First PhD in Dance

The first student to enrol in the University’s Dance Studies PhD programme is a Japanese dancer, educator, and performing art and television director who believes dance is an integral part of a democratic society.

Hiromi Sakamoto arrived at the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAi) at the start of the year, after spending two decades in the dance sector in Japan and the United States. He worked as a dance educator at the University of Art and Design in Kyoto, a television director focusing on performance-based TV shows that aired in Japan, and earned a masters degree in dance and dance education at Columbia University in New York City. Throughout all these endeavours, Hiromi explored the answers to one overarching question.

“How can a capitalistic, contemporary society take dance as an important element of society and nurture it, make it prosper, in order to make our place peaceful, harmonious and multi-cultural?” asks Hiromi.

“I studied dance but I was never interested in performing — I was always trying to find funding, opportunities, venues to help other people perform. All the time I was in the dance profession I always returned to that question.”

After deciding to add a research strand to his vast knowledge of dance, Hiromi learned about the Dance Studies programme at NICAi. While visiting New Zealand in 2007, Hiromi met with Head of Dance Studies, Associate Professor Ralph Buck, who encouraged him to apply to the country’s first PhD programme.

“Ralph and I clicked — we shared a vision of dance in education, in society. And I was immediately attracted to NICAi — it is very rare for an organisation to incorporate industry into their academic curriculum so for me it was an ideal combination,” says Hiromi.

Ralph concurs that Hiromi’s academic goals are in keeping with the ethos of the Dance Studies programme.

“Hiromi comes to The University of Auckland with a wealth of experience and ideas. His research focus fits with our Dance Studies vision of educating in, through and about dance for a better understanding of humanity and dance. Hiromi has certainly ‘clicked’ with the students and the department and is generously sharing his knowledge with others,” he says.

(continued on page 2)
From the Vice-Chancellor

On 28 July, we began consultation with staff, student representatives, the Auckland City Council, and local community groups on some broad proposals for the possible future development of our campuses.

If we are to achieve our vision of a leading international university that attracts top staff and students, then we must create a world-class teaching, learning and research environment. However, our rapid growth over the last 15 years, coupled with ongoing financial pressures, means that we have a backlog of deferred maintenance, departments and schools in some faculties that are widely dispersed, and facilities need considerable investment to bring them up to standard. This means that we must create a long-term, coherent plan for the development of our campuses.

The consultation process seeks views first on a series of principles that might underpin the development of the plan. These include: as far as possible, teaching and research activities should be concentrated on the City/Grafton Campus; the University strategy should drive faculty and campus plans; each department’s undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research should ideally be co-located according to today’s faculty boundaries; each campus should have a stable and sustainable level of academic activity, with facilities and an environment that support quality teaching, learning and research; and, when designing facilities, priority should be given to having teaching and learning activities, and student support functions, located centrally.

The application of these principles, together with our planned growth path (modest growth in student numbers, and then only in postgraduates; significant growth in research), then leads to a series of broad proposals. These include: locating the Law School on the current Eden Crescent site, perhaps in collaboration with the Courts; consolidating current Eden Crescent site, perhaps in these include: as far as possible, teaching and research activities should be concentrated on the City/Grafton Campus; the University strategy should drive faculty and campus plans; each department’s undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research should ideally be co-located according to today’s faculty boundaries; each campus should have a stable and sustainable level of academic activity, with facilities and an environment that support quality teaching, learning and research; and, when designing facilities, priority should be given to having teaching and learning activities, and student support functions, located centrally.

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Women engineers have best of both

If ever there was doubt about engineering being an excellent career choice for women, then a presentation by leading and upcoming female engineers has certainly cleared up the matter.

“The best of both worlds – being a woman and an engineer” was a chance for some of New Zealand’s most successful female engineers to talk about what they love about working in the traditionally male-dominated industry, and how attitudes have changed.

