

## Prestigious scholarships enable pair to expand their research horizons



*Karyn Long and Brendan Duffy have both been awarded Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships.*

### **Two UC doctoral students are celebrating after being named among the country's top achievers.**

Brendan Duffy and Karyn Long have both been awarded Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships in the latest round of scholarships announced by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

Brendan receives more than \$99,000 for his research into the paleoceanographic and geodynamic evolution of East Timor while Karyn receives nearly \$97,000 for her examination of phonological awareness development in New Zealand children.

Brendan said he was "stoked" by the scholarship which includes valuable conference funding.

"I am now planning to attend the Southeast Asian Gateway Evolution 2009 conference at Royal Holloway University in Windsor, England. This opportunity will allow me to come right up to speed on work being done by other

researchers from multiple disciplines, work that will have a direct bearing on my own research.

"I am also hoping to attend an international conference in each year of my thesis and visit my elderly parents in Ireland at least once along the way. On a student income, that is a huge plus."

Working under the supervision of Dr Mark Quigley and Associate Professor Uwe Ring (Geological Sciences), Brendan is researching how the tectonic evolution of East Timor both contributed to and records a major change in the source waters of the Indonesian Throughflow, a group of currents that transfer water from the Western Pacific to the Eastern Indian Ocean.

"The source water change was probably a significant contributing factor leading to the northern hemisphere glaciations that have characterised the last 2.5 million years."

Brendan, who has been at the University since beginning his undergraduate degree in 2003, said on completion of his doctorate he would like to continue an active research career either at a New Zealand university or crown research institute.

"I had originally planned to do my PhD research in Uganda, looking at the uplift of the Rwenzori Mountains, one of the most amazing places on earth. That project fell through due to funding difficulties, but I will be keeping it in mind for a postdoc project."

Karyn, who completed a Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy (with first class honours) in 2005, has returned to university to complete her doctorate in the School of Literacies and Arts in Education under the supervision of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Gail Gillon.

"The scholarship means that I will have a much greater opportunity to attend conferences nationally and internationally in order to present my research and learn from experts in the field. It will also allow for more valuable opportunities to begin networking with those researchers worldwide who are interested in the same areas as me.

"The scholarship also reaffirms for me that all the time and hard work you put into your studies does indeed pay off — it gives you a sense of achievement and motivation to keep moving forward," she said.

On completion of her doctorate, Karyn would like to become a researcher in the area of written language development, focusing on how it functions in the classroom setting.

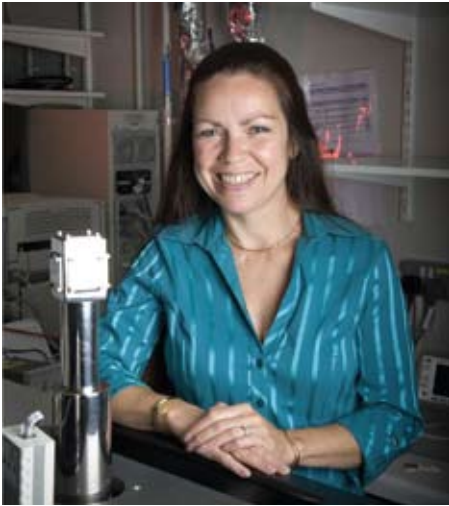
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# New Pro-Vice-Chancellor appointed to College of Engineering



Professor Jan Evans-Freeman.

**The head of engineering at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK, Professor Jan Evans-Freeman, has been selected to succeed Professor Peter Jackson as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canterbury's College of Engineering.**

Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr said Professor Evans-Freeman's dynamic management style would ensure she would be a strong and motivational leader of the College.

"Her experience dealing with government and business in the UK will serve the College well in its engagement with external stakeholders. She will also contribute to the University through her membership of the Senior Management Team."

Professor Evans-Freeman's research has concentrated around looking at defects in semiconductors for engineering applications, and the development of novel materials for light-emitting devices. She said she was delighted to be joining UC.

"I know I will find the University a very exciting environment in which to work. There are many outstanding areas of research excellence, a thriving and lively undergraduate population, and committed and dedicated staff.

"It will be challenging but interesting for me to learn about the model of tertiary education in New Zealand. Of course, much of it is similar to that around the world, but there are some significant differences to the UK model as well."

She said she considered it a privilege to head UC's College of Engineering.

"Not only because of its place in the national tables, but also because of the diverse nature of the subject disciplines in the College and the opportunity for new and exciting ventures within and outside the University."

Professor Evans-Freeman is a keen

motorcyclist and scuba diver, and she said she was looking forward to pursuing her hobbies here.

"I can now try out some of the amazing dive sites around the shores of New Zealand that I have only read about in magazines previously. On our short visit in March we were lucky enough to have time to drive through Arthurs Pass and we are really looking forward to living near such a beautiful mountain range. I may even finally learn to ski."

Professor Evans-Freeman said she had been contacted by a number of UC staff since her appointment.

"I have been really touched by how many people have emailed me with kind words of welcome in the last two weeks, and I am looking forward to working with you all very much."

Professor Evans-Freeman hopes to take up the position at the end of July, subject to immigration processes being finalised. Associate Professor Richard Duke will be Acting PVC between Professor Jackson's retirement in May and Professor Evans-Freeman's arrival.

## US fellowship for Canterbury historian

**University of Canterbury historian Dr Peter Field has been awarded a research fellowship to Princeton University.**

Dr Field's fellowship is being sponsored by the American university's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, which is supported by Princeton's Department of Politics. The aim of the programme is to encourage scholarly excellence in the fields of constitutional law and political thought.

Dr Field (Humanities) will take up his fellowship on 1 September and remain at Princeton until July next year. While there, he will deliver a seminar each week and complete his book on American history, titled *The Promise and Paradox of American Freedom*.

"Textbooks on American history are one of the biggest markets for books in the world and even in New Zealand hundreds of students a year study American history. But I've not been entirely satisfied with the available textbooks so I've written my own."

Dr Field, who trialled a draft of his textbook on his HIST 127 class, said *The Promise and Paradox of American Freedom* would offer a new approach to the study of American history and would look at the story of the United States "afresh".

"Most Americans and American historians take freedom as the key element in America, particularly in its unfolding and development — Americans left somewhere else and had an open continent and wrote a declaration of freedom — and Americans have celebrated



Dr Peter Field with some of his students.

that element of their history. But my interest is in problematising freedom. I want to point to the paradox of freedom as well as the promise of freedom," Dr Field said.

*The Promise and Paradox of American Freedom* will follow the history of the United States from its founding "as a new chapter in the larger story of world history" to the present day.

"I think America is a great story and a story that has something for New Zealanders, and vice versa. New Zealanders have been telling me what is important in American history for them and for the world so I'm trying to bring that back to the US."

## Chronicle

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## Puppets help put the wow factor into primary science

They may not have had their names on the official programme but puppets Ricky and Kim were an integral part of the opening keynote address at last week's New Zealand Association of Science Educators Primary Science Conference held at the University of Canterbury.

The puppet pair, along with the double act of Brenda Keogh and Stuart Naylor, directors of Millgate House Education in the UK, captivated their audience of primary science educators with their dynamic presentation on innovative strategies to promote children's engagement in science.

The cheeky puppets gave conference delegates a unique view on the world of children and shared some insider's tips on how best to inspire and engage children.

With ideas ranging from introducing a science question of the week board and using cartoons to explain scientific concepts and get children talking, to ways to use the science of the everyday world through getting children wondering about things like why toast always lands butter-side down or what happens when two shadows overlap, the puppets (and their puppeteers) challenged the teachers to use



*Brenda Keogh and Stuart Naylor with puppets Kim and Ricky.*

creative approaches to put the "wow" back into children's experience of science.

The theme for the two-day conference for primary science educators, hosted by the College of Education, was "Active learning: Science talk from the classroom to the dinner table". More than 83 primary science educators attended the Christchurch conference, one

of a series of four such meetings held around the country over a fortnight, which aimed to help teachers learn ways to enhance children's learning in science, allow them to reflect on current trends in science teaching and relate these to their own practice, and provide plenty of opportunities for networking and sharing ideas and for teachers to get hands-on in experience in practical workshops sessions.

