



NO STOPPING MELANOMA RESEARCHER

When Stacey D'Mello was a five-year-old growing up in Bombay (now Mumbai) in India, she was diagnosed with Chloroidal Macular Degeneration in both eyes and told she'd eventually go blind. Twenty years on the young scientist is at the forefront of University research into melanoma.

"The Bombay optometrist told my mother not to bother enrolling me in primary school but instead put me in a school for special needs kids and make sure I had financial provision for the future," says Stacey recalling her early prognosis.

"But my mother [Linda D'Mello, Administration Assistant at the Business School's Graduate School of Enterprise] enrolled me in primary school anyway. During my first few years she would come in every day after work, get some poor students to stay back after school and write down all the notes. I knew what I'd heard. I just didn't know what was on the board. Classes in India are big with about 70 to 75 kids."

Linda D'Mello's persistence undoubtedly changed the course of her daughter's life. Today Stacey, 24, is in her first year of a PhD in Molecular Medicine at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and is one of four winners of doctoral scholarships awarded to University researchers at the end of last year by the Auckland Medical Research Foundation. (In total \$1,760,795 was awarded to eight projects, two postdoctoral fellowships and four doctoral scholarships across the Medical, Engineering and Science faculties.)

"Rather than thinking I can't do something, I try and figure out how I'm going to do it," says Stacey who has poor long-distance sight and only partial sight in her right eye. This means she will never drive a car, can't see numbers on buses, can't see detail on people's faces like a smile unless they're close up; and uses a special laptop and software provided by the Royal Society for the Blind to zoom text up and down. During her undergraduate years studying for a BSc in Biological Sciences Stacey was supported

by the University's Disability Office with the provision of note-takers during lectures, the use of a photocopier; and special tests and exams where she was allowed extra time and the use of the disability room with special computers and software and a moveable table.

Now most of her days are spent in a laboratory in the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre (ACSRC) where "everything is on the bench in front of me and close up". Her doctoral study is looking at glutamate receptors in human melanoma.

"Glutamate is an amino acid used as a neuro-transmitter," she explains. "It sends signals from one nerve cell to another in the nervous system. A paper in *Nature* recently described a particular sub-unit of the glutamate receptors that was found to be mutated in 33 percent of melanomas. We've got access to cell lines established from tumours from New Zealand melanoma patients so we're trying to see what each patient's melanoma cell is made of, and if these receptors are there. We're also

Continued on page 2

Honorary degrees for business leaders



The University has bestowed honorary doctorates on two prominent New Zealand business figures, Hugh Fletcher and Owen G Glenn ONZM.

Both received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of their major contributions to New Zealand and to the University's well-being in recent years.

The Chancellor, Roger France, bestowed the degrees at an early evening ceremony attended by 150 at the Maidment Theatre on 1 February.

Hugh Fletcher is a former CEO of Fletcher Challenge Ltd whose time in business was remembered as one of innovation. Since graduating with a BSc and MCom with honours from Auckland he has strongly supported the University.

He served 12 years as a University Council member and was Chancellor from 2004 to

2008. His insights and business experience helped the University develop programmes and facilities needed to maintain its position as a leading research-driven institution. He championed such ambitious initiatives as the new Business School, the Centre for Brain Research, the expansion of the Grafton (Medical and Health Sciences) Campus, and creation of the Institute for Innovation in Biotechnology.

Mr Fletcher is a Trustee of The University of Auckland Foundation which manages and distributes philanthropic funds given to the University.

In his eulogy the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said Mr Fletcher had managed the challenge he set himself in university governance with the same care and commitment as the challenge of business. The University was "extremely pleased to be able to

acknowledge his distinguished contribution to the planning and development of its physical environment as well as its intellectual capacities with the award of an honorary degree".

Owen G Glenn created a successful global business in freight forwarding and is recognised as an international leader in the logistics industry. He helped develop a new business model providing "full service" to customers at both points of origin and destination.

His support for the University reflects his strong and enduring interest in higher education and his firm belief that the University has an important role to play in the economic and social development of New Zealand.

To acknowledge his generosity in donating \$7.5 million towards establishing a globally competitive and internationally recognised business school the University named the new building opened in 2008 after him.

Mr Glenn has also financially supported a professorial chair in Marine Science, a PhD scholarship in the Business School and a chair in Molecular Cancer.

He regularly visits the University and the Business School, is a member of the Business School's Supporters' Council and was on the Business School's initial advisory board.

The Vice-Chancellor said the University honoured Mr Glenn for being an entrepreneur in a spectacularly successful manner "but also for dispensing the rewards of his success on just causes, on educational enterprises such as ours, but ubiquitously too throughout the world in a way that displays his social conscience".

