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*Chronicle*

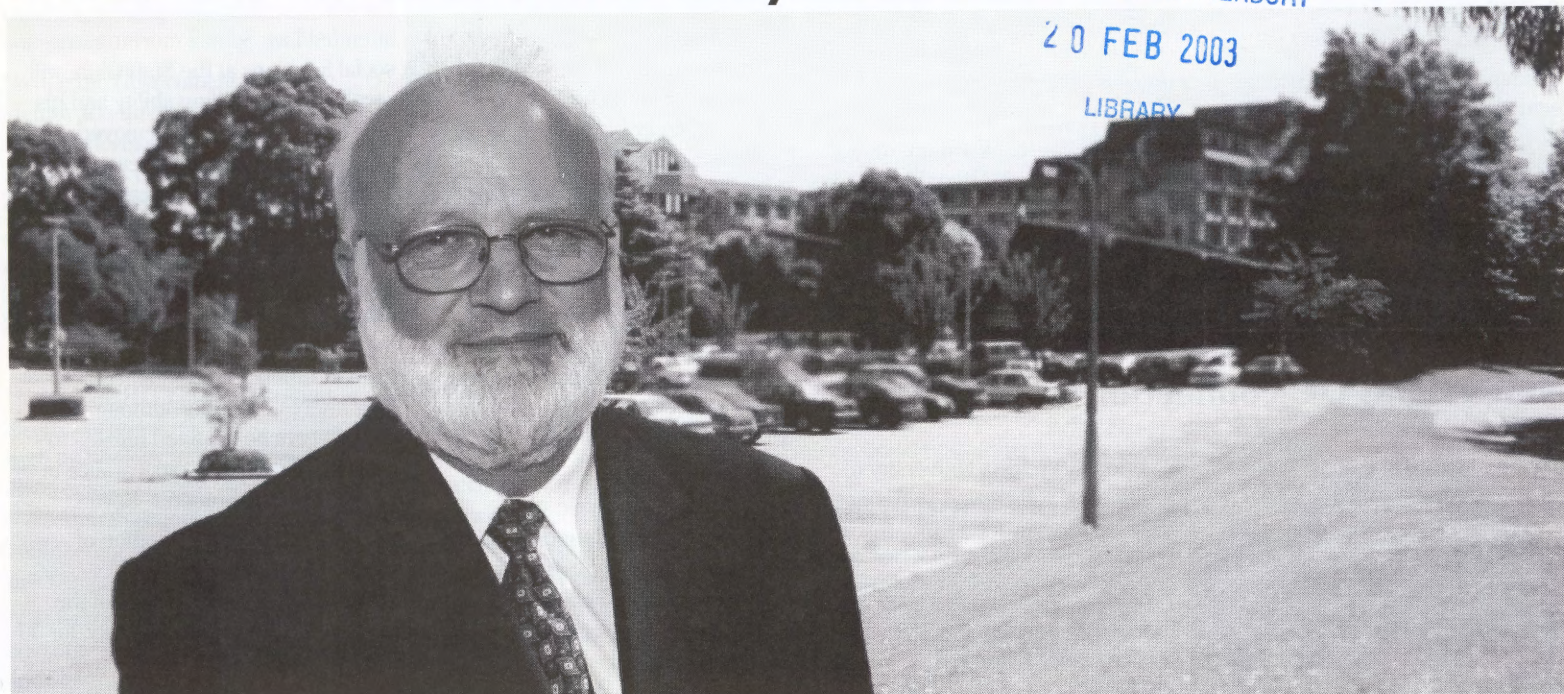
# Chronicle

University of Canterbury • Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

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-  Major Government grant for HIT Lab.
-  New book delves into French astronomer's life.
-  Children of gamblers focus of study.
-  Tribute to Gerry Orchard.

## New VC has Canterbury connections



Photos by Duncan Shaw-Brown, C&D

Feeling right at home on campus is Professor Roy Sharp, Canterbury's Vice-Chancellor-designate.

**V**ice-Chancellor-designate Professor Roy Sharp knows the University of Canterbury well through his engineering background and family alumni links.

Two of his immediate family are Canterbury alumni. His wife Beverley (nee Davison) is a botany graduate and Bishop Julius Hostel alumna and one of his three children, Stephen, is a political science graduate.

A long-serving member of Auckland University's engineering faculty, Professor Sharp has been visiting the campus since the 1970s, principally the Mechanical and Chemical and Process Engineering Departments, and has had extensive interaction with Canterbury's engineering staff. "I know more about the University of Canterbury than any other New

Zealand university, apart from the two I've worked at," he says.

During the course of his many visits, he has developed an affection for Christchurch that has extended to family holidays in the city.

His engineering connections and an 11-month stint on the Vice-Chancellors' Committee, coupled with the briefings and fact-finding that were part of the VC appointment process, ensure he is familiar with Canterbury's situation and takes on the job with eyes wide open.

"I'm aware of the challenges that have to be faced and I'm looking forward to working with staff to resolve them," he says.

He plans to win the support of staff through good communications and transparent decision-making and allocation of resources.

Running a university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a complex job exacerbated by increasing compliance and reporting requirements and compounded by inadequate Government funding.

Within that context, Professor Sharp's management style is to achieve efficiency by keeping administration to the necessary minimum and by limiting bureaucracy.

He says a major role for the Vice-Chancellor, along with other senior staff, is to develop and maintain strong links with the local community, and to continue to pressure Government for increased funding.

