




Chronicle

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 A tribute to David Novitz.

 Better science coverage by NZ media needed.

 Graduation coverage.


 Ursula Bethell writer starting soon.




Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, External Relations

Graduands from all faculties assemble in the sunshine outside the Christchurch Town Hall at graduation on Wednesday December 12 last year.

Serendipity down on the farm

A PhD candidate in the School of Forestry says his studies have been “transported to another level” since a chance meeting on a Canterbury farm.



Avinash Shrivastava, from India, is the recipient of the TW Adams Scholarship. He was visiting a farm in Greendale with other international students when he discovered the owner of the farm was TW Adams' great-grandson, Bob Adams.  p. 2

Those less than lazy days of summer

The University's Summer Programme is in full swing, and with a greater number of enrolments than anticipated it is already being hailed a success.

Only two of the 25 courses that were offered had to be cancelled because of lack of interest and many of the papers are filled to capacity.

Summer Programme Co-ordinator Dr Gill Jordan said she was delighted by the response. “We were looking to get 600 students and we've got 750 so we've done well. I think we've also done really well to get the number of papers we've had too.”

She said although students studied over summer for different reasons, she believed the majority of the students fell into one of two categories. “My gut feeling from the class I've had is that it's people wanting to finish off (their degrees), or they're going to have a heavy workload next year and want to lighten the load.”

Summer courses have the same number of teaching hours and are worth as many credits as a course held during the year, but are taught more intensively. Most summer courses started on January 7 and will be completed by February 15.

Dr Jordan said although several summer papers had been offered in previous years, this was the first time the University had run a comprehensive programme. All faculties except Law were running courses, with the majority in the humanities.

University Marketing Manager Brigitte Murray said the huge success of the programme had been pleasing because promoting it had provided many challenges.

Many people viewed summer courses as being remedial or for catching-up and the programme had to be made appealing to all students, from school leavers to those continuing their education later in life. “We actually had to come up with something that was a little different.”

That something different was the UC Headway brand, which saw the programme receive good media coverage.

Ms Murray said people across the University had worked together to make the programme a success and drew particular attention to the roles of the web management team and of Student Administrative Services.

She described this year's programme as “a big step forward for the University in terms of responding to student demand” and said it laid a good foundation for future years.

Janice Wilson



Serendipity on the farm – *continued*

◁ p. 1

The two men have been in contact by phone, swapping information about Adams, and Mr Shrivastava said they hoped to meet again in person soon.

Finding out more about TW Adams had changed the way he went about his work. "You feel good when you meet the person and you demonstrate some extra commitment." He said the meeting had also encouraged the Adams family to learn more about their ancestor.

Adams (1842-1919) was an internationally regarded arboriculturalist whose research into the Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) was an important advance for New Zealand forestry. He made regular contributions to several scientific journals and was a member of the Royal Commission on Forestry in 1913. When he died, aged 77, his journal recorded nearly 400 species of trees in his plantation at Greendale, as well as several hundred varieties of apples in his orchard.

He was also a governor of Canterbury College for 22 years and on his death he bequeathed to the college 99 acres of land at Greendale, including his entire collection of trees and shrubs, and £2000 to establish a school of forestry.

Mr Shrivastava specialises in forestry policy and is studying New Zealand's model of forestry privatisation and assessing how effectively it could be used in India. He moved to Christchurch with his wife and two young children a year ago and will spend two more years at the University.

Janice Wilson

CNZMs awarded

University Council member **Dr Sue Bagshaw** was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in the New Year's Honours list, for services to youth health.

Former head of the Department of Māori, **Dr Margaret Orbell**, also received a CNZM, for services to Māori and literature.

David Novitz, who died on December 8 last year, was one of New Zealand's pre-eminent philosophers.

His articles and books won international acclaim, and his lectures and seminars were always carefully crafted, rigorous and highly stimulating. He was extremely popular with staff and students alike.

David was born in Oudtshoorn, South Africa, on March 4, 1945, the second child of Julius and Phyllis. After completing his primary and secondary schooling in Oudtshoorn, he went to Rhodes University in Grahamstown, where he both excelled as a student and was extensively involved in the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), taking personal risks while participating in a range of protests against the apartheid government.

At Rhodes he won a national scholarship to pursue his doctoral studies in philosophy at Linacre College, Oxford. After two years there, he accepted a lectureship at Canterbury in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, and arrived in New Zealand in late 1971. Here, he rose to the rank of reader/associate professor.

Although David lectured on a wide range of philosophical topics, he specialised in aesthetics. He was awarded a DPhil in philosophy for the thesis which was the basis for his first book, *Pictures and Their Use in Communication* (1976). It won widespread praise and his credentials as a philosopher were confirmed by a series of articles that led to his second book, *Knowledge, Fiction and Imagination* (1987). His third book, *The Boundaries of Art* (1992), was provocative and challenging. In it he argued that much art is unrecognised because it addresses issues and preoccupations of everyday life.

