

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



Leading edge robotics

Working for world justice

Māori Deaf identity

Spiritual needs supported

Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Te Whare Wānanga
o te Upoko o te Ika a Māui*



CAPITAL CITY UNIVERSITY



Star gazing

Two Victoria researchers have played a role in discovering the first rocky or icy planet found outside of our Solar System—a planet circling a star 23,000 light years away.

The discovery, reported in the international journal, *Nature*, in January, was made by researchers in 32 institutions, including Dr Denis Sullivan, Reader in the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences, and PhD student, Aarno Korpela.

Denis says the planet is unlike any that have been discovered.

“Previous finds have been primarily gas giants like Jupiter with only a couple so far as small as Neptune. The new planet is only about five times the mass of Earth, probably a ‘cool Neptune’, made of rock and ice.”

Denis is a principal investigator in the New Zealand-Japan collaboration that has installed a new telescope at Mt John Observatory near Lake Tekapo. The collaboration, which includes scientists at Auckland, Canterbury and Massey universities, uses a technique called gravitational microlensing to discover distant planets. The research has been awarded four

Marsden Fund grants over the past decade.

“We detect these planets in combination with their host stars by using the fact that their gravitational fields act like lenses, which magnify the light from a background star in a characteristic way when the observer, star-planet system and background star are in near-perfect alignment.”

Aarno is developing complex software to model these events and has been running his programs on the computational grid recently created by the School of Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science by linking its 175 Unix computers. Grid programs run in the background, so when computers are in low use they automatically switch to running Aarno’s programs.

“We extract key physical information, such as the planet’s mass, from the microlensing data, by running computing-intensive models that simulate millions of light rays passing through the gravitational field of the star-planet system. One of my overnight runs on the grid would take three months on one computer,” Aarno says.

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A moonlight view of the new telescope at Mt John.

“Previous finds have been primarily gas giants like Jupiter with only a couple so far as small as Neptune. The new planet is only about five times the mass of Earth, probably a ‘cool Neptune’, made of rock and ice.”



Education Review

From the Vice-Chancellor

In a crowded educational marketplace it is easy to lose sight of the special characteristics of universities. We are centres of higher learning where research and teaching are intimately linked and teaching is carried out by academics active in advancing knowledge and learning. Despite other tertiary education providers claiming that universities are only concerned with excellence in research, whilst they lay claim to excellence in teaching, Victoria is vitally concerned with excellence in both. Our consistent success in the National Tertiary Teaching Awards—six awards in four years—puts that argument to rest.

We pride ourselves on being a university where leading researchers teach at all levels. One such academic is Professor Paul Callaghan, Director of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology, who was made a Principal Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2006 New Years Honours. Late last year Paul was also honoured by the Royal Society of New Zealand with its highest award, the Rutherford Medal. He actively 'professes' his discipline, teaching first-year students introductory physics, where his passion and enthusiasm has sparked renewed interest in the physical sciences. Another leading researcher and teacher is Professor Bill Manhire, Director of Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters, who was last year made a Laureate of the New Zealand Arts Foundation. Bill was also one of several staff to receive New Zealand Honours in 2005.

Victoria's researchers are leading nine new research projects worth \$3.5 million, after receiving grants from the Marsden Fund, administered by the Royal Society, last year. They've also been adept at picking up significant grants for research from the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology and other funding bodies.

Research is in the national spotlight this year with the second evaluation of research quality for the Government's Performance-Based Research Fund taking place. The first evaluation in 2003 ranked Victoria as one of New Zealand's top three research universities and we are determined to maintain our standing.

Pat Walsh
Vice-Chancellor

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Cover Image: Associate Professor Dale Carnegie and his robot, Marvin. Image: Robert Cross, Image Services.



Research & Innovation

Victoria's academic staff are leaders in their fields of research expertise. If you have a project that requires the skills and knowledge of our staff, contact Mike Doig at ViLink. E-mail: Mike.Doig@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 5072.



Unravelling Niue

Niue, the rock of Polynesia, is in a precarious position. Faced with a decreasing population, the ever-growing threat of natural disasters and questions being asked about its independence, the tiny nation seems threatened to its very core.

But Dr Warwick Murray, Senior Lecturer in the School of Earth Sciences, is optimistic about its future, despite its high dependency on New Zealand aid.

“Niueans have managed to rebuild after Cyclone Heta in 2005, albeit at great human and economic cost, but the threat to Niue’s independence is not purely environmental, it’s politico-economic. It is possible that countries such as Niue are facing the consequences of the increased affluence of the developed world.

“The future of a nation should be based on more than its profit book. We’re talking about a culture and environment that is unparalleled in the world.”

Warwick has co-edited a book on Niue, the first geography text and one of only a handful of books written about the island. It features sections on a range of geographical perspectives; evolutionary, biophysical, geographical, demographic and economic, and also remains conscious and attentive to social and cultural imprints.

While Cyclone Heta, which devastated the island, occurred after the book had gone to print, Warwick sees the book as a useful resource for students and the public to learn about Niue, which has about 1,500 inhabitants.

“The idea for the book came about when I was working at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in the late 1990s. The entire geography department visited Niue to conduct research as part of a scheme to connect with the smallest member of the University, which has 12 member states dotted throughout the Pacific.”

Niue Island: Geographical Perspectives on the Rock of Polynesia was co-edited by Warwick and USP colleague, Dr James Terry. Special sittings of Niue’s Parliament were held to decide if the book should go ahead, and also to endorse its publication by UNESCO in 2005.

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Movie margins

When you visit a video shop you can pick any movie you want to watch but one thing you can't control is when it arrives on the shelves.

That’s because—aside from a brief period from 1998–2001—the law has banned the renting of parallel imported DVDs and videos, leaving customers in the hands of international film distributors when it comes to release dates.

Professor Lewis Evans, from the School of Economics & Finance, along with economic consultant, Matt Burgess, has written a report on the benefits and costs of the parallel importation of DVDs, focusing on the three-year period when this was permitted.

“The removal of the prohibition on parallel importing in the late 1990s created a ‘natural experiment’ and a unique opportunity for us to investigate the trade-off between the protection of intellectual property and market competition,” says Lewis.

They found that the removal of the prohibition, in May 1998, had a marked impact.

“Stores were able to offer movies for rent at the same time, or even before, the New Zealand cinematic release. This led to a sharp reduction in cinema earnings, as consumers preferred to watch the film at home on DVD format. Parallel importing also led to a significant reduction in the delay of New Zealand film releases, as distributors responded to the increased competition.”

The researchers concluded the parallel importing enhanced the welfare of consumers, who had greater choice of format (DVD or cinema) and benefited from the earlier release dates.

All this came to an end in 2001, when the High Court decided Parliament did not intend the lifting of the prohibition to include rental rights. A law change formalised a permanent ban on renting, but not buying, parallel-imported DVDs.

“The decision was unfortunate. New Zealand has a small population and it seems unlikely parallel importing would harm either the international or local film production industries. With the increased ease of sending goods and information around the world—and the drop in price of home theatre equipment—the legislation is sure to come under pressure in the future.”

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Robotics in a new age

His name is Marvin and he's a robot. And while he shares the name of the robot in Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, he never gets depressed at carrying out his work as a security guard.

Marvin, which is short for Mobile Autonomous Robotic Vehicle for Indoor Navigation, is the creation of Associate Professor Dale Carnegie, from the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences.

He's designed to wander office corridors after hours, questioning people he meets. Through voice recognition and scanning technology he works out who is allowed to be in the office, alerting security guards when he meets people who should not be there. Unlike his predecessor, who featured on TVNZ's *One News* looking like something out of the 1960s, the latest Marvin has a head that can increase its size to intimidate strangers. His body was redesigned with help from Wellington firm, Robotechnology, which made the robotic sheep used on the movie, *Babe*.

Dale says Marvin is an example of a new age of robotics. "We're all used to seeing those massive and expensive robots used throughout the world to build cars. They accurately and repetitively complete the same task over and over and while they're very successful at doing that, they cannot handle any variation.

