

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 40 | Issue 12 | 9 July 2010

## Growing academic superstars



*Dr John Hood with Professor Brian Boyd (a member of the Hood Fellowship selection committee) and Professor Stephen Davies (a Hood Fellow in 2007).*

The academic benefits engendered by the Hood Fellowship Fund over the past six years were celebrated recently at University House.

The guest of honour was Dr John Hood whose contribution as Vice-Chancellor of The University of Auckland from 1999 to 2004 the fund was created to recognise. He went on to spend five years as Vice-Chancellor at Oxford and is now in New York as President and Chief Executive of the Robertson Foundation.

To date 14 University of Auckland staff have gained Hood Fellowships to undertake research at prestigious international institutions while 50 prominent overseas academics have been selected to visit Auckland as Hood Fellows.

Past Hood Fellows attended the cocktail function on 23 June along with the donors to the Hood fund including representatives of the Lion Foundation, the lead donor.

Thanking donors, the chair of The University of Auckland Foundation, Geoff Ricketts, told guests that there was "strict adherence to standards of excellence" in selecting Fellows, with fewer than 30 percent of applicants successful.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart

McCutcheon, said the Fellowship programme covered a wide range of disciplines and interests. "It is very important in connecting us with leading universities and academics around the world. And there is no doubt it has attained the level of excellence that was intended."

Stuart said he hoped to see larger numbers of outbound Fellows. "A generation of our academic superstars will reach retirement age in the next decade.

"We need to make sure, for the future of the University, that we support and grow the next generation of outstanding academics. The opportunity for them to spend time at top universities overseas as well as to build relationships with leading academics we bring here is an important part of this process."

John Hood thanked donors for their generous support of the Fellowship Fund along with those involved in the selection process. He also commended past Fellows for using their opportunity for the betterment of scholarship, the University and New Zealand.

Public universities had to "get better" at fundraising and philanthropy, he said. This was

story continues on page 3

## Key events

### Confucius meeting

The Oceania regional meeting of Confucius Institutes will take place at the Langham Hotel in Auckland from 12-15 July. It will be attended by a delegation from Fudan University, by directors of Confucius Institutes in Oceania and South and West Asia, and embassy representatives from Oceania. Sessions will include discussion of such topics as key projects, strategy in the context of government language policies, and Mandarin teaching in Oceania.

### Mandarin in Oceania

"The teaching of Chinese in Oceania" will be the theme of the Confucius Institute's Mandarin Language Forum to be held at the Fale Pasifika from 1.30-4.45pm on 14 July. Colleagues and friends of the Confucius Institute are cordially invited. Please RSVP by email to [oceania2010@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:oceania2010@auckland.ac.nz)

### Winter Lectures soon

The first of the Winter Lectures on the future of serious journalism is on 20 July at 1pm (Maidment Theatre). Dr Geoff Kemp (Political Studies) will be speaking on "The beginning and ends of journalism". The series is previewed on page 5.

### Accounting for water

Visiting Professor Jayne Godfrey from Monash University will give a Dean's Distinguished Speakers lecture on water accounting at the Business School on 15 July.

When the full impact of Australia's water crisis became apparent, accounting and water experts joined forces to create this new discipline which is a critical component of Australia's A\$12 billion water reform package and will distinguish the truths, lies, errors and uncertainties in managing the world's most precious resource.

The lecture will take place from 6-8pm at Lecture Theatre OGG85, Level 0, in the Owen G Glenn Building. Please reply online before 12 July. Seats are limited.

## In this issue

- 2 | Film successes
- 2 | Gift from Aotearoa Foundation
- 3 | Timetable Services Office established

## From the Vice-Chancellor

From 30 June to 2 July, the University had the privilege of hosting the annual Presidents' meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU).

The Association is a network of 42 leading universities from around the Pacific and was last hosted by Auckland in 1999. APRU includes the research giants of the US and Japan along with the emerging global research power of Korea and China, and reflects the membership of APEC, the Asia-Pacific trade network.

During the meeting and associated events, which were attended by a considerable number of Council members and staff, there were opportunities for participants to discuss a wide range of issues relevant to the Pacific including New Zealand perspectives on challenges in the Pacific, the adequacy of Asia-Pacific institutions in the face of new challenges, sustainability issues, and the future role of APRU. Some of our researchers also presented their work in poster sessions or breakfast talks, and the dinners featured performers, both staff and students, from the School of Music. Excellent after-dinner speeches were delivered by Secretary of Foreign Affairs John Allen and Chief Science Adviser to the Prime Minister, Professor Sir Peter Gluckman. There were also tributes to Professor Steven Sample, the founder of APRU, who this year retires as President of the University of Southern California.

Network meetings such as these are an important contributor to our objective of being a leading international university. They make senior members of peer institutions aware of our excellent teaching and research, and of the

quality of our staff and students, and so open the doors to new opportunities for collaboration. They provide avenues for staff and student exchanges, and in the case of APRU allow us to make a significant contribution to issues that are of importance to our part of the world. These opportunities will be further enhanced by our University's recent admission as the only New Zealand member of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), which supports international collaborations in major themes such as Adapting to climate change, Furthering cultural understanding, Opportunities and challenges of globalisation, Global public health and New frontiers in ICT.

