

Chronicle

University of Canterbury • Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

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Late breaking news

At yesterday's Council meeting, Dr Robin Mann was appointed chancellor for 2003 and John Simpson was elected pro-chancellor.

Also yesterday, Dr John Watson was named NBL Coach of the Year (see earlier story on p3).

Campus focus of electioneering and student debt protests

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Photos by Duncan Show-Brown, C&D

Politicians and protestors descended on the University of Canterbury on successive Fridays, July 19 and 26, as the election approached. Left, ACT MP Rodney Hide enjoys a conversation with the debt monster on the Central Library steps, while students protesting at more than \$5.1 billion of student debt (right) march along University Drive on their way to Riccarton.

Pilot funding exercise starts at Canterbury

The "first step" towards a radically new tertiary funding system – that's how Quality Assurance Facilitator Dr Bob Hall describes the pilot charter and profile exercise now under way.

Canterbury University is one of 58 tertiary education institutions invited to take part in the trial by the Transition Tertiary Education Commission. Five of the country's eight universities are involved, along with seven polytechnics, one wananga, two colleges of education, 35 private training establishments, six industry training organizations and three other tertiary education providers.

Dr Hall said participating in the pilot gave the University the inside running in terms of understanding the new funding regime and

enabled it to have input into the process.

"By the time it gets really serious, we'll have had a go at doing it," he said.

In the past, the University's government funding had been determined by annual statements of objectives spanning three-year periods. The draft *Statement of Objectives 2003-2005*, about to be sent out for comment around the University, might be the last such document. "This is the last requirement of the old system. The charter and profile exercise is the first step towards the new one."

According to TEC documents, the charter will be a high-level governance document that defines the organisation's broad strategy, as well as outlines its contribution

to the Tertiary Education Strategy, the wider tertiary education system and stakeholders. Reflecting this, the profile will describe the organisation's strategic direction, containing a description of the organisation's plans and activities for the next three years.

Dr Hall said both the charter and profile were intended to be succinct documents. While both would be produced on an annual basis, it was not expected that a charter would necessarily change much from year to year.

A steering group for the pilot charter and profile exercise has been set up by the Vice-Chancellor's Office, with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob Kirk in the chair. Other members are Dr Hall, Business and Finance Director Tom Gregg, Registrar Alan Hayward, and

Liz Henderson from the consultancy group HCIS.

Dr Hall said consultation with external stakeholders – local industry, community and commercial groups – had already begun. Internal consultation was about to begin, with input being sought from faculties (through the deans), academic departments, service departments, research centres, key University committees and other groups. Consultation with

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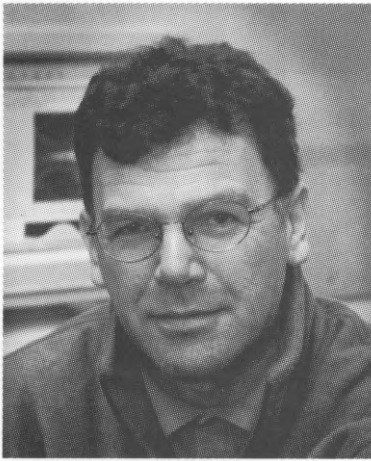
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Chair in Mech. Eng.



Professor Tim David, an international computational biofluid mechanics expert, took up the Chair in Mechanical Engineering on July 1.

Professor David comes to Canterbury from the University of Leeds. A specialist in computational fluid dynamics, he has investigated a variety of fluid dynamics and heat and mass transfer problems, especially in the area of biomedical engineering. His specific research area is the interaction of blood, both as a fluid and as a chemical environment, with prosthetic implants and natural diseases.

He is a chartered engineer and chartered mathematician and a fellow of both the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine. A member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, he is also a member of the editorial boards of *Medical Engineering and Physics* and *Computer Methods in Biomechanics and Biomedical Engineering*, of which he was guest editor for a special computational fluid dynamics edition. Currently he reviews research papers for nine international journals.

Professor David was an assistant scientific officer with the Ministry of Defence in the United Kingdom between 1976 and 1980. He began lecturing in the University of Leeds' Mechanical Engineering Department in 1986 and, since 1997, had been a senior lecturer there. He is a Leeds mathematics graduate, with BSc (Hons) (1983) and PhD (1987) degrees. His doctorate, entitled *Mathematical Models of Diffusion Flames*, was published as a book.

Voice provided for postgraduates

New UCSA Postgraduate Executive Assistant Kathryn Salm hopes to make a difference for Canterbury postgraduate students.

Ms Salm will provide a voice for postgraduates, liaison with the Postgraduate Students' Society and represent postgraduates on University committees. She is currently finishing a PhD in zoology.

The position came about because a survey indicated dissatisfaction with support and social services among postgraduate students.

Former Postgraduate Students' Society president Robert Ware and UCSA President Richard Neal then campaigned for the new position.

She said there were a number of issues facing postgrad students. "Postgrads form a funny gap

between undergraduate students and staff. I am trying to create a positive social and academic community as many postgraduate students are isolated. For instance, their friends have all finished studying and they have individual problems. Getting discussion groups going and contact with a strong community is very helpful.

