

APRIL 2009

INSIDE | AUT

NEWS FROM AUT UNIVERSITY | TE WĀNANGA ARONUI O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU



Samoan dancers welcoming His Highness Tui Atua Tupua

Samoan head of state at book launch

THE SAMOAN head of state, His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Ta'isi Efi (Tui Atua) was a guest of AUT last month for the launch of a book edited by AUT lecturer I'uogafa Tuagalu.

The first part of the book, *Su'esu'e Manogi – In search of fragrance*, is a collection of academic writings by Tui Atua Tupua who is a former Samoan Prime Minister. Tui Atua wrote the essays to help Samoan people understand themselves and all things Samoan, something which he refers to as the “Samoan indigenous reference.”

Author Albert Wendt, who provided the foreword to the book, says that to his generation, Tui Atua Tupua, who was raised by some of Samoa's leading orators, poets, song-makers, storytellers, and historians, is the most knowledgeable and passionate leader about such matters.

Topics covered in the book are as diverse as bioethics; social policy; legal practice and jurisprudence; Pacific

leadership; and theology. Tui Atua believes there are specifically Samoan ways of being, seeing, and thinking that can be used to cope with the present, and to determine future paths with integrity, dignity, confidence, courage and inventiveness. He also believes these ways are relevant to understanding ideas and issues common to all peoples.

The book not only celebrates Tui Atua's ideas, it also provides a dialogue between generations, with commentaries on the essays by 14 contemporary Samoan academics based around the world.

I'uogafa Tuagalu says *Su'esu'e Manogi* is particularly relevant to anybody interested in examining their indigenous reference and its relevance in today's world.

“It gives a methodology for understanding things they may have been brought up with but didn't understand.”

AUT launches \$10 million Venture Fund

AUT ENTREPRENEURS have received a boost with the announcement of a new \$10 million fund to launch student start-up enterprises.

The Business School has established the AUT Venture Fund to give students a head start in establishing their own businesses and enhance their learning experience.

AUT business students will have an opportunity to present business plans to the Venture Fund board, which will grant funds based on business merit and the contribution to New Zealand.

Business leaders and academics will mentor successful applicants, who will then be able to use their own business examples during their course of study. The entrepreneurs will be accountable to the board during their business start-up.

Just Water founder and CEO Tony Falkenstein has put up the first million dollars to launch the Venture Fund. An entrepreneur, Falkenstein is known for his support of academic endeavours and is founder and chair of the Onehunga High

Turn to page 2

LETTER FROM THE VC



YOU'LL HAVE NOTED constant media coverage about job losses, and strategies to keep people in employment and mitigate the effects of recession. It's a theme across the world. Perhaps not as fully reported is the notion that in the midst of economic disruption, countries need to build the intellectual capital and skills base needed to move them out of recession and succeed

as economies stabilise. Governments around the world are planning to increase their investment in university education, and New Zealand should not be an exception. The Australian Government has resolved to increase the number of under-35s with degree qualifications to 40% by 2025 – by removing the university enrolment cap and funding student demand. 32% of Australians between 25 and 34 years currently have a degree or higher degree. Less than 30% of New Zealanders are qualified to the same level. New Zealand needs to consider long-term public investment in education if we are to stay internationally competitive. We are already behind, and Australia's policy will see us lag further unless New Zealand acts. And on the wider international stage Australia's goal looks modest - for example both the UK and Sweden want 50% of their 25 to 34 year olds to hold a bachelor's degree or higher in years to come. Treasury has stated the need for more degree graduates nationally and AUT is playing a real part in swelling the ranks of degree-qualified New Zealanders – but while applications and enrolments at AUT surge, we are limited by a funding cap. We will watch with interest to see whether the Government will follow the global lead and make university education a key plank for building the future, and a priority for investment.

AUT prides itself on being connected to industry and on our ability to equip students with relevant experience, so the news that AUT entrepreneurs will benefit from a new \$10 million fund to launch student start-up enterprises makes great reading this month. Just Water founder and CEO Tony Falkenstein has put up the first million dollars to launch the Venture Fund, and we are delighted with his support and commitment to business students and their future.

You may have heard about the new initiatives to stimulate research development at AUT, but if not, see this edition's article on the topic. AUT is growing at a rapid rate in research development and these new programmes are designed to accelerate and maintain that momentum. Last year our refereed research outputs increased by almost 50%, and our research income increased by 24% - I look forward to seeing those figures climb as we implement new academic employment arrangements, doctoral studies awards for staff, and the graduate assistant programme. All of these initiatives were made possible by last year's \$50M capital grant. And as we grow, it's important to celebrate our research excellence, so look for a feature on this year's research award and doctoral scholarship recipients in the next issue of Inside AUT.

Derek McCormack

AUT launches \$10m venture fund

From page 1

Business School, which launched in 2002.

Falkenstein says he is keen to grow New Zealand's own entrepreneurs.

"As part of any course, in whatever faculty, entrepreneurial students come up with ideas which they will not have the ability to pursue in normal circumstances," he says.

"The AUT Venture Fund enables them to follow up their ideas, while still having the safety of the mentoring by academics, business people and fellow students."