Meetings such as the APRU Presidents' forum are also massive undertakings, requiring a vast range of organisational and diplomatic skills. I am very grateful to the staff of the International Office and the Vice-Chancellor's Office who organised the event, and to the many other members of the University who contributed to its success.



## Successes on the silver screen

On the eve of its tenth anniversary, the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies continues to launch stars.

Since its inception in 2000, the department has produced numerous award-winning student filmmakers whose work has been screened at home and abroad.

Now it is celebrating two more significant achievements. One of its first masters graduates, Roseanne Liang, has directed her first full feature romantic comedy, *Girl Meets Boy*, co-written by fellow classmate Angeline Loo, and due to be released early in 2011.

Two current students – Marina McCartney (already a winner of the 2010 Audience Award at the Pollywood Film Festival) and Zanna Gillespie – have been selected to participate in a UNESCO-funded international documentary series *To be a Human Being* at EIC TV, one of the world's most elite film schools. The two are at present in Cuba undertaking a three-week directing workshop at the film school renowned for its founder, Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and its remarkable range of guest lecturers such as Steven Spielberg and Mike Lee.

Only eight schools in the world were selected to participate in this internationally collaborative project.

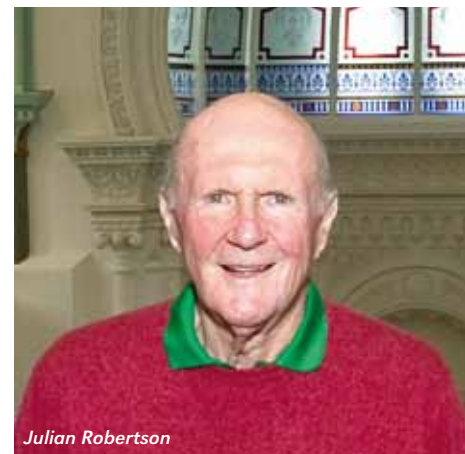
Other students from the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies have also enjoyed success this year.

Graduate Adam Luxton's thesis project, *A Glorious Morning*, a short film based on Maurice Gee's story of the same name, has been selected for the MIC Toi Rerehiko section of Homegrown at the New Zealand International Film Festival 2010.

Graduate Shirin Brown has been selected for the 2010 Women in Film and Television (WIFT) Writing Mentorship with Jan Prettlejohns, an experienced television writer who began her career in the early days of *Shortland Street*.

The young director Jack Woon, who graduated last year with a BA (Honours), has had his project, *Empty Swan Song*, which he wrote as part of his screenwriting course, selected for three festivals including the 2010 New Zealand Film International Festival, as well as the Shanghai International Film Festival 2010 (China) and Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival 2010 (Korea).

## Gift of \$1.8m



The University of Auckland has been gifted \$1.8 million by the Aotearoa Foundation to support postdoctoral fellowships at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and the Centre for Brain Research.

The Aotearoa Foundation was founded by US philanthropist Julian Robertson.

The gift will fund one new three-year fellowship at the institute and one at the centre each year.

The Auckland Bioengineering Institute applies the mathematical and engineering sciences to biology and human physiology. It aims to improve understanding of physiological processes and the diagnosis and treatment of injury or disease. It is led by Professor Peter Hunter who was awarded New Zealand's top science honour, the Rutherford Medal, in 2009.

He developed the world's first anatomically based computer model of the human heart in 1996 and has a leading role in the major international Physiome Project, which is building sophisticated computer models of all the body's organs.

The Centre for Brain Research, a partnership between scientists, doctors and the community, seeks to develop new treatments for neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. It is led by Professor Richard Faull whose research spans 35 years and encompasses all major regions of the brain and spinal cord.

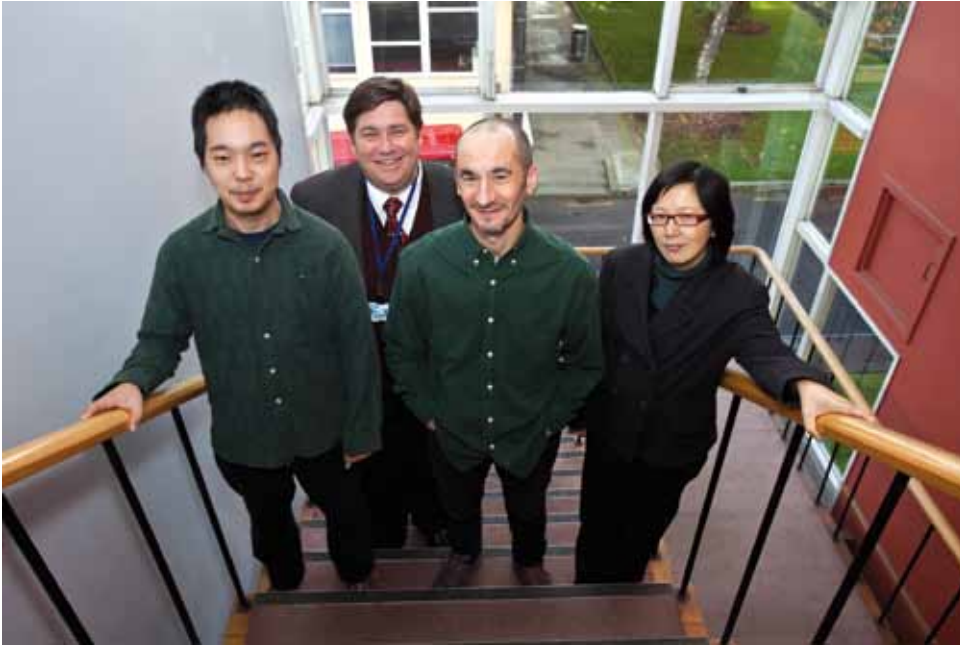
Julian Robertson said the Aotearoa Foundation was proud to provide support to both research facilities, which had achieved results with far-reaching potential.