"Marvin is designed to work without human intervention and to learn from his experiences. The technology that powers Marvin could be applied to create robots that methodically move through a forest and assess the size and number trees to be felled and their exact location. One

day they could even carry out the logging as robotic lumberjacks. My students have already made robots that, using GPS, can move through a farmer's fields checking pasture quality."

Dale says the creation of autonomous robots is a potential new industry for New Zealand.

"We will never be able to compete against the massive robotic manufacturers in Japan and Taiwan, but we can create robots to carry out repetitive but varied manual tasks in niche industries. A good example is in meatworks, where one of the most hated tasks, and one that often results in injuries, is carrying out the initial Y cut on the beast being slaughtered. A traditional robot could never complete the task because no two beasts are identical. The autonomous robot we have developed with Industrial Research Ltd, which is being tested in Australia, learns by scanning each carcass as it was placed in front of it and making the cuts in the correct place. The potential is simply unlimited."

Dale says robots such as Marvin are examples of the growing field of 'mechatronics,' which combines mechanical, electronic and software engineering with sensors, physics, mathematics, marketing and design.

While Victoria has taught courses on robotics for many years, Dale is leading Victoria's new MSc programme in electronic and computer systems engineering. Drawing on the resources of the Schools of Chemical & Physical Sciences; Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science; and Design, the programme, which began this year, includes a blend of theoretical courses on artificial intelligence and mechatronics, with hands-on work in making robotic devices.

Dale and some of his team's robotic creations.

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Turning water into wine

An epiphany during a Christmas function resulted in a solution that will help vineyards protect their vines from frost, thanks to the innovative thinking of Henry Skates, Deputy Head of the School of Architecture.

Henry was at Gladstone Vineyard in the Wairarapa in 1999, when it struck him that he might be able to develop an environmentally friendly solution to preventing frost damage during bud burst; where ice freezes inside the buds of the flowers on the vines and ruins them.

Using his background in sustainable building construction, Henry teamed up with a former colleague, Dr Mervyn Smyth at the University of Ulster, who is an expert in solar water heating.

“The idea we came up with was to construct black plastic tubular bags that are filled with water and placed under the vines. The tubes, which are completely recyclable, are designed with pockets inside them so that the water can be spread evenly, regardless of the terrain,” says Henry.

“Typically, prior to a frost, there is lots of sunshine followed by a clear night, which causes the Earth’s heat to be lost rapidly and results in frost, potentially ruining the vines for up to three years—not a position vineyard owners want to be faced with.

“The bags are designed to collect solar energy during the day, then slow down the release of heat during a frost, which keeps the temperature of the ground underneath the vines a few degrees warmer than the air temperature.”

Henry has tested the prototypes at Gladstone and in Blenheim, and will be working with the Marlborough Wine Research Centre of Excellence to conduct further tests later this year.

“We’ve applied for funding to develop the concept further. We want to test what will happen to the temperature of the ground if we put the bags out earlier in the season.”

Henry and Mervyn’s patented design could reduce the financial implications faced by vineyards, which often have to hire helicopters or use wind turbines to churn up wind to prevent frost forming, and will also benefit the environment.

Mervyn and Henry with their handiwork at a vineyard in 2005.

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Getting emotional about words

While New Zealanders were once described as a ‘passionless people,’ the variety of words we’ve created to describe our feelings reveals a deeper emotional side.

Dr Dianne Bardsley, Manager of the New Zealand Dictionary Centre in the School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies, has recently completed compiling its first thesauruses, the *New Zealand Oxford School Thesaurus* and the *New Zealand Oxford Mimi Thesaurus*, and was surprised at our extensive emotional vocabulary.

“The thesauruses included 31 synonyms for ‘angry’ and 44 for ‘becoming angry’. Uniquely New Zealand synonyms included ‘spitting tacks’, ‘having a blue fit’ and ‘packing a sad’. While these show more colour than the fewer words we’ve coined for states of contentment, we still flummox our Australian neighbours when we tell them that we’re ‘a box of fluffy ducks.’”

The two thesauruses are the latest in a series of publications from the Centre, a joint venture between Victoria and Oxford University Press. The Centre’s most significant recent achievement was the publication of the critically acclaimed *New Zealand Oxford Dictionary*, which won the reference and anthology section in the 2005 Montana Book Awards.

Dianne also found that while there were more than 20 synonyms surrounding dying and death, there were almost none to describe that most emotional of events—birth.

Compiling the school thesaurus posed particular challenges, especially in the use of informal and slang words.

“Wimp and wuss get a look in, but I decided that howlybag was too much of a 60s term to be included. Whether to include synonyms for marijuana—such as the uniquely New Zealand slang ‘electric puha’—was a difficult issue, but I decided to put them in as I thought most young people these days are pretty aware of them. The thesauruses also include terms from Māori, such as taonga, which are commonly used in New Zealand English.”

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Bridging worlds

Growing up in a family that bridged the hearing and Deaf worlds, as well as Māori and Pākehā cultures, inspired Kirsten Smiler to carry out pioneering research.

Kirsten, who is a research assistant at Victoria's Health Services Research Centre, has completed her MA research on issues of cultural and linguistic identity for Māori Deaf.

"I lived in between different worlds while I was growing up. My mother is Deaf so New Zealand Sign Language was my first language. My father is Māori (Te Aitanga-ā-Māhaki) and hearing so there were culture clashes happening there that made me think about identity and how Māori Deaf people, who belong to two minority groups, feel about their identity."

Kirsten's research, which has generated interest from academics and policy makers, departs from the majority of research conducted on Māori Deaf, which usually focuses on medical issues.

"Although Māori are over-represented in the Deaf community—they make up nearly half of the deafness notifications—there is very little known about what it's actually like to be a Māori Deaf person in New Zealand. I wanted to find out how they feel about their multiple identities and their complex social and linguistic situation."

Kirsten interviewed 10 participants using New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) and discussed their life experiences of whānau relationships, schooling, participation and learning in Deaf and Māori communities, their access and attitudes to NZSL, te reo Māori and English, and asked them to identify aspirations for themselves and the collective of Māori Deaf.

She discovered social and linguistic access to te reo Māori, NZSL and English was complex.

"The most natural language for Māori Deaf to use, NZSL, was banned in the education system until recently, and while spoken and written English was promoted, access to written Māori was not. The impact of this was complex. While belonging linguistically to the Deaf community, some noted the New Zealand Deaf community lacked recognition of their Māoritanga. In the same vein, Te Ao Māori (the Māori world) lacked an understanding of Deaf identity, language and culture."

In addition, the emphasis on spoken oratory makes it challenging for Māori Deaf to access a lot of aspects of Te Ao Māori.

"If you're Deaf it can be quite difficult to know what is being said at places like tangihanga without a Māori sign language interpreter, who interprets from te reo Māori to NZSL.



Kirsten signs the words 'sign language'.

"Māori sign language interpreters are important; they expose Māori Deaf people to information from Te Ao Māori, which shows in the development of new Māori signs being used in NZSL. There are new signs being coined all the time, such as iwi, kaumātua, hāngi and mana. There are a few trained interpreters, but not enough."

Kirsten believes the Māori Deaf community is growing stronger in terms of social networks. More than 100 people attended the second National Māori Deaf Hui in 2005.

"As a community, Māori Deaf are focused on moving forward together with some definite aspirations. These include expanding their tūrangawaewae to include Māori Deaf wānanga and encouraging Māori Deaf social activities."

Kirsten is now working with the Deaf Studies Research Unit, in Victoria's School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies, on a paper for a major linguistic journal on Māori signs used in NZSL and is hoping to carry out PhD research in a related area.

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Kayak conservation

No noise, no pollution and no traffic make kayaking one of the most pleasurable—and eco-friendly—ways to enjoy New Zealand’s outdoors.

Environmental Studies student, Mark Walters, has been awarded a \$15,000 Tourism New Zealand scholarship to conduct research to ensure kayaking continues to be an environmentally sustainable activity.

As part of his Master’s degree, he’s undertaking research to develop guidelines for minimising the environmental impact of commercial sea kayaking operations.

“In the last decade there’s been a great deal of growth in kayaking tourism, and more recently a move from multi-day trips to the more popular one-day trips. The guidelines I’m developing are designed to help the industry minimise the impact of increased visitor numbers on the environment. New Zealand is a wonderful place and I want to contribute towards protecting its future.”