The panel presentation held at Old Government House on 18 July was part of Winter Week on Campus run by the Centre for Continuing Education.

The panel included Katie Marriott, Managing Director of her own engineering firm, Katrina Kidson, the first woman to be employed by MWH New Zealand, where she remains today, and Carron Blom, the Managing Director of Anguilid Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd.

The audience also heard from engineering students Laura Abraham, Anita Welborn and Claire Oliver.

The Faculty’s Women in Engineering Equity Adviser Robyn MacLeod says the event was a chance to show people that women engineers really do exist, they love their careers and are found at the highest levels of the profession.

(Story continued from page 1)

Since his arrival at the University, Hiromi has thrown himself into the world of dance in New Zealand, particularly dance with indigenous roots and influences. Featured recently on TVNZ’s Marae programme, Hiromi was a vocal and highly visible guest of the Māori Studies’ Kapa Haka course. At the end-of-semester show in June, Hiromi’s performance was so strong that he was asked to attend stage two Kapa Haka — a rare invitation for international students.

Hiromi has also befriended the members of Sweet and Sour, a west Auckland-based Hip Hop group heading to the World Hip Hop Competition in Los Vegas at the end of July. Describing New Zealand’s national champions of Hip Hop as “unique, funny, haka- and Pacific-Island-influenced”, Hiromi lends them his support and encouragement, as well as advice on fundraising strategies.

“I am drawn to dance that is connected to social imagination, and indigenous dance in New Zealand is an example of that connection. It offers a new dimension if, for example, you are invited to see Māori through Māori eyes,” says Hiromi.

Across all his experiences in the new country he calls home, Hiromi explores how the ideals of culture, politics and dance can unite to form a creative, enriched society that acknowledges and values artistic expression. He says by not sending troops to Iraq, by seriously addressing climate change issues, and by welcoming immigrants largely without conflict, New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world where such an exploration is possible.

“When it comes to dance the creative process is always unknown, which means there is space for the imagination, the unexpected, the undefined, the experimental. That creative process is a core part of democracy and a crucial part of what sets New Zealand apart from the rest of the world.”
In the University and in the wider world,” says Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand; The challenge of change arrangement involving non-students does not consist of three students and two apprentices. An find their own furniture. This particular group occupants), but all maintenance on the house is living in an old house in Herne Bay/Ponsonby. The group tries to keep food costs down to $12 a week (although this is not always possible in the winter); the phone works out at about 50 cents, and electricity costs vary according to the weather and other factors – perhaps $1 to $1.50. Lunches are extra (“unless we are really hard up and then we take a sandwich or something”) but lunch can be bought at the student cafe for under $1, so the total basic essential outlay for everyone is about $28 to $30 a week. Extracts from ‘Five in a House’, University of Auckland News, 11, 6, 1981

The challenge of change

“In the University and in the wider world,” says Maclaurin Chaplain Uesifili Unasa, “there is a strong and increasing need to build understanding between people of different faiths.”

This is the rationale behind the multi-faith conference, Uni-Diversity: The challenge of change to take place in the Owen G. Glenn Building on 8 and 9 September.

Among the speakers are Paul Weller, Professor of Inter-religious Relations at the University of Derby in the UK; Sylvia Bell, principal legal and policy adviser at the Human Rights Commission; and Mohammad Javed Khan, president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand; as well as a number of academics from New Zealand universities — including Manuka Henare from The University of Auckland Business School, who will give a perspective on Māori spirituality. “Religious diversity confronts us with many challenges,” says Uesifili. “The place of religion in the public arena, the accommodation of various religious practices in public institutions such as schools and universities, and the real fear of religious conflict are just some of the questions that have no ready answers and require serious consideration.”

Please visit www.multifaith2008.ac.nz for further information and to register.

