

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 40 | Issue 5 | 26 March 2010

Sell-out event for academic star



Richard Dawkins

“Academics don’t come bigger than Richard Dawkins,” said Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd, official Alumni Orator, as he introduced the University’s eminent visitor.

“Richard Dawkins is famous, but not just for being famous. As he says, he enjoys ‘the excitement of advancing scientific knowledge while writing for a general audience’. He is famous because he advances knowledge, he opens minds that are openable, and he’s such a joy to think with.”

And indeed the Auckland community showed an eagerness that affirmed Brian’s words. Tickets sold out within two hours for Richard Dawkins’ lecture, held on the evening of 13 March in the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium of the Owen G Glenn Building.

The capacity audience overflowed to fill a second equally large venue, where they saw the lecture on-screen through closed circuit television.

Those in both theatres were held silent and spellbound by the clear exposition and dancing sense of humour of the man who has often been referred to as “the best-known biologist on the planet” introducing his latest book, *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*.

Professor Dawkins’ evening began with a reception (immediately preceding the lecture) at which he spoke to senior staff and friends of the University, and of the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival, of the special connection he feels

he has with The University of Auckland, partly in consequence of having “shared a Vice-Chancellor”. (Dr John Hood, former Vice-Chancellor at The University of Auckland, went on to take the same position afterwards at Oxford University, where Professor Dawkins has been a member of staff for many years.)

Even after the lively lecture, which ended with a question and answer session, two further events were on the agenda.

The first was a crowded book-signing session at which Lorraine Marson, the general book buyer for the University Bookshop, reported robust sales of Richard Dawkins’ books on the night, mainly *The Greatest Show on Earth*, but also *The God Delusion*.

The final event of the evening was a well-attended social and networking event for alumni, held in the foyer of the Owen G Glenn Building.

Said John Taylor, the University’s Director of External Relations: “Richard Dawkins is known as a lucid and thought-provoking speaker and we were delighted to be able to host this event. Our alumni responded with enthusiasm and it was pleasing to see the wide variety of age groups attending, especially younger alumni.”

Anyone who wasn’t able to attend the lecture can see it on the University website, along with an interview with Richard Dawkins, conducted by Brian Boyd.

Key events

General staff event

Tap into the power of influence, stimulate your imagination or practise the art of deliberate success. You’ll have the chance to do all those and more at the annual General Staff Conference, to be held on 14 and 15 April at the Owen G Glenn Building. The exciting programme – based on a theme of “ASPIRE, Your vision, your future” – will include a wide selection of presentations and workshops from speakers from inside and outside the University, as well as panel discussions and social events. For more information or to register, see www.uoaaspire2010.co.nz

Planning and housing

Professor Christine Whitehead, an internationally respected economist from the London School of Economics and Cambridge University, has conducted extensive research in the UK and Europe on the housing market. Her free lecture, hosted by the School of Architecture and Planning, will clarify how planning can support sustainable communities and local economies through both constraints and partnership. The lecture will take place at the Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street from 5.30-7pm on 29 March.

Law visitors’ lectures

Two prominent overseas visitors to the Faculty of Law are giving public lectures.

The first is John Gardner, Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford University and the Legal Research Foundation’s Visiting Scholar for 2010. He will speak on “The electrician’s tale: Jean Charles de Menezes and the political morality of policing” (29 March, 6pm, Stone Lecture Theatre, 9 Eden Crescent).

On 14 April Jim Ryan, Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia, will discuss “Lawyers, guns, and money: The principles and politics of modern American constitutional interpretation” (6pm, Stone Lecture Theatre). He is the inaugural Cameron Visiting Fellow.

Further details of both lectures are at www.law.auckland.ac.nz

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From the Vice-Chancellor

The University's general staff play a key role in supporting its mission and strategic aims, and contribute to its many successes. Our annual General Staff Conference affirms not only their value to the University and the vital role they play, but also the University's commitment to their career development and personal enrichment.

Those who attend this year's conference, with its theme of "Aspire: Your vision, your future", will have the opportunity to extend their knowledge, acquire new skills, make new friends and receive inspiration from others. They will also have a chance to step outside their usual work environment and see the University from a wider perspective, absorbing the feeling of being part of a large and vibrant community. Participants will gain a broad understanding of the many ways in which staff contribute to the University's central goal of generating and transmitting knowledge, and will also gain ideas about their own possibilities for career advancement and for using their talents to advance the University's interests.