Staff recruitment difficulties are a sign that New Zealand universities are suffering the effects of the

systematic per-student funding cuts of the 1990s, he says.

Professor Sharp's career has been one of ever-southward movements, with Christchurch as the southernmost limit.

Born 56 years ago in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England's north-east, he moved to Oxford for his university education, gaining Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in the science

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## Tribute to Gerry Orchard

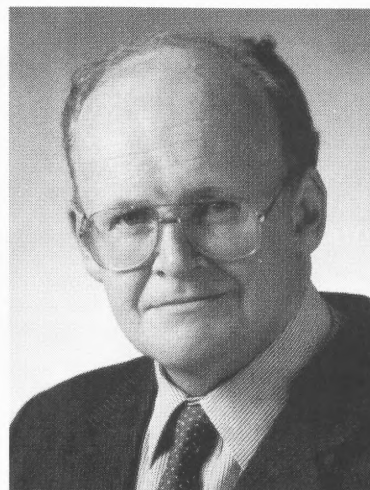
**G**erry Orchard graduated LLB from the University of Canterbury in 1967. He was a brilliant student, and won the Canterbury District Law Society's Gold Medal for the best graduate of his year. He proceeded to take a LLM with first class honours, and in 1968 was awarded a coveted Commonwealth Scholarship to the United Kingdom where he completed a PhD at Nottingham. Canterbury was fortunate to get him back: in 1972 he was appointed to a lectureship in the Law Faculty. He rose rapidly through the ranks, and was appointed to a Chair in 1982.

Although at various times he lectured in administrative law and the conflict of laws, it was in criminal law and evidence law that he made his reputation. Gerry was unquestionably one of the finest legal minds of his generation. His scholarship was profound. His writing was marked by an

encyclopedic knowledge and attention to detail, yet also by clear argument. His contribution to *Adams* on criminal law, the leading text on the subject, was enormous, and his chapter on homicide in Simester and Brookbanks' *Criminal Law* text has been described as "magisterial". There were also many articles.

He was renowned as a lecturer. He had the two essential attributes – comprehensive knowledge of his subject and an enthusiasm for it. When those attributes were coupled with Gerry's sense of humour and acting ability, you had a potent recipe. When they heard of his retirement, many students, past and present, sent messages saying how much they had enjoyed his classes.

He did more than his share of administration. He was dean of the Law Faculty for 13 years from 1989 to 2001, and head of the department of Law from 1989 to 1994. He was a student-focused dean – his door was always open, and students with



Gerry Orchard

problems were welcome to see him at any time. He would spend as much time as it took to help them. The most touching of the letters he received on his retirement were from students who recalled his kindness to them in times of trouble. His humanity and constructive assistance benefited many. As a head of department he was no autocrat: he led by example, and was a friend and colleague, always ready with wise advice.

He served on Academic Administration Committee for 13 years, was an academic staff representative on Council for eight years, and a long-time member of Academic Board. Fellow members remember him as a person who spoke only when he had something important to say. He timed his interventions to perfection, and they were always marked by common sense and wisdom. On many occasions he was able to defuse an impasse, or change the course of a meeting which was heading down the wrong track. He could be impatient with unnecessary bureaucracy: he was a man who went straight to the heart of the matter, and who believed in substance rather than form.

He contributed much to the legal community outside the University, and in so doing increased Canterbury's reputation. He made significant contributions to law reform and was a member of the Government's Criminal Law Reform Committee, and an adviser to the Law Commission. The recent legislation on bail bears his imprint, and he made a very significant contribution to the Law

Commission's Draft Evidence Code. A former president of the Commission described him as a "national treasure".

He did some practise at the Bar, and appeared in some particularly difficult – and well-known – cases. He contributed to New Zealand Law Society seminars on criminal law, and to its annual Litigation Skills programme. He was known by legal practitioners for the same kindness and generosity he showed his students, often helping them in their preparation of cases with no expectation of payment.

He was great fun. Those who attended Law School morning teas, or social functions at the Staff Club, will recall his story-telling ability and his nice turn of phrase. He enjoyed nothing more than light-hearted conversation with friends and colleagues. He was knowledgeable on sport – in particular rugby, cricket and horse-racing – and always had an opinion on what needed to be done to improve the performance of some team or other. He maintained a life-long interest in acting, although in recent years he confined himself to the occasional cameo appearance in the Annual Law Students' Revue.

Gerry had a rare combination of ability, wisdom, kindness and humility. He was a mainstay of the Law Faculty, and the University, for 30 years. The place will change now that he has gone.

Professor John Burrows (Law)



## New VC has UC connections – continued

◁ p.1

and engineering of metals. While studying at Oxford he met and married his New Zealand-born wife.

He then moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in a research role to work on the solidification of alloys. After 18 months there, a lecturing position in metals engineering at Auckland University was advertised and he applied, attracted by the opportunity to work in New Zealand.

Thirty years ago this month he started at Auckland, rising from lecturer to senior lecturer and associate professor before being appointed Professor of Materials Engineering in 1990. His professional affiliations include Fellowship of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand.

His move into administration in 1992, as Dean of Engineering at Auckland, was a deliberate choice and he rose to be Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Chair of the Deans' Committee and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

He moved south again in 1997 to take up the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

position at Victoria University of Wellington and served as Acting Vice-Chancellor for 11 months in 2000.

