

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

news

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Opus magnum complete



Twenty years hard graft translating into English one of the world's greatest medical texts was celebrated at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences on 3 July.

In 1989 Senior Lecturer in Classics Dr Will Richardson and the School of Medicine's founding Professor of Anatomy John Carman began the first English translation of *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem* (*On the fabric of the human body*) by Andreas Vesalius. Considered one of the most important books in the history of medicine, *De fabrica*, published in Latin in 1543, revolutionised the science of anatomy and the way it was taught. Illustrated with hundreds of anatomical drawings from artists at the school of Renaissance painter Titian, it led to the eventual overturn of the Galenic system that had dominated medical science for 14 centuries.

Now with the recent publication of the fifth and final volume of the translation incorporating Book VI: *The heart and associated organs*; and Book VII *The brain*, modern-day readers can access the entire work in English for the first time.

"This is a special and unique contribution to anatomy by two quite outstanding scholars," said Professor Richard Faull (Anatomy with Radiology) at the 3 July celebration. Dean of the Faculty of

Medical and Health Sciences, Professor Iain Martin called the translation "an opus magnum in every sense".

John Carman (now Emeritus Professor of Anatomy) says "quite remarkable serendipity" ensured this project got off the ground at The University of Auckland. It began when the School of Medicine's first librarian bought a facsimile of the original *De fabrica* in 1967.

"I then came here as the founding professor in 1968, while Will had joined the Classics Department in 1963."

In the 1970s Will undertook a study of the origin of anatomical terms in Latin and Greek and John worked closely with him at the time. Subsequently medical researchers, delving into Vesalius's book, frequently asked Will to translate short sections of the *Fabrica* relevant to their own studies. Will realised there was no translation into an accessible modern language and in 1989 decided to embark on a translation into English. Having previously worked with John, he asked him to join him in the task.

The two academics followed a careful process: Will translated "about a page a day" from the original tome - a huge book weighing 5.5kg which

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Key events

Staff survey results

The Vice-Chancellor will give a series of presentations to staff where he will share the overall University-wide results of the 2009 Staff Survey.

- City Campus: Monday 27 July, 1-2pm, Conference Centre Lecture Theatre 423-342.
- Epsom Campus: Wednesday 29 July, 12 noon-1pm, Lecture Theatre J2 (to be linked to Tai Tokerau via videoconference).
- Tamaki Campus: Friday 31 July, 12 noon-1pm, Lecture Theatre 733-201.
- Grafton Campus: Monday 3 August, 12noon-1pm, Henley Lecture Theatre.

All staff are encouraged to take the time to attend one of the sessions where possible. For those who can't attend, the results will be available on the intranet in August.

Te Wiki o Te Reo

Enter a team of four to six players in the University's Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori Quiz Challenge. Activities will revolve around Te Reo Māori but participants do not need to be fluent. This is a fun challenge evening for staff members of all language levels. The event will take place 6-9pm, 30 July, at the Waipapa Marae. To register your team or for more information email k.netana@auckland.ac.nz

Profits without honour?

The School of Theology invites you to a free public lecture by Professor Andrew Bradstock, University of Otago, on "Profits without honour? Economics, spirituality and the current global recession". He will argue that the current crisis is spiritual as well as economic and that theology can perform a vital task in helping us uncover its roots, and nudge the debate in constructive and visionary directions. The lecture will be in Room 018, ClockTower, on 5 August at 6pm. For more information and RSVP, contact Anna Ma (theologyadmin@auckland.ac.nz), ext 86676.

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Several recent developments have highlighted the vulnerability of small institutions in the tertiary sector. These include the now abandoned merger proposal between Lincoln University and AgResearch, the inability of some smaller universities to achieve expected surpluses, and ongoing viability issues in some Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs).

The public education sector in New Zealand is characterised by a vast range in size of institution. For example, the 20 ITPs have an average annual revenue of about \$45 million (the smallest just \$12 million), while the eight universities have an average of \$330 million (the largest, our University, over \$800 million). With the exception of Lincoln (an unusually small university), even the largest of the ITPs is smaller than the smallest university. In addition, many of the smallest institutions are located in regional areas (eg the West Coast of the South Island, Wanganui, Northland, Bay of Plenty) which tend to be particularly adversely affected by recessionary conditions.

Small public institutions tend to have a number of problems: they do not have the economies of scale of larger organisations; they are typically less able to invest in the kinds of systems and infrastructure that larger organisations can justify investing in; they are often unable to attract the same calibre of people in governance and management as larger organisations; and they are less able to withstand external pressures, partly because they lack scale and partly because their revenue streams may be less diversified than in larger organisations.

There are several ways in which greater organisational scale could be achieved in the sector: for example, clusters of ITPs could be encouraged to merge into a single regional ITP with a single governance and senior management structure; some of the universities might be contracted to run their regional institutes of technology (according to defined performance criteria); and in time, such arrangements might evolve into the "University system" approach characteristic of such places as Hawai'i which integrate community colleges (akin to ITPs) and universities into a single system with shared governance and academic management - thereby achieving scale and the ultimate in academic pathways. While some of these ideas may seem radical, more of our institutions will be placed at risk as per student income continues to decline, and the country will need to consider new models for the delivery of tertiary education.



