

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



AUTUMN 2004

Treaty history questioned
Tribunal a noble experiment

Research standings
Victoria takes bronze

May graduation
Research, parades
and honours bestowed

Pipitea showcase
Campus launch

Victoria
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Te Whare Wānanga
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



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Brave New World

Imagine diving into a swimming pool suspended in air without any walls, or a city (pictured) where the rooms float in the air and move when you enter them.

These are some of the cyberspace worlds being created by students in a new course run by Russell Lowe, Senior Lecturer in Digital Design in the School of Design.

"We're taking the editing capabilities found in common computer games to create believable, but highly unusual and original environments. While some of the scenarios literally seem to be out-of-this-world, the practical applications of the skills and knowledge we're developing can be used in a wide variety of disciplines."

The most immediate and lucrative avenue is the computer gaming industry, which is worth \$US86 billion of sales a year.

"But there are other more fascinating applications. Using this technology, a cardiologist doing angioplasty on a narrowed artery, running a catheter from the patient's leg to their heart, would not be looking at a grainy x-ray image, but a real time three-dimensional view from inside the artery.

"Another use would be in resource management. Using geographical information, we can recreate real landscapes and show how a new building would look in a particular environment from different angles. The technology would also allow us to move the building about or even cut off a floor or two. All this is far more meaningful than looking at simple plans."

Russell says the course has drawn students not only from the Faculty of Architecture & Design, but also from Science and Humanities & Social Sciences.

"We really want to push the cross-disciplinary opportunity to the fullest and the intention is to get students with widely varying interests into the same room and working together. Watching the interaction between someone from computer science and someone from design is amazing."

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From the Vice-Chancellor



The last few months have been a time of rapid change and significant achievements for Victoria University. The release of the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) report, which confirmed Victoria's status as one of New Zealand's top three research-led universities was a particular highlight, even if the process to get there was somewhat fraught.

In March, Victoria and Auckland universities successfully sought a High Court injunction preventing the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) from including an international comparison in the PBRF report. We reluctantly took this action, not because we opposed a comparison, but because Vice-Chancellors had not been consulted and wanted to ensure that any comparison was fair and valid. The Court found TEC had not consulted the universities and had to do so. We are now awaiting information on that process.

April also saw Victoria, and its strategic partner, the Wellington College of Education, examine a possible merger. Both Councils have sought the advice of their Academic Boards, and in late May each will consider that advice, and determine whether to seek ministerial approval to disestablish the College and incorporate it within the University. Education officials will advise on any consultation requirements. If the merger is approved it is likely to commence from 1 January 2005.

The likelihood of merger was signalled when we entered into our strategic alliance in 2001. Since then we have launched new teaching qualifications and implemented agreements for Victoria to provide most of the College's administrative services.

Finally, Victoria launched its Centre for Biodiscovery, which is working collaboratively with a host of other research organisations to explore new ways to prevent, diagnose and cure human, animal and plant diseases.

Stuart N McCutcheon

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Cover image: Richard Taylor, Wellington's Oscar-winning special effects whiz, was one of six people whose lifetime of achievements were honoured with the conferment of an honorary doctorate at May's graduation ceremonies. Image: Christian Pearce, Weta Workshop.

Victoria's academic staff are leaders in their fields of research expertise. If you have a project that requires the skills and knowledge of our staff, contact Mike Doig at VicLink. Email: Mike.Doig@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64 4 463 5072

Tribunal history questioned

The Waitangi Tribunal's reports are a noble but flawed experiment in trying to reassess the history of the relationship between Māori and Crown, says Victoria University historian Dr Giselle Byrnes.

Giselle, a Senior Lecturer in History, argues in her book, *The Waitangi Tribunal and New Zealand History*, that the Tribunal is not writing "objective history" but one that is deeply political and overwhelmingly focused on the present, applying the standards of today to the actions of the past.

Giselle has examined the reports of the Tribunal since it was established in 1975 and has observed how, since the 1990s, it has interpreted its mandate in terms of social justice as well as examining a specific claim and making recommendations.

"The Tribunal's more recent narratives are imbued with a philosophy that challenges the legitimacy of colonisation. It has moved away from an emphasis on partnership, which was a common thread in its earlier reports, to one that emphasises Māori sovereignty. Yet the Tribunal doesn't assess whether Māori sovereignty can co-exist with Crown sovereignty.

"As an historian, I believe history is inherently political but the Tribunal does not acknowledge that it has a philosophy or even that it is writing history, instead repeatedly saying it is simply issuing a report as a Commission of Inquiry."

"As an historian, I believe history is inherently political but the Tribunal does not acknowledge that it has a philosophy or even that it is writing history, instead repeatedly saying it is simply issuing a report as a Commission of Inquiry."

While deeply supportive of the claims process, and the Tribunal's work to settle the grievances of the past, as an academic Giselle believes its reports should not be immune from scholarly critique.

"There are serious problems in the reports as historical narratives in the way they make sweeping generalisations. There is, for instance, much more detail given to Māori protagonists who are more 'fleshed out', while Pākehā generally appear as more one-dimensional characters."

Giselle says the Tribunal has tried to fulfil an educative role that it has neither the resources to carry out nor a specific legislative mandate to do.

Despite these flaws, she says the Tribunal's reports should not be simply dismissed. Its work has resulted in several landmark settlements that have seen apologies made and substantial recompense granted as well as generating widespread public debate.

"The Tribunal has become an important institution—both for Māori and non-Māori. It has also increased public and political awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi, of Crown breaches of the Treaty, and of the many injustices against Māori that have marginalised them in the past and continue to do so today."

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▼ Giselle Byrnes



To Mars and beyond

A rover may one day drill for evidence of life on Mars thanks to the expertise of academics in the School of Earth Sciences and a Wellington company.

Research associate and lecturer Dr Warren Dickinson is part of a NASA-funded international project to develop a drill capable of extracting rock cores from the surface of the Red Planet.

“Mars is extremely cold and NASA wants to design a drill that can cut through frozen rocks. A colleague and NASA scientist Chris McKay approached us for assistance because the team at Victoria’s Antarctic Research Centre have considerable experience in designing and operating drills that can cut through permafrost.”

NASA’s two latest Martian rovers, Opportunity and Spirit, which landed in January, have confirmed that the Martian landscape was once awash with water. However, the water that remains after the planet cooled millions of years ago is believed to be locked in ice below the surface.

“NASA suspects that if there is any evidence that life, such as bacteria or other organisms, once existed on Mars, it will be found in those frozen rocks.”

A team from the Centre and Porirua company, Webster Drilling and Exploration, visited NASA’s test drilling site on Ellesmere Island in the Canadian Arctic last year and may return next year for further testing.

“The main problem for a Mars drill is that it must be automated. We’re looking at putting sensors on our drill so we can automate



▲ Webster Drilling’s rig operating in the Canadian Arctic.

the human response of a driller, and we hope to provide NASA engineers with data that will allow them to write the software to do this.”

Warren says it will be some time before any final version of a Martian drill is produced. “At the moment it’s probably 10 years down the track.”

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The Intelligent Tutoring System

Artificial intelligence researchers in the School of Mathematical & Computing Sciences have been applying their expertise to speech recognition, in order to help international students improve their English.

Dr Mengjie Zhang and Dr Peter Andreae, along with research assistant Jason Xie, have developed a prototype called the Intelligent Tutoring System. It will support language students practising their spoken English by giving them feedback on problems with the rhythm and stress patterns in their speech. These factors can be as important as pronunciation in making spoken English understandable.

“Learning English well requires lots of practice and a great deal of one-on-one feedback. As this kind of tutoring is very expensive, there is an increasing demand for computer software that can provide

individualised feedback to students on all aspects of their English,” Mengjie says.

The prototype, which is being used and tested as a research tool by linguistic researchers, has four stages. The system first prompts the student to read a sentence aloud, and records what they say. It uses a speech analyser to recognise the individual phonemes in the student’s speech. It then analyses each vowel element of the speech to identify those that are stressed. Finally, it matches the timing of the stressed vowels to a target pattern, identifying the most important differences and errors and reporting them to the student.

The research project, funded by the New Economy Research Fund, involves collaboration between the artificial intelligence researchers and linguists Dr Paul Warren, Associate Professor David Crabbe, and Irina Elgort from the School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies.

Peter and Mengjie, along with school colleague Dr Xiaoying Gao, are also involved in a variety of other artificial intelligence projects, including intelligent agents for information extraction, genetic programming for object detection, and learning agents in complex worlds.

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Genetic link to migraines explored

A simple dietary supplement may not only give relief to some of the more than 400,000 New Zealanders who suffer the pain of migraine headaches, but may also help to prevent strokes.

