

## NCRE director recognised as a top Jean Monnet Chair

**A Canterbury University academic has been recognised as one of the 20 success stories of the European Commission's Jean Monnet Programme.**

Professor Martin Holland, Director of the National Centre for Research on Europe at Canterbury University, was appointed a Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* in 2006. Between 2001 and 2006 he held a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration and International Relations.

The Jean Monnet Programme, a European Commission initiative, aims to promote knowledge on European integration on a world-wide level.

Professor Holland, who specialises in the analysis of the EU's external relations, was recognised as one of the programme's success stories in a book produced by the European Commission.

The book, *Jean Monnet-Success Stories: Europe for Lifelong Learning*, said that since joining Canterbury University's academic staff in 1984 Professor Holland had been "remarkably effective in developing European integration studies".

"The Jean Monnet Chair and teaching modules have been central to the establishment of Australasia's first and only "EU studies" undergraduate degree major involving 13 papers across four disciplines devoted to the study of the EU."

Professor Holland said without the support of the Jean Monnet Programme EU studies in New Zealand would not have emerged, let alone grown in the dynamic way it had since 2000.

"EU studies are now a recognised and popular area of study and research in New Zealand and the work of the NCRE is valued by the government as well as the tertiary sector. In that way, the Jean Monnet programme has



*Professor Martin Holland has been recognised for his contributions to European studies.*

had a much wider effect and impact beyond academia and has supported an outreach function as well," he said.

"The recognition that this award signifies has only been possible because of the institutional context provided by the NCRE and it is the centre as a unit that should take the credit."

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Business and Economics) Professor Nigel Healey, who is a former Jean Monnet Chair holder, said that through Professor Holland's vision and leadership the University had become an internationally recognised centre of excellence for the study of the European Union.

"To have been chosen by the European Commission as one of the top 20 Jean Monnet Chair holders, from amongst the hundreds of such post-holders across five continents, is unequivocal affirmation of the high regard in which Professor Holland and NCRE are held."

Professor Holland has written 16 books, has served as an EU observer, and has been active

in developing EU studies through initiatives such as the EU Studies Association of the Asia-Pacific, the Network of European Studies Centres in Asia, and European Studies in Asia. In 2004, the NCRE was designated a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence by the EU's Directorate-General for Education and Culture.

Professor Holland was a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence in 1987, an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Freiburg 1992-1993 and a Rockefeller Bellagio Fellow in 2000.

Professor Holland currently heads a multinational research team engaged in examining how the EU is perceived externally.

---

### Inside your Chronicle

2. **Obituary for Dame Jean Herbison.**
3. **Teacher trainees enjoy time in China.**
4. **New campus health centre.**
10. **Bright Start for first-year students.**

---

## Dame Jean Herbison 1923 – 2007

---



**A former chancellor of the University of Canterbury, Dame Jean Herbison, died in Christchurch on Sunday.**

Dame Jean (above) became the first woman in Australasia to be appointed as a university chancellor when she took up the helm at Canterbury in 1979.

Born in 1923, Dame Jean graduated with a BA from Canterbury in 1951. She trained as a teacher in Auckland and taught for nine years at Avonside Girls' High School. In 1961, she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship and completed an MA in education (counselling) at the University of Northern Iowa.

She was appointed dean of women at the Christchurch Teachers' College in 1963 and five years later was appointed vice-principal of the primary division of the college. From 1975 until her retirement in 1984 she was associate director of the Christchurch Technical Institute.

Dame Jean was elected to the University of Canterbury Council in 1970. In August 1979, she was appointed pro chancellor and two months later was appointed chancellor following the resignation due to ill health of Brian Anderson. She resigned as chancellor at the end of 1984 on her appointment as the first woman member of the University Grants Committee.

Dame Jean served on a number of educational bodies including the Advisory Council on Educational Planning, the Unesco National Commission and the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration.

In 1976, she was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to education and the following year was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. She was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1985.

In 1987, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters by Canterbury University.

Canterbury University Chancellor Dr Robin Mann said Dame Jean made a great contribution to education in this county.

"I know Jean enjoyed her time on Council immensely and, like all of us who have shared that honour, she truly appreciated the opportunity to play an active role in advancing the University.

"I know she admired and respected the formality of the University, particularly Graduation. As a former Fulbright scholar and the first woman to serve as a chancellor, she certainly brought a fresh perspective to the role," said Dr Mann.

"There is no doubt the University of Canterbury benefited greatly from her service and dedication."

---

## Top technology scholarship for UC student

**Canterbury University engineering student Lisa Woods (right) has been awarded the 2007 Dick and Mary Earle Scholarship in Technology, worth \$17,000, by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellor's Committee (NZVCC).**

Lisa, currently completing her master's degree, said she was very grateful to be the recipient of the scholarship as it would help her finish her studies and achieve her goal of becoming an innovative and successful structural engineer.

"It would have been really hard to do a master's without a scholarship so to receive this is wonderful," she said.

Lisa completed the course component of her degree at the University of British Columbia in Canada and recently returned to Canterbury University to do her thesis investigating the seismic performance of pre-cast concrete floors, specifically hollowcore, in concrete frame buildings, under the supervision of Professor Des Bull and Dr Stefano Pampanin.

The scholarship was established by Dick and Mary Earle, both emeritus professors at Massey University, in 1999 to support and encourage postgraduate research in technology.

The scholarship funds an individual to undertake research towards a master's or doctorate at a New Zealand university or other research institution, in one of two fields – innovation and product development, or bioprocess technology.

NZVCC Scholarships Manager Kiri Manuera said the committee and Public Trust, which manages the scholarship, were pleased to award the scholarship to "such an ambitious and outstanding student".

"Lisa Woods was chosen from a number of very impressive applicants, and we wish her well in her studies."



---

## Appointments

**Professor Nigel Priestley** has been appointed an adjunct professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. Professor Priestley, a graduate of the University of Canterbury, is recognised as an international authority in the field of earthquake engineering and behaviour of reinforced concrete and masonry structures subjected to severe seismic motions.

The University has also appointed two new adjunct senior fellows. They are **Philip Bird** (Communication Disorders) and **Dr Gary Steel** (Gateway Antarctica).

