

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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Tower of talent draws generous support



John Taylor addresses guests at last year's Golden Graduates' Luncheon.

There is a great deal of goodwill and support for the University out in the community, says John Taylor, Director of External Relations.

This support will continue to be strong as long as the University remains bold and visionary and addresses its research to areas which make a tangible difference in society.

November last year marked the launch of the "Leading the Way" campaign, for which John was the prime mover (backed by an excellent team) and of which he is justifiably proud. The campaign aims to raise \$100 million to help advance the University's achievements in ways which have a positive impact on this country's prosperity and on the quality of people's lives. Already, with over \$48 million worth of donations from generous friends of the University, it is almost halfway towards this target.

"The campaign has enormous transformative possibilities," says John, "because it helps spread the word that the University is not an ivory tower

but addresses issues of moment. The more our researchers and teachers can talk about their work and frame it within the bounds of the campaign, the more likely they are to win the support which will help finance their future efforts."

The campaign was firmly based on a feasibility study which gave insight into what inspires people to give. "Anything self-serving is not a strong incentive to give. That came through very strongly," says John. "What catches people's imagination is top quality research which has the potential to enable positive change."

The campaign is based on five themes which engage people emotionally: the health of our nation, the development of our children, the growth of our economy, the future of our cities, and the expression of who we are. These John sees as an umbrella covering many different types and facets of research. On the first three, the scope of relevant research is immense. "The future of our cities" encompasses transport, engineering, sustainability and design, all of which impact on people's lives. The fifth theme, "the expression of who we are", which "may seem more ephemeral than the others", strongly appeals to people's creative instincts and accommodates the work of some of our leading writers and historians. This theme invites support for blue skies research and commentary in any field.

Speaking of the donors, John emphasises the diversity of their interests, often inspired by personal experiences. "We must listen carefully to our donors in order to find a balance between the University's needs and the donors' interests and personal convictions. It is that matching of needs and desires that results in a deep satisfaction from giving. Donors need to feel that their gifts will make a difference in ways they care about."

John is confident the Advancement Office, with the strong support of the Vice-Chancellor, now has a very good structure in place, with a very experienced Advancement Director, Jim Hill, growing fundraising capability, a skilled team of researchers and writers, and a high level of expertise in web development and data management. Even more important has been "the

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Key events

Evolution in medicine

The Liggins Institute will launch its 2009 public programme on 18 February with a lecture by one of the world's leading authorities on Darwinian medicine, Professor Randolph Nesse. The lecture, entitled "Medicine without evolution is like engineering without physics", is geared to a general audience and will take place from 5.30-7pm at the Liggins Institute, 2 Park Avenue, Grafton, with refreshments from 5.30pm and the lecture commencing at 6pm. Randolph Nesse is Professor of Psychiatry and of Psychology at the University of Michigan, where he directs the Evolution and Human Adaptation Programme.

Doctoral morning tea

Here is a chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues and a free morning tea. This event takes place on the third Thursday of each month and is supported by the Postgraduate Students Association (PGSA), the Graduate Centre, Auckland International and WAVE/AUSA. The next doctoral morning tea is on 19 February, 10-11am, at iSpace, fourth floor, Kate Edger Information Commons.

Learning from meltdown

In the future 2008 will be seen as "one of those years": about \$55 trillion was wiped off the value of world share markets. The investment losses have been almost too large to comprehend and affect nearly everyone saving for retirement. Financial institutions have disappeared; banks have been threatened; and most governments in the developed world have stepped in with different forms of taxpayer-funded support. Now the real economy is being affected. How did this all happen? Michael Chamberlain, actuary and director, Aventine Ltd will explain what this means for New Zealand investors. Should we have expected the fund closures and might there be more? "Observations and lessons from the 2008 meltdown" will take place at Spicer's Restaurant, Level 3, Owen G Glen Building, 7.15am-8.45am, 24 February. The cost is \$35 per person.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

It is a pleasure to welcome all staff and students back to the University. I hope that you have all had a relaxing break, and that you return ready to face the challenges and opportunities that 2009 will present. I would particularly like to welcome new staff who have joined the University recently and look forward to meeting with you in staff orientation sessions.

In 2009 we have an Academic Audit, we will advance our campus development plans, and we will continue to focus on achieving the goals we have set in the University's Strategic Plan. However, the global financial crisis is likely to result in a reduced ability or willingness on the part of government to invest in universities given the other priorities it now has. It may also lead to a decline in enrolments of international students whose own financial circumstances will have been harmed by the recession.

More positively, there is some evidence that domestic enrolments will rise, assisting us to meet our Investment Plan student numbers and to ensure that our students are well placed to succeed in the University. In doing this we will be keeping a watchful eye on our responsibility to enhance participation of under-represented groups and to meet the challenges set by the Taskforce on Undergraduate Admissions and Equity. Falling construction costs should provide welcome relief at a time when the University Council is considering our proposals for major investment in campus development. It is to be hoped that the new Government will recognise that the education sector is as worthy of infrastructural investment as are roads, rail and the extension of the broadband network.

