

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SPRING 2005

Success from the sea
Science awards for students

Egyptian enlightenment
Investigating the Pyramids

Seditious talk
Dissent in World War II

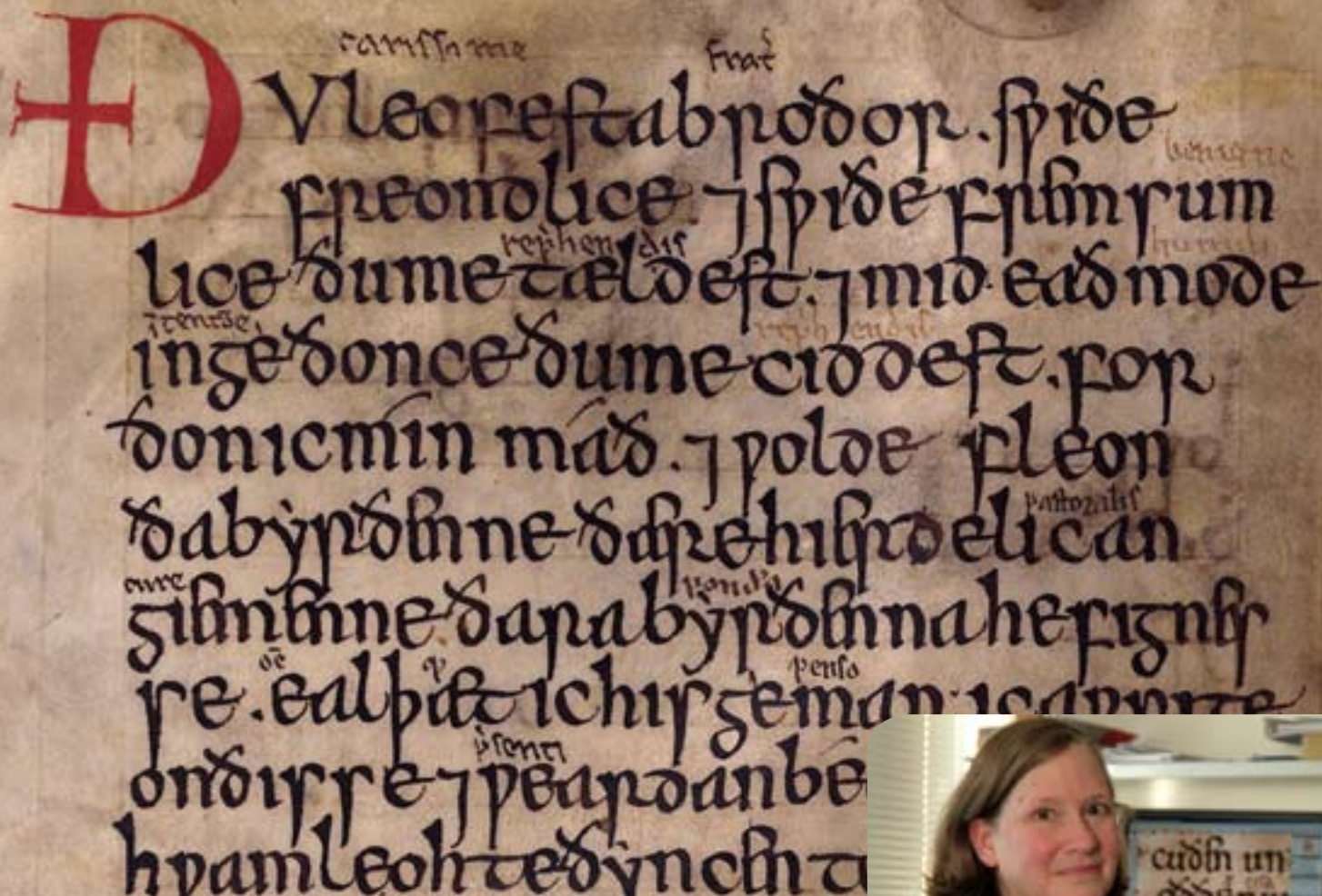
Science as art
Neuroscience and poetry converge

Victoria
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

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



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- ▲ A digital image from a rare tenth century manuscript, *Corpus Christi College MS12*. The annotations were made by a thirteenth century scholar, which Christine (right) is researching.



Medieval goes modern

The shaky handwriting of a mysterious medieval scribe can now be examined in minute detail thanks to powerful digital photographs of three ancient manuscripts.

Digital versions of the rare and priceless manuscripts were created especially for Dr Christine Franzen, a Senior Lecturer in Victoria's English Programme, while she was a Visiting Fellow at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge, England, earlier this year.

The manuscripts, dating from the tenth and eleventh centuries, contain about 1,700 pages in total and are so detailed it took three people 10 days to photograph them. The digital files created were so large (750 gigabytes), they had to be saved on their own external computer drive, which Christine carried with her.

Christine is an expert on the thirteenth-century scribe, known as the 'tremulous hand of Worcester' because of his shaky and difficult-to-read handwriting, who translated the original Old English words into Latin and Middle English. The digital manuscripts from Corpus Christi College, which all feature annotations by this scribe, are a huge boost to her research.

"In the past I had to make do with black and white photocopies taken from microfilms, which barely showed his annotations at all. Now I can see every tiny detail—more than the naked eye could see. As well as making it possible for me to do my research here, it also means that my students can use these files for research projects. For our purposes, it's even better than the real thing."

Christine will soon publish her second book on the enigmatic scribe whose work tells us a great deal about how the English language changed from purely Germanic (pre-Norman Conquest) to a language that by the thirteenth century was heavily influenced by French and Scandinavian vocabulary.

"Although we know nothing about him, through his annotations to the manuscripts, we can see exactly how he was learning Old English. By the thirteenth century it was already almost a foreign language."

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From the Vice-Chancellor



Earlier this year, Auckland University students were surprised to find the cover of their student magazine, *Craccum*, emblazoned with the name of its Victoria rival, *Salient*, which bought the cover with our support through an online auction. The cover showed aliens emblazoned with 0800 VIC UNI attacking Auckland in a spoof of the movie *Mars Attacks*.

The initiative not surprisingly generated media interest but on a more serious note, signalled our move north of the Bombay Hills. We've established an office in Auckland and have a Senior Liaison Officer based there. The initiative is about giving upper North Island secondary students greater choice as well as raising awareness of the postgraduate options we have to offer mature students.

After five years of strong growth, Victoria's enrolments have plateaued. With Government investment per student well below Australian levels, and with the number of school leavers set to decline, all universities are looking outside of their traditional catchments. Domestic enrolments in universities declined last year while polytechnics increased dramatically. While in the election lead-up the Government proposed spending \$300 million to wipe interest off student loans, there has been no signal of additional funding for universities. We increasingly rely on the goodwill of our alumni and friends to achieve the requisite quality standards of a modern university.

It has been a pleasure over the past few months to personally meet our alumni in places as diverse as Nelson, Napier, Melbourne, Sydney, London and New York. Your support is greatly valued and we are keen to enhance to our alumni networks. If you'd like to attend a reunion, please email alumni@vuw.ac.nz or phone +64-4-463 6700.

Pat Walsh
Vice-Chancellor

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Cover Image: MacDiarmid Young Scientist of Year Award category winner, Phil James. Image: Robert Cross, Image Services.



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

Seditious talk

A major documentary highlighting the lives of those who opposed New Zealand's involvement in World War II has forced New Zealanders to consider a dark period in the country's history.

Sedition: The Suppression of Dissent in World War II New Zealand recently had its world premiere at the Telecom New Zealand International Film Festival. The documentary was written, produced and directed by Dr Russell Campbell of Victoria's School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies and supported by a University Research Fund grant.

Russell says he was drawn to the topic both from the perspective of the suppression of civil liberties and to better understand the views of the conscientious objectors and pacifists.

"We view our country as one of the freest in the world but that wasn't the case during World War II. The then Labour Government went to considerable lengths to silence those who were deemed to have 'seditious' views.

"By using interviews carried out by Alister Barry and Martin Long in 1990, the film allows many conscientious objectors to tell their stories while the Government's actions are analysed by leading historians and political scientists. The final cut is a moving and sobering account of the lengths the state went to, in order to silence all those who spoke up

against the war and who refused to fight."

With the film's success—both showings in Auckland were sold out and additional screenings were organised in Wellington—Russell is looking forward to the DVD release and possible airings on New Zealand and Australian television.

As well as Russell's involvement, the film has many other strong links to Victoria with several alumni and staff playing significant roles.

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▲ Conscientious objectors in a military defaulters' detention camp.