Mixed flatting, which became popular in the early 1970s, appeals to university students living on a restricted budget with a life-style partly dominated by lecture hours, essays, assignments, tests and examinations. A former student president commented that the advantages of mixed flatting were many, in spite of the prejudices of the time. In his opinion, it improved the manners of the males, made the females less “sloppy” and generally improved the attitudes of students in groups to the needs of others.

Mixed flatting is now commonplace, especially with students at Auckland University. A room in a house or flat cost an average of $17.80 in 1980/81, though many now expect to pay at least $20.

Some enterprising students have managed to find a reduced-rent arrangement, like one group living in an old house in Herne Bay/Ponsonby. The rent is low ($50 a week — $10 each for the five occupants), but all maintenance on the house is the responsibility of the tenants, and they had to find their own furniture. This particular group consists of three students and two apprentices. An arrangement involving non-students does not always work well, but in this case there is co-operation in respecting the need for silence when a test or exam is looming. The students also frequently study in the University Library. Each person has her/his own room, all chores are shared, and everyone is expected to contribute equally to the running of the household, which is done on a democratic basis. A meeting is held each week for general discussion and to provide an opportunity to make suggestions or air grievances.

The group tries to keep food costs down to $12 a week each (although this is not always possible in the winter): the phone works out at about 50 cents, and electricity costs vary according to the weather and other factors — perhaps $1 to $1.50. Lunches are extra (“unless we are really hard up and then we take a sandwich or something”) but lunch can be bought at the student cafe for under $1, so the total basic essential outlay for everyone is about $28 to $30 a week.

Primatologist coming in 2009

Dr Frans B. de Waal, one of the world’s most prominent primatologists, will deliver next year’s Sir Douglas Robb Lectures in late March on “Our inner ape.”

In the three-lecture series he will discuss moral emotions in humans and animals, animal empathy, and what primates know about and learn from each other.

Dr de Waal is C. H. Candler Professor in the Psychology Department at Emory University, Atlanta, and Director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. Full details of his lectures can be found at www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

• Texts of the three lectures by Professor Sheldon Rothblatt, the Robb lecturer in 2008, on “The uses of the university” revisited” are at www.auckland.ac.nz/uo/abo/about/events/2008/03/lectures/s.rothblatt-robb.cfm

New Royal Society Fellow

Warm congratulations to Professor Bakh Khoussainov (Computer Science) who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Bakh’s research interests are in logic, computability, automata, and applications. Bakh’s awards have included the New Zealand Mathematical Society Research Award (2002) and a University of Auckland Distinguished Teaching Award (2002). He has been awarded fellowships of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (2001) and the Humboldt Fund (2002).

More recognition for prominent scientists

Professor Margaret Brimble (Chemistry) and Professor Garth Cooper (SBS) are recognised in the July edition of Unlimited magazine as being two of New Zealand’s most influential scientists. They both add this latest recognition to a number of high accolades in recent years.

High honour for distinguished scholar

Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond (Māori Studies) has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. Election to the Academy confers on scholars in the humanities and social sciences a similar distinction to that accorded to their peers in scientific disciplines who are elected to the Royal Society in London.

Each year a maximum of ten nominations are considered from around the world for election of corresponding fellows to the Academy. This high honour recognises Anne Salmond’s contributions to anthropological and historical scholarship.

Retrospective 1883-2008

The lack of a dining-room does not bother this group of students (plus a friend) who gather in one of the bedrooms in their shared house for an evening meal. By doing without a lounge/dining-room, they can split the rent among more people for greater economy.
Lifting Pacific students’ sights

“It made me understand that my future is important and taught me to aim high — and not to settle for second best.”

This was typical of the positive feedback received to the seventh Dream Fonotaga held in Rotorua in early July.

The annual week-long camp to encourage Pasifika school students to take the leap to tertiary education involved 142 Year 12 students from 13 mid-to-low-decile schools in south, west, east and central Auckland.

All had shown the ability to undertake tertiary study without yet achieving to their potential. They were handpicked for their leadership qualities and willingness to participate.

