



## A TEASPOON OF LIGHT

Associate Professor Peter O'Connor (Critical Studies in Education) writes of his experiences in Christchurch as part of the Creative Response in Schools project, formed as a partnership between the Faculty of Education and the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) to assist in the rebuilding of Christchurch through the use of applied arts in schools.

We arranged two days of work for our initial visit and within an hour of arriving in Christchurch we were in a school.

Dr Nicholas Rowe from NICAI ran dance workshops and I ran drama classes. On our first day we each taught three classes with children

aged between six and 11. We also modelled our approach to about 20 teachers who worked alongside us.

In my first class, with Year Two and Three students, I worked with Molly Mullen, one of my PhD students. I told just the first line of a story: "There was a girl who, when she got out of bed, tripped, and tore her cloth of dreams."

Questioned about the story, the seven- and eight- year-olds said that if you tear a dream cloth, your dreams disappear. I was told solemnly that is the saddest thing that can happen to anyone. I asked the children if they could help the girl in the story. They eagerly agreed, and so as a group we made a new cloth

of dreams (on a very large piece of cloth and with fabric crayons).

The children drew many different dreams on the cloth. A young girl who had lost close family during the quake drew herself flying on a unicorn through the land of everything that is good. Her teacher told me it was the first time in three days back at school she had seen her living in the moment, totally absorbed by the possibilities of something new.

To help the girl even more in the story we became dream makers. We drew up the ingredients for good dreams. Once we had decided what we needed we poured them into a pretend bowl (one student decided it needed to

*(continued page 2)*



The recent earthquake disasters in Christchurch and Japan have naturally raised questions about our own preparedness for such events.

As part of our risk management strategy, Property Services has since 2009 been engaged in ongoing reviews of the seismic strength of all our major buildings. A focus has been on the City Campus where several major buildings are due to be renovated or extended soon (Arts 1 and the Physics/Maths Building are already underway). All these buildings fall within the current legislative requirements but, as the University has set itself a higher standard than that legally required, Property Services is continuing with a programme of further building structural reviews. At Grafton, where the buildings underwent a structural review, they were also found to be of a high standard. Many of our other buildings are low rise, domestic type buildings, including a number at the Epsom Campus, and therefore have a lower level of risk. Likewise at the Tamaki Campus our buildings are more recent and generally of a low rise nature, with good access and egress provisions.

We have also developed an Emergency Management Plan which clearly outlines the strategies for dealing with various scenarios. The key priorities of our emergency and incident management procedures are to save lives, protect property, prevent harm to the environment, restore essential University infrastructure, and restore academic and administrative functions.

The University Emergency Management Team, comprising key persons from across the University, is responsible for responding to an event in accordance with the Plan.

Further details of how to respond to various emergency scenarios can be found on the intranet at Human Resources>Health, safety and welfare>Emergency response and management. While one can never guarantee we would survive a major earthquake unscathed, I believe we have taken appropriate steps to protect our staff and students, ongoing operations and infrastructure in the face of such an event. Furthermore, Auckland has a low frequency of seismic activity compared with other parts of the country. This does not mean we can ignore the risk, but it does mean we are as well prepared as we can be.

## Huge audiences for Tariq Ali

Interest has been phenomenal in the Sir Douglas Robb Lectures by world-renowned commentator, writer and activist, Tariq Ali.

Tariq's first lecture entitled "Islam and its discontents" drew a crowd of 1500, which spread over three lecture theatres and part of a fourth. He spoke live in the Business School's Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, with a video relay to the other theatres.

For the next lecture on 21 March, entitled "US power today: The global hegemon", 1600 people packed out four theatres, and nearly 200 had to be turned away.

For his final lecture on "The rise of China" on 23 March, a fifth theatre was added; 1500 people attended.

Tariq received a great deal of attention from the media, with an interview (before he arrived) by the *NZ Listener*, and others during his visit by the *NZ Herald*, Fairfax, Kim Hill on RNZ's *Saturday Morning* and Paul Holmes on TV One's *Q+A* programme. He also talked to Radio Live and bFM (The Wire news).

See the next issue of *Uninews* for quotes from Tariq Ali's lectures and appearances.

## Policy to prevent bullying

This "Prevention of Bullying and Harassment Policy" applies to all staff, students, contractors and visitors to the University.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, says the University is committed to ensuring all people are treated with dignity.

