

NOVEMBER 2009

INSIDE | AUT

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



AUT Rookie impresses fashion A-listers

IT WAS standing room only last month at AUT Rookie 2009, when AUT University fashion students showed their final collections on the runway. Fashion insiders, media, designers, friends and family crammed into St Paul's Church on Symonds Street to see 22 collections take to the catwalk. Turn to page 6 for more photos, or visit www.autrookie.co.nz

Left: A model waits backstage ready to hit the runway wearing designs by Alana Bishop

Foundation Professor of Pacific Studies appointed to AUT University

PROFESSOR Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop has been appointed as the Foundation Professor of Pacific Studies at AUT University and took up her role at the end of October.

As Professor of Pacific Studies, the former Director of Va'aomanu Pasifika will continue to develop her research looking into the influence of societal changes on Pacific families and communities as well as fostering and facilitating Pacific research and scholarship at AUT University.

Professor Ian Shirley, Pro Vice Chancellor Research at AUT, says Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop's appointment is an extremely significant initiative by the University.

"Not only does Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop hold the chiefly title of Tagaloatele but she

has also built an outstanding reputation as a researcher and a scholar."

"There is little doubt that Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop is one of the Pacific's leading researchers."

Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop has had a distinguished career as a Pacific scholar, working with all the small nation states of Oceania as well as the Pacific Regional Office of UNESCO, the Asia-Pacific Forum, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, NZAID and the South Pacific Commission.

Last year Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop's contributions to research and training in the area of Pacific development issues over the past 30 years were recognised with an Insignia

of an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit. Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop has worked with AUT in the past through the Pacific Islands Family Study in the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences and through the Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCSS) Pacific Research Network, welcoming the *Bibliographic Index of Pacific Theses* which the Office of Pasifika Advancement produced earlier this year. She was the inaugural director of Va'aomanu Pasifika, the Pacific Studies unit at Victoria University.

Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop has written a wide range of reports and publications including *Tamatai Samoa: Their Stories*, *Samoan Women: Widening Choices* and *Making Our Place: Growing Up PI in New Zealand*.

LETTER FROM THE VC



THIS IS the last issue of *Inside AUT* for 2009, and what a year it has been. AUT has delivered some outstanding achievements over the past eleven months, and to highlight just a few is a difficult task. Our enrolments continue to grow, and we have increased our undergraduate and postgraduate profile considerably. We have delivered exciting research

developments in our institutes and research centres; of particular note is the SKA radio telescope in Warkworth. We've been host to many successful events including Māori Expo, Rookie and several industry conferences.

Next year is set to be a significant milestone in the history of AUT, with several major projects on the horizon. First and foremost is the long-awaited opening of AUT's Manukau campus. I look forward to seeing the results of our commitment to furthering the educational aspirations of the people of Counties Manukau when we welcome our first students to the campus in 2010. You can read more about the Manukau campus on page 4.

2010 is also AUT University's tenth anniversary. While ten years is not a long time in the life of a university, this anniversary marks the end of an impressive first decade. Since becoming New Zealand's eighth university on 1 January 2000, AUT has rapidly transformed itself to the point where it is making a considerable contribution to university education in Auckland. The growth of the University's enrolments at undergraduate and postgraduate level, the strengthening research capability and the important contribution to social, environmental and economic development and discourse, are all indicators of the remarkable progress the University has made. As we begin our second decade, we do so with confidence and a growing recognition of our contribution and capabilities.

The year ahead marks the next phase of our strategic planning cycle. Our plan is being developed alongside the Government's recently-launched draft Tertiary Education Strategy 2010-2015 (TES). The new TES warns institutions that funding will be restricted for the foreseeable future and as a result they will be expected to "do more with less". Funding measures are expected to change slightly, with a portion of funding likely to be tied to programme and institution quality. AUT will be making a submission on the draft TES this month.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your contribution, commitment and dedication to AUT throughout 2009. Thank you for your efforts, and have a safe, relaxing holiday.

Derek McCormack

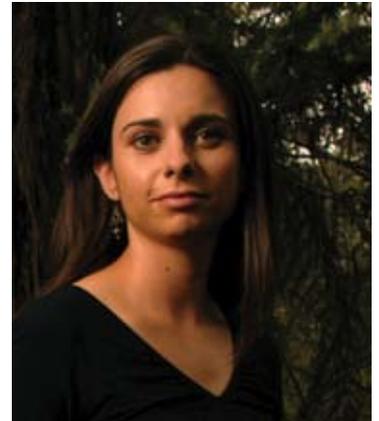
Marsden fund success

DR HELEN Tregidga's research *Corporate chameleons, green-washing and counter-narratives* was successful in receiving funding from the Royal Society's 2009 Marsden research fund. Dr Tregidga (pictured) receives a grant of \$300,000 over three years. Professors Kate Kearins of AUT and Markus Milne from the University of Canterbury are associate investigators on the project.