Early indications are that we are on track to meet enrolment and hence our teaching revenue targets. But there are some uncertainties about the situation that lies ahead and we would all be wise to take a prudent approach to the management of our budgets and to the hiring of new staff until we see the depth of the current financial crisis and can assess its impact on the University more accurately. It is my hope and expectation that the sound financial performance of the University over the past few years and the measures we have taken to diversify and increase our revenues will enable us to continue to build a great University.



(story continue from page 1)

gradual growth of more trusting relationships with the faculties as we develop systems and principles that are being applied across the University. When I first arrived there was a tendency to work in silos. Working in cooperation we can accomplish so much more."

John's satisfaction with his role, which he entered at the invitation of former Vice-Chancellor Dr John Hood, comes largely from the tangible results he sees.

"The government can no longer provide all the money we need for research, and we must be aware that the generosity of donors is an important part of our funding for top-quality research now and in the future. It's not always easy to ask for financial support, but the endpoint makes it all worthwhile - when suddenly it becomes possible to establish a chair, or a fellowship or scholarship which will add value to a vital area of research."

A source of pleasure for John has been the chance to get to know the researchers, people of huge talent who are changing the world. "They've come overseas with us, they've spoken at dinners, their support has been essential. They are the inspiration for the donors' enthusiasm." (Though he

modestly fails to mention his own contribution, it seems obvious his energy and enthusiasm must have inspired others as well.)

After completing an MA in English at Victoria University of Wellington and training as a teacher in Christchurch, John taught at Christ's College and at Sutton Valence School in England before being appointed headmaster first at Rathkeale College in Masterton, and then at King's College in Auckland where he served from 1988 to 2002.

"It's been a fascinating experience moving from a private education institution to a public environment - a wonderful transition from one rewarding career to another."

John is a member of the New Zealand Institute and of the Education Forum, is a trustee of the New Zealand Education and Scholarship Trust and of King's School Board, and chairs both the Myers and the Robertson Scholarships selection committees. He is married to Sarah, who runs the New Zealand Education and Scholarship programme, and has three children and seven grandchildren. His interests include golf, tennis, rugby critiquing, reading, theatre, bridge, and the politics of education.

Theology rocks



The lively atmosphere in the Theology booth at the Parachute 09 Music Festival.

Among 35,000 young people who gathered at the Parachute Music 09 Festival in Hamilton were many who made a visit to the booth of the School of Theology to find out about study opportunities at The University of Auckland.

The School of Theology, represented for the first time at this annual Christian event (the Southern Hemisphere's largest multi-day music festival), attracted a huge amount of favourable attention over the four days, says Theology Registrar, Pervin Medhora, who led the team that coordinated the University's presence.

Pervin was full of praise for the students and staff who were rostered on over the four 12-and-a-

half-hour days to oversee the activities and give information. The students, she said, inspired others with their genuine enthusiasm for the courses they were doing. Many people they talked to had been unaware that they could study theology at The University of Auckland, and showed particular interest in the conjoint degrees with Arts and Science and the General Education papers that could be included as a component in a range of degrees. "The students did such a wonderful job of promoting the School that some people asked if they had been especially trained. One even said 'I'm definitely enrolling. The students have sold the degree to me'."

Dr Stephen Garner, one of six staff who spent long hours "on duty" (in sweltering heat) to raise the profile of the School of Theology, said many alumni of the wider University expressed great pleasure at the University's presence at the event, and at the news of the University's offerings in theology. Parents of prospective students often showed an interest in continuing study themselves, especially when they heard about the Graduate Diploma in Theology.

Other staff who attended the event over some or all of the days were the Rev Dr Mary Caygill (Acting Head of School), the Rt Rev Dr Winston Halapua, Moeawa Callaghan, Dr John Dunn, Dr Helen Bergin and Nasili Vaka-uta.

Pervin said they were all proud of the polished and professional presentation of their display, especially the large and striking pull-down poster designed by a member of the Marketing team. She also said the programme, which incorporated interactive activities, helped lead the visitors into relaxed conversation with staff and students.

"We had a wonderful reception," said Pervin, "in the midst of a festive atmosphere where young people were having fun and listening to rock music. I'm sure the students helping to look after the booth were feeling like rock stars themselves."

Stephen Garner said the School of Theology after this successful debut would definitely attend the festival each year from now on.

Word pictures



One of Godfrey's recent photographs, taken while fishing.

Godfrey Boehnke, University photographer from the Centre for Academic Development – and valued contributor for many years to *University News* – was one of nearly 40 staff to be recognised for his contribution to the University, at a dinner hosted last December by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

Stuart saluted Godfrey for his many years of dedicated and valuable service: "Godfrey started here, I am told, at almost the same time as Colin Maiden became Vice-Chancellor. Few can rival his record not just for longevity but also for diligence, professionalism and consistent excellence... The University's photographic record over the last nearly 40 years is to a large extent Godfrey's, and posterity will have much to thank him for, as indeed do we."

Though Godfrey's creativity as a photographer is well-known to staff, it extends also beyond the visual into a fascination with words. Here is the poem Godfrey wrote in tribute to the occasion, at which he "felt extremely honoured".

