



MAKING SCIENCE WORK

Sir Paul Nurse (left) with Sir Peter Gluckman.

“How can we make science work for society and for the public good?”.

This was the question addressed by Sir Paul Nurse, President of the Royal Society, at his public lecture at the Grafton Campus on 14 January.

The lecture attracted an eager crowd of more than 200 people, with some choosing to stand at the back of the lecture theatre rather than forego the chance of hearing Sir Paul speak.

To an audience comprising many scientists as

well as people from the wider community, Sir Paul presented on two topics crucial to science: “how good decisions can be made about what scientific research should be supported for the public good” and “how good scientific advice can be given to society”.

For Sir Paul’s full speech, which ranges widely over the complexities and dilemmas of funding scientific research, and on the equally complex challenges of communicating science to society, can be found at www.pmcsa.org.nz (the office of the Prime Minister’s Science Advisory Committee).



Senior Chinese leader visits

Visiting the University in the last weeks of 2012 was Madam Liu Yandong, State Councillor of the People’s Republic of China, the most senior Chinese leader our institution has hosted.

Madam Liu, who is also Chair of the Council of Hanban (the Confucius Institute headquarters), and who will become a Vice-Premier in March, was in New Zealand to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and China.

Joining her delegation on 9 December were China’s Minister of Education Yuan Guiren, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang, the Director-General of Hanban Madam Xu Lin, the ambassadors of both countries, and other eminent Chinese officials.

For a longer story on Madam Liu’s visit, see the University Staff Intranet News.

Highlighted event

Auckland Live - 20/20 Vision

For fast-forward thinking from six of the University’s internationally celebrated graduates, come along on 28 February to hear the winners of this year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards discuss their careers, and their vision for New Zealand and the world.

The event to be held from 6pm at the Auckland Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) Auditorium at Grafton Campus will be hosted by alumnus and Qantas Media Award winner Finlay Macdonald.

These impressive alumni have excelled in a wide variety of industries: winemaking, art,

architecture, politics, bioscience, and business - and their insights are not to be missed! The speakers are Dr Jilly Evans (Science), Norman Godden (Arts), Kim Goldwater (Engineering); the Honourable Jim McLay CNZM, QSO (Law), Andrew Patterson (National Institute of Creative Arts & Industries), and Young Alumnus of the Year Simon Denny (National Institute of Creative Arts & Industries).

The reception is at 6pm, doors open 6.15pm, and the show begins at 6.30pm. Book tickets at www.iticket.co.nz and for more information visit www.auckland.ac.nz/live

New professors



Professor Joanne Wilkes

(Department of English) was educated at Sydney and Oxford universities and specialises in Romantic and Victorian Literature.

Her 1999 book, *Lord Byron and Madame de Staël: Born for Opposition*, won two international prizes. Her most recent critical study, *Women Reviewing Women in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Ashgate, 2010) examined how women literary critics responded to novelists such as Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë and George Eliot.

Joanne also has a long record as an editor of women's writing, beginning with Geraldine Jewsbury's 1848 novel, *The Half Sisters* (1994, revised 1998). She went on to edit for Pickering & Chatto Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* in 2005, and has recently been involved in editing / co-editing for the same publisher, three volumes of the literary criticism of Margaret Oliphant (1828-97).

She has been active in service at departmental, faculty and University levels, and is currently Head of the English Department.



Professor Julie Park

Graduating from the University of Otago with BA, MA First Class Hons, and PhD in Anthropology in the 1970s, Professor Julie Park received academic appointment to the University of

Auckland in 1993.

Her research interests include medical anthropology in New Zealand and Polynesia, transnationalism, and New Zealand anthropology. She is currently working with colleagues on projects funded by the Health Research Council of NZ (HRC) and Marsden Fund respectively, on Pacific health, and on moral reasoning at the intersection of reproductive technologies and on genetic difference in New Zealand.

A book, co-edited with Dr Susanna Trnka and Dr Christine Dureau (Anthropology), *Senses and Citizenship: Embodying Political Life* (Routledge) is due out in April. Amongst significant publication of journal articles, books and monographs, Julie's publications include "Whakapapa in Anthropological Research on Tuberculosis in the Pacific" (Sites, 2011); "Tuberculosis and Syndemics: Implications for Pacific Health in New Zealand" (Social Science & Medicine, 2009); and *Ladies a*

Plate (Auckland University Press, 1991).

Julie's current teaching and graduate supervisions include Medical Anthropology, Ethnographic Research Methods, and New Zealand ethnography.



Professor Laurence Simmons

(Film, Television and Media Studies) was co-founder of the department at the University of Auckland in 1992, employed full-time in the department 2005, and appointed

Head of Department in 2010.

