

INSIDE | AUT

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

Vice Chancellor's Research Award Winners and Doctoral Scholarships



Professor Ahmed Al-Jumaily
Individual Research Excellence Award

Building a research culture

OVER THE LAST ten years Professor Ahmed Al-Jumaily has made a major contribution to the development of research culture at AUT.

When he first joined AUT he established the Diagnostics and Control Research Centre (DCRC) as the nucleus of research activities for the then School of Science and Engineering. The DCRC was self-funded until 2004 when the University recognised it as a research institute. To promote the engineering school's overall research profile, Professor Al-Jumaily established the Engineering Research Institute (ERI) and combined new research groups with the DCRC under the banner of the ERI. To widen the range of research activities within the school, the DCRC started to

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Dispelling myth and creating Pacific pride

Pacific Island Family Study group lead by Professor Janis Paterson
Special Award for Research Excellence



JANIS PATERSON has directed the Pacific Islands Family Study for nine years as she strives to secure a better understanding of Pacific peoples' lives, and the contributions they make within their communities and New Zealand.

The success of the country's first Pacific multi-disciplinary, longitudinal study is testament to its team of dedicated researchers who have been recognised this year with the VC Special Award for Research Excellence.

Paterson says winning this award is an honour and only adds weight to the passion the unique research team possesses.

The study offers a slice of Pacific family life and to date has looked at areas such as health, nutrition, matters of the family, gambling, smoking, physical

From L to R: (back row) Professor Janis Paterson, Leon Iusitini, Nick Garrett, El-Shadan Tautolo, Gerhard Sundborn, James Heimuli, Professor Philip Schluter. (Front row) Shamshad Karatela, Professor Max Abbott, Amor Hirao

activity, obesity and breastfeeding.

The findings have fed into the immunisation debate; resulted in a Samoan breastfeeding contact at Middlemore hospital; highlighted oral hygiene issues with infants; identified gender and ethnicity gambling habits; and much more.

"Outcomes are informing policy makers, stakeholders and Pacific communities of the issues that should be addressed by themselves and their representatives," says Paterson.

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LETTER FROM THE VC



THIS MONTH'S issue of *Inside AUT* profiles the achievements of staff and students pursuing research excellence. Research is fundamental to the mission of AUT and we are building a strong reputation for the scope and quality of our research programmes. Last month I had the pleasure of awarding five Vice-Chancellor's Research Awards and a further nine Doctoral Scholarships, in each case recognising outstanding work. The research awards and the doctoral scholarships are just some of the ways by which we show our commitment to encouraging and enhancing AUT's research outputs and initiatives, and mark the end of a significant application and assessment process.

I would like to congratulate recipients Professor Ahmed Al-Jumaily (Individual Research Excellence), Dr Scott Duncan (Emerging Researcher Excellence), Professor Kate Kearins (Excellence in Postgraduate Supervision) and the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing Technology (directed by Professor Darius Singh, Team Research Excellence) for their outstanding contributions. You can read more about them and their research later in this publication.

I also took the opportunity this year of making a special one-off award to recognise the outstanding contribution of the Pacific Island Family Study. Led by Professor Janis Paterson within the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, the Pacific Island Family Study has built an outstanding reputation over the nearly 10 years it has been running. It is New Zealand's first multi-disciplinary, longitudinal study of Pacific communities and is a flagship research project for the University and the Faculty.

In this issue you'll also find profiles of our nine Doctoral Scholarship recipients. The high calibre of the almost 70 applications received across a wide range of subject areas made the task of selecting the eventual recipients a challenging process – and also offered a window into the breadth of research topics and talent on offer at AUT. Providing these scholarships is always a rewarding experience, and I look forward to seeing these research projects come to fruition.

Derek McCormack

Research Award Winners

Dispelling myth and creating Pacific pride

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The 'slice of life' study has been running since 2000. A vast majority of its more than 1,800 cohort remains, enabling AUT researchers to enter the third stage of study looking at adolescence.

"The fact that the community group is still behind us and willing to partake in the study is a sign of its importance to the Pacific people."

Another positive sign is that the research team has grown, allowing AUT to increase the breadth of study.

"We have attracted more Pacific PhD and Masters students who are keen to add value back into their communities," she says. "They understand its importance to their people. It is also allowing us to channel Pacific graduates into study and mentor and grow Pacific research capacity."

Building a research culture

From page 1

promote various areas of electromechanical engineering; however its main focus remained in the biomedical applications of engineering principles. In 2007, this area was expanded to evolve the DCRC into the Institute of Biomedical Technologies (IBTec) of which Prof. Al-Jumaily is the director.

To accelerate the engineering school's research potential and attract excellent students, he established four postgraduate programmes: the Engineering pathway within the Master of Applied Science (as a quick start, transition qualification offered from 1998); the Postgraduate Diploma in Research (offered from 1998); the Master of Engineering (offered from 2001); and finally the Master of Engineering Studies (offered from 2003). His attention to postgraduate programmes has paid off; since 1998 Prof. Al-Jumaily has drawn 70 postgraduate students to the University.

