

Canterbury's BSLT programme first to gain accreditation

The University of Canterbury's Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy (BSLT) programme has become the first and only course in the country to be accredited by the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA). The NZSTA is the professional self-regulatory body for speech-language therapists in New Zealand.

Head of the Department of Communication Disorders, Professor Michael Robb, said NZSTA accreditation recognised the high quality of the teaching, research and clinical training components of Canterbury's BSLT degree.

He said the accreditation process was a lengthy one with the BSLT programme being reviewed by a panel of national and international experts. Accreditation has been granted for a five-year period.

Professor Robb said accreditation was a vital component to most overseas programmes, particularly in the United States.

"It is common practice for employers to recruit prospective speech therapists who have graduated from accredited programmes. At present, many speech-language therapist positions in New Zealand require NZSTA membership. By graduating from an accredited programme, membership in NZSTA will be easier to achieve.

"Accreditation will potentially make it easier for Canterbury graduates to have their qualifications recognised by overseas employers," Professor Robb added.

The speech-language therapy programme was first established in 1942 as a two-year diploma course offered through the Christchurch Teachers' College. In 1989 it was changed to a four-year honours degree granted by the University of Canterbury. In 1995 the department moved to the University campus. Since that time, the department has



Professor Michael Robb with the letter of accreditation from the NZ Speech-Language Therapists' Association.

experienced phenomenal growth, employing PhD-level faculty who specialise in various types of communication disorders.

The department's growth is also acknowledged in its recent name change from the Department of Speech and Language Therapy to the Department of Communication Disorders.

"The change in name reflects the advances in the profession," Professor Robb said.

The BSLT is one of three degrees currently offered in the Department of Communication Disorders. The department also offers post-graduate research training at the masters level and offers the only PhD in communication sciences and disorders in the country.

"We no longer just deal with the treatment of speech and language difficulties. The professionals we train become experts in the whole range of human communication disorders including phonology and literacy, language development and disorders, experimental phonetics, speech and voice science, swallowing disorders and hearing impairment."

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Suzanne Worrall 1949 - 2004

The Director of Canterbury University's MBA programme, Suzanne Worrall, died in January after losing her battle with cancer. She was 54.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp said Suzanne would be remembered for her outstanding work as director of the programme and the international recognition it has received.



students, she worked tirelessly to make it a world-class programme.

"However, I will always remember her for indomitable courage in facing her terminal illness. She faced it with great fortitude, never once complaining or feeling sorry for herself. She worked almost till the end, never giving up hope. Like her hero, Alexander, Suzanne lived and died as a brave warrior."

Dr Colleen Mills said Suzanne was an incredibly energetic and conscientious woman who dedicated herself to the MBA programme.

"She was proud of the programme and justly so. Her unstinting efforts were a significant factor in the programme gaining international accreditation.

"Attention to detail, a passion for perfection, a love of elegant solutions and determination, sometimes dogged, are the qualities I think of when I reflect on Suzanne's life in the department. She was a special woman doing a

job that at times was particularly challenging.

"She was a kind person who managed to find space to consider others' problems and offer a comforting word even when confronting her own terminal illness," Dr Mills said.

Dr Terri Green described Suzanne as "the face of the MBA" at Canterbury.

"She was there to personally welcome students and lecturers into each course no matter the day or time. She was utterly professional in her role and extremely organised. She had high standards and worked diligently for the programme, achieving AMBA accreditation for the programme in 2002.

"Suzanne was a lady of style. The car parking slot looks sad without the snazzy red Alpha Romeo; the tearoom is quieter without her vivacious conversation, and the Commerce building is dowdier without this lady in her elegant suits and designer shoes," Dr Green added.

Suzanne is survived by her husband, Tony.

"The students with whom she worked, as well as the staff with whom she was associated on the MBA programme, in the Department of Management and more widely in the University community, will miss her organisational ability, her enthusiasm and zest, her seemingly boundless energy, and above all her great sense of fun," said Professor Sharp.

Staff in the Department of Management are mourning the loss of a highly respected colleague and dear friend.

Dr Venkat Nilakant first met Suzanne when she was a student in the MBA programme in 1989.

"She was then a history teacher, attempting a career transition. Some years later, after a short stint with Telecom, she became a colleague when she took over as the director of the MBA programme.

