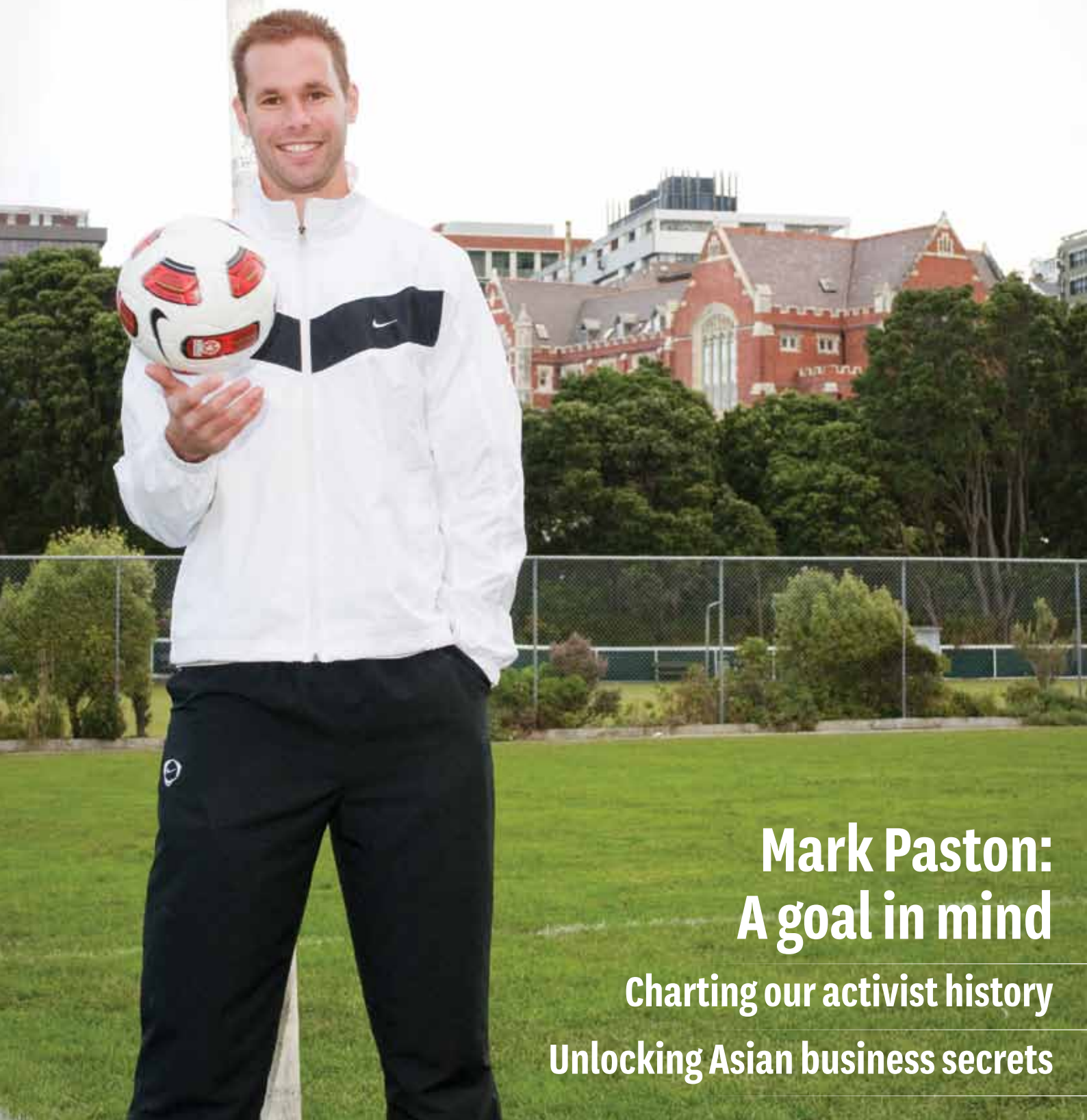


Victorious

SPRING 2010

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



Mark Paston: A goal in mind

Charting our activist history

Unlocking Asian business secrets



Singing from the same songbook

Each morning, people around New Zealand wake to the sound of bird song, be it outside their window or on Morning Report. But some birds are singing others' tunes, according to a team of researchers at Victoria University.

Birds such as the silvereye, starling and song thrush mimic other birds, says Associate Professor Ben Bell, who leads the research in the Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology.

"We call it vocal appropriation. To attract a mate, male birds may create more elaborate songs, bringing in extra elements of what they hear from other birds," says Ben.

But it's not just flirty birds that change their tune. Tuis, for instance, change their calls from year to year.

"Not long ago, some Wellington residents were complaining that the tuis' calls were repetitive and monotonous, but the following year they changed again."

Ben notes that bird song has two main functions: to mark territory and deter intruders; and to attract mates.

"It's a fascinating field of animal behaviour at work; it's basic communication.

"Many song birds have local dialects. In species like the grey warbler, songs gradually change between neighbouring birds within a forest, and these differences become more marked between different areas of New Zealand," he says.

Ben and two of his postgraduate students, Joseph Azar and Andrew Digby, record bird calls at Zealandia: the Karori Sanctuary Experience, right on the University's doorstep. Dr Kevin

Burns and Dr Paul Teal are also members of the team.

They have automatic recorders set up and use portable equipment for recording sound as well. Back at Victoria, the team analyses bird calls in a specialised bioacoustics research laboratory.

Joseph, an experienced ornithologist from Jordan, studies the bird community by day and Andrew studies the calls of kiwi by night.

As well as his work locally, Ben has worked on European bird songs with Polish colleagues at the University of Wroclaw, relating vocal ability to breeding success.

"Mates with more complex calls are much more successful, attracting mates earlier and rearing more young than the birds who are not Pavarottis."

Ben says the Victoria team is now using ultrasound equipment to record calls that the human ear can't hear.



PhD student Joseph Azar (left) and Associate Professor Ben Bell record bird sounds at Zealandia.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Economic growth, lifting productivity rates, climbing the OECD rankings—all of these things rely on people working smarter. The hub for this must surely be our universities, where students are taught to think outside the square and where research that benefits New Zealanders occurs on a daily basis. This is the type of work we celebrate in each issue of *Victorious*.



It is a great reminder that universities are places of excellence and innovation. Students are challenged by academic staff who work with international colleagues to create new knowledge that they can take into the classroom.

An example of this is the work undertaken by architecture students and staff to enter the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. The team, led by four Victoria students, was the first from the Southern Hemisphere to reach the finals of this competition. It will culminate in a revolutionary solar powered Kiwi bach being on display in the US capital next year.

Our academics and research students collaborate with other world leading experts to break new ground. That collaboration takes place in world-class facilities.

The Alan MacDiarmid Building was officially opened recently (see page 9). This purpose built facility was constructed so that the University can focus more on research and specialised teaching in the sciences.

The research groups of the School of Biological Sciences and the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences have moved into the new building along with the Faculty of Engineering. They are now located just two minutes away from the scientists they collaborate with at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

Victoria and the Malaghan Institute recently invested in a new suite of laboratories. The Keith and Faith Taylor Cancer Research Laboratories (see story page 8) are the only ones of their type in Wellington and are built to very high specifications. These laboratories have become a core part of the Institute's cancer vaccine programme and support clinical trials for vaccines for cancer and other diseases.

Collaboration, research, teaching and learning is the real work of a university. It's about developing a quality agenda that rewards high performance.

To do so effectively involves being open to increased external and internal scrutiny. We need to clearly demonstrate our quality and celebrate our achievements. Victoria is committed to a high-performance culture with no tolerance for mediocrity in any of our spheres of activity.

Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor

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Exploring the underwater world



William Arlidge, seen here snorkeling off the coast of Guam. Photo: Steve Lindfield

Victoria student William Arlidge has put aside his textbooks for a year to explore the underwater world on a special scholarship.

The marine biology Master's student was awarded the 2010/2011 Our World Underwater Australasian Rolex Scholarship, which has enabled him to travel throughout the world doing volunteer work, diving, as well as finding time for training and research. Meanwhile, he has put his Master's on hold.

"It was a wonderful opportunity that came up," says William.

"One of the great things about the scholarship is that it introduces you to a range of areas related to the underwater world. I've been doing things from counting fish populations in Guam, to filming a shipwreck at an Indonesian dive site."

The scholarship is a diving-based award administered by the Our World Underwater Scholarship Society in Chicago.

William has a Bachelor of Science from Victoria majoring in Marine Biology and Ecology and Biodiversity. He says that his Master's research, supervised by Associate Professor Simon Davy and Dr Joanne Davy, is concerned with studying viral communities on reef-building corals.

"Viruses are the most abundant form of life in the sea. However, very little is known about how they affect coral reefs, although they definitely play a significant role," he says.

One of the aspects William is researching at the moment is how these viruses adapt to changes in their environment, such as temperature rise.

"We're counting these tiny viruses and doing statistical modelling to get an idea of what changes are taking place," he says.

