Accolades for innovation

Te Punga — a highly visual, content-rich, interactive tutorial built around the University Library’s Voyager catalogue — achieved runner-up status at a national award last year.

The project team, drawn from the Library and the Centre for Academic Development and assisted by a talented young graphics designer, placed considerable emphasis on providing relevant contexts to enhance deep learning.

Exemplifying this are the believable study environments. Recognition of key preoccupations of the Net Generation influenced modes of delivery: hence the graphic novel, simulations, the use of storytelling and colloquialisms, and role-play. Tutorial graphics situate students in “our place”, drawing on distinctive cultural and locational icons and a sea-faring metaphor. Music, technology and free red buses all play a part.

Designed for self-paced learning, Te Punga can also be integrated into academic courses. Multiple delivery modes and a flexible structure allow for various approaches. Students can choose to focus on a particular topic, sequentially construct knowledge across a range of material, or engage in exploratory learning. Subject librarians can work with course educators to facilitate appropriate learning environments that incorporate Te Punga.

Feedback from students shaped the design, and the response to the completed tutorial has been very favourable: “Very cool way of learning! Interactive, fun and able to stick in your head!”

The library is pleased that Te Punga (www.library.auckland.ac.nz/voyagertutorial) has gained extra recognition through the award.

Awards abound

Honours for staff have been awarded in abundance since late last year. Some have appeared on the staff intranet. Others are noted in this issue. Congratulations to all staff who have had their achievements formally recognised nationally or internationally over the last weeks.

An unforeseen pleasure

“It’s a moment I never imagined would arrive in my life,” said Dr Rosemary Arnoux (European Languages and Literatures) as she accepted the Ordre des Palmes Académiques from the French Ambassador, His Excellency Monsieur Michel Legras.

This French government award, the Palmes Académiques, is a high honour. Established by Napoleon Bonaparte, it is one of the world’s oldest civil awards and one of the most prestigious for educators.

Originally given only to French teachers or professors working in France, it was later widened to include French nationals working outside the country and foreigners who have contributed strongly to spreading understanding of French language and culture.

“We consider that someone who has dedicated her life to teaching French should be eligible for the medal,” the Ambassador told guests at the presentation ceremony in the Vice-Chancellor’s suite at Old Government House.

Rosemary majored in French and English at The University of Auckland, then completed a masters in English. Later, while training as a teacher, she completed a masters in French with
first-class honours. She taught for a while at Glendowie College and staged plays there, but
the lure of a doctoral scholarship was too strong and she left for France in late 1967. Her thesis
at the University of Paris focused on the work of theatre director Gaston Baty and his collaborative
work with other directors.

Appointed to Auckland, she focused in her
research on the early exploration of Tahiti, with
a translation into English of Victor Segalen’s Les
Immémoriaux, and articles on related topics.
This work was made possible partly through her
knowledge of Māori, which she taught for a while in Māori Studies.

Rosemary’s staging of student plays in French
brought her back to the theatre, and in particular
to the work of the late Bernard-Marie Koltès, whose
play Roberto Zucco was performed in French at
the Maidment Studio in 2006.

Rosemary retired as senior lecturer on December
12 but will continue at the University as an honorary
research fellow at least until the end of 2008.

Her research will focus on Bernard-Marie Koltès,
whose vision, says Rosemary, involves a new way
of seeing the stage as “a dangerous place” to which
the entry of a character marks the beginning of
a conflict which can lead to violence or to death.

She is grateful for the opportunities afforded her
by University study grants and sabbatical leave,
as well as continued Embassy support over the
past decade.

Sundance grant gives ‘great
international profile’

Among 300 applicants from 25 countries vying
for documentary funding from the prestigious
Sundance Institute, Associate Professor Annie
Goldson (Film, Television and Media Studies)
was one of only 30 to receive a coveted grant.

The funding is for her feature-length
documentary, An Island Calling, which traces
the 2001 killings in Fiji of Fiji Red Cross Director-
General John Scott and his partner Greg Scrivener.

Annie says she is honoured to be in the company
of such documentary luminaries as Fred Wiseman,
Issac Julien and Albert Maysles, who also received
funding.

She values the award not only for the financial
assistance but also because “it will give great
international profile to a film that is firmly based
in our region”. Funding from TV3 and NZ On Air
has also been crucial to the film’s success.

An Island Calling has been awarded an SBS
prestige (that is, the Australian broadcaster
“bought” the film prior to its completion) and
is scheduled to be aired in Australia in 2008.

Hat trick for 2007

Hūfanga Dr ‘Okusitino Māhina (Anthropology)
received a Creative New Zealand Pacific Heritage
Arts Award at a ceremony held at Auckland
Museum late last year.

