Te Wiki o te Reo (Māori Language Week), starting on 21 July, is a time to celebrate and promote the Māori language.

It is therefore an ideal time to let staff know that they have a chance to acquire some knowledge of te Reo though a free class offered by the Centre for Academic Development.

CAD staff member Matiu Ratima loves teaching the te Reo class for staff.

“It’s an absolute pleasure to do it – the highlight of my week,” he says.

And those who attend certainly don’t sit through any long talks about grammar. What you can expect if you go to the classes is a series of brief and lively introductions to activities, followed by plenty of chances to practise.

The lessons are based on a communicative approach – activity-driven and student-focused – with speech from the teacher mainly limited to the time it takes to set up activities.

“I just set an objective that the students have to talk to each other to achieve. The learning comes from engaging in the activities,” says Matiu.

The idea for the classes emerged last year from a Māori staff advancement hui organised by Jim Peters, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori).

When Māori staff discussed the sort of development they wanted, one item high on the agenda was free Māori language courses.

“That was a request we could respond to immediately,” says Matiu, who had come to the Centre for Academic learning directly from AUT, where he had been teaching te Reo at Levels 1-3.

The first time the class was held – last year – only Māori staff were eligible. They came in at all different levels for an eight-week course with one session per week.

This year a division was made between beginners and intermediates: each group was offered a four-week course. At the same time the course was thrown open to all staff. The beginners’ class this semester was about half Māori and half non-Māori, with international staff quite strongly represented. The more advanced class was about 70 percent Māori.

“There is a real diversity within each group,” says Matiu, “and for some learners the hardest thing is confidence.”

With those who haven’t much confidence and are overly conscious of making mistakes, Matiu makes
Oho ake i te Reo Māori

Kua takoto te mānuka ki mua i a koutou ngā kaimahi Māori o Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau mō Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (21-27 o Hongongoa) hei akiaki i te katoa ki te kōrero i tō tātou nei reo rangatira i ngā wāhi katoa o te wānanga nei.

Te Wero Wānanga Reo Māori 2008
Na te tari o te PVC Māori tēnei kaupapa i tautoko ki te whakahihiri koutou katoa, koutou kāhore i te paku mōhio ki te reo me ngā tāngata matatau hoki, ki te kōrero i tētahi wāhi pai, wāhi manaaki hoki me te tautoko i ngā mahi e pā ana ki te whakatairanga o tō tātou reo hei reo oranga mā te katoa.

Whakaurua tō koutou kapa, 4-6 tāngata te rahi, ki te whakataetae i ngā ngahoe manahau – mai i ngā ngahoe kai hingarari ki a Fear Factor me te Whare whare.

Ko $30 noa iho te utu mō ia kapa. Mā ēnei pūtea ka hokana e mātou ngā tauemi hei awhina i ngā kōhanga reo e rua o te wānanga nei, a Hinetiwhaiawa me Te Puna Kūhunaguhanga, ki te whanga haere i ngā reanga hāhū ki tō tātou nei reo rangatira.

Karawihia e hoa mā! Ko tīmatu ēnei whakangahau a te:
RA: Taiti/Rapare 24 Hongongoa
WA: 6-8 karaka a te pō
WĀHĪ: Te Marae o Waipapa, Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

UTU KAPA: $30

Awhiwhi o te reo Māori

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori is hosting an event for Māori Language Week (21-27 July) encouraging everyone at the University to use te Reo Māori around the University.

This is The University of Auckland’s Reo Māori Challenge 2008 – Te Wero Reo Māori i Te Wānanga 2008.

The challenge is designed to encourage all staff, from absolute beginners to experts, to start using a little reo in a safe and fun environment and support ongoing efforts to promote our distinctive Māori language as a living language for all New Zealanders.

Although the focus of the challenge will be te Reo Māori, absolutely anyone can participate no matter what level of Māori they have even if that’s none at all.

Submit a team of 4-6 people from your faculty or service division to compete in a variety of fun team challenges from simple quizzes to Fear Factor and Bingo (Whare whare).