"We had so many interesting conversations in which she educated me about her passionate interest in Greece, Italy and her hero, Alexander of Macedonia. She was very committed to the MBA programme. Despite numerous obstacles, including occasionally apathetic faculty and often ungrateful



Under the portrait of Sir James Hight, Mrs Gay Sinclair hands over her great uncle's mortar-board to Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp.

Chronicle

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Hight heirloom heads home

The mortar-board worn by Canterbury College Rector Sir James Hight has been gifted to the University by his great-niece.

Mrs Gay Sinclair presented the family heirloom to University Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp. The beautifully crafted trencher bears the J Ballantyne & Co label and the name Hight has been added in by hand.

Sir James graduated with first-class honours in 1894, from the then Canterbury College. He was first appointed to the staff as lecturer in 1909 and by 1919 was professor of history and political science. He was the college's second rector serving from 1928 to 1941. His long service to the college ended in 1947. Although he did not live to see the University of Canterbury (1963) his legacy lives on with the central library named after him.

The trencher was handed down through the family from Sir James to his only daughter Doreen who in turn passed it on to her niece Mrs Sinclair. It was worn by Mrs Sinclair's three daughters when they graduated from Canterbury: Jacquie (BA, 1981); Michelle (BA, 1984) and Nicky (BA, 1987; MA 1989).

"Although the girls never met him they were all very proud of the family connection," said Mrs Sinclair. "They used to say good morning to him every day when they passed his portrait [in the library]."

Mrs Sinclair also has some sketches drawn by her great uncle which she intends donating to the MacMillan Brown Library.



The Petronas Student Adviser, Mr Abdul Aziz Taib (right), congratulates Aiman Wan Mohd Izzuddin on being named top scholar for 2003.

Twenty nations represented in Foundation Studies graduation

One hundred and eighty-six students from 20 nations graduated last week from the University's Foundation Studies programme, which gives direct entry into the University's degree courses.

Foundation Studies programme Assistant Manager Graham Townsend said he was proud of all of the students, who have coped with a demanding academic programme as well as significant cultural change in coming to New Zealand and working in a Western education system.

They would be a significant asset to the University's academic capital and many were achieving excellent results, he said.



The largest group of graduates was from North Asia, with others from the Middle East, Africa, Russia and the Pacific Islands.

Included in the group were eight students sponsored by

the Malaysian government's oil company Petronas. They were the first Petronas-sponsored students to complete the Foundation Studies programme, which prepares students for University study. The first Petronas scholars entered degree study at Canterbury in September 2002 after being unable to obtain visas to study in the United States.

Attending the graduation ceremony was Mr Abdul Aziz Taib, the Malaysian Vice Consul in

Sydney and the Petronas Student Adviser. He said he was very proud of the eight students, particularly Aiman Wan Mohd Izzuddin who was named top scholar for 2003.

"From day one the students have done very well. Canterbury has helped develop them into mature, independent students. I can see in their faces their enthusiasm to continue with their studies.

"It is the result Petronas was hoping for," he said.

Aiman said the Petronas sponsorship allowed him to concentrate on his studies without worrying about financial matters. This year he begins his intermediate engineering year and hopes to specialise in chemical engineering.

In his graduation address, University Chancellor Dr Robin Mann acknowledged the support the students received from their families.

"They have made a huge commitment to make it possible for you to come to New Zealand to study at the University of Canterbury. That is a big investment for them. It is an investment that will reward them handsomely as they see you go on from here to achieve even bigger things in the future."

Dr Mann also paid tribute to the staff of the Foundation Studies programme.

"There has been very rapid growth in this area. You have done extremely well to cope with those increasing numbers and at the same time maintain the very high quality standards that have been set."

Deluge drenches library

The Physical Sciences Library was closed all of last week after heavy rain flooded the ground floor.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Library Manager, Ms Dawn McMillan (below), said heavy rain on Sunday 15 February had been too much for the storm water system to cope with and water was forced up the sump into the library.

Luckily a staff member had come to work on the Sunday and had raised the alarm allowing security and cleaning staff to act quickly.



No damage was caused to books or equipment but industrial driers and dehumidifiers were needed to dry out the sodden carpet.

