INSPIRATION FOR RESEARCH

"Professor Andrew Hill has been a driving force behind my academic career," says Dr Renus Strowers. "Without his support, his belief and confidence in me and my academic abilities, the decision to undertake doctoral studies would be a fleeting aspiration and a very distant goal." This sentiment is echoed by two of his peers, Dr Daniel Lemanu and Dr Mataroria Lyndon. This month’s “Research in focus” feature looks at what these three are achieving.

ACCESS TO BROADCASTING

A new service launched by the University’s Library and Learning Services on 24 September provides access to the library’s broadcast media archives, its recording services and a commercial live streaming service (ETV), presenting users with a modern learning resource. Over 100,000 hours of material is available for viewing, largely comprising items from the Chapman Archive, an ongoing comprehensive collection of news and current affairs, and the library’s TV vault.

EXTRA POWERS

Homicides have a special place in media attention. When they occur at the hands of someone who has exhibited violence in the past, there is often a call for judges to detain people in the light of the risk they pose. A recent suggestion has been that there be a modification of current sentencing powers so that the established sentence of preventive detention should be available at the end of a determinate sentence. Kris Gledhill from the Faculty of Law analyses this idea.
SNAPSHOT

HUGE BOOST FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Auckland businessman Mr Liangren Li and his family have recently donated $10 million to the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences to establish an endowment fund that will provide annual interest for investing in cancer research. It is the largest single donation the faculty has ever received and one of the largest single donations the University has received. Dean of the Faculty Professor John Fraser says Mr Li’s name will live on in cancer research in New Zealand for many years to come.

EPIC ROW MAKES BOOK OF RECORDS

Tara Remington’s epic 4000km row across the Pacific Ocean has made the Guinness Book of World Records. Tara, a professional teaching fellow at the Faculty of Education and Social Work, rowed from Los Angeles to Waikiki, Hawaii, with American Paralympian Angela Madsen in their 6m mono-hull rowboat the Spirit of Orlando, taking 60 days, five hours and five minutes. The book lists them as the first team to row the mid-Pacific east to west. They raised money for NZer Charlotte Cleverley-Bisman, who lost her limbs to meningitis as a baby.

PROJECT POIGNANT AND TIMELY

The Memorial Project, showing from 2-24 October at the Gus Fisher Gallery, presents work completed by Associate Professor Kathy Temin from Monash University in Melbourne as part of the Elam International Artist in Residence Programme. It combines two aspects of Kathy’s practice by staging one of her characteristic abstracted forests alongside her recorded oral histories. Incorporating sound work which details survivor testimonies captured at war memorial events, this project is a darkly poignant and timely memorial garden.

RICHARD KILLEEN AT OGH

Now on until 27 November at Old Government House is an exhibition of paintings by Richard Killeen, including one of the works held in the University’s Art Collection. All of Richard’s works are now totally digital (since 2003) and he says the computer is a great tool for artists to develop imagery. “It allows you to take an image and change it, and end up with something that couldn’t have been produced in any other way.” The works in this show, though completed between 2008 and 2011, use imagery that goes right back to his very early work.
**CLEAN SWEEP IN WOOLF FISHER SCHOLARSHIPS**

Setting a new record, three outstanding University of Auckland students and graduates with the potential to become future leaders have been awarded the three annual Woolf Fisher scholarships.

The scholarships awarded to James Gawith, Matthew Conder, and Reece Oosterbeek will cover their study and living costs at Cambridge University and are estimated to have a value of $300,000 per student, making the Woolf Fisher one of the most generous available.

James Gawith (24) graduated from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Engineering with first class honours, specialising in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. At Cambridge he is planning to study for his Doctorate in the Department of Engineering, focusing on inductive power transfer (IPT). Last year James was a teaching assistant for a third year engineering design course at the University of Auckland and has been involved with Engineers without Borders.

Matthew Conder (22), son of Distinguished Professor Marston Conder (Mathematics), has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Chemistry from the University of Auckland and is currently completing his honours degree in Mathematics. At Cambridge he will study towards his doctorate in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. A keen footballer, he captains a team for the Three Kings United Football Club. Matthew tutored for the NCEA Campus programme, a not-for-profit organisation which supports students from diverse backgrounds to succeed at secondary school external exams.

Reece Oosterbeek (25) has a Bachelor of Engineering degree with honours and a Masters of Engineering degree, both from the University of Auckland, and is working as a Project Manager and Research Engineer at the University’s Photon Factory. At Cambridge he proposes to study towards his Doctorate in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, researching medical implant material. He plans to investigate the development of bio-resorbable composite materials for regenerating load-bearing tissue following tissue injuries. This involves the development of bio-implant materials to develop artificial tendon and ligament tissue or polymer matrix composites for bone grafts.