These awards recognise major contributions
to maintaining, reviving or promoting a Pacific
heritage artform in New Zealand: in this case,
the art of poetry.

He received two other substantial honours last
year: first with the naming of the Dr ‘Okusitino
Māhina Education Centre in Tongo, and second
when the chiefly name Hūfanga was bestowed
upon him by the Hon. Noble Fakafanaua as his
tehina, titled brother.

Rich referencing site recognised

ReferentiQ, a valuable new referencing web
resource now being used by students from all over
the world, has won an inaugural Asia-Pacific award
for two members of staff from the Student Learning
Centre, Jenny Marshall and SLC Director, Associate
Professor Emmanuel Manalo.

They received the inaugural award for
“Outstanding Academic Integrity Resource” at
the Third Asia-Pacific Conference on Educational
Integrity held at the University of South Australia
on 6 and 7 December.

The aim was to provide an e-learning tool which
would not only convey the core values underlying
referencing, which Emmanuel and Jenny believe
hold true across different cultures, but also to make
referencing simpler for students by providing
models that are easy to access, readily available
and simple to follow.

Emmanuel conceived the idea for the project and
drew up the initial plans for it, and Jenny conceived
the Quick©ite tool and was responsible for creating
and developing the site, www.cite.auckland.ac.nz,
which now attracts up to 1,000 visitors a day from
five continents.

The site is of immense value to any student,
writer or teacher. It includes not only models
of referencing in APA and MLA styles (with
Chicago shortly to be added), but also instructions
on paraphrasing, quoting and abbreviations;
notes on plagiarism and how to avoid it; links
to other useful sites; videotapes of students from
a range of backgrounds speaking of why
acknowledgment of sources is important to them;
and even a “virtual agony aunt” to answer
frequently-asked questions.

Law students’ showcase celebrates 40 years

The only law review in New Zealand written and
produced entirely by students has celebrated its
fortieth anniversary.

Since 1967 the Auckland University Law Review
has published articles showcasing the cream of
undergraduate work at the Law School along with
case and legislation notes, and book reviews.

Its cutting edge articles, up to 12,000 words
long and meriting an A grade or better, canvas
changing and sometimes contentious areas
of the law. As the 1981 edition put it, AULR “gives
the best students an opportunity to share their
ideas with a large sample of the legal community
at the start of their careers”.

Around 70 former editors and contributors –
judges, Queen’s Counsel, senior partners in law
firms and other prominent practitioners – gathered
at the University’s Folie Pasifika on the evening
of 16 November to mark this auspicious occasion.
They included the Chief Justice, Dame Sian Elias
(editor in 1970) and two from the same family
(Philip Khouri who co-edited and contributed
to the 1971 issue and his daughter Nina Khouri,
a contributor in 2002).

The group represented a virtual “who’s who”
of today’s legal profession, said the Dean of Law,
Professor Paul Rishworth, in welcoming guests.
Issues explored down the years had remained
current, proof of the Review’s “enduring value
and continuing relevance”.

The Review exemplified the Law School’s
commitment to teaching students to “ask questions
of the law and legal institutions, and to consider
law’s contribution to a better and more just world”,
said Paul.

Justice John Priestley, the founding co-editor, said
the vision for the AULR belonged to the late
Professor Jack Northey, long-time Dean of the Law
School, who had transformed law from a part-time
subject into an “academically respectable” discipline.

The AULR had come into being “hard on the
heels” of the new LLB Honours degree to give its
students an outlet for their research work. “That
has remained its theme.

“Is this an esteemed publication with which
I am both humble and proud to have been
associated and I am sure that the judges and
senior practitioners present here tonight are
similarly proud,” said Justice Priestley.

The fortieth anniversary edition features articles
on incorporated law firms, drug rape issues, double
taxation agreements, human rights legislation,
preventative detention, and documentary credits.
The Ko Ngaa Take Ture Māori section has a
detailed analysis of the sovereignty assumed by
Britain over New Zealand.

It costs $40 a year to subscribe to AULR: aulr@
auckland.ac.nz
Retrospective 1883-2008

The University College occupied a two-story building known as “Old Parliament House”, or to students as “The Shedifice”, from 1890.

How much was the University’s caretaker paid in 1895? Where was the only place that smoking was allowed according to the 1933 regulations for the conduct of students?

This “Retrospective” column, to be published in every issue of University News in 2008, will resurrect documents from a variety of University and other sources that provide a window into these and other aspects of the University’s 125-year history.

