

## HALL RISES ON TIME

University Hall in the Elam precinct is on schedule to open to students early next year.

The new accommodation hall is the largest high-rise building in New Zealand to be assembled in modular fashion.

"The benefits of modular construction are evident in time alone," says the University's Property Services Director, Peter Fehl.

"The offsite construction has minimised delays in a manner not possible with conventional construction.

"There is not a lot of modular building in New Zealand and certainly nothing on this scale," adds Peter. "Not only is building faster, safer, and easier than conventional methods with fewer workers required on site but it is cheaper with better quality control."

The last of the 468 modular rooms, individually assembled 161 kilometres away in

the Waikato, were installed at the site in Whitaker Place in late June.

The prefabricated timber room pods, comprising 429 single bedrooms, 13 study pods and 13 double bedrooms for residential assistants, sit within a steel and concrete framework.

Manufactured by Stanley Group in Matamata they were painted, fitted out with windows, doors, carpets and wooden furniture, prepared for electricity and computer links, and shrink-wrapped.

From late January they were taken to Auckland on truck and trailer units, lifted onto concrete floors by crane and stacked vertically three high between each concrete floor. Suspended timber floors were then constructed to connect all the rooms to corridors, bathrooms and lifts.

The 50-metre freestanding crane, the tallest of its kind in Australasia, was used to hoist each module into position. Lately modules have been inserted at the rate of nine a day.

Some 429 of the bedrooms are 12.5 square metres in size and there are 13 larger bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. Each of the 13 student accommodation floors has a central common room, study room, kitchenette and shared bathrooms.

University Hall will boost the University's fully catered accommodation, currently totalling 727 beds at International House, O'Rorke Hall and the independently operated Grafton Hall, by more than 60 percent. Non-catered accommodation amounts to 542 beds this year.

*See our update on the Grafton redevelopment on page 2.*



The New Zealand economy is one at considerable long-term risk. While some commodity markets, most notably dairy, have recently enjoyed buoyant conditions, intense global competition and the efficiencies flowing from improvements in technology mean that historical declines in commodity pricing levels are likely to continue in the long term. Our country's past investment in research has had only a limited impact on the diversification of our export base – it has been mostly aimed at increasing productivity and reducing costs in existing primary industries. And our research effort has been strongly influenced by this paradigm – indeed, the structure of our Crown Research Institute sector (dominated by agriculture, horticulture, crop science, forestry and marine) reflects it.

As the only university with both Engineering and Medical faculties, as well as a large Science faculty, a Business School with a focus on entrepreneurial activities and the country's largest research commercialisation company, we are ideally placed to support the growth of the nation's export businesses and the development of new industries for New Zealand that will counter this reliance upon commodities.

The University's recently developed Food and Health Strategy represents a significant investment in addressing these issues. We have brought together under one banner the vast capability that our University has in nutrition, nutrigenomics, food science, food engineering, food safety and human health to create an integrated programme that will add huge value to New Zealand's primary industries, beyond the farm gate. Value will be added not by producing "more of the same" but by developing new products and processes that have a much higher value than the commodities and ingredients we have traditionally exported.

A similar opportunity exists for us to enhance our support for the rapidly growing manufacturing sector that is now New Zealand's third largest export earner at about \$NZ 5.1b. And, as with the food sector, we will need to continue to develop better ways of working with industries that, in this country, comprise mainly small to medium sized enterprises. Happily, we have already built many very successful partnerships in this area.



## On target at Grafton

**Like University Hall, the Grafton Campus's redevelopment programme is on time and budget, says Peter Fehl, director of the University's Property Services.**

The centre-piece of the \$240 million redevelopment is the new Boyle Building which is now fully clad and fits snugly between the original faculty 503 and 504 buildings with its outer wing facing towards the Domain.

We were lucky to have a dry summer during the excavation and foundation works stage, says Peter. This means staff will start occupying the Boyle in October with 60 to 70 percent of the fit-out done.

