

Four to receive honorary doctorates in 2006



Gavin Cormack.



Neil Scott.



Dr Susan Wakefield.



John Wood.

Four University of Canterbury alumni who are leaders in their chosen fields of engineering, technology, commerce and diplomacy will receive honorary doctorates from the University this year.

Those receiving the honorary doctorates are civil engineer Gavin Cormack (DEng), computer innovator Neil Scott (DSc), former Commerce Commission chairman Dr Susan Wakefield (DCom) and New Zealand Ambassador to the USA John Wood (LittD).

Mr Cormack graduated from Canterbury in 1962 with a Bachelor of Engineering. Since 1969 he has been employed by Beca becoming Executive Chairman in 2000. Beca employs more than 1600 people and operates primarily in the Asia Pacific area offering professional services in engineering and related disciplines. For more than three decades he has been involved in the design of major engineering projects around the world.

The award winning New Zealand projects that he has been involved in include the Otira Gorge Viaduct, the bridges on the Mangaweka to Utiku railway deviation, the 4000 metre-long potlines at the Bluff smelter, the private viewing boxes at Eden Park, the Auckland casino project and the associated 328 metre high Sky Tower.

Offshore his work has included airport projects in Fiji, wharves in Papua New Guinea, long span bridges in Malaysia and a 338 metre tall communication tower in Macau.

Mr Cormack's engineering achievements have been recognised by numerous awards including the IPENZ Structural Award in 1990 and the Freyssinet Structural Design Award in 1992.

Mr Scott graduated from Canterbury in 1970 with a Bachelor of Engineering (first class honours). After working at the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation and Wellington Polytechnic, Mr Scott headed to San Francisco in 1986 where he worked on providing accessibility solutions to disabled individuals.

From 1992 to 2003 he was director and chief engineer of the Archimedes Project at Stanford University. During this time he developed the Total Access System which provides universal access to computers and other electronic devices using technologies such as speech recognition, head tracking and eye tracking.

Since 2003 Mr Scott has been the Director of the Archimedes Project at the University of Hawaii, a multi-disciplinary project focusing on improving human/computer interaction strategies and technologies.

In 1997 *Discover Magazine* named Mr Scott as

one of the top five innovators in the United States. In 2000 *San Francisco Magazine* featured Mr Scott as one of the futurists who would shape the way in which we think, live, work and play in the new millennium. In 2002 he was named a Lifetime Tech Laureate in the International Tech Museum of Innovation Awards for his commitment to creating technologies that promote equal opportunity and diversity for people around the world.

Dr Wakefield (formerly Lojkine) first completed a PhD in Russian at Canterbury in 1968. She then trained in accountancy, graduating with a BCom in 1975. She became a partner in the international accountancy firm Peat Marwick in 1979 and resigned in 1987 to co-found the tax specialist practice of McLeod Lojkine.

A leading tax expert, Dr Wakefield has held a number of directorships including director and deputy chairman of the Bank of New Zealand. She was chairman of the Commerce Commission from 1989 to 1994.

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Anderton opens University biomass gasifier



Masters student Jock Brown (left) and chemical and process engineering senior lecturer Ian Gilmour (right) show Chancellor Dr Robin Mann and Green Party leader Jeanette Fitzsimons the new biomass gasifier.

Biomass gasification research at the University of Canterbury could help New Zealand become more self-reliant for energy and fuel, according to the Minister of Forestry, Hon Jim Anderton.

Speaking at the official opening of the biomass gasifier at the University's Wood Technology Research Centre last week, Mr Anderton congratulated UC for helping transfer the technology to New Zealand.

Biomass gasification is the conversion of solid organic material, including woody residues, sewage sludge and hybrid crop species, into a gaseous fuel suitable for combustion in turbines or engines to produce heat and electricity.

Biomass currently contributes just 5% of New Zealand's total primary energy supply but UC researchers and industry partners see great potential to further utilise this resource and make a significant impact on the economy and the environment.

"New Zealand has a renewable and sustainable plantation forestry resource. It leaves us well placed to take advantage of the technology that can make valuable bio-energy from wood product that would otherwise go to waste," said Mr Anderton.

"This gasifier and the research it supports are important parts of New Zealand's move towards greater use of bio-energy.

"The system needs to be tuned to local material

and conditions. These issues can only be addressed by local research. New Zealand firms need local comparisons of the financial implications of energy options and systems – and this plant should help produce those."

