A LOAD OF RUBBISH

Dressed with face masks and overalls, a group of student volunteers and staff members found themselves immersed in rubbish, as part of a three-day waste audit organised by the University’s Sustainability and Environment programme.

A small sample of waste was collected and taken to the Rosedale Road Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station on Auckland’s North Shore. It amounted to five and half tonnes of paper, plastic bottles, food waste and whatever else finds its way into the University’s general rubbish and recycling bins.

From this pile, a further sample was taken and about 150 wheelie bins’ worth of waste was separated, sorted and weighed to determine its make-up and to enable some comparisons with the previous solid waste audit done six years ago.

“We organised our first audit in 2006 but at that stage our paper recycling was still quite rudimentary. We hadn’t yet started with bottle and can recycling so we only completed a general waste audit. This time around, we’re able to sort through recycling as well as general waste so we will be able to find out how we’re doing now that those programmes are in place,” says Dr Lesley Stone, Manager of the Sustainability and Environment programme.

“The preliminary results for the audits suggest both good and bad news. The good news is that contamination of the paper and cardboard recovered is very low – less than two percent while contamination of the bottle and can recycling bins has decreased from up to 90 percent from our first audit down to 11 percent.

“The bad news is that 36 percent of the general waste going to landfill could still be recovered for recycling. We’ll now focus on finding out exactly where the problem areas are, and building a strong campaign to encourage those who are not already recycling to do so.”

The benefit of quality control in doing waste audits is confirmed by Doug Oliver, Contracts Administrator at Property Services. “We have contracted cleaners here at the University and if we’re finding a lot of waste mixed together, we can check whether it’s a matter of ensuring our contractors have the right information or seeing what else we can do to make sure that the waste is disposed of properly in the first place.”

For the student volunteers, it was the first opportunity in 2012 to be involved with the programme with all 40 volunteers coming from the 1,500 strong “Help Green our Uni” group – a network for students wanting to help move the University towards becoming a more sustainable organisation.

Photo: Lesley Stone, Alexia Smits-Sandano (Lesley’s assistant) and Doug Oliver.
The New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice at the Law School was launched on 29 March at Old Government House in the presence of Chief Justice, an eminent British academic and many of the country’s top judges.

Practitioners, staff and large numbers of students joined them in hearing Professor Andrew Ashworth, Vinerian Professor of English Law at Oxford University, talk about “Human rights, judges and politicians: Recent controversies in the UK and Europe”.

Professor Ashworth has an international reputation for his work in criminal law, sentencing, criminal justice and human rights. He was in this country as the NZ Law Foundation Distinguished Visiting Fellow for 2012 and his public lecture on a highly pertinent theme officially launched the Centre.

Welcoming guests to the lecture and introducing Professor Ashworth, the Dean of Law, Dr Andrew Stockley, said the Centre’s establishment was “an important milestone for the Law School” as well as “a statement about the importance we place on human rights law”.

“Human rights law is incredibly important for many of our compulsory courses and a whole range of our elective courses. We have a significant number of staff members teaching, researching and publishing in these areas.”

Last year 180 students had taken part in the Law School’s Equal Justice Programme, volunteering their time to provide free legal assistance in partnership with community groups and the legal profession. Students were also involved in making submissions and conducting research on human rights issues, and helping with human rights events.

“The Auckland Law School is a natural home for a human rights law centre,” said Dr Stockley. “The Centre will be looking to make a difference, whether through policy advocacy on human rights matters, giving advice to non-government organisations, assisting with submissions to UN reporting bodies and taking part in human rights litigation.

“It is right and proper for this University, New Zealand’s leading research university, and for this Law School, recently ranked as one of the world’s top 20 law schools in the prestigious QS World University rankings, to consider human rights law, policy and practice as being of fundamental importance.”

Senior lecturer Kris Gledhill, whose practice as a London barrister included a large amount of human rights law, is the Centre’s inaugural Director. Chris Mahony, who has been completing his doctorate at Oxford and has worked as a consultant to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and for the Special Court of Sierra Leone and as a consultant for the International Centre for Transnational Justice, is Deputy Director.