Other contributors have agreed to support the fund, including distinguished AUT alumni.

Dean of Business and Law Professor Des Graydon says traditionally, AUT business students have imagined themselves as entrepreneurs and now the goal is even more real.

"Our students are critical, creative and imaginative," he says. "We take this, train it and extend it. The AUT Venture Fund will inspire our students' imaginations and aspirations and they will see themselves as the exciting entrepreneurs we know they already are."

Professor Graydon adds that this will light the fires early and students will be inspired to develop well-thought-through, sustainable business plans as they learn.

"By knowing they can apply to the Venture Fund at any time during their degree, students will change how they interpret their business study," he adds. "While they learn about accounting, economics and marketing in their first year, for example, our students can ask: What do I need to learn about how a business operates? What do I need to know about these areas to set up my own business?"

"This will mark a shift in thinking and make them even more effective and valuable business people when they graduate."

Finance Emerald Award winner

CHAIR OF FINANCE, Professor Alireza Tourani-Rad, and PhD scholar, Hardjo Koerniadi, have been chosen as a Highly Commended Award Winners at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2009 for their paper 'Earnings management and the market performance of stock dividend issuing firms: New Zealand evidence' published in *Accounting Research Journal*.

Their paper was selected because it was one of the "most impressive pieces of work" the journal's editorial team, made up of eminent academics, had seen throughout 2008.

Every year, internationally renowned academic publishers, Emerald publishing Group, invites each of its journal's editorial team to nominate that title's Outstanding Paper and up to three Highly Commended Papers from the previous 12 months. The award-winning papers are chosen following consultation amongst the journal's editorial team.

AUT national centre paves way for collaborative health practice

MINISTER OF HEALTH Tony Ryall opened AUT's National Centre for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice, acknowledging the crucial role the centre will play in relieving some of the pressures faced by New Zealand's health workforce.

"The Government believes that greater collaboration between health professionals is crucial for improving the significant health workforce crisis. The Government fully endorses AUT's innovative academic approach to researching and encouraging collaborative practice in the health workforce."

"AUT will clearly be playing a very important future role in teaching our young health professionals the merits of working together."

Professor Max Abbott, Dean of the Faculty of Health & Environmental Sciences, says education is a vital strategy for managing the demands of today's healthcare sector.

"Creating a health workforce that can collaborate across disciplines and across sectors to provide person and community-

centred care as opposed to the traditional, more individualised, model of care, is one of the most promising solutions," says Professor Abbott.

"The establishment of an educational centre which will prepare New Zealand health professionals to work in this manner illustrates AUT's awareness of the changing roles of health practitioners."

The Centre is the first of its kind in New Zealand and has been developed with input from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The centre has four main functions: education, research, practice development (which includes an on-site integrated healthcare clinic) and AUT's Ara Hauora Maori or Maori Pathway.

Students learn and work together (both in the classroom and in work-based environments) to ensure they acquire collaborative team working knowledge.

They are exposed to the work of other health disciplines so they understand and respect the contribution that each makes, all the while ensuring the care they provide



Professor Max Abbott and Minister of Health Tony Ryall mark the opening of the National Centre for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice

is patient and/or community-centred as opposed to profession-centred.

The research arm of the centre is tasked with trialling and evaluating inter-professional collaborative models of care.

Research initiatives for staff and students

LAST YEAR, the government awarded AUT University with a capital grant, a key component of which is to assist the University to enhance its research capability and capacity.

This year, significant initiatives are underway, funded by the grant, which work to build AUT's research culture for both staff and students.

The first of these initiatives is an increase in the number of Vice Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students studying a full-time doctoral degree at AUT and cover their tuition fees for a maximum of three years, as well as offering a stipend of up to \$25,000 each year. This year, ten new Vice Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarships were awarded, bringing the total number of scholarships up to 22.

The other student-based initiative has the introduction of Graduate Assistantship

Awards. This allows graduate students to participate as part-time university staff members on a stipend or salary and allows tenured academics to spend more time on research, advanced teaching and supervision. This year 37 Graduate Assistantship Awards have been awarded. The introduction of these awards brings AUT in line with the other New Zealand universities which already have similar awards.

A new staff initiative, Academic Staff Doctoral Study Awards, has also been launched this year. The purpose of these Awards is to assist academic staff members who are in the advanced stages of a PhD or other recognised doctorate to complete their studies. The award releases staff members from their teaching and administrative duties for six months to enable them to work full-time on their doctorate. The capital grant will allow for some replacement staffing. This

year there are 19 Academic Staff Doctoral Study Awards.

Another staff initiative is the Vice Chancellor's invitation to academic staff in degree and postgraduate programmes, to consider a change in employment arrangements to a package more conducive to academic work involving both teaching and research. The package involves a higher salary, commensurately less leave, an expectation that staff participate in research work, and opportunities for sabbatical leave. This year 100 applications were received in response to the invitation, and 80 have been approved. The next invitation will be made in the last quarter of this year.

This programme of strategic initiatives supports staff and postgraduate students to further their research-related activities and contributes to AUT University's growing research reputation.

