



**Massey University**

# Massey News

Auckland • Palmerston North • Wellington • Extramural

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ki Pūrehuroa



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Winning playwright David Collins.

## Top international playwright close to home

The judge of Massey's international playwriting competition did not have to look far to find a winner. David Collins, a graduate of School of English and Media Studies, works just across campus at the library.

His play *The Thought Experiment* beat 33 others in the inaugural competition, winning \$1000 and the chance to have the one-act play produced at the Festival of New Arts in October. The theme of the competition was "New World", but Mr Collins says the new world of his play is not a physical destination.

"The play involves a man undergoing counselling and working through his past infidelity. So the new world is not a physical place as such, but rather a psychological place he reaches."

The play has two main actors, but, like Greek tragedy, there's a three-person chorus, which Mr Collins says becomes more involved as the play progresses.

The play is one of the first he has written, having been an actor in local productions over the past five years.

"I wanted a new challenge and thought writing would give

me that. Having workshopped other people's work over the years, I'm looking forward to seeing how a director will produce my work, given that the script doesn't have many stage directions."

Mr Collins says his love of theatre began while studying expressive arts at Massey.

"I took a paper or two to begin while studying science and technology. If not for discovering the English and Media Studies expressive arts papers, I doubt I would have ever found a love for acting, theatre and, yes, writing."

Playwright Stuart Hoar judged the competition and says he was struck by the range of subjects and the diversity of the plays.

"David Collins' play is an interesting and evocative drama, well written, and experimental in the sense of being a dramatic thought experiment."

The top six plays in the competition will be staged at the festival in October. Expressive Arts lecturer Dr Angie

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# New Zealanders mostly active, happy and healthy

New Zealanders are generally happy people but most would like more leisure time and 70 per cent say lack of money prevents them from pursuing preferred activities in leisure time.

These are some of the findings from a survey of sport and leisure in New Zealand, carried out by Massey University researchers as part of the annual International Social Survey Programme (ISSP).

The survey found 85 per cent New Zealanders are involved in some sort of sport or physical activity.

Walking came out top as the most frequent sporting or physical activity, favoured by 35 per cent, but getting fit, going to the gym, cycling, jogging and playing golf or rugby are popular activities with New Zealanders.

Three quarters of the population regularly play games involving their brains rather than their bodies.

The most popular are word or number games like crossword puzzles and Sudoku (both 20 per cent), but video and computer games, card games, board games and gambling games are also played by between 5 and 15 per cent of people. Women, particularly older women, like word games whereas young men are more likely to play video games and computer games.

The survey showed the most popular activities are watching television, listening to music, playing sport, getting together with friends, going shopping, spending time on the internet and reading books.

Leading academic institutions in 43 countries contribute to the ISSP and the New Zealand data is provided by Massey.

Member countries carry out a 30-minute survey using identical questionnaires and

Figure 1. The Ideal Man

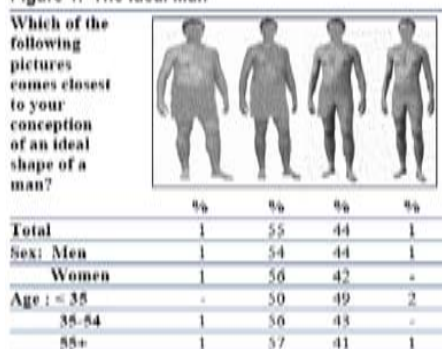
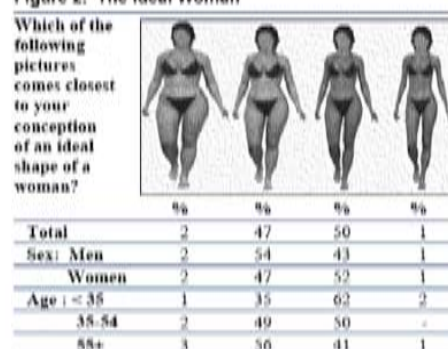


Figure 2. The Ideal Woman



deposit the data in central archives in Europe. From it social scientists examine similarities and differences between countries and monitor changes over time.

Professor of Marketing Phil Gendall from the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, leads the New Zealand survey. Between October and December last year, 2250 people over the age of 18 were surveyed by mail about sport and leisure activities and to gauge their health and happiness.

Seventy per cent said they watched television or a DVD on a daily basis and 59 per cent said they listened to music every day whilst 30 per cent read books.

When it comes to body shape, the ideal woman was seen as being slimmer than the ideal man and although men were generally happy with their figures, women – particularly middle aged women – showed up as much more likely to want to lose weight.

The women tended to choose a slimmer body shape than men as ideal, and it is this perception of the ideal female shape that

places pressure on them to lose weight, says Professor Gendall. Fifty-four per cent of all participants wanted to lose weight and middle aged women were the group most concerned about it.

“The results are consistent with other findings,” says Professor Gendall. “They also help to explain why dieting is more common among women than men, and why concerns about body shape among young women can lead to eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia.”

Generally New Zealanders were found to be happy and healthy, says Professor Gendall. The survey shows the happiest and healthiest are married men and women; the least happy and healthy are divorced, widowed and separated men.

The full report is available here:

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/Massey%20News/2008/05/docs/sport-and-leisure.pdf>

## Top International playwright close to home

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Farrow is the festival's artistic director and says the competition has already raised the stakes in terms of community involvement.

“Students as well as the wider Palmerston North community are getting behind the event. Massey continues to be the main sponsor of the Festival of New Arts and it is fitting that the university should be supporting new creative initiatives and emerging artists in this way.”

The competition attracted entries from around the world, including Britain and Australia.

The Festival of New Arts is a showcase for original works in all disciplines and will be staging the competition winners along with other art works. It will be held at various venues throughout the city including the Dark Room at Centrepont Theatre, The City Library, Square Edge, The Globe Theatre and at the Palmerston North campus.

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# Timber workers study links cancer, respiratory disease to occupational PCP exposure

Researchers at the Centre for Public Health Research investigating the health of former timber workers have found levels of dioxin more than twice that of long-term Paritutu residents and significant prevalence of health effects related to PCP exposure.

The findings of the study Health Outcomes in Former New Zealand Timber Workers Exposed to Pentachlorophenol (PCP) were released this afternoon by the Department of Labour. The study was funded by the Health Research Council after continued concern that timber workers exposed to PCP were suffering long-term health problems. The PCP used at the time was contaminated by some types of dioxin during manufacture, with the study confirming that the types of dioxin found in the workers fit the profile of the dioxin found in PCP at that time. Dioxin is known to increase the risk of cancer.

Lead investigator Dr Dave McLean, a research fellow of the centre, says the study was comprehensive. The first phase comprised tracking and analysis of health information and the work practices of almost 4000 randomly-selected timber workers

"The group worked in the industry before the late 1980s, when PCP was used. They were selected using industry records and followed to the present day to assess how many had died and how many had developed cancer," Dr McLean says.

The second phase of the research comprised a survey including interviews and clinical examinations of 293 surviving workers.

"We went out and held clinics around the country, inviting people to turn up for a blood test, questionnaire-based interview a physical and neurological exam.

"Looking at their lifetime work history, and in particular their history of work in the timber industry, we established that about 10 per cent of the former timber workers had heavy exposure to PCP.

"People with heavy exposure to PCP were three times more likely to have respiratory disease. People with more PCP exposure also had increased prevalence of a number of other health conditions, including eczema, thyroid disorders, unexplained persistent fevers, recurrent nausea and diarrhoea, heart palpitations and low libido. Not all of these increased risks were statistically significant, because the number of workers with heavy exposure was quite small."

Dr McLean says that as cumulative exposure increased there was also increased prevalence of neuro-psychological symptoms, including memory loss depression and tiredness.

"This is an indicator that there may be some damage to the central nervous system, in this case at a level similar to that of people heavily exposed to solvents. The concern is that we're measuring sub-clinical changes but that in people of this age there may be repercussions because they will have reduced capacity to compensate for the effects of ageing."

The third phase of the study included blood testing for dioxin levels in 71 of the exposed workers and 23 non-exposed workers. These, when combined with the results of blood tests undertaken on 23 members of the Sawmill Workers Against Poisons (SWAP) group showed that the exposed workers had much higher dioxin levels than those not exposed.

"Comparisons of the intensity and years of exposure also saw a very clear dose-rate relationship – people who mixed the solutions, handled the timber and cleaned the sludge in the dip tank with the highest levels."

The tests showed that the exposed workers had dioxin levels about the same as those observed in former long-term Paritutu residents while SWAP members had levels around twice that.

## Working makes for a happier retirement

People over 65 who are still working feel better than those who have retired, new research shows.

Initial results from the Health, Work and Retirement Longitudinal Study, carried out by researchers from the School of Psychology, have been released. The study collates information gathered from 6662 people aged between 55 and 70 years old regarding their transition from work to retirement and how it affects their health.

Researcher Dr Fiona Alpass says data collected from the first questionnaire indicates those still employed past the age of 65 rate their own mental health higher than those who have stopped working.

"But we don't know yet whether retirement leads to poor mental health or whether poor mental health leads to early retirement. I suspect it is a combination of both, but the data from upcoming questionnaires is needed to confirm that."

Unease about their financial situation once retired was also a concern.

"Almost half of our working respondents thought their living standards would decline in retirement. However, it must be noted that a large percentage thought they would stay the same."

She says most participants were also concerned about future economic trends and the effect they may have on retirement living

standards. But while the study's participants expressed concerns about retirement, a significant percentage of those still employed had done little in the way of planning for their retirement.

"Planning has mainly consisted of discussing retirement with their spouse or partner."

Dr Alpass says the research team will carry out two-yearly questionnaires with the participating group and track the changes in their work and retirement situation and the relationship of these changes to health and well-being.

"It will be interesting to see how their views change over the next few years."

# Exploring reasons why criminals cannot say 'no'

A study integrating theories from criminology and psychology has provided an in-depth explanation for the link between self-control and why people get into crime.

Dr Mei Williams, who graduated at Auckland last month with a PhD in psychology, says the relationship between self-control and criminal activity has been little understood in psychological terms. Findings from her study suggest possibilities for the treatment and prevention of criminal behaviour.

"While criminologists have found low self-control to be one of the strongest risk factors for crime, its lack of explanatory power has been a major concern," she says.

In her study, she compared the level of self-control, motivation, and criminal intentions between students and prison inmates.

Both groups were asked about their criminal activity over the previous 12 months, the opportunities that would encourage or prevent criminal involvement, attitudes towards crime, the expectations of important others, and the person's confidence and control over their behaviour should they wish to commit a crime.

Low self-control featured more strongly as an explanation for intentions to commit crime for prison inmates than it did for students. While self-control was an important aspect, of even greater significance for both groups was the role of significant others. This was especially related to the expectations of significant others, and the willingness of the individual to comply with those expectations. This factor appeared



Dr Mei Williams.

to be crucial as to whether a person with low self-control got involved in crime or not.

Rehabilitation programmes that help inmates develop better self-control through self-management techniques and by ensuring there are "important others" who are positive role models would have a powerful way of countering not only crime but other detrimental behaviours, such as aggression and general delinquency, she says.