"Many are feeling quite powerless. They are expected to write a thesis and do field-work, but don't get much help on how to go about it."

Ms Salm has been in the job for just two weeks but is excited about working with students and staff.

She is keen to get feedback from students and staff, and is available in the mornings on ext 3911.

Hamish Barwick

OD accredited to test and issue computer users' licences

Hey! Have you got a licence to drive that computer?

The International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) is a qualification recognised worldwide as proof of competency in using personal computers and common computer applications.

It is gained by passing a series of seven tests (each 45 minutes long) on various computer-related topics.

The University has recently become an accredited tester for the ICDL and Organisational Development (OD) launched this exciting venture to all staff on Wednesday, July 10. About 50 people turned up to the launch and took away 80 ICDL information packs to pass on to colleagues.

OD Manager Ginny Ferguson (Human Resources) began the launch with a brief overview of the ICDL. Arthur Kebbell, the Chief Executive of Computing NZ (a subsidiary of the NZ Computer Society), gave staff a presentation explaining the licence. This was followed by brief presentations from Canterbury's Associate Professor Mike Dewe, IT Director, and Associate Professor Bruce Jamieson, HR Director, who both endorsed and supported the ICDL at the University. Jo Cederman, OD

computer consultant, then explained to staff how to go about achieving the ICDL. Ms Ferguson was also pleased to announce that OD was offering two awards to general staff aligned with the Vice-Chancellor's General Staff Development Awards, valued at \$310 each. This covers the cost of registering for your ICDL and sitting all seven tests.

Since the launch, OD has been inundated with inquiries about the ICDL and requests for information packs. Several staff have already registered for their ICDL Skills Card.

If you would like further information, or to register for your ICDL, please contact Sarah Kedzlie (ext 7468, e-mail: s.kedzlie@regy.canterbury.ac.nz).

peoplepeoplepeople

The Whale and Dolphin Adoption Project has awarded **Dr Neil Gemmell** (Zoology) a Stephen Stemberge grant to undertake research on the development of a new tool to assess the physiological impacts of human activities on New Zealand fur seal colonies over short-time-scales.

Pilot starts – continued

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students would also be a necessary part of this process.

The key framework for all of this was the University's performance against the six national strategic objectives listed in the Government's Tertiary Education Strategy. Activities needed to:

- Strengthen system capability and quality;
- Contribute to the achievement of Māori development aspirations;
- Raise foundation skills so all people can participate in the knowledge society;
- Develop the skills New Zealanders need for the knowledge society;
- Educate for Pacific peoples' inclusion and development; and
- Strengthen research, knowledge creation and uptake for the knowledge society.

The planning group intended the consultation and data-gathering process to be simple, understandable, inclusive, straightforward, not too demanding and easily achievable, and had set an August 30 deadline for completion, Dr Hall said.

The deadline for completing the trial is the end of October 2002. TEC will then provide feedback on the trial by the end of January 2003.



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Editor: Paul Gorman
Ext 6260 or 364 2260

Deputy Editor:

Deb Parker
Ext 6910 or 364 2910

Sub-editor: Col Pearson

Artwork: Marcus Thomas

Distribution: Kate Frew
Design and Print Services

E-mail: p.gorman@regy.canterbury.ac.nz

Fax: Ext 6679 or 364 2679

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

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Expanded Summer Programme to be offered this year

Planning for the biggest and most popular Summer Programme ever offered at the University is under way at the Centre for Continuing Education.

Last year, 650 students enrolled in the 26 degree courses offered, but this year there are more than 50 degree courses and Summer Programme Co-ordinator Dr Gill Jordan is anticipating an even bigger response.

“Already we’ve got a steady stream of students inquiring. I think it will be really big this year. Students are even planning their degrees at the start of the year with summer courses in mind.”

A survey last year showed students take Summer Programme courses to speed up their degrees, spread their workload in the coming year, or re-do papers they have failed.

Dr Jordan says student loans are probably a factor in students wanting to reduce the length of time they take to complete their degrees.

This summer, courses of a variety of lengths and intensities are available, both before and after Christmas, at a variety of times of the day. Evening courses, for example, are available so students can work and study.

In addition to the huge range of degree subjects offered, there are

also general interest courses and courses on special topics.

At least six camps are offered this summer, as well as preparatory courses.

The camps are designed to give secondary school students finishing their sixth form year a chance to see what university is like. They can do astronomy, with an overnight trip to the Mount John University Observatory at Tekapo; zoology, with an overnight trip to Kaikoura; and chemistry, engineering, creative writing or management science.

Preparatory courses are for students who plan to take a subject

at University next year but need to update their knowledge in advance.

For the first time this year there will be a fortnight of creative arts courses. These will be held between January 13 and 24 and will include topics such as painting, printing, stained glass, photography, digital imaging, creative writing and poetry.

Information on the Summer Programme and a timetable will be available from September. The University call centre, starting on October 21, will also have information.