With the exception of Karl Popper and George Hughes, few New Zealand philosophers have had their works cited as frequently or as widely as David. For example, a few months before his death, the American academic, John Portmann, published an edited collection entitled *In Defense of Sin*. It included work by Freud, Seneca, Nietzsche



and Oscar Wilde, as well as a chapter by David Novitz.

David was not an ivory tower philosopher. He continued to be deeply involved in issues of contemporary significance. Drawing on his knowledge and personal experience of apartheid, he was a passionate and extremely well-informed opponent of sporting contacts with South Africa. He played a significant role in persuading both the public and the politicians of New Zealand of the need to stop the proposed 1973 Springbok rugby tour of New Zealand (which is what Norman Kirk did a few months after he became prime minister in 1972). He also participated in protests against the 1981 Springbok rugby tour of New Zealand and continued to comment critically on South African politics until 1994. He demonstrated his interest in New Zealand political debate by editing, with Bill Willmott, two collections of social commentary, *Culture and Identity in*

New Zealand (1989) and *New Zealand in Crisis* (1992).

David was also a staunch proponent of academic freedom and opponent of government interference in the running of universities. An array of ministers in the fourth Labour government as well as the fourth National government experienced the withering logic of his closely reasoned analytical arguments in favour of university autonomy. David also acted on his beliefs: He was a warden of the Rutherford Hall of Residence; he served on the boards of Avonside Girls' High and St Andrews College; he was a member of the University of Canterbury Academic Staffing Committee; he was elected to the University of Canterbury Council; he was active in the Association of University Staff; and he served a term as head of the department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

He did not particularly enjoy dealing with "administrivia", but was - at the same time - a meticulous and fair administrator. His strong commitment to scholarship was matched by an equally strong concern for the welfare of his colleagues and the long-term well-being of the New Zealand education system.

Friends and colleagues

• A personal tribute by departmental colleague Professor Paul Harrison will feature in the next issue.



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Editor: Paul Gorman
Ext 6260 or 364 2260

Deputy Editor:
Deb Parker
Ext 6910 or 364 2910

Sub-editor: Col Pearson

Artwork: Marcus Thomas

E-mail: chronicle@regy.canterbury.ac.nz

Fax: Ext 6679 or 364 2679

Address: External Relations Department,
University of Canterbury,
Private Bag 4800, Christchurch.

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Big conference on the very small

More than 100 of the world's leading physicists will converge on the Canterbury campus this weekend for an international workshop on physics and astrophysics.

WIN 2002, the International Workshop on Weak Interactions and Neutrinos, is one of the major international events in the field of elementary particle physics and astrophysics. This is the first time it has been held in Australia.

It has been organised regularly during the past 25 years at various locations. This year it is being hosted by the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Centre for Antarctic Studies and Research, Gateway Antarctica.

Some of the big unanswered questions about the nature and origins of the Universe will be the focus of the week-long workshop. The scientists at the workshop will bring the results of their latest research and join in plenary talks, small group discussions and summary talks which have, in the past, led to major breakthroughs.

Among those attending will be Nobel Prize winner Professor Sam

Ting, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr John Ellis, author of more than 600 scientific papers and fellow of the Royal Society and the Institute of Physics, who is currently adviser to CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research).

Dr Ellis is scheduled to give a free public lecture on campus tonight (January 24), entitled *From Rutherford to Higgs: The acceleration of particle physics*, discussing advances in knowledge of the fundamental understanding of matter and the origin of particle masses, from Rutherford's splitting of the atom to the present day.

Workshop organiser Dr Jenni Adams (Physics and Astronomy) said Christchurch was an ideal location for the workshop, given the University's connections with Rutherford and the research work on neutrinos (elementary particles) carried out through Gateway Antarctica.

More information is available from the workshop website at www.anta.canterbury.ac.nz/neutrino/.

Academic's books bound for China

A retiring senior lecturer in the English Department is donating a large number of the books he has collected during his career to a university in China.

Dr Gordon Spence retires at the end of this month after 33 years with the University. During that time he has gathered quite a collection of books and journals, many of which he says he won't need in retirement.

The books, enough to fill five large shelves, are being sent to the Dalian University of Foreign Languages in the city of Dalian, in the northeast Chinese province of Liaoning.

The donation of the books was organised by Associate Professor Kon Kuiper (Linguistics), who has been sending books to the University since he taught there for a month five years ago. During that time he experienced first-hand the lack of resources in Chinese universities. "I went to the library on a number of occasions and noticed how largely impoverished their library resources were."

The university in question taught literature as well as languages, but even the most basic books were in



Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, External Relations

short supply and the only journals to be found were photocopies that staff members had been able to make when overseas, Professor Kuiper said.

Dr Spence's area of speciality is 19th century English literature. The books being sent to Dalian include Victorian novels, poetry and criticism, including issues of the *Byron Journal* and the *Keats-Shelley Review*.