Professor Sharp has also had extensive experience in the wider tertiary field. He was: a member of the NZVCC's working party that negotiated with the Qualifications Authority on degrees and the Qualifications Framework; lead expert and author of the engineering section of the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology's Knowledge-Base Survey; author of the NZVCC publication, *The way forward for Universities and the Tertiary Education Review*; a Director of Auckland's UniServices Ltd and Victoria Link Ltd; a member of Victoria's University Council; and a member of the University of the South Pacific's University Grants Committee.

Professor Sharp takes up his appointment on 1 March and a welcome is scheduled for Monday 3 March.



## Chronicle

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# Major Government grant announced for HIT Lab NZ

A grant of \$500,000 for the Human Interface Technology Lab (HIT Lab NZ) based at Canterbury was announced by the Minister of Economic Development Hon Jim Anderton at the official launch of the lab on Monday.

Mr Anderton said the HIT Lab New Zealand project was an ideal example of the kind of innovative technology New Zealand needed to foster if the country was going to be in the forefront of global economics.

"It is a milestone in terms of the development of high-technology capability among New Zealand businesses.

"When the Government came to identify the three industries most likely to develop innovative technologies that can help the development of all the sectors in our economy, information and communication technology was an obvious choice alongside biotechnology and the creative industries."

He said the HIT Lab was creating strong partnerships with companies in high technology industries such as electronics, software, telecommunications, medical engineering and light electro mechanical engineering.

"Canterbury already has a strong advantage in information technology and electronics, and these partnerships have the potential to create many jobs and build growing businesses with spin off companies as a result."

He thanked Professor Tom Furness, director of HIT Lab US, and Dr Mark Billingham, director of HIT Lab NZ, "for their belief in the potential of this project and their faith and commitment in turning it into a reality".

"To capture the full benefits of this development, additional investment is required now. I am, therefore, pleased to announce a grant of \$500,000 to HIT Lab New Zealand from Industry New Zealand's Strategic Investment Fund."

Several world-leading researchers and representatives from prominent organisations around the globe attended the launch that drew more than 150 guests. Professor Furness, Dr Billingham, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Kirk, and



Photo by Durcan Shaw-Brown, C&D

Economic Development Minister Jim Anderton congratulates Dr Mark Billingham on the opening of the Hit Lab.

the Chief Executive Officer of the Canterbury Development Corporation, Mr Chris Pickrill, also spoke.

High profile international guests included representatives from Eastman Kodak, Battelle (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory); Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore; National University of Singapore; University of South Australia; University of Osaka and Technical University of Vienna.

The opening was followed by HIT Lab's inaugural two-day consortium meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday.

HIT Lab NZ is a human-computer interface research centre based on campus and is a joint venture between the University, the Canterbury Development Corporation and the University of Washington.

Working in collaboration with industry, the Lab is developing revolutionary interfaces to transform the way people think and work with computers.

The HIT Lab NZ consortium currently has six member-companies: Allied Telesyn Research Ltd, Trimble Navigation Ltd, Jade Software Corporation Ltd, Effusion, Mobile Surgical Services and Applied Research Associates New Zealand (ARANZ). Many large multinational companies such as Microsoft,

Eastman Kodak and Boeing make up the 48-strong HIT Lab US Consortium.

The consortia are a flagship for collaboration between local and international researchers, universities

and organisations. When companies join one of the consortia they automatically become a member of both.

The HIT Lab will hold an open house today, Thursday 20 February, from 4pm - 7pm.



## Canterbury alumna takes over *Chronicle*

Canterbury alumna Jeanette Colman has taken up the role of Editor in the Communications and Development Department, overseeing a range of publications that includes the *Chronicle*.

Ms Colman graduated with a BA in 1984, majoring in history and political science and winning a Senior Scholarship. She then completed the postgraduate Diploma in Journalism with distinction, winning the Robert Bell Scholarship for 1985.

She has had 15 years journalism experience, working for the Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune and the South London Guardian before returning to New Zealand as Managing Editor of FPG Research's *Financial Alert*.

For the past six years Ms Colman has had her own desk-top publishing business, key words ltd, writing, designing and editing *Adviser* magazine, published by the Financial Planners and Insurance Advisers Association.

Since October 2001 she has also undertaken contract desk-top



Photo by Durcan Shaw-Brown, C&D

Jeanette Colman

publishing for the Christchurch College of Education, editing and publishing a range of course texts and study guides.

Ms Colman will produce the *Chronicle*, *UC Research*, *UC Teaching*, *Student Guide*, a number of other student-focused publications, and help with other communications work.

She is located in Room 525 of the Registry and can be contacted on 364-2260.

# Wandering and wondering at SOFA

The artist, I budd, and et al. collective are behind *The Wanderer Project Part II*, the latest show at the SOFA (School of Fine Arts) Gallery, Christchurch Arts Centre, which opened in December and runs until 16 March.

The starting point for *The Wanderer Project* was a question that arises when looking critically at one of world's largest industries: the impact of tourism and its offer of pre-packaged experience. Is there now in the world free space for wandering and, if so, how could artists represent this space?

With this question in mind, two artists who have produced bodies of work influenced by a spectrum of conceptual and scientific interests, were invited to develop new exhibition projects.