Other keynote speakers at the conference included Martin Braund and Tanya Shields from the University of York Science Education Group in the UK, Terry Crooks from the University of Otago and UC's own Warren Bruce (UC Education Plus) and Dr Chris Astall (Sciences and Physical Education).

Mr Bruce, one of the UC team who helped organise the event, said it was what the participants took away to change their practice that made the conference a success.

"Some teachers have indicated that they intend to bring wonderment, curiosity and the wow factor back into my classroom. Others have said they will try to allow more constructive talk time and let children do more investigating of their own questions."

## New centre provides students with skills necessary for life-long learning



*(Left to right) Learning Advisor Creon Upton, Learning Skills Centre Co-ordinator Angel Nicholson, Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr and UCTL Director Alison Holmes at the opening of the new Learning Skills Centre, Southbank.*

**The Learning Skills Centre (LSC) has celebrated its move into redesigned premises at the old Health Centre site, now known as South Bank.**

The centre, which comes under the umbrella of the University Centre for Teaching and Learning (UCTL), is a free advisory service and resource hub which helps students of all levels with writing and study strategies. The centre holds workshops for thesis writers, a series for new adult students and regular sessions on essay writing, grammar and higher learning skills.

Speaking at the official launch on 30 March, Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr said that it was important that students choosing to enrol at UC were equipped with the skills needed to succeed.

"The LSC represents an embodiment of our commitment to help students acquire critical life-long learning skills.

"Physical structures are a demonstrable way in which institutions say what they value. Our Learning Skills Centre is one way we can demonstrate to our current student body,

future students, as well as our faculty, that we are a learning institution."

Dr Carr said the centre would provide supplementary support for "highly motivated, self-engaged students" and "give them a better opportunity to develop their skills to make the most of the opportunities which the wider University offers".

UCTL Director Alison Holmes said for many years it was accepted that teachers taught and students learnt and the connection between the two was not always clear.

"Increasingly the focus is shifting in tertiary education to the impact of the teaching on the student learning," she said. "Teaching and learning are two sides of the same coin and what happens on one side influences the other."

LSC co-ordinator Angel Nicholson said the new facility gave staff the opportunity to create a space around learning.

"Normally it is the other way round; you get allocated to a place and have to fit learning around it. Here was an opportunity to ask 'how do students learn?'"

"We focused our efforts on how students engage with information, how they engage with each other, and how they engage with us. It is that engagement that gives you the transformation into knowledge and life-long learning skills."

## Top IPENZ honour for Jackson

Professor Peter Jackson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engineering) at the University of Canterbury, has been elected a Distinguished Fellow of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ).

IPENZ made the award in recognition of Professor Jackson's "eminent contribution to the advancement of engineering knowledge, to leadership in the profession of engineering, and in the application of engineering and technology in the community".

The citation acknowledges Professor Jackson for his "world-leading research in fluid dynamics related to yacht performance, the communication of that expertise to the community, and his leadership contribution to the engineering profession".

Professor Jackson becomes one of only 45 New Zealanders to hold the title.

"I value my links to the engineering profession and feel a great sense of satisfaction in being acknowledged by my peers in this way," said Professor Jackson. "It is also very gratifying to know that academic achievement is valued along with professional practice."



Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engineering) Professor Peter Jackson (left) receives the IPENZ Distinguished Fellow certificate from IPENZ President (2008/9) Bas Walker.

In a joint citation, IPENZ President Bas Walker and Chief Executive Andrew Cleland noted Professor Jackson's "long and successful academic career" stemming back to 1977. He is a former professor and head of Auckland

University's Department of Mechanical Engineering and has headed UC's College of Engineering since 2004.

"Peter is a world-class expert in wind engineering, yachts and low-speed aerodynamics, and in the process of design. His particular research interests have included aerodynamics of flexible membranes and the application to sails, wings and animal flight.

"Peter established the University of Auckland Yacht Research Unit, which developed a unique 'twisted flow' wind tunnel for testing yacht sails, now widely used by America's Cup syndicates. He was appointed performance analyst for the New Zealand America's Cup Challenge in 1987 and contributed significantly to the successful challenge."

Professor Jackson has served on a number of national boards and panels, including the Centre for Advanced Engineering and the MacDiarmid Institute. He served as IPENZ President in 2006-2007.

Professor Jackson retires from the University in May.

## MBA programme celebrates 25 years



Linda Norris, CEO of the Sustainable Initiatives Fund Trust, addresses MBA graduates.

**Celebrations for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UC's MBA programme have been kicked off with a breakfast meeting for alumni in the city.**

The annual MBA Alumni Breakfast, held at The George Hotel on 27 March, was an opportunity to dish up news on the programme as well as whet the appetite for the main fare — a celebratory dinner for alumni on 9 October to mark the programme's quarter century.

Thirty-five alumni attended the meeting including two former directors — Professor Bob Hamilton (1986-89) and John Austin (1991-1996) — as well as current director Dr Venkat Pulakanam.

Guest speaker was Linda Norris, CEO of the Sustainable Initiatives Fund Trust and runner-up New Zealander of the Year (Environment) for 2008.

Ms Norris, who graduated with an MBA with Distinction in 1998, told her fellow alumni about her journey to becoming a "green collar" worker. She spoke about how businesses and people were making a difference in the waste minimisation area and challenged the audience to make a difference in their workplaces and homes.

"The breakfast proved a great success with MBA alumni underscoring the value of alumni networking, which from the feedback has already proved of use to the group, personally and professionally," said Glenda Lorimer, College of Business and Economics External Relations Director.

## UC welcomes new staff



**Dr Kenneth Kuhn** has recently arrived from the USA to take up a three-year term as lecturer in transportation in the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering. Dr Kuhn has a BA from John Hopkins University

and an MS and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests include transport infrastructure management and the use of Markovian systems for dealing with uncertainty. Prior to joining UC, Dr Kuhn worked for NASA in intelligent transport systems.



**Associate Professor Antony Fairbanks** has joined the Department of Chemistry, which he first visited as a Visiting Oxford Fellow in 2006. Professor Fairbanks has an MA and a DPhil in chemistry from Oxford, and was a university

lecturer there from 1996 onwards. In 2002 he co-founded the spin-out company, Glycoform, based on commercialisation of his research. In 2004 he received the Dextra Carbohydrate award from the Royal Society of Chemistry, and in 2006 he received a Teaching Award from Oxford.

## Lecturer awarded prestigious UK fellowship

Canterbury University academic Dr Michael Tarren-Sweeney (Health Sciences Centre) has been awarded a prestigious Visiting Fellowship by the British Academy.

The academy is a scholarly society for the humanities and social sciences. It awards Visiting Fellowships annually to early-career scholars from outside the United Kingdom allowing them to spend two to six months carrying out a research project in the UK.

Dr Tarren-Sweeney, a senior lecturer in child and family psychology, said he was the first New Zealand-based academic to receive a Visiting Fellowship from the academy and was excited to be awarded one.

“It’s such a difficult fellowship to get so I’m hoping it will give credibility to what I’m doing and help attract future funding for my research.”

Dr Tarren-Sweeney’s area of interest is in the psychosocial development and well-being of children in alternate care.

“These children are a particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged group and have high levels of developmental difficulties and mental-health problems,” he said.



Dr Michael Tarren-Sweeney.

“My interest is in working out how we can measure these problems, how we can predict these problems and what can be done in terms of policy to reduce the adversity these children experience.”

Dr Tarren-Sweeney will take up his fellowship in May when he will head to the United Kingdom where he will be based at the University of Bristol for two months.

While there he plans to enlist the help of UK-based experts working in his field to help him design a longitudinal, cross-national study of the effects of events and experiences in care on children’s development, with particular focus on the effects of impermanence, and of contact with birth families.

“No-one has done this kind of study before mainly because the methodological challenges are immense, so I need help. I’ll get to work with leading people working in my field in the UK and hopefully they will collaborate on the project and make the UK one of the study sites.”

Dr Tarren-Sweeney said the proposed project came out of early research he undertook studying the effects of pre-care experiences on the mental health of children in care in New South Wales.

## Conference attracts biomechanics to UC



Professor Shigeo Wada (above), from the Department of Mechanical Science and Bioengineering at Osaka University, was one of four plenary speakers who discussed their research during the Fourth Asian Pacific Conference on Biomechanics held at the University of Canterbury from 14-17 April.

