



Photo Chris Mashall

RICH EXCHANGE

“A lot of people ask me if it was a culture shock”, says Human Resources Adviser Tania Drain, speaking of her return to New Zealand after ten weeks working in a Human Resources placement at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia (KAUST).

“I wouldn’t say I was shocked; it’s just different over there.”

Tania is an adviser in Advisory and Shared Services here at The University of Auckland and worked in Strategy and Policy at KAUST, enjoying the “amazing facilities” and the chance to work with “some really fantastic people over there”.

Now Tania is back home, and she and her colleagues in HR are returning the favour by welcoming Ayman Al Shehri (pictured) to the teams at Alfred Nathan House and Short Street.

“I feel comfortable here,” says Ayman, “because New Zealand is such a multicultural environment; as a foreigner I feel accepted here, walking down the street”.

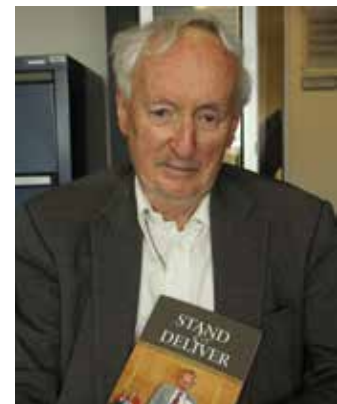
No stranger to New Zealand, Ayman has visited once before and travelled extensively in Europe and America.

“These days people in Saudi Arabia have more opportunity to travel a lot.” This is due to the Saudi Arabian government creating a scholarship strategy to encourage young Saudis to study

abroad, not only so the youth can experience other cultures, “but to change the overall mentality that we have in Saudi Arabia and create future leaders,” says Ayman.

For Tania, who has worked in HR for nine years – six and a half years at The University of Auckland – her trip to Saudi Arabia reinforced her experience to date. “It made me realise that I can do HR anywhere and hit the ground running,” she says. The opportunity to work in HR strategy and policy was a great experience and helped confirm her enjoyment of the generalist HR she practices at Auckland.

Continued on page 2



Most prolific author?

“I hope I can write as many books as you by the time I’m 82,” said Natasha Hamilton-Hart, Acting Director of the New Zealand Asia Institute, to Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling at the celebration of his 82nd birthday at the Business School.

“However,” she was quick to add with a smile, “I have to admit I’m a bit behind.”

The event was held not only to celebrate Nicholas’s birthday but to mark the publication of his five latest books, bringing the total of volumes he has written or edited up to this point in his long and illustrious career to a very impressive 55 (41 authored and 14 edited).

Continued on page 3

Your feedback

Watch out for information about a survey on the content of the *University News* and Staff Intranet in the next Vice-Chancellor’s update.

The Communications Office is keen to improve these two key communication platforms and will be canvassing all staff for their views on content and the sorts of stories they would like to read.

You can take the survey now at <http://goo.gl/zm2J4> It will take five minutes of your time.

New treasure for 'Special Collections'



Now to be found in the "Special Collections" of the University Library is a book of special significance, officially handed over to University

Librarian Janet Cosey by the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust (KEECT) at a celebration at University House on 6 December.

Hand-made of vellum parchment and gold-tooled, the large leather-bound book holds the stories of some extraordinary women, all of whom were members of the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Federation of University Women at some period between 1920, when it began, and its closure in 2006.

The book was started in 1955 by hand inscribing the educational and public service contributions of deceased members. When the KEECT was established in 2006 it undertook to continue work on the book and its trustees decided to also include "living memorials" to such outstanding women as Dame Dorothy Winstone.

Chair of the KEECT, Emeritus Professor Charmian O'Connor (Chemistry), told guests her mother had joined the branch in 1950 and undertook fundraising work such as helping make regalia to hire out for graduation ceremonies. The KEECT now oversees the operation of Academic Dress Hire, a highly successful business which funds an expanding programme of awards and scholarships for women and girls in the

Auckland area.

Also speaking at the event were Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity) Trudie McNaughton and Jane Bellamy, who co-ordinates the awards funded by the KEECT and is herself featured in the book. Jane read out examples of the 59 entries.

Among guests were former branch members and their families and friends; the author of the 13 entries in the Living Memorials section, Dr Michelle Smith; calligrapher Theresa Cashmore; KEECT Trust Manager Sue Marshall; and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement) Professor Jenny Dixon.

Photo: Among the women whose lives were honoured by their inclusion in the book was Beryl Green, mother of Professor Louise Nicholson from the Faculty of Medical and Health Science – pictured at the ClockTower Building during her masters' year (1942). Beryl, a Golden Graduate of The University of Auckland (with three of her four children also graduates) told *Uninews* at the event: "I loved my time at the University. I had a wonderful four years. University education extends you, even independently of the way you use it vocationally. It was a very enriching experience."