In the first part of the project, Brooklyn-based artist Mike Tyler came to New Zealand and produced a body of new works that played around the physical and mental experience of two landscape types. Sceneries of, respectively, Fox Glacier and the Cascade Mine, functioned as backdrops for two large photo-works. Themes examined included the way nature is now managed, protected and tamed against exploitation, running

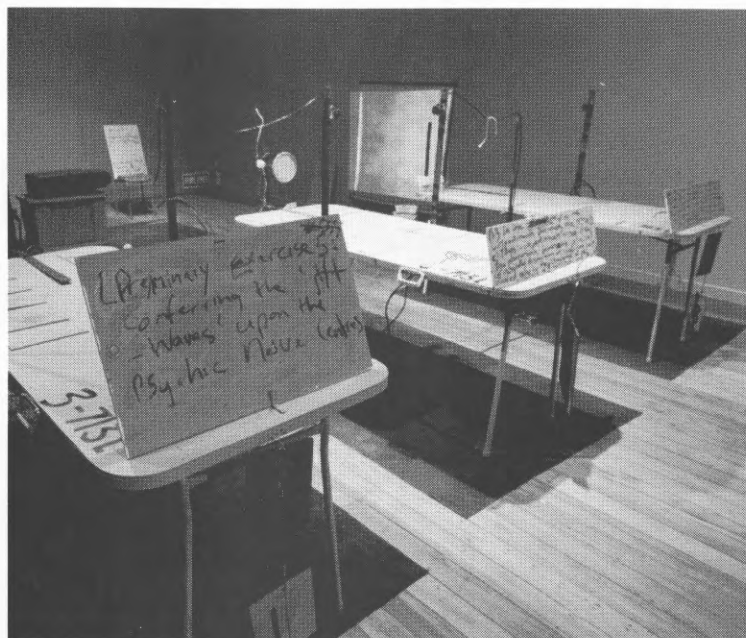


Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, C&D

Take a wander through SOFA's latest thought-provoking exhibition.

counter to the old understanding of nature as a savage force.

In the second part, wandering through nature becomes wandering through the mind. Artist I budd is reluctant to reveal more explanation of the video/computer installation other than that it is like a re-programming or re-structuring system for the mind.

SOFA Gallery co-ordinator Robert Hood says the exhibition is drawing intense interest, with comments indicating gallery visitors are

finding it Orwellian in the "1984" tradition.

"It's an exhibition people should visit without too much prior knowledge . . . it is a substantial work that is hard hitting and demands attention," he said.

- *The Wanderer Project Part II: Serial Reform\_713L et al.* SOFA Gallery, Christchurch Arts Centre, until 16 March. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 12noon-4pm.



## Staff accept pay offer

The University has settled its salary negotiations with staff members in the academic, general, maintenance, and cleaners collectives. The staff members covered by the collective employment agreements voted on Monday by majority (on average by 75% to 25%) to accept a pay increase of 2.8%

Director of Human Resources Professor Bruce Jamieson said the University was very pleased that settlement had been reached and that there had been no disruption to student enrolment.

"We can now look forward to moving ahead," he said.

The salary settlement is back-dated to 1 January 2003.

## New appointment



**Dr Andrew Bainbridge-Smith** has returned to Canterbury as a lecturer in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr Bainbridge-Smith was here on a fixed-term lectureship from November 1997 to January 2000. Since March 2000 he held the post of senior research scientist with CSIRO Australia, working on software development and research into real-time high-speed computing for machine vision systems. Dr Bainbridge-Smith has a PhD from the University of Tasmania.

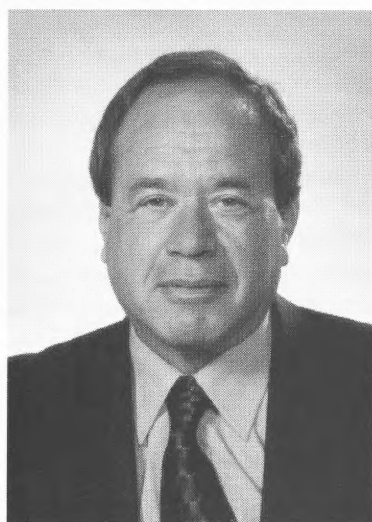
## Professor Bercovitch elected to top international body

**Professor Jacob Bercovitch (Political Science) has been elected to one of the leading roles in the top international organisation in the field of international relations.**

He will be one of three Vice Presidents of the International Studies Association, a USA-based organisation founded in 1959 which is the largest and considered the most prestigious and widely known professional organisation in the field.

It has nearly 5,000 members from 163 countries and holds non-governmental status with the United Nations.

Dr Bercovitch said the Association provided channels of communication between the academic and policy making communities.



Professor Jacob Bercovitch

"As well as holding a major annual convention and a series of regional conferences each year, it also publishes the three most respected journals in international relations,

promotes the professional development of young scholars, commissions monographs which it publishes with Cambridge University Press, and encourages the recruitment of more young people into the profession," he said.

"My position will allow me to enhance the profile of the University and work towards holding one of the regional conferences in New Zealand. It will be a unique networking opportunity and I'm sure it will encourage overseas scholars to come here."

Professor Bercovitch returned last year from a sabbatical leave which he spent as Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

## New book delves into French astronomer's life and work

**A University of Canterbury astronomer's 17-year fascination with the life of Léon Foucault, whose name is immortalised in Foucault's Pendulum, has resulted in books in both French and English on the life of the French physicist.**

Dr William Tobin's interest in Foucault, who lived between 1819 and 1868, began in 1985 when he took a job at the Marseilles Observatory where Foucault's largest telescope is displayed. Dr Tobin (Physics and Astronomy), who speaks and reads French, started reading about Foucault's life and collecting historic newspapers and other documents.