Wine and words

Beneath the mirrored ramparts and evening's fluted song

We gathered, rows of honours, and medalled profs with gongs

Wines well chosen, loosened tongues and napkins slid to floor

As the speaker read citations the flutes were heard no more

I sat in awe and marvelled deep, at accomplishment and deeds

And then my turn it came and inclined me to the creed

The challenge not to shoot VC while drinking in this land

Was only easy on the night as no camera filled my hand.

Books were swapped beneath the cloth while posing nonchalant

And bottles let their flavours flow among the cited throng

Well-recognised we fellowshipped and talked of simple things

Beneath the mirrored ramparts, whose guests sometimes were kings.

Global warming

A public lecture on "Global warming: A Christian response" will take place in Theatre OGGB4 in the Owen G Glenn Building from 6-7pm on 12 March.

The lecturer is Professor Robert White, Associate Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion and a director of the John Ray initiative, an educational charity that works to develop and communicate a Christian understanding of the environment. Professor White is Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Earth Sciences at Cambridge (since 1989) and is a Fellow of the Royal Society. He leads a research group investigating the earth's dynamic crust.

Science and religion

Professor Robert White will also speak at "A symposium on science and religion in the 21st century: Faith in science, science in faith" on Saturday 14 March from 8.30am-6pm. He will speak on "Natural disasters: Acts of God or results of human folly?" Other speakers include Dr Stephen Garner (Theology) speaking with Dr Nicola Hoggard-Creegan, on "The view from theology", Dr Graeme Finlay (Molecular Medicine), and other scholars from New Zealand and overseas. The event will take place in Theatre 401-439, "Neon Foyer", Engineering School, Symonds Street.

Please register for the symposium by 11 March, with Pervin Medhora (Theology) (p.medhora@auckland.ac.nz). The cost is \$20 (non-waged people \$10), with refreshments and lunch provided. Parking will be available under the Owen G Glenn Building, at \$5 flat rate.

Professional development launch

The Association of Tertiary Management, Aotearoa Region, announces the launch of the New Zealand 2009 Professional Development programme with a breakfast sponsored by the ATEM Auckland Group. The breakfast will be held in the Decima Glenn Room at the Owen G Glenn Building at the University from 7.30am, Friday 6 March. The programme is to be opened by Ali Hughes, ATEM Aotearoa Region Chair. A guest speaker will talk about leadership in a changing higher education sector. Breakfast will be free for ATEM members and \$30 for non-members (to be paid in cash on the day).

To register please email Jenni Tupu, Faculty of Education (j.tupu@auckland.ac.nz) by 27 February.

What SODU can do

The HR Staff and Organisational Development Unit (SODU) will shortly release its 2009 Staff Development Programme for Academic and General Staff.

Based on feedback from staff, 28 new learning opportunities have been added to the programme for this year. Take advantage of the wide range of courses now available in the areas of personal and professional development, leadership and management development and raising awareness. Look out for the all-new "Feel good factor" wellness seminar series. These topical, informative 90-minute sessions will be held every two months on a Friday.

The programme will be added to throughout the year so keep an eye on the SODU website at www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu for updates.

Copies of the booklet and planning calendar will be sent out to departments via internal mail. Please contact Bronwyn Hoskin on ext 89630 or sodu@auckland.ac.nz for additional copies.

Building and fire warden training

Information sessions for University building and fire wardens will be held soon. These sessions will provide staff with up to date information on the policy, procedures and practices for emergency evacuations at the University.

- Tamaki – Monday 16 February, 2-3pm
Room 721.231, Level 2, Bldg 721
- Epsom – Wednesday 18 February, 2-3pm
Room 201a, A-Block
- City – Thursday 19 February, 2-3pm
Room 420, Level 4, Kate Edger Information Commons, Alfred Street

Register for any of these sessions via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (Course Number=HRFWT). For queries phone Jemimah on ext 85070.

General staff on Council

Nominations are invited for the election of one member of the University of Auckland Council by permanent members of the general staff of the University, to be held at 5pm on Monday 9 March 2009. Nominations close at the Office of the Registrar of The University of Auckland, 24 Princes Street, on Monday, 16 February.

Every permanent member of the general staff (which includes persons appointed for a term of not less than three months on either a full-time or a part-time basis) is eligible to be an elector and to nominate candidates at this election. Any elector may be nominated as a candidate.

Every candidate must be nominated by two electors on a nomination form, which must also be signed by the nominee.

For further information, contact Ruth Taylor on ruth.taylor@auckland.ac.nz or ext 87754.

Secrets revealed



Simon Holdaway (centre) with students including Mark Pearce (left), a student in Classics and Ancient History visiting the site.

Archaeologists from the Department of Anthropology have been working on the margins of Lake Quarn in Egypt. Associate Professor Simon Holdaway and Dr Jennifer Hellum write of their work.

Between 8,000 and 9,000 years ago, parts of the Sahara were much wetter than they are today.