Chair of the Woolf Fisher Trust, Sir Noel Robinson, said all three exemplify the qualities admired by the late Sir Woolf Fisher: “integrity, leadership, boldness of vision and exceptional zeal, keenness and capacity”.

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**SILVER MEDAL FOR UNIVERSITY TEAM**

The University of Auckland’s waka ama team won a silver medal in the largest long-distance waka ama race in the world, the Queen Lili’oukalani race in Hawaii.

Based in the township of Kailua Kona, this annual event has taken place for the past 44 years, and involves about 2500 paddlers from around the world.

The University team, Nga Tauiira Māori (NTM) was the first University team from Aotearoa to take part in the race and made a big impression on the race organisers, who are keen to see the team back next year.

Relating some of the highlights from NTM’s racing in Hawaii, Louis Rattray, the University’s Director of Sport and Recreation, said that “The Queen Lili’oukalani race is a gruelling 30 kilometres in 33 degree heat and 80 percent humidity. While the sea conditions were good the heat and humidity was certain to take its toll and the importance of hydration we had been drilling into the team was suddenly realised.”

“After about two hours and 50 minutes the first mixed team crossed the line. We had not won this race and the nervous anticipation of where we would finish and in what state was showing on the shore crew,” says Mr Rattray. “Then we spotted them in the distance. As they came closer into view we could see the strain on their faces but they were still in one piece and paddling as one team. They crossed the line in two hours, 59 minutes, claiming a silver medal.”

The team had put in a fantastic performance and were only ten minutes behind the mixed gold medal winners. The successful NTM mixed team included Noenoe Barclay-Kerr, Janell Dymus, Te Ra Hodges-Tai, Ngahuia Ormsby, Tamoko Ormsby, Waimirirangi Stone, Apenti Tamanui-Fransen, and Tai Stephens.
NEW ACCESS TO TV AND RADIO

What do these three have in common: the results of Election Night 1966, an episode of Koha from July 1981 and the Georgie Pie commercial starring the boy who claimed to have caught a fish that was “this big”.

The answer is that these disparate artefacts from New Zealand’s broadcasting past can now be discovered and easily accessed thanks to Libraries and Learning Services’ new TV and Radio Beta service.

The service, launched on 24 September, provides access to the Library’s broadcast media archives, ITS recording service and a commercial live streaming service (eTV) presenting users with a modern online resource. Over 100,000 hours of material is available for viewing, largely comprising items from the Chapman Archive—an ongoing, comprehensive collection of news and current affairs programming depicting defining moments in New Zealand’s history—and the Library’s Television Vault, which has a strong focus on Māori television programming.

The new service offers the following: University staff and students can search and view archived content; University staff and students can view the last 14 days of local television broadcasts; University staff can download these recently screened programmes or request that they be archived for ongoing access (this replaces the ITS UniSat Programme Browser); University staff and students can live stream over 20 national and international channels.

The Library continues to collect a wide range of new television and radio programmes each week as well as adding many historic broadcasts to support learning, teaching and research.

Try out the new service at https://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/tv-radio/

NEUROSURGERY APPOINTMENT

The University’s first academic appointee in neurosurgery is the Freemasons Senior Lecturer of Neurosurgery, Dr Patrick Schweder.

A graduate of the University of Auckland, he began his training in neurosurgery at Auckland City Hospital and subsequently pursued advanced training in neurosurgery and research at the Universities of Melbourne, Cambridge and Oxford, and most recently at St Vincent’s and the Royal Alfred Hospitals in Sydney.

His appointment is a joint one between the University and the Auckland District Health Board.

When the University of Auckland in partnership with the Neurological Foundation launched a campaign for an academic appointment in Neurosurgery in 2013, the objective “was to appoint a top class neurosurgeon with expertise in research,” says Distinguished Professor Richard Faull, director of the Centre for Brain Research. “Someone who could provide a bridge and promote novel and imaginative research collaborations between brain researchers in the Centre for Brain Research and neurosurgeons in Auckland and Starship Hospitals.”

He thanked all donors who had made the appointment possible, especially “the three major donors: the Freemasons for their extraordinary generosity in the foundation gift of $2 million, Sir Graham Douglas, who generously donated $1 million, and Sir David Levene, who donated $500,000.”

Since Patrick has taken up his appointment, the University’s PhD students and postdoctoral research fellows have attended his neurosurgical operations in the hospital and collected human brain tissue samples, with the patients’ consent, for culture and research studies in CBR laboratories.

“Patrick participates in our research laboratories in the University, where his presence has already transformed our research environment and excited and inspired our graduate students,” says Richard. “Their eyes have been opened wide to the massive opportunities for advancing the frontiers of brain research to the benefit of everyone in the world.”