It was the first time the conference, opened by Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr, had been

held in the southern hemisphere. The event attracted more than 170 delegates from around the world who gave presentations on, and discussed the latest research, ideas, development and applications in the biomechanics field.

Professor Wada, who has been carrying out computational biomechanics studies on the cardiovascular system and the lung respiratory system, spoke on the topic “Spring network modelling for multi-scale mechanics from cells to organs”.

The other plenary speakers were Professor James Goh, Research Director in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore whose topic was “Functional biomimetic silk-based scaffold for tissue engineering application”; Professor Tim Secomb, Professor of Physiology and Mathematics at the University of Arizona, who spoke on the topic “The mechanics of red blood cell motion in microvessels”; and Professor Mark Percy, Director of the Medical Engineering Research Facility at the Queensland University of Technology who spoke on the topic “The value of modelling to biomechanics”.

Director of UC’s Centre for Bioengineering Professor Tim David said the event was “very successful” with 178 delegates attending despite the economic crisis.

“One of the highlights was to see so many young people attending. There were lots of

up-and-coming researchers from all over the world. That was a big thing for me and a great thing to see,” he said.

“There were also a lot of people who knew some of those attending through published papers but had never met them so it was a nice way for north and south to meet.”

Professor David said feedback from delegates about the UC-hosted event had been positive.

“Everyone loved it, especially the excursion to the Tamaki Heritage Village, and the conference banquet was very good too.”

The next Asian Pacific Conference on Biomechanics will be held in Singapore.

## Adjunct appointments

**Professor Michael Gaffikin**, an emeritus professor with the School of Accounting and Finance at the University of Wollongong, Australia, has been appointed an adjunct professor in UC’s Department of Accounting and Information Systems.

**Associate Professor Alan Woodfield** has been appointed an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Economics and Finance.

The University has also appointed four new adjunct senior fellows. They are **Dr Ian Brooks** (Management); **Dr John Hooper** and **Dr Ian Mason** (Accounting and Information Systems); and **Dr Susan Meade** (Biological Sciences).

All appointments are for a term of three years.

# Graduation a time for celebration

**More than 1300 students celebrated their graduation from the University of Canterbury during its autumn capping ceremonies held at the Christchurch Town Hall before Easter.**

In four ceremonies held on 7 and 9 April, 1397 students received their degrees, diplomas and certificates in person with a further 399 graduating *in absentia*.

It was the first graduation event to be presided over by the University's new Chancellor Rex Williams and Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr.

A highlight of the week was the awarding of honorary doctorates to two Canterbury University alumni – Dr Andrew McEwan, former director of the National Radiation Laboratory, and Neville Jordan, President of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Dr McEwan received an honorary Doctor of Science degree, while an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree was conferred on Mr Jordan.

The University also presented its 2008 University Teaching Awards to seven staff in recognition of their outstanding teaching

achievements. The recipients were Professor Bill Davison (Biological Sciences), Richard Fisher (Accounting and Information Systems), Gina Haines (Literacies and Arts in Education), Dr Alex James (Mathematics and Statistics), Professor Lucy Johnston (Psychology), Professor Eric Pawson (Geography) and Dr Gareth Pritchard (History).

Both Dr McEwan and Mr Jordan addressed graduates after being presented with their doctorates.

Dr McEwan began his address to science graduates during the Tuesday morning ceremony with a confession. Having graduated from three universities himself, and having three sons who have graduated four times among them, he said it was the first time he had attended a graduation ceremony.

"I say this to draw out a conclusion, which is that while celebration of graduation is an important day in your lives, and you are to be congratulated on your achievements, graduation is not only a milestone or

perceived end point in the academic process, it also generally marks the start of a career. Graduation is not only a goal, but also a transition to employment."

Dr McEwan said that once in the workforce continuous learning or professional development would be required not only by virtue of the need to master a chosen vocation, "but also by reason of the fact of change and scientific advance". But he also urged graduates to be aware of the challenges mankind faced due to such technological developments.

"While society has advanced technologically, the nature of mankind has not. While we can luxuriate in what scientific advances have brought us in this country and the Western world, it remains true that it is in my lifetime that men such as Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Idi Amin and Mugabe have held sway," he said.

"Many of you in your future careers will move into spheres of influence affecting the lives of others. What is called for, and what remains



Dr Andrew McEwan (centre) with Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr (left) and Chancellor Rex Williams after receiving an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Canterbury.



UC Registrar Jeff Field and his wife Robyn Stewart celebrate the graduation of their daughter Harriet with a BA on the afternoon of 7 April.



Neville Jordan receives his honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from Chancellor Rex Williams.



Maureen Ahern (Communications and Development) celebrated graduating with a Graduate Diploma in Arts with Distinction with her sister Kathleen Ahern.



Dean and Head of the School of Law, Associate Professor Richard Scragg, with his son, Edward, who received a Graduate Diploma in Journalism during the Tuesday afternoon ceremony.

of the highest importance, is integrity in the discharge of responsibilities.”

Mr Jordan’s theme for his address on Thursday morning was about tuning in to your “inner voice”.

Drawing on examples from his own career when people had said “that can’t be done” to him and he had proved those doubters wrong with great success, Mr Jordan implored graduates while savouring their special moment, to “leave some room for that little internal voice”.

“No longer take any notice of quotes ‘you can’t do that’ or ‘that will never work’. When you hear those words turn their force inwards and use it to switch on and tune into that internal voice of self-confidence that we all have.

“From this day forth may all things seem possible and may you seize every opportunity for an invigorating and successful life. May you never get to the point of having to say ‘I wish’ or ‘if only’ and may you never use the words ‘that can’t be done’.”

Graduation addresses were also delivered by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts) Professor Ken Strongman and University of Canterbury Students’ Association President Steve Jukes. Professor Strongman told graduates that to be awarded a university degree or any other university qualification at any level was “a fine achievement” and, while an important end point, the achievement of a degree also represented a significant beginning and was a good time to reflect on what their university education had given them.

“How are you different now than you were before you began your studies? You certainly will have some knowledge of the particular subjects that you have studied but, in my view,



Emma Matson, the granddaughter of former Canterbury University Chancellor John Matson (1972-77) and the School of Law’s first woman graduate, Isobel Matson (1938), celebrates graduating with an LLB (Hons) with her father and UC alumnus Olly Matson. Emma’s graduation carries on a proud family tradition of choosing law as a profession, with her capping making her a fourth-generation lawyer.

this is the least of it. Here is what I think that you are now more capable of than you were.

“You can understand and critically evaluate new material in any field; you can apply your skills to new situations; you can carry out intellectual analysis; you can express yourself clearly and logically; you can understand something of the local world of New Zealand and of how this fits with the rest of the world; and most of all, you can think independently. And all of these skills and accomplishments are marketable.”

In the last address for the autumn ceremonies, Mr Jukes spoke about nobility and urged his peers to recognise that they were “empowered, if not obliged, to lead”.

“In fact, let me employ the often overused, if not now benign concept of ‘thinking outside the box’. I would encourage you not to work within, nor work outside, any box. Not one. I would encourage you to create the box.

“We have all benefited from those who have created the box: Keynesian economics, and in law, Denning and Cooke. These educated leaders have constructed boxes in which we have now unpacked and become familiar.

It’s our time now, wouldn’t you say, to start building our own boxes?”



Fiona Saunders (Law) celebrates her daughter Jessica’s graduation with a BE (Hons), along with husband Brent.



Natasha Caldwell celebrates her LLB (Hons) with her mother, Andrea, and father, Associate Professor John Caldwell (Law). As Senior Scholar Natasha will also receive this year’s Gold Medal presented by the Canterbury Westland branch of the New Zealand Law Society. Her father received the medal, awarded to the top law graduate, in 1976.

# Higher doctorates bestowed on pair



Dr David Harrowfield (left) and Professor Iain Hay were the first graduates to cross the stage on Tuesday morning. Both received higher doctorates – Dr Harrowfield a Doctor of Science and Professor Hay a Doctor of Letters.

## An Antarctic researcher and a human geographer were awarded higher doctorates during the University of Canterbury's autumn graduation ceremonies.

Higher doctorates are awarded in recognition of a significant body of work carried out over a sustained period of time.