Dr Tregidga says business has adopted 'greener' language and imagery portraying an image of a reformed corporate citizen.

"There is some concern about the substance of this image, and whether it could be false or even misleading," she says. "There is still some debate around whether they're acting green. Some worry this reincarnation of business may amount to 'greenwash'.

"On the other hand, environmental groups appear to have adopted



business language and strategies, and now it looks like both groups are occupying the same space. I'm interested in what this means and how narrative and counter-narratives operate in this discursive space."

Dr Tregidga's project explores the effects and affects of this novel language and identity construction on traditional business adversaries such as conservationists and environmental stakeholders.

Student leads Auckland's first architecture parade

THE IDEA of a tower of people 'twittering' won spatial design student Jessica Mentis the right to lead Auckland's first ever architecture parade celebrating Architecture Week 09.

Mentis, who is in her third year of a Bachelor of Design at AUT, gained the lead position in the convoy of mobile architecture floats and the funding to build her design by winning first prize in *Trans-form-ers*. The competition was open to 400 spatial design, interior design and architecture students at AUT University, The University of Auckland and Unitec.

Mentis' winning entry, 'The Tower of Twittering Auckland' featured a tower and performers using Twitter.com and focused on the identity of Aucklanders.



"I am fascinated by the ways in which social networking sites like Twitter contribute to the evolution of language by posing questions about identity in a digital era," says Mentis.

Student entrepreneur winner announced

AFTER a tough *Dragon's Den*-style presentation process, a first-year business student had his dream realised. Andrew MacDonald (pictured) received \$10,000 at the inaugural AUT Venture Fund awards, presented by AUT University Chancellor Sir Paul Reeves.



The money will fund his venture to create an apparel line for divers. MacDonald, a passionate diver, spearfisher and underwater photographer, hopes his brand will become for diving what Billabong is to surfing.

Despite big dreams, the 21-year-old plans to start small.

"I want to do one thing well, so I am starting with a t-shirt line and plan to move into beanies and hoodies for the winter," he says. "I want a Kiwi flavour in the range so that locals and international visitors see it as being distinctive."

MacDonald, who keeps an ideas folder on his computer desktop, believes that surf clothing gives its wearers a group identity and he wants

the same for divers.

"I'm still wearing t-shirts I bought six years ago from overseas which I wear like a badge of honour. But there's nothing here for me in New Zealand," he says.

"I have door-knocked almost every dive store in Auckland and some elsewhere, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive with some retailers saying they'd stock my t-shirts tomorrow if they were available."

MacDonald, who came from Nayland College in Nelson, started at AUT in July just a week before the launch of the AUT Venture Fund. He will now be mentored by the AUT Business Innovation Centre to ensure his idea gets strong business support.

The AUT Venture Fund was established to give students a head start in setting up their own businesses and to enhance their learning experience. Students can apply for up to \$20,000 to support their business ideas.

AUT Millennium partnership boosts sports training and research

NEW ZEALAND'S top athletes and the wider sporting community are benefiting from AUT's partnership with the Millennium Institute of Sport & Health.

Earlier this year AUT strengthened its ties with the Millennium Institute by making a \$12m government-backed investment and becoming a joint shareholder in the facility. The partnership has already begun to yield valuable sports research and training collaborations in areas like biomechanics and human performance.

Recent research and training advances have included PhD candidate Matt Kritz's Movement Competency Screening tool (MCS) which assists strength and conditioning trainers by identifying 'faulty movements' which impede performance and can lead to injury.

PhD candidate Tom Vandenberghe, who recently returned from working with New Zealand's team at the Swimming World Championships in Rome, is developing nutritional strategies to enhance elite swimmers' performance.

AUT also heads up the Long Term Athletic Development programme at the Millennium Institute with PhD candidate Cesar Meylan (pictured) sourcing new and improved forms of training to help young New Zealand athletes.

"The partnership also provides new links for the university's public health research, for the benefit of the country's sporting success and the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders," says AUT Vice-Chancellor, Derek McCormack.

At the time of the investment, Sports Minister Murray McCully described the partnership as a "significant step forward in seeing more New Zealand athletes winning on the world stage".