The three-storey structure will be a "dry" building which means no laboratories. Instead it will feature mainly compact open-plan working spaces and two lecture theatres - a 250- and 300-seater. It will house the School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, School of Medical Sciences, Optometry Department and clinics, new Information Commons and student commons areas, faculty administration and the Liggins

Institute. Special features include the roof of the central atrium which is made of state-of-the-art EFTE (Ethylene tetrafluoroethylene, a fluorine-based plastic designed to have high corrosion resistance and strength over a wide temperature range) and is like the

one over the new stand at Eden Park.

As well as the Boyle, existing Grafton buildings 501, 502 and 503 are all being refurbished to provide high-quality research laboratory space including a new PC3 laboratory and to enable thematic research areas to be established across the faculty.

Another important aspect of the refurbishment is a major upgrade of the central plant infrastructure including a new air conditioning system with two new high-voltage generators already in place.

"We've had to have an extremely tight construction programme coupled with a complicated decanting plan to minimise the amount of disruption to both teaching and research," says Warren Burt, the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Facilities Manager who has been liaising with Property Services.

He is betting on the entire job being completed by early 2013 as planned. For more on the Grafton redevelopment see: [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/aboutus/graftondev/default.aspx](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/aboutus/graftondev/default.aspx)



## University power

**As University spin-out company Pathway Therapeutics created the drug PWT33597, which has just been approved for human clinical trials in the US, it had a large pool of University expertise to draw on.**

"Unlike a small private biotech company we've been able to pull in a range of University expertise as needed," says cell signalling expert Professor Peter Shepherd, one of the founders of Pathway Therapeutics. "Sometimes we've utilised

someone for only an hour per week but it's made a difference to the programme."

PWT33597 is a dual inhibitor of phosphatidylinositol-3-inase (PI3K) alpha and mTOR, two key molecules implicated in cancer and is the first agent with this biological profile to enter human clinical trials.

Pictured here are many of the people who worked on its creation over the last three years:

From front left: Chemist Dr Swarna Gamage, Chemist Jackie Kendall, Research technician Woojeong Lee, Biologist Sharda Kolekar, Chemist Anna Giddens

From back left: Chemist Associate Professor Gordon Rewcastle, Biologist Dr Stephen Jamieson, Medicinal Chemist Professor Bill Denny, co-founder of Pathway Therapeutics, Professor Peter Shepherd, and biochemist Dr Jack Flanagan.



Professor Jane Harding Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the WUN meetings in Shanghai.

**“This is an opportunity that we must take advantage of,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon on returning from a series of very successful academic events and strategic meetings in Shanghai last month with counterparts from the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).**

“With its strong focus on global research challenges, WUN offers our staff an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from around the world on issues of truly international significance,” said the Vice-Chancellor.

WUN, a network of 16 universities, is focused

entirely on developing new multilateral opportunities for international collaboration in research. In Shanghai it hosted sessions based around its four identified global challenges: Globalisation of Higher Education and Research, Global Public Health (Non-Communicable Diseases), Understanding Cultures, and Adapting to Climate Change.

The Vice-Chancellor attended a forum on the theme of Higher Education and Research where priorities, policies and practices that are shared in all research intensive universities, along with specific dimensions that respect national

advantages and differences were discussed.

A workshop on Global Public Health was attended by researchers from a broad range of disciplines and looked at early life opportunities for addressing non-communicable diseases.

“One important outcome of the workshop was a Declaration, to be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases,” said Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Jane Harding who was also in Shanghai. “This was in an exciting opportunity to be part of such a significant initiative, and is a wonderful example of the potential value of our membership of the WUN.”

The “Understanding Cultures” meeting, which was attended by the University’s WUN Coordinator, Robyn Hill, considered ways to build on the network’s existing strengths of migration, multiculturalism and multilingualism. It also recognised the theme’s confluence with existing and emerging projects in the other Global Challenges and is working to strengthen and further build multidisciplinary links.