Pacific research captured in national index spanning 100 years



Office of Pasifika Advancement Research Assistant, Pollyanna Paese, and Professor Marilyn Waring

ACCESS TO Pacific research has received a major boost with the launch of an index that captures all theses containing research on the Pacific produced from 1900 — 2008.

Co-ordinated by AUT University's Office of Pasifika Advancement, and funded by the Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCCS) Network, the project involved compiling an index for every Masters or Doctoral theses submitted and completed in a New Zealand university in the 108-year time period.

Professor Marilyn Waring, of the Institute of Public Policy, came up with the concept for the index, which has captured more than 1200 theses, as a way to both improve the accessibility and visibility of Pacific research.

"What we have uncovered is an amazing depth and breadth of incredible Pacific research. Before, there was only

some idea of what might be out there and now it is available for people to touch, to read and to use. The idea of the index was welcomed from the outset and has the endorsement of an academic network of Pacific scholars from across the universities."

Victoria University's Associate Professor Peggy Fairburn-Dunlop says the publication is the first of its kind and its value is in bringing all of this data together in one easily accessible place.

"This has been a very exciting project. When we started we didn't realise the sheer amount of fine Pacific research which had been carried out in New Zealand universities or the cross cutting nature of this research."

Office of Pasifika Advancement director Pauline Winter who co-ordinated the project says the index is a strong platform for understanding of the Pacific region and for further research.

PhD driving healthy eating on campus

HEALTH AND Environmental Sciences doctoral student Alicia Crocket is using her studies to create a healthier eating environment on AUT's North Shore and City campuses.

Working with Campus Services, Crocket is looking to promote healthier eating through better food choices, social marketing and food presentation that encourages staff and students to opt for healthy food choices.

"Better food choices might be as simple as smaller servings or swapping a sugary drink for a less sweet option or a drink of water," says Crocket.

One of the first changes taking place on campus is in the vending machines with the contract now setting out minimum percentages of healthy choices. Dried fruit and smaller serving sizes will now be included.

Healthier drink options like water and drinks with less sugar will also be in the optimum selling spots in vending machines. Selling fruit at cost for 60c a piece is already in place for both campuses.

Crocket, who has a PhD scholarship from TEC, and Living Healthy Ltd will also be inviting staff and students to take part in focus groups and online discussion boards to find out what food options they want and what influences their food choices.

Before returning to postgraduate study, the nutrition and dietetics graduate worked in Westlands School in the UK helping to implement catering changes to meet the national healthy schools food guidelines.

"Before we started it was a diet of sausages, fish and chips, pies, lots of deep fried foods and no real vegetables. There was resistance from the children but by the end of it there were more fresh vegetables and we had the students trying things like fajitas, enchiladas, risottos and moussaka."



AUT Vice Chancellor Derek McCormack with Peter Harwood, and his wife Haupuru Harwood

Peter Harwood honoured as Emeritus Professor

PROFESSOR Peter Harwood was honoured with the title of Emeritus Professor at the AUT University summer graduation.

The appointment as Emeritus Professor is only the second for AUT. The first was the late Professor Roy Geddes. It recognises Professor Harwood's time as Dean of Faculty of Arts and Professor of Social Sciences at AUT from 1992-2002.

While working at AUT, Professor Harwood was responsible for a number of initiatives including: the introduction of Noho Marae visits for staff; helping to grow both student numbers and the number of bachelor and postgraduate programmes for the Faculty of Arts; the increase in international students within the university from zero in 1992 to over 600 EFTS in 2002; and acting as an advocate for the interests of Maori at AUT.

Professor Harwood was also involved in the change of status for AUT from an institute of technology to a university.

In addition to being honoured as Emeritus Professor, in the last year Professor Harwood was awarded the

New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to Maori and the community – in particular he established the first Citizens Advice Bureau in New Zealand – and was picked from over 3100 University of Georgia alumni as the inaugural recipient of the Alumni Service to Humanity Award by the Georgia Rotary Student Programme.

Professor Harwood began his academic career in 1962 at the University of Georgia and went on to study social sciences at Victoria University in Wellington, before majoring in sociology and psychology at the University of Auckland and ultimately gaining his PhD from Monash University in Melbourne in 1987.

His career has taken him through academia, with roles at AUT, UCOL, Monash University and the University of Auckland; the social services, with time spent at Child Youth and Family and the Department of Social Welfare; and government, with roles at the Justice Department in NZ, London County Council, Auckland City Council, and Latrobe Regional Commission in Australia.

New Dean for Applied Humanities

THE APPLIED HUMANITIES Faculty has the potential to be distinctive, unique and world leading, says the new Dean of the faculty, Professor Nigel Hemmington (pictured).

Professor Hemmington, who joins AUT University from Bournemouth University in Dorset, England, where he was the Dean of the School of Services Management, is excited by the opportunity to explore and develop the relationships between subjects, both within the faculty and across faculties, to create new and innovative areas for study and research.

"I'm keen to explore the themes that permeate and cross the subject areas in Applied Humanities, to get a sense of coherence and direction, and make this faculty distinctive and unique compared to other humanities faculties in New Zealand and around the world. We have the opportunity to be world-leading in our areas of strength, which is exciting both

for the faculty and the university."