"If it had happened during term time it would have been diabolical," said Ms McMillan.

She paid thanks to all those who helped with the clean up, including security staff who worked through the night on Monday so doors and windows could be left open.

People

Associate Professor Mark Williams (Culture, Literature and Society) has been appointed adviser to the judging panel for the 2004 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. He will advise the three-member panel on reference and anthology.

Dr John Fink has been appointed a senior fellow in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, initially for a three-year period.

New staff



Carolyn Gallagher has been appointed College Manager for the newly created College of Arts. Mrs Gallagher has a Master of Arts (Hons) in Sociology from Canterbury University and a Masters of

Business Administration from Massey University. For the past four years she has worked for the Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in Doylestown, PA, USA.



Professor Satish Iyengar has joined the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for a one-year fixed term appointment. Professor Iyengar gained his PhD in Statistics from Stanford University. Since 1982 he

has been on the staff at the University of Pittsburgh. He was appointed Professor in the Department of Statistics in 1998 and has held the Chair since 2000.



Dr Alex James has been appointed lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Dr James previously lectured in mathematics at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK. She gained her PhD from the

University of Leeds for her mathematical modelling of catalytic combustion. Her current research interests include ecological modelling and combustion.



Elisabet Maseras has been appointed lecturer in Spanish in the School of Languages & Cultures for the first semester. Ms Maseras has a degree in language and literature from the Universitat

de Barcelona and a Masters in Speech Therapy from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Internships give students research experience

Twelve Canterbury University students have spent the summer researching a number of social science issues ranging from the social harm caused by alcoholic abuse among teenagers to the public perception of smog.

The students, from various social science faculties, carried out projects over the summer as part of a Social Science Research Centre (SSRC) summer internship programme. The findings were presented at a SSRC symposium on 13 February.

"The audience was very impressed with the standard of the projects which exceeded expectations. They were well presented and researched – the feedback we got was excellent and everyone concerned had a great morning," said Lorraine Leonard, SSRC research co-ordinator.

"The programme provides graduate students in the social sciences with opportunities to gain research experience before embarking on honours or thesis work. It also offers the community a chance to sponsor and fund research supervised by someone associated with the SSRC. This all fosters a good relationship with the SSRC and the community," she said.

Social science students selected for the programme are awarded a \$4000 scholarship and assigned to a project supervised by a researcher associated with the research centre. Research tasks are expected to be carried out over a 10-week period, during the summer holidays, according to the design specified by the project supervisor.

Student representing New Zealand at Rome forum

Third year psychology student Sam Flores has been chosen to represent New Zealand at the 2004 Catholic International Youth Forum in Rome.

The forum, entitled "Youth and University: witnessing to Christ in the University World", runs from 31 March to 4 April and will bring together Catholic student leaders from around the world. A Victoria University student will also represent New Zealand at the event.

Sam is involved with Cathsoc, more formally known as the Catholic Newman Society, of which she is president this year after serving on the committee last year. Catholic Chaplain Father Thige O'Leary commented that Sam's experience in 2001 working as a youth minister with National Evangelisation Teams in Australia and her leadership in Cathsoc were factors in her being selected to represent New Zealand Catholic university students in Rome.

"It's a demanding 10 weeks and a high standard is expected, but the calibre of project research is excellent. The students after the lunch were buzzing. It's great experience for all concerned, the students as well as the sponsors."

Projects included looking at peace agreements and why they often fail; the role of "public dialogue" in the biosecurity debate; the social harm caused by the rise in alcohol abuse by 11-18 years old; the public perception relating to the winter air pollution problem in Christchurch; the changing population demographics in and around the Avon Loop, Hagley Park and Cathedral Square; voter turnout at elections; the use of on-line methods to facilitate public dialogue on a health-technology related issues; an investigation into the application of social carrying capacity concepts at five New Zealand tourism destinations; census area planning and the accuracy of estimations; and summarising and collating various policy documents related to genetic testing that would be made available to the public on the Constructive Conversations website.

Jane Lucas



Chronicle serves up slice of history

Forty years of the Chronicle was celebrated at a function last Friday attended by staff past and present.

On hand to cut the birthday cake were the magazine's first and longest-serving editor Mr Eric Beardsley (left), current editor Ms Jeanette Colman and former editor and now Director of Communications and Development, Mr Jeff Field.

