



HALL OPENS

The first fully catered hall of residence erected by the University since O'Rorke Hall in 1989 is up and running.

University Hall in Whitaker Place, beside Elam School of Fine Arts, is now home to 429 first-year students and 13 residential assistants. The twin 13-floor towers, linked on a two-level podium, boost fully catered accommodation at the University by 60 percent.

The Chancellor, Roger France (pictured above) snipped a red ribbon and declared the \$51 million complex officially open at an early evening ceremony on 16 February. The residents arrived en masse three days later.

The residents come from Kaitiāia to Canterbury and from the more distant parts of Auckland, such as Pukekohe and Titirangi, are able to stay as well. Fifteen percent are international students from Britain, Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia.

There is a balance of male and female students with half of one floor reserved as female only. More or less gender-separate space will be put aside in future years depending on demand.

University Hall is the largest high-rise building in New Zealand to be assembled in modular

fashion. Designed by Warren and Mahoney it required 200,000 person hours of construction and took 19 months to build. It comprises 270 tonnes of steel, 1700 cubic metres of concrete, 7500 square metres of terracotta and cream tile facade cladding, and 1600 square metres of glass (specially designed to muffle the traffic noise in Grafton Gully).

The upper levels command spectacular views of the Hauraki Gulf. There is a glass-enclosed dining room on the entry level, wireless e-library, study pods, games room, lounge, onsite laundry facilities, and bike and car parking. Residents can eat and relax on two wide outside decks.

The hall has two alcohol-free floors where alcohol can neither be drunk nor stored. Sunday to Wednesday are non-drinking days throughout the hall.

At the opening the Chancellor said the Hall offered a combination of aesthetically pleasing and eye-catching colours and spaces, with high functionality that sets the standard for tertiary student accommodation. "Not only does it acknowledge the energy and vibrancy of a young adult in its contemporary design, but it also provides spaces that facilitate social networking and development, fosters individual

and collaborative study practices, and supports personal and academic success."

Living in a diverse peer community, with the common goal of learning "while being supported in one's studies and life, all while being fully engaged and having fun, results in well rounded, successful graduates ready to take their place in the world," said the Chancellor.

Tahlia Tini, the Head of Hall, and the residential assistants closed the ceremony with a rousing haka written specially for the residents. The chant celebrates their educational journey, calling to the Waitemata Harbour and Rangitoto, sacred places for Ngāti Whatua.

Residents will learn the haka during their first weeks. It will be used to welcome guests and at inter-residential competitions.

There were nine hundred applications for the 429 beds. Residents pay \$335 a week for their room, all facilities and meals and a comprehensive residential life programme.

It is the University's fifth fully-catered hall of residence. The others are International House, Grafton Hall, O'Rorke Hall and Huia Residence.

Rebel with a cause opens conference



Pharmaceutical scientist, social entrepreneur and Patron of the Non Resident Nepali Association of New Zealand, Sir Ray Avery, is the keynote speaker at the 2012 ASPIRE Professional Staff Conference.

The theme of the two-day conference on 18 and 19 April is "Career development".

"It aims to give staff an opportunity to

network with others from across the organisation and to develop their professional interests," says Director of Human Resources, Kath Clarke.

Ray Avery has had a very successful career as a founding member of the University's Department of Clinical Pharmacology and former Technical Director of Douglas Pharmaceuticals. Over the past 30 years he has made a major contribution to the development of New Zealand's pharmaceutical industry.

Working throughout Africa and Asia and exposed to the raw and real shortcomings in healthcare, Ray has also used his knowledge of pharmaceuticals, science, project management and product design to tackle big health issues endemic throughout the developing world at a very practical sustainable level.

In 2003, he founded *Medicine Mondiale* (www.medicinmondiale.org) which manages a global network of scientific, clinical and business experts who donate their knowledge and time to develop medical solutions and provide quality healthcare for people across both the developed and undeveloped world.

Today, an International network of scientists and technologists together with New Zealand companies and Nobel Laureates support him and somehow everyone finds themselves donating their time and knowledge for free and

they are rewarded by making a difference.

Ray has invented *Proteinforte*, a revolutionary treatment for protein energy malnutrition and a low-cost infant incubator specifically designed for use in the developing world; and he has written a widely-read autobiography *Rebel with a cause* telling the story of his journey from street kid to knighthood.

His work has been recognised by his peers and he has received numerous awards including the Kiwi Bank New Zealander of the year 2010, the Blake Leadership Medal 2010 and the Ernst & Young Social Entrepreneur Award 2011. In January 2011 he was appointed a Knight Grand Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

As well as Sir Ray Avery, the two-day ASPIRE Professional Staff Conference features a range of speakers who will cover topics such as resilience, leadership, career conversations, coaching, goal-setting, reputation branding and personal style.

The conference website will be available for registrations from 12 March. Watch for more announcements on the Staff Intranet and in *Uninews*.

WUN research success



The University has achieved an 80 percent success rate in the Worldwide Universities Network's annual research development fund round. As a result eight new multilateral, transcontinental research projects involving Auckland researchers begin in 2012.

The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) is an alliance that primarily exists to make significant advances in knowledge and understanding in areas of current global concern. In late 2011 it recognised two Auckland-led proposals and six partner-led proposals that include Auckland researchers in

its awards announcement.

The successful Auckland-led projects include: an initiative called "Media, tobacco, and trade: Innovative approaches to reducing non-communicable disease in the Pacific region" led by Dr Judith McCool, (School of Population Health); and the "Mathematics of non-communicable diseases: Understanding failure of cell signalling", a project led by Professors Hinke Osinga and Bernd Krauskopf of the Department of Mathematics.

Judith's team, comprising researchers from the Universities of Auckland, Alberta, Sydney and non-WUN partner the National University of Fiji, will investigate the use of digital media to provide accessible and current tobacco control information to mobilise Pacific policy-makers, key influencers, and the public (especially women and young people). At the same time the team will build Pacific capacity and capabilities in tobacco control research, practice and advocacy.

The Auckland-led team of mathematicians is drawn from the Universities of Auckland, Sydney and Bristol. The collaborators will take an integrated approach to predicting and verifying

human cell behaviour from mathematical models and investigate how local changes to feedback loops (which are affected by environmental stimuli, such as nutrition and medical drugs) affect signalling processes in cells. A particular focus is to find boundaries between normal and abnormal behaviour. Alzheimer's disease and diabetes will serve as specific case studies.