Dr Spence said he was happy the books would be put to good use.

Janice Wilson

NZ media's science coverage could improve – study

Research by PhD student Laura Sessions into science reporting in the New Zealand media may help improve the future flow of scientific information to the public.

Ms Sessions is undertaking her doctoral studies jointly in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism and the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences. An MSc graduate in plant and microbial sciences, she says the public is confronted almost daily with new scientific dilemmas—genetic engineering, climate change, new drugs and medical techniques that promise to revolutionise people's lives.

Without a background in science, how do most people make decisions about such technical issues? She says overwhelmingly most adults turn to newspapers, radio and television for their information.

By understanding how the media handle science stories "we may be able to improve the quality of information that people receive."

In her research to date, she has found that, unlike larger countries such as the United States and Britain, New Zealand does not have a group of specialised science reporters. Only five newspaper and broadcast reporters in New Zealand have a dedicated science round and all also cover other rounds that demand their time.

Not surprisingly, reporters tend to spend little time on science stories. Most of the reporters she had surveyed spent less than 10 hours each month covering science.

As a result, although the New Zealand mass media carry a relatively substantial number of stories about science (on average more than 24 stories each day nationwide), the majority are from overseas media.

"Coverage of science within New Zealand tends to focus on human interest stories or science fairs. Overseas stories more often cover theoretical issues.

"If we take the GE debate, most New Zealand coverage was about the Royal Commission—a protest or demonstration, or someone famous speaking out for or against it. Very few stories have critically evaluated scientific research on the risks and benefits of GE."

She says not only do few reporters devote much time to science, but also most have little background or training in the subject: 69% of the reporters surveyed had no scientific training above the secondary school level.

However, she believes a lack of training is not necessarily a disadvantage.

"Sometimes reporters without lots of technical knowledge will ask the questions that their readers most

want answered. The problem instead is that it will take more time and effort for these reporters to understand complex scientific issues and, at least in New Zealand, they rarely have the resources—especially time—that they need."

Ms Sessions suggests the biggest improvement that could be made to science coverage by New Zealand media would be to enable reporters to spend more time with important science stories.

"My research suggests that the New Zealand public wants to hear about research and issues that are specific to their region and country. They want to hear from New Zealand scientists and, at the moment, we are far more likely to hear from overseas experts."

- A second PhD student, Amber Bill, also being jointly supervised by the two departments, is focusing on the communication of environmental issues.



Christchurch Thespian recipient of honorary doctorate

Professor David Gunby (English) presented Elric Hooper for his honorary LittD on Wednesday December 12 last year:

“When, in 1598, Sir Thomas Bodley retired after a distinguished diplomatic career, he decided to dedicate his energies – and his considerable fortune – to the restoration of Oxford’s literally bookless university library.

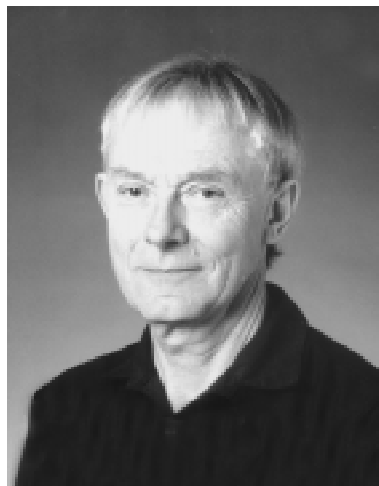
“The task took more than a decade, but one of the most crucial developments was Bodley’s decision, in 1610, to approach the Stationers Company, in London, to suggest that the company, which held the monopoly right to regulate publication in England, might supply his library with a copy of every book published. To this approach the Stationers Company responded positively, making the Bodleian Library virtually a copyright library, as we understand the term, 150 years before the founding of the British Museum. In agreeing to Sir Thomas’s request, however, the company asked for clarification on one point: Did Sir Thomas wish them to provide a copy of every play published?”

“Bodley’s answer was unequivocal: He did not. For in the early 17th century plays were – unless they were those of the great writers of Greece and Rome, of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, of Terence and Seneca – regarded as distinctly sub-literary: The product of a world – one would today say an industry – which was regarded as of dubious morality and which was forced to resort to legal fictions to operate at all. For under English law, actors were classed as rogues and vagabonds, like pedlars, tinkers and beggars, and in order for theatres and acting companies to flourish in London, where the city authorities were unsympathetic, it was necessary to resort to a legal fiction, whereby actors became servants of some great aristocrat, or even of the monarch, rendering themselves thus immune to the strictures of the law. Thus Shakespeare was first a member of the company known as the Lord Admiral’s Men, and later of the King’s Men, or, to give the

company its full title, The King’s Majesty’s Servants.