Says Kath Clarke, Director of Human Resources: "The introduction of this policy reflects the University's commitment to providing a respectful work and study

environment in which all staff and students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The policy, approved by the Vice-Chancellor on advice from the Staff Advisory Committee, is effective immediately and will be followed by an awareness and education programme over the next few months. A copy of the policy can be found on the staff intranet by clicking on Policy>For staff>Human Resources.

## cover story continued

be a cloud bowl to hold all the things necessary when your dreams are torn up). We stood around the cloud bowl and put in joy, love, and belief (which they decided was heavy so we had to roll that in).

One girl offered a "teaspoonful of light in the darkest tunnel". I asked her how we would put it in. She said: "We can sprinkle it in and then the light can go through everything else." As she sprinkled it in, everyone, without asking, leaned into the bowl. We could all see the light.

We then wrapped Molly up in the cloth of dreams we had made and as she fell asleep and dreamed again her found dreams, we congratulated ourselves for being able to make happy endings to stories.

Finally, we made our own personal cloths of dreams (pretend ones of course because it was drama after all) and folded them lots of times to make them small enough to put them in our pockets.

As one eight-year-old whose family home was destroyed told me: "It's lucky you have your own personal cloth, you never know when you might need to use it."

I had been so busy working with the

children I hadn't really noticed the teachers, who I realised were in tears. They came up and hugged Molly and me, and thanked us for what we had done. Of course, it was the children who had given us the gifts.

The next day we worked through a series of workshops with 70 teachers from across Christchurch. We made cloths of dreams with the teachers, danced to reclaim our space and we talked about how the arts would help young people's transition back into classrooms.

Teachers were reminded that the arts are a tool to heal, to imagine new possibilities and are central to education. We promised to be back to work again with children and teachers.

We packed the dream cloths we had made into our bags and brought them back to Auckland. One teacher asked: "Maybe you could show people the cloths, maybe they could see we still have dreams."

Associate Professor Peter O'Connor  
Director, Critical Research Unit In  
Applied Theatre



## Appreciation from researchers

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive from “Introduction to research at The University of Auckland”, attended by 80 of the University’s researchers and support staff.

This was the pilot of a one-day workshop, the first of two components of a programme entitled “Research communication for researchers”.

The whole programme, comprising the workshop plus a series of 12 seminars to be held during this academic year, is designed to help research staff become familiar with the University’s research management structure and the people and systems in place to help them achieve their aims.

Among highlights for participants at the workshop were the two concurrent sessions (science, technology and health sciences/arts and humanities) led by Assistant Deans (Research) from the faculties, addressing issues they selected as the ones most often concerning researchers. These sessions, which allowed time for small group discussion, were animated, lively and proved highly popular.

Said Jessica Jor from the Auckland Bioengineering Institute: “I found the ADR sessions and splitting into the focus groups extremely useful because we were able to openly discuss some of the issues on conducting research that concern us. It was interesting that

most issues raised by others were also what I wanted to know as well.”

“From the day’s programme I also became more aware of the different funding available to early career researchers and the infrastructure of the funding bodies. I was glad for the opportunity to network with staff from the Research Office, who gave valuable advice and suggestions.”

Another session participants enjoyed was one in which individual researchers gave personal accounts of how research had shaped their lives, with special emphasis on achieving a balance between research, teaching, community involvement and family life.

“Grant Covic was brilliant, really inspiring,” says Dr Denise Greenwood from Population Health. “I loved what he said about kissing a lot of frogs before he found the princess. It underlined that in the end success depends on us – that it takes a bit of luck, good management and a lot of determination.”

Researchers also expressed appreciation at the chance to hear (and to meet) key research support staff such as Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research); Dr John Smart, Director of Research Management; Jim Peters, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Maori); and Mark Burgess, General Manager (Research and Consulting), UniServices.

Said Denise: “It’s good to be reminded of the things we have to be proud of and to aspire to, and of the shape of the research environment and how we fit into it.”

“Research communication for researchers is being developed and trialled jointly by the Research Office, the Centre for Academic Development (CAD), the Staff Organisational Development Unit (SODU), the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and the Communications Department.