Dr Williams teaches forensic psychology at Massey's School of Psychology in Auckland and has worked with the Corrections Department's psychological services in developing treatment plans for prison inmates. She believes being in prison is often a time when criminals are at

a crossroads in their lives and had the opportunity to re-evaluate themselves and their attitudes.

"That's when we need to focus on self-management and finding out what things they value."

She says inmates are no different to law-abiding citizens in that they shared the same goal of getting money and wanting to look after their family, but they had different values and behavioural patterns when it came to achieving these goals.

"They need to learn pro-social values, such as how to achieve their goals without hurting other people."

## New artist in residence hopes for prolific term

James Norcliffe hopes a torrent of words will flow onto the page during the next three months as he begins a term as the Palmerston North's Literary Artist in Residence.

The award-winning writer expects to finish a novel and a collection of poems while living in the writer's quarters in Square Edge.

Mr Norcliffe, who has published six collections of poems and five fantasy novels, says he'll be living a monastic life.

"I'm a binge writer and now I'll be able to live my work 24-7. I'll go to bed thinking about it and expect to get a lot of work done during my time here."

He says the three months away from his position at Lincoln University, where he teaches foundation English, will provide the perfect opportunity to focus on his work.

Mr Norcliffe says he is grateful for the opportunity to work at the Palmerston North Campus, which he says is a beautiful place.



James Norcliffe.

"I've held similar positions in Australia and the United States and expect the next few months will prove to be just as worthwhile."

As well as writing, Mr Norcliffe will also provide valuable feedback to students enrolled in the university's creative writing programme.

Lecturer Tom Conroy says James Norcliffe was chosen as the first of this year's three visiting artists because he has a broad range of abilities.

"James is an accomplished poet and writer who'll give students valuable feedback on their work. It's important students can seek assistance from someone who won't be grading them."

An event to welcome Mr Norcliffe to the city was held on Friday evening at the Palmerston North City Library.

## Treatment plan spells hope for abused children

A new treatment programme developed by a University researcher has brought relief to children who suffer Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms as a result of being abused.

Dr Jackie Feather, a clinical psychologist who graduated in Auckland in April with a PhD, says the trauma-focused cognitive behavioural therapy programme she has developed through her doctoral research has improved the lives of children traumatised by sexual and physical abuse as well as witnessing domestic violence.

The distressing effects of PTSD – including nightmares, flashbacks, avoidance behaviour, loss of confidence and self-esteem and physiological symptoms such as racing heartbeat, sweating, disturbed sleep – can last a lifetime if not treated, she says.

Sixteen children aged between nine and 15 and diagnosed with PTSD participated in the study. Using established Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) techniques, they were taught how to cope with the emotions and thoughts arising from traumatic experiences, as well as how to relax and stay calm in the face of fearful thoughts, and an understanding of the symptoms they were experiencing.

Having worked as a clinical psychologist for nearly 20 years helping abused children through the Child, Youth and Family service, Dr Feather is concerned that various treatment programmes used in New Zealand have not been evaluated in terms of their effectiveness. For her research she developed a therapeutic manual based on a combination of existing therapy methods.

Her aim was to ensure children were being helped, then to use her findings to create a systematic, coherent approach to treating children from all ethnic groups in New Zealand. She hopes the manual will soon be published and made available to therapists working with abused children.

"With all the media attention on child abuse, it's good for people to know there is something positive being done, and that children can be helped," she says.

Dr Feather has just returned to Central Queensland University, where she is working with former Massey lecturer Dr Kevin Ronan in adapting her programme for abused children in Australia.

# Sheep a major source of leptospirosis infection

The changing profile of victims of leptospirosis and the high number of cases amongst Hawke's Bay meat workers have prompted a co-operative study into the disease between the University's EpiCentre and meat company PPCS. The research was carried out in February and March at the PPCS Takapau freezing works.

Thirteen of 15 patients admitted to Hawke's Bay Hospital suffering from leptospirosis from 1999-2005 were employed as meat workers or inspectors. Blood samples and interviews were conducted with 242 volunteers. Twenty-three (9.5 percent) tested positive to antibodies for *Leptospira* serovars pomona (13) or hardjo-bovis (9) and one tested positive to both.

Dr Jackie Benschop says these workers had occupational exposure to sheep only. "This, in combination with our results, adds weight to the hypothesis that sheep are an important source of leptospiral infections for humans."

The results are preliminary and the EpiCentre leptospirosis team, led by Associate Professor Cord Heuer, still has more work to do on the data collected.

"These results are not adjusted for the fact that these workers may have had exposure to leptospirosis outside of the workplace," says Dr Benschop. "We'll be concentrating on potential lifestyle exposure to leptospirosis in the data over the next few months."

Further data analysis will also help determine the effect of the worker position in the meat plant on exposure to *Leptospira* species, giving clues to transmission pathways. Dr Benschop says workers reported – and researchers saw – good use of protective gear at the PPCS plant, with staff wearing gloves, glasses and face masks when working in potentially exposed areas, limiting exposure to *Leptospira* bacteria that are shed in the urine of infected animals.

Keith Sandilands, PPCS group health and safety manager, says the company has a rigorous policy around the wearing of personal protective equipment. With support from occupational health nurses and doctors the company runs a leptospirosis education programme, including sound knowledge on early intervention.

"This has eliminated reported cases to a large extent and enables early treatment in the isolated reported cases," says Mr Sandilands. "In the majority of instances this alleviates to a significant level the potential severity of the symptoms that individuals can experience with this condition."

The EpiCentre team intends to build on the study to look at other occupationally-exposed groups including those working with cattle such as farmers, meat workers, technicians and veterinarians. Over the 2001-2003 period most human leptospirosis infections in New Zealand were associated with contact with cattle, either on their own or with other animals.

Dr Benschop says disease control in New Zealand has focused on dairy cattle and pigs however an estimated 90 percent of beef and 10 per cent of dairy herds are still not vaccinated. Exposure from deer and sheep is also high.



Dr Jackie Benschop.

"Research to determine a baseline prevalence amongst people who have no occupational exposure is another important area for future work."

Researchers believe there is significant under-estimation of the disease, particularly as it takes seven to 10 days for leptospirosis to be detected by blood tests, leading to under-reporting.

"What we can say is that leptospirosis is a serious disease of unknown magnitude,

with leptospirosis incidence in New Zealanders high in comparison with other temperate developed countries."

A rise in public interest and awareness of leptospirosis follows news last year that a meat worker had died from the disease. This prompted the revival of Rural Women New Zealand fundraising for leptospirosis research. Earlier fundraising efforts by the organisation enabled the publication of more than 70 research papers by Massey scientists in the 1970s and 1980s and the development of vaccines for cattle and pigs.

The exposure of meat workers is one of the areas requiring further research identified in the Department of Labour's report into leptospirosis last August.

On 19 May Rural Women New Zealand will present a cheque for leptospirosis research to Dr Benschop at its national conference in Blenheim, following its year-long leptospirosis fundraising campaign.

Dr Jackie Benschop will present the results of the PPCS study at the New Zealand Veterinary Association Conference to be held in Wellington from 25-28 June.

## Lange's line theme of speech-writing competition

The University is holding a speech-writing competition commemorating former Prime Minister the late David Lange, which is being supported by his widow and former speech writer, Margaret Pope.

Two prizes of \$1000 are being offered to the writers of the best speeches containing the term "hold your breath" used in Mr Lange's address at the 1985 Oxford Union debate.

Competition organiser Dr Heather Kavan, a lecturer in the Department of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, says the title was chosen because it was from the most well-known line delivered during one of Mr Lange's most celebrated speeches. "The phrase also

lends itself to a variety of topics and genres, and challenges writers to build suspense," Dr Kavan says.

The televised debate on 2 March 1985 was over New Zealand's controversial decision to ban nuclear-weapons and nuclear-powered warships from its waters, which resulted the previous month in the Labour Government declining a United States request for its guided missile destroyer USS Buchanan to visit.

Mr Lange's opponent was the American evangelist Jerry Falwell, but it was a demand for an answer to a question from a young American man on the opposing panel that prompted Mr Lange to say: "And I'm going to

give it to you if you hold your breath just for a moment. I can smell the uranium on it as you lean forward."

Ms Pope, who will be on the judging panel for the competition, recalls that although she wrote the notes for the Oxford address, it was very unusual for Mr Lange to say anything exactly as she wrote it.

"In fact a great deal of the Oxford Union speech I'd never heard before the night it was uttered.

"I would have been greatly discouraged if he had said it exactly as I wrote it because when he was on his best form he didn't need notes at all."



# Auckland region has 'world class' potential

The Auckland region needs a strategic organisation with the power and resources to tackle the "strategy deficit" the region currently faces, says senior lecturer in public sector management Dr Andy Asquith.

"Auckland has a unique opportunity to strike a balance between strategic governance and a localism that would re-connect citizens with their institutions of governance," Dr Asquith says.

Dr Asquith says the current organisational fragmentation raises questions about the ability to deliver a Rugby World Cup that matches expectations. Failure to deliver, he says, will almost certainly mean New Zealand will cease to be considered to be a suitable venue for high profile sporting events.

"This is the chance to create lasting, credible institutions capable of meeting the expectations of a complex and varied populace, while at the same time creating a vibrant, economically prosperous, world class city.

"Existing institutions and organisations are seen as parochial and ill-equipped to



focus on the bigger picture of an increasingly complex society. This weakness is one which is being levelled at existing governmental administration arrangements in the Auckland region."

Dr Asquith has worked extensively on local government research projects both in New Zealand and in Europe and says there is a need to raise the level of the debate to "one which has meaning and relevance to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance".

"There has been an alarming level of comment and debate from so-called experts

with little academic credibility or those with vested interests in maintaining at least part of the current local governance structure.

"A patchwork of the eight existing local authorities – the Auckland Regional Council and seven territorial local authorities – is unable, and indeed apparently unwilling to begin to grasp and appreciate the scope and scale of major strategic issues facing the region as a whole.

"Globally, both city and regional management are recognised as complex activities. Not only do politicians and public sector managers have to deal with local and national pressures, they also have to deal with the implications of globalisation."

Dr Asquith, from the College of Business on the Auckland campus, has provided the background research for the Employers and Manufacturers Association (Northern) submission to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance. He is also a member of the One Auckland Trust – the organisation that argues for a single voice to provide Auckland with a new strategic direction.



The student group currently getting workplace experience on the sport management programme in Palmerston North are, from left: Michelle Adams, Rachel O'Connor, Zandra Turner, Charlotte Pearson, Horrice Molyneux, Eddie Karoua, Michael Wootton, Allana Neeve, and Matthew Quinn.

## Employers like new approach to sport studies

The workplace experience that is an integral part of undergraduate sport management studies, is making a good impression on employers, says Dr Andy Martin, a lecturer in the sport management programme, in the College of Business.

Dr Martin is one of a team of researchers investigating how academic and workplace learning are integrated. The study is part of a wider Teaching and Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) across three sectors of tertiary education: business and management, sport studies and science and engineering, led by Associate Professor Richard Coll of Waikato University.