The entry fee is $30 per team which will go to providing educational resources for the University’s two Māori immersion early childhood education centres, Te Kōhanga Reo o Hineteiwaiawa and Te Puna Kūhunaguhanga, supporting the transmission of the Māori language to new generations.

The inaugural Reo challenge will take place on:
Date: Thursday 24 July
Time: 6-8pm
Venue: Waipapa Marae, The University of Auckland.
Entry fee: $30 per team

Numbers are limited so get your team in early.
To register your team or for more information email k.netana@auckland.ac.nz by close of business Monday 21 July.

Is your faculty, department or service division hosting any events during Māori Language Week? Tell us about it.

From the Vice-Chancellor

One of the University’s key strategic objectives is to recruit and retain a body of high quality academic and general staff who are encouraged to reach their full potential.

In order to do that, we must ensure that our HR systems and practices are of the highest possible quality. The HR Connect+ project, which has involved a redesign of our processes and the development of a new human resources and payroll system, PeopleSoft v9, is a key component of this strategy and is on track to be introduced on 1 September.

PeopleSoft v9, in which we have made a multi-million dollar investment, will replace our current PeopleSoft (human resources and payroll), IMPEL (recruitment) and LMS (leave management) systems. The current systems are old, unreliable and in some cases no longer supported by the vendor, all of which leaves the University at considerable risk. The new system will provide us with a stable, modern and reliable human resources and payroll technology platform of a standard among the best in the world.

The degree of change that is about to occur is significant. All staff, academic and general, will be affected to some degree, partly because the new system will allow easier management by staff of some of their own data (eg. personal data, leave applications). Likewise, staff in management roles will have access to manager self service functions designed to simplify and speed up processing without recourse to large amounts of paper. What this means, of course, is that all staff will need to familiarise themselves with the new system to the level required by their engagement with it. Opportunities for familiarisation (suitable for most staff members) through to training in specific new HR processes and systems (for managers and other high volume users) will be made available. We have one opportunity to make this implementation a success so the importance of attending training when invited cannot be overstated. If you have any questions, a list of faculty and service division-based staff who can help you is on the staff intranet under HR Connect+, Transition Teams.

This is a very important development for the University and I congratulate the many staff who have contributed as members of the project Reference Group, Steering Group, Human Resources and ITS teams, the project team and in other ways.

(story continued from page 1)

sure they have multiple opportunities to speak.

“One option is to put them in pairs, so they don’t have to speak in front of the whole class.”

“Those who have no fear often learn very quickly, but need some help to focus on accuracy.”

Matiu is Māori Academic Adviser in CAD, responsible primarily for providing a programme of academic development for Māori staff. He is also one of a team of four – led by Dr Helen Sword – teaching the Postgraduate Certificate of Academic Practice. In addition he teaches in a seminar series entitled “Introduction to teaching and learning” for new staff.

He is about to take paternity leave to look after his young son, Tama, but will be back in September and expects to teach another te Reo class for staff in the latter part of the second semester. CAD staff warn that the course is popular and staff who would like to enrol would be wise to do so early.
Focus on research challenges

“Challenges for research in modern academia” is the theme of the annual Winter Lectures at The University of Auckland starting later this month.

In the six-lecture series, academics and students will look at different aspects of research in today’s university.

Bryan Gould, former Vice-Chancellor of Waikato University, will deliver the first lecture on 22 July on “The meaning of and constraints on academic freedom in modern academia”.

Later speakers will discuss the changing funding environment, research ethics, international research opportunities, and cross-cultural research dynamics. Two PhD students will highlight the challenges facing graduate researchers.

Research is at the core of the University’s responsibilities to the community while extending the boundaries of knowledge entails international collaboration, says Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). “Conducting research carries statutory and ethical responsibilities to act as critic and conscience of society and in the exercise of academic freedom. All these dimensions of research have changed dramatically in the last decade.”

Professor Harding expects the lecture series to produce thought-provoking reflections on how research can best advance the University’s academic mission.