Interested students can also contact Dr Jordan on (03) 364 2354.

Lynette Hartley

Watson nominated for coach of the year



Canterbury Rams’ head coach and Management Department lecturer Dr John Watson (above) has been nominated as the National Basketball League (NBL) Coach of the Year.

In his first year as head coach, naturalised New Zealander Dr Watson solved the Rams’ problems of 2001 and took them through to the NBL playoffs.

“I’m one piece of the puzzle, but by no means have I had the perfect coaching season. It’s very similar to lecturing a new class for the first term. Some things work and some don’t.”

Some fans believe the credit for the Rams’ improved performance is due to NBL Guard of the Year nominee and Watson’s United States compatriot Terrence Lewis. However, Lewis acknowledges Dr Watson’s role as essential in building the whole team’s spirit and developing young players.

“John knows what he’s doing. He’s a great motivator and he’s able to put confidence in the young players, which is what we really needed this year – he’s given everybody the tools they needed to improve.”

The young players Lewis mentions include rookie Gerard Bowden, a University of Canterbury art history student, who was still at school a year ago but is now a key member of the Rams’ squad.

Though Dr Watson said it was “always nice” to be recognised in this way, he believed the Rams’ transformation from also-rans to semi-finalists was a “team effort”.

The Rams’ Lewis, Carlo Varricchio and John “Pope” Whorton have also won NBL Outstanding Player nominations.

Coaches, media and league management vote to decide the winners, announced at the NBL Championship Final on Saturday August 3.

Matthew Appleby

Partnership brings CoRE funding

Through its partnership in the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Technology, Canterbury University will benefit from the Government’s new Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) Fund to the tune of about \$7.5 million during the next three years.

The institute is jointly partnered by Canterbury and Victoria University of Wellington, and is one of five research centres to receive CoRE funding.

It has been allocated three-year operational funding of \$13.39 million and a one-off capital grant of \$9.8 million, the largest amounts to go to any of the five centres. Of this, about \$7.5 million is expected to be allocated to Canterbury, made up of \$4 million in operational funding and \$3.5 million as a capital grant.

Senior lecturer Dr Richard Blaikie (Electrical and Computer Engineering) said the announcement had created a lot of excitement.

“We’ve been fortunate to get funding for our ideas and we’ve got to make the most of this opportunity to show that, if you fund New Zealand science appropriately, we can do as well as anyone else in the world.”

Six academic staff and about 25 research assistants and students

will benefit from the grant, enabling them to work on nanotechnology (tiny scale) projects with potentially lucrative uses in the electronics industry.

The Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, which is based at Massey University but also involves Canterbury, has been allocated operational funding of \$6.87 million and a capital grant \$5.36 million.

The Canterbury involvement is led by Associate Professor Mike Steel (Mathematics). The centre’s work focuses on studying New Zealand’s biodiversity and its origins.

One of the six centres shortlisted but unsuccessful in the first round of funding, Canterbury’s Gateway Antarctica, will have an opportunity to make another bid for CoRE funding. The Government has allocated a further \$58 million to the CoRE Fund and part of it will go to two more centres. The six on the short-list are to be re-scrutinised and a decision announced in November.



• More research funding news – p5.

Engineers check out career options

A highly successful joint initiative by the Engineering Society (ENSOC), the School of Engineering and the Careers Advisory Service saw 22 employers gathering on campus last week for E3, the ENSOC Engineering Expo.

Careers Advisory Service Manager Lynda Clark said the focus of the expo was to give engineering students an opportunity to talk to employers and get an idea about different engineering career options.

"It was also an opportunity for academic staff to talk about the various engineering options and postgraduate courses."

A large number of students, ranging from intermediate year to postgraduate, visited the expo. Also invited were those completing their degrees in other areas, such as physics or chemistry, and considering going on to engineering, and students from other institutions doing a diploma in engineering and thinking about taking a degree.

The expo included stalls and presentations from employing firms and the Engineering School's various departments. Those involved included from Tait Electronics, Fulton Hogan, Beca, OPUS International, Forest

Resources, Fonterra, and the armed forces.

Comments from employers were extremely positive, Ms Clark said. Shailesh Manga, Project Manager, Rakon Ltd, said E³ was a great opportunity to meet students and create a profile for the company.

"We gave away 250 information packs ... We've seen students from first year up and many were asking about work experience. It will encourage them to come to our Graduate Recruitment Programme information session organised by the Careers Advisory Service."

Jacqui Cleland, HR consultant, Fonterra, said there was a steady flow of people and the event had generated a lot of interest.

"It's helped build our future by seeing first-year students up. It has been extremely well-organised and we want to express our appreciation to the committee."

Key people in organising the event were James Mear and David Brockett of ENSOC, Cheryl McNickel and Margaret Hean of the Engineering School, and Shirley MacDonald, Graduate Recruitment Co-ordinator with the Careers Advisory Service. Ms Clark said a team of engineering students was congratulated for the smooth running of the event on the day.