HR professionals confer

The University of Auckland hosted the New Zealand Vice Chancellors' Committee Human Resources Conference on 2-3 July at the Owen Glenn Building, attended by 50 HR professionals from the eight New Zealand universities.

In his welcome address the Dean of Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Professor Iain Martin, reflected on the conference theme, "The beginning of a new tomorrow", noting the importance of HR in helping universities to "get, keep and grow the very best people if we are to fulfil our missions".

"Our objective was to host a conference that was future-focused - explore complex, challenging issues and examine their relevance for universities, HR teams and individual HR professionals. We also wanted to showcase several of the University's iconic buildings, our students and staff," said Kath Clarke, HR Director.

In "Glimpses of a new future", three graduates of the Future Leaders Programme run by Excelerator facilitated the first session, challenging delegates to think about the future world of work over the next few decades.

Dr Scott Diener, Associate Director, ITS, presented on virtual workplaces and learning environments, and stimulated debate on the opportunities and challenges of studying and

working in Second Life. HR Advisers from each university presented a poster showcasing a successful initiative or project undertaken in the last 12 months.

The conference dinner in the Fale Pasifika allowed delegates to network and experience the multi-cultural flavour of Auckland, with a Pasifika themed meal and entertainment by Te Pua Inano.

On the second day, workshops focused on "Reframing leadership for the future" and "Building your personal brand".

Evaluations submitted by delegates indicate that participants were successful in achieving their objectives. "This is the best conference I have attended" commented one HR Director.



Future Leaders graduate, Andrew Cushen (third from left), facilitates discussion with HR conference delegates.

story continues from page 1



Will Richardson.

he placed on a customised, slanted stand - and then John checked the anatomical terminology and descriptions.

In 1998 the first volume was published by Norman Publishing of San Francisco and was immediately hailed by a reviewer in the prestigious *Nature* magazine. "Until now, Vesalius has not been well served by translators. Some lacked linguistic competence, others anatomical expertise. But, in what must rank as one of the publishing and scientific and literary achievements of the decade, classicist William Richardson, in collaboration with anatomist John Carman, have produced a quite stunning translation of the first book of *De Fabrica: The Bones and Cartilages*."

Volume 2 on the muscles appeared in 1999 and Volume 3 on the vessels and nerves in 2001.

By 2004, Will had completed the translation of all seven books - sections as we would now call them - of Vesalius's massive tome to go into five volumes when, in October 2004, he died very suddenly.

"That was a big blow," says John, who

nonetheless continued on and completed the editing of the last two volumes with help from Senior Lecturer, Dr Bill Barnes (Classics).

"Will was one of the world's leading Renaissance Latin scholars, and John is an extraordinary anatomist - a modern day Vesalius and the ideal person to partner Will in the translation," said Professor Faull. Professor Iain Martin, Dean of the Faculty, remarked on the exceptional quality of the published volumes, which have won a number of publishing awards.

Michael Richardson represented his father at the celebration event. "Yesterday would have been my father's 71st birthday, and I can't think of any present that would have given him greater pleasure," he said. "He lived Vesalius in the last 15 years of his life, and despite the sheer size of the work, I never heard him say that he wished Vesalius had made the *Fabrica* shorter."

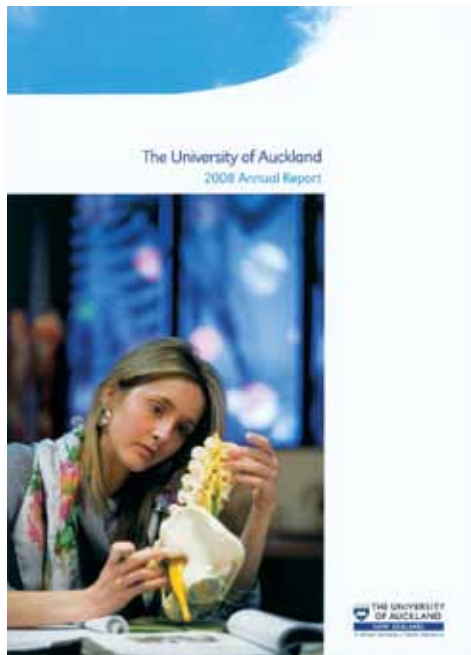
John Carman presented Professor Martin Wild, Head of the Department of Anatomy with Radiology, with the final two volumes of the translation, completing the set to be held in the department.

John sees the completed translation not only as of great value in the field of anatomy and its history but also, as Will appreciated, an important resource for researchers in social history and the history of medicine.

"Vesalius was the first anatomist who insisted that you must view the anatomy of a body yourself and not take the word of the ancients," says John.

"This 'hands on' approach was seen as a pivotal step in modern science and certainly in anatomy and modern medicine."