"For too long New Zealand has lacked a facility that offers our best sports men and women the resources they need to confidently take on the world's best. The Millennium Institute has set a new benchmark for our high-performance sport centres."

Millennium Institute CEO Mike Stanley says the increased presence of the AUT



sport science and research people on site provides a further step up in services available to the athletes and coaches based at the institute, and the incentive for others to train there.

"This development is helping coaches and athletes bridge the gap between New Zealand's current level of sporting success and the rest of the world. Equally it will help us better meet our commitments to community sport and health and to our members and stakeholders."



Anticipation as Manukau campus nears opening

IT'S FULL steam ahead for AUT's new Manukau campus. In March next year 230 new students will start university at the new campus and a further 150 students will continue their Pasifika Early Childhood Teacher Education programme there.

Following consultation that took place earlier this year with community groups and AUT staff, AUT has confirmed that it will offer a mix of undergraduate programmes across business, sport and health science degrees. Pasifika Early Childhood Education will also continue. Not all of these programmes will be taught to completion at the campus immediately, but provision for them will grow as the campus develops. At postgraduate level, AUT will offer the Masters in Education and in Education Leadership, and Business Executive Education programmes that provide courses with

credits towards a postgraduate certificate, diploma or MBA.

AUT Vice Chancellor Derek McCormack says it was important for AUT to do thorough and robust consultation with the Counties Manukau community so that the new campus delivers what the region needs and wants.

"The consultation made it clear to us that a university campus is very welcome, and provided strong direction in terms of the type of programmes that would best serve Manukau."

Feedback confirms the community wants a university offering a full suite of degree programmes and that grows strong postgraduate and research activity as quickly as possible. Community partnering with AUT on industry advisory boards to ensure that the university produces real-world, applied and industry

specific graduates across all disciplines was also suggested.

The campus is already home to the AUT Business Innovation Centre which is strongly welcomed by the community. The Centre's role as an incubator is to provide a hothouse environment through which start-up businesses can find the technical and business expertise they need to develop technology, turn it into product, raise capital and get to market.

McCormack confirms the Tertiary Education Commission supports AUT's plan to increase the student numbers at Manukau campus to 1000 over the next three years.

"We are very pleased to have the Government's support for this substantial new venture, which will make an important contribution to the Manukau community and wider Auckland," he says.

The AUT recruitment team already has a history with Counties Manukau schools through the Prefect Training Programme, Shine Sport, MEN (Males in Education Now), Plantation Business Challenge Programme, and scholarship programmes. They are well known to the community through partnerships with community organisations and private training establishments. AUT is also continuing to develop partnerships with representative community groups including Māori, Pasifika, Indian and Chinese communities, the local business community, not for profit sector and local government.

Youth consultation is also currently underway about the consultation outcomes. 'Next Steps' discussions are also being held with Principals, Career Advisors, Deans, and Academic Registrars and are being hosted on the campus.

The campus itself is located in the heart of the Manukau community on the former Carter Holt Harvey site. Refurbishment to existing buildings is currently taking place with plans for a student plaza and renovated sports facilities in the future. Buildings housing the Business Innovation Centre and the campus reception are complete while two further buildings intended for flexible blended learning spaces (open plan classrooms), a library and a large café facility for staff and students will be ready for the campus opening in March 2010.

New name and venue for graphic design exhibition



LINE DOT LINE, an exhibition of work by all graduating graphic design students at AUT University, runs from 14-22 November. Line Dot Line is a reinvention of the University's annual graphic design exhibition, with new venues and a change in philosophy.

Line Dot Line explores the students' learning environment and the thinking behind their work, as well as displaying their finished designs. AUT lecturer Karol Wilczynska says Line Dot Line will give

an insight into the modern-day practice of graphic design, and reflect on the massive changes in graphic design since AUT began teaching it in the 1970s.

Students' work will also be exhibited at Cross Street Gallery and Play Thing (Newton). A film festival screening of moving image will be held at Galatos on Friday 13th November from 6pm.

Line Dot Line, AUT University, 27 St Paul St, 14-22 November, free entry. www.linedotline.co.nz

US expert says Montessori education best

MONTESSORI parents and educators met at AUT last month to listen to a visiting academic speak about the advantages of Montessori education.

Dr Steven J. Hughes is an American paediatrician and neuropsychologist at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He was recently in Auckland to give a talk titled 'Good at doing things' which looks at why Montessori educated children are simply better at doing things.

The sell-out lecture at the North Shore campus was a chance to hear why Dr Hughes believes that a Montessori learning environment provides an unequalled education experience.

"Knowing what we now know, I can't imagine why anyone would want to do education any other way," says Dr Hughes.