Rich exchange continued from page 1

Ayman has worked in HR for eight years, and while in New Zealand he is relishing the opportunity to work with the Recruitment and Solutions Team and the Staff and Organisational Development Unit on such diverse projects as improving the AskHR service and launching the new system, and observing the development of the FAR project.

While Tania found "being surrounded by a different religion" in Saudi Arabia made her

appreciate the freedom we enjoy in New Zealand "especially as a woman", Ayman has enjoyed the chance to get out and walk, as the weather in Saudi Arabia is too hot to walk anywhere.

"The one thing I do, I think, for the first time in my life is walking, walking, walking – you have some beautiful parks."

At KAUST Ayman is used to working with over 70 different nationalities in a mixed team. "Previously I could never have imagined that I

would be working next to someone from South America and Australia," he says. His New Zealand work experience has made him think about the difficulties that his international colleagues at KAUST may face.

"My whole career I was a citizen of my country; this is the first time I've seen things from the other side of the equation. When I go back (to Saudi Arabia) I can understand the language and feelings of the people coming to KAUST."

Highlighted events

Inaugural awards

Invited guests will join noted arts patron Sir James Wallace at Nathan House at 5pm on 28 February as he presents the first Wallace Masters in Creative Writing Award 2012 and two Wallace Masters in Creative Writing Scholarships for 2013. The first will provide a \$5,000 award for the student who presented the best end-of-year work for this masters degree last year, while the second will provide fees scholarships for the two current students with the best portfolios. Vice Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon will host the event, joined by students from last years' Masters in Creative Writing, teachers and advisers to the programme, and Department of English staff.

A new beginning

Hood Fellow, Professor Arturo Arias from the University of Texas at Austin, is giving a public lecture: "Oxlajuj B'aqtun: Not the end but a new beginning for Maya, indigenous peoples and the Earth. This lecture, to be held at 6pm on Tuesday 12 March at the Business School Lecture Theatre B4, will focus on dispelling the myths surrounding the Maya Calendar and the 21/12/2012 predictions as well as addressing some of the wider issues for indigenous cultures and looking at how groups are coming together to face common issues such as racism, shrinking territories and protection of the earth and its resources.

Speaking of Lear

Lisa Harrow, world-renowned Shakespearean actress and director of this year's 50th-anniversary Summer Shakespeare production of King Lear, will give a public lecture entitled "Working on Lear", on Monday 4 March, 6.30pm at Old Government House Lecture Theatre. Lisa's lecture will discuss what working on a theatrical production of a play is like, and how this differs from reading it or approaching it from an academic perspective. Well-known actor and director, Michael Hurst, who is co-directing the production with Lisa and playing The Fool, will be facilitating the lecture.

100 percent success in global awards



All three Auckland-led proposals submitted to the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) have received awards in the latest round from WUN's Research Development Fund.

An additional three award-winning projects include University of Auckland researchers, though they are led by partner institutions.

WUN provides funding to projects focused on finding solutions to key issues of global concern: adapting to climate change, global higher education and research, public health (non-communicable disease) and understanding cultures. The successful Auckland-led projects address three of these themes.

Led by professor Andrew Jeffs from Leigh Marine Research Centre is "Ocean eddies in a changing climate: Understanding the impact on coastal climates and worldwide fisheries production". Andrew's team, comprising researchers from seven institutions on five continents, will investigate the effects of climate change on ocean eddies - systems which provide the critical link between ocean and coastal ecosystems and are of vital importance to fisheries production.

The "Comparative analysis of international refugee resettlement international law obligations and policy", led by Chris Mahony (Law), will bring together researchers to compare refugee resettlement in New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the UK and Japan. The research will depart from orthodox research of refugee resettlement practice and outcomes by concentrating on the states' legal resettlement support obligations and the extent to which those are met by policy.

Most Prolific author continued from page 1

This surely must make him the most prolific author of any member of the University's staff throughout its 130-year history. (Anyone knowing otherwise is invited to pass the information to the editor of *Uninews*.)

In the photo Nicholas is holding one of his recent books, published by Dunmore Press in 2012. Among other recent volumes authored by Nicholas are *Status and Security in Southeast Asian State Systems*, published by Routledge in

"In practice," says Chris, "refugee resettlement is open to a range of interpretations and there is alarmed concern that policies that do not reflect international law obligations may drive poor resettlement outcomes - outcomes that often foster racial disharmony.

Professor Philip Baker and his team in the Liggins Institute will employ biomarkers to analyse environmental factors associated with fetal growth restriction in pregnancy. The work may lead to novel new treatments and simple dietary and lifestyle measures that could significantly affect the outcome of a woman's pregnancy and the child's long-term health.