“For a research-intensive university like ours, which earned more than $160 million in external research revenue last year, these are questions vital not only for us as an institution but for New Zealand’s economic and social development.”

The lectures, in the Maidment Theatre from 1-2pm on successive Tuesdays, finish on 26 August. Full details are at www.auckland.ac.nz/winter.

The University’s first woman professor, Marie Clay, University of Auckland News, 4, 9, 1974. Professor Clay was an internationally renowned researcher in educational literacy, received five honorary degrees from overseas universities and was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1987. Professor Dame Marie Clay died in April 2007, aged 81.

This column reproduces an article published in The University of Auckland News in October 1974 announcing the appointment of the University’s first woman Professor.

Associate Professor Marie M. Clay has been appointed a Professor and Head of the Department of Education at Auckland University to succeed Professor Ralph Winterbourn, who retires at the end of the year. Professor Clay will become the first woman to hold a full professorship at the University, although there are several women Associate-Professors.

Born in Wellington, she gained both an MA with Honours and a Diploma in Education of the University of New Zealand in 1949, was awarded the University of New Zealand’s economic and social development.

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Research in brief

Major prize for spinal research

Three researchers from the University have won a major international prize – considered the premier international prize in spinal research – for their contributions to understanding back pain.

Doctoral students Meredith Schollum, Sam Veres, their supervisor Professor Neil Broom (Chemical and Materials Engineering), and clinical collaborator, Auckland spinal surgeon Dr Peter Robertson, jointly received the ISSLS Prize for Lumbar Spine Research at a conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

The prize, also known as the Volvo Award, recognised two pieces of research. Meredith produced the first detailed description of how the microscopic layers comprising the wall of the intervertebral disc connect. Intervertebral discs are the soft cushions between each vertebra in the spine. Sam’s complementary research identified areas of weakness in the disc using a special pressurisation technique, helping to describe why some forces on the spine result in a “slipped” disc.

The winning papers will be published in the highest ranked international spinal research journal, SPINE.

The winners are part of the Biomaterials Research Group. The US$15,000 prize cheque will help enhance the group’s optical imaging facilities.

Canadian awards

Each year, the Canadian Government, via its Canadian Studies Program, awards more than C$150,000 to Australasian academics researching or teaching Canadian subjects.

Small travel grants are also available to postgraduate students for research on Canada, as part of their thesis or dissertation.

Over the past 20 years, more than C$2 million has been distributed under this programme. As well, a number of other awards are available in various disciplines with funding provided by various Canadian Federal Government agencies and Canadian provinces.

On 4 August, Tony McKittrick, Manager, Academic Relations, from the Canadian High Commission, Canberra, will hold two information sessions for all academics, researchers and postgraduates interested in learning more about the programme and how to apply for the numerous grants available.

The Canadian Studies Grants humanities and social sciences research seminar will be held at 10am and the science, engineering and health seminar from 11am on 4 August at i-space, fourth floor of the Kate Edger Information Commons. Morning tea will be served. RSVP by 28 July for catering purposes to International Fund Specialist Emma Kelly, e.kelly@auckland.ac.nz or on ext 84886.

April presidents meet

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon and Associate Professor Christopher Tremewan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), attended the annual presidents’ meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities at Keio University in Tokyo from 26 to 28 June.

This was also Keio’s 150th anniversary.

Speaking at the opening dinner was Mdm Sadako Ogata, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a 1996 recipient of an honorary doctorate from Auckland, now heading Japan’s foreign aid organisation. Speaker at the anniversary dinner was Japanese Prime Minister, Yasuo Fukuda.

Stuart McCutcheon chaired the Presidents’ Open Forum, at which eight presidents presented recent developments at their universities related to collaboration, sustainability and governance.

At the APRU Forum on 27 June, panel speakers from government and industry discussed public policy, innovation, technology and globalisation. Working groups of presidents, vice-chancellors and senior staff concentrated on university governance and management; response to globalisation (including the need to create new patterns of competition and collaboration), and environmental and global challenges (involving university initiatives and sustainability in the Asia-Pacific).