Sing songs from the 'Naki

If you've ever thought people from Taranaki sounded a little different—you'd be right.

Research by Helen Ainsworth, who recently completed her PhD in Linguistics, shows that compared to Wellingtonians, people from the Taranaki region have more intonation movement, or a greater 'sing-songy' quality to their speech.

This means the pitch of their voice moves up and down more often than that of people who live in Wellington.

Using the proven and effective socio-linguistic 'friend of a friend' model to find suitable people, Helen conducted 50 hour-long interviews over the course of a year. Research from other New Zealand linguists was also utilised.

Helen's subjects were drawn from Wellington, New Plymouth and a close-knit South Taranaki dairy farming community.

"I got lots of nice, fluent, conversational, story-telling type speech," she says.

"They were all good talkers. I lucked in on a fantastic group of people."

From there, Helen undertook complex analyses of the speech, breaking it down into measurable intonation groups. "I was interested in the tunes which characterise a person's speech."

Her results show older people in both regions have more pitch movement than young people; for some features, young

Taranaki men show more intonation movement than young women from the same area, and country people tend to have more pitch movement than townspeople. Overall Taranaki people have much more pitch movement than Capital-dwellers.

"There's a tremendous pride in being from the 'Naki. I'm sure it's completely unconscious but I think that is why the young guys are hanging on to the way older people sound in that area. They don't want to change."

Helen hopes to publish her findings in journal articles and she would like to extend her research to other regions of New Zealand.

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Can you afford to retire?

Whether at work, around the dinner table, or in the corridors of power, retirement funding and reform is a hot topic for worldwide discussion and debate.

Richard Hawke, a Henry Lang Fellow at Victoria's Institute of Policy Studies, has written a new book on the theme: *Retirement Income Provision in New Zealand: A Way Forward*.

He delves into the changing age distribution and character of the New Zealand population, employment patterns and New Zealand's integration into the world economy.

Together, these issues pose problems and provide opportunities for ensuring adequate retirement income.

"While many people think of retiring at 65, most can now expect to live—and need income—for another quarter of their lives," says Richard.

"I've looked at the issues surrounding retirement income, the practical and policy concerns and the particular circumstances New Zealand now finds itself in.

"This includes worldwide trends in policy reform, the benefits and shortfalls of various retirement plans in a number of countries and the interesting history of retirement income provision in New Zealand."

Alongside financing and the effects of reform on income for the elderly, Richard assesses the effects of possible mechanisms for retirement income provision on people's behaviour and the expected performance of the New Zealand economy.

For those with an eye on retirement, Richard offers suggestions for future policy strategies, having compared historical and modern-day policies and reforms.

"Retirement income provision is a substantial component of government expenditure, a crucial control on well-being in later life and is both affected by and an effect on the overall state of the New Zealand economy," says Richard.

"Every New Zealander has a vested interest in it."

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The poetry of science

It's not often that neuroscience and poetry go together, but Dr Jan Lauwereyns, Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology, manages to pursue both, with published collections of poetry and novels to his name, as well as a respected scientific research career.

The recipient of a Marsden Fast Track grant in 2004, Jan is researching brain mechanisms, with particular focus on dopamine, a chemical in the brain that triggers a happy feeling associated with the anticipation of a reward.

"Originally it was thought that dopamine was just a 'happy' drug, but I'm testing how the drug connects with a person's memory to know what is the best thing to do the next time the same situation comes up," he says.

Jan's research will have applications in helping treat schizophrenia and Parkinson's disease but can also be applied in a wider sense, something that appeals to Jan's sensibilities.

With colleagues in the School of Psychology and the Religious Studies Programme, Jan is applying his knowledge to a study on the evolutionary

psychology of religion, where the cross-disciplinary team will combine their academic backgrounds to explore how people make their religious and moral choices.

"We're going to use game theory, or trust games, to explore people's reactions to happy and sad situations—effectively we're going to play with people's dopamine states and see how this influences their perceptions and decision making."

It's this type of flexible approach that has also enabled Jan to turn his hand to translating the works of several New Zealand poets, including Bill Manhire, Vincent O'Sullivan, and Jenny Bornholdt. Jan has collated their translated poems with work from colleagues in Holland and Flanders into a collection called *Revolver 125*.



"I like to step out of my frame of reference from time-to-time and question things that might invite change—playful questioning is very complementary to the method and logic I apply to my research, and I find that poetry helps me to frame the ethics of what I want to achieve in science."

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Imagining New Zealand identities

National identity is a constructed image, an 'imagined' community of people who claim a connection with the same country. But what defines us as New Zealanders, and what can we do to help manage diversity in a country that is changing rapidly?

"Since the 1970s, New Zealand has experienced an explosion of attempts to define our national identity, which have been as much about projecting forward as they have been about exploring our collective past," says Dr James Liu, Deputy Director of Victoria's Centre for Applied Cross Cultural Research and co-editor of a new multi-disciplinary book, *New Zealand Identities: Departures and Destinations*.

"The media often pack identity issues into polemic sound-bites, and we felt that, as members of the academic community, we

had a responsibility to try and unfold some of the complex assumptions that surround culture and ethnicity."

The other editors, Dr Tim McCreanor, from the Whariki Research Group at Massey University, Dr Tracey McIntosh, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Auckland and Dr Teresia Teaiwa, Senior Lecturer in the Pacific Studies Unit at Victoria, bring a range of perspectives to the text, which also includes essays from a variety of researchers and academics from all over New Zealand.

"Cultural diversity is a fact and New Zealand has a tremendous opportunity to create a more egalitarian society, but it depends on how we interact and accommodate one another," says James.

"The ethnically homogenous nation is over. Claim and counterclaim, articulation and debate are now part of the personal and political landscape of New Zealand. It's more important than ever to describe who 'we' are, and what that means for our country."

A selection of the authors conducted a series of public lectures in September, to begin a process of engaging with the public on these issues. There are tentative plans to continue the research by exploring how identity is converted in practice, across policy and state decisions.

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Triple success

Research into the kina seafood industry, the assessment of child molesters and the use of mobile phones in the classroom has won awards for three Victoria students at the 2005 MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards.

PhD candidate, Phil James, from the School of Biological Sciences, won the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing category for research that could transform kina fishing into a valuable export industry.

His research showed that kina fattened on a specially formulated diet and kept in underwater cages produced up to 92 percent more roe than those in the wild. The diet was developed at the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research where Phil works as an aquaculture biologist.

Kirsten Keown, a PhD student in the Clinical Psychology Programme, won the People & Society category for her research into the assessment and treatment of child molesters.

Her research showed current techniques used to understand sex offenders' thought processes are inadequate as they rely on the offenders' honesty. She is investigating new assessment techniques that will maximise the honesty of molesters' responses, including a method that requires them to make decisions under time pressure.

PhD candidate, Eusebio Scornavacca, was named runner-up in the ICT & Creative category for research into using mobile



▲ From left: Phil, Kirsten and Eusebio with their MacDiarmid Awards.

phones to promote interactive learning in the classroom.

Eusebio, who is a Lecturer in Electronic Commerce & Information Systems in Victoria's School of Information Management, encouraged 1,200 of his 100-level students to use their mobile phones during lectures to 'text' him questions and answer multi-choice quizzes. The results of his experiment indicated that text messages can be a valuable communication tool in the classroom.

The Awards, organised by the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology, are named after Victoria University alumnus and Nobel Prize winner, Professor Alan MacDiarmid.



The secrets of the Pharaohs revealed

Whether they were built by aliens or thousands of slaves under the whip, the Pyramids of Giza have been attracting speculation for centuries.

Now Associate Professor Ken MacKenzie, from the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences, is investigating a third scenario—the onsite casting of the pyramid blocks using limestone ‘concrete’.

“The popular portrayal of the construction of Egypt’s Great Pyramid involves slaves hauling the massive 100-tonne limestone blocks into position with earth ramps and rollers,” says Ken.

“But this idea leaves many questions unanswered, for example, why are some of the largest blocks situated at the greatest height from the ground, and how were these blocks cut and laid with such precision that a knife blade can scarcely be inserted between them?”

In the 1970s, French scientist Joseph Davidovits proposed that the Egyptians had used readily-available materials to create a cement which he termed ‘geopolymer’ to cast the pyramid blocks. He suggested that the raw components—Egyptian desert minerals—were carried into position in sacks, mixed with water, cast and allowed to solidify in wooden formwork. But Davidovits hadn’t conducted intensive scientific tests and his theory met with widespread opposition from archaeologists and Egyptologists.