*Photo: Focus groups in discussion at the ADR’s session.*

## Highlighted events

### Inaugural fundraiser

A private performance by renowned pianist John Chen or opera singer Morag McDowell; four picture books signed by Hairy Maclary author Lynley Dodd; a chance to lunch with the Vice-Chancellor – these are just a few of the auction items at the “Luxury Upstairs/Downstairs” auction and fundraiser. This event, being held to help support The University of Auckland Strings and to enable the School of Music to bring out outstanding international guests, will take place in the main foyer of the Owen G Glenn Building from 6-9pm on 5 April (\$30 for Society members / \$35 for non-members). For bookings visit [www.society.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.society.auckland.ac.nz). For inquiries contact Judith Grey, [j.grey@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.grey@auckland.ac.nz)

### Te Kapa Kaimahi

You are invited to a series of waiata practices for staff of the University. Come along and learn some of our favourite Māori songs. This invitation is open to all staff and is free. The tutors are working voluntarily and the initiative is targeted particularly at beginners and at people of any ethnicity. The sessions are fairly informal and are intended to be fun. The sessions take place on Tuesdays at the James Henare Māori Research Centre, 18 Wynyard Street (next to Māori Studies). Come at 12noon for a 12.10 start. Sessions finish at 12.50pm. The tutors are Angie Smith and Richard Wehi.

### Hollywood left and right

What does the participation of Hollywood movie stars and celebrities mean for political life in the United States? In a Department of History/US Studies Centre seminar on 6 April at 6.30pm in Lecture Theatre 404, Faculty of Engineering, Professor Steven Ross, University of Southern California, will tell of how Hollywood emerged as a vital centre of American politics through activism of larger-than-life figures in American cinema – Charlie Chaplin, Louis Mayer, Harry Belafonte, Ronald Reagan, Jane Fonda, Charlton Heston, Warren Beatty, and Arnold Schwarzenegger – Professor Ross traces the intersection of Hollywood and political activism through the twentieth century and into the 21st.



## Warm tribute

After some months battling cancer Professor Emerita Dame Judith Binney died at her home on 16 February.

Judi came to Auckland when her father, Sydney Musgrove, joined the staff of the University as Professor of English in 1947. She took her degrees at Auckland and taught in the Department of History from 1966 until 2004 when she retired. She was recognised as a Distinguished Alumna in 2007. Judi had a wide circle of friends from across the University, especially in the Department of English and Elam. Sebastian Black from the Department of English became her partner for nearly 40 years. Judi belonged to a cohort of students who in the late 50s and early 60s started to take New Zealand history seriously. Her MA thesis on the missionary Thomas Kendall was published in 1968 as *The Legacy of Guilt*. Kendall desperately tried to understand Māori religion and in the process had his own religious beliefs sorely tested. Judi tried to understand Kendall, and “systems of explanation” or finding meaning in events became an abiding theme of her work.

*The Legacy of Guilt* was awarded the F.P. Wilson Prize for historical writing.

In the 1970s Judi engaged in a debate among historians about the motivation of Māori to convert to Christianity. It has since been claimed that it was a “false problem” but at the time it was a dispute that provided the topic for countless student essays and examination questions. Judi was involved in many other debates over the years, perhaps the most important of which concerned who could write what history. Her view was that this debate could never rest on the grounds of religion, race or gender. Instead she said that the debate “must be about the ability to understand the issues and the strength of the ideas developed in the writing”.

In 1979, along with Gillian Chaplin and Craig Wallace, Judi published *Mihaia*, a study of the prophet Rua Kenana and his community at Mangapohatu. This book was followed by two others – *Ngā Morehu*, published in 1986, the stories of eight Tuhoe women, and *Redemption Songs*, a life of Te Kooti, published in 1995. *Ngā Morehu* was a prize winner in the Wattie Book Awards for 1987 and *Redemption Songs* won the Montana Book Supreme Award in 1996. This and other work won Judi the Prime Minister’s Award for Literary Achievement in Non-fiction in 2006. In 2009 the Urewera trilogy became a quartet with the publication of *Encircled Lands* – a history of Tuhoe from 1820 to 1921, begun as research for the Waitangi Tribunal. *Encircled Lands* won the New Zealand Post Supreme Book Award in 2010 and demonstrates the depth of knowledge and understanding of Tuhoe history that Judi acquired over many years. Her deep feeling of responsibility to Tuhoe was discharged by returning her books to the people; Tuhoe reciprocated by giving her a Māori name – Tomairangi o te Aroha.