This year's line-up of workshops and presentations, with their focus on aspiration, highlight our power to use our talents to help create the future we want. It includes keynote addresses from Dr Di McCarthy, former Auckland Professor and now CEO of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and Wade Jackson, a former world improvisation champion, whose interest is in helping people use improvisation to discover themselves.

Many of the workshops will be run by the University's own talented staff, including Associate Professor Roger Booth, Professor Lynn Ferguson, Angie Smith, Richard Wehi and Dr Ron McDowall. Some of the recipients of the 2009 General Staff Excellence Awards will report on their experiences, and members of the Senior Management Team will take part in a panel discussion.

Outside presenters include Frances Tweedy who will conduct a workshop on "Using the power of influence" and Dr Sven Hansen, whose session will be on "Practical resilience".

I would like to thank the Organising Committee, led by Melanie Moorcroft, for putting together a dynamic and interesting programme.

Registrations are now open until 7 April for the General Staff Conference, which is to take place in the Owen G Glenn Building, with a social function in the Fale Pasifika. I hope the conference will attract strong attendance, and encourage staff to discuss their attendance with their managers.



Building relationships with our communities



Guests enjoy the festivities.

The Alumni Marquee in the grounds of Old Government House again provided a stunning venue for the University's annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner.

Held on 5 March, it attracted 524 guests, including staff, alumni and friends, and media.

"Events such as these are very important in the life of the University, and a key part of the way in which we build relationships with our communities," said Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

The following day, record numbers attended the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Day to listen to presentations by DAA winners Judge Andrew Becroft, Michael Parmenter, Dr Jennifer Plane Te Paa, Emeritus Professor Rick Sibson, Dr Thanh Nguyen, and the Young Alumna of the Year, Dr Jessie Jacobsen.

Video recordings from the dinner and the speaker day presentations will be posted on the Alumni and Friends website by the end of March. These will include the speeches at the dinner by the Vice-Chancellor and the guest speaker, Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond; the commentary from Alumni Orator Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd; and dance and music performances, as well as the awards presentations themselves. Full coverage of the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Day lectures will be available.

The Vice-Chancellor was interviewed on TVNZ's *Breakfast* programme on his concerns over university under-funding following his speech at the DAA Dinner. An article and the interview with Paul Henry can be accessed via the home page of the University website.

PBRF essentials

Half-way through the first semester, there's plenty going on, but the 2012 Performance Based Research Fund Quality Evaluation is already becoming a talking point.

With deadlines looming, a series of PBRF information seminars for all staff will get underway at the end of March. These seminars are designed to assist staff to understand what PBRF is all about. It gives a chance to hear from the experts what is broadly expected for the 2012 round, to understand where to focus your efforts right now and over the next few months, and to find out where to get any help you might need.

While many staff have been through the PBRF process before, either here or at other institutions, for some it will be a new experience. The seminars are intended for all staff.

Achieving our PBRF goals will strengthen our reputation as New Zealand's premier research university. And because we receive funding based on our score in this assessment, PBRF is also important in helping ensure the best possible levels of research funding for the six years following the assessment.

For you personally, a positive PBRF score is a powerful validation of your achievements as a researcher – in other words, PBRF is very good for your career. Your success then reflects on your department, faculty and the University as a whole.

So put the date in your diary and come along to the "PBRF Essentials" information session on your campus.

Epsom Campus	31 March	1-2pm
City Campus	22 April	11am-12noon
Tamaki Campus	22 April	3.30-4.30pm
Grafton Campus	28 April	1-2pm

N3 Owen Gilmore Lecture Theatre
Foundation Room, OGH
Room 733-201
Level 5, Seminar Room, Bldg 501

Living longer and well



Ngaire Kerse

Researchers are seeking more than 1,000 New Zealanders of advanced age to participate in an ambitious study to learn how and why people live long lives.

"Our population is growing older and we need to understand how to help New Zealanders age well," says Principal Investigator Professor Ngaire Kerse (Population Health).

"Right now we know very little about what contributes to a long and healthy life in this country, and international research can tell us only so much."

Ngaire believes we need to understand ageing in the context of our own culture, ethnicities, social structures, environment, and health status, and it's essential to include the experiences of both Māori and non-Māori.

"Our study aims to honour and learn from the experiences of our elders," she says.

Researchers in the longitudinal study, entitled

LILACS NZ (Life and Living in Advanced Age: A Cohort Study in New Zealand, Te Puāwaitanga o Ngā Tapuwae Kia Ora Tonu), aim to enrol 600 Māori aged 80–90 years and 600 non-Māori aged 85 years from the Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Whakatane, and Opotiki.