The study is investigating pedagogical approaches in tertiary institutions with work integrated learning programmes. Groups of employers, students and practitioners are being interviewed about integrating on-campus and off-campus learning and how this is facilitated by teachers.

Initial findings from the study indicate that employers are impressed

with the work integrated learning opportunities within the University's sport management degree and see it as a point of difference, Dr Martin says. The employers – many of whom are Massey graduates themselves – acknowledged the value of integrating business theory to support practice, particularly the benefit of being based in the setting of the College, he says.

Dr Martin recently jointly managed a summer event with the Manawatu Triathlon Club that attracted nearly 2000 children and provided sports management students with a case study event.

"This growing event has all the key elements of a 'magic' event and allows students to reflect on current practice and integrate knowledge and skills gained in class."

Students in Dr Martin's sport management practicum have worked at many events in the Manawatu and most recently 15 volunteered to help at the Weetbix Triathlon in Palmerston North where over 1000 children participated.

## Graduation celebration in Palmerston North

More than 1300 students will graduate this week during the University's major capping week, 1337 undergraduates and a record 37 PhDs.

Nine ceremonies will be held at the Regent on Broadway Theatre, with the graduation marquee in The Square hosting morning or afternoon tea and entertainment after each graduation procession.

The week starts with two ceremonies for graduates of the College of Sciences, at noon and 3pm today. Guest speaker for the first ceremony is Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton. The Massey Medal will be awarded at this ceremony to Noel Johnston, a Massey alumnus and farmer who has held roles in the agriculture industry from a director of Tui Milk Products to membership of the Ministry of Agriculture's 2004 Flood Recovery Committee. Speaker for the second ceremony at 3pm is Howard Moore, Massey alumnus, executive director of BioPacific Ventures and a commercialisation expert. Mr Moore is also guest speaker at the Alumni and Friends graduation cocktail function on Tuesday evening at The Regent.

College of Business graduands cross the stage on the second day of ceremonies, with chief executive of Toyota New Zealand Alistair Davis the speaker for the first ceremony and businesswoman Annah Stretton, recipient of the 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year Award, speaker for the second ceremony. Mr Davis will also speak at the Business After 5 function co-hosted by Massey and Vision Manawatu in the graduation marquee on Wednesday evening.

Wednesday's ceremonies see College of Education, College of Creative Arts, New Zealand School of Music and the Centre for University Preparation and English Language Studies graduations. Speaker for the morning ceremony is the new chief executive of Te Manawa, Steven Fox, while speaker for the College of Education ceremony is Emeritus Professor David MacKenzie, an expert in education.

Former MP Judy Keall is the guest speaker for Thursday morning's ceremony, which includes graduands from nursing, midwifery, health science, psychology, Māori visual arts and social work. Mrs Keall chaired the social services and health select committees during her time in Parliament, from 1984 to 1990 and 1993 to 2002. Graduands from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the afternoon ceremony



on Thursday will hear from Colonel Tim Keating, commander of the 2nd Land Force Group at Linton Military Camp. The Extramural Students' Society dinner will be held in the Coachman Hotel on Thursday evening, with Vice-Chancellor Designate Palmerston North MP Steve Maharey speaking, while the University's graduation dinner will take place the same evening in the marquee in The Square.

A ceremony to honour Māori graduates in all disciplines will be held on Friday at The Regent, with 68 graduates and their whanau expected at the ceremony. About half are receiving postgraduate qualifications, with three new PhDs being awarded. Speaker for the Māori ceremony is Māori Land Court Judge Craig Coxhead. Judge Coxhead is a former president of Te Hunga Roia Māori ō Aotearoa, the New Zealand Māori Law Society.

## PhD for hospitality and tourism researcher

When Shirley Barnett was growing up her father managed a central North Island pub and recollections of how he ran the establishment are ingrained in her childhood memories. Years later, those memories have contributed to her research in the service and tourism sectors and to her graduation as a PhD this month.

Returning to study as an adult student in the Department of Management and subsequently to lecture and research in hospitality and in tourism management, she found formal study of management strategy in the accommodation sector to be scarce – and notably lacking on the subject of customer retention.

Although studies had shown that retaining five per cent of customers could lead to an increase in profits ranging from 25 to 85 per cent, there had been no empirical study on customer retention in the New Zealand accommodation sector.

To rectify this paucity of data in an industry that contributes 9 per cent of the nation's GDP, she embarked on her doctoral study *Understanding Guest Retention: An examination of New Zealand accommodation establishments*.

With average annual occupancy rates in New Zealand's hotels and



Dr Shirley Barnett.

motels hovering around 55 per cent, retention is a strategy that owners and managers could implement in order to increase occupancy and profits, says Dr Barnett. Many motel owners and operators have bought their businesses for lifestyle reasons and just accept the quiet times without thinking about guest retention to boost annual occupancy, she says.

To learn more about understandings of retention in the sector she surveyed 146 establishments that offered accommodation, and had both a restaurant and a liquor licence. She also did in-depth studies with a large city hotel, a mid-size resort hotel and a motor lodge.

She found that many of the surveyed establishments focused on the acquisition of new business rather than retention of guests and they saw retention as a proxy for satisfaction.

Overall, she found a lack of specific strategy aimed at retention of guests, and where there was a strategy to encourage lapsed business this was not measured or monitored. The in-depth studies found that managers were building relationships with their customers but did not see this as a guest retention strategy.

Despite existing data on the importance of customer retention to profits, Dr Barnett found that theory has not translated into practice in the New Zealand accommodation sector where she found "seat of the pants" management practices to be common.



# New doctorates at Palmerston North

## Doctors of Philosophy

### **Maria Alejandra Ayanegui Alcerreca – PhD in Veterinary Clinical Science**

Dr Alcerreca's research deals with the epidemiology and control of leptospiral infection in New Zealand farmed deer, prompted by concerns about the prevalence of leptospirosis in the national farmed deer herd. The objective was to provide the deer industry with an enhanced understanding of the epidemiology and distribution of leptospirosis, and the role of a vaccine as a possible control measure to reduce animal and human risk of disease. A survey confirmed 80 per cent of the tested herds across the country were infected.

### **Samuel Thomas Vaughan Alexander– PhD in Computer Science**

Dr Alexander's research focused on the effects of emotion in educational software, with an initial study of interactions between students and human tutors, using facial expressions as a measure. An artificial intelligence method for adapting to student emotions in tutoring systems was developed. The mathematics tutoring system featured an animated tutoring character, "Eve", which can detect expressions of student emotion using a web-cam, and respond with her own expressions. Results showed that enhancing educational software with emotional awareness can increase student motivation and learning.

### **Ahmed Mohammed Rida Amerah – PhD in Nutritional Science**

Dr Amerah studied the effect of feed particle size, whole wheat feeding and exogenous enzyme supplementation on broiler performance and digestive tract development. In New Zealand, medium grind is typically used for grinding grains, with the primary aim of maintaining good feed quality. The findings suggest that energy savings during feed processing could be achieved by coarse grinding of grains with no adverse effect on broiler performance. Further, cereals used in broiler diets can be ground more coarsely than the current practice.

### **Andre Luis Chautard Barczak– PhD in Computer Science,**

Dr Barczak studied rapid object detection in computer vision. His work focused on overcoming some of the limitations of current methods used when objects are subject to geometric transformations. A new feature extraction method was developed which extends the usability of moment invariants. Advantages of the method include rapid computation and invariance to rotation, scaling and lighting conditions. His work can

be applied to areas such as video processing, surveillance, optical character recognition, and image-based quality assurance.

### **Shirley Jean Barnett – PhD in Management**

Dr Barnett's research explored guest retention in New Zealand accommodation establishments. Findings confirmed that owners and managers actively worked to retain their guests, and knew the value and importance of retention. However, an in depth case study of three establishments found that few actual retention strategies were implemented and owners and managers focused more on guest satisfaction and building relationships with customers. Dr Barnett proposed an alternative to the 'Service Profit Chain'.

### **Jan Elizabeth Binnie – PhD in Plant Biology**

Dr Binnie investigated the presence and properties of a key enzyme, ACC oxidase, involved in ethylene biosynthesis, studying Royal Gala apple trees. Ethylene is a plant hormone which plays an important role during leaf senescence, fruit ripening and leaf and fruit abscission. Her findings may allow improvement of the quality of apple fruit, if leaf senescence can be delayed by the down-regulation of ACC oxidase in leaf tissue. This could lead to increased photosynthate and carbohydrate storage for fruit growth.

### **Stewart Roger Collie – PhD in Chemistry**

Dr Collie's research addressed the requirement for durable, electrically conductive textile materials in the development of smart textile systems – which will become a key feature of future communication, medical and entertainment systems, if their electrical properties are durable in everyday use. He developed a method that allowed more durable inherently conductive polymers to be deposited. The research also highlighted the critical role of the substrate structure and fibre type in the composite's electrical properties.

### **Gillian Mary Craven – PhD in Psychology**

Due to high rates of depression and anxiety in older adults, Dr Craven researched the connection between vulnerability and protective factors among older adults. Attachment was a unique predictor of decreased family support, increased friend support and increased received family support. Higher independence resulted in increased positive effect, while sensitivity predicted increased negative effect. Findings contribute to cognitive interventions for enhancing older adults' mental well-being.

### **Ahmed Ali Didi – PhD in Education**

Dr Didi explored how an urban primary school in the Maldives dealt with school

improvement. Findings suggest that three major dimensions, namely change, leadership and culture, strengthened improvement efforts. These translated into managing change, attending to specific leader actions and influencing the school's culture. This study has contributed to understanding of school improvement efforts. It highlighted aspects of school leadership that contribute more towards improvement and suggests schools should pursue sustainable change to reap long-term benefits.

### **Venkata Sayoji Rao Dukkupati – PhD in Animal Science**

Dr Dukkupati's research focused on identifying genetic markers for immune responses to paratuberculosis vaccination in sheep. The study identified six genotypes and four alleles at six marker loci as either "probable" or "most likely" to be associated with immune responses to vaccination. Based on published data regarding the role of the host's immune responses in protection against paratuberculosis, the identified markers may be useful in selective breeding of resistant sheep. This has the potential to curtail incidence of the disease in breeding as well as commercial flocks.

### **Andrew Richard East – PhD in Food Technology**

Dr East investigated the influence of disruptions to optimal storage conditions during commercial cool chain operations on apple physiology and quality.

To aid future prediction of fruit quality changes in commercial cool chains, mathematical models were formulated to predict ethylene production of apples in variable temperature scenarios. In contrast to breaks in temperature control, short breaks in controlled atmosphere storage while fruit remained refrigerated were found to have no effect on fruit physiology or quality. The results provide indications of the potential influence of commercial cool chain practices on fruit quality and value.

### **Nawal El-Gack – PhD in Development Studies**

Dr El-Gack examined the experiences of participatory development projects in Sudan. Several factors were shown to influence participation: development providers' policies, the credibility and behaviour of staff, the nature and amount of resources, socio-cultural norms, power relations, communities' previous experiences, organisation, and the level of education. The research identifies factors for improving the practice: an in-depth understanding of social, economic, political and physical environments; adopting a moral-obligatory approach; and, providing



communities with resources, information and skills.

