MACMPLLAN BROWN LIBRARY LG
741
.C21
.U58
ch

aronicle

University of Canterbury • Te Whare Wananga o Waitaha

Volume 38 · No. 19 · Thursday, November 27, 2003

Chronicle

- Royal Society honours
 Canterbury professors.
- Joe Yates remembered in award.
- Head-dress to cap off Ngata Scholar success.
- Alumni Garden Party at Cashel.

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

HIT Lab produces world's first virtual picture book - 1 DEC 2003

hildren's reading has been transformed forever thanks to the development of an interactive three-dimensional virtual picture book launched this week by the Human Interface Technology

Laboratory New Zealand (HIT Lab NZ) based at the University.

eyeMagic is a collaborative project between the HIT Lab and noted New Zealand children's author and illustrator Gavin Bishop, currently the Ursula Bethell writer-inresidence at the University.

Mr Bishop's picture book, *Giant Jimmy Jones*, has been brought to life by technology developed at the HIT Lab. When a reader looks through a handheld display at the normal storybook, 3D animated content leaps from the pages.

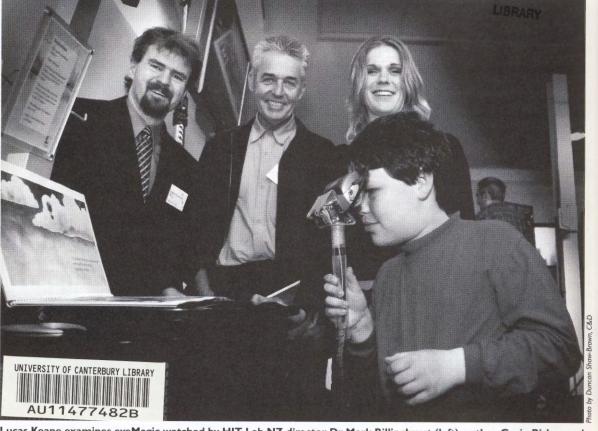
The book got the thumbs up from 10-year-old Lucas Keane from Somerfield School who explored the book at the South Christchurch Library.

"It is terrific. I think it is great and I can't wait until I'm 15 when there will be millions of these books around."

HIT Lab NZ director Dr Mark Billinghurst said the project was very significant as it was the first time a children's picture book had been transformed into virtual content using the Lab's technology.

"The HIT Lab and the University of Canterbury are trying to create magic. Through this technology we can transport people to new experiences," said Dr Billinghurst.

"This collaborative project between Mr Bishop and the Lab is a worldfirst which shows one way in which virtual reality technology could



Lucas Keane examines eyeMagic watched by HIT Lab NZ director Dr Mark Billinghurst (left), author Gavin Bishop and animator Claudia Nelles of One Glass Eye.

change the future of reading and enhance children's learning experiences.

"Although we are showing a children's book here the same technology has many possible commercial applications. In the future a medical student could open a medical text book and see a virtual model of the heart beating above a photograph of a real heart."

Speaking at the unveiling of the book, the Minister for Economic Development, Hon Jim Anderton, congratulated the HIT Lab for turning "academic theory into productive output".

"It highlights the importance and possibilities technology provides in New Zealand."

Mr Bishop said working on the project had been "the opportunity of a lifetime".

"It has really extended my thinking in all directions and the chance to work with dedicated and passionate people in fields different to mine has been extremely stimulating. I can't wait to put my new knowledge to use in another magic book in the near future."

eyeMagic was funded by the Smash Palace Collaborations Fund which was set up by Creative New Zealand and the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology to encourage collaboration between the arts and sciences.

The book will be on display at the South Christchurch Library until mid-December.



Award recognises importance of classroom-based research



Ms Anna Johnstone and Emeritus Professor Graham Nuthall enjoy a celebratory lunch at the Staff Club.

meritus Professor Graham Nuthall is delighted his career-long commitment to furthering classroom-based research is to carry on through an award established in his name.

Canterbury University's School of Education has established the Graham Nuthall Classroom Research Award in honour of the outstanding contributions

Professor Nuthall has made through his research and scholarship to understanding learning and teaching.

The inaugural recipient is Ms Anna Johnstone of the Christchurch College of Education. Ms Johnstone will use the award valued at up to \$10,000 - to look at the informal and formal feedback. interactions and conversations within the classroom between the

teacher and students regarding writing.