The three partner-led projects will see University of Auckland researchers collaborating with colleagues from the Universities of Alberta, Bergen, and Zhejiang, among others. The projects include "Evaluating the potential for urban agriculture to enhance food security in response to climate change" with Professor Richard Le Heron and Dr. Nicholas Lewis (School of Environment); "Bridging health promotion and sustainability science: Transition to the green economy" with Dr Kim Dirks (Epidemiology and Biostatistics); and "Establishment of a WUN language assessment network" with Professor Rod Ellis and Associate Professors John Read (Applied Language Studies and Linguistics) and Lawrence Zhang (Education).

Chris Mahony (left) with Saleem Vahidy, Chief of Witness Protection, UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.

2013 and *Britain and Portuguese Timor 1941-1946*, also published this year by Monash University Publishing.

Note that Natasha Hamilton-Hart is also the author of a number of books on Southeast Asia, the latest being *Hard Interests, Soft Illusions: Southeast Asia and American power*, which was published by Cornell University Press in 2012 and will be featured in a later issue of *Uninews*.

From the Vice-Chancellor



We are now at the point in the year when we begin to get an early feel for our enrolment patterns and thus for likely student numbers during the balance of 2013. Our ability to enrol the appropriate mix of students is critical to our strategy to attract students of high academic potential and give them an outstanding experience; at the same time our ability to secure the right numbers of students in each programme is the single biggest determinant of our annual financial performance. Early indications are that our enrolments remain strong, as they have done in recent years. This appears to be true across our domestic and international students, and in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Overall enrolments are ahead of those at the same time last year in six of our faculties, on a par with last year in one (Law) and marginally behind last year in Education. Since we limit entry to our programmes, this does not mean that we will necessarily have higher numbers at the end of the enrolment period (beyond the additional 500 students we have targeted, particularly in postgraduate programmes), but it does mean that we continue to experience strong demand for access to the University and on-going improvements in the efficiency of our enrolment processes. All the staff involved in our processes are to be congratulated on these improvements, which are so critical to getting the year off to a good start.

Enrolments are looking particularly strong in the faculties of Medical and Health Sciences, Science and Engineering. These are in line with the government strategy to promote the STEM subjects as drivers of economic development. The strong demand in Engineering will help us to fill the additional 150 places funded by government this year, taking the Faculty of Engineering to about 650 more students than it had five years ago. This will of course put the faculty under some pressure but the major refurbishment of Engineering facilities already approved by Council at a cost of over \$200 million will help to support this expansion. Meanwhile, it is very encouraging to see strong interest across the full range of disciplines so important to a comprehensive university.

New professors



Seventeen former associate professors at the University have been promoted to professor. This is a mark of distinction which recognises professional and academic eminence at an international level.

Sixteen of the new professors were profiled in the last issue of *Uninews*: with the profile of

Professor Jason Ingham inadvertently omitted. This bio appears below, with apologies and warm congratulations to Jason.

Seismic responses and advances

Professor Jason Ingham (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), did his BE (Hons) and ME (Dist) at The University of Auckland, followed

by a PhD at the University of California at San Diego where he investigated the seismic response of elevated concrete freeway frames.

Jason joined The University of Auckland as a staff member in 1995 and undertook a University of Auckland MBA in 2004. In that same year he was awarded a \$3.75million research grant to investigate and develop guidelines for seismic assessment and retrofit of earthquake prone buildings.

This project led to The University of Auckland being admitted to the Natural Hazards Research Platform in 2010, with Jason subsequently receiving further grants linked with reporting the damage to unreinforced masonry buildings in the Canterbury Earthquakes and research recommendations arising from the earthquakes. Currently Jason is also the President of the New Zealand Concrete Society.

Marine biology students scoop the pool



University of Auckland students have won four of five national scholarships in quantitative marine biology.

Bianca Staines (pictured left), Asher Cook, Tom Stoner and Yi Ken Lim have each won a \$5,000 Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) bursary that aims to help grow New Zealand's pool of marine biologists with solid quantitative skills.

Bianca, in her last year of a BSc, says winning a MPI Undergraduate Scholarship in Quantitative Marine Biology "really blew my mind. I jumped in circles for at least a minute. It means a lot to me, as throughout my studies I've been caught between keeping my grades high and my night job as maitre d' in an Italian restaurant... The scholarship came as quite a relief financially, but it also reconfirmed that I've been doing well."

MPI scientist Rich Ford says that despite the size and importance of New Zealand's seas, we're

desperately short of marine biologists with the ability to crunch numbers. "Important resource management questions need quantitative answers," he says, "and we hope this scholarship [which began in 2009] will encourage students to use their skills for New Zealand in the future."

To be eligible, students had to be taking at least one second-year statistics or mathematics course in second year, and in their third year, planning for two statistics or mathematics courses as well as a stage-three marine biology course.