Professor Hemmington's background is in hospitality and tourism. He has a PhD in Management Studies from Surrey University and extensive experience of working with the tourism industry at both regional and international levels. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, a Fellow of the Institute of Hospitality, and a Fellow of the Institute of Continuing Professional Development. He is also a Chartered Marketer and an Honorary Member of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

His research and consultancy interests are in the areas of consumer experiences, professional development and learning, and consumer behaviour in hospitality and tourism. Most recently he has been interested in the development of the concept of hospitable tourism within the context of the consumer experience. This research has led to consultancy with



commercial and industry organisations including the Caribbean Tourism Organisation where he developed a human resource strategy for the tourism industry.

He has published more than 100 articles and conference papers in academic and professional publications, and has presented at international conferences in Paris, London, Philadelphia, Miami, Athens, Dublin, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Sri Lanka and Brunei.

SPOTLIGHT ON
Te Tari Āwhina: The Learning Development Centre

Diversity is key in Learning Development Centre

STUDENTS facing new learning challenges at AUT do not have to cope alone. As well as the help they may get from friends, flatmates or family, Te Tari Āwhina (TTA), the Learning Development Centre of AUT delivers a wide range of services to help them make the most of their time at university.

“Time can be one of the biggest factors in student success,” says Fe Day, Manager of Te Tari Āwhina. “Many students are not aware that their lecturers expect them to spend about 50 hours on each assignment. At the same time, they have lots of other calls on their time, including earning money. We sit alongside them to create a realistic plan of attack for their

study habits here at AUT.”

TTA lecturers work with students on personal skills such as time management, organisation and motivation, as well as study skills like writing, referencing, note-taking and how to read academic texts effectively.

The lecturers give one-to-one sessions as well as delivering lectures, running the KEYS to Success programmes, answering online requests and working with faculty members to support and tutor students. This system has a proven success rate. For example, the 1442 students who attended Te Tari Āwhina one-to-one and drop-in services in 2008 had a success rate of 89% as against the rate of 88% of those who did not attend, while the retention rate moved from 88% to 94%. Given that the students who seek help are likely to be those who are less successful and confident in their studies, this shows a real contribution to AUT’s outstanding success and retention rates.

In TTA, there are twelve lecturers who come from different disciplines and cultural backgrounds. “We have purposely built a very diverse team so that students have a really good chance of finding someone who they will feel good about working with,” says Day. “We hope that everyone will look on our website www.tetariawhina.info and find someone who suits them!”



Some of the diverse staff of Te Tari Āwhina. Front row (L to R): Jennifer Naeem, Dr Tafili Utumapu, Dr Vitali Babkov. Middle row: Robyn McWilliams, Messina Shaw, Graeme Coupland. Back row: Dr Juliet Nanai, Jennifer Sionepulu



Jewahir and Hanan in the Self Access Learning Lab, City Campus

The Self Access Learning Labs

TE TARI ĀWHINA Manager Fe Day says the bulk of the Te Tari Āwhina student visits are to the Self Access Learning Labs.

“At the City Campus, the Lab is open all library hours and last year there were over 50,000 student visits to it. There are lots of DVDs, tapes, computers and workbooks, so students can improve their skills in maths, Te Reo Māori, and English. Many AUT staff members have recommended or created materials which are used in the Self Access Learning Lab.”

The students say they like the fact that there’s one whole area in each library to help with these things. Lots of students come in after 4pm to do some hours of study before they go home.

University study is like another culture

SOME YEARS ago, Te Tari Āwhina staff member I’u Tuagalu started to talk about introduction to study at AUT being like bringing students into a new culture. The Pasifika Transition to AUT came out of this idea and now, every semester, the new Pasifika students are invited to a Pasifika Transition Programme that

lasts for several days and involves both academic and social activities.

In the academic sessions students are presented with lectures, and AUT’s style of teaching and learning is introduced.

However, they also engage in smaller discussion and tutorial sessions, where

they can learn about the demands of their particular programme and start to practise activities they are going to need to take part in during their time at AUT.

There is time for linking up and getting to know each other as well, and many students have told TTA Pasifika staff how much they enjoyed the Transition.

ASK AN EXPERT Associate Head of School, School of Communication Studies, Alan Cocker, was one of four panellists in an Academic Freedom Forum hosted by the Tertiary Education Union and AUT. He shares his thoughts on academic freedom and its role in the university.

What is academic freedom and why is it important?

Academic freedom is a fundamental and inviolable right for academics to speak out on issues of importance to the wider society without censure. It is not to be conceived as a privilege for university teachers within their own community but as a vitally important source of critique, debate and challenge so vital to the health of a fully functioning democratic community.

What does it mean for academics?

It is a right which must be exercised responsibly after the academic has brought to the issue the full rigour that should be involved as part of academic study and inquiry. It is a privilege which exists because it is part of the role of

academics, as the Education Act outlines, “to question and test received wisdom”. Academics are in the inquiry business, we are interested in new ideas and we are looked to as an independent source of information, research and advice. We have a public role as educators and as critic and conscience of society.

What are the threats to academic freedom?