The construction of the laboratory-scale gasifier to convert forest industry waste is the first step in a wider industry research programme funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology. The \$1.9 million project has as its ultimate goal the development of a proven system designed to suit New Zealand conditions which industry partners can take over for construction of a bio-energy demonstration plant.

Associate Professor Shusheng Pang, who heads the Wood Technology Research Centre and leads the biomass energy research programme, said the most promising application for the technology was in the wood processing industry but it could also be used to convert a city's biosolid waste into energy.

"At the moment it is still more expensive than conventional power generation options but biomass gasification reduces carbon emissions, eliminates waste disposal costs, reduces dependence on fossil fuel and generates employment."

Following the opening of the gasifier, a forum was held on the role of biofuels in a sustainable energy society, with Green Party leader Jeanette Fitzsimons giving the opening address. Ms Fitzsimons looked at the issues regarding the country's energy demand in the next 10 to 20 years and highlighted the potential impact Canterbury's technology could have.

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Her many appointments have included university and government committees, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the New Zealand Institute of Management, the Institute of Policy Studies and the Auckland Technical Institute Foundation. She was awarded the QSO for public services in 1993.

Dr Wakefield was the founding chair of the University of Canterbury Foundation, a registered charitable trust which supports the University through donations, bequests, sponsorships and partnerships.

Mr Wood graduated from Canterbury with an MA (first class honours) in 1964. After further studies in politics, philosophy and economics at Balliol College, Oxford University, he joined the then Department of External Affairs in 1969. In 1996 he was appointed foreign policy adviser to the then prime minister Robert Muldoon.

Mr Wood has held a variety of overseas posts including first secretary in Tokyo and Bonn and ambassador in Turkey, Pakistan and Iran. From 1991 to 1994, and again from 1998 to 2003,

he was deputy secretary, Trade and Economic Policy, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Mr Wood has headed New Zealand delegations to many international conferences and negotiations including the World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meetings in Seattle in 1999 and Doha in 2001. In October 2005 he was inducted into the Consumers for World Trade Hall of Fame for services to the cause of open and competitive world trade.

Mr Wood has just completed his third four-year tour of duty in Washington DC, the second time he has served as New Zealand ambassador to the United States. He and his wife, Rose, will relocate shortly to their home and farm in his birthplace, Kaikoura.

Dr Wakefield and Mr Wood will have their degrees conferred at the University's graduation ceremonies on Tuesday, 11 April. Mr Cormack and Mr Scott will receive their honorary doctorates at graduation ceremonies on Thursday, 13 April.

Integration of UC and CCE library services

Library services at the University of Canterbury and the Christchurch College of Education joined forces this month, with students and staff at both institutions now being offered an integrated service.

On 7 February, the College's library officially became a branch of the UC system and is now known as the UC Education Library.

University Librarian Gail Pattie and UC Education Library manager Kerry Lyford said that while some tough decisions had to be made during the integration process, they were both excited by the possibilities the development offered.

"It's mutually beneficial to both the University and the College and there will definitely be long-term gains for both institutions," Ms Pattie said.

The integration process began in early 2005 and has been developed independently of the proposed full merger between the College and the University.

Both Ms Pattie and Ms Lyford said years of co-operation between the two libraries in areas such as cataloguing and reciprocal borrowing provided a solid base for integration.

"A lot of students are also joint students of the two institutions so integration is a reflection of a number of elements in the general environment," said Ms Lyford.

The move now gave staff and students access to more resources, and the installation of



Andy the UC Education Library cat, pictured here with UC Education Library manager Kerry Lyford (left) and University Librarian Gail Pattie, is keen to meet all users of the new integrated University and College of Education library service.

a shared management system streamlined services. Library staff would benefit from having access to expanded career and professional development opportunities and the sharing of expertise, Ms Pattie said.

"There will also be economies in terms of collection expenditure," said Ms Lyford. "The College library has never had the purchasing power of the University library. We were very well resourced for our size but we're like a corner dairy and a Pak 'n' Save can buy

truckloads more than we can.

"But the focus has always been on preserving good services. The bottom line has always been that the services we provide stay excellent."

The book stock will remain where it is for the 2006 academic year but will be reorganised once the full merger is confirmed. Ms Pattie said any rearrangement would depend on academic structure and what courses were based at each campus.

Warm welcome for UC's first-year students



First-year Communication Disorders student Melissa Dore is presented with a cheque for \$500 from ASB by UCSA President Warren Poh at the Get Connected to UC Welcome Ceremony in the Christchurch Town Hall.

