Record turnout to honour alumni

Pride in the University’s accomplishments in its 125th Jubilee year and challenges to its friends and graduates pervaded the Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner.

The gala event on 7 March, in a specially enlarged marquee erected on Old Government House lawn, drew a record 620 people. These included politicians and leading figures in politics, education, business, the professions, the media and the community at large, as well as staff and alumni.

Eight alumni who are leaders in fields as diverse as botany, engineering, literature, law, Māori health, music, rowing and surgery were honoured for their outstanding contributions to their professions, their communities and the nation.

The Prime Minister, Helen Clark, was the first to speak. As the country’s “premier university”, Auckland had “had a profound influence on New Zealand” and its graduates had had an influence world-wide, she said.

As a graduate she owed a “debt of gratitude” to her “leading professors and teachers” and the part they had played in leading her “to the ninth floor of the Beehive”. She contrasted the University where she had enrolled 40 years ago with the much larger institution of today with its array of socio-economic barriers that continue to isolate many able students from the benefits of education within the reach of many – presently some 38,000 students each year – not only in Auckland but throughout New Zealand, and from 85 countries around the globe.

“We are today the largest and most comprehensive university in the country. Ours was the first university in New Zealand to graduate women – today they make up nearly 60 percent of the student body – and one of the first to open marae. Due to the efforts of generations of staff and students, we are the most significant research organisation in the country and ranked among the top one percent of the world’s 7,000 universities.”

Looking into the future Stuart predicted that The University of Auckland of the future would not be much bigger than today “but it will be much better. It will be a natural home for outstanding students, their communities and the nation. As a graduate she owed a “debt of gratitude” to her “leading professors and teachers” and the part they had played in leading her “to the ninth floor of the Beehive”. She contrasted the University where she had enrolled 40 years ago with the much larger institution of today with its array of technology and services.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, thanked guests for their support. “In your roles as alumni and friends, as ambassadors and as donors, you help sustain this University in ways that are vitally important and are becoming more so.”

There could be little doubt that the University had delivered on the aspirations articulated by Governor Jervois at its opening in 1883, he said. “We have placed the advantages of a university education within the reach of many – presently some 38,000 students each year – not only in Auckland but throughout New Zealand, and from 85 countries around the globe. Pride in the University’s accomplishments in its 125th Jubilee year and challenges to its friends and graduates pervaded the Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner.

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(continued page 2)
university experience. It will have many professors of international eminence...

“It will combine traditional excellence in fundamental research across a wide range of disciplines with the ability to recognise where the serendipitous outcomes of that research can have benefit to the social, cultural and economic development of New Zealand, and the ability to capture those benefits. It will, in short, be a university that is renowned for its impact on the advancement of knowledge and the well-being of New Zealanders and the world.”

The Chief Financial Officer of Microsoft, Chris Liddell, himself a Distinguished Alumnus in 2003, was the guest speaker.

He talked of how philanthropy, now in its early days in New Zealand, could become a “transformative force” here. “Wealth is one form of contribution but personal time and energy are equally powerful.

“One of the things I love about New Zealand is how a small number of people can make a huge difference. The people here tonight have the power to help shape the future of this University.”

The Distinguished Alumni Awardees were:

- Sir Ron Carter, a prominent engineer and business leader.
- Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers, a distinguished Australasian botanist.
- Dr James Church, an internationally renowned colorectal surgeon and surgical researcher at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic in Ohio.
- The Hon Justice Lowell Goddard, the first woman of Māori descent to be appointed to the High Court bench.
- Emeritus Professor C.K. Stead, acclaimed poet, novelist, essayist and literary critic.
- Lynette Stewart, who chairs the Northland District Health Board and is CEO for Te Tai Tokerau Māpo Trust.
- John Chen, a gifted pianist who has won major competitions and performed internationally since gaining his Master of Music degree aged 18, was the 2008 Young Alumnus of the Year. He accepted his award on a video recorded in Los Angeles where he is studying.