Dr Lorna Dyal and Dr Mere Kepa have organised the relationships with the Māori tribal and health provider organisations in the areas to promote the study and recruit and interview both Māori and non-Māori participants.

The goals of the research are to encourage people to plan better for their own health and well-being in advanced age, to allow elderly New Zealanders to share their wisdom with future generations, and to inform the development of local and national policies to benefit older people.

The researchers hope to visit study participants over the next ten years to follow the changes in their lives.

The people who agree to take part will be interviewed about how their lives are now, and what is important to their ongoing well-being. The questionnaire, developed in close consultation with the organisations and guided by the Roopukaitiaki o nga tikanga Māori (Protectors of Principles of Conduct in Māori Research), covers the physical, mental, social, spiritual and family aspects of life. The interviews will take place at a location of the participants' choosing and can be conducted in English or te reo Māori.

All of the interviews and physical assessments will be done by local people from local organisations.

"Our local partners provide a vital link between their communities and the core research team at The University of Auckland," says Ngaire. "Their place in the community offers local people confidence in the research and helps us to share information about the study and its findings."

Anyone who would like more information on LILACS NZ or to enrol in the study may call 0800 LILACS (0800 545 227).

Honours from IPENZ

Three staff of The University of Auckland have recently been recognised for their outstanding achievements by the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ).

Professor Debes Bhattacharyya, Director of the University's Centre for Composite Materials, has been made a Distinguished Fellow of IPENZ. Professor Bhattacharyya has earned a notable international reputation for his research.

Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter, Director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of IPENZ in recognition of his eminent contribution to the advancement of engineering knowledge.

IPENZ recognises "his research work which has led to the development of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute at The University of Auckland".

Dr Ti Kipa Kepa Brian Morgan (Ngati Pikiao, Te Arawa, Ngati Kahungunu, Kai Tahu), a senior

lecturer in Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been made a Fellow of IPENZ. He has a background in civil engineering and has held positions at the Ministry of Works and Development and the Maori authority Te Runanga O Ngati Pikiao, and has run his own consultancy, Mahi Maioro Professionals.



Kepa Morgan

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 University'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 for the awards.

Invitation to Venice

Associate Professor Michael Parekowhai (Elam School of Fine Arts) has been invited to represent New Zealand at the 2011 Venice Biennale.

He was recommended to Creative New Zealand by an external advisory panel convened by 2009 and 2011 Venice Biennale Commissioner Jenny Harper, and is now in the early stages of developing a proposal for Creative New Zealand support.

The Venice Biennale is the pre-eminent global contemporary visual arts event, attracting a host of international artists, curators, critics and collectors.

Jenny Harper described Michael as "a highly respected artist who represents the best of New Zealand contemporary art at an ideal stage in his career to take on the challenges of Venice."

"Michael's work is topical and polished; he can be relied on to create a sense of drama and surprise," she said. "The large audiences which attend the Venice Biennale will be surprised at his ability to operate on so many different levels of meaning."

Week in Japan

Samantha Vickery, a fourth-year BA/BCom student at The University of Auckland, recently shared first prize in the Tokyo Foundation Japanese Essay Competition.

Samantha, who is majoring in Japanese in her BA at the School of Asian Studies, wrote an essay in Japanese on a set topic, "The dream (or dreams) you would like to realise by learning Japanese".

She and her co-winner, from Monash University in Australia, were each presented with a certificate of merit at a ceremony in Tokyo on 25 January. Their prize was a one-week stay in Japan, visiting different places, experiencing Japanese culture and tradition, and meeting numerous local people.

New associate professors

Among our new associate professors in our latest round of promotions is a married couple. Drs Matthew Ryan and Rhema Vaithianathan are now both associate professors in the Department of Economics (see facing page).



Dr Deborah Young

I completed an MSc at the University of Otago before making the big move to The University of Auckland.

I've worked my way up through the ranks at this University, first as a research technician/assistant research fellow in the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology before completing a PhD in Pharmacology, during which I developed an interest in neuroscience.

I took a sideways step into the Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology to work as a post-doc with Professor Matt During. Working with Matt over this time allowed me to get involved in some cutting-edge projects that led to several personal awards including the Royal Society Hamilton Memorial Prize, the University of Auckland Emerging Research Excellence Award, and the Invitrogen Life Science award. This was finally capped off with an inaugural Health Research Council Sir Charles Hercus Research Fellowship.