**Jacobus Meindert Evers – PhD in Food Technology**

Fat in milk is present as tiny droplets, enveloped in a thin membrane called the milk fat globule membrane. Dr Evers investigated changes in the composition and structure of the membrane after fat globules are excreted by mammary cells. These changes have important implications for processing cow's milk and the quality of manufactured dairy products. His results suggest that the membrane of fat globules in expressed milk of different species differs in structure and composition. Other analytical techniques developed will have potential benefits in a number of fields.

**Damien James Fleetwood – PhD in Genetics**

Dr Fleetwood characterised genetic determinants for the production of ergot alkaloids by epichloë fungal endophytes of pasture grasses. These alkaloids are thought to deter some insects but are toxic to grazing stock. Research confirmed the role of a gene in ergot alkaloid biochemistry and provided insight into its regulation and the role of ergot alkaloids in deterring insects. This provides a foundation for understanding further biochemical steps in the ergot alkaloid pathway, the ecological role of individual alkaloid compounds, the evolution of genes and their regulation in the host plant.

**Koong Hean Foo – PhD in Psychology**

Dr Foo's thesis compared the characteristics, self-reported practices and experiential skills of mental health practitioners in New Zealand and Singapore. He found that practitioners in the two countries were trained similarly in Western therapies and interventions and both groups had modified these for their respective populations. Both also made extensive use of cognitive behaviour therapy and both provided valuable experiential skills in the handling of therapist self-disclosure, religious/spiritual issues and the traditional healing systems of clients.

**Barrie Arthur Gordon – PhD in Education**

Dr Gordon examined implementation of the Responsibility Model, an alternative approach to teaching physical education, in a New Zealand secondary school. The implementation was successful in developing positive, supportive, and well-behaved classes. The majority of students became more personally and socially responsible within the classroom. The addition of learning associated with personal and social responsibility did not disadvantage students in meeting physical education curriculum goals. This has implications for teachers considering

introducing the modes into their teaching.

**Jenness Margaret Guthrie – PhD in Chemistry**

Dr Guthrie studied laccases from a native white-rot fungus. The fungus was selected from a group of 261 native fungi based on its ability to break down pentachlorophenol, a timber preservative that has contaminated soil at many former timber-processing sites in New Zealand. Her studies show that the white-rot fungus, and its laccases have potential to be used for the clean up of contaminated sites.

**Donald James Houston – PhD in Education**

Dr Houston adopted a critical systems approach to exploring quality in a university. He makes a case for local intervention based on an action research/Total Systems Intervention paradigm. It documents a number of cycles of action research within a university unit, comprising data gathering and consulting with participants, analysis and reflection, structural or process intervention and evaluation. The study concludes with a reflection on the fit between the selected approach and the continuing challenge to ensure quality.

**Zaker Hussain – PhD in Forestry**

Dr Hussain's research focused on the environmental effects of densely planted young willow and poplar trees to reduce soil erosion and nutrient losses from grazed and fertilised pastoral lands. The findings encourage the planting of trees to reduce surface runoff, soil erosion and nutrient losses from farms. The negative effects of trees on pasture growth can be minimised through density management. The timing and intensity of livestock grazing and the use of some fertilisers need managerial skills and scientific knowledge to avoid deleterious effects on New Zealand waters.

**Alexander Bryan Wilfried James – PhD in Ecology**

Dr James assessed the impact of stream flow reduction on habitat and macroinvertebrate behaviour using experimental manipulations in natural and artificial stream channels. Findings showed that reduced flow altered instream habitat causing some invertebrate species to enter the water column. There was no evidence that animals moved deeper into the substrate in response to severe flow reduction. While some stream macroinvertebrates may detect and respond to reduced flows, overall, New Zealand macroinvertebrates are resilient and resistant to reduced flow conditions.

**Jinsoo Jeong – PhD in Information Engineering**

Dr Jeong proposed a robust method for improved performance of real-time speech enhancement and noise cancellation in a real

reverberant environment. He presented the kepsrum approach, based on a fundamental theory of kepsrum analysis, and its application to a speech enhancement method. The research shows that the front-end application of this method to speech enhancement methods provides an improved performance and noise cancellation with several favourable effects.

**Elizabeth Jaya – PhD in Plant Biology**

Dr Jaya studied the regulation of the developmental processes of phase change and the floral transition in *Eucalyptus occidentalis* and *Metrosideros excelsa* (pohutukawa). A comparative investigation between the two species was undertaken to understand the transition to flowering and apply the knowledge to accelerate flowering in *Metrosideros excelsa*. The investigation has contributed to a better understanding of the mechanisms involved in phase change and flowering in woody species.

**Michael Knapp – PhD in Plant Biology**

Dr Knapp used genetic and fossil data to study the history of New Zealand beeches and kauri. He found that beeches, considered as an icon of New Zealand's Gondwanan heritage, did arrive on the archipelago only 20 - 30 million years ago, 50 million years after separation from the ancient super continent. However, kauri was identified as a potential Gondwanan relic, rejecting the hypothesis of a temporary, complete submergence of New Zealand. This increases understanding of the biogeographic history and diversity of New Zealand forests and the effects of Pleistocene climate change on flora.

**Henning Koehler – PhD in Information Systems**

Dr Koehler studied new methods for designing good databases. This resulted in the characterisation of designs that minimise the amount of space required for storing data, which was strongly related to the elimination of redundancy. Fast algorithms were developed to solve several problems of high computational complexity, arising during the design process. These algorithms can be used in automated design tools to facilitate the development of large database systems.

**Janina Kuhn – PhD in Food Technology**

Dr Kuhn investigated interactions between milk proteins and flavour compounds, and factors which influence these interactions. She also studied the in-mouth release of a flavour compound from commonly used milk protein products. Her findings contribute to knowledge of the interactions between flavour compounds and proteins. This is required to improve food flavouring and to make protein based foods, such as low-fat dairy products,

more sensorily acceptable to consumers. The results also emphasize a careful choice of food processing conditions.

### **Yu-hsin Kung – PhD in Veterinary Science**

Dr Kung's researched the epidemiology of avian influenza viruses in the Hong Kong live poultry marketing system. Results showed that virus transmission dynamics differ in various subtypes of avian influenza viruses in different species of poultry, especially chicken and quail. Ms Kung's research contributed to a sound understanding of the Hong Kong live poultry market dynamics. The findings were also a significant consideration in the implementation of effective control measures by the authorities, thereby minimising the risk of disease spread and human infection.

### **Hui Ma – PhD in Information Systems**

Dr Ma investigated a method for designing distributed databases which guarantee performance gains in executing the most relevant queries. While most existing methods adopt an ad-hoc approach, in which the optimisation of queries is neglected, Dr Ma combined standard distribution techniques with known query optimisation techniques. She showed that the problem can be separated and only very simple queries have to be dealt with. The results are likely to revive research on distributed databases and impact on the practice of future database systems.

### **Ahmed Ali Maniku – PhD in Education**

Dr Maniku's research explored higher education quality assurance policy and practice in the Maldives from a global, national and local perspective. The thesis argues that quality assurance policy in higher education, as promoted by transnational agencies such as the World Bank, is primarily legitimated within a neoliberal discourse. His research shows that global neoliberalism has had partial effects on quality assurance policy, combined with other national and local influences. The thesis argues for a model that acknowledges the need for compliance, and seeks to assure quality of teaching and learning.

### **Pyseth Meas – PhD in Agricultural Engineering**

Dr Meas' research focused on the optimisation of low cost rice sun-drying systems used in rural Cambodia. Experiments were conducted using a range of methods practised by rice farmers. A model of heat and moisture transport within the rice bed was developed to predict the drying time and to identify factors that affected or were correlated with the key rice quality metric. The research allows for the determination of optimum drying conditions for best rice quality, combined with the fastest practical drying

rate. Results will inform practical advice to Cambodian rice farmers.

### **Kassim Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed – PhD in Management**

Dr Mohammed examined the way employees perceive risk in a non-governmental organisation, which provides healthcare and support for people with mental, intellectual and physical disabilities. Emerging themes pointed to the interrelated link between perception and risk. The study found risk is culturally-constructed, individualistic, and subjective. For effective risk management, all perspectives should be considered. This requires a participatory system of managing risk, improving people's awareness about risk, and modifying the culture of risk.

### **Pitsini Mongkhonsiri – PhD in Nursing**

Dr Mongkhonsiri explored concepts of self and the impact of Thai culture on the motivation of female tertiary students to engage in health-promoting behaviours. Relationships between sense of coherence, identity status and health-promoting lifestyle behaviours were explored. Further analysis revealed the strong impact of Buddhist-based traditions and common societal values on participants' sense of self and health-related behaviours. Strategies to promote healthy behaviours in Thai tertiary-educated women need to take these cultural influences into account.

### **Noorzaid Bin Muhamad – PhD in Physiology**

Dr Noorzaid investigated the enzymes involved in nitrogen metabolism in abomasal parasites of sheep. Increasing resistance to chemical drenches by parasites has led to the need to identify new targets for worm control. Kinetic properties of key enzymes were studied. The most important findings were the identification of three enzymes in the parasites: creatinase, aspartase and glutamate synthase. These enzymes are not believed to be expressed in the sheep host or other mammals, making them possible candidates for developing novel therapies.

### **Robert Ian Murray – PhD in Agricultural Engineering**

Dr Murray's research focused on variable rate application technology in the New Zealand aerial topdressing industry. A case for technology assisted fertiliser application was developed.

This involved investigating the field performance of conventional and enhanced flow control systems and the effect of variable rate application on hill country pasture production. The research showed that automating the fertiliser flow control system can reduce off-target fertiliser application. Increased profitability should result, based on

the potential pasture production outputs of the farmland.

### **Amsha Nahid – PhD in Bioprocess Engineering**

Dr Nahid focused on mathematically modelling the freezing and thawing behaviour of butter products. Studies showed that water in butter supercools many degrees below its initial freezing point before freezing. The release of latent heat was observed as a temperature rebound, controlled as much by the rate of crystallisation of water in each droplet as by the rate of heat transfer. Various models were developed and applied successfully. These have been used by the project sponsor (Fonterra) to help assess the impact of production and distribution practises on butter quality.

### **Simon Joseph Nash – PhD in Social Policy**

Dr Nash considered the problem of ensuring that citizens have meaningful opportunities to participate in local government environmental planning and decision-making. The research showed that there is considerable potential to reduce conflicts and to better integrate citizens' agendas when actors deliberate and seek compromises based on common understandings of one another's values and preferences. The thesis argues that councils should foster deliberative perspectives among actors and that this will contribute to more democratically legitimate and durable decision-making.

### **Ernest Laryea Okorley – PhD in Agricultural and Horticultural Systems and Management**

Dr Okorley identified factors critical for improving a decentralised agricultural extension. Using a Ghanaian case study of a government extension organisation, his study emphasised the importance of external and internal factors, including the political will to decentralise, and a clear legal framework. Not previously reported included the need to develop a needs-based programme, expand the extension service focus, and use needs-based groups in service delivery. Findings have implications for theory development to guide decentralised agricultural extension services seeking to improve performance.