David Harrowfield, the first person to cross the stage during the morning ceremony on 7 April, was awarded a Doctor of Science for his contribution to the knowledge and understanding of Antarctica, which includes the science of archaeology, the conservation of historic sites including the first use of wind tunnels, and his records of the geographical exploration of the icy continent. Since his first visit to the continent in 1975 with Emeritus Professor Bob Kirk, Dr Harrowfield has made more than 40 trips to Antarctica. "For each one, there is a diary with each account recording a new experience."

Professor Iain Hay, of the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management at Flinders University, received a Doctor of Letters for his two decades of research on the geographies of domination and oppression.

Professor Hay, who flew from Adelaide to attend graduation, said he was delighted to have been involved in "such a grand procession and ceremony with so many others".

"Given that so much in our day-to-day lives is routine and informal, it was nice to participate in something so spectacular. There's no doubt Canterbury does a great job of celebrating its students' academic achievements through the graduation ceremony."

Encouraged to put together the documents required for the doctorate by some of his colleagues, Professor Hay said he "saw the rigour of the degree as a great opportunity

to draw together into a coherent whole the superficially disparate pieces of my work over the 20 years since I finished my PhD".

"The higher doctorate forced me to explore and make explicit the links I knew existed between my work on topics like research ethics regulation; representations of indigeneity in urban landscapes; and earthquake insurance in neoliberal context. So, for me, the LittD was a search for, and statement of, the conceptual coherence of my work," said Professor Hay.

Dr Harrowfield, who shared the day with close family, friends and colleagues, said he felt

"incredibly humble" at receiving such a high distinction from the University.

"I also consider this especially nice for the Department of Geography where I began my association as a geomorphology lab technician in 1970, through field work in a range of environments from marine to high alpine, and with my undergraduate studies."

Dr Harrowfield, who is currently based in Oamaru, said he did not see his life changing greatly now that he had a higher doctorate, but he was planning to move back to Christchurch to continue his Antarctic research, put his extensive archive in order, "and I look forward to using my knowledge to assist up-and-coming students and graduate students of the University".

Professor Hay is now working on several edited books and recently accepted an invitation to serve as general editor for a new series of *International Handbooks in Human Geography* to be published by Springer Science+Business Media. Late last year he also became Vice-President (President-Elect) of the Institute of Australian Geographers.

Dr Harrowfield is currently completing a new book on New Zealand mountaineering as well as a number of papers on research carried out in New Zealand and Antarctica on topics ranging from the problems of conservation associated with historic sites to observations on rock glaciers in East Antarctica. Next summer he hopes to continue work as a lecturer on a cruise ship chartered for Antarctic tourism.

## Carrying on a family tradition



Donning his graduation gown to receive his MEM was a proud moment for both Matthew Wilson and his family. Pictured with his mother, Jane (left), and his grandmother, Sally Wilson, Matthew wears the gown first-worn by his great-grandfather, David George Wilson, in 1910 when he graduated from Teachers' College in 1910. Since then the 99-year-old gown has been worn by three subsequent generations, including Matthew's grandfather, Murray, father Stephen, uncle Andrew, and his siblings, Anna and Simon.

# Engineer belatedly dons gown for grandson's graduation

Jim Penman completed his engineering degree in 1942 but it has taken more than 65 years for the octogenarian to don academic regalia to celebrate.

Mr Penman finally had the chance to slip on a gown and trowel while in Christchurch for the graduation of his grandson, James Penman. James graduated on 9 April with a BE (Hons) in Civil Engineering, the same degree his grandfather received from the then Canterbury University College 67 years ago.

However, unlike his grandson Mr Penman never enjoyed a graduation ceremony as his World War 2 service intervened.

"It was wartime and I was needed elsewhere."

Mr Penman's engineering skills were put to work at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in Wellington. The 21-year-old found himself working for DSIR founder and esteemed physicist Ernest Marsden.

"Marsden was a great guy. Once he took you under his wing you would do anything for him."

Mr Penman worked on radars to help the American war effort.

"It was an area that New Zealand excelled in. We could produce radars in New Zealand using American parts quicker than the Americans could.

"I produced the first mobile radar equipment for the Americans to use in the Pacific. It was a world first. I guess you could say I was the right man in the right place."

Mr Penman, who now lives in Auckland, said it was good to be back at his old university and finally wear a graduation robe.

"I always hoped it might happen."

Touring the College of Engineering with his son, Dr David Penman (former assistant pro-vice-chancellor (research) in UC's College of Science), and James, gave the 88-year-old plenty of opportunity to reminisce on his four happy years at the University.

"In those days you could do the first three years of your engineering degree at Auckland but my mother thought it best if I left home as a 17-year-old and did all four years at Canterbury. I was one of only a few people who did back then."

While visiting UC, Mr Penman was reunited with the Templin Scroll. Mr Penman first held it back in 1941 when he became the inaugural winner.

"A few names have been added to it since," he noted.

The scroll is awarded by annual competition to the best written and presented paper by an engineering student at Canterbury University who is also a member of the Engineering Society. The scroll was established by the



Jim Penman shows the Templin Scroll to his grandson James Penman.

first chairman of the Canterbury Branch of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand, JR Templin, to encourage engineers in the art of presenting their subject to others.

Mr Penman said he was proud to see his grandson cross the stage and graduate. "And it's good to have another engineer in the family."

James, who now works as a geotechnical engineer in Brisbane, flew back to Christchurch for graduation.

"It is pretty special to have my grandfather here and to know I can go to him for advice."

## UC's Māori graduates celebrate their achievements

**The first Māori woman to receive a PhD in the field of astrophysics was among those whose academic achievements were celebrated a special celebration for Canterbury University's Māori graduates on 8 April.**

Whanau from around New Zealand gathered at the Hotel Grand Chancellor to honour and recognise the success of 22 Māori graduates who this year received degrees and diplomas from a range of academic disciplines.

The celebration began in the early afternoon with a powhiri followed by addresses by Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Sir Tipene O'Regan and the President of Te Akatoki Māori Students Association, Tahae Roberts. After the presentation of taonga and certificates, the celebrations continued into the evening with dinner and a function at the Stock Exchange Bar.

Among those celebrating was Pauline Harris, who graduated with a PhD in physics. Only the second Māori woman to graduate with this degree, but the first to do so in astrophysics, Pauline was also recently awarded a Te Amorangi National Māori Academic Excellence Award which she received during a ceremony held at Tūrangawaewae Marae on 3 April. Pauline was one of 28 to receive awards which are made to Māori students who have received a doctoral qualification from a New Zealand tertiary institution.



UC graduate Dr Pauline Harris.

# Author plans to use residency to give play another life as novel

**Taking his writing from the stage to the page is the focus for this year's Ursula Bethell Writer in Residence, Victor Rodger.**

The Christchurch-based playwright, who took up his residency in February, will spend his time based at the University of Canterbury working on adapting his fourth play, *My name is Gary Cooper*, into a novel.

*My name is Gary Cooper* is a comedy-drama that was produced by the Auckland Theatre Company in 2007, starring Robbie Magasiva of *Sione's Wedding* fame. It received rave reviews and was described by *Metro* magazine as "a darkly witty demolition of palagi fantasies about Polynesia".

"The basic thrust of it is a Samoan man goes to LA in the 1970s to get revenge on the white dad who left his Samoan mother behind in the islands," Mr Rodger said.

"I'd like to see the story have another life. Having seen it on the stage it would be good to see it on the page."

Mr Rodger said he also had a couple of other play projects that he would be working on throughout 2009, including *Village People*, a Creative New Zealand commission about four Samoan siblings who each live in a different country and are reunited in Samoa to watch the youngest become a matai (chief).

Mr Rodger said he was excited about the residency.

"I'm the first of Pacific Island descent to have this residency, which is pretty wicked, particularly with me being a Christchurch boy," he said.



2009 Ursula Bethell Writer in Residence Victor Rodger.

Mr Rodger, who is of Samoan and Scottish descent, said the themes of race, racism, race relations and identity inspired most of his work. He said the reason he wrote his first play, *Sons*, was that when he looked to get in touch with his Samoan heritage in his youth there was nothing around, in terms of literature, that he felt related to his specific experience.