Although kayaking itself is a fairly non-intrusive activity, Mark says the infrastructure surrounding it, such as offices, base facilities and transportation, has the potential to intrude on the local environment.

“The guidelines will cover everything from simple measures, such as energy efficiency, waste minimisation and water conservation, through to managing visitor numbers.”



They will be transferable to other outdoor tourism activities, including rafting, cycling and guided walking.

Since beginning his Master’s degree, Mark has found employment that links in with his research at Latitude Nelson, the Regional Tourism Organisation for the Nelson Region. His role is to co-ordinate the Nelson Tasman Sustainable Tourism Charter, a Government-funded programme. Previously Mark spent six years as a sea kayak guide and operations manager in the Abel Tasman National Park.

“I loved working as a guide but I wanted to get more involved in sustainable tourism at a management level. Environmental Studies at Victoria was great for providing me with an overview of the fundamental environmental issues and how they impact on society, business, iwi and government.”

Constitutional tinkering

The formation of the Government last year was a perfect example of the flexibility inherent in New Zealand’s constitutional arrangements, says Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Law, Professor Matthew Palmer.

National Deputy Leader, Gerry Brownlee, criticised the process and called for New Zealand to adopt a formal written constitution.

Matthew, who last year led a team that advised a parliamentary select committee examining New Zealand’s constitution, questions whether such a document is needed.

“The ad hoc development of our constitution suits us culturally, like tinkering in a constitutional shed. There are disadvantages to flexibility—it makes our constitution vulnerable to unwanted or even unnoticed shifts. But there are advantages. It enables us to adapt to changing circumstances and it suits us as a reasonably stable democracy with a commitment to the rule of law.

“The current Government is a striking example of that innovative flexibility in action. It’s unprecedented internationally to have ministers in the Executive from parties that are not in a formal coalition. Depending on what a written constitution said, that might not have been possible. The real test will be whether it works. If it’s not sustainable politically then it will disappear.”

Matthew, as Director of the Centre for Public Law, along with Deputy Director, Claudia Geiringer, Nicola White, Institute of Policy Studies Senior Research Fellow and several research assistants, acted as expert advisers, wrote briefing papers, summarised public submissions and critiqued the committee’s draft report.

While he doesn’t believe the constitution is in crisis, Mathew sees a need for greater public understanding and for a debate on the role of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Matthew, whose term as Pro Vice-Chancellor ends this year, will play a major role in that debate. The Law Foundation has awarded him a fellowship to undertake a major research project on the role of the Treaty in New Zealand’s law and constitution.

“The ad hoc development of our constitution suits us culturally, like tinkering in a constitutional shed.”

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If you are interested in sharing your views or supporting Victoria on issues of tertiary education politics and policy, contact us. Email: Tertiary-Policy@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 5301.



Forward thinking

By Pat Walsh
Vice-Chancellor

Late last year, the University Council faced a choice. It could heed the pleas of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association that fees not be increased, which would have placed Victoria in a very difficult financial situation, with infrastructure and service improvements being put on hold. Or it could seek to strengthen the long-term financial situation of the University to ensure that we are able to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The Council decided to increase fees for undergraduate and Honours courses by five percent, the maximum allowed by the Government. Postgraduate fees will increase by the maximum of \$500 per equivalent full-time student (EFTS). It also decided to seek an exemption from the Tertiary Education Commission to increase fees for humanities, social sciences and education courses by a further five percent in July 2006.

It was a decision the University Council took with the greatest reluctance. It is not insensitive to the financial burdens students face. However,

it is necessary to look to the long-term future of Victoria against an ever-increasing demand for quality and a decline in the number of students enrolling. To maintain or enhance our standing as a leading research-led university we need to increase investment, particularly in library resources and staffing.

Student fees are one of the few sources of revenue we are able to influence. This decision was unavoidable because the Government has failed to maintain its level of investment per student. This is not keeping pace with inflation, which is running at 3.4 percent. The tuition subsidy we receive for teaching undergraduate courses will increase by 2.6 percent in 2006. But, as it only provides 42 percent of our total income, it is, in effect, an increase in our revenue of little over one percent.

In recommending increases in student fees to the Council, I faced several constraints. Like all universities, we have been challenged by an abrupt decline in international enrolments from China, although the excellent work of Victoria International in diversifying our student base has tempered the effect.

The decline in international enrolments has been coupled with weak growth in domestic student numbers in 2005 due to a significant increase in polytechnic enrolments and full employment reducing the number of students retraining or taking discretionary courses. We project these trends to continue across the university sector. These trends, when combined with significant increases in salary costs, the need to make investments to meet the goals of our Strategic Plan, and the increasing demands of both staff and students for quality resources, will make the years ahead particularly challenging.

Essentially, unless there is a major turnaround in enrolments, or a major increase in Government investment, the road ahead looks difficult. We could simply cut expenditure and keep cutting in the years ahead, but it would not be without cost and an impact on quality, reputation and morale.

Instead we plan to embark on a major project to address the situation. 'Project Victoria', planned for 2006, will encompass a series of projects aimed at rejuvenation, revenue enhancement and cost-containment. Project Victoria will require us to challenge all our processes—academic and administrative—and will only succeed with the full involvement of all staff and their confidence in the management of the project as well as the ongoing support of our alumni and friends. I look forward to your support in this vitally important process for Victoria.

“To maintain or enhance our standing as a leading research-led university we need to increase investment, particularly in library resources and staffing.”



Learning @ Vic

If you are interested in finding out about the dynamic courses and qualifications offered by Victoria, contact our Course Advice team. Email: Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz Tel: 0800 VIC UNI.



Nicola with Victoria's 'first' book.

'First' library book unearthed

Victoria's 'first' library book has been unearthed—still sitting on the shelves ready to be borrowed almost a century after it was bought.

Nicola Frean, who manages the Library's J C Beaglehole Room, says she was intrigued by Professor John Davidson's comment at his inaugural lecture that Victoria's first book was rumoured to be a classical text.

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Nicola found that the first book listed in 'Accession Volume 1' was a 1905 edition of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, which tells the story of the Greek King after his return from the war against Troy. Following this accession are several pages of classical books, followed by books about mathematics.

"While John was correct and *Agamemnon* was the first book processed, this accession volume only begins in 1907, when the Library moved into the Hunter Building in Kelburn. The University was based at temporary premises in Thorndon from 1899 but the catalogue from that time has not survived."

Nicola searched the first Council and Professorial Board minute books and, while they did not reveal the name of the first book, they highlighted the Library's significance.

"The 1901 minutes detail a delegation led by Professors Rankine Brown and Maclaurin asking the Council to buy books for the Library, pointing out that while law books had been bought, books on other subjects were needed. It seems quite appropriate then that the building the Central Library is now housed in is named after Professor Rankine Brown.

"But I also wondered about the fate of that 'first' book. Much to my surprise it was still on the shelves. Given its significance, it has been added to the Beaglehole collection."

The Library has grown substantially since 1907 and now holds more than 700,000 volumes. In order to meet the University's strategic objectives, the Council last year decided to increase the Library's budget for buying books by almost a third.

Strategic thinking

From art and Arsenal's football coach to terrorism and secret intelligence, students on Victoria's Master of Strategic Studies programme are widening the boundaries of what it means to think strategically.

The MSS programme, which had its first graduates capped at December's Graduation ceremonies, is now offering 17 elective courses.

Programme coordinator, Dr Lance Beath, says the programme has widened the traditional view of the subject.

"Strategic studies has been the preserve of people working in defence, the police and foreign affairs and our programme has numerous courses examining terrorism, religion, trans-national crime and defence policy.

"But the programme has also attracted students from other disciplines, so military people are rubbing shoulders with social policy analysts and

this has given it a new edge. We want students who can think outside the square, and our students have done that, examining people as diverse as California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, I.M. Pei, the architect of the Bank of China and the Louvre Pyramid, to the coach of the Arsenal Football Club, Arsene Wenger, to bring new perspectives to the meaning of strategic thinking.