Appointments complete Pro-Vice-Chancellor team

Two highly respected academics with strong international research backgrounds have been appointed to Pro-Vice-Chancellor positions at the University of Canterbury.



Professor Ian Shaw

Professor Ian Shaw, an expert on food safety, has been appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (College of Science). Professor Peter Jackson, a mechanical engineering professor with a reputation for his research on

wind engineering, yachts and low-speed aerodynamics, has been appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (College of Engineering).

The announcements complete the suite of five new appointments to head four colleges and the School of Law in the University's new structure which took effect on 1 January. Those appointed earlier are Professor Kenneth Strongman (College of Arts), Professor Nigel Healey (College of Business and Economics) and Professor Scott Davidson (School of Law). Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp thanked all staff who had been involved in the appointments.

"It has been a demanding and rigorous process which attracted strong fields of candidates from around the world. I am very pleased with the appointments and look forward to working with the PVCs and the rest of the Senior Management Team as we implement the new college structure."

Professor Shaw has 20 years experience in academia, industry and government and is currently National Food Safety Programme Manager at the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), based in Christchurch. He is also an adjunct professor in the University's Chemistry Department and has a private toxicology consultancy.

Before emigrating to New Zealand, Professor Shaw was appointed to the first British lectureship in toxicology, at University College London, then took up an industry position with a German pharmaceutical firm, before transferring to Britain's Central Veterinary Laboratory where he became Head of the Biochemistry Department.

He was appointed as Professor of Toxicology and Head of the Applied Biology Department at the University of Central Lancashire in 1992, and in 2000 emigrated to take up the position with ESR.

Professor Shaw completed a first class honours degree in biochemistry at the University of Bath and did his PhD in toxicology at the University of Birmingham. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Biology and the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry.



Professor Peter Jackson

Professor Jackson has had a 27-year career at the University of Auckland and is currently Postgraduate Dean and Professor of Mechanical Engineering there.

His specialist interests are in fluid mechanics and thermodynamics, particularly applications in wind engineering and the aerodynamics of flexible membranes such as sails.

He set up Auckland University's Yacht Research Unit, was performance analyst for the 1987 NZ Americas Cup Challenge and was involved in all the subsequent challenges for the Americas Cup. He helped develop a unique twisted flow wind tunnel for testing yacht sails, which was used by five of the seven Volvo Round the World Yacht

syndicates for testing their designs.

The Jackson/Hunt theory he developed for assessing wind flow over hills is now widely used in wind engineering.

Professor Jackson is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and of the Institution of Professional Engineers of New Zealand and a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He took his Bachelor of Engineering with first class honours and his Masters with distinction, both in engineering science at Auckland University, and won a Commonwealth Scholarship to Cambridge University, where he did his PhD.

After completing his PhD he worked for four years as a senior engineer for the Ministry of Works and Development in charge of their wind engineering studies. He then moved to Auckland University as a senior lecturer and was appointed to a chair in mechanical engineering in 1987.



International Student Support co-ordinator Dr John Pickering (front left) and Say Giddy co-ordinator Lydia Luo (front right) give a warm Canterbury welcome to new international students.

Make someone's day – say giddy

University can be a daunting place for new arrivals, particularly those who are thousands of miles from home. But the University of Canterbury's International Student Support hopes its "Say giddy" campaign will make new students feel right at home.

"Every year International Student Support has the pleasure of welcoming hundreds of new international students on campus," said International Student Support Co-ordinator Dr John Pickering. "Their academic success and adjustment to life at the University is greatly influenced by the warmth of the welcome."

"This year, ISS has launched a 'Say giddy' campaign to encourage all staff and

returning students to think of the new students as our guests.

"We want all staff and students to go the extra step to extend a friendly welcome to the international students. We want you to 'Say giddy' through a friendly smile, a word of encouragement, or an offer of help."

As a way of reminder, posters and bright yellow stickers have gone up around the University urging people to – "Say giddy".

Dr Pickering hopes everyone on campus will get behind the campaign.

"Please join in this fun. I'm sure you will reap ample reward from getting to know some of the wonderful students we have from more than 90 different countries."