Irrespective of whether geopolymers hold the secret of the Pyramids, their discovery has given rise to a number of modern applications. These include ecologically-friendly, greenhouse gas-free cement substitutes, fireproof body panels for racing cars and fighter planes, and materials to encapsulate and dispose of hazardous radioactive and heavy metal wastes.

▼ The Pyramids of Giza.



Ken with the equipment he is using to test samples from the Pyramids of Giza.



At a recent conference which Ken attended in Paris, Davidovits’ theory about the construction of the Pyramids resurfaced with the presentation of several papers on the analysis of Pyramid rocks from a consortium of eminent European and American analytical laboratories.

Victoria’s worldwide reputation for using an experimental technique called Solid-State Multinuclear Magnetic Resonance to study geopolymer materials prompted the consortium to invite Ken to test samples from the Pyramids. These samples had been recovered from pristine stone within the interior of a narrow shaft located deep inside the Great Pyramid, surveyed by a miniature remote-controlled robot survey vehicle.

“The testing involves placing a very small powdered sample inside an extremely strong superconducting magnet, spinning it at supersonic speeds and exposing its atoms to pulses of radiofrequency waves that interact with the spinning nucleus.

“By recording the behaviour of the atoms as they recover from these manipulations, unique information is gained about the make-up of the inorganic components of the sample. This information will be used to augment the results of other advanced spectroscopic tests being carried out in Britain, Belgium and America, to examine the feasibility of Davidovits’ theory.”

The international team hopes to have results by the end of 2005 but Ken says, so far, they have found nothing to disprove Davidovits’ theory.

“I believe the Egyptians had a great knowledge of chemistry and it’s entirely possible they used this to build the pyramids. Some Egyptologists are upset by this concept but, in my opinion, using chemistry instead of brute force to create the Pyramids is a more admirable feat.”

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Putting people first

Post-settler governments need to abandon oppressive policies for indigenous peoples and focus on increasing participation in democracies, according to Associate Professor Jeff Sissons, who explores some of the key issues affecting 'first peoples' in his latest book, *First Peoples: indigenous cultures and their futures*.

"Oppressive authenticity, where states oppress first peoples by pursuing policies with a rigid notion of settler versus indigenous, usually have the effect of making the 'authentic' indigenous group consistently smaller," says Jeff, Director of the Anthropology Programme in the School of Social & Cultural Studies.

"Indigenous culture changes just as much as any other culture does, and it's important to take into account that there are many different ways of being indigenous."

Jeff says Māori are leading the way in many respects when it comes to addressing post-colonial issues and New Zealand is more focused on issues surrounding cultural nationalism than some other countries.

"It is empowering when first peoples see that many of the problems facing them are shared problems—and that there are a number of diverse and innovative approaches to working towards resolving them."

Jeff also explores urban indigenous issues; the challenges facing indigenous children and their communities and indigenous citizenship in the course of his work, which he presented at a recent Ngai Tahu summit and to staff at Te Puni Kōkiri.

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Translating nuance

You're asked a question, you nod your head and respond: 'mmm'. It's something we do every day.

But for a researcher from the School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures, who is translating into French some of the short stories of Victoria alumna, Patricia Grace, accurately portraying the nuances of Kiwi culture is anything but simple.

Senior Lecturer, Dr Jean Anderson, and native French speaker, Anne Magnan-Park, from Notre Dame University in the United States, are working on a project to translate several of Patricia's short stories for publication. Patricia, who received an honorary doctorate from Victoria in 1989, recently took top honours in the Montana Book Awards for her novel, *Tu*. But none of her short stories are available in French and her novel, *Potiki*, is long out of print.

"Possibly this is because it's so difficult to provide a translation faithful to the original's tone and language. Her style is deceptively simple and yet powerfully evocative of New Zealand

life and attitudes. But this makes it hard to translate, not merely into another language but into another culture," says Jean.

The expression 'mmm' as used in Patricia's story, *Electric City*, means 'yes' and while 'mmm' also exists in French, for a French reader it equates with 'yum.' While the more colloquial French word 'ouais' could translate as 'yeah', it didn't fit with the story's shy character, Ani.

"So we faced a dead-end. The solution, after much email discussion, was to invent something in-between: 'mmmoui' that shows assent but also maintains Ani's reserved character."

Literary translation is a passion for Jean, who says working with a native speaker is vital. "Literary translation is essentially somewhere between creative writing and something more 'purely linguistic'. It certainly isn't a technical process that can be done by rote."

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Diagnosing the system

With more than \$1.7 billion of taxpayer money spent on reorganising New Zealand's primary health care, it's no wonder researchers are interested in how the strategy is working.

Victoria's Health Services Research Centre is part of a consortium involving CBG Health Research Ltd and national and international researchers. It recently completed about 160 interviews with stakeholders of the new Primary Health Organisations (PHOs).

Interviews were held with policy makers, stakeholders, and participants from both within and outside PHOs, including staff working in general practices.

Centre Director, Dr Jackie Cumming, led a team of researchers and says, overall, there is considerable goodwill and support for the primary healthcare strategy.

"Many informants told us that access to care has improved and they believe there is better access to care as a result of reduced costs to the patient," says Jackie.

"More than 90 percent of the population is now registered in one of 77 PHOs around the country—a considerably faster uptake than originally anticipated."

With the set-up of PHOs nearly complete, new initiatives such as evening hours, focused clinics, extra-practice services and further expansion of nursing roles for those with chronic illness will begin to widen and improve care.

"Many informants told us that access to care has improved and they believe there is better access to care as a result of reduced costs to the patient."

Despite overall positive findings, Jackie says concerns remain among some practitioners about the strategy's impact on general practice and longer-term finances.

"Some claimed money had been 'wasted' on those who could afford to pay, while affordable care was not so available to groups who didn't meet increased funding criteria."

Jackie's research is funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, the Ministry of Health and ACC. The 160 interviews are the first part of a three-to-five year study. The next phases are due for release in 2006 and will include a report on changes in utilisation of services across population groups.

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Instinctive politics

Loaded terms such as left-wing, right-wing, liberal and conservative are often bandied about when people try to make sense of political preferences and persuasions. Dr Marc Wilson, Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology, has spent some time exploring the psychology behind our political instincts, by investigating people's value systems.

"Since I completed my PhD on political psychology in 1999, I've been interested in exploring a theoretical model in which political conservatism is driven by two psychological orientations: social dominance, an endorsement of social inequality as a reality of life, and authoritarianism, the belief that society should follow the rules set down by 'legitimate authorities'," says Marc.

"These orientations reflect two sets of guiding principles in people's lives, self-enhancement and social dominance. The data, which was collected from Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, strongly supports the model, and provided some interesting regional differences as well."

Marc found that Aucklanders are likely to be significantly more conservative than either Wellingtonians or Cantabrians and that they are more accepting of social inequality. Marc says this combination of dominance and obedience to authority explains Auckland's higher average of conservatism.

"The most conservative participants were those who scored highly on both measures of dominance and authoritarianism and strongly supports my theory that socio-political conservatism can be reliably and strongly predicted from specific dimensions of social values.

"I also found that Cantabrians were more change-averse than Aucklanders or Wellingtonians, and that Wellingtonians were the least likely to accept directions from authority figures and institutions."

Marc is completing the analysis of survey data for Hamilton and Dunedin, and hopes his research will help support international research that suggests values should be considered when trying to resolve longstanding problems with the conceptualisation and study of political ideology.

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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 5072

Creative currency

A new scholarship programme offered by the Wellington City Council through the Victoria University Foundation recognises the creativity and innovation of Victoria students.

Announcing the scholarships, which are worth \$5,000 each, Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast signalled creativity and innovation as drivers of twenty-first century economic prosperity, alongside Wellington's intention to enhance its position as the creative and innovative centre of New Zealand.

Six Victoria students were among the inaugural recipients in July, representing the research disciplines of building science, commerce and administration, and design and architecture.

Research interests included Rachel Ryan's building science honours project to build a 3-D model of Wellington city and Marketing student Murdoch Stephens

examined the development of local creative communities.

Design student Aimee Wiles examined memory and historical significance in relationship to design and Michelle Windust considered creating temporary settings that support creative collaboration and innovation.

Architecture student Matthew French explored an alternative approach to the use of Shed 35 as a mutual exchange centre for international aid agencies and Simon Yates, also an architecture student, looked into the creation of a wave energy centre.

Tricia Walbridge, Executive Director of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, says the scholarships encourage and support Honours and

▲ The faces behind the Creativity and Innovation Scholarships are back row, left to right: Philippa Hay, Victoria Scholarships Manager; Miett Fear, Senior Strategic Advisor, Wellington City Council; Tricia Walbridge; Marika Wessels, Manager, Victoria Foundation; Alick Shaw, Deputy Mayor and, in front; Dean of Commerce & Administration, Professor Peter Thirkell and Kerry Prendergast.