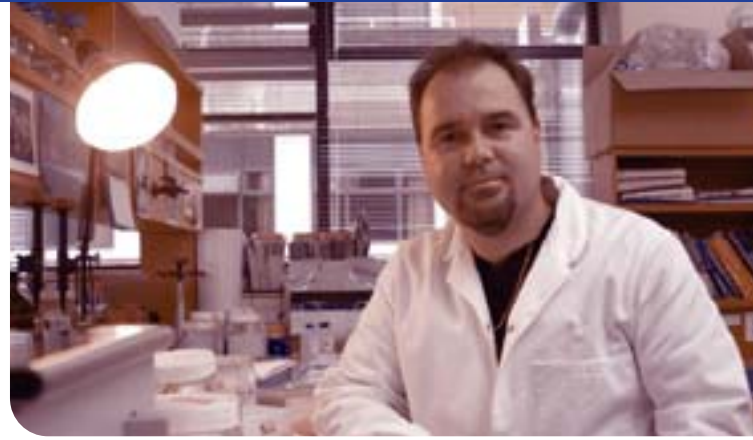
That's the view of School of Biological Sciences genetic epidemiologist, Dr Rod Lea, who, with colleagues at Brisbane's Griffith University, has discovered a gene that is linked to the most debilitating form of headache, migraine with aura.

About 12 percent of New Zealanders are estimated to suffer from migraines. About a quarter suffer from migraine with aura, which is characterised by blurred vision and unusual sensations flashing across the head. This is often followed by nausea, vomiting and headaches.

“We decided to hone in on this gene because it had been implicated by other researchers in a higher risk for strokes...”

Blood samples were taken from 550 people of whom half suffered from migraines. After analysing the DNA, the team discovered that a mutation of a particular gene (Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase) was far more common in those with migraine with aura than those without.

“We decided to hone in on this gene because it had been implicated by other researchers as a higher risk for strokes and it is known



▲ Dr Rod Lea at work in the lab.

that people who suffer from migraines are at greater risk of having a stroke later in life.

“This mutation means migraine sufferers are likely to have higher levels of a protein called homocysteine in the blood. But a diet rich in folate can reduce levels of homocysteine. For many people folate-rich foods such as green vegetables or folate supplements could not only help ward off migraines but may also help prevent strokes.”

The team is now hoping to organise clinical trials to assess how effective folate can be in reducing migraine symptoms.

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Sisters in arms

From ‘can’t stand each other’ to ‘joined at the hip’, social stereotypes abound when it comes to the complex relationships between sisters. But, as recent research from Victoria points out, in the end there is simply no friend like a sister.

Dr Jenny Neale, Director of the MA (Applied) in Social Science Research, wanted to look beyond the stereotypes, after finding that contemporary social research has neglected to focus on the sister relationship in favour of studying the family unit as a whole or parent and sibling relationships.

She says that not all of the women she interviewed had always enjoyed a close sister relationship.

“Some of the women explained that the labels their parents had ascribed to them when they were young had created long-



▲ Dr Jenny Neale, right, with her cousins, from left, sisters Janice and Sue Brown, at the launch of her book.

lasting tension. For example, one was considered ‘the pretty one’ and another ‘the smart one’. This, and other tension created during childhood, created barriers that some women in their 50s said they were only dealing with now, with others commenting that they would never get over it.”

On the other hand, many of the women commented that the strength of their relationship had created a kind of sisterly

‘shorthand’; where sentences would not need to be finished because the other had already worked out what was meant.

Many of the women tracked changes in a sister relationship through various life stages such as adolescence, marriage, childbirth or the death of a parent. There was also evidence of relationships changing over time, with older women in their 70s enjoying the chance to rekindle a relationship with a sister when their lives had previously diverged, often due to marriage.

The results of her interviews with 48 women have been gathered into a book, *No Friend like a Sister: Exploring the Relationship between Sisters*, which is available from Victoria University Press.

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Creative Tops

The quest for inner-city living in Wellington is contributing to the number of architectural embarrassments in the city, according to the Head of the School of Architecture, Professor Gordon Holden.

The School held a half-day workshop, Creative Tops, in March to explore ways to improve the design of new apartments built on top of existing buildings. Various city architects, planners and Mayor Kerry Prendergast attended.

Gordon acknowledges that the phenomenon of roof-top apartments appearing on established buildings in Wellington is adding a certain dimension to its urban character, but suggests that all is not well with the emerging trend.

“While a number of these apartments are designed to reflect, or be sympathetic to, their host building, they generally lack any architectural integrity. Disappointingly, far too many examples of ‘adaptations’ are architectural failures aesthetically, functionally and environmentally.”

Gordon tested public perceptions in Wellington by conducting a visual assessment survey, with the help of architecture students, where they looked at a sample of 24 buildings.

“About two-thirds of the people we interviewed regarded roof-top apartments positively. But it was clear the public recognise that a higher quality of architecture will make a more visually pleasing development—even if the new apartments are not compatible with their host building.”



▲ Gordon Holden with an example of roof-top living in Wellington.

Fourth year architecture students also exhibited their own roof-top apartment designs at the workshop after studying desirable design performance criteria and various theoretical issues.

The workshop raised a number of messages for organisations drafting heritage assessment design policies in Wellington, and the School of Architecture is compiling a report, based on the discussions at the workshop, to present to the Wellington City Council.

This report will suggest strategies to improve the appearance and performance of roof-top apartments, strategies which they hope will help Wellington keep ahead of the growing trend for urban development.

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An international audience for Vic research

The crème de la crème of Victoria’s research in chemistry and physics was on show to an international audience when the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Science Ministers gathered in Christchurch in March.

Victoria was represented by Professor Paul Callaghan, Director of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology, Professor Jim Johnston, Head of the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences, School colleagues Dr Peter Northcote, Dr Thomas Borrmann and Mark Hunter along with staff from Victoria Link Ltd, the University’s research interface with the business community.

Running in parallel with the Minister’s meeting was the APEC Industrial Science and Technology Working Group meeting, the Research and Development Leaders’ Forum and an Innovation Showcase where

Victoria had a stand highlighting research by Peter, Paul and Jim.

Jim says the team from Victoria made some extremely useful contacts.

“We were exposed to the top people in international business in the Asia-Pacific region and we’ve had subsequent correspondence with some very large companies in Asia that are interested in the commercial potential of some of our research.

“The working groups and keynote speakers, including Victoria alumnus and Nobel Prize winner, Professor Alan MacDiarmid, were

all superb. I learnt a lot more about how to commercialise scientific discoveries.”

In Jim’s case, he is leading a team that is seeking to develop a new form of calcium silicate that has business opportunities in many industries.

“We discovered a new way of producing calcium silicate powder that has an extremely high surface area and is highly absorbent. For example, by mixing this powder into newsprint, we can greatly reduce ‘show through’ and improve print quality. It has also shown it has great anticorrosive, antibacterial and catalytic properties. These are just a few of the areas in which it has shown great promise.”

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Where no-one has gone before

A team of New Zealand researchers has played a key role in discovering the most distant planet from Earth—a world the size of Jupiter circling a star 17,000 light years away.

Principal investigator, Dr Denis Sullivan, a Reader in Victoria's School of Chemical & Physical Sciences, says the planet was discovered by scientists from Japan and from Victoria, Auckland and Canterbury universities in association with Polish and American astronomers.

“The planet is the most distant found to date, about 17,000 light years away, and the second found orbiting a red dwarf star.

“Stars at the centre of the Milky Way are a million times fainter than naked eye stars. Planets orbiting these stars are another billion times fainter, and they are separated from their parent stars by less than a millionth of a degree.

“But they can still be detected using the fact that their gravitational fields act like lenses and will magnify the light in a characteristic way from a background star if the alignment of the observer, star-planet system and background star is nearly perfect.

This so-called ‘gravitational microlensing effect’ was first predicted by Albert Einstein.”

Denis says the planet was discovered independently by the New Zealand team using a telescope at Canterbury University's Mt John Observatory adjacent to Lake Tekapo and also by a Polish and American group in Chile. Their combined observations formed the basis of a paper published in *The Astrophysics Journal* in May.