Judi’s work has been recognised by many honours. She was the second J.D. Stout Research Fellow at Victoria University in 1985, held a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology grant in 1991 and a James Cook Research Fellowship from 2000 to 2003. She

was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1998 and an inaugural Fellow of the New Zealand Academy of the Humanities in 2007. In 2009 the Polynesian Society presented her with the Elsdon Best Medal. In 1997 she was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit and in 2006 a Distinguished Companion.

Judi served on the Committee of the Auckland University Press but she was not a University committee person. However, through her books and her advisory role to various projects she became the major oral historian in New Zealand. When the Australian Government presented New Zealand with a gift of \$1 million for an oral history trust at the 1990 sesquicentennial, Judi was appointed to chair the Trust and did so until 2003. This inaugurated a number of appointments to bodies in Wellington – the Research Advisory Committee of the Crown Forestry Rental Trust in 1995, the Humanities Panel of the Marsden Fund in 1997, the Board of Te Papa in 1999, a Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library in 2003, the Historic Places Trust Board in 2007, Creative New Zealand in 2009.

Judi’s students were impressed by her knowledge, her understanding of complex situations and systems, mastery of detail, commitment and intensity. She had been a long serving editor of *The New Zealand Journal of History* and when she retired a young scholar, Damon Salesa reflected on her teaching and writing. What he recalled most powerfully was Judi’s intensity, her “dashing” presence – jewellery, especially spectacular earrings, was a regular part of Judi’s wardrobe – and the stories she told.

Judi’s last book – *Stories without End*, published in 2010 – collected together her essays. In the introduction she commented on the way stories that are transmitted orally change according to the context in which they are told. She saw her stories as pinned in time and wrote “when my pen is silent they will continue to change in the oral world”. Her pen, a strangely anachronistic tool, is now silent but her written stories will endure.

Raewyn Dalziel

## Overseas opportunities

Auckland Abroad held its largest promotional event, the seventh Annual Exchange Fair, on 16 March, giving students a great chance to find out about its services and their opportunities.

Through the 360° Auckland Abroad exchange programme students have the chance to study for one or two semesters as part of their degrees at any of the University’s 95 partner universities in 24 countries.

Over 600 students passed through the Quad to learn about opportunities to study overseas. In addition they were able to attend information

seminars, meet the representatives of host universities and discuss opportunities with University staff.

On display were the winners of the Semester Two 2010 photo competition. First place went to Vanessa Tu who studied for a semester at the University of California, Irvine. All the finalists’ entries will be displayed in the Auckland Abroad resource room.

To find out more, visit the Auckland Abroad Office on Level 3 in the Student Commons, email [aucklandabroad@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:aucklandabroad@auckland.ac.nz) or browse the website, [www.auckland.ac.nz/360](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/360)



Returned exchange students and Auckland Abroad staff helped at the fair. From left to right are Tamara Pinto, Leigh Miller and Anna Boitard (Auckland Abroad intern).



## Research support

The University is committed to being at the forefront of international research and innovation, says John Hooker, Manager, Strategic Development.

One way it is maintaining its position, he adds, is through investing in strategic initiatives to support researchers and research teams.

Three Thematic Research Initiatives (TRIs) were announced in May last year by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon. All have an international dimension and focus on research that delivers society's needs through building interdisciplinary research within the University. In addition, later in the year, Stuart announced eight International Research Team Development Awards, designed to assist established research teams to develop internationally.

One of these teams is Global Health Group (GHG) at the School of Population Health, which specialises in world class research, training and supervision, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Judith McCool, who leads the team, says the award was a welcome validation of its potential and a timely confidence-booster for its members.

The award carries a substantive travel grant and provides a dedicated research developer who will assist the team to explore new

partnerships for future international funding collaborations, to nurture and build on existing partnerships within the Asia Pacific region, and to extend its scope towards global health institutions in the US.

Judith says the past year has been exciting, with plenty of budding initiatives and new collaborations. The focus for 2011 is to consolidate attention on the team's main areas of expertise.

A lot of effort goes into identifying and communicating with key individuals from organisations based in the Pacific, such as the World Health Organisation, the national Ministries of Health, and the NGOs to prepare for initiatives and develop funding proposals.

"Working with like-minded organisations helps us reach common goals, whilst retaining our own mission of robust and rigorous scientific research and teaching," says Judith. "However, the globalisation of health determinants and health risks demands a global response. Health professionals require new knowledge, skills and ideas to tackle these challenges effectively – and that's our driver."