The six partner-led projects cross three of the network's four "global challenges" or broad areas of focus: Dr Margaret Stanley (Biological Sciences) and Dr Mark Dickson (Environment) will collaborate on projects that fall under the WUN "Adapting to climate change" global challenge; Drs Susan Morton and Mary Hedges (Population Health), Associate Professor Robyn Dixon (Nursing) and Jacquie Bay (Liggins) will partner with international researchers on three projects that come under the umbrella of the "Public Health: Non-communicable Diseases" global challenge; and Professor Simon Holdaway (Anthropology) will collaborate on a Western Australia-led project sitting within the "Understanding cultures" global challenge.

Pictured: Judith McCool



Visiting HR Directors enjoy Waiheke

Last month the University's Director of Human Resources, Kath Clarke hosted the quarterly Group of Eight HR Directors meeting. This is the third time the meeting has been held at The University of Auckland in the last five years.

"Being part of this network is an excellent way for us to share knowledge and practices with Australia's leading universities, and to showcase developments at Auckland."

Kath was asked to brief the meeting on the University of Auckland HR service delivery

model that has been in place since 2008 as several of the Go8 are considering options in their universities.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon attended the meeting to welcome attendees and to discuss key staff initiatives in the Go8 institutions.

The meeting dinner was held at the Goldwater Wine Science Centre on Waiheke Island and our Australian guests enjoyed a tour of the facilities by winemaker Heinrich Storm.

From the Vice-Chancellor



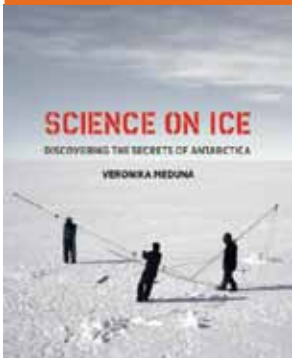
On 21 February, Chancellor Roger France and I had the pleasure of hosting a very special dinner to acknowledge the 13 senior academics who were made Distinguished Professors at the start of the year. This process recognises those who have attained positions of international eminence of the highest order. Together with the original five Distinguished Professors (Ted Baker, Brian Boyd, Peter Gluckman, Peter Hunter and Anne Salmond), the new appointees make up a very small proportion of our approximately 250 full professors, and thus are a distinguished group indeed.

The thirteen new Distinguished Professors were acknowledged by colleagues, family, friends and supporters at the dinner. See their profiles over the page.

During the course of the evening, the new "inductees" were welcomed by Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd on behalf of himself and his "original" colleagues, most of whom were also able to be present at the Dinner. The Deans of the relevant faculties then read citations honouring each of the new Distinguished Professors, commenting on their extraordinary records in teaching, research, service and leadership, both within the University and externally to the professions and communities.

One of the things that struck me particularly about this group was that their achievements, like those of their predecessors, place them among the very best academics in their disciplines world-wide. We often worry about the many challenges facing New Zealand universities, including the paucity of public and private investment and our distance from major academic centres (issues we will address in the draft Strategic Plan 2013-2020). But the fact remains that our professors are able to operate on a level that is truly world-class. This is something from which we can all take considerable heart.

Science publishing solidifies



The success of last year's Frankfurt Book Fair continues for Auckland University Press with the sales of rights to Veronika Meduna's *Science on Ice: Discovering the Secrets of Antarctica* to CSIRO and Yale University Press.

Science on Ice is an engaging account of how scientists are tackling some of the biggest questions out there – climate change, the origins of life, the big bang – down in Antarctica.

"It's a real thrill to us to take this book to the world," says director Sam Elworthy.

"Yale and CSIRO are outstanding publishers and they're the best partners we could ask for on a book like this.

"Developing our science publishing and strengthening our international reach are two key pillars of Auckland University Press's strategy. It's great to see those efforts paying off."

Highlight

Fulbright New Zealand Outreach Tour 2012

Fulbright New Zealand's educational advising team is visiting the University as part of its annual Outreach Tour to inform students and academic staff about opportunities to study, research, teach or present their work in the United States.

Come along to hear unbiased, current and comprehensive information about higher education in the US and an introduction to the Fulbright programme's range of exchange

awards to help you get there. University of Auckland, Tuesday 6 March Commerce Careers Fair – 10am-2pm, Business School Level 0

Fulbright Scholar Awards seminar for academic staff – 1.30-2.30pm, Conference Centre Lecture Theatre (Room 423-342)

Fulbright Graduate Awards seminar for students – 3-4pm, Conference Centre Lecture Theatre (Room 423-342)

See www.fulbright.org.nz

Our new Distinguished Professors

Thirteen academics became Distinguished Professors in the University at the beginning of this year.

They were appointed by an Advisory Panel that comprised Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond; Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd; Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor John Morrow; Director of Human Resources, Kath Clarke and Director Staff Equity, Prue Toft.

In this special edition of the *University News* we profile our new Distinguished Professors.



Distinguished Professor Bruce Baguley

Professor Bruce Baguley is a cell biologist with a particular interest in cancer biology and cancer treatment. He trained initially in chemistry, switching to the field of molecular biology for his doctoral degree. He subsequently went to Basel, Switzerland for two years to study the biochemistry of normal and cancer tissue, returning to New Zealand in 1968 to join what is now the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre at The University of Auckland (ACSRC).

He has held the role of director/co-director of the ACSRC for three decades and has been particularly involved in the development of a multidisciplinary facility where new treatment strategies can be formulated and new drugs synthesised, and where comprehensive laboratory studies of new drugs can be complemented by trials in patients.

Bruce has been particularly associated with the development of an interface between the laboratory and the clinic. His biological studies on two DNA binding drugs and one novel anti-vascular agent led to clinical trials in the treatment of solid tumours. With the collaboration of surgeons, oncologists and pathologists in Auckland, he has been involved in the use of cells cultured directly from patients' tumours in order to understand the reasons for treatment failure. This work is being used in the design of new drugs that might overcome the resistance mechanisms that limit current cancer therapy.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1991. In 2002 he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to cancer research and in 2006 was awarded both the Sir Charles Hercus Medal (scientific or technological work of great merit in biomedical sciences and technologies) and the Sir Peter Gluckman Medal for outstanding research endeavours.

He has published over 380 peer-reviewed papers and has registered 17 patents. He has also published 25 book chapters and has edited one book.



Distinguished Professor Debes Bhattacharyya

Professor Debes Bhattacharyya established and leads the Centre for Advanced Composites Materials (CACM), a highly regarded research centre which develops composite materials. Composites are engineered lightweight materials with superior properties, used by industry to develop new products and technologies. The purpose-built facility based at the University's Tāmaki Innovation Campus has engineered new materials for everything from food packaging to aircraft and medical devices, collaborating with many New Zealand and international companies and research organisations.