They were broken into 12 groups, each headed by a current University of Auckland student mentor from a similar background to their own. From 8am to 10pm they were kept busy with workshops, presentations and discussions aimed at prompting them to articulate and achieve their educational dreams.

They heard from Pasifika role models such as Junior Williams (now head of drama at Henderson High School), Tarx Morrison (a freelance film director) and Efeso Collins (who was the face of Dream Fonotaga from its inception in 2002 until last year).

While promoting the University of Auckland as somewhere to aspire to, the event was collegial in spirit. Pacific liaison officers from AUT, Unitec, MIT, Massey and Otago Universities conducted a two-hour session and handed out literature.

“Dream Fonotaga is all about trying to lift students’ sights and motivate them to reach their goals,” says Shana Malia-Satele who was in charge this year. “There was a terrific buzz across the group, and everyone went away enthused for tertiary study and where it can take them.

This is amply confirmed by two of the students: “Dream Fonotaga has been the most exciting, motivating, inspiring and renewing experience,” said one. “It made me realise I am a strong individual and that it is okay to have barriers and obstacles. This has helped me to refocus for when I get back to school.”

Another wrote: “I’ve really stepped out of my comfort zone, and I came here not wanting to go to uni but now I do!”

Two of the mentors were left with a similar impression. “Seeing the smiles on their faces and the joy in their eyes — that’s what made it for me,” says John Paul Ramsay, a BA Honours/LLB student. “It gave them a different outlook on reality,” says April Poualii who is taking a BA/LLB.

Māori Language Week 2008

Dr Joseph Te Rito (Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga) writes of Māori Language Week — a time for celebration. This is an abbreviated version of an article published in the NZ Herald on 21 July.

Once again we celebrate Māori Language Week.

The theme for 2008 is “Māori language in the home”. It is a theme which aligns with the teachings of world-renowned linguist, Joshua Fishman, who argues that in order for a language to survive there must be intergenerational transmission in the home.

In the 1970s the New Zealand Council for Educational Research showed that only 18-20 percent of all Māori could speak their own language and these were mainly elderly folk who lived in rural areas. By 1996 this figure had plummeted to eight percent.

Today, some positive trends indicate that intergenerational transmission of Māori language is underway. Data from the 2006 Census show that 24 percent of Māori could hold a conversation in Māori about everyday things and 10 percent speak the language regularly in the home.

Significantly, an increasing proportion of these are young people.

In 1970 I went to Victoria University and joined the Te Reo Māori Society set up by Koro Dewes. We teamed up with Auckland-based Ngā Tamatoa and carried out petition drives to gather support for having Māori language taught in schools. We collected over 30,000 signatures for the petition spearheaded by the inspirational Hana Jackson (née Hemara).

We presented the petition to Parliament on 14 September 1972, an action that led to the establishment of the first Māori Language Day which has now evolved into the Māori Language Week we celebrate today. This led to the development of pilot bilingual schools in the early 1980s and then kohanga reo, kura kaupapa and wharekura (total immersion pre-schools, primary schools and high schools), and wānanga (Māori-focused tertiary institutions).

In 1985, a claim headed by Huirangi Wairiki Waiterepuru and others of Ngā Kaiwhakapūmuā i
Keen learners brave cold

The frosty morning conditions did not deter the 145 keen adult learners who attended the Centre for Continuing Education’s annual Winter Week on Campus held in the inter-semester break.

The Winter Week programme provides the community with an opportunity to access the expertise of University lecturers. Participants attended lectures in such diverse topics as the law of shipwreck, green roofs, MMP, the philosophy of evil and musical composition. This year’s lectures were in six different disciplines with 20 presenters from the Faculties of Arts, Law, and Engineering, and the School of Music.

Continuing Education Programme Managers, Jo Davies and Libby Passau, say that since Winter Week began in 2000, many of the attendees have made it a highlight of their winter season.