Asher Cook (who is pursuing a Bachelor of Ecology) and Tom Stoner (a BSc student in Marine Science and Statistics) both say that the scholarship has encouraged them to explore post-graduate studies. Yi Ken Lim (BSc in Biology and Statistics) is also hoping the scholarship will help create study options for him in the future.

Alumni of distinction

Six internationally celebrated alumni from the University will be honoured as "distinguished alumni" at a gala dinner to be held 1 March.

Excelling in fields from science and innovation through to the visual arts, five will receive Distinguished Alumni Awards, with the sixth receiving the title of "Young Alumnus of the Year".

More than 400 guests will attend the dinner in the marquee on the Old Government House lawn.

As well as addressing the dinner, each of the distinguished alumni will share a vision for their industry to 2020, at an "Auckland Live! 20/20 Vision" event on Thursday 28 February (6-8pm,

AMRF Auditorium, Park Road, Grafton Campus).

The six are: Dr Jilly Evans (Faculty of Science), who has led major drug development programmes in Canada and the United States and is a founder of PharmAria Therapeutics in San Diego; Andrew Patterson (National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries), an internationally award-winning architect and director of Patterson Associates Ltd; Hon Jim McLay (Faculty of Law), New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, who has previously been Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Attorney General and Minister of

Justice; Kim Goldwater (Faculty of Engineering), a pioneering and internationally acclaimed vintner and founder of the Waiheke Island Goldwater Vineyard and wine brand; Norman Godden (Faculty of Arts), a leader in New Zealand business for many years, including as managing director and founding partner at Sheffield Ltd; Young Alumnus of the Year, Simon Denny (National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries), an internationally celebrated artist with works held in national collections in different countries.

First insight into cultural collections



The University's "Cultural Collections" are richly diverse, ranging from botanical collections held in the University's gardens to architectural plans and drawings in the Architecture Library. This is the first in a series of articles that aim to provide a glimpse into the wonderful objects and resources these collections preserve and make available. Linda Tyler writes of the University's collection of Lippincott furniture.

During the boom years of the 1920s, an architectural competition for the new Auckland University College brought American architect Roy Alston Lippincott (1885-1969) to New Zealand.

What is distinctive and original about the clock tower he designed (with Australian Edward Fielder Billson) is its synthesis of indigenous Māori design with European Gothic spires and pinnacles: it anticipated introductions of Māori motifs as decoration into Art Deco design a decade later.

In a similar way, the Lippincott chairs and tables still remaining in the University's buildings introduce a Prairie School style and adapt it to the vernacular by interpreting it in native timbers. Using local materials is a cornerstone principle of the influential Arts and Crafts movement founded by William Morris in England in the nineteenth century. Lippincott was schooled in the North American equivalent of Arts and Crafts, the so-called "Chicago Style" based on the legacy of Louis Sullivan. Along with other early 20th century North American immigrants such as Sholto Smith, Lippincott was responsible for introducing this American variant of Arts and Crafts style to New Zealand.

Lippincott's move to New Zealand in 1921 had a profound effect on local architecture and architects and saw him completing the most significant architectural commissions of his career. Trained at Cornell University (1905-

1909), Lippincott was chief draughtsman and junior partner to Walter Burley Griffin, an associate of Frank Lloyd Wright. Construction of Wright's Robie House in Oak Park, Chicago, was supervised by Lippincott, whose integrated approach to architecture was steeped in the Arts and Crafts approach to design. This ethos meant that everything in the house, from light fittings to coal scuttles, would be created by the architect as part of a holistic schema.

Marrying Genevieve Griffin, a sister of Walter Burley Griffin (1876-1937), in 1914, Lippincott had been based in Australia and was involved in designing the new capital of Canberra when he won the Auckland University College Arts Building competition in 1920. The

success of the Arts and Commerce Building led to a later commission from Auckland University College. Following the Great Depression, Lippincott was asked to design a structure to house the laboratories, classrooms, museum and offices for the Department of Biology (the Thomas Building) in 1937-39. Lippincott-designed laboratory stools, zoological display cabinets, reception desks and at least 100 chairs remain on campus, and these have recently been examined by furniture expert Dr D. Wood.

Dr Wood's expertise has identified key features of Lippincott's style for the furniture at The University of Auckland. Usually made of varnished rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*, also called red pine), the main native timber used for furniture and flooring in New Zealand because it is both hard and dense, Lippincott furniture is robust. It is also distinctively geometrically shaped and golden in colour. Chairs are straight-backed with angled tops and openwork backs featuring paired vertical struts, linked together by short horizontal ties. The legs of tables and desks are finished cleanly with matching angular flares which rest on the floor.