The business meeting focused on projects and future directions and activities, including an upcoming climate change workshop in Vietnam.

The newly elected chair of APRU is Professor Yuichiro Anzai, President of Keio University.

Early voyagers highly skilled

Geoff Irwin (left) and Richard Flay with David Le Pelley, Wind Tunnel Manager (front).

A research collaboration between Arts and Engineering is setting out to prove that early Polynesian voyagers were expert navigators whose sailing expeditions were not just at the mercy of the wind and sea.

Anthropologist Geoff Irwin and engineer Richard Flay have designed a scale model of an early Polynesian canoe which 3000 years ago would have been used to explore the uncharted waters and islands of the Pacific. By testing the replica under different conditions inside the University’s Wind Tunnel, the researchers are building evidence that early blue-water navigation required planning and expertise.

Geoff says the model’s design is based on several strands of evidence.

“The visual evidence, as recorded in drawings by Captain Cook and his crew, details what the early craft looked like. The common design elements were seen across the Pacific. There is also linguistic evidence, based on the fact that all canoe parts had names, and these names are shared across the Austronesian language family.

Plus, remnants of the early vessels have been preserved in organic material such as swamps – we can see the decking, the steering oars, the paddles that these sailors used.”

The Faculty of Arts-funded research was born when Geoff, himself an experienced sailor, approached Richard to help with the technical aspects of designing and testing a canoe, in order to determine its sailing performance.

“I knew the questions and I thought Richard might be able to help find the answers,” says Geoff, who believes this may be the first such collaboration of its kind.

Richard designed the University’s Wind Tunnel more than 10 years ago and was an integral player in Team New Zealand’s victorious 1995 America’s Cup campaign. He says the early canoes were not just seaworthy, they were “fantastic.”

“The boat builders made good use of materials, and they designed vessels that were relatively fast and capsize-resistant and that were sailed by competent crew. The catamaran and trimaran designs that we saw in the first voyages are still used today,” says Richard, who estimates the early boats were around 14 metres or longer and would have covered 100 miles a day at an average of four knots over 24 hours.

Both academics are confident that analysis of the Wind Tunnel tests will put paid to the notion that early voyaging was more about luck than skill. Given that early sailors set out against the prevailing southeast trade winds, often with at least a dozen passengers, as well as plants and livestock, the theory of haphazard exploration would have quickly led to the decimation of early Polynesian communities.

“The way to survive at sea is to find your way home. If it’s kamikaze canoes, the losses have got to be huge, because it’s an empty ocean,” says Geoff. “But the attrition can’t have been much. I think their losses have been fairly slim. They must have been able to sail.”
Recycling rolls further

A minimal bin.

More buildings across the University are to trial an innovative recycling system which sees personal rubbish bins scrapped in favour of small black cubes.

The cubes fit a minimal amount of non-recyclable rubbish and sit on top of desks.

The Business School has been using the cube system since the new Owen G Glenn building opened at the start of this year.

The University’s Environmental Coordinator Dr Lesley Stone says the pilot recycling system worked well at the Business School, and other faculties and departments are keen to adopt it.

“Reducing waste is a priority for the University. Last year, our rubbish filled enough wheelie bins to reach all the way from the University to the airport and most of the way back,” Lesley says.

The new system works by encouraging staff to take responsibility for their own waste. Each staff member is provided with a white desk-top tray for paper, and a black desk-top cube for non-recyclable rubbish. A blue crate is placed in all kitchen areas for bottles and cans.

Staff members are responsible for emptying their desk-top bins when they become full — into a yellow wheelie bin for paper and their kitchen rubbish bin for general waste. Cleaning staff empty the contents of the bottle/can crates into blue wheelie bins.

The yellow wheelie bin is placed inside copy or resource rooms and emptied weekly. The green and blue wheelie bins are placed outside buildings. The green bin is emptied daily and the blue bin weekly.