Monsoon rains fell far north of their current limit, meaning that hartebeest, gazelle and even hippo inhabited a lake margin in an area of Egypt that is today hyper-arid, devoid of all vegetation. Bones of these animals together with the remains of catfish and Nile perch lie strewn on the surface along with tens of thousands of stone artefacts.

The lake today, called Lake Quarn, is only a shadow of its former self. Environmental change over the last 5,000 years has gradually lowered lake levels so that agriculture associated with the Pharaonic and later Greco-Roman periods as well as modern-day activity occurs well away from the ancient lake edge deposits.

It is the ancient lake margin that has attracted a group of archaeologists from the University's Department of Anthropology.

Archaeological deposits are common on the ancient shorelines of Lake Quarn. Some date to the Epi-Palaeolithic, when hunters and gatherers exploited a wide range of animals that roamed across the Sahara. Then about 6,500 years ago, when the desert was drying out, people came to the Fayum who were among the first to use domesticated plants and animals in Egypt (wheat, barley, sheep and goats). They occupied the shoreline of Lake Quarn, leaving an archaeological record that extends more than 30 kilometres along the ancient lake edge. These people made and used stone artefacts and heated their food in hearths, many of which remain on the surface today. They also made and used pottery.

The domestic plants and animals probably came from the Levant, the location of modern-day Palestine. Here the people who used these plants and animals lived in villages. However, whether

the people who lived around Lake Quarn were also sedentary or more mobile like the nomadic grazers of modern North Africa is a topic much debated by archaeologists.

The team from Auckland is working in Egypt to solve this problem. Using an array of techniques developed during research in Australia, Anthropology students under Simon Holdaway's direction spent five weeks last November-December mapping the location of 95,000 stone artefacts and bone fragments.

The Egyptian research is conducted in collaboration with the UCLA/RUG Fayum Research project, involving the Cotsen Institute at UCLA and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. The Auckland researchers are responsible for conducting a survey around the lake margins, recording stone artefacts associated with the early agricultural occupations. This initial field season was supported with funds from the Faculty of Arts Research Development Fund. Grants for a further three years' work have been submitted to Marsden and the National Science Foundation.

Visitors to the site included a group of 24 students from the Department of Classics and Ancient History under the direction of Dr Jennifer Hellum, who were taken on two separate tours of the site by Simon Holdaway and Rebecca Phillipps. This gave them a very good idea of the prehistoric history of the site, problems with the intrusion of modern cultivation, and the meticulous nature of the recording and field practices. Many of the students aspire to excavate in Egypt, and this provided them with the best possible kind of impetus.

The group was on a month-long trip through Egypt, taken as an accredited paper in Classics and Ancient History, visiting archaeological sites and presenting research on assigned areas. The intent is to give the students an introduction to the modern country and a feeling for the geography of the ancient sites, as well as a chance to see the archaeological marvels they have been studying. For most, visiting a working excavation from The University of Auckland was a highlight.

Festival connections

Music and Fine Arts staff and students from the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) will be vital players in this year's Auckland Festival 2009.

The biennial festival brings nearly three weeks of nationally and internationally acclaimed performances and exhibitions to Auckland.

NZ Trio, the Ensemble in Residence at The University of Auckland, will perform in the Music at Twilight series. The Trio has earned national and international respect for its dynamic interpretations of traditional and contemporary classical music. This year, the repertoire comprises works by Mendelssohn, Chinese-born composer Musheng Chen, and New Zealand artist and composer Phil Dadson (9 March, Baptist Tabernacle).

The University of Auckland Chamber Choir will also appear in the Music at Twilight series with a programme called Accent on the Americas, led by guest director Robert Wiremu (11 March, Baptist Tabernacle).

Works of Elam School of Fine Arts students will again be showcased in Elam Art Upfront, an exhibition mounted inside the lobbies and foyers of corporate buildings on Shortland Street. Taking up the challenge are nine of the country's most promising emergent artists, Priscilla Brown, Tim Chapman, Warren Childs, Roisin Moore, Katie Theunissen, Tiffany Treweek, Florence Wild, Fiona Gillmore and Louise Menzies. Elam Art UpFront runs from 6-20 March, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. The exhibitions are free.

Other fine arts events include the Art Crawl, a chance to view the works and meet some of the artists. The Crawl departs from the Gus Fisher Gallery, Kenneth Myers Centre (74 Shortland Street), 12 and 19 March at 1pm. The event is free.

Art lovers are also invited to join in an exhibition discussion, "Can artists make great places?", led by Mythili Meher, the University's WINDOW curator. The free talk will be held at 4pm on 9 March at the Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland Street.

As part of the festival's "In Conversation" series Andrew Clifford, Curatorial Assistant at the Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery (CNZARD), will host a discussion with Ray Lee, Phil Dadson and Drew McMillan on the mysteries of sound. The free series runs weekdays, 12.30-1.30pm in Red Square.