The totally integrated aesthetic environment that Lippincott designed for the University Arts and Biology buildings has now been lost, but it is important to preserve the signature high back chairs and any desks or other furniture that remains. Their craftsman appearance, characterised by simple, straight forms which show the grain of the native timber to advantage, represents an important link to North American ideals of the Prairie School. Characteristic of Arts and Crafts ideals of creating interiors which matched the exterior design, these Lippincott designs are a moveable part of the University's history which is worthy of being carefully preserved and celebrated.

Linda Tyler,
Director, Centre for Art Research.

Research Office welcomes new DRM

Dr Tracey Swift took up her position as Director Research Management on 14 January 2013. An informal morning tea with Research Office staff was held on 15 January 2013 to welcome Tracey to the Research Office. Tracey has held positions in research management over many years and came to The University of Auckland from the role of Director, Research & Innovation Services, at the University of South Australia, Adelaide. Prior to that she was Head of Development, Research & Innovation Services at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

James Cook Research Fellowships

A James Cook Research Fellowship has been awarded to Professor John Montgomery for research entitled: "Evolution of a cerebellum-like neuronal machine". These prestigious fellowships are awarded annually to researchers who are able to demonstrate that they have achieved national and international recognition in their area of scientific research. They are administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Government.

Dumont d'Urville NZ-France awards

Congratulations to Professor Phillip Harris and Associate Professor Jadranka Travas-Sejdic, who have received two Dumont d'Urville awards. These awards fund travel between France and New Zealand to promote and support scientific and technological cooperation between researchers in those countries. Phillip's research will consider "The roles of pectins during wood development". Jaedranka was funded for a project entitled "Conducting polymer nanofiber mats with electrically tuneable pore sizes".

Maastricht University joins WUN

The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) welcomed its newest member institution in January - Maastricht University, the 19th member of WUN, and the Netherlands' most international university. The University of Auckland is delighted by Maastricht's addition to the network. The institution is known for its innovative approach to learning as well as its international outlook, and expands the global network's European presence.

For more information about engaging with Maastricht University or WUN opportunities in general, please contact Usha Bhatia (u.bhatia@auckland.ac.nz, ext. 85562).

From the collection



Fearing Russian repression after the Hungarian revolt, Marté Szirmay's parents emigrated, arriving in New Zealand in 1957.

Her stepfather, Frank Szirmay, was a figurative sculptor in the academic tradition, but her own interests were in abstraction. Study at Elam School of Fine Arts in the 1960s brought an appreciation of the Russian constructivist

brothers, Naum Gabo and Antoine Pevsner, and their engineering aesthetic but not their literalism. In her own work she sought to naturalise manufactured materials including steel and resin, deploying them to describe shapes derived from nature such as the koru as well as to make purely abstract geometrical forms.

In contrast to her organic curves and rounds, her technique remains firmly industrial, with highly polished and patinated surfaces eschewing any trace of the maker's hand. During the 1970s, reflections off the chromed sheet metal surfaces made her works dematerialize, seeming to "fall apart in a pool of light". This reflection of the surrounding environment allowed indoor sculpture to undergo a metamorphosis as the natural light entering a space changed with the time of day.

Commissioned for the lift lobby on an upper floor of the Medical School's Link building, a brutalist fair-faced concrete structure designed

by architects Stephenson and Turner, this sculpture is designed to complement the geometric regularity and severity of the surrounding building. Describing a gentle arc, like a bird's wing lifting, the shiny cascade of welded sheet metal is made to seem malleable and light, its heavy and hard reality dematerialized by the design.

The work's scale is human, and its form relates to bodily gesture and structure, alluding to movements and growth associated with the study of human biology. Yet it remains a mutely modernist work with no title, suggesting that it derives its meaning from purely formal elements, such as the manipulation of materials.

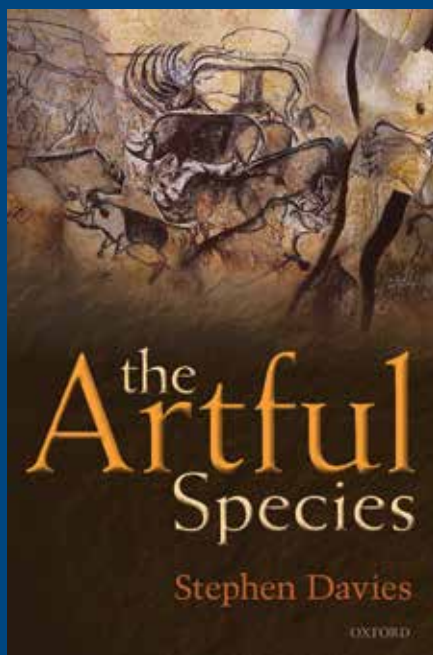
While the syntax of this sculpture derives from Cubism, with a sequence of flat planes describing the progression through space of a figure like Marcel Duchamp's 1912 painting *Nude Descending a Staircase*, the structure describes an arabesque like a dancer en pointe. Playing off against the rigid horizontals of the cast concrete, and its own triangular base, the sculpture gently spirals around a vertical axis, treating its surrounding space as a material, palpable element and stirring it up.