### **Te Hereripine Sarah-Jane Elizabeth Paine – PhD in Public Health**

Dr Paine's research focused on whether differences in sleep timing are related to differences in the circadian biological clock or driven by societal demands, such as work patterns and family commitments. It found that morning-type people slept earlier and had an earlier biological clock, compared to evening types. Both groups used the weekend to catch up on their sleep, although this practice



was more evident for evening types. Using a kaupapa Māori framework, Dr Paine also investigated Māori hopes and concerns for genetic research in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

**Kalansooriyage Chandrathilaka Kalyani Perera – PhD in Veterinary Pathology**

The bacterium *Salmonella* Brandenburg is a major cause of abortions in South Island sheep. This project aimed to identify immunogenic proteins for their usefulness in diagnostic tests and vaccines. An assay was developed to detect serum antibodies against the phase-1 flagellin gene *FliC* in naturally infected sheep and a further assay targeted four genes, including phase-1 *FliC*, for the identification of *S. Brandenburg* in pure cultures. The assay correctly identified the bacterium, suggesting it may also be a useful tool in the surveillance of this pathogen.

**Dipti Wilhelmina Pitta – PhD in Animal Science**

Dr Pitta examined the use of willow browse to improve the productive and reproductive performance of ewes under drought conditions. Summer/autumn droughts are a regular feature of East Coast regions, with predicted severity in the future. Ewes mated on willow fodder blocks and ewes grazing low quality drought pasture during mating were compared on reproductive rate. Ewes grazing willow fodder blocks had a consistent increase in reproductive rate and better maintained live weight compared to control ewes grazing low quality pastures.

**Raewyn Carol Poulsen – PhD in Biochemistry**

Dr Poulsen studied the effects of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (LCPUFAs) on bone in models of postmenopausal osteoporosis. Inflammation is a major contributor to the development of postmenopausal osteoporosis. Results showed that n-3 LCPUFA docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) significantly protected against bone loss. DHA combined with the oestrogen used in Hormone Replacement Therapy had significantly greater protective effects than either treatment alone. The research findings may have implications for the prevention and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis.

**Yvan Richard – PhD in Ecology**

Dr Richard proposed an integrated approach for understanding the effects of habitat fragmentation on species distribution and persistence. He applied this approach to robins in forest remnants in the central North Island. Findings showed that habitat quality was not affected by forest fragmentation. However, the distribution of robins was strongly affected by isolation of remnants. This research highlights the need for the consideration of habitat

isolation and species dispersal abilities in New Zealand conservation strategies.

**Nicholas Roskrige – PhD in Māori Studies**

Dr Roskrige focused on mātauranga Māori, aligned to horticulture and pedology, as the basis of an assessment model or tool for the future economic development of Māori land resources. The crux of the cultural assessment tool is its ability to apply a cultural layer drawn from a body of knowledge, not previously included in decision models relative to land utility in New Zealand. The thesis discusses the beneficial use of the model by Māori and how it can be continuously refined to meet the needs of Māori land owners.

**Brett Nicholas Ryland – PhD in Mathematical Physics**

Multisymplectic integration is a developing field of numerical integration, suited to the simulation of wave-like phenomena occurring in such areas as meteorology and quantum mechanics. Dr Ryland researched the construction of the integrators by applying Gaussian Runge-Kutta or partitioned Runge-Kutta discretisation to a multi-Hamiltonian, partial, differential equation. He showed that application of one of the popular Gaussian Runge-Kutta methods, in general, does not lead to a well-defined integrator. The results have important implications for the numerical simulation of systems exhibiting wave-like phenomena.

**Sanjay Saikia – PhD in Biochemistry**

Dr Saikia studied the biosynthesis of paxilline, a fungal metabolite that belongs to a family of compounds called indole-diterpenes. This group of compounds is best known for their neurotoxic effects on mammals, causing syndromes such as ryegrass staggers in sheep and cattle.

There is considerable interest in their pharmacological potential. For the first time, this research has validated the steps involved in indole-diterpene biosynthesis, which were speculative until now.

**Arne Schwelm – PhD in Molecular Bioscience**

Dr Schwelm studied the plant-pathogen system of the fungus *Dothistroma septosporum* and pine. The study focused on genes required for synthesis of the mycotoxin dothistromin, produced by the fungus, thought to be a major factor in pine needle blight disease.

While the potential for it to have an essential role in pine needle blight disease was ruled out, the thesis provides new hypotheses about the role of dothistromin in competition between *D. septosporum* and other microorganisms in the forest environment.

**Richard Seaton – PhD in Zoology**

Dr Seaton's research established that if the management of commercial pine plantations is suitable, this habitat can support relatively high densities of New Zealand falcon. Further, commercial pine plantations have a significant role to play in the New Zealand falcon's conservation. Findings showed that production landscapes in New Zealand should not be ruled out as important habitats for the conservation of threatened species and the enhancement of indigenous biodiversity.

**Yongjin Shang – PhD in Plant Biology**

Dr Shang studied the molecular mechanism controlling the formation of coloured stripes in snapdragon flowers. These flowers proved a useful model for the broader question of how a gene can be differentially regulated across a population of similar cells. A method was developed to quickly check whether isolated genes could be expressed in the flower petals of tobacco and petunia. Mr Shang also detected a gene that may control the production of yellow pigments in snapdragon flowers.

**Gillian Ray Skyrme – PhD in Linguistics and Second Language Teaching**

Dr Skyrme investigated the experiences of Chinese undergraduate students studying business and information sciences in a New Zealand university. She found that students' preparations focused on the English language dimension rather than other requirements of the experience. This left them subject to bewilderment and threatened their sense of competence during the early period of their study. She concludes that entry criteria should include specific university preparation, and suggests measures by which the university might improve the experience for such students.

**Avril Janis Thesing (nee Winks) – PhD in Education**

This research looks at the nature of support for mothers in early childhood centres, at a time when disruption of networks has occurred. The study showed support to be a product of mothers' own activity in building relationships and contributing to their centre community. Informal systems were the most effective. This research will help teachers develop more collaborative systems to facilitate support for mothers and ensure partnerships that make better use of their services to the mutual benefit of early childhood centre communities.

**Yvonne Peeyee Ting – PhD in Chemistry**

Dr Ting focused on the structuring and functionalisation of titania. The mode of dye binding to titania and the stability of adsorbed dyes was investigated. The research has

shown that while dyes are adsorbed and intimately associated with titania, the mode of dye binding is different on a dry electrode than upon dispersed and solvated titania. The knowledge gained on nanostructuring titania and dye binding will speed the development of self-assembled titania arrays formed using small molecular linkers.

## **Simone Megan Titus – PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology**

Dr Titus addressed the need to determine the safety of pork chops produced in New Zealand. She developed a novel suite of mathematical models that described and evaluated the likelihood that three potentially destructive bacteria were present on chops on sale. She also investigated methods to reduce these pathogen numbers. The models predicted distributions of bacteria concentrations and prevalence, and the process facilitated greater understanding of pathogen dynamics in the pork food chain. These models can be adapted for use by government agencies.

## **Edmundo de Silva Soares Viegas – PhD in Agricultural Engineering**

Dr Viegas examined sustainable crop production technologies in East Timor. Case studies in East Timor and New Zealand, provided a better understanding of tillage and no-tillage effects on soil structure and crop production. This work has particular relevance to East Timor where collaborative efforts, led by the Government, are attempting to develop its subsistence agriculture sector. To be sustainable, a selective agricultural mechanization is proposed, based primarily on local knowledge and a sound use of fragile soil and scarce water resources.

## **Angela Rosamund Ward – PhD in Education**

Dr Ward's research explored the nature of friendships and social relationships of secondary school pupils with physical disabilities. She concluded that there are personal and socio-ecological factors that impact on their social experiences. The findings suggest the need for teachers to examine values, attitudes, knowledge and pedagogy in the context of their schools and to adopt a multi-level approach to address the academic and social needs of all pupils.

## **Kirsten Leila Wild – PhD in Development Studies**

Dr Wild's research explored the long-term impact of development scholarship schemes on women's lives. She examined the experiences of women from developing nations who have completed tertiary training in New Zealand through a scholarship scheme funded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development. She found that opportunities provided by this scheme have translated into a number of key benefits for participants, including new opportunities to represent their organisations at home and abroad.

## **Bronwyn Louise Wildbore – PhD in Decision Science**

Dr Wildbore studied the two-stage capacitated plant location problem, which is part of an important class of mixed-integer linear programming models. A new mathematical formulation and approach allowed quality solutions within a relatively short computational time. Dr Wildbore's research has applications for organisations across many business sectors including the dairy industry, appliance manufacturing,

forestry and telecommunications.

## **Susan Lillian Williams – PhD in English**

Dr Williams's thesis focuses on the work of five playwrights: Bruce Mason, James K. Baxter, Mervyn Thompson, Renée and Robert Lord. All set out to identify an authentic New Zealand "voice" and brought about a metamorphosis in the nature of drama in New Zealand, regarded as on 'the margin' in relation to the dominant culture of the coloniser. By setting plays in their birth country, highlighting New Zealand social issues and persuading audiences that plays about this country are worth watching, they have given new life to "the inner margin": the culture of New Zealand.

# Doctor of Education

## **Richard Anthony Dowden**

Dr Dowden investigated the origins and development of curriculum integration, predominately in Britain and the United States; to document New Zealand schools' historical adoption and use of curriculum integration and variants; and to examine its suitability as a preferred direction for schooling of early adolescents.

A key conclusion is that the integrative curriculum model developed by James Beane, in the tradition of John Dewey, is best justified educationally, developmentally and ethically. It builds on and extends pioneering curriculum work based principally on Dewey's ideas.

# Mathematician wins top award for doctoral study

Dr Bobbie Hunter has followed the footsteps of her supervisor in winning a top international award for her doctoral research on teaching mathematics.

She has won the 2008 Practical Implications Award from the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA). The award is for her paper *Facilitating Communities of Mathematical Inquiry*, which investigated how children in low decile schools – particularly Māori and Pasifika students – improved in maths through developing questioning and reasoning skills.

The award means she is invited to present the paper in a one-hour plenary session at this year's MERGA conference in Brisbane in July.

"I am really pleased, for my supervisors as well," says Dr Hunter, a senior lecturer at the College of Education in Auckland. "The award is a reflection of their input too."

On the same day she received news of the

MERGA award, she was to present her paper to North Harbour Rotary Club, which presented her with an Outstanding Pasifika Scholarship at Massey's Auckland graduation ceremony last month.

It is only the second time a New Zealander has won the MERGA award. The first recipient was Associate Professor Glenda Anthony, who received the award 10 years ago. She was one of Dr Hunter's supervisors for the doctoral research. Dr Hunter won MERGA's Early Career Award in 2006.

Dr Hunter says the timing of the news of her award was remarkable, as she and Professor Anthony had been discussing plans for post-doctoral research to further trial the work she had done in her doctoral thesis. She says the award was a real vindication of the value of her research and its application for improving maths education – something she is passionate about.