Judith says the team's work covers adaptation to climate change, chronic non-communicable disorders, mental health, injury prevention and tobacco control. She is excited at the inclusion of new areas like maternal and child health, and infectious disease prevention and control. This means significant improvements can be made throughout the Pacific Islands.

She also cites major chronic diseases as a particular focus and an area where the Global Health Group can make a difference.

"We are working with different countries to strengthen their capacity to manage tobacco control, alcohol and diabetes management."

Interestingly, she says, the influence of trade and economic policies is having a significant impact on the region and "we need to develop a better understanding of these policies and their impact on health".

The focus of the Group is broad but the heart of its work is in improving the health of people living in low and middle income countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

"We know that improvements come about through partnerships, through gathering new knowledge, and through building capacity and skills where they are needed most."

## School holidays

Network on 09 3660320 between 9am and 12noon. The YMCA, which is a member of OSCN, runs school holiday programmes which have been recommended. The link for their website is [www.nzymca.com/kids/holiday.php](http://www.nzymca.com/kids/holiday.php)

For further information contact Margaret Freeman, Staff Equity, on [ms.freeman@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ms.freeman@auckland.ac.nz) or ext 87855.

The OSCAR Foundation provides support to OSCAR programmes, including after school care programmes, nationwide.

They have an online search database for which the link is [www.oscar.org.nz/findanoscarprogramme/default.asp](http://www.oscar.org.nz/findanoscarprogramme/default.asp).

For more information contact The OSCAR Foundation on 09 309 0979 or email [info@oscar.org.nz](mailto:info@oscar.org.nz) or phone Auckland Out of School

### New Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI)

On 1 February the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and the Ministry for Research, Science and Technology merged into the new Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI).

MSI is the lead agency driving the science and innovation sector in New Zealand and assumes responsibility for the policy and investment functions of both agencies.

The Minister of Research, Science and Technology has announced the establishment and membership of two boards – a Science Board and an Innovation Board – that will be associated with the new Ministry of Science and Innovation. The Boards will make independent funding decisions about specific government research, science and technology funds.

The Innovation Board is responsible for making funding decisions in respect of business facing schemes, such as the TechNZ investments, the new Technology Development Grant and Technology Transfer Voucher, and PreSeed Funding.

The Science Board is responsible for allocation decisions in respect of research organisation science funding.

The new Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI) is part of a broader Government focus to boost the research, science and technology (RS&T) sector's contribution to economic growth.

The inaugural chief executive Murray Bain was announced 12 October 2010. He took up his role on 1 November. Following the passing of the Research, Science and Technology Bill (formerly the State Sector Management Bill) on 11 December 2010, MSI became operational on 1 February 2011.

MSI has some key roles and functions such as advising the Government on New Zealand's science and innovation system, overseeing RS&T investment and supporting infrastructure and fostering commercialisation, enhancing productivity and achieving wider benefits for New Zealand through the application of research results.

### Restructure of Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)

The TEC is also restructuring. It is going from seven directorates to three. The new structure will incorporate:

- C.S. Corporate Services
- T.I. Tertiary Investment
- S.P.I. Strategy, Planning and Information

Overall, the restructure will streamline the TEC, and should make for better groupings of people and roles. It should also be easier for people to know who to interact with within the TEC.



Back in the 1960s, most pottery thrown in New Zealand restricted itself to the natural earthy colour range produced by a standard, cone ten reduction.

This tendency was reinforced by visits from the great masters of that tradition. Bernard Leach visited here in 1962, and the Japanese gurus, Takeichi Kawai and Shoji Hamada, followed in 1964 and 1965 respectively. The "truth to materials" approach reigned in their wake. Serious potters did not dare to dally with brighter colours for fear of being cast into the realm of the lady amateur where gaudy lead-glazed earthenware was rampant.

One exception was Graeme Storm. Influenced by his Finnish father, he had begun making

pottery and building kilns at his family home in 1956. It was soon evident from his colour preferences that he was more interested in the peacock blues and other brilliant colours being produced in the Arabia factory in Helsinki than he was in the Anglo-Japanese brown which characterised New Zealand pottery at that time.

Teachers' Training College was where he had learned to pot in 1955 at the age of 19. He felt his opportunities were limited in New Zealand, and after becoming an art specialist for the

Education Department he travelled with good friend and fellow ceramics enthusiast Howard Williams to England in 1959.