Also unavoidably absent was world champion single sculler Mahe Drysdale, Young Alumnus of the Year Award for 2007. He was competing at the time of last year’s dinner and again could not attend after a strenuous week competing against Rob Waddell and winning selection for the Beijing Olympics.

The Alumni Orator, Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd (English), paid tribute to each awardee in turn.

Left to right are David Grinlington, Amir Foladi, Dr Surabi, Eve Coxon, Claire Speedy (International Office), and Suzanne Loughlin (Humanitarian Programme Manager, NZAID).

A visit to the University on February 29 was included in the itinerary of Dr Habiba Surabi, Governor of Bamyan Province, Afghanistan, on her week-long visit to New Zealand as a guest of the Government.

Dr Surabi is the only woman among Afghanistan’s 34 provincial governors and, prior to that appointment, was Minister of Women’s Affairs in the first Karzai Government.

She and her executive adviser, Amir Foladi, undertook the visit as a means of extending their appreciation to the people of New Zealand for the stabilisation work being done in Bamyan Province by NZ Defence Forces as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, and the development assistance programme funded by NZAID through NZ’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During her time at the University, Dr Surabi was able to renew her acquaintance with Associate Professor David Grinlington (Law), who spent time with the defence forces in Bamyan, and Dr Eve Coxon (Development Studies), who visited Bamyan in 2006 as part of an NZAID mission advising on support to Bamyan University and improvements in women’s and girls’ participation in education.
## TIME TABLE OF LECTURES

### For the First Term of 1884

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Greek Lectures will be arranged according to the class.

### For the Second Term of 1884

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SATURDAY, 10 a.m., Senior Mathematics.

**Note:**
These Retrospective columns are reprinted on the Jubilee section of the University website and staff intranet.

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### Students dance with the stars

NICA’s Dance students were treated to a jive lesson on their first day of class, taught by Dancing with the Stars veteran Brian Jones (right). Brian, who danced with Geeling Ng (left) in this year’s TV series, will teach Ballroom Dance next semester.

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### Hood and Seelye Fellowships: final call

The University is calling for applications for Hood and Seelye Charitable Trust Fellowships, available to bring leading international visitors to the University, or for leading University academics to travel abroad. This round closes on 31 March and visits may take place in 2008 or 2009. Academic staff are encouraged to apply or nominate others for these awards, each valued at up to $30,000. Further information and application forms are available at [www.advancement.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.advancement.auckland.ac.nz) for enquiries please contact Pramilla Andrew, pc.andrew@auckland.ac.nz or ext 88113.

### Vacancies for over twos

At Hineteiwaiwa Te Kohanga Reo, University of Auckland, vacancies are available for over twos. For further information, phone 373-7599 ext 86534.

### Business case win

Hard on the heels of Auckland’s win in the inaugural Champions Trophy International Case Competition 2008 in February, another team from the Business School has notched up an outstanding win at the “World’s Largest Case Competition” in Los Angeles. Brook Aspden, Khay Shern Chan, Patrick Hadfield, and Carl Li presented a winning case for the Los Angeles Times and the challenges it faces from ageing readership and web-based delivery channels. Judges reported a clear, focused message, good insight into the customer and a practical, realistic execution. The team was coached by Sunny Gu and Brendon Potter, Director of Student Development. The Marshall International Case Competition, hosted by the University of Southern California, brings together teams from 30 of the world’s leading universities, from Carnegie Mellon to Wharton in the US, to Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Auckland is the first winning team from outside the US since 1999.

### Blackwell prize for English student

The Departments of English and Film, Television and Media Studies are pleased to announce that Rachel Bryden, currently enrolled in a PGDipARTS in English, has won the Twentieth Century and Contemporary Prize in the 2007 Blackwell Literature Compass Graduate Essay Competition. Her essay, “Cultural wounds and physical scarring in Once Were Warriors”, will be published in Literature Compass, an online edited and peer-reviewed resource of essays and critical interventions in all aspects of English literature.

The University of Auckland News
Sharing expertise internationally

Higher education in Saudi Arabia has been rapidly expanding since the 1970s, with student numbers up from 7,000 in 1970 to 200,000 in 2004.