"I like to explore being mixed race. Particularly as a New Zealander and a mixed race person you've got a different point of view from someone either fully white or brown. I like to think of my play *Village People* as my *afakasi* epic. *Afakasi* is the Samoan word for half-cast and there are lots of us represented in there."

*Sons* won four Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards, including most outstanding new writer and most outstanding new New Zealand play in 1998. He is also the author of *Cunning Stunts* (1997) and *Ranterstantrum* (2002) which was part of the International New Zealand Festival of the Arts. In 2001, he won the *Sunday Star-Times* Bruce Mason Playwriting Award.

Mr Rodgers, who graduated from the Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School in Wellington in 1997, studied writing for film at the Mauritis Binger Foundation in Amsterdam in 2004-5. The following year he was awarded the 2006 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency, based at the Centre for Pacific Studies at the University of Hawai'i.

Since 2000 he has been a storyliner and now dialogue writer for the long-running television soap opera, *Shortland Street*, a "bread and butter" job which he said helped him "flex (his) writing muscles" and was a great way to pay off his credit card.

The Ursula Bethell Residency in Creative Writing was established in 1979 and is named after Christchurch poet and artist Mary Ursula Bethell (1874-1945). The residency, based in the English department, is supported by funding from Creative New Zealand.

## New professorial appointment



Professor Gregory Lee.

**Professor Gregory Lee has been appointed chair and head of the School of Educational Studies and Human Development.**

Professor Lee said he was looking forward, as head of school, to building on the contributions of his predecessors.

"I am keen to work with colleagues at the College of Education to further develop a stimulating and supportive learning environment for staff and students alike."

Professor Lee has a 27-year tertiary education career and was most recently associate professor in the Department of Policy, Cultural and Social Studies in Education at Waikato University. He has a BA, Masters of Education and PhD from the University of Otago and a Teachers Diploma from Trinity College London.

Professor Lee specialises in the history of education. His interests include curriculum history; the politics, policies and practices of post-primary schools in New Zealand; technical education; the history of public examinations in New Zealand; and biographies of New Zealand educators.

From 2000 until 2005 Professor Lee served as joint editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies* (with Associate Professor Monica Payne), and is currently editor of the *Teachers and Curriculum* journal. He has been an editorial committee member for the latter journal from its inception in 1996, and for the *New Zealand Journal of Teachers' Work*. He has published more than 145 book chapters, journal articles, large-scale academic monographs, academic essays, book reviews, and articles in professional publications.

With his brother, Professor Howard Lee, Head of the School of Educational Studies at Massey University, he prepares the weekly education archive for the *New Zealand Education Review*, a publication to which he is a regular contributor.

"We have worked together for many years on several academic projects, the latest of which is an about-to-be-released major investigation into past and present policies for New Zealand secondary schools."

## Polish film-maker taken with NZ clouds

After scouring Europe's skies for the perfect cloud formation without success, Polish film-maker Lech Majewski found what he was looking for in the Land of the Long White Cloud.

Mr Majewski was recently in New Zealand as a Visiting Canterbury Fellow and spent just over a month in the country as a guest of the University of Canterbury's Theatre and Film Studies programme.

A graduate of the Lodz Film School, Mr Majewski is also an artist, composer, poet, writer and stage director. His film repertoire includes *The Gospel According to Harry*, starring Viggo Mortensen, *Angelus*, *The Garden of Earthly Delights* and *Basquiat*.

While at UC he gave a series of lectures titled "The Hidden Language of Symbols in Art" and contributed to several courses in Theatre and Film Studies as well as a composer's workshop run by the School of Music.

He also travelled extensively around the country giving public lectures, including one at the Christchurch Art Gallery. A season of his films also toured the country and Mr Majewski attended screenings of his films in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Nelson.



Polish film-maker Lech Majewski.

It was while driving around the country to attend these screenings that he spotted cloud formations that were perfect for his latest film project, a movie based on the life story of Flemish Renaissance painter Pieter Brueghel

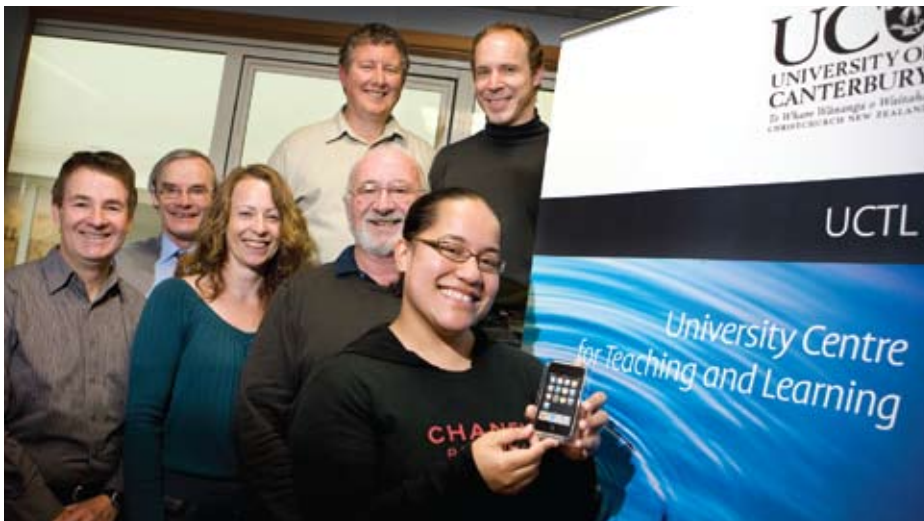
starring Charlotte Rampling, Michael York and Rutger Hauer.

"In the movie I am trying to create a medieval landscape so we have been looking for some interesting cloud formations. Brueghel's paintings have unusual cloud formations and we weren't able to film any in Europe. We tried but the clouds there are quite different whereas here we went to Picton and saw a stunning show in the heavens. It was unbelievable and looked very much like a painting. They were very, very long clouds with little puffs against them that looked rich in colour and texture. They were so unique I asked a gentleman here at Canterbury, John Christoffels, to shoot some of them and I am going to digitally include the New Zealand heavens in my movie."

Mr Majewski said New Zealand's landscape, particularly in inland areas, had sown seeds in his mind and he may return one day to film here. The film-maker said he had also enjoyed working with students at UC and mingling with audiences at his film screenings.

"I think people here are very much interested in cinema. I liked the reception I received and the way people discussed movies with me. It has been a very, very interesting experience for me."

## UC's new online learning system named



(From left) UCTL staff Antoine Monti, Derek Chirnside, Jess Hollis, Alan Hoskin (rear), Gregor Ronald, Bruce Webster (rear) with Fine Lavoni, the winner of the competition to find Moodle a new name.

### Moodle — UC's new learning management system — has been named Learn.

The open source online learning system will be known as "learn.canterbury.ac.nz" on the web, or just "Learn" for short.

Gregor Ronald, Educational Technology Consultant with the University Centre for Teaching and Learning (UCTL), said the name had been chosen from nearly 300 suggestions submitted by students and staff, including many very close variations on the "learn" theme.

"In the end the judges chose the simplest

variation of the word, as it best expressed the purpose of the new system, which will come into full use in semester two."

Fine Lavoni, a third-year law student won an Apple iPod Touch for her entry of "iLearn". The competition draw was made from 13 entries using the term "learn", including five entries for "iLearn".

Learn will replace the current Blackboard and StudentNet systems used at UC. It will provide communication and file sharing help to support courses and groups of students.

The system has been introduced at UC following a 15-month project involving more than 70 staff and a large number of students who were involved in trials. Moodle is used by a number of the world's leading universities and has been adopted by four other New Zealand universities.

## Scholarships

**Ibrahim Jatene** has been awarded the Guardian Trust Masters Scholarship in Commerce valued at \$16,500.

IBM Supercomputing Scholarships, paying tuition fees, have been awarded to **Michael Clark, Hannah Farr, Michael Groufsky, Darren Hewett, Helen Kershaw, Simon Parsons, Moshin Shaikh** and **David Viviers**.

Grant Lingard Scholarships, paying tuition fees, have been awarded to **Anna MacKenzie** and **Charlotte Adams**.

**Merlin Chai, Lee Wilson** and **Duncan Henderson** have each been awarded Ian McMillan Prizes valued at \$3000 a year for two years.