Well funded universities add value



The importance of universities to New Zealand's future economic prospects is spelled out in The University of Auckland's Annual Report for 2008.

The current international financial crisis which is pushing many economies towards recession "highlights more than ever the need to rebuild the human and physical infrastructures" of our universities, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon writes in his review of the year.

This country's current and future economic prosperity lies not "in mineral resources, like Australia, or in low cost mass production like China", he says. "It will be in clever people adding value to our natural resources and high quality manufacturing.

"This requires two things. One is a well-educated, thinking, adaptive, ingenious population. The other is research and development, innovation and technology transfer. Universities are uniquely placed to provide the former, and are by far the leading engine for the latter."

Calling for a larger share of public expenditure

to be delivered to universities, Professor McCutcheon says the funding system needs to recognise "differentiation" which implies different cost structures.

The public sector should "return to contestability of research funding to ensure it flows to the brightest minds and the best ideas, not merely to those who claim to most need the cashflow".

Professor McCutcheon says he is often asked "how it is that an institution which attracts so little investment by international standards can be so highly ranked among the world's leading universities. The answer is of course that we are blessed with some outstanding people who give their all in support of our teaching, research and community engagement."

Among achievements recorded in the Annual Report are:

- External research income including UniServices and the Large Scale Research Institutes exceeded the 2008 targets by 8.6 percent. This represented a 16 percent increase on 2007 and a 45 percent increase since 2004.
- Postgraduate EFTS have risen from 16 percent of the total in 2004 to 19.3 percent in 2008, reflecting good progress towards the 22 percent target.
- The Campus Development Strategy was adopted with overwhelming support for its University-wide approach.
- The University's \$100 million "Leading the Way" fundraising campaign was launched in November 2008 with just under half of this ambitious target already raised.

Illustrated with numerous colour photographs the 96-page Annual Report contains a wealth of useful statistics and information. It sets out achievements in teaching and research, "Statements of service performance" and the University's financial statements.

The report is available from Vanya Mitchell in Financial Services (ext 891781, v.mitchell@uckland.ac.nz) and online at <http://media.auckland.ac.nz/fms/central/uoa-annual-reports/2008-uoa-annual-report.pdf>

Māori Language Week



Back row, left to right: Puawai Werata, EEdO; Dr Kepa Morgan, Engineering; Kahurangi Tibble, Arts; Dennis Ngawhare, EEdO; Lewis Moeau, Kaumatua

Front row, left to right: Marcia Murray, Engineering; Kimiora Brown, Business and Economics; Te Kororia Netana, PVC(Māori); Te Whetu Thompson, Communications and Marketing.

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori) invites your faculty or service division to enter a team in the University's Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori quiz challenge, to be held at Waipapa Marae from 6-9pm on 30 July.

Activities will revolve around te reo Māori but participants do not need to be fluent in the language. This will be an enjoyable challenge, with people of all levels welcome, including beginners.

Entry fee for the studio audience is \$5 per person. Team registration is \$20 (for a four-person team) or \$30 (for a team of six). Entry fee proceeds will go towards providing educational resources for the University's early childhood education centres, supporting the transmission of the Māori language to new generations.

To register your team or for more information email k.netana@uckland.ac.nz by 27 July.

... in brief

National teaching awards

Two staff from the Faculty of Science, Paul Denny (Computer Science) and Dr Rachel Fewster (Statistics), were among the ten prize winners honoured at the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony at Parliament on 21 July.

The Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards, established by the Government in 2001, are administered and managed by Ako Aotearoa – the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. They recognise and encourage excellence in tertiary teaching, and reward teaching practices that are student-focused and committed to promoting effective learning.

For more information about the award winners, see the staff intranet homepage (<http://web.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/staff/home.cfm>).

Stand-up science

This poster session and networking event, hosted by Stratus, is a chance for early career researchers to present their work to the wider University community and find out what everyone else at the University is doing as well.

Bring a recent poster from you or your group to discuss over drinks and nibbles. Presenters will also get a one-minute stand-up spot to introduce their area of expertise.

This will take place at the Atrium, School of Engineering Building, 20 Symonds Street, 30 July, 4.30pm.

Book your poster space by emailing secretary@stratus.ac.nz by 24 July.

The art of teaching

This is a call for contributions to the ninth annual Teaching and Learning Showcase, to be hosted by the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) on 27 and 28 October.

This event will celebrate the achievement of some of our outstanding teachers and encourage staff to share in a range of perspectives on effective teaching.

All staff involved in teaching at the University are invited to participate. Recipients of Teaching Improvement, Flexible Learning and other grants, staff who have developed innovative approaches to teaching in their disciplines, and those considering applications for Teaching Excellence Awards are particularly encouraged to submit proposals.

Closing date for proposals of one-page maximum is 24 August.

To send proposals or for more information, contact Dr Barbara Kensington-Miller (b.kensington-miller@uckland.ac.nz).

Eleven new professors appointed

Eleven academic staff at The University of Auckland have been promoted from associate professor to professor.

Promotion to professor is a mark of distinction, awarded for professional and academic eminence at an international level.