"One student from a social policy background undertook an internship in the British Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and has now been seconded to the New Zealand Police to assist them in establishing their strategic unit."

Lance says students on the programme have benefited from the strong links between the School of Government and the public service.

"Last year, the School not only hosted an international seminar on counter-terrorism with the New Zealand Police, but also organised two public lectures by leading international experts in intelligence and terrorism. One of those speakers, Sir David Phillips, former Director of the National Centre for Policing Excellence in Britain, has agreed to teach a course in the programme in 2006."

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Oxford bound

Nine centuries of learning and tradition await alumnus Malcolm Birdling when he takes up a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University in October.

Malcolm, who holds a BA in Political Science and an LLB with First Class Honours, will undertake a Bachelor of Civil Law degree at Oxford, studying comparative public law and human rights, as well as jurisprudence, political and constitutional theory.

“I’m still a bit overwhelmed but really looking forward to living and studying in a place with such history.”

Rhodes Scholarships are extremely competitive and constitute the pinnacle of achievement for students wishing to pursue postgraduate study at one of the world’s leading universities.

Malcolm says the application process was ‘gruelling’. The final panel interview, at Government House, was carried out by the Governor-General, the Hon Dame Silvia Cartwright, Reserve Bank Governor, Dr Alan Bollard, professors from several universities and a prominent lawyer.

“It was easily the most daunting interview I’ve ever had, being extensively questioned by some of the most powerful people in New Zealand.”

Malcolm attended Upper Hutt’s Heretaunga College, where he was Dux in 1998. He has been actively involved in community work in Upper Hutt for many years and is also an accomplished debater.

“That’s going to be a real highlight of attending Oxford, getting involved in their debating society, which is famous around the world for the calibre of speakers it attracts, which have included our former Prime Minister, David Lange.”

After completing the Bachelor’s degree, Malcolm would like to proceed to a Master of Philosophy in public law, as he intends to teach and practice in this area on his return to New Zealand.

Malcolm will continue working as a Judge’s Clerk at the Court of Appeal in Wellington until he begins at Oxford, although he is leaving space for a European holiday with his new wife before the serious study begins.

Spiritual support

Muslim students at Pipitea Campus will no longer lose valuable study time heading off campus to pray thanks to the provision of a new prayer room.

Muslims are required to pray five times a day and at least two of these times fall within normal class hours. Victoria already has a prayer room on the Kelburn Campus and the new Railway West Wing facility will provide a convenient place for students to pray at Pipitea Campus.

Victoria Muslim Students’ Association spokesperson, Zeenah Adam, says the new prayer room is much needed and will be well-utilised.

“A lot of Muslim students have classes at Pipitea this year and have been worried about what they would do when it was time to pray. We are extremely grateful for the new space which is in a nice accessible area.”

The size of the Muslim community within New Zealand and Wellington is growing rapidly. In the 2001 Census, the number of New Zealand residents declaring Islam as their religion was 23,637, a 74 percent increase from 1996 and that figure is expected to rise considerably in this year’s Census.

Director of Student Services, Ruth Moorhouse, says it’s vital for the University to meet the basic spiritual needs of its students, including the increasing number of Muslim students at Victoria.

“We know that having a place to pray is a foremost concern for Muslim students in universities. An aspect of our pastoral care is provision of both social and learning support.”

In addition to the two Muslim prayer rooms, Victoria also has both Catholic and Anglican chaplaincies on campus and has recently opened a combined chaplaincy prayer space at Pipitea Campus.

Contact

student-services@vuw.ac.nz
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www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services

Victoria student Shamim Hodayun prays in the new room.



Designer green fingers



School of Design students Jamie Roberts, Nick Jones and Rob Bark will spend their next summer break exploring the Mediterranean, thanks to their winning entry in the Ellerslie Flower Show in November.

The students, who are completing Bachelor of Design degrees in Landscape Architecture, won an \$8,000 travel scholarship for their winning scheme, *Ajar*, a provocative piece that plays with the ideas of inside and outside, what is left over, and what is of value in society.

Constructed largely of doors, cut and arranged to appear like a modernist composition, the arrangement allows peeks and glimpses into an inner world with a 'planted' floor.

"Initially we took the project on as part of the course requirements for Landscape Planting Design, but we jumped at the chance to construct a 1:1 model," says Jamie.

The team learnt plenty of lessons about construction and the logistics of constructing their exhibit in just one week when they arrived in Auckland. They will use their prize money to help fund a trip to explore landscapes on a journey from Greece to Lebanon.

Nick and Rob say the competition win has increased their confidence in designing and building to scale.

"We're looking forward to further opportunities and funding to be able to put together entries for more exposure in the future."

The School ran an internal competition to decide who would enter the exhibition, entering four teams across all levels of the Landscape Architecture programme in a new section for the prestigious show; a design marquee set up to encourage up-and-coming designers.

Robin Simpson, Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, was delighted that Victoria's students had won three out of the four design marquee awards on offer.

"Victoria's students won the gold, silver and merit awards, and the judges commended all the students on the innovative exploration of ideas about landscapes and gardens. They were pleased to see the students drawing on a number of other disciplines to explore their ideas, something we encourage through faculty links with staff and students in the Architecture, Industrial Design, Digital Media and Interior Architecture majors.

"The opportunity to have a national arena to present work is a great experience for the students. Not only do they get to show their ideas to an audience that wouldn't normally get to see their work, but they are also being judged by an international panel of experts, which is a great way for them to have their work benchmarked."

The other award-winning Victoria students were Yanos Fill-Dryden, Mike Davis and Sophie Jacques, who won the Silver award for their exhibit based on Maurice Sendak's book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, and Bryce Foster, Dan Blazkow and Helen Reynolds who received the Merit award for *The Life Cycle of the Tree Fern*.

Above: An interior view of *Ajar*, with its 'planted' floor.

Left: From left, Nick, Jamie and Rob relax after winning the gold award for *Ajar*.

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Wise up

A groundbreaking opportunity in online education is enabling Victoria students to take part in courses in the United States and Canada, as part of the Master in Library & Information Studies (MLIS) programme.

The students are taking part in online courses provided by universities in the Web-based Information Science Education (WISE) consortium, a joint initiative by three North American universities. WISE aims to broaden opportunities for library and information studies' students by providing collaborative education that increases the quality and diversity of online learning.

Led by Dr Dan Dorner, Senior Lecturer in the School of Information Management, the courses have been enthusiastically taken up by students, who can take WISE courses as electives.

"Victoria is the only university in the southern hemisphere taking part in WISE, which has attracted 12 universities across North America.

"All of our partner institutions offer programmes accredited by the American Library Association,

so we know they're top-notch programmes. We're pleased with the way the students have responded to WISE and we're looking to expand the courses on offer to other programmes within the School."

Joanne O'Connor, who took an Information Marketing course from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2005, sees WISE as an excellent way to offer courses within the MLIS programme that may only appeal to a few students and wouldn't necessarily be viable for the School to run.

"WISE has given me a fantastic opportunity to extend the courses on offer for my Master's. Because the courses are asynchronous, they offer the flexibility to enrol in additional papers outside the trimester schedule. They've also allowed me to interact with students and lecturers overseas on specialist topics."

The Consortium has also opened up opportunities for North American students to take part in the MLIS elective courses. Three students from Syracuse University in New York State have taken part in INFO534, an archives management course, proving their dedication to their studies by attending online lectures taught in real time on Monday evenings in New Zealand – 1am in New York.

Contact

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Who's new?

Neil Quigley



Professor Neil Quigley was appointed as the University's first Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) in October 2005. Neil manages the Office of Research & Postgraduate Studies, chairs the University Research Committee, represents the University on the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee's Research Committee and has been given responsibility for reconsidering the relationship with Victoria Link Ltd. Neil completed a BA and MA with First Class Honours from the University of Canterbury, and in 1986 received his PhD from the University of Toronto. He was a Lecturer in Economics at Victoria during the 1980s and returned in 1995 as Professor of Monetary Economics & Financial Institutions. In February 1997, he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Commerce & Administration

and, in 2001, was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor. He also took responsibility for the University's international issues. In 2003, his role took a new focus, concentrating specifically on Victoria International and international issues. Neil continues to pursue an active research programme on issues relating to regulation, competition policy and industrial organisation.