DISCOUNTED INSURANCE

The University has teamed up with insurance broker Marsh Ltd to introduce a voluntary insurance scheme to all eligible staff at discounted rates. Marsh will offer three types of voluntary cover: life insurance, living assurance (trauma insurance) and income protection insurance. Eligible staff include full time employees, employees employed on a fixed term agreement of two years or more, or working 15 hours a week or more. A 30-day medical amnesty (i.e. the ability to sign up without medical questionnaires, will be offered from the launch date, and for new eligible staff starting at the University at any time. Marsh staff will answer any questions you may have at short information sessions on the 7 and 8 October at the following locations: City Campus, Grafton, New Market, Epsom, Tamaki, Whangarei (via video link). Times are to be confirmed.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

The closing date for Women in Leadership 2016 is 30 October. The programme aims to provide opportunities for women to develop their leadership skills. The core programme consists of an off-campus overnight introductory retreat in February, mentoring by a senior academic or professional staff member and a full day workshop in June plus supplementary workshops throughout the year. All interested women are invited to apply but priority is likely to be given to professional staff women at Level 4-6 and academic women who are considering applying for promotion in the next two years. Further information and the application form can be found on the POD website under Career Development or by contacting Mary Ann Crick, ext 86379 or ma.crick@auckland.ac.nz

QS RANKINGS RISE

The 2015 QS World University Ranking has seen the University of Auckland rise to 82 – from its 2014 position of 92. This improvement in ranking comes about mainly because QS has introduced a significant change to the way in which citations are measured. Rather than the “citations per faculty member” approach in use since its inception in 2004, the new methodology balances the distribution of citations across five broad faculty areas: Life Sciences and Medicine; Natural Sciences; Engineering and Technology; Social Sciences; and Arts and Humanities.
One thing we have in common is that we’ve all been kids. Some of us still are. But have you ever wondered how childhood experiences might provide insights into wider society?

Research into childhood tells us about changing ideologies around parenting, social welfare, education, health and wellbeing, and provides information about more general trends such as changing cultural practices, increasing ethnic diversity, and levels of wealth or poverty. This is certainly true of the University’s Growing Up in New Zealand study, directed by Associate Professor Susan Morton from the School of Population Health.

One issue for those interested in exploring the history of childhood is that most children record little of their thoughts, feelings or experiences, especially when they are very young, and only remember a fraction of their childhood as adults. When something is written, it is most commonly from an adult perspective. However, childhood objects serve as a physical representation of these trends, and also reflect changing technologies and the availability of new materials.

With this in mind, Lynette Townsend, curator from the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, started thinking of ways in which the history of childhood could be preserved within the context of the museum. That was in 2011.

The Growing Up in New Zealand study, which had been launched two years earlier, seemed to be the perfect fit for a co-operative enterprise. Based at the Centre for Longitudinal Research – He Ara ki Mua at the University of Auckland, the study is following the lives of almost 7000 children from before birth into adulthood. It provides an up-to-date picture of what it is like to be a child in New Zealand in the 21st century, and has strong links with 16 government agencies which use the research to develop policy to better meet the needs of New Zealand children.

A few months after her first meeting with Susan Morton, Lynette began work with seven Growing Up in New Zealand children and their families to build a collection of objects that might represent the lives and experiences of children growing up in our country today.

Now the first stage of “Collecting childhood” is available to the public for the very first time through Te Papa’s “Collections Online”.

The seven Growing Up in New Zealand families who were selected by Te Papa to take part in the long-term project were visited at home by Lynette when the children were three years old. In discussion with their parents, each child chose special items that reflected them and their lives at the time of collection. The result is a wide variety of objects including toys, photos, clothing, jewellery, homemade crafts and even a digital recording that together provide a unique glimpse into the everyday lives of kiwi kids.

“The two projects complement each other perfectly,” says Susan Morton. “Growing Up in New Zealand tells the story of a whole generation of New Zealand children and ‘Collecting childhood’ exemplifies it in the personal stories and items that the seven families have donated.”

Many of the topics the longitudinal study covers relate directly to the children in the Te Papa project. For example, the Growing Up in New Zealand research found that 16 percent of their cohort identified as Asian, and that 42 percent identified with multiple ethnicities. One of the children portrayed in the collection, Austin Wang – with his family – is representative of the increasing ethnic diversity in New Zealand. Along with baby clothing, Austin generously donated a set of Mandarin language flash cards which were used by his parents to teach him to read and write Mandarin while growing up in New Zealand.

The collection will grow with the children it portrays, and new stories and items will be collected every few years by the museum. To put those stories into a wider context, the Growing Up research team contributes infographics with information from all Growing Up in New Zealand families. Ethnicity, languages, and early childhood activities have been chosen as the first topics to be added to the collection.

This year the children in the “Collecting childhood” project will be six, and Lynette looks forward to meeting them again. “Most will have started school, some will have joined cultural groups, started learning new sports and maybe music”, she says. “It is a dynamic time and I wonder what they will choose to reflect their lives now.”