Debes, a Professor from the Mechanical Engineering Department, within the Faculty of Engineering, is recognised internationally for the quality of his research. He has been the chair and a member of the international panels appointed by the Commonwealth and State Governments of Australia to review a Centre of Excellence and a Cooperative Research Centre. He has also been the President of the Asian-Australasian Association of Composite Materials, and a member of the editorial advisory boards of seven international journals.

His numerous awards indicate his standing as an engineer and researcher. These include Fellowships of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Institution of Professional Engineers

New Zealand (IPENZ) and last year's election as a Distinguished Fellow of IPENZ. He was also awarded the prestigious German Science Foundation (DFG) Fellowship and a Testimonial of Excellence by the Institute for Composite Materials, Germany.

India-born Debes has also received several honours from India including the highly prestigious "Glory of India" award in January 2012. He is the only New Zealander of Indian origin to receive a Gold Medal at the House of Lords (London) and Nav Rattan (nine jewels) award from New Delhi, both in 2011. He was also awarded the Hind Rattan (jewel of India) at New Delhi in 2010 and was a recipient of the "Glory of Bengal" award from Doha, Qatar in 2010 for outstanding contributions by a person of Bengali origin.



Distinguished Professor John Boys

Distinguished Professor John Boys is both a leader and founder of the Power Electronics Group - world leaders in the development of inductive power transfer (IPT).

The IPT technology transmits electric power across air gaps of up to 450mm without using wires. It was pioneered by John, Dr Andrew Green, and Associate Professor Grant Covic in the Faculty of Engineering's basement in 1989.

IPT technology is being used to power electric cars, industrial automation equipment in factories, pacemakers, and for lighting in theatres and road tunnels. Last year HaloIPT, a UniServices spin-off company part-owned by John and Grant, sold its exclusive rights in the electric vehicle charging technology to Qualcomm, a major United States licensing and research and development company specialising in wireless communications. The multi-million dollar deal was the most significant IP technology transfer deal ever achieved by a New Zealand or Australian university or CRI.

John's outstanding research career has been recognised by the Royal Society of New Zealand. He was elected a Fellow in 1993, and has been awarded two of the Royal Society's top honours, the R J Scott Medal and the Pickering Medal. He is the only person to have received both awards.

He has also been the recipient of The Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) Fulton-Downer Gold Medal on three separate occasions and numerous other national and international awards.

He has published more than 100 papers in international journals and has his name on more than 30 US and New Zealand patents from which licenses in specialised application areas have been granted around the world.

John's research interests were AC motor control and power electronics but have changed to reflect increasing activity in inductive power transfer.



Distinguished Professor Margaret Brimble

The natural world is a treasure-trove of chemical compounds that have the potential to treat human disease. Margaret is a renowned chemist who creates synthetic copies of promising compounds from nature, so that they may be produced in large quantities and modified for therapeutic use.

Her laboratory works on bioactive compounds that have been isolated from plants, animal tissue, microbes or marine and soil organisms which are rare or hard to isolate in abundance from nature. She has led the development of many medicinal compounds, such as new antibiotics, agents to treat diabetes and cancer, and a drug candidate in the final stage of human clinical trials for the treatment of traumatic brain injury.

Her work has been recognised with numerous national and international awards, including the 2011 Adrien Albert Award from the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the 2010 Royal Society of Chemistry UK Natural Products Chemistry Award and a 2008 World Class New Zealand Award. She was named the 2007 L'Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Asia-Pacific Laureate in Materials Science and was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for services to science in the 2012 New Year's Honours.

Margaret studied for her undergraduate and MSc degrees at The University of Auckland before travelling to the University of Southampton for her PhD. She currently holds the Chair of Organic and Medicinal Chemistry and leads a large research group in the School

of Chemical Sciences. She is chair of the board of trustees of the Rutherford Foundation, a past-member of the Marsden Fund Council, past-president of the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry, a titular member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Organic and Biomolecular Division and a principal investigator of the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery and the Centre for Brain Research.



Distinguished Professor Stephen Davies

Professor Stephen Davies is a leading scholar in the philosophy of art, particularly music. His expertise is diverse though - he has also written extensively on birds, Balinese dance, ethics and political philosophy.

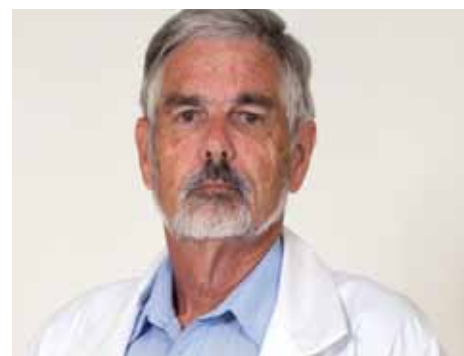
Stephen forged his name early on with his studies into the expression of emotion in music, publishing his work to acclaim in the prestigious journal *Mind* in 1980. He went on to publish widely on the aesthetics of art and music. His first book *Definitions of Art*, Cornell University Press, 1991, established new terminology and framework for the debate over "what is art". He has since published six single-authored books, one edited book, two co-edited books and 64 refereed journal articles, mainly in aesthetics but also in ethics and political philosophy, and 40 book chapters and handbook entries.

"My current major research project is a book on aesthetics, art, and evolution in which I critically review proposals by evolutionary psychologists, ethnologists, and philosophers about connections between our evolved human nature and our aesthetic tastes and predilection for art," Stephen says.

Born in Australia, Davies studied at Monash University in Victoria and Birkbeck College, University of London. He taught philosophy at the University of Western Australia and joined The University of Auckland in 1983. Today he teaches a range of courses in Philosophy.

A keen bird watcher, he has also contributed to ornithology journals in Britain and New Zealand, and he maintains an ongoing research interest in Balinese culture and art.

He has received many high-profile appointments, including Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (2010), Hood Fellowship, University of Auckland (2007) and he is a past president of the American Society for Aesthetics.



Distinguished Professor Bill Denny

Professor Bill Denny has had a truly outstanding academic career. His particular area of expertise is medicinal chemistry focusing on cancer chemotherapeutic agents.

His interests include all aspects of the design and evaluation of small-molecule chemotherapeutic agents, and he has been involved in the development of 12 anticancer drugs to clinical trial. He is currently involved in developing new drugs to treat tuberculosis (TB) more effectively - a disease which is re-emerging as a world health emergency.

He has published more than 600 peer-reviewed papers, been granted 75 patents and has led the commercialisation activities of a wide variety of agents. He also co-founded Proacta Inc (NZ and San Diego) and Pathway Therapeutics Ltd (San Francisco), and is co-director of the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre.