Foucault is best known for his pendulum which caused a sensation when it was put on display in 1851. It was the first non-astronomical proof that, while the stars appeared to spin around the earth, the reverse was true – it was the earth that was spinning.

Less well known is Foucault's other work. In 1852 he built a gyroscope which, because it was so beautifully and precisely engineered, showed even more

palpably that the earth was rotating. Gyroscopes, which still bear the name Foucault gave his device, were of immense practical importance in navigation for most of the 20th century.

Foucault also invented a way of making optically perfect surfaces. Until then polishing lenses and mirrors was a hit-and-miss process and telescopes were restricted to desktop sizes. Foucault's method allowed polishing to an accuracy of less than one thousandth of a millimetre and the development of large telescopes.

Foucault was also the first to measure the relative speed of light in air and water and conclusively end the long-standing debate about whether light behaved as waves or particles.

As well as outlining Foucault's research, Dr Tobin's book describes his life which was often controversial. Foucault had a regular column in the *Journal des Débats* in which he critiqued other researcher's work and described, amongst other things, his opposition to white bread, processed food, cutting down forests and ecological devastation.



Photo by Duncan Snow-Brown, C&D

Shedding light on a famous French astronomer is Dr William Tobin.

"I'm astounded by the modernity of his outlook," Dr Tobin says. "I wanted to write a book that was popular but academically sound. I wanted to explain the physics, not just the controversy.

"Foucault was no mathematician but his science is classical, and is often easy to quantify. He had a cast-iron attraction to logic and rationality. In the book, teachers of introductory physics will find beautiful examples

to enliven their classes," Dr Tobin added.

The French version of the book, *Leon Foucault: Le miroir et le pendule* was published last October in time for an exhibition on Foucault's life at the Paris Observatory. The English version, *The life and times of Leon Foucault: the man who proved the earth rotates*, is due for release by Cambridge University Press this year.

Lynette Hartley

## Visiting American professor keen to learn about NZ education model

**Studying the world-renowned New Zealand education model is the focus of a visit by an American professor, who is a visiting fellow at the Education Department this term.**

A faculty member at the University of Michigan, Professor Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar is a teacher-educator who specialises in research into children's literacy.

"I was very fortunate to receive a Canterbury visiting fellowship, so I'll be here for six weeks during which I'll have the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet with some of the faculty at Canterbury and also do some guest lecturing," she said.

"I'm particularly interested in children who are struggling with reading and writing. I'm interested in how children can learn about literacy in challenging instructional contexts; much of my recent research has looked at how children use reading,



Professor Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar

writing and oral language when they're doing guided science instruction."

Focussing on kindergarten to year 5, Professor Palincsar said she hoped to take lessons from the New Zealand system home to the United States, as well as sharing American ideas here.

"New Zealand has a very fine educational system, so I'm here to

learn as much as I can about how teachers are educated here, how teachers are supported in the schools, how curriculum choices are made and how assessment occurs. It's interesting the different perspective on assessment. There's very little emphasis on formal assessment, in contrast to US classrooms, so it's intriguing for me to learn how the progress of children is monitored and how teachers accommodate diverse learners in New Zealand classrooms.

"I think that New Zealand is perhaps challenged in the same way as the US is to accommodate the diversity of students that come to its schools; youngsters who have English as a second language for example. There's an increasing population of children in the US for whom that is the case and I think the challenge for all educators is how to meet the needs of diverse children."

She said another similarity between the American and New Zealand educational models was in the progressive nature of each country's educational theory. "I think that there's an emphasis across both countries on ambitious instruction and pedagogy."

Professor Palincsar said she hoped to broaden her view of educational theory during her time in New Zealand.

"I'm very interested in the New Zealand theories about the role of culture in education, and I really hope to learn much more about that.

"Sometimes it's very easy to become very narrow in one's view of the scope of research and scholarship in education and so this is an opportunity to really learn about theories that I might not have access to in the US."

Contact Professor Palincsar at [annemarie@umich.edu](mailto:annemarie@umich.edu) or at room 522 in the Education Department.

Matthew Appleby

## Taking the frustration out of the web

**T**he way millions of people navigate the internet could change thanks to a simple click of the button.

Dr Andy Cockburn, senior lecturer in Computer Science at the University of Canterbury, is part of a team which has been looking at how to make the traditional web browser more efficient.

Web page revisitation is one of the most frequent actions in computer use. Dr Cockburn said browsing is very repetitive in nature with on average 80% of pages having been visited before. Traditional "back" buttons use a stacking system that record only index pages – parent homepages – and this can lead to frustration as recently visited pages often disappear.

"It is that tiny bit of frustration we are trying to eliminate. The pay-off is enormous. A small improvement can have a very large effect."

Dr Cockburn has developed a prototype called Webview. It is a

"temporal" browser that helps people navigate by producing a list of thumb-size images of sites they have previously visited. The miniatures visually aid the user in finding and returning to the desired page.

Trials show advantages and disadvantages with the new browser. It worked well at navigating between distant pages but was less effective at backtracking to index pages. "Our evaluations show that it can be very efficient if the menus under the back button are used."