Our human rights centre

Political commentator retires

A former journalist and political columnist, in 1995 Dr Atkinson notably wrote a North & South column criticising the Prime Ministership of David Lange. It resulted in the longest-running and perhaps most important defamation case in New Zealand history. While it never went to court on the substance of Lange’s complaint, it did introduce the defence of qualified privilege for political speech to New Zealand’s legal system.

Dr Atkinson joined the Political Studies department in 1979 from a lectureship at Otago University to set up a new strand of politics and media.

He had been a newspaper journalist at the Christchurch Star before obtaining his MA with Honours at the University of Canterbury. He was awarded a Harkness Fellowship in 1971 to study for his PhD at Yale University.

Over the following 33 years, Dr Atkinson researched and developed courses on the changing nature of New Zealand print, radio and television news and current affairs, particularly the political content of television and the political economy of information.

His research and numerous publications included a series of election studies, one of which in 2002 was funded by a prestigious Marsden grant.

In 2010 he was a key organiser of The University of Auckland’s Winter Lectures on The end(s) of journalism. His own lecture discussed Politics as comedy.

“Those who have had the pleasure of hearing Joe teach or who have read his writing know what a gift he has with words and the elegance, clarity and telling effect with which he uses them,” says colleague, Emeritus Professor Barry Gustafson.

Dr Atkinson was for many years the Academic Director of the Chapman Audio-Visual News Archive, served as Deputy Head of Department for seven years; was President of the NZ Political Studies Association; and Secretary of the Jesson Trust Board.

He will continue his association with the Department as an Honorary Research Fellow.
New look, new voice

A book folded over your knee; the peak of Rangitoto; the letter A: a reference to Māori moko; or even a moustache? Read into it what you like, Auckland University Press has a smart new logo which is at the core of a major re-branding exercise.

“We wanted a new way to talk to the world,” says Press Director, Dr Sam Elworthy. “We went in search of a logo that could represent us on Twitter, Facebook and the website and give the Press a distinctive visual look.”

Award winning ALT Group (co-directed by Elam Fine Arts graduates Ben Corban and Dean Poole) were employed to come up with the logo and are now working on other aspects of the re-branding including new staff cards and the new catalogue.

“A re-branding is a chance to put a fresh lens on what a company stands for,” suggests Dean Poole. “The logo is really the signifier of that.

It’s not your portrait. It’s your signature.”

On 19 April, Veronika Meduna’s Science on Ice: Discovering the secrets of Antarctica was the first book launched with the new logo on it (watch out for the free giveaway on the Staff Intranet).

At the same time the Press has officially launched its new website www.press.auckland.ac.nz, a new e-newsletter, a new catalogue and in mid-year will be rolling out 250 key titles as e-books. Staff are also tackling some of the most ambitious publishing projects since the Press began publishing in 1962, notably a 1250-page Anthology of New Zealand Literature.

“Psychology and archaeology. Modernism and mōteatea. Sonnets and seismic shifts. We’re interested in almost everything,” runs one of the press’s taglines.

AUP staff with Dean Poole (left) and Ben Corban (far right)

Excitement builds for Writers Festival

The programme for the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival 2012 is once again brimming with talented authors and thinkers from around the globe.

The official launch of the festival programme was hosted by The University of Auckland on March 20. Hundreds of guests filled the Fale Pasifika to preview the line-up of local and international authors.

Among the acclaimed writers attending this year are former spy chief Dame Stella Rimington (UK), Booker Prize winner Roddy Doyle (Ireland) and beloved young adult writer Emily Rodda (Australia).

The University of Auckland is a gold sponsor of the festival, to be held from 9 to 13 May. As well as The University hosting the programme launch, a number of festival events will be held on-campus at the Fisher & Paykel Auditorium, and University staff feature prominently as writers, panellists and chairs.

Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd is presenting a session on his anticipated new book Why Lyrics Last: Evolution, Cognition, and Shakespeare’s Sonnets (2012). Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond will speak on Bligh: William Bligh in the South Seas (2011); Emily Perkins will discuss her new book The Forrests (2011); Witi Ihimaera will introduce audiences to his new book The Parahaka Woman (2012); and scientist Professor Lawrence Krauss visits New Zealand as a University of Auckland Hood Fellow, to talk about his New York Times Bestseller A Universe from Nothing.

To view a full festival programme see: www.writersfestival.co.nz.

University of Auckland staff receive a discount on tickets to any of the Writers on Campus sessions, which will be held at the Fisher & Paykel Auditorium on Saturday 12 May.

To book your tickets go to www.buytickets.co.nz

From the Vice-Chancellor

As our Annual Report 2011, available on our website at http://bit.ly/universityannualreport shows, the University performed well against budget despite the continuing impact of the global financial crisis. Total revenue of $933m was $34m ahead of budget, due mainly to better than expected performance in Tertiary Education Commission tuition subsidies, externally-funded research and a variety of sundry revenues, offset by lower revenues from domestic tuition fees. The changes in student-related revenues reflected changes in our mix of students, in particular a decline in numbers of taught postgraduates. Revenues from international students and the Performance Based Research Fund were largely on budget at $71m and $77m respectively.

On the cost side, operating expenditure (the general costs of running the University) increased by $17m over budget, and people costs by $18m, while costs of depreciation and leases reduced by $6m. The net effect of this was that overall expenditure increased by $29m to $901m and the university’s surplus of income over expenditure by $5m to $32m. This surplus, together with the cash put aside to meet depreciation, and planned borrowing, is what pays for our capital developments. This was our biggest year ever for capital expenditure with $17m invested in the Library, $14m in our IT infrastructure, $20m in Faculty teaching and research equipment and a whopping $180m in new and refurbished buildings, notably the Grafton Campus redevelopment, Arts 1, the Maths/Physics Building and University Hall.

Overall, the year was satisfactory in financial terms, despite the fact that we operate with much lower levels of revenue than peer universities overseas (for example, our revenues are only 60 percent those of equivalent-sized leading universities in Australia). I am grateful to staff at all levels in the faculties and service divisions who have managed their portion of the budget so carefully. I also want to record my thanks to those who have brought our huge campus development programme in on time and on budget, and to the staff and students who have put up with considerable disruption during the process. Fortunately there seems to be general agreement that the outstanding spaces we are creating makes all that worthwhile.

The University of Auckland News
Seelye legacy celebrated

Eve Seelye would have been delighted with the celebration that took place at University House on 19 March.

Two visiting Seelye Fellows, Professor Alan Hughes and Professor Agustin Fuentes, six Seelye Scholarship students, and the trustees of Eve and her husband Ralph’s trust gathered with University staff to hear more about the people behind the Seelye name and what is being achieved through their vision.

Trustee and former neighbour and friend James Hill told the story of Eve’s background, of how she and her parents had to escape the persecution of Jews in Vienna in 1938. Eve’s father was a medical doctor and had to retrain in New Zealand, as well as learning a new language. Eve was bright and took to education-and to one of her lecturers, Ralph. The two went on to study at Oxford, Eve later becoming a prominent anaesthetist, assisting with pioneering heart surgery.

“Eve considered that New Zealand had been fantastic to her and her family, and she and Ralph never took their education for granted. They both felt that they wanted to give something back to New Zealand.”

The discussions that followed led to the Ralph & Eve Seelye Charitable Trust being established in early 2004. While assisting in general charitable causes, the trust has a strong emphasis on education. It funds eminent researchers to visit The University of Auckland, and supports exceptional students across medical sciences, humanities and economics. To date, 38 fellowships and seven undergraduate/postgraduate scholarships have been awarded, with Eve actively involved as a trustee right up until her death in November 2010.