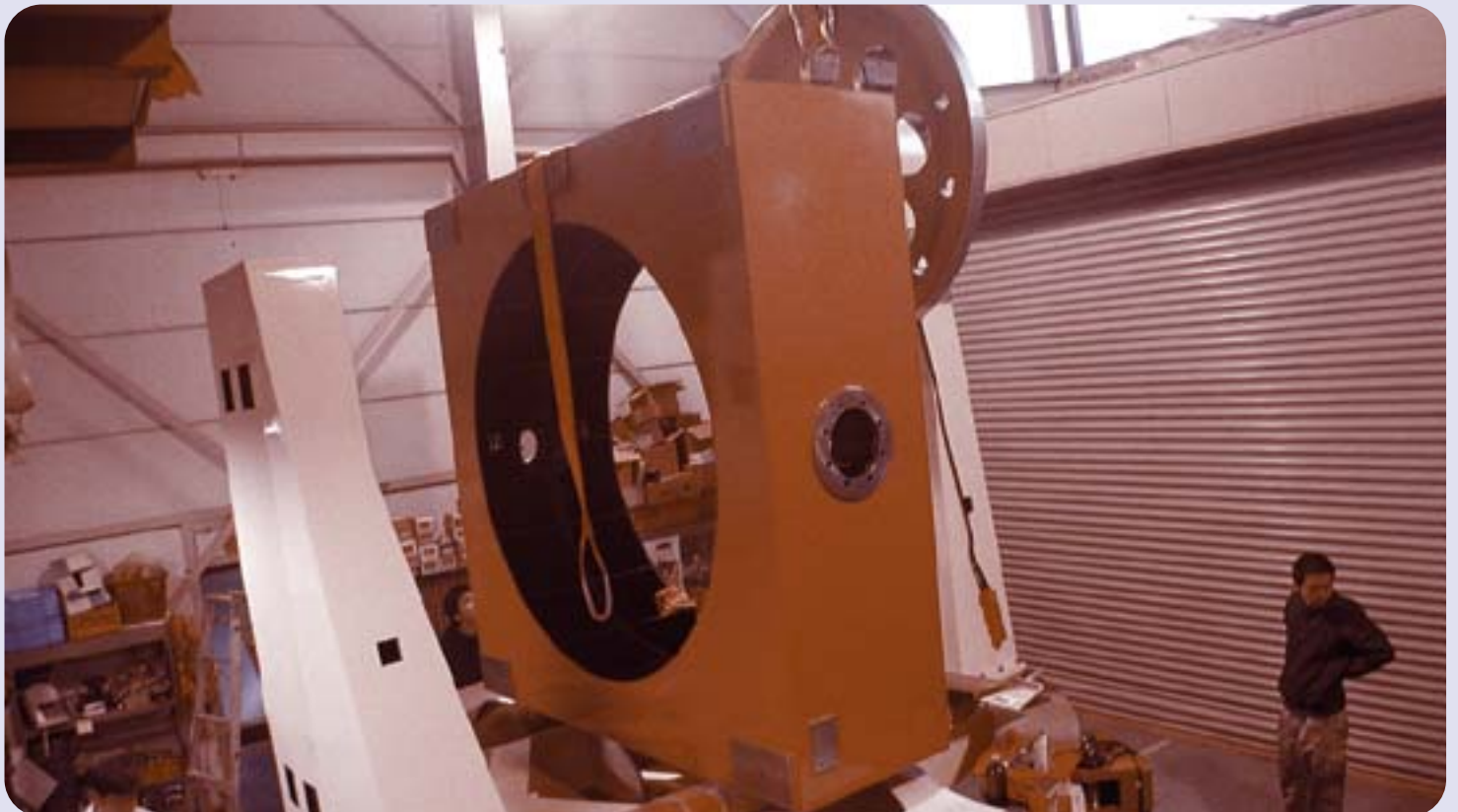
“The planet is the most distant found to date, about 17,000 light years away, and the second found orbiting a red dwarf star. It's the first definitive case of a planet found by the gravitational lensing technique and is similar in size to Jupiter.

“The real strength of this technique lies in its ability to detect Earth-like planets. No other techniques presently in use have this capability. An important goal is to detect the occurrence of Earth-like planets, none of which have been found outside the solar system. A definite detection of other Earths will bring into sharper focus the question of other life in the Galaxy.”

Denis says better results can be expected in the future thanks to a \$7 million grant to Professor Muraki of Nagoya University by Japan's Ministry of Education and Science for a larger telescope that is under construction. The new telescope should see “first light” at Mt John later this year.

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▼ The new telescope under construction in Japan.



If you are interested in sharing your views or supporting Victoria on issues of tertiary education politics and policy, contact us. Email: Tertiary-Policy@vuw.ac.nz
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Quest for quality

By Professor Stuart McCutcheon
Vice-Chancellor

There are many ways in which universities seek to achieve the highest standards of quality—whether in research, teaching or administration.

Universities experience continual political pressure to add new systems for quality control, one consequence of which is a never-ending increase in overhead and compliance costs. This pressure ignores the fact that universities are—and always have been—committed to ensuring the quality of their programmes, and are subject to national, international and professional quality standards.

We are also highly accountable. Legislative and contractual obligations govern many of our research activities, and universities are expected to report to a range of Government agencies, appear before select committees, and produce Annual Reports and other accountability documents. Our alumni, friends and commercial research partners set high expectations that promote a culture of achievement and constant motivation to measure up to the standards of leading international universities.

In the latest move, Victoria University has been actively involved in the design and implementation of the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF), a means by which the Government can increase research funding for universities, which account for more than half of New Zealand's research capability.

The fund has contributed to an assessment of research quality both within each tertiary education organisation (absolute quality), and between them (relative quality). The outcome shows most universities have a strong research culture with many staff performing at international levels. Victoria achieved the third highest research rating overall, providing yet another layer of quality assurance.

Eighty percent of Victoria's academic staff are actively engaged in research, with many regarded as internationally distinguished.

The results also show we have a group of emerging researchers, reflecting the reality of hiring new staff and allowing a suitable period for development.

The PBRF results were presented in broad subject areas that provided useful comparative data, while comparison of the results recorded for nominated units, such as Schools or Faculties, was often misleading. This is because the peculiarities of each university's structure make such comparisons very difficult.

Victoria's research strengths are not confined to a narrow range of subject areas. Moreover,



▲ Professor Stuart McCutcheon

excellence in research does not come at the expense of teaching—we have strong quality monitoring programmes in teaching, and a tradition of putting our world-class researchers in front of undergraduate classes. Staff have also featured in the national tertiary teaching excellence awards. In 2005 the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee's Academic Audit Unit will audit Victoria, with a particular focus on teaching quality, programme delivery and the achievement of learning outcomes within the context of Victoria's own system of regular programme reviews.

ABSOLUTE QUALITY

'4' or more

In absolute terms Victoria attained the highest research quality, as assessed by a quality score of 4 or more, weighted per FTE* staff member, in:

- Music, literary arts and other arts (5.3)
- Physics (5.1)
- Philosophy (4.9)
- Psychology (4.8)
- Human geography (4.7)
- Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy (4.6)
- Māori knowledge & development (4.6)
- Earth Sciences (4.3)
- Pure & Applied Mathematics (4.3)
- Religious Studies & Theology (4.0)

By percentage of 'A' grades

In absolute terms Victoria attained the highest research quality, as assessed by a percentage of 'A' graded researchers within that subject area of 15 percent or more, weighted per FTE* staff member, in:

- Pure & Applied Mathematics (24.7%)
- Physics (23.7%)
- Political Science, International Relations & Public Policy (20.3%)
- Chemistry (20%)
- Music, literary arts & other arts (19.6%)
- Philosophy (18.2%)
- Māori Knowledge & Development (18.1%)

RELATIVE QUALITY

By highest quality score

In certain subject areas Victoria rated higher than any other university, weighted per FTE* staff member, in:

- Music, literary arts & other arts (5.3)
- Physics (5.1)
- Māori knowledge & development (4.6)
- Political Science, International Relations & Public Policy (4.6)
- Management, Human Resources, Industrial Relations, International Business & other business categories (3.4 = first equal)
- Nursing (0.9)

By percentage of 'A' grades

In certain subject areas Victoria had the highest percentage of 'A' graded researchers within that subject area, weighted per FTE* staff member, compared to other universities:

- Pure & Applied Mathematics (24.7%)
- Physics (23.7%)
- Political Science, International Relations & Public Policy (20.3%)
- Music, literary arts and other arts (19.6%)
- Māori Knowledge & Development (18.1%)

*fulltime equivalent

If you are interested in finding out about the dynamic courses and qualifications offered by Victoria, contact our Course Advice team.
Email: Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz Tel: 0800 VIC UNI

Scholarship recipient ►
Amanda Cooper at
the Basin Reserve,
Wellington.

Anyone for cricket?

Amanda Cooper is a committed team player, balancing the demands of a heavy cricket-training schedule with a focused approach to her university education. Her attitude and dedication was rewarded when she was announced as the inaugural winner of the Frances King Cricket Scholarship in February.

This scholarship, part of a series of scholarships launched this year for active cricket players who are keen to study at Victoria, recognises the contribution that Frances King made to Wellington cricket before her tragic death in 2003 from meningococcal meningitis. Frances was also a student at Victoria.

Amanda, a member of the Wellington Blaze team (the Wellington women's cricket team) and a New Zealand A representative, had known Frances since they played cricket together at secondary school, and was especially honoured to receive the award named after her team mate and friend.

"I see it as the ultimate gesture that one of her team mates has received the award in its first year," she says.