“Nor was this all which cast a shadow of disreputability over the theatrical profession in the great age of English theatre. For in order to avoid persecution by the City of London authorities under local by-laws, theatre companies operated either in small enclaves within the city which were exempt from its jurisdiction, or on the outskirts, beyond the city boundaries. One such place was the south bank of the Thames, where most of the theatres in Shakespeare’s age were situated, but also many of the city’s brothels.

“This collocation of theatres and brothels reinforced in the minds of the city fathers, and those of similar views, the assumption that theatres and those associated with them were immoral. And when, in 1660, women acted on the English stage for the first time, that suspicion deepened. Though then, and always, the stage has been graced by actors and actresses – I must here use the old gendered terms – of impeccable (as well as of distinctly peccable) morality, the suspicion lingers that there is something not quite morally sound about the theatre and theatre folk.



Professor Gunby

“This suspicion, of course, goes back far beyond the 17th century, back, in fact, to Plato, who was the first to voice the concern that acting could be dangerous because of the risk that actors ran of being morally affected by the roles they were required to play. What if, so the argument runs, an actor playing a maniacal tyrant is somehow tainted



Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, External Relations

by the role-playing and morally deteriorates as a result?

“This fear is not quite as silly as it sounds, as witness Ian Richardson, who in an interview talked of the powerful effect on him of playing the role, in the television series *To Play the King* and *House of Cards*, of an amoral politician who rises by a series of criminal acts to be Prime Minister. Nothing surprising in that, you might think, but Richardson confessed that the role of Francis Urquhart affected him so strongly that he sought counselling in order to rid himself of its effects.

“Why do I mention all these negatives relating to the theatre, to theatre folk and to acting? Because it is, I take it, my responsibility to lay before the University and the graduands and their families assembled for this great occasion, the considerable risks attached to conferring an honorary degree, as the University is about to do, on one whose whole working life has been closely connected with the theatre. For Elric Hooper is just such.

“Born in Christchurch in 1936, Elric Hooper was educated at Wharenui Primary School, Christchurch Boys’ High School and what was then Canterbury University College, where he majored in English, graduating BA and then, in 1958, with an Honours MA. This is the bare record, but what is of more significance is what no summary of facts reveals: Namely that while at Boys’ High School, Elric Hooper was involved in a great deal of drama, and that, when a student at Canterbury, he acted in several of the famous productions of

Shakespeare by Dame Ngaio Marsh, playing the Fool in *King Lear*, the Chorus in *Henry V* and (after graduating) the title role in *Hamlet*.

“Four years as a student at Canterbury were followed by two in London, where on a small but just survivable New Zealand Government bursary Elric Hooper studied acting and directing at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, after which he began his professional career with three seasons with the famous Old Vic company. There he first worked with Franco Zeffirelli, with whom he moved to Glyndbourne to work on opera productions, before becoming his assistant in the award-winning film version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

“Some two years working as performer, director and teacher in America, Scandinavia, Germany, France and Britain followed before, in 1975, Elric Hooper returned to New Zealand to work at Downstage in Wellington. Then, in 1979, he was appointed artistic director of the Court Theatre, here in Christchurch. It was a momentous appointment. Founded by Yvette Bromley and Mervyn Thompson, the Court had made a major impact on the Christchurch scene, not least through Mervyn Thompson’s own plays, such as *Oh Temperance*. But it was insecure financially and had only just found a permanent home, and the new artistic director not only had to make that new venue function effectively but also to build a stable and financially sound company.

“This was Elric Hooper’s brief and over a period of 21 years, from 1979 to 2000, he carried it out with

remarkable success. For where so many other theatre companies in New Zealand have failed, or nearly done so, the Court Theatre has flourished. It has a permanent home, with extensive, if not ideal, facilities in the Arts Centre; it has a strong administrative structure; it is financially stable; and it has that not precisely measurable yet priceless asset, a corporate tradition and memory built up over nearly 30 years of successful operation.

“Not all of this is the work of Elric Hooper alone, of course. Far from it. The success of the Court Theatre derives from the co-operative endeavours of a large and dedicated team, including administrative and technical staff, as well as actors, stage and costume designers, and directors, not to mention the Trust Board and the enthusiastic volunteers who comprise the Friends of the Court. But other theatres in New Zealand have had like teams and structures and failed, so it must stand to Elric Hooper’s credit that in Christchurch we have a flourishing professional theatre company.

“Driving his company relentlessly and hard-headedly pursuing the goal of building an audience, he planned from the outset to mix the classics with the current and the currently popular, ensuring that the Court would not, as several notable theatre companies in New Zealand have done, suffer from an excess of high-mindedness and idealism. Because of this he has not been able to present many of the works that he would dearly love to have brought before Christchurch audiences, the plays, for instance, of Shakespeare’s great contemporaries, Marlowe, Jonson, Webster and Middleton, so dear to my heart.