His research continues a strong love for the underwater world.

"Ever since I was very young the ocean has appealed to me. I always knew I wanted to become a marine biologist," says William.

"The scholarship supports two of my loves: a passion for the adventure and exploration of our underwater world; and a fascination for scientific research and conservation."

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Mining legal Māori data



Left to right: Project team members Dr Mary Boyce, Dulce Piacentini, Māmari Stephens and Tai Ahu.

As early as 1828, legal documents were being written in Māori. According to researchers from Victoria's Faculty of Law, there was a particular boom in the 1860s, around the time of the Māori land wars—and another has occurred in later years, largely due to the Māori Party being in Parliament.

A project led by Victoria law lecturer Māmari Stephens and Dr Mary Boyce (University of Hawai'i) has captured more than eight million words of Māori legal texts up to the present day in a Māori legal corpus. Much of this can now be downloaded via the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre, though text printed after 1910 still needs to be cleared of copyright. The corpus presents a comprehensive historical record, as well as a fascinating picture of Māori legal language.

"One exciting thing about the corpus is we're going to be able to track the use and development of language over time," says Mary. "For instance, words like 'kaitiaki', which means one who takes care of or looks after something, is now used in a Western legal context to mean 'trustee' or 'guardian'."

The corpus is one of four outputs the project team has been working on, with funding from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and Victoria's University Research Fund. It has also compiled a legal Māori archive, a legal Māori lexicon with a glossary of more than 2,000 terms and aims to complete a legal Māori dictionary by March 2012.

"For a period of time there was a lot of transliteration of English words into the Māori sound system, such as *inititiuihana* for institution (now *whakanōhanga*)," says Māmari.

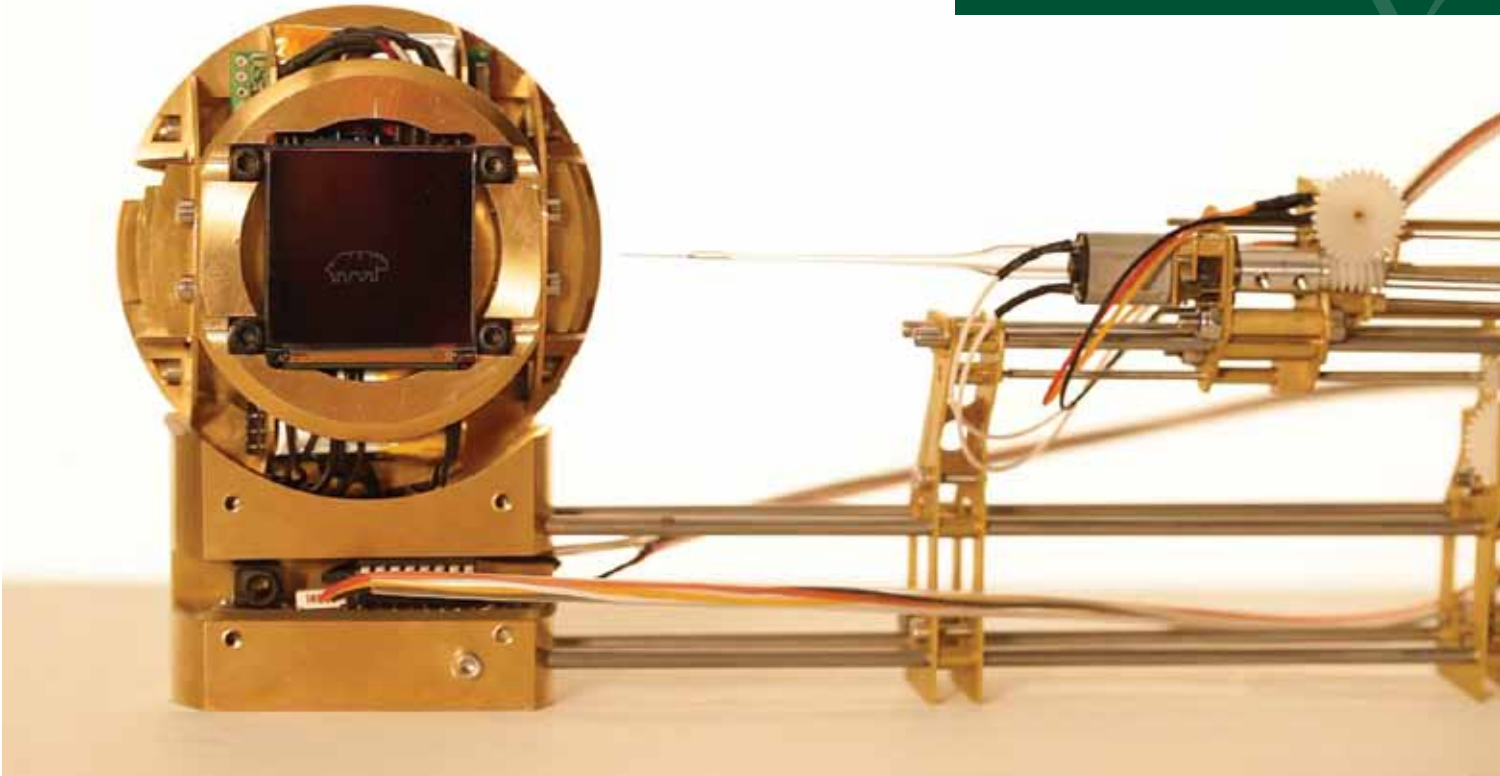
"These words are now typically being replaced by newly generated words or by extending the meaning of an existing word.

"There are stacks of data in the corpus that can be mined—and it tells us a lot, not just about Māori society, but about New Zealand society."

www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-legalMaoriCorpus.html

www.victoria.ac.nz/law/research/Current_Research_Projects.aspx#1

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Digital ‘pet’ comes to life

In the mid-90s more than 70 million people worldwide played games with, fed and cleaned up after Tamagotchi, a plastic handheld digital ‘pet’.

More than a decade later, a partnership of Doug Easterly, Senior Lecturer in Media Design, Matt Kenyon from Penn State University and recent graduate from Victoria’s Industrial Design programme Tiago Rorke, have created ‘Tardigotchi’ (pictured) an artwork featuring two ‘pets’ in one device: one digital and the other a living micro-organism (called a tardigrade).

“The look and feel is kind of Tamagotchi meets Harry Potter,” says Doug, who was inspired by a palm-sized clock set in a magnified glass sphere that he picked up in Hong Kong.

The shiny brass device, which also pays homage to steampunk, explores the relationship humans have with others.

“I got to thinking about what aliens would think of creatures that put other creatures in artificial environments and care for them.

“This extended to contemplating the phenomenon of Tamagotchis and social networking, and how the patterns of care and protection that people respond to don’t necessarily need to relate to other living things.”

The design has received worldwide acclaim, with a special mention at the international ‘art and artificial life’ competition VIDA 12.0 in late 2009; and first prize in the Digital Language category at the 2010 Electronic Language International Festival (known as FILE) in Brazil.

The work has been in gestation since 2005, and, according to Doug, developed through an intuitive process, despite its technical complexity. It carries on from an earlier collaboration of Doug and Matt, which involved a plant that was watered digitally according to fluctuations in the stock market.

Tardigotchi has three main components: a portable sphere that can be carried around by an owner; a docking station; and software that runs on a PC.

A Tardigotchi owner tends to the tardigrade and virtual creature simultaneously. The virtual component is a caricature of the tardigrade. It exhibits some independent behaviour, but also reacts directly to the tardigrade’s activities.

By pushing a button, the virtual pet is fed. This in turn feeds the tardigrade in its terrarium with a syringe filled with moss-water. Once the tardigrade is fed, the virtual creature shows off its full belly in an animated sequence.

Tardigotchi has a social web presence too—for example, sending an email to the virtual

character triggers a real heat lamp for the tardigrade, while the virtual character reclines and soaks up animated sun rays.

To explain the philosophy and mechanism behind Tardigotchi, Doug engaged some Victoria University design students to come up with a video, which was showcased at the FILE festival along with the work and is now on the Tardigotchi website. He also created a Facebook page so that viewers are able to interact with the work, enabling them to poke, write messages to and feed the Tardigotchi—but only after a certain number of requests are made, to avoid overindulging the tardigrade.

“There are a few established artists working with living things in the art world, but not many are working with micro-organisms. When art and science intertwine, new territories and concepts can be explored,” says Doug.