Bickerton-Widdowson Trust Memorial Scholarships valued at \$2000 each have been awarded to **Michelle Ah Kuoi, Holly Best, Nicole Bourke, Jane Bowman** and **Marie-Claire Brehaut**.

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## Professor Stanley Siemon 1916-2009

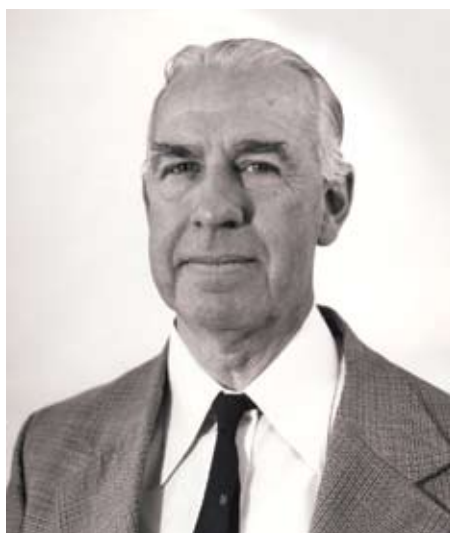
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**Professor Stanley Siemon, the first professor of chemical engineering at Canterbury College, has died in Melbourne at the age of 93.**

Professor Siemon arrived in New Zealand in 1944 to join the Department of Chemistry at Canterbury to teach applied chemistry and start the nascent discipline of chemical engineering in what was then the National School of Engineering. He was presented with a five-year-course, designed by the mechanical engineering and chemistry professors, through which he skilfully wove a logically developing thread of chemical engineering. In 1956 Professor Siemon was made foundation professor of chemical engineering, a position he held until head hunted by Melbourne University to become, in 1965, their foundation chair of chemical engineering and later dean of engineering.

Professor Siemon's vision, enthusiasm for making progress, and marvellous diplomacy built valuable links with industry and allowed great advances, attracting a steady stream of top New Zealand school leavers. Other advances were the inception of student trips to North Island industry and DSIR and the systematic building of effective national and international graduate recruiting. He also



*Professor Stanley Siemon.*

continued his own consulting and research, underpinning the development of a New Zealand salt-from-seawater industry, an expertise he also took further later in Australia.

Professor Siemon's focus on the basics, as against descriptive material, equipped his graduates to lead key New Zealand process industries – fertilisers and agrochemicals, paper, foods of many kinds – to world technological standards and competitiveness.

The role of those graduates was particularly demanding then, as often they were the first chemical engineers in an enterprise. An example of that success is Fonterra, which acknowledges that its position as the world-leading milk processing and products company is due to the strength of its chemical engineers.

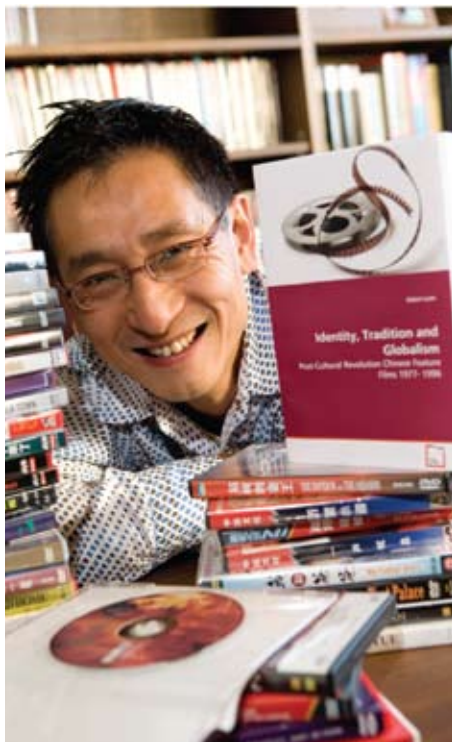
His notable and highly respected pioneering work in New Zealand was recognised by the University, which in 1969 put his name on a dedicated five storey building for the department. This was the culmination also of a long path for Professor Siemon, from the basement of the Chemistry building on the old town site when he arrived, to a wooden ex Army hut in the 1950's, to a wing of the new Ilam Engineering School at the end of that decade. The department further honoured him with a two day conference in 1994 on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his appointment. He achieved a great deal for the discipline and for New Zealand in establishing and running what was in his time the only chemical engineering department in New Zealand.

He was a man of outstanding integrity and a true gentleman.

*Dr Brian Earl, former Head of Department, with thanks to Emeritus Professor Rolf Prince, Sydney.*

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## New book studies the impact of the post-Cultural Revolution era on Chinese film



*Dr Adam Lam with his latest book.*

**Chinese film and its development after the Cultural Revolution are explored in a newly published book written by senior lecturer in Chinese Dr Adam Lam (Languages, Cultures and Linguistics).**

The book, *Identity, Tradition and Globalism:*

*Post-Cultural Revolution Chinese Feature Films 1977-1996*, is based on Dr Lam's PhD thesis completed at Auckland University in 2000. It looks at how Chinese cinema was affected by the reforms introduced by the Chinese government following the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1977, suggesting there was a cultural shift away from traditional and nationally focused film to film that would appeal to a global audience.

"National, traditional cinema started to disappear in the post-Cultural Revolution era due to a new open-door policy and economic reform, which allowed a greater scale of Westernisation to occur," Dr Lam said.

"The book focuses on mainly fifth generation directors, but briefly looks at directors of the third and fourth generation, studying their films and looking at how gradually they changed from the more traditional Chinese ideological-based work of art to a more international and globally focused cultural commodity."

Among the film-makers Dr Lam looks at are Zhang Yimou (*Raise the Red Lantern*, *House of Flying Daggers* and *Hero*) and Chen Kaige, whose film, *Farewell My Concubine*, won the Palme d'Or at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival.

Dr Lam said that after 1996 Chinese cinema in the national and traditional sense no longer existed. Chinese film-makers became

increasingly focused on making films for global audiences, and the importation of American-made films also led to a drop in the production of Chinese films.

"But while localised film no longer exists, it has survived through non-cinematic means as TV drama, soap operas and TV films."

- *Identity, Tradition and Globalism: Post-Cultural Revolution Chinese Feature Films 1977-1996* by Adam Lam, published by VDM, 2008, ISBN 978-3-639-11106-4.

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## UC welcomes new staff



**Dr Gregory Breetzke** has joined the Department of Geography as a lecturer in geographical information systems (GIS). Dr Breetzke has a BSocSci, BSc (Hons) and PhD from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, as well

as an MSc from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Prior to coming to New Zealand, Dr Breetzke lectured at the University of Pretoria. His research focuses on the development and integration of quantitative geo-analytic techniques for synthesising and understanding crime activity.

# University opens its doors to both school pupils and their teachers



(From left) Cashmere High students Melissa Fialele, Rory Ellis and Freya Phillips at the radioactivity workshop run by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

## It isn't just secondary school students who descend on campus to learn something new – their teachers come as well.

Year 12 students from Cashmere High School spent the afternoon of 30 March in the Physics and Astronomy Department taking part in a radioactivity workshop. The morning was spent visiting Rutherford's Den and the afternoon included a lecture at UC, given by PhD student Mita Gopal, and a lab studying radioactivity, run by technician Cliff Franklin.

"We offer this to help strengthen senior physics in schools," said Science Outreach Coordinator Joan Gladwyn. "It is an opportunity for students to come to the University and experience some real experiments."

The students measured the radiation of different sources and how this was affected by various metals.

"Schools would normally only have one set of equipment for a radioactivity experiment, whereas UC has enough for the students to work in groups of three or four, so the students get a more hands-on experience," Ms Gladwyn said.

On the same day, 12 teachers from the Christchurch area attended a teacher workshop entitled "The Language of Our Rocks", organised by Dr Kerry Swanson (Geology). The teachers spent the day looking at various types of rocks and the methods involved in identifying them.

"Geology is in the secondary school curriculum, but it is little resourced and often teachers have no experience in geology. This is a way to give them confidence with respect to how to identify rocks. That knowledge can then be transferred to the classroom and hopefully this will stimulate students' interest in geology too," said Dr Swanson.

The teachers were given two sets of rocks providing examples of the three main rock types. These could be taken back to their school as a rock identification resource. The following day was spent in the field around Banks Peninsula, applying what had been learnt to rocks exposed in outcrop. "These trips allow us to put the rocks into a historical setting, how old are they, what do they represent in terms of the evolution of the

New Zealand landmass? These are the sorts of questions we tried to answer".