New students were offered many pearls of wisdom this week but were told that ultimately the world was their oyster.

A ceremony was held in the Christchurch Town Hall on Monday to kick off the academic year for University of Canterbury first-year students and welcome them and their families into the University community.

Master of Ceremonies David Round, a lecturer in the School of Law, kept the crowd entertained with anecdotes from his own student life and some words of advice from "one who has gone before".

"You will fall in love with people, learning and ideas, but don't just fall in love with the first idea that comes along with a cute smile and charming patter," said Mr Round.

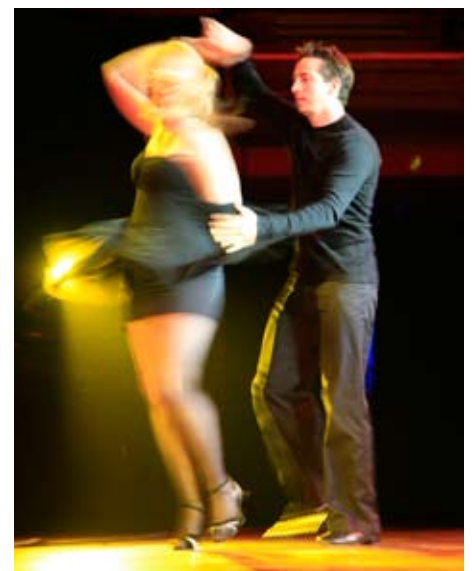
Throughout the 90-minute ceremony many speakers added their words of welcome, highlighted information that would help ease students' transition to university life and encouraged students to get fully involved in all aspects of campus life.

University of Canterbury Students Association President Warren Poh told his fellow students that one of the best things about being at University was "having the freedom and the privilege to make your own choices".

"You are here to write your own script," Mr Poh said.

Following the more formal proceedings the lectern was moved to make way for slick dance moves by Salsa Fusion, a dynamic

performance from the College of Education's NASDA students and a dramatic *Phantom of the Opera* finale starring UC's Director of Marketing Brigitte Murray who made sure the celebrations ended on a very high note.



Wowing the audience at the Get Connected to UC Welcome Ceremony at the Christchurch Town Hall are Salsa Fusion dancers Amanda High and Carl Cook.

New professors promoted



Professor Harsha Sirisena (left) and Professor Bob Manthei congratulate one another on their promotions. Professor Rob Hughes is currently on leave.

The University of Canterbury has promoted three academic staff to professorships and 18 to associate professorships.

The new professors are Rob Hughes (Psychology), Bob Manthei (Education) and Harsha Sirisena (Electrical and Computer Engineering).

The new associate professors are: Terry Austrin (Sociology and Anthropology), Neil Boister (Law), Margaret Burrell (Languages and Cultures), Tim Davies (Geological Sciences), David Gleaves (Psychology), Randolph Grace (Psychology), Richard Hartshorn (Chemistry), Sinniah Ilanko (Mechanical Engineering), Chigusa Kimura-Steven (Languages and Cultures), Milo Kral (Mechanical Engineering), Mark Milke (Civil Engineering), Roger Reeves (Physics and Astronomy), Gregory Russell (Chemistry), Adrian Sawyer (Law), David Fortin (Management), Alexander Tan (Political Science and Communication), Matthew Turnbull (Biological Sciences) and Lianne Woodward (Psychology).

Professor Hughes was born and raised in Christchurch. After studying for a BSc in psychology and zoology and an MSc (first class honours) in psychology at UC he took up a lectureship at Queen's University of Belfast (Northern Ireland), where he also completed his PhD studies.

Professor Hughes returned to UC in 1968 and has since held the positions of lecturer, senior lecturer and reader/associate professor in psychology. His general areas of teaching and research expertise are the effects of drugs on behaviour. He is interested in the later effects of drugs (especially caffeine and the active ingredients of party pills) on the unborn and the newly born.

Professor Manthei came to UC in 1974 after

working as a psychiatric social worker in the United States and a child welfare officer with the then Department of Social Welfare in Christchurch. His research interests

include school counselling trends, training and supervision of counsellors and stress in counselling and teaching.

Professor Manthei is a registered and licensed psychologist and is a member of the New Zealand Psychological Society's Institute of Counselling Psychology.

Outside of work, Professor Manthei enjoys a good game of basketball and is well known for his enthusiastic television commentaries from events around the world including the Athens Olympics. He will be calling the basketball at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne next month.