The corporatisation of the university sector, ushered in following the new economic policy approaches introduced in the 1980s, has seen considerable pressure on the concept of academic freedom. Now politicians and university administrators talk glibly of the ‘tertiary education business’ and an environment has been created where brand,

competition and corporate management appear to be more important than traditional values of intellectual inquiry, collegial endeavour and critical thinking. Policies which are supposed to bring the benefits of private enterprise management to the tertiary education sector erode our particular and distinctive character. In private industry there are considerable restraints on employees speaking out publicly and the application of ‘principal-agent’ theory to the universities has seen delegated power more firmly structured within hierarchical forms of authority at the expense of traditional academic autonomy. This is not to deny that universities may benefit from the lessons learnt in other sectors but this cannot be at the expense of our traditional values and role.

Universities as critic and conscience

ACADEMIC FREEDOM as a responsibility as well as a right was the central point discussed when staff from AUT University and Massey University came together for the Academic Freedom Forum last month.

The forum, co-hosted by AUT University and the Tertiary Education Union, was chaired by AUT Chancellor Sir Paul Reeves, and featured four panellists: AUT Vice Chancellor Derek McCormack; Associate Head of School at the School of Communication Studies Alan Cocker; Massey University Senior Lecturer in Social and Public Policy Grant Duncan; and AUT Head of Department of Hospitality Management Jill Poulston.

The four speakers covered areas such as the history of academic freedom; academic freedom in a neo-liberal climate; and the threats to academic freedom, but each speaker came back to the idea that while academic freedom should be a right for every academic, it is in fact more a responsibility and an obligation.

Jill Poulston talked about the academic’s



From L-R: Chair Sir Paul Reeves, Derek McCormack, Alan Cocker and Grant Duncan listening to a question from the audience

duty to comment on matters in the public realm. Derek McCormack said the role of universities is as a critic and conscience for society. Grant Duncan encouraged academics to practise academic freedom in the classroom and allow students to

express opinions and reach their own conclusions. And Alan Cocker questioned why more academics don’t speak out, saying that there is a tendency to talk amongst themselves instead of to the wider community.

■ DISPATCH FROM THE FRONTLINE

Richard Hall, OBE, is Head of the Vice Chancellor's Department. Formerly a Colonel in the British Army, Richard and his wife relocated to New Zealand in 2000. Richard is on leave from AUT leading the NZ Army in Afghanistan, he returns to the University this month. This month we share another dispatch home.



The Water Mill

THE OLD MAN stood outside for his photograph. His shabby clothes were patched and dirty. His face was deeply lined, and his beard was grey and wispy. Both told of years of pitiless toil under the harsh Afghan sun. Yet despite his haggard appearance, his eyes were alive, flashing pride and independence. Standing tall and erect, he eloquently thanked the New Zealand PRT for bringing peace and stability to this part of Afghanistan. He described us as his "strong right arm" that keeps the insurgents at bay. His speech, impromptu and from the heart, was humbling.

I had spied the watermill nestling in the valley. Curiosity drove me to ask to look around. Inside the low and ramshackle building was a scene straight from a Dickensian novel. Three men, white as ghosts, were working the mill. A large grindstone, powered by a gurgling stream that ran under the mud building, was rotating rapidly with a steady hum. One man poured wheat into the hole in the middle of the grindstone whilst another shovelled the finely ground flour into sacks.

The atmosphere was clogged with a fine dusting of flour that infiltrated every pore and had us sneezing and coughing. The old man explained that the mill had been in his family for five generations: I suspect the building had not changed in all that time. Obviously proud of his mill, he was keen for a photograph to be taken outside it and his message of thanks to be heard.

Reflecting on his words, I mused on the operations of his "strong right arm". Throughout the province our vehicle patrols criss-cross the area like hen harriers quartering a paddock in search of their next victim. Vehicles, heavily loaded with stores, edge their way along the valley roads carefully avoiding lorries, heavily laden donkeys, and people. Vehicles rock and judder across the worst obstacles as roads disappear into a morass of potholes or boulder fields. In the villages, high mud walls escort the road on its way, corralling the traffic into the narrow passages. Two-way traffic becomes a game of chicken – vehicles square up like school room bullies in a corridor to see who will give way first.

Despite the screaming poverty, the

warmth of welcome that emanates from most of the villagers is heartening. Many stop at the unexpected sight of a military vehicle. The initial stare is replaced with a wave, a nod, a smile. Children peak around walls, grin and dash after the vehicles waving and cheering as they do so. Some, hands out-stretched, are looking for 'baksheesh' or a handout, others just for the sheer delight of seeing foreigners.

We wave to the steady stream of people meandering down the roads while constantly scanning for the signs of improvised explosive devices or other dangers. The explosion that wrecked one of our vehicles during our handover from the previous contingent was a timely reminder, if one was needed, that not everyone wishes us well.

The ruins of war are plain to see. Burnt out houses, destroyed tanks and armoured vehicles are easy way markers along the route. Despite the seeming tranquillity of the rural scenes, arms and ammunition remain stored for future use. The appearance of people turning up at our bases to hand in a variety of lethal weaponry is common. Just prior to the visit to the water mill one of our vehicle patrols intercepted a van smuggling RPG 7s, AK 47s and thousands of bullets. The patrol thought that the behaviour of the people in the van was suspicious, so stopped to investigate. The crew fled on foot. Inside, concealed, were the weapons and ammunition. Who knows what damage would have been done by the contents of this van or who or what the target was?