Amanda will complete her BCA in Human Resource Management and Management and a BSc in Psychology at the end of June, and will then contemplate her postgraduate options for next year.

"I see it as the ultimate gesture that one of her team mates has received the award in its first year."

"Because the scholarship covers a fulltime course of study for three years, I'll be coming back next year to pursue some further study, something I wouldn't have been able to consider without the help that this scholarship has provided," she says.



"Ironically, it helps keep my options open for a career outside my cricket environment in the future."

Victoria University Cricket Scholarships were also awarded to James Boyle, Mark Houghton, Jonathan McNamee, Michael Martin, and Stephen Murdoch, all promising young cricketers. Each student receives \$3,000 a year towards the tuition fees for any full-time academic programme at Victoria.

Victoria eclipses competition

Professor James Noble and Associate Professor Robert Biddle, from the School of Mathematical & Computing Sciences, have taken top honours in the international Eclipse Software Development Innovation Awards, winning a combined prize package of \$US35,000.

The awards, sponsored by computer giant IBM, recognised 70 winners from around the globe for their expertise in software development. Victoria was the only tertiary institution in Australasia to receive two awards, with Robert and James receiving praise for the creative and innovative nature of their submission to the programme.

Eclipse software is designed to offer significant value to researchers and educators by providing an industrial-strength infrastructure for conducting research and developing curricula in many areas of computer science and computer engineering.

James' award will help him further his work on an extension of computer programming language, Java, which uses ownership types to help programmers avoid aliasing, which occurs when one component of a programme can be reached in two different ways.

Robert will use his grant to investigate whether aspect-oriented programming, a new approach to software design, and visualisation can be supported in the Eclipse software environment, which will help both programmers and students to write more

effective computer programmes. Both projects will be carried out in conjunction with graduate students from the School.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon sees the awards as direct recognition of the calibre of the University's staff and research programmes.

"These grants represent a significant achievement in the international arena by Victoria University staff and also serve to highlight the competencies and skill-sets of the people we have leading our teaching and research activities on a daily basis."

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International spotlight for psychology students

The research of four School of Psychology PhD students reached an international audience when they won the opportunity to make a presentation to the prestigious American Psychological Society convention in Chicago in May.

Melanie Takarangi, Lauren French, Matthew Gerrie and Deryn Strange are the first students from outside of the United States to be invited to present at the student-run symposium at the convention.

The students' symposium, *All Roads Lead to Rome: Four Paradigms for Creating False Memories*, brought together their different research into aspects of false memories and their creation. Their supervisor, Senior Lecturer Dr Maryanne Garry, provided a commentary at the end of the presentation.

Maryanne says the selection of the Victoria team to make the presentation is a coup for the students and the School.

"The Society is the largest organisation for psychological scientists in the world. The opportunity to speak is highly competitive and most academics find their submissions are turned down. I'm very proud of their accomplishments so early in their careers. That the students achieved this high honour is further evidence of the high calibre research that is coming out of the School."

Matthew said the group were both excited and nervous about speaking to the convention.



▲ Lauren French, Melanie Takarangi, Deryn Strange and Matthew Gerrie are United States bound.

"It was exciting because we met many of the top people in psychology in the world, but at the same time it was pretty nerve-wracking because these same people had the chance to critically analyse our work."

While several members of the quartet originally came to Victoria to study law, their separate decisions to include Maryanne's courses in their undergraduate degrees saw them decide to undertake doctoral research with her.

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Crossing psychology with culture



▲ Michelle Gezentsvey

As a fluent speaker of both French and Spanish, with parents who hail from Venezuela and the Ukraine, and having grown up in New Zealand, PhD student Michelle Gezentsvey has a love for culture and language.

With a BA in French and psychology and a BSc (Hons) in psychology from Victoria, Michelle, 23, has won a host of scholarships this year, including a Top Achiever Award from the Foundation for Research Science & Technology, a Freemasons Postgraduate Scholarship and a Todd Foundation Award for Excellence.

She's now using these scholarships to pursue her interest in cross-cultural psychology research in the field of ethnic continuity; an area she says deserves more attention.

"With the 'melting pot' view of ethnic and cultural groups becoming part of the mainstream, a lot of research has been devoted to the assimilation of these groups

through intermarriage. While the focus has turned more to the integration of these groups into society, there has been very little research into the continuity of these groups through endogamy, or marriage within the group."

Michelle aims to interview Māori, Chinese and Jewish people living in New Zealand to find out their attitudes towards marriage within their groups and to compare the response of the Jewish participants in Canada, Australia and the United States.

Michelle, who is a tutor in the School of Psychology, suspects that if the minority ethnic groups are to maintain their identity and cultural traditions, marriage within the group will be a key factor.

"While people born of mixed ethnic heritage often have a strong cultural identity, the question is what happens to that identity if their children and grandchildren continue to marry outside the group?"



Who's new?

Deborah Willis

Professor Deborah Willis has been appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences, having been Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) since January 2002. She has worked in the education field for more than 20 years. During that time Deborah has been a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education specialising in curriculum, assessment and evaluation issues and the Director of the University Teaching Development Centre. Other activities include the provision of pre and in-service training to Cook Islands teachers and professional development to staff at the National University of Samoa. Her areas of research interest include student assessment and the relationship between teaching and research.



Alan Dempster

Alan Dempster has been appointed as the new Director of Victoria's Information Technology Services. With a BSc from the University of Glasgow, Alan lectured at Victoria in the early 1980s before returning to Britain in 1984 to undertake postgraduate research at London's Imperial College. Returning to New Zealand in 1992, he has held various positions as a strategic consultant working on the application of new telecommunications and commercial techniques to various businesses. Alan is also a director and chairman of Citylink Ltd, a position he has held since 1995.



Jenny Harper

Associate Professor Jenny Harper has been appointed as Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic). In her new role she is convener of the Academic Board and responsible for University-wide academic policy. Prior to becoming an academic, Jenny worked as an art curator and an administrator in a number of art galleries in Australia and New Zealand. She was Senior Curator of International Art, and then Director, of New Zealand's National Art Gallery from 1986 to the early 1990s. Jenny established the Art History Department at Victoria in 1995 and played a key role in initiating and overseeing the development of the Adam Art Gallery. She went on to become Head of the School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies from its establishment in 2001.



Mobile traveller

A PhD student who is researching the intricacies of mobile business has been pretty mobile himself over the last few years, after leaving his home of Porto Alegre, Brazil, to pursue a teaching and research career he loves.

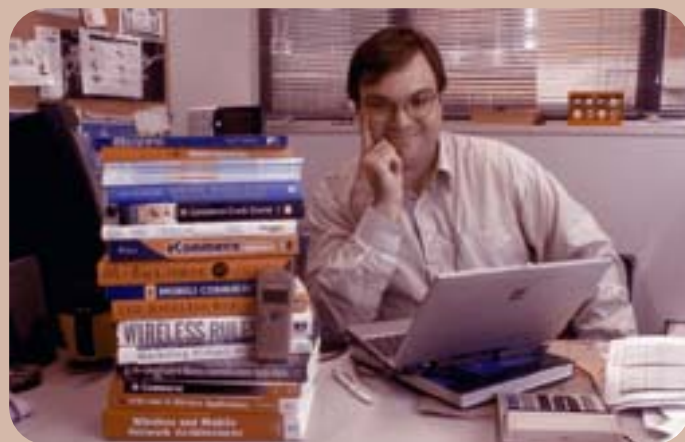
Eusebio Scornavacca, 29, completed his undergraduate degree in information systems and management in Porto Alegre, spending his summer semesters overseas studying and travelling in Europe, the Americas and North Africa. He enrolled in a Master programme at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, and became the first person to complete the fulltime two-year course in just 12 months. Eusebio gained top marks for his thesis and set off for Japan, where he won a research scholarship to Yokohama National University.

During his time in Japan, Eusebio met Associate Professor Stuart Barnes and Professor Sid Huff from the School of Information Management, who were taking part in a conference. It wasn't long before Eusebio was firmly ensconced at Victoria as a teaching fellow, a natural role for a keen and curious mind that has already mastered seven languages.

Attracted to Victoria and New Zealand by Stuart's expertise and partly because of the growth of wireless technological developments in the country, Eusebio is now charging through his PhD research, exploring the factors that surround the acceptance of Wireless Sales Force Automation Systems (wSFA).

Examples of wSFA are already visible in New Zealand, where companies are using mobile technology to enhance their supply chain management. It is not uncommon to see sales people in a supermarket using PDAs or smart phones to dispatch orders and control stocks.

Eusebio sees his research having applications for developing local industry and as a guide for further applied research in the e-business world, so that businesses can readily explore the benefits of mobile internet devices.



▲ Eusebio Scornavacca with a range of technologies.