Link: bit.ly/collecting-childhood

Lynette Townsend and Sabine Kruekel

On the cover are Maya Shaw (left), Austin Wang and Teina Davidson (seen with her sister on the right). The three are all from the seven families who are helping build the “Collecting childhood” collection.

Maya is the youngest daughter of Carol MacDonald and Christopher Shaw, and younger sister of Emily. Carol and Christopher separated in 2010, and now the children live with Carol during the week and stay with Christopher every weekend. Maya enjoys lots of outdoor activities and attended the Montessori pre-school. She donated the amber necklace seen on this page.

Austin’s Chinese heritage is an important influence on his life. He speaks Mandarin and English and his parents are teaching him to read Chinese characters. His favourite activities include ball sports games like soccer and basketball. The objects he donated were some baby clothes: a body suit, a beanie and some socks, as well as the Mandarin language flashcards.

Teina (Ngā Puhi and Te Rarawa, and Ngāti Porou) is growing up with five siblings in a Pākehā-Māori family. Teina is involved in many activities that keep her connected to her Māori ancestry, including a kapa haka group at the Manurewa Marae. Teina donated a white poi, which she is holding in the photo.

A Ghagra Choli (a unique dress from India), an amber beaded necklace and a repaired light saber (all seen on this page) were among the items donated to the collection by the seven Growing Up in New Zealand families. Each object has a unique story to tell.

Photos: Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB EVER?
I used to deliver milk from the age of about 12 or 13 from the small electric floats that they used to have then. Some of my friends worked with me. It was really good fun. We’d get up early and be running about, getting into mischief from an early hour.

WHO WAS YOUR BEST TEACHER AND WHY?
My favourite teacher was Hock Aun Teh, a grand master of martial arts who taught me Tukido. He was the most influential teacher I ever had. He gave me a focus and balance in my life as well as a great insight into martial arts. His classes were thrilling, full of vitality and energy, always hugely challenging. He taught me from the time I became a black belt up to the fourth Dan. (Editor’s note: Kenny still practices Tukido when he can, and became the British champion when he was living back in Glasgow in the early 2000s).

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE ON YOUR PRESENT CAREER?
Working with wood goes back for three generations in my family. My grandfather was a carpenter and joiner like my father, and my great grandfather was a master carver who did a lot of restoration and sculptural work around Glasgow. I did toy with the idea of breaking the mould and going into nursing, because I’d been keen on science at school, especially physics and chemistry. But by my late teens when I started thinking of that, I had entered a good stream of employment and the thought of leaving a steady job and a good income to go back to study didn’t appeal that much. I have no regrets. I’ve had, and am having, a great life. Plus I’m still enjoying my work.

WHEN DID YOU COME TO NEW ZEALAND?
My wife, Geraldine, and I came to New Zealand in 1994. Several other members of the family were already living here. The main reason was economic. It was the time when the Margaret Thatcher conservative government was cutting down on everything that had made Scotland what it was. New Zealand was a young and open country and my wife and I made the decision to immigrate here – though we did return to Scotland when our two children grew up and both decided to settle there. Our daughter Ellen is now a surgeon in the RAF, and our son Rodi is also in the RAF, as a corporal in the Queens Colours Squadron).

IN JUST ONE SENTENCE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PRESENT POSITION?
To assist the students to achieve their goals, gain the skills they need and work extremely safely, and to help them understand the requirements of construction - so that in their practice of architecture they will be aware of the complex tasks involved in reproducing what they are drawing.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT IT?
I love the energy of the students and their enthusiasm. The staff are a pleasure to work with and this is a great environment to work in. (He waves his hand with appreciation around the spacious workshop). The facility is well-supported by the faculty, we have everything required to assist our students. And the students here are interested, always investigating, constantly asking: “Is there another way of doing this?” It’s a pleasure to help them.

DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU DO CHANGES PEOPLE’S LIVES?
A few of the students come in here years after they’ve finished their study, and say they learned more at these workshops than many of their other classes. I don’t change their lives in a major way but I can assist them to work safely and happily as they learn to make constructions, and as they get their hands grubby and dirty and blistered, sometimes for the first time. Without these workshops – without getting tactile with wood or glass or metal – they have no way of understanding the physical problems and complexities of construction. When they come here they start to overcome those problems. As they advance their skills their joy is evident, and that changes them. It also makes a difference to their future health and safety. When they first come into the workshop they’re often quite scared of the hand tools. When we help them learn to use the tools efficiently and safely, that gives them habits that will keep them safe all their lives. I’ve managed to keep all my digits intact to the age of 53. One of my goals is to make sure that they do the same.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL PROUD ABOUT?
I’m proud of my children. They’re wonderful human beings. And my wife, who is a fantastic lady.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING?
I’ve just bought a house in Paeroa, and I’m enjoying exploring the area. But the round trip to work is 244 kilometres – so I don’t have a lot of time. In the mornings I try to go for a run, and at the weekends my wife and I go out together for walks and talks. I still enjoy Tukido though not at the same level. And I like to do a bit of cooking, even if the results aren’t always edible.
WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

The winner of the medal was Annie Verrall, a young teacher of “Pianoforte and Theory”. The person who returned the medal was Annie's great grandson, Martin Kerr, who hadn’t realised until a few years ago that the sparkling silver medal with the Glasgow Coat-of-Arms on one side, was associated with the University.