“Adapting to Climate Change” is WUN’s most mature challenge and participating researchers have achieved significant success through successful joint funding bids, publications and research team expansion. A symposium, the challenge’s second, will be held this September in Southampton.

[www.wun.ac.uk](http://www.wun.ac.uk)

## Highlighted events

### Research workshop

Research management as a profession is still in its infancy. There are no formal qualification courses and there is a paucity of professional development opportunities available in New Zealand.

The University of Auckland Research Office is running a Best Practice Research Management Workshop on Wednesday, 3 August at the Pullman Hotel at which several senior managers from Canada, Australia and New Zealand will speak and engage with colleagues to share their expertise and experience on research management.

The workshop sessions include topics such as managing research risk, contracting and IP management, internationalisation, e-research management for business intelligence, Māori research and innovation.

For full details of the workshop registration and programme visit: [www.nzconferences.org.nz/UROC/index.html](http://www.nzconferences.org.nz/UROC/index.html) Email [m.suarez@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.suarez@auckland.ac.nz)

### Virtual Incredible Science

Incredible Science will not be happening on campus at The University of Auckland in 2011, due to changes in the school holidays. However, the Faculty of Science is excited to host the inaugural Virtual Incredible Science from Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 July.

Stay tuned to [www.incrediblescience.co.nz](http://www.incrediblescience.co.nz) for details on this event, which will include online science-based activities and shows streaming live from the University on Wednesday 6 July. There is no cost or website login required to participate. If you’d like to keep in touch with Incredible Science, you can do so on Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Incredible-Science/194721090538214>] or Twitter [<http://twitter.com/#!/incscience>].

### Leadership in Science

What’s the quest and who’s the team? Professor of Marine Science, John Montgomery tackles this question in a public lecture supported by the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association and the Sir Peter Blake Trust.

In science, the quest is discovery, and although there are collaborations and teams, these tend to be transcended by the global network of science discovery. Within science we can recognise key leaders who have made strong contributions to the process of science discovery but we also need to recognise the role of leadership in reshaping science gains into positive societal and environmental outcomes. Find out more at Professor Montgomery’s lecture on Monday 4 July, 7.30pm to 8.30pm, BLT100 Lecture Theatre, 5 Symonds Street, (Building 106, Old Biology Building).



## Our Chaplain honoured

University Chaplain Uesifili Unasa is one of 13 people from around the globe chosen to go to the United States in August on a three-week International Visitor Leadership Program run by the US Department of State.

Launched in 1940, the IVLP is a professional exchange program that seeks to build mutual understanding between the US and other nations through carefully designed short-term visits to the US for current and emerging leaders.

"Reverend Unasa's leadership within Auckland's increasingly important Pacific Island communities made him the ideal candidate for this programme," says the United States Consul General in Auckland, Randy Berry. "His affiliation with the University, with the Auckland Council, and within communities of faith position him to make substantial contributions to the city's Pasifika heritage and future. His participation in the programme will also enable the United States to better understand issues facing Pacific Island communities here."

Uesifili says he is honoured to have been chosen. "I'm gobsmacked they've identified me personally for this."

He will participate in the regional programme called "Community activism and minority rights". This focuses on the role of minorities in civic life and the responsibilities that state and local governments have to assist and protect minority groups as they integrate into the community.

"I am particularly looking forward to gaining insight into the municipal aspects of American government and seeing how minority groups are catered for in municipalities," says Uesifili.

Although he does not have a full itinerary yet, he knows his trip will include time in Washington DC as well as Honolulu and Hawaii.

"I'm fascinated to see what lies ahead," he says, "and this is a fascinating turn of events - usually the life of a chaplain is fairly humdrum. I am very much looking forward to it. Also I've never been to the United States even though I studied US politics as part of my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees."