The following buildings/departments will pilot the system from the beginning of Semester Two:

• The Centre for Continuing Education (Short Street)
• Arts 2 (Asian Studies, Art History, Film, TV and Media Studies, Philosophy)
• Arts IT (B Grafton Road)
• Arts Dean’s Office (10 Grafton Road)
• Property Services (49 Symonds Street)
• 76 Symonds Street (includes the VC’s Research Office and part of ITS)
• The Fisher Building (includes Communications and Marketing, Theology)

Teams are being set up in each building to support the trial and Lesley is visiting participants to talk about how it will work.

Chair for mathematician

Dr Rod Gover, an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, has been promoted to professor in the latest promotion round.

The University regards promotion to professor as a mark of distinction. Such a promotion is awarded only when the applicant has demonstrated professional and academic eminence at an international level, and in accordance with the highest ethical standards.

Rod’s research interests are in differential geometry and mathematical physics. He has played a significant role in developing a special calculus (called tractor calculus) for treating the class of structures known as parabolic differential geometries. This class includes conformal geometries, CR geometries (which turn up in complex analysis), quaternionic geometries, projective differential geometries and many other structures.

He is involved in a $380,000 research programme on “Conformal geometry and its applications” through the NZ Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and holds a $385,000 Marsden Fund grant as sole Principal Investigator.

The author of 33 primary research journal articles, one edited book, two book chapters and 11 refereed conference proceeding articles, he has spoken and lectured at conferences in Australia, Asia, North America, Britain and Europe.

Rod is on the editorial boards of SIGMA (Symmetry Integrability and Geometry: Methods and Applications) and the NZ Journal of Mathematics. He is a frequent reviewer for Mathematical Reviews and referee for numerous international journals.

He has BSc Honours and MSc degrees in physics from the University of Canterbury and a DPhil in mathematics from the University of Oxford. After holding several appointments at Australian universities he joined The University of Auckland as a lecturer in 1999, being promoted to senior lecturer in 2001 and associate professor in 2005.

Currently he is deputy head of the Department of Mathematics.

Lessons from Zimbabwe

Recent events in Zimbabwe have lessons to teach, most of them discouraging. But at least one outcome offers hope.

First, we are reminded that while dozens of countries have prospered in the post-Soviet era as their governments have embraced democracy and market economics, the process is not irreversible. Zimbabwe, but also Kazakhstan, Belarus, Russia, Venezuela and Fiji appear to be retreating from democracy to authoritarianism.

Second, we have learned that without good government, nothing else works. No business person, farmer, teacher, scientist, artist, or athlete can escape the intrusion of Mugabe’s government and its violent cohorts — the “veterans”, the youth militia, and the thugs mobilised by the ZANU-PF party. Academics are barely tolerated, barely paid, and barely survive. Only the cricket team, patronised by Mugabe, seems to prosper.

Third, Mugabe’s behaviour illustrates that power is addictive, and also that it corrupts. Necessary elements of democratic culture — peaceful surrender of power by the loser, tolerance of opposition by the winner — are absent from the Mugabe regime’s thinking. Sadly, he is not the first leader to give way to arrogance, selfishness and brutality, nor will he be the last.

Fourth, neighbours may see things differently from distant observers. We see Mugabe as a bully and a thief, but African leaders such as South African leader Thabo Mbeki see Mugabe as an anti-colonial liberation leader and literally embraced him at the recent African Union summit in Cairo. This is a post-colonial conceptual disconnect between North and South that liberals find hard to understand, let alone bridge.

Is there anything positive arising out of all this? Perhaps one may take heart from the international condemnation triggered by Mugabe’s corruption of the electoral process, expressed not only by the US, European, and New Zealand governments and the G-8 summit leaders (including Russia), but also by the UN Secretary General (a Korean) and leaders of Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Botswana, and Angola. Thanks to modern communication and rising standards of democracy and human rights, the political oppression of peoples anywhere is noticed and decried.