Espousing a Buddhist philosophy where everything has its position on the Wheel of Life, yin balancing yang, light and dark, sun and moon, life and death, Szirmay works to invest all her sculptures with a sense of the universe as a dynamic entity in a state of flux. Seeming to be uncompromisingly abstract, mechanical and exact, tightly closed to interpretation, this work's allusions to natural realms unfold slowly, inviting empathy and contemplation.

Linda Tyler

Marté Szirmay born 1946, Untitled, 1975, welded stainless steel sheets, 1300 x 1600 x 1350mm

Books



***The Artful Species: Aesthetics, Art, and Evolution* by Professor Stephen Davies (Philosophy), published by Oxford University Press, explores the idea that our aesthetic responses and art behaviors are connected to our evolved human nature.**

Our humanoid forerunners displayed aesthetic sensibilities hundreds of thousands of years ago.

In Part One, Stephen analyses the key concepts of the aesthetic, art, and evolution, and explores how they might be related. He considers a range of issues, including whether animals have aesthetic tastes and whether art is not only universal but cross-culturally comprehensible.

Part Two examines the many aesthetic interests humans take in animals and how these reflect our biological interests, and the idea that our environmental and landscape preferences are rooted in the experiences of our distant ancestors. In considering the controversial subject of human beauty, evolutionary

psychologists have traditionally focused on female physical attractiveness in the context of mate selection, but Stephen presents a broader view which decouples human beauty from mate choice and explains why it goes more with social performance and self-presentation.

Part Three asks if the arts, together or singly, are biological adaptations, incidental byproducts of non-art adaptations, or so removed from biology that they rate as purely cultural technologies. Stephen does not conclusively support any one of the many positions considered here, but argues that there are grounds, nevertheless, for seeing art as part of human nature. Art serves as a powerful and complex signal of human fitness, and so cannot be incidental to biology. Indeed, aesthetic responses and art behaviors are the touchstones of our humanity.

What's on

THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Global/local migrations: Identity, community, nation symposium
9.30am-4.30pm, Case Rm 4, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

This symposium will bring together scholars interested in questions of global/local migrations and their impact on identity, community, and nation with Mae M Ngai from Columbia University. RSVP by 21 February to asianstudies@auckland.ac.nz

Auckland Branch of the Society for Legal and Social Philosophy seminar

Dr Nicole Roughan, visiting academic, Faculty of Law: *Relative authority: A step towards pluralist jurisprudence*. 5.30pm Forum 4, Faculty of Law, Eden Crescent. Visit nzslsp.wordpress.com/

Auckland Live 2013 - 20/20 Vision
6pm, AMRF Auditorium, Park Rd, Grafton Campus.

Fast forward thinking from six of the University's internationally celebrated graduates. The winners of this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards will discuss their careers, and their vision, based on their success in their fields. Hosted by Alumnus and Qantas Media Award winner Finlay Macdonald. Speakers: Dr Jilly Evans, Norman Godden, Kim Goldwater, Hon Jim McLay, Andrew Patterson, Simon Denny. For tickets visit www.iticket.co.nz/events/2013/feb/auckland-live-2013-2020-vision

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

Epsom Campus Orientation

10am-12.30pm, Faculty of Education, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom.

Come and enjoy a day of orientation for all new Faculty of Education students at the Epsom Campus.

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

6.15-11pm Alumni Marquee, Old Government House lawn, Corner Waterloo Quadrant and Princes St. 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. Award winners are Dr Jilly Evans, Norman Godden, Kim Goldwater, Hon Jim McLay, Andrew Patterson, Simon Denny.

For further information contact Melanie Middleditch, phone 923 6409 or email melanie.middleditch@auckland.ac.nz

King Lear

Presented by AUSA Outdoor Summer Shakespeare. 7.30pm, Old Arts Quad, behind the ClockTower. Runs until 30 March. Directed by Lisa Harrow. Tickets from www.maidment.auckland.ac.nz or 308 2383

MONDAY 4 MARCH

Public lecture

Lisa Harrow, Director of 2013 Summer Shakespeare: *Working on Lear*. 6.30pm, Lecture Theatre, Old Government House.

Lisa Harrow, the internationally known actress and the director of King Lear, will discuss her lifetime of work in the theatre and film and her recent thoughts on preparing and rehearsing the play

for Auckland. The talk will be facilitated by Michael Hurst and there will be ample opportunity for questions and conversation. All welcome.