Bill is recipient of a long list of significant distinctions. He was appointed an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit (ONZM) for his services to cancer research in the 2003 Queen's Birthday Honours List. He received the Rutherford Medal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Adrian Albert Medal of the UK Royal Society of Chemistry, and the University's Gluckman Medal. He was named NZBio Biotechnologist of the year in 2007.



Distinguished Professor Rod Ellis

Professor Rod Ellis is a major contributor to the study of second language acquisition, pioneering new approaches to the way languages are taught in a classroom setting. His book *The Study of Second Language Acquisition* published by Oxford University Press won the Duke of Edinburgh Prize for the best book in Applied Linguistics.

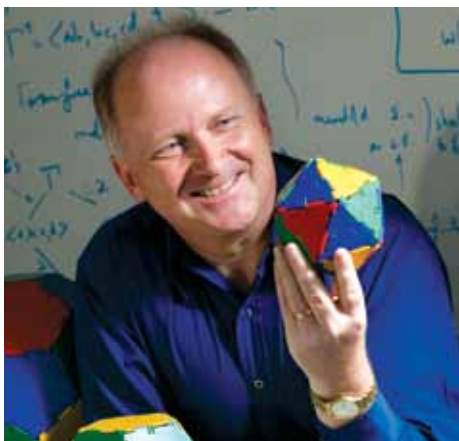
A professor in the Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics in the Faculty of Arts, Rod is a leading theorist of task-based language learning.

"Task-based teaching (TBT) contrasts with traditional approaches to language teaching that require intentional learning, such as teaching vocabulary and grammar. A limitation of such approaches is that learners often fail to develop the ability to participate effectively in real communication. TBT requires learners to use the language as a tool in communicative activities. It caters to incidental rather than intentional learning and draws heavily on research about how second and foreign languages are acquired naturally," he says.

Rod is also known for the Ellis Principles of Instructed Language Teaching – ten general principles of teaching foreign languages developed for the New Zealand Ministry of Education, used widely in New Zealand and also in Spain.

More recently he was part of a Marsden-funded project investigating ways of measuring implicit and explicit knowledge of a second language, then using these measures to investigate the effects of instruction on learning. This is an area he continues to work in.

A former teacher, Rod has held positions in Zambia, the UK, at Temple University in Japan and the US. He holds visiting professorships with Shanghai International Studies University, Kansai University (Japan) and Michigan State University (USA). Since 1980, he has authored more than 30 books and 100 articles on second language acquisition. He is currently editor of the journal *Language Teaching Research*, and is also a senior advisor to the *Asian EFL Journal*.



Distinguished Professor Marston Conder

Professor Marston Conder is an international leader in his branch of mathematics. He specialises in the development and use of combinatorial group theory and computational methods to study the symmetries of discrete structures. These structures occur in a wide range of fields, including many other branches of mathematics as well as molecular chemistry and the design of computer architectures and efficient distribution networks. His work has influenced many researchers in group theory and

graph theory and associated fields, including discrete geometry and Riemann surfaces.

Marston has been recognised by his peers with the distinction of a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Oxford and election as President of the Academy of the Royal Society of New Zealand. In 2011 he was named the first Maclaurin Lecturer, in a new reciprocal exchange of visiting lecturers between the New Zealand and American Mathematical Societies. He also received a prestigious James Cook Research Fellowship, awarded to New Zealand researchers who have achieved national and international recognition in their area of scientific research.

He has been an investigator on ten Marsden Fund grants since 1995 and received numerous professional awards. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Combinatorics and Applications.

Marston joined The University of Auckland in 1983 and was one of the University's first two Hood Fellows in 2005. He served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) from 1999-2001. He is currently Professor of Mathematics and Co-Director of the New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (NZIMA).



Distinguished Professor Richard Faull

Professor Richard Faull is the Director of the Centre for Brain Research. As Professor of Anatomy he has earned an international reputation for his research studies on the normal and diseased human brain. He is perhaps best known for research showing that the adult human brain contains stem cells which have the capacity to generate new replacement brain cells. This groundbreaking work countered the long-held belief that adults have a finite supply of brain cells that cannot be replaced once they have died, and offers hope to people with neurodegenerative disease and brain injury. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers.

Richard is the founder of the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand Human Brain Bank, which houses brain tissue donated by people with neurological disorders and their families. It is a crucial resource for neuroscientists and an example of the strong community links Richard has forged. He is the Patron of the Alzheimer's Foundation (Auckland), Alzheimers New Zealand Charitable Trust and the Huntington's Disease Association (Auckland and Northland), and the

Medical Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of New Zealand.

Richard is the recipient of numerous awards including the World Class New Zealander of the Year in 2010, the University's Gluckman Medal in 2002, the Health Research Council of New Zealand's Liley Medal in 2005 and the Royal Society of New Zealand's Rutherford Medal in 2007. In 2005 he was appointed as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to medical research in the Queen's Birthday Honours.



Distinguished Professor Jane Harding

Professor Jane Harding is the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). She is a member of the Fetal and Neonatal Physiology research group of the University's Liggins Institute.

Her research activities include clinical as well as basic physiological studies. Her main interests concern the interaction of nutrients and growth factors in the regulation of growth before and after birth, and the long-term consequences of treatments given around the time of birth.

Jane obtained her medical degree at The University of Auckland. She then trained in fetal physiology on a Rhodes Scholarship, completing her Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Oxford. After specialist training as a paediatrician in New Zealand, she completed her FRACP in neonatology. Her postdoctoral training was as a Fogarty Fellow at the University of California at San Francisco.

She was awarded a personal Chair in Neonatology in 1997 at The University of Auckland in recognition of her outstanding abilities as a clinician, academic teacher and researcher. In 2001 she joined Professors Gluckman, Mitchell and Gilmour in establishing the Liggins Institute, and in 2008 was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

She was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in 2002 and was chosen as the *North & South* New Zealander of the Year in 2004. In 2011 she was awarded a prestigious grant from the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) to lead a research programme with global implications for the care of newborn babies.



Distinguished Professor Viviane Robinson

Professor Viviane Robinson from the Faculty of Education is an organisational psychologist of national and international acclaim.

Her research specialities are in the fields of educational leadership, organisational and interpersonal effectiveness, and the relationship between research and the improvement of practice.

Viviane's research programme on educational leadership has contributed greatly to shifting the field away from a generic business management approach, to a more serious engagement with the educational knowledge and skills that are required for effective educational leadership. Her work on the relationship between leadership practices and student outcomes has brought her both national and international awards. In New Zealand, she received the 2008 Educational Leadership Award from the New Zealand Secondary Principals Association. In the United States, she received the prestigious William Davis award at the 2009 American Educational Research Association for her scholarship on educational leadership. In 2011, Viviane became the first New Zealander to be elected a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association.