Seelye Scholarship recipient Marina Sardelic has found the financial support of great benefit while completing a conjoint degree in Law and Commerce. She hopes to sit her Law professionals next year and begin a career in the commercial field.

“It was great to learn more about Eve Seelye and her husband Ralph and the vision behind their generosity. Education was something they valued highly as it had contributed to their lives in such a profound way and they wanted to see it do the same for others,” she said.

University staff attending the event included the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor John Morrow, who spoke in his role as Chair of the Seelye Selection Committee.

Strong start for Tuakana Network

It has been a strong start to the year for the University’s Tuākana Learning Community, a University-wide programme supported by the Equity Office, offering a variety of academic and pastoral support opportunities enhancing success for Māori and Pacific students.

As teina (mentees), students in the programme are able to attend tutoring sessions, workshops and study groups led by senior student tuākana (mentors). Every faculty has its own Tuākana-like programme run by dedicated Tuākana coordinators.

Tuākana participants are already actively engaged in a wide range of initiatives within their faculties. At the Business School, a daily karakia from 8.40-8.50am is attended by around 25 students. In addition to encouraging Tuākana students to be on campus in time for early morning classes, this morning ritual helps ensure a positive start to the day.

As well as running tutorials for all first-year papers, the Faculty of Engineering is piloting a small group session, led by a senior lecturer, for Māori and Pacific students. The feedback on this programme is overwhelmingly positive.

Te Korowai Atawhai (Tuākana for Māori students at the Faculty of Education), assisted with ten powhiri during Orientation, all of which were well attended by incoming students and their families. The faculty’s first wananga on writing techniques was facilitated by the Te Fale Pouawhina (Student Learning Centre); again, the turn-out was strong. This year, all mainstream Māori and Pacific students studying Education at the Epsom Campus and at Manukau Institute of Technology are participating in a mentoring programme to ensure Tuākana students are tracking well academically.

The Equity Office ran the Summer 2012 Tuākana Training Orientation which brought together 70 tuākana, with keynote speeches from Professor Margaret Mutu and Tuākana Network founder and “koro” Professor Michael Walker (School of Biological Sciences).

“The variety of initiatives across the Tuākana Learning Community reflects the commitment to Māori and Pacific student academic success at The University of Auckland,” says Catherine Dunphy, Equity Office Analyst.

Geremy Hema, Tuākana Equity Adviser, agrees. “This is but a small sample of some of the exciting activities being run by Tuākana-affiliated programmes across the University.”

For more information about the University’s Tuākana Network Community see: http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/eq-equity-office/eq-tuakana
The Equity Office is now accepting applications for the University’s Excellence in Equity awards. The awards are presented biennially to individuals or teams in faculties, departments, schools, programmes, libraries and service divisions who demonstrate excellence in equity. Professional and academic staff are welcome to apply.

Applications must be linked to the University’s Strategic Plan, which provides a range of categories that support equity-focused research or initiatives. Selection criteria are based on evidence of outcomes, innovation, sustainability, the way in which the project links to the Strategic Plan, and how it serves – or has the potential to serve – as a model within the University.

For more information, please visit http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoq/home/about/ eo-equity-office/oe-equity-awards.

I am Associate Professor Dawn Garbett (School of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Faculty of Education) and I am passionate about the importance of teaching to the University.

Teaching is the focus of my research, service and professional life, culminating in being awarded a National Teaching Excellence Award in 2008. I work in teacher education, aiming to share that passion and educate student teachers to become inquiring professionals. I teach student teachers through science education in Graduate Diploma of Teaching programmes and masters students about self-study research methods.

Researching my practice underscores an ongoing commitment to improving my pedagogical practice and the learning outcomes of my students. My self-study research has added a theoretical lens to my teaching. For example, through reflecting on the experience of learning to ride a horse, I better understand learning from a student’s perspective. I realised that experts can make their skill look deceptively easy. My students have had 13,000 hours in classrooms and lecture theatres. Often, teaching looks easy to them but they haven’t understood the complexity of engaging students in learning. Making that relationship between teaching and learning explicit is the focus of much of my research and teaching.