"This support will see this important, globally-acknowledged work continue in New Zealand, attracting the postdoctoral talent which will contribute to its advancement."

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said the donation is a "tremendous step forward" in the University's "Leading the Way" fundraising campaign which to date has raised more than \$71 million.

"Both the Institute and the Centre are engaged in pioneering research to improve the health prospects of people not only in New Zealand but throughout the world. The postdoctoral fellowships which are being created will attract and retain talented young researchers who might otherwise take up opportunities overseas."

# Streamlining time



From left to right are Jin-Koo Niersbach, Darren Woodward, Paul Ketko and Linda Li. Also working in the Timetable Services Office are Alemelu Badrinarayanan, Lisa Dreyer, Ewa Banczer and Sue Wightman.

After just a few months as head of the newly-established Timetable Services Office, Darren Woodward has already learned one important lesson.

He's discovered with pleasure that people have been "incredibly open to positive change".

The University's range of programmes has become increasingly complex over time, bringing the need for more coordination, efficiency and equity in constructing timetables and scheduling rooms.

The Timetable Services Office has been formed for just this reason. The team is working closely with the faculties to construct and manage the new University-wide academic timetable, using the software tool, Syllabus Plus.

Syllabus Plus is a timetabling tool used by five New Zealand universities and more than 80 percent of Australian ones. However, The University of Auckland is the first to use the most recent version of the software, which will offer considerable advantages both to staff and students, says Darren.

For staff the new system will make the timetabling process more visible, with more equitable distribution of times and spaces in the timetable.

Students will receive more complete timetable information when they enrol, and will have the advantage of knowing that their academic pathways will be much less likely to be blocked by clashes.

story continued from page 1

necessary to provide scholarship support for disadvantaged students with potential to succeed, and to fund the facilities needed to support world-class research.

"It is so critically important for New Zealand that this University continues to foot it with the very best," said John. "If we can keep Auckland

"The new system will also allow us to respond much more quickly to timetable changes," says Darren, "and to model different scenarios on how to respond, for example if a building should become unavailable."

The timetabling team includes a mix of people who have worked across the University in faculties or service divisions and therefore have a network of contacts and a good collective understanding of how the University works.

"Strong connection and engagement with the faculties is essential," Darren says. "Our aim is not to dictate how things need to be done, but to support staff in the important task of timetabling, using a centralised tool to maximise resources and meet staff and student needs."

Timetable Services staff need to be lateral thinkers with strong analytical skills, says Darren. All in the team have shown those abilities, and feedback from faculties has been very positive.

Darren is enthusiastic about the new system, which he says will be a strong tool for change control and change management, and for recognising and meeting developing needs. "If more people start asking for lecture recordings, for example, the system allows you to quickly see and report on the changing needs."

"The key message for staff," says Darren with a smile, "is that it's new, it's happening now and it's going to mean great things for the University as a whole".

sitting just inside the top 50 we have a great future for tertiary education in New Zealand.

"That has to be the challenge for all of us involved in tertiary education here in Auckland. Our country has to have one or two world-class institutions on which it can rest its future."

## In brief...

### Research appointments

Two appointments have been made in support of the University's research activities.

Professor Kathryn Crosier (Molecular Medicine) has been appointed as Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Performance Based Research Fund, and Professor Margaret Hyland (Chemical and Materials Engineering) as Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Kathryn is a haematologist at Auckland Hospital, co-ordinates teaching in medical genetics within the University and co-directs the Developmental and Cancer Genetics Research Laboratory. Her research interests are in stem cell development and leukaemia. She joined the PBRF project in March and will provide academic leadership for this project until the completion of the 2012 PBRF Quality Evaluation process in 2013.

Margaret Hyland is active in two fields of research; surface coatings and environmental and materials performance in aluminium production. She is Associate Dean Research for the Faculty of Engineering and Associate Director of the Light Metals Research Centre. Margaret will assist Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

### Book on Colin McCahon

Professor Wystan Curnow, a Research Fellow in the Department of English, has been announced the winner of the second Seresin Landfall Residency.

Presented by Seresin Estate and Otago University Press, the residency provides a New Zealand writer with six weeks' accommodation in Tuscany or Marlborough to work on a major writing project of non-fiction, completion of a novel or collection of poems or essays.