TUESDAY 5 MARCH

Bioengineering research seminar

Prof Henk EDJ ter Keurs, Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta, University of Calgary: *Law and order among astronomical numbers of cardiac sarcomeres*. 4-5pm, Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Europe Institute seminar

Dr Katja Mäkinen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. *In the name of Europe: European citizenship in EU documents*. 5pm, Rm 321, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

RSVP to m.kanazawa@auckland.ac.nz

Exhibition opening

Ask the Experts: 6 Elam Technicians. 5.30pm, Elam Projectspace Gallery. Work by Ellen Portch, Struan Hamilton, Greg Dryer, Nick Waterson, Graeme Brett and Lee Dyer. Runs until 16 March.

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

Faculty of Education seminar

Jason Stephens, Senior Lecturer, School of Learning, Development and Professional Practice, UoA: *Why students cheat (even when they believe it's wrong) and how teachers can turn the problem into a 'teachable moment'*. 4.30pm J3 Lecture Theatre, Epsom Campus, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom.

RSVP to t.kingj@auckland.ac.nz

More Than We Know

Kalisoalaithe 'Uhila: *Fofala e fala kae alea e kainga* (Lay out the mat and let our community talk). A Tongan drum performance that uses the rhythm of percussion as a call to draw people in as a community. 5pm, Gus Fisher Gallery roof, 74 Shortland St. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 7 MARCH

More Than We Know

Niu Navigations: *Untitled*. A spoken poetry response to the site and Jeremy Leatinu'u's installation in the foyer. 5pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

FRIDAY 8 MARCH

More Than We Know

Nastashia Simeona Apelu: *Untitled*. A stock-whip performance exploring the sonic boom created when the velocity of the cracker breaks the sound barrier. 5pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

SATURDAY 9 MARCH

Exhibition talk

Dr Donald Kerr, Special Collections Otago University Library: *John Buchanan - bookman*. 1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

School of Music concert

Chris Mason Battle Group. 7pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Cost: \$20/\$10/\$5.

Bookings at www.eventfinder.co.nz

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 11 MARCH

More Than We Know

Darcell Apelu: *Untitled*. A performance that utilises the body as a means of producing sound, encompassing often-overlooked sounds made by the body such as breathing and heart beats. 5pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

TUESDAY 12 MARCH

Commerce Careers Fair

10am-2pm, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Come along and network with potential employers and find out about internships, graduate programmes and job vacancies. Students and alumni are welcome to attend.

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Mark Titchener, Research Scientist, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, and Senior Research Scientist, ABI: *A general purpose analogue computing paradigm with applications in medical biosignals*. 4-5pm, Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

More Than We Know

Terry Faleono: This untitled work continues Faleono's experimentation with movement and space. 5pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

School of European Languages and Literatures/Nga pae o te maramatanga seminar

Prof Arturo Arias, University of Texas at Austin: *Oxlajuj B'aqtun: not the end but a new beginning for Maya, indigenous peoples and the earth*. 6pm, Lecture Theatre B4, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

More Than We Know

Dance graduates present *Peace, Pak 'n' Saved and If I was a Boy*, end-of-year pieces choreographed by Joshua Grace, Seidah Tuaoi and Nita Latu. 5pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

Fermata seminar

Assoc Prof Martin Lodge: *A NZ story: The life, death and music of Anthony Watson (1933-73)*. 5.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Devonport, three-bdrm fully-furnished character home for rent. Available mid-June 2013 to end Jan 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

Grey Lynn. Room in renovated, spacious bungalow with lovely garden, for house-trained adult. Share with owner, two cats. Quiet parkside street, handy to city and Ponsonby Rd, 35 minute walk to University. Fully furnished. Suit mature student, postgrad, visiting academic. Vegetarian preferred. \$230 pw. includes services, wireless Internet. Email robin.johnstone@xtra.co.nz

Grey Lynn. Spacious, sunny bdrm with own private bthrm, built in wardrobes and desk, opening out onto courtyard and back garden - part of architecturally-designed addition at the

back of aging villa. Share new kitchen and two living rooms with owner who works and studies at the University. Would suit academic/professional. Someone who wants quiet and space but is also happy to share some meals and socialising. \$320 pw includes all expenses, plenty of Wifi etc. Phone Tess from 10am Sat 2 March onwards at 376 2996 or (021) 0251 2451.

New, sunny, one bdrm garden flat, Narrow Neck, 50 sq m, unfurnished, 60m to beach, on bus route to Devonport Ferry. \$425 pw includes Sky, Broadband and central heating. Suit mature single. Available early March. Phone Julie (027) 4994436.

Studio apartment, Narrow Neck, Devonport. New, furnished, self-contained studio, 35 sqm, with kitchenette, mezzanine bdrm and shower/wc. Sunny, opens onto garden, sea view from bed. Excellent location across the road from Narrow Neck beach. On bus route to Devonport ferry. Suit single. \$320 pw includes Broadband. Available from Easter. Phone Julie on (027) 4994436.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Furnished house or flat urgently required, with small garden, to rent from March to December 2013 by Starship doctor with young family. Phone 308 9788 Lillie.