*Dr John White, Chair of the Richard Maclaurin Goodfellow Foundation Trust Board, US Ambassador David Huebner and Uesifili Unasa.*

## Showcasing chemistry



*Presenter Emma Simpson*

Harnessing energy from sunlight to make hydrogen fuel might sound like science fiction but that's exactly what chemistry student Vedran Jovic is working on for his PhD. Stranger still, he uses opals - crystalline gemstones that diffract light - as the template for his energy-capturing semiconductor material.

Presenting his research at the annual School of Chemical Sciences Research Showcase, Vedran

said that he has already used UV light to generate hydrogen from ethanol much more efficiently than with any other process to date, and is now turning his attention to harnessing visible wavelengths.

Across the poster hall at the showcase, forensic science PhD student Marie Lecomte, whose research is jointly supervised by ESR, explained how she is developing a method to determine the age of bruises. She uses an ultrasound device to induce microscopic pores in the skin, allowing

the extraction of fluid and proteins from between skin cells without further injury. Assisted by some hardy volunteers, Marie has found that there are differences in the proteins present in bruised skin compared to undamaged skin, and is working to eventually turn this information into a forensic test for cases where physical abuse is suspected.

The showcase is now in its third year. Professor Jim Metson, Head of the School of Chemical Sciences, says that with such a large and diverse

school, the event is an opportunity not only to showcase the research underway, but also for students to learn about what their counterparts are doing and practise the communication skills that are becoming increasingly important for science graduates.

Chair of the organising committee, Dr Jóhannes Reynisson, likens the showcase to a mini-conference that gives students the chance to present their work in a familiar environment. In addition to the 80 poster presentations and a series of invited talks, first-year PhD students were challenged to explain their work in two minutes or less. Jóhannes says that the short talk competition, held for the first time this year, was extremely successful, encouraging students to get the heart of their research question and its significance.

Jim says that the event also has a wider focus. "Chemistry sits at the intersection of many disciplines, with links to engineering, physics, biology, environmental and medical science, and the showcase is a chance to talk with the rest of the university about what we're doing. We also have a strong industry presence at the event, which allows the commercial sector to learn about our research and expertise and for our students to meet with potential employers."



## Kohia Terrace's youngest residents

The Faculty of Education Early Childhood Education Centre has found a new lease on life, having moved from one end of the Epsom Campus to the other.

The centre has been in its new Kohia Terrace location since January, occupying what was once an administrative building but is now home to 12 staff and licensed for up to 62 children (22 under two-year-olds, 40 over two-year-olds).

The new site is large enough to accommodate two large separate areas for each age group and has been designed to minimise blind spots, allowing staff to keep a watchful eye as the children move freely between playing with the dinosaurs on the light box or showcasing their musical talents on the xylophone. A far cry from navigating the stairwells of an old villa on Epsom Avenue.

When it's time for meals, there is a full-sized kitchen complete with a full-time staff member responsible for making meals that are delicious

and nutritious. While this is enough to make some grownups wistful, the true strength of the centre lies in its people.

"The facilities here are great. The place has a really warm and welcoming feel to it," says centre manager Andy Dean (pictured), himself a recent addition to the team. "But I think one of our greatest assets is the teachers. We have qualified teachers who are experienced and passionate about teaching and learning, and this is reflected in their interactions and relationships with the children and families."

Although the centre is located on University grounds and caters to students and staff members, its services are also available to the public, as space allows. "Like all University early childhood centres, our services are very affordable compared to other local commercial services but as a non-profit organisation we're still able to ensure that the way we operate aspires to provide the best for the children."

## New IT Services Director

Ms Elizabeth Coulter will be joining the University in August as IT Services Director.

Elizabeth has more than 24 years experience in the ICT industry with over ten years experience in the higher education sector working at The University of Queensland (UQ). She also has Bachelor of Science (majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science) and an MBA (certificate of outstanding achievement) from UQ.