“Yet much he has brought, and much of it himself directed. Shakespeare, Shaw, Wilde, Sheridan, Wycherley, Congreve and Goldsmith: Plays by all of these classic English (and Irish) writers he has directed, along with European classics ranging from Sophocles and Euripides to Ibsen and Brecht. American theatre has also been extensively represented, as has modern British theatre, the latter including a notable series of productions of Tom Stoppard’s

plays, one of the most successful of which, *On the Razzle*, Elric Hooper has, since retirement from the Court, directed in Auckland and Wellington.

“Nor, it should be noted, has New Zealand drama been neglected. On the contrary, not only has the Court, under his direction, staged many of the established classics of New Zealand theatre, but he has commissioned many plays by local writers, some of which have themselves become classics, including *Blood of the Lamb*, *Footrot Flats* and *Daughters of Heaven*.

“Elric Hooper did not come from a family with a theatre background. His mother was, however, a singer and it is perhaps from her that he derives his passion for the musical theatre and for opera. At the Court he has been responsible for a number of fine musicals, including most recently *Cabaret*, which a reviewer in *The Listener* described as ‘a rich and deliciously decadent interpretation of this classic’, and for Canterbury Opera some remarkable productions of (amongst others) Mozart, Rossini, Verdi and Puccini. He has also given many talks on musical theatre and opera on the Concert Programme and written programme notes for the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

“I earlier voiced the concerns which must be felt by the University about the award of an honorary degree to one so completely identified with the morally dubious world of the theatre. That in 1990 Elric Hooper’s services to the arts in New Zealand were recognised both by the award of an MBE and of a New Zealand Sesquicentennial Commemorative Medal must go some considerable way to alleviating those concerns. I have, however, one other anxiety which I must reveal. It arises from this, the programme for a musical by Lionel Bart which opened in London in December 1965.

“Bart had had a great success with *Oliver*, his musical based on Dickens’ novel *Oliver Twist*, but *Twang*, which was built around the story of Robin Hood, was a complete flop. It is not, however, the fact that Elric Hooper appeared in one of the renowned disasters of the London stage which troubles me.

Rather, it is the thought that he played Alan a Dale, one of Robin Hood’s merry men. That the University is about to confer a doctorate on a former outlaw, one who was a constant source of problems for that renowned officer of the law, the Sheriff of Nottingham, should give us pause.

“I have voiced my anxieties. I now suppress them, and with great pleasure and due seriousness I complete my duties as University

Orator. The University of Canterbury takes pride in recognising the extraordinary services to the arts in New Zealand, and to Christchurch in particular, of one of its own and wishes to express that pride in the manner traditional in universities. Madam Chancellor, I have the honour to present Elric James Hooper for the award of the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.”

• Elric Hooper’s reply and graduation address will feature in the February 14 *Chronicle*.



If the cast fits, wear it



Photo by Lintam Photography

Christine Elliott got an extra smile from the Chancellor, Dame Phyllis Guthardt, when she received her BA with first-class honours and her Graduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies with distinction. For the record, the plaster cast on the Chancellor’s right foot was blue; Ms Elliott’s was green.

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The following positions were accepted recently: **Leigh Davidson**, administration assistant, Mathematics and Statistics, from 28/1/02; **Michael Drummond**, teacher, Foundation Studies, from 3/1/02 to 2/1/03; **Michael Eng**,

Alumni Relations Manager (fixed-term), External Relations, from 28/1/02 to 29/11/02; **Beverley Hall** (was fixed-term), personal assistant, Electrical & Computer Engineering, from 19/12/01; **Sue Johnston**, Serials Team Leader, Central Library, from 10/12/01.

Outstanding teachers presented with Teaching Awards

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Dr Jan Cameron introduced the 10 inaugural recipients of the University Teaching Awards at the December graduation ceremony:

“A wise teacher once remarked that ‘teaching and learning are not problems for which we have yet to find a solution, they are simply activities that are difficult to do well.’

“Teaching entails diverse activities and there is no one way to teach. In whatever discipline or field of university study, the questions ‘what to teach?’ and ‘how to teach?’



Associate Professor Elizabeth Gordon (Linguistics) receives her Teaching Award from the Chancellor.

admit of no unique, once for all, answer. Each episode of teaching implicitly raises these two questions anew and the sensitive and innovative teacher is alive to this permanent challenge. The deep reason why this challenge is permanent and must necessarily remain so in a university stems from the fact that the teacher, like the student, is also a learner. The Royal Commission on University Education, long ago in 1925, made this point well when it concluded that ‘the proper interaction of teaching and research is of the very essence of the highest education; teacher and student in a university should be engaged jointly in a voyage of discovery in search of truth.’

“In the university, teaching and research constitutes an indissoluble link. Out of this linkage we endeavour to develop in students a life-long disposition to learning marked by intellectual independence, rigour and a critical frame of mind. If our teaching is successful then we can hope that our students, as well as ourselves, will continue to value a contemporary version of Socrates’ injunction that the unexamined life is not worth living.