Master students undertaking research in areas of particular interest to the Wellington City Council.

"It's a great initiative from the Council and very beneficial for the University, reinforcing the already strong 'town and gown' relationship."



Digital writing

The International Institute of Modern Letters has teamed up with New Zealand Post to produce a series of DVDs to be used as resources for secondary school teachers and students.

In 2003, Kate De Goldi, distinguished children's writer and coordinator of the Institute's children's writing workshop, interviewed three of New Zealand's prominent authors, Joy Cowley, Margaret Mahy and Jack Lasenby, as part of the New Zealand Writers DVD Project.

The project was originally designed to complement the resources of Victoria's Stout Literary Archive, a comprehensive archive of sound recordings by New Zealand writers.

"Our original plan was to edit the recordings to create a teaching resource for Victoria's staff and students, but then it occurred to us that the recordings were so lively and colourful that we should try to make them available to school students as well," says Professor Bill Manhire, Director of the Institute.

The sponsorship from New Zealand Post, through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, enabled editing and tracking of the three DVDs, one for each writer, so that teachers and students can use them as an interactive resource in the classroom.

"The Ministry of Education will distribute the DVDs to New Zealand schools and have also contracted Kate to produce a teachers' guide, which will maximise their use in the classroom," says Bill.

Tricia Walbridge, Executive Director of the Foundation, says the project contributes to the larger fundraising goal set down by the Institute's patron, Glenn Schaeffer.

"The Foundation is firmly focused on achieving the target of \$NZ1 million set by Glenn as a Challenge Gift, which he will match in US dollars. We're very pleased that the DVD resources will be produced as a result of the generous sponsorship and support from New Zealand Post and the Ministry of Education, and will also contribute towards meeting Glenn's target."

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Modern classics

When Commonwealth Scholarship winner, Simon Perris, completes his PhD in three year's time, he will have been part of a college that has produced alumni of the calibre of Oscar Wilde and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney.

Simon has been awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue a PhD in classics at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he will explore modern poetic reworkings of classical texts under the direction of Professor Oliver Taplin, an internationally renowned scholar of Greek literature.

"Professor Taplin's work was one of the sources of inspiration for my Master's thesis, which I completed last year. It's a huge privilege to be able to work with him for my PhD research."

Simon will focus on the work of Christopher Logue, a British poet who has spent the last 45 years rendering Homer's *Iliad* into English, complete with modern poetic techniques—without being able to speak or read Ancient Greek.

"The commitment from the staff within the Classics programme was unparalleled during my time at Victoria. One of the texts that I needed to use for my Master's research was in German, and I didn't read German, so my supervisor translated each chapter into English for me as I needed it.

"There's no question that Victoria's commitment to both my undergraduate and Master's degrees gave me the confidence to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship."

The dedication of the staff within the Classics programme seems to be paying off, with several of their students taking out top awards and scholarships in recent years. In 2002, Claudine Earley won a Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship, part of the Bright Futures scheme, to continue her PhD research at Victoria and in 2004, Alexis Kalderimis won a Woolf Fisher scholarship to study at Oxford. Liesl Nunns, who is pursuing a Master's degree, was awarded the Victoria Medal of Academic Excellence at graduation this year, which is presented to the top honours student in each Faculty.

"Simon's success in winning a Commonwealth Scholarship, which will cover his fees and living expenses for the next three years, is an excellent example of how Victoria's graduates can fulfil their potential," says Philippa Hay, Scholarships Manager.



"The opportunities for both undergraduate and postgraduate students to receive scholarships to assist or cover the full cost of their tuition are extremely varied, and we are constantly striving to increase the range of scholarships available to students.

"Recognition of achievement on this level is internationally portable and an acknowledged benchmark to judge the performance of both the individual and the university that they have studied at. This year Victoria's students received more than 20 percent of the growing range of highly competitive postgraduate scholarships administered by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee."

"There's no question that Victoria's commitment to both my undergraduate and Master's degrees gave me the confidence to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship."

Victoria seeks to reward its own scholars and offers, with generous support from its donors, a wide range of scholarships each year to support students at all levels of study. The University offers more than 30 postgraduate scholarships, of which ten are classed as Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Research Scholarships. Offered since 2004, these scholarships offer significant incentives to students who are interested in pursuing specific research topics at PhD level, with the overall aim of continuing to strengthen and improve Victoria's research status.

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Who's new?

Peter Thirkell

Professor Peter Thirkell has been appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Commerce & Administration. He has a BCA(Hons) and MCA from Victoria and a PhD from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Peter joined Victoria in 1989 and served as Head of the Marketing Group (1989-99) and Head of the School of Marketing & International Business (2001-4). His research interests include brand management, internet-based marketing and electronic commerce, multimedia-based decision support applications, relationship marketing, consumer satisfaction, exporting, new product development and marketing futures. Before joining Victoria, he held senior marketing roles at Waitaki International Ltd and Borthwicks Ltd.



Ken Perszyk

Dr Ken Perszyk has been appointed as Head of the School of History, Philosophy, Political Science & International Relations. He has a BA and MA from Marquette University in the United States and a PhD from Victoria. Ken joined Victoria in 1985 to undertake his PhD and was appointed a lecturer in 1988. His research interests include the philosophy of religion and metaphysics and he is a frequent visitor to the Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame, in the United States, where he was a Fellow in 1999 and 2003. He is Deputy Editor and Book Review Editor for *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.



Jenny Bentley

Jenny Bentley has been appointed as Director, Facilities Management, and a member of the Senior Management Team. Jenny is responsible for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of Victoria's buildings and associated services, including security and caretaking. She is also responsible for insurance, space planning, staff and visitor car parking, mail distribution and student notes. Jenny has a BA from the University of Auckland and a Diploma of Teaching from the former Auckland College of Education. Prior to joining Victoria, she was Director of Community Services at the Upper Hutt City Council.



Peter Adds

Peter Adds, has been appointed as Tumuaki or Head of Te Kawa a Māui, the School of Māori Studies. Peter, who has an MA(Hons) from the University of Auckland, is also the School's postgraduate coordinator and a member of the Board of Studies for the University's Development Studies programme. Peter, who is of Taranaki's Te Atiawa iwi, is currently completing his PhD on aspects of the tribe's history. He is also researching the portrayal of Māori and Te Ao Māori in the broadcasting media as well as Māori treaty settlements and the negotiation process.



Rawiri Toia

Rawiri Toia has been appointed as Tumuaki or Head of Te Kura Māori, the School of Māori Teacher Education, in Victoria's newly formed College of Education. Rawiri has been a lecturer and school adviser at Victoria and the former Wellington College of Education for four years. He holds a Diploma of Higher Teaching from Waikato University and is studying towards a Master of Education degree. His research interests include language acquisition, Māori learning perspectives, and Māori language curriculum in mainstream education. Rawiri, who is of Northland's Ngāpuhi iwi, was a teacher in a Rūmaki or Māori immersion unit in Hamilton prior to joining the College.



Philippa Hay

Philippa Hay has been appointed as Scholarships Manager in the Office of Research & Postgraduate Studies. The position was created to raise the awareness of the funding opportunities available to students and to increase support for postgraduate students. Philippa has a BSc from the University of Canterbury, a Diploma of Teaching from Christchurch Teachers' College and studied genetics at postgraduate level at Lincoln University. Philippa worked in medical research in New Zealand and in South Africa before returning to teaching in the early 1990s as a science teacher at Scots College and Hutt International Boys' School in Wellington. Prior to joining Victoria, she was Deputy Principal at Samuel Marsden Collegiate School.





Top teachers

Victoria's prowess in teaching has been recognised in New Zealand's highest tertiary teaching awards for the fourth year in a row.

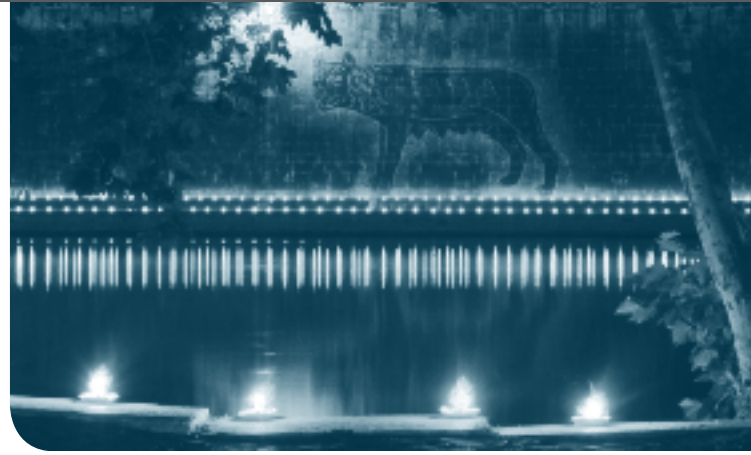
Daniel Brown, Reader in the School of Design, received a Sustained Excellence Award, while Andrew Charleson, Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture, received an Excellence in Innovation Award, each worth \$20,000, in the National Teaching Awards announced at Parliament in July. Their success brings to six, the number of awards won by Victoria academics.