The issue of thumbnails was raised with Microsoft back in 1999. Dr Cockburn said that as the intellectual property is in the public domain he expects the software giant will produce its own version for inclusion in a future release of Internet Explorer.

Dr Cockburn plans further tests of Webview with the aim of making a more robust version.

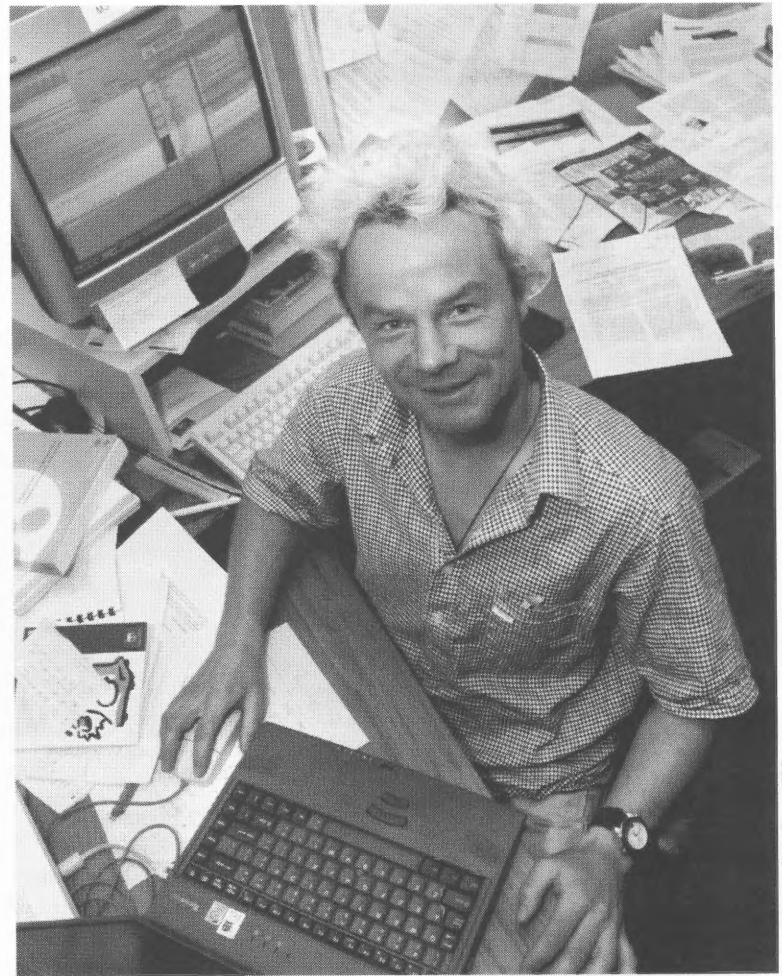
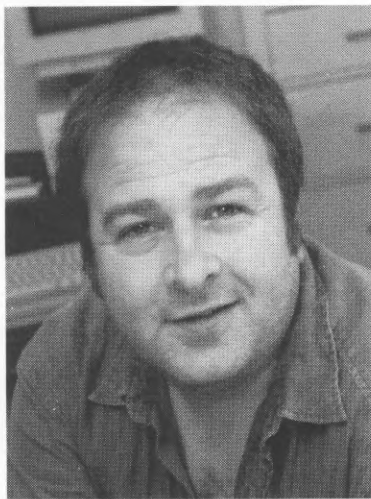


Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, C&D

It's back to the future for Dr Andy Cockburn.

## Canterbury welcomes new lecturers



**Dr Simon Cross** has been appointed lecturer in Mass Communications and Journalism. Dr Cross comes to Canterbury from the University of Leicester where, since 1999, he has been lecturing in communications. He has a PhD (2000) from the University of Loughborough. His doctorate was entitled: *Mediating Madness: mental illness and public disclosure in current affairs television*.



**Dr Ida Toivonen** began as lecturer in Linguistics on January 20. Born in Finland, Dr Toivonen gained a BA Summa Cum Laude from Brandeis University (1995) and in 2001 received her PhD from Stanford University. She was a visiting assistant professor, Department of Linguistics, at the University of Rochester in 2001/2. Her research interests include language acquisition, historical linguistics and Finno-Ugric linguistics.

## peoplepeoplepeoplepeoplepeoplepeople

The following positions have been accepted: **Nybya Dando**, co-ordinator/Spanish teacher, French/German, from 20/1/03 to 4/7/03; **Dr Shane Gooch**, lecturer, Mechanical Engineering, from 6/1/03; **Carolyn Morris**, lecturer (fixed term), Sociology and Anthropology, from 1/2/03; **Dr Tiina Vares**, lecturer (fixed term), Gender Studies, from 8/1/03 to 7/1/04; **Barbara Albertson**, information clerk/typist (part-time), Student Administrative Services, from 3/2/03; **Aron Anderson**, information clerk/typist (part-time), Student Administrative Services, from 3/2/03 (was fixed term); **Paul Bealing**, technician, Gateway Antarctica, from 13/1/03 (was fixed term); **Lisa Begg**, teacher of English language and study skills, Foundation Studies, Continuing Education, from 5/2/03; **Brenda Blease**, administrator, Writing Assessment Programme (fixed term), Student Services, from 27/1/03 to 25/7/03; **Jo Cederman**, computer training consultant, Organisational Development (HR), from 27/1/03 (was fixed term); **Ho Fung (Percy) Chan**, international enquiries assistant (fixed term), International Office, from 17/2/03 to 31/12/03; **Catherine Chidgey**, Ursula Bethell Writer in Residence (fixed term), English, from 1/2/03; **Megan Clayton**, teacher of arts and New Zealand studies, Foundation Studies, Centre for Continuing Education, from 5/2/03; **Suzanne De Joux**, administrative assistant (fixed term), International Office, from 17/2/03 to 31/12/03; **Michael Drummond**, teacher of commerce and mathematics, Foundation Studies, Centre for Continuing Education, from 3/1/03; **Kristi DuBois**, teacher of English language and study skills (fixed term), Continuing Education, from 6/2/03 to 6/2/04; **Kevin Garlick**, customer services assistant (fixed term), Design and Print Services, from 13/1/03 to 31/3/03.