I am currently the co-president of the Ako Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence executive. I have chaired the Glendowie Primary School Board of Trustees for five years and served as a trustee for eight years. I am a trustee on the local College Board too.

New associate professors

I am Associate Professor Gahan Gunasekara (Commercial Law) teaches undergraduate programmes at the Business School and postgraduate courses (in his specialist areas of privacy law and franchising law) in both the law and business faculties.

Since 2009 he has been a member of the academic reference committee for the Review of Privacy by the Law Commission which has recently released its final recommendations on reform of the Privacy Act.

Sri Lankan-born but New Zealand bred, Gahan graduated with a BA/LLB from Victoria University of Wellington where he was a student in the 1980s during a decisive period in New Zealand’s history. The activism he learnt there has had an influence on his career ever since.

While completing his masters degree in law at Auckland, Gahan commenced research into information privacy, a topic then in its infancy. He has also pioneered research in New Zealand into legal difficulties connected with business format franchising. In addition to publishing many journal articles and conference papers on both these and other subjects Gahan has also been a frequent commentator in news media on topical issues surrounding them.

Gahan enjoys both teaching and research. His greatest concern has been to foster awareness in the wider community as to how the legal framework impacts ordinary people and business activities. His current research includes the search for a legal framework for whistle-blowing at the international level as an alternative to WikiLeaks and for workable privacy protection when personal information is transferred from one country to another. Gahan is married with two teenage children.

Royal Society of New Zealand - James Cook Research Fellowships. Provides a stipend of $100k pa plus expenses. Open to applicants from Biological, Physical or Social Sciences. Two-year fellowships awarded to researchers who are recognised leaders in their respective fields, have the requisite qualifications and experience, and are able to demonstrate they have achieved national and international recognition in their area of scientific or technological research. Nomination form can be found at www.royalsociety.org.nz.

University deadline is Friday 22 June.

Contact Chris Tews, Fund Specialist, ext 88301, c.tews@auckland.ac.nz.

EU FP7 – “Marie Curie” Fellowships. Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships (IOF) provide an opportunity for New Zealand universities to host an EU-funded research fellow. The aim of the fellowship is to support training and professional development to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA). The award runs for 12-24 months in New Zealand followed by a 12 month reintegration period in an EU member state (including New Caledonia and French Polynesia) or an “associated country”. Applicants could come from all career stages but should have a doctoral degree or at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. The fellow should demonstrate actual or potential research leadership. There is also an International Incoming Fellowship (IIF) to enable NZ researchers to go to the EU with the aim of strengthening European research via knowledge transfer. The Research Office is able to offer individual support with the application process to applicants and/or supervisors/mentors.

University deadline is Thursday 9 August.

Contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, Research Office, ext 84886, d. saunders@auckland.ac.nz.
2003 invasion of Iraq and in June, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States released its report on 9/11. Taking the fall of the twin towers as an iconic moment in American history, Yuk went on to make a much more complicated crystalline art work which was chronologically arranged from September 11 to the London train bombings on 10 July 2005. This later work is called Shock and Awe 2005. As she writes: “I am always interested in this idea of the systems that I create – or other people create – that are, on the one hand highly rigid, but that also talk about chaos. They can swell and compress again.”

The unique formations of snow crystals which are on the one hand predetermined but then on the other, purely serendipitous, is ideal as a metaphor for systems of political control. It is well-known that no two snowflakes are alike, and that they form by chance, and have chilly consequences. A tiny speck of dust that gets carried up into the atmosphere by the wind has ice collecting around it until the snow crystal forms in one of four shapes: a long needle, a long hollow, six-sided prism, a thin, flat six-sided plate or a complex six-pointed star. Temperature determines the shape of the crystal, with the six-sided prism formed in the highest clouds where the temperature is the coldest. As the tiny snow crystals grow, they become heavier and fall, bumping into each other to form snowflakes. Each snowflake comprises between two and 200 of these separate snow crystals in the four shapes joined together.