“They enjoy the opportunity to explore new topics, to debate and discuss issues of the day and to learn about some of the interesting research being carried out in the University. The Staff Common Room is alive with conversation during the breaks as people discuss the lecture they’ve just attended. They learn a lot from each other as well.”

Participant Flo Ross enjoys the stimulation of Winter Week as it makes her feel “so mentally alive”. She says the lecturers all deserve accolades for their enthusiasm and ability to connect with their audience.

Eileen Lindop comments that Winter Week is an enjoyable and painless way of re-arranging everyone’s prejudices, which in her opinion is arguably the objective of education.

Associate Professor Scott Optican (Law) was delighted to take part in the lecture series, which he says gives University academics like himself a chance to share ideas with, and connect to, a wider public audience.

Dr Paul Taillon and Jennifer Frost (History) presented a brief historical perspective on the United States, however, little has been done to spell out what ways that manifest that goodwill.

The end of hatred

It has often been suggested that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will require forgiveness on the part of both Palestine and Israel.

However, little has been done to spell out what such forgiveness might involve. In everyday contexts in which one individual forgives another, forgiveness is both something we feel and something we do. When A has been wronged by B, A may justifiably feel anger, resentment, or the like toward B. Forgiveness involves some reduction in that anger and a refusal to nurse it or act on it if it recurs. Ordinarily, it also involves the restoration of feelings of goodwill toward the forgiver and a commitment to treat the other in ways that manifest that goodwill.

However, when we shift the focus from individuals to collectives, we might wonder how many of the qualities of individual forgiveness can be preserved. In particular, we might wonder whether the feelings involved in individual forgiveness can play a role in collective or political forgiveness. I want to suggest both that they can and that they should.

The underlying idea is that there are social and institutional features within a collective that function like the dispositional elements of an emotion do within an individual, embodying and reinforcing certain emotional and behavioural responses within that collective. For example, the way in which the the Israeli educational curriculum and popular media portray the conflict with “the terrorists” invites certain types of response to Palestinians and to the Palestinian struggle.

Similarly, official holidays in Palestine such as Catastrophe Day, Land Day, Prisoners’ Day, Jerusalem Day, and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, reinforce antagonistic feelings within the Palestinian population by providing a recurring reminder of wrongs suffered, an official interpretation of the meaning of key events in the conflict, and a sanctioned outlet for the expression of anti-Israeli sentiment.

The end of hatred in the Middle East, of which Israeli Prime Minister Olmert often speaks, will require a change in these aspects of collective life. If there is to be collective forgiveness there will need to be a change in collective dispositions.

Dr Glen Pettigrove (Philosophy)

Happy and healthy

“Happy mothers, healthy children” is a free public lecture by visiting Hood Fellow Professor Michael Meaney, McGill University, Canada, on the importance of early mother-child interactions in determining children’s long-term mental and physical health. The lecture is at 6pm, Wednesday 13 August, Owen G. Glenn Building OGG83. Bookings: Liggins Institute ext 86229.
Books

Former VC recounts career

The University’s second and longest-serving Vice-Chancellor, Sir Colin Maiden, has written his autobiography. An Energetic Life, published by Dunmore Publishing, recounts the highlights of a distinguished and varied career in high-level engineering and business, in promoting energy self-sufficiency and as a company director, as well as in academia.

On graduating with a Master of Engineering at Auckland Sir Colin went as a Rhodes Scholar to Oxford where he gained his DPhil. After time as a research engineer in antiballistic and defence science in Canada and a leading engineer and executive for General Motors in the United States, Sir Colin returned to New Zealand in 1971, aged 37, to lead his alma mater.

During his 24 years as Vice-Chancellor the roll grew from under 10,000 to 24,000, research activity was boosted, a massive building programme transformed the City Campus, the University’s organisation was overhauled, and student sporting facilities were developed.