During his 34 year career at Canterbury Professor Nuthall's research focused on the intimate relationships amongst students and their teachers within the classroom, resulting in a deeper understanding of the significant and often very subtle classroom interactions which influence learning.

"I am delighted that the award has been established to research the realities of education rather than the theory," said Professor Nuthall. "I have been committed in my own work to furthering classroom-based research and the purpose of the fund deals directly with students and their learning experiences."

Although not involved in the selection process, Professor Nuthall is impressed with Ms Johnstone's proposal.

"It is an excellent project and she will be working closely with students and their teachers in the classroom environment."



Honour bestowed on Canterbury alumnus



New Zealand's highest honour has been presented to American space pioneer Dr William Pickering.

Dr Pickering was made an Honorary Member of the Order of New Zealand at a recent investiture in Washington.

It is the latest of many international honours for the New Zealand-born scientist who led the American unmanned deep-space research programme.

In March, Canterbury, Dr Pickering's first university, honoured the 92-yearold with the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering.

Presiding over the Washington investiture was New Zealand Ambassador, His Excellency John Wood. Ambassador Wood is also a Canterbury alumnus, graduating with an MA (First Class Honours) in 1964.

Canterbury well represented in new law journal

The inaugural edition of the New Zealand Students' Law Journal has a strong Canterbury flavour.

The journal contains articles from all five law schools in the country, with students from the Canterbury School of Law contributing five of the 15 articles published. Sasha McMeeking's article "The Status of Urban Maori Authorities under the Treaty of Waitangi" was one of two articles singled out for special praise by the editors and was awarded an Editors' Prize for Excellence.

The journal was the brainchild of the New Zealand Law Students' Association.

Former NZLSA President Jonathan Scragg, a Canterbury alumnus, said the association wanted to provide the opportunity for New Zealand law students to enhance their legal education experience.

"Despite the plethora of legal journals published in this country today, very few include student writing. The NZLSA believes that



Elizabeth Henderson, Craig Dickson and Sasha McMeeking with copies of the inaugural edition of the New Zealand Students' Law Journal.

the quality of New Zealand student legal scholarship is very high and worthy of publication. The establishment of the journal represents the realisation of that

Senior law lecturer Richard Scragg said it was a credit to the University that a third of the articles were written by Canterbury students.

"It is a reflection of the quality of work being produced by students at Canterbury," said Mr Scragg.

"This journal will go to law libraries around the world and will showcase the achievements of New Zealand legal education."

It is hoped the journal will be published annually. One of the Canterbury contributors in the first issue, Elizabeth Henderson, has been appointed managing editor for the next issue.

Chronicle

Next Issue: 11 December, 2003

Deadline: 5 December, 2003

Editor: leanette Colman

Ext 6260 or 364 2260 Col Pearson

Artwork: Marcus Thomas

Sub-editor:

Distribution: Kate Frew Design and Print Services

E-mail: comms@canterbury.ac.nz

Fax: Ext 6679 or 364 2679

Address: Communications and

> Development Department, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch.

The Chronicle is typeset and printed by Design and Print Services

Royal Society honours for Canterbury professors

Three professors from the University of Canterbury have been honoured by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Professors Miles Fairburn (History) and Mike Steel (Mathematics and Statistics) were among 13 new fellows announced by the prestigious science academy at its annual conference in Auckland earlier this month.

Coinciding with the Royal Society's annual conference was the country's first Science Awards dinner. Fourteen of the country's top scientists were honoured including Professor Andrew Sturman (Geography) who won the inaugural Edward Kidson Medal.

Professor Fairburn is regarded as New Zealand's leading social historian. He broke new ground by asking how social integration and deviance might be measured in modern society.

Professor Fairburn said he was "very thankful to the Royal Society for casting its net relatively widely".

"It is a boost to my department and it reflects on their collegiality without which I would have been less productive." Professor Fairburn is currently working with Professor Stephen Haslett of Massey University on a Marsden Fund-backed project on the relationship between voting preferences in general elections and social class in New Zealand between 1911 and 1951.

Professor Steel spearheaded the development of new mathematical theory to help biologists better recover evolutionary relationships from genetic data. His work includes the first efficient "supertree" method for allowing biologists to combine evolutionary trees in different sets of species.

"The 'supertree' methods combine evolutionary trees to provide a more comprehensive and accurate picture of the 'Tree of Life'. This has involved extensive collaboration with students, postdocs and colleagues, and our methods, which are the first of their type, are now hosted on supertree websites in the UK and USA."