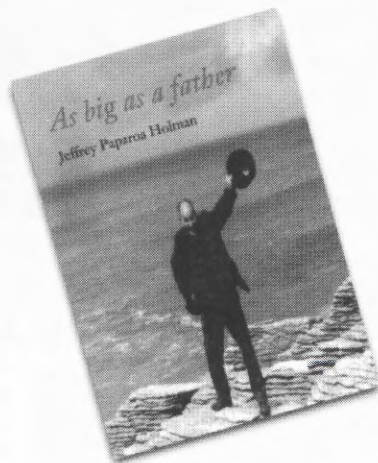
## New poetry volume entered in Montana awards

**A new volume of poetry by Christchurch writer and doctoral student Jeffrey Paparoa Holman introduces poems of exile and yearning, identity and belonging. *As Big as a Father* is published by Steele Roberts Publishers of Wellington, and has been entered in the 2003 Montana Book Awards.**

Holman is an Honours graduate in English, with a Graduate Diploma of Arts in Māori. His doctoral studies are based in the Māori Department where he is researching the intellectual and cultural influences on the ethnologist, Elsdon Best.

*As Big as my Father* is divided into a prologue and three main sections. They are: Exile – Te Manawa (the heart), poems that look at personal issues of loss and alienation, and Te Whenua (the land), looking at the country from outside and the past from the present; Papatipu (homeland) – Te Tai Poutini, the West Coast, and tangata whenua, people of the land, poems for and about people in Holman's life; E Hine E – waiata aroha or love poems.

The title poem, which won the Whitireia Prize in 1997 and later featured in the Edmond and Sewell anthology, *Essential New*



*Zealand Poems* (2001), addresses Holman's relationship with an absent father figure.

Of Holman's earlier *Flood Damage* (1998), Witi Ihimaera wrote, "*Flood Damage* mixes formal structures with passionate content, politics with aesthetics. It's a blast". Professor Patrick Evans (Canterbury's English Department) commented that

Holman was a "strong, clear, highly individualistic voice that has nevertheless come right out of our Great Tradition".

Publisher Roger Steele describes Holman's poetry as full of the compressed fragments of a rich autobiography, and sees it as already "a permanent part of the landscape".

Holman said he was delighted to have the support of one of New Zealand's leading poetry publishers. "Steele Roberts had also published Jacqui Sturm, Hone Tuwhare, and other Māori writers. Now, with Pākehā such as Glenn Colquhoun and myself addressing ourselves to taha Māori in our writing, another literary marae is opening up before the Treaty House we call Aotearoa."

Holman's fiction and poetry has also been published in a variety of NZ and UK periodicals.

- *As Big as a Father* by Jeffrey Paparoa Holman: 68pp, colour cover, ISBN 1-877228-84-2, \$19.95



## peoplepeoplepeople

The following positions have been accepted: **Sue Hicks-Mason**, teacher of commerce subjects, Foundation Studies, Centre for Continuing Education, from 4/2/03; **Ngairé Jehle-Caitcheon**, Academic Writing Assessment and Teaching Programme study skills tutor (fixed term), Student Services, from 3/2/03 to 28/11/03; **Belinda Jemmett**, secretary, Electrical and Computer Engineering, from 17/2/03; **Derham Mcaven**, teacher of accounting and computer skills, Foundation Studies, Centre for Continuing Education, from 17/2/03; **Colin McKinney**, teacher of English language and study skills, Foundation Studies, Centre for Continuing Education, from 05/2/03; **Shirley Roberts**, programme co-ordinator, Continuing Education, from 3/2/03 to 28/11/03; **Matthew S Turnbull**, technical assistant (fixed term), PAMS, from 13/1/03 to 2/1/05; **Dr Jan Wikaira**, teacher of chemistry, Foundation Studies, Centre for Continuing Education, from 29/11/02.

## Children of problem gamblers focus of study

**A researcher at the University of Canterbury is wanting to interview children of problem gamblers for a study on the effects of their parent's gambling.**

Anthropologist Dr Susan Wurtzburg (Speech and Language Therapy) is collaborating with Dr Richard Tan, the Southern Regional Manager of the Problem Gambling Foundation, in two studies on problem gamblers in the Canterbury region.

One study is looking at the proportion of people visiting social service agencies who are problem gamblers. This study uses a simple test called EIGHT (Early Intervention Gambling Health Test) to identify problem gamblers. The second study is looking at the effect of an adult's gambling on their children.

Dr Wurtzburg, who has experience working at Women's Refuge, says

social services do not usually ask clients whether they have a gambling problem. This makes it difficult to work out the size of the problem.