Daniel, who has a Master of Architecture degree from Yale University, joined Victoria in 1998 after working in leading architectural firms in New York, Sydney and Rome. For him, teaching is a privilege and honour.

"I've been teaching for eight years, and students I taught seven years ago are now doing amazing things. It reminds me of the teachers who influenced me to become what I am today."

Daniel says he has never delivered a traditional lecture by reading out lecture notes. Instead, he speaks to an ordered set of images to prompt discussion.

▼ Andrew (left) and Daniel in the Te Aro Campus.



▲ Daniel's installation art work in Rome featured images of she-wolves on the walls of the River Tiber, illuminated by thousands of candles.

He also directly involves students in projects that challenge them to identify themselves as a new generation of New Zealand designers. A project to redesign the Wellington city skyline and its significant buildings resulted in a major public exhibition, a newspaper feature and television news coverage. Students have also been involved in creating designs for a marine education centre on the Capital's rugged south coast, an art and cultural centre at Lower Hutt's Waiwhetu Marae, a memorial for police officers slain in the line of duty and a field trip to India.

In June this year, he worked with Master of Design student Erika Kruger and international artist, Kristin Jones, on a spectacular installation art work to celebrate Rome's River Tiber. A section of the river was illuminated with 2,758 candles—the city's mythological age—while twelve 20m high she-wolves, were 'drawn' on one embankment by waterblasting away centuries of grime.

For Andrew, the challenge was different. Joining Victoria from the Ministry of Works in 1987, he teaches courses on structures—vital knowledge if students are to design buildings that won't collapse.

He found that his students had been reacting negatively towards their structures courses, which were laden with complex mathematical calculations.

"I did a teaching development seminar and the presenter made it clear we had

to involve students' imagination in their learning and if we didn't enjoy giving the lectures then it was likely our students weren't enjoying hearing them."

A view that teaching structures to architecture students was like getting children to eat their greens, led Andrew to completely overhaul the structures courses. Less emphasis was placed on complex equations and more on the underlying principles. Armed with a megaphone, he takes students on visits to construction sites so they can see theory in practice. He uses lots of illustrations—including an x-ray of his knees—to explain structural theory.

By collaborating with the architectural lecturers, he integrated structures into the students' architectural design studio projects. But this meant students were regularly seeking structural advice, so he developed the computer programme RESIST to answer their questions. By modelling their proposed buildings as equivalent rectangular forms, they can easily design structures to resist wind and earthquake loads. The programme is now being adapted for use in India and translated into Chinese and Spanish.

Andrew's teaching is also informed by his research and his first sole authored book, *Structure as Architecture*, has just been published.

Email: Andrew.Charleson@vuw.ac.nz
or Daniel.Brown@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64-4-463 6222 or 463 6129



Taking pride in Māori writing

People around the world are often amazed and intrigued by Māori literature. Now a new lecturer is encouraging Victoria students to be just as fascinated by our indigenous writing.

Dr Alice Te Punga Somerville, who is of Te Atiawa ki Waiwhetu and Pākehā descent, has been appointed to the new position of Lecturer in Māori and Pacific Literature within Victoria's School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies and will be teaching indigenous literature at all levels.



She has just returned from the United States, where she was one of 14 candidates chosen to attend the fully-funded PhD course at Cornell University. She was also awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, which allowed her to spend her last year of study at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, as a visiting colleague.

"People overseas are absolutely amazed by our literature—they think it's fantastic," says Alice.

"Māori and Pacific texts, such as Witi Ihimaera's *Whale Rider* and Patricia Grace's *Potiki* are taught widely throughout the United States and Europe. It is about time that, here in New Zealand, we pay significantly more attention to literature by Māori and Pacific writers."

From 2006, Alice will be co-ordinating a new 300-level course dedicated to indigenous writing in English, from countries including New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United States and the Pacific Islands.

"I want to expand the idea of what English literature means—it is not just writing from England. Many indigenous writers use English as their medium and there is a wealth of excellent literature out there to study."

Alice is also leading targeted tutorials for Māori and Pacific students studying 100-level New Zealand literature. "I was a first year student in targeted English tutorials at Auckland University, and I know how different the conversations can be in a space just for Māori and Pacific students."

Alice's whānau has a long history with Victoria and her grandfather and uncles were among the first Māori graduates and PhD recipients. Her grandfather, Roi Te Punga, completed an MA in 1948. Martin Te Punga gained a PhD in Geology in 1955 and was also a Geology lecturer at Victoria. Walter Te Punga graduated with a BSc from Victoria before gaining his PhD overseas and Hamuera Paul Te Punga gained an LLB before dying in World War II, while serving in the 28 (Māori) Battalion.

Email: alice.tepungasomerville@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64-4-463 6818

All you need is a friend...

Whether it's vital career guidance or help with an assignment—mentors for Pacific postgraduate students are crucial for the creation of future leaders.

That's the belief of Lecturer, Cherie Chu, whose own career is taking off as a result of the mentoring programme at Victoria's He Pārekereke, the Institute for Research and Māori Development, within the School of Education Studies.



Cherie, who is of Tahitian (Faa'a) and Chinese descent, is completing a PhD on how young Pacific people can be mentored into leadership roles. She also teaches a range of human development and Pacific education courses within He Pārekereke and is co-editor of a major textbook, *Rethinking Aid Relationships in Pacific Education*.

"Mentors play such an important role in giving students the support and confidence to advance their careers. I know I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't been shoulder-tapped by an academic staff member, originally to help out with some lectures.

"After four years of mentoring from key staff members I've completed my Honours and Master's degrees, am part-way through my PhD, have presented papers at conferences and am now lecturing other students."

Cherie's position at He Pārekereke also encompasses the role of Pacific Students' Support Coordinator.

"I really enjoy working one-on-one with the students and giving back some of the great support I received. It's like a domino effect."

Pacific Nations Programme Director, Dr Kabini Sanga, says encouraging young Pacific people to continue their research is a deliberate strategy of He Pārekereke.

"It's important for Pacific Nations to have people of their own ethnicity and background conducting the research and making the decisions. This is often not the case at present and needs to be actively remedied.

"Since 2001, promising Pacific students at Victoria have been mentored and included in the process of some major initiatives, including significant conferences in Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Marshall Islands."

Email: Cherie.Chu@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64-4-463 5316



Beat the travel bug

Victoria students don't need to wait until they graduate to head off on their OE. The University's overseas exchange programme allows students to study at universities all around the globe.

The Vic OE scheme, which has partnerships with more than 50 universities, provides financial and pastoral support for students wanting to study overseas for one or two trimesters.

Victoria International provides students with funding of \$1,200 towards travel expenses. Students are also eligible to receive their Studylink loans and allowances while on their Vic OE.

Tim Fowler, Director of Victoria International, says Vic OE gives students an unparalleled opportunity to study at highly-regarded universities around the world and pay domestic fees for the international experience.

"The value of having an international study component to your degree cannot be underestimated. Vic OE allows students to experience another culture, meet new friends, gain valuable research contacts, study different subjects and even learn another language, while adding to their degree. These advantages make students with overseas experience very attractive to employers."

In addition, Tim says Vic OE students act as ambassadors for Victoria and are a vehicle for attracting a more diverse overseas student market to Wellington and New Zealand.

Highly regarded institutions, including the University of California, Milan's Bocconi University and three universities in Chile have recently agreed to accept Victoria students through the Vic OE scheme.

Terry Meikle, has been employed to develop further exchanges and support students taking part in the scheme. As the new Outgoing Exchange & Study Abroad Coordinator, Terry will be passing on his own travel and international education experience to those who may be travelling abroad for the first time. He has travelled and worked in Australia, Britain, Austria, Greece and South America and speaks fluent Spanish.

www.vuw.ac.nz/international/exchange

New programmes

Victoria updates its programmes to incorporate advances in scholarship and to reflect the needs of society, students and employers. Graduates are encouraged to develop skills in creative and critical thinking, leadership and communication. A selection of new programmes include:

Science

The Faculty of Science has introduced several new subjects to its Master of Science Programme.