Prof. Al-Jumaily has also concentrated on building staff research capacity within the engineering school by attracting new academics, and assisting other staff to gain higher qualifications. He has also helped staff members who have never carried out any postgraduate supervision to develop their research capabilities, and attract research grants to develop their own research programmes.

He has also paid specific attention to establishing research and development links with industry. Prof. Al-Jumaily has established links with more than 25 companies, and conducted funded research with more than 15 of them, with specific research partnerships with organisations that include Auckland, Massey and Otago Universities, the Auckland District Health Board and the Mayo Clinic of Medicine.

On the funding front he has attracted more than 30 Technology for Industry Fellowship (TIF) grants, each worth \$25,000; two Bright Future Scholarship contracts valued at a total of \$150,000; and generated more than \$2m in research funds as of December 2007. This year IBTec succeeded in a TBG application to work on a \$2m project with Fisher & Paykel HealthCare to develop future-generation respiratory devices. He is currently awaiting decision on a \$1m contract from the Health Research Council.

Research Award Winners

The driving force for a revolution

**Centre for Advanced Manufacturing Technology
Team Research Excellence Award**

FUEL-EFFICIENT, lightweight cars could have their birth place right here at AUT University.

As car manufacturers spend billions of dollars looking at alternate energy for vehicles, Professor Darius Singh and his team at the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing Technology (CAMTEC) are focusing on new manufacturing processes for lightweight alloys for automotive chassis and powertrain components, as well as various biomedical and aerospace applications.

AUT has recognised CAMTEC's work by giving it the Team Research Excellence Award 2008 under Professor Singh's directorship.

Professor Singh has more than a decade's experience in creating aluminium alloy wheels and engines for customers like Ford Motor Company, Harley Davidson Motorcycles and GM Holden. He and his

growing team are using their expertise to design and manufacture using light alloys and materials developed from aluminium, magnesium, plastics and even titanium.

As these new materials (developed by CAMTEC with partner organisations) are not yet fully commercialised and utilised in industry, Professor Singh and his team are developing new design rules, predictive computer modelling and optimisation algorithms, and niche manufacturing processes, to break open new pathways to adoption and deployment for industry.

The magnesium alloy research in particular has garnered attention both locally and internationally as CAMTEC won a three-year \$600,000 research grant in 2007 to design lightweight, high performance magnesium alloy wheels for the V8 racing fleet. Add to this the \$50,000 grant received from other related international contracts with CAMTEC in



FROM L-R: Prof Darius Singh, Dr Indra Gunawan, Dr Sarat Singamneni, Associate Prof Zhan Chen, Dr Guy Littlefair, Prof Olaf Diegel, Prof Thomas Neitzel, Dr. Timotius Pasang

2007, and a two year \$750,000 FRST RFI (research for industry) grant in 2008, and attention and industry interest is significant.

CAMTEC, which is one of five centres in AUT's Institute for Industrial Innovation, is also part of the recently awarded new Materials Accelerator programme which brings together seven research organisations led by the University of Auckland, into a 'one-stop-shop' to help New Zealand manufacturers develop new high-value materials and enter new export markets.

Funding of \$9.6 million over four years for the Materials Accelerator has been awarded as part of the High Technology Transformational Research, Science & Technology initiative. This is a new initiative administered by FRST.

Addressing childhood obesity through research and collaboration

**Scott Duncan
Emerging Researcher Excellence Award**

SCOTT DUNCAN'S dedication and high-volume research output in the area of childhood obesity has seen him awarded this year's Emerging Research VC Award.

"It's a huge personal honour," he says. "I must share the credit with my talented colleagues whose teamwork contributed to my success – as all researchers are aware, very little is done in isolation and I am fortunate to have a great bunch of people around me."

More recently, Duncan was awarded a considerable grant from the Health

Research Council (HRC) to develop and evaluate an applied 'Healthy Homework' programme that will integrate healthy home-based initiatives for children. This innovative concept is a world first and is expected to lead to a full grant later this year, which will see it develop into an integrated programme running throughout New Zealand schools.

"I strongly believe that the considerable burden of obesity and lifestyle disease in this country can be alleviated through positive action, based on innovative research and cooperative relationships."

For an emerging researcher, Duncan has achieved an admirable publication record in high quality national and international forums, including 12 peer-

reviewed journal articles, 21 conference presentations and six commissioned reports. He also spoke at two symposia late last year including the Healthy Eating-Healthy Action (HEHA) conference that brings together health researchers and providers from all over New Zealand.

Duncan has demonstrated a great commitment to furthering AUT's reputation as a top university producing high quality and relevant research, and currently provides guidance to several emerging researchers and postgraduate students.

"As an emerging researcher I am really only at the start of my academic life. I hope to achieve a long and productive career within AUT."

Research Award Winners

Assisting students on a global scale



Kate Kearins
Excellence in Postgraduate Supervision

WINNING this year's VC Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Supervision is recognition of the drive Kate Kearins puts into ensuring her students reach the highest level of achievement.

"It's personally satisfying to see people do well and to have a role in that," she says. "Watching them move from being dependant on your guidance to a place of independence is a great feeling."