• *Currently the University has 52 living honorary graduates, among them the Rt Hon Helen Clark, the Rt Hon Dame Sian Elias, Maurice Gee and Sir Anand Satyanand.*

World debaters

A University of Auckland Debating Society team was placed in the top 16 at the World Universities' Debating Championships held in Manila, Philippines earlier last month.

After competing in nine rounds of debating, the Auckland B team of Nupur Upadhyay and Joshua Baxter beat teams from Oxford and Yale in the octo-final debate to progress through to the quarter-final. This is the first time an Auckland team has reached the quarter-finals

Continued on from page 1

starting to treat cells in vitro (inside a test tube) with drugs that block the glutamate receptor."

"Stacey is a wonderful student," says Professor Bruce Baguley, co director of the ACSRC and one of four supervisors on the PhD project. "We've

(for the top 16 teams) since the 2008 World Championships.

The Auckland A team of Stephanie Thompson and Ben Milsom also reached the octo-finals reserved for the top 32 teams. Both debaters were ranked in the Top 50 best speakers at a tournament involving 800 speakers.

"These rankings reflect the depth of talent and skill possessed by these two highly persuasive individuals," says Nupur Upadhyay, President of

the University's Debating Society. "At a tournament featuring 400 teams from more than 70 countries, having two teams in the top 32 spots is an outstanding achievement for Auckland. Auckland C consisting of Max Lin and Todd Livingstone also did incredibly well, keeping in contention for the octo-finals right up until the end."

being trying to understand acute melanoma for over 20 years and the cell lines we've grown from patients' tumours are a big and unique resource for her to work with.

"This is a new area of study for us," he adds.

"No one has really characterised the glutamate pathway in melanoma so this is a real chance to understand what sustains and keeps signal molecules growing."

Alumni Relations and Development

The University's centralised alumni relations and fundraising division is beginning 2012 under the new name of Alumni Relations and Development.

The division was formerly called External Relations, then External Relations and Development, but has donned the new name to directly reflect its primary activities, explains the Director, John Taylor.

Alumni Relations and Development is responsible for engaging with the University's ever-growing alumni community, which currently numbers 150,000, of which 113,000 are contactable. Print and electronic publications and alumni and friends events, both within New Zealand and internationally, form the basis of the engagement programme.

On the fundraising side, the division has co-ordinated and driven the University's

highly-successful "Leading the Way" Fundraising Campaign, which began in 2006 and has raised \$170 million to support activities such as research projects, and establishing academic chairs, fellowships, and student scholarships. The campaign will conclude at the end of 2012, with planning now underway for the University's on-going development strategy.

Also housed within Alumni Relations and Development is The University of Auckland Foundation, a registered charitable organisation that facilitates the partnership between the University and its donors.

Alumni Relations and Development is based at University House, 19A Princes St, in what used to be the synagogue for Auckland's Jewish community, and was then a branch of the National Bank until 2003.

From the Vice-Chancellor



It is my pleasure to welcome you, along with all our staff and students back to the University for 2012. I hope that you have had a restful break even if, as in my case, much of it appeared to be spent in the rain!

This will be a significant year for the University because we will be undertaking widespread consultation and discussion on a Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2020. Over the life of the current Plan (2005-2012) we have achieved a great deal, but there is much still to be done if we want to take our place among the world's leading public universities. And whatever we wish to achieve, we will have to do it against the background of some of the lowest levels of funding in the developed world.

We therefore need to engage as many members of the University community as possible in discussing how we want to make The University of Auckland even stronger in teaching, research and service, and how we can resource those activities. The University Council will be considering a pre-consultation draft of the new Plan at its meeting on 5 March and I anticipate an extended period of discussion and consultation before we return an amended version of the Plan to Council for adoption later in the year. This is a very important process and I hope you will all contribute to it.

Just one example of the many achievements of the University is our new hall of residence, University Hall, which has risen in just 18 months above the Elam site. Blessed by Ngati Whatua representatives in late January, it will be officially opened by Chancellor Roger France on 16 February. Accommodating 442 mainly first-year students in modern, fully catered facilities, it will be a key part of our strategy to attract outstanding students from throughout New Zealand and around the world.

I am grateful to Peter Fehl (Property Services), Brendan Mosely (Campus Life), their staff and contractors who have been able to complete this fine building so quickly, and to those who will support our new students as they make the sometimes challenging transition into university life.

Free online IT training takes off



Helen Sosna, IT Literacy Coordinator, is pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response to the release of free online IT training for staff and postgraduates, which started at the beginning of this year.

Funding from the VC's Strategic Development Fund in 2011 has enabled her to run a pilot through the IT Training Programme at the Centre for Academic Development (CAD). The aim of the pilot, running throughout 2012, is to evaluate two major online IT training websites, CustomGuide and Lynda.com, for ongoing use at the University.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to improve a wide range of IT skills using Excel, Outlook, Photoshop, and hundreds of other applications; there's something for everyone," says Helen, who has worked for the University for six years in various roles, and started at CAD in 2009.