The new professors are from the Faculties of Arts, Education, Medical and Health Sciences, and Science.

This year's new professors include a husband and wife team, Professor Simon Holdaway (Anthropology) and Professor Ngaire Kerse (General Practice and Primary Health Care).

Other new professors with family connections to the University's past and present professorial staff are Professor Phil Crosier, whose wife Kathy Crosier is already a professor in the same department (Molecular Medicine and Pathology), and Professor Penny Brothers, who is the sister of Dr Peter Brothers, Chief Executive of Manukau Institute of Technology, previously a professor and Dean of Engineering at this University. Their late father, Nick Brothers, was professor of Geology at Auckland.



Professor Bill Barton (Department of Mathematics) is a specialist in mathematics and culture (ethnomathematics), and in mathematics and language. Recently he published a book on the way widely different languages express mathematical ideas. He also conducts research into mathematics learning for students for whom English is not a first language, and into the mathematical development of senior secondary school teachers.

bismuth, leading to potential applications in medicine and in hydrogen storage and activation, important goals in the search for more sustainable fuels.



Professor Linda Bryder (Department of History) is an international authority on the history of health and medicine in the twentieth century. She has published widely, with a particular focus on the history of tuberculosis, infant health and women's health. Along with several monographs, she has contributed to and edited books and has published in all the major international journals in her field. She is regularly invited to speak at international conferences.

particularly interested in assessing how people respond to health risks, and how anxiety and other emotions influence their use of health services and protective behaviours. She has also investigated the promotion of environmentally responsible behaviours and sustainable lifestyles.



Professor Phil Crosier (Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology) is particularly interested in identifying genetic pathways associated with human disease. His current focus is on the genetic aspects of inflammatory bowel disease and its link with cancer. With colleagues he has used zebrafish to track immune responses in real time, and he has a strong track record in attracting commercially-funded research contracts.

Her writing has examined their evolving identity, their interactions with Māori as tangata whenua, and their role in enhancing this country's cultural and social diversity. She has shared her research knowledge through scholarly publications, conferences, lectures, policy papers and in the media.



Professor Simon Holdaway (Department of Anthropology) is an archaeologist specialising in stone artefacts whose research interests span millennia and the globe. He is recognised as an authority on the geoarchaeology of the Australian Arid Zone, time perspectivism, early Neolithic sites in Egypt, and the archaeology of nineteenth century Māori in Taranaki. He does frequent fieldwork in pursuit of his long-term research into how the archaeological record is formed and interpreted.



Professor Penny Brothers (Department of Chemistry) has research interests in porphyrin chemistry, the main group elements and organometallic chemistry. She investigates how the porphyrin ligand (well known as the red pigment in blood) can be used to modify the chemistry of elements such as boron and



Professor Linda Cameron (Department of Psychology) has carried out considerable research in the field of health psychology, with an emphasis on exploring psychological aspects of cancer, cancer screening and treatment, and other health conditions. She is



Professor Manying Ip (School of Asian Studies) has pioneered research on Chinese New Zealanders and their impact, historically and as recent migrants.



Professor Nick Holford (Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology) has drug development science as his focus. He has introduced disease

Open entry for Māori?

Pita Sharples raised the challenge of Māori under-achievement in compulsory education, suggesting open entry for Māori students to universities. In response, many people described this as “institutionalised racism” that indicates to Māori that “they have to be given things without the background work because they are too stupid to earn them”.

Dr Sharples is right to point out that compulsory schooling is not working for many Māori students. While 66 percent of Asian and 44 percent of European students leave school with University Entrance (UE) and/or Level 3 NCEA, only 20 percent of Pacific and 18 percent of Māori students gain these qualifications. The decile level of school is also strongly correlated with gaining UE (with Māori and Pacific students clustered in low decile schools). In Auckland, 71 percent of students in decile 10 schools, 51 percent in decile 5 schools and only 21 percent in decile 1 schools gained UE in 2007.

This is a major problem for all New Zealanders. An increasing proportion of New Zealand’s young people are from Māori, Pacific and/or low income families. Unless these students have a fair opportunity to succeed in higher education, gaining the skills required to drive an internationally competitive economy, the country is unlikely to prosper.

Recognising this, the Crown has supported the Starpath Project led by Associate Professor Liz McKinley as a Partnership for Excellence with The University of Auckland, which aims to identify exactly when and where Māori, Pacific and low income students begin to fail, and to identify and devise initiatives that make a positive difference.

In its four years, the Starpath Project has made some interesting discoveries. First, while the education system in New Zealand is ostensibly dedicated to ensuring all students fulfil their potential, Starpath researchers have found that across the system, the management of educational data has more to do with distributing resources rather than with tracking the success or failure of students. Schools and tertiary institutions are therefore often unaware when bright students begin to fail; or when groups of students (say, Māori boys) begin to follow very different educational pathways from their peers.