Supervision comprises a large part of Kearins' role at AUT and with students dotted all over the world it's not rare to find her in conversation late at night or in the early hours of the morning.

"I have graduated PhD students from Egypt and Nepal, a masters student from the United Arab Emirates, and I currently have candidates in Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand."

Kearins' own international research

reputation, and leadership role within the Academy of Management, has benefited her ability in facilitating job connections for her students.

"I am proud of their achievements," she says. "My students have gone on to win top academic awards, step into tenured positions at international universities and research institutes, and a number have gained senior appointments in the world of business, not-for-profits and consulting."

Kearins began working for AUT in 2003 and in the past six years has supervised two honours, three masters, and 14 doctoral students. She is also a mentoring supervisor. Her research supervision crosses the disciplines of management and accounting.

"Above all, I believe that each person I have supervised has the capacity to do exemplary research and that it's my role to help take their research to the next level."

Doctoral scholarships

Art about ideas

THE IDEA of language as a performance is central to Brent Harris' doctoral thesis.

Harris is creating a performance art project that responds to, and reflects upon, the ideas of the philosophers Emmanuel Levinas and Giorgio Agamben.

"Levinas and Agamben question the ethical and political traditions of the West. By responding to their ideas through performance art, I aim to create a new angle on performativity (the operation of language as a performance)," says Harris.

Harris says his work is part of an explosion of research on performativity. "There is a growing appreciation of performativity as a means of understanding the cultural world."

Harris' thesis will be made up of a series of performance art pieces that inform each other followed by written analysis and reflection. For him, this doctorate is the natural next step in an academic career that has combined his love of performance with his interest in

performance theory.

Harris has a wealth of study behind him, holding degrees in physical education, dance, and teaching. After an honours year in spatial design at AUT in 2005, he completed his Master's of Philosophy in performance art in 2007.

"I am pleased to be continuing a strong working relationship with my supervisor, Associate Professor Mark Jackson, who also supervised my honours and masters projects," says Harris. Harris' other supervisors are Associate Professor Chris Braddock (AUT) and Associate Professor David Cross (Massey University).

Last year Harris travelled to Germany on a Goethe Scholarship, taking the chance to absorb German language and culture. Other projects included carrying out a work in the Blue Oyster Gallery Performance Art Series in Dunedin. This year he will attend the Performance Studies international Conference in Zagreb, Croatia, presenting a paper



Brent Harris
Design and Creative Technologies

and also participating in a collaborative performance called "Shift".

"I am proud and honoured to receive a Vice Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarship," says Harris. "For me it means I can devote time to my research and not spend so much time working to support my study."

Looking ahead to life after his doctorate, Harris sees himself continuing his art practice, developing multidisciplinary collaborative projects, and pursuing an academic career.

Doctoral scholarships

Optimal challenge

AUT UNIVERSITY doctoral student Jonathan Currie (Ngati Hauiti, Ngati Kahugunu) has chosen a thesis subject that will see him involved in a significant industrial implementation. He will work with other doctoral students on an international project developing a real-time optimiser for the PETRONAS oil and gas corporation in Malaysia.

"The optimiser we create will allow PETRONAS to balance economic considerations with achieving maximum output," says Currie. "Right now, PETRONAS has a simulator that can predict the chemical behaviour of the many products an oil refinery produces. The question now is: are these products, (such as petrol / diesel / avgas) the best product suite possible, or would a different portfolio, perhaps produced in a different way, pay bigger dividends? Our optimiser will tackle these sorts of problems."

Currie and his colleagues need to ensure that their real-time optimiser integrates with existing simulators at PETRONAS. "We have to create something that works with what is already there – that is a big part of the challenge."

At 22, Currie already has an impressive academic record. After leaving school at an early age and a short stint as an apprentice electrician he came to AUT and found opportunities, graduating in 2008 with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) majoring in electrical and electronic engineering. "The facilities and staff at AUT are excellent," says Currie. "I want to take my learning a lot further and there are so many opportunities here."

The phrase "take every opportunity" applies well to Currie, who has taken on teaching work while studying, and has grabbed the chance to take extra interest courses like the recent iPhone programming course run by AUT. Currie has added an extra challenge to his doctorate by choosing a project based in the relatively unfamiliar field of chemical engineering. He will plug any gaps in his knowledge by picking up extra undergraduate and masters papers along the way.

With supervisors at both AUT (Associate Professor David Wilson) and the University of Auckland (Associate Professor Brent Young), Currie is enjoying access to the expertise and resources



Jonathan Currie
Design and Creative Technologies

of both universities. The opportunity to be part of the PETRONAS industrial implementation arose through an invitation to Associate Professor Young, from PETRONAS.

Currie is clear on what the Vice Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarship will mean for him: "It will make a big difference. Paying my own way through the doctorate would have been a lot more stressful. Now I will have fewer financial concerns and will be able to enjoy my PhD more."

What's next for Currie after his doctorate? Unsurprisingly, he has ambitious plans – finding a job at NASA!