Last month senior staff from 11 universities in Saudi Arabia came to the University of Auckland for two intensive weeks of study to increase their knowledge of facilities and programmes for professional development of academic staff.

“The University of Auckland has achieved a solid reputation in Saudi Arabia,” says Jenny Alford, General Manager of Contract Education at Auckland UniServices Ltd. “This is partly because of its size and high international rankings, but is also due to the good track record and management of successive groups of students who have studied in Auckland programmes, funded by the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education.”

The two-week course in professional development, created specifically for the Saudi Arabian university staff by the Centre for Academic Development, was very comprehensive and well suited to the requirements of the group, says Jenny. The participants were also invited to visit the faculties relevant to their own areas of academic expertise, where they had the opportunity to meet the Deans, and to chat informally with academic colleagues.

As academic staff in Saudi Arabian universities often join the universities immediately after completing masters degrees and can later be funded to undertake PhD studies overseas, the contacts created through courses such as this could result in university staff from Saudi Arabia coming here for postgraduate study.

Staff from CAD and UniServices worked together with a senior representative from the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education to design and implement the course.

“UniServices was responsible for, among other things, the client liaison, which included management of expectations,” says Nissa Anderson, Contracts Manager for Contract Education in UniServices. “We work with both the client and the University team to assist with successful delivery across cultural boundaries.”

Jenny and Nissa agree that one of the most essential requirements in every contract is to ensure there is alignment between client expectations and the service they will receive.

A note of levity says it all

It is a measure of the interest in the recording projects of Associate Professor Uwe Grodd (School of Music) that Gramophone magazine, a publication not generally noted for its levity, printed a recent story entitled “In Grodd we trust!”

Uwe’s international reputation as a musician who enjoys exploring rare and unknown repertoire has developed over the past decade in a series of critically acclaimed recordings for Naxos.

The most recent of these is a CD of works for piano and orchestra by Mozart’s gifted pupil Johann Nepomuk Hummel which received the Gramophone’s “Editor’s Choice” distinction for February.

Like many of Uwe’s recordings it is the fruit of a unique collaboration between himself, Naxos and University of Auckland Distinguished Alumnus Dr Allan Badley, whose scholarly editions of the works were used for the recordings.

Uwe, Allan and Christopher Hinterhuber – the brilliant young Austrian pianist who is featured on this recording – are working on an even more ambitious project: the publication and recording of the complete works for piano and orchestra by Beethoven’s friend and star pupil Ferdinand Ries. The fourth volume in this series is to be recorded in June with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra following Volumes One to Three with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Gävle Symphony, Sweden, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

Christopher Hinterhuber will visit the University in August to give recitals and masterclasses.

Golden harvest

Wine enthusiasts (and novices) gathered in University House on 28 February to launch the 2007 vintage Ingenio Chardonnay produced from grapes grown at Fossil Bay Vineyard on Waiheke Island by postgraduate diploma and masters students in Wine science. Sampling the wine with appreciation are Randy Weaver (right), senior tutor and winemaker in Wine science, Jan Robertson (centre) wine science technician and vineyard manager, and masters student Miguel Roncoroni.

Wine can be ordered within the University through Randy Weaver (r.weaver@auckland.ac.nz), ext 89969.
Poetic prelude in Hawke’s Bay

As Michele Leggott, New Zealand’s Poet Laureate, was welcomed on to Matahiwi Marae on a windy but fine Hawke’s Bay day, it was clear this was going to be a very special and historic occasion.

People from all over the country had come to welcome Michele as our first Government-sponsored Poet Laureate, but also to pay tribute to the late Hone Tuwhare.

At the heart of the marae ceremony was the handover of two tokotoko (carved staffs) made by renowned carver Jacob Scott and presented by Ngāti Kahungunu to the National Library of New Zealand, guardians of the Poet Laureate programme. The first, the matua tokotoko, will stay on permanent display at the Library, while the second, a striking blue and silver design, is Michele’s to keep.

