

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 37 | Issue 19 | October 12 2007

Doctors galore

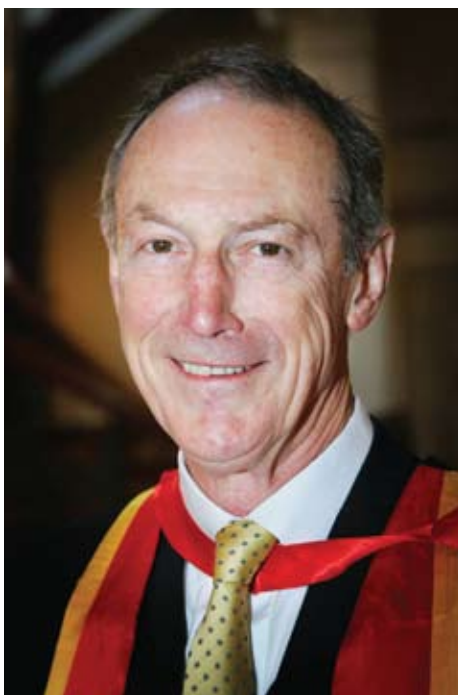


Eighty-three doctoral qualifications were conferred at last month's Spring Graduation, bringing the University's total doctoral graduates this year to 199 so far.

Among them was a record four PhDs from the School of Theology, three of whom are pictured above, from left: Cherie Kempster, Christine Sorensen and Stephen Garner. The research of these graduates was broad, including field work with Pakistani Christian women attending Bible School and an inquiry into the theological aspects of new technologies.

Elsewhere, five doctoral graduates were aged over 60. Among them was Roger Barry (right) whose research focused on the development of New Zealand's defence policy from 1945-1972, a period which saw New Zealand move away from alignment with Britain and towards a more independent stance. Roger was one of two 60-plus doctoral graduates from the History Department. The other three came from Information Systems, Community Health and Education.

See more Graduation coverage over the page.



UNIVERSITY NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY
Communications and Marketing, Fisher Building
18 Waterloo Quadrant, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142
email uninews@auckland.ac.nz www.auckland.ac.nz/universitynews
EDITORS Danelle Clayton and Tess Redgrave
PHOTOGRAPHY Godfrey Boehnke

In this issue

- 2 | Spring Graduation
- 3 | Top Māori business award
- 5 | Student successes

Key events

Cartwright revisited

The 2007 Keith Sinclair Memorial Lecture "Cartwright revisited: Medical research and National Women's Hospital from the 1960s to the 1980s" will be delivered on 16 October, 6.30pm at the Fisher and Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building. The lecture is by Dr Linda Bryder, an Associate-Professor in History, who will revisit an inquiry into the treatment of cervical cancer patients at National Women's, described as one of the most dramatic events in New Zealand's medical history.

Inaugural lectures

Four new professors give their inaugural lectures during the next fortnight. Professor John Duckitt (Psychology) gives his lecture "Explaining prejudice and intergroup hostility" on 16 October, 1-2pm at the Conference Centre. John's colleague, Professor Russell Gray (Psychology) gives a lecture titled "Tongues, trees and talented birds" at the same venue from 1-2pm on 18 October.

"Which banks to rob or what I have learnt about clinical trials," is the title of the lecture by Professor Anthony Rodgers (School of Population Health) on 17 October, 6-7pm in the Robb Lecture Theatre, Grafton. On 24 October Professor Alison Jones (Education) gives her inaugural lecture "Ka whawhai tonu matou: The interminable problem of knowing others" at the Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street, 1-2pm.

The enigma of Mugabe

Hood Fellow Professor Stephen Chan will present the 2007 Chapman Lecture on "The perplexing and complex enigma of Mugabe: Rightly atrocious or atrociously right?" at the Maidment Theatre on 26 October at 6.30pm.

Stephen is the Professor of International Relations, University of London, and Foundation Dean of Law and Social Sciences, School of Oriental and African Studies. He has been involved with Zimbabwe since before its independence, monitoring the independence process and advising African government ministers. This lecture offers insights into the phenomenon of Mugabe by his most authoritative political biographer. For more details read the story on Page 4.

From the Vice-Chancellor

During the last two weeks I have held presentations for staff on all campuses to share the results of the Staff Survey and to discuss the critical next steps. The aim of the survey was to establish how staff view the University as a whole, to assist us to attract and retain talented staff, and to create an environment that fosters staff development.

Compared to the survey benchmark of 38,000 staff members in higher education and research organisations overseas, Auckland staff were more positive about communication in the University, the manner in which they were rewarded and recognised, their satisfaction with their work, and the collegiality of the working environment. They were less positive about their sense of empowerment and some aspects of leadership.

The results indicate that staff members generally feel happy with their work, are proud to be associated with the University and are kept informed about the University's plans. However, we need to a better job in areas such as career development, leadership, innovation and empowerment across what is a large and complex organisation.

As a continuation of the Staff Survey process, we will be running a series of Action Planning Workshops across the University to explore priority areas identified in the survey results. This is a crucial step in establishing plans for improving how we do things. There will be 11 workshops running from mid October to early November. During these two-hour workshops participants will explore the survey results in greater detail and work towards developing recommendations around 2-3 key priority areas. The Senior Management Team will meet in early December to consider and agree on recommendations to be implemented.

