

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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Exporting volcanic expertise



Signing of the agreement, attended by special secretary Sami Abdullah A. Alfadda.

A large delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by its Minister for Higher Education, his Excellency Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Ankary, visited the University on 28 May.

A highlight of the Minister's visit to New Zealand was the signing of an agreement with Education Minister Ann Tolley to strengthen and increase New Zealand's educational and scientific engagement with Saudi Arabia.

A further highlight, right in the spirit of this engagement between the two governments, was the signing – by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, and Professor Osama S. Tayeb, President of King Abdul Aziz University – of an agreement described by the Saudi Arabian Minister for Higher Education as “an appetiser for the sort of work that can be done between the two institutions”.

By the terms of this agreement, The University of Auckland's Institute of Earth Sciences and Engineering will work in cooperation with the Faculty of Earth Sciences at King Abdul Aziz University on the assessment and mitigation of volcanic and volcano-seismic hazards in the Arabian Shield of Saudi Arabia.

Within the area covered by the project is the holy city of Madinah, a site of pilgrimage for Moslems throughout the world. The city is located near several young volcano-seismic fields, which

are groups of small volcano cones, lava flows or craters spread over a wide area, which expose the city to volcanic hazards such as ash fall, lava flows and earthquakes.

The collaborative research to be carried out over three years will quantify the volcano-associated geological risks in Madinah and elsewhere in Saudi Arabia and will provide a strategy and rationale for mitigation of risk. A potentially valuable by-product of the hazard modelling will be to use the data to evaluate the potential for possible ground-water and geothermal resources.

The delegation comprised more than 20 people, including the Saudi Arabian Ambassador in New Zealand, three deputy government ministers, the international director-general of the Ministry for Higher Education, the President and Vice-President of King Abdul Aziz University, several assistant deans, and diplomats from the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Canberra and the Consulate-General in Auckland.

The visit provided opportunities to discuss general possibilities of collaboration, to showcase the University's strengths, especially in Science and Engineering, and to present the work of UniServices in the context of the substantial previous engagement the University has had with Saudi Arabia.

Key events

Looking terrific

An exhibition now on at the Gus Fisher Gallery celebrates the achievements of New Zealand fashion industry leader Gus Fisher, who headed the House of El Jay in New Zealand for almost 50 years and, through the relationships he established with Parisian couturiers, gained the exclusive right to manufacture and sell Dior originals in the New Zealand market. Curator of the exhibition is Auckland designer, Doris de Pont, a recent graduate of The University of Auckland's Museum and Cultural Heritage postgraduate programme, and a former winner of the Benson and Hedges Fashion Award. The exhibition “Looking terrific: The story of El Jay” continues until 17 July.

Exploded view

Also at the Gus Fisher Gallery (in Gallery 2), Associate Professor Nuala Gregory from Elam School of Fine Arts has created an immersive installation of printed and collaged works. Her art work draws on her investigations in art theory, advancing the proposition that art can produce effects which escape the bounds of representation and operate instead at the level of bodily sensation. The exhibition is accompanied by a 48-page full colour catalogue with essays by Dr Peter Shand (Elam School of Fine Arts) and Gregory O'Brien. On 12 June at 1pm Nuala Gregory will be in conversation with Peter Shand.

Ideas to business

Spark is hosting a free one-day workshop on 30 June from 9am-6pm that educates University staff and students about the basics of starting a business. This workshop is a must for anyone entering the Spark \$100k Challenge or simply wanting to learn more about business. Throughout the day participants will also have the opportunity to network with the workshop speakers from the ICEHOUSE, successful Spark alumni and other entrepreneurs and technologists. Ideas for Business (I2B) is open to all staff and students from all faculties. See www.spark.auckland.ac.nz for information and registration.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

The 2010 Government Budget delivered on 20 May represents a "holding pattern" as far as the universities are concerned – perhaps all that could be expected as we emerge from a recession, but short of a recipe for future national prosperity.

The key announcements in regards to research were (all over four years): a \$190m allocation to support research and development (R&D) in businesses that already have significant R&D activity; \$20m to trial technology transfer vouchers to encourage links between smaller companies and research organisations; a further \$25m to support technology transfer from research providers to industry; \$25m to support Rutherford Discovery Fellowships, which will encourage our best postdoctoral fellows to progress their research careers; and \$9m to help attract to New Zealand top entrepreneurial scientists. These are welcome initiatives, which will help to attract and retain some additional talented researchers, and build connections between their research outputs and New Zealand's economic growth. Perhaps not surprisingly in the current financial environment, they are focused on research for economic development, which means that the universities will have to protect carefully the balance of their investment in the arts, humanities and other disciplines that are less obviously related to growing our economic base.