My current research interests are still in the development of therapeutic strategies for neurodegenerative diseases, employing gene therapy technology. Outside of work, my life revolves around spending time with my five-year-old daughter Elisha, my biggest accomplishment to date, and my husband, Steve. I'm currently obsessed with redesigning my garden.

Dr Carol Boyle

Originally from Canada, I have an interdisciplinary background, with an undergraduate degree in Science, a masters in Environmental Science and a PhD in Civil Engineering, focused on management of industrial waste.

My postdoctoral research was at the University



of British Columbia, examining carbon sinks and flows through Vancouver over the past 120 years.

I came to Engineering at The University of Auckland 14 years ago and my research has shifted from industrial waste management and impact assessment to the broader topic of sustainability.

My current research is focused on the science underpinning sustainability, particularly researching complex systems which are dynamic over time and space. This has significant implications for developing sustainable infrastructure and communities. With my students I am working with companies to understand how innovation can lead to sustainability.

I am also the Chair of the New Zealand Society for Sustainability Engineering and Science and

have chaired three International Conferences on Sustainability Engineering and Science (2004, 2007 and 2008), with another planned for December 2010.

I was awarded a Fellowship by the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) in 2009 for my research into sustainability engineering and science.

I am a passionate gardener but also enjoy mountain biking, kayaking and tramping.

Dr Tony Lambert

After graduating from the Universities of Sheffield and Leicester, I worked for several years as a post-doctoral fellow in the beautiful medieval city of Durham.

Though beautiful, Durham is also seriously cold, so in 1988 I was delighted to arrive in Auckland, to a lecturing position that was both academically and climatically attractive.

My current research and teaching interests revolve around three main topics: human memory, visual perception, and consciousness. My research on memory involves exploring the controversial idea of memory repression, by studying effects of emotional factors on deliberate forgetting. In my research on visual perception, my students and I are exploring the idea that vision involves intricate interaction between activity in two separate brain pathways, which are responsible for moving attention towards objects of interest and for delivering conscious visual experience respectively.

I am currently enjoying a year of study leave, which is providing an excellent opportunity to write research papers, to collect new data on the brain processes and areas involved in perception and attention, and to work on a textbook. I am also working on a creative idea involving interactive visual art. So, plenty to keep me busy in the months ahead!





Dr Rhema Vaithianathan (Economics)

I was drawn to economics early as it provides a great combination of theoretical rigour and practical application. The potential for economics to improve the world is enormous.

I am a product of The University of Auckland, having received my BCom, masters and PhD at Auckland. Interspersed were stints at the Treasury and the Regional Health Authority. After completing my PhD in 2000, my first academic appointment was as a Research

Fellow at the Research School of Social Sciences at ANU, returning to Auckland in 2003 as a lecturer in the Economics Department where I have been since.

My main area of research is in health economics and health services. I utilise the basic framework of microeconomics to analyse policy in health. As a health economist I undertake a lot of interdisciplinary work – which is equally enjoyable and frustrating! I spent a year as a Harkness Fellow at Harvard Medical School – in an interdisciplinary department with economists,

medical and social scientists. It taught me a lot about good interdisciplinary research. I am convinced that due to its size and team culture, New Zealand has enormous potential in interdisciplinary research.

Dr Matthew Ryan (Economics)

When people think of economists, they tend to think of macroeconomists – the ones on TV who comment on interest rates and such. I'm not one of those.

My area is decision theory, a branch of microeconomics that studies human decision-making processes. It is at the boundary of economics, psychology, computer science and mathematics, and I work closely with colleagues in the Department of Mathematics in particular. Decision theorists develop mathematical models that form the building blocks of pretty much everything else in economics.

My current research includes work on the dynamics of optimism in entrepreneurial decision-making. I'm sure my Business School colleagues won't thank me for concluding that New Zealand would be better off with fewer entrepreneurs!

Unusually for our department, I was born in New Zealand. I went to Yale for my PhD and returned briefly to New Zealand before decamping with my wife (Rhema Vaithianathan) to the Australian National University.

Thanks to Canberra, we returned home in 2002. Since then, we have worked with colleagues to strengthen Auckland's relationships with the Group of 8 Australian universities. It is satisfying to report that Auckland is now regarded as a regional leader in microeconomic theory.

Bringing culture to the classroom



Eight young Mandarin language assistants are welcomed to New Zealand at a lunch held at The University of Auckland. Pictured left to right are Zhang Dongyan (Cherry), Yuan Meng (Mona), Ren Lihong (Susie), Chen Qiong (Jane), Zhou Xiayan (Jessie), Han Juan (Judy), Zhou Xiayan (Jessie), and Chen Yi.