The unique tokotoko designs tell the story of the Poet Laureate programme, intertwining the people, places and relationships that are its origins.

The Hawke’s Bay community embraced the celebration of poetry with an all-weekend series of events including poetry at the pa and poetry readings at the beautifully restored Hawke’s Bay Opera House.

At the Opera House event called I Say Te Mata a sell-out crowd was treated to a 14-strong contingent of New Zealand poets including Michele and Elizabeth Smither, Rowley Habib and young student poets from Hawke’s Bay.

It was a big weekend for everyone – for Ngāti Kahungunu, the National Library of New Zealand, Michele Leggott, the poets and the people of Hawke’s Bay – and will be remembered as a milestone event in establishing the unique identity of our very own Poet Laureate programme.

Poppies stand tall

Two University staff were named Tall Poppies in the World Class New Zealand Awards.

Professor Garth Cooper (Biological Sciences) was recognised with the Biotechnology award, and Professor Margaret Brimble (Chemistry) with the Research, Science, Technology and Academic award.

Garth and Margaret are also principal investigators at the Maurice Wilkins Centre.

The awards, organised by Kea New Zealand and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, recognise people who provide inspiration and leadership for the next generation. Winners, across seven categories representing the diversity of the national economy, are acknowledged for the time, knowledge and skills they use to help New Zealand succeed internationally.

The awards were presented at a dinner in February.

Professor Garth Cooper is one of New Zealand’s foremost biological scientists and biotechnology entrepreneurs, currently Professor of Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry, and leader of the Proteomics and Biomedicine Research Group. He is also a member of the Academy of the Royal Society of New Zealand and of the Endocrine Society.

Margaret Brimble is Professor of Organic Chemistry and is Director of New Zealand’s only Medicinal Chemistry Programme. She has established an impressive international research record and received the 2007 UNESCO-L’Oreal Women in Science Laureate in Materials Science for the Asia-Pacific region, an honour given to the top five female scientists in the world. She was the first New Zealander to receive this award.

In partnership with Neuren Pharmaceuticals Limited she led the medicinal chemistry team to develop the drug NNZ-2566 – which has entered human clinical trials for traumatic brain injury – in a collaboration with the US Army Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

Viewpoint

Housing policy and housing affordability

New Zealand’s recent and dramatic housing boom represents something of a two-edged sword.

For existing home owners and investors, rising house prices have underpinned a dramatic increase in household wealth and sustained a considerable consumer boom. However, the rapid rise in house prices has resulted in an “affordability crisis” that threatens the New Zealand dream of home ownership. Significantly, and in contrast to other developed economies, New Zealand’s home ownership rate has declined from 73 to 66 percent of households over the last ten years.

The consequences of the current boom have exercised the minds of politicians and the Governor of the Reserve Bank. They are not alone in their search for a solution to this housing problem as governments around the world have adopted policies to support home ownership.

Drawing on the UK’s experience, the Government’s recently announced shared equity initiative seeks to assist more households into home ownership. These schemes, involving the state taking an equity share in the purchase of a house, are designed to support people who can afford home ownership but are unable to generate a sufficient deposit. They operate on a Goldilocks principle – just enough assistance to help people without distorting the market. In the UK, since 1997, shared equity schemes have assisted approximately 80,000 households into home ownership at a time when home ownership has increased by 1.8 million.

A shared-equity scheme in New Zealand will assist households into home ownership. But it is not a panacea. The scheme, when it is finalised, is likely to have limited impact on affordability in areas with the highest housing costs. Moreover, the manner in which it assists households alters the financial returns from ownership and thus the experience of home ownership. Herein lies the key policy dilemma for government. Is home ownership simply a basis for securing good housing outcomes or is it the primary basis for household wealth accumulation? If it is the latter, then there are built-in expectations for house price inflation that will continue to shape the “affordability problem”.

Professor Laurence Murphy
Department of Property Business School
New associate professors

Roger Marshall (Population Health)

I studied mathematics and statistics at Southampton University and completed a PhD in statistical modelling of storm and rainfall patterns, as an aspect of civil engineering flood research, at Bristol University.