Academic challenges of learning online

MORE AND MORE people will access education online in the future, but what are the academic challenges facing them? Thus far research has looked at how students returning to learning feel about it. But VC Doctoral Scholarship recipient Nancy Angrove is researching student and tutor/support staff perceptions of the academic challenges facing postgraduate students who are returning to study online, after more than five years away from a classroom.

Angrove believes that online learning is a great alternative for people who can't access main centres. Having completed a master's degree online herself, Angrove has some experience of the academic

struggle some students encounter.

"They are a hugely variable group and there are a lot of assumptions made with adult students. Sometimes when you are going back to learning you have to pick up new ways of learning quickly and even though students are capable of meeting the same learning outcomes, they all have different starting points."

Angrove wants to gain a better understanding of teaching and learning in an online environment and identify new ways of helping students. She's looking forward to working with her supervisor Dr Pat Strauss, a senior lecturer in adult literacy and numeracy.



Nancy Angrove
Applied Humanities

Doctoral scholarships

Employee perspectives on CSR



Kirsty Raubenheimer
Business and Law

BANKS ARE leading the charge in global corporate social responsibility (CSR) best practice and now PhD scholar Kirsty Raubenheimer is investigating what that could mean for employees.

CSR activity is often environmentally and sustainability focussed, says 24-year-old Raubenheimer. While this is a good thing, she says, an organisation is unlikely to maximise successful CSR practice externally if it hasn't matched the external values to the internal environment.

"One is very much dependent upon the other," says Raubenheimer. "There's plenty of information out there driven by senior management and their idea of what's going on in their organisation and how it's implementing its CSR programmes. My research seeks the whole picture by gaining the employee perspective."

"The results will show whether what management think is happening is actually happening within their own workforce. The employees may have a completely different story. Where there is a discrepancy, there will be an opportunity to close the gap and match the organisation's CSR vision to the employee experience."

Raubenheimer says her topic grew out of an employment relations paper taken in her Bachelor of Business with Honours degree. Her research asks whether there is a relationship between employer branding and employee-focussed CSR,

and how does the relationship relate back into human resource management.

She chose New Zealand, Australian, UK and European high profile banks because she saw it as "starting at the top" with an industry which could potentially make global changes to HR practice.

"The banking industry has considerable influence and standing," says Raubenheimer. "There is very little current research in the area of CSR and employer branding yet it deserves rigorous formal academic study."

"The opportunities are endless and could create outcomes applicable not just for the banking industry but all industries that use banking as a benchmark."

She says the results of her comparative global study could play a key role in overall management focus and business structure to ensure a consistent and holistic view of CSR.

"The banks in this study will have the opportunity to project externally to potential employees what is actually happening in the business. That is, the employer branding will match how the organisation projects itself internally as well as to potential employees externally."

Standing on own feet critical for elderly

Jennifer Basement
Health and Environmental Sciences

IDENTIFYING poor balance in the elderly could prevent falls and keep people living in their own homes for longer.

VC Doctoral Scholarship recipient Jennifer Basement is tackling this issue with her doctoral study aiming to create a model for identifying impaired balance and a rehabilitation programme to restore postural control.

"The benefits of the study will be two-fold. The successful development of an individual rehabilitation programme for elderly at risk of falling will benefit the ageing population, and the programme

would have economic benefits in terms of a reduction in healthcare costs."

Based at AUT's Health and Rehabilitation Research Centre, Basement is working with researchers at the University of Technology of Troyes, who have developed a modified bathroom scale to assess balance in the home and return the results via Bluetooth for assessment.

The system can be used to detect any degradation in balance quality, and Basement will use it to assess the results of her rehabilitation programme.

Research has shown the critical relationship between falls and a loss of independence for elderly. "The greatest risk factor for institutionalisation is a fall,

with fallers three times more likely to be institutionalised compared to non-fallers."

Prolonging personal autonomy has also been shown to decrease functional decline in the elderly.

The economic spin-offs could also be significant. By 2051, 25 percent of the New Zealand population is expected to be aged over 65, a relative rise of 105% on 2006 figures. The Ministry of Health has indicated this projected increase will have dramatic consequences for New Zealand healthcare expenditure, which is expected to rise to 9.2 percent of GDP by 2051. Of that health spend, it is estimated 63 percent will go toward elderly, in particular long-term healthcare.

Feeding New Zealand's mussel industry

A BETTER START in life for mussels could deliver massive profits to New Zealand's shellfish industry.

VC Doctoral Scholarship recipient Annapoorna Ganesan is looking into the role of bacterial biofilms on the settlement and nutrition of mussel larvae and juveniles. Current mussel farming processes see juveniles collected from the beach attached to seaweeds and then seeded onto the mussel farm ropes, but mussel losses can be as high as 100 percent.

"Despite the expansion of the New Zealand aquaculture industry in the past 20 years the sector still has considerable potential for profitable growth. This is especially true for mussel aquaculture since New Zealand's green-lipped mussel is considered a superior product in the international market."

Ganesan's research will involve mussel larvae and juvenile settlement experiments

and ultimately it is hoped will feed improvements to New Zealand's mussel production. Mussel exports represent New Zealand's fastest growing primary industry and exports of green-lipped mussels already exceed \$200 million.