Adjunct professors **Kenneth Entwistle** (Mechanical Engineering), **Nigel Gravells** (Law), **William Swallow** (Chemistry) and **Allan Williams** (National Centre for Research on Europe), and adjunct senior fellow **Dr John Klena** (Biological Sciences) have had their appointments renewed.

All appointments are for three-year terms.

## Chronicle

**Next Issue:** 14 June 2007

**Deadline:** 8 June 2007

**Editor:** Jeanette Colman  
Ext 6260 or 364 2260

**Staff Writers:** Stacey Doornenbal  
Jane Lucas  
John MacDonald

**Sub-editor:** Col Pearson

**Photos:** Duncan Shaw-Brown  
Eve Welch

**Artwork:** Michele Leeming

**Distribution:** Kate Frew

**E-mail:** comms@canterbury.ac.nz

**Fax:** Ext 6679 or 364 2679

**Address:** Communications and  
Development,  
University of Canterbury,  
Private Bag 4800,  
Christchurch.

# Teacher trainees enjoy time in China

**UC's College of Education is offering its early childhood and primary school teacher education students a unique teaching practice experience — in China.**

For the past four years the college has offered its Bachelor of Teaching and Learning students a chance to work in kindergartens or primary schools through a study abroad programme based in China.

Lynda Boyd, Associate Dean for Early Childhood Teacher Education, said the programme was voluntary but those who took part were selected on the results of their course work and teaching practices. Those who went were usually in their second year of study.

There are currently 13 teacher education students in China — three in Changzhou and 10 in Beijing. Three are working in primary schools while the rest are in kindergartens. All are due back in New Zealand in July.

“Students go for a semester — from February to July or from August to February — and they continue to study with the College of Education while over there through our distance learning programme. During their time in China they spend 20 hours a week working in a Chinese kindergarten or primary school teaching English to young children either directly as a language programme or by teaching a curriculum subject such as maths.”

Ms Boyd, who recently returned from visiting



Lynda Boyd.

the current batch of students in China, said students did not get paid for their 20 hours of work but received a small allowance. They were either living with local families or together in apartments.

“It can be difficult and is definitely not a programme for everyone. They have to deal with culture shock and homesickness but we see that as part of the learning experience. We hope they will come to understand the Chinese culture and be able to relate to Chinese families in New Zealand,” she said.

“It is also a good opportunity for them to experience what it is like to be in the minority in a country where the language is not their own and where they experience the difficulties of not being understood.

“We hope that experience will enhance their cultural understanding and the skills they will be bringing to teaching.”

Ms Boyd said the students also had to adapt to kindergartens and primary schools in China vastly different from those in New Zealand, with Chinese centres being more formal and focused on instruction rather than on play. They are also a lot larger, with some kindergartens having 200-300 children attending.

“In our experience the Chinese children are very eager to learn and have been very receptive to new information and excited about learning English. They are a delight to teach and all those who have gone to China have said they would not have missed the experience for the world.”

# Scholarship gives earthquake researcher solid financial foundation

**Civil engineering student Brendon Bradley (right) has been awarded the Brownlie Scholarship for 2007.**

The scholarship, awarded to the top doctoral candidate for study towards a PhD, is valued at \$26,000 a year plus tuition fees for three years. It was established in 1998 in recognition of the contribution to the development of Canterbury University by Professor Albert Brownlie, who was vice-chancellor from 1977 to 1998 and head of economics from 1965 to 1977.

Brendon, who started working on his PhD this year, said receiving the scholarship was a welcome surprise.

“It definitely helps financially and it feels like I’m doing a job rather than studying because I’m receiving what many people would get as a starting wage. It makes things a lot easier.”

Brendon’s area of research is earthquake engineering and for his PhD he is working on the development of risk/loss assessment methods to help estimate the likely lifetime cost of structures due to earthquakes.

A main outcome of the project will be the development of a computer program that will calculate financial, death and business downtime losses by taking into consideration the site of the structure, how the structure

responds to earthquakes, the damage associated with the response, and losses due to damage.

Brendon said current earthquake design philosophies only considered preventing collapse during a design-level earthquake (the intensity of ground shaking that a structure is designed to withstand), but do not take into account the likely resulting damage.

He hoped the development of a loss assessment tool would help enable rational design decisions based on minimising the lifetime cost of the structure, in addition to ensuring life safety.

“It will be a more advanced method of assessing structures using probability theory and detailed analyses. So, to make it feasible in a consulting situation there is a need for purpose-built tools to enable the assessments to be carried out efficiently,” he said.

The computer program will be based on research data Brendon collects, as well as on structural testing he intends to carry out in the University’s earthquake lab.

Brendon also received the Freemasons Postgraduate Scholarship for 2007, which is worth \$10,000.



# New checklist has NZ wildlife covered



**Birdwatchers and naturalists now have a new tool to keep track of species spotted on excursions around New Zealand.**

Canterbury University Press recently released *A Checklist to New*

*Zealand birds, frogs, reptiles, mammals and butterflies*, compiled by Lincoln University ecologist Kerry-Jayne Wilson.

Designed to enable birdwatchers and naturalists to keep a record of the species they see while on field excursions, *Checklist* is the first book to include all native and introduced birds, bats, frogs, butterflies, mammals

(marine and terrestrial) and reptiles (marine and terrestrial) that occur in New Zealand, in one easy-to-carry volume.

The booklet also includes species found on the Kermadec, Chatham, Snares, Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes and Bounty islands.

Ms Wilson, a senior lecturer in ecology and conservation at Lincoln University and author of *Flight of the Huia*, said *Checklist* filled a large gap in New Zealand's species lists.

"This is the only checklist for any of these groups that includes recent changes to the taxonomy of the species listed," she said.

"There is a pocket checklist of birds available but it follows the taxonomy used in 1990 and does not take account of any of the numerous taxonomic changes made since then. There are no lists for New Zealand reptiles, mammals, frogs or butterflies available so this booklet is a first."

Ms Wilson also hoped those using her booklet

would become more aware of the diversity of species in New Zealand.