Finally a lesson for academics: we need to expose the techniques of political oppression wherever they become manifest, because they strike at the heart of our enterprise, threatening our academic freedom, independent thought and critical research and teaching.

Stephen Hoadley, Associate Professor Department of Political Studies
Closely connected with community

Engagement with the outside world is a focus of the University’s Annual Report for 2007.

In a seven-page segment it outlines some of the ways in which the University connects with its various communities.

The Alumni and Friends Office, for example, strives for “a world-wide, life-long network for its members”. The bi-annual Ingenio magazine has more than 90,000 readers while a monthly e-newsletter, @auckland, is sent to 50,000.

Last year a secure Alumni and Friends presence was established on the social networking website Facebook. “This, and the proposed introduction of an online net community, are part of an ongoing drive to connect with alumni in ways that are meaningful and convenient for them.”

The Maidment Theatre Te Atamira is described as being “firmly embedded” in the University’s and Auckland’s cultural life. It is both “a bridge between the University and community” and “a doorway to, in particular, the City Campus”.

The Community Consultative Group, created in 1999, comprises key members of diverse national and local communities. The University shares information about its activities, programmes and plans with this group which in turn provides feedback.

The Faculty of Engineering’s EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) programme is another instance of community outreach. It has taken on such projects as on-site recycling of waste products on Waiheke Island, and producing three-dimensional, digital photo models of Māori and Pacific Island artefacts in the Auckland Museum.

The Liggins Education Network for Science gives school teachers and students access to scientific research at the University. It aims to “inspire schools to maximise student potential through a wide range of high-quality learning opportunities”. The Schools Partnership Office co-ordinates three mentoring schemes for Auckland secondary school students: MATES for 120 students in ten secondary schools; for Māori and Pacific students at Massey High School; and tutoring at the Tamaki Campus for local Year 13 students.

In his review of “a very successful year” the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said the pejorative term “ivory tower” – where intellectuals engage in pursuits disconnected from the practical concerns of everyday life – does not apply to The University of Auckland. Staff and students are “engaged with the communities we serve in a vast array of collaborations and activities”.

Stuart said enrolments in 2007 were strong after the downturns of the previous years while continued diversification of the international student body had protected the University against reliance on any one region.

Externally funded research revenue had grown to $162.9 million, and staff had been recognised both nationally and internationally for the quality and impact of their research and teaching.

The University had met its key financial targets, achieving an operating surplus of $22.6 million. At 3 percent of revenue this was at the TAMU (Tertiary Advisory Monitoring Unit) minimum, Stuart noted.

“Perhaps most remarkable,” he said, “is the fact that The University of Auckland has maintained such a high reputation and ranking among the world’s leading research universities, while operating on such low levels of public and private investment. That performance is a testimony to the commitment and energy of our many leading academics, and the many general staff who work so hard to support them and their students.”

Elsewhere the Annual Report details the University’s achievements during 2007 by faculty, progress in meeting its objectives (in “Statements of service performance”) and its financial statements. Illustrated in colour it contains a wealth of useful statistics and information.

The report is available from Diane Spencer, Project Manager in Financial Services (ext 82441, d.spencer@auckland.ac.nz) and online at www.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/about/uaa/publications/publications.cfm

Fulbright 2008

The Fulbright programme has been jointly funded by the US and New Zealand governments since 1970.

Its awards have funded over 1,400 New Zealand students, scholars, artists and professionals to study, teach and research in the United States, and more than 1,100 of their American counterparts to do the same.

At the latest round of presentations on June 19, 27 prestigious awards were issued to students at a ceremony held at the Beehive in Wellington. Of the 27 grantees, 12 were University of Auckland alumni. This is a considerable achievement for the students and the University.