Lecturer honoured with Golden Key award for adviser role

American Studies lecturer Dr Jessica Johnston has been awarded the Golden Key Adviser of the Year for the Asia Pacific region at the annual Golden Key International Honour Society conference in Perth, Australia.

Golden Key is an international, interdisciplinary academic honours organisation which recognises academic achievement and excellence with the nurturing of a strong community service ethos. It was introduced at Canterbury in 1997. The top 15 percent of bachelor degree students enrolled in a university are invited to join the Honour Society – at Canterbury about 40% take up the invitation. The Canterbury chapter now has 1800 members. Academic staff and university administrators, selected by students to receive honorary membership, support students in Golden Key activities. Dr Johnston was approached to be an advisor four years ago.

“I certainly find it very rewarding and enjoyable. Seeing intelligent and yet reticent students grow into mature, self-confident leaders and team players is what keeps me motivated,” she said.

“The society develops a service orientation both within the university and outside in the larger community. The students are encouraged to give back something to the community. We have done work with the Christchurch City Mission, Cholmondley Children’s Home and for gifted children at Ilam and Aorangi primary schools. Within the University, we have helped organise the Careers Fair and the annual Colloquium.

“The students get a lot out of it and it is a great way to further develop university skills and apply practical knowledge. The students gain skills in public speaking, event organising and community and corporate networking all within a supportive friendly environment. This can differentiate them from other top students because they can demonstrate how they have put their skills to use. The feedback we’re getting from our graduates is that employers are now beginning to recognise the team work and leadership skills Golden Key students have acquired.”

As a student-run organisation, Dr Johnston said she merely directs student initiatives.

“It’s their initiatives and ideas, I just try to guide them on the best way to do go about implementing them.”

The society has been very well received in New Zealand with some very positive feedback, Dr Johnston said.

“New Zealand has the ‘tall poppy syndrome’ where people don’t want to stand out from the crowd. The Golden Key Society aims to develop people into leaders and encourage



Dr Jessica Johnston (front) with the Golden Keys Canterbury Chapter Executive Secretary Hayden Peacock and President Jennifer Molina.

them to give something back to the community. To see bright reserved students become mature confident leaders over the years is wonderful.”

Golden Key was founded in the USA in 1977 by a group of undergraduate students. The society has formed chapters in approximately 300 universities in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa and Hong Kong.

Jane Lucas

Short-listed pianists perform

International pianists from diverse backgrounds are performing at the Great Hall as part of the School of Music’s selection process for its new piano tutor.

Performing on three consecutive Monday evenings, the pianists will give solo performances of personally chosen works for the first half of the programme. The second half of each concert will begin with Schubert lieder sung by Dame Malvina Major, teacher of Performance Voice studies. The concerts will conclude with the guest pianist joining Jan Tawroszewicz, on violin, and Edith Salzmann, on cello, to present Beethoven’s renowned “Archduke” trio.

British pianist Geoffrey Govier played on 23 February. Hungarian Péter Nagy will be the guest performer on 1 March. The series is completed on 8 March with the appearance of Chinese pianist-composer Gao Ping who last performed in Christchurch in 2002.

Each performer will also give a piano masterclass for selected performance students and present a seminar.

The concerts, which are at the Great Hall, Christchurch Arts Centre, begin at 8pm.

People

Canterbury alumnus and distinguished chemist **Professor Robin Clark** has been awarded a special Lifetime Achievement Award at the New Zealander of the Year Awards in Britain. In 2001 Canterbury University awarded Professor Clark an honorary DSc for services to science.

New undergraduate degree structure proposed

The University is proposing to adopt a common currency undergraduate degree based on 360 points.

At the same time the University will update its degree regulations to meet the NZQA requirement that a minimum of 20% of each degree be at 300 level.

Preparatory work completed in 2003 proposed a schedule for the translation of current course points to the new structure, a recommendation for generic regulations covering the BA, BCom and BSc and a proposed timeline for moving to the new structure.

The details were included in a recommendation from the Academic Administration Committee to the Academic Board in December 2003, for consideration in March 2004. Faculties have been asked to discuss these recommendations prior to this Academic Board meeting. The recommendations were also circulated to members of the Senior Management Team, academic heads and the UCSA

Education Co-ordinator at the end of 2003.