Wystan will spend the residency working on a book on prominent New Zealand artist, Colin McCahon. He is already well-known for his work on McCahon, having published 15 essays and reviews for catalogues, anthologies and journals on various aspects of the artist's career and curated influential exhibitions of his work.

"Colin was a friend of my parents," says Wystan. "When I was at secondary school he taught me painting at Auckland Art Gallery. Later when I was at university, he encouraged my critical writing. His high ambition as an artist, the emotional and philosophical power of his work, have been a constant challenge and inspiration. For a long time now I have had a book in mind, and now is the time to get it written."

# Smoothing the path from MIT



Wendy Verschaeren (left) with Artur Grochala.

The University of Auckland and Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) both believe all students should have the best chance to advance as far as their talents and passions can take them.

For this reason they have worked together to smooth the way for students who wish to move to The University of Auckland after having successfully completed part of their studies at MIT.

The project, completed recently, aims to increase the proportion of people gaining higher-level qualifications, and to encourage more Māori and Pacific students to advance to postgraduate levels.

Many Māori and Pacific students leave secondary school without achieving a University Entrance qualification or without taking the subjects required to admit them to a university degree.

The University of Auckland supports these students by offering pre-degree programmes for admission to degrees in Arts, Science, Education and Health Sciences. It also admits to three of its degrees students who have achieved success in MIT's pre-degree programmes.

However, some very capable students find benefit in moving to Auckland at a more advanced stage.

At MIT students are offered a number of undergraduate degrees – for example in Business, Engineering, Teacher Education and Visual Arts. Some of these degrees have been offered in partnership with The University of Auckland since 1999. However, for the full spectrum of undergraduate degrees, or in order to undertake masters or doctoral studies, students must transfer to a university.

With funding from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) The University of Auckland has been working with staff from MIT to identify and publicise the pathways that will make it possible for students to make this transfer smoothly and at the optimum time.

Staff on the project are Wendy Verschaeren and Artur Grochala from the University, who have been working hard for six months with Mel Kirby from MIT and with input from the faculties to compare courses and programmes between the two institutions; to assess equivalents in content, skills levels and learning outcomes; and to establish a system to govern the transition of students.

Overseeing the project have been Professor Raewyn Dalziel from The University of Auckland and Dr Helen Anderson from MIT.

“For more than a decade it has been possible for MIT students to cross-credit some courses to The University of Auckland,” says Artur Grochala. “However, until now it has had to be done on a case-by-case basis.

“Now students can find established pathways on the website, and can work out precisely what they need to do in order to transfer to The University of Auckland.

“One great advantage of these pathways is that they operate not only on a programme level (for example, allowing students to progress from a diploma to a degree) but also allow transfers part-way through a degree, provided that the requirements are met.” Requirements, he adds, include the achievement of a specified grade-point average (GPA).

Artur and Wendy see the Pathways project as a winner for both institutions as well as for the students.

For MIT staff who identify students with potential and wish to give them advice about their future, the website will give the precise information they need.

It allows The University of Auckland to attract talented students who are likely to achieve well and advance to higher degrees.

And for the students, Artur and Wendy agree: “It doesn't lock them down but gives them room to move, and encouragement to fulfil their highest potential.”

For more information, see [www.auckland.ac.nz/mit](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/mit)

And for one example of a student who has followed his path with great success from MIT to The University of Auckland, see the story below.

## Unusual path to Harvard



Former President of the Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA), Dan Bidois, has won the inaugural Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Scholarship to study at Harvard University.

Fulbright New Zealand has partnered with Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga – New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence – to offer a range of new exchange awards in fields of indigenous development.

In August, Dan will pursue a Master of Public Policy degree specialising in social and economic policy, and for his second-year project he will research solutions to address the educational underachievement of indigenous groups.

The 27-year-old, who was chosen from more than 2,000 applications worldwide, says when he found out that he had been accepted into Harvard he had felt, “gobsmacked”.

“I applied to Harvard knowing that it was a dream of mine to go there, but I never thought that dream would turn into reality,” says Dan.

“I owe my success to The University of Auckland, in particular to the support and encouragement of the academic staff, and also to the support of my family,” says Dan.

For Dan, who is of Māori descent (Ngāti Maniapoto), his road to university wasn't an easy one. At 15, unhappy and feeling disengaged with school, he dropped out. A week later he was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer (Ewing Sarcoma), which meant undergoing several cycles of chemotherapy and an operation to save his leg.

Getting cancer was a turning point, says Dan. “It was a massive wakeup call and something which got me thinking about what impact do I want to have? And what will I leave behind?”

Once recovered, he got a job in a supermarket. It was while working at the supermarket, where he completed a butchers' apprenticeship, that senior managers saw Dan's leadership potential and encouraged him to study.

First Dan did some “bridging papers” at Manukau Institute of Technology in order to get accepted into university, and once there he never looked back.

During his five years at The University of Auckland he completed a BA/BCom in Economics and Marketing and a BCom (Hons) in Economics, spent two semesters on exchange at the University of California, Berkeley, was AUSA President and a University Council Member in 2006, and was the recipient of a Kelly Scholarship, Reserve Bank Scholarship, ING Graduate Scholarship and a University of Auckland Māori/Polynesian Graduate Scholarship.