All staff should have received a communication about the workshops earlier this month, and those who expressed interest in attending will receive more details shortly. More information about the Staff Survey results are available on the staff intranet along with frequently asked questions about the survey (www.auckland.ac.nz/staffsurvey). In the meantime, my thanks to all of you who participated in the survey and will be participating in the workshops.



Diverse range of graduates

A total of 2428 graduates received 2636 qualifications at Spring Graduation.

The Faculty of Business and Economics had the most graduates, with 717 degrees and diplomas conferred to those from the faculty, followed by Science (553), Arts (509) and Education (382).

There were 157 conferments in Medical and Health Sciences, 125 in Engineering, 92 in Law, 84 in Creative Arts and Industries and 17 in Theology.

Chancellor Hugh Fletcher personally conferred 1842 degrees and diplomas. The rest (794) were bestowed "in absentia" on those not attending.

Speakers at the ceremonies included Tim Gibson, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Chief Executive; Mark Thomas, Right Hemisphere President and Chief Technology Officer; Dr Helen Anderson, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology; opera singer Dame Malvina Major; and Māori broadcaster Julian Wilcox.

Here are some of the participants in Spring Graduation.



Gavin Ellis, former editor of the New Zealand Herald and chair of the Commonwealth Press Union, graduated with a masters degree with first class honours. His thesis, *"Word War: Demutualising the New Zealand Press Association"*, traced the demise of the cooperative exchange of news among New Zealand newspapers through the New Zealand Press Association and its replacement by a commercial operation. Gavin is continuing studies in the Department of Political Studies as a PhD candidate. His doctoral thesis will investigate the effect on newsrooms of different types of media ownership.



Sally Merry, lecturer in Child and Adolescent Health, pictured with husband Professor Alan Merry, received her Doctor of Medicine. Her research looked at reducing depression in teenagers, a disorder potentially leading to disability later in life if not treated.



Heikki Hansen from the Yacht Research Unit in the Faculty of Engineering graduated with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering. His mathematical modelling of aerodynamic forces on sails improved testing techniques in the University's wind tunnel. The tunnel was used by America's Cup syndicates from around the world. Heikki has been recruited to work for the German America's Cup syndicate United Internet.



Dame Malvina Major told Education, Theology and Creative Arts and Industries graduates to take life by the "scruff of the neck and chance it.

"I have many funny stories," the opera singer continued, "people I've loved and those I've hated. Wigs and parts of my costumes that have come off or got caught in the buttons of the Tenor I am singing a love song with. Falling down stairs, and many more ..."



Claire Daniel, from the School of Biological Sciences, receives her masters degree from Chancellor Hugh Fletcher. Claire researched the genetics of Australasian gannets at Cape Kidnappers in Hawke's Bay, to better understand whether these birds are monogamous.

Banker wins top Māori business award

Deutsche Bank CEO Brett Hiirini Shepherd (Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Tamaterā) is the Business School's Outstanding Māori Business Leader of the year for 2007.

The annual award is given to celebrate Māori achievement in commerce. Brett joins fashion designer Peter Loughlin, New Zealand Business Roundtable Chair Rob McLeod and entertainer Howard Morrison as a recipient of this premier award for Māori achievement in business.

Brett received his award last month from Dr Manuka Henare, Associate Dean Māori and Pacific Development, in front of an audience of 280 Māori alumni, academics, tribal leaders and business associates.

"Investment banking is a cut-throat business to operate in, but I believe it is very important to be humble," Brett said when accepting his award. "I am extremely humbled to be receiving this award today."

Guest speaker and MP Shane Jones praised Brett for maintaining his ties to whanau alongside his success; Brett is a celebrated business advisor to iwi and Māori organisations.

The 2007 Dame Mira Szász Rangatahi Award for an emergent Māori business leader was Jane Walden-Green. Jane co-owns and manages the Principals clothing chain with her husband.

The 2007 Dame Mira Szász Māori Business Leaders Alumni Awards for graduates displaying outstanding leadership in Māori business development were Hamuera Mitchell, Wayne Mulligan and Marama Findlay.

The 2007 Te Toi Ururoa Kelly Scholarships, founded by US investment banker Paul Kelly, were awarded to PhD candidates Joanna Overall and Isaac Rolfe.



Brett Shepherd, 2007 Outstanding Māori Business Leader of the Year.

Getting NZ moving

New Zealand's first research centre dedicated to supply chain management was launched at the Business School on 2 October.

The Centre for Supply Chain Management will be critical to improving efficiency and distribution in the New Zealand economy. Professor Alan Stenger, the Ports of Auckland Visiting Professor of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, says the centre will achieve this by disseminating the latest knowledge and practices in supply chain management.

"Highly efficient and cost effective supply chains are essential to ensuring New Zealand remains competitive in an increasingly global economy," Professor Stenger says.

"This research centre will accelerate our understanding of supply chains in the context of

the Australasian economies and will spearhead new ideas and business practices. I anticipate that this will have significant social and economic outcomes for New Zealand."

The centre's activities will be guided by an Advisory Board representing major companies and government organisations, including Healtheries, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Telecom, The Warehouse, Toll Tranz Link and Ports of Auckland.

The centre will draw on the expertise of leading Operations Management and Economics academics at the University. It will facilitate regular forums, seminars and workshops, and vastly improve opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate business students to develop their understanding of supply chain techniques.