For more information visit the NICAI website: www.creative.auckland.ac.nz or the Auckland Festival website www.aucklandfestival.co.nz

Track club centenary

The Auckland University Amateur Athletic Club was founded in March 1909. In honour of its 100th birthday the club, now known as the Auckland University Track Club, is organising a celebration in Old Government House on 28 March. The organisers hope all those who have been connected with the club – in cross-country, road or track – will come. Members have included the great scholar Kenneth Sisam, formerly head of Oxford University

Viewpoint

Protecting human rights in Gaza

This is not an article about where the truth lies in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nor is there space even to outline the many provisions of international law that might be relevant to events such as the recent armed operations in Gaza - eg, the lawfulness of the armed conflict or the requirements of international humanitarian law in relation to the conduct of the war (most obviously the Fourth Geneva Convention in relation to civilian populations).

Rather, my concern in this piece is the much more limited aim of outlining how the human rights framework that is now pervasive in the world applies when situations arise such as the recent Israeli action in Gaza. The starting point is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a 1966 treaty sponsored by the United Nations and ratified by the majority of the countries in the world, including Israel, which ratified it in December 1966. It forms international law binding on Israel. The body responsible for interpreting the ICCPR, the Human Rights Committee of the UN – a body of international jurists elected by the UN to review actions taken under the Covenant – has expressed the view on more than one occasion that Israel's obligations under the ICCPR extend to the West Bank and Gaza. There is no nation state called Palestine (which has observer status at the UN rather than being a member) and so it cannot enter into treaties; as a result, the duties of the authorities in Palestine in relation to human rights law are much less clear. Hence the focus on Israel.

There are a number of important parts of the ICCPR, starting with its central obligation: each member state undertakes to "ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction" the substantive rights set out in the treaty; what this means is spelled out further – there is an undertaking "to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights" set out in the Covenant. Put shortly, human rights law contains an obligation to make its guarantees practical and effective, not merely theoretical and illusory.

What of the fact that there is an armed conflict? First, there are the obligations of international humanitarian law, which run alongside rather than in place of international human rights law. That is so in part because,

secondly, international human rights law contains provisions allowing for flexibility in its operation in war time. If there is a public emergency threatening the life of the nation – and it may be that the repeated rocket attacks and suicide bombings from Gaza into Israel meet this test – then a nation can declare that it is no longer bound by some provisions of human rights law. But some provisions are non-derogable: the international consensus built after the horrors of the middle of the twentieth century was that states could not side-step some obligations because they were involved in an armed conflict.

Of the non-derogable human rights, two are of particular relevance: Article 6 of the ICCPR provides a right not to be deprived of one's life "arbitrarily", and Article 7 prohibits inhuman or degrading treatment. The concept of arbitrariness means that deaths that were not strictly necessary are unlawful; and any treatment that is inhuman is beyond the pale.

Importantly, these substantive rights are joined by procedural rights arising from the need to make human rights practical and effective. The basic requirement is that credible evidence of a breach of the right to life or the right not to be subject to inhuman or degrading treatment must lead to an adequate investigation carried out by an independent body designed to uncover the facts and whether any state agent has breached human rights law.

There have been situations in which states have taken human rights seriously: for example, in 2007, the judges of the House of Lords – sitting as the highest court in the UK – ruled that an Iraqi national, Mr Al Skeini, who died in a prison in a British base used as part of military operations in Basra, had a right to life (protected by the European Convention on Human Rights, which was the template for much of the ICCPR and is applicable in the UK) and that this right had been breached.

It takes political will to ensure that the human rights framework is applied: the ideals of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights – from which international human rights law has developed – remain theoretical and illusory too often. As an advanced democratic nation that has withstood so much pressure since its birth at the same time as the human rights framework was being laid down, Israel can make a most powerful gesture by ensuring that the procedural obligations arising under the ICCPR are respected in relation to any credible allegations arising from its actions in Gaza.

Kris Gledhill
Senior Lecturer, Law School

Press; a former Professor of Law, Minister of Education and Speaker of the House, Sir Ronald Algje; a former New Zealand mile record-holder, Professor Jack Sinclair; and Olympic medallists, "Dutch" Holland, John Davies and Dick Quax. For further details and to register, contact Dave Harkness on harkness@woosh.co.nz or phone 09 376 1503.

Tributes flow for retiring professor



Nicky and Mike Taggart at his farewell function.

Professor Mike Taggart has been saluted by the Chief Justice as “the most influential legal academic of his generation”.

Dame Sian Elias paid this tribute in farewelling Mike who has retired from The University of Auckland Law School after 26 years.

Academic colleagues and students past and present, lawyers, judges, family members and friends packed into Old Government House for the function on 25 November.

Expressing appreciation for Mike’s work as a New Zealand scholar, Dame Sian said she did not mean to diminish the many other capacities in which Mike had served: as Dean, as inspired teacher, as active member of the University Senate, as willing contributor to law society and government reforms, as mentor to students and colleagues, as someone who has contributed to the community he lives in, as a dear friend to so many.

“But Mike has been the most influential legal academic of his generation, an influence that has extended beyond his principal area of scholarship

and has impacted upon New Zealand scholarship more generally.

“And although I call him a New Zealand scholar, his importance is that he is a scholar who is not nationally confined. His connections with the wider world of ideas and the best thinkers of our time have placed our law and its preoccupations in a better space and connected us all.”