"I want to get birdwatchers to look at things other than birds and encourage naturalists to appreciate the range of species that we have here. New Zealand has great diversity of reptile species and we have some really interesting seabird species yet few people are aware of them.

"This booklet is one of the ways I'm trying to raise people's awareness of what New Zealand has."

*A Checklist to New Zealand birds, frogs, reptiles, mammals and butterflies* can be bought from all good bookstores or by contacting Canterbury University Press.

- *A Checklist to New Zealand birds, frogs, reptiles, mammals and butterflies* by Kerry-Jayne Wilson, published by Canterbury University Press, April 2007, RRP NZ\$12.00, Saddle-stitched paperback, 160 x 105 mm, 64 pp, ISBN 978-1-877257-51-3.

## New campus health centre

**The University of Canterbury Council has approved the construction of a new health centre on campus.**

In 2005, a review commissioned by the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the need for a new centre capable of meeting current and future demand. In 1996, the centre provided 12,500 doctor's consultations. It currently provides about 24,000 consultations each year. Counselling and physiotherapy services are also provided at the centre.

It will replace the existing facility which was built in 1974, when there was a student population of about 7,000 and only students living away from home were entitled to use its services.

Medical Director Dr Joan Allardyce said in those days University staff were only seen at the centre in emergency situations.

"Now staff are welcome as casual patients for anything. That, together with the continuous increase in student numbers, has caused a huge increase in the demand for service which the old building has been stretched to meet."

Dr Allardyce said the current centre was based on a 30-year-old design that did not reflect the needs of a modern medical centre.

"In the early 70s there were no computers occupying space nor any fax machines, and any photocopying had to be taken to the giant machine in Registry. Nobody needed motorised wheelchair/scooter access because such machines didn't exist."

She said the new facility would enable all of the centre's services to operate under one roof again.

"There'll be no more huts in the car park. The new building will be pleasant and safe to work in and a much more welcoming environment for patients. It will tangibly demonstrate that UC cares about its students and staff and will enhance its repertoire of campus services."

The new 874 square metre health centre, which

will be at the eastern end of the UCSA carpark, will be single level with 20 consultation rooms. The cost of construction is expected to be \$2.275 million.

The tendering process for the project is expected to begin next month.

## Careers fair brings graduates back to UC



Fonterra staff talk to students at the UC careers fair.

**For Fonterra stand member Scott Pickford returning to the University to recruit new graduates at the UC Careers & Employment Fair was a nice change from being in the office.**

Mr Pickford, who is on the Fonterra graduate student programme himself, was able to tell prospective graduates what it was like being a new graduate working for one of New Zealand's largest companies.

Mr Pickford went to work at Fonterra after visiting the company's stand last year as a

student. He decided to apply because he liked learning and thought it would be a great transition from university study to a career.

"It's a bit of both worlds. I still get to learn and am amongst some really intelligent people, but I'm paid for it which is a bonus after being a student with no money."

Also at the fair was Canterbury alumnus Chris Webster who graduated more than 20 years ago. Recruiting for Metservice he said that type of event never occurred when he was a student.

"It's a great way to get some visibility for the Metservice and to promote forecasting to students and to tell them that we are a career option. There have been some students of a high calibre express an interest, so that's good."

Fonterra and Metservice were two of 97 businesses and organisations that used the fair to recruit graduates and inform prospective students of their opportunities in the workplace. More than 3300 students visited the fair, which is in its fifth year. This year's fair, organised by UC Careers & Employment, was the biggest and, according to exhibitors, the best university careers fair in the country.

# Conference opens doors for artificial intelligence researcher

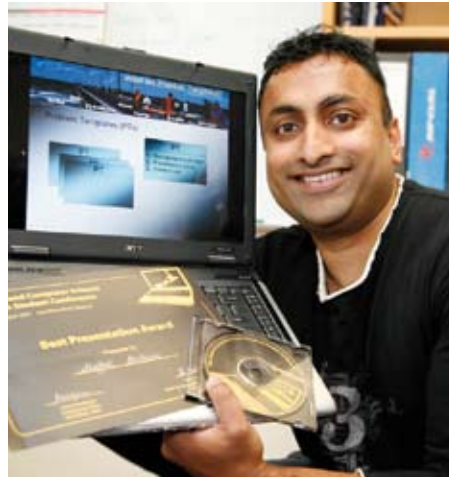
PhD student Moffat Mathews (Computer Science and Software Engineering) has returned home from Waikato University victorious.

Winning best paper presentation at the fifth New Zealand Computer Science Research Student Conference (NZ CSRSC) in Hamilton was wonderful, said Moffat.

“As was the chance to mingle with industry giants like Craig Nevill-Manning of Google New York who attended the conference. Ian Foster (University of Chicago), Tyrone McAuley (Sidhe Interactive) and Nigel Scott, of Park Road Post, a company of film director Peter Jackson’s, were also there for students to mix and circulate with.

“The conference was a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk to these people, as research students we don’t often get the chance to interact with people of this calibre. It is also good that we can see what other students are doing in the other universities and establish networks.”

Fourteen Canterbury delegates attended the four-day NZ CSRSC conference that comprised



Moffat Mathews.

of workshops, invited talks and company presentations. There were 22 presentations, 22 posters and eight short papers given by students, of which Moffat’s presentation was voted as the best.

Moffat’s paper on artificial intelligence in education was based on his honours thesis which he completed last year. He specifically

looked at problem templates and how they affect learning in intelligent tutoring systems. An intelligent tutoring system is a software program that is designed to give students individualised instruction without the need for an immediate teacher and is devised around the possible different behaviours of each individual.

Loving the opportunity to research and learn about computers he added that life was constantly about learning. “Once you are born, until you die, you learn. What you learn, and how you learn defines the way you view and experience life. I want to develop technology that adapts to and helps people learn, so they can create and improve their experience of life.”

Currently Moffat is organising next year’s conference. “A year may seem a long way off, but it isn’t when you have to organise dates, keynote speakers, accommodation – there’s a lot to do.” As well as taking on that role, Moffat is preparing for the Artificial Intelligence in Education Conference in Los Angeles, US, in July where he is presenting a poster.