Gentle look at men's groups in new play

The Men's Room is an affectionate comedy about six blokes having trouble coming to grips with life after feminism.

Set in Christchurch in 1992, Associate Professor Patrick Evans' (English) new play introduces the motley members of a men's group. Stuart loves ironing, Basil always brings an apple crumble, Norman hates political correctness, Bill just wants everyone to be his friend and sexy Sam is keeping a secret from the group.

Tonight's meeting has a small turnout, due to death, winter flu and attempted reconciliations with female partners, but the boys press on with discussing their recent research trip to a strip show. Into their midst comes Frank, straight from Auckland and the scene of bigger and better ways to be a real "new man". All hell breaks loose with hilarious results.

Several of Professor Evans' previous plays have won awards, including *The Meeting*, *Cold Turkey*, his play about giving up smoking, premiered at the Court Theatre before being produced in Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston North, and touring the South Island and Australia.

Evans has never been in a men's group himself, but lived through the 1970s and '80s when such groups were very popular. He has talked to many men involved in the groups at that time and has created a scenario which pokes gentle fun at the New Zealand bloke while also questioning sex roles.

"Men have a long way to go to catch up with women. All women who have tried to get a chap to talk about his feelings will enjoy *The Men's Room*", he says.

"The all-male cast has been having lots of good laughs in rehearsals," director Christina Stachurski says.

Appearing in *The Men's Room* are Darren Sunborn, Patrick Paynter, Alan Baird, Phillip Lee, Maurice Barnes and Alex Conte.

Riccarton Players present *The Men's Room* by Patrick Evans, directed by Christina Stachurski, in the Mill Theatre, Wise Street, August 7 to 10 and 14 to 17 at 8pm. Bookings phone 388 4699. Tickets \$15. Students and unwaged \$13. Thursday August 8 performance only – all tickets just \$10, plus you could win a lucky seat prize of two tickets to the Riccarton Players' forthcoming production of *Chess*.

Local rugby union teams up with University for scholarships

New Zealand rugby is likely to benefit from players who are well schooled on and off the field through the introduction of annual Canterbury Rugby Football Union Academic Scholarships for study at the University.

The scholarships, aimed at helping players develop future career paths through university study, have been introduced as a joint initiative by the CRFU and the University.

The scholarships are funded by the University, with each worth \$3500 for each year of study. To be eligible, an applicant must be either a contracted player, a member of the CRFU Academy or a player considered by the CRFU to have the necessary potential, and must meet the academic requirements to attend university.

The scholarships have resulted from the two organisations looking at ways to contribute to academic and sporting excellence in Christchurch and Canterbury.

CRFU Chief Executive Officer Hamish Riach said the scholarships would provide players with new opportunities for personal and professional development.

"This is a great opportunity for our guys to do something outside rugby, to look to the future and to plan for that.

"The scholarships will offer educational opportunities not only to players starting out, but also to those mid-way through or nearing the end of their rugby careers."

Manager of the CRFU Academy Rob Penney said looking after the off-field needs of the players was a



Chris Clarke (left) and Rhys Ellis are the first recipients of the scholarships.

big part of the all-round approach to player development that the CRFU was so passionate about. "We are committed to ensure the players have long-term viable careers outside rugby."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said there was a long and distinguished relationship between the University and local rugby.

"We look for ways the University can support community cohesion, and a relationship with sport,

rugby in particular, is one means of doing that. In return, rugby involves young people, and the exposure the University gets through the CRFU, and these young people as role models, will help attract potential students.

"The University is an integral part of the province and is committed to attracting top young people to Christchurch and Canterbury."

Two scholarships have been awarded this year and, depending on funding, it is hoped to offer more than two in future years. This year's recipients are two members of the CRFU Academy: Craig Clarke, of Poverty Bay, and Rhys Ellis, of Manawatu. Craig is studying for a BSc while Rhys, who is fluent in Māori, is studying Māori and commerce.

New unit focuses on recruitment

A new Liaison and Recruitment Unit has been established to develop a more integrated approach to recruitment.

Changes introduced at the beginning of June have resulted in three new units.

External Relations has been rearranged with most existing staff becoming part of a new unit called Communications and Development, of which Canterbury University Press is now a part.

The International Office has become a separate stand-alone unit.

The Liaison Office, which was a separate unit, has now been joined by the Marketing Manager and has become the Liaison and Recruitment Unit.

Brigitte Murray, the Marketing Manager, is now the Co-ordinator of the Liaison and Recruitment team. She says the University wanted to make a new unit that would co-ordinate all recruitment activities to ensure consistency in its communications to prospective students and achieve greater efficiencies.

"The changes have given us a strong external focus. Under the previous structure, the two operations were not fully integrated and the responsibility for student recruitment was shared between units in different parts of the University, which was not ideal.

"The primary goal of the new unit is clear – it is to recruit students. I think its really going to strengthen

our recruitment initiatives because we will be able to support one another to a much greater extent.

"The important areas of Māori and Pacific Island support and retention, and course advice to students, will remain fundamental parts of the unit's operations."