"It is a pilot, therefore we need lots of people to use the training systems and provide feedback so we can build a case to implement online training at the University permanently from 2013 onwards."

Helen's vision is to see online training meeting the needs of all staff and postgraduate students at the University. Some people may be based out of Auckland or might have work schedules that prevent them from accessing the comprehensive face-to-face workshops CAD offers. "Online training is available 24/7, so you can up-skill at any time; and it's also right there when you get stuck, providing just-in-time training. The hope is that beyond the pilot the training will be available to undergraduates as well.

"With CustomGuide, you can test your skills first through an interactive assessment. If you pass, you can move on; if you don't you can take the tutorial followed by a post-assessment. Not only is it fun, but it gives you a sense of achievement, as well as the opportunity to develop your skills so you can get the most out of Microsoft in a way that you hadn't been able to before."

Lynda.com offers over 1,100 courses in 200+ software applications (Microsoft, Adobe, Apple products, and much more). It is recommended for users who are confident watching demonstration videos and applying new learning directly.

Both CustomGuide and Lynda.com provide courses at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.

"It's fun and easy, there's lots of choice, I can use it anywhere, anytime and at my own place, and it's adding value to my skillset - bonus! I've had some great 'aha!' moments ... and just when I thought I knew it all!", adds Trudy Basire from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

See www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/onlinetraining

Eleven new professors

Eleven associate professors have been promoted to professor. They are:



Professor Robert Amor (Department of Computer Science) performs research in construction informatics, developing and adapting beneficial computer science techniques for the architectural,

engineering and construction industries. He coordinates the International Building Council's preeminent research community on "IT for Construction" with a highly respected international conference series. His primary research interest is in achieving interoperability between software tools, undertaken in collaboration with colleagues at the University's School of Architecture and Planning and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.



Professor Toni Ashton is a health economist in the School of Population Health on the Tāmaki Innovation Campus. Her primary research interest is in the funding and organisation of health services from an

economic perspective. Most of her recent research has been on health reform in New Zealand over the past two decades. She is also interested in the study of comparative health systems and in the general application of economic theory and methods to health sector practices and performance.



Professor James Bade (School of European Languages and Literatures) specialises in modern German literature, the German connection with New Zealand and the Pacific, and German cinema. His publications include

a number of books on modern German literature (Thomas Mann and Theodor Fontane) and the historical connections between New Zealand and German-speaking Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. Professor Bade is Director of the University's Research Centre for Germanic Connections with New Zealand and the Pacific. He is currently President of the Auckland Goethe Society.



Professor Tom Brittain (School of Biological Sciences) is a specialist in molecular, cellular and developmental biology. His research interests are in physical biochemistry, in particular the study of the structure and mode

of action of metalloproteins and in functional studies which range from fundamental theoretical and physico-chemical characterisation to investigations of actions in vivo and in cell culture. His latest project looks at the role of neuroglobin in protecting neurons from cell death by apoptosis.



Professor Kendall Clements (School of Biological Sciences) works in the area of ecology, evolution and behaviour. His main research focus is the biology of marine herbivorous fishes, from ecological work on

feeding rates and diet choice to biochemical and physiological studies on metabolism and the function of the digestive system. A particular interest has been the activities and identity of the diverse microorganisms that inhabit the gut of these fishes. Kendall also has a research interest in the evolution of reef fishes, and has had two Marsden grants to study speciation in triplefin fishes.



Professor Anthony Endres (Department of Economics) has developed several research specialisations: the history of economic thought and policy; alternative schools of thought in economics;

competing schools of thought on international financial integration 1945-2000; capital theory and the links between capital formation and entrepreneurship in market economies. He has written three books on the development of ideas and policies concerned with the international financial architecture.



Professor Georgy Gimel'farb (Department of Computer Science) is a world-known expert in image processing, computer vision, and statistical pattern recognition. His main areas of interest include

computational binocular stereo, texture modelling, 3D scene description from image and range data, and medical image analysis for computer-aided diagnostics. Georgy, who was educated in the former Soviet Union and came to Auckland in 1997, has authored or edited four books (in English and Russian), including a monograph on image textures and Gibbs random fields.



Professor Uwe Grodd (School of Music) has performed and recorded internationally for more than 30 years. He teaches flute at all levels and is an accomplished conductor. Professor Grodd gained

worldwide recognition when he won First Prize at the Cannes Classical Awards 2000, for the "Best 18th Century Orchestral Recording" conducting the Nicolai Esterhazy Sinfonia from Hungary. One of his most ambitious projects has been the recordings of the complete works for piano and orchestra by Beethoven's longstanding friend and student, Ferdinand Ries (1784-1838).