Second, while the education system is investing much time, money and effort in initiatives aimed at enhancing student achievement, it is largely working blind. Without the long-term tracking of students, it is impossible to know whether particular initiatives are accurately targeted at real problems, and whether they are making a positive difference. This leads to a proliferation of unco-ordinated, short-term initiatives, a wasteful use of resources, and a failure to identify those approaches that really work.

Third, while Starpath found high levels of satisfaction with NCEA among students, their families and teachers, a study led by Dr Irena Madjar found that NCEA is so complex that students and their parents often don’t understand the consequences of the decisions they are making as they navigate through the system. Schools also play a powerful role in mediating these choices, determining which subjects are available and how they are timetabled, which standards of particular subjects are offered, and which students are selected for different versions of the core subjects.

As a result, while the great majority of Māori, Pacific and low income students aspire to gain university entrance (78 percent in this study), it is easy for these students to find themselves on NCEA pathways that foreclose this option. In this game of academic snakes and ladders, the “subject pass” operated by schools (requiring students to take additional standards in core subjects to progress to higher NCEA levels); the availability of standards from the “approved list” for university entrance (which at present increases by the decile level of school - a troubling finding); and the choice of applied versions of core subjects, or unit standards instead of achievement standards, all act as traps for young players. Many bright students find they have the wrong combinations of subjects, standards and credits to gain UE.

It doesn’t have to be this way, however. In one Starpath school, introducing long-term tracking of students along with individualised academic counselling and goal-setting significantly raised the levels of NCEA achievement. Six of the eight targets set by the school were met, with good gains in the other two. In addition, 76 percent of parents turned up to parent-teacher interviews, compared with 9-13 percent in previous years, showing that when parents feel truly involved in planning their child’s future, they participate. This kind of initiative deserves support, and further investigation.

While other New Zealanders may be inclined to blame educational under-achievement on Māori, Pacific and low income students and their families, these reactions are ill-informed and unhelpful. As Dr Sharples points out, many bright students from Māori (and Pacific and low income) families are currently failing to gain entrance to universities for reasons that have nothing to do with their intelligence or personal merits.

In fact, according to other Starpath studies, when Māori and Pacific students take achievement standards from the approved list, their success rates improve and they are more likely to stay at school; and if UE was based on a grade point average weighted for the level of achievement (rather than the quantity and combination of credits, as at present), significantly more Māori students would be admitted to university.

No doubt, Dr Sharples’s frustration with facts of this kind led him to suggest that Māori students should be given open entry to universities. Under the current system, however, many of these students (given their experience in compulsory schooling) would be likely to fail, gaining a debt and a bad experience for no reward. Some kind of screening is needed, perhaps on the model of the special access scheme at the University of Cambridge, in which students and their schools provide additional information so that their chances of success at university can be evaluated.

Dr Sharples’s other suggestion, that such students should have open access to pre-entry University courses, is excellent – although the Government would have to fully fund these programmes. This would give a second chance to many bright students whom the education system has hitherto failed.

Above all, the compulsory education system needs re-engineering. Initiatives such as Kotahitanga (which helps teachers build positive relationships with Māori students) should be coupled with information systems in schools to track the educational journeys of students. This data should be analysed, identifying the strengths and potentials of individual students (so that they and their parents get optimal advice), along with patterns of success and failure across the student body (so that initiatives are accurately targeted). Those without a positive impact on outcomes should be dropped, while those that are highly successful should be adopted across the system.

While NCEA has many strengths (including flexibility and a greater reliability in predicting success at university), the NCEA system also requires streamlining; and students and their parents need much better advice about their choices. Above all, NCEA pathways leading to UE should be equitably available. The current pattern where the average number of achievement standards from the approved list rises by the decile level of school is discriminatory, and should not be permitted.

At a time of economic hardship, it is critical that the Government invests scarce resources wisely. While highways may make our journeys smoother and quicker, better educational pathways for our children (all of them) are more likely to transform the future of New Zealand. Dr Sharples’s suggestions deserve thoughtful, informed responses, not prejudicial knee-jerk reactions. About educational opportunities for our children, let’s have an intelligent debate.

**Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond
Starpath Project Sponsor**

New professors appointed continues

progression concepts into clinical pharmacology and developed methods for clinical trial simulation. He has done original work on the progression of Parkinson's disease and its treatment with drugs, and is seeking to improve clinical trials into treatment of long-term degenerative diseases.



Professor Ngaire Kerse (Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care) has an international reputation for her work on the care of the elderly. She leads teams engaged in research on maximising health for older people, preventing falls by the elderly, and the impact of physical activity on countering disability, and has published extensively in international journals on primary care and gerontology. Her plans include the establishment of a centre for health in ageing.



Professor Robin Small (Faculty of Education) has published widely on the philosophy and history of education as well as on philosophy itself. He has written the only book in English on Karl Marx as an educational thinker, along with several books on Friedrich Nietzsche, and has edited a volume on the phenomenological tradition, and an English translation of the German philosopher Paul Rée's writings. His current research is on the ethics of educational research.