He has three main research and publication interests: contemporary art and film; Italian Renaissance culture and Italian film; and critical theory (including film, media and television theory) and visual culture.

His publications include a book on contemporary New Zealand painting and photography, *The Image Always Has the Last Word* (Dunmore, 2002), a volume on Freud's papers on aesthetics, *Freud's Italian Journey* (Rodopi, 2005), *Rethinking New Zealand: Essays and Interviews on Intellectuals and Public Culture* (Auckland University Press, 2006) and *Tuhituhi, William Hodges Cook's Painter in the South Pacific* (Otago University Press, 2011).

Laurence has been awarded two Creative New Zealand grants, a Senior Fulbright Fellowship and Visiting Scholar awards at the universities of UCLA Santa Barbara, Australian National University and the University of Cambridge.



Professor Phillippa Poole

(Department of Medicine) has a BSc in Mathematics and MBChB from The University of Auckland and is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of

Physicians. She gained an MD (Auckland) in 2012.

As a staff member of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and through her many international activities, Phillippa has contributed strongly to the development of medical education throughout Australia and New Zealand. She is now Head of the Department of Medicine, and combines her clinical academic position in the department with her work as a specialist general physician with Auckland District Health Board.

Phillippa's strong and continuing commitment to the health of New Zealanders is shown in her research interests, which span two distinct areas. One is in the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and the other is in medical

education and development of an appropriate medical workforce for NZ, which was the topic of her MD research and has been a continuing theme in her career.



Professor Paul Kench

(Environment) is a coastal geomorphologist and a leading scholar in coral reef and reef island geomorphology.

Internationally,

he has developed a unique research programme focused on understanding the environmental controls on the formation and future stability of low-lying coral reef islands located throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans. His work has made a major contribution to global debates concerning the vulnerability and physical stability of small island nations. In New Zealand, his research focuses on coastal morphodynamics and processes on gravel beach systems, shore platform processes and medium-scale coastal change.

Paul completed his BA and MA at The University of Auckland, and earned his PhD from the University of New South Wales. He has held academic positions at the Universities of Melbourne, Waikato and Auckland and this year will take up the role of Head of School of Environment.



Professor Michael Parekowhai

(Elam School of Fine Arts) is one of New Zealand's most important contemporary art practitioners.

His work is held in all significant

public and private collections throughout New Zealand and Australia, as well as in permanent collections across the Asia-Pacific region and Europe.

He has an extensive exhibition history, including the Venice Biennale (2011); the Asia Pacific Triennial (2006-2007); the Gwangju Biennale (2004); and the Sydney Biennale (2002).

Michael received an Arts Foundation Laureate Award in 2001 and was awarded the Premier of Queensland Sculpture Commission in 2012.



Professor James Curran

(Department of Statistics) is a world leading researcher in forensic statistics, in particular statistical analysis of trace evidence,

forensic genetics and expert systems for evidence evaluation.

He consults with forensic agencies in New Zealand, Australia, and the United Kingdom and is involved with the production of expert systems software for the interpretation of evidence. His work has influenced forensic operations internationally, and he has developed several major commercial software packages that allow people without his level of statistical expertise to evaluate forensic evidence.

In addition to his focus on forensic statistics, James also has strong interests in statistical computing and automation projects. James earned his BSc and MSc in mathematics and PhD in statistics from The University of Auckland. He is currently a director of the University's Bioinformatics Institute and President of the New Zealand Statistical Association.



Professor Grant Covic (Electrical and Computer Engineering) heads power electronics research at The University of Auckland and co-leads the inter-operability sub-team within the

SAE J2954 wireless charging standard for electric vehicles.

He graduated from the University BE(Hons) PhD and was appointed as a full time lecturer in 1992, a senior lecturer in 2000, and associate professor in 2007 within Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In 2010 he co-founded (with Professor John Boys), a new global start-up company HalolPT focusing on electric vehicle (EV) wireless charging infrastructure. Today his research and consulting interests include power electronics, electric vehicle battery charging and inductive (contact-less) power transfer (IPT).



Professor Frederick Kroon (Department of Philosophy) has research interests in mathematical and philosophical logic, the philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology,

ethics, and the philosophy of fiction.

His work is published extensively in books and journals, among them some of the most prestigious English-language journals in philosophy, such as the *Philosophical Review*, *the Journal of Philosophy*, *Nous*, *Ethics*, and *Philosophical Studies*. Much of his recent work has resulted from invitations to contribute to essay collections for publishers such as Oxford University Press, for whom he is currently

completing a book on language and pretence.