Professor Andrew Graham Hill (Department of Surgery) is Head of the South Auckland Clinical School based at Middlemore Hospital. He is also a consultant general and colorectal surgeon at Middlemore.

His research interests are in perioperative care in general surgery, and medical education. He is head of the multidisciplinary Auckland Enhanced Recovery after Surgery research group. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and of the American College of Surgeons.



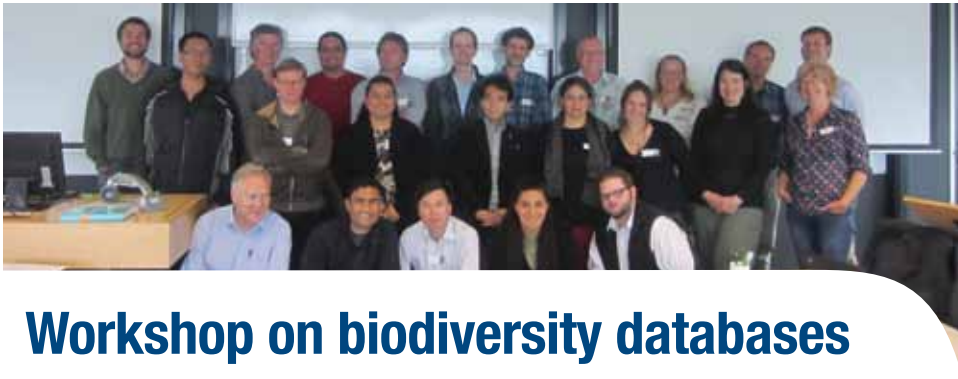
Professor Margaret Hyland (Department of Engineering Science) works in the areas of aluminium reduction technology and in surface engineering. Specialising in environmental and materials performance

in smelters, she has worked with many of the world's largest aluminium producers and suppliers. She is the Associate Director of the Light Metals Research Centre. She is currently leading a Marsden-funded project on the design of interfaces in multi-material systems with collaborators from Japan and Australia. She is the first woman to be promoted to Professor in Engineering at the University.



Professor Martyn Nash (Department of Engineering Science) is Associate Director Research at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute. His research interests include investigating cardiac

mechanics and arrhythmogenesis using computational modelling and medical imaging (eg MRI and arrays of ECGs). He also studies the structure and mechanical function of a wide variety of other tissues and organ systems such as the breast, skin, pelvic floor and tongue.



Workshop on biodiversity databases

Global biodiversity databases have been growing in significance over the past ten years. They host hundreds of millions of records of hundreds of thousands of species and engage hundreds of scientists in verifying their content (for example Global Biodiversity Information Facility, World Register of Marine Species, Global Invasive Species database). However, their use as research and to policy makers has been limited. Now global efforts are being made to measure the state and trends in biodiversity from species to ecosystem levels.

The University's Biodiversity Databases group, led by Associate Professor Mark Costello, Professor Mick Clout and Shyama Pagod, is one of eight recipients of the University's International Research Team Development Awards (IRTDAs) which aim to build international relationships and attract international funding. The group wants to develop a long-term vision

and strategy on how to significantly advance global biodiversity databases in order to provide better services for researchers and policy-makers and recently hosted an international workshop titled "Advancing databases for global biodiversity assessments" at the University, in conjunction with the International Marine Conservation Think Tank during the International Conservation Biology Congress.

The workshop focused on invasive and marine species, areas where the University has particular strengths and which have major gaps in knowledge. Already, a special issue of an international journal involving 68 authors and 12 papers is in preparation; and University staff have been invited into new collaborations, to international workshops, and to partner in research funding proposals. See www.biodiversity.auckland.ac.nz for more information.

Research funding

Neurological Foundation – Travel Grants. Up to \$4,200 to provide assistance to principal investigators or named associates in current Project Grants funded by the Neurological Foundation, or holders of a Foundation Scholarship or Fellowship to attend conferences, meetings or seminars, provided the subject matter of the project is directly related to the meeting. More information and an application form can be found at www.neurological.org.nz. Research Office deadline 23 February. Contact Lorraine Scott lo.scott@auckland.ac.nz

Royal Society of New Zealand – NZ/JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme. Provides opportunities for young postdoctoral researchers from New Zealand to conduct, under the guidance of their hosts, co-operative research with leading research groups in Japanese universities and research institutions. The programme aims to help researchers advance their own research, while contributing to the advancement of research in Japan and New Zealand. More information and application form can be found at www.royalsociety.org.nz. Research Office deadline 8 March. Contact Chris Tews c.tews@auckland.ac.nz