Her research on educational leadership has shaped leadership development policy and programmes in New Zealand, and in regional systems in Australia, Canada and England. As Academic Director of The University of Auckland Centre for Educational Leadership Viviane has built strong connections between professional developers and researchers so that the services the Centre offers to national and international educational leaders are strongly based in research that is both rigorous and highly relevant to the needs of practitioners. Viviane is increasingly integrating the work of the centre with that of the faculty's Leadership Research Group which is conducting research on the knowledge and skills that educational leaders need to make a bigger difference to student learning and achievement.



Distinguished Professor Peter Phillips

To label Professor Peter Phillips as one of this University's greatest intellectual products is understating his immense impact on the study of econometrics globally. Peter's contributions have revolutionised econometric practice worldwide, and influenced similar research throughout the business, social and natural sciences as far afield as climate trends and biodiversity.

Educated here and at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Peter has an outstanding reputation that places him squarely within the top influential economists globally. Attaining his full professorship at 27, Peter is currently Sterling Professor of Economics and Professor of Statistics at Yale University and Alumni Distinguished Professor of Economics at The University of Auckland Business School, a role he has held since 1992. He is also the co-director of the Center for Financial Econometrics at the Sim Kee Boon Institute at Singapore Management University.

At last count Peter has published more than 250 scientific papers. He is the founding editor of two highly regarded econometric journals, and is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, American Statistical Association, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

Peter has offered unstinting support to the NZ profession – a contribution recognised in 2004 by the New Zealand Association of Economists in making him Distinguished Fellow. He won the New Zealand Medal of Science and Technology from the Royal Society in 1998 and Economist of the Year in 2000.

But perhaps Peter's greatest contribution to econometrics worldwide has been his tireless work with more than 70 PhD students, many of whom are now prominent econometricians themselves and within Peter's self-proclaimed "large extended family".

Currently ranked the seventh most influential econometrician in the world, Peter is a jewel in our University crown.



Distinguished Professor Ian Reid

Professor Ian Reid reached a position of international prominence through his groundbreaking research into the causes and treatment of osteoporosis and Paget's disease. Highlights have been a leading role in the development of the bisphosphonate class of drugs for treating both these conditions (resulting in effective cure of Paget's disease), demonstration of the critical role of fat tissue in regulating bone metabolism, and studies linking calcium supplements with an increased risk of heart attack.

Ian is a Professor of Medicine and Endocrinology, and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. His research group has also been active in identifying novel regulators of bone cell function and the development of a number of other treatment modalities.

Ian is a former president of the International Bone and Mineral Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He has authored more than 460 scientific publications and has 15 granted patents.

Within the University he has received an Alumni Achievement Award, a Hood Fellowship and the Gluckman Medal, and internationally an honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (2006), and research awards from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (2010), the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (2010), and the International Bone and Mineral Society (2011).

Apology

In the last edition of the *University News* we wrote that new Professor Margaret Hyland was from the Department of Engineering Science. This is incorrect, Margaret is a member of the Chemical and Materials Engineering Department.



Half century for tireless law teacher

Bernard Brown, one of the University's best-loved and most enduring identities, has clocked up 50 years since his appointment to the Faculty of Law.

To mark this rare distinction his friends organised a surprise lunch for him one Friday in February. Nearly 50 people – academic colleagues past and present, librarians and other professional staff, several judges and Queen's Counsel – gathered in the Student Common Room to show their fond esteem.

And a total surprise it definitely was. "I was lured there by my colleagues' threat of a peer review of my criminal law tutorial performance," says Bernard, joking: "I came very close to taking a QC with me."

Professor Warren Brookbanks opened proceedings by remarking that Bernard had begun teaching before some of the current staff were born. He mentioned how Bernard had mentored academic colleagues early in their careers, and spoke of the warmth and affection for him within the Law School and the wider legal community.

In the impromptu tributes which followed Bernard was praised for his prowess as an academic lawyer, writer and peerless raconteur, and for his kindness and humanity as a person.

Memorable snippets of his poetry and prose were read out along with the lavish accolade he received in the autobiography of his good friend David Lange. As senior lecturer Kris Gledhill put it: "It's nice to remember that Bernard has a serious side to him captured by his thrilling ability with words."

As well as writing legal texts which include his book on *Crime and the law* and the first printed text on Papua New Guinea law he has produced scintillating collections of poetry and prose, most recently *Unspeakable practices* and *Sensible sinning*.

The Law School celebration capped a memorable week for Bernard; the previous day he had been admitted as an honorary life member of the NZ Society of Authors.

Bernard's arrival in Auckland half a century ago was more serendipitous than a planned career move. Born and raised in England he studied law at Leeds University intending to practise as a barrister.

However National Service intervened, taking him to pre-independence Singapore where he "combined court martial appearances and some part-time university teaching with riot squad control". At the National University of Singapore's new law faculty he found himself

"lecturing on the rule of law to students against whom I had acted in the riot squad, fortunately disguised with a gas mask. Of the non-rioting students, one became deputy prime minister while another is still the chief justice."

By 1962 Bernard "could see the game was up for those referred to by the then leader as being from perfidious Albion". He telephoned the only New Zealander he knew, the legendary Professor Jack Northey, soon to become Dean of Law at Auckland, to find that an appointee to a lectureship had suddenly "fallen by the wayside". Bernard was invited to take his place, flying into Whenuapai a few days later.

For many years Bernard taught criminal law and legal history, and he introduced criminology as a subject. He also took on the daunting task of lecturing in administrative law.

In the mid-1960s he was seconded to an academic position in Australia for three years. "Two rather piquant misprints" saw the *Sydney Morning Herald* advertise for a Fallow (sic) in Papua New Guinea law at the Australian Notional (sic) University. "I thought a fallowship at a notional university would do me very well."

While at Canberra Bernard prepared a blueprint for a village court system. Implemented at PNG's independence in 1974 it survives to this day.

As a mark of his calibre as a teacher Bernard received a University Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997. Three years later he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year Honours for services to legal education.

Bernard, by now an associate professor, stopped teaching full-time in 1998. "I spent three days trying to use my leisure time in a constructive way and just gave up. I desperately needed to come back. To my surprise, I found I needed the students perhaps more than the students needed me."

Fourteen years later and designated Professional Teaching Fellow he is still hard at it at the age of 78. He comes in to the Law School every day and he has no plans to quit. "There is nothing worse than drawing the curtains on life."

Pictured: Bernard with his wife Gaynor

Gout breakthrough



A researcher in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Bone and Joint Research Group is at the forefront of groundbreaking

research that has identified factors in dairy products that may have an anti-inflammatory effect in the treatment of gout.