A new Liaison Officer, Diane Lynes, started at the unit on July 11. She previously worked at the College of Education.



Diane Lynes

Ms Murray says this appointment is very positive because it brings the unit up to full strength and Ms Lynes' proven skills and expertise will be of great benefit to the University.

The Liaison and Recruitment Unit is currently split between level four and level five of the Registry, but Ms Murray hopes the unit will be working from a single location soon.

Lynette Hartley



Major grant for research centre

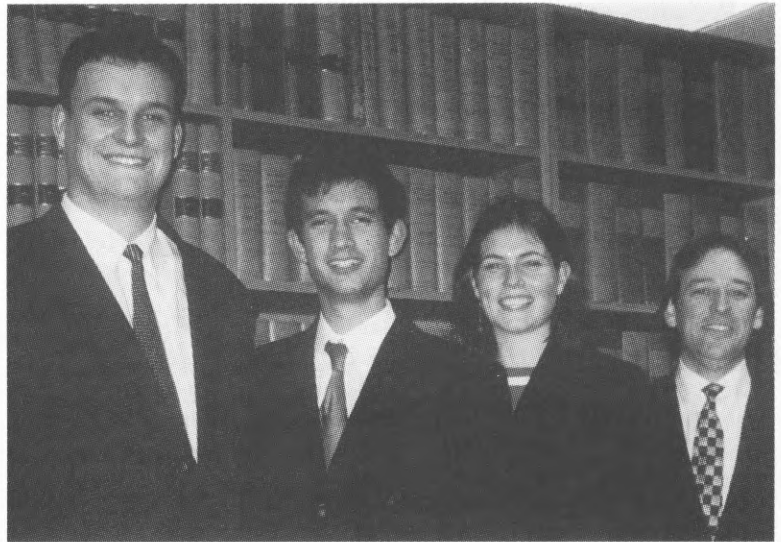
The University of Canterbury's National Centre for Research on Europe has been awarded a \$90,000 grant by the New Zealand-France Friendship Fund.

Centre Director Associate Professor Martin Holland says the grant, to be spread over three years, will be used to offer travel scholarships to students under a UC exchange programme with four French institutions: Science-Po in Paris, Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg, and Lyon II University and Institut Etudes Politique Lyon.

The programme allows up to nine French and nine New Zealand exchange students a year to move between Canterbury and the French institutions.

The travel grants will be awarded on merit to applicants who have been accepted for the exchange programme. The exchanges can be for either six or 12-month periods. The aim is to encourage a greater exchange of university students between the two countries, enhance academic and language skills, and promote cultural understanding.

Law students do well in Australian contest



Canterbury's moot team came third in the recent ALSA competition. Pictured with the Law School moot champion Mark Bradley (second from left) are Jared Ormsby (left), Juliet Taylor and Craig Dickson.

Canterbury University's School of Law matched the recent rugby success with one win and several high placings at the Australian Law Students' Association competitions in Adelaide.

Students competed in mooting, witness examination, client interviewing and negotiation.

Catherine Loft and Kirsty Marshall won the negotiation competition, which required two students to conduct a negotiation with another team. Each team received a common brief on the dispute and a brief of confidential instructions from their client.

In the mooting competition, the team of Craig Dickson, Jared Ormsby and Juliet Taylor came third, reaching the semi-final round and achieving a higher ranking than any other New Zealand law school. They were up against 26 Australian law schools.

Richard Bruce was placed fourth in the witness examination competition. Witness examination is like a trial in court, with competitors having to get evidence from witnesses and establish the facts of the case in accordance with court procedure.

In the client interviewing competition, Margaret Lister and Michael Chilton came seventh. Interviewers are given a concise memorandum which identifies

the general nature of the client's problems. The client receives a brief of facts to be discussed by the interviewers. The interviews are evaluated by a panel of two judges on criteria covering the skills of listening, questioning, planning and analysis.

School of Law senior lecturer Richard Scragg said Canterbury University would host the New Zealand Law Students' Association competitions in the term three break. "With our success in the mooting in Adelaide, we have high hopes for the NZLSA competition, the winners of which become the national team to represent New Zealand in the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court competition held in the United States each year."

Mr Scragg said Canterbury has an enviable record in the competition, having represented New Zealand in it in 2000 and 1998.

A moot is an argument on points of law in a court room setting, but there are no witnesses and the facts of the case are laid out in the problem.

At the beginning of August, a Māori law students team from Canterbury will compete in Brisbane at the Stetson Environmental Law Moot Court competition.

Hamish Barwick

Vice-Chancellor Le Grew encouraged "can do" attitude – Registrar

As Registrar, and representing the views of a considerable number of general staff on campus, I thought it important to set down in the *Chronicle* some thoughts on the substantial contribution made to the University during the past four years by Professor Daryl Le Grew.

In September, there will be opportunity for general comment – at this time, I want to record appreciation for the way he has worked with general staff in particular.

In the time that Professor Le Grew has been Vice-Chancellor, he has established a "can do" attitude that has encouraged all staff to think of new ways of working and new ideas for the development of the University.