House-sit or rent: Semi-retired UoA academic and wife, returning to Auckland 23 April, looking for furnished, well-heated house or apartment in central location for up to three months. We are quiet, responsible n/s and will take good care of your property. Email brian@cs.auckland.ac.nz

House-sitters available. Are you looking for a mature, reliable, professional couple (non-smokers) to care for your home (and pet?) while you are away? Duration 4-12 months negotiable. Areas within 30 minutes of Epsom Campus preferred. References available. Email Karen at k.major@auckland.ac.nz

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Beachfront at Buckletons Bay: Perfect location for late summer/autumn break. By the sea, great views, well-appointed, linen provided, all activities of Matakana region on hand. Romantic getaway for couple or good set-up for families (sleeps up to 8). Visit www.beachfront-buckletons.co.nz or phone (021) 0624607.

MISCELLANEOUS

City Legal Services. Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm centrally located at L1 Princes Court, 2 Princes Street. We are near the University, with good parking. We can assist with property transactions, trusts, wills, administration of estates, enduring powers of attorney and relationship property matters. Please phone our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs, or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz Visit www.rainey.co.nz

Travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. Contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.



Photo Godfrey Boehnke

DEBATE ON CANNABIS

In recent years there has been a great deal of debate about the legalisation or decriminalisation of cannabis possession and its use in New Zealand and many other Western countries.

The use of cannabis has become increasingly widespread and not just, as some would believe, by the criminally inclined. For example a Ministry of Health report published in 2010 stated that 46 percent of adults aged 16 to 64 years had used cannabis at some point in their lifetime and one in seven had used cannabis in the past 12 months, which represented nearly 15 percent of the population.

An article published by the *Dominion Post* in January of 2013 reported that there were nearly 18,000 charges made for the possession of cannabis by the police during the past six years and 890 people were subsequently imprisoned. In addition there were just over 11,000 people charged with possession of “utensils” such as a pipe, which resulted in another 700+ people imprisoned. While these numbers seem large it is worth noting that they constitute less than one percent of users.

To an observer, it might seem that there must be an inordinate amount of time and effort spent by the police and justice system on the prosecution of offences which, based on the statistics above, are relatively common and likely to be considered safe by a significant proportion of society.

Another article recently published by the *NZ Herald* reported that two men, both 43 and with “impeccable backgrounds”, were jailed for three

years for cultivating, possessing and supplying cannabis, which demonstrates that it is not just those who have been previously linked to criminal behaviour that are likely to use and sell cannabis.

In New Zealand the statutory penalties for cannabis use have not changed in over 30 years, which has resulted in a great deal of criticism from organisations such as the New Zealand Drug Foundation. The New Zealand Law Commission published a report during 2011 which also recommended changes to the existing system after considering methods of prosecution in places such as Australia, the USA and UK.

Many aspects of the criminal justice system other than the statutory penalties play an important role in determining the outcomes of drug offences - such as sentencing legislation, police policy and judicial views of the seriousness of the offence. Consequently there are now indications that the police are being less aggressive with their handling of cannabis-related prosecutions. For example, there has been a decrease in the rate of cannabis related prosecutions over the last year, which might be more in line with countries that have adopted a more lenient criminal justice approach to the use and possession of cannabis.

In what appears to be one of the biggest swings in legality involving cannabis it is worth noting that several states in the USA, which has famously been waging a “war on drugs”, have recently legalised the possession and sale of cannabis. Washington State has just “legalised cannabis” and officials are now intent on setting

up a recreational marijuana distribution system with the goal of approving both suppliers and dispensaries before the end of 2013. Law enforcement agencies in Colorado are grappling with similar issues, where an amendment has been passed that protects legal growers from arrest and from asset seizure. With what also appears to be a rapidly growing acceptance for the use of marijuana by the general public of California for “medical purposes” it would seem that other states in USA will be forced to follow suit.

There is absolutely no doubt that smoking cannabis has severe adverse effects on those suffering from serious mental illness and that it can induce a psychotic episode following heavy use or in those who are susceptible, in addition to having adverse effects on the lungs. However, many of its supporters would argue that the use of alcohol can induce many of the same or even worse effects.

But, despite the ability of cannabis to induce adverse effects there seems an inevitability that in future years the laws will change in most or all Western countries to reflect the growing acceptance of its use.

Dr Bruce Russell
School of Pharmacy

Bruce Russell has major research interests in the effects of recreational drugs on the brain, and in severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. In the photo he is holding an EEG cap, which is used for measuring neurophysiological function.