"Any significant discovery or improvement on mussel growth and production is likely to have a directly positive impact on earnings." Another potential outcome of the work is international patents.

Ganesan's research will be informed by existing research from her AUT supervisors in the Aquaculture Biotechnology Research group, Dr Andrea C. Alfaro (Marine Ecology and Aquaculture), Professor John Brooks (Biofilms and Microbiology), Dr. John Robertson (Chemistry), Dr Colleen Higgins (Molecular Genetics), and Dr. Noemi Gutierrez-Maddox (Probiotics and Microbiology).

Research carried out by this AUT



Annapoorna Maitrayee Ganesan
Health and Environmental Sciences

team of supervisors and students has demonstrated that chemical cues, and potentially biofilms, play a critical role in the settlement process of larvae and juveniles.

Inspired by nature

Anuraganand Sharma
Design and Creative Technologies

THE WAY the human body fights off a cold could be the key to fighting computer viruses, according to VC Doctoral Scholarship recipient Anuraganand Sharma.

"My doctorate looks at how computers could mimic the human immune system," says Sharma.

The doctorate continues Sharma's strong research interest in artificial intelligence; he is looking to nature for answers on how to deal with computer network intrusions. "With the swift development of computer applications have come just as many unwanted side effects in the form of sophisticated viruses, worms, trojan horses and other "malware".

"I am seeking inspiration from the

way the human immune system works, to create new ways to protect computer systems from unwanted intrusion," says Sharma. "My thesis will investigate how to integrate natural immune system detection mechanisms with the latest computational advances to provide better ways to protect systems and data."

The aspects of the immune system that particularly interest Sharma are memory cells, which form a "database" of known infections, and anomaly detection, which sets a baseline of normal network activity and identifies deviations from it.

In 2007 Sharma completed his Master's of Science in Computing Science at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji, for which he won the University's Gold Medal.

Sharma will begin his doctorate at AUT in July 2009.

Sharma says he chose to do his doctorate at AUT on the basis of its high academic standards and emphasis on

research: "My supervisor, Professor Ajit Naraynan, has a strong interest in artificial intelligence and a very high research profile. He is also a very helpful and supportive mentor."

In practical terms, Sharma hopes that his thesis will result in applications that can detect new viruses and computer intrusions not detected by traditional virus scanners. He expects the research to benefit the computer security industry, business communities and government ministries.

"The Vice Chancellor's scholarship will allow me to enhance my professional and academic career, and has reduced the heavy burden of studying abroad."

Once he has completed his thesis, Sharma expects to return to Fiji and take up an academic career at the University of the South Pacific. But he also hopes to continue doing research work in collaboration with his AUT colleagues.

Doctoral scholarships

Reducing injury to improve performance



Lisa McDonnell
Health and Environmental Sciences

LISA McDonnell is looking for ways to reduce a trend among New Zealand's elite rowers which is seeing over half suffering from debilitating rib injuries.

McDonnell, who has received a VC Doctoral Scholarship to carry out the research, will look at the biomechanical differences between healthy rowers and rowers with a history of rib stress fractures, with the intention of designing preventative measures to reduce the number and severity of injuries.

"More than 50 percent of the country's elite rowing squad has had a rib fracture in the last three years," she says. "No other country records such high statistics so there is a need to find out what is causing them."

She will use the award-winning Bioharness system and ShoePod instrument to identify the risk of injury, and later ascertain whether preventative measures she puts in place are effective.

"The Bioharness will allow me to see whether certain body angles put more

pressure on the chest cavity as well as record the variations in the amount of chest expansion and compression of injured versus healthy rowers."

Foot pressure will be measured using pressure sensors, or a ShoePod, which will be slipped inside the rowers' shoes.

"It will allow us to see the amount of pressure a rower places on their feet each time they push through a stroke.

"The unique aspect of both these instruments is that they measure and record data immediately, allowing coaches to see results in real-time and improve individual rower's performance while out on the water."

The end game is to provide New Zealand's rowing coaches with the tools and information they need to reduce rib stress injuries. McDonnell expects her findings to be significant performance enhancers, important in the lead-up to the 2010 Rowing World Championships being held in New Zealand at Lake Karapiro.

Metaphor in New Zealand Sign Language

JACKIE Thomson first trained at AUT (then AIT) in 1992 in the First Interpretation Programme and since then has been heavily involved with the Deaf community. That involvement is taking its next step as she embarks on her doctorate looking at metaphors in New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL).

AUT has traditionally led the way with sign language in New Zealand, and was the main driver behind it becoming an official language in New Zealand, alongside English and Māori, in 2006. To date, there is no research into the use of metaphors in NZSL and only limited research has been done in the UK and the US where sign language is completely different to NZSL.

Contrary to what most people think, NZSL is not based on spoken language. The biggest misconception about it, Thomson says, is that it's a manual code

for the English language. "Deaf people are visually motivated so they experience the world visually and develop their thoughts quite differently."

Metaphors occur in language everyday; they are so embedded now, she continues. "Metaphors are quite an integral part of language and they are a strong feature in NZSL, but they are hard to identify and separate."