Email: Eusebio.Scornavacca@vuw.ac.nz

If you are interested in joining the Alumni Association of Victoria University or the Wellington College of Education Email: alumni@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64 4 463 6700, www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni or www.wce.ac.nz/alumni

Victoria Events

Alumni and Friends of the University are warmly invited to the following events:

Telecom Prospect 2004: New Art New Zealand

30 May–25 July

The Telecom Prospect exhibition, a showing of the latest in New Zealand art at the Adam Art Gallery.

Alumni Association AGM

30 June

Have your say in the running of the Victoria University Alumni Association. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please contact Vicky Young by Email: alumni@vuw.ac.nz or Tel: +64 4 463 5246.

Pipitea Campus, Railway West Wing, Room 501 from 6pm.

It's a Small World for Alumni— Towards a Better World New Zealand Alumni Convention 2004

8–10 July

This event in Sarawak, Malaysia, is being held to capitalise on the goodwill of NZ alumni networks in Asia and worldwide to enhance closer relations between nations for mutual benefits.

For more information: Email: nzac@nzcentre.biz
or Tel: +60 82 334299.

Representatives from the University including Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon will be attending the convention and are inviting local alumni to attend a University function. For more information contact the Alumni Office: Email: alumni@vuw.ac.nz or Tel: +64 4 463 5246.

Hunter Lecture: A Portrait of Tommy Hunter—An all-round educationalist and man of action

26 August

Emeritus Professor Tony Taylor will talk about the contribution that Sir Thomas Hunter made to education and the political and social life of Victoria University and New Zealand, in the Hunter Council Chamber at 6.30pm.

To register your interest in any of these events, contact the Alumni Office on Tel: +64 4 463 6700.

Go to www.vuw.ac.nz/events for a wide range of concerts, lectures, reunions and activities that are open to members of the University community.



▲ Roger Hall

Roger Hall: Life in the US

By Matthew Peddie

Playwright Roger Hall has noticed a refreshing change in American perceptions of New Zealand: “More people now seem to realise that New Zealand isn’t Australia.”

In August last year the playwright and Victoria alumnus received an award from the Fulbright Foundation to lecture at the Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Roger completed his MA at Victoria in 1967, and in 1996 was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature for his services to New Zealand drama.

He credits the recent global popularity of New Zealand cinema with helping to raise the country’s profile. “One of the key things recently has been *Lord of the Rings* and *Whale Rider*. Those movies have helped enormously to raise the awareness of New Zealand.”

Whale Rider was one of eight movies he lectured about in his course on New Zealand literature that have been made into film.

A highpoint of his teaching experience at Georgetown was the academic calibre of the students taking his course. “My American students were hard-working, enthusiastic, knew quite a lot about New Zealand even before the course began, and two had even visited here.”

Compared with his experiences teaching playwriting at Otago University in the 1970s, Roger noted that there is some truth to the cliché that “Kiwi students are more laid-back”.

Roger was quick to praise Washington’s rich cultural life, which he compared to a “compact New York”. His most popular play, *Middle Age Spread*, enjoyed a successful rehearsed reading in front of an audience of about 100 while he was lecturing at Georgetown. “In spite of its age, in spite of its location, it worked tremendously well.”

Roger has an idea for raising the low profile of New Zealand literature in the United States. “I think there’s a place for vigorous promotion of New Zealand books among the bookshops. I wouldn’t mind doing it myself, but the reality is Elijah Wood would get a lot more attention.”

Prize-winning politics students

Two Victoria graduates, Michael Appleton and Amy Catalinac, have been awarded prestigious Commonwealth Scholarships to study in Britain this year.

Only 64 Commonwealth Scholarships were awarded worldwide, and only ten students were selected from New Zealand. The two Political Science and International Relations students were Victoria's only successful applicants.

Michael had already won a Link Foundation Chevening-Cambridge Scholarship enabling him to study for his Master degree at Cambridge University, and the Commonwealth Scholarship will now enable him to complete his PhD at the same institution. Amy is furthering her studies at the University of Tokyo after being awarded a scholarship for graduate study from Japan's Ministry of Education. Michael had won Victoria's K.J. Scott Prize as the top BA in Political Science in 2001, and Amy was

awarded the Alan Robinson Prize as the top Honours student in Political Science in 2002.

Michael says he is pleased to be able to complete his Master degree at a top British University. "I have found graduate study at Cambridge incredibly fulfilling. It has offered me the chance to interact with sharp minds from around the world, to utilise its first-class, well-stocked, and up-to-date libraries, and to take advantage of small, intimate study environments.

"The enthusiasm and encouragement I received from my lecturers at Vic was a key reason I retained the intellectual appetite to study to the highest level."

After being offered the Commonwealth Scholarship in March 2004, Amy was advised by Harvard University in the United States that she had been accepted into the PhD programme of the Department of Government on full scholarship, with teaching responsibilities to start in the third year. She has also been awarded the Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship.

Amy is following in the footsteps of two other recent Victoria political science



▲ Michael Appleton and Amy Catalinac

graduates, Fiona Barker and Yongwook Ryu, who are both at Harvard in the same programme.

Another prize-winning graduate of the Political Science and International Relations programme is Terence Green who has been awarded a scholarship from the prestigious Fulbright programme and has been accepted at several top-ranked US universities.

Head of School, Professor Stephen Levine, congratulated them on their success. "These results are a tribute to all of these students and will be a source of pride to the staff who taught them as well as to the Political Science and International Relations programme as a whole."

A little support goes a long way

Hundreds of graduates, their families and University staff already have a Victoria University Visa card with Westpac.

As a graduate, you already have access to this Visa card and its rewards.

Every time a new card is opened or used, Westpac makes a donation to The Victoria University Alumni Association—Scholarship Fund.

By carrying and using this card, graduates and friends of the University are making contributions, at no personal cost, to students pursuing research and higher qualifications. This vital income stream is used solely for providing postgraduate research scholarships. Since the Visa card was launched in 2001, more than 500 cards have been taken up and more than \$5000 has been contributed in this way. If more of us get into the habit of using the Visa card, we can really make a difference to today's students.

Prizes are awarded in two categories, for projects of more than eight months duration and those that will take less than eight months to complete. Since the scheme began in 1999, 26 scholarships have been awarded supporting research at Victoria and contributing knowledge in science, literature and languages, Māori studies, history, classics, psychology and commerce.

So, if you don't already have one, why not apply today for your Victoria University Alumni Association credit card and give yourself more spending power, as well as the opportunity to support your University?

Share the benefits of having a Victoria University Alumni Association Visa card.



Join before 31 July 2004 and you will be in the draw to win a holiday to Fiji for two people. For more information call 0800 557 600 or download an application form from www.westpac.co.nz/olcontent/olcontent.nsf/Content/Credit+cards

Life after Vic

Thanks to the graduates and members of the University community who have sent in their news.

Ben Hurley

BA 2001

Ben Hurley will soon become a household name if his passion to succeed as a comedian continues at its current pace. His stand-up career began before he graduated and he made his first big splash during the Wellington Fringe Festival in 2001 and a year later he was voted Best Stand Up Act at the Wellington Comedy awards. He says that while some people were taking notes from their lecturers, he was admiring their comic timing! As the second of only three Wellingtonians to ever be nominated for the 2004 Billy T Awards, Ben will be appearing at two nationally televised events this year. He will be writing and performing his own show, *Political and Stuff*, which follows the man himself in his efforts to begin his own political party. Ben is also working on his own TV show and hopes to tour overseas in the future.



Jennifer Catley

BCA 1989

Jennifer Catley says adding value to other people's lives was the main appeal for setting up her own business, Girl Friday. The business has become a necessity for more and more people living in and around Wellington who simply can't find enough hours in the day and call for some assistance. For Jennifer and her team this might involve taking someone's pet to the vet in the morning and arranging quotes for building repairs at another home in the afternoon. Jennifer started her career working for banking corporations in Auckland and Wellington but was inspired by the amount of help her busy friends needed with household chores. Girl Friday is approaching its second anniversary and Jennifer now employs two part-time people in Wellington and has high hopes for establishing franchises across the country.



Julia Rothman

BSc 1998

Compassion and courage were the two top qualities that saw New Zealand-born Julia Rothman beat out the competition to gain the position of Project Manager at NASA's Space Command Centre in Los Angeles. Julia applied for the position through the internet and worked her way through a rigorous selection process. When offered the job, the selectors said they were impressed with her empathy, giving up her Christmas holidays to deliver free meals to those in need, and her plucky nature, which led her on backpacking trips around the world. Julia was awarded The President's Medal for Courage for her role in organising the protection of the research facility she was working at in the Albuquerque Desert on September 11, 2001. After working in the space industry for the past three years, Julia is furthering her adventures in this new position, which will take her all over the world again.