In London, Graeme Storm studied at the Central School of Arts and Crafts and found work with the highly successful potter (and New Zealand expatriate) Kenneth Clark. Clark experimented widely with a spectral colour palette, and this background, coupled with a trip to his paternal country of origin, Finland, introduced Graeme Storm to the ways of achieving bright colour glazes on pottery fired at high temperature.

Convinced of the viability of pursuing a career with non-conformist ceramics, he returned to

New Zealand and became a professional potter in 1964 when only 28 years old. His stoneware pots with their copper barium-based glazes in intense purples, blues and greens created a sensation at his first solo exhibition at New Vision, the gallery opened by Dutch immigrants Kees and Albertine Hos in Queen Street's His Majesty's Arcade in 1965.

Graeme Storm's wide knowledge of European and Oriental ceramics and remarkable craft expertise led him in 1971 to establish the Pottery Department at Auckland Teachers' College (now the Faculty of Education of The University of Auckland at Epsom). It was here that a generation of trainee teachers first learned to manipulate clay. His ceramic mural at the Satellite Earth Station at Warkworth was produced in the Teachers' College kiln, before he had completed the large two-chambered oil-fired kiln at his home in Browns Bay the following year.

Local and international success was immediate: works by Graeme Storm were selected for a survey exhibition of Ceramic Arts at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London in 1972, and the Dowse Art Museum honoured him with a solo exhibition in 1974.

A retrospective of the work of Graeme Storm is currently on display in the foyer of the Gus Fisher Gallery as part of the suite of three ceramics exhibitions entitled *Playing with Fire*, mounted as part of this year's Auckland Festival, and to coincide with the New Zealand Society of Potters' annual conference, *The Big Smoke*, which will take place in Auckland 1-3 April.

Graeme Storm will discuss his practice with curator and Arts Foundation Laureate, John Parker, at the Gus Fisher Gallery on Saturday 9 April at 1pm.

Linda Tyler

## Books



In this book, *Learning Chinese, Turning Chinese: Challenges to becoming sinophone in a globalised world*, published by Routledge in 2011, author Dr Edward McDonald (Asian Studies) takes a fresh look at issues of language in Chinese studies.

He takes the viewpoint of the university student of Chinese with the ultimate goal of becoming "sinophone", that is, developing a fluency and facility at operating in Chinese-language contexts comparable to his or her own mother tongue.

While the entry point for most potential sinophones is the Chinese language classroom, the kinds of "language" and "culture" on offer there are rarely questioned, and the links between the forms of the language and the

situations in which they may be used are rarely drawn. The author's explorations of Chinese studies illustrate the crucial link between becoming sinophone and developing a sinophone identity – learning Chinese and turning Chinese.

This book will be invaluable for all Chinese language students and teachers, and those with an interest in Chinese linguistics, linguistic anthropology, critical discourse analysis, and language education.

Edward McDonald has taught Chinese language, music, linguistics and semiotics at universities in Australia, China, and Singapore. He is currently Lecturer in Chinese at The University of Auckland.

# General staff awards

Applications and nominations are invited for the bi-annual General Staff Professional Development Awards, to open on 1 April and close 29 April at 5pm.

These awards provide an avenue for general staff (individuals or teams) to make an identifiable contribution to the University in

administration, management, technical or professional services by furthering their professional development.

An information session to help you prepare your application will be held on 5 April, 3-4pm, in Room 102, Level 1, Alfred Nathan House.

Register via PeopleSoft HR (course number HRGSDA).

All applications/nominations must be submitted on the official form. To access this form, visit the Staff and Organisational Development Unit (SODU) website at [www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu) and click on Awards and Fellowships.

## What's on

### FRIDAY 1 APRIL

#### Lunchtime concert

Featuring School of Music students from the jazz and piano departments. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

### SATURDAY 2 APRIL

#### Film screening

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. A screening of the 2003 video portrait of senior potter Len Castle, produced by Darcy Lange as the last of his Artists at Work series. 61 minutes, free. Visit [www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz)

### MONDAY 4 APRIL

#### Word fundamentals workshop

1-4pm CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. To enrol visit [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) (IT Literacy) or call 923 7951 with queries.