University of Auckland recipients in 2008

Fulbright EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research
- Aaron Wilson, PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Fulbright-Ministry of Research, Science and Technology Graduate Awards
- Hiren Mulchandani, MSc in Materials Science and Engineering
- Hiten Mulchandani, MSc & PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Josie McVitty, MSc in Environmental Engineering
- Lucy Hawcroft, masters degree in Conservation Psychology
- Monique Ryan, MSc in Computer Science
- Rahul Mehta, PhD in Electrical Engineering
- Rick Henry, PhD in Engineering

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards
- Bethany Edmunds, MA in Visual Culture
- Genevieve de Pont, PhD in Literature
- Oliver Kember, MA in Security Studies
- Simon Thode, PhD in History

International Fulbright Science and Technology Award
- Alana Alexander, PhD in Wildlife

The University congratulates these alumni and to wish them well in their future academic pursuits in the United States.

Not only did students from The University of Auckland receive a significant proportion of the awards in this round, but the allocation of awards shows a pleasing representation from a broad range of fields. Three of the University’s award recipients had already experienced overseas education through their participation in the 360° Auckland Abroad Exchange Programme. Of these three, two had studied in the United States for their student exchange.

Engineers dominate

The Faculty of Engineering dominated the prestigious Fulbright Awards for 2008, picking up seven of 12 scholarships awarded to University of Auckland graduate students. An unusual story to come out of the awards this year was that of brothers Hiren and Hiten Mulchandani.

Hiren and Hiten are two of three triplets. They both graduated with a BE (Hons) in 2008 and both received Fulbright Awards. Hiren will use his scholarship to study Materials Science and Engineering at Stanford University, and Hiten will complete a Master of Science degree and PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Their sister, Heena, also a University of Auckland student, is currently studying for a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science.

Aaron Wilson received the Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research. This is normally awarded to only one student, but Aaron was a joint winner in 2008. He will research un-reinforced masonry buildings in New Zealand at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
The recurring watery forms of Luise Fong’s paintings can be related back to an early childhood experience of almost drowning, a memory she associates with a blissful suspension in time and space. This drifting sensation is something she would later explore in the liquid processes of painting.

Born in Malaysia in 1964, Fong moved to New Zealand as a child and was taught by sculptor Marte Szirmai at Epsom Girls’ Grammar School before studying textile design in Wellington. She later enrolled at Elam School of Fine Arts where she majored in printmaking.

Fong’s work evokes the human body and organic forms, not through any strategy of depiction but by her exploration of the materiality of painting. Preferring to pour, spill and stain her surfaces, she creates drifting, diaphanous imagery through the traces of painterly marks that resemble the laboratory swabs of a pathologist. Further clues for forensic examination can also be found in fingerprints left on the sides of some works, or cuts and perforations made through her canvases, rupturing the surface of the skin. It is no coincidence that she was reading Patricia D. Cornwell detective novels at the time she was preparing her 1993 Pathology exhibition.

In 1994 she was joint winner of the prestigious BNZ Visa Art Award and that same year was artist-in-residence at Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. The following year she took part in a residency at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, where she produced a suite of four major works including Cluster, purchased soon after for the University of Auckland Art Collection. It had been shown in the subsequent Govett-Brewster exhibition, “More Human”, along with decomposing eggs in plastic containers (Nostalgia), plasticene on board (Touch), and photograms of translucent or patterned domestic containers including a rice steamer and drinking glass (Render).

Like the imagery of Cluster, the cloudy abstracts of the photograms resemble x-rays or specimen slides. Cluster is more familiar, constructed on canvas and comprising Luise Fong’s trademark dribbling smudges, which resemble both swirling constellations and spawning cells.

Cluster is included in the Gus Fisher Gallery’s exhibition “The Swarm”, which runs until 16 August, and also features work from Douglas Bagnall, Gregory Bennett, Philip Odson, Richard Killeen, Matt Molloy, Ani O’Neill and Elizabeth Thomson. The exhibition draws together work that has a viral quality, creating a tension between individual entities and their role as part of a larger organism or community.

Fong will be artist-in-residence at the McCahon House in Titirangi this summer.

Andrew Clifford

The Emerging Principles of International Competition Law

This book, written by Dr Chris Noonan (Commercial law) and published in the Oxford International Economic Law Series, creates an integrated framework for understanding the many interconnected legal and policy issues that contribute to international competition law.

