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Photo: Dr Julie Spicer, Senior Research Chemist and Project Leader at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre with colleague Dr Adam Patterson, biochemist and Senior Research Fellow.

HARD CELL

Auckland is a leading player in international cancer drug discovery

Pathway to university

Getting more Māori and Pacific students into tertiary education

Research business

Creating innovative money-spinners

Statistics senior lecturer Rachel Fewster left nothing to chance with her winning entry in the 2009 National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

“Something I love most about teaching my subject is to communicate an instinct for chance: how to predict the unpredictable,” says Dr Fewster. Her lively lectures draw on real-life examples such as “Do people look like their dogs?”

Computer scientist Paul Denny was this year’s winner, one of nine teachers recognised nationwide. He urges students to question each other as a way to make sure their knowledge sticks. “I identify barriers to learning and design interventions to break these down.”

University of Auckland teachers have been among the select group of winners every year since the Government set up the awards in 2002. “Outstanding teachers make a difference to the experience of students,” says Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor John Morrow. And, by chance, Paul Denny is the son of Bill, featured on our front cover.

CLASS ACT
Reach for the stars. Auckland Now. The University of Auckland is New Zealand’s largest and most comprehensive university. With 30,000 staff, it is also one of the country’s largest employers. Auckland Now showcases some of the contributions The University of Auckland makes to New Zealand and the international community through its teaching, research, and contract education.

In 2007, only 18 percent of Māori and 20 percent of Pacific students left secondary school with University Entrance (UE) compared with 64 percent of European/Pacific students. The University - New Zealand’s largest provider of degree education to Māori and Pacific communities - see to understand only Through the Starpath Project it is combining research with practical strategies to improve enrolments and raise achievement levels from these groups. "We must plant the seeds on the road to higher education as a platform for social and academic advancement; we need to ensure that young people in New Zealand have the opportunity to follow their passions," says Professor Rawyn Chadwick, Chairperson of the Starpath Board.

"Māori and Pacific students who pass UE have the same likelihood of going to university as other ethnic groups,” says Associate Professor Elizabeth McKinley, Director of Starpath, with Leanne Stewart and Titi Motusaga, Year 13 students at Massey High School – one of the Auckland secondary schools working with the Starpath Project. .

"At the very least, starry sky navigation is about educating students about their ancestors, their culture and their technology. We want to introduce businesses to the insights and ideas that come from understanding and applying that knowledge. As a general rule the Asian Tigers don’t have primary resources so they are eager to come out of this recession with products based on technological innovation. And The University of Auckland is very good at innovation.”

The Starpath Project aims to provide similar guidance to help more Māori and Pacific students into tertiary education. The first navigators to cross the Pacific followed the stars to reach their destination. The University of Auckland’s Starpath research project aims to provide similar guidance to help more Māori and Pacific students into tertiary education.

Through its Starpath Project, the University of Auckland is working with New Zealand businesses encouraging industries to link with tertiary education; enhancing the mentoring programmes the University already runs, and ensuring that all young people in New Zealand have the transition to University life and study.

The University of Auckland researchers have also found that intervention at primary school lifts achievement levels. With help from the University’s Wood Fisher Research Trust, Year 6 students from participating decile one schools who were lagging by two years in reading comprehension are now close to the national level.

A similar programme on the South West’s West Coast with a range of schools improved reading comprehension significantly above national levels, with Māori children performing as well as or better than other children in the age group. Using Starpath research the University is developing a Māori and Pacific recruitment strategy to make sure potential students are aware of the opportunities Auckland provides. This will enhance the mentoring programme the University already runs in schools with the Great Futures Foundation, and link the University for Māori and Pacific students as they make the transition to University life and study.

As well as working with New Zealand businesses, Uniservices has also formed alliances with businesses in China. As the University looks to new markets to grow the new University for Māori and Pacific students significantly improved their success in NCEA performance and UE results.