Genesis Oncology Trust - Professional Development Awards. Up to \$3,000 to allow cancer researchers and cancer-care professionals (including scientists, doctors, nurses, radiotherapists, radiation technologists and social workers) to travel and participate in scientific meetings or advanced training programmes that will enhance their professional competence or extend their range of skills. More information and application forms can be found at www.genesisoncology.org.nz. Research Office deadline 9 March 2012. Contact: Kate Harrower c.harrower@auckland.ac.nz

National Foundation for the Deaf – Community Fund. Supports projects and activities that have a direct benefit to hearing impaired and deaf New Zealanders and funds short-term projects, equipment and materials, capacity building, the development of innovative, imaginative and creative ideas, action-oriented research, acquisition and dissemination of knowledge and collaboration between groups/individuals. More information and an application form can be found at www.nfd.org.nz. Research Office deadline 24 March.

Top alumni speak

Don't miss "Auckland Live! 2012: Mana, mettle, and magic" – an exciting showcase of winners of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award Winners, at the Maidment Theatre from 6.30pm – 9pm on Thursday 8 March 2012. Tickets will be limited! For tickets and more information see www.auckland.ac.nz/live

The Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2012 will be presented at a black tie dinner on the evening of Friday 9 March in the Alumni Marquee, on the grounds of Old Government House. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoq/events

From the collection



Deriving her name from the Korean word for a rabbit, TOKI is the creation of 49-year-old Elam graduate Hye Rim Lee. With her huge, limpid eyes and tiny mouth, TOKI borrows her looks from the world of cartoons and computer gaming, and is herself an animated creation. Despite her associations with Western bunnies, she is less Thumper than Bambi, suggesting not goofiness, but a cutesy innocence and vulnerability with her wide open gaze. The impression of sweetness in TOKI's expression can be quickly dispelled by some of her behaviours, or by a cleverly subversive accompanying soundtrack. At the Gus Fisher Gallery in the exhibition Powder Room, for example, TOKI appeared in a short animation entitled Lash, blinking to the accompaniment of the sound of a whip cracking each time her lids closed.

Sound is very important to Hye Rim Lee. Her undergraduate degree at the Ewha Women's University in Seoul was in music, and she originally trained her soprano voice for an operatic career like her mother's. A botched tonsillectomy which ruined her vocal chords and

the death of both parents from cancer led her to move to Auckland in search of a fresh start in the early 1990s. Initially she tried painting, but after a visit home to South Korea which was bristling with electronic commodities produced by electronics giant Samsung, she began to see the potential of new media, particularly digital imaging. She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Intermedia at the Elam School of Fine Arts in 2002. A computer-manipulated character played by a human actor appeared first in an exhibition at the Moving Image Centre during her final year. The show was titled "Hello TOKI ;)" – the greeting in English of the creature with the Korean name given the suffix of the emoticon for a wink, using a semi-colon and bracket to represent the human face. Even in the language of her introduction, TOKI was already a hybrid of cultures, human and machine.

Taking emoticons into three dimensions was the basis for the artist's first dealer gallery show in 2003. Smooth TOKI is one of three works that were purchased for the University from that exhibition, the others being titled Mesh and Patch. Each name refers to the process by which the image of TOKI's face is created and completed, from the grid (Mesh) through to the perfect plastic finish (Smooth). With a knowing reference to the Quattrocento artist Sandro Botticelli's Birth of Venus, Hye Rim Lee titled this series, The Birth of Toki: hundreds and thousands.

Writing about this series, the artist reveals that she wanted the series of prints to announce her Frankenstein, drawing on all the implicit associations of genealogy, race, gender and breeding long associated with the notion of birth: "I produced 9 portraits of TOKI's close-up face suggesting 9 traits of personality, or 9

stages of the conception of birth. Through the process of rendering nine times, TOKI reveals herself with nine different faces. She is multi-dimensional and able to shift from being cute to feminine, sexual, angelic or evil."

In South Korea where women undergo plastic surgery as casually as they might get their fringes trimmed (13 percent of the female population admit to having had a cosmetic procedure compared to 3 percent in the United States), feminine beauty has now become a standardised commodity available for purchase. Barbie dolls are not ludicrous toys but ideals to be emulated. Reacting to this culture of extreme make over, the artist writes: "This [Birth of TOKI] project explores the motivation, driven by mass media and advertising, that propels such a huge number of women to undertake invasive surgical procedures. Magazines and television show the objectification of femininity, commodification of beauty and the manipulation of insecurity about self and status."

Lee hopes that her work will be read as a radical critique of both that culture and the norm in the world of computer gaming where female characters act out male fantasies. Rather than being a pawn in someone else's game, Lee's avatar TOKI resists stereotyping and makes up her own rules as she goes along.