Kenneth McNatty



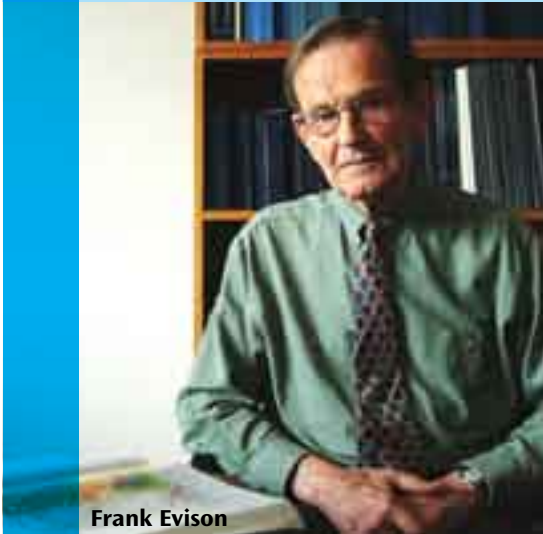
Professor Kenneth McNatty has been appointed as Professor of Biotechnology, returning to his alma mater, where he gained an MSc in Chemistry in 1967. He completed his PhD in reproductive biology at the University of Edinburgh and undertook postdoctoral studies on human reproduction and ovarian function at Harvard Medical

School. In 1980, he was awarded the Boerhaave Professorship at the University of Leiden in The Netherlands where he worked on ovarian follicular function. A Fellow of the Royal Society since 1992, Ken has won many awards including a Harkness Fellowship in 1977 and the Society of Reproduction and Fertility's Distinguished Scientist Lecturer Award in 2004. A highly respected member of the international science community, Ken is widely known as 'the father of Androvax,' a product that increases fertility in breeding ewes. He joins Victoria from AgResearch, where he has been responsible for securing and managing government-funded research.



Gift

If you are interested in supporting students and staff with a donation of funds, resources or time, we'd like to hear from you. For financial contributions contact the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Executive Director, Tricia Walbridge. Email: Tricia.Walbridge@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 5109.



Frank Evison

Seismic gift

During his lifetime, Emeritus Professor Frank Evison's pioneering research in geophysics and earthquake prediction made him a national and international authority.

His legacy—his research and the establishment of Victoria's Institute of Geophysics—is to be further boosted thanks to a generous donation from his family.

The family plans to donate \$120,000 to establish the Frank Evison MSc Scholarship in long-term seismogenesis and long-range earthquake forecasting, provided the Victoria

University Foundation can match it to create an endowment to fund the Scholarship in perpetuity. So far \$100,000 of matching funds have been raised, including \$30,000 to be donated by the Earthquake Commission over five years, and the Foundation is seeking further donors.

Dr David Evison says he and his sisters, Margaret and Rosemary, discussed establishing a scholarship with their father before his death in January last year.

"The origins and forecasting of earthquakes was a subject that Dad dedicated much of his life to, and we wanted to support continued research into this area, which is important not only to New Zealand but to many countries in the world that suffer from earthquakes. Having worked as a research scientist, I believe this kind of funding is vital to ensure long-term research is carried out."

Acting Head of the School of Earth Sciences, Dr Mike Hannah, says Frank was an international authority on geophysics and his work in establishing the Institute attracted many young scientists into the discipline.

"Frank revolutionised the study of earthquake origins and forecasting, moving it from the realms of anecdote and placing it on a scientific footing. While he retired in 1988, he continued his research and was a daily visitor to the Institute, even up to shortly before his death.

"The University wants to significantly increase the number of research degrees being completed and by making this generous donation, the family will help ensure Frank's work continues, by providing vital financial assistance to allow young scientists to carry out research."

Contact

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Curatorial collaboration

Generous contributions from alumnus Errol Clark, Creative New Zealand and the Chartwell Trust will enable an art critic or curator to undertake a residency at Victoria, in a project that is a first for New Zealand universities.

Tina Barton, Senior Lecturer in the School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies, says the residency is the first of its kind in New Zealand and will be of enormous benefit to both the critic or curator and the Art History programme.

"Offering a residency to a critic or curator will enable them to better understand New Zealand and its artists and provide the opportunity for them to share their knowledge with staff, students and the wider community. The first residency has been accepted by Lee Weng Choy and we're looking forward to working with him this year.

"The involvement from our sponsors, the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation and the Asian Studies programme, which have also offered their support to this curator, has been invaluable, and we're planning to offer the residencies for the next three years, with the view to making this a permanent feature."

Weng, who is based at Singapore's Substation Arts Centre, has co-curated the latest exhibition at Victoria's Adam Art Gallery, *Islanded: Contemporary art from New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan*. He will take up his residency for six weeks from the end of February, where he will have the chance to work with programme and Gallery staff and conduct lectures for students and the public.

"I'm really looking forward to being in Victoria's environment. In addition to my day job, I like to think of myself as an art critic, but I'm always trying to 'steal' time to think and write and research," says Weng.

"It will be good to step out of my hectic routine in Singapore, and to have some substantial encounters with contemporary practice from New Zealand."

Contact

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A tale of two violins

After 50 years of making music, one of New Zealand's most prolific violinists has gifted her two beloved instruments to Victoria, to be used by a new generation of student musicians.

Clare Galambos-Winter, who survived the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in World War II, played the violin professionally for 50 years in New Zealand. Recently she decided it was time her two valuable violins were passed on, which she arranged with the help of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation.

Clare, 82, was a violinist in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for 33 years and played chamber music until recently. Now she's turning her hand to writing short stories and wants her violins to be played by people who love music as much as she does.

"Music is such an integral part of my life. It would be impossible for me not to have it around me."

One of the violins she donated was the first she bought after arriving in New Zealand in 1949, as a post-war immigrant from Hungary. During the German occupation her entire family was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where her parents and younger brother were killed. Clare and her aunt survived because they were chosen to leave the notorious camp to provide forced labour at a Nazi munitions factory. The terrible conditions meant Clare came close to death but she managed to escape from the factory, just two days before the Americans arrived.

"I was absolutely penniless when I arrived in New Zealand, as all my family's money and belongings, including my violin, had been taken from us by the Nazis. I was offered a place in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra but desperately needed a quality violin. Another violinist in the orchestra made a deal with me and sold me his 'second' violin upfront."

That violin, made in Naples in 1799, was Clare's instrument for the first 30 years of her career in New Zealand. Its status was usurped, however, when she fell in love with a Hungarian violin, offered to her by a fiddler from the first group of gypsy musicians to tour New Zealand, in the 1980s.

"After listening to the gypsies play in concert, which was incredibly heart-rending for me, I was approached by some of the young men in the



Above: Clare with the two valuable violins she has gifted to the University.

Right: Clare in the early 1950s, shortly after joining the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

group who all seemed intent on selling me their instruments—they seemed to have an awful lot of extras!

"I played quite a few of them before I dragged the bow across the strings of one particular violin and said 'I want that one.'"

The process of procuring the nineteenth-century violin involved weekend phone calls to bank managers, scrambling to find a substantial amount of American dollars, and a hotel lobby rendezvous where the exchange was made.

"It was worth it though. It was such a wonderful instrument to play on."

In the past 50 years, Clare and her two violins have played nearly every major work composed for orchestra. She has also played dozens of works for chamber music, mostly for string quartet, by Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Ravel, Debussy, and the challenging Russian composer, Shostakovich.

She is looking forward to hearing her violins being played by students from the New Zealand School of Music, the new centre of musical excellence established by Victoria and Massey universities.

"I'm so pleased that my violins will be played by young people. I know how difficult it is to get the opportunity to play on quality instruments and I hope it will make a difference to some talented young musicians who are willing to work hard to achieve their goals."





To keep in touch with University friends, meet new people and continue to participate in the stimulating intellectual and cultural life of Victoria, contact the Alumni Relations Office. Email: Alumni@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64 4 463 6700 www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni



Photography by Woolf

Victoria Events

Attending events at Victoria helps alumni keep in touch with University friends, meet new people and take part in the stimulating intellectual and cultural life of Victoria.