I then abandoned climate and weather research which seemed unexciting (it was 1977!), and spent three years lecturing at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad instead.

I returned to the UK and worked on geological statistics at Leeds University.

Later, as my introduction to medicine, I worked on prognosis in cancer and analysis of chromatographic patterns.

I came to New Zealand in 1986 to the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences as a biostatistician and have remained, becoming an epidemiologist on the way.

My research covers developing and applying biostatistical methods to problems of epidemiology and medicine. I am interested in risk prediction and modelling and have written a computer software package (SPAN) to develop classification and prediction rules.

When not doing any of those things, I like to play guitar, sing and compose songs.

Elizabeth Rata (Social and Policy Studies)

My academic career is driven by a deep interest in investigating social and political phenomena, an interest that led to the concept of “neotribal capitalism”.

This is a theoretical tool for inquiring into ethnic politics, particularly as the politics affect education policy and practice, and for distinguishing between what people claim and what actually happens in the wider New Zealand political landscape.

The initial motivation to understand more about the role ethnicity plays in political ideologies comes from my own experiences in secondary teaching and in bringing up my two sons, along with my involvement in kohanga reo and the establishment of kura kaupapa Māori. These experiences raised disturbing questions about the consequences of ethnic categorisation, ones I examined during a Fulbright Senior Scholarship to Georgetown University, in a number of publications, and in national and international presentations.

A regret I have is that my major work on neotribal capitalism, published in the United States as A Political Economy of Neotribal Capitalism, was priced out of the New Zealand market. One of a number of research projects for 2008 is to re-write the neotribal capitalism book as a more reasonably priced paperback for local distribution in the hope that it will be useful for academics and students in this country.

Seminar to celebrate

In celebration of the first anniversary of the Confucius Institute, Professor Zhang Jun, Director of the China Centre for Economic Studies and Chang Jiang Professor of Economics at Fudan University, China, delivered a public seminar at The University of Auckland. Professor Zhang, a highly-respected scholar and commentator on China’s economic reform, shared his in-depth knowledge of the Chinese economy, and elaborated its significance and opportunities for New Zealand. For the anniversary, Fudan University, the Chinese partner of the Confucius Institute in Auckland, sent a delegation led by Executive Vice-President Professor Wang Weiping.

A chance to extend your horizons

Discover your values, make your mark on the world, or learn about exercising for the future at the General Staff Conference on 16 and 17 April.

These are just three of the wealth of workshops and learning opportunities in which all members of the General Staff are invited to enrol.

Fittingly for this Jubilee year, the theme of the conference is “Investing in the future – the next 125 years”. Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon, in opening the conference, will address this topic and set the scene for the conference.

Leading the first plenary session is Sarah Strong, highly experienced in the careers industry, who will give ideas and tips on how to manage a successful career in rapidly changing times. In the second plenary the senior management team will address the challenges the University faces as it heads towards 2012.

Keynote speakers are Dr David Skilling, founding Chief Executive of the New Zealand Institute, who will give his perspective on the challenges facing New Zealand and how he sees the University taking a leadership role in creating a productive and vibrant society; and Trudie McNaughton, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equal Opportunities), who will discuss how achieving equity outcomes will contribute to the University’s success.

Six morning and afternoon workshops will take place concurrently on each of the two days, covering lifestyle topics such as “Healthy eating” and “Achieving work-life balance”, skills advancement themes such as "Working on projects", and subjects that offer a wider view of the University’s issues, such as “The importance of philanthropy for a 21st century university.”