She has experience in a broad range of strategic, operational and project activities both internally to the IT services function and generally across the university. Recently her main focus has included eLearning, strategy, policy, risk management, service management, quality management and benchmarking, budget and financial management, legal services and procurement.

She has been actively involved in the Australian IT sector engaging with prominent IT professionals through the running the AusCERT and QUESTnet 2011 Conferences, and through industry bodies such as the Council of Australian University Directors in IT (CAUDIT) and chairing the North East Australia Blackboard User Group.

### New Helpdesk for Research Office

The Research Office has recently established a Helpdesk as part of the implementation of the new Research Management system. The Helpdesk will assist with any queries about the new system or about any Research Office services. You can contact the Helpdesk for inquiries about the Research Funding Module, FRDF and the Ethics Module. The Helpdesk will either deal with your query directly or refer you to the appropriate person within the Research Office. You can also use the Helpdesk if you have an inquiry related to a research funding opportunity, a research application, contract or award or an issue relating to our intranet pages. Samira Saraf is our Helpdesk Analyst who will be fielding your inquiries. Contact her on [researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz) or extension 87956. Inquiries relating to the Research Outputs Module should continue to be raised via the IT Service Desk (85100).

### Fantastic result in HRC Emerging First Research Grants

University of Auckland researchers won five of a total of 11 Emerging First Researchers Grants awarded by the Health Research Council in this year's round. The awards total \$710,500 or 47 percent of total funds awarded. Grants were awarded to Dr Vickie Shim and Dr Justin Fernandez (Auckland Bioengineering Institute), Dr Stephen Jamieson (FMHS), Dr Augusto Barbosa and Dr Katya Ruggiero (Faculty of Science).

### University researchers selected to participate in the FRENZ HRC Obesity and Diabetes Sandpit

Following a competitive process, five researchers from the University have been awarded places at a forthcoming "sandpit" event run by the Health Research Council (HRC) and FRENZ (Facilitating Research Cooperation between Europe and NZ). The sandpit is a four-day interactive workshop to look for novel approaches to address genetic and environmental factors associated with diabetes and obesity. Wayne Cutfield (Liggins Institute), Ross Lawrenson (Medicine), Lesley McCowan (Obstetrics and Gynaecology), Rinki Murphy (Medicine), and Cliona Ni Mhurchu (Clinical Trials Research Unit) will be joining six other researchers from New Zealand and eight from Europe.

### International Mobility Fund travel grants announced

Nine University of Auckland researchers have recently won funding from the Royal Society's International Mobility Fund. The funding, totaling \$57,900 in value, will be a great help to researchers, enabling them to collaborate with leading researchers across the globe.



The son of a count, the Marchese Pieri Nerli brought considerable glamour to the Dunedin art world when he arrived from Italy via Melbourne at the end of the nineteenth century.

Much is now known of his aristocratic Sieneese origins and subsequent career thanks to painstaking researches undertaken over the last 40 years by The University of Auckland's Professor Michael Dunn. In acknowledgement of Professor Dunn's pioneering scholarship, this

important painting of a genre subject has been gifted to the University from the estate of Gus Fisher, patron of the arts, who died in 2010.

A photograph made in Dunedin in 1896 shows a bearded Nerli seated with his legs crossed, flamboyantly dressed in striped trousers, cravat, waistcoat and wide-lapelled jacket, a straw boater perched forward on his head at a jaunty angle. He is shown sketching the more soberly attired Scot, James McLachlan Nairn, the artist whose role as conduit for all things Impressionist in Dunedin Nerli was rapidly usurping. His prior association with the Heidelberg School in Melbourne through Arthur Streeton and Charles Conder in the 1880s meant that a considerable reputation

preceded him. In particular, he was notorious for his fondness for painting Roman orgies in which toga-clad men dive at the ankles of smiling female dancers.