Professor Sirisena holds a BSc (first class honours) in electrical engineering from the University of Ceylon and a PhD in control engineering from the University of Cambridge. He joined UC in 1971 as a lecturer in electrical engineering after working in Sri Lanka as an engineer in the Government Electricity Department and a lecturer at the University of Ceylon. His current research interests are in the fields of intelligent control and computer and telecommunications networks.

Volunteers needed for Habitat for Humanity house build at UC

Are you a dab hand with a hammer? Is putting up a wall or laying foundations something you have always wanted to try? If so, Golden Key and Habitat for Humanity have just the project for you.

From 20 February the University of Canterbury's Ilam Rd frontage will become a construction site as a Habitat for Humanity housing project, organised by the Canterbury chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society, takes shape.

However, volunteers are needed for the project to be successful and those helping out can spend as much time on the project as they choose.

"We need between 10 and 20 volunteers on site at any one time and we're looking for staff to take part as well as students. We'll take anyone who's around and no building experience is needed," said Golden Key community service team leader Hayden Peacock.

"We'll have two professional builders on site to supervise the work and training will be given. Tasks will also be handed out according to the skills of the volunteers and there will be lots to do."

Hayden, a chemistry PhD student, said volunteers were promised a fun time.

"And that's the idea of it – having a lot of fun

building together to help a family get a home."

Habitat for Humanity is an international, non-profit organisation that builds homes for low-income families using voluntary labour. A family has yet to be found for the house that will be built at the University so it will be put into storage when finished.

Golden Key is a student-run organisation that develops leadership through community service, promotes teamwork and recognises academic achievement.

Hayden said it was the first time the Canterbury Golden Key chapter had organised a Habitat for Humanity house-building project and the idea came from a similar project organised by the Waikato Golden Key chapter.

"It worked really well for them so we thought we'd give it a go. Golden Key is an organisation that's committed to the community and we were looking for more projects to support so we approached the Christchurch Habitat for Humanity chapter about it. They hadn't done a build for a while because of financial constraints so the project will work well for both of us."

Work starts on 20 February and volunteers can register their willingness to help by emailing habitatbuild@canterbury.ac.nz or by turning up at the site.

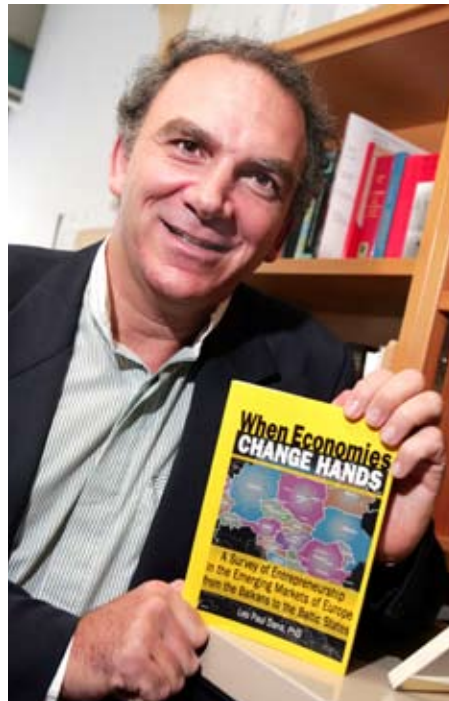
Professor tackles Eastern Europe's emerging economies in new book

The consequences of rapid economic reform in post-Communist Europe come under scrutiny in the latest book from University of Canterbury Associate Professor Leo-Paul Dana.

When Economies Change Hands is a survey of entrepreneurship in the Eastern European countries from the Balkans to the Baltic States, which are making the transition from Communist-era financial systems to market economies. The book looks at the different types of entrepreneurial activities taking place, the effects of government policies and their impact on the people living in those countries.

Professor Dana (Management) was inspired to write the book after seeing first-hand the effects of a change of economy while he was a visiting professor in Romania in 1995. He said his research for the book made him more aware of the impact economics could have on ordinary people.

"Economic policy has an impact on markets but, more importantly, it has an impact on individuals, and not all individuals are affected equally. Some people stand to gain while others lose out. This can be applied to any country but at the moment it's more noticeable in Eastern European countries. Learning about what's happening there can help us understand our own economies," he said.



Associate Professor Leo-Paul Dana's latest book examines what happens when economies change hands.