Jackie is hoping her research will help to validate NZSL as a rich language. "It's about time it had some mana. The research will hopefully be a tool for the empowerment of Deaf people and I hope it acts as a springboard for more research."

Jackie draws on the expertise of supervisor Dr Lynn Grant who is an expert in metaphors in the spoken language, and Dr Rachel McKee who is co-opted from Victoria University and specialises in sign language.



Jackie Thomson
Applied Humanities

100 entrepreneurs, 100 ideas:

The Entrepreneurial Summit opens door to ideas from all New Zealanders

ENTREPRENEURIAL Summit coordinator Tony Falkenstein was so overwhelmed with interest to participate in a brainstorm of New Zealand's best entrepreneurs he opened up the event to "the man on the street".

Just Water International CEO Falkenstein says after announcing the summit in late March, he received emails and phone calls from more than 50 of the country's most successful business people, from as far afield as the US and the UK, asking to participate.

Summit organisers are seeking ideas that leverage the opportunities for the whole of New Zealand or create a competitive economy for future entrepreneurs.

Falkenstein says New Zealand was built on the bedrock of great ideas and

now it's time for Kiwis to bring their water-cooler conversations to the table.

"Kiwi men and women of all ages and cultures have an inbuilt pioneering spirit," he says. "Now's the time to do something with that one great idea they've been chewing over these past few months."

The Entrepreneurial Summit, being held on May 21, is being sponsored by ANZ, PricewaterhouseCoopers and the AUT Venture Fund. The Summit team invited initial expressions of interest from more than 200 entrepreneurs including well known Kiwi entrepreneurs Graeme Hart, Peri Drysdale and AUT alumnus Stephen Tindall.

Enthusiasm was so high however, organisers decided to invite all of New

Zealand to participate. But entry to the summit is going to be competitive, adds Falkenstein.

"We're looking for ideas that are original, simple and can be actioned immediately. So while some ideas might be brilliant, the Entrepreneurial Summit board may decide that others are just a little more brilliant."

Attendees will be given the opportunity to present their best idea to peers. From the initial 100 ideas, the top 10 to 20 will be chosen throughout the day and presented to Prime Minister John Key.

For more information and to submit an idea, please go to:
www.entrepreneurialsummit.co.nz



Design talent

AUT STUDENT Anzac Tasker (pictured) has been awarded the prestigious Designworks Fellowship. Tasker, who is completing his honours year of a Bachelor of Design majoring in graphic design, topped a field of 25 nominees nationwide.

The fellowship includes \$2000 towards funding the final year of study, and paid part-time work with Designworks while studying, and fulltime work at the completion of study.

Serving up a modern venue

IT'S BUSINESS as usual in AUT's top class campus-based restaurants, after a significant refurbishment late last year.

After 13 years of operation, Piko (formerly Truffles) and Four Seasons have had full makeovers, transforming them from tired and dated looking restaurants to modern and vibrant eateries attracting new customers and continuing to impress with their excellent service and food. Auckland architecture firm Jasmmax has modernised the interior and exterior of both restaurants and added a large barista bar area into Piko.

Both restaurants are open from Monday to Thursday for lunch and dinner but they are also available for private and commercial use.

"Being located in the heart of the city makes them the perfect venue for your breakfast meeting, awards ceremony or conference. The restaurants have also been used for book launches, staff meetings and medical conferences in the past," says John Kelly, Food and Beverage Team Leader in the School of Hospitality and Tourism.

The flexible nature of the venues and the ability to operate commercially are a draw card for those wanting to book something big or small, formal or informal. To make a booking at Piko or Four Seasons, phone Kaye Smeaton, 921 9999 ext 9932.



After 13 years of operation, Truffles has been transformed into Piko

CEPD CLIPBOARD

Linkages between research-led teaching and ideal graduate attributes

ON 23RD March, Professor Ray Land (Director, Centre for Academic Practice and Learning Enhancement, University of Strathclyde) presented a seminar on linkages between research-led teaching and ideal graduate attributes, to academic leaders in Auckland tertiary institutions. The seminar was timely for AUT University because at the end of 2007 the University formally made an explicit commitment to research-led teaching. While the term teaching-research nexus is familiar to most AUT academics, a fully elaborated AUT stance on the notion of research-led teaching/ education and the associated concept of

scholarship, has yet to be formulated. Drawing on findings from a major investigation of the place of teaching-research linkages in Scottish universities and their relationship to the development of desirable graduate attributes, Professor Land proposed an agenda for an institution-wide dialogue that could help a university develop such a stance. He emphasized the need to clarify the meaning of terms like “research-led teaching”, and observed that there was good evidence that students were more likely to acquire the attributes that both academics and employers typically valued, if they were engaged in research-

like learning activities from the outset of their undergraduate programme. Helping students become proficient in their use of research/enquiry-based approaches to learning is one way that beneficial linkages can be established between teaching, learning and research. CEPD staff are keen to contribute to dialogue at all levels within AUT about the commitment to research-led teaching. Contact Neil Haigh (extn 6833; nhaigh@aut.ac.nz) for further information and resources. The findings and case studies from the Scottish project are available at www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/themes/ResearchTeaching/default.as