The Dean of Law, Professor Paul Rishworth, praised Mike Taggart, as being “without peer as an administrative law scholar in New Zealand” and “one of the most eminent in the Commonwealth”. His research had been “enormously influential”.

Teaching was “very much Mike’s love along with research”, said Paul. “As a teacher he was indefatigable and his teaching style was infectious”.

Turning to Mike’s role as a consultant and adviser Paul said his “intellectual firepower” was “in heavy demand for most of the big administrative law cases”.

As a colleague he was unfailingly cheerful and

generous. “He always made time to help everyone.

“We your colleagues in the University and the Law Faculty salute you and express our deepest admiration for you,” said Paul.

In response Mike Taggart said he had loved studying law, and had loved reading and writing about law and teaching law for nearly 30 years. “I have been extremely fortunate to be able to do something I have enjoyed so much.

“The opportunity to learn something new every day, to get as close to the bottom of legal puzzles as one is capable of getting, of reading the often brilliant scholarship of others while trying to be the best teacher/scholar one can be – and to be paid for doing it. I can think of no more enjoyable job.”

Reflecting on the biggest changes in his professional lifetime at Auckland, three stood out, said Mike. “The first is the complete acceptance of Law as a legitimate scholarly discipline befitting its place in the University. Law is firmly part of the humanities and social sciences, and thankfully held to the same high scholarly standards.”

The second was the development of the Davis Law Library into a world-class law library “reflecting the centrality of books and now information to both the scholarly and practical sides of lawyering”.

The third highlight had been the development of a significant and vibrant postgraduate programme and culture at the Auckland Law School. “It is a wonderful to see some of my LLM and doctoral students here. I have learnt so much from these students.”

Mike said he had valued above everything else his freedom to research “whatever I have wanted to. There has been no prescription to be relevant or any pressure to pursue any particular research line.

“Over the years I have written some eclectic and esoteric stuff – much of it seemed of little use or interest to anyone. But strangely it is the esoteric stuff that has turned out to have the most practical application – a testament, I think, to what scientists call ‘basic’ research, and the need for the University to support it and the community to subsidise it. Relevance is a relative thing.”

Dancing beyond borders

“As a professional ballet dancer I felt politically irrelevant, disconnected from wider social issues...”

“I have a lust for finding out how we can channel our artistic talents, energies into politics. So I quit ballet, got a motorbike and rode around Africa, trying to figure out how I could make myself useful to different communities.”

With these words, Dr Nicholas Rowe (Dance Studies) sums up the decade-long journey that has taken him from the stages and curtain calls of the Australian and Royal New Zealand Ballet companies to the wilds of Africa, and to eight years of living and working as a dance educator in the West Bank.

Today, as a new member of the University’s Dance Studies programme at the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI),

Nicholas is committed to bucking traditional teaching and learning practices and using dance as an educative tool for raising political awareness and enriching the lives of disenfranchised peoples.

If all this sounds more noble than do-able, take note: Nicholas uses both research and action to support his words. His doctoral thesis from the London Contemporary Dance School, University of Kent, at Canterbury, England, examined dance in traumatised communities; and he is a contributor to a recently published collection, *Dance, Human Rights and Social Justice: Dignity in Motion* (Scarecrow Press, 2008), an area of research Nicholas describes as “very unexamined”. Nicholas has also authored the forthcoming *Raising dust: a history of dance and social change in Palestine* (IB Tauris, 2009).

The Australian-born senior lecturer is also a film director. Before leaving Ramallah at the end of last year, he spent eight months working with 25 Palestinian children who scripted, scored and acted in a feature film. Called *The Secret World*, the film is based on William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*. Set in the West Bank, the book’s story has been modified to reflect the experience of children literally living in a city behind a wall.

“The Palestinian people are dislocated from the social structures that are supposed to support them and this film is a chance for young people to explore that isolation,” says Nicholas, who is married to, and has two children with, a Palestinian woman he met in Ramallah. “But despite the situation on the West Bank, the children don’t consider themselves victims. Unlike *Lord of the*

From the collection



Max Gimblett (b.1935), ORIGINS: Always, in these islands, meeting and parting shakes us, making tremulous the salt-rimmed air, 1992-1993/2008. Ceramic mural in approx 70 pieces made from Stoneware Clay, bisque fired then glazed. Produced in collaboration with Phillip Luxton. The University of Auckland Art Collection.

New Zealand painter Max Gimblett, based in New York since 1972, spent his childhood living above a shop in Grafton and exploring the paths and gullies at the bottom of the Auckland Domain. The site of many of those boyhood haunts is now the home of The University of Auckland's Owen G Glenn Building where a magnificent mural by Gimblett was completed in January.