From the outset, he was determined to empower an executive team that would challenge the institution. The planning exercises which resulted in the first formulation of the *University Plan*, the "Canterbury Way Forward", and the *Canterbury Plan 2000* established the new approach. On the wider local tertiary education scene, Professor Le Grew has worked with the other tertiary institutions to form the Canterbury Tertiary Alliance. The CTA has just held its first strategic planning day to look at the whole question of a regional profile in the new Tertiary Education Commission environment.

In regard to general staff, service teams were established early on in Human Resources and Finance (in particular) to ensure better provision of services to departmental clusters and new ways of providing support for heads of departments.

The Vice-Chancellor General Staff Development Awards were another early initiative, providing a catalyst to assist in the professional development of individual members of staff.

Professor Le Grew has established strong working relationships with students and the student body – the establishment of the Canterbury arm of the Golden Key Honour Society has been singularly successful. Golden Key now provides a strong tradition of community service, as well as recognising many of our more able students. On the wider front, the student protests of a few years ago concerning increased tuition fee levels were handled with courtesy and goodwill by Professor Le Grew, the students being permitted to make their point without causing major disruption to the on-going work of the institution.

The continuing academic organisational restructuring exercise will result in a more logical and ordered structure for the University over-all while preserving departmental traditions. There will inevitably be a number of changes in departmental structure as departments come together in broader organisational units with new-style deans at their head. The benefits for the University in regard to academic leadership, and legislative and other compliance requirements, will be significant.

The successful establishment of the University of Canterbury Foundation last year has led to early benefit and support for the University. Almost all the Foundation Board trustees are in place, and – with the support of the Vice-Chancellor – Shelagh Murray has been appointed as

Development Manager and Dr Susan Wakefield has been appointed as Chairperson. The foundation has had some significant successes to date and its major priorities in the next six months are a launch to the wider University and external community, and the commencement next year of a major fundraising campaign. In all of this, Professor Le Grew's personal support and involvement has been instrumental in getting the foundation under way.

The University's financial recovery plan – formulated with the Tertiary Advisory Monitoring Unit by Professor Le Grew and the Vice-Chancellor's Office – to ensure the continuing financial viability of the University, will affect our whole approach during the next few years. This remains the most important issue facing the University and the one that will occupy much of the Council's attention. The importance of establishing our financial viability into the future – as emphasised by Professor Le Grew – can not be overstated.

In all of this, the external influences facing the University have been a key issue. The Tertiary Education Advisory Committee reports, and the submissions in response, have led to the proposed establishment of the Tertiary Education Commission, along with the new funding regime proposed. 2003 will see what could be the last statement of objectives provided by the University in regard to its funding for next year, to be replaced instead by a new charter and profile for the University. It is worth noting the first interim Statement of Tertiary Education Priorities (STEP) was released by the Associate Minister of Education (Tertiary Education) in mid-July.

The key priority during the rest of 2002 and 2003 will be to develop the infrastructure and processes to support the new tertiary education system. This will include significant changes in the funding system. We are fortunate to have had Professor Le Grew's foresight in identifying many of the changes ahead for this institution.

To that end, the proposed changes in organisational structure form an important part of readying this University for the next few years. Professor Le Grew's influence and leadership in these matters has been a significant catalyst for change.

Professor Le Grew will be here until the end of September and there will be further opportunity then to wish him, and Mrs Jo Le Grew, well in the new appointment in Tasmania.

Alan Hayward
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Verne Pere, a postgraduate student in the Engineering Geology Programme in the Department of Geological Sciences, has been awarded a Tuapapa Putaiao Māori Fellowship for \$25,000. Mr Pere is investigating an ancient landslide dam in the Ngatapa Valley, near Gisborne. In cooperation with Landcare Research, Palmerston North, he is also studying the effect of natural dams on the sediment budget of watersheds like the Ngatapa.

Mr Pere's field research is being supported by a UC grant to the Surface Processes Research Programme in the department. He is supervised by Dr Jarg Pettinga and Dr Jim McKean.

* * *

The following positions have been accepted: **Jocelyn Brockie**, English language teacher (fixed-term), Continuing Education, from 15/7/02 to 3/12/02; **Paul Brouwers**, computer technician/programmer, Mathematics and Statistics, from 15/7/02; **Jane Gallagher**, English language teacher (fixed-term), Continuing Education, from 24/6/02 to 3/12/02; **Blossom Hart**, Faculty Administrator (fixed-term), Academic Services, from 12/6/02 to 11/6/03; **Lily Law**, trained educator, ECLC, from 1/7/02; **Diane Lynes**, Liaison Officer, Liaison and Recruitment Unit, from 11/7/02; **Andrew Shaw**, research assistant (fixed-term), Mechanical Engineering, from 1/7/02 to 30/6/04.

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Plans to expand mature student mentoring scheme next year

The University's new mature student mentoring programme may have a much wider scope next year, according to the scheme's co-ordinator, Carolyn Lidgard.