## Philosophy staff celebrate PBRF results



Philosophy staff (front row left to right) Dr Simon Clarke, Dr Philip Catton, Professor Jack Copeland, Dr Derek Browne and Ms Sue Howie; (back row) Ms Diane Proudfoot, Doug Campbell, Associate Professor Denis Dutton, Dr Jane Cooper and Ms Carolyn Mason.

**Philosophy staff at the University of Canterbury are celebrating their results in the latest Performance-Based Research Fund rankings.**

Philosophy received a quality score of 6.5, making it the top scoring subject area in the University, ahead of earth sciences (5.4), chemistry (5.3), engineering and technology (5.1), molecular, cellular and whole organism biology (4.7), and foreign languages and linguistics (4.3).

Head of Philosophy and Religious Studies Professor Jack Copeland said he was delighted that philosophy was the highest

scoring subject at UC, describing it as a “stupendous” result.

“Across all subject areas, there were in fact only two departments in the whole of New Zealand that obtained a higher quality score than the Canterbury philosophy programme. One of these was the Otago philosophy programme with a quality score of 7.1.

“The South Island is home to a world-beating concentration of philosophical talent – thanks to the foundations and traditions laid down in the post-war period by the two great pioneers of New Zealand philosophy: Arthur Prior, the first professor of philosophy at Canterbury,

and Professor JN Findlay, Prior’s teacher at Otago.”

Some of the internationally prominent areas of philosophical research at Canterbury are mathematical logic, cognitive science, the philosophy of computing and information, aesthetics, and ethical and political theory. In recent years the philosophy programme has won two very substantial Marsden grants.

But philosophy doesn’t only bring in research dollars, it is also a popular subject with students, said Professor Copeland.

“The programme has been enjoying sharply increasing EFTS revenue for several years now, with this year seeing a further upward swing of about 15% above last year’s EFTS.

“I quite enjoy the financial side of things,” Professor Copeland said. “In terms of EFTS revenue – which in the end, of course, equates to student interest – philosophy is one of the most profitable programmes in the College of Arts.”

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts) Professor Ken Strongman congratulated Professor Copeland and the staff of the philosophy programme on the PBRF result which he said came as no surprise.

“A number of members of staff in this programme publish research that has a world-wide impact, and this is in a discipline that has a very long history and which is fundamental to any university.”

## Canterbury welcomes new staff



**Dr Jon-Paul Wells** has returned to his alma mater to take up the position of senior lecturer in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Dr Wells has a BSc, MSc (Hons) and a PhD from UC. Since 2002 he

has lectured in condensed matter physics at the University of Sheffield, England. He has returned to New Zealand to lead the ring laser group at Canterbury.



**Dr Phil Wilson** has been appointed lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Dr Wilson has an MSci and PhD in mathematics from University College London. Prior to coming to UC Dr Wilson was a

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Tokyo University. His research interests include mathematical modelling in biology and industry, and the philosophy and communication of mathematics.



**Dr Maroš Servátka** has been appointed lecturer in the Department of Economics. Dr Servátka has an MA in quantitative methods from the Warsaw School of Economics and an MA and PhD in economics from the University

of Arizona. Before coming to Canterbury, Dr Servátka was a research associate at the University of Arizona. His current research interests include reputation and social influence in fairness, altruism and reciprocity games.



**Natalie Baird** has been appointed a lecturer in the School of Law. Ms Baird has a BA and LLB (Hons) from Canterbury University and a LLM from Columbia University. Ms Baird has significant experience in the

public service including working in the New Zealand Crown Law Office, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Law Commission. She has also worked for human rights organisations in New York and Cambodia.

## Hard work pays off with scholarship win



Former University of Canterbury registrar Alan Hayward presents Letitia Stenberg with her Riccarton Rotary scholarship.

**Letitia Stenberg was absolutely stunned when she heard that she had won the inaugural Riccarton Rotary Youth Trust Scholarship.**

Receiving \$10,000 per year for up to four years will make studying that much easier for Letitia, who is aiming for double degree in law and economics with Mandarin Chinese and Latin thrown into the mix. "I couldn't believe my ears when I heard that I was successful. It will mean that I won't have to take a part-time job and I can fully concentrate on my studies."

To study without the burden of finding money to pay for fees was not without a lot of hard work Letitia said. "I saw the benefits of my older sister winning scholarships and realised that if I was do the same I had to work really hard. I dedicated a lot of time towards studying and it has definitely paid off."

In 2006, Letitia was awarded Academic Colours for Outstanding Achievement in NCEA level 2 and level 3 and received the Parent Teacher Association Award for first in NCEA Level 3 Mandarin Chinese for Christchurch Girls' High School.

Crediting a lot of her determination to her mother she also said that her school, Christchurch Girls' High School, motivated her to succeed. "It offered me a number of opportunities so that I was in contention for a scholarship of this nature."

In 2006, she was chosen as the Governor of her school's Monetary Policy Team and she was

also chosen by the Christchurch City Council to represent Christchurch in the Christchurch – Seattle Sister City Exchange Programme. Letitia has also been a Canterbury representative for basketball and netball.

The scholarship is open to students from the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University and CPIT and its purpose is to attract students who face challenges which might otherwise prevent them considering entry to tertiary education.

## Scholarships

**Dale Palmer** and **Kyleah Traber** have been awarded the 2007 Helen Macmillan Brown Bursaries. The bursaries were established in 1920 by Emeritus Professor John Macmillan Brown, in memory of his wife, the late Helen Macmillan Brown, nee Connon, the first woman who graduated from Canterbury University. The bursaries are worth \$2500 per year for three years. Dale has also been awarded the Chrystabel Aitken Fund for Fine Arts valued at \$1250.

**Yvette Dickinson**, has been awarded the 2007 New Zealand Vice Chancellors' Committee Pukehou Pouto Scholarship valued at \$10,000.

**Michele Bannister** has been awarded a Carlisle Trust Scholarship (domestic tuition fees).

# Scholarships allow fine arts students to see European art first hand

UC fine arts student Rosalind Bevin and graduate Kirstein McKendry are heading overseas to further their art studies after receiving Ethel Susan Jones Travelling Scholarships.