Victoria Events is available online at www.vuw.ac.nz/events for easy access to information about University related events. If you don't have access to the internet and would like up-to-date information on forthcoming events, contact the Alumni Relations Office on +64-4-463 6700.

Alumni and friends of the University are warmly invited to the following events:

Islanded: Contemporary art from New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan

Opens: 23 February

Held in conjunction with the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, *Islanded* brings together a range of works by established and emerging contemporary artists from three islands in the Asia-Pacific region: New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan. These artists critically reflect on the histories and the geo-cultural anxieties of their postcolonial societies.

For more information:
www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal

Victoria University of Wellington Cricket Club Centenary

10—12 March

The Victoria University of Wellington Cricket Club celebrates its centenary in the 2005/06 season. To commemorate this momentous occasion, the club would like to invite all past and present players, committee

members and supporters of the club to attend the Centenary weekend festivities to be held in Wellington on the weekend of 10-12 March 2006.

For more information and to register:
www.vicunicricket.com

New Zealand Alumni Convention

5—10 November 2006

The New Zealand Alumni Convention, to be held at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington, will celebrate the lifelong connections that alumni and students from overseas, particularly from Asia, have made with New Zealand. Alumni and friends from the Asia-Pacific region are encouraged to attend the week-long convention, which starts with a big bang from the spectacular annual Wellington Guy Fawkes fireworks extravaganza on the evening on Sunday 5 November. Formal proceedings will culminate in a gala dinner on Wednesday 8 November closely followed by two days of re-living life back at Victoria on 9 and 10 November.

For more information:
www.wcc.govt.nz/rd/alumni

Te Tumu Herenga Waka 20th Anniversary Celebrations

The wharenui, the carved meeting house on Te Herenga Waka Marae, celebrates its twentieth anniversary on 6 December 2006 with a range of events and activities being held throughout the year.

For more information and to join the Māori Alumni Network Group, log onto www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni and register with *Life After Vic*. Also keep an eye on the Marae website: www.vuw.ac.nz/marae

Update: 125 years of developing great teachers in Wellington

Alumni, friends and staff gathered together for an anniversary dinner to celebrate 125 years of developing great teachers in Wellington at the Michael Fowler Centre on 20 October 2005.

Guests were welcomed to the function by Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Dugald Scott, and soon found themselves surrounded by old friends, photographs and memories of their time at the College.

Several students who graduated from the former Wellington College of Education during World War II were in attendance, some meeting old classmates for the first time in 60 years. Guests shared their memories of the College and wrote them down in the memory books provided. The photographs can be viewed at: www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

Working for world justice

For oppressed peoples in the world, the law is a force for control. But for Victoria alumnus, the Rt Hon Sir Kenneth Keith, the first New Zealander to sit on the International Court of Justice, it is a force that should set people free.

“I see the law as a wise restraint that makes us free. Obviously it controls people—you only have to look out on the street to see that in terms of traffic laws—but it also makes you free so you can make your own decisions. As a judge you’re keenly aware that the law is not just about order, but also freedom and justice.”

From February, Ken, who graduated from Victoria with an LLM in 1965, will be applying those principles on a worldwide basis, adjudicating as a part of a panel of 15 judges on legal disputes between states as well as giving advisory opinions on questions put to it by international agencies. Based in The Hague in the Netherlands, and as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, it has 12 cases pending, with the first being a dispute about genocide between Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro.

Ken was elected in November last year by the UN’s General Assembly and the Security Council. He believes countries are increasingly seeing the value of international law to resolve disputes and of having a neutral third party to arbitrate.

“You only have to look at the situation in Europe and the expanding jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. Instead of killing millions of people, as they did 60 or 70 years ago, disputes are resolved peaceably. Admittedly it can be expensive and bureaucratic, but it has got a lot going for it compared to the killing fields of Ypres and the Somme.”

Born in Auckland in 1937, Ken never got to meet two of his great uncles who died in World War I. International law has been an abiding interest since his earliest days at Victoria. Ironically, both his LLM thesis and his first book were about the Court and its advisory role.

Ken’s appointment caps off a high profile career, not only as a jurist, but also as an academic, diplomat and public servant. A former Dean of Law at Victoria, he has represented New Zealand before the International Court in the Nuclear Test Cases in 1973–74 and 1995. Appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1996, he became an inaugural judge of the New Zealand Supreme Court when ties with the Privy Council were cut in 2004.

He has also made a substantial contribution to the reform of New Zealand law as a member of several committees and commissions that have successfully recommended wide-ranging changes



to laws governing official information, constitutional, electoral and civil and political rights. Knighted in 1988, Victoria has also honoured him, making him an Emeritus Professor in 1991 and conferring an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2004.

His latest appointment, combined with his retirement in November from the Supreme Court, means he has packed up his office in the Government Buildings Historic Reserve, home of Victoria’s School of Law, where the judges have been based while a permanent home is prepared.

The School, with which he retains active links as a Distinguished Fellow, is in good heart, he says.

“It’s well placed, but also has extensive links with the legal profession, with Government, the judiciary and with other public agencies. It also has excellent staff, both at junior and senior levels.”

“I see the law as a wise restraint that makes us free. Obviously it controls people—you only have to look out on the street to see that in terms of traffic laws—but it also makes you free so you can make your own decisions. As a judge you’re keenly aware that the law is not just about order, but also freedom and justice.”

Lifelong learning and support

Graduating with an undergraduate degree is often only the first step in a process of lifelong learning, says Jo Butters, Victoria's Postgraduate Liaison Officer.



"I often meet many people who find a few years out from graduating with their Bachelor's degree that they need further education, either to advance in their career or to head down a new path.

"Victoria offers a wide range of programmes to suit most learning needs, from single Continuing Education or Executive Development courses, short certificate programmes and one year postgraduate qualifications right through to advanced research qualifications such as Master's and PhD degrees."

Jo (pictured), who is based at Pipitea Campus in downtown Wellington, says she can provide advice on the qualifications that suit a potential student's needs.

"People often come to me unsure of what is involved in postgraduate study and what is available. I provide them with information about their options, including the enrolment process and whether they can study part-time, and encourage them to speak to academic staff in the Faculties."

Liz Medford, Manager of Vic Careers, says undertaking postgraduate study can certainly benefit a student's future career.

"The 2003 graduate employment destination survey indicates students leaving University with higher qualifications are employed into jobs with higher salaries, are promoted faster and have higher satisfaction levels than those leaving with a Bachelor's degree.

"Postgraduate qualifications can also provide an edge in a highly competitive job market. For students interested in pursuing a career in policy analysis, research work or financial organisations, a postgraduate qualification is a must."

Jo urges anyone interested in further education to visit Victoria's postgraduate website.

"*Postgradlife* not only supplies information on fees and courses but also information for current students on the research process and other support, and for students who want assistance in finding jobs or mapping out their career."

Contact
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www.vuw.ac.nz/postgradlife

Alumni accolades

Recognising the many and varied achievements of our alumni, whether they be in academia, government, law, business, the voluntary sector, creative industries or sports, has been the purview of *Victorious*.

Now the University is taking the opportunity to honour alumni who have made outstanding contributions through their different achievements in their professions, to their communities and to their nations.

The University is calling for nominations of alumni who epitomise the Victoria graduate attributes of leadership, creative and critical thinking, and communication skills. Nominations for alumni whose achievements are worthy of recognition should be forwarded by 30 April 2006. This process is a good way to catch up with old

friends as the judges would like all nominations to be supported by two other alumni.

The Vice-Chancellor will convene a panel to determine the first recipients of the Victoria University of Wellington Distinguished Alumni Awards. The winners, to be announced in *Victorious*' Autumn edition, will be presented with their awards at the inaugural Annual Alumni Dinner, to be held at the Wellington Town Hall on Thursday 12 October 2006. The Dinner, which promises to become a permanent feature of the Wellington social scene, is a black tie affair. It's a great opportunity to dress up in the social and cultural capital of New Zealand in the venue that for many decades played host to our graduate ceremonies.