For Keshni Lata, a science teacher at Burnside High School, it was an invaluable experience. "I have learned a lot that I can now pass on to the students."

The same day there was also a chemistry NCEA practical assessment in the Chemistry Department. Twenty-six year 13 students from Burnside High School spent the day performing complex titrations for their level 3 internal assessment. They were supervised by Richard Rendle (Continuing & Bridging Education) and chemistry graduate students, and supported by technician Archna Tandon who made up the required solutions and prepared the lab for the students.

## Health study brings US honour for UC researcher

**Dr Laura Miller, who gained her PhD from the University of Canterbury in 2008, has been honoured by the Association of American Geographers.**

She has been awarded the Jacques May Thesis Prize for the best health geography PhD in a worldwide competition. The thesis has also been placed on the University of Canterbury Dean's List for exceptional research.

Her PhD research examined the associations between population mixing and the geographical epidemiology of childhood leukaemia and type 1 diabetes in New Zealand. The results revealed similarities in their geographical epidemiologies and were suggestive of an infectious aetiology for both diseases. In addition, higher incidence of both diseases was observed in areas which increased the most in population mixing over short time periods.

Dr Miller carried out her PhD research in UC's GeoHealth Laboratory under the supervision of Dr Jamie Pearce and Professor Ross Barnett. She also worked closely with the Diabetes Research Group at Christchurch Hospital.

Professor Barnett said both he and Dr Pearce were delighted with their student's success.

"This is a very significant achievement as it is the first time the Jacques May prize has been awarded to New Zealand. It also reflects the benefits of working closely with the Diabetes Centre in developing a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the aetiology of less common diseases such as childhood leukaemia and type 1 diabetes."

Dr Miller currently works as a spatial analysis research officer for Child and Adolescent Community Health in Perth, Western Australia.

# Strong UC involvement in local rogaining competition



Professor Andy Buchanan and UC PhD student Helen Bones competing in a rogaine near Lake Lyndon. Photo supplied by team-mate Professor Phil Bones.

**A sport which combines teamwork, endurance and is both a mental and physical challenge is building a strong following at the University of Canterbury, especially within the College of Engineering.**

Rogaining is the sport of long-distance cross-country navigation, in which teams of two to five people visit as many checkpoints as they wish in a set time period (from three to 24 hours). While having similarities to orienteering, greater distances and greater times on the course are involved. Participants are free to visit whichever checkpoints they wish, with the checkpoints having different point values assigned to them, making strategy and route selection vital to achieving the best score.

A growing number of UC staff, students and alumni are involved in rogaining, with a concentration of participants hailing from the College of Engineering.

Professor Phil Bones (Electrical and Computer Engineering), a keen roganier for the past 11 years, said the reason for the popularity of the sport at UC was largely due to the enthusiasm of former academics in his department Peter Squires and Bill Kennedy, who were instrumental in the introduction of the sport here in the Canterbury region. Mr Squires has since designed and manufactured an electronic scoring system specifically for rogaining which is used throughout Australasia.

Professor Bones said his own introduction to the sport came when he entered a TWALK (24-hour walk organised by the Canterbury University Tramping Club based on similar principles to rogaining) in 1998.

“I was in a team with Peter and Bill and from that first experience I got hooked,” he said.

“While it is a love of tramping, climbing or trail running that attracts most people to the sport, it’s also an opportunity to get out and see some country you don’t normally see as most of the rogaines are held on private farmer-owned land. The navigation is also tremendous fun and challenging as you only

have a map and a compass, no GPS or that sort of thing.”

Professor Bones not only competes these days but is also involved at an administration level in the sport and is a member of the organising committee for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships to be held in November 2010 in the Cheviot area of North Canterbury.

Fellow committee members include Professor Andy Buchanan (Civil and Natural Resources Engineering), Dr Emma de Lacey (Information and Communication Technology Services), Jac Woudberg (Electrical and Computer Engineering), along with key players Mr Squires and Mr Kennedy.

Professor Bones said Kiwi teams and UC connections had featured prominently in the results of recent world championships.

“Chris Forne, for example, a doctoral graduate in 2008 from Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been the world champion roganier at least twice. At the most recent world championship event in Estonia in 2008, Chris and his team-mate came second.”

Professor Bones said a number of rogaines are being planned in the build-up to the world champs.

“Now is a good time for anyone with an outdoor bent to try the sport out with an aim to consider entering the world event next year as anyone can compete in a world champs,” Professor Bones said.

If you want to find out more about rogaining, visit [www.rogaine.org.nz](http://www.rogaine.org.nz).

## UC team competes in global contest

**Four College of Business and Economics students are celebrating after being placed fourth at the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Global Investment Research Challenge Asia-Pacific regional finals in Singapore last month.**

Matthew Easton, Curtis Sinclair, James Horrocks and Lin Fu won the right to compete in Singapore after winning the inaugural CFA Society of New Zealand’s University Investment Research Challenge last November. The challenge is an educational initiative whereby university students, guided by industry professionals, produce research reports on a publicly traded company.

The UC team squared off against 11 other semi-finalists in the Asia-Pacific regional finals. The morning competition consisted of two semi-finals with six teams competing for two places in the evening finals.

“We were selected to advance through to the finals and we were naturally delighted with the result,” says mentor Rhiannon Evans, Associate Director Investment Banking Division, Murray & Company Ltd, who

travelled with the team to Singapore.

“We went on first to the finals followed by Singapore, China and the Philippines, but unfortunately did not win the overall regional final. That honour went to Singapore.”

Despite not winning the regional finals, Ms Evans said that everyone was excited to be in Singapore and justifiably proud that they made it to the final stages of the competition.

“The regional finals represented 102 universities that applied from the Asia-Pacific region so this means that the University of Canterbury was placed in the top four – no mean feat. All credit due to the students who are incredibly intelligent and dedicated. I am sure they will go on to great success,” said Ms Evans.

Matthew graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce at April’s graduation ceremony and is currently working at Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Lin graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce at the end of last year. James and Curtis are both completing honours degrees at UC.

# Scholarship allows student to extend research on West Coast lagoons



Claire Kain is the 2009 recipient of the Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship in Geography/Environmental Science.

**UC masters student Claire Kain has been awarded a prestigious \$20,000 scholarship which will help fund her research into lagoon systems on the West Coast.**

Claire has been named the 2009 recipient of the Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship in Geography/Environmental Science. The scholarship, founded by the Isaac Wildlife Trust in memory of the late environmentalist, Sir Neil Isaac, pays \$12,000, tuition fees and \$3000 for research and thesis expenses.

Claire is studying the Totara Lagoon, between

Ross and Hokitika, and Shearer Swamp/Waikoriri Lagoon south of Ross.

“My project aims to document the current geomorphology of these systems, establish how they have evolved over the past few thousand years, and use this to predict their future under changing climate, development, and management scenarios.

“There is a huge amount of scope for new coastal research in Westland, and as well as adding to the local knowledge base, I hope to highlight some of these gaps and

opportunities and encourage others to undertake research in this area,” Claire said.

“The West Coast is a picturesque place to do fieldwork, and as my field sites are largely unconstrained by engineered structures, it is exciting to watch the changes wrought by natural processes between visits.

“The surrounding areas are farmland, and it has been great hearing the differing viewpoints and records of local residents regarding historical changes and potential management strategies.”

Claire said she was “thrilled and honoured” to receive the scholarship as the money would allow her to further extend her research.

“I plan to use radiocarbon dating to produce a timeline of evolutionary changes in these systems, something I was previously unable to afford. I also hope to attend and present my research at a few key conferences later in the year.”

“The research project exemplifies the integrated and problem-solving nature of geographical research, comprising a scientific research project that will add value to decision-making for sustainability,” said Head of Geography, Associate Professor Wendy Lawson.

Claire will be supervised by senior lecturer Dr Deirdre Hart, who was an Isaac Scholar in 1998, before going to ADFA in Canberra for her PhD research on coral reef sediment dynamics.

## Popular Kiwi writer’s latest book sets sail



**Popular Kiwi writer Apirana Taylor will launch his fifth volume of poetry next month.**

The collection, entitled *a canoe in midstream*, published by Canterbury University

Press, features much new work together with many old favourites including those oft-requested at the poet’s readings.