At the University of Auckland on 12 March the Confucius Institute and the Chinese Language Foundation hosted a lunch to welcome eight Mandarin language assistants, who will be living in New Zealand for the 2010 academic

year to assist learning and teaching of Mandarin in secondary schools.

Six of the young women are sponsored by the Ministry of Education and two are sponsored by the Confucius Institute in Auckland. They are

being hosted by clusters of participating schools in Auckland, Rotorua and Wellington.

These young language assistants will, by their presence, bring Chinese language and culture into the classrooms. They will assist teachers and help make group work more effective, while also contributing to the preparation of authentic and up-to-date language resources.

The New Zealand and Chinese Ministries of Education have partnered with the Office of the Chinese Language Council International in Hanban, China, and the Confucius Institute in Auckland to implement the programme, which is provided for under the terms of the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement.

Primary, intermediate and secondary schools are eligible to apply to host a Mandarin language assistant.

Gillian Eadie, Acting Director of the Confucius Institute at The University of Auckland, says that having both ministries support the initiative signals the growing importance of Chinese language teaching in New Zealand schools.

Peter Lorimer eulogy



Emeritus Professor Peter Lorimer took early retirement in the late 1990s, after complications following heart surgery. Peter suffered brain hypoxia, leaving him with severe symptoms of Parkinson's disease. His health declined over the last ten years, until he died on 7 February, aged 70. He is survived by his wife Ruth, their children Rachel, Nicole and Daniel, and their one-year-old grandson Lincoln.

Peter was a student here at Auckland, where

he won a Commonwealth Scholarship to complete a PhD at McGill University (in Montreal). He then held positions at McGill and the University of Canterbury before taking up a senior lectureship in Mathematics at The University of Auckland in 1966.

Peter's mathematical interests were broad. He is perhaps best known for his research in finite geometry, and particularly the construction and classification of "non-classical" projective planes. He also made valuable contributions to a field of combinatorics known as Ramsey theory, concerning the smallest graphs (more commonly known as networks) of a given type. Peter found some of the very few Ramsey numbers that are known. In more recent years his work focused on graphs possessing a great deal of symmetry, motivated by his interests in crystals and quasicrystals, and he was able to use his extensive knowledge of group theory to construct and classify such graphs with particular properties.

Peter published some 60 papers, many in top-flight journals such as the *Proceedings of the American Math Society*, *Journal of Algebra*, *Journal of Combinatorial Theory*, *Journal of the London Math Society*, *European Journal of Combinatorics*, and some in general interest or local journals like the new *Mathematical Intelligencer* and the *Mathematical Chronicle* (now known as the *New Zealand Journal of Mathematics*).

The quality of his research was recognised by

the award of a Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, for visits to Germany, and in 1988 by his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Peter was very pleased about this. At the time, only a handful of pure mathematicians were gaining such distinctions. In 1991, Peter was given a personal chair at this University, and in 1997 he was awarded the New Zealand Math Society's annual Research Award, "for a lifetime of achievements in mathematical research".

Peter greatly contributed to the life and work of the Maths Department, especially making us think about important issues such as equity, and the quality of our courses. He was passionate about mathematics and about recognising the need to tailor our teaching to the needs of students and the curriculum. He was particularly keen on using models to illustrate things. He liked to distil the essence of topics, introduce what he saw as the key concepts, and then fold in more technical aspects once the key concepts were understood. Too often we put immediate application ahead of understanding. Peter was keen for students to have both.

Peter was devoted to his family, mathematics, the arts, woodwork, and social concerns. It was difficult to watch his health decline over the last ten years, but we all admired him for his strength of character and the continuing interest he took in education, research and people, right up to when he died.

Professor Marston Conder

World beater

Katrina Winsor, a masters graduate of the Faculty of Law, has become the first New Zealander to win a highly prestigious essay competition in international commercial law.

Her 17,000-word effort earned her \$US1,000 in the Clive M. Schmitthoff Essay Competition, open to students at institutes of higher learning anywhere in the world.

The finalist judge called Katrina's paper "the best in terms of writing, focus and aim. She manages to get complex points across with a rare simplicity of style, and argues her points persuasively in a strongly subjective and critically analytical framework".

Katrina says she was initially surprised to be shortlisted, and then absolutely thrilled to be named in first place.