With respect to our teaching-related activities, the main change was a removal of fees maxima coupled with a government-determined maximum 4 percent increase in tuition fees for 2011 and a 2.2 percent increase in the tuition subsidy. Again these are welcome, particularly as the removal of the fees maxima will provide some modest respite to those institutions which, because of their location or higher quality of provision – in our case because of both effects – were seriously hampered by the previous policy. The Government will also fund an additional 765 student places.

What these changes will not do, however, is to allow us to properly address the salary imbalances between New Zealand and those countries with which we compete for staff. In 2007, the Australian universities were earning (and therefore able to expend) US\$20,440 per student while the New Zealand universities had at their disposal just \$13,910 per student. Until we are able to close that gap, paying the salaries that will allow us to significantly increase the number of world-class academic staff in the universities will remain one of this country's most pressing challenges.



Down to earth



Stanley Jones (right) with Tom Tiauli, one of the staff in the University gardens; behind them is part of the impressively large compost heap which helps feed the trees and plants.

Nothing goes out of the University's gardens.

That is one of the central principles of Grounds and Precincts Manager Stanley Jones's approach to his task.

Twigs, branches, uprooted plants and dead flowers, the leaves that fall and lie in all their organic abundance in autumn: the aim is to use all those to feed back into the cycle of growth in all of the University's grounds across its five campuses.

Stanley points out the space left by an *Erythrina x sykesii* (Australian Coral) tree in the gardens of Old Government House. "The tree split and had to be cut down," he says. "Now it is feeding the other trees and plants. It has been completely recycled."

The circles of mulch around the trees that you see as you stroll through these heritage gardens are not only feeding the soil and enriching the growth of trees but also locking the moisture in, so that less of the precious (and costly) water resources are needed.

"Mulching also means you don't have to spray for weeds," says Stanley. "And you have much less need for artificial fertilisers."

"We try not to use pesticides except where totally necessary. We keep our whole approach environmentally friendly, which is a help to some of the University's activities. For example, two researchers from the School of Biological Sciences are conducting research on bees. Bees are very vulnerable to insecticides, which is a problem worldwide. We try to make a safe haven in the city centre for birds and insects."

Even the University's smoke-free policy is working in support of this earth-friendly approach. Now that smokers are no longer scattering cigarette butts within the grounds, this means that the fallen leaves, now uncontaminated, can be safely mulched and recycled.

Stanley, who studied for his horticultural qualifications at three different institutions in South

Africa and managed the parks and gardens at several councils before moving to Auckland five years ago, has always been environmentally conscious.

"Especially in the First World, we produce enormous amounts of waste," he says. "We inherit a beautiful place and we need to leave it just as beautiful for future generations."

Asked about his plans for the future of the gardens Stanley says he is not planning major changes yet.

"At the moment I'm just wanting to get to know the gardens and get the sustainability cycle established throughout the University."

But later? "I would like this to be a wonderfully rich and sustainable botanical garden."

Not only Stanley but also his family have established strong links with The University of Auckland.

His wife is now teaching in a secondary school in Auckland while studying for her Master of Teaching degree at Epsom.

Their son is studying archaeology and their daughter is doing a BA(Hons) in Art History.

Stanley has also commenced further study – for a Graduate Diploma in Theology, which he is greatly enjoying.

"Since I began as Grounds Manager in April last year, I've been seeing the University from the outside," he says. "Now I'm getting to know it from the inside as well."

For the record

In the story entitled "Landmark for Theology", published in *University News* on page 6 of Issue 8, Keith Stuart was named incorrectly as Dr Keith Sturt.

Web of enhancement



Taryn Davies, Stephen Whiteside and Antoinette Kesha.

“What staff want from the University website is a vibrant and dynamic web environment, where the information is delivered consistently across different contexts, both in style and branding,” says Stephen Whiteside, Director of Information Technology Services (ITS).

“In addition, the feedback we have received is that academics would like to feel we are richly showcasing the University’s research and teaching talents, providing support for the diverse needs of students – including those at postgraduate level – and offering an easy entry point and accessible information for those seeking to collaborate in research.”

Stephen, who chairs the University’s Web Governance Board, says its work so far has laid a sound foundation in terms of style and branding, with web statistics showing that the new University website is attracting a significantly higher number of visitors, with greater engagement.

This means the web is serving one of its essential functions – of advancing engagement with prospective and current students, alumni, philanthropists and research collaborators.

The next phase of work, already begun, is to build on that base to develop dynamic systems which will enhance coverage of staff services and research outputs, as well as supporting research collaboration.