Linda Tyler

*Hye Rim Lee, Smooth 2003 from Birth of TOKI series
PVC on vinyl 1000 x 1000mm*

Books



Being Childfree in New Zealand: How couples who choose to not have children are perceived, published by Lambert Academic Publishing, is the product of a qualitative study undertaken by Theresa Riley for a masters degree in Social Science. It is based on the experiences of ten couples living in New Zealand who, by choice, do not have children. Strong social norms exist for couples to have children, and those who express a desire to do otherwise have been disbelieved, pressured, and stereotyped. Womanhood has

continued to be associated with motherhood, and a maternal instinct is expected to drive women (in particular) to have children. This book shares the perspectives of both women and men on how family members, friends, and complete strangers react to their choice to not have children. Stereotypes, assumptions, and various other responses faced by the couples (together and as individuals) are discussed from a critical, feminist perspective.

What's on

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Symposium celebrating the career of Professor Ted Baker

Protein structural biology: The power of seeing. 1-5pm Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Runs until 17 February.

Speakers include:

Sir Tom Blundell, University of Cambridge; Prof Guy Dodson, University of York; Dr Mark Banfield, John Innes Centre, UK; Dr Zbyszek Dauter, Argonne National Laboratory, USA; Dr Catherine Day, University of Otago; Prof John Fraser, The University of Auckland; Dr Colin Groom, Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre; Prof Mitchell Guss, University of Sydney; Prof Rod Hubbard, University of York; Dr Richard Kingston, University of Auckland; Prof Rick Lewis, Newcastle University; Prof Michael Parker, University of Melbourne; Dr Emily Parker, University of Canterbury; Prof Se Won Suh, Seoul National University, Korea; Dr Tom Terwilliger, Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA.

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences PhD presentations

4-5pm Seminar Rm, Bldg 501-505, Grafton Campus.

1) Rashika Karunasinghe, PhD student, Dept of Physiology: *Hypoxic spreading depression in the substantia nigra: Implications for vascular Parkinsonism.*

2) Andrew Yee, PhD student, Dept of Physiology: *The locus coeruleus, L-DOPA and oxidative stress: Implications for Parkinson's disease.*

3) Daniel Speigal, PhD student, Dept of Optometry and Vision Science: *Can direct current awake a lazy eye?* Queries to l.fogg@auckland.ac.nz

Faculty of Science seminar

Assoc-Prof Benoit Liqueur, INSERM, Victor Segalen University, Bordeaux 2: *On Akaike and likelihood cross-validation criteria for model selection.* 4-5pm Electrical and Computer Engineering Briefing Rm 257, Level 2, Bldg 303S, Science Centre.

Visit www.biostatisticien.eu/liquet

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. In response to Christine Hellyar's exhibition about the McGregor Museum, Stephanie McKenzie reports on The University of Auckland's new project looking at its 'hidden' cultural collections, ranging from antique computers to geological specimens. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences research symposium

Addictions and families. 10am-4.30pm Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

Speakers: Jim Orford, Helen Warren, Ian MacEwan, Peter Adams, Rachael Butler, Michelle Brewerton and the Kina Team. Cost \$40. Queries d.seesaengnom@auckland.ac.nz

Faculty of Science seminar

Prof Jim Hanley, Dept of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health, McGill University: *How big are the real*

mortality reductions produced by cancer screening? Why do so many trials report only 20%? 11am-12noon Electrical and Computer Engineering Briefing Rm 257, Level 2, Bldg 303S, Science Centre.

Visit www.medicine.mcgill.ca/epidemiology/hanley/

Book launch

Alison Jones and Kuni Jenkins: *Words Between Us: He Korero - First Maori-Pakeha conversations on paper.*

5-6.30pm Whare Kai, Waipapa Marae.

Guest speakers: Manuka Henare, Director, Mira Szasz Research Centre; Anne Salmond, Distinguished Professor, Maori Studies; Graeme Aitken, Dean of Education.

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

COMPASS seminar

Martin Spielauer, Senior Researcher, Modelling Division, Statistics Canada: *Microsimulation and public policy.*

4-5pm Rm 104, Pacific Fale Bldg, 20 Wynyard St.

RSVP to t.crick@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Professor of Fine Arts, considers Reuben Paterson's place in Elam School of Fine Arts' whakapapa of contemporary Maori artists.

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Open-air movie

Kung Fu Panda 2. (PG, contains violence, 90 mins, 2011) 8.30-10pm John Hood Plaza, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Cushions or beanbags welcome. Free. To celebrate the Year of the Dragon the Business School presents its annual free open-air film festival featuring some popular Chinese-themed movies.

The car park under the Owen G Glenn Bldg is accessible from Grafton Rd at a flat rate of \$6 from 5pm week nights.

TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Centre for Longitudinal Research seminar

Dr Carlos A Camargo, School of Population Health: *Vitamin D, infection and allergy.* 10.30-11.30am Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

RSVP by 20 February to Mandy Heathcote, m.heathcote@auckland.ac.nz

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Mark Sagar, ABI: *The mechanical force.* 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House.