His visible legacies include Waipapa Marae, the Maidment Theatre, the Recreation Centre, the School of Music, the Tamaki Campus and adjoining Colin Maiden Park. The Medical School, now the Grafton Campus, was established during his tenure, as was Auckland UniServices Ltd.

He describes this period as “the most rewarding of my career” and “all so worthwhile: helping young people to further their education and creating an environment that encouraged staff and postgraduate students to make major research contributions in their fields of expertise”.

In the 1970s and 1980s Sir Colin was a key figure in the Government’s synthetic fuels energy programme. As chair of the NZ Synthetic Fuels Corporation he promoted New Zealand’s production of liquid fuels and moves to partial energy self-sufficiency.

His skills and corporate experience made him sought after as a company director and chairman. He has served on the boards of numerous companies, among them NZ Refining, DB Breweries, Transpower, Fisher & Paykel, INL, Farmers, NZ Steel and Tower.

Few New Zealanders have been involved at the top level in such a variety of activities in New Zealand and overseas. His book provides insights into the operations and challenges faced by core businesses and organisations in this country.

Sir Colin’s account will resonate with many readers whether their interest lies in business, energy or university education.

An Energetic Life, 256 pages long and well illustrated, is published in paperback. It costs $38 and is stocked by most booksellers.

Book explores Māori-Pākeha experience

A new book by a Faculty of Education lecturer delves into the experience of being a New Zealander of Māori-Pākeha descent.

Walking the Space Between (NZCER Press) is written by Melinda Webber (Te Arawa/Ngapuhi/Pākeha) from the Department of Teaching Learning and Development.

Melinda examines how she has come to state her ethnic identity as Māori, despite having strong Scottish heritage on both sides. The book contains detailed interviews with six others about the complex nature of straddling two distinctly New Zealand ethnic groups — Māori and Pākeha, each with their own prescriptive criteria for inclusion. Their stories reveal how some people of mixed Māori descent sit on the margins of both groups, forever negotiating the right to be included. Ideas — often unspoken — about who is considered a “real Māori” in the Māori world, and the “right kind of Māori” in the Pākeha world, play a prominent role in shaping their sense of in-betweeness.

Melinda says that feeling is often exacerbated at school, where Māori students are expected to tick certain boxes, such as being good at sport and speaking te reo. For her and those she interviewed, it was not until they were older and in tertiary education that they realised they could work out their own identity and that it could be fluid rather than fixed.

“The older I get, the more I’m sure about my right to decide what being Māori means for me and my family and my child, and to enact that, regardless of how different it is to what other Māori do,” she says. “Identity is shifting, our culture is shifting.”

Melinda says there is a need for a more robust debate in New Zealand about ethnic identity, particularly when more and more people have transnational or mixed-heritage backgrounds. As a teacher educator, she would like to see trainee teachers being taught to better understand what they bring to the classroom, through an examination of their own identities.

“If you are going to teach a diverse range of students, then as a first step you have to understand yourself and the lens through which you see the world.”
From the collection

Gordon Walters (1919-1995) Painting no.2 1966, PVA on hardboard 1220 x 910mm

Variations of the curving stem and bulb form of the koru made their earliest appearances in Gordon Walters’ work in the mid-1950s. Joining the Government Printing Office in Wellington in

1954, he prepared gouache studies after work and at weekends. A decade earlier, Dutch Indonesian artist Theo Schoon (1915-1985) had introduced him to Ngai Tahu rock art and invited him to South Canterbury to view the drawings in Weka Pass. What he saw there inspired the later Māori designs in Walters’ work.

Abstractions by Piet Mondrian and Victor Vasarely were also subjects of careful study on his trip to Europe and Australia from 1950-53. They led him to “eliminate to the limit”, reducing his painting to geometrical shapes, lines and colours. Walters makes over the koru, rendering it as a band with a circle at the end drawn with a compass and ruler. The result is severe, hard-edged and impersonal, designed to achieve an ideal figure ground ambiguity.

