Winter Week gets bigger and better

A record enrolment for this year’s Winter Week on Campus was a very positive start to the Centre for Continuing Education’s semester two programme.

Over 240 keen adult learners, from as far away as Wellington, who relish the opportunity to access the expertise of University lecturers in their chosen field, spent the week of 6–10 July on campus. They attended lectures in such diverse topics as “Ancient Greek mythology and the encoding of culture” (Professor Anne Mackay, Classics and Ancient History), “Antarctica: The frozen continent” (Associate Professor Clive Evans, Biological Sciences), “America and the rest of us: The Obama effect” (Associate Professor Steve Hoadley, Political Studies) and “Europe transformed: Pre-modern to the present” (Lindsay Diggelman, History). Afternoon sessions entitled “Celebrating Darwin” and “Medical matters” were presented by academic staff from the Faculties of Science, Arts, and Medical and Health Sciences.

Continuing Education programme managers, Libby Passou and Jo Davies, enjoy designing a new programme of lectures each year and say the quality of presentations this year was extremely high. “Ground-breaking research was outlined, previously accepted knowledge and opinions were challenged, and current directions of politics, medicine, and the environment were reassessed. Both participants and lecturers enjoy the Winter Week experience.”

To quote one participant: “It is a privilege to have hugely complex material presented by people so steeped in their topic that it is easy to grasp, and relevant to life experience”.

For others the best aspect of Winter Week is that it offers a fascinating window into some of the world-class research being done at the University.

Lindsay Diggelman (History) enjoys teaching for CCE at Winter Week and says: “The adult students are really keen to learn. They ask intelligent questions and are a very responsive audience.”

Some were so inspired by Lindsay Diggelman’s lecture series that they enrolled as non-credit students though CCE for the “Body and blood: Religious cultures and conflicts” C50-1650: CCE course which Lindsay co-teaches in semester two.