For the past 15 years he has also been an editor (more recently an author) for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Frederick has served as Head of the Philosophy Department, and has chaired the University's Human Participants Ethics Committee. He is currently the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) for the Faculty of Arts.



Professor Frank Bloomfield (Liggins Institute and Department of Paediatrics: Child and Youth Health) completed his clinical training as a neonatologist in England, Canada and New Zealand

and studied for his PhD at The University of Auckland. After a postdoctoral placement at the University of Toronto in Canada, he returned to join the staff of The University of Auckland.

Frank practises clinically at National Women's Health, Auckland City Hospital and heads the LiFePATH research group at the Liggins Institute. He leads a large multidisciplinary research group of scientists, clinicians, research nurses, technicians and administrators in a programme focusing on fetal and neonatal nutrition, growth and development. He is well-known internationally for his research on development of the fetal hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and the developmental consequences of altered intrauterine growth. Frank is President of the Perinatal Society of New Zealand and President-Elect of the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand.



Professor Andrew Jeffs (Leigh Marine Laboratory) is an expert in aquaculture and marine biotechnology, industries that have been rapidly growing in New Zealand.

His research interests are broad, ranging from applied projects working closely with the seafood industry to more esoteric marine ecological issues related to aquaculture. He undertakes consultancy in these areas for international companies and government agencies.

Andrew has played a major role in the emergence of research describing the ecological significance of underwater sound in the marine environment, and has developed novel underwater equipment to advance the field. He is also a leader in the ecology and aquaculture of spiny lobsters, and studies a wide variety of commercially important species.

Andrew earned his BSc and MSc in Zoology and his PhD in Marine Biology from The University of Auckland. Before joining the University as a member of academic staff, he was General Manager for Aquaculture and Marine Biotechnology at NIWA.



Professor André Nies' (Computer Science) primary interest is in computation and its connections to mathematics. Much of his work is in computability, a subfield of mathematical logic,

which gives a theoretical background for applications such as analysing the limits of current computers.

Over the last decade he has studied the interaction between computability and randomness, and more recently he has focused on the connection between randomness and effective analysis.

André studied at Universität Heidelberg, and has held academic positions at the Universities of Wisconsin at Madison, and Cornell University, for a semester each, and the University of Chicago for five years. He joined The University of Auckland in 2002, and has since won two Marsden grants as a principal investigator.

André's research is internationally renowned and he is one of only three New Zealand-based mathematicians to be invited to speak at the International Congress of Mathematicians. His book *Computability and Randomness* was published in 2009 by Oxford University Press.



Professor Alexei Drummond (Department of Computer Science) describes himself as an evolutionary biologist who relies heavily on computational science to model complex biological processes.

His research interests are centred around probabilistic models of molecular evolution and population genetics, using evolutionary methods to study everything from the spread of HIV to the expansion of languages.

Alexei completed his BSc and PhD at The University of Auckland and spent three years at the University of Oxford before returning here. He is the developer of open-source scientific software package BEAST, used by scientists around the world for the analysis of molecular sequences, and wrote the prototype for the award winning software package Geneious. He is the founding

scientist and Director of Biomatters, a bioinformatics software company.

Since returning to New Zealand Alexei has been principal investigator on two Marsden Grants and recently was awarded a Rutherford Fellowship.



Professor Simon Malpas

(Department of Physiology, School of Medical Sciences, and Auckland Bioengineering Institute), investigates the role of the central nervous system in

the development of cardiovascular disease with a specific focus on the sympathetic nervous system.

His research team has developed a range of platform technologies for the wireless monitoring of physiological signals. This research was commercialised through the spin-out company, Telemetry Research in 2005 which maintains a strong research and development programme in collaboration with the Auckland Bioengineering Institute. More recently the company merged with Millar Instruments and Simon is Chief Scientific Officer for the company.

Simon is a graduate of Victoria University and The University of Otago and he did postdoctoral research in Japan, the United Kingdom, and

Australia before returning to New Zealand in 1996 to an academic position in the Department of Physiology.



Professor Poul Michael Fønss Nielsen (Auckland Bioengineering Institute, Department of Engineering Science, and Liggins Institute) is a Principal

investigator in the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, an academic member of the Department of Engineering Science, and an Honorary Professor of the Liggins Institute.

Poul's research focuses on using novel instrumentation, detailed computational models, and quantitative descriptions of physical processes to gain a better understanding of human physiology. Many of his projects couple mathematical modelling with innovative instrumentation to improve our ability to understand and interpret measurements of complex biological systems, subject to the constraints of well-understood physical conservation and balance laws.



Professor Susan Stott (Department of Surgery) completed her MBChB at The University of Auckland, became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1989, and was

awarded a Fellowship of the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitative Medicine in 2004.