Professor Gill Dobbie (Department of Computer Science) is an international expert in data management. She is interested in how data can best be organised, managed, retained and expressed. Her current projects include data management for collaborative applications such as Facebook, real time data management for data warehousing, and finding patterns in massive amounts of data.

Turn your idea into reality

With over \$100,000 worth of prizes, mentoring and networks to be won, the \$100k Spark Challenge is New Zealand's premier business plan competition and an excellent launch pad for students and staff from all disciplines to transform their ideas into real businesses. The challenge is free to all students and staff of the University. Submissions close 10 August at 3pm. Go to www.spark.auckland.ac.nz to find out more and to submit your entries.

Kudos for three

Three of the six prestigious William Georgetti Scholarships for postgraduate study awarded for 2009 have gone to University of Auckland graduates.

The three Auckland recipients are Sunita Patel, BCom/LLB (Hons), Leron Postelnik, BE (Hons) and Avinash Sharma, MBChB.

The scholarships are given to encourage postgraduate study and research in a field which is important to the social, cultural and economic development of New Zealand. They were established from the residue of the estate of William Georgetti who wanted "the best brains available" to benefit.

Old O'Rorkians reunite



Ex-residents turned out in force to celebrate O'Rourke Hall's sixtieth anniversary on 4 July.

Some 135 of them braved a cold, rain-swept Saturday to attend a reunion of old O'Rorkians from 1949 to 1979. Nearly all live in Greater Auckland and elsewhere in the North Island.

One came from as far away as Australia and one from the United States. Attendees were evenly split between men and women.

Over champagne, a buffet lunch and the afternoon tea which concluded proceedings they renewed friendships forged long ago and relived memorable exploits (respectable and otherwise). After group photographs they were led on tours of the modern, high-rise structure which 20 years ago replaced the original O'Rourke (pictured above) where they all lived.

In his welcome address Justice Colin Nicholson (at O'Rourke from 1951-1954 and MC for the occasion) talked about the differences and the similarities between his time and now. O'Rourke retains a welcoming culture which promotes personal as well as academic growth, he said. He had learned to be punctual at O'Rourke, constantly running for class at the last minute.

Proposing the toast to "absent friends", retired architect Denys Oldham (1949-1952) spoke warmly of his arrival at the hall only a few months after being "uprooted" from his school in England. He expressed "a very heartfelt and belated 'thank you' to my then contemporaries at O'Rourke for being a community where I felt so much at home, as a stranger in a strange land, but where at least the locals spoke some semblance of English".

The former residents commented to O'Rourke's Residential Manager, Ruben Katigbak, on how the old hall was "more spartan" and today's food is "definitely better". They also noted that orientation for new students is "much more extensive" than in the past.

No date has been set for the next reunion but an event to mark O'Rourke's seventieth anniversary in 2019 is highly possible, says Ruben.

Leadership projects

Each year participants from the Future Heads Programme and the Leadership Development Programme for General Staff, delivered by the HR/Staff and the Organisational Development Unit, engage in action learning projects sponsored by members of the Senior Management Team.

These are real tasks involving genuine dilemmas facing the University community. Participating in these projects gives an opportunity to demonstrate leadership within the group and to receive leadership coaching from senior leaders in the University.

Sponsors and co-sponsors outline the scope of the project and identify what they require as the key outcomes and points for consideration. The participants work in mixed groups of general and academic staff and are given ten weeks to research and write up the project.

From the collection



Marion Lucy Mahony Griffin (1871-1961), *Perspective View of Arts Building and Student Club from Symonds Street, Auckland College 1920*
Pen and wash on silk, 510 x 1100mm, The University of Auckland Art Collection

The success of Roy Alston Lippincott (1885-1969) and Edward Fielder Billson (1892-1986) in the competition to design Auckland University College's Arts Building in 1920 was undoubtedly assisted by the contribution of Marion Mahony, one of the most gifted architectural renderers of the twentieth century.

Described as tall, with a tomahawk profile and theatrical demeanour, Mahony had been the second woman to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1894. She was the first woman in history to be granted a licence to practise architecture.

Mahony's pen and wash perspective drawings, often executed on silk sateen, possess a unique refinement of line and delicacy of detail. As is the case here, buildings are framed by trees and plants in compositions that owe much to Japanese art. Mahony developed her architectural and drafting skills while working in the Oak Park office of Frank Lloyd Wright. At the age of 40 in 1911, she married Chicago-born Walter Burley Griffin

(1876-1937) and moved to Australia with him following their success in the competition to design Australia's Federal Capital, Canberra. Lippincott, who was married to Griffin's sister, Genevieve, accompanied the Griffins to Australia and it was from there that he submitted his entry in the Auckland competition.

Like all architectural perspectives, this one presents not what the eye sees but a pictorial representation of a building. It involves imagination and skill and is not mathematically precise. Unlike an orthogonal drawing, in which the vanishing point is assumed to be at infinity, it is subjective rather than objective. Although a perspective drawing should always serve the building represented rather than being an excuse for a bravura display of drafting, many are compelling works of art in their own right.