Open-air movie

Bruce Lee - My Brother. 8.30-10pm John Hood Plaza, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free.

WEDNESDAY 29 FEBRUARY

Open-air movie

My Wedding and Other Secrets. 8.30-10pm Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free.

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 Andrew or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Auckland (Devonport) villa, fully furnished, private garden, available July 2012 to February 2013 (flexible). Walking distance to beaches, shops, and ferry to city/University. Two-three bdrms, two lounges, study, central heating, SKY/internet/phone package included. Ideal for sabbatical visitor. N/s. \$620 pw (neg). Visit http://sabbaticalhomes.com/Home_Rent_House_Rental_Auckland_New_Zealand_66761.htm

Contact devonport_rental@yahoo.co.nz

Birkenhead: Four-bdrm house for rent from July 2012 to January 2013. Cedar home amidst kauri trees. Furnished.

Would suit visiting researcher/family.

\$600 pw negotiable. Easy access to schools, library, shopping, beaches.

Near bus lines to CBD and UoA,

10-minute drive to Birkenhead ferry.

Contact lisa.samuels@gmail.com

Blockhouse Bay coastal. Three-dble

bdrm + study, spacious exposed beams

1960s home in tranquil tree-filled garden

with sea views. Large living space, alarm,

dble garage internal access. Walk to

beach, shops, primary school, bus stop.

\$600 pw neg. Contact Peter on (021) 128

5324 or taitfbhq@vodafone.co.nz

Central Orewa: Just arrived in New

Zealand? Make the most of your

weekends and live at the beach. 4/5

bdrms 1/2 offices, 2 bthrs, new

carpets and paint throughout. Walk

two minutes to beach and parks, shops,

schools, express city bus or quick

access to motorway. N/s, no pets. Low

maintenance gardens. \$650 pw. includes

water and lawns. Phone (027) 275 8585.

Flatmate wanted. Dble room with fitted

wardrobe available now in Grey Lynn.

Easy access to Western Springs near

one end of street and West Lynn shops

at the other end. Share with one female

owner 40s plus Stanley the cat. Quiet

and peaceful with courtyard and garden.

\$200 pw + share expenses. Looking for

mature, tidy, respectful n/s. Phone Judith

on 378 81107 or (021) 934 942.

Gracious Parnell apartment

overlooking Hobson Bay and the harbour,

available for the months of August and

September. Two very large bdrms, one

and a half bthrs, enormous lounge,

dining with separate family room and

kitchen. Parking available, surrounded

by lovely grounds. Within easy walking

to Parnell, UoA, CBD or Newmarket.

Suit mature family or couple. For further

details and photos please email

g_scoop@clear.net.nz

Mt Eden. One-bdrm flat in villa available

from 1 June to 28 Sept 2012. Villa has

been developed into two self-contained

flats with a large shared back yard.

Furnished. Would suit a couple or visiting

researcher. \$300 pw negotiable. Down

the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, a very short

walk to Mt Eden train station and a

five-minute bus ride to UoA or 10 minutes

into the CBD. Contact

ashton.jesse@gmail.com

Mt Eden. One-bdrm flat, unfurnished,

one section on bus to University. Very

private, garden outlook. Suit couple, long

term. Must like cats and dogs. \$300 pw.

Phone 630-6111 (Katherine or Brendan)

or email ellamore@gmail.com

Narrow Neck. Three-bdrm family home.

Furnished, available mid-March. Situated

at end of a quiet cul-de-sac. Close to

park and beach and bus stop to Devonport with ferry to town. N/s, no pets. \$750 pw. Contact vtatton@orcon.net.nz

Narrow Neck, Devonport. Modern self-contained, furnished studio with kitchenette, mezzanine bdrm and bthrm. Opening onto sunny garden deck. Across the road from Narrow Neck beach. On bus route to Devonport ferry. \$310 pw incl Broadband and power. Available early March. Email julie@mitchellstout.co.nz

Need peace and quiet? Board/studio at the beach away from the busy city in the heart of Orewa, it's just 1-2 minutes walk to supermarket, beach, Orewa shops and buses. Express bus to city. Explore northern beaches on weekends. Own entrance, shower, toilet and kitchen/dining area, own phone line. One bdrm, 2nd bdrm or office/lounge. N/s. 220 pw includes furniture if needed, water and power. Phone (09) 424 0668 for appointment to view.

Parnell. One-bdrm apartment, furnished.

Quiet. Overlooking native bush. Lock-up

garage included. Suit mature couple.