The Web Governance Board is now updating its web channel strategy, originally developed in 2007, in close consultation with technical and content forums and with academics within the IT Strategy and Policy Committee.

“There are many diverse and passionate views about how we use the web,” says Stephen. “The University site needs to be consistent in content while still reflecting the diversity that makes universities great.”

The Board’s role as he sees it is to develop a long-term view, taking account of multiple perspectives to build “the broad picture”.

For that reason the Board has both content and technical web reference groups, and includes representation from each faculty, Communications and Marketing, the University Library and Student Information Services.

Among plans for later this year is an outward-facing staff directory, and a richer integration of research outputs into the web management system through an application called Symplectic. This will be implemented in cooperation with the University Library and Research Office, and will allow collation of research outputs in the form of publications, artwork or research data.

“The core work of the University is carried out more and more through collaboration online, and our web management systems need to give the best possible support to this.”

The Board is also investigating the most effective ways of interfacing with social networking environments such as Facebook. Though some of the University’s leading academics are already using these sites, says Stephen, they are working outside the University system and could benefit from an integrated scheme.

The faculty intranet sites are still “works in progress” with decisions to be made, for example, on what should be in- or out-facing. “There is a rich and diverse mix of information on the different faculty intranets. The task is to achieve consistency while still allowing for creative flexibility.”

The overall work in web development over the next few months will focus on three key areas: the staff directory, the showcasing of academics, and the further enhancement of interface with visitors. On all advances the Board will be seeking broad input from staff.

Stephen praised the work of the Web Governance Group, with a special word for Taryn Davies, Web Manager and Antoinette Kesha, Project Manager in Group Applications: “Taryn and Antoinette have done a wonderful job in enhancing the University’s web presence.”

In brief...

Excellence in equity

Nominations are called for The University of Auckland Excellence in Equity Awards for 2010. These awards are to encourage and reward outstanding efforts and achievements in supporting the organisation’s equity objectives in the Strategic Plan, and to promote good practice and innovation in implementing equity. Awards are presented bi-annually to individuals or teams in departments, faculties, service divisions, libraries, and other units, who demonstrate excellence in equity. Visit the Equity website for nomination forms and more information on criteria. Nominations close 28 June.

Teaching improvement

Applications are called for the 2010 round of Teaching Improvement Grants (TIGs). These are intended for projects which lie outside the normal scope of departmental budgets, and are intended to stimulate innovations and provide exemplars in teaching and course delivery that might serve as useful models within the University.

All full- and part-time members of the teaching staff are invited to apply, and proposals may be submitted by individual staff, groups of staff, or academic units. The total funding pool available is \$150,000 and the maximum for any one grant is \$15,000. The money will be available for use throughout the 2011 academic year (rather than for a calendar year from the TIGs’ announcement, as has been past practice).

For further information, or to apply, see the Teaching Improvement Grants Procedures and Guidelines, and the Teaching Improvement Grants Information and Application Form on <http://web.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/staff/teaching/excellence/>

Applications close 19 July. For queries contact Kelly Chen (kelly.chen@auckland.ac.nz or ext 87643).

Vital ideas

“New Zealand needs you now rather badly and will need you even more in the future.”

These were the words of guest speaker Geoff Ross, founder of 42 BELOW and more recently the Business Bakery, addressing the 445 budding entrepreneurs who entered the Spark Ideas Challenge. Twenty winners of the challenge each received \$1,000 in prize money at a function held last month in the Owen G Glenn Building. Among the winning ideas were a new way of preventing memory loss in seniors; technologies which aim to tackle obesity and youth suicide; ways of addressing the dangers of cycling; a viral campaign which promotes random acts of kindness; and a new method for delivering cancer drugs to tumours.

First themed event for forging links



On the evening of 18 May in the Owen G Glenn Building, UniServices hosted “Health Services Innovation”, the first of several themed events aimed to create stronger links between New Zealand universities and business.

The Hon Dr Wayne Mapp, Minister of Research, Science and Technology, spoke about the Prime Minister’s pre-budget announcement on new spending for research, science and technology.

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Adviser and former

Director of the Liggins Institute, gave a guest address on the importance of linking university research with business.

Members of the business community had a chance to learn more about university research in New Zealand and what can be achieved through partnership with top academic researchers, while academics gained insight into the research needs of the business sector.

All New Zealand universities had the chance to showcase their leading-edge health innovations

and technology, including health services, medical devices and health information technology.

Presenters from The University of Auckland included the National Institute of Health Innovation, Centre for Advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Auckland MRI Research Group, Clinical Trials Research Unit, Auckland Bioengineering Institute, The University of Auckland Clinics and several groups involved in clinical research through UniServices.