“The members of the faculty we are honouring at this ceremony with teaching awards have demonstrated an excellence in the difficult and intricate art of

university teaching. They have done so by their ability to enthuse and support students and by their ability to encourage critical and independent thought, intellectual curiosity, interest and creativity. Their teaching excellence resides not in having found the solution to teaching, but in their willingness to use a variety of teaching methods in an open, enquiring and experimental way. Colleagues and students alike acknowledge their teaching as exemplary.

“Madam, I have the honour to present these members of the University faculty to receive University Teaching Awards: Dr Tim Bell (Computer Science), Professor Jim Cole (Geological Sciences), Dr Amy Fletcher (Political Science), Associate Professor Elizabeth Gordon (Linguistics), Dr John Hannah (Mathematics and Statistics), Dr John Klena (Plant and Microbial Sciences), Dr Andy Pratt (Chemistry), Dr Simon Round (Electrical and Electronic Engineering), Mr Richard Scragg (Law) and Dr Julie Wuthnow (Gender Studies).”

[The University Teaching Award, designed by Hamish Meikle (Fine Arts), explores the notions of rough and smooth and of blunt and sharp, while also expressing the sense of directional or guiding experiences – all of these symbolic of the activities of teaching and learning. A South Pacific aesthetic is also embodied in the award’s tapering form. The award also echoes the form of the University’s coat of arms in cross-section.]

Pro-V-C re-appointed

Dr Jan Cameron (Sociology and Anthropology) has been re-appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) for a further term of three years.

AAU appointment

The University’s Quality Assurance Facilitator, John Jennings, has been appointed Director of the Academic Audit Unit in Wellington for two years.

Mr Jennings, a senior lecturer in the School of Music, takes up his appointment this month.

Condliffe Prize for Prof Ian Town



The Vice-Chancellor introduced Professor Ian Town (shown above with the Chancellor) for the Margaret Condliffe Memorial Prize:

“Professor George Ian Town, MBChB, FRACP, DM, has worked as house physician and medical registrar in Wellington Hospital, and as a research fellow in the University of Southampton and the Wellington School of Medicine. He is presently professor at the Christchurch School of Medicine.

“As one of New Zealand’s leading younger medical educators and health researchers he has, over the last decade, established an internationally recognised research group investigating respiratory disorders, the breadth of this work spanning basic science, clinical and environmental issues. As one of the country’s top clinicians in his field, Professor Town has also exercised professional leadership which has helped shape the delivery of health care for sufferers from asthma and other respiratory disorders.

“As an academic administrator, as Head of the Department of Medicine, and as Associate Dean (Research) in the Christchurch School of Medicine, Professor Town has facilitated the development of health research in Canterbury. In particular, he has co-chaired a project team to develop a health research institute under the joint auspices of the universities of Otago and Canterbury.

“Madam, I have the honour to present George Ian Town to receive the Margaret Condliffe Memorial Prize.”

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND

Writer-in-residence plans projects



Writer, artist, musician, actor and storyteller Apirana Taylor has been appointed to the University of Canterbury's Ursula Bethell Residency in Creative Writing for 2002.

Mr Taylor, from Paekakariki, will take up the residency at the start of next month.

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The following positions were accepted recently: **Dr Thomas Bestor**, p/t lecturer, Philosophy and Religious Studies, from 8/1/02 to 31/12/02; **Helen Butler**, p/t clinical educator/Director, Education, from 14/1/02; **Dr Richard Farmer**, senior lecturer, Psychology, from 11/1/02; **Jennifer Hay**, lecturer, Linguistics, from 1/2/02; **Kathryn Hewson**, Environmental Projects Co-ordinator, Facilities Management, from 14/1/02.

Vikings under way for 2002

It's dragon boat time again – the University of Canterbury Vikings have been in training at Lyttelton for the past seven weeks.

As a new member of the team, and one that wasn't exactly sure what a dragon boat looked like, let alone how to paddle, I was really surprised to discover how much fun it was. The training isn't onerous – we meet at 6pm on Tuesdays at the Naval Point Club Rooms in Lyttelton, get into the water at 6.30pm and paddle furiously past Corsair Bay and Cass Bay, sometimes with a stop for team-building work and press-ups (urgh) on the beach. After about an hour, we paddle back to the club rooms for a hot shower, barbecue and team catch-up (with the added bonus of

He has published a number of books of poetry and short stories and was runner-up in the Pegasus Book Award the year it was won by Keri Hulme with *The Bone People*. He has also won the Te Ha Award for poetry.

Previously a writer-in-residence at Massey University, Mr Taylor says he is pleased to have another chance to focus fully on his writing. "I'm looking forward to having the time to really put my foot on the throttle this year."

He is planning several projects, including two novels and a book of poetry that will feature his artwork to complement and supplement the words.