"Montessori is a brain-based, developmental educational method that allows children to make creative choices in discovering the people, places, and knowledge of the world. It emphasises hands-on learning, self-expression and collaborative play," Dr Hughes says.

From Bollywood to the slums of Mumbai

IT WAS a love of Bollywood movies that first made AUT staff member Asenati Semau fall in love with India. But after a two-week holiday opened her eyes to the slums of Mumbai, Semau decided to say goodbye to her AUT colleagues to complete a ten month stint as a volunteer with India's poorest.

Semau (pictured), who works at the Student Information Centre on the City Campus, said her initial trip in 2007 was an enlightening experience, and she knew she wanted to return.

"It was like nothing I had ever experienced before. The issue that really made me want to do this was the poverty – the slums," says Semau. "I volunteer for a youth organisation in Auckland, but what they have is rich compared to how a lot of these kids live."



Semau left the comfort of her Auckland life in October after fundraising for two years to support her ten month sabbatical. Friends, family, strangers and her AUT colleagues have all contributed to fulfilling her dream of helping India's poor.

The dedicated volunteer says that

poverty, poor housing and disease are the main problems in the Mumbai areas she will be based in. She will be working with a local Christian community organisation set up to combat these issues, as well as volunteering at a nearby university.

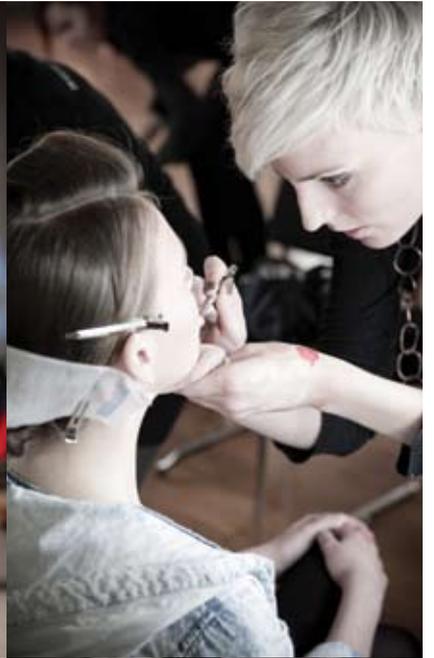
"For the first couple of months I'll just be learning about the work they do. From there I might be helping feed people, or caring for the sick. I might like to start a boxing class or another type of class with some of the kids," she says.

"My AUT colleagues have really supported me by coming to my fundraising dinners. Staff have been so supportive and even provided me with AUT t-shirts."

If you want to get in touch with Semau or sponsor her trip, you can email her at asenati.semau@gmail.com for more information.

SPOTLIGHT ON ROOKIE

Photos from AUT Rookie 2009. For more information visit www.autrookie.co.nz



AUT's first criminology graduates

AUT'S FIRST BA Criminology graduates are equipped with skills that could see them take their place in a number of career fields. At the end of this year the first two students will complete their criminology majors in the degree which started in 2007.

Isaac Henchman is one of the graduates and says his ideal job would be as a criminal profiler, but is first going to travel and do some postgraduate study. "I've always been fascinated by crime, and was already studying history and anthropology with slightly similar themes, then one day I just saw an AUT billboard and decided that's what I should really be doing."

Henchman is well suited to this kind of degree, says senior lecturer in criminology, John Buttle. He says people often don't

really understand what criminology is about. "The building blocks of it are psychology, sociology, political science and a bit of anthropology and economics are helpful, with research and analysis skills critical."

Buttle adds that criminology isn't like *CSI* or *Criminal Minds* on television. "Those programmes are an exaggeration of what really goes on. New Zealand simply doesn't have criminal profilers like you see on TV. They just don't exist."

Some of the topic areas covered include the different understandings of crime, policing and society (including police corruption), and police reform in the New Zealand context. It also covers how prisons are used as a form of punishment.

"You're not learning how to catch



criminals though and that needs to be clear. But it will show you how and why crimes are committed and the social conditions that contributed towards it."

ASK AN EXPERT

Stephen Drain, director of the AUT Centre for Innovative Leadership, discusses authentic leadership

What is 'authentic leadership'?

Being yourself. Authentic leadership is about leading with your own sense of genuine purpose. It is leading with an open and exposed self; acknowledging that we can't possibly have the answers to everything and having the courage to get people around us who will not only fill the gaps but expose those gaps in us.

Which leader do you admire most?