Other presentations were made by staff from Massey, Victoria, Canterbury, Waikato, Otago, and Auckland University of Technology.

The details of upcoming events, including dates and locations, are yet to be confirmed. The planned themes, some of which may be combined, include education, biotechnology, energy and sustainability, food and nutrition, information and communication technology and e-learning, high-technology manufacturing, agritechology, infrastructure and water, marine and environment, design and creative arts, and indigenous knowledge.

Anyone interested in participating in upcoming events can contact Josie Heap at UniServices on j.heap@auckland.ac.nz or ext 84216.

This series of events is sponsored by the Council of University Vice Chancellors and supported by Business New Zealand and the collaboration of University Commercialisation Offices including UniServices. It is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission.

This montage captures some of the flavour of the event, which was described by guests as having “a real buzz about it”.

Licensed to change lives



Ann-Maree Duxfield gets a buzz from helping people change their lives.

Which means her role as the University’s first

Immigration Adviser in Human Resources is the ideal one for her.

Ann-Maree’s main responsibility in her position, to which she was appointed in February, is to advise, assist and “smooth the path” for people who come from overseas to join the University’s staff.

Having clocked up eight years as an immigration adviser and gained her formal licence to practise, Ann-Maree is the ideal person to fill the position.

The licensing, made mandatory last year – mainly to protect migrants from unethical or unskilled advisers – requires proof of expertise and business process as well as the usual police reports and character references, “plus about 60 pages of forms to fill in for the initial licensing”, Ann-Maree adds. The licensed adviser must keep up with changes in immigration law and needs to renew the licence every year.

There are now 476 licensed New Zealand immigration advisers, 282 in New Zealand and another 174 offshore.

When someone from another country receives an offer of employment from the University, Ann-Maree assists them in obtaining a work permit and/or helping them apply for permanent

residence. In addition she assists current staff with any problems that might arise, lets them know when permits are due for renewal and assists with the process of renewing them.

There is more than one path to permanent residence and the process is not always straightforward, says Ann-Maree. In addition the immigration regulations have tightened up considerably over recent years and the paperwork can be seen as “like a mountain to climb over”. For these reasons, many people are delighted to receive some guidance.

She cites the example of a member of staff who entered New Zealand on a five-year work permit, having been assured in his own country that that would suffice. He wasn’t aware that permanent residence offered some great advantages – such as eligibility for the “working for families” tax break. In addition, the sons and daughters of permanent residents are entitled to attend university on the same terms as New Zealand citizens rather than paying the much larger fees of an overseas student.

Another lecturer Ann-Maree was pleased to be able to help was about to have his residence permit declined, on grounds that the overseas

story continues on page 5

Sensible sensitivity is what our young people need

There is no doubt that the recent tragic events at King's College in Auckland are a reminder to us all of how precious the lives of all teenagers in New Zealand are. It is a stark reminder that as parents, at times, we have little control over the destinies of our children and we must leave the rest to fate and luck.

While there are many things in a teenager's life that we have no control over, the good news is that there's a huge amount that we do, both as individuals and as a nation. So where might we start to address the most serious child mental health issue this country has?

Let us turn back the clock to the early years in a young person's life. The foundation stones of secure development are laid in the very early years of life. Here children first learn and experience security through attachment to their primary caregivers. It is then through thousands upon thousands of both verbal and physical interchanges of communication that take place in the early years that children learn and develop a sense of security and safety. Safe and secure bonding is needed for healthy psychological and emotional development and forms a foundation stone for the later outcomes in a child's life. Luckily, for most children they experience a healthy and happy life and are securely attached to their caregivers.

Then there are those children who due to no fault of their own are the recipients of abuse and neglect, and who experience a life that is less than forgiving. As adults, these children are likely to be the target of harsher penalties recently introduced by this government. We all know that such sentences are great vote catchers and for any subsequent governments to attempt to repeal this legislation would be political suicide. The Sensible Sentencing Trust's spokesperson, Garth McVicar tells us that the streets will be a much safer place for us all. His sensible no-nonsense approach sounds appealing but on closer scrutiny it offers little comfort for those of us who walk the streets. For instance, we know that such sentences fail to do what McVicar says they will, act as a deterrent. Instead research has shown that it will lead to unfair sentencing and widen the scope of offenders to include those on relatively less serious offences. It will inevitably lead to the breakdown of more families, more Māori in prisons, and more cost to you and me as tax payers. As a society isn't there something seriously wrong with what we are doing

story continued from page 4

university from which he had graduated had been downgraded by the NZQA, with his masters degree now seen as equivalent only to a New Zealand bachelors degree. In this case Ann-Maree was able to assist him to submit information about his partly-completed PhD, which lifted his qualifications to the level needed to place him in the "desired skills" category. "This really did transform his life," says Ann-Maree. "He went from

if we already have one of the highest imprisonment rates in the developed world and now introduce legislation that will make this even worse?