The scholarship was established after a former student of the Canterbury University School of Fine Arts, Ethel Jones, donated money to set up an annual travelling scholarship for art students, with the aim of helping students, or former students of the school, to further their studies overseas.

Rosalind, a fourth year BFA (painting) student, said the scholarship was a great opportunity for her to broaden her outlook and gain inspiration for her work.

“In New Zealand, we’re far away from everything so it’s nice to be able to get away and see what’s going on elsewhere,” she said.

“It’s also a fantastic opportunity to see works of art that I’ve studied throughout my years at Canterbury.”

Rosalind headed to Europe in March using her scholarship to spend a month in the south of France and London visiting galleries, looking at the art scene and documenting different environments through sketches and paintings.

“One of my lecturers said it’s important as an artist to get exposure but it’s also important to be exposed to new art to maintain your enthusiasm for painting.”



Rosalind Bevin.

Kirstein, who graduated with a BFA in sculpture in 2005, planned to use her scholarship to visit the Venice Biennale as well as museums, galleries, exhibitions and architectural sites around Europe. She will leave on her two-month trip in early July.

“I’m hoping to get inspiration for my work and feel that by travelling to such events as the Venice Biennale I will be immersing myself in a diverse cultural and social exhibition that encompasses a wide range of artistic practices,” she said.



Kirstein McKendry.

“When you study art in New Zealand a lot of what you look at for inspiration is from an image taken in a far-off country, so being able to visually study major artworks in their full three dimensionality is very important, especially when you’re doing sculpture.”

Kirstein is participating in CoCA’s Emerging Artists Exhibition Programme with a solo exhibition running until 26 May.

A third scholarship went to fine arts student Alaina Beechey.

## UC physicist attaches string theory to universe’s expansion rate



Canterbury University physicist Dr Ishwaree Neupane (above) has developed a means of explaining the accelerated expansion of the universe using string theory.

His findings were recently published in *Physical Review Letters*, the journal of the American Physical Society.

When the universe came into being nearly 13 billion years ago it began to expand. That expansion is now being pushed at an accelerating rate by a mysterious force known as dark energy, of which little is known, said Dr Neupane (Physics and Astronomy).

“Yet this picture may just skim the surface. We aim to dig deeper to understand what caused the early universe’s expansion, what the origin of ‘dark energy’ is and why the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate.”

Dr Neupane said for the universe to speed up its expansion rate there had to be a source of gravitational repulsion which can overcome strong gravitational attraction.

“But where does the gravitational energy or negative pressure come from?”

Dr Neupane said the source of that pressure may be explained using string theory.

String theory suggests that all elementary particles that make up matter in the universe are made up of one-dimensional filaments called strings. A string can move and oscillate and its various modes act as different elementary particles such as electrons or photons. The theory also proposes that there is

one time-like and nine space-like dimensions in nature, but the six extra spatial dimensions are confined to a tiny region because of strong trapped fluxes and nontrivial or complicated topologies.

He added: “These extra dimensions can be probed only through ‘moduli fields’ which characterize the size and shape of them at each point in ordinary 3-D space. Physicists call this ‘compactification.’”

Dr Neupane said the universe’s accelerating expansion could be explained by allowing time dependence to one or more of these extra spatial dimensions.

“These extra dimensions contain compressed matter in the form of scalar or ‘moduli’ fields which can release a strong gravitational repulsive energy, explaining how gravity can have a repulsive effect in the conditions of the early universe where these extra dimensions should have their strong influence.

“The implications of accelerating solutions in string theory are profound,” he said.

Dr Neupane’s research was funded by grants from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

## Recipient 'privileged' by award of scholarship

Receiving the prestigious *HMNZS Canterbury Scholarship* has shown Dora Sharpe-Davidson a world of new opportunities. It has also given her a new appreciation of the Navy.

The scholarship was established by the Royal New Zealand Navy to mark the relationship between the RNZN and the province of Canterbury when the frigate *HMNZS Canterbury* was decommissioned in 2005.

Writing about the RNZN's core values of comradeship, courage and commitment and going through what she called a "gruelling interview", Dora never believed that she would be successful. "I came out of the interview and went 'phew'. I still can't believe it has happened. I feel really privileged to be the recipient.

"I'm just incredibly grateful to the Navy — it's not just about the money — I have learnt a lot about it, have been shown around the *Endeavour* and met some really nice people. The Navy is a great group of people."

Commander Rex Edwards, the Resident Naval Officer in Christchurch, said that they looked for a recipient who demonstrated the Navy's core values of commitment, courage and comradeship. "We're not looking for people to go into a future in the Navy; it's for tomorrow's leaders. I have been astounded by her and last



Dora Sharpe-Davidson is flanked by Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Ledson (front right) and members of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

year's recipient's confidence. They have a plan and work towards it. They seem to have a lot of parental support and both had involvement in the church. I don't know whether that's a factor."

Dora, who is studying English, psychology and law, said the scholarship would allow her to spend more time focusing on her studies. "It will take the financial pressure off and means I won't have a huge debt in my first year." She

intends to keep her one-day-a-week job in a local rest home as she believed she, like the Navy, was giving back to the community

A keen writer, Dora has also been successful in major international competitions including Foyle's Young Poet of the Year in 2005 and Japan Airlines Children's Haiku competition in 2004. She is currently working on a children's novel.

## Day of music marks organ's first 10 years



Associate Professor Martin Setchell in front of the Rieger pipe organ.

The Christchurch Town Hall was buzzing on 15 May with 2000 people who turned out to sing *Happy Birthday* to the Rieger pipe organ.

Two free concerts were organised by Associate Professor Martin Setchell (Music and Theatre

& Film Studies) to mark the organ's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"It was 10 years ago to the day that the Rieger pipe organ from Austria was given to the city and inaugurated. I have also been curator for 10 years, so it was a double celebration. It has been the best 10 years of my life — it is a unique instrument and a pleasure to play. It can be bold and yet subtle and delicate — all under the control of one person."

"The two free concerts were booked out and it was an extremely successful event with a very jovial atmosphere, as it was a celebration" said Professor Setchell. "It was a way to say thanks to Christchurch, a community event to give something back to the people, as the organ was funded largely by public donations. Of the \$1.2million cost, 96 per cent came from donations."