Gimblett is now one of New Zealand's senior abstract painters and was the subject of a major retrospective at the Auckland Art Gallery and City Gallery, Wellington in 2004. Pre-figured by

Abstract Expressionism, Gimblett's work is characterised by his Zen approach to mark-making, informed by his ongoing exploration of Asian culture. This brings a philosophical slant to his work, which was largely geometric to begin with but has become increasingly expressionist, establishing a tension between order and chaos, discipline and freedom. His approach can involve extensive preparations that culminate in a few seconds of intense, intuitive decision-making as the artist's body, brush, paint and surface are combined in performance. Right now his work features in the New York Guggenheim Museum's

Art

exhibition *The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860-1989*, which opened last month and includes such pivotal figures as John Cage, Yoko Ono, Laurie Anderson and Jack Kerouac.

Gimblett's mural for the Business School is unique, translating his gestural interrogations of the liquid medium of paint and precious metals into an exploration of the earthier, concrete forms of clay, although it is interesting to note that he was a ceramicist in Toronto for three years before taking up painting in his late twenties. It was originally produced in 1992-1993 in collaboration with Phillip Luxton for a private collector, who later gifted it to the University. Working together, Luxton prepared large slabs of clay in a wet state for Gimblett to cut shapes from, working quickly with a knife. They were then bisque fired before glaze was brushed and poured on, and then fired again.

It was personally reconfigured (and re-titled) by Gimblett especially for the Owen G Glenn Building in 2008 during one of his visits to the University as inaugural honorary Visiting Professor at the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries. The modular nature of the piece is inspired by the late cut-out works of Henri Matisse, and is made up of ceramic pieces that float on a blue wall, added in 2008 to reflect the sea, sky and glass vistas that the building captures. "As above so below," says Gimblett of his sea/sky-scape, invoking the well-known alchemical phrase that links levels of reality (physical, mental and spiritual) or the interconnectedness of microcosm (interior/self) and macrocosm (exterior/universe). This work also recalls the cut-out forms of Richard Killeen and the deep blue spaces surrealist painter Joan Miro associated with dreams. It is an array of primeval forms, each a manifestation of the artistic moment of creation that not only make reference to the evolution of life itself but also acknowledge the artist's own origins in Grafton.

Andrew Clifford

Flies, the film ends on a redemptive note."

Nicholas returned to Ramallah at the end of 2008 to attend the world premiere of *The Secret World*. He says the screening, aimed primarily at the children involved in the film, along with their families and friends, was a huge success. Any concerns about whether the film was too complex and politically obscure in its messages were immediately allayed, as the young audience offered audible responses throughout the film.

"They laughed at the humorous moments, fell silent at the more poignant moments, and cheered at moments of celebration and success. Most importantly, in the film discussions held the next day, they debated their differing interpretations of the political meanings within the film and how it might apply to their daily lives," says Nicholas, who hopes the film will be picked up for commercial distribution. If that happens, all proceeds will go toward two charities chosen by the children involved in the film.

To further extend discussions around the film, the Al-Mawrid Teacher Development Centre (a Palestinian NGO that was one of the film's backers) will create an educational kit to accompany the film that can be used as a tool for discussing democracy and human rights within Palestinian classrooms.

Head of Dance Studies, Associate Professor Ralph Buck, says Nicholas is a role model for NICAI's Dance Studies students. He says as a dancer, writer, teacher and filmmaker, Nicholas makes important connections with the reality of people's lives.

"Several courses within the Dance Studies programme aim to rigorously examine how dance makes a difference in our society, and Nicholas shows how this can be done in some of the world's most traumatised societies," says Dr Buck. "His addition to our Dance Studies Programme is exciting and further marks our place on the national and international dance landscape."



Nicholas Rowe with NICAI Dance students.

Qualitative Research in Business & Management

This book, written by Professor Michael Myers (Information Systems and Operations Management), has been published by Sage Publications. It looks at the key issues that concern qualitative researchers in business and management.

The purposes of this book are:

- To provide a book that focuses specifically on doing qualitative

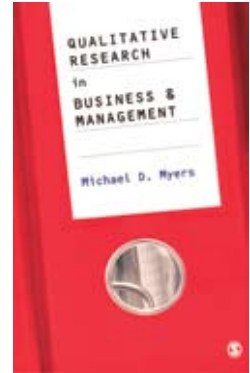
research in business and management;

- To provide a broad, reasonably comprehensive discussion of the various qualitative research methods (and their philosophical underpinnings) that researchers can use;
- To provide excellent examples of qualitative research in business and management (almost all of

the examples are taken from top journals).

As well as discussing a variety of qualitative research methods, Michael also considers how it is possible to write up research for publication.

This book is aimed primarily at scholars and advanced students in almost all of the business disciplines.



What's on

FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY

2nd Annual Conference of the Centre for Lacanian Analysis: The pathologies of enjoyment. Day two. 9.30am-6pm Federation of University Women's Suite, Old Government House. Until 15 February. The conference aims to bring together those broadly engaged in approaches to psychoanalysis that are clinical and critical, both philosophical and cultural; and those particularly engaged with the works of Jacques Lacan. For further information contact Mark Jackson, mark.jackson@aut.ac.nz or visit www.lacan.org.nz

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY

2nd Annual Conference of the Centre for Lacanian Analysis: The pathologies of enjoyment. Day three. 9.30am-4.45pm WS114, Level 1, WS Building, AUT, 24 St Paul St. **Film screening** 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. A screening of Stanley Kubrick's controversial 1971 film *A Clockwork Orange*, which features a work of Edward Bullmore owned by Kubrick.

SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY

2nd Annual Conference of the Centre for Lacanian Analysis: The pathologies of enjoyment. Day four. 9.30am-4pm WS114, Level 1, WS Building, AUT, 24 St Paul St.

TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Seminar presentation
Dr Michael Rowe, Victoria University of Wellington; candidate for Associate-Professor/Professor in Sociology: *Interesting times: Crime, science and the criminological gaze*. 10.30am Rm 901, HSB. Queries to Melissa Smith, melissa.smith@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

New staff orientation
9am- 12.30pm Fale Pasifika, Wynyard St. Gain an overview of the University and meet other new staff. Enrol via

PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (course number is HROUA). For queries phone ext 89630.

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Doctoral morning tea
10-11am iSpace, 4th Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons. Please come and enjoy a free morning tea in iSpace. This is a chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues. This event takes place every third Thursday of each month and is supported by the PGSA, Graduate Centre, Auckland International and WAVE/AUSA. We look forward to seeing you there.

Building and fire warden training
2-3pm Rm 420, Level 4, Kate Edger Information Commons, Alfred St. Up to date information on emergency evacuations for building and floor wardens. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (course number is HRFWT). For queries phone ext 85070.

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Exhibition talk
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. John Coley, former director of the McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, will talk about Edward Bullmore and the Armaghians.

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Introduction to Tutoring
CAD workshop for new tutors/graduate teaching assistants. 10am-4.30pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th floor, 76 Symonds St. Course code TUTINT. Please enrol through PeopleSoft HR or call CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Introduction to Tutoring: Faculty of Arts
CAD workshop for new graduate teaching assistants in Faculty of Arts. 10am-4.30pm Rm 901, HSB. Course code TUTART. Please enrol through PeopleSoft HR or call CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Beautiful one-bedroom apartment in Wakefield street with spacious balcony looking over Sky City and harbour. Very short walk to University and AUT. Fully furnished with brand new carpet, fresh paint, modern kitchen, and dining area. Only \$290 pw. Call or email to inspect now on (021) 773 379 or m.farid@auckland.ac.nz

Flatmate wanted for Freemans Bay two-bdrm apartment. Quiet and handy. Prefer male, gay friendly, to share with library professional mid-aged male. \$155 pw + expenses. Phone 376 6486 (evenings).

Mt Albert. Two or three people wanted to rent three-bedroomed stand-alone unit/townhouse. Fully furnished, sunny and warm, with a deck and garden. Off-street parking and near bus stop for University. \$380 pw. Contact Margaret on (021) 066 5879 or 620 4736.

Short-term let, early March to early June. Titirangi one-bdrm freestanding modern sunny unit, ensuite bathroom. Bus at door. \$290 pw incl power. Use of (old yet reliable, manual) car negotiable. Phone Christine for details on 817 8246 or (021) 297 5301.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

House-sitter available. Care for your house and pets while you are away. Experienced with references. Available after 15 Feb. Phone (021) 062 3077.

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

The Sunflower Apartment. The Appartamento Girasole is in a cluster of Tuscan farm buildings, built in the 18th century as an olive pressing business but restored as a residence for 16 families. Nestled in a valley between Montespertoli and Empoli, it is ideally situated for sightseeing. It sleeps six, has two bedrooms, a kitchen/dining/living room and a bathroom, is fully equipped and centrally heated, with a small private garden near a 25m by 20m communal swimming pool. Inquiries to sharon.blaikie@clear.net.nz Rates: July-August, Christmas, New Year, Easter

700 euros a week; June and September 600 euros; other months 450 euros.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Convenient and fully-furnished apartment in Quest on Eden building. 54sqm with high ceilings. Queen bed, queen sofa bed in lounge, cutlery and dish service for four persons. Storage room, vacuum cleaner, washer/dryer, heated towel rail, refrigerator, microwave, toaster, kettle, shower, patio with table and two chairs. Must see to appreciate. Who needs a carpark when you're this close to campus? \$197,900. Call Mary at (09) 489-9836, available immediately. See Trademe listing number #AHS599

MISCELLANEOUS

Academic travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of travel for University staff. 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 email Karen at Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or phone 366 4645 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

Carpenter/builder available. Over 30 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References. Phone Chris on 828 2298 or (027) 293 2279.

Maintaining a house in Pakuranga/ongoing position. Seeking mature, responsible, female student to help the owner. Minimum of 16 hours a week. cleaning, ironing, windows etc. Details given during the interview. A home phone number is required. Please email martine@clearfield.com

Yoga classes. Expressions of interest are being taken for a yoga class (suitable for all levels) to be held every Tuesday from 5.30-6.30pm, Level 3, 1-11 Short Street, starting on 18 February. The cost is \$10, and more information on the class and teacher can be found at www.yogaforhealing.co.nz If you are interested in attending, email Anne Cave at a.cave@auckland.ac.nz