So what is the answer to make this society of ours safer? It lies in turning back the clock and getting control over what we can control when the child is young. Any of us who have visited our prisons know they are a breeding ground for being a "better criminal". It is where lives are "lost" and not made, and for the youngest it is a school of "crime", not "reform" as Garth McVicar would have us believe. If we are really going to get serious about addressing the problem of violence in society we must work alongside and support those families and children who are at greatest risk in our communities. It requires our government spending money wisely on programmes that have been shown to be effective in addressing the risk factors for child and adolescent offending. There is a need for programmes developed overseas to be adapted to cater for the needs of Māori and there is also a need for programmes to be developed by Māori for Māori and for similar programmes to be developed for other cultures who have high rates of offending. Sufficient resourcing must be given to evaluating these programmes, and their ongoing development needs to be based on scientific evidence and their cultural fit as opposed to just funding the delivery of programmes and then axing them when the political climate of the day changes.

The young people and families I am talking about are considered the most challenging child mental health population to work with. Inevitably it requires a workforce that is highly skilled in behavioural and developmental psychology, along with family therapy. Currently we rely on well meaning and kind-spirited individuals, many of whom are poorly trained and ill equipped to deal with the complex mental and psychological disorders this population has. If we really want to have the best chance of seriously addressing this issue then we must radically change the current shape of the workforce that works in this area. It was a sobering experience for me to visit the Oregon Social Learning Centre and talk with Gerry Paterson who has been working and researching in this area for over 20 years. They have the highest qualified professionals working at the coalface with the families and young people who have conduct problems. In New Zealand this is considered a rare

despair to relief and delight in just a couple of weeks."

Ann-Maree was happy in her previous job, where she also worked as an immigration adviser. She hadn't intended to change until an approach by a recruitment agency prompted her to see what other jobs were advertised. The position at the University caught her eye.

"This was a new position and I saw it as an

exception. While I am not under any illusion that qualifications are not the total answer and a lot of it comes down to the personal attributes of the clinician, one cannot escape the fact that professional training at a tertiary institution should be a core requirement. Currently there is no specialist training in New Zealand to work with children with conduct problems and nothing is being done to address this gap in services, while on the other hand we pour money into rolling out programmes.

Our community must also challenge the often ill informed rhetoric of political groups who throw our popular one-liners at the public. While Family Group conferences developed in New Zealand have been a world leader in the youth justice process, the Sensible Sentencing Trust states: "A typical family group conference will have the offender and their support people, normally between six and ten, lawyers for the offenders – one for each – and the victim and maybe one support person. The offender's family treats it as a special occasion and brings KFC or McDonald's and everything that goes with it." The truth of the matter is that all the evidence points to something quite the opposite taking place and it not being a "soft option" but a place where the restorative justice process for both victim and offender occurs.

There is no doubt we all want and desire to have a safer community in which to live. We all want our most violent criminals locked up but to really address the issue of child and youth offending in our communities requires intervention in a child's life as early as possible. It needs people prepared to stand up and talk for those who cannot and to challenge the myths and beliefs that surround these children and their families. It also requires a radical change from what we are currently doing if we really want to address the high rate of Māori youth offending. All this requires people having the courage to stand up for what really matters and showing some sensible sensitivity and humanity. I believe this would be modelling values, vision and showing true leadership, and go some way to stemming the ever increasing flow of wasted lives from cradle, to prison, to grave.

Associate Professor Ian Lambie
Department of Psychology

exciting opportunity to be the first to hold it and to help create the role. It tweaked my interest and made me decide it was time for a change."

Ann-Maree assists both academic and general staff across all faculties and service divisions. She will be pleased to hear from anyone who needs advice or assistance on a.duxfield@auckland.ac.nz or ext 81516.

Strategic stance on finance



David Jordan (left) confers with Marin Matulovic.

Like many finance people at the University, David Jordan, recently appointed as Chair of the Finance Reference Group for the University's Finance Programme, has had experience also in the corporate world.

What's different about the University, he says, is that its philosophy about profit is quite unlike that of the corporates.

"At The University of Auckland," says David, "you can take a more strategic stance. You're always looking forward at how your decisions will affect future years, recognising that funding will become increasingly difficult both for teaching and research. In the corporate world you're more likely to be looking back with a tight focus on past performance.