"People are very reluctant to raise the subject. There is a lot of shame associated with problem gambling," she says.

The EIGHT form, which takes about a minute to fill out, asks questions such as "do you ever feel guilty after gambling" and "do you ever lie to others to hide your gambling". Studies elsewhere have shown the form is useful in identifying problem gamblers. The study started last April and eight to 10 social services and medical clinics are expected to participate. The University Student Health Service has already returned their forms. Preliminary results suggest there are very few problem gamblers visiting Student Health. This low level may, however, reflect



**Dr Susan Wurtzburg**

the fact that young people are optimists and may not see even quite serious gambling as a problem, Dr Wurtzburg says.

While a lot is known about the effects on children living with parents in abusive relationships or with alcohol problems, there has

been little research on the children of problem gamblers. The second study, which started last June sets to rectify this. It involves interviewing parents, children and children's teachers about the experiences of children living in a home with a problem gambler.

The researchers have interviewed 14 children from 10 families but Dr Wurtzburg is looking for more families who are willing to take part. She needs children aged between 11 and 17 who have a parent who admits they have a gambling problem. At least one child must live with that parent and the family must live in the Canterbury region.

To find out more about the study or to find out about participating, contact:

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Lynette Hartley

# Buddhist treasures rescued from Afghanistan

**A**ncient manuscripts smuggled out of Afghanistan are throwing new light on the development of Buddhism.

Helping make sense of the scripts is Professor Paul Harrison, head of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Last year Professor Harrison spent four months at the Centre for Advanced Study in Oslo as part of an international research group "Buddhist manuscripts in the Schøyen Collection".

The manuscripts – consisting of approximately 3000 fragments – were smuggled out of Afghanistan during the civil war ultimately finding their way to dealers in London. They were purchased by Norwegian millionaire Martin Schøyen who has made the collection available to scholars for the purpose of conservation, study and publication.

Spanning the second to the eighth century, the manuscripts have been likened to the Dead Sea Scrolls for their age and historical significance.



**Professor Paul Harrison**

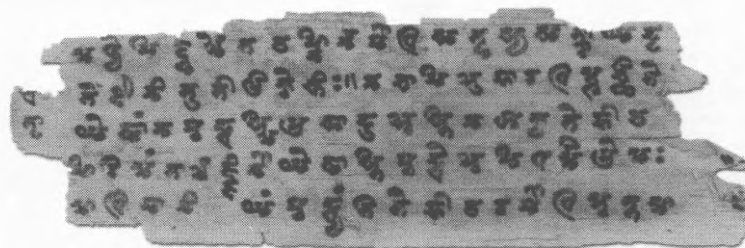
they should be returned to Afghanistan."

The manuscripts arrived in Norway in a completely unsorted state after 1400 years of total neglect. They are mainly written on birch bark which is extremely brittle and crumbles easily when touched. With the aid of a computer the fragments are pieced together like a jigsaw. "We scan each piece and, using Adobe Photoshop, manipulate the pieces to form a virtual image of what it would have looked like," explained Professor Harrison. "This has been an interesting discovery for me in that you can often read them better on computer than you can the real thing."

The texts, which are written in Sanskrit, are then translated and, where possible, compared with other versions already in existence. The manuscripts are a selection of texts from most of the genres found in Buddhist literature: Buddha's own words (Sutra) and the monks' rules of conduct (Vinaya), as well as poetical and narrative pieces and even a non-Buddhist philosophical treatise.

Found in one of the most important centres of Buddhist creativity – a key station on the Silk Road linking India and China to the west – the manuscripts are of great significance in the history of Buddhism.

"A lot of this material has not been known previously in Indian languages. A lot we've only had in Chinese or Tibetan translation, so



these are copies of the original, if you like," explained Professor Harrison. "In some cases this is the only surviving piece of the work and that makes it even more important."

The research group, headed by Professor Jens Braarvig of the Department of Culture Studies at the University of Oslo, has already published two volumes of reproductions and translations of the Buddhist manuscripts and work is currently under way on a third.

"The manuscripts are generating an enormous amount of interest in the hope, of course, that we will

gain new insight into the way Buddhism developed and, in particular, how its literature developed," said Professor Harrison.

"We have lost so much of it as the humid Indian climate is not good for the preservation of manuscripts. It is only from dry areas like Afghanistan that we can find these texts preserved. We are expecting to cast a great deal of light on how Buddhism developed and how the various schools of Buddhism developed their own set of scriptures."



It is believed the manuscripts stem from a monastery library built up by the Buddhist Mahasamghika sect. The library was probably destroyed during a Muslim invasion of Afghanistan in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The surviving fragments – preserved in the cold, dry climate of the high Afghan plains – were found in caves north of Bamiyan where in March 2001 the Taliban authorities blew up two 50-metre high Buddhist statues which were almost 2000 years old.

"We are immensely relieved that these manuscripts were not burned by the Taliban," said Professor Harrison. "We are happy that they were taken out of Afghanistan and removed to safe keeping although questions are being asked in Norway and elsewhere about who actually owns these and whether

## Enrolment week kicks off



Library staff Rose Sykes and Robert Low queue on the first day of enrolment. Both were signing up for Spanish 101 which is being offered for the first time this year.

Enrolment continues until Friday 7 March. Definitive EFTS numbers and tuition fee income will be available in March.