Young women scrambled to study with the dashing Italian, among them Frances Hodgkins, Grace Joel, the Wimperis sisters and the evocatively-named Jane Eyre. He recommended that they liven up their repertoire of dairy maids and Māori fisherfolk with a rough, improvisatory finish achieved through choppy brushstrokes and

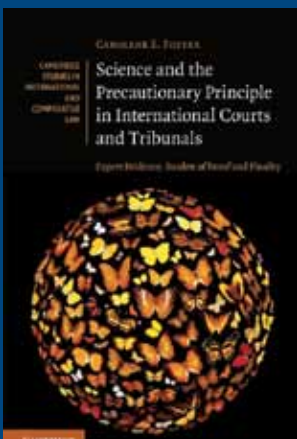
a braver use of colour. Not everyone appreciated his modern approach. Painter Alfred O'Keeffe encountered Nerli painting an enormous emu in the New South Wales bay of the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition in Dunedin in 1889, and records their exchange: "[Nerli] told me he was an artist. By the look of the emu it needed saying."

His patrons were the professors of Otago University and Frances Hodgkins's father William, founder of the Otago Art Society. Nerli exhibited many portraits of their wives, the feather-boas wearing ladies of Dunedin society, and their daughters, fashionably attired and fresh-faced young misses. But he also roamed about the back alleys of North Dunedin with its paper mills and breweries, searching out subjects for his brush. Here he gives epic treatment to an old man hammering a horseshoe, making him monumental in the gloom of the smithy. Appearing as if spotlighted, the white forearms of the blacksmith stand out against the dark background, sleeves bunched up to expose the strong musculature. His leather apron is enlivened with patches of orange, blue and white to give it the texture of frequent use and light catches on the thin, gold rims of his spectacles suggesting long years spent at his trade. A shadow cast by the anvil comes from an open door which admits light while the four-paned window allows a glimpse not of the city but of the sea, suggesting the eternal and enduring importance of daily toil, dignifying the role of the manual labourer.

*Girolamo Pieri Nerli (1860-1926)*  
*The Blacksmith, c.1894 oil on canvas 1060 x 712mm*

Linda Tyler

## Books



*Science and the Precautionary Principle in International Courts and Tribunals: Expert Evidence, Burden of Proof and Finality* is published by Cambridge University Press and written by Dr Caroline Foster (Law).

This book deals with the legal decision-making process in international proceedings in scientific cases such as disputes over genetically modified organisms, hormone-treated beef, nuclear fuel reprocessing, land reclamation, overfishing, waterways and pollution. Caroline examines cases from the International Court of Justice, the World Trade Organisation, the Law of the Sea and investment arbitration.

She argues for the need to integrate legal argument and findings with scientific knowledge; advocates a precautionary reversal of the adjudicatory burden of proof in truly meritorious cases to avoid exposure to the risk of potentially serious human and environmental harm where scientific knowledge is limited; and recommends special arrangements to circumvent the usual rules on the finality of judicial decisions where subsequent scientific advances could undermine a judicial decision.

The book has already achieved the high distinction of a double citation in the International Court of Justice.

## Science workshop moves



Building laser components for physicists and seismic sensors for earth scientists are just some of the challenges taken on by science workshop staff.

The workshop produces custom research equipment, as well as industry-standard components at reduced cost.

"We do a lot of one-off and small runs of high-quality, high-accuracy components," says manager Stephen Warrington. "Trying to figure out exactly what scientists and students need for their research really keeps us on our toes."

With the redevelopment of the Science buildings, the workshop, which was established around 80 years ago in the Department of Physics, has moved to

co-locate with its counterpart in Engineering. Stephen says that the move allows the two shops, which were doing similar work, to share facilities and create economies of scale.

"The combined experience of the staff from the two workshops, with expertise in different areas, means that we can offer a great depth of knowledge and services," says Engineering workshop manager Grant Clendon. "What we've created here would be unparalleled in New Zealand, and on a par with what we've seen at top institutions overseas."