Peter Boshier

LLB (Hons) 1975

Peter Boshier started out working at the Wellington Law firm of MacAlister, Mazengarb, Parkin and Rose, before being appointed to the District Court Bench in 1998. He was appointed Principal Family Court Judge in February this year.

He says the role is multi-faceted and the variety is appealing. He sees the most important part of the role as striving to make the Family Court efficient and of the highest standard.

Peter remembers his time at Victoria not only for its good teaching but also for broadening his experiences through involvement with the theatre and University law publication, *Caveat*. He is proud to see his two sons growing up in a close family unit, with one of them attending Victoria.



Life after Vic on the web

Register your details and catch up with old friends with the help of Victoria University's new online searchable database —Life after Vic.

The new web-based interface, developed by the Alumni Office, allows graduates to input details about themselves such as "where I am now" and then search and make e-mail contact with old or possible new friends.

There is opportunity to join special interest groups related to the University so that information about reunions and events and other interesting news can be distributed easily.

To register your details and start searching click on www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

May's graduation saw more than 1,500 students graduate at four ceremonies. These successes included the conferment of nineteen PhDs and six honorary doctorates.

A family law firm

When Joanna Jordan, 32, graduated with an LLB, she became the fifth member of her family to gain a law degree from Victoria.

Joanna is a great-granddaughter of the Rt Hon Sir Walter Nash, who was Prime Minister in the second Labour Government (1957-60) and had the distinction of being Victoria's first honorary doctorate recipient when the University of New Zealand was dissolved in 1961. Sir Walter received a Doctor of Laws honoris causa in 1963.

But the connection runs much deeper. Joanna's father Jeremy Nash, uncle Hal Nash and grandfather Clement Nash were all lawyers with Victoria degrees while her great-great-grandfather on her mother's side, Phineas Levi, was a Wellington lawyer who twice chaired the then Victoria College Council in the 1920s and 30s.

Joanna says there is no better place than Victoria's School of Law, based in the Government Buildings Historic Reserve, in which to gain a law degree.

"I returned from the United States to go to Vic and when you're walking around the Law School you really do feel as though you're in hallowed halls, which is different from other universities.



▲ Joanna Jordan and her father Jeremy Nash.

"I was also accepted as a mature student and the lecturers were really helpful.

"I graduated with a BA from the University of South Carolina, which offers the top postgraduate international law degree in the US, but it just didn't have the feel of Victoria. Some people grumble about class sizes here, but they really have no idea of what a big class is. I went to first year lectures in the US that had nearly a thousand students in them."

Joanna is studying towards taking her professional examinations while working in her father's firm in Ohakune and plans to specialise in family court work.



▲ Janet and Christopher Hay

Mother and child reunion

The May Graduation ceremonies were a special highlight for the family of Janet Hay, Wellington College of Education Director of School Support Services.

Not only did Janet graduate with a Master of Public Management, but her son Christopher graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture with Honours.

The degree is the third qualification that Janet has received from Victoria, having previously graduated with a BA and Diploma of Human Resource Management. She also has two postgraduate diplomas and another Masters degree from other institutions.

"I chose to do an MPM because it best suited my needs as a manager of a range of public sector contracts. While I already have my Master of Education Studies degree, and maybe this one should have been a PhD, I decided to go sideways as I wanted a

qualification that was more relevant to what I'm doing in this role."

Victoria's School of Government was a logical choice to study for a public sector degree, she says.

"The staff are brilliant and I found it absolutely fascinating working alongside people from different public sector backgrounds."

As part of her degree, Janet wrote her thesis, *Who is my Master? Multiple Accountabilities in School Support Services* that focused on the role she and five other directors throughout New Zealand have in administering the \$30 million national School Support Services Contract on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

Christopher has already snared a job, working at Wellington firm, Architecture+.

"It was the end-of-year exhibition for students in the Faculty of Architecture & Design that got Chris the job. Soon after the exhibition opened, he was invited to an interview," says Janet.

Honours awarded

From the glamour of Hollywood to the deep recesses of the Universe and the turmoil of politics and public policy, the six honorary doctorates awarded at the May graduation ceremonies recognise lifetimes of achievement.

Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor received an honorary Doctor of Literature in recognition of his achievements in design. The holder of a Diploma of Design from the former Wellington Polytechnic, he has won numerous international awards. His work on the movie trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*, brought international recognition to New Zealand, raising the profile of Wellington as New Zealand's creative capital. He is director and co-founder of Weta Workshop and Weta Digital, world leading digital effects houses.



Witi Ihimaera

Witi Ihimaera received an honorary Doctor of Literature for his contribution to New Zealand art and literature. Of Te Whānau a Kai, Aitanga-ā-Mahaki, Rongowhakaata and Ngāti Porou descent, he holds a BA from Victoria and was its Writer in Residence in 1982. The successful film adaptation of his book *Whale Rider* received international acclaim. He was one of the first Māori diplomats, with a distinguished 15-year career. Beginning writing at an early age, he saw his craft as a way of expressing his experience of being Māori. He has written eight novels, five books of short stories, three operas and a play, and edited several anthologies of Māori writing, winning several awards for his work.



Frank Holmes

Sir Frank Holmes received an honorary Doctor of Commerce for his role in shaping economic and social policy. During a distinguished career, he has been a public servant, university lecturer and professor, chairman and director of several major New Zealand companies, and chairman of a number of committees advising the Government on social, economic and educational policies and international affairs. After serving as a pilot in the RNZAF during World War II, he completed a BA at Auckland University and an MA at Victoria. Knighted in 1975, he promoted trade with Japan in the immediate post-war period and was an early advocate of free trade with Australia.



Fran Wilde

The Hon Fran Wilde received an honorary Doctor of Laws for achievements in local and central politics. The holder of a BA from Victoria and a Diploma of Journalism from the former Wellington Polytechnic, she was elected as Wellington Central MP in 1981 and served in several positions, including as Minister of Tourism and Disarmament. She was also responsible for sponsoring two major social initiatives, the Adult Adoption Information Bill and the Homosexual Law Reform Bill. Resigning from Parliament in 1992 on winning the Wellington Mayoralty, she began the process that saw the Capital become the vibrant city of today. Standing down after completing one term in 1995, she chaired the trust that developed Wellington's multipurpose stadium.



David Caygill

The Hon David Caygill received an honorary Doctor of Commerce for his contribution to public policy. Completing a BA and LLB (Hons) from the University of Canterbury, he entered Parliament in 1978 and served as Minister of Health and Finance, playing a pivotal role in the economic reforms of the 1980s. Retiring from politics in 1996 to pursue a legal career, he is chair of the Accident Compensation Corporation and Education New Zealand Trust, deputy chair of the Commerce Commission and chaired the Ministerial Inquiry into Electricity (1999–2000). He has close ties with Victoria, serving on the Institute of Policy Studies' advisory board and contributing to several Institute projects.



Albert Jones

Albert Jones received an honorary Doctor of Science for his contributions to astronomy. Using a homemade telescope, he discovered two comets, the first in 1946 when he was 26, and the second in 2000 when he was 80, making him the oldest person to find a comet. He is regarded as one of the world's finest visual observers of stars that vary in brightness. He came to international attention in 1987 when he co-discovered a supernova in a galaxy next to the Milky Way, the brightest explosion caused by a dying star to be seen with the naked eye in 400 years. He has received honours from many scientific organisations and was awarded an OBE in 1987.



If you are interested in supporting students and staff with a donation of funds, resources or time, we'd like to hear from you. For financial contributions contact the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Executive Director, Tricia Walbridge.
Email: Tricia.Walbridge@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64 4 463 5109

Emeritus Professors ►
Stuart Johnston (left)
and Ian Gordon
(seated) with Professor
Graeme Kennedy.



Donation continues a life's work

A half million-dollar donation from New Zealand language expert Emeritus Professor Ian (I.A.) Gordon, 95, will ensure the seeds sown in his 40-year academic career at Victoria will continue to bear fruit.

Now living in Auckland, he donated \$500,000 for scholarships, fellowships and other awards for outstanding research in the School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies. His intention is to ensure that the study of theoretical and applied linguistics and the English language continues.

The donation can be traced back to an investment he made in the 1960s. Finding he had a spare £100, he consulted a professor of economics who advised him to invest in Government bonds. Ignoring this advice he bought shares and then sagely traded at the right moments.

Former student and current Professor of Applied Linguistics, Graeme Kennedy says: "as Chair of English at Victoria (1936-1974), Professor Gordon made a distinguished contribution to the teaching of the English

language and literature, and was instrumental in establishing what is now the School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies and helping produce many notable graduates."

He is well known, as I.A. Gordon, through broadcasting and a regular column in the *New Zealand Listener*. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of New Zealand (1947-1952) and Chair of the New Zealand Literary Fund (1950-74). He was awarded a CBE in 1971 and has received several honorary doctorates.