"The University is about using funds in the most

productive and constructive way, with its energies ultimately aimed to provide the best possible environment to support and foster research and to ensure that students achieve to their highest potential."

Sponsored by Adrienne Cleland, Director of Administration, with Marin Matulovic, Director of Finance, as business owner, the Finance Programme comprises four projects.

The first is a core technical upgrade of the PeopleSoft financial system to a more advanced version. Second is the examination of financial process and practice within the University to ensure they operate at the highest efficiency as benchmarked with the Hackett group, an international benchmarking organisation. Third is a procurement review: the Finance Programme

members will work closely with faculties and service divisions to improve supplier management and identify improvements in spend to make cost savings. Last will be the implementation of new PeopleSoft modules and processes.

As Chair of the Finance Reference Group, David sits on the steering committee of the Finance Programme.

The role of the Finance Reference Group, he says, is to work across all four projects, to provide expert review on changes in process, practice or policy; to take into account feedback from subject matter expert groups; and to make recommendations for implementation to the steering committee.

The Reference Group, which held its first meeting on 10 May, includes senior representatives from all the faculties and service divisions. David sees it as a key link between the Finance Programme team and the users (ie everyone in the University's finance community), giving a chance for input from users about what they need, about what works well and how things could work better, before providing recommendations for change or improvement to the steering committee.

David, who was born in Zimbabwe, came to settle in New Zealand two and a half years ago with his wife and child. (They now have a second child born just last month).

He joined the staff of the University just over a year ago as Finance Manager for the Faculty of Science, a position he still holds concurrently with his new role as Chair of the Finance Reference Group.

The role he describes as "a great way to expand my skills, experience and knowledge of the University. I'm sure there are exciting and challenging times ahead."

Brightest school scholars choose Auckland



Six of the eight top scholars at New Zealand secondary schools in 2009 are studying at The University of Auckland this year.

Each won a \$5000 scholarship awarded by the New Zealand Education and Scholarship Trust.

The six were Paul Johnston (who was dux of

Fairfield College, Hamilton and is now studying for a BSc), Nelson Lam (dux of St Kentigern College, BMus/BSc), Andrew McIndoe (proxime accessit of Wellington College, BA/LLB), Brierley Penn (dux of Wanganui High School, BCom/LLB), Rennie Qin (dux of ACG Strathallan College, MBChB), William Zhang (dux of Auckland Grammar School, MBChB).

Ninety schools throughout New Zealand nominated 147 students who were ranked on their Year 13 external examination results. The top 34 candidates were then assessed by a subcommittee and 13 selected for interview by a panel representing the business and education sectors.

John Graham, who chairs NZEST, says the Trust would like to have awarded 13 scholarships because of the difficulty selecting only eight.

"The students are all so multi-talented, partaking in a wide range of activities apart from their obvious scholastic pursuits. The scholarship interviewing day is a highlight in my calendar because it fills me with hope for the future of New Zealand."

At a ceremony to present the University of Auckland scholars with their certificates on 19 May the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said it was "fantastic to have six of the eight most talented students in the country coming to this University.

"We are working hard to achieve high academic standards at the University and a key part of that is to get the very best students from around New Zealand."

The Vice-Chancellor with the 2009 NZEST Scholars (from left): Paul Johnston, Nelson Lam, Rennie Qin, Andrew McIndoe, Brierley Penn, William Zhang

From the collection



Justine Kurland (born 1969), *Parade Across the Dunes* 2001, satin finish UV C-print mounted on Sintra, 762 x 1016mm, Edition 3/8.

Established in 1998, the Elam International Artist in Residence programme has often chimed in with exhibitions and events around Auckland. The first Triennial, *Bright Paradise*, curated by Allan Smith, brought Justine Kurland to the city in 2001, and she made this art work during her stay.

Part of a group of so-called “girl photographers” who create staged images that seem to address adolescent female identity, Kurland is also conscious of romantic landscape painting

traditions. As a kind of image-gardener, she cultivates fresh fields by selecting her locations from amongst those places important to locals or suggested by the models themselves.

In this instance the setting is the north end of Karekare beach on Auckland’s West Coast where Kurland let loose a group of girls from a local private school, dressed in the same school uniform. Beforehand, she had asked them to imagine certain scenarios – running away together, escaping parental authority, finding paradise –

Arts

ideas which she wanted the girls to respond to and interpret for the camera. In this way, her models are sent out into a framed view just as an army or an expedition is dispatched to some new rough territory in order to claim and map it.