For many years the medal remained untouched in the possession of Martin (who is himself an alumnus of the University of Auckland) and his extended families. But in August, Martin, back in New Zealand after working in the UK, decided it was time to "tie up a loose end" and gift the medal to the University.

So what exactly is the medal’s story?

According to Martin’s research, in 1890 the Amateur Opera Company of Auckland had sponsored prizes (exhibitions) to encourage new students to study music at AUC. But existing students had already enrolled in music classes without the chance of competing for an exhibition prize.

At the time, the Governor of New Zealand was the Earl of Onslow. His wife, the Countess of Onslow, offered to sponsor medals for the best music students in the senior and junior divisions (one for each division) at Auckland University College for each year from 1892 to 1894. The Countess of Glasgow, wife of the next and 12th Governor of New Zealand, the 7th Earl of Glasgow, followed the Countess of Onslow’s example by providing medals for competition in the years from 1895 to 1897. It seems that when she presented the medals she and her husband were in residence at Auckland’s Government House, now the University’s Old Government House.

Martin’s great grandmother Annie Caroline Verrall was born in Auckland in 1871. In the 1880s she completed her secondary education at Sydney High School and had initial musical training with a Professor Roberts, Miss Walker, and others. After passing her Trinity examinations in theory, and two of the local examinations, she established a ladies’ school with a large circle of pupils both in the city and suburbs. (As a music teacher she called herself Annie Hider Verrall).

On returning to Auckland, Annie enrolled at AUC to study music under Professor Carl Schmitt who had held the chair in music since 1888, and in 1897 she was awarded the Countess of Glasgow’s Silver Medal (junior division). For more about the medal and its 1897 winner, see the Spring 2015 issue of Ingenio, to be published late October.

WHAT’S ON CAMPUS

PERSUASION
7 OCTOBER, 6.30pm, OGB85
Cost: $14, Registration essential.
L.E.D Talks focus on sparking conversations around leadership, education and development. The talks are designed to be interactive and engaging, encouraging attendees to reflect, explore and perhaps even challenge the speakers’ ideas through facilitated discussion. The second and final talk for 2015 is themed “Persuasion, negotiation and influence without authority”, with speakers Nicola Legat (publisher and editor) and Shay Wright (Māori Development for Icehouse). L.E.D Talks are open to students.

BRUCE JESSON LECTURE
14 OCTOBER, 6pm
Maidment Theatre, Free event
To try to save financially at a time when journalism is declining, many media organisations are blurring the distinction between journalism and advertising, devaluing both. Yet never has there been a more important time for business journalism. in a lecture titled “Follow the money: The future of business journalism” journalist and Sunday Star-Times columnist Rod Oram will explore the profound change sweeping through business and economics and the societies they help to shape.

SOCIETY SALON
20 OCTOBER, 5-6.30pm
Old Government House, Free to attend
The Society Salon Series is based on the old idea of the French literary and philosophical movements of the 17th and 18th centuries where intellectuals and artists gathered to discuss ideas. The theme of our second Salon event of 2015 is “Exercise is the new medicine”. Our panel features obstetrician and gynaecologist, Dr Sylvia Rosevear, and Professor Alistair Woodward, School of Population Health. Come and join the conversation. Visit www.society.auckland.ac.nz for more information and to register. Registrations close 14 October.
RESEARCH

IN FOCUS

INSPIRATION FOR CAREERS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

For three talented young doctors, their training at the University’s South Auckland Clinical School at Middlemore Hospital has inspired advanced study in medical research.

They are all involved in doctoral study to inform their clinical practice, due largely to the leadership of Assistant Dean of the South Auckland Clinical School, Professor Andrew Hill.

"Professor Andrew Hill has been a driving force behind my academic career," says Dr Renus Stowers. "Without his support, his belief and his confidence in me and my academic abilities, the decision to undertake doctoral studies would be a fleeting aspiration and a very distant goal."

This sentiment is echoed by both of his peers, Dr Daniel Lemanu and Dr Mataroria Lyndon, who, like Renus, were supported during their early medical training by the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme (MAPAS) team.