Yuk was attracted to the snowflake, a favourite motif in crochet and paper cutting, as a framework for commenting on her contemporary geopolitical environment. It seemed to her that the world was indeed overcast. To point out how seemingly random and unconnected events might be tied into a pattern, she chose to collage her snowflakes from the news photography of particular days when the headlines and imagery were dominated by the age-old battles of Christian and Muslim. 8 November 2004, for example, carried the images of the previous day when US forces launched a major assault on the Iraqi town of Fallujah.

She writes: “I think about the snowflake as a framework...but you could also think of it as a constantly growing organism about the extent that chance and order impact upon our lives. A snowflake is such a rigid and complex pattern, but it is also formed totally by chance. If you analyse any particle and go down into it, you will see a structure. You can think of September 11 as part of a structure, a kind of crystallised framework. I wanted to use another form of communication to intuitively understand some of the issues around September 11. So time and the chronology of the works are critical.”

Paper-jams: artists between the covers, is an exhibition using books, collage and paper curated by Andrew Clifford, on show at Gus Fisher Gallery until 28 April 2012.

Linda Tyler

Yuk King Tan, Overcast (snowflakes) 2004-2005 photographic paper, resin-coated paper, photographic gelatin, dye, aluminium, adhesive, 345 x 345mm

Musical Understandings published by Oxford University Press presents an engaging collection of essays on the philosophy of music, written by Professor Stephen Davies (Department of Philosophy), one of the most distinguished philosophers in the field. He explores a range of topics in the philosophy of music, including how music expresses emotion and what is distinctive to the listener’s response to this expressiveness; the modes of perception and understanding that can be expected of skilled listeners, performers, analysts, and composers and the various ways in which these understandings can be manifest; the manner in which musical works exist and their relation to their instances or performances; and musical profundity. As well as reviewing the work of philosophers of music, a number of the chapters draw on and critically reflect on current work by psychologists concerning music. The collection includes new material, a number of adapted articles which allow for a more comprehensive, unified treatment of the issues at stake, and work published in English for the first time.
FRIDAY 20 APRIL

Windows 7 upgrade workshop
9am-11am CAD, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Phone 923-7951 with queries or to enrol.

SATURDAY 21 APRIL

Exhibition talk
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Dr Rosalind McClean, University of Waikato, is part of an international team studying Scottish migration and the Stones Home. In association with the Ballot: Bringing the Stones Home exhibition. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 24 APRIL

Engineering Careers Fair
10am-3pm, Engineering Atrium, 20 Symonds St. This is a great opportunity for students and recent graduates to meet employers and find out about graduate recruitment programmes and other opportunities. Communique 2012

Biddy Livesay: Two worlds (and another one) moving between art, advice and academia. 12noon-1pm Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, Bldg 423, 22 Symonds St. Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz

Bioengineering research seminar
Dr Sarah Daerfel, Biomechanics Group, Institute of Legal Medicine, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany. Adaptation of finite element human models. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UnServices House, 70 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 28 APRIL

Gallery concert
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. A live gallery concert of improvisations, graphic scores and text pieces with composer Ivan Zagni, School of Music lecturer Stephen Matthews and guests. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

SUNDAY 29 APRIL

The Stride for Success University Running Race
8am-2pm City Campus, Princes St. Entry is free for all University students and staff. Pull on your trainers and compete for your faculty or hall of residence in this inaugural University running race. You can run as an individual competitor in the elite six-mile race competing for the University Championship. Or get a team of ten together and race. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/adventure Sonic Art Showcase
5pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. School of Music postgraduate sonic arts students will challenge the conventional definitions of music in this concert, when they present their original electroacoustic music compositions live. Free. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 27 APRIL

School of Music lunchtime concert
10.55-11.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Featuring School of Music voice students. Free. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