Windfall for nursing/ICT

Nursing and ICT research are set to benefit from a combined \$5.9 million in government grants awarded to the University.

The University will receive \$2.7 million to build research in nursing and related healthcare areas. By developing an environment promoting increased knowledge for nurses and greater understanding of disease, the healthcare workforce will be better equipped to manage chronic illness. This is increasingly important as the New Zealand population ages.

The University was also awarded \$3.2 million, in association with the University of Waikato, to develop research infrastructure in information and communications technology (ICT) across all New Zealand universities. This is designed to boost graduate numbers. Currently the number of new ICT graduates is not meeting demand, resulting in an industry shortage of research skills.

The grants have been awarded through the Tertiary Education Commission's Building Research Capability in Strategically Relevant Areas (BRCSRA) fund.

... in brief

Royal Society awards

Three science medals were awarded to University academics by The Royal Society of New Zealand on 26 September.

Professor Bruce Melville, Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was awarded the RJ Scott Medal for his research in fluvial sediment transfer.

Dr Alexei Drummond, Department of Computer Science, was awarded the 2007 Hamilton Memorial Prize for his contribution to computational modelling.

Professor Mick Clout, Director of the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity has been honoured with the Charles Fleming Award for his work in environmental protection, particularly the establishment of the Global Invasive Species Database and work with the World Conservation Union.

Research participants needed

The Department of Sport and Exercise Science is looking for volunteers for two studies.

The first looks at the connection between ankle injuries and spine stability. Researchers are looking for people who have sustained a serious ankle sprain requiring medical or physiotherapy treatment in the past 12 months.

The second study is seeking volunteers to take part in research on whether muscle repair is affected by genetics and physical exercise. Volunteers will undergo physical assessments including body composition, activity measurements and a muscle biopsy.

Contact Mandy McKee on ext. 82139 or exrehab@auckland.ac.nz for the ankle study and Ana-Mishel Spiroski ext. 86846 am.spiroski@auckland.ac.nz for the activity study. All assessment takes place at the Tamaki campus.

International agreements

The University has signed cooperation agreements with universities in France, Japan and Spain.

A Memorandum of Understanding and a Student Exchange Agreement have been signed with Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 and Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 in France. They will enable formal research collaborations, academic staff exchange and allow greater movement of students between the institutions. Student Exchange Agreements have been renewed with Kyoto University in Japan and the Universidad de Oviedo in Spain. A full list of Student Exchange agreements can be found at www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/about/international/360/exchangepartners/exchangepartners_home.cfm.

Mugabe's Zimbabwe explained

When Professor Robert Chapman lectured Professor Stephen Chan, as an undergraduate they "fought like cat and dog".

"He won, and I owe him a debt which I hope in part to repay," says Stephen, who will this month deliver the annual Chapman lecture. Stephen returns to his alma mater to deliver the lecture, named after his former lecturer and verbal sparring partner Professor Chapman.

He considers his Chapman Lecture, "The perplexing and complex enigma of Mugabe: Rightly atrocious or atrociously right?" to be the most significant presentation of his career.

Currently Professor of International Relations at the University of London, Stephen will arrive in New Zealand via Johannesburg. There, he will be briefed on the ever changing political situation in Zimbabwe. This will bring him up to date for the Auckland lecture, he says.

"This lecture is a privilege for me and one I value above all others I have given on five continents."

New Zealand-born Stephen is an international authority on Robert Mugabe's notorious reign of Zimbabwe. Among his many published works – traversing fiction, poetry, martial arts and scholarly texts – is the definitive biography *Robert Mugabe*:

A Life of Power and Violence (2003).

Well known during his University years for his radical literary and political ideals (he was President of the New Zealand University Students' Association in 1973), Stephen's interest in Zimbabwe took shape in an Auckland police cell in 1969. He had been arrested after protesting against the Vietnam War; his cellmate was a Zimbabwean refugee.

Stephen's curiosity about Africa and Zimbabwe grew in the ensuing decade while he worked as an international civil servant. Stephen was an official observer of Zimbabwe's transition to independence in 1980.

He has lived in Zambia, where he pioneered postgraduate study and developed programmes to bring oriental martial arts to poor African urban areas.

Stephen is also the University of London's foundation Dean of Law and Social Sciences at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Aside from the Chapman Lecture (see Key Events for details) Stephen will present two additional public lectures at the University. "Wars and the deep backgrounds to war: The West, Iraq and Iran" takes place at 3pm on Thursday 25 October at the OGH Federation of Graduate Women Room. "The

succession battles in South Africa: After Mbeki, what?" will be delivered at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 30 October at Engineering Theatre 401 (20 Symonds Street).



Professor Stephen Chan.

The 'Nexx' big thing wins Spark



Spark winners Nexx, from left to right James Wallace, Mark Catley, Ben Milsom and Glenn Riddell, with Spark \$40K Lead Bowen Pan.

The dream of four students to revolutionise the way New Zealanders approach finance is about to be realised. Their online money lending website Nexx won them the Business School's 2007 Spark \$40K Challenge last month.

The prize gives team members Ben Milsom, Glenn Riddell, James Wallace and Mark Catley \$20,000 in seed funding and a nine month tenancy at The ICEHOUSE business incubator, valued at \$10,000.

Nexx applies the social networking concept of websites like MySpace and YouTube to the world of finance. Borrowers list their financial projects online (www.nexx.co.nz), and lenders pledge funds and interest rates via an auction, cutting banks

and finance companies out of transactions.