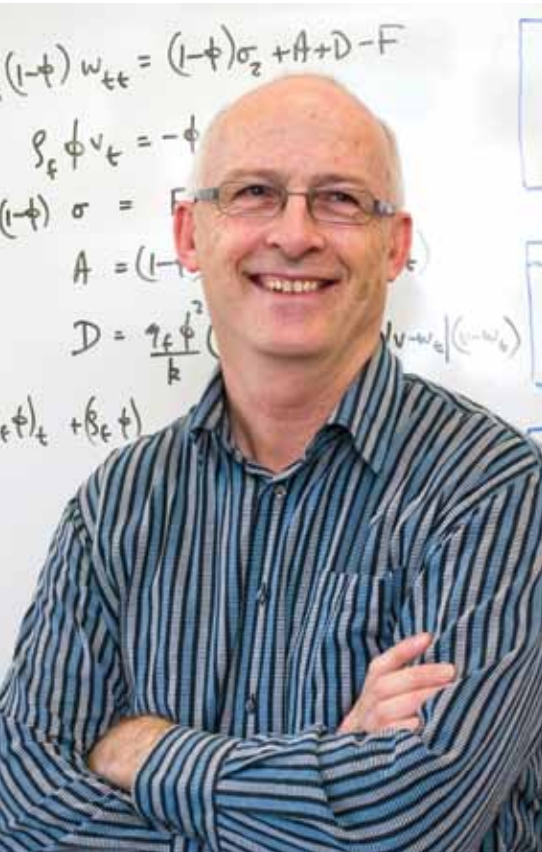
“Tardigotchi raises interesting questions, such as whether interaction with an electronic device can lead to emotional attachment.

“It also serves as a reminder for the special place humans have in communing with other animals, perhaps equally for artificial ones.”

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Figuring out volcanic eruptions



The inner workings of volcanic eruptions are being figured out on a whiteboard by a mathematician at Victoria.

“It all started with a chance meeting at the University of Limerick,” says Dr Mark McGuinness (left).

“I went along to a talk by visiting volcanologist Dr Bette Scheu about her experiments in Germany and Japan, and came away excited about her research.”

Mark, from Victoria's School of Mathematics, Statistics and Operations Research, says Bette's laboratory experiments model certain volcanic eruptions.

“She places rocks under high temperature and pressure is built up and up until the top pops like a champagne cork.”

Each mini eruption lasts only milliseconds but is captured by a high speed camera filming 10,000 frames per second.

“What's interesting is that the rock doesn't just get blown into smithereens but comes off in layers.”

To find out why, Mark and fellow mathematicians from Limerick and Oxford

Universities wrote equations that “went back to basics”, looking at how gas moved through the rock.

“We developed differential equations for how gas flow interacted with magma in the volcano. Maths allows you to write down very complicated things and simplify them—it's a language for solving problems.”

The equations showed that changes in gas pressure at the volcano's surface penetrate through the rock. The gas explodes out at certain depths due to the change in pressure, tearing the rock apart layer by layer as it moves deeper and deeper into the rock.

Mark, who has a PhD in Physics, has worked on various applied mathematics problems, such as the accurate cooking of whole grain cereals for Uncle Tobys to ensure they were not under- or overcooked; and weighing fruit for a major grower quickly and accurately, despite the fruit bouncing on the conveyor belt as it is weighed.

“I'm currently working on equations for a medical company to make better stents, to ease breathing and swallowing for throat cancer patients.”

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Understanding collaborative artwork



Art work by Ellen Rothenberg, installed as part of Gregory Sholette's An Imaginary Archive, Enjoy Public Art Gallery. Photo courtesy of Enjoy.

How do you understand and interpret an artwork that is made by multiple people—when understanding the work of a single artist is challenging enough?

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy Dr Sondra Bacharach is researching the nature of collaborative art as part of her Marsden-funded research.

“One challenge in interpreting art is to know what the artist means, and that is much more complicated when you have several people working on it. Each contributing artist is often cloaked behind the collective. As they work together their contributions merge together and their ideas become assimilated and unified.”

Sondra says she wanted to explore how the social structures and shapes of collaborations affect how we understand the resulting artworks.

Her project brought acclaimed New York-based artist, writer and academic Gregory Sholette to Wellington in June this year as artist in residence at Enjoy Public Art Gallery. While in Wellington, Sholette created an archive of imaginary (‘what if’) works: novels, brochures, catalogues, pamphlets, newsletters and similar publications.

“An Imaginary Archive was designed to create an alternative vision of society, one in which

Wellington, New Zealand and the world had been shaped differently,” says Sondra.

The *Archive* contained work from more than 20 artists from New Zealand, the US and Europe with whom Sholette collaborated. The completed work was displayed in the Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Arty Bees bookstore, Quilter's bookstore and Wellington City Library.

“Sholette's artwork is a concrete exploration into the nature and fabric of collaborative, contemporary art practice and serves as the starting point for an investigation into the philosophical foundation of collaboration.”

Sondra says the goal was to look at collaboration as a living, working material that could be debated, explored and tested.

“The Collaboratorium has served as a concrete application of collaboration that directly challenges current accounts of collaborative activity.”

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Unlocking Asian business secrets



They are the two fastest growing major economies and exporters from all over the world are clamouring to connect with them—including those from New Zealand.

For the last two years, China and India have been the focus of a research project on how New Zealand service firms can build a sustainable competitive advantage. The research, funded by a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology grant, was conducted by a team from Victoria's School of Marketing and International Business, along with University of Otago and independent researchers.

"The long-term opportunities for export earnings from China and India are huge, but before now there wasn't any in-depth research on exporting services—also known as 'weightless exports'—to these markets," says project leader Associate Professor Val Lindsay, also former Head of Victoria's School of Marketing and International Business.

In a unique approach, the team interviewed 60 New Zealand companies active in exporting services to China and/or India, as well as travelling to these markets to interview clients, to get both sides of the story. They also conducted an online survey of New Zealand companies operating in Asian markets.

A final report is due out at the end of September, but Val says preliminary findings highlight a number of key points. One of these

is the need for more collaboration between New Zealand businesses.

"Many of the companies we interviewed still tend to approach the markets independently, but there is substantial evidence worldwide indicating that collaboration and networking lead to better business outcomes, especially for small- and medium-sized firms.

"Among other things, collaborating firms are able to pool resources to achieve higher production volumes for large orders, access more information on foreign markets, share distribution and marketing costs, share ideas for innovative new products or services and enjoy stronger bargaining power. This need not erode their competitive advantage—in fact, it increases visibility for everyone."

Managers who spent a substantial amount of time understanding the marketplace and building relationships with the key players were found to have a distinct advantage, as this laid a foundation for ongoing work. Val says relationships are an important part of business in Asia, especially in China—engaging a Chinese representative as an adviser and interpreter can open doors.

"Many of our interviewees in China and India said managers don't spend enough time in their countries. Asian companies expect to deal with people at the top to prove they are serious."

Getting into the market is not the only challenge—staying there is even more

important. According to the research, this can be achieved by meeting the needs of the customer as circumstances change, as well as providing after-sales support and maintaining close communication with the customers.

"This can be difficult for New Zealand firms, as there is a large amount of time and cost involved in setting up and supporting the marketplace," says Val.

"For companies of the size we're talking about, and the size of our country, that's a big commitment."

Val says there is plenty of opportunity, despite the challenges. "One thing that came through was that companies, especially the small ones, need to think about more than just the transactional approach of producing a finished product or service and selling it to a user—and consider how they can link into the value chain of their customers, which means really understanding their business in depth.

"It's also about being well resourced and prioritising which markets are important, and being willing to take the risk knowing that the payoff might still be 10 years down the track."

The final report, including case studies, will be presented throughout New Zealand between October and December.

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Charting our activist history

Is New Zealand an activist nation, or do we prefer the 'sternly worded letter'? Why do we see more protesting in some periods than others?

These were some of the questions Dr Sandra Grey (pictured above) of the School of Social and Cultural Studies set out to answer in a Marsden research project that looks at the relationship between social movements and the state.

"New Zealanders like the sternly worded letter. We want people to be able to have their say, but in a constrained, polite and orderly fashion. So we have this nation of people who will write a letter to an MP but don't want to go on a picket line," says Sandra.

Yet this politeness has not stopped New Zealanders from protesting, often with great passion. New Zealand has a rich history of social activism, and Sandra's study is one of the first to address it comprehensively.

The research has involved scouring through the publications of social movements and four decades of newspapers, as well as talking to key figures in three social movements—the women's, union and anti-poverty movements.

"My premise is that these movements will come and go depending on what the state looks like. The nature of the New Zealand state has changed fundamentally since the 1960s—going from a welfare state of engaged citizens, to a more neoliberal model that provides 'services' to consumers and clients. That has fundamentally affected the nature and degree of social activism in New Zealand."

The research covers New Zealand's recent history, beginning in 1968, which was a pivotal year for social movements around the world.

"Through the late 1960s and 1970s we saw a fairly active public, with regular protests, and other forms of activism evident in our art, literature and culture. There was another rise in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but since the mid-1990s we have seen many of these movements die away."

Sandra says that while some of this can be put down to protest 'exhaustion', much of it can also be explained by a fundamental shift in the role of the state.

"In many ways the welfare state actually facilitates protest by saying that the Government has a responsibility for our wellbeing.