The space was enlarged and underwent a refit to accommodate both workshops. Two new pieces of cutting edge, computer-controlled equipment – a milling machine and lathe – that will allow precision manufacturing of complex components in small or large quantities, have also been installed.

*Photo: Manager Steve Warrington works the milling machine.*

## What's on

### THURSDAY 30 JUNE

#### FMHS public lectures

10-11.30am Conference Room 501-505, Grafton Campus.

- 1) Assoc Prof Nigel Birch, Centre for Brain Research: *Neuroserpin in neuronal development and neurological disease.*
- 2) Dr Trecia Woules, Centre for Brain Research: *The neurobehaviour of infants born to mothers who used methamphetamine or 'P' during pregnancy.*

#### International Research Team Development Awards Annual Forum

2.15-5pm Lecture Theatre 439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

Are you and your research team interested in finding out how others work with overseas partners and access international funding opportunities?

If so, we would like to invite you to an annual forum hosted by the recipients of the International Research Team Development Awards (IRTDA's).

RSVP to [researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz)  
Queries to [s.gomibuchi@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.gomibuchi@auckland.ac.nz)

#### School of Theology seminar

Dr Carolyn Kelly: *Re-forming beauty: Can theological sense accommodate aesthetic sensibility?*

4pm Room 804-202, Fisher Bldg.

#### Japanese film evening

*Black Belt*. 2007, 95 minutes, rated M. 7.30pm B15, General Library Bldg, Alfred St. Directed by Shunichi Nagasaki. Presented by the Consulate-General of Japan, UoA, the University of Waikato and the Japan Foundation. Queries to [pr@cgi.org.nz](mailto:pr@cgi.org.nz)

### THURSDAY 7 JULY

#### Building and crossing bridges in the classroom: The nuts and bolts of helping EAL students to take action

10am-1pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St.

Explore teachers from EAL students' challenges regarding culture, learning and language and consider ways to facilitate learning and participation in the diverse classroom. Enrol at [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) or phone CAD reception on ext 88140 for assistance.

#### Australasian Computer Music Conference 2011: Sonic art

7pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

An evening of original live works by associate artists and delegates of ACMC 2011. \$15/\$10.

Phone 0508 iTICKET. Visit [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/nzems](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/nzems)

### MONDAY 11 JULY

#### Dean's distinguished speaker series

Dr Rob Adams, NZ Venture Investment Fund international entrepreneur-in-residence: *If you build it will they come? A market-driven perspective on taking new technologies, products and services to market.*

6-8pm Lecture Theatre OGGB5, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

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

#### New Zealand Alpine Club seminar

Dr Erik Monasterio, Senior Clinical Lecturer, University of Otago: *The psychology of mountaineers.* 7.30pm Lecture Theatre 403-404, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

### WEDNESDAY 13 JULY

#### Staff and guests: NZSO Foundation piano master class

Simon Trpčeski. 7pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

Cost: Admission is free. Bookings not required.

## 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 rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to [www.citysales.co.nz/rentals](http://www.citysales.co.nz/rentals)

**House-sitter and sharer** required for our large Ponsonby home from 26 August to mid-February 2012.

The household is vegetarian. The villa is extensive - 3 bdrms, 3 studies, 2 living rooms etc. For more information contact [pm.austin@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:pm.austin@auckland.ac.nz)

**Studio**, bathroom ensuite, communal kitchen area, \$230 pw in heritage part of Old Railway Station, available for rent 11 July 2011 to 3 Jan 2012. Email [gerald@cs.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:gerald@cs.auckland.ac.nz) or phone 3737599 ext 88114.