CEPD on the move... to WY



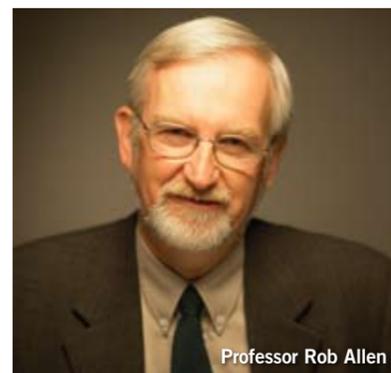
FROM Monday 20 April, the Centre for Educational and Professional Development will reside in new premises on Level 1 of the Duthie Whyte building (WY). The move from WU to WY frees up space close to the Business Building for the new Law School. We will have a seminar room and a computer training room in Duthie Whyte, so it will be “business as usual” – and we look forward to welcoming all staff to our new location. This move completes our relocation on both campuses, so do drop in and see us at:

City campus: Level 1 Duthie Whyte, cnr Wakefield St and Mayoral Drive.
North Shore campus: AE109, the prefab complex adjacent to the School of Education.

Launch of AUT’s Leadership and Management Enhancement Programme

AUT’S LEADERSHIP and Management Enhancement Programme (LMEP) was officially launched by Professor Rob Allen (DVC, PVC Learning and Teaching) at the first Management Breakfast for the year on Tuesday 31 March. Late last year, CEPD piloted the programme, which consists of five core modules and follow-up workshops, and links with a range of forums, programmes and resources. This year three iterations of the programme are being offered: semester one, semester two, and as a block course in April.

At the breakfast a number of speakers shared their experiences of other leadership and management programmes which are either run or endorsed by AUT. The speakers were all past participants of these programmes. They provided an overview of the programme; identified the appropriate target group; and shared their learning and key benefits of the programme. Reflections and learning were shared by: Tiffany White (LMEP); Lizzie Kelly (Catapult Leadership Programme); Malcolm Pike (AUT MBA Programme); Candice Harris (NZ Women



Professor Rob Allen

in Leadership Programme); Joanna Scarbrough (TEC Senior Management Development Programme) and Serena Tiaiti (Personal Leadership Success.)

CEPD produced a leaflet giving an overview of Leadership and Management Development programmes available for AUT staff and a grid indicating the target group for these different programmes.

For more information contact Lorraine Parker (lorraine.parker@aut.ac.nz) or Vivienne Duffy (vivienne.duffy@aut.ac.nz) or visit: http://www.aut.ac.nz/staff/cepd/leadership_development/

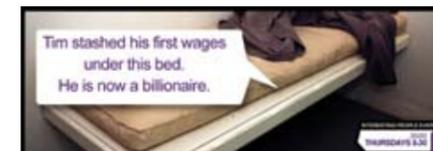
AUT shines at ad awards

IT WAS a highly successful night for AUT advertising students and graduates at the recent AXIS Advertising Awards held at Auckland’s Vector Arena.

Advertising creativity students, Hayden Maskell and Anna Rose Kerr, took the coveted AXIS/TVNZ Student Award for their TV2 20/20 campaign.

Of the three finalist campaigns, two were from AUT; the other AUT finalists were Sally Huang and Clare Chapple.

The AXIS Emerging Talent Award was picked up by AUT graduate Rory McKechnie, who is now employed at Draft/FCB. This makes it the fourth year in a row this award has been won by



Hayden Maskell and Anna Rose Kerr’s winning TV2 20/20 campaign.

AUT alumni. All the other finalists in the category were also AUT graduates.

AUT advertising creativity graduates also picked up three gold AXIS awards and one silver award for print, direct marketing, and billboard advertising.

The awards, now in their 29th year, are attended by the top names in the New Zealand industry.

What would you do with six months off work?

TRAVEL overseas? Write a book? Complete a qualification? These are just some of the ways that AUT employees who participate in AUT’s self-funded leave programmes use their time away from work.

In the 4 for 5 programme employees set aside 20 percent of their salary for four years. During the fifth year employees can take leave of absence and receive 80% of their most recent salary. The 2 for 2 ½ programme is similar, but the period of savings is 2 years and the leave is for 6 months.

Dr Dale Furbish, Programme Leader in the School of Education, conducted research into how 22 members of AUT staff used their self-funded leave to fulfil a work-life balance. Staff overwhelmingly responded that the experience had been positive.

“I see it as giving people a time resource to develop other life roles which they may not otherwise be able to fulfil. It allows people to establish that work-life balance,” Dr Furbish says.

Unlike a sabbatical there are no obligations on staff who take this sort of leave, and your place back at AUT is guaranteed. Self-funded leave is open to all fulltime employees with permission from a supervisor. For more information contact HR in the first instance.

WHAT’S ON?

PROFESSORIAL ADDRESS, Professor Ian Eagles, Dean of Law, Faculty of Business and Law. Tuesday 5 May, 4.30-5.30pm, Conference Centre, second floor WA building, City Campus.