Since graduating, Dan has worked as a consultant for Deloitte's consulting practice, and more recently he has been working as a researcher at the New Zealand Institute, a non-profit think-tank which generates innovative ideas to

improve social and economic outcomes for New Zealand.

After Harvard, Dan plans to return to New Zealand to promote more effective solutions to New Zealand's greatest social and economic challenges. In the short and medium term he wants to work as a strategic adviser to New Zealand leaders, and in the longterm plans to be a public leader in New Zealand.

Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, Charles Royal, says Dan is an outstanding young man who was a deserving recipient of the inaugural award.

"We were delighted to offer Dan this opportunity and to support his study at Harvard University."

The Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and Fulbright New Zealand partnership is special as it provides opportunities for scholars to engage in the area of indigenous research on a global scale, says Charles.

## Connecting worldwide

The University of Auckland has become the only New Zealand member of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).

WUN is a group of leading research universities committed to bringing their collective capability to bear on some of the major issues facing humankind. In addition, WUN has member universities with which Auckland already has strong bilateral ties or with which it wishes to create them.

Membership of WUN complements Auckland's membership of two other international university networks.

Universitas 21 has placed its priority on innovation in teaching and learning, benchmarking academic and administrative practices, and student mobility.

The Association of Pacific Rim Universities, whose annual Presidents' meeting took place in Auckland from 30 June to 2 July, has a strategic focus on networking, student exchange and research in the Asia-Pacific region.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon said membership of WUN will promote international research collaboration on issues of global significance while also enabling access to international research funding.

WUN now has 16 member universities from across four continents:

Nanjing University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Alberta, University of Auckland, University of Bergen, University of Bristol, University of Cape Town, University of Leeds, University of Sheffield, University of Southampton, University of Sydney, University of Washington, Seattle, University of Western Australia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, University of York, Zhejiang University.

The Chief Executive of WUN, Professor John Hearn, is also Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) of Sydney University and was previously DVC (Research) at ANU. The WUN website is: [www.wun.ac.uk](http://www.wun.ac.uk)

## University's role in leading public policy debate

For many years, New Zealand governments have under-funded our universities. Other countries have recognised the potential of their universities to spur economic and social development. Here, the contributions of our universities are not sufficiently recognised. We could change that by making universities more instrumental in shaping the policy context.

When I was working with others to create the University of Auckland's Master of Public Policy degree, people often told me that Wellington has a natural monopoly on policy thinking in New Zealand. The implication was that Aucklanders could never lead the national policy debate. They were wrong.

Auckland could soon become the place where New Zealand's most significant policy thinking and debate occurs and The University of Auckland could make it happen.

What's changed?

First, one mayor and one council for Auckland clears the way for Auckland's elected representatives to forcefully advocate for the Auckland region. Given the size and distinctiveness of Auckland's population, this will change the political game nationally.

Second, under New Zealand's Mixed Member Proportional electoral system (MMP) the agreements between coalition partners have become crucial policy documents. MMP allows political parties – not Wellington bureaucrats – to shape medium-term public policy directions. That opens space for further Auckland influence.

Third, the Public Sector Act encourages chief executives of government agencies to view policy development as a risky business. They resist weighing in on policy debates like they once did. A vacuum of policy thinking has emerged.

So, what can we do?

The University of Auckland is home to a diversity of scholars who have policy-relevant expertise.

While keeping our commitments to excellent research and research-based teaching, we can actively create opportunities to contribute to, and at times lead, public policy debates. We can find ways to partner with others to improve our influence capabilities and ensure that our policy-relevant research is of the highest quality.

I believe it would be of great benefit to have a faculty-spanning Auckland School of Government which would ideally derive a fair portion of its funding from partnerships with private, non-profit, and government entities. It would provide a space for excellent policy teaching, research, and ongoing discussions among researchers from across the University, visiting international scholars, policy staffers on secondment, and postgraduate students. Creating a school based on network logic (as opposed to the silo model) is how we could concentrate our power of influence and shape the policy context in New Zealand.

Significant building blocks are already in place: (1) The cross-faculty Auckland Master of Public Policy degree, (2) the Auckland Public Policy Seminar Series, and (3) our ability to have students produce applied policy projects for course credit. Efforts to promote inclusive, policy-focused discussions and research projects will also be crucial. Models for that exist.

Auckland can become the centre of gravity for public policy debate in New Zealand – a shift which could produce many positive outcomes for this country and its future. The University of Auckland faces a great leadership opportunity. Shall we seize it?

*Associate Professor Michael Mintrom (Political Studies) is founding coordinator of the Auckland Master of Public Policy degree. Through a partnership with Motu Economic and Policy Research, he co-facilitates the annual Auckland Public Policy Seminar Series.*

## Journalism's future at stake

Is serious journalism dying? Was it in any good it the first place? What must be done to ensure its survival?

These are some of the questions to be tackled at The University of Auckland's forthcoming Winter Lecture series on "The end(s) of journalism".