Maybe in a small way Afghanistan is a safer place as a result and the old man can rest easier in his bed.

Conference: Auckland's governance future

ON MARCH 31 the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance will report its findings and recommendations on the future of local and regional governance in the Auckland region.

The date will mark a tipping point for the future of Auckland and New Zealand.

On April 28 The AUT University

Institute for Public Policy (IPP) and the Local Government Centre will host a conference on the impacts of the report and its recommendations.

IPP director David Wilson invites everyone with an interest in the future of Auckland to participate.

"The report is likely to set in motion some of the most significant changes to

local government in New Zealand since European settlement," he says.

"The conference will be the first opportunity to gain an authoritative overview of the commission's recommendations, what they mean for the future of the Auckland region and what is involved in putting them into practice."

Chinese, Burmese journalists join AUT's Pacific Media Centre

A YOUNG Burmese journalist, Violet Cho, and a Chinese cultural affairs editor, Wang Nan, have joined AUT University's Pacific Media Centre this year.

Violet Cho, 25, an ethnic Karen reporter who writes for *Irawaddy* magazine in Thailand, is the first Asian journalist to come to New Zealand under the PMC's inaugural Asian Journalism Fellowship sponsored by the Asia: NZ Foundation.

Cho, who fled Burma with her family to begin life in a Thai refugee camp in 1991, will study on the Bachelor of Communication Studies (Honours) programme and be a resource journalist with the PMC for staff and students.

After getting involved in broadcasting through a community radio station set up by a Karen student group, Ms Cho also did some news reporting for the Burmese independent media agency Mizzima which is now based in New Delhi.

Since 2007, she has been working for Irawaddy Publishing Group, which has a daily news website and a monthly glossy magazine.

"Studying journalism at AUT University will greatly help my work as a journalist. To produce critical media, I need a stronger academic background in media and a theoretical framework," she says.

Wang Nan is an editor for the arts website of China Daily and is with the School of Communication Studies for a one-semester exchange visit. The China Daily hosts two AUT journalism students on internship each year, with travel sponsorship from the Asia NZ: Foundation.

Beijing-born Wang, 28, a cultural affairs editor on China Daily's culture website, also assists the chief editor.

"My job is to introduce China's beautiful places, which are worth a visit, and to profile delicious Chinese food, people's lives and many interesting things," she says.

For five years, graduate journalists from AUT have worked on three-month internships on the China Daily's websites and several have gone on to full-time jobs with Chinese media or news organisations elsewhere in Asia.

SIFE AUT seeking mentors

AUT UNIVERSITY'S top business students are seeking mentorship from academics and New Zealand's best business leaders.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE AUT) develop projects for community groups to improve, and sometimes save lives.

Past projects have included a successful pilot blood donation campaign targeting 18 to 25-year-olds; mentoring low income families on how to gain wealth through health; and providing work skill seminars and support for young mothers seeking to return to the workforce.

SIFE AUT president and Masters of Business student Clare George (pictured) says by supporting the students, business mentors will be supporting some of New Zealand's most deserving communities.

"Our thirst for knowledge is fuelled by New Zealand's best business professionals' and academics' desire to share it," she says. "In 2009, we intend to build a strong army of national advisors to ensure we give Kiwi community groups the best support possible."

SIFE AUT is seeking advisors from all business disciplines and work experience, from those fresh in the workforce, to CEOs.

George adds that in recessionary times businesses are financially strained



but this is an opportunity for them to help without reaching into wallets.

"Corporate social responsibility is increasingly important and we hope that asking for business professionals to lend us their time that the end result is creating a better New Zealand from the ground up."

SIFE AUT is seeking advisors from all business disciplines and work experience, "from those fresh in the workforce, to CEOs", adds George.

SIFE AUT represented New Zealand at the SIFE World Cup the past three years in a row and was placed in the top 16 teams in the world from 1800 institutions.

For more information or to sign up as a business mentor, please contact Clare George at sifepres@aut.ac.nz or 09 921 9999 ext. 6327 and visit www.sifeaut.org.nz.

New appointment: International

AUT UNIVERSITY has appointed Rongyu Li to the newly created position of Director of AUT International.

The position follows a 2008 review of AUT's international strategy and will enable the university to achieve its strategic goal of internationalisation in the areas of student mobility, revenue enhancement and reputation building.

Prior to joining AUT, Rongyu was the Senior International Marketing Manager in the Health Sciences Division at the University of South Australia. There, Rongyu provided direction and leadership in strategic planning and execution of the Division's internationalisation strategies. Rongyu was responsible for international marketing, relationship management, student recruitment and admissions, business development, and transnational programme management.

At AUT, Rongyu will provide wide ranging support to the Pro Vice Chancellor International, Professor Des Graydon. In particular, he will develop and regularly review strategies, structures, plans and budgets for international activity, and ensure provision of efficient and effective services necessary to support the university's international activities.