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor



Dr Bobbie Hunter.

James Chapman described the award as "a great honour" and said it "confirms the significant standing of the mathematics research team in the College of Education".





Ryan Jolie and Kristin de Souza.

## Prize for distance library head

Five hundred Euro was a surprising prize for acting head of distance library service Heather Lamond at a conference last month.

Mrs Lamond was among eight Massey delegates who attended the International Association of Technological University Libraries conference in Auckland from 21-24 April.

She constructed a poster presentation outlining the technology used during a management paper project at the Palmerston North campus.

Mrs Lamond will split the prize with Turitea information services librarian Brenda Johnson, who helped construct the presentation but was unable to attend the conference.

Mrs Lamond says the high-level management conference, which is seldom held in the southern hemisphere, was really interesting.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and we bought back some useful material.

"It showed where New Zealand nationally is at with its developments. We are certainly up with the play and in some places, ahead of it."

## Challenges for human rights

Lecturer in social work and social policy Kathryn Hay was a speaker at the invitation-only conference on human rights in the Pacific last month.

Ms Hay, who is based at the Palmerston North campus, spoke on the specific challenges and requirements for developing a Pacific human rights mechanism.

The focus of the symposium was to examine key human rights challenges in the Pacific and strategies for strengthening national, regional and international mechanisms for enhanced protection of human rights in the region.

Ms Hay's doctoral research in political science is examining why the Pacific does not have a regional human right mechanism and what risks and opportunities there may be for any future development.

Ms Hay is a Claude McCarthy Fellow and also has funding from NZAID for her research.

The invitation-only conference was organised by The New Zealand Centre of Public law, Victoria University and the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights, London and was attended by eminent human rights jurists and activists from the Pacific region as well as international human rights experts.

## International students thrive in the kiwi classroom

Recommendations from a friend, Palmerston North's central location and a lower cost of living are among a host of reasons why Ryan Jolie and Kristin de Souza chose to study teaching in New Zealand.

Mr Jolie, 27, and Ms de Souza, 28, from Canada, are pursuing postgraduate qualifications in primary teaching. They recently had their first experience in New Zealand classrooms and found it both motivational and empowering.

"It was also challenging," Mr Jolie says. "I can be a bit of a pushover, so the need for organization and discipline in the classroom was a good challenge for me."

They say there are similarities between the

Canadian and New Zealand curriculum, and find their pupils are fascinated by their country of origin and travels.

"I had fun teaching the class a French song," says Ms de Souza, who was placed at Russell Street School, while Mr Jolie, who spent time at Roslyn School assists in coaching volleyball.

"It's easy to make friends here," Ms de Souza says. "Even our programme coordinators were willing to show us around, so it was easy to find things once we'd settled in."

Mr Jolie says he taught English at a school in Korea. "I discovered I had a passion for helping people learn. Everyone has been really helpful. The support here is incredible."

## Business Dean's list launched

The College of Business has launched a Dean's List – a registry of top performing students and an initiative which Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Larry Rose says will bring benefits to both students and the University.

"In New Zealand Universities we tend not to give enough recognition to our top students and the college has established the Dean's List to celebrate excellence," Professor Lawrence says.

"This gives us an opportunity to identify and support our best performers, it sets a target for students to aim for and it enables employers to identify our best future graduates."

Apart from giving the most competitive students something to strive for, the establishment of a Dean's List, common practice in American business schools, helps to keep standards high because students who make it to the list have to perform well each year to stay on.

The Dean's List was launched at Palmerston North last week at a celebration attended by students, families and College of Business staff.

The inaugural list will consist of 220 students (out of 11,500 who are enrolled in the College of Business as undergraduates) who have



Pro Vice-Chancellor of Business, Professor Larry Rose with Joan Hasse, one of the students celebrating her placement on the inaugural Dean's List, launched at Wharerata, Palmerston North campus.

achieved an average grade of A- in their first, second or third year of study.

The list will also be formally launched in at the Wellington and Auckland campuses over the next month. On the first list there are 69 students from Palmerston North campus, 69 from Auckland, 21 from Wellington and 62 extramural students.

It is also intended to identify student's who average A plus grades and to name them as Dean's scholars.

## In the news

### 20 April

*www.foode.us*: Professor **Jeroen Douwes**, from the Centre for Public Research, spoke at a workshop on Wellington on the health effects of leaky buildings and cited a study, which found that 75 per cent of the 1310 households surveyed contained mould.

### 22 April

*Waikato Times; Timaru Herald, Gisborne Herald (23 April)*: Dr **Nick Roskrige**, from the Institute of Natural Resources, has helped Massey students produce a bumper crop of Māori potatoes, known as taewa, and says the irrigation and hot summer lead to bigger potatoes.

### 23 April

*The Dominion Post; Newstalk ZB (26 April)*: PhD candidate **William Sukala**, from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, along with a team of researchers is conducting the first randomised, controlled trial to establish the value of weightlifting in combating diabetes among Pacific Islanders.

*The Dominion Post*: First-year students **Ryan Groen** and **Kelly O'Donnell**, and **Stephanie Hamblyn** have all secured top places in the national Barefoot Waterski Champs and a place in the development squad for the world champs in February next year.

*TV3, stuff.co.nz, nz.news.yahoo.com; Southland Times, Otago Daily Times, The Daily Post, Northern Advocate (24 April)*: Dr **David Tripe**, Director of the Centre for Banking Studies, says New Zealand banks are dependent on the housing market for lending growth.

*Manawatu Standard, stuff.co.nz*: **Denis Jenkins**, Wharerata operations and events manager, says that the function centre's Offal Club is a first, but is something the centre could do two or three times a year.

*scoop.co.nz*: **Genevieve Packer**, from the Department of Fashion Design, and Caroline McQuarrie, have put together an exhibition titled *Etiquette for the Homesick*, that puts domestic arts in a new light and is showcasing at Wellington's Michael Hirschfield Gallery.

### 24 April

*The Dominion Post; Southland Times (29 April)*: Professor **Harjinder Singh**, from the Riddet Centre, is the recipient of the annual William C Haines Award, an international award, for his contribution to dairy research.

*Timaru Herald, Manawatu Standard, TV One Breakfast Business, TV One Midday News, Breakfast News, Newstalk ZB, stuff.co.nz,*

*nz.news.yahoo.com, radionz.co.nz, examiner.com, sanluisobispo.com, natural-environment.com; Waikato Times, Otago Daily Times, The Press, The New Zealand Herald, Nelson Mail, afp.google.com, linkingpeopletogether.com (25 April); copyat5.blogspot.com (27 April); TV 3 Sunrise (29 April)*: Dr **Martin Brook**, from the School of People, Environment and Planning, claims that the Tasman Glacier is expected to melt away within twenty years due to climate change, and has receded dramatically over the past 10 years.

*Radio New Zealand*: Dr **John Moremon**, from the Centre for Defence Studies, has commented on the ambiguity relating to Lieutenant Colonel James Waddell, who grew up in New Zealand but fought for the French Foreign Legion.

*scoop.co.nz*: Dr **Brett Gartrell**, from the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Science, says World Veterinary Day, the international celebration of veterinarians, is a fantastic way of showcasing the wide variety of areas veterinarians work in.

### 25 April

*The New Zealand Herald*: Associate Professor **Glyn Harper**, from the Centre of Defence Studies, notes that a lot of people kept in contact during the war and got married when it ended, and says letters from the war are very important because they all make up pieces of the jigsaw – owners should copy them and put them in a museum.

*Oamaru Mail*: Associate Professor **Glyn Harper**, from the Centre of Defence Studies, and illustrator Bruce Potter, have worked together on a book titled *The Donkey Man* to try and redress the controversy over the Henderson and Simpson Anzac donkey painting.

*Manawatu Standard*: **Robbie Eastham**, an Earth Science student, is the best of the Kiwi quartet for shooting, which has just returned from the World Cup event on the Olympic range in Beijing.

### 26 April

*The Dominion Post*: Professor **Bob Hargreaves**, from the Department of Finance, Banking and Property, says a tightening in the availability of funds after recent finance company collapses could mean some commercial developments might not go ahead.

### 27 April

*Herald on Sunday, nzherald.co.nz*: Professor **Philippa Gander**, from the Sleep Wake Research Centre, says that poor sleep has been linked to earning, behavioural and growth problems, particularly in children.

*Sunday Star-Times*: Dr **John Birkbeck**, from

the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, says that the salba grain, the special ingredient in Yarrows Family Bakers new range of superbreads, is a promising addition to the diet and there is scientific evidence for its beneficial health effects.

### 28 April

*scoop.co.nz, nz.news.yahoo.com; Radio New Zealand, radionz.co.nz, stuff.co.nz, Hawkes Bay Today (29 April); Marlborough Express (30 April); Taranaki Daily News, The Dominion Post (1 May); The Press (2 May)*: Dr **Jackie Benschop**, from the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Science, is part of a co-operative study into the disease Leptospirosis and susceptible meat workers, and says that the research is addressing the information gap about the prevalence of the disease amongst meat workers.

*The New Zealand Herald*: **Nick Tipping**, from the New Zealand School of Music, who has a masters degree in jazz performance, says although he is having the time of his life teaching and playing music, he admits he is never going to get rich or famous.

*TVNZ Breakfast Business, Midday News, One News*: Dr **Barbara Plester** has commented on the benefits of laughter in the workplace, saying that people see lots of benefits to humour and it's a good stress relief for them, relieving boredom.

### 29 April

*Manawatu Standard, Gisborne Herald, Greymouth Star, nzherald.co.nz; Manawatu Standard (30 April)*: **Peter Homburg**, a Sport and Recreation graduate, has listed himself on *Trade Me* in attempts to revive a budding career that is struggling though lack of sponsorship, and return to the international speed skating stage.

*Radio New Zealand*: Dr **John Moremon**, from the Centre for Defence Studies, has commented on the Ministry of Defence's report that highlights a number of problems with the way the military is storing ammunition and explosives.

### 2 May

*The New Zealand Herald, The Dominion Post*: Dr **Heather Kavan**, from the Department of Communication and Journalism, is the organiser of a speech writing competition in honour of former Prime Minister the late David Lange, in which the term "hold your breath" must be contained, the best-known line in one of David Lange's most celebrated speeches.