Cross-Cultural Psychology examines human behaviour and experience as it occurs in different cultures and/or is influenced by cultural factors. Comparative and indigenous approaches are applied to a range of psychological topics.

Electronic and Computer System Engineering focuses on systems involving both hardware and software design, such as process control systems. It involves a combination of computer science with physics and mathematics.

Ecological Restoration allows students to gain practical experience in ecological restoration, research methods, cultural issues and collaboration with a wide range of organisations.

Petroleum Geoscience is a joint programme between the School of Earth Sciences and the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences. It aims to produce graduates with an extensive knowledge of the ways that various techniques are integrated and used in oil exploration.

Geomicrobiology and Molecular Microbiology provides training in classical and modern laboratory techniques and

instruments for the study of microbes. The programme also explores the latest knowledge in the two fields.

Email: science-faculty@vuw.ac.nz. Tel: +64-4-463 5101

Design

The Digital Media Design major explores the contemporary theory and practice of an interdisciplinary immersive design form, focusing on the creative potential of interactive and dynamic time-based media. A dedicated design studio with industry-led, state-of-the-art equipment helps realise the enormous opportunities in new media technology on a world stage. Delivered within the Bachelor of Design programme, the major is applicable to a range of industries including entertainment and interactive television, the Internet, education, gaming, film and media business sectors.

Changes to the Bachelor of Design enables students to be awarded Honours. The current but separate BDes(Hons) degree will discontinue after a transition period.

Email: design@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 6256

Teaching

Following the merger of Wellington College of Education and Victoria University to form the Faculty of Education, the Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Primary) is being re-accredited as a Victoria University qualification, as is the Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary). Each programme prepares graduates with appropriate teaching subjects to become confident and competent primary and secondary teachers.

Email: teaching@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 9500

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 Tel: +64-4-463 5301.

A temple of learning

By Professor Pat Walsh
Vice-Chancellor

If you visit almost any university, you'll usually find the library is one of the most centrally located buildings. This physical presence is a reflection of a much deeper truth—libraries are at the heart of a university's learning and research programmes.

Late last year, we adopted a new Strategic Plan that firmly places Victoria as one of New Zealand's premier research-led universities. The goals it sets are ambitious. By 2012, we want to more than double our external research income to \$40 million, substantially increase the number of research degree completions and be in the top two universities in the Government's Performance-Based Research Fund exercise.

It was clear that to achieve these and many other goals we had to have the library resources to match. In August, the University Council approved in principle a major increase in funding for the Library that will see its collections budget grow by a third to \$6 million in 2006. We anticipate making future decisions based around investment in extra staffing and improving access to electronic journals. Not only will this investment assist us in achieving our strategic objectives, it will position Victoria at the forefront of modern university libraries.

The Council's decision was consistent with the recommendations of the recent Academic Audit, carried out by a panel established by the New Zealand Academic Audit Unit, which also emphasised the need to give priority to library resources in light of the new Strategic Plan objectives.

This key investment in our learning and research infrastructure, comes on top of our investment in our physical infrastructure. We recognised that as the

library was at the core of our teaching and learning, it had to be able to recover quickly from a major earthquake. Given Wellington's predisposition for such events, we commissioned a significant seismic upgrade of the Rankine Brown Building, which is the Central Library's home.

We've also carried out a major survey of staff and students to ask them about the services and facilities they need. We had an overwhelming response of close to 4,000 replies and we're analysing the data as part of adopting a new plan for the library.

The Academic Audit was the third Victoria has faced. The panel, which included leading New Zealand and overseas academics, was chaired by Professor Sylvia Rumball, Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor of Massey University. The Unit is an autonomous body established by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee to monitor the academic performance of New Zealand's universities.

We welcomed the panel's report and we're already in the process of adopting many of its other recommendations. It commended us for our work on strengthening Victoria's programmes, infrastructure and finances since the year 2000 when we were last audited.

It also praised the new facilities we've developed, particularly our Pipitea Campus in downtown Wellington, and

Education Review



how we've worked to address the challenges posed by a multi-campus operation. It commended our initiative in establishing our Māori Faculty equivalent, Toihuarewa, and for providing Te Herenga Waka Marae as a place where Māori students can feel at home. The work of the University Teaching Development Centre in supporting best practice in teaching and learning, and the development of our targeted student recruitment programmes and student learning support programmes, were also praised.

As with any audit, whenever a fresh set of eyes places your activities under the microscope they will inevitably find areas where improvements can be made. We welcome those recommendations and in many cases, the areas for improvement were suggestions we presented in our self-audit portfolio.

In the last five years, we have turned around Victoria's finances, seen student enrolments increase by 37 percent from 2000 to 2004 and completed a major capital works programme and merger with the Wellington College of Education. As enrolments are now levelling out, we have the opportunity to make further enhancements to our core teaching and learning activities and the audit report will be of great assistance in doing just that.

To keep in touch with University friends, meet new people and continue to participate in the stimulating intellectual and cultural life of Victoria, contact the Alumni Relations Office.
Email: Alumni@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 6700
www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

Victoria Events

Attending events at Victoria helps you to keep in touch with University friends, meet new people and enable involvement in the stimulating intellectual and cultural life of Victoria.

Victoria Events is available online at www.vuw.ac.nz/events for easy access to information about University related events.

If you don't have access to the internet and would like up-to-date information on forthcoming events, contact the Alumni Relations Office on +64-4-463 6700.

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

Artifact: Artists' Portraits in Prints

Opens 15 October



The Adam Art Gallery's new exhibition *Artifact: Artists' Portraits in Prints*, was produced by postgraduate art history honours students. Focusing on artists such as van Dyck, Cézanne and Picasso, the exhibition draws on the resources of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and enables students to learn how to put together an exhibition for a professional gallery space.

For further information visit: www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal

▲ An engraving by Louis-Jaques Cathelin from an oil painting by Jean-Marc Nattier, *Louis Toque*, 1773.

New Zealand School of Music Piano Festival

12—15 December

Internationally renowned concert artists will participate in daily masterclasses and evening recitals, including Brian Sayer (New Zealand), Joseph Banowetz (United States), Arnan Wiesel (Israel / Australia), Diedre Irons (Canada / New Zealand), Richard Mapp (New Zealand), and Emma Sayers (New Zealand). The latter three are all teachers of piano at the New Zealand School of Music.

Tel: +64-4-463 5369 or email: Doreen.Hawes@vuw.ac.nz

Alumni Reunion Receptions in China

Beijing: 24 October

Shanghai: November (date to be confirmed)

Following on from the launch of the Chinese alumni network during May 2005, attended by New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Helen Clark, these functions will provide the opportunity for alumni and friends living in China to meet with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Neil Quigley, as well as renewing acquaintances with fellow alumni and friends.

For more information visit: www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

Graduate School of Nursing and Midwifery Ball

Tuesday 13 December, 8pm

Join the Graduate School of Nursing & Midwifery at the December 2005 graduation ceremonies. Celebrate with fellow alumni and friends at the Boat Shed, Taranaki Wharf, Wellington.

For information and ticket sales visit: www.vuw.ac.nz/nsemid or Tel: +64-4-463 6156.

New Zealand Alumni Convention

5—10 November 2006

Plans are now well under way for the second New Zealand Alumni Convention, which will be hosted by the Wellington City Council. The Convention was originally planned for March 2006 and will now take place at the beginning of November 2006. Alumni and friends from the Asia-Pacific region are all encouraged to attend the week-long convention, which starts with a big bang from the spectacular annual Wellington Guy Fawkes fireworks extravaganza on the evening on Sunday 5 November. Formal proceedings will culminate in a gala dinner on Wednesday 8 November followed by two days of re-living life back at Victoria on 9 and 10 November.

For more information visit: www.wcc.govt.nz/rd/alumni

Te Tumu Herenga Waka 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Wednesday 6 December 2006

To mark the anniversary of the wharenui, the carved meeting house on Te Herenga Waka Marae, a range of celebration events and activities will be held over the latter part of 2005.

For more information and to join the Māori Alumni Network Group log onto www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni and register with *Life After Vic*.



ALUMNI RELATIONS *Life After Vic*

Adrian Hailwood

BDes 1997

Adrian started work as an illustrator for various magazines and advertising agencies. He couldn't find a decent tee-shirt so he decided to make some himself. They became an instant hit and launched him into the fashion industry. Being one of 10 fashion designers from around the world chosen by Swedish liquor company Absolut for their ABSOLUT label collection, Adrian's initiative and talent also enthused designer Karen Walker, who chose him to accompany her to the London fashion shows earlier this year. Adrian now has his own line of clothing, *Hailwood*, and a shop in Ponsonby, Auckland. His 2006 collection is being previewed in an offsite show at the Air New Zealand Fashion Week in October.