The Dinner will also be another cause for celebration as Victoria launches its Annual Alumni Appeal. The focus is on student scholarships and will be aiming to generate sufficient donations and annual gifting pledges to establish an endowed scholarship fund.

Contact
To find out more about the Annual Alumni Appeal, the Annual Alumni Dinner, or to nominate someone for a Distinguished Alumni Award, visit www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni Email alumni@vuw.ac.nz, phone +64-4-463 6700 fax +64-4-463 5108 to request nomination and registration forms.

Life after Vic

Thanks to the graduates and members of the University community who have sent in their news. To catch up with the latest from your alma mater, register with *Life after Vic* online at www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

Danielle Bowater BMUS 1999
BCA 2000 BMUS(Hons) 2001



Danielle's first book, *Mouthful: Simple & Stunning Party Food*, has just been published by Awa Press. Her book presents a collection of recipes and inspired ideas for the modern domestic kitchen and the party-giver. With a First Class Honours degree in music composition, one of Danielle's compositions for string quartet was featured on *Rafloza and Friends*, a CD produced by Associate Professor Jack Body of the School of Music for Portal Music. The following year she featured in Victoria's Composers' Competition. Ironically, it was her part-time work while studying, which included catering for a variety of events, including elegant dinners and picnics on the beach that provided the inspiration for her book. Having recently returned to Wellington, she began a new role at Wellington Region Netball, another of her passions, in January. Danielle will continue to cook for friends and family and she ultimately hopes to open her own cafe and catering business.

Pam Dunn BA(Hons) 1984



Pam is the fourth New Zealand Consul-General to Shanghai, China, since the post was established in 1992. Prior to taking up the Shanghai posting in 2002, she worked as

Deputy Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade's North Asia Division and Human Rights Division. From 1995 to 1998, she was posted to the Chinese capital, Beijing. She completed two years of Chinese language training at Victoria and Beijing Normal University. Pam is of ethnic Chinese descent and her ancestral hometown is in Guangzhou in southern China. She is interested in child and youth welfare and, prior to her overseas posting, ran a home in Porirua for disadvantaged young people with her husband, teacher Ross Dunn. While studying at Victoria, Pam was awarded the Sir John Marshall Prize, which honours top students in political science.

Alan Isaac BCA 1974



Alan, Chairman of KPMG New Zealand, retires this year after 10 years at the helm of the professional service firm. Wellington born and bred, he joined the firm in 1971 while studying part-time at Victoria. In the early part of his career he specialised in corporate recovery and was appointed receiver to some of the country's largest firms. He later moved into leadership positions, including managing partner of the Wellington practice before becoming New Zealand chairman. A Fellow of the College of Chartered Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, he is keenly interested in sport and is a member of the New Zealand Cricket board. Married with three adult sons, he also has a strong interest in genealogy.

Tandi Wright BA 1993



While Tandi attended Toi Whakaari: The New Zealand Drama School, after majoring

in Theatre & Film and History at Victoria, her first stage experiences were in plays at Wellington High School. The television and theatre actress has been based in Auckland for the past 10 years and has had many screen roles. She first came to wide public attention through her role as nurse Caroline Buxton on *Shortland Street*. Tandi won two Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards in 2000, for best supporting actress in Stuart Hoar's play, *Rutherford*, and most promising female newcomer in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 2004, the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand selected her to study at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre in London. In 2005, Tandi returned to Wellington to perform in Downstage Theatre's production of David Mamet's play, *Boston Marriage*. Recent screen roles have been extremely varied and include: *Being Eve*, *Willy Nilly*, *Street Legal*, *Seven Periods with Mr Gormsby*, *Doves of War*, and *The Lost Children*. She is currently filming a second series of *Gormsby* in Wellington.

Terry Lambert TTC 1954
Wellington Teachers' College



In 1969, Terry made the trip to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands to take up what was meant to be a two year teaching contract at Nikao Side School, an English language school for the children of local business people and local children whose first language was English. He immediately fell in love with the area and stayed at the School for four years, eventually becoming Acting Principal. Terry spent nearly 20 years working at schools in Rarotonga and spending time back in New Zealand. During the 1980s, after a spell back in New Zealand, he was asked to return to the Cook Islands to take the position of Education Officer for the Northern Cooks Islands. Terry finished his teaching career doing what he enjoyed most—teaching the children of the small Pacific nation with his last posting at Takitumu Primary School in 1995. Now retired, Terry runs his own shop in Rarotonga, selling much-loved shells, many of which he has collected himself. He also owns two holiday bungalows that he rents to tourists.



Graduation

December's graduation saw more than 1,000 students graduate at four ceremonies. These successes included the conferment of 28 PhDs and two honorary doctorates.



Deborah (left) and Joan.

First midwifery PhDs awarded

Victoria's first PhDs in midwifery—one of the world's oldest health professions—were awarded at December's graduation.

Dr Deborah Harding and Dr Joan Skinner, students in the Graduate School of Nursing & Midwifery, became the first students to earn PhDs in midwifery from Victoria.

Deborah, who was born in New Zealand but lives in Canada, travelled to Wellington twice a year to study and carry out her research on the use of complementary medicine by midwives in Canada and New Zealand.

"The research described the complexities of using traditional therapies, which are often viewed as unproven folkloric medicine, in a healthcare culture that places value on scientific evidence for credibility," says Deborah.

Her findings provided creative and sound ways for alternative medicine to play an effective part in the childbearing process.

"I wanted to conduct research on a practical topic, a day-to-day issue that would help practising midwives."

Prior to gaining her PhD, Deborah had worked as a midwife for 17 years and was heavily involved in the process of legalising midwifery in Canada, which did not occur until 1993.

Midwifery lecturer, Dr Joan Skinner, gained her PhD for research into the process of managing risk in midwifery.

"I looked at how midwives make sense of all the risk factors involved in childbirth, in a society that is actually very risk-averse. Midwives have to manage so many different perspectives, including the woman and her unborn child, the family, the obstetrician and her own views."

Joan has worked as a midwife for 26 years but is now concentrating on teaching, research and working as an advisor.

"I've just returned from two very interesting trips overseas. In Cambodia I worked for the World Health Organisation to help communities be more prepared for childbirth. Then, in Afghanistan, I worked to help establish better midwifery education, as they have such terrible maternal mortality rates there."

Cultural barriers

After a 30 year career as a mental health nurse, Dr Athena Gavriel has completed her PhD, focusing on the interplay between culture, identity and the mental health of Hellenes, people of Greek and Cypriot origin, who live in New Zealand.

Athena completed her nursing training in the 1970s at Porirua Hospital. During her time on the wards she encountered several situations where she felt that a better understanding of a patient's culture would have helped with their diagnosis and treatment.

"I spent the 1980s completing a BA in Anthropology and Psychology, which reinforced the ideas I'd been having that different cultures think in different ways and that this could have a significant effect on their health treatment," says Athena, who continued nursing throughout both of her degrees.

"In the early 1990s I developed a policy and protocol for using interpreters and cultural advisors within the health system. With my Greek and Cypriot background, it struck me there was scope for more knowledge of others' culture and identities. The health system presents a number of barriers for people from non-dominant cultures. For example, most of the resources provided by the system are still only written in English, which excludes some."

Athena's Cypriot father arrived in New Zealand in the 1940s after World War II and her maternal grandfather arrived from Greece in the 1920s. Growing up in Lower Hutt in the 1960s, Athena's was one of few Hellenic families in the area. Now over two-thirds of New Zealand's Hellenic population live in greater Wellington.

"My research provides an understanding about the complexity of cultural identity formation and maintenance as people negotiate various cultural worlds in this society. I see my doctoral research as a tool for health practitioners to refer to, to get a sense of where Hellenic people are coming from, both historically and culturally, to help them appreciate some of the situations the patients may be facing.

"It will alert people to look past the official entry to New Zealand labels of 'refugee' or 'immigrant' and to not make assumptions based on labels that have been attributed to people who have a hugely varied past and culture that goes back thousands of years."



Honours awarded

From diplomacy to radio journalism, the two honorary doctorates awarded at December's Graduation recognise lifetimes of achievement.