"What we now have is a much more managerial, neoliberal model for the state—one that places emphasis on the individual as a 'client' of certain services. If you are now a client or consumer of welfare services, education or the justice system, then it fundamentally changes who you are and how you relate to the state."

Sandra says New Zealanders have always had a conflicted view of social activism.

"On the one hand we've led the world in terms of progressive social policy, such as the vote for women and the welfare state, but on the other, many New Zealanders see the democratic process as confined to what goes on in Parliament, and are uncomfortable with active displays of citizen-led democracy."

Her research pinpoints the late 1980s as a key period of social activism, with a significant rise in union and anti-poverty movements in particular.

"There was huge opposition by a broad section of the community to the Government's neoliberal policies. The cutting of public services like hospitals and post offices and the rise in unemployment and poverty all aroused protest."

Sandra says despite the effects of neoliberal change still being felt today, many of these movements have all but died away in terms of their public visibility.

She believes a significant factor has been the incorporation of many of these social movements into the state itself, with the

women's movement being an obvious example.

"With the creation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, rising numbers of women in Parliament and women in top positions in the public sector, there is a widespread feeling that we now have all these institutional mechanisms in place, so there is no need to protest."

Sandra says the ultimate goal of her research is to write a social history that shows the ways citizens have brought about social and political change in New Zealand.

"I think it is a fairly forgotten history. I don't know if we acknowledge as a nation how many of the positive things we have—around work and welfare support—have come out of activism.

"For example, our welfare state wasn't just put in place by a benevolent state, it was actively pushed for by people who didn't want to see New Zealanders ever suffer again the way they did during the Great Depression.

"People think that politics is done here in Wellington, in Parliament and by bureaucrats, when it is, and always has been, about citizens engaging in the democratic process."

Sandra believes that the downside of the pragmatic New Zealand approach to problem-solving is a tendency to shy away from broad intellectual debates that seek to define our core values.

"I worry that we don't like arguing with each other. But protests are supposed to be disruptive. They should disturb us; they should make us think about bigger issues. It doesn't mean instability; it means we really care about what it means to be a New Zealand citizen."

Sandra was awarded a fast-start Marsden grant (2008-2010) for her research, and aims to have a book ready for publication in early 2011.

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Images used courtesy of Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

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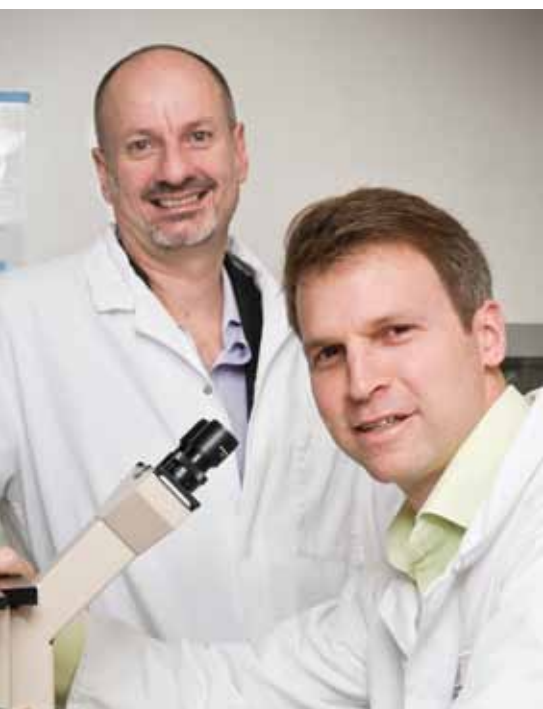
A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOUSE

The New Zealand
Women's Political
Party



**THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER
ASSEMBLE 12 NOON AT C.P.O.
MARCH TO AOTEA SQ. AT 12.30PM**

New health research labs



Dr Ian Hermans (left) and Dr Martin Hunn, Clinical Research Fellow.

New laboratories at the Malaghan Institute will help researchers in their quest to develop vaccines for cancer and other diseases.

Victoria University and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research have built the laboratories with the support of the K.I.A. Taylor Charitable Trust, as a core part of the Institute's cancer vaccine programme, and to support clinical trials.

Developing vaccines that harness the strength of the immune system is a focus for the Institute's researchers.

"Over the last decade here, we have been developing techniques that train a patient's immune system to fight cancer," says Dr Ian Hermans, who heads the Institute's cancer vaccine research.

"The immune system is the body's own natural defence against disease, and so plays an incredibly important part in treatment."

Ian's cancer vaccine research group recently received a \$4.5 million grant from the Health Research Council.

He and his team will use the new state-of-the-art laboratories to produce vaccines for innovative clinical trials, for treating different forms of cancer.

While the research focuses on targeting melanoma, it could be applied to other cancers in the future. The laboratories will also be able to support cancer researchers at Victoria and elsewhere, so larger clinical trials can be undertaken.

The Keith and Faith Taylor Cancer Research Laboratories, which were opened by Health Minister Hon Tony Ryall in May, are the only ones of their type in New Zealand and are built to very high specifications.

"The new laboratories also underline the vital role that private individuals can play by supporting innovative health research," says Ian.

The Malaghan Institute is New Zealand's leading independent biomedical research organisation and has been based on Victoria's Kelburn Campus since 2004.

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PhD thesis goes international



With the ink barely dry on her degree, a Victoria PhD student has had her thesis accepted by American publishing company Palgrave Macmillan. Erin Mercer's PhD in English on postwar American fiction will be published in the United States and United Kingdom, and distributed throughout the world via Palgrave Macmillan's global offices.

Tentatively titled *Repression and Realism in Postwar American Literature*, the book is the first study to identify realistic novels as capable

of provoking the particular anxiety identified as uncanny. It is also the first to refute the popular perception of post war American gothic and science fiction as representing repressed fears. "It attempts to clarify common misconceptions regarding 1950s American fiction, and offers a radical reassessment of the function of realism," says Erin.

Erin's thesis was supervised by Charles Ferrall and Anna Jackson.

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Industrial Relations Centre celebrates 40th year

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Victoria's Industrial Relations Centre (IRC).

Throughout that time, the IRC has made a considerable contribution to discussion and debate of the implications of changes to the industrial relations environment for employers, employees, unions and government policy makers.

IRC is marking its 40th year with a series of working papers that look back, as well as forward, at the ever-changing environment of industrial relations in New Zealand.

It will also be hosting a one-day seminar in November 2010, immediately preceding the Conference on Labour, Employment and Work (LEW) in New Zealand.

www.victoria.ac.nz/vms/researchcentres/industrial_relations_centre.aspx

Building to inspire future scientists



Prime Minister's Emerging Scientist Prize winner John Watt and Prime Minister Hon John Key check out the new facility.

Victoria's new Alan MacDiarmid Building for the teaching of science and scientific research has many impressive features, including the opportunity to see a Nobel Medal up close.

The medal was awarded to Victoria alumnus, the late Professor Alan MacDiarmid, for his discovery that plastics can be made to conduct electricity. The research resulted in a number of smart, everyday uses like cellphone displays.

His family have donated the medal, which he won with two other colleagues in 2000, to the University along with other memorabilia.

"We hope that the medal will inspire the next generation of scientists to follow in his footsteps," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh.

"It is a great honour to be able to display his Nobel Medal in such a fitting place—the entrance to our new science building."

The Prime Minister, Hon John Key, officially opened the building in mid-July. Ministers Hon Dr Wayne Mapp and Hon Steven Joyce attended the function, along with members of Alan MacDiarmid's family.

The building contains specialised laboratories for research and teaching, as well as lecture theatres and seminar rooms with impressive audio-visual features.

Some of the seminar rooms can be used for videoconferencing, so students and staff can discuss the latest research with colleagues in New Zealand and around the world. One lecture theatre has been designed specifically for collaboration and discussion.

As part of the project, a lecture theatre in the neighbouring Laby Building was also remodelled as one of Victoria's next generation lecture theatres.

Students began learning in the building at the beginning of Trimester Two and it is home to research groups of the School of Biological Sciences, School of Engineering and the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences.

"The building is an investment in the staff and students who will work and study in it," says Professor Walsh.

"But it's what goes on within the four walls that really counts."

www.victoria.ac.nz/science

Fostering a love of science



Barbara Ryan helps drill a hole for explosives during a seismic investigation on the Applied Geophysics field trip to Pokeno. Photo: Jade McMurray.

Three Lower Hutt primary school teachers caught the science bug after spending the first half of 2010 among scientists at Victoria, and are back at schools to infect students with the same enthusiasm.

Khandu Patel, Patrick Mackle, and Barbara Ryan were among 35 primary school teachers awarded Primary Science Teacher Fellowships for the first two terms of 2010.

"Jumping in the deep end made us understand what it must be like for children, to be bombarded with information," says Khandu.

"We're always telling children to have a go—this was our chance to step outside our comfort zone."

The scheme is run by the Royal Society of New Zealand and is funded by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. It was set up in response to a 2008 report from the National Education Monitoring Project, highlighting a downwards trend in the attitudes of primary-aged students towards science.