Graeme says the University is extremely grateful for the generous gift.

"Professor Gordon made an indelible mark on the study of language in New Zealand and this donation is a very practical way to ensure that study continues."

The donation was made through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation. He also established a fund on behalf of his late wife May, a past University staff member, for the top woman student in Victoria's first year English Literature course, and in 2003 he also made a donation of \$5,000 for an annual prize to be awarded to a student for excellent work in linguistics.

Email: Graeme.Kennedy@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64-4 463 5627

An elixir for the heart

Glenn Colquhoun used to apologise if people caught him writing furtively on a crumpled up piece of paper, and didn't tell people he was a poet until he had been writing for five years. Now, the man behind the prize-winning words is relishing the legitimacy that has come with being both published and showered with literary awards.

Glenn Colquhoun is the latest recipient of the Prize in Modern Letters, a \$60,000 prize for an emerging author in New Zealand, administered by Victoria University's International Institute of Modern Letters (IIML).

He is an accomplished poet whose poetry was described as "an elixir for the heart" by one of the international judges in the competition. Glenn combines his writing with working as a doctor in Northland, and is said to create poems in the great tradition of doctor-writers.

"He exploits the healing properties of passionate and precise language to bind the world's wounds. His curiosity—an abiding

sense of wonder at the people he lives among—is a priceless tonic," says Geoffrey Wolff, an American author and one of the judges in this year's competition.

During his medical training, he took a year off and lived at Te Tii, a remote community in the Bay of Islands. It was this experience that inspired his first collection of poetry, *The Art of Walking Upright* (1999), which won the Best First Book of Poetry Award in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards. His second major poetry collection, *Playing God*, won both the Poetry Category and the coveted Readers' Choice Award in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards 2003.



▲ Glenn Colquhoun

www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters



A love of language

Wellington is known as the cultural capital of New Zealand and so it's fitting that two French students at Victoria's School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures should benefit from the generosity of a local arts aficionado.

Honours students Anna Craig and Oliver Dean learned recently that they were the first recipients of the Ariadne Danilow Scholarship for Honours or Master students in German, French, Spanish or Italian, administered by the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation.

The scholarship was established through a bequest from Ariadne Danilow, wife of the late Professor of Russian, Dr Nicholas Danilow. She was a well-known Wellington piano teacher with a lively interest in European languages and literature, particularly Russian and German poetry.

Anna and Oliver are delighted to win the scholarships, which have a value of \$4,000 each.

"I'm so thrilled to receive this and it will go towards the repayment of my student loan and on books for this year. I have two jobs already, and it will ease the financial stress of being a student," Anna says.

Oliver plans to head off to Montpellier, France, to work as a teaching assistant next year.

"I worked last summer as a waiter saving for my trip but was unable to earn enough, so this is great—it will pay for my airfares and makes it all worthwhile," he says.

German Professor Hansgerd Delbrück says he met Ariadne shortly after Nicholas arrived in Wellington to take up his position at Victoria.

"Ariadne always had a lot of suggestions about things I should do! She was very



▲ Oliver Dean and Anna Craig

interested in the Pushkin Society and the Goethe Society and was always saying to me, 'Hansgerd, we need more poetry, more poetry in the programme!'"

Foundation Executive Director Tricia Walbridge said bequests were an increasingly important way to support the University.

Email: VuW-Foundation@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64 4 463 5109



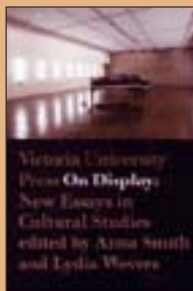
Books

On Display:

New Essays in Cultural Studies

Anna Smith
& Lydia Wevers (editors)

On Display is a stimulating collection of essays about the politics of display. The authors are some of the leading New Zealand scholars active in the interdisciplinary space of Cultural Studies, and their subjects range widely, from colonial museum exhibitions to nationalist cultural display to contemporary art practices. Anna Smith teaches in the English Department at the University of Canterbury and Dr Lydia Wevers is the Director of the Stout Research Centre at Victoria University.



Nice Morning For It, Adam

Vincent O'Sullivan

Nice Morning for it, Adam is the latest collection of poems from leading New Zealand writer and Emeritus Professor of English at Victoria, Vincent O'Sullivan. These poems reveal a powerful intellect brought to bear on a world of continual change and curiosity. Stepping deftly through a breathtaking range of voices and forms, this book places poems of wry satirical humour against those of remarkable sweetness.



Tarzan Presley

Nigel Cox

Through its hypnotic fusing of two mythic lives, Tarzan and Elvis, this novel takes on some of the founding fables of our culture. In the guise of a joyous adventure story, it slyly poses questions about genius, fame, failure and love. In a pulpy world, *Tarzan Presley* rewrites the lyrics of the familiar, giving us a wondrous new song. "Each new book from Nigel Cox is a surprise. But *Tarzan Presley* is a wild, slow-motion astonishment" — Professor Bill Manhire



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Email: Victoria-Press@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64 4 463 6580.

If you would like to be involved in the varied and exciting events available to members of the University community contact the Events Office. Email: Events@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: + 64 4 463 5810 www.vuw.ac.nz/events

Coast to Coast

Law students Vanessa Withy and James Mason had dreamed about doing the Speights Coast to Coast triathlon, but it wasn't until they started to think "Why not do it now?" that they actually believed it might just happen.

"After Vanessa's dad competed in 2002, we became very interested in competing ourselves," James says.

"After a little research, the temptation was too great to resist the opportunity of trekking across the country under our own steam. Additionally, we had to prove that everyone who said it wouldn't happen was wrong!"

"After Vanessa's dad competed in 2002, we became very interested in competing ourselves," James says.

Supported by the University, Team Vic succeeded not only in competing in the highly challenging world famous event but in placing 87th in the teams event out of 207 teams in the 22nd anniversary race on February 6 and 7 this year.

The Speight's Coast to Coast traverses the South Island of New Zealand from Kumara Beach on the Tasman Sea to



▲ Vanessa and James celebrate the completion of the race.

Sumner Beach on the Pacific Ocean. In either two days, or the elite one day event, competitors cycle 140km in three stages, cross the Southern Alps in a 36km mountain run and kayak 67km of the grade two Waimakariri River through New Zealand's "Grand Canyon," the Waimakariri Gorge.

Top competitors take ten and three-quarter hours to cover the 243km while the slowest time ever recorded was twenty-four and a half hours. Vanessa and James completed the course in fourteen and a half hours.

"It was the most amazing experience," says Vanessa.

"Being involved in an emotionally and physically taxing situation like the Coast to Coast allows you to learn and understand what you are capable of, and that with enough determination you can do anything. Now that we've finished I can say the only thing you can let get in the way of your success is yourself."

Mastering the theatre world

Students of Victoria and Toi Whakaari's Master of Theatre Arts degree are gaining industry recognition for their directing prowess, including a recent haul of honours at this year's Fringe Festival Awards.

Graduate Geoff Pinfield and student Jessica Sutherland both received awards for their directing ability, skills that have been carefully honed throughout the unique two-year degree programme. Accolades were also awarded to Jade Eriksen, who won the Hot New Thing Award and the Best Ensemble Award, for her work with a South East Asian collaborative theatre group, whose efforts produced the show *Yatra* in the festival.

Geoff studied theatre in New Zealand and Ireland before applying for the Master of Theatre Arts course in 2001. He received the Best Theatre Award for his direction of

Scavenger and Best Comedy Award for *Happy Hour for Miserable Children*.

Jessica specialises in devised choreographic theatre and won the Best Solo Show Award for her production *I am Skelly*. She is in the second year of the course and is about to travel to Serbia and Poland to research voice and singing techniques employed at various theatres.

The Master of Theatre Arts programme was launched in 2000 in a joint initiative with Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School, the country's foremost training school for theatre professionals. There are only six places each year on the course and students

study a mixture of theory and practical theatrical skills. The course has attracted considerable international attention with students from Australia, Brazil, Britain, and the United States taking part.

Victoria's involvement in theatre in Wellington continues to develop, not only through the growing strengths of the Theatre programme, but also through projects like SchoolFest, where Victoria is directly involved in the programme in the New Zealand International Arts Festival. This offers discounted tickets to school groups and this year's festival proved to be a great success with students and teachers taking up more than 6,000 tickets to see a variety of vibrant performances.

www.vuw.ac.nz/seft



Stunning prospects

Victoria's Adam Art Gallery continues to showcase fresh and innovative artwork with its latest exhibition, *Telecom Prospect 2004: New Art New Zealand*.

Prospect 2004 offers a snapshot of the visual arts in New Zealand. Curated by Emma Bugden—one of New Zealand's leading young curators with a background in experimental and artist-run projects—the exhibition takes a look at the artists who have made, or are likely to make, an impact on the thinking and identity of our time.