The six-lecture series will examine the decline in serious journalism brought about by digital convergence, media proliferation, fragmented audiences and the global recession.

It will look at the long-term implications of these developments, given how vital the media are to democratic deliberation. Alternative technological possibilities, programming forms and funding will be canvassed.

Academics from the University's Departments of Political Studies, Film, Television and Media Studies, and Māori Studies will present the lectures along with Colin Peacock, presenter of *Mediawatch* on

Radio New Zealand National and Gavin Ellis, former editor-in-chief of the *New Zealand Herald*.

The lunchtime series begins on 20 July with a lecture illuminating journalism's present predicament and prospects by returning to its roots. Subsequent lectures will consider the current state of New Zealand journalism, the Māori presence in media stories, citizen journalism on the internet, news satire, and the near-term future of serious journalism.

"The media in forms old and new affect everyone, and play a key role in supporting democratic purposes," says series organiser, Dr Joe Atkinson. "This is a timely series in a period of extreme upheaval for traditional media and the lectures will be of wide general interest."

Further information: [www.auckland.ac.nz/winter](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/winter), phone 373 7599 ext 87698.

# New support for UniServices projects



Tracey Dixie, a UniServices contracts administrator and T1 specialist (centre), explains the new system to Contact Managers (Science) Analeise Murahidy (left) and Fran Bates.

Each month, UniServices staff process over 14,000 transactions and support over 4,500 projects, generating 50 percent of external research revenue for the University.

For every project – from one-off consultancies to multi-million dollar long-term research contracts – UniServices provides a team of professional project managers, accountants, lawyers and insurance cover.

It will therefore make a difference to quite a

number of people's lives when, over the next three months, the 750 UniServices staff across the University begin using a new specialised project accounting system designed especially to meet their needs.

T1 (Technology One) will replace Advantage, Business system and UnisWeb Financials and their associated reporting tools, and will be implemented over a series of stages.

"Stage one will create a stable platform", says

Claudia Vidal, General Manager of Business Operations for UniServices. "Over the coming months, other improvements will be brought on line: streamlined processes, and additional reporting. By bringing all the accounting, project costing and reporting systems together under one application, we're giving academics and staff a much improved system that will enable easier and more transparent reporting."

To support staff, UniServices has created a comprehensive changeover programme.

You are invited to join the information session "Working with UniServices in 2010" to find out how T1 will improve your project's management. Sessions will be held at the Tamaki, City, Grafton and Epsom Campuses.

Computer-based training will also be available for current users of the UniServices suite of financial systems: "Purchasing" and "Accessing information" are the two computer-based training sessions available to administrative staff and academics wanting project information and reporting.

Email invitations to training will be coming out during July. If you haven't received an invitation and would like to be trained, contact T1 Training at [t1training@uniservices.co.nz](mailto:t1training@uniservices.co.nz)

T1 is expected to be launched at the end of July with conversion from the old systems probably taking a month as existing projects are restructured to the new formats.

"The changeover might affect our service levels in the next few months and we ask everyone to be patient while we complete this work," says UniServices CFO Craig Brown.

## Trans-Tasman insights



Deidre Brown at Waipapa Marae

Architecture students from the Universities of Auckland and Queensland have gained deep insights into the unique issues of indigenous people in Australia and New Zealand thanks to a new exchange programme.

"Te Pare", the Māori term for "the threshold", is

a culturally-focused teaching and research programme based in the School of Architecture and Planning that aims to broaden architectural understandings of contemporary indigenous cultures. The Te Pare studio and seminar courses are run by Bill McKay and Dr Deidre Brown (Architecture and Planning), with architect Rewi Thompson and in conjunction with the University of Queensland.

The programme officially commenced in March when six University of Auckland students and Rewi Thompson visited Australia and three University of Queensland masters students travelled to Auckland to undertake a comparative study of cultural landscapes and indigenous issues in Auckland and Brisbane.

Bill McKay says he and his group are all enthusiastic about working with University of Queensland students and staff from the world-renowned Aboriginal Environments Research Centre. "A particular area of interest for both our groups," he says, "is issues of indigenous identity in the metropolis, which are very pertinent to both Brisbane and Auckland."

University of Queensland programme coordinator, Kelly Greenop says: "One focus for students is urban indigenous homelessness. In Auckland, approximately 80 percent of homeless people are Māori, mirroring similar homelessness

issues for indigenous peoples in Australia."

The Queensland students visited the Auckland City Mission, which is planning a multi-million dollar building to accommodate homeless people in the centre of Auckland. The new City Mission development is a collaborative project between architect Rewi Thompson and Stevens Lawson Architects, which embraces concepts such as identity, privileging the underprivileged and using Tikanga Māori frameworks of whanautanga and maanakitanga (support for each other) as a basis for design. The Australian cohort also visited various city sites, including a marae, a whareniui and the Mangere Mountain volcanic cone (which had been a Māori Pa) to gain an appreciation of the architectural and cultural significance of these forms within Auckland's urban fabric.

In Brisbane, the New Zealand group spoke with Kevin Hayes, a local architect whose recent design of a large purpose-built centre for homeless people incorporates their unique needs. Presentations were also given by local indigenous elders about the history and importance of indigenous culture in contemporary urban Brisbane.