Twice a week I run with an informal group of marathoners, led by a man called Michael, an auto electrician. Michael knows everything there is about running, so that's a good place to start from, but that's only enough to get off the starting blocks (so to speak!) in leadership. He never boasts about his achievements, but as we run he tells stories that inspire us to keep going. He's authentic, because he really cares about us and wants us to complete the training safely and finish our next marathon. He genuinely wants to see us succeed. Not for him, but for ourselves.

What kind of person will be attracted to the Centre's programmes?

Happy people! People who are enthusiastic about life and want to grow themselves so they can grow others. People who are open to the idea that to grow others is really what leadership is. From that place, others will follow and as the leader they will be able to do great things of meaning with their organisation or team.

What is your background?

I grew up in the 1960s and 1970s as the sixth of seven children. When I left school Mum drove me to Canterbury University to enrol in a BCom but a police recruitment brochure lured me away. By the time of the Springbok tour of 1981, I was a police cadet in a career that took me to being a detective. I then joined the newly established Serious Fraud Office as an Investigator. There I learnt about creating systems and processes, and discovered that interviewing people

under pressure gives you unique insights. I completed a postgraduate diploma in finance and an MBA, then started running leadership courses at a leadership training company. Earlier this year, I set up the AUT Centre for Innovative Leadership.

Where are you on the leadership journey?

Halfway exactly! I know what drives me and I get satisfaction from building things and helping other people grow. I know every encounter is a chance to learn and grow, and the more I know about myself the more I realise there is more to learn and grow, and I love it.

Where can I read more?

You can visit the Centre's website www.leadership.aut.ac.nz, my leadership blog: www.stephendrain.wordpress.com, or Twitter: www.twitter.com/AUTLeadership The Centre's inaugural Authentic Leadership Course will be held on 15-20 November.

Farewell CEPD

FOLLOWING a recent review of the Centre for Educational and Professional Development, a restructure of CEPD and its portfolios will take place next year. From 1 January 2010, CEPD will divide into a Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) and an Organisational Development Group (ODG).

The principal objective of the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) will be to ensure that AUT retains its reputation as a university committed to its students and to excellence in its teaching and learning. A key focus of the Centre will be on providing support for academic staff in teaching and learning development, aimed at excellent and innovative teaching practice using blended learning approaches.

The Centre for Learning and Teaching will also provide technical support for multimedia innovation and for Blackboard and related software. A new Director is currently being recruited to lead this Centre and will report directly to the new Pro Vice Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, Professor Pare Keiha.

The purpose of the Organisational Development Group (ODG) will be to develop programmes that promote and enhance workforce capabilities, management and leadership skills, support organisational learning, and enable productive and satisfying work environments for staff at all levels across the university. The ODG will be led by Lorraine Parker, and will promote close working relationships with the HR team and other related sections of the university.

For 2010 the two new centres will continue to work within the current location of CEPD, on Level 1 of Duthie Whyte Building.

Allied staff conference a great day out

EARLIER this year staff gathered in the conference centre at the City Campus to focus on the theme of this year's conference – "Resilience in Turbulent Times ... keeping ahead of the game".

AUT Vice Chancellor Derek McCormack officially opened the conference, and was followed by keynote speaker Ngahihi o te ra Bidois. Ngahihi, an inspirational international speaker from Rotorua, gave a moving account of his journey towards rediscovering his belonging and commitment to Māori culture, particularly through accepting the gift of his ta moko as a symbol of his leadership. He also facilitated a follow-up workshop for managers and leaders to explore aspects of resilience and leadership

to guide our own professional development.

Richard Hall, Head of the Vice Chancellor's Department, was the keynote speaker after lunch. He presented the conference with a fascinating account and visual images of his nine months in Afghanistan leading a team from the NZ Army, reflecting on leadership challenges in Afghanistan.

The day, organised by CEPD, was full of varied and stimulating workshops, ranging from "making your money work for you in a recession" to "riding the winds of change". General Manager of Services and Operations, John Williams, drew the day to a close and co-ordinated the lucky draws for prizes kindly donated by HP & Laser Plus, AUT Sport & Recreation Centre and Platters Catering.

The world of web 2.0

A WORKSHOP on Web 2.0 delivered by CEPD was so well received that further sessions on the topic have been planned. Starting with the Allied staff conference on the 9th September, the demand from staff to attend has led to three more sessions being scheduled with many staff attending from both campuses.

The workshop was also delivered in partnership with the Auckland City Council in two half-day sessions. The morning session was for community and non-

profit groups, with the afternoon session for local and central government. Both groups discussed how they could get more immediate feedback from their users by using Web 2.0 technologies.