The rediscovery of a scientific approach to perspective and the ability to depict three-dimensional forms in space occurred in Renaissance Italy during the fifteenth century, but

the use of perspective to create three-dimensional representations of buildings did not come into common practice until the second half of the eighteenth century. The use of the orthogonal set of plan, section and elevation to describe buildings was a product of the increasing professionalisation of architecture and its growing separation from the building crafts. The emergence of the architectural perspective was the result of a need to convey information to clients but also a response to the growth, in the modern world, of a much wider audience for architecture. The great age of the architectural perspective was the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth.

Ian Lochhead

Ian Lochhead is the curator of New Zealand Architecture in Perspective: 150 years of architectural drawing which includes this perspective of the Clocktower. It is on show at the Gus Fisher Gallery until 15 August.

In 2009 the following projects were sponsored:

- Developing key performance indicators for service divisions: Project sponsor was Stuart McCutcheon with Pamela Moss and Adrienne Cleland co-sponsors.
- Teaching/learning/business uses of web 2.0 Technologies within The University of Auckland: Project sponsors were Scott Diener and Miles Fordyce with Dianne Head co-sponsor.
- Adapting to the Recession; Project sponsor was Stuart McCutcheon with Adrienne Cleland and Marin Matulovic co-sponsors.

- The student/staff continuum: Building the next generation of academic staff: Project sponsor was Kath Clarke with Trudie McNaughton and Gregor Coster co-sponsors.
- Strategic research appointments: An approach for 2012: Project sponsor was Jane Harding with John Smart co-sponsor.

The findings of the projects were delivered in a half-day presentation session on 24 June to sponsors, co-sponsors and invited guests. This was followed by a debriefing session led by Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), to examine what leadership lessons

the groups had discovered from engaging in the project process. She encouraged all project groups to develop an action plan to ensure the findings of the projects were pursued.

One sponsor has already asked for a group to present to the IT Strategy and Policy Committee, with a participant commenting: "It is really exciting and it feels so good that our work is appreciated."

What's on

FRIDAY 24 JULY

Department of Statistics seminar

Assoc-Prof Stefan Steiner, Dept of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Waterloo: *Monitoring survival time data*. 12-1pm Statistics Seminar Rm 222, Science Centre. View www.stats.uwaterloo.ca/Faculty/Steiner.shtml

SATURDAY 25 JULY

Book talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Dr Oliver Stead, author of the Montana Book Award short-listed publication *Art Icons of New Zealand*, will talk about the ideas behind his book ahead of the announcement of winners on Monday 27 July. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 27 JULY

Dance Studies Scopic Bodies research forum

6pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 28 JULY

Second Winter Lecture

Dr Felicity Barnes, Dept of History, UoA: *Writing NZ history in the twenty-first century. The Empire comes home: Reconsidering NZ culture and the role of empire*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. View www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

School of Music research seminar

Jeff Lin: *Exile from the Native Land*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music.

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Liz Ledgerwood, Dept of Biochemistry, University of Otago: *Understanding cell death: New insights from a surprising mutation in a NZ family*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Prof Miriam Meyerhoff, University of Edinburgh: *Existentials on Bequia (St Vincent and the Grenadines): (It have/ There are) different options*. 12noon Rm 103, Level 1, Fisher Bldg.

Manu Ao Academy online seminar

Moana Jackson: *Foreshore and seabed: Next steps*. 12.30-1.30pm Rm WO211-Oracle Tower, AUT, 56 Wakefield St. <http://avcc.karen.net.nz/endpoint-directory/aut-oracle-tower>

These seminars are interactive and designed to encourage dialogue and conversation, disseminate information and research findings, obtain feedback, develop presentation skills, promote collaboration, and profile important work. They are broadcast simultaneously to all eight NZ universities and allow questions, comments, and discussions to take place.

Oticon Foundation Hearing

Education Centre Research seminar

Dr Colin Brown: *Diagnosis of the cause of hearing loss in babies and young children*. 5-6.30pm School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus. Queries to

h.seal@auckland.ac.nz

Liggins Institute Seasons of Life

lecture series 2009: Darwin's legacy

Prof Hamish Spencer, Head of Dept of Zoology, University of Otago: *The cousin marriage controversy: From Darwin to the US and modern Britain*. 6-7pm Robb Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Park Rd, Grafton.

RSVP to friends@liggins.auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 30 JULY

Stand-Up Science: Poster and social event

4.30pm Atrium, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Hosted by Stratus. This poster session and networking event is a chance for early career researchers to present their work to the wider University community and find out what everyone else at UoA is doing too. Queries and to book your poster space email secretary@stratus.ac.nz

Pō Whakataetae o te Reo Māori 2009/The University of Auckland's te Reo Māori Challenge 2009.

The challenge is designed to encourage all staff, from absolute beginners to experts, to start using a little reo in a safe and fun environment and support ongoing efforts to promote our distinctive Māori language as a living language for all New Zealanders.

6-9pm Reipae Wharekai - Waipapa Marae, UoA.