Frank Corner

Frank Corner received an honorary Doctor of Laws for his contribution to diplomatic and public service for almost 40 years. A student at Victoria in the 1940s, he served New Zealand at the highest level, working as New Zealand's United Nations Representative, as the Permanent Head of the Prime Minister's Department and as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He worked to open diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and developed the concept of 'free association' that allowed Pacific Islands to gain independence but retain links with New Zealand. He also built relationships across Europe when Britain joined the European Economic Community and tackled France about its atmospheric nuclear testing. Frank also built up the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' outstanding collection of contemporary New Zealand art, displayed in New Zealand's embassies and high commissions. A strong supporter of Victoria, he is a Companion of The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael & St George and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce.



Photography by Woolf

Geoff Robinson

Geoff Robinson received an honorary Doctor of Literature for his contribution to public broadcasting in New Zealand during the last 30 years. Originally a banker from London, Geoff's voice is synonymous with current affairs in New Zealand as the co-host of Radio New Zealand's flagship news programme, *Morning Report*. Highly regarded by many for his calm, informative, non-hectoring and rigorous style of interviewing, Geoff has provided generations of Victoria's political science and international relations students with a host of material to study and learn from. He has reported from the United States, England, China, Vietnam and North Korea and his knowledge and experience enable him to present controversial and often complex issues impartially and with authority. Geoff has also championed the correct pronunciation of te reo Māori, setting the standard for Pākehā broadcasters.

Jail birds

Incarceration and knitting? Until the 1970s, New Zealand's female prison inmates were encouraged to take courses in subjects such as flower arranging and knitting, to try to teach them how to be 'proper' women again.

That's just one of the gems Dr Anna McKenzie has discovered in completing her PhD in Criminology; a critical history of the development of New Zealand's penal policy for women. Focusing on 1840 to 1974, she explored the social, economic and cultural factors involved in the development of imprisonment systems, finding discrepancies in the treatment of female and male inmates.

"During the period I researched, changes in penal policy were based on seemingly extraneous factors for women but were based upon international trends for men," says Anna.

"Men's prisons were based around the experiences of both American and English systems, while for

women the international trends were significantly influenced by domestic issues such as financial constraints, the willingness of the government to make any changes and other perceptions about female offenders and prisoners. These local influences meant the international trends became almost unrecognisable and New Zealand's penal system for women developed in quite a different direction from other countries.

"In Dunedin, a former prison for men deemed unacceptable to house prisoners in was used to house women, and until 1954, probation for women was operated by a group of 'lady' volunteers, usually the wives of prominent men.

"Even today, while women make up roughly five percent of the prison population, specific strategies for women are only now starting to be developed. A trend of semi-neglect has been seen throughout the history of women's prisons in New Zealand."

Anna's research is the first to document the policy development surrounding female incarceration, and she sees it as a platform for further research on present day attitudes and approaches to women's imprisonment.



Town & Gown

Take a look at the University's online database of varied and exciting events available to members of the University community at www.vuw.ac.nz/events



Proposed redevelopment for Aotea Square, Stantial's Studio Ltd, courtesy of Auckland City Council.

Architectural milestone

In 30 years Victoria's School of Architecture has progressed from five staff and a parrot to a staff of more than 30, a purpose-designed architecturally awarded building in the heart of Wellington's creative centre, and the top rating in the 2003 Performance-Based Research Fund exercise.

In 1973, after more than 20 years of debate about whether Wellington should have an architecture school, the University Grants Committee gave Victoria the go-ahead to appoint one professor, a secretary and a librarian. Somewhat enthusiastically, Victoria acquired five teaching staff and a parrot—which belonged to the secretary—by the start of 1975 when teaching began.

The thirtieth anniversary was celebrated in November at a function that also celebrated the final projects of the 2005 architecture and building science graduates. The function included displays of the students' work and speeches from senior staff and alumnus Chris Kelly, winner of a New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene Award for Architecture in 2005 for his design of Queenstown's Peregrine Winery.

Professor Gordon Holden, Head of the School since 2003, and the current Vice-President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects, is proud of the School's progress.

"We have a number of accomplished staff and graduates, who are excelling in architecture and urban design practice around New Zealand and the world. Our staff achievements include Senior Lecturers Chris McDonald and Graeme McIndoe's successful bid to redevelop Aotea Square in Auckland and we've also secured a major contract to provide urban design training for the Australian State of Victoria. We're definitely making our mark in Australasia."

The School also achieved excellent results in the 2005 National Tertiary Teaching Awards, with Associate Professor Andrew Charleson receiving an award for his inspired approach to teaching structures, one of the core courses for students.

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Dressed for success

A desire for stimulating intellectual discussion and an interest in education were the starting points for an alumna's almost 50 year association with the care of gowns used in Victoria's graduation ceremonies.

Marie Hampton, who has worked tirelessly as a volunteer to ensure the academic gowns staff and students wear at graduation look their best, was late last year honoured with a Hunter Fellowship to recognise her outstanding contribution to Victoria.

While Marie, who graduated with a BSc in 1955, has been convenor of the academic dress committee of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Wellington Branch) since 1994, she first made academic hoods in 1958.

In the 1950s, there were few graduate women and they stopped working when they married and had children, she says.

"The Federation filled an important role by providing us with a way to continue the stimulation of university life through discussion groups and lectures. But it was also because I had a portable sewing machine, a rare thing in those days, that I got involved in making hoods."

The money raised from gown hire is used to offer scholarships as well as supporting the University's hardship fund, early childhood centres and other University causes.

When Marie graduated, Victoria had just one graduation ceremony a year with a relatively small number of graduates. By 2005, more than 4,000 students graduated and there were 10 ceremonies.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, says graduation is the highlight of a student's time at University.

"Part of that sense of achievement is being able to don academic dress for the first time as they are welcomed into the community of scholars. Marie Hampton is one of many people who work behind the scenes to ensure that graduation is such a special event."



Marie and her beloved gowns.

Island installations

Wellington's infamous gale-force southerly winds are the subject of one of the art works in the Adam Art Gallery's latest exhibition, *Islanded: Contemporary art from New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan*, which will run until May at the Kelburn Campus.

Co-curated by Sophie McIntyre, Director of the Adam Art Gallery, Lee Weng Choy, Artistic Co-Director of the Substation in Singapore, and Eugene Tan, Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, the exhibition brings together engaging new art works in a variety of media including painting, sculpture, photography and video.

"The exhibition explores how living on an island affects the identity of its residents. The installations we've chosen critically reflect on the histories and the geo-cultural anxieties of their postcolonial societies," says Sophie.

Regan Gentry's video work traces the currents of Wellington's wind with the sinewy unravelling of a roll of toilet paper in his work, *Common Cold*, which highlights the island essence of New Zealand's geography.

"His work emphasises the sense of being on the edge; especially as the camera maps the landscape and the trail of the paper until it descends over a cliff and into the ocean.

"Another artist, Ho Tzu Nyen, has created a film installation based on the mythical founder of Singapore, Sang Nila Utama, who is often forgotten in the wake of the colonial founder, Sir Thomas Raffles. He has also collated a series of paintings that depict scenes based on the film that explore the myths surrounding the founding of Singapore."

The exhibition features the work of established and emerging contemporary artists from the Asia-Pacific including Regan Gentry, Richard Killeen, Ani O'Neil and Stella Brennan from New Zealand, Ho Tzu Nyen, Amanda Heng, Charles Lim and Tan Kai Syng from Singapore, and Tsui Kuang Yu and Yao Jui Chung from Taiwan. Some of the artists will attend the opening from Singapore and Taiwan.

The exhibition runs from 24 February to 14 May 2006 in conjunction with the New Zealand International Arts Festival and will then tour to Singapore and Taiwan.



Top: Ho Tzu Nyen, *Captain Cook*, from *Utama—Every Name in History is I*, 2003. Above: Regan Gentry, *Common Cold* (film still), 2004.

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You want to
catch up with
an old flame
from Uni...

BUT YOU CAN'T
REMEMBER HER
NAME



so try looking
for it in an
old yearbook

or in old graffiti
on the desks

What about
her old **HALL**
of residence?

One of the old Vic professors
should definitely remember her.