This year they are completing their doctoral theses based on research done alongside their clinical work at Middlemore. Daniel has finished his PhD and is now an orthopaedic registrar at North Shore Hospital. Mataroria is completing his PhD and is working at Ko Awatea, Middlemore Hospital, before he starts a Master of Public Health degree at Harvard University in Boston in 2016. Renus is completing his PhD and is working at Ko Awatea, Middlemore Hospital, and undertaking a postgraduate diploma in surgical anatomy. Both Mataroria and Renus were also this year awarded the Rose Hellaby Scholarship of $30,000 to help fund their future studies.

Dr Renus Stowers is busy recruiting for the final chapter of his thesis - a randomised controlled trial investigating a clotting agent to reduce bleeding in total knee joint replacement surgery. The overall theme is to improve patient outcomes in hip and knee replacement surgery.

"At the end of the year I’m returning to full-time clinical work as an orthopaedic registrar somewhere in the Auckland region," he says. "I’m also studying for my part one surgical exams in February 2016 and shortly after this will apply for surgical training."

Renus grew up in the Mangere-Otahuhu area, the eldest of five children. His mother is Māori (Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Awa) and his father is New Zealand-born Samoan (from Apia). He attended high school at Kings College, Auckland, supported by a scholarship, along with two of his best friends, one of whom was Daniel Lemanu. Both were later accepted into the Auckland Medical School via a MAPAS intake.

As a child Renus had multiple corrective surgeries to his left leg and spine, so he was no stranger to the medical profession. "My mother and father have always been supportive in what I do," he says. "I know they are very proud of the path I have chosen." He graduated in 2010 and did many of his medical training placements at Middlemore Hospital.

Renus says he does research to inform his clinical practice. "If others feel that the findings of our research are applicable to their practice too, this is an added bonus."

Dr Mataroria Lyndon (Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Whātua and Waikato) is about to submit his doctoral thesis on “The impact of a medical curriculum, and motivation and wellbeing among medical students”.

He has just returned from presenting the findings at the Association of Medical Education Conference, held in Glasgow (funded by grants from the John Logan Campbell Travel Grant and the Maurice Paykel Family Trust), and is now working at Middlemore Hospital and fundraising for the balance of funds needed to pay for his time at Harvard.

“I graduated from Auckland as a doctor in 2010 and then began as an intern at Middlemore,” says Mataroria. "I already had the sense that I wanted to do more than clinical practice and was looking for opportunities in the wider māhi in health."

"During that first year Professor Hill asked me about my ambitions and gave me the opportunity to try clinically based research to see if I enjoyed it," he says. "I was able to do part-time clinical practice and start doctoral research."

"What I’ve noticed coming into the non-clinical space is there is quite an opportunity for clinicians in that space. There’s a need for clinicians who are leaders in the wider health and public health sectors."

Born and raised in Whangarei, Mataroria attended high school in South Auckland at Tangaroa College and was then awarded a University of Auckland Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Top Māori and Pacific Scholars to study at Auckland.

"We need more role models and mentors for Māori and Pacific students, and I hope to be one of those, who can help and support our young people into a health career," he says. "In my own whānau, I can see I am already a role model for my young nieces and nephews. The benefits of increased health literacy extends to all my whānau. I’m on call to them 24 hours/day. Just having a medical person in the family makes a difference and has a spill-over effect for whanau, our community and future generations."

Mataroria’s thesis focused on the medical curriculum and how it is rolled out, and also on how to engage more Māori and Pacific students to take up medicine and how to meet their needs.

"The experience of doing a big piece of research also has benefits for clinical practice, in both critical appraisal of treatments and methods of study," he says.
SINGLE OR DOUBLE

Singles are just as happy as those in relationships, if we can avoid turmoil and strife, research from the University shows.

At a time when the number of single people is on the rise due to higher rates of divorce and marrying later in life, singles with a strong desire to avoid conflict achieve similar levels of happiness and wellbeing as their coupled-up counterparts, the study found.

The research results challenge previous research which has consistently shown being hitched leads to a happier and healthier life. School of Psychology doctoral candidate Yuthika Girme, who led the study involving more than 4,000 New Zealanders, says it is one of the largest of its kind, and the largest ever undertaken on being single in New Zealand.

“This is actually the first evidence that being single doesn’t necessarily undermine life satisfaction or wellbeing and in fact may offer benefits including protection against being hurt or rejected by relationship partners,” says Yuthika, who is a member of the School of Psychology’s Relationship and Interpersonal Processes Lab.

Using a nationally-representative sample of 4,024 participants drawn from the database of the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study run by University Associate Professor Chris Sibley, the research examined how individual differences in behaviours impact on relationship status and happiness. Previous studies have been limited to demographic factors such as age.

Orthopaedic registrar, Dr Daniel Lemanu (Te Rarawa), has just completed an excellent doctoral research thesis on “Perceptive management of patients undergoing obesity surgery”.

“I’d like to qualify as a surgeon and combine research and surgery, starting with a fellowship in orthopaedic surgery, carrying on my research, and maybe working at the University one day,” he says.