As the city organ curator, Professor Setchell is responsible for the promotion of the instrument and its upkeep and welfare. "It needs a professional to care for it. It's a mind-blowing instrument. A concert organist is really a one-man orchestra — I think it is the most challenging instrument to play. It is mentally and physically demanding and requires intense co-ordination."

Professor Setchell, Constable Keith de Dulin and "Sniff" the dog entertained 1000 school

children at the morning concert. Devising a children's guide to the organ he explained with "Sniff" how the organ works, demonstrating its tone colours, various keyboards and stops, using video cameras to show his hands and feet close-up on the big screen. "Often the organist is hidden away or has their back to the audience, so there is a lack of communication between player and audience".

Professor Setchell pointed out that although commonly thought of as a church instrument, the organ was originally used in gladiatorial arenas. "It gave a huge sound and was one of the few instruments audible in the open air. Only later was it adopted by the church as it had the sustaining power and volume to support congregational singing and liturgy. But, I never play church music on the Town Hall organ as it is a civic, concert instrument."

The afternoon concert was compered by Christopher Doig and Professor Setchell's programme included works played at the inaugural concert 10 years ago (Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor*, and Widor's *Tocatta in F*), together with some organ pops such as the *Trumpet Voluntary* (Clarke), *The Entertainer* (Joplin) and his own arrangement of Vangelis' *Conquest of Paradise* (better-known as the theme song of the Canterbury Crusaders).

"It really was a most enjoyable day."

# Thesis on Māori ethnologist gains far wider audience than anticipated

**Dr Jeffrey Paparoa Holman never imagined his PhD thesis on Māori ethnologist Elsdon Best would be turned into television programmes, let alone a book.**

After finishing his thesis and graduating in Māori a couple of weeks ago, Penguin Books has accepted his proposal for a book covering Pākehā contact with late 19<sup>th</sup> century Maori society. “I feel really excited, as the Penguin editor who has expressed an interest is Geoff Walker, who edited Michael King’s books. There is a lot of interest in this fascinating part of New Zealand’s history,” he said.

Dr Holman’s PhD thesis has been the subject of two television programmes, one for TVNZ, called *Te Peehi* and another, a docu-drama for Māori Television called *Te ara pai o ngā ao e rua* (*Best of both worlds*). The programmes covered Dr Holman’s research into Elsdon Best, a prolific writer and researcher of pre-contact Māori society. He was the author of 25 books and pamphlets and more than 50 papers which are still referred to today.

“In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was realised that Māori history and customs needed to be recorded and that the opening up of the Urewera country provided an opportunity to record the facts of the still relatively intact Tāhoe way of life and traditions. Most other areas of Māori life had been greatly changed by missionary activity, literacy, trade and guns.

“By the 1890s, Pākehā had already had a huge

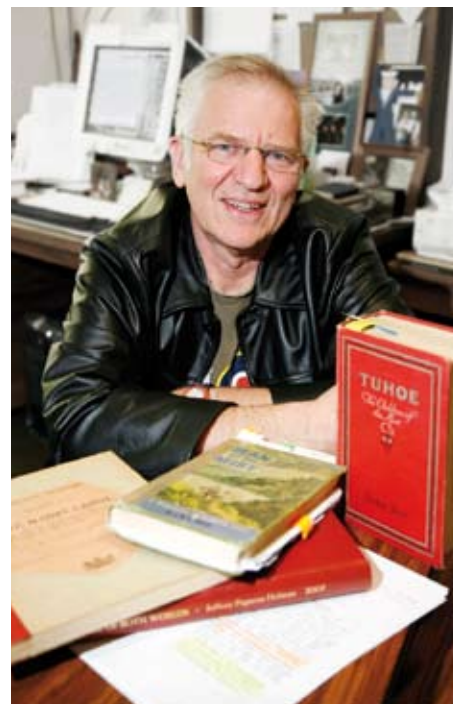
effect on Māori culture, so by befriending Tutakangahau — who was born around 1830 — Best was able to learn firsthand about Māori before European contact. People were aware of this last chance.”

Dr Holman, a visiting lecturer in the UC English programme, also traced Tutakangahau’s history in published sources and official correspondence, which conflicted with Best’s romantic vision of the surviving “old-time Māori”. Dr Holman’s aim was to show how these two men were emblematic of conflicting views of the Māori situation, and the persistence of a Pākehā tendency to anthropologise Māori history.

Dr Holman initially attended Canterbury in 1971, but left after completing half a BA in English. “For us baby boomers we had no opportunity to learn Māori. It wasn’t until later in the 1970s that there was a revival in Māori language learning.”

His fascination with the history and cultural aspects of Māori society was ignited after a moving talk by the poet James K Baxter.

“James K Baxter was a powerful influence. I can remember listening to him speak at the Students’ Association, at what is now the Dux de Lux. He was a charismatic person, who made me think.” Dr Holman could identify with him: both being Pākehā, they were delving into a Māori world, having an empathy that many Pākehā of that time didn’t commonly share.



Dr Jeffrey Paparoa Holman.

After travelling to Australia and England he was inspired to return to Canterbury and picked up where he left off. In 2001 Dr Holman completed his BA (Hons), then enrolled in a PhD, which he said had been a very rewarding experience. “There’s always the anxiety, will I or won’t I finish. But now that I have completed it, I do have a greater degree of self confidence.”

## New UC-hosted website helps secondary school chemistry teachers

**A one-stop website for secondary school chemistry teachers has been launched with the help of Canterbury University expertise.**

ChemTeach ([www.chemteach.ac.nz](http://www.chemteach.ac.nz)) has been set up by a team from the College of Science and UC Education Plus at the College of Education in conjunction with the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry (NZIC) and Victoria University of Wellington.

Designed to be a comprehensive source of information for chemistry teachers, the site offers a range of teaching resources and assessment tools as well as information about chemistry education initiatives, events, competitions, news and links to other relevant websites.

One of the site’s major features is an online forum where teachers can email chemistry questions and have them answered by experts.

“There is also an archive of questions asked by chemistry teachers since NCEA was introduced so teachers can look through them for information as well,” said College of Science Outreach Co-ordinator Rebecca Hurrell who maintains the website.