CEPD CLIPBOARD

What is a PhD? – a personal view

PROFESSOR Albert Yeap, Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research, AUT University, presented his outstanding seminar on What is a PhD – a personal view, at CEPD last year. A video of the seminar can be found at http://www.aut.ac.nz/staff/cepd/learning_and_teaching/ishow and in the AUTonline Postgraduate Research Resource organisation.

In this video seminar, Professor Yeap (pictured) shares his view of what a PhD is and explains why it is not just

any piece of research. Part one of the video documents the traditional view of a PhD, while part two explores Professor Yeap's perspective.

Professor Yeap is highly inspiring, informative and entertaining. Watching this video is a must for staff and post-graduate students who are thinking about or are undertaking Doctoral studies.

Be warned – Professor Yeap will stir you into action!

Julia Hallas



Web 2.0 Teacher @AUT University

THE WEB 2.0 Teacher@AUT University, is a self-directed, online programme, designed to stimulate ideas for using web 2.0 technologies for learning and teaching.

There are 12 exploratory activities you can do on the Internet to extend your knowledge. Web 2.0 technologies encourage people to share and communicate across the planet. You can explore blogs, Flickr, mash ups, RSS feeds, wikis, YouTube, folksonomies, tagging, podcasts, GoogleDocs, Zoho, 2nd life, avatars, Facebook, and more. If you have any questions, contact julia.hallas@aut.ac.nz, x5785. Go to: <http://web2teacher.blogspot.com>

ICT Upskill@AUT

INCREASINGLY, staff are seeking advice and training for their students in ICT. To meet just-in-time demand, ICT Upskill @AUT was designed to bring staff and students up to speed with basic ICT skills. To date, staff have asked for EndNote, MSPowerPoint, MSPublisher and posting YouTube videos online. If you have a topic you would like posted, please contact julia.hallas@aut.ac.nz, x5785. Go to <http://ictupskill.blogspot.com>

Skills for teaching

A NEW experiential workshop for Teaching Assistants was mounted by the Centre for Educational and Professional Development prior to the start of the semester. Increasingly at AUT, postgraduate students are being engaged as teaching assistants, tutors or student learning assistants, and the need for them to develop skills to teach in an active and interactive way was the driving force in offering this intensive three-day workshop.

CEPD contracted Adele Graham (pictured) to design and facilitate this programme, which focused on topics



such as meeting a class for the first time; helping students learn in an interactive way; choosing and using activities to achieve the intended learning outcomes; lesson planning; assessing students' work; and effective classroom communication and management. Adele has run similar programmes in universities in New Zealand, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia, and is passionate about using action methods to develop skills and motivate participants to look at teaching and learning from different perspectives.

The 26 participants who attended, rated the workshop as highly useful, citing benefits such as "increased confidence in teaching in the academic environment", and "understanding more about teaching to diversity". The participants also commented on the positive effect of going through practical ideas and techniques to engage and motivate students, and seeing interactive teaching in practice. All those who completed the workshop received a Certificate of Attendance.

This successful workshop will be offered again in the future, and could also be tailored to the specific needs of Faculties. Feedback indicated that inclusion of "blended" components, embracing aspects of online as well as classroom teaching, would add additional value to the programme.

Comings and goings

AUT WELCOMES...

Applied Humanities

Dennis De Jong
Max Galu
Gina Harrap
Nigel Hemmington
Chris Holland
Pola Wang

Business and Law

Bronnie Bennett
Sanjay Bhowmick
Guy Charlton
Jose Da Fonseca
Tracey Futter
Jacinta Hawkins
Jackie Lim
Kelvin Mataira
Katherine Ritchie
Mele Tatafu
Arch Woodside

Design and Creative Technologies

George Allan
Nick Charlton
Luka Hinse
Dawn Hutchesson

Health and Environmental Sciences

Sari Andajani
Gary Bird
Felicity Anna Stedman
Bright
Nigel Bryant
Miranda Knight
Sandy Rutherford
Chris Yearsley

Finance and Resources

Grace Zhang

PVC – International

Rongyu Li

PVC – Learning and teaching

Warqa Hasan

PVC – Research and Development

Jonathan Armistead
Emily Bergin
Rebecca Bergin
Jesse He
Fiona Lovich
Sohelia Mohammadyari
Charlotte Rea
Emma Richardson

Services and Operations – ITS

Ricky Tipper

Services and Operations – Property Services

Mai See Maisy Chung

Services and Operations – Student Services

Placid Briggs
Liz Johnson
Jenny Letts

AUT FAREWELLS...