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**Outstanding tenant seeks long-term rental.** University employee/mother with toddler and house-trained cat seeking long-term rental in inner-Auckland suburb (Point Chev, Westmere, Grey Lynn, Mt Eden preferred). Two-three bedrooms, non-smoking, child-

friendly home with enclosed outdoor area and off-street parking. If you are looking for a responsible, reliable tenant who will take excellent care of your property, please email [amberwrite@hotmail.com](mailto:amberwrite@hotmail.com)

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Children's hearing tests.** Hearing tests for children aged from 6 months up to 5 years old are available every Monday during semester time at The University of Auckland Clinics at the Tāmaki Innovation Campus. All children will be tested by final-year Master of Audiology students, under the supervision of an experienced audiologist. The cost is \$20. To make an appointment call the clinic on 923 9909 or email [clinics@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:clinics@auckland.ac.nz) For more information visit [www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz)

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**Legal services.** We are a small legal firm conveniently located in Princes Street, City. We can assist with property transactions, trusts, wills, administration of estates, enduring powers of attorney and relationship property matters. Please phone our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs. Or email her on [nchristie@rainey.co.nz](mailto:nchristie@rainey.co.nz) Rainey Collins Wright Ltd, Lawyers, Level 1, Princes Court, 2 Princes St, PO Box 4283 AK 1140. Visit [www.rainey.co.nz](http://www.rainey.co.nz)

**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.



# DIALOGUE WITH ISLAM

“There are a couple of ways of thinking about Islam, Islamic studies and research” says Zain Ali, the brainchild behind the Islamic Studies and Research Unit at The University of Auckland. “You can think about Islam as the exotic other like visiting a country which is totally different to your own, or as something that opens you up to another aspect of the western tradition.” This is because, “the weird thing about Islam is that it is actually part of the western intellectual tradition”.

The Islamic Studies and Research Unit, now in its third year, came about due to ongoing interest and support at an academic level for Islamic studies in New Zealand. Zain believes the name captures what the unit is trying to do: to research and study Islam. Zain, who is a University graduate with a PhD in Philosophy, saw a niche in this area after attending a conference in Christchurch a few years ago. He went on to set up a network for Islamic studies, and the network became formally hosted at the University for three years before he put together a proposal to formalise the network into a research unit.

“The support of the Dean of Arts and Head of Asian Studies has been crucial and their goodwill has kept the unit afloat. There is an infinite potential for research with Islamic studies, so we

have the right staff, the right environment and the goodwill.” He sighs, “the other piece that we need is the funding and once that's in place things will go pretty well”.

In fact, Zain and colleagues are close to securing significant funding for a major research project about Muslim philosophical responses to religious diversity. The funding will keep the research unit going for three years. He talks animatedly about the challenges people face when thinking about people of other faiths and how we think about our faith in relation to others.

“Islam is something you can be scared of or it can excite you and give you the opportunity to think about your own values and identity.”

In the meantime, Zain works as an analyst and is helping to develop and teach a General Education paper being offered through the School of Theology next year, having already taught papers on Islam through the Centre for Continuing Education. When asked about the significance of studying Islam at university level, he is quick to point out that education allows you to think about the bigger picture: “People can be trapped in cultural bubbles”.

The unit has a good level of involvement with the local community, hosting open audience symposiums such as “Dialogues with Islam” and

“Marriage and Islam” which attracted a full house proving most popular with young Muslims.

The first Muslims came to New Zealand from China and worked in the Otago goldmines. Nowadays, New Zealand's Muslim population is at about 30,000 throughout the country, the main hub being in Auckland. Zain points out that in Europe there is often discussion about integration and the idea that there is a host culture and then a Muslim culture. However, in New Zealand it's not so much will or won't there be integration but a question of what is Kiwi culture? What is Kiwi identity?

“Europe has a longer history, NZ is a very young country and there is still that question of identity.”

The Islamic Studies and Research Unit has many research ideas and potential projects to work on.

“That's one of the great things about doing philosophy, says Zain. “You have a lot of time to think and sift through all the ideas to find the good ones.”

[www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/islamic](http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/islamic)

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