Mr Taylor will be accompanied by his wife, Prue (a former Cantabrian), and children, Rere and Mihi.

The Ursula Bethell residency is named in recognition of the Christchurch poet and artist Mary Ursula Bethell (1874-1945). The residency is based in the English Department and is jointly funded by the University and Creative New Zealand.

The Macmillan Brown Library holds an extensive collection of Bethell's published works, watercolours and letters written both to and by her.



exceptionally cheap drinks at the bar).

Although we have *just* enough people now – there are 25 team members – we need extras in case anyone has to pull out at the last moment. Anyone interested in joining should contact Toni Hodge on ext. 6966.

The first races start at Lake Roto Kohatu this Sunday at 8.30am. For those not in the know, Lake Roto Kohatu is at the airport end of Sawyers Arms Road. Do come along and cheer us on – we need as much support and encouragement as you can muster. On March 8 there will be a street parade through the city and on the weekend of March 16/17 we are off to Hamilton for the Vodafone National Festival.

Denise Morales – Apprentice Paddler

Photographic interpretations of site at SOFA Gallery until February 18

The idea of "site", from and in different perspectives, is addressed in *in/site* the latest exhibition at the SOFA Gallery in the Christchurch Arts Centre.

SOFA, established last year by the School of Fine Arts, has launched its 2002 programme with the exhibition, which combines the work of three contemporary photo-artists: Michelle Moran (Christchurch), Catherine Rogers (Sydney) and Jeffrey Sturges (New York).

Each of the artists deals with aspects of photography, with the use of certain methods of imaging providing a common thread, says consultant curator Ewen McDonald.

"There is more going on in the field of photography than just the snapping of people and places. The strength of contemporary photography is the extent to which photo-based work has diversified and infiltrated all forms of representation."

In her mixed media installation, emerging artist and recent Canterbury fine arts graduate Michelle Moran chronicles a personal and a geographic journey from one coast of the South Island to the other – from Canterbury where she now lives to the West Coast and her home town of Greymouth.

The work is assembled as a large grid presenting multiple "bird's eye views" that trace connections between looking down, looking back and the present, via reprographic projections that include aerial archival photography, systems of surveillance and cartography, Mr McDonald says.

Catherine Rogers photographed parts of Sydney in the mid-1980s

during a period of rapid urban transformation. The negatives were printed digitally more than a decade later on quality printmaking paper. Gathered in this work, called "Deconstructed City", they provide a form of sociocultural mapping.

Mr McDonald describes the images by Jeffrey Sturges (Storefront, Glass and Sky, Louver and Foliage, and Car Tunnel) as hyper-real, with an un-nerving stillness, an ominous silence. "This is a heightened, focused realism that reveals just how 'unreal' reality can be."

in/site is on at the gallery until February 18.

Vargo capped PhD



Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, External Relations

John Vargo (Accountancy, Finance and Information Systems) towers over the other graduands at the Arts Centre on December 12 before marching to the Town Hall to receive his PhD.



Professor Stedman recipient of 2001 Research Medal

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Kirk gave the oration for Professor Geoff Stedman (Physics and Astronomy), the recipient of the University of Canterbury Research Medal for 2001:

“Professor Stedman is one of New Zealand’s leading physicists. His work is known throughout the world of international scholarship in physics and he has made very substantial contributions to knowledge in that subject over many years.

“There are two principal facets to Professor Stedman’s work. For much of the earlier part of his career he made significant contributions to theoretical physics. Then this more theoretical work led him to become a very accomplished experimental scientist. It is in this second area of his work that Professor Stedman is best known to his colleagues at the University of Canterbury, especially to those of us who are not physicists. I refer in particular to his novel and

ground-breaking research working with a series of ring lasers built and housed underground in a World War 2 excavation inside Banks Peninsula – in what is popularly known as the Cashmere ‘cavern’ near Princess Margaret Hospital. Since tours of the cavern are arranged from time to time, I am sure there will be a number of people here today who have enjoyed the opportunity to see something of that work first-hand.

“Building the ring lasers has been a significant achievement in its own right, but Professor Stedman undertook this not so much as an end in itself but to test important ideas in special relativity and quantum mechanics. These experiments are highly novel and have excited considerable international interest among his fellow physicists.