The first column is an extract from “Historical Sketch”, Auckland University College Calendar, 1884, pp. 19-24.

“The Auckland University College Act, 1882” which became law on the 3rd of September in that year, definitely established the College, and endowed it with a statutory grant of £4,000 per annum. The Governing Body constituted by the Act is incorporated, and is styled “the Auckland University College Council.” It consists of eleven members, two of whom are ex officio, viz., the Mayor of the City of Auckland, and the Chairman of the Board of Education. “The Professorial Board,” which is constituted by the Act, possesses, “subject to the approval of the Council,” the power of fixing the course of study, and prescribing the subjects of examination for scholarships, exhibitions and prizes; and it has “subject to a right of appeal to the Council” a general control of the discipline of the students, the management of the library and the direction of the College servants. Each Professor and Lecturer is entitled to receive, in addition to his salary, the fees that are paid by students for attendance at his Lectures. The college was opened on the 21st May, 1883 by His Excellency the Governor, Sir William F. Drummond Jervois, F.C.M.G., who delivered on that occasion, before a large audience, in the Choral Hall, an interesting and instructive address on the subject of University Education. The Students who attended the Lectures in 1883 were in number eighty. The Auckland College has a staff of four Professors and one Lecturer. But perhaps the most serious drawback to the progress of the Auckland University College is the want of a suitable building. It occupies, an sufferance, one old wooden building and part of another. By the permission of the Professor of Classics, in 1883, delivered his lectures in a room of the Museum, and the Lecturer on Law met his classes in his room in the new District Court-house. The necessity of providing proper accommodation has not yet been permanently met by the Government, but the temporary use of Admiralty House has just been granted, with the sanction of the Naval Authorities; and the lectures on Classics, English, and Mathematics, will, for the present, be delivered in that building.

New Year Honours

Three University of Auckland staff have been honoured in the New Year Honours list.

Professor Peter Gluckman, Director of the Liggins Institute, was appointed a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (DCNZM) for services to medicine.

Associate Professor Harry Allen, Department of Anthropology, was appointed Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to archaeology.

Jim Peters, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori) was appointed Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to local body affairs, education and the community.

Fulbright seeks applicants

Fulbright New Zealand is seeking applicants for the US Department of State’s 2008 Study of the United States Institutes for Faculty. These are six-week, multinational programmes for scholars with little or no experience in the US. The six 2008 institutes will each focus on a different aspect of American society, culture and institutions: American civilisation; American politics and political thought; contemporary American literature; US foreign policy; journalism and media; and religious pluralism in the United States. These will be held at campuses throughout the US during June and July, with 18 overseas scholars invited to participate in each. The award covers the full costs. The goal is to strengthen curricula and improve the quality of teaching about the US, the institutes are targeted at those who will be able to incorporate new knowledge into future courses. Applications close 1 February 2008. For more information see the Fulbright New Zealand website (www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-studyus-fac.html) or contact Rae Holdsworth on raef@fulbright.org.nz or on 04 494 1507.

E-cigarette to help quit smoking

Auckland smokers are being asked to participate in a world-first trial of an electronic cigarette that delivers nicotine without the harmful effects of tobacco. Researchers from the Clinical Trials Research Unit think an e-cigarette might provide nicotine faster than currently available nicotine replacement treatments. It is smoked like a normal cigarette, and even glows at the tip when inhaled, but delivers a measured dose of nicotine. The team is looking for 50 Aucklanders over 18 who smoke mainly factory-made cigarettes to participate in the study to see if the e-cigarette would be useful in helping people give up smoking. The trial will take place from the end of January at the Clinical Trials Research Unit, Takapuna Campus. Contact Dr Jo Lorimer, ext 82358.

Our century and its discontents

The inaugural conference of the Centre for Lacanian Analysis (Inc.) aims to explore how psychoanalysis can contribute to examining the discontents of our time. The meeting, entitled “The 21st Century and Its Discontents: A Psychoanalytic Perspective”, will bring together those engaged in clinical and critical approaches to psychoanalysis, particularly those engaged with the works of Jacques Lacan. The conference will take place at the University from 28 February to 2 March. For full details see www.lacan.org.nz and for general inquiries contact Lucille Holmes, la.holmes@auckland.ac.nz.

Contact Dr Jo Lorimer, ext 82358.

The University of Auckland News
The ‘smartest intellectual property’ in the world

Helen Timperley

Staff from the Faculty of Education received international accolades at the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI), held recently in Auckland. ICSEI describes itself as a “movement focused on the quality and equity opportunities and challenges related to school effectiveness and school improvement”.