Associate Professor Nicola Dalbeth is the lead researcher on a team that includes scientists from Fonterra and The University of Auckland. Following a programme of laboratory work, the group successfully conducted a clinical trial showing the benefit of enriched skim milk in gout. This research was funded by LactoPharma (a joint venture between Fonterra and Auckland UniServices) and the Foundation for Research,

Science and Technology. The results have just been published in *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*.

"As a community, we think of gout as a nutritional disease," Nicola explains. "And yet this is the first published randomised controlled trial of a dietary intervention for gout".

New Zealand has the highest rates of gout in the world, with particularly high rates of disease in Māori and Pacific men.

The clinical trial, undertaken at The University of Auckland, found that people with recurrent

continued top of next page

gout attacks taking skim milk enriched with two dairy factors (GMP and G600 milk fat extract) had a greater reduction in gout attacks than those receiving either lactose or standard skim milk.

As a result of Nicola's research, Fonterra is now looking to develop the product and make it available in the next one to two years.

Collecting surprises



The University of Auckland ClockTower, designed by internationally-acclaimed architect Roy Lippincott; an impressive coral tree planted by Governor Grey standing in front of Old Government House; and one of the world's last three remaining spade-toothed whale skeletons are among the better known items of interest within the University's environs. There are many more.

Three months underway, the Cultural Collections Project has already registered more than 30 collections used across the campuses for scholarly teaching and research or of public and historical interest.

Stephanie McKenzie is the newly appointed Cultural Collections Assistant and has begun contacting staff, to find and note collections of cultural significance across the University campuses.

"It is a project that will bring real insights

about our important teaching and research collections and the way that they have been and are being used," she says.

Part of the project, an initiative supported by the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund, will be to develop a more complete catalogue of the University's collections. An overview of the scale and breadth of these will help the University have more certainty around issues affecting their ongoing use, care and management, such as preservation and security.

An additional benefit of the cross-campus treasure hunt is bringing together a network of curators.

Dr Neville Hudson, manager of the School of Environment's Geological Collections based offsite near the Tāmaki Innovation Campus, is one of the many staff looking forward to exchanging knowledge and expertise around the care of University collections.

"The majority of the Geological Collections are off limits to the general public with the exception of 'Geology' in Building 301 and temporary displays during the Incredible Science Day. This project will advocate for the immense value of these collections as cultural heritage of national and international significance."

For further information about the project, please contact Stephanie McKenzie at sp.mckenzie@auckland.ac.nz

Top artists show



The Gus Fisher Gallery will host some of New Zealand's most respected and exciting artists this year.

During New Zealand book month the exhibition Paper-jams: artists between the covers looks at the significance and materiality of publications in art. At the same time leading sculptor John Edgar's Ballast project uses the motif of ballast stones to consider migration between Scotland and New Zealand.

Opening in May is an exhibition of portraiture by renowned photographer Peter Peryer, who originally trained as a teacher, earning a degree in English and a masters in Education at the University, but became inspired by photography while taking workshops at Elam with John B. Turner.

Major exhibitions in the second semester feature New Zealand's leading dancer and choreographer, Douglas Wright, and film-maker Vincent Ward. Vincent, well-known for his films, is now producing work specifically to be viewed in a gallery environment, including video, photography and painting. Timed to coincide with the TEMPO Dance Festival, Douglas Body of Work exhibition will span his 30-year career, looking at the various ways dance is developed and represented through photography, film, writing and drawing.

*John Edgar, Flagstone, 2009
Marble, Takaka, New Zealand, 830 x 510 x 240 (H) mm*

Investment in genomics and bioinformatics services

The Centre for Genomics Proteomics and the Bioinformatics Institute have recently entered into a service agreement with New Zealand Genomics Limited to provide genomics and bioinformatics services to the wider New Zealand research community. The agreement will fund equipment well as new appointments in the Centre for Genomics Proteomics and the Bioinformatics Institute. Inquiries should be directed to NZGL via its website: <http://www.nzgenomics.co.nz> or to bioinformatics@auckland.ac.nz.

Public seminar: EC Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

Marie Geoghegan-Quinn, EC Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, will be giving a public seminar on "EU-NZ cooperation in research and innovation: Recent achievements and new opportunities under Horizon 2020". The seminar will be held on 9 March, from 10-11am at the Conference Centre Lecture Theatre (Room 342), 22 Symonds Street. Online registration is available at <https://secure.business.auckland.ac.nz/CI-MaireGeoghegan-Quinn2012>

New Zealand-Korea collaboration on nanotechnology

MSI and the Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology are supporting joint research projects which foster scientific collaboration between scientists working in specified fields. Associate Professor Jadranka Travas-Sejdic has been awarded \$195,000 over three years to provide novel polymers to be used as scaffold for co-culture of various skin cells.

Lotteries Health shared equipment grants announced

University of Auckland researchers have been awarded Lotteries Health shared equipment grants totaling \$197,000. Funding was awarded to:

- Professor Suzanne Purdy, Department of Psychology who will use the funds to purchase a unique voice measurement device for use in research into voice disorders in teachers.
- Professor Laura Bennet, Department of Physiology, for blood flow meters and probes, which will be used to study fetal physiology, and for cardiovascular research involving adults.
- Associate Professor Mike Hay and Dr Jack Flanagan of the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, in collaboration with Dr Debbie Hay of the School of Biological Sciences, for a liquid handling robot to facilitate drug discovery at ACSRC.

From the collection



Fish to Water (and its counterpart, *Water to Fish*, also in the collection) was first shown in Reuben Paterson's 2010 Dunedin exhibition *The Water Between Us* at Milford Galleries. The works in this show represent the Karangahake Gorge, which was once a significant food source for local iwi, as well as an important travel route and territorial border, and consider the legacy of gold mining (one of the most industrialised sites in New Zealand) on waterways.

These continue Reuben's exploration of the liquid properties of light and metallic glitter to address social and political issues to do with histories of the land. But whereas previous works used glitter to depict flat textile-derived motifs and abstract patterns, these make use of photographic effects to portray perspective, depth and volume, so it is interesting that Reuben has chosen a liquid environment for his most figurative work to date. Another work in the exhibition shows the shimmering blue surface of

a river, echoing the way his glittered canvases present a glistening surface that covers hidden depths of meaning and history.

As well as referencing the precious metals in the riverbed, the gold tonings of these works suggest the nostalgia and loss found in historic old sepia photographs. Prominent gold mining towns have also now gone, washed away in the ongoing flux of time that is a recurring motif of Paterson's work.