“The University’s Research Committee has frequent and strong indications from visiting scientists that the development of the ring lasers at Cashmere is truly leading-edge science. It has required first-rate science to achieve, but it is also equally significant that the experiments undertaken in the

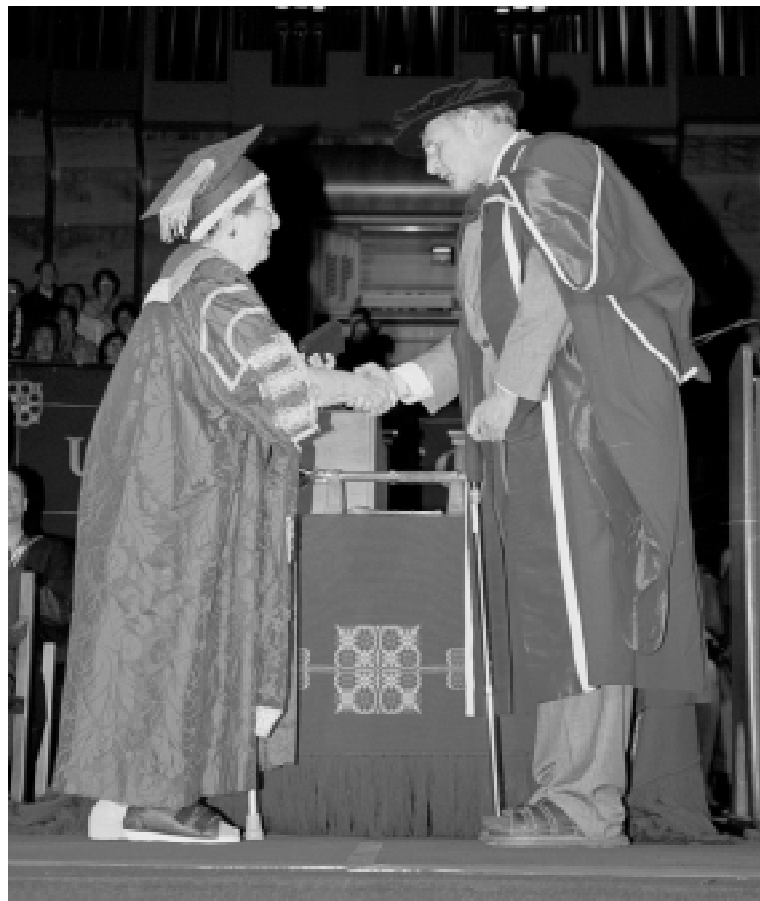


Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, External Relations

cavern would not have been possible without the additional factors of Professor Stedman’s exceptional drive and leadership.

“I know that formidable practical problems have been overcome by Professor Stedman and a team of his academic colleagues, the departmental technical and support staff and his students. Often ingenious solutions have been reached in order to create devices that some firmly argued could not be successfully built at all.

“I also know that the succession of ring lasers built at Cashmere have become steadily larger and ever more sophisticated in the precision and accuracy to which they make measurements. As simple illustrations of this, and as someone who works with the oceans, it astounded me to learn that the lasers in Cashmere can sense such phenomena as the tides in the oceans and the breakers beating on the beach at Brighton several kilometres away. They can also detect tiny perturbations – wobbles if you will – in the rotation of the Earth on its axis. Marvellous though I find these feats of measurement,

Professor Stedman probably regards these miraculous results as unwanted ‘noise’ that get in the way of the things he really wants to know about.

“Professor Stedman’s work on the ring lasers has involved substantial international collaborations, especially parallel work which he has completed with colleagues at Wetzell in Germany.

“Another measure of his influence in the world of physics is that Professor Stedman is the author of some 140 scientific papers in leading international journals. Also, his international scientific standing has been recognised through several awards and fellowships, most notably Fellowship of the Institute of Physics in the United Kingdom and Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He is also a Hector Medallist of the Royal Society of New Zealand. His *curriculum vitae* includes reference to prizes in mathematics and chemistry, as well as in physics, a testament to the broad scope of his scientific interests and his high attainment in science in the widest sense.

“In 1999, Professor Stedman was the keynote speaker at the Centennial Meeting of the American Physical Society. With three other speakers from Yale, MIT and the University of California at Berkeley, he led a special session on ring lasers and related developments.

“Looking back further in his career, Geoffrey Stedman is a graduate of the University of Canterbury, completing a BSc(Hons) with first-class honours in physics in 1964. He then travelled to the United Kingdom to undertake doctoral studies, carrying out research for his PhD under the supervision of Dr D J Newman at Queen Mary College, London. Following a postdoctoral period working as a research assistant at Queen Mary College, he returned to Canterbury in 1971 and has been actively engaged in teaching and research in the University for the past 30 years.

“Dr Newman had this to say of Professor Stedman’s days as a research student in London. ‘It’s a long time since Geoff worked on his PhD with me. I say ‘with’ because he always did a great deal more than I suggested and in addition to following up his own interests. I remember asking him once what projects he was working on. There were about 10, so I suggested perhaps he was attempting a bit too much. The reply was that he was only following my example, but I had about six research students at the time.’

“Throughout his years in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Professor Stedman has, in his turn, supervised a steady stream of research students who have gone on to a wide range of careers, some in academia and research, but also in other professions. For a number of years, Professor Stedman chaired the departmental research committee and he has also served with distinction as the chair of the New Zealand Institute of Physics, taking an important role as the public spokesman for his subject.

“Madam, I have the honour to present Geoffrey Ernest Stedman to receive the University Research Medal.”