No pets, n/s. Available early March to

mid-December. \$400 pw. Please contact

vtatton@orcon.net.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

House-sitter available. Hello! I am looking for an opportunity to house-sit for a few months (or more or less - I'm flexible) starting ASAP. I currently live in St Heliers and am a 29-year-old IT professional working in Auckland CBD. I am very clean, tidy and responsible. Happy to share. With references etc. Contact (021) 034 6258 or cliff885@gmail.com

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Brand new holiday home now available to rent in a stunning location just steps away from Otama Beach on Coromandel Peninsula. The design layout makes it the perfect place for two families or several couples, especially over Easter (sleeps 8). This NZ-born New York architect's own holiday home would also make an ideal writing retreat. For more information contact ann.moore@auckland.ac.nz

Charming, sunny, fully furnished

Waiheke cottage, walking distance to beaches and near bus stop. Suit couple or family of up to 5. \$125 a night (minimum three nights) or \$750 pw. (BYO bed linen and towels, no pets). Contact pat.neuwelt@xtra.co.nz or phone (09) 849 4457 or (021) 136 1759.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mature student requires tutor for Classics 350, Philosophical Writing in Antiquity, semester 1. Text (021) 264 6189.

Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm centrally located at L1 Princes Court, 2 Princes Street, Auckland Central. We are near the University, with good parking. 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 nchristie@rainey.co.nz Visit 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 or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.



EMBRACING URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVEABILITY

Dr Charlotte Sunde (Research Development Manager), Harvey Perkins and Melanie Milicich

“It is essential that New Zealanders start dealing much more actively with urban issues,” asserts Professor Harvey Perkins, recently appointed Director of Transforming Cities: Innovations for Sustainable Futures (formerly Transforming Auckland) and Professor of Planning.

“We need to embrace the ideas of ‘urban sustainability and liveability’.” A notion he explores as co-author of *Place, Identity and Everyday Life in a Globalising World*. This work followed a series of jointly published articles with colleagues at Lincoln University and The University of Auckland critically examining the ways in which sustainability thinking has been interpreted and incorporated in urban planning in New Zealand.

Harvey brings extensive urban research expertise and national and international networks to the directorship of Transforming Cities, one of the University’s three thematic research initiatives (TRIs). In addition to his roles at Auckland, he holds adjunct positions at Lincoln and Canterbury universities in the disciplines of human geography and sociology. His broad research scope encompasses interests in urban, peri-urban and rural social, economic and environmental change.

Much of Harvey’s work is interdisciplinary in nature, resulting from collaborations with sociologists, geographers, landscape architects, psychologists, planners, ecologists and environmental managers. This is a considerable asset to the Transforming Cities TRI, which aims

to support and promote interdisciplinary urban research on questions of major socioeconomic and environmental importance.

Harvey has experienced first-hand the recent Christchurch earthquakes, witnessing a city and residents undergoing traumatic transformation. “Christchurch has highlighted the dynamism of natural systems and the fragility and vulnerability of our human urban arrangements.” He has also been heartened by the tremendous recovery response of the authorities and community members. Harvey’s contribution has been to act in an advisory capacity to Christchurch City Council staff working on the Central City Plan and to speak at community meetings on aspects of earthquake recovery. Those experiences have convinced him of the need to create opportunities for community resilience in the face of rapid social, economic and environmental change – “a task more easily talked about than implemented”.

Recent meetings with Auckland Council staff in the Sustainability Team underline that Auckland is not exempt from the types of challenges that confront Christchurch. A general observation is that there is a disconnection between what we know about the risks associated with climate change and natural disasters, and the great difficulty of acting on that knowledge early enough – for a wide variety of political, social and economic reasons.

“Auckland is a very interesting site for research into urban issues. It is culturally diverse, and is faced by the need to deal with matters

such as continuing population growth, residential intensification, climate change, water use, transport efficiency, economic development, green infrastructure, and the provision of adequate social and recreational services and facilities,” explains Harvey.

Addressing social inequality is a major concern if we are to attain the reputation of “the world’s most liveable city”. “Some areas of Auckland are well resourced while others are not. There are social justice issues confronting Auckland, including housing affordability and access to services like health and transport.”

These are among the many urban challenges that Transforming Cities: Innovations for Sustainable Futures intends to address. This will build on 18 months of work that University researchers have engaged in under the auspices of Transforming Auckland. One of the key roles of the Director is to galvanise staff from across the University to work together on interdisciplinary urban research. Building on internal research capability, Harvey envisages further opportunities. “Then if we can link The University of Auckland with other research institutions and stakeholders both in New Zealand and globally, we can create a network to address urban sustainability and liveability questions and critical societal needs.”

Researchers interested in the Transforming Cities TRI are encouraged to contact Professor Harvey Perkins (h.perkins@auckland.ac.nz) directly, and to register online for the Research College: www.transformingcities.auckland.ac.nz.