"We think Nexx is going to be the place that New Zealanders turn to for personal finance and winning Spark gives us the opportunity to bring this to fruition," says Ben. "Winning Spark gives us a lot of credibility and a good deal of momentum, and the networking contacts and development opportunities that come along with the win are invaluable."

The Spark Entrepreneurship Challenge is a



Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon with runners-up Nerian: Anthony Phillips and Jackie Aitken, and \$40K Lead Bowen Pan.

student-led initiative arming University staff and students with the tools to turn promising research and business ideas into commercial ventures. More than \$60,000 in cash and prizes were handed out at this year's awards. A record 80 entries were submitted to the main \$40K Challenge. The top 12 received intensive mentoring and training before a final winner was selected.

Spark \$40k runner-up 'Nerian' received \$10,000 in start-up capital. Nerian is a venture by researchers from the School of Biological Sciences, isolating the healthy antioxidants in red wine and putting them into a range of value-adding products.

A special award was presented to Business School Commercial Director Geoff Whitcher, considered the founding father of Spark. The award recognised Geoff's "tremendous mentoring and support of the organising committee, as well as being instrumental in initiating a culture change at the University".

Auckland wins international earthquake design competition



Quincy Ma (left) with the victorious University of Auckland earthquake engineering team, John O'Hagan, Ronald Lumantarna, Rohann da Silva and Dmytro Dizhur.

Using wooden sticks, string and glue, Faculty of Engineering students have proved they can design the most earthquake-resistant buildings in the Asia-Pacific.

The Auckland team beat 34 other universities from Asia, Australia and New Zealand to take the top prize at the 2007 IDEERS Earthquake Engineering Design Competition in Taiwan. They brought home \$20,000 Taiwanese (about \$800NZD) and a trophy.

It is the first time since the competition began seven years ago that a non-Taiwanese undergraduate team has won.

The competition challenges engineering students to construct a three-storey, L-shaped

building using only wood, paper, glue, string and rubber bands, in a 6.5 hour time slot. The model must reflect the principals of actual building design and hold loads on each of its floors.

The models are then subjected to earthquakes on a shaking-table, the intensity increasing until the buildings collapse. The models are judged on their strength and efficiency.

"This win confirms New Zealand's and the University's strength in Earthquake Engineering education," says Quincy Ma, from the Earthquake Engineering Research Group. "A strong model will not necessarily perform better in an earthquake, in fact they typically perform worse. The best designs demonstrate an advanced understanding of the principles of seismic design, structural dynamics and structural mechanics, all taught as part of an engineering degree."

The competition was held from 28-30 September. The students selected to travel to Taiwan were high achieving undergraduates in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Three of the students will continue on to PhD studies in earthquake engineering from next year.

The team was sponsored to travel to Taiwan by the Earthquake Commission New Zealand, as a gesture of support for earthquake research in New Zealand. British Council Taipei sponsored the team's stay in Taiwan.

Music students triumph at Australasian flute festival



The University of Auckland's Cordelia Quartet - Jasmine Sun, Melody Lin, Elisabeth Gottstein, Agnes Harmath.

A flute quartet from the School of Music pipped four Australian groups to win the 2007 Sydney Flute Festival.

The Cordelia Quartet comprising Agnes Harmath (third year DMA), Elisabeth Gottstein (German international Honours student), Jasmine Sun (MMus) and Melody Lin (first year DMA) competed against five finalist quartets vying for the top prize in Australasia's biggest ensemble competition.

By coincidence all five groups chose the same work: the quartet for four flutes by Eugene Bozza, "A Summer's Day in the Mountains". The work is considered ideal as it highlights the colour and haunting nature of the flute and contrasts well with the instrument's natural speed and agility. The

Aucklanders followed this performance with a brief encore - an arrangement made by the quartet's teacher, Associate Professor Uwe Grodd. The judges were so impressed they invited the flautists to perform again in the closing ceremony.

"This is a magnificent win by four very promising flautists," says Professor Robert Constable, Head of the School of Music. "We always knew that we have a very fine flute department under the leadership of Associate Professor Grodd, but our students have not previously had such success internationally. This is a great testament to the excellent work of staff and students."

Viewpoint

Preventing violence

The story of An An's death and the abandonment of Qian has shaken the New Zealand community. It comes on the heels of the national outrage created by the death of Nia Glassie. Both cases have been accompanied by cries of "why didn't somebody do something... something better... something sooner... something different?" The tendency is to want to point our fingers and say "somebody" messed up. We also howl for blood and cry for tougher penalties for those who committed the violence.

The reality of the response needed is more complex, however. In 2005, New Zealand Police recorded 62,470 offence and non-offence incidents involving family/whanau violence, of which 62,615 children and young people under the age of 17 were involved.* Is it possible to never put a foot a wrong in the shifting sand of complex relationships? Between July 2004 and June 2005, Child, Youth and Family received 53,097 notifications, 43,460 of which required further action.*

The majority of New Zealanders are not violent. But the population-based rates and the volume of cases presenting to our services indicate that we are all likely to know someone who is a victim, or a perpetrator, of violence. And if we are really serious about preventing violence, the "somebody" who has to do something about the violence is probably us.

How? Some of the answers probably lie with services such as Police and Women's Refuge. However, these agencies only operate where violence has already occurred. Part of the answer may lie in early intervention, like the work of the health sector in asking women about their experience of violence, to try and identify problems before they become entrenched.