“The book seems much like a poet’s journey to me – the canoe of a poet in midstream. I am pleased with it and hope others will get something from my poems.”

Mr Taylor, whose verse has been described as “alternately raging and lyrical, dramatic and meditative, haka and haiku”, derives poetic inspiration from anything and everything.

“My work is always inspired by the world

around me, before and after me and within – anything from an ant to a mountain.”

Mr Taylor is a popular and acclaimed poet, short-story writer, novelist, playwright, actor, musician, painter and storyteller. He is of Māori and Pakeha descent, with proud affiliation to Ngati Porou, Te Whanua-a-Apanui and Ngati Ruanui.

His last collection of poetry, *te ata kura*, published in 2004, was Canterbury University Press’ first foray into publishing poetry, and featured work written during Taylor’s time as Ursula Bethell Writer in Residence at Canterbury University in 2002.

He is currently working on the final draft of a short novel, with another novel on the go and continues to write poetry as the mood takes him.

*a canoe in midstream* will be launched at Madras Café Books on Thursday 21 May.

- *a canoe in midstream*, by Apirana Taylor, published by Canterbury University Press, April 2009, RRP NZ\$25, Paperback, 168 pp, ISBN 978-1-877257-79-7.

## New library lift



(From left to right) Anne Ussher (Facilities Management), Steve Russell (Disability Resource Service) and Joan Simpson (Library) check out the new lift in the James Hight Building. The lift is located on Level 1, adjacent to Security, and is able to be accessed through new automatic opening doors. It will provide easy access for all users between Levels 1 and 2 of the James Hight Building, but was commissioned especially for users with either temporary or permanent disabilities.

# UC composer offers homage to Gallipoli

Sounds recorded during visits to Anzac commemorations at Gallipoli feature in a new CD project by University of Canterbury composer Dr Chris Cree Brown.

*Pilgrimage to Gallipoli*, to be launched this month, was conceived when Dr Cree Brown visited Anzac Cove during sabbatical leaves in 1994 and 2001.

“Amongst the sounds I recorded were the ceremonies, prayers, hymns, brass bands, some Turkish pop music, the sea lapping at Anzac Cove, national anthems, bugles, *The Last Post* and the muezzin’s call to prayers.

“In addition to this material, I recorded other participants’ thoughts on the ceremonies and the campaign, both in interviews and as part of informal conversations.

“I also recorded a guide as he took a group of us around the battlefields. Perhaps one of the most poignant sounds is that of a rather drunk Turkish man singing *Çanakkale*, a Turkish folk song about the Gallipoli campaign.”

Back in New Zealand, Dr Cree Brown added other sonic material including a 1957 recording of the Mt Eden Prison choir singing the hymn of the Māori Battalion – *Au e Ihu titohia*, (*Look on me in Thy compassion*).

“I also made many field recordings such as those of the sounds of guns, flies buzzing, digging and so on.”

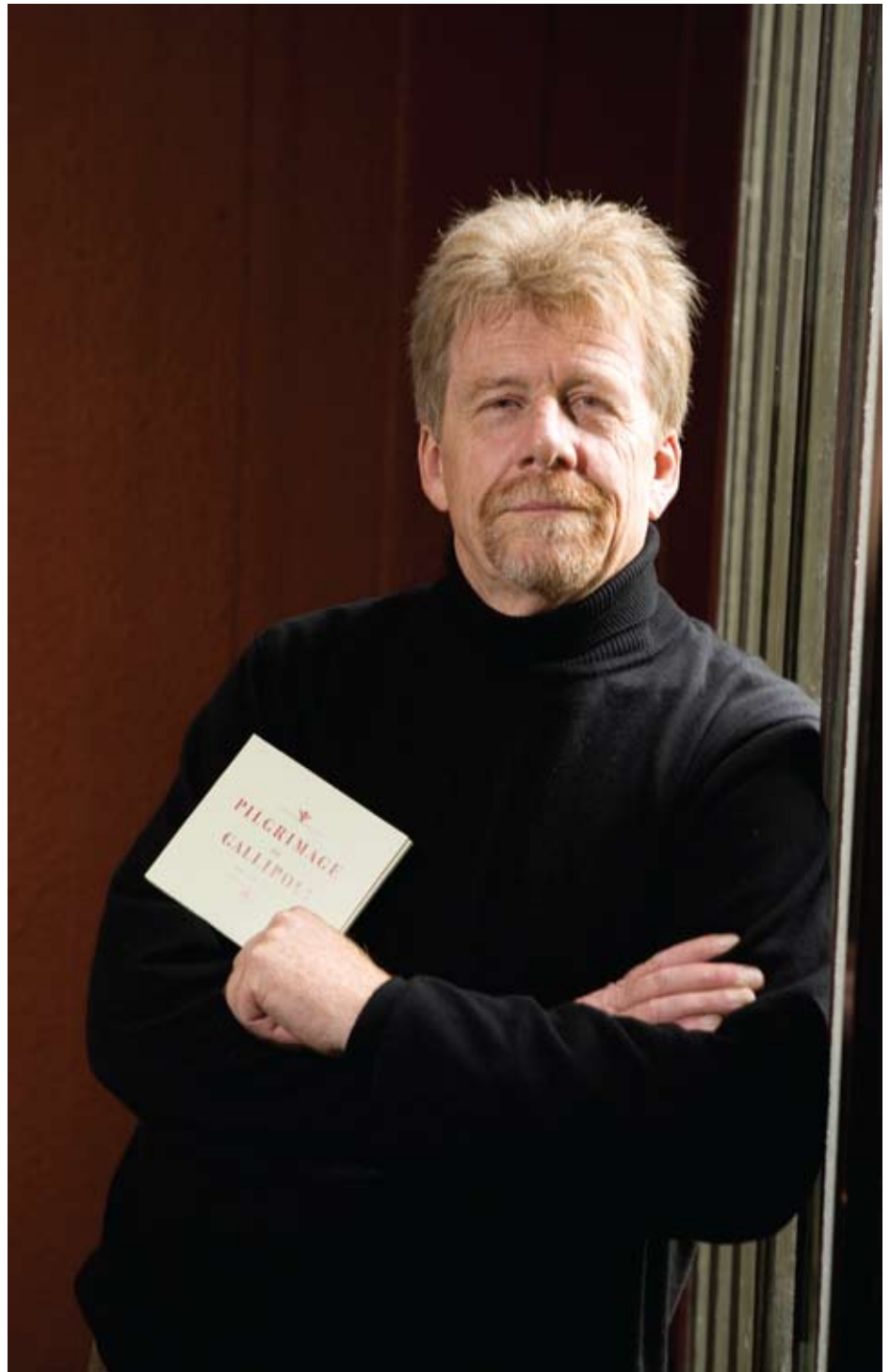
Although Dr Cree Brown worked on the piece sporadically during the past 14 years, it was not until further sabbatical leave in 2008 that he had the “required space and time” essential for compiling the work.

“I worked on this piece for the majority of my leave, and the result is an extensive work – 1 hour and 15 minutes – in two parts titled *Pilgrimage to Gallipoli*.”

Dr Cree Brown said he was thrilled with the result and was fortunate to have Aaron Beehre (Fine Arts) design the CD cover. Composer Associate Professor Jack Body of the New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University wrote the preface to the CD.

The Christchurch public will have an opportunity to hear the work at its premiere on 26 April at The Palms’ Reading Cinemas.

“Choosing a movie theatre to present a solely sonic work is taking a bit of a risk, and it will be interesting to see if it works or not. The reason why I chose the movie theatre is that it has a wonderful sound system and there are



Composer Dr Chris Cree Brown with his latest CD, *Pilgrimage to Gallipoli*.

comfortable seats. Since there is quite a lot of material that includes spoken words, many traditional venues, such as the Great Hall, are too resonant and the words get lost.”

Dr Cree Brown said the performance would be kept simple, with the image from the back of

the CD case being the only one shown on the big screen. In keeping with the ANZAC theme, a lone bugle will play *The Last Post*.

*Pilgrimage to Gallipoli* will premiere at 3pm, Sunday 26 April at Theatre 6, Reading Cinemas, The Palms, Shirley.