There were many entrants from countries including Germany, Australia and the United States (where the contest is heavily promoted in universities).

The competition is organised by the Pace Law School's Institute of International Commercial Law in White Plains, New York together with the Queen Mary, University of London's Centre for Commercial Law.

Katrina's essay is to appear in the *Vindobona Journal of International Commercial Law and Arbitration*.

Technological solutions to tough problems

Three of the four teams in the New Zealand finals of a competition to solve the world's problems using technology are from The University of Auckland.

The Microsoft Imagine Cup is the world's largest technology competition. It challenges students with engineering, software or technical backgrounds to develop solutions to the world's toughest problems. The teams must also demonstrate that they can turn their idea into a reality. The winning team will travel to Poland to represent New Zealand in the global final in July.

The University of Auckland finalists are:

Team One Beep - Students from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering developed a system for transferring data over radio waves. This breakthrough technology will enable educational material to be delivered to impoverished schools and communities in areas of the world where there are no phone lines, let alone internet services. The students have teamed up with the One Laptop Per Child initiative, which provides low-cost computers to Third World communities.

Team Enpeda - Computer Science students devised a working prototype of a computer-controlled driver assistance system. The low-cost

device uses cameras to collect information from the road environment to help drivers and to improve road safety. The system is installed in a mobile phone, and uses the camera on the phone as the main sensor to detect the road environment ahead and warn drivers if they stray off course and into danger.

Team Vital Link - Software Engineering and Business School students tackled the issue of poverty, in particular, getting a fair price for handicrafts made by artisans in impoverished countries. The team aims to provide a global marketplace by capitalising on the viral marketing capabilities of Facebook to help artisans achieve higher sales.

The finalists were selected from 20 teams, who each pitched their projects to a six-judge panel of industry experts on 24 February. These were whittled down from more than 100 entries to the initial competition. The 20 semi-finalists have received extensive mentoring from Microsoft and industry executives.

The national winner will be announced at The University of Auckland Business School on Friday, 30 April.

From the Collection



Judy Cassab (b.1920), Portrait of VC Colin Maiden, 1982
The University of Auckland Art Collection

Like royalty, judges, politicians, bishops and vice-chancellors of universities are all prime candidates for having their portraits painted from life. It is usually a time-consuming business.

Sir Colin Maiden has kept the record of the six occasions he sat for Australian artist Judy Cassab, travelling to Remuera on consecutive days in early March of 1982. Renowned as having twice won the prestigious Archibald Prize in Australia and completed commissioned portraits of Princess Alexandra and the Maharani of Jaipur, Judy Cassab was proposed as the best artist available by Chancellor Lindo Ferguson. The portrait was completed long before Colin Maiden retired from his 24-year term as Vice-Chancellor, and during the intervening years he kept the painting at home, returning it to the University in 1994. He was 49 years old at the time the portrait was painted and his youthful appearance in it surprised viewers at the unveiling 12 years later.

Judy Cassab herself was considerably older than her sitter, and the entry for 13 March 1982 in her published diaries records how fatiguing the process of painting a commissioned portrait (with its attendant socialising) was for her at the age of

62 years: "I am in Auckland for two commissions. It evokes the old London days of portrait manufacturing. Except I am 20 years older now, and to conserve energy I haven't set a foot outside. Make breakfast, wash dishes, prepare coffee on a tray for the sitter, do my exercises. Paint two hours, make lunch, have a siesta, paint two hours, rest and read, have a bath, go to different people's houses for dinner." She insisted that her sitters talk to her, explaining to one judge: "Your personality exists at the end of my brush. Every word you say comes through my ears and through my mind down to my hands and onto the tip of the brush."

Colin Maiden, who published his autobiography *An Energetic Life* in 2008, was at the peak of his powers. He had been a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, a research engineer in space and defence scientist in Canada and a leading General Motors executive in America. He was still quite handy on the tennis court, winning the over-45-year-old category doubles in the Waikato the same Saturday that he and his wife Jenefer threw a dinner party in Cassab's honour. Cassab accentuates his golden quality, blending a luminous background behind his cap of neatly parted and combed blonde hair. Yet she also focuses attention on his hands with their unusually long, slender fingers tentatively crossed as if uncomfortable in repose. The image is of a restrained and careful man, animated by a startlingly blue eye colour which is matched to that of his official robes. Eyes were Cassab's thing, as she writes: "The eyes are where I return always, like a ship to the lighthouse. Whereas I probably wouldn't place a highlight on a china cup, I mostly paint one in the eyes. It's a magic moment when the eyes come alive and look back at me."