But if we really mean prevention, we have to look at the social structures that shape our perceptions of how to 'do' relationships. These include the education sector, media, our workplaces, faith communities, and sports clubs, as well as our family and friends. Until all components of our society, and individuals in all walks of life, articulate what it means to be in a healthy relationship, and start to recognise and reinforce healthy relationships in practice, prevention will remain a chimera. Fostering and supporting the value of listening out for those in pain, and making it socially acceptable to offer help, might also assist us to catch those who are slipping through the gaps in our social networks. It might have helped An An.

Janet Fanslow is a senior lecturer in Mental Health Promotion, at the School of Population Health

*Ministry of Social Development. Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families: The first report. Wellington: MSD, 2006.

New Director of Research Management

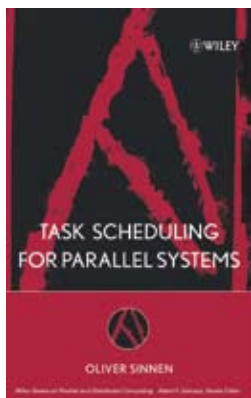
Dr John Smart will join the University in November as Director of Research Management.

Currently he is Investments Group Manager at the Foundation of Research Science and Technology.

A biochemist with 18 years experience in the New Zealand dairy industry, Dr Smart began his career as a scientist, eventually moving into project management. He joined the Foundation in 2001, taking responsibility for its investments portfolio in 2004.

"We are fortunate to have recruited John to this key position within the University," said Professor Tom Barnes, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Books



Task Scheduling for Parallel Systems

This book by Oliver Sinnen, a senior lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, provides a new model for task scheduling that dramatically improves the efficiency of parallel systems.

Oliver cuts through the confusion and complexity by presenting a consistent and comprehensive theoretical framework along with realistic parallel system models. These new models are based on an investigation of the concepts and principles underlying task scheduling. They take into account heterogeneity, contention for communication resources and the involvement of the processor in communications.

For readers new to task scheduling, the first chapters are essential reading. The second half of the text examines both basic and advanced scheduling techniques, offering readers a thorough understanding of the principles underlying scheduling algorithms.

The final two chapters address communication contention in scheduling and processor involvement in communications.

Task Scheduling for Parallel Systems is part of the Wiley Series on Parallel and Distributed Computing, edited by Albert Y. Zomaya.

"I believe his experience and skills are well-matched to our needs as we grow externally funded research activity to a new level to meet the targets in the University Strategic Plan."

SGGES inaugural Director

Professor Glenn McGregor has been appointed the inaugural Director of the School of Geography, Geology and Environmental Science.

Professor McGregor is currently Professor of Physical Geography at King's College, London. He is also Director of the Centre for Environmental Assessment Management and Policy. Prior to moving to London in 2005, Professor McGregor

was a Reader at the University of Birmingham for 12 years. He has a BSc and MSc in Geography from Auckland and a PhD from the University of Canterbury.

Professor McGregor is expected to take up his position as Director in March 2008.



Dr John Smart



Professor Glenn McGregor



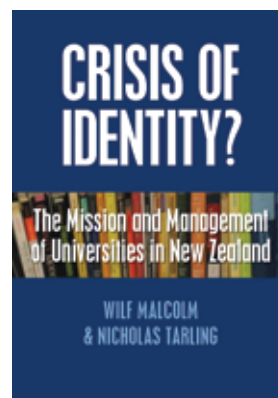
Kiwi Keith

Alumnus Barry Gustafson (BA 1960, MA 1962, PhD 1974), former head of the University's Department of Political Studies and author of the bestselling biography of Robert Muldoon *His Way*, has chronicled the life of another prime minister.

Kiwi Keith, a biography of Keith Holyoake will be published by Auckland University Press in early November.

One of our great farming politicians, Holyoake was an MP for more than 40 years, Prime Minister for over 11 years and Governor General from 1977 until 1980.

Though Holyoake was often derided as pompous and unprincipled, Gustafson shows a man with astute understanding of people and political issues. Holyoake is depicted as skilled at defusing division and preserving order while encouraging gradual and incremental progress. Gustafson explores Holyoake's performance as Minister of Foreign Affairs, shows his support of economic diversification, and covers Holyoake's impressive skills as a party politician. His love of hard work is portrayed alongside a penchant for lively debate and working with his hands, especially at his property in Kinloch.



Crisis of Identity?

Alumnus and Emeritus Professor of History, Nicholas Tarling (Honorary Doctorate of Literature, 1996) joined with the former Vice-Chancellor of Waikato University Wilf Malcolm to write this book on how New Zealand universities need to resist managerialism and return to their core values.

Published by Dunmore Press, *Crisis of Identity? The Mission and Management of Universities in New Zealand* puts forward a set of principles both authors say should be the basis for managing universities into the future. Core values include research coupled with teaching, collegial responsibility and the protection of academic freedom.

The deadline for the final Fulbright Awards of 2007 is looming, with applications due on 1 November. The Fulbright Travel Awards are for New Zealand academics, artists or professional to visit the US for 10 to 90 days. The Fulbright Senior Specialist Awards are for New Zealand academic institutions to host US academics, artists or professionals for lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences or symposiums for two to six weeks. For more information see www.fulbright.org.nz/awards

Playing the blues

"It's very prestigious; something to keep forever."