"Water to Fish" now features in *Bottled Lightning*, Reuben's survey exhibition at the Gus Fisher Gallery, which is a dazzling exploration of materials: From his well-known glitter-on-canvas depictions of kowhaiwhai and fabric designs, to more recent experiments with a wide range of media including sequins, foil, diamond dust, shoes, gourds, video and installation.

Reuben's work is underpinned by an ongoing conceptual investigation into aspects of time and energy through the properties of light, which reflects the power of history, memory,

whakapapa, spirituality and place. These remind us of the underlying power that ripples beneath the land we stand on with its ever-changing layers of history.

Kinetic energy is a key feature in the show, whether through the optical effects of painting, the spiritually charged dance of light and dark on reflective surfaces, or the kaleidoscopic distortions of his digital work. Contained on a canvas like bottled lightning, Reuben's paintings challenge our perception and control of the present as a state of flow, an analogy for capturing the elusive creative process as it shifts between boredom and inspiration.

Reuben completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Elam School of Fine Arts in 1997, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching at The University of Auckland's Faculty of Education. He has exhibited widely both internationally and in New Zealand, including the Biennale of Sydney (2010), Asia Pacific Triennial, Brisbane (2009) and the Prague Biennial (2005). He was recipient of the New York International Studio Curatorial Programme Development Prize in the Wallace Art Awards (2005), a finalist in the Casttleon City Arts Council Arts Prize, Spain (2005) and the Moët et Chandon Arts Fellowship in Avize, France (1997).

Bottled Lightning is Paterson's first survey exhibition, focusing on work from the last ten years, and also his first solo public gallery exhibition in Auckland in over a decade. The exhibition closes Saturday 3 March and will be followed by a publication that commemorates the occasion. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz for more information.

Andrew Clifford

Reuben Paterson (b.1973), Fish to Water, 2010, glitter on canvas, 1018 x 1526mm, The University of Auckland Art Collection

Books



The Shakespearean International Yearbook, Volume 11: Special issue, Placing Michael Neill. Issues of Place in Shakespeare and Early Modern Culture

This eleventh issue of *The Shakespearean International Yearbook* brings together essays by a diverse group of writers, to honour The University of Auckland's Shakespearean scholar, Emeritus Professor of English Michael Neill. The yearbook examines Michael's extraordinary body of work, employing his many analyses of place as points of departure for new critical investigations of Shakespeare and Renaissance culture. It also challenges us to think about the conception of place implicit in the "International" of the Yearbook's title:

the violence as well as calmness, the settling and unsettling, that has worked to produce - and still works to produce - the "global." Many of the essays move out of early modern England, whether spatially (journeying to Ireland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Sudan, and New Zealand) or temporally (travelling to 20th- and 21st-century reproductions, rewritings, or reappropriations of Shakespeare and other texts). The volume concludes with an afterword by Michael Neill. Among editors are the University's Professor of English Tom Bishop and alumnus Jonathan Gil Harris, Professor of English at The George Washington University, USA.

What's on

THURSDAY 1 MARCH

NZ Asia Institute seminar

Prof Rouben Azizian, Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies: *Central Asia: Europe or Asia?* 3-4pm Case Rm 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.
Visit www.nzai.auckland.ac.nz

Orientation concert

6-10.30pm John Hood Plaza, 12 Grafton Rd.

Featuring The Naked and Famous. The concert will be a smoke-free event, and entry is by Student ID or ticket only. Free.

Department of English lecture

Prof Emerita Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Temple University, Philadelphia: *Reflections on the long poem: Autobiography of a practice*. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre, OGH.

SATURDAY 3 MARCH

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Curator Mary Sewell talks about the origins of the McGregor Museum as a teaching collection and highlights particular items of interest. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz
Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

Summer Shakespeare Under the Stars

AUSA presents William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. 7.30-10pm. Runs until 24 March. Tickets on sale at the Maidment Theatre. Phone 923 4823 or email t.blake@auckland.ac.nz
Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/adventure

TUESDAY 6 MARCH

Communique 2012

Carol Brown: *Tongues of Stone*. 12-1pm Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, 22 Symonds St.

Free. Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz

Fulbright NZ Outreach Tour

1.30-4pm Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, 22 Symonds St. Fulbright NZ offers a range of exchange awards for NZ graduate students, academics, artists and professionals to study, research, teach or present their work in the USA.

- 1.30-2.30pm Academic staff.
- 3-4pm Students

Visit www.fulbright.org.nz

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Frederique Vanholsbeek, Dept of Physics: *Dispersion compensation in optical coherence tomography*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH

Faculty of Education seminar

Prof Regan Gurung, Professor of Human Development and Psychology and Chair of Human Development, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay: *Using psychology and pedagogical research to inspire students and optimise teaching in higher education*. 4pm J2 Lecture Theatre, Epsom Campus, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom.

Liggins Institute academic seminar

Prof Bruce Baguley, Co-Director,

Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre: *The mystery of increasing melanoma prevalence: What is the cellular basis?* 4-5pm Seminar Room, Level 1, Liggins Institute, 2-6 Park Ave, Grafton.

Queries to dx.liu@auckland.ac.nz or m.debock@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 8 MARCH

Department of Physics seminar

Professor Charles Alcock, Director of Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics: *Darkness visible: Charting unseen populations in the Solar System, The Milky Way, and the Universe*. 12-1pm FGW Rm, OGH.

Queries to physics@auckland.ac.nz

Liggins Institute academic seminar

Dr Benjamin Miller, Colorado State University: *The use of deuterium oxide to assess long-term cellular and subcellular turnover*. 1-2pm Seminar Room, Level 1, Liggins Institute, 2-6 Park Ave, Grafton.

Queries to dx.liu@auckland.ac.nz or m.debock@auckland.ac.nz

Auckland Live!

Mana, mettle and magic. 6pm Maidment Theatre. \$30.

Join us for an inspirational evening with The University of Auckland's Distinguished Alumni Award winners, hosted by Finlay Macdonald.

With winners:

- Professor Charles Alcock, Faculty of Science graduate: Director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
 - Don McGlashan, Faculty of Arts graduate: Celebrated singer and songwriter.
 - Dr Mark Sagar, Faculty of Engineering graduate: Winner of two Academy Awards for digital motion capture technology used in Avatar, and King Kong.
 - Dame Robin White, Fine Arts graduate (NICA): Celebrated visual artist.
 - Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Arts graduate: Professor of Māori Studies from 1993-1997 and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori) from 1996-1997.
 - Young Alumna of the Year: Dr Privahini Bradoo, graduate of the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Medical and Health Science: Co-founder and CEO of BioMine, a green mining start-up.
- Queries to alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 9 MARCH

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner 2012

6.15-11pm, Alumni Marquee, OGH lawn. Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and The University of Auckland Society are pleased to invite you to a dinner to recognise the significant contribution made by distinguished alumni in their respective fields. Formal dress. The 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award winners are:

- Professor Charles Alcock, Don McGlashan, Dr Mark Sagar, Dame Robin White, Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker and Dr Privahini Bradoo.