Growing up in South Auckland, he attended Kings College and intended to become a physiotherapist, but he was awarded a University of Auckland Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship for Top Māori and Pacific Scholars.

“When I enquired about a physio course, they said they didn’t have one, but the closest one was medicine, so I decided to have a go,” he says. He had an interview with the MAPAS team and did his pre-med first year in health science before being accepted into the medical programme.

Daniel graduated with his MBChB in November 2009 and spent his first year as a house surgeon at Middlemore Hospital. As a trainee he joined Professor Hill’s team.

“Towards the end of the first year Professor Hill asked me if I had ever considered doing research before and explained what it would involve, working as a house surgeon and doing half time in clinical and half time in research,” says Daniel. “He said if I enjoyed it, I could go on and do a PhD and if not, I would have some research papers that I could publish. After doing research in that second year, I found I loved it and had a passion for research. [Andrew Hill] was an excellent mentor - someone I trust and I have a lot of time for what he thinks,” he says. “I had a few talks with [him] about what I wanted from this vocation and how I enjoyed surgery and orthopaedic surgery especially.

“He explained that this research time was a good time to reflect on what I wanted to do,” says Daniel. “I also did some work as a GP in primary care and in general surgery as a registrar at Middlemore, but my true passion was in Orthopaedics, so I decided to carry on and do a PhD.

Daniel is now at North Shore Hospital, still very much enjoying the combination of clinical and academic work.

UNINEWS highlights some of the University research milestones that have hit the headlines in the past month.

FACING UP

A study on the way Facebook makes us feel about ourselves made the news this week with coverage in the NZ Herald, Radio NZ and RadioLIVE. PhD candidate Sam Stronge (Psychology) did the research which was part of the New Zealand Attitudes and Values study by Associate Professor Chris Sibley from Psychology.

PACIFIC ROLE MODEL

A story about the Law School’s first Pacific Island academic, Lecturer Helena Kaho, continues to be picked up widely by national and international media. Helena overcame several obstacles to turn her life around and is being reported as an inspirational role model. Media coverage to date includes Radio Pacific, Radio NZ International, Radio 513PI, LawTalk magazine, National Business Review, and Matangi Tonga.

SCIENCE AND FICTION

Fictional superheroes and serious science are usually galaxies apart but two University of Auckland astrophysicists couldn’t resist the chance to try their hand at a little cosmic creativity for a new sci-fi novel. Department of Physics lecturers Dr Nick Rattenbury and Dr JJ Eldridge were scientific consultants for Astarons, a comic-style graphic novel which follows the adventures of cosmic “guardians” whose mission is to save the universe from destruction and whose abilities and personalities are derived from the characteristics of real planets.

REFUGEE CRISIS

University staff contributed to discussion on the Syrian refugee crisis from a number of perspectives. The assertion by Dr Zain Ali (Asian Studies) that calls by Winston Peters to send Syrian men back home to fight are absurd were reported in the Daily Mail UK, Washington Post; The Press, stuff.co.nz, NZ Herald, Otago Daily Times, RadioLIVE and Westport News. Senior Lecturer Dr Gavin Ellis (Media, Film & Television) always contributed comments on the images of the Syrian refugee crisis, on Radio NZ (Nine to Noon).
If your past is always grabbing you by your ankles and trying to pull you back, you might identify with the female character in Peter Madden’s intriguing collage.

Mired in a bird’s nest of carefully cut out paper illustrations, the bust in this image becomes identifiable as female only gradually, and then only by association. Possessed of a couple of dozen eyes, and at least as many smiling and laughing mouths, the “She” of the title of the work is seductive in her myriad attractions. Foil-wrapped droplets spike out of her neck like so many Hershey’s Kisses, and she is resplendent with dazzling jewels – strings of pearls, glittering diamonds and a chunky gold-linked choker.

But this “she” is not a portrait of a real woman, only a make-believe one, a complicated confection of photographic reproductions from magazines and books, shaped as a feckless production of the media in which her many parts appear. Like television in New Zealand before the advent of colour in 1974, she broadcasts her appeal on the history channel, and only in black and white. The title suggests some narrative to unpick from the tangle of parts, and despite the initial appeal of the embarrassment of riches, some atrophication is evident in the life revealed.

Her torso sprouts mushrooms, extinct birds, reptiles and amphibians. Even the lepidoptera that hover around are only night-fliers, and an ostentatiously large blowfly is perched on one shoulder. Perhaps the one hand raised on her other shoulder signals that she is not waving, but drowning in a chequered past.

Barely visible below her crowded chest are a matched pair of bony protrusions – the feet of an articulated skeleton attached to dangling femur, tibia and fibula bones above. It is as if the withering away of flesh from these vestigial legs has left our heroine without any means of locomotion – she simply can’t move on. Why is she so compelling of attention, yet unable to invite
any sympathy in her predicament? Her initial glamour is only one layer deep, and although her dominating head is abuzz with symbolic freedoms such as kayaking, butterflies and abundant avian acrobatics, it seems she is rather limited after all.