\$5 per person for studio audience

\$20 per 4 person team

\$30 per 6 person team

Light refreshments provided. Numbers are limited so get your team in early. To register your team or information email k.netana@auckland.ac.nz by Monday 27 July.

FRIDAY 31 JULY

Lunchtime concert

By School of Music students.

1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free. Queries to concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz

Composition workshop

William Dowdell (Ireland) - sliding headjoint flute. 4-5.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music. Free. Queries to concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

Public talk

Double Montana award-winning author, NZ furniture historian and expert restorer William Cottrell, will demonstrate the secret life of Henry Wade's tool chest. 3pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

Third Winter Lecture

Assoc-Prof Tony Ballantyne, University of Otago: *Writing NZ history in the twenty-first century. What happens if we take Gore seriously?* 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. View www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

School of Music research seminar

Associate-Professor Dean Sutcliffe: *Expressive ambivalence in Haydn's symphonic slow movements of the 1770s*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of

Music.

Bioengineering research seminar

Assoc-Prof Jadranka Travas-Sejdic, Polymer Electronics Research Centre, UoA: *Plastic electronics: From biosensing to robotics*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Dr Helen Basturkmen, UoA: *Commenting on the results of research: An investigation into the discussion of results sections of novice and expert writers*. 12noon Rm 103, Level 1, Fisher Bldg. Queries to tb.tin@auckland.ac.nz Wednesday 5 August.

Henrietta and Lola Anne Tunbridge Watercolour Scholarship 2009 prizegiving

6pm George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. This \$10,000 prize is given annually to an Elam student who excels in the exploration of contemporary themes in watercolour. Lola Tunbridge, who died in 1999, was an avid watercolourist who wanted to support aspiring artists in this medium. Exhibition runs 11am-4pm, Thursday to Saturday until 15 August. Queries to info-georgefraser@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

Department of History seminar

Dr Tim Rowse, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University: *'Population knowledge' and settler colonial government*. 4pm Rm 59, History Department, 7 Wynyard St. Queries to l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz

Dept of Anthropology seminar

Dr Kirsty Gillespie, Visiting Fellow, Australian National University: *Giving women a voice: Christian songs and female expression at Kapiago, Papua New Guinea*. 4pm HSB 704. Queries to p.knight@auckland.ac.nz

2009 Philosophy lecture series

Prof Mohan Matthen, University of Toronto: *How things look (and what things look that way)*. 6.30pm Rm OGGB5, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Confucius Institute free movie

Riding alone for thousands of miles. 6.30-8.30pm Lecture Theatre 3.402, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Queries email confuciusinstitute@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Apartment in the Connaught, close to University. One bdrm on 5th floor, unfurnished but includes all whiteware and refrigerator. The building has an indoor swimming pool and gym. No car park. \$365 pw. Available now. Phone David on (09) 309 0274 or (021) 237 8134.

Glendowie - St Heliers: Fully furnished house available in an attractive location. All-day sun and a park at the end of the street. The house has three bdms, or two with a study. Recently redecorated with polished rimu floors and carpeted bdms. Near excellent schools and public

transport. Just 15-20 minutes from the city and University, and a 10-minute walk to St Heliers beach and village. Suit couple or small family on sabbatical. Available from 1 July - 31 December 2009, or longer if required. No pets or smokers. \$550 pw includes lawn-mowing. Contact (021) 072 8701 or email nautikos07@yahoo.com.au

Remuera/Parnell. A one-bdrm self-contained studio flat is available immediately. Fully furnished and in very nice condition, good value rent \$290 pw includes power and water. Suitable for a quiet and responsible professional person or couple, or possibly twin-share. Just a few kms to the University, and bus very close (one stage to city). Please contact Robyn asap on (021) 334 678 for further details, and to view.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Urgent: Two serious students looking for a flat in the city centre, near AUT/UoA, from 15 July to 10 December. Please contact José at burn3job@hotmail.com or Natasha at natasha.tirard@univ-nc.nc

MISCELLANEOUS

Babysitter available. Capable, experienced and mature Dance student, available for babysitting city and central suburbs. Contact Lucy on (021) 037 7537.

For a limited time: \$20 hearing tests available for children aged from six months to five years. Please call the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic, Tamaki Campus for an appointment. Phone 373 8791 (ample free parking).

Lovely Princes Street office space to share with three others. Quiet, light-filled, first floor, verandah access. Ideal for consultations, meetings, workshops (chairs for 12-15), \$165/month or one day each week at \$50/day. Contact Michael at 372 3522 or michael@aroha.net

Speight's Podiatry can take care of your feet. Walking around campus, or a runner, and your feet are killing you? We can help. No doctor's referral is required. Podiatrists are the masters of non-surgical treatment for all foot pain. 2nd Floor, 43 High St, Auckland. Phone 306-4006. Students and staff discount (new and existing patients) for general consultation \$65 instead of \$80 for 2009. Must quote 'University News' for special rate. Visit www.speightspodiatry.co.nz or email info@speightspodiatry.co.nz

Travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. For more information contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or phone 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.