Susan joined the staff of the University in 1997 after working in the United States and completing her PhD at the University of Southern California. She currently divides her time between the Department of Surgery and Starship Children's Hospital, where she is a paediatric orthopaedic surgeon and Clinical Director of the Paediatric Orthopaedic Department. Since 2008 she has been a Board Member of the Health Research Council of New Zealand and a member of the HRC Ethics Committee.

The major focus of Susan's research is on the impact of acquired neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy on musculoskeletal function and walking ability in childhood. She is currently working with colleagues from Auckland Bioengineering Institute to develop musculoskeletal models to better understand the changes in muscle and joint function in children with neurological and other physical disabilities.

What's on

SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Exhibition talk

The nervous motion between art, narrative and science. 1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Emeritus Professor Roald Hoffmann from Cornell University, will discuss the images on display in the *Art of the Invisible* exhibition. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Hood Fellow lecture

Prof Joanna Aizenberg, Harvard University: *Learning from nature how to build smart, adaptive materials.* 2pm Rm 423-342, 22 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Bioengineering research seminar

Syn Schmitt, Human Movement Simulation Lab, Dept of Sport and Exercise Science, and Oliver Röhrle, Junior Research Group on Continuum Biomechanics and Mechanobiology, Institute of Mechanics, University of Stuttgart: *What can we learn from the biological motor using simulation technology and engineering techniques?* 4-5pm, Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Inaugural lecture

Prof Saville Kushner: *Educational achievement and other illusive outcomes: How the measureable overwhelms the immeasurable.* 7pm, Lecture Theatre 102, OGH. RSVP to <http://savillekushnerlecture.eventbrite.co.nz> All welcome.

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Exhibition event

Discussion with Dr Cather Simpson: *Where is the soul in science, and where should it be?* 1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Available now: One-bdrm apartment in city centre. Close to Britomart, Foodtown, Downtown Shopping Centre, University, Queen St. Stunning views of harbour, Rangitoto, Eastern Suburbs. Fully furnished including whiteware, DVD, Sky TV. Plenty of parking nearby. Ideal tenants: professional, no pets or smokers please. \$420 pw. Phone (09) 348 5319 or (021) 932 391 or email prasadm@pool.co.nz
Comfortable room with separate

bthrm available from mid January 2013 in a modern, sunny, four bdrm Grafton townhouse (share with owner). Short walk to the University, Hospital, Medical School and Auckland Domain. Suit visiting academic/professional. References available and will send photos on request. \$250pw + expenses. Contact sallyg46@gmail.com

Devonport, three-bdrm fully-furnished character home for rent. Available mid-June 2013 to end January 2014. Quiet friendly neighbourhood. Ten minute walk to Devonport village, schools, and ferry to Auckland campuses. Sunny with private garden and modern appliances. Three dble bdrms, two living areas, high-speed Internet. Rent negotiable. Email d.lefevre@auckland.ac.nz

Freemans Bay townhouse for rent. Enjoy the ease of living within walking distance of the University. Sunny, warm spacious townhouse with two dble bdrms, internal two car garage, furnished or unfurnished. \$550 pw. Available March 2013 until March 2014. Contact Gill, (027) 2856444 or gill.dobbie@gmail.com

Grafton apartment for rent. Two bdrm, unfurnished, secure complex, two carparks, pool and gym. Minutes walking from Medical School and University. Available from mid February. Contact Benson Kerse on (09) 5381059.

Kingsland. Two-bdrm town house to share with owner. Only 2.5 kms from University. Easy bike, train, or bus ride. Fully furnished, quiet, secure, wireless

Internet. Short or long term. Prefer non-smoker, female. \$190 pw. Phone Helen on (027) 301 6888 or email helenpow@gmail.com

Mt Eden apartment: Fully furnished, cosy and modern big apartment. \$280 pw including expenses. One large bdrm, lounge, kitchen and bbq area. Electricity, water, phone (free nationwide calls) and 30GB Internet. One stage bus fare to downtown, two minutes to bus stop, 10 mins walk to Mt Eden shops, quiet neighbours and close to amenities. Available 17 March until 20 April 2013. Contact Mariaelena on (021) 1420445 or email m.huambachano@auckland.ac.nz anytime to arrange to view.

Office/studio for rent. Suit designer/writer/architect/composer etc. Light, quiet, clean and private space accommodating one or two people. Facilities include an air conditioner/heater and separate phone line. Close to Mt Eden train station and bus services. \$150 pw plus Internet. Contact Marianne on (09) 308 9072, (021) 023 12340 or mschultz@iconz.co.nz

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.