Applied Humanities

Islay Brown
Artwell Dhliwayo
Louise Hackshaw
Michael Jones
Fumiko Ono
Robert Steele
Victoria Yee

Business and Law

Umapathy
Ananthanarayanan
Ronald Feasey
Cristel Russell
Ross Stevenson
Venera Ukmata
Layne Waerea
Lynne Webber

Design and Creative Technologies

Jeanie Benson
Susan Boyd-Bell
Jonathan Brown
Helen Franklin

Jan Hamon
Andrea Low
Dane Mitchell
Kathirgama
Padmanathan
Robbie Peris

Health and Environmental Sciences

Tareq Al-Salamah
Saeideh Aminian
Georgina Casey
Jennifer Jean Crowley
Karen Donald
Lesley Franklin
Wanzhen Gao
Wendy Horne
Susan Joyce
Renee Leone
Anne McDermott
Amanda Morse
Carol Sommerville
Helen Tane
Catherine Walker

Jeremy Williams
Regina Yap

PVC – Internationalisation

Amy Chen

PVC – Research and Commercialisation

Juanetta Hita

Services and Operations – Property Services

Brett Lunny

Services and Operations – Student Services

Naila Fanene
Jacqueline Hammill
Kelly Henry
Elizabeth Pouono
Brooke Stanley

Te Ara Poutama

Mere Roberts
University Relations and Advancement
Amellia Kapa

Māori and Pacific Island stroke rates on the increase

STROKE INCIDENT rates in Māori and Pacific Islanders are now similar to those in developing countries, reveals a study by Professor Valery Feigin, Director of the National Research Centre for Stroke, Applied Neurosciences and Neurorehabilitation at AUT University.

The study is the largest ever stroke review of its kind to date, investigating the worldwide incidence and outcomes of stroke in 28 countries (including New Zealand) over the last four decades.

Professor Feigin says that New Zealand is more than two times behind other developed countries in the rate of stroke incidence decline, and the gap between Māori and Pacific Island stroke rates and European New Zealand, is widening at an alarming speed.

"Over the last three decades New Zealand's stroke rate has declined by only 11 per cent over the whole population, compared to a worldwide trend of 42 per cent," he says. "We are well behind other developed countries."

Currently stroke is the number two killer in the world and if the number of incidents in developing countries continues to rise at the same rate, it will be number one within 20 years.

"Immediate action is now essential to halt the onset of a worldwide epidemic," says Professor Feigin.

The first study was the first to show that the incidence of stroke in low-to-medium income countries has increased by more than 100 per cent, and that people living in these countries face a 20 per cent greater risk of stroke than those living in high-income countries, where the incidence of stroke has declined by 42 per cent.

Results have been met with much interest internationally with findings covered extensively in medical magazines including top neurological publication *Lancet Neurology*.

WHAT'S ON?

15th International Critical & Feminist Perspectives in Health & Social Justice Conference Friday 17th-Sunday 19th April, AUT Wellesley Conference Centre. For further details contact julie@currentevents.co.nz

Professorial address Professor Patria Hume, Professor of Human Performance, Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences. Tuesday 7 April, 4.30pm-5.30pm, Conference Centre, second floor WA building, City Campus.

Broadband users young and urban

NEW ZEALAND broadband users perceive the Internet as more important in their daily life compared with those who use a dialup service, according to the latest findings from the World Internet Project.

Researchers at AUT University's Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication have been conducting further analysis on the New Zealand results within a global survey that studies the social impact of the Internet.

They found that compared with their dialup counterparts, broadband users:

- Perceive the Internet as more important to daily life
- Rate their ability to use the Internet more highly
- Rate the Internet more highly as an important source of entertainment or information
- Buy things online more frequently
- Are less concerned about security of credit information
- Are slightly more likely to access government information
- Download/watch/listen to videos and music more frequently
- Are more likely to do other things (watch TV, use the telephone) while online

These differences persist even when observed demographic differences between dialup and broadband are taken into account. Broadband users:

- Are on average six years younger than dialup users
- Have on average higher incomes than dialup users
- Are more likely to live in urban centres than dialup users.

Analysis confirmed that little difference exists between dialup and broadband users when considering other demographic variables such as gender, employment status, ethnicity or level of education.



Cambodian orphans in line for dental treatment at the World Family Clinic

Better smiles for Cambodia

CAMBODIAN orphans and young male inmates were the recipients of dental aid work carried out by AUT's Dr Sue Cartwright earlier this year, but her visit also paved the way for better dental health among Cambodians in the long-term.

An invitation from the Dental Faculty of the International University – where former AUT lecturer Callum Durward is now Executive Dean – saw Cartwright delivering lectures, setting practical tasks in a class setting, and providing opportunities for the dental students to observe clinical sessions.

Cartwright, who heads AUT's Oral Health discipline, says although there are a large number of dental clinics in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh, the realities of the practices are often very poor.

"Most dental treatment is provided by 'traditional dentists' who are trained using an apprenticeship resulting in fairly low standards, especially regarding infection control. Callum Durward is bravely attempting to raise these standards through the education being provided at the International University."

The practical tasks carried out with the

International University dental students included saliva testing, plaque testing and the forming of embryonic faces from plasticine.

Donated equipment from New Zealand dental supply companies was used for the class exercises and the dental aid work carried out in Phnom Penh by Cartwright, Durward and Auckland dentist Pene Childs.

The three clinicians delivered treatment to adolescent males imprisoned in a local women's prison and to orphans in the Cambodia World Family Clinic.

"We found the children had rampant decay which required the extraction of abscessed primary teeth followed by an attempt to protect permanent teeth through the application of fluorides and fissure sealants."

"These clinical sessions also acted as education experiences for dental students from the International University as they were able to assist with the treatment."

The latest visit to Cambodia was the fourth dental aid trip undertaken by AUT lecturers. Another dental aid trip is scheduled for mid 2009.