The University of Auckland’s research commercialisation company, Auckland Uniservices Ltd, is like a matchmaker: it finds ways to marry up University research and innovation with commercial projects in New Zealand and around the globe. The University of Auckland’s research commercialisation company, Auckland Uniservices Ltd, is like a matchmaker: it finds ways to marry up University research and innovation with commercial projects in New Zealand and around the globe. The largest company of its kind in Australasia, Auckland Uniservices has a network of more than 100 New Zealand businesses, including 30 established and emerging firms, with New Zealand businesses encouraging industries to link with tertiary education; enhancing the mentoring programmes the University already runs, and ensuring that all young people in New Zealand have the transition to University life and study.

"The University is a wonderful, diverse knowledge pool,” says Dr Peter Lee. "To solve problems we can reach out in any part of the world for a source of knowledge and technology. As a general rule the Asian Tigers don’t have primary resources so they are eager to come out of this recession with products based on technological innovation. And The University of Auckland is very good at innovation.”

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REACH FOR THE STARS

The first navigators to cross the Pacific followed the stars to reach their destination. The University of Auckland’s Starpath research project aims to show similar guidance to help more Māori and Pacific students into tertiary education.

In 2007, only 18 percent of Māori and 20 percent of Pacific students left secondary school with University Entrance (UE) compared with 44 percent of European/Pākehā students. The University - New Zealand’s largest provider of degree education to Māori and Pacific communities - aims to understand why and show how. Through the Starpath Project it is combining research, practical strategies to improve enrolments and raising achievement levels from these groups.

“With a global emphasis on the need for higher education as a platform for social and economic advancement, we need to ensure that young people in New Zealand have the opportunity to fulfill their potential,” says Professor Rossow Chunghak, Chairperson of the Starpath Board.

“Māori and Pacific students who go on to a university have the same likelihood of going on to university as other ethnic groups, it’s just that those who do when UE have performed well,” said Professor Chunghak.

A recently released Starpath study into NCEA choices by low decile schools found that although many students aspired to finish UE, they were not taking the combinations of subjects or preparing so, a level that would prepare them for entry into the workforce.

Two decile one students were part of the cohort. The University of Auckland model is Auckland Now. The University continues through its courses, research and community service to engage students in an environment that is modern, responsive and compassionate.

RESEARCH BROKER

The University of Auckland’s research commercialisation company, Auckland Uniservices Ltd, is like a matchmaker - it finds ways to marry up University research and innovation with commercial projects in New Zealand and across the globe.

The largest company of its kind in Australasia, Uniservices has continued to grow - despite the recession. Last year it broke the $100 million barrier in annual turnover. This year it is set to grow more than 10 percent, bringing income and new employment opportunities into the University and New Zealand from 1000 licence for intellectual property, plus from contract research and commercialisation.

Uniservices has helped start 30 New Zealand businesses including Sonometrics, set up with American university biomedical engineers in New Zealand, and the high technology (IPT) company Power Electronics Group has without doubt the best technology in the world for charging electric vehicles,” says Dr Lee. In Singapore UniServices has just signed a multi-million dollar contract to manufacture sophisticated electronics products. In Beijing, the company is exploring the miniaturisation power technology (IPT) and demonstrations are now being tested in China. UniServices recently announced that it was establishing a site for power technology (IPT) production in China to take advantage of the opportunities that are available in the world for charged electric vehicles.

“As a general rule the Asia Tigers don’t have primary resources. They cannot rely on the outcomes of a country with platforms and resources. They’re very entrepreneurial and innovative. And The University of Auckland is designed to use UniServices Inductive Power Transfer (IPT) wireless charging designed to use UniServices Inductive Power Transfer (IPT) wireless charging to demonstrate advanced educational tools in New York schools, designing cleaner manufacturing systems in Japan. “The University is a wonderful, diverse knowledge pool,” says the University’s CEO, Dr Peter Lee. “To solve problems we can reach out to a vast array of capabilities.”

The University of Auckland is one of New Zealand’s largest and most comprehensive universities. With 6000 staff, it is also one of the country’s largest employers.

A study by the NZ Institute of Economic Research indicated that our annual turnover of more than $500 million creates intellectual capital in excess of about $11 billion each year - this is a vast engine for creating and transmitting knowledge – and it is here to serve New Zealand.