### TUESDAY 5 APRIL

#### Communiqué Autumn lecture

Vladimir Belogolovsky: *The empire's last style*. 12noon-1pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. Queries to [events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz)

#### Communication and Information Technology Research (CITR) seminar

Dr James Russell, Dept of Statistics and School of Biology: *Introduced mice on Antipodes Island: Biology, impact and eradication*. 4-5pm Rm 731.324, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

#### Bioengineering research seminar

Scott Walbran, ABI: *A heuristic approach to electrode location*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

#### Exhibition opening

*Auratica Fantastica*. 5.30pm General Library Foyer, 5 Alfred St. Exhibition runs until 4 May. Featuring multiple artists. Curated by Graham Fletcher and Andrea Low.

#### Dept of Political Studies seminar

Prof Jon Pierre, University of Gothenburg, Sweden; University of Pittsburgh: *Globalisation and governance: Global pressures on domestic institutions*. 6pm Lecture Theatre 404, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

#### University of Auckland inaugural fundraiser for chamber orchestra

6-9pm Main Foyer, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Hosted by UoA/Uoa Society, the inaugural fundraising event is being held to support the Strings and to help enable the School of Music to bring outstanding international guests to work with the group. Cost: \$30 Society members/\$35 non-members - covers entry, the first

two glasses of wine and canapés. For bookings/auction items visit [www.society.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.society.auckland.ac.nz) Queries to [j.grey@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.grey@auckland.ac.nz)

### WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL

#### European Languages and Literatures seminar

Prof Mercedes Maroto-Camino, University of Lancaster: *Memory, film and the legacy of the Spanish Maquis: From fascist melodrama to 'memory boom'*. 12-1pm C303, Arts 2.

#### Fermata: Time out to talk music seminar

Dr Keith Chapin, NZ School of Music, Wellington: *Musical lightning bolts: Longinus's examples and the eighteenth-century sublime*. 5.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

#### Department of History/US Studies Centre seminar

Prof Steven J. Ross, University of Southern California: *Hollywood left and right: How movie stars changed American politics*. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre 404, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

### THURSDAY 7 APRIL

#### SPSS (PASW) Statistics introduction workshop

9am-12noon CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Intermediate on 14/04/11. To enrol visit [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) (IT Literacy) or phone 923 7951.

#### STRATUS: Strategies for success in research

3-5pm FGW Rm, OGH. Are you an emerging researcher in science? Then come along to a workshop specifically designed to teach you key strategies for career success! Expert panellists from Faculties of Science, Engineering and Medical and Health Sciences will be available to answer questions. RSVP to [secretary@stratus.ac.nz](mailto:secretary@stratus.ac.nz)

#### Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity seminar

Dr Stephen Williams, University of Wyoming: *Re-establishing biological activity and diversity on Mongolian steppe disturbed by surface mining*. 3.30pm Rm234, Bldg 733, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

#### Department of History seminar

Dr Alexander Maxwell, Victoria University of Wellington: *The East-West discourse: Symbolic geography and its consequences*. 4pm Room 59, History Department.

#### School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work seminar

Assoc Prof Liz Beddoe: *Building professional capital: NZ social workers and continuing education*. 4-5.30pm J2 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, 74 Epsom Ave.

RSVP to [ma.barnett@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ma.barnett@auckland.ac.nz)

#### Talking Science 2011

6.30-9pm Main Foyer, Level 1, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Join the Faculty of Science for an informal evening of debate on the social aspects of climate change. Panel moderator: Prof Grant Guilford, Dean of Science. Panellists: Assoc Prof Willie Smith, Dr Nick Lewis, Assoc Prof Niki Harre, Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem. RSVP to [www.forms.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/alumni-forms/talking-science-2011](http://www.forms.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/alumni-forms/talking-science-2011)

### FRIDAY 8 APRIL

#### Business school seminar

Prof Pascalis Raimondos-Møller, Copenhagen Business School: *True profit shifting*. 3-4.30pm Rm 317, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to [b.karabay@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:b.karabay@auckland.ac.nz)

### SATURDAY 9 APRIL

#### Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Ceramic artist John Parker talks to Graeme Storm about the works in the *Playing with Fire* exhibition.

### WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL

#### Les Woods Memorial Lecture

Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter, ABI: *Why biology and medicine need mathematical modelling: A bioengineering perspective*. 6pm reception, 7pm lecture, Rm 401-439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Queries to [a.philpott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.philpott@auckland.ac.nz)

### THURSDAY 14 APRIL

#### Department of Statistics seminar

Professor Alan Lee, UoA: *Generalisations of Ward's method in hierarchical clustering*. 4-5pm Statistics Seminar Rm 303.222, Science Centre.