## Research Funding News

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/research/fops/fo.cfm>

## Contact Information:

Research Development Team

### Humanities & Social Sciences, Creative Arts, and Business

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ext. 81327 or 027 538 5338

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### Research Funding Co-ordinator

Funding Opportunities, PBRF  
Diana Young, d.m.young@massey.ac.nz  
ext. 81341

## Funding Opportunities:

Ministry for Culture & Heritage  
How Important is Culture  
Closes: 9 May

Department of Labour  
In-house adult literacy, language and numeracy (LLN) training programmes  
Closes: 12 May

Ministry of Fisheries  
Sustainable Aquaculture in New Zealand: Review of ecological effects of farming shellfish and other species  
Closes: 16 May

Ministry of Health  
Proposals for Trials of Promising Post Suicide Attempts initiatives  
Closes: 28 May

KAREN  
Student Poster Competition  
Closes: 30 May  
Amount: Up to \$1,500

European Union  
Industrialised Countries Instrument Education Cooperation Programme  
Closes: 6 June

Ministry of Fisheries  
BioInfo: Ecosystem-scale biodiversity; Habitat diversity; Functional diversity; Climate variability effects on biodiversity  
Closes: 12 June

Royal Incorporation of British Architects (RIBA)  
RIBA Research Trusts - Modern Architecture and Town Planning Trust and Historical Research Trust  
Closes: 12 June  
Amount: Up to £5,000

Creative New Zealand  
Senior Pacific Artist Award  
Emerging Pacific Artist Award  
Pacific Innovation & Excellence Award  
Closes: 27 June  
Amount: \$3,000 - 7,000

American Association for the Advancement of Science  
AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize  
Closes: 30 June  
Amount: \$25,000 USD

CPA Australia  
Research Grant SchemeA  
Closes: 31 August  
Amount: \$10,000 AUD

The Commonwealth Fund  
Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy & Practice  
Closes: 5 September  
Amount: Up to \$95,000

Australasian Society for the Study of Obesity (ASSO)  
Young Investigator Award  
Closes: 27 September  
Amount: \$2,000

Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ)  
Postgraduate Travel Award for Canadian Studies  
Closes: 30 September  
Amount: Up to \$3,000 AUD

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)  
Seedcorn Funding Initiative  
Continuous  
Amount: Usually up to £2,000

### New Research Development Advisor – Lorraine Nelson

Lorraine comes to Massey from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, having 'jumped the fence' from her position as MAF's Operational Research Adviser managing the Operational Research programme and coordinating MAF's projects for the Cross-Departmental Research Pool.

Lorraine brings experience with the selection of research topics, evaluation of proposals from research providers (including Massey staff!), monitoring and managing successful research projects and relationship management with CRIs, universities and private research organisations.

She has a Master of Applied Science (Animal Science) from Massey University and enjoys a close relationship with the rural sector.

# Wharerata

venue • cuisine • events

Sunday Roasts

Each Sunday from 25 May until Fathers Day, 7 Sept - 11am - 1.30pm

Thursday Night @ the Terrace Bar

4.30pm – 8.30pm every Thursday starting. Come and enjoy a drink by the fire. Happy Hour 5.00 – 6.00 pm

Our dining room/ café open from 8.30am to 2pm for Morning tea and lunch Monday to Friday

For information and reservations contact Lobby on 350 5088 or email [info@wharerata.co.nz](mailto:info@wharerata.co.nz)

Lorraine is looking forward to meeting staff and assisting in securing research funding.  
Email: l.nelson@massey.ac.nz  
Tel: 06 356-9099 ext. 81356  
Cell: 027 536 7677

### FRST Technology Expertise Access Programme

Are you working with industry on an innovative project? Then perhaps TechNet is the fund for you.

TechNet is suitable for feasibility studies, proof of concept, or when a company is at a point in a research and development project where they have hit a barrier that they can't overcome because they do not have the suitable expertise within the company.

Massey is funded directly from FRST for a number of small consultancies up to \$5,000 each, and will call for applications on a monthly basis. Projects must be novel and innovative products or processes with an eye to the export dollar. Successful applications will also demonstrate a clear pathway for continued collaboration between Massey University and the company.

The deadline for the next round of applications is 5:00 pm, 19th May. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 5:00 pm, 26th May.

Electronic application guidelines and forms may be obtained from Jo Stone, ext. 9533 or 027 233 6333

### Research Information Management System (RIMS)

The Research Information Systems team is continuing to offer RIMS workshops for staff on all campuses. This workshop is designed to show researcher and administrators how to access and view information on their research projects, research contracts, publications, student supervisions as well as how to create evidence portfolios for evaluation purposes: <http://rims.massey.ac.nz>

RIMS workshops are now available for the following dates:

Auckland – 7 May, Computer Lab B106.2 (Oteha Rohe); 10:30 – 11:30 am

Palmerston North – Details TBA

Wellington – 13 May, Computer Lab 5E24; 10:30 – 11:30 am

To organise additional training sessions or to register, please contact Diana Young, d.m.young@massey.ac.nz or ext. 81341.

### Community of Science Funding Opportunities Database

The funding opportunities listed in this Newsletter are only a small extract of available funding for New Zealand researchers. For the largest, most comprehensive database of available funding in all disciplines visit the Community of Science Funding Opportunities Database: [www.cos.com/nz](http://www.cos.com/nz).

View the COS help pages to find Rules for Searching and Search Tips.

COS workshops are now available for the following dates:

Auckland – 7 May, Computer Lab B106.2 (Oteha Rohe); 1:30 – 2 pm

Palmerston North – Details TBA

Wellington – 13 May, Computer Lab 5E24; 1:30 – 2pm

To organise additional training sessions or to register, please contact Diana Young, d.m.young@massey.ac.nz or x. 81341

### Symposium on Tertiary Assessment and Higher Education Student Outcomes: Policy, Practice, and Research

17-19 November 2008, Rutherford House, Wellington

Registration and a Call for Papers:

We invite submissions for presenting, and registration for people interested in topics such as:

- Assessments for mastery of knowledge, skills, and understandings
- Designing valid and practical assessment of learning outcomes
- Assessment policies and practices that meet faculty and student needs
- Innovative assessments including peer and self, portfolio, e-learning, and authentic assessments as well as how to assess large classes
- Assessing competencies and skills for industry
- Culturally appropriate assessment
- Assessments for students with disabilities and ESOL

The conference is co-sponsored by a TLRI collaborative research project involving Victoria University, Massey University, Manukau Institute of Technology, and Wānanga ō Awanuiarangi, and Ako Aotearoa: National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence.

Keynote presenters including Trudy Banta (USA), David Carless (Hong Kong), John Hattie (Auckland) and Liz McKinley (STARPATH).

For further information, the conference website can be found at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/education/SYMPOSIUM/index.aspx>

Or contact:

Dr Susan Davidson

Research Coordinator

Jessie Hetherington Centre for Educational Research

Victoria University Wellington

04-463 9743

### Events

<http://events.massey.ac.nz>

#### AK – Wednesday 14 May

12.00pm – 1.00pm

Seminar: Professor Alfred Haug

*Local linear impulse responses for a small open economy.*


Traditional vector autoregressions derive impulse responses using iterative techniques that may compound specification errors. Local projection techniques are robust to this problem, and Monte Carlo evidence suggests they provide reliable estimates of the true impulse responses. We use local linear projections to investigate the dynamic properties of a model for a small open economy, New Zealand. We compare impulse responses from local projections to those from standard techniques, and consider the implications for monetary policy. We pay careful attention to the dimensionality of the model, and focus on effects of policy on GDP, interest rates, prices and exchange rates.

<http://http://www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/econ/staff/haug.html>

Venue: QB 8

Contact: Rochelle Hughes

Ph: extn 9176





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- Cater for lifestyle blocks and commercial farms
- All species catered for

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**Massey University**

## PN – Tuesday 20 May

5.15pm

Massey Agriculture Address Series

Mr Murray Sherwin

Mr Murray Sherwin – Director-General of Agriculture, Wellington

*Prosperity, sustainability, agriculture, forestry & MAF: Joining the dots/*

Tuesday 20th May 2008, 5.15 pm, AH.1, Ag/Hort Lecture Block, Turitea Campus

Murray Sherwin was appointed to the position of Director-General of Agriculture and Forestry in 2002, having been the deputy chief executive of the Reserve Bank. His early work with the Reserve Bank was in agricultural economics, including export forecasting. With MAF Murray has provided leadership in all areas with which MAF is concerned, including quarantine and biosecurity services, and forestry management. He also provides advice to Ministers on all aspects of agriculture and forestry, domestic and international.

This is the first of the 2008 addresses being hosted by Massey Agriculture.

The address will be followed by refreshments – for catering, could you please RSVP to Denise Stewart, email: d.m.stewart@massey.ac.nz; or phone 350 5996 or ext 5996, by Tuesday 13 May.

Venue: AH.1 - Ag/Hort Lecture Block, Riddet Road, Turitea Campus

Contact: Denise Stewart

Ph: ext 5996

## PN – Wednesday 21 May

12.00pm – 1.30pm

Wearable Art Competition

*Wearable Art Competition along with Live Music*

Hosted by: PR Students, in conjunction with Anne Billing

from our local Recycling Centre.

Our message: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Cost: Free

What to bring: Your imagination and 3 or 4 other friends (recycled material etc will be provided)

WIIFM (what's in it for me?): Prizes for everyone and a whole lot of fun....

You do need to register as we have limited this event to 10 teams (of up to 6 people). If you wish to register please either email myself on katerina@kol.co.nz or Michael on bob\_boy2@hotmail.com.

Don't be disappointed, get your registration forms in early!

Look forward to seeing you there!!!

Venue: If fine, this will be held on concourse. If wet, this will be held in the MUSA lounge, next door to the canteen.

Contact: Katerina Kaiwai

Ph: 027 666 2672

## PN – Wednesday 21 May

5.00pm – 7.00pm

*Environmental & Planning Expo*

Career Expo aimed at those students studying Resource & Environmental Planning, NRM, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Sciences and any one who is interested in roles in this field.

All students are encouraged to attend to find out more about graduate and summer work opportunities and scholarships.

Venue: Social Sciences Lecture Block - foyer

Contact: Nicola Stone

Ph: 06 350 5071

## PN – Thursday 22 May

1.00pm – 2.00pm

School of History, Philosophy and Classics: Seminar Series

Dr Bonnie MacLauchlan

Associate Professor, Department of Classical Studies, The University of Western Ontario

*The grave's a fine and funny place: underworld rituals and the comic theatre in the Greek West*

Venue: MB1.02

Contact: Mary Lou Dickson

Ph: 4231

## PN – Thursday 22 May

6.00pm – 12.00am

MoE Study Awards - Teacher Information Evening

Mr Steve Lamont, Ministry of Education

Massey University College of Education in association with the Ministry of Education will host Study Awards Evenings in Auckland), Palmerston North and Wellington. Mr Steve Lamont from the Ministry will provide information and advice for teachers who wish to apply for an award to study in 2009.

Use Entrance E off Tasman Street

All welcome, attendance is free and light refreshments provided.

Registration essential, RSVP to Tara Fisher

Free parking on all campuses.

Venue: College of Education Centennial Drive, Hokowhitu

Contact: Tara Fisher

Ph: (06) 351 3475

## AK – Saturday 24 May

8.00pm – 10.00pm

Winter Music

Holly Hofmann and Mike Wofford

Massey University in association with the New Zealand School of Music are proud to present to you, direct from the USA - two of the world's most accomplished Jazz Musicians...

Holly Hofmann on flute, and Mike Wofford on Piano.

As a special feature, the concert will include a tribute to the music of Brazilian composer Antonio Carlos Jobim. Who can forget the

great songs like The Girl From Ipanema, Quiet Nights and Quiet Stars, One Note Samba, How Insensitive, Meditation, to name but a few?