Linda Tyler

Global leader on hot topic



Tamaki Campus was the centre of attention for more than 240 people from 25 countries recently, getting into the fine detail of "Island invasives: Eradication and management".

The Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity (a joint venture between The University of Auckland and Landcare Research) in collaboration with the IUCN/ SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group hosted the international conference. Professor Mick Clout, Professor of Conservation Ecology and Director of the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, said the conference expanded on the theme of another successful one on this subject, held at the University nine years ago.

"New Zealand is regarded as a world leader and a source of expertise in eradicating introduced flora and fauna from islands," he said.

"Islands are particularly vulnerable as they often have species which are not able to deal with introduced predators. We discussed work being carried out in New Zealand and elsewhere where there have been big advances in the size of the islands from which invasive species can be eradicated.

"For instance, the Department of Conservation is eliminating stoats and deer from Resolution Island in Fiordland, which is larger than the area of Auckland. Similarly ambitious programmes are now being planned on islands around the world."

The conference also looked at the benefits that arise from successful eradications of invasive species from islands, such as restoring their native flora and fauna.

Several talks highlighted the social dimensions of eradications, with projects often being carried out on islands where people live.

Mick Clout advised that a peer-reviewed proceedings will be published in about a year and he will be one of the editors along with Dick Veitch, the conference organiser.

What's on

FRIDAY 26 MARCH

Lunchtime concert

School of Music voice, woodwind and brass students. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free. All welcome.

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga seminar

Professor Charles Royal, Director, Nga Pae o te Maramatanga: *Towards indigenous development*. 2-3pm Rm 101, Maori Studies Bldg, 16 Wynyard St. Charles will explain why he chose the terms 'indigenous development' and by doing so, he will outline his view and vision of this field. Queries to info@maramatanga.co.nz or ext 84220.

Department of Philosophy research seminar

Dr Peter Smith, Cambridge University: *Squeezing Church's thesis again*. 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Room 501, Arts 2, 18 Symonds St. Queries to philosophy@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 29 MARCH

Faculty of Arts seminar

Prof Peggy Kamuf, University of Southern California: *Competent fictions: On belief in the humanities*. 5pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2, 18 Symonds St.

School of Architecture and Planning lecture

Prof Christine Whitehead, London School of Economics and Cambridge University: *Planning and housing: Partnership or constraints?* 5.30-7pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Legal Research Foundation/School of Law public lecture

Prof John Gardner: *The electrician's tale: Jean Charles de Menezes and the political morality of policing*. 6pm Stone Lecture Theatre, 9 Eden Cres. RSVP to ext 85971 or lawreception@auckland.ac.nz

Jazz combo concert

7.30pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, Shortland St. School of Music students perform a mix of jazz standards, modern pieces and original work, in two jazz combo concerts on consecutive nights. Free.

TUESDAY 30 MARCH

Communiqué

Kelly Greenop: *Urban indigenous people in Brisbane: New forms of place, tradition and indigeneity*. 12-1pm Design Lecture Theatre, School of Architecture and Planning.

School of Music research seminar

Jack Body: *Setting up a centre for NZ music studies*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free, all welcome. Queries to concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz

Bioengineering research seminar

Jennine Mitchell, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Ventilation-dependent inert gas transport*. 4-5pm 5th Floor Seminar Room, 70 Symonds St.

Faculty of Arts seminar

Prof Peggy Kamuf, University of Southern

California: *Accountability*. 5pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2, 18 Symonds St.

Elam International Artist in Residence lecture

Shahab Fatoouhi talks about his practice. 6-8pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering seminar

Ray Payne, Head of Construction Strategy and Logistics at the Olympic Delivery Authority: *London 2012 construction programme*. 6-7.30pm Room 342, Bldg 423, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. Queries to g.miller@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH

Communiqué

David L. Pike: *An expanding subterra, and the new life underground*. 12-1pm, Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL

Department of Statistics seminar

Prof David Brillinger, UC Berkeley, NZIMA Visiting Maclaurin Fellow: *Random trajectories: Some theory and applications*. 11am-12.30pm, MLT3 Lecture Theatre, Bldg 303.

THURSDAY 8 APRIL

Department of Statistics seminar

Prof David Brillinger, UC Berkeley, NZIMA Visiting Maclaurin Fellow: *Random trajectories: Some theory and applications*. 11am-12.30pm, MLT3 Lecture Theatre, Bldg 303.