This is how second-year undergraduate student Chris Smith described winning a Sporting Blue at the 2007 Sports and Cultural Blues Awards dinner, held in the Alumni Marquee on 21 September.

As well as studying for a conjoint Arts and Law degree, Chris is one of New Zealand's rising rugby stars. He is a flanker for the North Harbour provincial rugby team and in April captained the New Zealand Under-19 rugby team to World Cup victory in Belfast, blowing away a powerful South African side 31-7.

Combining sport and study is "pretty hard," admits Chris who was named The University of Auckland Sportsman of the Year at the Blues Awards and won the Most Meritorious Sporting Performance Award. "It all comes down to time management," he adds.

Chris was one of 38 students, representing 18 sports, awarded sporting Blues this year. Others included BCom student Elizabeth Coster and current New Zealand record holder for the 50 and 100 metre butterfly (University of Auckland Sportswoman of the Year); Ziheng Zou, New Zealand's 7th ranked badminton player; and water-skier Cole Atkinson, ranked second at the 2007 national championship.

Film maker Kirsty MacDonald, who won The University of Auckland Society Arts and Cultural Award, was among 32 cultural Blues winners.

More than 200 people attended the Blues awards. The evening's entertainment included live jazz music by the Bossanova Brothers and a moving speech by blind paralympian Rob Matthews, on stage with his faithful Alsatian guide dog Joy.

Born in the UK with degenerative retina disease, Rob was legally blind by the age of 20. Although not a natural sportsman, he was introduced to "guided running" and after "pushing myself to do the second lap" has become one of the world's most successful paralympians. He holds world records for the 800 metre, mile, 10 kilometre and marathon running events.

Now married to a New Zealander and with his first child on the way, Rob is keen to represent New Zealand at the Beijing Paralympics in 2008.



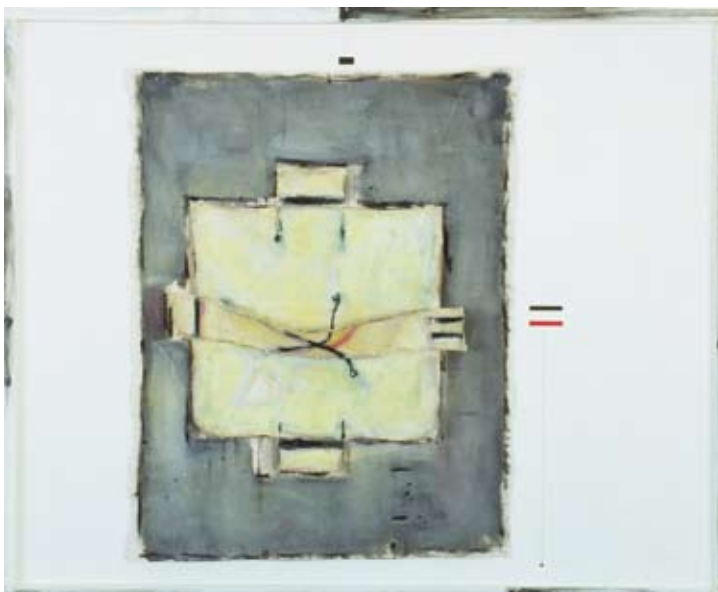
Chris Smith and Elizabeth Coster.

From the collection

Art

Born in 1922, painter Don Peebles is one of New Zealand's most senior living artists, so it was little surprise that he was awarded Icon status by the Arts Foundation in August for his leading role as a pioneer of abstract painting.

Interviewed for the awards presentation, Peebles describes the importance of the 'pleasurable shocks' that his work is said to provide: "I have to be surprised by the work," he says. "I have to have a feeling that I've never been quite in that position before and I've not simply replicated another Peebles work." Discussing the way making art can bring order to chaos, he says, "I simply try to resolve a set of problems that confront me - and that very frightening thing, a blank canvas."



Don Peebles, *Do It (2000)* acrylic, pencil, charcoal, canvas on board, 902 x 1092

Peebles began his working life delivering telegrams around Wellington. After serving in World War II, Peebles ended up in Italy and briefly studied art in Venice before returning home to his job in the telegraph office. Peebles says he

intentionally failed the University study imposed by his employer so he could get on with exploring art, which he then did at Wellington Technical College Art School and the Julian Ashton Art School in Sydney. In 1954, he had his first solo exhibition in Wellington and was already pursuing abstract art, defying the growing prominence of a nationalistic approach to arts, intent on creating The Great New Zealand Painting or Novel.

Significantly, in 1960 Peebles received a £1000 award, which allowed him to escape the old attitudes of the local scene and spend nearly two years in Europe, where he exhibited alongside British artists and met Constructionist Victor Pasmore. Peebles began to give as much importance to the construction of his works as

to the traditional application of paint with a brush - something he never entirely abandoned. His work came out of the frame, off the stretcher and into the third dimension. Initially assembled with layers of board and other found materials, by the end of the 1970s his works would leave layers of coloured canvas flapping out of the painting like pages of a book, presenting an array of painted surfaces that refuse to sit

politely on the wall.

In 1999 Peebles was appointed Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year's Honours, and at the end of 2002 he held an 80th birthday exhibition at Artis in Parnell, where the University purchased *Do It* earlier that year.

Andrew Clifford



Rob Matthews and guide dog Joy.