Canapes and cash bar open from 7pm

Tickets - \$36.50, book at [www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz) or phone 0508 iTICKET (0508 4842538)

please note a booking/delivery fee will apply  
Venue: Massey University Auckland, Gate 1, State Highway 17, Albany

Contact: Andrea Abbott

Ph: 414 0800 ext 9554

## AK – Tuesday 27 May

6.00pm – 12.00am

MoE Study Awards - Teacher Information Evening

Mr Steve Lamont, Ministry of Education

Massey University College of Education in association with the Ministry of Education will host an MoE Study Awards evening in Auckland. Mr Steve Lamont from the Ministry will provide information and advice for teachers who wish to apply for an award to study in 2009.

All welcome, attendance is free and light refreshments provided.

Registration essential, RSVP to Tara Fisher

Free parking on all campuses.

Venue: Massey University Auckland Albany Campus Atrium Building

Contact: Tara Fisher

Ph: (09) 414 0800 ext 8675

## WN – Thursday 29 May

6.00pm – 8.00pm

MoE Study Awards - Teacher Information Evening

Mr Steve Lamont, Ministry of Education

Massey University College of Education in association with the Ministry of Education will host an MoE Study Awards evening in Wellington. Mr Steve Lamont from the Ministry will provide information and advice for teachers who wish to apply for an award to study in 2009.

All welcome, attendance is free and light refreshments provided. Free parking.

Registration essential, RSVP to Tara Fisher

Venue: Massey University Wellington Block 5 Tasman Street

Contact: Tara Fisher

Ph: (04) 801 5799 extn 8675

## AK – Thursday 29 May

7.00pm – 12.00am

Professorial Lecture - Michael Townsend

Professor Michael Townsend is Head of the College of Education at Massey University, Auckland.

*Research in Education: Science or common sense?*

Abstract

Research findings in education are often regarded as commonsense, obvious truisms without need of research, in contrast to



research findings in physical science which are generally seen as trustworthy and important. This lecture challenges this common perception in the context of several areas of educational research relating to memory, motivation and social development, with illustrations from personal research and the work of others.

Staff, students and members of the public are welcome to this lecture, which is free of charge.

<http://auckland.massey.ac.nz/massey/campus/auckland/campus-events/prof-lectures.cfm>

Venue: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Building, Gate 1, Albany Expressway (SH17), Albany, Auckland

Contact: Karen Triggs

Ph: 09 414 0800 extn 9555

## **AK - Monday 7 – Wednesday 9 July 12.00PM**

### *Boys Conference*

“Successful boys: meeting the challenge” was adopted as the conference theme as many schools and institutions are achieving much success with boys. For too long there has been a great deal of negativity surrounding boys. It is time to shake of this negativity, be positive and celebrate the successes. Boys need direction and positive, clear messages on being male. Keynote speakers and workshops will share the insights and strategies that have been found to make a difference to boys’ achievement. This conference wants to celebrate the good things happening in boys education and equip participants with ideas and enthusiasm to make a difference to the boys they encounter.

- Michael Irwin, Conference Convenor

Venue: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Building

Contact: Dr Michael Irwin

Tel: ext 9635

If you wish to register an event please use the online events submission form at <http://events.massey.ac.nz>. For other event enquiries please contact a campus events coordinator or email [events-admin@massey.ac.nz](mailto:events-admin@massey.ac.nz).

## **Scholarships and Awards**

<http://awards.massey.ac.nz>

### **Undergraduate**

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Undergrad & Research Scholarship – 23 May 2008

Landcorp Farming “First Step” Bursary – 30 May 2008

Microsoft Scholarships – 30 May 2008

New Horizons for Women Trust (Inc) Second-Chance Education and Training Awards – 31 May 2008

Sonja Davies Peace Award – 31 May 2008  
Tongariro Natural History Society Memorial Award – 31 May 2008

Wanganui Federation of University Women Trust Wynne Costley Study Award – 31 May 2008

## **Postgraduate**

Top Achievers Doctoral Scholarships – 14 May 2008

NZ Plant Protection Society Conference Travel Grant for Students – 15 May 2008

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Undergrad & Research Scholarship – 23 May 2008

Landcorp Farming “First Step” Bursary – 30 May 2008

Scholarships for Postgraduate / PostDoctoral Studies in Greece – 30 May 2008

UNESCO-L’OREAL Fellowships – 30 May 2008  
Golden Plover Award – 31 May 2008

New Horizons for Women Trust (Inc) Research Awards – 31 May 2008

Sonja Davies Peace Award – 31 May 2008  
Tongariro Natural History Society Memorial Award – 31 May 2008

NOTICEBOARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:  
SOCIAL SCIENCES LECTURE BLOCK FOYER,  
TURITEA SITE AND  
IN EACH ACADEMIC UNIT

## **University-wide notices**

[editor@massey.ac.nz](mailto:editor@massey.ac.nz)

### **Information Sciences Qualification Review**

The College of Sciences is in the process of reviewing:

Information Sciences Computing, Computer Science and Information Technology majors (BInfSc and BSc), Software Engineering major (BSc only), Computer Science & Electronics, Information Systems & Technology and Software Engineering joint majors (BInfSc only) in accordance with the Massey University Qualification Review Policy and Procedures.

The review process will seek to examine the relevance and appropriateness of the qualification objectives, structure and management, in addition to the mechanisms and procedures that support teaching, learning and assessment.

The review will be conducted in June/July 2008 and if you would like to make a submission regarding any aspect of the review, please do so before 20 May 2008.

Submissions are welcome in any written form, including email

Please direct all such submissions and any other relevant queries directly to:

Rae Dewe  
PVC’s Office  
College of Sciences  
Massey University  
Private Bag 11-222  
Palmerston North  
[r.dewe@massey.ac.nz](mailto:r.dewe@massey.ac.nz)

### **Qualification Review - College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

The Master of Public Policy qualification is due to be reviewed. This notice is to advise that the review has begun and to invite submissions on the programme.

A panel of experts, internal and external, will be brought together to conduct the review and consider all documentation provided by the university and submission makers.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 23 May 2008. Should you have any queries on any matter relating to the review, including making a submission please contact: Ropu Erueti, Administrator, Academic Director’s Office, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Email [R.Erueti@massey.ac.nz](mailto:R.Erueti@massey.ac.nz)

### **Promotion to professor 2008**

Eligible academic staff intending to apply for Promotion to Professor this year should note that documentation regarding Pathways to Professor has been distributed to Heads of Departments/Institutes/Schools.

The ‘Pathways to Professor’ booklet is also available on [http://hrs.massey.ac.nz/massey/depart/admin/hrs/policies/policies\\_home.cfm](http://hrs.massey.ac.nz/massey/depart/admin/hrs/policies/policies_home.cfm). Staff included in this round of promotions are academic staff who have achieved senior academic rank, normally at the Associate Professor level.

Staff intending to apply for promotion should consult with their Head of Department/Institute/School. Closing date for applications is 16 June 2008. Please note that late applications cannot be accepted.

Applications should be photocopied, using both sides of the paper, wherever possible.

## Call for applications - Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholars and Visiting Lectureships in New Zealand Studies

Fulbright New Zealand invite applications by leading New Zealand research scholars, lecturers, artists and professionals to take up Fulbright scholar awards to the United States of America in 2009.

Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Awards are for academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in the US for three to five months. Four or five awards valued at up to US\$32,500 (plus travel expenses) are offered each year.

This year's Senior Scholars researched topics as diverse as child nutrition, women in sports leadership, pheromone control of fire ants and literacy programmes for minority students, with a fifth grantee taking up an artist-in-residence position at New York University.

Fulbright Visiting Lectureships in New Zealand Studies are for academics to teach an undergraduate course in New Zealand Studies and conduct research at Georgetown University in Washington, DC for one or two semesters.

Two lectureships are offered each year - one per semester - each valued at up to US\$32,500 (plus travel expenses). Dr Jo Diamond from the University of Canterbury is currently teaching a course in indigenous art history at Georgetown.

She will be succeeded by Dr Brian McDonnell from Massey University, who will teach a course in New Zealand film and literature for the fall semester.

Applications are encouraged from any discipline of New Zealand studies, including international affairs, business, public policy and management, government, history, literature and fine arts.

Applications for both awards close on 1 June 2008.

See <http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards> or contact Rae Holdsworth at Fulbright New Zealand for further information - [rae@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:rae@fulbright.org.nz)

## Massey News Online

If you want to read the latest in news from Massey University, complete with colour pictures and video clips, or if you want to sign up for one of an expanding range of e-mail newsletters, visit us online.

### @Massey National

A fortnightly newsletter with the latest in news and research from the University's three campuses in Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston North.

### @Massey Manawatu

A fortnightly newsletter providing news of interest to the Manawatu community, including cover of events and activities at the Palmerston North campus, as well as wider University news.

### @Massey Business

A quarterly newsletter providing a snapshot of business news of value to the business community, from across the University.

### @Massey Arts

A quarterly newsletter providing news of events and activities in design, fine arts and music, of particular interest to the Wellington arts community.

Please visit:

<http://news.massey.ac.nz>

## Staffroom

News of interest to all staff across the University, from a range of sources and includes items of interest about the tertiary sector.

Please contact your nearest communications adviser to make a submission to this page.

Helpful headings and links for staff are also included on the staffroom page.

Please visit:

<http://staffroom.massey.ac.nz>

12 May 2008 - issue 6

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**Notices:** All notices should be sent to [editor@massey.ac.nz](mailto:editor@massey.ac.nz) by Monday prior to publication. Event notices should be submitted to the web - <http://events.massey.ac.nz> and classifieds to <http://ads.massey.ac.nz> (please note that classified advertisements are a service for University staff. These are not published in the print edition of Massey News).

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Students and business representatives mingle at the career expo last week.

# Career expo gives students a glimpse of the future



Students were given the opportunity to look beyond their next assignment and plan for life beyond university at the career expo, held on the Palmerston North campus last week.

The two-day event gave students the chance to meet with representatives from a wide array of businesses at their stalls in the Dining Hall and student lounge.

Career and graduate recruitment service co-ordinator Nicola Stone says it was an important opportunity for students to plan their future.

"Students need to look at what organisation fits them, where they can see themselves working once their studies are finished."

She says more than 900 students went through the expo on Tuesday and another 600 on Wednesday, when the expo focused on science, agriculture and engineering.

"All of the companies involved were happy with the quality of students they spoke with over the two days, and students have had the chance to sell themselves to prospective employees."

A bus load of students also made the trip up from the Wellington campus to take in the expo.

Exhibits were:

ANZ National Bank, ASB, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, BNZ, College of Education, Contact Energy, Cookie Time, Fisher and Paykel Healthcare, Fonterra, GCSB, GHD Ltd, GNS, Graduate Opportunities, Harrison Grierson, HortResearch, InterGen, Landcorp Farming, Livestock Improvement, Mighty River, Ministry of Economic Development, Navy Careers, Orion Health, Palmerston North City Council, PPCS, Provoke Solutions Ltd, Ravensdown, Retailworld Resourcing, Royal NZ Air Force, State Services Commission, TeachNZ, Watercare Services, Westpac.