“It (the website) is an amazing resource just in



Rebecca Hurrell and Graeme Tinkler.

terms of answers to questions and solutions to teachers’ problems.”

Graeme Tinkler, a Ministry of Education-funded senior subject advisor in chemistry for the South Island at Education Plus, provided much of the content for the website and has been running workshops that include using the ChemTeach website for teachers around the South Island.

He said the response had so far been “incredibly positive”.

“While we still have a lot of information still to post on the site it is becoming a repository for a range of scattered resources that is easily accessible both nationally and internationally,” he said.

“Teachers don’t have to go anywhere else for information and, if they do have to go elsewhere, this website provides links to other sites.”

Ms Hurrell said the NZIC’s education sub-committee initiated the project, providing funding for the website’s initial development.

ChemTeach was launched on 1 March and is hosted by the University of Canterbury. Monitoring support is also being provided by the University’s web team.

# Study links access to fast-food outlets and neighbourhood affluence



Dr Jamie Pearce.

**If you live in an affluent neighbourhood you will need to travel twice as far to get your takeaway meal than if you live in a deprived neighbourhood.**

New research into neighbourhood access to fast-food outlets has been carried out in the Canterbury GeoHealth Laboratory in collaboration with colleagues at Massey and Otago universities.

The research published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* considered whether geographical access to fast-food outlets, such as KFC, McDonalds, pizza and fish and chip shops, across New Zealand varied by neighbourhood and school socio-economic ranking, and whether any such associations differed to those for access to healthier food outlets.

“It is all part of a larger study looking at the way various features of neighbourhood affect our health – access to fast-food outlets is one factor in the overall picture,” said Canterbury GeoHealth Laboratory Director Dr Jamie Pearce (Geography). “We want to better understand the ways in which where you live affects your health.

“The study found that neighbourhood access to the nearest fast-food outlet was at least twice as far in the least socially-deprived neighbourhoods compared to the most deprived neighbourhoods. In other words, more socially-deprived neighbourhoods have better access to fast-food outlets. There was a strong gradient or significant difference between neighbourhoods, which is consistent with other studies published in the US and UK.”

The study also found that low-decile schools had fast-food outlets in close proximity in greater concentration than in high-decile school catchments areas.

These findings are important because geographical access to fast-food outlets in New Zealand may contribute to the understanding of environmental causes of obesity, Dr Pearce said.

“Rates of obesity are twice as high in the most-

deprived quintile of neighbourhoods. It has been suggested that obesity rivals smoking as a public health issue and is linked to a number of chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease.”

However, outlets potentially selling healthy food, such as supermarkets, are patterned by deprivation in a similar way. “A similar pattern was found for outlets selling healthy food. There was also good access to supermarkets in more deprived areas, so we need to highlight the importance of considering all aspects of the food environment (healthy and unhealthy) when developing environmental strategies to address the obesity epidemic.”

Strategies may include specific consideration when planning fast-food outlets near schools or in submissions to the Christchurch City Council’s urban plan, Dr Pearce said.

“The next step to the study will be to directly consider the health effects of neighbourhood access to food outlets and to consider the ways in which the ‘foodscape’ influences health and contributes to health inequalities.

“It’s a complex issue. It’s essential to examine the role of the food environment in explaining social trends in obesity. More widely, it’s important to understand that how we live and work affects our health.”

## Bright Start for 10 UC first-year students

**Ten University of Canterbury first-year students will not be paying any tuition fees this year as a result of being awarded Bright Start Scholarships.**

The scholarships are awarded annually to first-year students at UC, Lincoln University and Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT). This year scholarships have been awarded to 17 students from throughout the South Island.

The UC recipients are: Matthew Adams-Richardson (Science); Shannon Baldwin (Engineering); Katherine Laming (Engineering); Kris Lawry (Engineering); Ben McNabb (Education); Jasmine Morgan (Arts); Gabrielle Moyle (Education); George Starling (Science); Emma Wallis (Science); and Matthew Williams (Science).

The scholarship programme is administered by the Canterbury Tertiary Education Millennial

Trust, a non-profit organisation established in 2002 by UC, Lincoln University, CPIT and the former Christchurch College of Education. The scholarships are funded by the Canterbury Community Trust and other sponsors.

Students are awarded scholarships on the basis of their academic abilities and financial situation. They also have to be new to tertiary education.

Patron of the Canterbury Tertiary Education Millennial Trust Sir Angus Tait presented the scholarships at a function earlier this month.

Trust chairman Adrian Carpinter says 130 Bright Start scholarships have been awarded since 2002.

“The recipients never look back after overcoming the initial financial barrier to entering tertiary education,” he says.



From left: Jasmine Morgan, Kris Lawry, Emma Wallis, Ben McNabb, Matthew Adams-Richardson, Matthew Williams, Gabrielle Moyle, George Starling, Katherine Laming, and Shannon Baldwin.

## Volumes of work for dean

For Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Professor David Gunby, one chapter closes and another re-opens as the third and final volume of *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of John Webster* is published, and also the first of a two-volume *Royal Air Force Bomber Losses in the Middle East and Mediterranean*.

John Webster was a Jacobean dramatist and his tragedies, *The White Devil* and *The Duchess of Malfi*, are regarded as masterpieces of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century English stage.

Professor Gunby began his career-long engagement with Webster following what he refers to, half-seriously, as a “conversion experience” when he first read *The Duchess of Malfi* as an undergraduate.

*The Cambridge Edition of the Works of John Webster* was first mooted in 1974 and a contract with Cambridge University Press signed in 1975, so the edition has been a long time coming to fruition. The three-volume edition contains all of Webster’s plays, prose, poems, and even a Lord Mayor’s Show.

“I’m nearing full and final retirement now,” said Professor Gunby, “so it’s a relief to have the task completed”.

Professor Gunby’s last Webster publication will be an article about the sole surviving copy of a print by Gerard Mountin called ‘The Progeny of King James I’. In 1624-5 Webster wrote verses to accompany the print that Professor Gunby is researching, together with his friend and Webster co-editor, Professor David Carnegie of Victoria University. The article is to appear in the September issue of *Print Quarterly*.