All enrolments are to be completed online (www.auckland.ac.nz/gsconference2008). Enrolments close on 31 March. The organisers advise early enrolment, as many sessions have limited numbers. All enrolment inquiries should be directed to Kerryn Patten: k.patten@auckland.ac.nz

Photography, history, film

The NZ Centre for Latin American Studies will host Hood Fellows Professors John Mraz and Eli Bartra from Mexico for a series of public presentations and symposia in March-April. Their areas of research include Latin American photography, visual history, indigenous film, and the art of Frida Kahlo. For details email Dr Waleska Pino-Ojeda at w.pino-ojeda@auckland.ac.nz
Reihana graduated from Elam in 1987. Her practice has encompassed video, animation, storytelling, sculpture, textiles, performance, sound and photography, increasingly with a digital emphasis. In 1997 she created Native Portraits n.19897, a large gateway comprising 11 video monitors, commissioned for the opening of Te Papa Tongarewa and forming the waharoa of her ongoing Digital Marae project. From these 11 videos, Reihana created five projected dramas and six granite portraits, which form part of her Memoranda project, first shown at the Singapore Art Museum in 2003.

Etched by laser onto granite from video stills to resemble photographic plates, these portraits are based on 19th century studio photographs of Māori taken by the Burton Brothers, often using models in inappropriate costume. By using relatives and friends to recreate these images, Reihana challenges modes of Western portrayal and the romantic notion of long-lost civilisations, replacing it with a dynamic view of a living culture. From this series, the University last year purchased Top Hat, 2003, which is now on show at the George Fraser Gallery as part of Full Circle, an exhibition of Elam graduate works recently acquired for The University of Auckland Art Collection until 29 March.

A suite of six new large-format digital photographs were added to Reihana’s Digital Marae for an exhibition last year at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, two of which (Maui and Ranginui) have also been purchased for the University’s Art Collection. These photographs are like the carved pouapou that line the walls of a meeting house, representing significant figures from the artist’s whakapapa, whanau and friends. The exquisite black-on-black detailing, Reihana says, acknowledges the influence of senior Māori artist Ralph Hotere.

With execution like that of fashion photography, Reihana works with a team of experts including models, costume designers, photographers, makeup artists and hairdressers, crediting them all in the exhibition much as a movie director acknowledges the team at the end of a film. Working in this way, incorporating friends and helpers both in the work and the production, Reihana celebrates the idea of a marae as a vibrant community place where people come together, as well as side-stepping the traditional Māori convention that prevents women from being carvers. Working with new media, she is creating a virtual, portable marae that can occupy new territory in new ways, creating a place to gather in galleries and even in cyberspace. She continues to add to the project, progressively working towards her Virtual Marae 20/20 AD – a project that will be the culmination of 25 years work.

Andrew Clifford

Lisa Reihana is a New Zealand pioneer of media art, utilising technology to create new ways to explore Māori culture.

Systems Thinking, System Dynamics

It is intended as a text for students in diverse disciplines including business and management, as well as the social, environmental, health and applied sciences. It also has particular relevance for professionals from all backgrounds interested in understanding the dynamic behaviour of complex systems, change management, complex decision-making, group problem-solving and organisational learning.

Peter M. Senge from the Society of Organisational Learning at MIT, Boston, says: “If you believe as I do that enhanced systems intelligence is the mandate for living together in our shrinking world, you will be delighted by Kambiz Maani’s and Bob Cavana’s new book, which takes a big step towards clarifying the underlying philosophy and demystifying the system dynamics method that has long been the core of our work.”

A Matrix Handbook for Statisticians

When someone mentions the word “matrix”, various images come to mind, including a form of cement and the science fiction movies. However, in mathematics, a matrix is a two-way table of data or symbols, as on the cover of this book, and a row or column of the table is called a vector.

In statistics multiple measurements are frequently taken on an object or person, which give a vector of data, and a sample of such vectors gives a matrix. Vectors and matrices and their properties are therefore fundamental to statistical research.

A Matrix Handbook for Statisticians published by Wiley, New York, and written by George Seber, Emeritus Professor of Statistics, systematically collects a wide range of results about vectors and matrices that might be useful in theoretical research.

To economise on space, proofs are not given but are simply referenced, usually with more than one reference. Bearing in mind its statistical orientation, references to statistical applications are frequently given.

To make the book user-friendly, the 2850-odd results are carefully cross-referenced.

The University of Auckland News