Shortages of linseed oil during World War Two had led to the development of new synthetic paints in Britain. Australian artists were early adapters, becoming known as the Dulux and Masonite brigade. From the late 1950s, PVA (polyvinyl acetate) paint was manufactured in New Zealand. By buying their paint from the hardware store instead of the art supply shop, Kiwi artists signalled that their work was leading in a new direction.

Thick and opaque, PVA emulsion paint encouraged a viewer’s attention to focus on the surface of a painting. Walters’ aim was a neutral skin of colour but his use of smooth hardboard as his painting support (in emulation of Australian modernism) mitigated against this. Brushstrokes and modulations in paint density are evident in the black centre of Painting no.2 1966 and Walters later switched to canvas to fix the problem of unwanted texture.

Having not exhibited for 17 years, Walters organised a show of koru paintings at New Vision Gallery in Auckland in March 1966, explaining: “My work is an investigation of positive/negative relationships within a deliberately limited range of forms. The forms I use have no descriptive value in themselves and are used solely to demonstrate relationships. I believe that dynamic relations are the most clearly expressed by the repetition of a few simple elements.” The New Vision exhibition established Walters’ reputation as a painter with an austere personal style which could achieve a wide repertoire of effects and allowed him to become a full-time artist.


Linda Tyler

Foremost world lab recognised

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Linda Tyler

Foremost world lab recognised

A major award, never before given to an organisation outside the United States, is to be presented to the Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Research Unit in the Department of Psychology.

The award for “Enduring programmatic contributions to behavior analysis” will be presented by the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis at its international annual convention in Phoenix, Arizona, in May 2009.

The award recognises 40 years of empirical research and theoretical contributions by this laboratory, mostly published in the foremost journal in this area, the Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior.

Three members of this lab — Professor Michael Davison (Director), Professor Dianne McCarthy (now CEO of the Royal Society of New Zealand) and Dr Douglas Elliffe — and one previous member, Dr Brent Allop (now at Otago) have been action editors of this journal.

Many of the more than 30 PhD graduates of the lab now have academic jobs around the world, and New Zealand is very highly thought of in this area.

The lab, started by Michael Davison and Ivan Beale in 1969, has always run as a cooperative venture by academic staff and students, with each person (including academics) running every lab experiment one day a week. In this way, all have had a vested interest in all research.

“Soon after starting,” says Michael Davison, “the lab became (as it remains) the foremost lab in the world in terms of both equipment and research output. It has attracted many sabbatical visitors from around the world.”

The research concentrates on detailed empirical research on choice — how animals distribute their behaviour between alternatives that differ in various ways. This is fundamental psychological research but does have applications in many clinical areas such as behaviour therapy, and supports the training in behaviour analysis practice now available in the graduate Applied Behaviour Analysis programme.

Extensive data on choice is collected and described using mathematically-based theories to predict future behaviour. This has been particularly successful, with prediction often accounting for more than 95 percent of the variation in choice behaviour.

Understanding choice and the way it changes according to environmental change is the basis of understanding all behaviour and learning.

Currently, the EABRU and its lab are run, and the students are supervised, by Professor Michael Davison (Director) and Dr Douglas Elliffe (Deputy Director), but its success over many years is due to all of the students and staff who have taken part.