Milton Ngan

MSc 1997

Soon after graduating from Victoria, Milton went to work at Weta Digital in Wellington on *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. From humble beginnings as the 'render rocket scientist' who fixed hard drives, did the backups, and watched the system during the graveyard shift, Milton has now become the architect of the technical infrastructure for one of the largest visual effects facilities in the industry. He has represented Weta Digital as a public speaker and received technical recognition from the industry. After the trilogy, he led the team into preparing for Peter Jackson's *King Kong*, as well as shots for the movies *I-Robot* and *Van Helsing* along with a Calvin Klein commercial.



Crawford Falconer

MA 1978

Crawford is a 20-year veteran of trade negotiations, described as a virtuoso of the trade rounds. After completing his studies at Victoria and the London School of Economics he joined the Department of Trade & Industry and was seconded to Geneva in the mid-1980s for the Uruguay Round. He has been a trade official ever since, apart from a stint at the OECD in Paris. He is now a chief trade negotiator for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, as well as ambassador to the World Trade Organisation. Crawford runs about 50km a week, which keeps him fit and able to cope with the jet lag from flying about 400,000km a year. In his new role at the WTO he will manage a multilateral trade round and hit the ground running in the WTO's Doha Round.



Kerry Jago

BA BMus 2001

Kerry has studied at the Hochschule fur Musik und Theater in Hanover under Eiji Oue, the musical director of the North German Radio Philharmonic, for four years. Kerry's development is described as 'remarkable' by Oue, and he has become the second recipient of a Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation grant. He is now musical director of two quality amateur orchestras and has regular engagements with other ensembles throughout northern Germany. Kerry is involved in a series of open-air concerts with the Junge Marburger Philharmonie in Germany and he will return home to conduct the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra at its Christmas Proms concert in December.



Thomas Nash

BA(Hons) 2001

After completing his degree, Thomas left the country for a job at New Zealand's Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. After working on a range of disarmament and humanitarian issues, he moved to Canada to focus on landmines—first for the Canadian Government and then for the Canadian arm of the Nobel Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines. He soon became involved in the Cluster Munition Coalition—an international network of non government organisations (NGOs) dedicated to stopping cluster bombs killing civilians. Thomas now coordinates the public education, campaigning and research efforts of 150 NGOs working on cluster bombs worldwide.



Rachel McAlpine

BA(Hons) 1976

By 1995 Rachel had written eight poetry collections, five stage plays, three novels and a number of radio plays and non-fiction books. She had won the New Zealand Scholarship in Letters, been writer in residence at Canterbury and Macquarie universities, and spent two years as guest professor at the distinguished Doshisha Women's College in Kyoto, Japan. Then she withdrew from the literary limelight to focus on another kind of writing: the field of web content. Her training system and books on international and electronic business communication have brought her international acclaim. She has now returned to her first love, with a new and humorous novel set in Golden Bay. *Humming* was published by Hazard Press in July 2005.





Alumni relations update

By Vicky Young, Alumni Relations Manager

New Alumni Relations Assistant

I am delighted to announce the arrival of our new Alumni Relations Assistant, Sherene Pan. Sherene graduated from Victoria, first with a BCA majoring in Marketing and International Business and then, in 2004, with a BA in Economics.

Sherene came to New Zealand from Guangdong, China, as an international student in 2000. She speaks Mandarin, Cantonese and is learning Japanese, so feel free to use any of these languages if you are talking to her.

As well as being the first point of contact for updating alumni records, Sherene coordinates our Kiwi Connections Programme. More than 60 international students have been matched with a Kiwi host, affectionately known as a 'buddy' during 2005.

More buddies and students will be matched in 2006, so if you feel ready to help a new international student, contact Sherene or register on the alumni website. Graduates living overseas can also help prospective new students by registering to be an International e-buddy. Visit *Life After Vic*, at www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni, to find out more.

125 Years of Teaching

The Wellington College of Education, formally known as Wellington Teachers' College, merged with Victoria on 1 January this year. To celebrate this, and the fact that formal teacher education has been available in Wellington for the past 125 years, we are encouraging all graduates and friends in Wellington to join us at a celebration dinner at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington, on the evening of 20 October.

Overseas reunions

In August, I accompanied the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, while he hosted reunion events for alumni in Melbourne and Sydney. This is the first time in quite a few years that the University has ventured across the Tasman to meet with alumni and friends in Australia and, based on the positive and warm welcome that Pat received, he now plans to return on a more regular basis.

Fellow alumni and friends were excited to have the opportunity to mix with ex-student John Clarke, aka Fred Dagg, the popular comedian who now lives in Melbourne.

During September, Pat also met with alumni in the United States before heading to Britain. In London he met with alumni and friends at a function held at The Royal Society. Professor



▲ The Alumni Relations team:
Vicky Young (left) and Sherene Pan.

Paul Callaghan, Director of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology at Victoria and a Royal Society Fellow, hosted the function and guests listened as Associate Professor John Psathas from the New Zealand School of Music told his story of composing music for the opening and closing ceremonies at the Olympic Games held in Athens last year.

Te Herenga Waka Marae turns 25

Te Herenga Waka Marae celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. On Wednesday 6 December 2006, the beautiful wharenui, our carved meeting house Te Tumu Herenga Waka, will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

To mark this occasion a range of celebration events and activities will be held during 2006. We are also developing a Māori Alumni Network Group. Any alumni and friends of the University who would like to be part of this network can register their interest and join the network group online or by telephoning Sherene at the Alumni Relations Office.

Remember to keep in touch and contact the Alumni Relations Office if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions for future activities.

Email: Alumni@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64-4-463 6700
www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni



Top talkers

The Plunket Medal for Oratory—one of the oldest and most prestigious public speaking competitions in New Zealand—celebrated its centenary when it was held in Victoria's Hunter Council Chamber in September.

English Literature student, Richard Christie, won the Medal for his retelling of the legend of Robert the Bruce, the cave and the spider—a tale of perseverance—and its relevance to his own experiences battling depression. Richard, who has been a member of the Victoria University Debating Society for two years, received a silver-plated medal and will have his name added to the list of winners in the foyer of the Hunter Building.

Chair of the judging panel, United Future Party leader, the Hon Peter Dunne, said a speaker should make an emotional impact on the crowd, rather than astound them with facts and figures.

"To be an effective orator you need to have a clear theme and persuade

2005 Plunket Medal winner Richard Christie (front) with judges, from left: Peter Dunne, Liz Bowen-Clewley, Principal of Competency International Ltd; and Neil Miller, Policy Manager at Business New Zealand.



the audience to the view that is being expressed."

Governor-General, Sir William Plunket established the competition in 1905 to encourage the art of oratory in New Zealand. Past winners have included members of Parliament, writers, academics, successful business people and a chief justice.

In its early years the competition was held in the Wellington Town Hall and a run-down was often published in detail in local newspapers, such as the following excerpt from *The Evening Post* on 13 September, 1909:

"Mr J Ogg, who took Napoleon Bonaparte as his subject, expressed his views on the great Frenchman in quite grandiloquent language, and in a fluent but uninspiring delivery... Mr Ogg's effort attracted a large section of the audience, which followed his elaborate phrases with great appreciation. The speaker made one bad break when his memory went back on him. There was thunderous applause when this candidate concluded."



Books

Harold Wellman: A Man Who Moved New Zealand

Simon Nathan



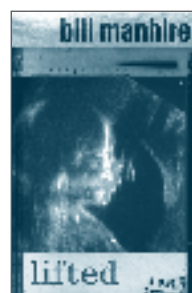
The most influential New Zealand geologist of the 20th century, Professor Harold Wellman, was the first to recognise one of New Zealand's most extraordinary features: the Alpine Fault that bisects the South Island. Wellman was an Associate Professor at Victoria's former Geology Department.

Lifted

Bill Manhire

The last lines of Bill Manhire's astonishing poem 'Kevin' lie at the heart of this book.

Lifted is a book by a poet writing at the height of his powers.



VUP books are available from all good bookstores or by contacting
Email: Victoria-Press@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64-4-463 6580

Vibrant With Words: The Letters of Ursula Bethell

Edited by Peter Whiteford



Ursula Bethell (1874-1945) stands at the beginning of modern poetry in New Zealand. This rich collection of letters provides us with much evidence of her 'writerly' life and the origins of her poems.