This year’s gathering, comprising 400 researchers, policy makers, school leaders and teachers, administrators and professional developers from more than 50 countries around the world, focused on the theme of “educative partnerships for school improvement and effectiveness”.

The three-day conference offered a diverse range of presentations, including discussions by Dr Christine Rubie-Davies (Education) and Associate Professor Robyn Dixon, who discussed expectations about education and achievement in secondary schools; Professor Stuart McNaughton (Education) and Dr Mei Lai who spoke on sustaining achievement gains in culturally and linguistically diverse communities; and David Eddy who described the development and delivery of an induction programme for first-time principals.

Perhaps the clearest evidence that the Faculty of Education is internationally prominent in research and pedagogy came during the closing address. Three of the four esteemed women who took the stage amid loud applause were from the faculty, and each is engaged in innovative and critical work within the education sector.

Professor Helen Timperley is the lead author of the Ministry of Education’s first Best Evidence Synthesis (BES) report. Helen was asked to examine how teacher learning can be promoted in ways that result in improved outcomes for students. The result is a framework for teacher learning and development that can serve as a guide for policy and practice.

Although Helen joked that the BES report had been likened to a doorstop because of its heft, she said the BES is a highly effective tool that helps educators identify, evaluate, synthesise and make accessible all the relevant information on teacher learning in New Zealand and the world. Helen was pleased by the enthusiasm with which the work was greeted by participants at the conference.

It had, in fact, already attracted much recognition, including a request from the American Educational Research Association for a chapter to be published in its highly prestigious annual review. “The chapter was requested even before the findings were released,” says Helen.

Following Helen’s keynote address, Professor Vivienne Robinson (Teaching, Learning and Development) and Dr Margie Hohepa (Education) presented an overview of their ongoing research for the next BES iteration, in which they are assessing how school leadership affects student achievement and well-being.

The researchers are examining different styles of leadership – namely, transformational and instructional – and the different ways in which school leaders can effect positive change in student outcomes. Margie is also analysing the impact of leadership on students in Māori-medium education systems.

Although the next BES report will not be published until later in the year, the results of the research have already been used by groups of school leaders, policy makers and educational researchers. The Ministry of Education has also integrated the findings into the leadership development framework that guides its programmes for all principals.

In wrapping up the addresses, ICSEI president John MacBeath praised the education initiatives being undertaken in New Zealand and echoed Dr Linda Kaser, Professor of Education at the University of British Columbia, who earlier had described the BES programme as “the smartest intellectual property” in the world.

What’s on

WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY

Course Advice Day

Seminars: 10am-3 30pm Lecture Theatre 260-098; 260-115, Rm 051, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafion Rd. Seminars focus on course advice for first-year students. Phone 0800 616263.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Beautiful studio apartment available for at least six months. In superior building adjacent to the University, view of harbour, balcony, furnished. $230 pw to careful tenant. Phone building manager 366-1829 or owner (03) 472-7666.

FULLY-FURNISHED SPACIOUS STUDIO APARTMENT

Fully-furnished spacious studio apartment (includes TV, DVD etc), in character building (Lorne Street Lofts, a former Turkish bathhouse). $280 pw incl water. Five minutes walk to UoA across Albert Park. Bed folds down off the wall. Thick walls so minimal noise, warm in winter and cheap power bills. Mostly owner occupied and only 17 apartments so pretty civilised. May suit mature student or visiting lecturer. Phone (021) 416-455 before 31 January 2008 or email mel.tate@mail.com

LOOKING FOR RENTAL ACCOMMODATION IN THE NEW YEAR

A family of three and two puffy cats. Needs to be in One Tree Hill, Ellerslie, Greenlane or Newmarket area. Any possibility phone Nikki on (021) 790-693 or email n.turner@auckland.ac.nz

PHD STUDENT (ANTHROPOLOGY) SEeks...

Quiet, furnished place to rent from end of January until 20 June, while writing thesis. A room in a house with other like-minded people could be ideal. Walking or short bus ride from City Campus. I need a bed, desk and a few shelves, privacy and my own bathroom. I am responsible, quiet, n/s who can pay reasonable rent. Please email Micah at f.m.vanderryn@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL COUPLE WITH YOUNG BABY SEEK HOUSESIT FROM JAN 2008

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see Next Week Online: www.auckland.ac.nz/nextweekonline

- Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost $20 (incl GST).

Arioso Dance Studio offers contemporary creative dance classes for children from age three up. Classes use mainly classical music and aim to build children’s movement and listening skills in a fun environment. Classes held Wednesday afternoons in Mt Eden. See http://www.arioso.net.nz or phone (09) 845-4789 (ah).