Professor Gunby’s interest in Royal Air Force



Professor David Gunby.

bomber losses derives from the death of his father while serving with a bomber squadron in Italy in 1944. In 1995, Professor Gunby published *Sweeping the Skies*, a history of his father’s squadron, and from that his interests expanded to take in all bomber operations in the Middle East and Mediterranean, about which relatively little has been written.

Volume One of *Bomber Losses*, which covers the years 1939-42, was written with Pelham Temple, a retired British Telecom engineer. Having met and worked together by internet for two years before meeting face to face, they

are now firm friends and busy on the second volume, which will cover the years 1943-5.

The first volume provides data on all bombers either lost in the Middle East and Mediterranean, or en route there. “There are many books on Royal Air Force Bomber Command, which operated from England, but next to nothing on bomber operations elsewhere,” Professor Gunby said.

“The records for the Middle East and Mediterranean are often inaccurate, incomplete or missing. It seems that the further from the Air Ministry in London, the worse the record-keeping was. And when, as in Greece in 1941, the RAF had to abandon aircraft to the advancing German army, record-keeping ceased altogether.”

“We have had to do a lot of detective work, which has been fun,” Professor Gunby commented. “It has been incredibly interesting and rewarding work. We have unearthed a lot of previously unknown information. We have solved problems and have been delighted to reduce the percentage of losses for which there was hitherto no information from perhaps 20 per cent originally to something nearer 5 per cent now.”

- *Royal Air Force Bomber Losses in the Middle East and Mediterranean*. Volume One: 1939-42 by David Gunby and Pelham Temple, published by Midland Publishing, 2007, RRP £14.99; ISBN 978-1857802344.
- *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of John Webster*, Volume Three, edited by David Gunby, David Carnegie and MacDonald P. Jackson, published by Cambridge University Press, January 2007, RRP £110. ISBN-13: 9780521260619.

## Crusaders among many celebrated scholarship recipients

**Scholarships, awards and prizes in excess of \$350,000 were presented to 117 students at the annual Scholarship Awards Presentation evening earlier this month.**

Among the recipients were four Crusaders – Kieran Read, Tim Bateman, Michael Paterson and Craig Clarke – who were presented with Canterbury Rugby Football Union (CRFU) Scholarships along with six other CRFU scholarship recipients. Kieran and Tim were presented theirs *in absentia* as they were in South Africa training before their semi-final clash with the Bulls.

As a young boy, being a professional rugby player was a dream for Kieran, the Crusaders flanker. To be able to be a professional rugby player and undertake a degree at the University of Canterbury was awesome he said.

“Having a scholarship takes some of the worry out of study. It has also meant that I can continue studying towards my Bachelor of

Sport Coaching – it gives me the emphasis to continue,” Kieran told the *Chronicle*.

“The CRFU encourages us to have an outside interest other than rugby and maintain a balance in our lives. Study is ideal because it is very flexible and will be the foundation for life after rugby.”

Other scholarships presented included the HMNZS Canterbury Scholarship (see page 8) and Aurora Scholarship in Astronomy each worth \$10,000, the Riccarton Rotary Youth Trust Scholarship worth \$10,000 per year for up to four years (see page 6), UC Emerging Leaders’ Scholarships, College of Science Scholarships, College of Arts First-Year Scholarships, College of Business & Economics Scholarships, College of Education Pasifika Scholarships and College of Engineering Scholarships.

“The University of Canterbury has been committed to producing leaders for more

than 130 years,” Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp said. “In that time we have earned an international reputation for our high quality degrees, teaching staff and research. Many of our graduates have received national and international recognition.”



(Left to right) Angus Gardiner, Professional Development Manager, Canterbury Rugby Football Union, presents Crusader Tim Bateman with his CRFU scholarship.

# Curator hopes to raise visibility of three UK women artists

**Three women artists who struggled for recognition in their own time are now being exposed to a new audience, thanks to a Canterbury University art historian.**

Associate Professor Pamela Gerrish Nunn (Fine Arts) is curating an exhibition in the United Kingdom of the work of three British artists — Laura Knight (1877-1970), Vanessa Bell (1879-1961) and Gwen John (1876-1939) — who all worked in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The exhibition, called *From Victorian to Modern*, is accompanied by a book of the same name featuring an extended essay on the work of the three artists by Professor Gerrish Nunn and a catalogue of the works in the exhibition.

The exhibition and book examine the work of Bell, John and Knight and look at how each tackled the challenges produced by the move away from the Victorian artistic tradition in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century towards modernism and abstract art.

“What I decided to do was take a certain period in which all three were doing very interesting

things as it was a period of huge change for artists. The exhibition looks at how they began their careers in the 1890s and takes their work through to about 1917,” said Professor Gerrish Nunn.

“But what makes this exhibition really interesting is that all three tackled the challenges artists faced at that time in very different ways, creating a wide variety of work. It also tackles the enduring cliché about women’s art — that it is all the same. It seemed to me that these three women, who pursued careers as artists from Victorian to Modern, came up with very different responses to the historical moment and showed that women artists are as various in their work as men.”

Professor Gerrish Nunn said while all three artists had a moderate level of visibility and fame, some detective work was needed to track down a number of their works.

“I wanted to show work not seen before and there are a number of works being exhibited

that have not been seen since they were first made, and that’s really exciting,” she said.

“One piece by Vanessa Bell was first exhibited in 1905 and has not been exhibited since. It had fallen into private hands and was sold at auction a few years ago and I traced it to its new owners who kindly agreed to lend it to the exhibition.”

Professor Gerrish Nunn said that while a lot of people were interested in the work of Bell, John and Knight they were still seen as minor figures in the artistic world of their time.

“I hope that what will come out of this exhibition is that those who are interested in these artists get together and build a greater visibility for them.”

The exhibition is currently housed at the Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, where it was opened by Germaine Greer in late April. It has already been staged at the Djangoly Art Gallery at the University of Nottingham and the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle.



Laura Knight, *The Artist with the Model*, 1913.



Gwen John, *Young Woman Playing the Violin*, 1897-98.



Associate Professor Pamela Gerrish Nunn with a copy of her latest book.