"Next year, depending on resources, we want to open up a wide range of responsibilities and add to the programme's depth," Ms Lidgard said.

The programme involves matching mentors with mature students to help them become accustomed to university. Three departments are involved – Education, Māori and Social Work. Ms Lidgard has matched five students from each

department with a trained student mentor from a similar background. The mentor then shows the mentee around student services and helps with simple tasks like setting up e-mail accounts and other jobs that are sometimes overlooked in the rush of a new semester.

"For many mature students returning to education, when they first come into university they find it overwhelming. There is so much to understand and learn and unfortunately people slip through the cracks.

"Sometimes opening an e-mail account is not as important as getting the kids from school and

these things slip by. But if someone's got a mentor they can check.

"If you're matched with someone with children and a family you have common issues and it helps to be able to share with someone."

Student Services Director Val Harding said the mentoring pilot's introduction had the potential to go beyond helping the one-third of Canterbury students aged over 25. "We would like the scheme to move into other areas and to make it available to many more students."

Ms Lidgard is pleased with the initial success of the scheme, which began at the start of semester two.

"It's working really well. The mentors are mostly adult entry students and they've been wonderful. They're anxious to be co-operative and are wanting to use their experience to help other people."

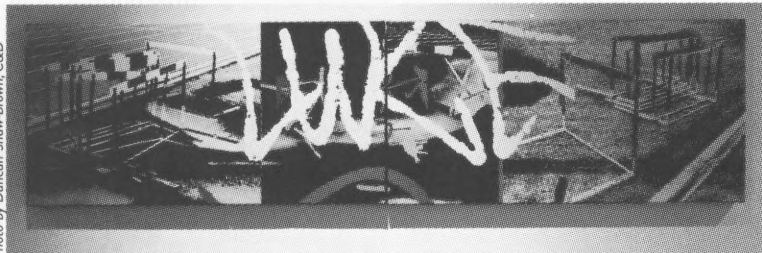
She found the mentors easy to recruit. She asked 20 candidates from various age groups to take part and "good responses" came back.

Feedback from mentors for the scheme has also been positive.

Ms Lidgard said for 2002/03 she planned to include details of the scheme in enrolment packs and to sign up a greater range of students at enrolment.

Matthew Appleby

Challenging installation from leading NZ contemporary artist



One of only two artists selected to represent New Zealand for the first time at the prestigious 49th Venice Biennale has a challenging exhibition at the SoFA Gallery in the Christchurch Arts Centre until August 11.

Peter Robinson, a graduate of Canterbury University's School of Fine Arts, is one of New Zealand's leading contemporary artists. The SoFA exhibition *Divine Comedy* is an opportunity to see his latest work from Venice.

Robinson was born in 1966 in Ashburton and is of Ngai Tahu tribal descent. In 1989, he graduated from the School of Fine Arts with a degree in sculpture and taught at Christ's College. He rapidly gained prominence as a New Zealand artist and, now based in Berlin, has established a considerable international reputation.

Robinson has exhibited frequently in dealer galleries in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and most recently in Germany. In the 1990s he became well known for his work that addressed issues of Māori and Pākehā post-colonial identity and in particular his own Māori

genealogy. Exhibitions included *Cultural Safety* (1995) and *Toi Toi Toi* (1999) and he is currently represented in a number of major public and private collections.

In 1995, Robinson left New Zealand for Europe after accepting a Creative New Zealand residency to both Germany and Belgium. In Europe he came to the conclusion that his distinctly New Zealand work failed to make much sense there, which led him to change direction in terms of the focus of his practice.

Although his current work no longer explicitly addresses issues of Māori identity or biculturalism, his signature use of traditional colours (red, black and white) means it still retains a subconscious Māori accent.

Robinson currently lives in Berlin with his wife Astrid Mania. He regularly exhibits in major international biennales and exhibitions of contemporary art.

The title of Robinson's exhibition comes directly from Alighieri Dante's infamous book *Divine Comedy*, in which the author explains his own theories of heaven, hell and Earth. The installation features a series of digital prints and sculptures based around the

complex concepts of existence.

Included is a small-scale model of a stealth bomber, a stack of red polymer-coated zero-shaped sheets, a chain that hangs from the ceiling formed by a series of linked zeroes, a repeating flower shape, models of expanding universes and a series of wall prints displaying spiralling rows of digital code. The components of the exhibition are connected through formal properties of shape, colour and media, as well as through shared themes of existence and nothingness.

In exploring these notions, Robinson has drawn on models of the Universe and theories of existence by several European theorists, philosophers and scientists, such as Dante, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

In direct contrast to these theorists, Robinson has meshed their ideas with traditional concepts that address his Māori heritage, in order to portray his own philosophy on the contradictory relationship between "being and nothingness".

Divine Comedy is sponsored by the Ngai Tahu Development Corporation.

• *Divine Comedy*: An installation featuring digital prints and sculptures by Peter Robinson, at the SoFA Gallery, Christchurch Arts Centre, until August 11. Gallery hours are 11am-5pm Monday-Friday, noon-4pm Saturday and Sunday.