Kurland explains: “I stage photographs of teenage girls, imagining they have run away from home, gathered together, forming packs in the woods where they live like wildlife. I imagine a world devoid of men, where girls are independent and free, where perfect moments follow one after another. At the same time I create this narrative, I allow it to unravel, so that the pictures have only a trace of my directorial hand. Ultimately these photos are about how the girls interpret my request for paradise.” Kurland’s girls are never passive or seductive. Put into nature and assigned active roles, they climb trees, paddle in swimming holes, and parade. She describes this series as “a Huckleberry Finn narrative, given to girls” since hers is a predominantly American view of adolescence, founded upon restlessness and the myth of the frontier. Others have been reminded of William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*. Will these girls turn savage or create a new utopia?

The “in between” aspect of teenage years is paralleled by her location of the narratives in untamed areas that border urban conurbation. Isolated, yet threatened with the encroachment of urbanisation, Karekare is a symbolic locale. Like a band of nomads moving across the desert, the line of girls marches over the dunes, framed by the setting sun. Dwarfed by the majestic headland, these girls are on a heroic quest, their journey made epic by the scenery.

Linda Tyler

Showcase for postgraduates



Asif Rahman with his sister Noreen (left) and Ashley Young, a PhD student in Chemical and Materials Engineering.

When the time came to decide where to study for her PhD, Kirby-Jane Hallum wanted a university that would offer three key things: a recognised world-class qualification; the chance to build a teaching portfolio through tutoring and guest lecturing; and opportunities to connect with global research culture, particularly in Victorian studies.

The University she chose was The University of Auckland, where she is now studying for her PhD in the English Department.

Kirby-Jane was one of two students chosen to address postgraduate students at the cocktail party for Postgraduate Week. This is an annual event that comprises faculty sessions, displays, and lectures, and provides an opportunity for postgraduate students to showcase their work and for undergraduates and professionals to see what The University of Auckland has to offer at postgraduate level.

The other student chosen to speak at the cocktail function was Asif Rahman, a masters student in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering.

Kirby-Jane, originally from Wanaka, has a BA(Hons) and MA from the University of Otago. Her doctoral thesis entitled “Women as aesthetic commodities in popular Victorian fiction” examines how popular mid-to-late nineteenth-century novelists represented women as aesthetic commodities in matrimonial contexts.

Having recently been awarded a Universitas 21

Doctoral Mobility Scholarship, Kirby-Jane will be taking a research trip to Birmingham to consult with staff and postgraduate students from that university’s notable research cluster in late-Victorian culture, aestheticism, decadence and modernism.

Asif Rahman, after finishing intermediate school in Palmerston North, moved with his family to Singapore, where he completed high school. He then studied for his bachelors degree in the United States before returning to New Zealand, where he is now continuing his postgraduate education at The University of Auckland.

Asif acknowledges that his expectations were high, and he is now proud to say that the University has met and exceeded them.

“This university is truly a world-class institution,” he told the guests at the cocktail party. “Graduates have a great reputation, and go on to top-level jobs in academia, politics, and industry... I am extremely proud of all the things that I have accomplished here at the University and the doors that have been opened to me in New Zealand and abroad.”

Hearty celebration



Paul Nolan, supervisor of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic, at the 10-year anniversary event with Jane Liggins (left) and Fiona Mills, the cardiac nurses who helped to establish the clinic.

The University's Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic celebrated its tenth anniversary at Tamaki Campus last month.

The clinic is part of the Health and Performance section of The University of Auckland Clinics, established to support university teaching and research while providing health services to local people, including university staff and students.

It helps people recover from heart disease through supervised exercise, offers personalised fitness programmes and a safe gym environment in which to exercise, and helps reduce risk factors for heart disease such as high blood pressure or cholesterol, weight problems and diabetes.

The clinic operates from the Health and Performance gym at 71 Merton Rd, Glen Innes, with aerobic training sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and resistance training on Tuesdays.

Other services include exercise rehabilitation for people recovering from illness or injury and high-performance training for children and adults.

To find out more about the Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic phone 09 521 1210 ext 4, email acrc@auckland.ac.nz, or visit The University of Auckland Clinics website www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz.

For more information about the event, see the News section on the Staff intranet.

Excellence award for UniServices

Auckland UniServices Ltd has chalked up a major win in the Vero Excellence in Business Support Awards.

The University of Auckland's technology transfer company beat five other finalists to clinch the "Large business over \$10 million turnover" category.

The awards recognise contributions in providing quality products and services, making life easier for business owners. Entrants are independently evaluated by the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation using international criteria designed to showcase best practice.