Under the scheme, which began last year, teachers work with scientists at host organisations and become immersed in the world of science.

The three teachers were placed by the Royal Society according to interest, and attended lectures and workshops at the University as well as taking part in field trips. Patrick explored the field of chemistry, Barbara studied earthquakes and Khandu investigated climate change.

Each teacher will bring something back to their school. Khandu's particular interest is in looking at ways his school can reduce its carbon imprint, Barbara is hoping to implement an earthquake/tsunami disaster management plan at her school and Patrick will take back a number of basic chemistry experiments.

All three are extremely grateful to the University and the Royal Society for this opportunity to extend their knowledge of science.

"It was an excellent chance to reflect on the importance of science in today's society," says Khandu.

www.royalsociety.org.nz



From the Pro Vice-Chancellor/Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Deborah Willis

The contribution of Humanities and Social Sciences

How do Chinese history, language and culture impact on trade and foreign policy in the 21st century? How do today's young people represent themselves in a virtual world? How has texting changed our use of language? Does literature reflect our national identity? Or shape it?

The study of language, philosophy, religion, art, heritage or the media confront such questions and provide insights into who we are and how we respond to the social, political and cultural challenges of our world.

Finding answers to these questions, as to all the challenges that affect us, requires critical thinking and analysis. Absorbing information without being able to assess its meaning, to weigh its significance or to understand its implications is of little value. In addition to providing the necessary training in critical thinking for such analysis, humanities, social sciences and the creative disciplines are central to making and understanding a vibrant cultural life. Creativity fuelled by imagination and the human spirit adds an essential dimension to what it is to be human. Understanding what we have made, thought, written and done is fundamental to understanding who we are.

Lord May, the former president of the British Academy, remarked “how indivisible is the continuum from the arts, humanities and social science through to the biological and physical sciences”. Solutions to environmental challenges, threats to national security and the impact of resource imbalance will inevitably involve value judgements, cultural understanding and an ability to challenge existing modes of thinking.

Academics in humanities and social sciences—leaders in scholarship founded in teaching and research—explore critical questions and engage with society at every level. For example, one of our History professors, James Belich, helps us understand contemporary New Zealand through

his work on settler societies and the history of racial conflict. Professor John Pratt has done extensive work on the New Zealand and Scandinavian penal systems and is a frequent media commentator on crime and punishment issues. One of his colleagues, Dr Lizzie Stanley, is an expert on human rights in East Timor.

The Faculty also has strengths in a range of creative areas. David O'Donnell from the Theatre programme combines creative work as an award-winning theatre director with the scholarly study of Māori and Pacific theatre. Graduates of Bill Manhire's International Institute of Modern Letters continue to achieve national and international success across a wide field of creative writing.

The Government's recent proposal to link employment outcomes to tertiary funding challenges universities to think about the relevance of what they teach. In the case of the Bachelor of Arts (BA), I would argue that this qualification opens the door to a multitude of job opportunities. A key strength of the BA is its flexibility, which gives students a range of career choices and a range of skills including problem-solving, communication, creative and critical thinking. Many students further strengthen their opportunities by combining an arts degree with study in commerce or law.

I am proud that the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences continues to teach and research on so many important issues. Doing so ensures that we play a role in coming to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges facing all of us.

Taking New Zealand studies to the US



Political Science and International Relations lecturer Dr Jon Johansson recently took the study of New Zealand politics to America.

Jon was Fulbright's Visiting Scholar in New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University, Washington, late last year.

While at Georgetown, he taught a course on contemporary New Zealand politics entitled *Growing Pains: New Zealand Politics: 1975–2009* at the Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies, which is part of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

It was the first time teaching overseas for Jon. He says that the undergraduate American students he taught showed a real interest in New Zealand, and had a huge motivation to learn.

"I found the students there to be highly motivated—they were very self-driven. In many ways I have come back to New Zealand with greater expectations for my students after my experience at Georgetown."

Jon says his course on New Zealand politics showed American students the startling differences with the New Zealand political system, where radical political and social change can occur far more easily than in America.

He says the students often expressed amazement at how easily change can occur in New Zealand politics.

"American students shake their heads in wonderment at what our village democracy is capable of doing; our nuclear free policy is a prime example."

He says the attitude of the students reflected a widespread feeling that he encountered in the United States, of frustration with the political system.

"President Barack Obama was elected on a change mantra, but he hasn't transformed his country in the way his supporters hoped.

"The problems in America are so institutional in nature that it's fair to ask whether any president can effectively lead in 21st century America," says Jon.

Now back in New Zealand, Jon is able to give those students with an interest in America an understanding of the political mechanisms of Washington.

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Students tackle community justice



Members of the Wellington Community Justice Project executive committee at the project launch in March. From back left: Joe Fitzgerald, Tim Fletcher, Miriam Schumacher, Claire Hislop, Nick Chapman, Nessa Lynch, Bernadette Scanlon. Front from left: Stephanie Lambert, Abby Tearle, Emily Bruce, Helena Nunn.

Victoria Law students are gaining practical legal experience in their community through a new project entirely run by students.

Late March marked the launch of the Wellington Community Justice Project, supported by Victoria's Faculty of Law. Student volunteers are involved in four areas of the project: law reform, human rights, education and advocacy.

"The aim of the project is to improve community access to legal services and to educate individuals about processes such as law reform, as well as the law itself—and to provide a means of getting students more involved with their community," says project leader Helena Nunn.

The student volunteers are working in a number of organisations—such as The Wellington Community Law Centre, the Human Rights Commission, the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Innocence Project New Zealand—as well as with members of the legal profession.

"Our student volunteers are gaining training and experience that relate to their studies, with support from some top legal professionals, including training in criminal advocacy work from Defence Lawyer Greg King," says Helena.

Activities that student volunteers are involved in include: helping with the Innocence Project New Zealand, which investigates possible cases of wrongful conviction in the New Zealand legal system; assisting the Human Rights Commission with Treaty reviews; educating young people enrolled in programmes run by Industry Trade Organisations on their legal rights; and providing advice and support for developing Select Committee submissions.

"There are so many interesting projects that the students are getting involved in, and we're looking at expanding even further," says Helena.

"We've built a strong foundation for the project, and are now full of anticipation as we head into the second part of 2010, when we will look into developing our projects in other avenues of the law such as immigration and prisoners' aid."

www.wellingtoncjp.org

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Supporting Māori education



Dr Wally Penetito has a firm commitment to helping Māori succeed in education. He has been a primary school teacher, a senior public servant, a researcher and a lecturer, training the teachers of tomorrow. Now he has written a book based on his experiences and thinking.

“What’s Māori About Māori Education? is a critique of the current system and why it doesn’t work for Māori,” says the Victoria Professor of Māori Education and Co-Director of He Paarekereke: the Institute for Research and Development, in Te Kura Māori in the Faculty of Education.

“The thing that’s making the biggest difference in Māori education is the realisation that no-one else is going to do it for us; as Māori, we have to do it ourselves with the help of others of course.”

At Victoria, pan-University Faculty Toi huarewa provides support and a forum for Māori, as well as non-Māori staff working in relevant areas. Wally has been involved since its beginnings 10 years ago.

“I’ve been at Victoria full-time since 1998 and, in the last few years in particular, I’ve seen Toi huarewa come into its own,” says Wally.

“I like the idea that Māori have a pan-University body—you find out about what’s going on in

other areas, you can share tips for teaching and plan strategically when things need strengthening.”

Wally has represented Toi huarewa on academic and research committees, working on new course development and the ways students learn.

“We’ve got to ensure that students don’t just start; but they complete their education. We support students through mentoring and offering advice, and I myself greatly appreciated the support of Toi huarewa during my PhD.”

Wally says the strength of Toi huarewa is the whole-of-university approach.

“In a few other New Zealand universities, you find Māori forums but not a Faculty. Toi huarewa is integrated as well as being autonomous within the University and that is its biggest success.”

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Exercise your right to vote in the University Council election

Alumni are represented on the Victoria University Council and are voted into these positions by you, graduates of Victoria.