What's on

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

HSNO Lab managers workshop
9.30am–12.30pm, Workshop Rm 838, Level 8, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. For HSNO exempt laboratory managers, who are required by the University to attend. Bookings and queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Preparing a portfolio for a Teaching Excellence Award
10am–12noon, CAD Seminar Rm, Fifth Floor, 76 Symonds St. To give potential applicants for a Teaching Excellence Award a broad overview of how to prepare a portfolio (due on 15 Dec). Facilitator: Lorraine Stefani, CAD. Queries to Dr Barbara Grant, bm.grant@auckland.ac.nz or ext 88160. Visit <http://cad.auckland.ac.nz/>

MONDAY 15 OCTOBER

CAD supervision seminar: Keeping students motivated
Presenters Ian Brailsford and Frances Kelly (CAD) with Catherine Cook (Counselling Services), Prof Michael Corballis (Psychology) and Dr Deborah Montgomerie (History). 3.30–5pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th floor, 76 Symonds St. Followed by drinks and nibbles. Registration via CAD reception ext 88140 or cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER

Molecular Medicine and Pathology Department seminar
Assoc-Prof Nigel Birch, School of Biological Sciences: *Neuroscience meets immunology: Serpins and synapses*. 1–2pm, Seminar Rm 4336, Bldg 504. Queries to Chris Hall, ext 82910.

Inaugural lecture
Prof John Duckitt, Psychology: *Explaining prejudice and intergroup hostility*. 1–2pm, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Bioengineering research seminar
Mike Cooling, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Modelling IP3/Calcineurin/NFAT pathways in cardiac myocytes*. 4–5pm, Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

2007 Keith Sinclair Memorial Lecture
Assoc-Prof Linda Bryder, DPhil (Oxford), MA: *Cartwright revisited: Medical research and National Women's Hospital from the 1960s to the 1980s*. 6.30pm, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Business School, Grafton Rd.

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Department of Philosophy debate
Robert Nola and Imran Aijaz: *Do we owe religion respect?* 4–6pm, ALR5, Bldg 421, Architecture, 26 Symonds St.

Auckland Branch of Society for Legal and Social Philosophy meeting
Dr Nicholas Smith: *Discrimination and culture*. 6pm, Small Lecture Theatre, 1st Floor, Bldg 803, Law School.

Inaugural lecture
Prof Anthony Rodgers, Population Health: *Which banks to rob, or what I have learnt about clinical trials*. 6–7pm, Robb Lecture Theatre, Basement, 85 Park Rd, Grafton.

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

School of Medical Sciences seminar
Prof Howard Evans, Dept of Medical Biochemistry and Immunology, Wales

College of Medicine, Cardiff University: *Connexins as cell-cell communication conduits manipulation of function using peptides*. 12noon, Henley Lecture Theatre, 4th Floor, Bldg 501.

Inaugural lecture
Prof Russell Gray, Psychology: *Tongues, trees and talented birds*. 1–2pm, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Education research seminar
Dr Barbara Grant, CAD: *Foucauldian discourse analysis in higher education research*. 4–5.30pm, J2 Lecture Theatre, Epsom Campus. Queries to ext 88160 or bm.grant@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER

School of Theology staff research seminars
2–4pm, Lecture Room, Newman Hall, 16 Waterloo Quadrant.

- 1) Dr Mary Caygill: *Of equal worth. Towards a theological anthropology through the lens of disability*.
- 2) Dr Neil Darragh: *Annotated bibliography of theology in Aotearoa NZ*.
- 3) Philip Culbertson: *A g-string is not Samoan: Exploring a transgressive third-gender Pasifika theology*.

Queries to ext 86676 or aurea.warner@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER

Molecular Medicine and Pathology Department seminar
Dr Maggie Kalev, UoA: *NMDA receptor under the spotlight*. 1–2pm, Seminar Rm 4336, Bldg 504. Queries to Chris Hall, ext 82910.

Bioengineering research seminar
Rita Yassi, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Modelling the human gastro-oesophageal junction*. 4–5pm, Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER

Proposing new programmes and making programme amendments
12–1pm, Rm 018, ClockTower, Princes St. An introduction to the requirements for proposing new qualifications and amending existing programmes, subjects, majors, specialisations and courses. Bookings and queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural lecture
Prof Alison Jones, Education: *Ka whawhai tonu matou: The interminable problem of knowing others*. 1–2pm, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Departmental graduate advisors' forum: Supporting graduate students to make smart career choices
Jane Bradley, UoA Postgraduate Career Consultant and Ian Brailsford, CAD. 3.30–5pm, Meeting Rm, Graduate Centre. Followed by drinks and nibbles. Registration via CAD reception ext 88140 or cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER

Public lecture
Prof Stephen Chan, University of London: *Wars and the deep backgrounds to war: The West, Iraq and Iran*. 3pm, FGW Rm, Upstairs, OGH.

Honorary Degree Ceremony
7.30pm Maidment Theatre. There will be a ceremony to confer the following Honorary Degrees: Doctor of Laws Dr Alan E Bollard and Dr O Bruce Hadden. All staff and students are welcome to attend. For catering

purposes RSVP to ext 87770 or s.hinson@auckland.ac.nz by 23 October.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Auckland Central, Freemans Bay.
Spacious, sunny, top-floor contemporary apartment set in beautiful gardens maintained free of charge. Newly renovated. Two dble-bdrms. Sky Tower and Harbour Bridge views. Car park. Two minutes to motorway access; 20-minutes walk to city; Ponsonby Rd five-minute walk; generous public transport. Set beside park and tennis courts. Four jack points, two TV aerial points. Available Nov 2007–Dec 2008. \$440 pw. Refs required. Queries to taruni@intercultural.co.nz or (021) 481-487 or (09) 360-2237.