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SUNDAY 3 AUGUST

Auckland Museum Institute lecture
Dr Philip Lars Manning, Lecturer in Paleontology and Research Fellow, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, University of Manchester. Grave secrets of the dinosaurs. 2pm Auditorium, Auckland War Memorial Museum. For bookings phone 306-7048 or email bookings@aucklandmuseum.com

MONDAY 4 AUGUST

All Canada Day
9.30am-2pm 4space, 4th Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons. The Canadian High Commission presents All Canada Day. Learn about academic research and student exchange opportunities in Canada. Hosted by the Research Office and Auckland International. RSVP to ext 84886 or email e.kelly@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 5 AUGUST

Winter Lecture series 2008: Challenges for research in modern academia
Dr Tim Dare, Senior Lecturer, Dept of Philosophy, UoA: Exploring the relationship between ethics and research in the current environment. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre
Chair: Assoc-Prof Martin Wilkinson, School of Population health, UoA.
Teaching and Learning workshop for academic staff
Adiee Graham: Engaging students in the classroom: Discussion activities for tutorials and classes up to 40. 1-4pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST

Faculty of Education public lecture
Prof Keith Barton, Fulbright senior specialist: Misconceiving the rule of law: Why those who have it find it hard to understand and those who need it find it hard to get.

Thursday 7 August

Holy Communion
12.30-12.50pm Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St. A weekly holy Communion and Holy Communion
12.30-12.50pm Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St. A weekly Holy Communion service will be held today led by the Maclaurin Chaplain. All students and staff are welcome.

Public lecture
Prof Martin Krygier, University of New South Wales, NZ Law Foundation Distinguished Visiting Fellow 2008: Misinterpreting the rules of law: Why those who have it find it hard to understand and those who need it find it hard to get.

1.30-3.30pm CAD Seminar Rm, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. Register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz
Different forms of teaching portfolios are required for different purposes. However, all teaching portfolios draw on a teaching archive, the development of which is a long-term project. The purpose of this two-hour workshop is to share information and insight to the presentation of a portfolio for a Teaching Excellence Award.

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST

Winter Lecture series 2008: Challenges for research in modern academia
Profe Peter Hunter, director, Auckland Social Studies.

FRIDAY 8 AUGUST

Dept of Computer Science/Dept of Statistics public lecture
Richard Stallman: Interaction between right and digital rights management. 11am-12.30pm Conference Centre, 2 Symonds St.

SATURDAY 9 AUGUST

Until 10 August. Hosted by the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of the Arts. An opportunity for scholars, writers, literary critics, teachers and others to celebrate and critique the work of this talented and complex woman. Speakers include Sylvia’s son, Elliot Henderson; Professor Emeritus of English CK Stead, who will interview Robert Gottlieb, Sylvia’s New York-based publisher, via satellite; Lynley Hood, Sylvia’s biographer; and Iritana Tavhiriwani, Sylvia’s colleague and founder of Te Kahanga Rea. Visit www.education.auckland.ac.nz

Exhibition talk
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Prof Dladen, artist gives a presentation on the interlocking group rhythms of hacketing, a phenomenon common in nature, in response to his work Gung Ho in the exhibition The Swarm.

MONDAY 11 AUGUST

Teaching portfolios at the UoA
1.30-3.30pm CAD Seminar Rm, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. Register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

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

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED
Visiting academic and wife looking for furnished, two-bdrm house or flat to rent near city centre from January to June 2009. Prefer quiet location within walking distance of University. Contact Bill at waverend@bowdoin.edu

PROPERTY FOR SALE
Northcote Point sunny brick and tile unit. Two bdrms, one bthrm, huge storage/studio with 12-stud lock-up, completely redecorated, dishwasher. Registered valuation $390,000. UoA report available. Asking price $338,000. Phone owner on 480-0860 or email jenn.nz@aol.co.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

International travel insurance: The AUS recommends that members use 65 years old, with or for family members. www.unicare.org


Volunteers needed for a PhD candidate Helen Malcolm studying issues for aged in NZ. Predicting the future needs and choice for care is important considering the projected population increase for over 65s in NZ volunteers, currently aged 45 to 65 years old, are invited to call or for those who need it find it hard to get. for supporting older relative or friends are needed. Participants would meet in a focus group setting to discuss experiences and thoughts on future ageing and support needs. For more information contact Helen Malcolm on (021) 737-7599 ex 22224 or h.malcolm@ auckland.ac.nz

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