life

Today
the tale I tell
is my own
theirs yours
a way of seeking
some more
of Sāmoa
of my sacred centre

The tale I tell
will book its way
through tongued histories
timeless mysteries
sanctioned violence
spaces of silence
telling lives

"tala tusi"
tell the book
worded spirit of brown
in theory creativity
our sound made
renown

Associate Professor
Selina Tusitala Marsh,
Faculty of Arts,
University of Auckland