Yet burrowing deep into her decollage, a few tell-tale signs of another past existence emerge. Some are wistful images of childhood memory: a graceful ballet dancer performing an arabesque, a trio of bathing beauties and a sweet young girl gleaming with the light of a golden summer. Watches and clocks denote the passing of time, and an ashtray overflows with lipsticked filter tips. Whereas the bouffant head above is strung with ropes of pearls and Rapunzel-like plaits of golden hair, there is no dressing up of appearances down here in the body. Coiled like a snail at the heart of the matter is a reproduction of Leonardo’s drawing of a fetus within its dissected mother womb.

Trapped beneath a cage of symbols of biological imperatives – a tray of eggs, an ancient fertility goddess – and adjacent to hands joined in prayer, the human embryo is poised, head down, waiting to be born. Exiled to the edge of the collage and held down by a manicured female hand, a trio of jokey soldiers lean out of a window as if in a WWII troop album. Emblematic of the “he” to this “she”, they are repressed by the hand as by the memory, relegated to just a bit part in the larger drama of this female’s existence.

Linda Tyler

and challenging exercises in choreography and dance analysis. This edition, focused on offering as many ways of analysing dance as possible, contains all new content and includes a range of contemporary dance works, companies and choreographers. It also includes four brand new chapters - Safe Dance Practice, Anatomy, Production and Technique and Performance, - along with end-of-chapter revision activities. Activities found throughout the book integrate a range of choreographic tasks, along with contemporary technology and multimedia such as videos, songs, recording software and choreographic software.
“Is it time for a mature society to restrict preventive detention?" New Zealand has a low homicide rate, usually around 70 per year. A lower rate would be good, of course, and sensible use of resources to achieve a reduction would be appropriate. At the same time, figures from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment indicate that 100 people a year die from a work-place injury and 700-1000 die prematurely from a work-related disease. And there are also 300 or more sudden deaths from road crashes and countless numbers of early deaths from smoking and unhealthy lifestyles and preventable deaths from inadequate housing and diseases associated with poverty.

Despite their low contribution to unnecessary deaths, homicides have a special place in media attention. Moreover, when they occur at the hands of someone who has exhibited violence in the past, whether in the more usual domestic setting or in the less frequent setting of violence from a stranger, there is often a call for an investigation to whether a death was preventable. This is no doubt sensible because of the value of learning lessons as part of developing policies to reduce harm.

There is also often a call for judges to be given additional powers to detain people in light of the risk they pose. A recent suggestion has been that there be a modification of current sentencing powers so that the established sentence of preventive detention should be available at the end of a determinate sentence. There is already provision under the Public Safety (Public Protection Orders) Act 2014 to detain someone who poses “a very high risk of imminent serious sexual or violent offending” (section 8). Extending the ambit of preventive detention to allow it to be imposed at the end of the sentence would involve a wider test, based on the likelihood of further sexual or violent offending that would involve “a significant and ongoing risk to the safety” of the community (section 87 of the Sentencing Act 2002).

Would this be a good idea? Well, it would be aimed at a good purpose, namely the prevention of serious crime: clearly, avoiding serious harm is better than dealing with the consequences. But is it an achievable purpose? That should be the starting point for any suggestion that judges should be able to lock people up because of the risk of future crime. The long-established proposition that people detained on the basis of a past crime must be proved guilty beyond reasonable doubt is because the certain breach of their rights and the stigma attached requires a high level of certainty that they merit punishment. There is similar stigma and loss of liberty if someone is condemned as unable to control their criminality and so preventively detained.

Importantly, there is a difference between the criminality of the past and that of the future: identifying the latter relies on soothsaying. The three psychics in Philip K Dick’s “The Minority Report” are figures of science fiction for a good reason. At most, we have actuarial figures that show what proportion of a group of people with similar characteristics are likely to reoffend, but nothing beyond educated judgement as to whether a particular individual is one of those who will commit a further offence. This may be good enough for allocating resources for surveillance and some preventive measures, but to allow this to be used to detain people involves a significant extension of the circumstances in which we permit detention. Indeed, indeterminate sentences are unconstitutional in some countries.

Taking this principled approach would also have practical benefits. It would remove the unrealistic impression that we can create safety by identifying and detaining the ones we know are dangerous because we do not have the ability to do that: that would allow policy to be developed on the basis of a sounder starting point. Moreover, it would allow psychologists and others who work with violent prisoners to spend more time working on rehabilitation: the effort currently expended on identifying who should be preventively detained could be refocused.

None of this means that we should reduce efforts to develop risk assessment tools and the like: but we should be mature enough to accept that preventive detention is too blunt a tool on the current state of knowledge.

Kris Gledhill, Faculty of Law