Take a look at the University's online database of varied and exciting events available to members of the University community at www.vuw.ac.nz/events

Fledgling curators

A special relationship between the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Victoria provides Art History honours students with access to some of the country's most exquisite prints, which they then curate for an exhibition held at the Adam Art Gallery biennially.

Under the direction of David Maskill, from the Art History programme, the postgraduate course focuses on curatorial research and practice and introduces students to what really goes into putting together an exhibition.

"It's an amazing experience to find out what is behind the scenes," says Courtney Johnston, who completed an MA in Art History in 2004, and now works as a publicist and project coordinator at the City Gallery Wellington.

"We learned how artworks are stored, how to prepare them for showing, the intricacies of installation and all the other aspects of how to put together an exhibition—which is far beyond simply hanging some paintings on a wall."

Courtney also credits the course with helping her develop good work practices, which were particularly valuable when she began working on gallery publications.

"David guided us through the writing and editing of our essays for the catalogue and introduced us to the conventions of producing a scholarly but enjoyable publication. It was also a great opportunity to work as a group, which you don't often get the chance to do as an arts student."

David says these exhibition projects are an excellent example of the best sort of applied teaching.

"Each student researches a group of works which have often received little attention. This benefits Te Papa, as new information is added to their database for future use in their own exhibitions.

"I guide them through the process, from selecting the prints that they will each focus on, to discussing the look and feel of the catalogue, right through to choosing the font for signs and displays within the exhibition itself.

"It's often a chance for students to really shine in a particular area and assess their strengths for their future careers. We utilise the resources of Wellington's artistic community by meeting with Tony Mackle, the Collection Manager of Prints and Drawings at Te Papa and artists like Kristelle Plimmer, who guides the students through producing a print of their own—so they can see how complex and difficult the process is."



▲ An engraving by Jean-Joseph Balechou from an oil painting by Francois de Troy, *Portrait of Jean de Jullienne holding a self-portrait of Watteau*, 1752.

This year's exhibition, *Artiface: Artists' Portraits in Prints*, focuses on artists such as van Dyck, Cézanne and Picasso.

MA student, Mathew Norman, feels that the course has been extremely complementary to his research on the Bishop Monrad Collection at Te Papa, a collection of European prints that was donated to the Colonial Museum in 1869.

"The opportunity to actually handle the prints, to learn about the various aspects of running an exhibition has been amazing. One of my ultimate aims is to curate the works that I'm researching, and this course has given me the chance to see what is involved."

Artiface: Artists' Portraits in Prints will run from 15 October at the Adam Art Gallery. Students from the course will give floor talks during the exhibition.

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... and now for the 6 O'Clock Views

Genetically engineered babies, Māori politics, the United Nations 60 years on, and political correctness—just some of the hot topics to have featured in Victoria's *6 O'Clock Views* programme.

Developed and hosted by Continuing Education Te Whare Pūkenga, the *6 O'Clock Views* is a broad-ranging series of topical, free talks and informal debates for Wellingtonians.

Continuing Education Personal Development Programme Manager, Andrea Cochrane, says the series is designed to be both provocative and insightful—something it's achieved since it began in August 2004.

"The *6 O'Clock Views* provides a real alternative to the short-lived and edited media sound-bites of television's 6 O'Clock news," says Andrea.

Held at Rutherford House, the sessions have been well attended with up to 150 people taking part.

"We encourage audience input. After the one-hour talk or debate people are welcome to stay for open discussion and questions. Recent sessions have also been recorded by Radio New Zealand."

Andrea says the *6 O'Clock Views* contribute to a broader vision of creating a vibrant and stimulating forum for public discussion and debate at Victoria's Pipitea Campus.

"The expanded Campus—Rutherford House, Government Buildings and the Railway Station—is ideally situated in Wellington's political, business and transport hubs, and we hope to make it even more accessible to the wide variety of people who live, work and pass nearby."

The most recent session included a panel discussion on urban development in the Capital, coinciding with Wellington Architecture Week.

Tune in to upcoming *6 O'Clock Views* by visiting the Victoria Events website at www.vuw.ac.nz/events.

Trading places

Victoria's continuing relationship with Vietnam was strengthened earlier this year when Associate Professor Susy Frankel and Meredith Lewis, from the Faculty of Law, ran two workshops for Vietnamese officials, students and academics on international trade law.

Vietnam's goal to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) prompted its Ministry of Trade to approach the New Zealand Embassy in Hanoi to assist in upskilling the Vietnamese in the field of international trade. This resulted in NZAID, New Zealand's international development and aid agency, funding workshops in conjunction with Victoria International and the Faculty of Law.

Susy and Meredith, who both teach, research and publish in trade law, led four days of intensive training in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, where they discussed the mechanisms of international trade law, the accession process to the WTO, and core concepts such as trade barriers and free trade agreements.

Susy says the feedback received was excellent, and the simultaneous translation meant that they were able to conduct really worthwhile discussions despite the language barriers.

"It was also an excellent opportunity to talk to students about considering masters study in New Zealand, and give them some insight into the programmes and courses we offer in the Faculty," says Meredith.

Professor Neil Quigley, formerly Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and now Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research),



▲ From left, Susy and Meredith.

says the workshops contribute to a range of training opportunities the University has been providing in Vietnam over the past five years.

"Vietnam's rapid development has enabled us to build relationships with a number of universities, covering undergraduate curriculum development, postgraduate student training and administrative systems. In Ho Chi Minh City we offer Foundation and first-year degree courses in partnership with the University of Economics, and we are building similar programmes with two universities in Hanoi."

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Nurturing nature

New Zealanders are likely to be hearing a lot more song from native birds in their gardens and suburban parks thanks to a new collaborative conservation programme led by Victoria.

The Eco-restoration Project, launched by the Minister of Education, the Hon Trevor Mallard in July, attracted \$872,500 in Tertiary Education Commission funding. Victoria, in partnership with the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and Massey University, will establish a teaching laboratory at the Sanctuary and launch a new Master of Science degree in eco-restoration.

Instead of saving individual species by isolating them, either in zoos or on small offshore islands, the eco-restoration initiative aims to build on New Zealand's long history of saving rare species on predator-free islands by transferring that knowledge to the development of 'mainland islands' where rare species can be returned to larger habitats. Thanks to the Sanctuary, tui are increasingly being heard in Wellington's suburbs.

Professor Charles Daugherty, Head of the School of Biological Sciences, says, as the programme flourishes, it will hopefully

lead to the establishment of a centre of international research excellence.

"Combining the expertise of several universities and Government agencies and tapping into the cutting-edge practical knowledge of the Sanctuary's staff will make the programme unique in New Zealand. This combination of theoretical and hands-on knowledge will produce a programme that will be attractive to students both nationally and internationally."

Charles welcomed the staff who will teach the programme in 2006.

"Dr Murray Williams, who has a BSc(Hons) from Victoria and a PhD from the University of Aberdeen, has worked for the Department of Conservation and the Wildlife Service. He played a leading role in saving the Campbell Island Teal and conservation on the island. He will be joined by Kelly Hare, a researcher in the physiology and evolution of lizards, who has an MSc from Victoria and is about to graduate with a PhD."

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▼ Eco-restoration lecturers Kelly and Murray at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary.



In Memoriam

Barbara Finlayson left us in 1996.

I never knew Barbara while she was alive. I know quite a bit more about her now of course.

She was passionate and knowledgeable about many things in life, but her first love was music.

She played the viola and gained a music degree from Victoria University in the 1950's – she worked as a 'char-lady' to help finance her studies.

She travelled a lot – especially in Europe where she went to many concerts. She loved concerts by all accounts and, closer to home, when the International Festival of the Arts was on, her friends would never see her.

If it wasn't for Barbara Finlayson I'd have had to work to pay for my studies. Instead, she gave me the opportunity to travel to Germany and study violin under some awesome mentors as the first recipient of the Barbara Finlayson Scholarship in Music.

Barbara left Victoria a bequest because she wanted to help talented musicians further their careers and recognised that it was often difficult for them to do so within New Zealand. She invested in my future and the future of all those Scholarship winners that follow. I think that's a pretty profound legacy – one I'd like to copy someday.

Barbara loved her music. I hope she would be proud of me.

VANESSA LEIGHS

BMus (Hons)

First recipient of the Barbara Finlayson Scholarship in Music, which has been awarded annually since 1997.

It makes you think.

If you'd like to know more about making a bequest to Victoria University, do contact Tricia Walbridge, Executive Director in confidence at:

Victoria University Foundation

PO Box 600, Wellington

New Zealand

vuw-foundation@vuw.ac.nz

0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534).

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