Aotea NZ Māori Business Leaders Awards
6-8pm Alumni Marquee, Old Government House grounds, corner of Princes St and Waterloo Quadrant. The winner of this most prestigious award this year is Chris Mace. Register at https://secure.business.auckland.ac.nz/Mbla2012

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

Autumn Graduation ceremonies
Ceremony times at the Aotea Centre: 10.30am - Medical and Health Sciences 1.30pm - Science 4.30pm - cience 7.30pm - Creative Arts and Industries and Law. Fermata: time out to talk music seminar
Barbara Glaser, APO: The lowdown from the music industry. 5.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free. CEO of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Barbara Glaser, will discuss the challenges faced by orchestras and audiences in today’s world.

MONDAY 30 APRIL

Autumn Graduation ceremonies
Ceremony times at the Aotea Centre: 10.30am - Engineering 1.30pm - Business and Economics 4.30pm - Business and Law. Employing students as peer mentors: Passing the mantle of teaching 12noon-4pm CAD Seminar Rm, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg. This session will outline the principles behind peer-assisted study sessions and how they are being implemented in the Faculty of Engineering. Enrol at www.auckland.ac.nz/workshops or phone CAD reception on ext 88140.

TUESDAY 1 MAY

Communique 2012
Tommy Honey: Number 8 wire 12noon-1pm Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, Bldg 423, 22 Symonds St. Queries to t.guy@auckland.ac.nz

Les Woods Memorial Lecture
Prof John Ockendon, Emeritus Fellow, St Catherine’s College, Oxford. Mathematics under the bonnet. 6-8pm Lecture Theatre 1439, Engineering. Queries to enquires/math.auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 2 MAY

Annual leaders Awards
Aotearoa NZ Māori Business Leaders Awards 2012 - Jan 2013. Cedar home on forest reserve, quiet and private, patio and garden. Free. Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Apartments for rent. Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes, and great rental prices for long-term leases, call Andrew (09) 303 0501 or Lauren Valcarcel (021) 103 4865 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

Circle back: Four-bdrm (one bdrm set up as study) house for rent July 2012 - Jan 2013. Cedar home on forest reserve, quiet and private, patio and three balconies. Fully furnished, wifi package available. Suitable for visiting researcher/family, with easy access to schools, library, beaches, bus lines, and ferry to CBD. Rent neg. Contact lisa.samuels@gmail.com

Charming three-bdrm fully-furnished townhouse in Ebersville available to rent from May-July while owner does volunteer work overseas. Property has lovely sheltered small courtyard garden and is on a bus route to Newmarket University & CBD. $550 pw + phone etc. Contact Jan on 520 2625 or jan@cowte.com

One-bedroom apartment in City Centre (Nelson St). $300 pw includes everything! First come - first served. Please get in touch (021) 034 6258 or cliff885@gmail.com Fully furnished. Separate bdrm, living and bthrm. Available on Friday 5 May till end of July 2012. Note: Electricity, phone, Internet, water and heating are all included in rent. Contact: Dr Jan White, (021) 025 87579 or email jweditingservices1@gmail.com

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Bach on Waikite. Easter Jazz Festival and school holidays. 1930s refurbished family bach at Oparau, brilliant views and close to beach, with mooring. Please ring 624 5423 or email waikite@xtra.co.nz.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Apartments for sale. A feel of Europe - in the midst of the University. By Elam and Architecture School. Charming 1920s fully renovated two-bdrm with loft storage space and car park. Stone building - warm in winter, cool in summer. $480,000. Contact owner for more info and photos. Phone 372 6469.