Covering all types of business conduct, national laws, and international rules and institutions, it provides economically sound and politically feasible recommendations for the future.

Many firms are now operating in complex legal environments, where several states may regulate the same activity against a background of international law. National economies have become more integrated and national competition laws have proliferated. Conflicts can arise where States perceive that their interests are adversely affected by the way other countries do or do not apply their competition law. This book clarifies the nature and origins of these conflicts, and explores ways of reducing them.

Chris Noonan analyses the legal and policy issues associated with the control of restrictive business practices and competitive mergers in international markets. The book discusses international cartels, dumping, private market access barriers, and mergers between international firms subject to multi-agency review.

Coordination of competition laws is also covered, along with cooperation between enforcement agencies, international judicial assistance, and the role of trade agreements and the World Trade Organisation in international competition law.

Contending that there is an evolving international competition law system, Chris Noonan describes the elements of that system and how it is evolving.

This book is for scholars and advanced students in competition law and international economic law, for policy makers in international trade and competition, and for competition law practitioners.

Chris Noonan
FRIDAY 18 JULY
The Painter and the Painted
Until 8 August. 11am–5pm Monday–Friday, Galleries’ Venue, Staff Carpark, 3rd fl., OQH. Accreditation by Dr Fran Marna who questions how older woman, represented by the artist and her female models, can negotiate spaces of invisibility and silence within our culture. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Auckland Theatre Company presents the Tennessee Williams classic. 8pm Maitment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Until 2 August. Cost $30-$54. Inquire about student discounts. Can be booked at 308-2383.
TUESDAY 22 JULY
Bioengineering research seminar Prof Peter Arnborg, Executive Director, National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (NPACI), La Jolla: Advancing biomedical research through tools, simulation packages, and cyberinfrastructure: An approach in the United States. 4.5pm Rm 421 W-301, ALRS. First Winter Lecture 2008 Challenges for research in modern academia Bryna Bradfield, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Waikato. The meaning of and constraints on academic freedom in modern academia. 1-2pm Maitment Theatre. Chair: Prof Jane Kelsey (Law).
WEDNESDAY 23 JULY
Vice-Chancellor’s welcome pōwhiri for new staff 9-11am Waipapa Marae, Wynyard St. A formal welcome onto the Marae, an opportunity for new staff to meet future employers and hear about graduate recruitment programmes, internships and holiday work-experience. For more information please visit www.auckland.ac.nz/careers
Science Careers Fair 10am-4pm Recreation Centre, UoA. This is a fabulous opportunity for students to meet future employers and hear about graduate recruitment programmes, internships and holiday work-experience. For more information please visit www.auckland.ac.nz/careers
Making the most of PowerPoint Presenter: Helen Sward. 2.45pm Seminar Rm, 5th floor, 76 Symonds St. Powerpoint in the classroom can be a boon or a bane, depending on how you use it. In this hands-on workshop, we will begin by exploring the features of engaging PowerPoint presentations before moving to the computer lab to critique (and improve) our own work. Registering a spot on PowerPoint presentation on a flash drive or CD.
THURSDAY 24 JULY
Department of History seminar Dr Nicholas Reid, independent historical researcher: University history by contract. 4pm History Dept, 7 Wynyard St. Queries to Tasha Y. (09) 354-3139 or email tasha.y.lloyd@xtra.co.nz
Oho ake i te reo Māori - Awaken the Māori language 6-8 Wāpapa Marae, 16 Wynyard St. The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor is hosting this event for Māori Language Week (21-27 July) to encourage everyone at the UoA to use te Reo Māori around the University. UoA’s Te Wiki o te Reo Māori Challenge 2008 - Te Wera Reo Māori i Te Wānanga 2008. The challenge is designed to encourage all staff, from absolute beginners to experts, to start using a little reo in a safe and fun environment and support ongoing efforts to promote our distinctive Māori language as a living language for all New Zealanders.
Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost $20 (incl GST).