"We can also see the mistakes some of the emerging economies have made and learn from them. It's very easy in any economy to make a mistake and the consequences are felt

very quickly. Unfortunately, it can take years to recover and thousands of people can suffer before the effects are corrected."

Professor Dana believed many of the policies of the new market economies in Eastern Europe "missed the boat".

"I think reform happened very quickly and I think economic change has to be made so it can be absorbed by all generations. A lot of ordinary people were left behind and are a lot worse off than they were before," he said.

"Before the collapse of Communism there was not a very big gap between the main streams of society. The average person wasn't rich but the average person wasn't hungry. Now we have people who are middle class, we have people who are really rich and we have heaps of people who are hungry."

He said people in the countries covered by the book now made money any way they could. Many relied on subsistence farming for food, crime and corruption were rife and "grey market" activities or bartering were common.

"They are really basic economies and people do what they can to survive."

- *When Economies Change Hands* by Leo-Paul Dana, published by The Haworth Press, rrp \$49.95.

Nursing a passion for cycling



Wendy Risdon displays the medals she won at the recent Masters Games.

Wendy Risdon was in her thirties before she learnt to ride a bike but she has been pedalling her way to success ever since.

The practice nurse in the University of Canterbury Health Centre has just returned

from the Masters Games in Dunedin where she won gold medals in the 20km time trial and 40km road race in the 40-44 year age group.

A latecomer to competitive cycling, Mrs Risdon got involved in the sport through competing in triathlons.

"Cycling was my weakest discipline so I decided to focus on that. I enjoyed it so much I dropped the swimming and running."

Her love of cycling led her to another love – her husband.

"I met my husband through cycling. It's great having a partner to train with and a common interest to share."

Mrs Risdon has been competing at the Masters since 1998 and already has an impressive collection of medals.

A member of the Pegasus Cycling Club, she trains four times a week and races once or twice a week. She recently competed in the Harbour Race and will take part in Le Race on 25 March.

The "golden oldie" tag is not something that fazes Mrs Risdon who says she would love to still be competing in 20 years time.

"I look forward to getting older and working my way through the age groups at the Masters. My plan is to gradually whittle down the competition until I'm the only one left."

New honour for Sir Tipene

University of Canterbury Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Sir Tipene O'Regan is to be honoured by his alma mater.

Sir Tipene, who was instrumental in negotiating two of the first and largest Treaty of Waitangi settlements, is to receive an honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Victoria University in May.

It is the latest in a string of honours for the eminent kaumatua, academic and business leader. In 1992 Sir Tipene received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from the University of Canterbury and two years later received an honorary Doctor of Commerce from Lincoln University. *The National Business Review* named him New Zealander of the Year in 1993 and he was knighted in 1994.

Sir Tipene graduated from Victoria in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in history and political science. He joined the then Wellington Teachers College in that year as a lecturer and was later head of its Department of Social Studies and Māori.

He has had a long association with Canterbury University and has taught postgraduate history as a visiting lecturer since 1989. He was appointed the University's first Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) in February last year.

Summer research opportunities a hit with social science students

The University of Canterbury Social Science Research Centre Summer Studentship Programme has just wound up a successful fifth season.

This year's studentships were extremely popular with 110 applications for 17 places working on sponsored research projects. The successful students began working on their summer studentships mid-November and worked through until last Friday, when they presented seminars on their projects at an on-campus symposium.

Social science students selected for the

programme were awarded a \$4000 scholarship and assigned to a project supervised by a researcher associated with the centre.

The projects came not only from within the University but also from a variety of other sources such as government agencies, crown research companies, and private researchers.

Social Science Research Centre co-ordinator Lorraine Leonard said the programme provided a great opportunity for students to gain research experience before embarking on honours or thesis work.

"They really like that they are substantial projects they can sink their teeth into," Ms Leonard said.

"The programme also offers the wider community the chance to sponsor or fund research supervised by researchers with expertise in an associated field and we've been delighted to welcome new sponsors on board this year. It is great to be able to expand the programme as there are a lot of students lining up for this experience and they are all high-calibre researchers."

Social significance of cellphones revealed in student study



Cell phones are not all bad says UC student Kreepa Shrestha.

The widespread use of cellphones by young New Zealanders has generated a lot of negative press recently, but a University of Canterbury student says mobiles are not as bad as they are made out to be.

Kreepa Shrestha, who just completed a BA in geography, recently finished a 10-week project looking at cellphone use among university students as part of the Social Science Research Centre Summer Studentship programme.