MISCELLANEOUS

Brother HL-5170DN Mono Network Laser Printer for sale. 10/100 Base TX Ethernet as standard, USB 2.0 and parallel ports, up to 20ppm print speed, automatic duplex printing, 32MB memory. Trouble free for last five years. Ask questions and price at pavlova@orcon.net.nz

Editing and proofreading services for all academic, literary and general writing (short or lengthy items). Please contact Dr Jan White, (021) 025 87579 or email jweditingservices1@gmail.com

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 emberton@mondotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

Are you looking for a mature, reliable couple (n/s) to care for your home (and pet!) while you are away? Academic recently moved to Auckland. Current house-sits finished late June 2012. Term negotiable 4-12 months. Areas within 45 minutes of Epsom Campus preferred. Email Karen at jakaka100@yahoo.com

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events
Please email classified ads to univnewsadvertising@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost $20 (incl GST).

Acceptance of this offer indicates your agreement to these terms and conditions.
A discussion between Professor John Windsor (Surgery) and Associate Professor Bruce MacDonald (Electrical and Computer Engineering) who heads up the Technology for Health research theme in Engineering provided the catalyst for an initiative to “bridge the massive gap of Grafton Gully, the gap between Medicine and Engineering, and to find a way to bring these cultures together”.

“It became obvious that engineers wanting to innovate in the health space are severely hampered by the lack of opportunities to understand what happens in health and to regularly interface with clinicians,” says Professor Windsor.

Within a month of John and Bruce’s meeting of minds the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences first Engineers in Clinical Residence programme began with a one-week pilot programme exposing three Engineering students to the clinical work environment.

Doctoral students Paul Roberts, Robert Dunn and final-year undergraduate Sarah Milsom were chosen as the inaugural Engineers in Clinical Residence. The idea was to put them in technology-dependent medical specialties alongside lead clinicians who see problems and want solutions. They attended sessions at Auckland City Hospital’s Cardiothoracic Surgery, Clinical Engineering, General Surgery, Anaesthesia, Nutrition, Critical Care, Interventional Radiology and Neurosurgery departments, as well as going on visits to witness robotic surgery at Ascot Hospital and the Simulation Centre for Patient Safety at the Tamaki Innovation Campus.

During their debrief with Professor John Windsor, the three students were still synthesising the vast amount of information they had taken in through observation and what the practical implications might be. Discussion bounced from concepts of good design, personalised medical devices, technology for the masses, issues of over-engineering as well as engineering solutions and new applications of existing technologies which might be readily available and cost-effectively applied.

PhD candidate Robert Dunn suggested “all it would take would be to have an engineer sitting in surgery for a few days to observe how these things were used in practice” to identify an array of potential improvements.

“One thing that surprised me,” he said, “was the lack of cable management in surgery. All the cords and tubes go everywhere – they fall in the way, tangle up. In electrical engineering – you go into a container – every single cable is bolted to the wall, fixed and organised in a very rigorous fashion. Maybe you can’t get around that easily...”

Paul Roberts who is also completing his PhD in Electrical and Computing Engineering noted one of the astounding things for him was the similarity of problems between engineering disciplines and medicine. “For example, there is some very expensive device such as an ECG or a ventilator but the biggest functional problem is something small - a connector that always breaks, or a piece of metal occluding the battery compartment...”

Even the patient journey experienced through a systems engineering lens opened discussion on optimisation of people, ward and computer systems management – as well as health and safety.

“The Faculty of Engineering sees technologies for health as a key research focus and it is just so important and critical that engineers and clinicians talk together regularly and about all their interests, if we are to create the innovative solutions that are both needed and very possible given the strength of the expertise in the two faculties,” says Associate Professor MacDonald.

The success of the residence programme is encouraging and the faculties will follow up on potential ideas that emerged and promote additional and longer engagements.

This need for ongoing engineering problem-solving through exposure to clinical hospital settings will help define and develop what Engineers in Clinical Residence programmes might look like in the future and will also deliver subsequent practical and economic opportunities.

“In a broader sense,” Professor Windsor points out, “the health sector is asked every year to save millions of dollars and find efficiency gains while every year the population is increasing. There is no doubt that we need to find new ways of doing things. This is an exciting initiative to work with Engineers, to pool our expertise.”

Megan Fowlie