"Web 2.0 provides many opportunities for educators to purposefully engage with their students in formative and creative ways," says Peter Mellow, who led the workshops. The popularity of these sessions has led to having them included in staff development workshops planned for 2010.



STAFF PROFILE

Name

Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua tōku waka
Ko Hokianga tōku moana
Ko Te Uri Taniwha tōku hapu
Ko Ngapuhi tōku iwi
Ko Te Kotahitanga rāua ko
Parawhenua o-ku marae
Ko Francis Leaf tōku ingoa

What I do

I was recently promoted to Senior Library Assistant, Bibliographic Services. My role is to assist my Team Manager and Co-ordinators in projects and training. Our team's main role is to purchase and pay for all the material that is in our two and soon to be three Libraries.

Where I am

I'm located on the secret 3rd floor of the Library in WA block.

What I like best about AUT

AUT having an early childhood centre on campus and knowing baby is just a hop, skip and a jump away if I'm ever needed.

The last book I read

My kids' favourite, *The Great Race*, from the *Buzzy Bee and Friends* series.



Francis Leaf

I'm looking forward to...

Watching the All Blacks play in the grand final of the Rugby World Cup 2011. Bring it home BOYS!

What I do when I'm not at AUT

Besides my mahi with Bibliographic Services, I'm a member of Nga Takawaenga Library Committee, a parent representative on the AUT Early Childhood Centre Governance Group, Branch Secretary for TIASA, a member of Nga whānau Māori ki horotiu, and full time mum to my two children Jennifer (4) and Maui (1).

Quick tip about AUT

When I need a quick "pick-me-up", I watch the children at the crèche and see them having loads of fun. Hearing their laughter and happiness makes me want to join in the fun too.

BRIEFLY

Brazil Business Forum

The Latin America New Zealand Business Council and AUT are hosting the Brazil Business Forum: Rising Global Power at AUT on November 17 from 11.30am to 6pm. The forum will be chaired by Sir Don McKinnon and keynote speakers include Minister of Trade Hon Tim Groser, Mario Marconini from the Federation of Industries of São Paulo and a representative of the Brazilian government. Please go to the website for more information: www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/business/brazil-business-forum

SIFE AUT top 24 in world

AUT's Students In Free Enterprise team (SIFE AUT) placed third in their round at the SIFE World Cup in Berlin this October. The team won the National Championship title in July winning the right to represent New Zealand. The presenting group faced a panel of judges representing leading global businesses. The placing puts SIFE AUT in the top 24 teams from 1500 universities worldwide.

CoLab symposium

CoLab, together with AUT's School of Art & Design, presents *Misperforming: A Symposium on the Unstable Paradigms of Performance and Media Arts*, on 28 November at AUT. The keynote speaker is renowned Australian digital choreographer, performer, director and writer, Hellen Sky, who is a graduate of the Australian Ballet School. For more details go to www.colab.org.nz

Championing Pasifika early childhood education

AN AUT staff member has been appointed President of the Sosaiete Aoga Amata Samoa I Aotearoa (SAASIA) – the National Organisation of Samoan Early Childhood Education in Aotearoa.

Fa'asaulala Tagoilelagi-Leota (Sala) has a long history with the organisation and follows in her mother's footsteps, who was a pioneer of Pasifika Early Childhood Education in New Zealand and was the first SAASIA president.



At the recent annual conference Tagoilelagi-Leota was elected as president for the next four years, but has been on the SAASIA Executive since 2005. "My first conference was in 1989 and I've been a member since then," she says.

The theme at this year's conference, attended by over 100 people, was 'reflections on the contribution of Aoga Amata' and covered research, assessment, transition and other issues facing Samoans

involved in early childhood education. SAASIA recognises the importance of giving young children the best possible start in education, by preparing them with quality early childhood education experiences before moving on to primary school.

In her role as president Tagoilelagi-Leota wants to extend the reach and influence of the SAASIA. "I'd like to secure a national headquarters where we can service Aoga Amata nationwide with whatever assistance parents and teachers need."

■ BRIEFLY

Architecture symposium

An international symposium on architecture is happening at The University of Auckland from 13-16 November. *Interstices under Construction Symposium: The Traction of Drawing*, is jointly organised by The University of Auckland and AUT University, and provides a forum for emerging and experienced researchers, from New Zealand and beyond, to exchange views, knowledge and experiences about drawing.

Māori language awards

AUT narrowly missed out on winning the tertiary category at the Māori Language Awards, organised by the Māori Language Commission. Nominated along with Victoria University, The University of Auckland, Massey University, Manukau Institute of Technology, University of Canterbury and Waikato Institute of Technology, AUT came second equal scoring 90 out of a possible 105 points. Victoria University took out the category.