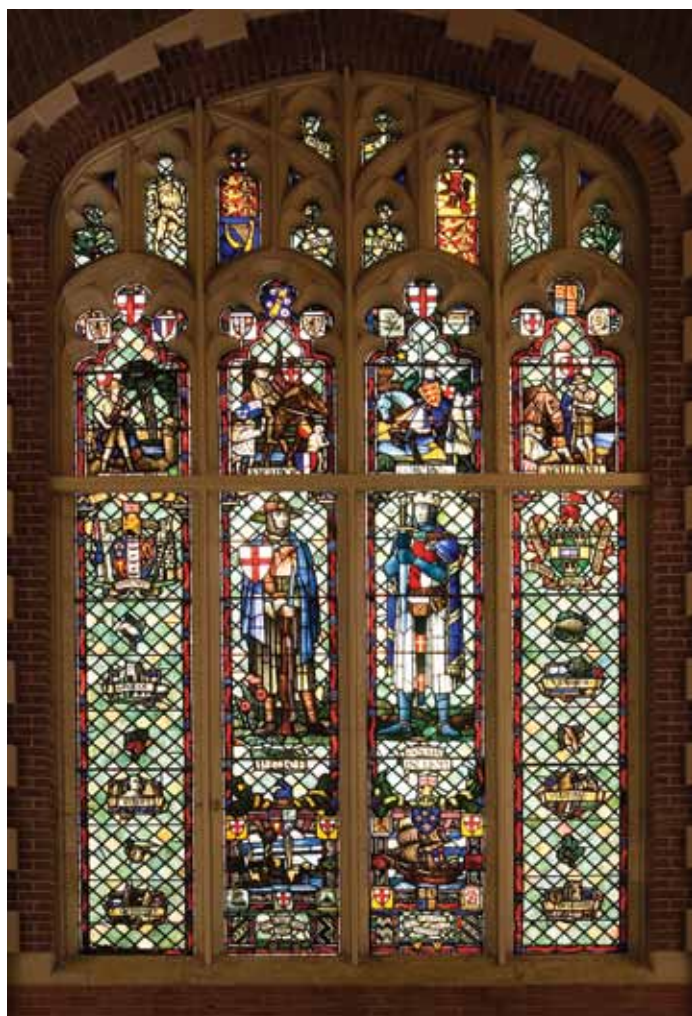
To be eligible to vote on 28 October 2010, you must be actively enrolled on the Register by 30 September 2010.

When you graduate from Victoria, you are automatically enrolled on the Court of Convocation Register with the right to vote in elections.

However, if you have not voted since 2002, you will need to re-activate your registration.

To do so, please email alumni@vuw.ac.nz or phone 04-463 6178, providing your full name (and name at graduation if different), your address, degree and date of graduation if known.

For more information, visit www.victoria.ac.nz/council/elections



A goal in mind



Photo courtesy of Wellington Phoenix FC.

New Zealanders were on the edge of their seats as the All Whites took on some of the world's top footballing nations at the World Cup in South Africa—and between the goalposts was Victoria alumnus Mark Paston.

Before he became a professional footballer at the age of 26, Mark completed a Bachelor of Science at Victoria.

"I majored in Computer Science and Electronic and Computer Systems, then travelled overseas before deciding to give professional football a shot," he says.

This is a decision that's certainly paid off for the goalkeeper, as he has starred for Wellington Phoenix FC and the national team.

"Unlike overseas, beginning professional football later in life is not that unusual in New Zealand, where lots of players have degrees. It's a good thing because it makes for well-rounded individuals."

During his time at Victoria, Mark commuted home to the Hawke's Bay to play football for Napier City Rovers.

"It's where my family was based and where my wife's from. I did find the workload pretty intense at university, especially in my third year. Part of that was the travel back and forth but I also found the courses very

challenging—but, because of that, very rewarding."

Although Mark's focus is firmly on performing for club and country, he's also thinking about what he'll do after he hangs up his boots.

"It's a great job but you're not going to be a footballer forever. It's good to have the background I have up my sleeve," says Mark.

Last year, he got in touch with IT company Datacom about gaining work experience in the industry.

"I ran out of time in the end unfortunately—my boy was born last August, we had the World Cup qualifiers and the Phoenix made it to the semi finals—but I'm definitely keen on working in the area and using my other skills."

Mark Paston—career statistics

Age:	33
Position:	Goalkeeper
Teams:	New Zealand, Wellington Phoenix FC
Internationals:	26
Debut:	Indonesia, September 1997
Also:	New Zealand Under-23
Clubs:	New Zealand Knights FC, St Johnstone (Scotland), Walsall (England), Bradford (England), Napier City Rovers

Where are they now?

2009

Jane Standage—Bachelor of Laws (Hons) First Class Honours

Jane received the Victoria University Medal for Academic Excellence in her graduation year as the top LLB(Hons) student. She has just won the Hauser Global Scholarship to attend New York University School of Law enrolled in the course leading to the LLM degree. The scholarship covers all living expenses, course costs and all tuition materials.

2008

Sandra Haggard—Masters of Nursing (Clinical)

Last month, Sandra became one of less than 100 palliative care nurse practitioners practising in New Zealand. After immigrating to New Zealand from South Africa, Sandra started work at Waikato Hospital as a palliative care clinical nurse specialist with the Waikato Regional Palliative Care Service in 2004, and in 2008 completed her Masters of Nursing (Clinical) at Victoria. This year the New Zealand Nurses Organisation officially accepted her as a nurse practitioner, an extended and advanced practice role.

2002

Clare O'Leary—Masters of Communications

Documentary filmmaker and researcher Clare O'Leary has recently released a documentary about Wellington artist Gordon Crook, *The Life of Art*, which was selected for the International Film Festival programme in four cities. Clare has worked in a number of roles in the creative sector and is now a Palliative Care Educator for the Mary Potter Hospice in Wellington.

1990

Lee Chin Chong—Bachelor of Science (1990), Bachelor of Architecture (1994)

Lee Chin Chong has been working in China since 2003. He is currently working for a Chinese developer to build three Hilton hotels in Zhengzhou, Luoyang in central China.

1985

Mary Peters—Bachelor of Laws

Barrister Mary Peters has been appointed a judge of the High Court. She has most recently undertaken civil work with a particular interest in land law, trust and estate matters.

To find out what more alumni are up to, visit the news section at www.victoria.ac.nz/alumni

Victoria University in Asia

In June, Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Rob Rabel and Alumni Relations Manager Jill Rodgers met with nearly 200 Victoria alumni living in Malaysia, Singapore and China.

Alumni events in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore were co-hosted by the New Zealand High Commissioners at their Official New Zealand Residences, His Excellency David Kersey and His Excellency Martin Harvey, respectively.

In China, the three Victoria representatives visited Shanghai and Beijing, and participated in Education Week at Shanghai Expo 2010. The New Zealand Ministry of Education collaborated with seven New Zealand universities to host a combined universities

alumni event. More than 350 New Zealand university alumni attended the event, which included an address by Minister of Education Hon Anne Tolley.

“It was encouraging to see so many young alumni attending these events, and there was enthusiastic interaction between alumni of all ages,” says Jill.

“Our goal is to continue developing support for Victoria alumni living overseas, and to enable them to keep in touch with each other for both career and social networking—so if you missed out, please contact us.”

For the full collection of photos and for alumni contacts overseas, visit www.victoria.ac.nz/alumni



Some recent graduates in Kuala Lumpur. Left to right: Muzzafar, Shazwan, Irizul, Dazriq.



The Wong family from Kuala Lumpur are all alumni of Victoria. Left to right: Son Liang Peng, daughter Yoong Lee, mother Kikue and father Ken Wong. Ken and Kikue's other son is currently attending Victoria, soon to join the alumni family.



Many Victoria alumni couples living in Singapore came to the event, including Claire Allan (far left) and Steve Robertson (far right), and Shona Collins and Rob Spero (centre). Other Victoria alumni couples attending included Mark and Ngaire Malpass, and KK and Irene Han.



Victoria alumni contact for Singapore David Tan (left) pictured here with friends James Koh and Mark Soh.



Alumni Relations Manager Jill Rodgers with Shobana Ramankutty and Geeta Ramankutty.



About 60 alumni from Kuala Lumpur enjoyed the hospitality of Victoria alumnus High Commissioner David Kersey (pictured behind Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh) at the New Zealand Official Residence.



Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Rob Rabel catches up with mother and daughter in Shanghai, both alumni. Ai Qun Li (centre) travelled from Dubai to meet up with her daughter Sally Ma who had travelled from Oslo, Norway for the occasion.



Technology lets you play designer

Scan the page, click the mouse and 'print' whatever you want—a cellphone cover, coffee table or even jewellery, designed by you or by DIYers and professionals around the world.

Such is the future, according to Victoria graduate David ten Have, CEO of Ponoko, an online company described as 'the world's easiest making system'.

"We're working towards a world where products won't be produced in China and shipped overseas; they'll be designed, downloaded and printed on home laser cutters, the 21st century equivalent of your paper printer.

"It's greener, more free and gives everyone the ability to express themselves in a completely new way."

Right now, you can jump on the company's website, choose a design or upload one of yours, and have it produced on one of the company's laser cutters. Clothing, bedside lamps and kids' toys are just some of the vast array of options already available.

All the staff at Ponoko are Victoria graduates, including David and his fellow co-founder Derek Elley who has a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration and works as the company's Chief Strategy Officer.

David, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science and also studied towards a Master's in Management Studies in Technology at Victoria Management School, built the company after co-founding design-led Microsoft web development firm, Provoke.

"It's funny but a lot of the people I've worked with have been Victoria graduates. I worked with Rod Drury (who now heads up accounting firm Xero) at Advantage Group for two and a half years before founding Provoke. There were only five of us at the firm but three of us had been at Victoria; one I went through university with," says David.