Department of Mathematics colloquium

Michèle Artigue, Paris VII. *The school-university interface*. 3pm MLT3 Lecture Theatre, Bldg 303.

SATURDAY 10 APRIL

Exhibition talk

Peter Wells: *What's the problem with Felix Kelly?* 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 12 APRIL

Teaching to diversity: Multiple means of delivery

10am-12noon, CAD Seminar Rm, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. Prevent raising barriers to achievement by exploring multiple means of delivering information. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

Dept of Mathematics/Inaugural lecture

Prof Bill Barton, UoA: *The pleasure principle in undergraduate mathematics*. 6pm for refreshments, 6.30pm lecture, Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 13 APRIL

World long documents

1-4pm CAD, Level 4, 76 Symonds St. Enrol at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL

General Staff Conference: *Aspire, your vision, your future*

Until 15 April, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. The annual General Staff Conference offers a stimulating and varied programme of workshops, presentations, seminars and social events. All general staff are warmly encouraged to attend. For further information please contact Melanie Moorcroft, m.moorcroft@auckland.ac.nz or ext 89926. Visit www.uoaaspire2010.co.nz

School of Law lecture

Prof Jim Ryan, inaugural Cameron Visiting Fellow 2010: *Lawyers, guns and money: The principles and politics of modern American constitutional interpretation*. 6pm Stone Lecture Theatre, 9 Eden Cres. RSVP to ext 85971 or lawreception@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

City apartment. One-bdrm furnished apartment with courtyard. Quiet, warm. Lower Hobson St. Available 19 April to 1 September (end date negotiable). \$320 pw (water, electricity, telephone included). Contact b.barton@auckland.ac.nz

House sit available in Glen Eden villa from end of June to middle of September while owners on academic leave. Use of car can be arranged. Companionable cat. Some flexibility possible round September leaving date. Contact Murray (021) 0260 5109 or m.edmond@auckland.ac.nz

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

St Lukes: Three bedroom bungalow available for rent from 1 May. Fridge, dishwasher, washing machine and security system. Bedroom opens to deck and attractive garden. Ventilation/heat system installed. Osp within secure gated section. 15 minutes to University of Auckland. Long term let. \$400 pw rent. Phone 378 8601 or email clemeau@ihug.co.nz

Ponsonby. Fully furnished villa, three-bdrm, central heating etc, on Link Bus route, 30 minutes walk to University. Available 7 May-2 Aug. \$300 pw + utilities. Contact 378-6091 or a.poletti@xtra.co.nz

Waiheke family house. Exceptional living on Oneroa clifftop, views both directions, three bedrooms + self-

contained studio, large living spaces and decks, Sky, Broadband. Walk to shops and beach, three-minute drive to ferry. Available mid-April to September 2010 (end date negotiable), \$550 pw. Car and/or city pad available, rates negotiable. Contact b.barton@auckland.ac.nz

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

South of France, between Provence and the Cevennes. Ancient chateau offers B&B. Historic area, vibrant markets, pretty villages, great walking and canoeing. Reasonable rates. Contact mary.gee@free.fr

MISCELLANEOUS

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

For a limited time: \$20 hearing tests available for children aged from 6 mths to 5 years. Please phone the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic, Tamaki Campus for an appointment on 373 8791 (ample free parking).

Rajasthan and Pushkar Fair Group: Experience of a lifetime, visit Pushkar Fair and Rajasthan, land of Maharajas in Nov 2010. Visit our website for more details www.exoticholidays.co.nz or email us on info@exoticholidays.co.nz or phone on (09) 444 6762 for tour options or ask us to customise or create one for you. Planning a trip to Asia or the Middle East? Contact us for a quote before you book elsewhere. Serving universities for over five years. Bringing you the best of Asia and Middle East holiday options.

Stepmothers needed. Are you a stepmother in a family with stepchildren between 12 and 18 years? Have you lived in this stepmother family for at least one year? If you are interested in participating in a study on stepmothers, or would like more information please email Adrienne at a.bartle0@xtra.co.nz or abar175@auckland.ac.nz. Approved by the UoA Human Participants Ethics Committee (reference number 2009/242).

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.

Two energetic young cats looking for a good home! Two attractive one-year-old cats are looking for a new home. Millie is a pretty calico cat (white and ginger) and Louie is a full tabby. Both are house-trained and have lots of energy! Currently residing in the Howick area. Please contact Karen on 373 7599 ext 87467 or ke.jackson@auckland.ac.nz