I am proud to lead a university that sees its key role to provide world-class educational opportunities to students, to deliver research that changes lives, and to build international connections to support that country’s development, while operating in a socially and financially responsible manner.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of Auckland Now and continue to share in the many contributions The University of Auckland makes to New Zealand.
Welcome to the first issue of Auckland Now.

The University of Auckland is New Zealand’s largest and most comprehensive university. With 50,000 staff, it is also one of the country’s largest employers.

A study by the NZ Institute of Economic Research indicates that our annual turnover of more than $820 million creates intellectual capital of about $12 billion every year. This is a market bigger than creating and transmitting knowledge – and it is here to serve New Zealand.

I am proud to lead a university that has a clear strategy to provide research and community service. For more information contact us at: aucklandnow@.

Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand and the international community through its teaching, research and community service. For more information contact us at: aucklandnow@.

Reach for the stars

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In 2007, only 18 percent of Māori and 20 percent of Pacific students left secondary school with University Entrance (UE) compared with 44 percent of European/Pākehā students. The University - New Zealand’s largest provider of degree education to Māori and Pacific communities – is keen to understand why.

Through the Starpath Project it is combining research with practical programmes to improve enrolments and success at university levels from these groups.

“With a global emphasis on the need for higher education as a platform for social and economic advancement, we need to ensure that all young people in New Zealand have the opportunity to fulﬁl their potential,” says Professor Rowan Dean, Chairperson of the Starpath Board.

“Māori and Paciﬁc students who get UE have the same likelihood of going to university as other ethnic groups – it’s just that so few achieve UE,” says Professor Drake.

A recently released Starpath study into NCEA choices found high decile schools and students left secondary school with University Entrance (UE) significantly improved their success in NCEA performance and UC results.

“The University of Auckland researchers have also found that intervention at primary school yields achievement levels. With help from the University’s Woolf Fisher Research Centre, Year 4-8 students from participating decile one schools who were looking for two years in reading comprehension are now close to the national level.

A similar programme on the South Island’s West Coast with a range of schools showed improved reading comprehension significantly above national levels, with Māori children performing as well as or better than their non-Māori counterparts.

Using Starpath research the University is developing a Māori and Paciﬁc recruitment strategy to make sure potential students are aware of the opportunities Auckland provides. This will enhance the mentoring programmes the University already runs in schools with the Great Futures Foundation, and within the University for Māori and Paciﬁc students as they make the transition to University life and study.

By Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon

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The largest company of its kind in Australasia, Auckland UniServices has continued to grow. Despite the recession, last year it broke the $300 million barrier in annual turnover. This year it is set to grow to more than $320 million, bringing income and new employment opportunities to the University and New Zealand from 1,000 licences for intellectual property, plus from contract research and consultancy work.

Auckland UniServices has helped start 30 New Zealand businesses including Sunbeam Tech Ltd with its wristband invention, Starpath, a ground-breaking invention in which the University already runs in schools with the Great Futures Foundation, and within the University for Māori and Pacific students as they make the transition to University life and study.

As well as working with New Zealand businesses, Auckland UniServices has also gone global – in 40 countries around the world.

“Overseas we are shifting our business focus towards building relationships for New Zealand with companies that are seeking innovation,” says Dr Lee. “The world’s Asian Tigers - Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, China, Japan and a dozen or so other major cities - in Singapore, Auckland UniServices has just signed a multi-million dollar business deal with the world’s largest consumer electronics businesses in Beijing. The company is expanding the indwelling power technology used in orthopaedic surgery on the way to power medical devices and remote sensing devices to power lease technology or a car electric city. Our Three Towers Group has also established a key technology in the world for charging electric vehicles,” says Dr Lee.

“A small group from the Asian Tigers don’t have primary resources. It is up to us to ensure that any companies or people with primary resources are aware of the opportunities Auckland UniServices can provide. And we are doing that,” says Dr Lee.

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Photo: Sarah Sparks, Senior Research Chemist and Project Leader at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre with colleague Dr Adam Patterson, biochemist and Senior Research Fellow.