Queries to Melanie Middleditch, phone 923 6409 or email melanie.middleditch@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 12 MARCH

NZ Blood Service

Donate blood today. 10am-4pm Cap & Gown Lounge, Level 2, Princes Street. Runs until 13, 14, 15 March at same time and Friday 16 March from 10am-2pm. For further information txt DON8 to 515.

TUESDAY 13 MARCH

Dept of Classics and Ancient History seminar

Professor Richard Hunter, Regius Professor of Greek, University of Cambridge, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge: *The idea of the classical in classical antiquity*. 6pm Lecture Theatre, OGH.

WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH

European Languages and Literatures seminar

Prof Graziella Parati, Dartmouth College: *Chinatown and Koreas: Internal and external migrations in Milan*. 6pm Lecture Theatre, B10, Alfred St.

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

Belmont. One-bdrm flat in house, available immediately. North-facing. Self-contained. Shared back yard. Furnished. Close to buses and ferries. Long or short-term. Would suit a couple or visiting researcher. \$300 pw negotiable. Contact k.obradovic@auckland.ac.nz

Fully-furnished house in Devonport available for eight months rent while owner overseas. Queen-size bdrm; separate study with extra wc, French doors to sunny porch plus back deck; five minutes walk to ferry; auto garage with internal access; no lawns to mow. Suit single or couple only. Available 28 Feb. \$480 pw. Email Ashleigh@ragallagher.com

Fully furnished three-bdrm/two-bthrm house near Mt Eden Village and The University of Auckland Epsom Campus. Available July to December 2012. Rent negotiable. Contact m.sinkinson@auckland.ac.nz or phone (09) 630 0360.

House-sitter wanted. House in stunning location overlooking estuary and islands at Mahurangi West, 40 minutes north of Harbour Bridge, 20 March to 10 April or a little longer. Look after three chickens, water and eat vegetables. Mow lawn (total one hour per day?). Ideal for researcher needing writing time and space. No charge, references needed. Contact: m.hanne@auckland.ac.nz or Mike on (09) 422 0491.

One-bdrm apartment in city centre.

Close to Britomart, Foodtown, Downtown shopping centre, University of Auckland, Queen St. Stunning views of harbour, Rangitoto, Eastern Suburbs. Fully furnished including whiteware, Sky TV. Plenty of parking nearby. Ideal tenants: Professional. No pets or smokers please. \$400 pw. Phone (09) 348 5319/(021) 932 391 or email prasadm@poal.co.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Are you looking for a mature, reliable couple (n/s) to care for your home while you are away? Academic recently moved to Auckland. Current house-sit finishes late June 2012. Term negotiable 3-12 months. Areas within 30 minutes of Epsom Campus preferred. Email Karen and Jon at jokako100@yahoo.com

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 references etc. Contact (021) 034 6258 or cliff885@gmail.com

University lecturer looking for rental accommodation for busy professional family members (two adults, one child), two bdrm townhouse, apartment or house, approx \$400 pw. Email i.wedde@auckland.ac.nz

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@extra.co.nz or phone (09) 849 4457 or (021) 136 1759.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.



TO BE A MOTHER OR NOT TO BE?

We like to think we live in a fairly liberal, open-minded society that accepts people with a variety of wants, needs, and orientations. However there are a few ways of being different that can strike an emotional reaction in people. One of these is about children – the issue is whether to have children or not.

In the majority of cases, there is no negative judgment, shock or awkwardness when a woman's pregnancy is announced. It's taken for granted as something to celebrate, to plan for, and to desire. But if a woman lets slip that she has no intention of entering motherhood, she had better be prepared. What sort of things can she expect? Patronising comments that she will assuredly change her mind, questions seeking to establish what her problem is, and being written off as selfish/unfeminine/workaholic/child-hating/immature. There is no celebration in not having reproduced.

Why might we struggle to accept that a woman doesn't want children? There is a common belief in the concept of a maternal instinct, which is thought to tie in somehow with a woman's biological clock that alerts her to hurry up and produce children before it's too late. Perhaps women who don't want children are broken in this area? But does it seem right for a woman to be thought of as being less, or deficient, or faulty in some way just because she doesn't follow the social norm?

How does society feel about a woman choosing to forgo motherhood to instead simply build her

career? Does this mean that she is anti-family or selfish?

In my masters research, the selfish stereotype was the most common amongst my participants. More specifically, the idea is that the childfree are too selfish to consider having children. There are a couple of issues with this concept. Firstly, it implies that becoming a parent automatically erases selfishness from a person. Despite societal expectations, there are still parents who do not completely revolve every aspect of their life around their child(ren), and some would even argue that such an approach is a healthy way to live.

Secondly, it assumes an approach to life and goals purely focused around time and money. Yet there is no guarantee that parents had no self-focused goals contributing to their decision to have children. A common reason suggested for having children is to replicate genes or the family name, and to provide a source of pride in the future. Isn't that selfish in some way? Whilst childfree people enjoy greater financial independence of the childfree lifestyle, the freedom and "selfish" living enabled by the choice is not necessarily the motivation, but simply a benefit.

A commonly used term to describe people who don't have children is "childless". On the face of it, this term fits, as obviously referring to somebody without children. But the implication of the suffix is of lack, which associates the state as being negative. When a person has made a

positive decision to not have children, this term doesn't fit. The term childfree implies a positivity, and freedom, which is much closer to resembling the chosen state. There is no term that describes the childfree (or childless) state solely by what they do have. Unlike parents, those who are not parents, who do not have children, whether childfree or childless, seem forever categorised and labelled for what they are not or do not have. This is aside from other labels they may acquire due to social or familial roles, career, religion and so on.

The decision to not have children is a personal one, and partly because of the stereotyping, disbelief, patronising comments, and misunderstandings that result when the decision is communicated to another, it's not easy to share with people. It should be a choice that is widely respected, and acknowledged as legitimate. Women are more than a sum of biological parts, destined to succumb to hormonal activity. Feminism fought hard to give women rights, choice, and freedom, but how can they be free if they don't really have, or accept, freedom to make such personal choices?

Theresa Riley has just published a book titled *Being Childfree in New Zealand: How couples who choose to not have children are perceived*, based on her masters thesis research. She is currently a third-year PhD student in the Department of General Practice, FMHS. Her PhD is on social discourses of the drinking age in New Zealand.