Her project was funded by the Department of Geography and supervised by Dr Julie Cupples and Dr Lee Thompson. It formed part of a larger project that explores the intersections between young people, culture and new technologies.

Kreepa, who has been intrigued by New Zealand's cellphone culture for some time, said she was surprised by what her research uncovered.

"There have been reports that say cellphones are bad for children, that they encourage bullying, that texting ruins their ability to read and write properly, and have a damaging effect on social skills by replacing face-to-face contact. But really there's little scientific backing for those claims," she said.

"What I found is that cellphones and texting help people connect with each other and strengthen relationships by allowing them to stay involved with their social peer groups."

Kreepa talked to 20 students about their

experiences and how cellphones had changed their lives. The majority said they initially got a cellphone because everyone else they knew had one. But now they felt having a cellphone was a positive thing.

"The majority were using their cellphones all the time to organise their lives, but a few were using them just in emergencies. Only one person found being cellphone accessible troublesome and he's now giving it away."

However, although the cellphone users Kreepa spoke to were positive about their mobiles, there was general agreement that children under the age of 15 should not be using them.

"They thought children shouldn't have to worry about that kind of technology and just be kids."

It was the first time Kreepa had carried out independent research and she said it was a "major experience" for her. She said the skills she had learned would be useful for postgraduate study.

Studentship an opportunity to fine-tune NZ's rural fire danger warning system

As high temperatures and north-west winds have led to extreme fire conditions in Canterbury over the summer, UC history student Helen Bones has been reading up on how best to communicate fire danger warnings.

The honours student was one of 17 students working on sponsored research projects as part of the Social Science Research Centre Summer Studentship programme.

Helen's project, sponsored by forestry research organisation Ensis, involved her undertaking an extensive literature review and evaluation of methods of communicating fire danger warnings used around the world. Her research was part of a wider rural fire research programme to improve the New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System as a support tool for warning rural communities of wildfire hazard and improving readiness.

It was Helen's second year participating in the summer studentships and her second time working with the Ensis Bushfire Research team on campus. Last year she worked on a project looking at community resilience to forest fire and recovery. Both projects were supervised by Ensis scientist Lisa Langer.

Though the projects were unrelated to her history studies, Helen said it was nice to tackle something new and they were a great opportunity to hone her research skills in an applied way.

Helen said the highlight of her 10-week studentship was undoubtedly going to Wellington to use the resources housed in the Wellington Fire Service Library.

She said she would be making a few suggestions in her 20-page report on how communication of fire danger warnings could be improved and how Bernie (the National

Rural Fire Authority's mascot) and his "burn right tips" could burn brighter in the nation's consciousness.

"The rural fire sign indicates how dangerous it is but doesn't give any information on what kind of behavioural changes people should be making. I don't think there is enough promotion of the sort of action needed."



Helen Bones hopes her summer studentship research will help improve communication of fire danger warnings.

Conferences give new insights into tertiary teaching



Dr Mick Grimley (Education) valued the opportunity to attend two conferences in Australia recently that had a tertiary teaching focus.

Assessment and academic integrity were hot topics across the Tasman recently at international conferences attended by University of Canterbury staff.

Eleven staff, representing both academic departments and university service centres, travelled to Australia for two back-to-back conferences in December: the Evaluations and Assessment Conference in Sydney; and the Asia Pacific Educational Integrity Conference in Newcastle. Six staff were sponsored by the UC Teaching and Learning Committee.

Alison Holmes, Director of University Centre for Teaching and Learning (UCTL), who was among the group, said staff were encouraged to attend such conferences where they gained exposure to new teaching concepts and tools, and could spend time thinking about and discussing their approaches to teaching and assessment.

Stephen Hickson (Economics) said the assessment conference made him reflect on the role of group work.

“One of the sessions I attended asked good fundamental questions about what group work really means — and it is not simply an

individual assignment given to a group. If a group assignment can simply be divided up amongst the group members then it is not really a piece of group work and there is little value in there being a ‘group process.’”

UCTL Survey Administrator John Ogier presented papers on qualitative feedback and online survey response rates at the Evaluations and Assessment Conference and the preceding Evaluation Forum. He said both the conference and forum were invaluable.

“They enable what are often one-person units to come together to share ideas and research on the issues surrounding student evaluations of courses and teaching.”

Dr Mick Grimley (Education) said it was the first time he had attended a conference with a tertiary teaching focus rather than a research focus.