College of Ed's 125th Jubilee

The Christchurch College of Education celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding later this year.

In preparation for it, Sharon O'Callaghan, Alumni Association Officer at the college, would like to hear from any past staff or students at Canterbury University.

The college and the University have had close links since they were established.

Many students, including many of the University's luminaries, have studied at both institutions over the years.

Among them are Sir James Hight, professors George Jobberns, Alan Danks, George Knox, John Ritchie and Graham Nuthall, as well as the current Chancellor, Dame Phyllis Guthardt.

The two institutions continue to have close ties, with a number of courses taught jointly – notably the successful Bachelor of Education (BEd) and Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (BTL).

An official history of the college, *A Sense of Community: Christchurch College of Education, 1877-2000*, written by John Fletcher, has been published as well.

Those wishing to contact Sharon O'Callaghan can do so on (03) 343 7735 or by e-mail at alumni@cce.ac.nz.

Ground-breaking contributions made during past 35 years



Trail-blazing academic Associate Professor Elizabeth Gordon (Linguistics) never meant to be a role model for women on campus.

Now, after 35 years in the English and Linguistics departments, she is taking voluntary severance, although she will continue to teach until the academic year finishes.

Admired by many at Canterbury as a mentor for women, she said she never intended to be one. "It has just been the way my academic career has unfolded." As one of the first female lecturers to also have children, she had to overcome a number of hurdles and paved the way for women.

"It was seen as bad behaviour when I said I was pregnant in 1970. My head of department at the time said it was the last thing he expected. I don't think it was because I had decided to have a family, but it was that I was intending to be a working mother, which was frowned upon.

"I was also told that I shouldn't return to teach as it would cause 'student unrest'. But when I did return, a student called out and asked what I had had and, when I said a daughter, everyone clapped. So, it wasn't true that I would cause student unrest, rather it was a ploy to try and stop me teaching."

There was no maternity leave in 1970 and Professor Gordon had to give up her salary while she took just two months off work. "While I was in confinement (hospital), the relieving lecturer brought me stage one essays to mark as he said he wasn't being paid to mark. Rather than rock the boat, there I was in hospital, with a newborn baby, marking papers.

"Women often asked me about child care and said that seeing me carry-on in my pregnant state showed that having children and working was an option. I never did it for that reason – I did it because I wanted to continue doing what I enjoyed doing. We also had great child care. Mrs Munt looked after the four children and without her it would have been impossible – she's still part of our family."

Teaching is one of the parts of the job she enjoys most and past students often talk about her helpful and very encouraging nature.

"Teaching has certainly changed over the 35 years – all for the better. We are better provided for now. Years ago at the town site we had to wear gowns and speak to each other by title or surname. And we got dusty from using chalk on blackboards. I can remember being given an overhead projector to try for the first time. It was a disaster – the pen melted to the plastic and then burnt, making the room smell. Then there was the famous time I tested out a small walking microphone; instead, it picked up all the police cars and sirens in Hereford Street.

"Back then we had 900 students to teach, so we had several classes. All students had to have a language as part of their degree and English counted as a language."

Professor Gordon said work as an academic was very different then. "We had more time for students and they often became friends, as we invited them to our homes. We'd have students who

didn't have a seventh form year and who had come from the West Coast and we were able to nurture them more than we can today. And students were very different. They were involved in lots of outside organisations that gave them a very rounded education. Students now don't have the time for that – there's a lot of pressure on them."

Looking back over her years at Canterbury, she has many fond memories.

"I have met some wonderful people and have been involved in some great research – at times it is an immensely rewarding job." A lot of work with secondary school teachers developing and authoring text books had been particularly enjoyable, as had a major project with the Ministry of Education and teachers from all parts of the country looking at the new curriculum and providing the required resources for teachers.

"Working in collaboration with Tony Deverson in the Department of English and

Margaret Maclagan in the Speech and Language Therapy Department has been exceedingly enjoyable. I have also been delighted to work with the Origins of New Zealand Project team. And, having contact with Erskine scholars is a highlight. Having people who are the top in their field come to the University where we can observe them has made an enormous contribution. Now we have a network of people that have become friends. In New Zealand we tend to feel isolated, so having Erskine academics has been wonderful."

Before she leaves she has to finish writing a book and publish three papers.

"I still intend to carry out research and teach, but without the pressure. Teaching is all-consuming. I often wake in the middle of the night thinking about the job, (and) when I go for a walk it's always at the back of my mind. It's not just a desk job. Now hopefully that pressure will go away. And I won't feel the need to continually publish – that will be nice."

Leaning back in her chair in an office that is orderly but crammed with books, photos, cartoons, paper bags and folders, she certainly doesn't look like she is about to move out. "I have so many things to do that I haven't yet thought about clearing the office or relaxing."

Professor Gordon hopes to catch up on some reading and to visit her daughter in East Timor, who is the New Zealand Consular General there.

She also wants to spend some more time on an interest of hers, the Howard League for Penal Reform.



Elizabeth Gordon in 1969.

Jane Lucas



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