AUT MBA Consulting Club breakfast meeting. Feed your mind over a hot breakfast while listening to the experts in the consulting industry. Thursday 7 May, 7-8am, Four Seasons Restaurant, WH, City Campus. This month, speaker Kevin McCaffrey will be speaking about pathways to consulting. RSVP to breakfast@consulting.org.nz or maka@consulting.org.nz

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

- Australian Consul General and Senior Trade Commissioner to New Zealand Michael Crawford – Tuesday 19 May, 6.30am, AUT University Conference Centre.
- Air New Zealand CFO Rob McDonald – Thursday 28 May, 6.30am, AUT University Conference Centre.
- The New Zealand Governor General Anand Satyanand – Wednesday 3 June, celebrating the Breakfast Club’s 16th Anniversary with an evening cocktail function at the Northern Club. For further information and bookings email: breakfastclub@aut.ac.nz

Neuro research centre a first for NZ

NEW ZEALAND’S first national research centre looking at the effects and rehabilitation methods for sufferers of stroke and other debilitating neurological disorders opened at AUT last month.

National Research Centre for Stroke, Applied Neurosciences and Neurorehabilitation director Professor Valery Feigin spoke at the opening about the need for the country to gain a better understanding of the effects of stroke across all ethnicities, and the best forms of rehabilitation.

“Society often perceives neurological disorders as lifelong but outcomes can and should be improved. It is also important to realise the majority of neurological disorders are preventable.”

“It’s critical to have well established interventions that both prevent and recover people with neurological disorders,” he says. “The very nature of a neurological disability means that people don’t have a loud voice, so awareness around the importance of early rehabilitation is low and public health support often limited.”

Professor of Epidemiology and Neurology at AUT, Feigin has already played a role in major neurological research projects and recently led a groundbreaking review published in Lancet Neurology which investigated the worldwide incidence and outcomes of stroke in 28 countries over the last 40 years.

The National Research Centre for Stroke, Applied Neurosciences and Neurorehabilitation (NRC-SANN) will conduct high quality epidemiological research and clinical trials to improve health and outcomes in people with major neurological disorders such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis and dementia.

The opening was attended by the Deputy Minister of Health Jonathan Coleman, North Shore’s Deputy Mayor Julia Parfitt, and representatives from the health industry, Stroke Foundation, Brain Injury Association, AUT and Auckland University.



Dancing with theory and practice

AUT UNIVERSITY was host to 120 tertiary dance students for the In Running Order Dance Symposium. The students from the University of Auckland, University of Waikato, UNITEC and AUT's own dance programmes took part in classes, workshops, forums and research presentations.

Senior dance lecturer and co-organiser Linda Ashley says the one-day event encompassed dance research from a

variety of perspectives, but always returned to the integration of theory with practice.

"The focus of the event was not so much on the daily dance regime but on new physical and verbal dialogues exploring the choreographic, philosophical, scientific, technological and educational elements of dance."

The event was organised with support from the Tertiary Dance Educators Network New Zealand Aotearoa (TDENNZ).

Sir Paul presents top award to top student

AUT UNIVERSITY Chancellor Sir Paul Reeves last month presented AUT's highest undergraduate business award to one of the University's most outstanding students.

Bachelor of Business graduate Xavier Black collected three awards at the AUT Business School Award ceremony, held at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

She took home the ANZ Award for top graduating student in SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise); the 360 Marketing Award for the top Māori graduate in the Bachelor of Business; and the Consortium Award for top overall graduate in the Bachelor of Business.

Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law Professor Des Graydon says Black, of Ngati Whatua descent, is one of the school's highest ever achieving students.

"We have more than 6,000 students enrolled in business at AUT and standing out at this level requires commitment, grit and determination," he says.

"Xavier has consistently achieved an A average across all her papers throughout her degree, where she majored in marketing. She represents the best of the best and it's an honour to have her at our Business School."



Xavier Black with Sir Paul Reeves

Black is currently completing her Master of Business degree studying management, marketing and sustainability, specialising in corporate social responsibility.

The North Shore resident says AUT's unique face-to-face undergraduate teaching style was pivotal to her learning success.

"The small classrooms and personal interaction with lecturers enabled me to learn from their experiences," she says. "My lecturers and the dynamic papers were invaluable in constantly challenging my understanding of the meaning of business and the role it plays in society."

The AUT Business School Awards acknowledge AUT's highest achieving students and celebrate New Zealand academic excellence. Twenty nine students collected 32 awards at the evening ceremony.

Previous award-winner of six academic awards, Kelly Lee, won two awards: The Carat New Zealand Award for the top graduate BBus majoring in Advertising; and the Pacific Business Trust Award for the top Pasifika graduate in the Bachelor of Business. MBus graduate Liya Yan also collected two awards: the CCH Award for the top graduate in the MBus majoring in Taxation; and the Lexis Nexis Award for the top overall graduate in the Master of Business.

Another award saw two recipients take the stage, both of whom gained the same final result. Tania Ang and Barbara May were joint recipients of the IAS New Zealand Award for the top graduate in the MBus majoring in Management.