“As my discipline is education in the first instance, the subject matter for the assessment conference was not new, but it was good to see many non-education specialists devoting time to researching and evaluating issues of assessment in the tertiary setting, which is the key business of

many academics. But of course due to time pressures and other pressures we often neglect to recognise this fact and thus give it the consideration it deserves.”

Dr Grimley said the Educational Integrity Conference was an “eye opener” for him.

“I had previously viewed the problem of academic integrity as very much black and white but this conference certainly changed this.”

There was much discussion on the pros and cons of using software such as the plagiarism detector Turnitin, which was piloted and evaluated last semester at UC and is now available for all staff to use.

“Many arguments stemmed from the premise that a lot of the students who cheat do so from ignorance rather than malice. It seems then as academics it is our responsibility to educate our students as to the correct and ‘honest’ process for writing academic papers and therefore to use this software package in a constructive approach to the problem of plagiarism.”

For Dr Jan Wikaira (Chemistry), who attended both conferences, the talk given by Dr Thomas Angelo from Victoria University of Wellington at the Educational Integrity Conference was her highlight.

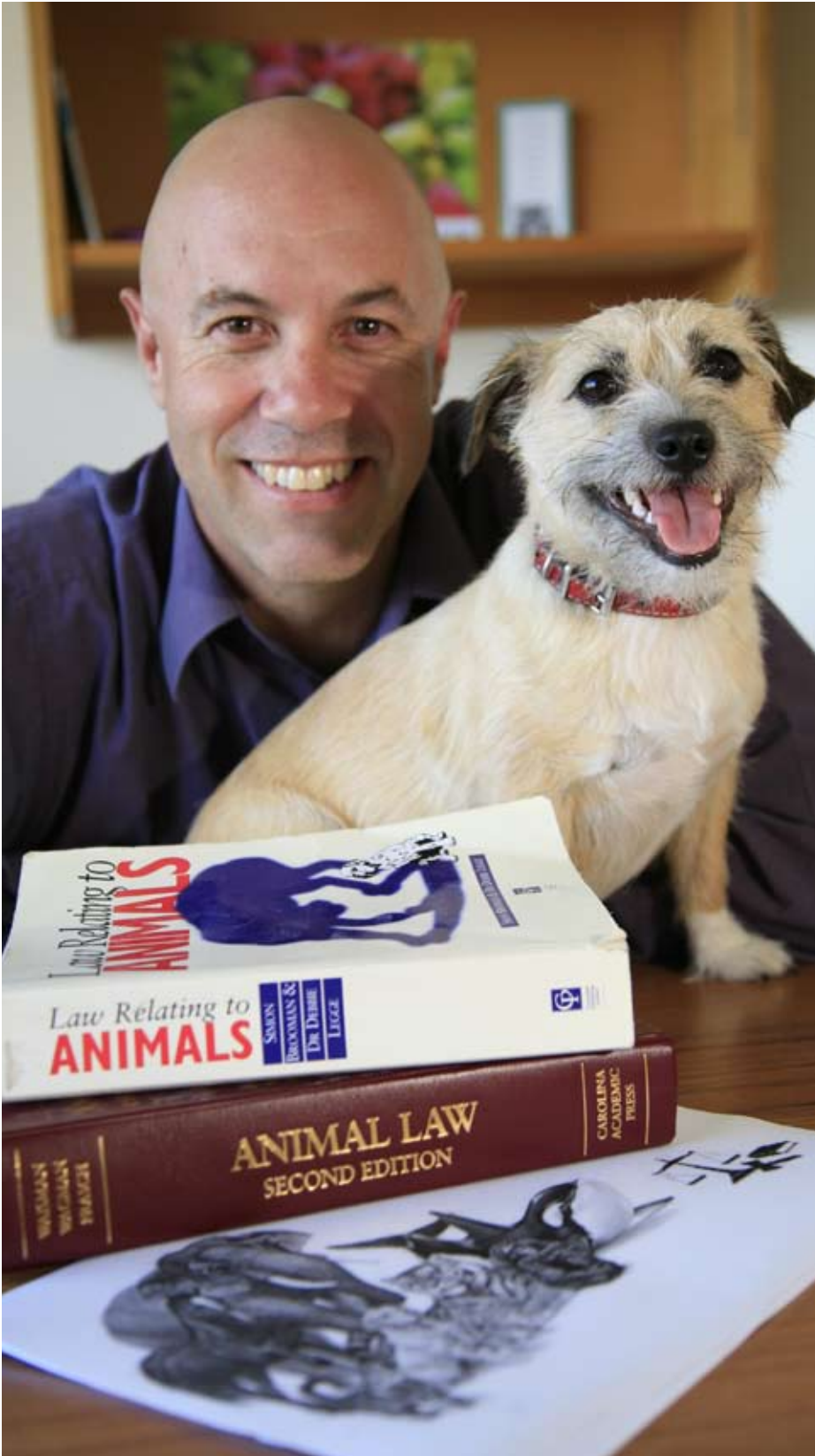
“He made the analogy that many institutions approached educational integrity with an approach akin to the ‘War on Drugs’ or the ‘War on Terror’, whereas what was really needed was to develop in students critical and creative thinking.”