"This is the first time the Adam Art Gallery has worked in partnership with the City Gallery Wellington. We are delighted to be part of this exhibition, which promises to be fresh, intriguing, dynamic and engage a diverse audience," says Sophie McIntyre, Director of the Adam Art Gallery.

Artists include Francis Upritchard, Ralph Hotere, Mark Curtis and Bill Culbert; some of New Zealand's finest. The Adam Art Gallery will host Hotere's *White Drip*, a

sharp critique of Paul Holmes' now infamous "cheeky darkie" comment; Curtis' expansive carpet of glitter, *Ultra Glisters*, and Upritchard's *Shrunkn Heads*, which draws on the Māori tradition of moko mōkai (preserving the heads of the dead).

The Gallery will also showcase emerging Thai/New Zealand video artist Waroonwan Thongvanit, whose diarist multimedia investigations provide an intimate insight into the artist's private space through the use of multiple video projections.

A series of floortalks will also take place over the course of the exhibition, including talks by some of the artists on 10 July. Emma Bugden will also speak on 20 June with reference to the conceptual background of the works and how they relate to the unique architectural spaces of the Gallery.

Prospect 2004 runs from 29 May–25 July 2004.

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www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal

▼ *White Drip*, 2003, Ralph Hotere



Sharon Bennett

Golden victory



▲ Geoff Ardell with a bronze Victory figure from the Classics Museum.

Geoff Ardell and the Classics programme at Victoria have achieved an Olympic victory even before the games begin in August. Geoff will be taking part in the celebrations, thanks to a co-operation agreement between Victoria University and the New Zealand Olympic Committee.

Geoff is the first New Zealander to participate in the International Olympic Academy's seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students, attended by 35–40 students from throughout the world and held in Olympia in Greece during June and July.

The seminar will explore the Olympic Philosophy (Olympism), the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games, and will involve both ancient and contemporary Olympic issues. In its 12th year, the seminar has generated academic interest from all over the world.

Graduating with a BA in Classical Studies in 2003, Geoff is enrolled in the Classics honours programme and is studying Latin literature and classical history. He also participated in the annual Classics field trip to Greece during the summer of 2003, which involved an intensive course of study on the archaeology of all the major Greek sites, including the ancient games sites. The trip also inspired his thesis topic: *The Olympic Games and State Formation in Ancient Greece*.

Geoff is thrilled to be given this chance to return to Greece, and was particularly excited when he realised he will be the first New Zealander to attend the seminar.

"It's a great opportunity to be able to visit Greece again while I am still studying," he says.

"This trip will really help me with my thesis work on state formation and the Olympic Games—and it's a wonderful opportunity to experience the buzz of the modern Games as well."

When Geoff returns from Greece in July, he will continue his research and tutoring at Victoria, and plans to investigate some further postgraduate opportunities in Classics.

www.vuw.ac.nz/classics



On track

Visitors to Wellington's Matiu/Somes Island have been given a new insight into the historic landmark through a collaboration between Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters and the Department of Conservation.

Students from last year's Writing the Landscape course, offered through the Institute, took their work to the people. The creative writing workshop course led by poet Dinah Hawken produced a poetry guide, *On Track*, after a field trip to the island in the centre of Wellington Harbour.

Wellington writer Keith Lyons, a member of the group that produced the guide, says the class of 11 students each wrote about different aspects of the island, from its geological history and use as a quarantine station for both humans and animals, to its current role as a sanctuary for native plants and animals.

On Track was designed by Fionnaigh McKenzie and published jointly by the Institute and Department.

"The guide was used over the summer months by visitors and guides. As they wandered around, visitors to Matiu/Somes Island could use it to shed light on the stories behind various aspects of the island's past. The feedback has been very positive and we've recently reprinted it."

Keith says the class also produced a larger collection of essays, prose and poems, *Sidetracks*, which examines in more depth the island's secrets and personal responses from an overnight stay.

Not content with producing the poetry guide and the book of writings, some members of the class have been taking the work to the public, with readings at a gathering of organisations and individuals involved in Matiu/Somes Island. In March four writers—Tim Jones, Martin de Jong, Keith and Fionnaigh—presented a selection of poetry and prose as featured poets at the Poet's Pub in Lower Hutt's Angus Inn.

▼ International authors from Readers and Writers Week on Matiu/Somes Island.



Keith Lyons

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Island economy

The ins and outs of small island economies were explored at a conference in February, organised to mark the 20th anniversary of an internationally-recognised economic model developed by staff at Victoria.

In 1985, Dr Geoff Bertram, senior lecturer in the School of Economics & Finance, and Ray Watters, then Associate Professor of Geography, published their findings on the economics of small islands, after observing that remittances and foreign aid were the main basis of economic activity in small island economies.

Known as the MIRAB (Migration, Remittances, Aid, and Bureaucracy) model, their theory suggests that migrant remittances

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and international aid provide a sustainable basis for a development strategy aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable growth. This approach differs sharply from the conventional wisdom among most policy-makers and aid workers.

Geoff chaired the international conference, which was aiming to look beyond MIRAB and into the 21st century. The conference attracted academics from all over the world, from a variety of economic and development backgrounds, who came together for three days in Wellington to look at a number of issues relating to the political economy of small island nations.

"The main aim was to bring together the worldwide community of researchers on the political economy of islands, and to take stock of the current state of their research programmes," says Geoff.

Ray attended the conference as guest of honour and spoke in the opening session about the original research he and Geoff had conducted in the mid 1980s.

Geoff's next task is to edit the papers presented at the conference in time for a special celebratory edition of the *Asia-Pacific Viewpoint* journal, due out in May 2005.

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Festivities mark Pipitea launch

Victoria launched its Pipitea Campus in downtown Wellington, in the heart of the Capital's political, legal and corporate district, with a week of festivities earlier this year.

Comprising the newly extended and refurbished Rutherford House, the Government Buildings Historic Reserve and the Wellington Railway Station West Wing, the Pipitea Campus brings together on one site, almost all of Victoria's teaching and research in law, commerce, government, administration and professional development.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon said the launch of the Pipitea Campus showcased Victoria's research and teaching strengths to the city.

"While we've gradually moved downtown as student numbers have risen over the last decade, the festivities officially marked Victoria's 'arrival' in central Wellington and our move to a truly multi-campus operation. Last year, we spent \$35 million in capital development across the Kelburn, Te Aro and Pipitea campuses and we're proud of the facilities we have established."

The festivities began with a dawn ceremony on March 29 attended by the Governor-General, the Hon Dame Silvia Cartwright,

Chancellor Rosemary Barrington, Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast, and representatives of Wellington's Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Toa iwi.

Later in the day Ms Prendergast officially reopened Bunny St, which the Wellington City Council has transformed from a bus terminus into an attractive landscaped pedestrian area with limited traffic.

Throughout the week, students from the School of Music serenaded commuters passing through the Railway Station every morning and night, lunchtime barbeques were held for students, and campus neighbours were invited to inspect the new facilities. Law Commission President, the Hon Justice Bruce Robertson, and New Zealand Post Chief Executive John Allen also gave guest lectures and key stakeholders attended a breakfast function.



▲ Celebrating the reopening of Bunny St were Nancy Linton (left) and Alice Capper-Starr.



Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Professor Piri Sciascia greets Te Ra Huriwai (left) at the Pipitea Campus powhiri.

In Memoriam

Peter Preston-Thomas

I never knew Peter, but he grew up in Wellington and left New Zealand in 1949.

He worked his passage to Britain aboard the *Ceramic*, where he was the “fireman’s peggy” – laying the tables for firemen who stoked the ship’s boilers.

Peter then went to British Columbia and worked on an aluminium smelter at Kitimat. Conditions there were tough – icicles six feet long hung from the buildings. In Canada, Peter met Ruth, his future wife. They married, but ended up struggling for much of their working lives with their builders’ merchandising business.

On his retirement Peter received a very generous offer for the business and he decided to help some young people in his old hometown, Wellington, for which he retained a strong, lifelong sentimental attachment. So he chose to honour his daughter, Averil, by setting up a scholarship in her name at Victoria University, through a bequest in his will.

Sadly, Peter died in 2002. I’ll always be grateful for his legacy – if it wasn’t for Peter’s bequest, the Averil Brent Scholarship in Science wouldn’t exist and I wouldn’t be in the privileged position of studying cell and molecular bioscience at Victoria University.

KATHRYN JONES

BSc (Hons)

First recipient of the Averil Brent Scholarship in Science.

It makes you think.

If you would like to know more about making a bequest to Victoria University, do contact Namalie Jayasinha, Bequest Manager, in confidence at:

Victoria University Foundation
PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand
vuw-foundation@vuw.ac.nz
0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534).

Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Tē Whare Wānanga
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



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