Staff of the School of Architecture and Planning are delighted with the success of the collaborative Te Pare programme. They are looking to explore further opportunities and are working to develop a similar relationship with a Canadian university programme.



By the time Gavin Hipkins staged his exhibition *The Colony* at The Gus Fisher Gallery in 2002, he had become well-known for his distinctive technique of printing entire rolls of film uncut in continuous strips, known as falls, hung together to provide a dense grid of images.

By exhibiting the entire film, the artist's process becomes more apparent, revealing the successive attempts from one frame to the next, rather than selecting a single definitive image. The result is cinematic, suggesting an animated narrative of successive cells, requiring a sustained performance throughout the shooting of the film to create a successful larger work. Hipkins' falls often have the appearance of formal abstraction with brightly

coloured shapes moving around from frame to frame in a playful exploration of composition. A closer look would reveal objects such as buttons, bolts washers or plasticine blobs moving from frame to frame in various configurations.

With *The Colony*, which was first exhibited as New Zealand's contribution to the 2002 25th Sao Paulo Biennial, he enlarges this format to 100 individual 340 x 510mm photographs of coloured, hemispherical polystyrene balls against coloured paper backgrounds. Curator Robert Leonard describes them as replicating like a virus and suggesting micro or macro scales, either cellular or architectural, propaganda or sci fi fantasy. Although the images appear banal, they recall the

progressive programme of early European abstraction or the colour schemes of fashionably retro modernist décor, made more dramatic by the suggestive title. In the exhibition catalogue Hipkins notes the optimistic spirit of colonial travel, which brought his European forebears to New Zealand. He says: "In their shapeliness, these photographs of small models aspire to slot into a category of generic mounds, hybrid forms and nowhere colonies that are found under the scientist's microscope, the astronomer's telescope, or the captain's periscope. Anywhere, but always, like history, at the end of a lens."

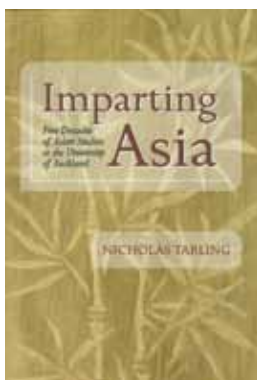
Also in this exhibition were three individual works titled *New Age* and two earlier fall pieces; *The Sanctuary (Fish)* and *The Sanctuary (Bird)*. The latter was purchased for The University of Auckland Art Collection and features close-up shots of exotic birds interspersed between matching colour fabrics and vintage domestic interiors, perhaps re-photographed from architectural books or magazines. These exotic images are equally utopian and dated. Combined with the exhibition's titles and other works, they suggest cult communities or communes, geodesic domes and alternative lifestyles.

Hipkins completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Elam in 1992, going on to study neo-classical and fascist architecture in Germany with a research grant from Creative New Zealand. In 2002 he also completed a Master of Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and was one of the inaugural four finalists in that year's Walters Prize. He is now a senior lecturer at Elam and his Walters Prize work *The Homely*, a continuous suite of 80 photographs taken over four years in New Zealand and Australia, has just been on show at Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art as part of its *Unnerved* exhibition of New Zealand art. He has just had a solo exhibition at Starkwhite, which continues his tradition of creating strange juxtapositions and compositions with buttons, beads and other objects, this time combining what appears to be biker patches with vintage children's Bible illustrations.

Andrew Clifford

Gavin Hipkins (b.1968), *The Sanctuary (Bird)*, 2001  
20 C-type prints, each 2800 approx x 125mm  
The University of Auckland Art Collection

## Imparting Asia



The study of Asia was introduced into the curriculum of The University of Auckland nearly 50 years ago.

Why was it done?  
How was it done?

*Imparting Asia: Five Decades of Asian Studies at The University of Auckland*, written by

Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling and published by the New Zealand Asia Institute, describes both objectives and achievements, and endeavours to place them in a larger context.

The importance of the issues raised extends well beyond the university world. Over that period New Zealand's relationship with Asia has been transformed, but the interest in studying it does not seem to have expanded to the same extent. What is now the way forward? This book has been written in the belief that knowing more about the past may help in influencing the future.

Nicholas Tarling was Professor of History at The

University of Auckland from 1968 to 1996, and since then has been a Fellow of the New Zealand Asia Institute. At the University he has served as Head of the Department of History, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Public Orator. He has published more than 40 books and numerous journal articles, especially on the history of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Burma in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and British policy in and toward those countries.

*Imparting Asia* was launched in the Decima Glenn Room in the Owen G Glenn Building on 18 June.

# University congratulated



Trustee of the Seelye Charitable Trust, Kaye Ottaway (left) with Naomi Eisenstadt, Seelye Visiting Fellow.

The Seelye Charitable Trust assists the University of Auckland to attract distinguished people who are leaders in their field.

Naomi Eisenstadt, the most recent Seelye Visiting Fellow, is such a distinguished person.