UniServices CEO, Dr Peter Lee, said he and

other staff were "elated and honoured to receive the award, ahead of recognised brand names such as Kiwibank, Fuji Xerox New Zealand, Bartercard, Maclean Computing and the Interface Financial Group".

For more information about the win, see the News section on the Staff intranet.

What's on

FRIDAY 11 JUNE

Book launch

Time and Becoming in Nietzsche's Thought by Professor Robin Small. 4.30pm Rm N356, N block, Faculty of Education, 60 Epsom Ave, Epsom. Please RSVP to s.davis@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 12 JUNE

Third Annual Early Childhood Education Associate Teachers' Symposium 2010

Early childhood education: The changing landscape. 9am-3pm Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT), ND Block, South Auckland. The network of ECE teachers from within the Auckland area invites associate teachers to a day of professional development. The goal is to show appreciation for the work by associate teachers and to provide opportunities to hear their voices as well as offer presentations and relevant workshops. Keynote speaker is Brenda Souter. \$20. Bring your own lunch. Tea, coffee, and biscuits provided. Parking is free on MIT campus.

MONDAY 14 JUNE

NZ Asia Institute/Dept of Political Studies seminar

Dr Zhao Hong, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. *Energy security concerns of China and ASEAN: Trigger for conflicts in the South China Sea?* 3-4pm Rm 325, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Visit www.nzai.auckland.ac.nz

Fulbright NZ Alumni Association/Dept of Political Studies/NZ Institute of International Affairs public lecture

Dr Jon Johansson, Victoria University of Wellington: *Obama in political time: Presidential leadership in the 21st*

Century. 6-7.30pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, Bldg 401, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

Public lecture

Tony Taylor, School of Psychology, Victoria University and Warren Brookbanks, Professor of Law, UoA: *Prison reform: Best practice or blind belief?* 7pm Religious Society of Friends Meeting House, 115 Mt Eden Road, Mt Eden. Queries to Jennie Searle, phone (09) 828 4577.

Tony and Warren will be addressing prison reform and the Government's Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill (three strikes). All welcome.

WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE

Master of Creative Writing information session

12-1pm Rm 426, Arts 1. For all students interested in finding out more about the Master of Creative Writing. Visit www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/creative-writing

Documenting your research for promotion and APRs

1-3pm CAD. Develop strategies for writing a research profile that fully represents your strengths as a researcher. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

MONDAY 21 JUNE

eTools for teaching and learning

10am-1pm CAD. Discover new online tools that can add flexibility and enhance interaction for both small and large group teaching. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140 for assistance.

THURSDAY 24 JUNE

Women Returning to Work Network lunchtime meeting

1-2pm FGW's Rm, OGH. Human Resources will be presenting this meeting. Items for the agenda are:

1) Introducing the Salary Sacrifice Scheme

2) Update on Parental Leave Advisers.

Please RSVP to Margaret Freeman, ms.freeman@auckland.ac.nz by 17 June

Pasifika information evening

6-8pm NICAI Student Centre, 26 Symonds St. The National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries offers a range of creative degree programmes in: Architecture and Planning, Fine and Visual Arts, Dance Studies, Music. Join us for an evening of music, dance and information for prospective Pasifika students and their families. Meet our staff and current students and learn about our programmes and the creative career opportunities available for our graduates. Find out about the support services available to Pasifika students. See our students in action, with dance and music on show. Register on 373 7067 or info-creative@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Apartments for rent. Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call Chris or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Lovely three-bedroom Westmere house for rent, 5 September 2010 to 3 January 2011. Fully furnished, including wireless, washer, drier, dishwasher, highly sociable and much-loved cat. With bath and shower. Big back yard, with storage shed and OSP. Walking distance from shops, parks, zoo and

Auckland's best butcher. Ideal for visiting academics. Rent negotiable. Must love cats! Email aotearose@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

French-Swedish academic couple with two children (6 and 8 years) are looking for a house-sitting/rental/exchange (with Tonga, where we currently live or Montpellier, South of France, our permanent residence) in the period 20 June-20 Sept in North Island and the Auckland region. Holiday home 1-2.5 hours drive from Auckland would be a good option. We would like to enrol our children in a primary school for a term. We are also looking for a car (to lease/buy/rent) during the same period. Email nada.matas@gmail.com or text/phone + 676 77 00 811. We are NZ permanent residents and are happy to provide references.

House-sitter. Experienced house-sitter available. Short/medium/long-term considered. References available. Please contact Steve on (027) 277 9918 or s.thrupp@globe.net.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

Carpenter/builder available. Over 30 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References. Phone Chris on 270 0745 or (027) 293 2279.

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. Contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events

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