New major in Bachelor of Education

In addition to its current repertoire, the School of Education will be offering the new Bachelor of Education (Primary Teaching) starting in semester one, 2010. Ross Bernay, Programme Leader, Primary Teaching at AUT, says it's important to remember that the grounding you get in the Bachelor of Education means you can work in any kind of classroom setting no matter which primary teaching specialty you choose to study during the final year of the programme.

Adding another string to students' bows

The new international studies major in the School of Languages and Social Sciences is the first international studies major to be offered in any New Zealand university. It can be taken as a single major, double major or minor in the BA or as an additional major in other degrees to provide an international focus. The aim of the programme is to prepare graduates to be successful in multicultural settings internationally as well as domestically where an understanding of global issues combined with intercultural competence

Vietnamese officials look to AUT for tourism training

WHEN Vietnam's government was looking to up-skill its public servants and give them a taste of the world outside Vietnam, it looked to New Zealand and AUT University.

Last month 20 Vietnam government officials took part in a short course focusing on urban planning and tourism development.

The course was run through AUT, and hosted by AUT's Institute of Public Policy (IPP) and New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI).

NZTRI Director Professor Simon Milne says the focus of the programme was how to plan, manage and develop urban tourism but with a focus on sustainability.

"We are looking at how to manage urban tourism in such a way that it will generate economic benefits to local people without compromising or degrading the cultural or environmental resources that the tourism industry depends on," Professor Milne says.

"Tourism is growing rapidly in Vietnam, so it has become a big issue for them. A lot of the Vietnam product is of course beaches and jungles, but a big part is urban. Cities like

Hanoi are under immense pressure from tourism. The city is an UNESCO cultural heritage site, but with the number of tourists and businesses trying to sell to tourists, it creates a number of urban planning issues and problems that have to be addressed if that industry is to be sustained."

Professor Milne says that while New Zealand's tourism industry is very different to that in Vietnam, there are some things we can help with.

"Obviously Auckland is very different to Hanoi, but despite those differences we are all seeking the international tourism dollar and we are all marketing to the international tourism market, and we are all managing and trying to cope with tourism numbers both domestic and international."

During the two week course, the government officials heard about a range of issues confronting metropolitan development throughout the Asia Pacific region; different approaches to urban planning; different sustainable development strategies; the links between development issues for urban areas as places to live as well as destinations for tourists.



Officials from Vietnam get a taste of New Zealand culture while visiting AUT last month

'Taboo' subject on National Geographic

ASSOCIATE Professor Dr Sharyn Graham Davies is appearing on the National Geographic channel as one of the few people in the world who is an expert on gender diversity in Indonesia.



Dr Sharyn Graham Davies

Her expertise has been called on for a new series called *Taboo*. *Taboo* takes viewers on a journey beyond their comfort zones and across cultural borders to explore rituals and customs that are acceptable in some cultures, but forbidden, illegal or reviled in others. The episode Dr Davies features in is called *The Third Sex*. "I was looking into the different interpretation and constructions of gender around the

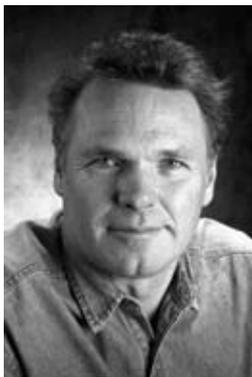
world. I try to travel to Indonesia every year and I like the interplay between the theory of gender and then what people are actually doing and how they are living," Dr Davies says.

She says in most countries the government has a very clear idea about what gender is, but this is often contradicted in real life.

"Indonesians draw on their religion as a way to differ from what the government says. Also some traditional religions believe in multi-gender Gods, so there's some tolerance for gender diversity."

Sea, wind, fog – elemental tools of visiting artist

ONE COULD almost say that artist Chris Welsby lets the natural forces of time and weather direct his films. Welsby (pictured), the latest artist in residence at the CoLab Creative Technology Centre, uses the natural forces as part of the directional process of his landscape films, whose framing, camera angles or edits are triggered by sun, wind or tides.



He has developed special cameras which rely on wind speed or tidal action to create sometimes jarring or mysterious film and video installations for galleries and major museums internationally.

While in Auckland, Welsby, who this year spoke at London's Tate Modern,

has been teaching at AUT, and is exhibiting three installations at MIC Toi Rerehiko Gallery in K Road and is also running public workshops.