"For some people, our idea is pretty out there. Essentially, we're changing the way things are done—how designers express themselves and making their designs a reality. Making stuff has to be fun and easy."

david.tenhave@ponoko.com
www.ponoko.com

2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Call for nominations

Nominations are open for the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Do you know of any Victoria graduates who have made an outstanding contribution to their profession, community or country? Do they demonstrate excellent leadership, creative and critical thinking and communication skills?

Please consider making a nomination—candidates may only be nominated by alumni or staff.

Nomination forms can be found at www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

Closing date: Friday 27 August 2010.

Save the date

Victoria University Distinguished Alumni Dinner 2011

Thursday 14 April 2011

Wellington Town Hall

Book a table and qualify for a discount. Formal invitations will be sent in due course.

Return to Victoria for Chinese Ambassador



Left to right: Simon Roughton (Head of Weir House); Ambassador Yu Qingtai; Rob Rabel, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International).

It was a trip down memory lane for a distinguished Victoria alumnus from the People's Republic of China in May this year.

Ambassador Yu Qingtai, Special Representative for Climate Change Negotiations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in China, was in Wellington on official duty, but made time to visit Victoria.

Ambassador Yu was a student at Victoria from 1974 to 1976, as one of the first Chinese students to study in New Zealand after Norman Kirk's Government officially recognised the People's Republic in 1972.

"Coming back to Victoria 34 years later, what has impressed me has been the tremendous amount of change in the way that we understand each other," said Ambassador Yu.

He said the original exchange programme that he was part of opened the doors to closer relations between the countries.

"Our relations have grown in terms of political and economic cooperation, but most importantly in the field of people-to-people exchange. In 1974 there were three of us here at Victoria, and three

New Zealanders at Chinese universities—but today there are tens of thousands of Chinese students coming this way, and hundreds of New Zealanders studying in China.

"The knowledge and understanding they gain from this is contributing to a much more solid base of understanding and cooperation between the two countries."

A highlight of Ambassador Yu's visit to Victoria was his return to Weir House, where he was a resident during his time of study.

Meeting with Simon Roughton, head of Victoria's historic Hall of Residence and Rob Rabel, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Ambassador Yu reminisced on what it was like being a student at the time, and in particular dining out on Kiwi cuisine.

"I had plenty of New Zealand lamb, roast beef, mashed potatoes and fish and chips."

An artful discovery



Investigating a neglected period in New Zealand's art history led Victoria alumna Jane Vial to become an expert in a little-known indigenous Impressionist painting movement.

While working at the National Art Gallery (now Te Papa) in the late 1980s, Jane was given the opportunity to research an art period of her choice. She enrolled in a Masters in Art History at Victoria, to examine avant garde painting in New Zealand and Australia between 1884 and 1904, and to discover why this period in New Zealand had been largely ignored by art historians.

"I found that while New Zealand and Australia both had nationally significant Impressionist art movements, it was marginalised here partly because it wasn't a politically important period for the country, whereas in Australia it coincided with Australia forming a federation in 1901.

"New Zealand artists were encouraged to paint by a set of rules, but the emerging Impressionists rejected these methods, arguing for their new idea of painting what they directly observed."

Central to this movement was painter James Nairn who started a retreat in Silverstream for modern artists of the day, named Pumpkin Cottage.

Inspired by her research, Jane recently curated a nationally significant exhibition about James Nairn and his contemporaries—*Bohemians of the Brush: Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists*—for Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre in Upper Hutt. The exhibition is now in the middle of an eight-gallery national tour.

Works were gifted by Upper Hutt collectors Ernest and Shirley Cosgrove and were borrowed from galleries in Christchurch, Auckland, Palmerston North and Whanganui, as well as from private collections.

Jane is a consultant art curator, working on a number of projects with collectors, artists and galleries. She has recently contributed essays on New Zealand artists to *Art at Te Papa*, which has been nominated for a New Zealand Post Book Award.

She is now working on a second exhibition for Expressions, which focuses on later generations of Pumpkin Cottage artists.

www.expressions.org.nz

jane@artandheritage.co.nz

Consultant art curator Jane Vial. Photo: Joanne Farrell

Celebrating success

Almost 2,000 students celebrated successfully completing their Victoria University studies at the May graduation processions and ceremonies.

Thirty-two PhDs were granted, along with approximately 2,100 degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Honorary Doctorates were granted to two of Victoria's outstanding alumni: chemist Professor Martin Banwell received an Honorary Doctorate of Science and Professor Anthony Reid—an historian of Southeast Asia—received an Honorary Doctorate of Literature.

Congratulations to our latest graduates!



Documenting an endangered language



Laura Dimock, who graduated with a PhD in Linguistics in May, spent nine months on the Island of Malakula in Vanuatu documenting the Nahavaq language. This previously-undocumented language is in danger of extinction.

"One of the things about the Nahavaq language that interests me the most is the large number of labial consonants, that is, the sounds made using the lips," says Laura.

"For example, there are two sounds that would both sound like 'b' to English speakers, but in Nahavaq, you could be saying two different words depending on which 'b' you use. The island of Malakula is also special for using 'bilabial trills', a sound made by flapping the lips together the way people sometimes do when they are cold. That sound is rarely used as part of the sound system of a language, but it happens on Malakula."

Today Nahavaq is spoken by about 700 people in South West Bay on Malakula. Laura helped to

create a new spelling system and teach it to some of the speakers, and it is now beginning to be used in local kindergartens. She also worked on story books, dictionaries and DVDs for the local people in their language, transcribing and editing where necessary.

"I did this by first learning Bislama, the national pidgin language, which was relatively easy to learn because of its similarity to English. I then interviewed various Nahavaq speakers in Bislama to find out how they say things, and slowly figured out a lot of patterns and systems within the language."

The only previous documentation of the Nahavaq language was done by missionaries in the early part of the 20th century and by linguists doing survey work.

The data from Dr Dimock's research is deposited in archives as a record of the language.

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His music will outlive him



Left: Max Fernie the teacher. Right: Thomas Gaynor plays the organ at the Max Fernie tribute concert.

Towards the end of a rich and uplifting life, organist extraordinaire Max Fernie had but one wish "that my work might outlive me".

As well as being a talented organist, Max was a born teacher—conducting choirs and teaching organ, piano and singing. To continue his legacy, the Maxwell Fernie Trust Scholarship has been established for young organists.

Thomas Gaynor, the inaugural scholarship winner, says that as well as hearing wonderful things about Max, he also has a personal connection.

"The teacher who introduced me to the organ, Shona Murray, was one of Max's pupils. She's given me her organ music and on some scores you can actually see Max's markings from when he was teaching her. It's fascinating," he says.

Thomas studies at the New Zealand School of Music, a centre of musical excellence supported by Victoria and Massey Universities.



"Playing the organ is an incredible experience. I like the range, volume and colour you can bring out of the organ."

Thomas received his accolade at a tribute concert at Wellington's St Mary of the Angels on what would have been Max's 100th birthday. The Hon Chris Finlayson, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and a Victoria alumnus, presented the award.

Thomas will travel to Europe as part of the scholarship to learn from other organists, enhance his historical awareness of the instrument and perform on some of the Continent's great instruments.

Max himself played at the highest level in Westminster Cathedral in London in the 1950s, later returning to New Zealand to take up the directorship of Music at St Mary of the Angels in Wellington. He became city organist for Wellington, a position he held for 27 years, as well as tutoring organ at Victoria University between 1963 and 1988.

www.maxwellfernietrust.com

Linking business and science



CEO of IRL Shaun Coffey (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh sign the scholarship agreement.

Industrial Research Limited (IRL) has established scholarships at Victoria to foster entrepreneurial and commercial skills among New Zealand's emerging scientists.

The IRL PhD Scholarships in Science or Business will assist postgraduate students in Victoria's Faculties of Science, Engineering and Commerce and Administration. They were established through the Victoria University Foundation.

There will initially be four scholarships, each worth \$25,000 a year for up to three years. Recipients will work on a thesis of direct relevance to IRL's research programmes.

Raising funds stateside

Erica McLean is the New York-based Development Manager for the United States Friends of Victoria University of Wellington.

She works part-time with the Victoria University Foundation to raise funds from Victoria alumni in the US—as well as from individuals, companies and trusts with connections to New Zealand.

A corporate lawyer by profession, Erica was a partner in the New York office of Latham & Watkins, one of the world's biggest law firms, until last year. She has been a donor to her alma mater and a volunteer fundraiser, as well as a

ehsmclean@aol.com

Boyd-Wilson Field upgrade appeal

The Old Boy's University (OBU) Rugby Club and the Victoria University Foundation thank donors to the Boyd-Wilson Field Upgrade. The appeal has raised \$164,000 towards new floodlighting and spectator seating so far. Please contact Diana Meads on +64-4-463 6030 if you would like to contribute, or go to www.victoria.ac.nz/foundation.