She was the inaugural Director of England's Sure Start scheme which aimed to increase early childhood education (ECE) and to improve the health, education and social outcomes of young

children. After seven years leading Sure Start she then spent three years as Director of the Social Exclusion Task Force, working across government to identify and tackle policy barriers that increase the likelihood of exclusion. Now she is a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University and a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Education, Oxford University.

Naomi's reputation in her field made it particularly pleasing when, during an informal briefing to students, staff and visitors at Old Government House last month, she complimented The University of Auckland on the 2008 strategic review of Early Childhood Education (ECE), conducted by the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity), Trudie McNaughton.

Naomi noted that the review struck an appropriate balance between meeting the needs of children and of adults in paid work, and congratulated the University for defining "quality" ECE, in particular noting the importance of staff qualifications, professional development and work

conditions in contributing to good outcomes for children. She also expressed pleasure that the potential for enhanced links between research, professional training and the centres was recognised.

At the session Naomi met the author of the report, Kim Hope, members of the review working group, and ECE researchers and staff from some of the University's eight centres.

While in Auckland Naomi was hosted by the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, where she shared her experiences – gained in the Sure Start Programme – of integrating children's services, including health, education and social services.

Her input was of great benefit to the Te Tuia Well Child Consortium, which aims to supply evidence-based child health research and evaluations of programmes to senior policy advisers in government. The consortium hosted a series of seminars and presentations by Naomi Eisenstadt between mid-June and early July.

## What's on

### FRIDAY 9 JULY

#### NZ Society for Sustainability Engineering and Science presentation

Dr Richard Fragaszy, National Science Foundation, USA and Eric Pyle, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology: *Clean tech, green tech and sustainability research*. 9am-12noon Business School, Case Rm 1, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to [vicky@nzsses.org.nz](mailto:vicky@nzsses.org.nz)

#### Introduction to tutoring

10am-4.30pm CAD.

This full-day workshop is primarily designed for recently-appointed tutors who will be teaching for the first time this semester. The focus will be on how best to plan and deliver discussion-based classes and small-group teaching. Enrol at [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) or phone CAD reception on ext 88140 for assistance.

### SATURDAY 10 JULY

#### Fashion lecture

Professor Caroline Daley, Department of History: *Taking off the black singlet*. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Free. No bookings. Queries to [gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz)

### WEDNESDAY 14 JULY

#### Rock On: Elam celebrates 60 years with The University of Auckland

Until 24 July, projectspace B431, Elam School of Fine Arts, 20 Whitaker Place. An exhibition marking 60 years since Elam became part of UoA. Curated by Richard Wolfe.

Queries to [elamjubilee@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:elamjubilee@auckland.ac.nz)

### THURSDAY 15 JULY

#### Dean's Distinguished Speakers lecture

Prof Jayne Godfrey, Professor of Financial Accounting, Monash University: *Politics, premises and practicalities: Accounting for water*. 6-8pm Lecture Theatre OGGB5, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to Melanie Barr on (09) 923 7787.

### FRIDAY 16 JULY

#### 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](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) or phone CAD reception on ext 88140 for assistance.

### TUESDAY 20 JULY

#### First Winter Lecture: The end(s) of journalism

Dr Geoff Kemp, Dept of Political Studies, UoA: *The beginning and ends of journalism*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St.

Chair: Prof John Morrow, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), UoA.

The first of six weekly lectures. All welcome. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698. Visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/winter](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/winter)

#### Bioengineering research seminar

Ray Avery, CEO, Medicine Mondiale: *Using good science to build a more equitable world*. 4-5pm, Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

### THURSDAY 22 JULY

#### Faculty of Engineering, Dean's lecture series

*Technologies for Health*  
Dr Jonathan Lasch, Alfred Mann Institute, University of Southern California: *Biomedical technology development at the academic-industrial interface*. 6-7pm Bldg 401, Lecture Theatre 439. Queries to [c.ford@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.ford@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 Shirlene Brebner on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email [rentals@citysales.co.nz](mailto:rentals@citysales.co.nz) or log on to [www.citysales.co.nz/rentals](http://www.citysales.co.nz/rentals)

#### Furnished house for rent in Glendowie,

from 26 September 2010 to 22 January 2011. Three bdrms + office, two bthrms, open plan living area, decks and garden, broadband, piano, no pets. 20 minutes to University by car, 35 minutes by bus. Close to beach, Glendowie Primary School zone. Rent and use of two cars negotiable. Email [meyer@stat.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:meyer@stat.auckland.ac.nz)

#### Lovely three-bedroom Westmere house for rent, 5 September 2010 to Dec/Jan 2011. Return dates flexible.

Fully furnished, including wireless, washer, drier, dishwasher and a 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](mailto:aotearose@gmail.com)

### MISCELLANEOUS

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

**Musical Robin Hood.** Shake off the mid-winter blues and see some of UoA faculty staff and students in a hilarious re-telling of the classic Robin Hood: A Musical Comedy Spoof - full of topical humour, singing, dancing, sword fights and romance. A great party night out suitable for everyone. 21 July-31 July, The PumpHouse Theatre, Takapuna. Book at [www.pumphouse.co.nz](http://www.pumphouse.co.nz) or phone 489 8360.

**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](mailto:Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz) or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.