This year, a project has been established under the direction of Dr Jan Cameron, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic), to implement the new undergraduate degree structures with effect from 1 January 2006.

The initial focus is on revising the degree regulations. This work is being carried out by the Deans with assistance from the academic managers and staff in Academic Services. From later this year through to early 2005 a number of other issues will be addressed including transition arrangements for current students, conversion of student system data, updating publications, communicating with students and other stakeholders.

Staff will be kept informed of the project’s progress through the University’s Intranet. Information on the degree regulation changes and other academic issues related to the project will be reported by the Deans through the faculties and other regular communication channels.

Publication marks English scholar's retirement

For Rob Jackaman it's a fitting way to retire. After 32 years at the University of Canterbury he is leaving the English Department months after his third book, which summarises his research, is published.

"It's a nice parting shot for me really and I'm looking forward to another chapter in my life," he said after spending a day packing books into boxes from his office. "I absolutely love teaching and writing. I have loved my job, but it's time to move on."

The book, entitled *Broken English/Breaking English: A Study of Contemporary Poetries in English*, looks at English as a language in contemporary poetry. It explains how English was used as a colonising device.

Dr Jackaman said it was traditionally thought that English was a single and unique language used in the Commonwealth, but in fact, English was imposed on other cultures – Māori, West Indians, even the Scottish, Welsh and Irish. It was made a standard language that people had to speak to progress – it was spoken in courts and parliaments. It is this colonisation that is undermined in contemporary poetry.

"It's more than dialectal differences, it's the shape of the language." "For instance, West

Indian writing in English is full of rhythm and rhythm is important in poetry."

Dr Jackaman arrived in New Zealand, from Cambridge University, to attend Auckland University on a Commonwealth Scholarship. When he was being given his oral examination for his doctorate the examiner mentioned that there was a vacancy coming up at the University of Canterbury. He applied and got the job. Intending to stay for the duration of the three-year contract, Dr Jackaman found the relaxed, friendly New Zealand lifestyle suited him and 32 years later has found himself still at the University.

"After completing my PhD a friend and I travelled around New Zealand in a mini – we even slept in it. We had a great time and I have very fond memories of those days that probably held me here in New Zealand."

On various study leaves he has returned to England roughly every seven years, but now regards New Zealand as his home. On his last study leave Dr Jackaman was a visiting scholar at the University of Sydney, then went to Queens University Kingston, Canada, and finally England researching for *Broken English/Breaking English*.

Dr Jackaman has seen a lot of changes over his 32 years at Canterbury having started his



teaching career at the town site, and later moving to the Ilam campus. He said it's a job he wouldn't swap. "I initially took the job thinking I'd be here for three years.

"Students have changed over the years, they are a lot more serious now. The freedom and open atmosphere that existed years ago has now gone. I remember while I was at Cambridge a tutor said on the first day that an education was attending lectures in the morning, playing sport or participating in an interest in the afternoon, then socialising in the evenings. University was more of a well-rounded education."

With plans of more writing, more books, and being the editor of a poetry series for the Hazard Press, there won't be much time for sitting around reminiscing about the old days.

Jane Lucas



UC Varsity Vikings in training on Lyttelton Harbour.

UC Varsity Vikings prepare for national festival

The UC Varsity Vikings showed excellent form at the South Island Dragon Boat Festival on 21 February, with paddling skills their Nordic namesakes would have been proud of.

Team manager Penny Macadam said fitness was now the key to ensuring success at the National Dragon Boat Festival, to be held in Christchurch on 13-14 March at Lake Roto Kohatu.

The 25-strong crew of University staff, students and alumni have been pounding the waves in Lyttelton Harbour in preparation

for this event since mid November. With an Early Bird Regatta in early February against Christchurch teams, and the recent south island competition, both at Lake Roto Kohatu, the team has been able to gauge its progress in the build-up to the finale.

Penny said technique was "looking good" and the focus now would be in building fitness. "The team performed exceptionally well off the start-line, often leading the field for a good two thirds of the course. We just need to increase stamina to get us the rest of the way."

This is the fourth season the University of Canterbury has entered the competition, and each year the team is composed of new members, eager to try their hand at this popular sport. For this reason, much emphasis in the weekly training is placed on teamwork and timing, which is a crucial element in the speed of the boat.