Ms Holmes said she was keen to ensure the group had opportunities to share their learnings with the wider University community. A few of the attendees have already given presentations to the local branch of the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERSDA) and there are plans to run seminars and workshops through UCTL in coming months.

Scholarships

Scholarships awarded for 2006 include: **Merodie Beavon**, Laura Clad Memorial Scholarship (\$2400); **Gavin Bell**, Guardian Trust Masters Scholarship in Commerce (\$6000); **Hamish Cuthbertson**, Nelson Science Scholarship (\$2000 per annum for four years); **Chia-Chen Chang**, Okamoto Scholarship (\$1500); **Luke Fenwick**, Graduates Association Scholarship (\$1500); **Karen French**, Harry Ellwood Scholarship in Music (\$1000); **Jordan Gilmore**, Mercer Memorial Scholarship (\$4000), **Laura Grant**, **Hee Sook Lee** and **Worapree Maneesoonthorn**, John Connal Scholarships (\$400 per annum for two years); **Naomi Matthews**, Sir George Grey Scholarship (\$2200) and **Zoe Moore**, Grant Lingard Scholarship (tuition fees).

New course takes comprehensive look at animals' place in law



Dr Ian Robertson, pictured with his four-legged sidekick Texas, has recently finished lecturing the first animal law paper at the University of Canterbury.

The University of Canterbury School of Law offered the country's first animal law paper as a summer school course last month.

Dr Ian Robertson lectured the paper which introduced students to the principles, issues and legislation in the rapidly developing area of animal law. The course attracted 35 students, in excess of the law school's expectations.

"Most people still come to me and say 'What's animal law?' and often they initially think animal law is animal rights and dog bites, but as we get into the course it becomes evident that it's much, much more than that," said Dr Robertson.

In the highly interactive course students explored the history and development of

animal law, then focused on the practical application of contract, tort, criminal, statute and case law to this area. From pets in the home to international treaties on endangered species, the course covers a wide array of issues considering issues such as legal status, animal rights, animal welfare and the use of animals in agriculture, sports, entertainment and research.

"The law classifies animal as property, so animal law could be described as specialist property law, given that this area is distinctive because of the unique characteristics, interests and law pertaining to the animals themselves."

It is a specialised field about which Dr Robertson is extremely passionate and to which he brings a world of experience.

Before completing a law degree at Canterbury University in 2003 and working in community law, he was a veterinarian and ran a chain of veterinary hospitals in Auckland. He has published three books on animals and animal care, undertaken public speaking engagements, radio talkback and television work both in New Zealand and abroad, including a stint on our screens as the resident vet on *5.30 with Jude*, and presenting Fox Television USA's *World Gone Wild* series.

"I recognised that the law plays a significant role in respect of animals and the environment, so, after finishing with Fox, I came back to New Zealand and did a law degree focusing on international law and environmental law here at Canterbury — all with a view to eventually becoming involved with this whole topic of animals and the law."

Dr Robertson said that while animals under the law have been covered under various headings, the new course brings issues of animals and the law into one coherent whole.

He hoped other universities would follow Canterbury's lead and introduce animal law in recognition of the fact that New Zealand is considerably dependent upon animals in its society, business and economy.

"We're an agricultural nation and in excess of 50% of our export earnings are still animals or animal-related products.

"Animal law is arguably where environmental law was 15 years ago, and will continue to develop as the relevance of animal law issues is recognised."

Animal custody cases could also be a possibility if New Zealand followed international trends, and the property status of animals shifted as courts recognised the differences between animate versus inanimate property, said Dr Robertson.

The animal law course will run again in next year's summer school at UC and there are plans to run it as a half-year paper if interest continues.