Annual Alumni Appeal

Look out for Victoria's annual Alumni Appeal in your letterbox or email. The appeal, for alumni 30 years and over, will support significant initiatives such as student scholarships and new strategic opportunities through the Victoria Trust Fund.

Off the Press

Everything We Hoped For and *Report on Experience* are two works recently published by Victoria University Press (VUP) and reviewed for *Victorious* by Sarah Jane Barnett.

Details of forthcoming publications by VUP can be read at www.victoria.ac.nz/vup



Everything We Hoped For

By Pip Adam

Everything We Hoped For is Pip Adam's debut collection of short stories, which adds a strong and modern voice to the landscape of New Zealand fiction. It includes 23 short stories that are primarily set in New Zealand and feature women who are facing difficult changes. The stories refuse to neatly tie up characters or endings and a reader will be quickly drawn into lives that they would not commonly be part of—a serviceman returning from Dili, a vegan couple staying at a Samoan resort and the awkward wife of a new celebrity. Although the characters seem unconnected, an emotional resonance pulls the collection together.

A recent review of Adam's collection called it "cheerless" and while the stories do involve addiction, infidelity and death, this is a shallow reading. Adam's spare and direct prose brings alive a cast of contemporary characters as they navigate their situations. They move forward with hopefulness, if not always success, as many of the characters manage to get in the way of their own happiness. But very few give up. On close reading, the stories have a quiet but never heavy handed undercurrent of political commentary and the stories often circle back to question their own assumptions.

Motherhood is a reoccurring theme and the stories explore its complexity. The opening story shows Ruth experiencing the loneliness and euphoria of her new identity as a 'mother' and the final story follows a toddler, Daisy, who is obsessed with pulling her toy trolley, the little girl mirroring her mother's separation anxiety. While some stories shine over others there is little here to criticise. *Everything* is a modern and insightful collection that provides an enjoyable and intriguing read.



Report on Experience

By John Mulgan

John Mulgan is best known for his novel *Man Alone* published in 1939, a New Zealand classic about a First World War soldier during the Depression. In 1945, Mulgan sent his wife the manuscript for *Report on Experience*, a memoir about his service during the Second World War, and six weeks later committed suicide in a Cairo hotel. The book was published in 1947 but the editors decided to remove sections that criticised British command. The new edition, edited by Peter Whiteford, restores the original text and includes a preface by Mulgan's son Richard Mulgan and a forward by British military historian, M. R. D. Foot.

In *Report*, Mulgan uses polished and descriptive prose to talk about his longing for New Zealand, regiment life, the battles of El Alamein and the months fighting in Axis-occupied Greece. The book comments extensively on the English army—Mulgan felt privileged to fight but was also appalled at the English classism that promoted inept men into command. *Report* rarely describes the bloody fighting that Mulgan must have experienced and when he talks about a Greek friend who was strangled with barbed wire, he is straightforward. This may speak to Mulgan's focus on wartime comradeship or indicate a desire to distance difficult memories. Whatever the reason, his philosophical and humble voice captures the sadness and intellect of a man who hopes for a simple and domestic future, but remains uncertain.

The book gives little insight into Mulgan's reason for suicide and the mystery should come secondary to the importance of his clear-eyed account of war. But part of the power of *Report* comes from the reader knowing Mulgan's future. If anything, *Report* is a reminder of the luxury of peace.



Sarah Jane Barnett is a writer and tutor who lives in Wellington. She has a Masters in Creative Writing from Victoria University and is currently undertaking a PhD in the field of eco-poetics at Massey University. Her poetry has appeared in a range of literary journals such as *Landfall*, *Sport* and *Takahe* and in the e-zines *Snorkel* and *Turbine*. In 2008 Sarah's poem 'The Drop Distance', was selected for the collection *Best New Zealand Poems 2007*.

A healthy partnership with Victoria



Victoria University is working closely with Capital & Coast District Health Board (C&C DHB) to strengthen the ties between the health sector and research and teaching.

The two organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, encompassing a wide range of projects designed to benefit both the Wellington region and New Zealand's health profession.

In Trimester Two, Victoria launched a unique Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Research that draws on the research strengths of the University and the clinical expertise of staff from C&C DHB and the Medical Research

Institute of New Zealand (MRINZ). Victoria staff also provide academic leadership.

The diploma will provide clinical researchers around New Zealand with the skills for undertaking drug development and clinical trials, among other areas.

Earlier this year, Victoria's Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health moved to Wellington Regional Hospital, increasing research opportunities and greatly benefiting students who are now learning in a clinical environment alongside patients and their families.

Treating MS



Participating in the charity fundraiser.

Scientists at Victoria are working alongside businesses on new approaches to treat Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Dr Anne La Flamme, who is also a Research Associate at the Malaghan Institute, says the MS research programme looks at how MS develops, how to stop the immune system attacking itself, as well as finding drugs for treatment.

"We collaborate with groups from La Trobe University in Australia, the University of Auckland and a New Zealand biotech company, Innate Therapeutics."

Natural products, such as the sea sponge product peloruside, are also being investigated for treating MS.

The research, which is based in Victoria's Centre for Biodiscovery, is funded by the Neurological Foundation, Lotteries Health Research and the charitable Great New Zealand Trek that involves horse riders, walkers and cyclists.

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Business School MOU



Left to right: Pro Vice-Chancellor/Dean Faculty of Commerce and Administration Professor Bob Buckle; Victoria Management School Director of Executive Programmes Professor Stephen Cummings; Manager Professional and Executive Development Jeff Ashford.

Ongoing relations between Victoria's Faculty of Commerce and Administration and Melbourne Business School's (MBS) Executive Education Faculty at Mt Eliza have led to the recent signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU will enable Victoria and MBS to co-jointly offer executive programmes in New Zealand and encourage exchanges between the two partner institutions.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our Faculty and Victoria's Centre for Lifelong Learning to work in partnership with one of the world's leading business schools for executive education and to create a rich network for the Asia-Pacific region in particular," says Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration Professor Bob Buckle.

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Exporting science



Professor Sir Paul Callaghan. Photo: The Dominion Post

A New Zealand company, founded on research undertaken at Victoria and Massey universities, is earning millions of dollars worldwide.

High tech firm Magritek was incorporated through Victoria's commercialisation arm, Viclink, with venture capital from both universities. The company manufactures products based on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) technology.

The technology uses radio waves to investigate the make-up of things and has revolutionised science and medicine, with benefits for the food industry, oil exploration and MRI scanning, among others.

The company uses technology developed by physicists Professor Sir Paul Callaghan, Dr Robin Dykstra, Dr Craig Eccles and Mark Hunter. Magritek is led by Dr Andrew Coy, who has a PhD in magnetic resonance and 10 years' international business experience.

www.magritek.com



Still from *Otolith III* © The Otolith Group 2009, London. Courtesy of Lux.

Where music and the visual arts meet

Music takes centre stage at the Adam Art Gallery this year, with two of the Gallery's exhibitions exploring the intersections between music and the visual arts.

This focus emerges from the Adam Art Gallery's *Sound Check* research programme, which aims to build knowledge on the relatively uncharted and undocumented field of 'sound' as a subject for artists.

"Our last exhibition *Play On* featured major works produced in the 1990s, showcasing a relationship between music and art history," says Assistant Curator Laura Preston.

"Following on from this, our latest exhibition *Object Lessons: A Musical Fiction*, explores the material and visual legacy of independent music production and distribution in New Zealand."

The exhibition, which runs until 10 October, developed from investigating the history of the record label Flying Nun, and the media and fan interest directed at the label's recent resurgence.

"While Flying Nun occupies an important part of New Zealand's independent musical heritage, there has been a vast amount of other independent record label production which has maintained an artistic, aesthetic and distribution ethos of its own.

"In the era of the digital download, the exhibition asks about the relationship between the evolution of music and the way it is disseminated. It also examines what has been and what continues to be the economic, social and aesthetic value of music's modes of delivery."

The artists and musicians invited by co-curators Laura Preston and Mark Williams are all independent producers, who largely work outside the mainstream music industry or whose practices pose challenges to notions of what constitutes conventional art making. They are: Fitts & Holderness, DJ \$1 record (aka Bryce Galloway), Caroline Johnston, Torben Tilly and Robin Watkins, and Ronnie van Hout. The exhibition catalogue also includes contributions from Campbell Kneale, Antony Milton and Bruce Russell.

Object Lessons is presented alongside the work of London-based art collective and 2010 Turner Prize nominees The Otolith Group. Their trilogy of film works *A Long Time Between Suns* also examines the artistic treatment of archival moving imagery and sound.

For more information, visit www.adamartgallery.org.nz



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For more information about making a gift to Victoria University, contact Diana Meads at the Victoria University Foundation, in confidence, on free phone 0800 842 4438, via email at diana.meads@vuw.ac.nz or by mail at Victoria University Foundation, PO Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

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