Available Feb 2008 for one year or longer in Birkenhead, North Shore. Three-bdrm with study home. Fully-furnished. Lovely gardens, sunny, woodburner, polished floors. Located in a quiet respectable street, walking distance to schools and kindergarden. Everything supplied - use of car if needed. Handy to bus stop and supermarket/shops and CBD. \$350 pw. Contact Sue at dental@xtra.co.nz or (021) 774-492.

Fully-furnished, character apartment to let, Emily Place, close to University. One dble and one sgle bdrm/study, two bthrms, tastefully decorated with spacious living areas. Secure underground carpark. Available from beginning of March 2008 to the end of the year (negotiable). \$600 pw. Phone Margaret on (09) 303-2601 or email margaret.whittaker@nzfunds.co.nz

Glendowie. One or two bdrms and sep bthrm available for rent for single or couple student/academic in modern three-bdrm, two bthrm townhouse. Share with female PhD. Short or long-term considered. Transport to Uni at door. \$220/\$300 pw + utilities depending on arrangement. Phone (09) 578-0351 or (027) 334-0054.

Short-term or holiday rental in Devonport. Only metres from Cheltenham Beach. Available 24 Nov 2007–10 Jan 2008. Beautiful, fully-furnished colonial villa with loads of character and great outdoor living areas. Close to ferries, buses, cafes and golfcourse. Osp. Refs required. \$1000 pw for careful, responsible tenants. Phone (09) 445-1005.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Creative female. Hi. I'm a film maker developing a feature film, with the intention of investing my current rent outgoings into my project. If you are looking for a responsible, honest person to housesit and take care of your pets, please contact Karyn, (021) 498 463.

Houseminder available. Mature female graduate student to look after your home over the summer months. Quiet and reliable, references available. I am finishing my thesis soon and looking for short-term accommodation. Also interested in quiet room for rent near city. Contact (021) 0249-9027 or seraphin11@gmail.com

Housesitting or furnished rental accommodation needed. I'm between a house sale and purchase and am looking for longish-term housesits or a

small furnished flat to rent from mid-Oct to end Dec/Jan 2008. I'm a mature UoA employee, able to care responsibly for your house, pets and plants. Contact (021) 220-9043 or mwall@xtra.co.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

A weekend escape at Karekare Treetops Lodge. Bed and breakfast in the Waitakere Ranges, only 45 mins from the University. Enjoy scenic walking in the wild beauty of the West Coast or relax indoors by the fire. Stunning location on ridge, with panoramic view to beach. Optional gourmet dinners. Perfect for celebrations - birthdays, anniversaries, graduation - visitors to Auckland. See www.karekaretreetopslodge.co.nz or phone Maria on (09) 812-9015.

Applying for permanent residency? Avoid delays and problems. Keep your application on track with an easy-to-follow action plan tailored to your situation. For a free no-obligation quote contact Glenys at GVL Faculty Migration & Settlement. Email glenys@gvl.co.nz, Ph (027) 476-8771 or view www.gvl.co.nz

Arabic lessons by an experienced dedicated teacher. A native speaker. Please call (021) 953-599.

Computer problems? Solutions for software and hardware. Reliable and affordable. Please call (09) 376-2883 or email nabd021@ec.auckland.ac.nz

Editing and proofreading. Editwrite offers efficient, competitive and professional online text editing for staff and students. Theses, dissertations, academic treatises, monographs, reports, etc can all be expertly edited. We will review spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax to turn your text into fluent, clear, literate prose. For more details, visit www.editwrite.co.nz

International travel insurance. The AUS recommends that members use Uni-Care insurance for sabbatical, other study and very long-term travel overseas. Uni-Care offers 15% off standard rates for travel out of NZ to all university staff, full-time tertiary students and their families. Uniquely, we can maintain cover for greatly extended periods overseas. Uni-Care International Insurance Service, PO Box 32-167, Devonport, ph (09) 446-1166, fax (09) 445-8832, email insure@uni-care.org, website www.uni-care.org (secure online application facility).

Lessons in Modern Greek. All stages with attention to detail. Please call (09) 521-0311 or email nidarg@gmail.com

Orlando Singers celebration concert. Come and enjoy a special concert celebrating the Orlando Singers' 35th anniversary. Works to be performed include Haydn's much-loved "Nelson" Mass, and the sublime Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams. St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd, 7.30pm, Saturday 27 October. \$25, \$20 if tickets pre-purchased. Phone 846-6982.

Staff and UoA students can use the UoA Microsoft Select Agreement to purchase Microsoft perpetual licenses at very reasonable rates (ie Microsoft Office 2007 \$104, Project Professional 2007 \$215, Vista Business Upgrade \$122). This software is available from the UoA's Microsoft Select supplier Cyclone Computers, through their online store. Go to www.lapshop.co.nz for details and to make your purchase.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see Next Week Online: www.auckland.ac.nz/nextweekonline

• Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost \$20 (incl GST).