#### Legal Research Foundation/Business School Symposium

*Tax avoidance: A view from Crown Law and other perspectives*. 3.30-6.45pm, Rm 098, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Chair: Hon Justice Sir William Young, Justice of the Supreme Court of NZ. Presenters: Harry Ebersohn (Crown Counsel), David McLay (barrister), Prof Matthew Palmer (Deputy Solicitor-General, Public Law), Geoff Clews (barrister). Queries to Barbara Relph, phone 309 9540, email [info@legalresearch.org.nz](mailto:info@legalresearch.org.nz)

## Classifieds

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**Humanities PhD student/tutor looking for a single-bedroom flat,** or something relatively secluded. I've been sharing houses in Grey Lynn for years now, which is fine, but solitude is beckoning. Something affordable and closer to the University would be nice. No smoking/nearby smokers, pets, or loud neighbours please. Contact me at [zach@confutation.com](mailto:zach@confutation.com) or (022) 680 9404 (texting is fine). Please message me if you have something.

### MISCELLANEOUS

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**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.

# MĀORI VALUES IN RESEARCH PRACTICE

The work of Dr Melanie Cheung (Ngāti Rangitihī, Te Arawa) provides unique insights into the integration of Māori values with scientific practice.

Melanie is an Eru Pomare Health Research Council fellow working jointly with Distinguished Professor Richard Faull (Ngāti Rahiri, Te Atiawa) at the Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland, and Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Porou) at Te Kotahi Research Institute, University of Waikato.

Melanie's commitment to exploring both indigenous and western scientific paradigms is reflected in her work, which integrates experimental neuroscience, bioethics, Tikanga and Mātauranga Māori to help Māori with neurodegenerative diseases.

During her PhD study in neuroscience Melanie developed a methodology for growing human brain cells from post-mortem human brain tissue. These cells will be used to identify new treatments for neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's Diseases.

Her particular interest was – and continues to be – in Huntington's Disease, which is inherited through a single gene, is currently incurable and has a devastating effect on the people who suffer from it and their families. The importance of this work is undeniable. An effective treatment would transform people's lives.

However, Melanie explains, there are deeply

spiritual constraints on the use of human body tissues for research. For Māori, the human body is tapu, and one translation is "sacred" but it can also mean "restricted". Therefore in Māori culture there are restrictions around what you can do with the human body and what happens during a tangi, so that the person can be properly laid to rest. The head and brain are extremely tapu, sacred body parts that must not be tampered with.

Deeply conscious of her own responsibility to practise her science in accord with Tikanga Māori principles, Melanie felt it essential to consult with her whānau and kaumātua from her iwi before commencing her research. These consultations resulted, after due consideration, not only in an affirmation of trust and support for Melanie and for her work, but also in the development of Tikanga Māori methodologies for working with human brain tissue and primary human brain cells.

"Basically I pray," says Melanie, "I mourn the person who's gone and I use some cultural practices from tangi to say goodbye to that person, to farewell them to Hawaiki, the place we go when we die. And then I welcome the cells to their new function, which is not feeling or thinking any more but growing in a dish to help with my research, which I hope will ultimately help other people.

"I also acknowledge the grief of the family, knowing that while I am blessed with this

precious tissue to do my research, people out there are mourning the passing of a loved one."

Melanie's research has played an integral role in developing community relations at the Centre for Brain Research, which provides interactions between clinicians, scientists and community groups to undertake research on the brain. The new Tikanga Māori methodologies are proving critical for further research development in this exciting area, and will inform Melanie's postdoctoral studies.

Melanie is hugely grateful to Richard and Linda as well as to her PhD co-supervisor Professor Michael Dragunow and Māori advisor Professor Michael Walker (Biological Sciences) for giving her the support which has allowed her to integrate Māori values into her research practice.

She believes this is the first time Tikanga Māori has been incorporated into laboratory practice and hopes the approach may assist Māori and indigenous peoples to engage in human tissue research, cutting-edge technologies and repatriation of human remains.

In 2005, Melanie was awarded the MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Biotechnology Award. Her doctoral work was featured internationally in *Science* (2007, 318:907) and ABC's award-winning *All in the mind* radio show (3 May, 2008).