Welsby, now a professor in fine art, film, video and electronic media at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, says he is

interested in the relationship between art and nature. "We are nature, we are not separate from it," says Welsby. This approach has seen him adopted by the climate change cause and called a "weather artist" and an "environmental artist".

The exhibition runs from 30 October to 18 December at MIC Toi Rerehiko Gallery (Level 1, 321 K-Road).

AUT staff member made honorary professor

PROFESSOR Leong Yap from AUT's School of Art and Design has been made an honorary Professor of Design by the College of Art and Design at Shanghai University for Science and Technology. The appointment was made in recognition of his contribution to the Chinese university's industrial design department over the past three years.

China is in the process of transforming its predominantly agricultural and manufacturing economy to a design-led economy, says Professor Yap. "A rich pool of creative human capital is needed to enable this transformation to take place, and design and innovation have been identified as the key drivers to spearhead this national strategy.

"During the past three years, I have been invited to run workshops and lectures to staff and students on strategic design thinking, innovation, product design, service design and branding strategy. These workshops and lectures have been very well received by the College. They are in the process of implementing them into their own design programme."



Professor Leong Yap from AUT's School of Art and Design



AF lecture theatre and (above) Piko restaurant



Campus architecture recognised at awards

AUT'S buildings have been recognised at two prestigious architecture awards.

The AF lecture theatre at the North Shore Campus (designed by RTA studios) won the public architecture category at the Auckland Local Architecture Awards. The awards celebrate quality, competent new architecture at a community level and promote excellence in design. The building was praised for its strong sculptural forms that define the edge of the campus, emphasising the link to transport nodes, and creating a square for public outdoor space.

The School of Hospitality's newly-refurbished Piko and Four Seasons restaurants (designed by Jasmax) have

also been recognised, taking home a silver medal in the public and institutional spaces category at the BeST awards held in October. The BeST Design Awards are a national award programme run by the Designers Institute of New Zealand, and recognise New Zealand's best graphic, product and spatial design.

Suzanne Webb, AUT's Director of Asset Development, says the awards are a great achievement. "Both awards have recognised architectural excellence and the willingness of AUT to build quality, innovative teaching facilities, and this is supported by the feedback we are receiving from the design and construction industries."

AUT helps to find New Zealand's first master chef

THE SEARCH is on to find New Zealand's first MasterChef, and AUT's own Ray McVinnie will be on our television screens every week helping to narrow down the competition.

The restaurant chef and lecturer in gastronomy at AUT's Hospitality and Tourism School is set to judge the hit series with Ross Burden, a finalist in *MasterChef UK* in 1993, and Simon Gault, Euro chef.

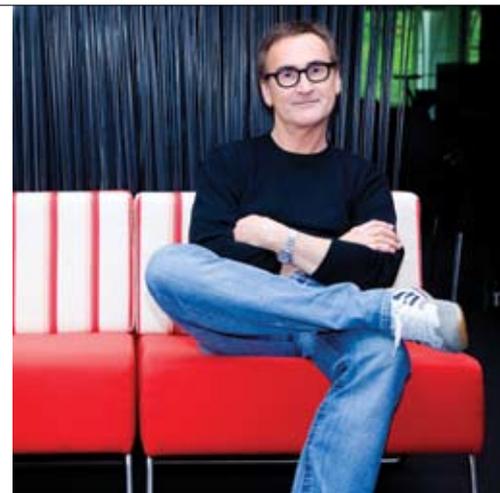
The TV ONE series, due to start in the New Year, wants every kitchen wannabe, from amateur cooks to budding foodies, to toss their chef's hat in the ring.

Cuisine food editor and columnist Ray McVinnie has always had a passion for food. A professional chef for many years at some of Auckland's best

restaurants, McVinnie has judged local and international food awards, and has written numerous cooking books. He is also an experienced food stylist, consultant and guest chef for various restaurants and cooking schools.

When asked what he would be looking for in a contestant, McVinnie says, "An ideal contestant on *MasterChef New Zealand* would be someone with a great love of food and eating, a well-rounded person who can appreciate and understand flavour, with a good grounding in cooking technique, who is modest and willing to learn, but with an unshakeable pride in themselves. Someone who is meticulous in their attention to detail, and has a great deal of stamina."

McVinnie says working at AUT for the



AUT lecturer Ray McVinnie will be a judge on TV's MasterChef programme

last five years has helped him hone his craft and learn how to better articulate his thoughts. "I've got all the theory but working with students has taught me how to get the theory across succinctly. I really like teaching because whenever you have to talk about yourself, you learn about yourself."