Each of the three competitions in the season involves between four and six races, over a 300-320 metre course. Twenty people paddle at a time in the 12-ft boats, with a caller in the prow keeping time and a sweep at stern steering the course.

In last season's dramatic National Wellington Festival, the UC team excelled a previous best to place fourth in the Corporate Social Grand Final, out of a field of 63 corporate teams. Penny said the team would definitely be looking to improve on that position in 2004.

The UC Varsity Vikings are especially grateful for the support of the University's Sports Science and Recreation Services in assisting with training, and for the support of the community and individuals in helping with fundraising efforts.

Members of the campus community are encouraged to support the team by coming along to the National festival in two weeks' time. See www.canterbury.ac.nz/alumni/intro.htm for details.

Chanel Hughes

Poet takes up Writer's Residency

A novel which reflects on "the things men didn't talk about" during the Second World War will be a work in progress for 2004
Ursula Bethell Writer in Residence Graham Lindsay.

Interwoven into *Stories from the Garden* will be the effects of Rogernomics on pensioners during the 1980s, and a family's struggle with inadequately treated affective bipolar disorder.

"It is a novel – but it is part of a larger sequence of writing which feels like an extension of my poetry," Mr Lindsay said.

"It is something I've been contemplating and drafting on and off ever since I was a teenager."

Mr Lindsay is the author of seven books of poetry, including *Thousand-Eyed Eel: A sequence of poems from the Maori Land March, 1975*, and three books published by Auckland University Press. *Lazy Wind Poems*, the most recent, appeared in 2003. His work appears in numerous anthologies and publications, and he has been shortlisted twice for the New Zealand Book Awards poetry prize.

Becoming a writer in residence at the University has been a boost for the author.

"It can be a wretched existence being a writer. Acknowledgement is hugely important. It is also a nudge to work harder. In this environment you are well aware that there are some very bright people around you – it lifts your game."

Besides working on the new novel, Mr Lindsay will continue editing a completed



Graham Lindsay.

manuscript, *In the Land of Eternally Silent Light*.

"What I'm trying to do is to articulate an idea or feeling which I'm trying to put into words because it is interesting to me and I hope to someone else. My aim is that this thing, this articulation, will engender a feeling in the reader akin to the thought that initiated the whole process.

"It's an exploration of what it means to be human. You first want to understand it for yourself, so you translate the feeling into words."

Mr Lindsay took up the residency at the start of the month.

"For 30 years I've taken part-time jobs to enable me to write. In cycling to the university, I've cycled past many of my old workplaces. This is the first time I'm cycling to a place where I'm doing my life's work."

Until now, his partner has been the main breadwinner.

"She's been my Creative NZ, my Arts Council. It is a break for her as well."

The Ursula Bethell Residency in Creative Writing was established at the University of Canterbury in 1979. Ursula Bethell (1874–1945) spent much of her life in Canterbury and is considered one of the pioneers of modern New Zealand poetry. The writer's residency is supported by funding from Creative New Zealand.

Diana Moir

the inside story

What's poetry about? Ask the poets, chancing their arms, sidling up to the question as to a pickup at a bar, positioning themselves (conduits, siphons) side-on to distance themselves from their enquiry – for,

having dispensed with themselves, the words when they come will be the nearest things to the things themselves, or so they suppose. The words have other ideas, being as indifferent to meaning as matter to black holes.

They regard the rails, risk going off them.
 Air drops into their lungs and retires to the world.
 Looking tips into seeing, much as a pair of scales tips when sufficient material has been poured into one pan
 to overbalance the weight in the other...

Extract from the inside story (*Lazy Wind Poems*, AUP, 2003)
 Republished with the permission of the author, Graham Lindsay, and publisher.

UC MEMORABILIA SALE

Significant reductions on selected items. See www.canterbury.ac.nz/Alumni/amemo/intro.htm for a full price list.



Desk Calendar
Was \$9.95
Now \$6.95

Wine Cooler Set
(wine not included)
Was \$50.00
Now \$35.00



Umbrella
Was \$25.00
Now \$17.50

Coffee Mugs
Were \$10.00
Now \$7.00



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