Another project has Professor Steel applying probability theory to study a variety of random processes in biology.

"This ranges from theoretical questions related to the early



Professor Miles Fairburn (left) and Professor Mike Steel have been appointed Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

origins of life and the testing of different models of speciation, through to more specific and local studies with biologists – for example, how are different populations of New Zealand alpine buttercups related?

"We are also investigating ways of using genomic data – particularly gene order – to study the historical relationships between present-day species. A fourth project has been to set up a framework for representing and studying hybrid evolution using graphs rather than trees."

Professor Sturman was presented the Edward Kidson Medal for his paper "Application of backtrajectory techniques to the delimination of urban clean air zones, published in *Atmospheric Environment* (2002).

The paper was the result of work carried out by Professor Sturman and specialist atmospheric modeller Dr Peyman Zawar-Reza developing a computer model that showed where the air over Christchurch city on a smoggy evening had come from.

The medal was presented by the Meteorological Society of New Zealand.

Joe Yates remembered in award

The inaugural Joseph Yates Prize has been awarded to law student Amanda Gordon.

Amanda is in her fourth year of a BA/LLB and will be completing her law degree next year. She won the award as top student in the trial advocacy course.

The prize commemorates the major contribution made by Mr Joe Yates to the University's School of Law. The American-born lecturer introduced a course in trial advocacy in 1996 and taught the course until his death last December.

Dr Andrew Stockley, Head of Law, said he was delighted that the Joe Yates Prize has been successfully established.

"Joe set up the trial advocacy course in 1996 and put an immense amount of time and effort into ensuring it was practical, hands-on and would help future courtroom lawyers. Trial advocacy's high



(Left to right) Mrs Jane Yates, Amanda Gordon and UC Foundation Trustee, Chancellor Dr Robin Mann.

reputation is a tribute to Joe's work and it is appropriate that his name should continue to be associated with a course he initiated and made so successful. Joe was a muchloved colleague and we are all delighted to see this prize established." Speaking at the prize giving, the widow of Mr Yates, Mrs Jane Yates, said her late husband loved working with his students.

"I don't remember many days he didn't arrive home in Wainui with great enthusiasm about the course and his students. "Just this time last year, with Joe in a very weakened state, he insisted on conducting the last exams for the year. We begged him to stay home and rest but his students came first. He told me he didn't want to leave this life without completing his obligation to them. He didn't want to let them down.

"When he finally realised he would be unable to continue his contract for the following February term, he quietly accepted this ending to his teaching career and ultimately to his life with a sense of serenity."

• The Joseph Yates Fund is managed by the University of Canterbury Foundation. Details about the fund and how to make contributions to it can be found at www.laws.canterbury.ac.nz. For more information contact the Foundation's Development Manager Shelagh Murray on 364 2550.

Head-dress to cap off Ngata scholar success

Luture Ngata Centenary
Doctoral Scholars will have
the opportunity to graduate
wearing a kura (feathered headdress), gifted to the Māori
Department by Dr Patricia
Wallace.

This year Dr Wallace became the first Ngata scholar to graduate from Canterbury with a PhD in Māori. The scholarship, tenable for study towards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University, was set up in 1994 to mark the centenary of the graduation of the first New Zealand Māori graduate, Apirana Ngata.

Dr Wallace said she wanted to present the taonga to the department as her way of giving something back to the University. "I would like it to be offered to future Ngata scholars to wear at their graduation if they so wish." The head-dress – Te Kura o Hikuraki – signifies learning and

achievement. It is made from



Dr Patricia Wallace and Michael Kaui (Ngati Porou) with the feathered headdress gifted to the Māori Department.

amokura and toroa (albatross) feathers. The long red amokura feathers come from the tail of the

phaeton rubricauda and were traditionally worn by Māori of chiefly or learned status.

"I thought it fitting to adapt the traditional into a modern context," said Dr Wallace.

"It also links back to my own doctoral thesis which examined elements of traditional Māori dress."

Dr Wallace's doctoral achievement is to be honoured on Friday evening at the 2003 National Māori Academic Excellence Award. Dr Wallace is to receive the Te Tohu Mātauranga Māori Award for her doctoral thesis, "Traditional Māori Dress: rediscovering forgotten elements of pre 1820 practice". The awards, hosted by Waikato University, celebrate the success of 27 Māori students who have graduated with PhDs from New Zealand universities in the past year.

Dr Wallace said she felt humbled to have been selected for the award.

"When you achieve your PhD is when you start to become truly aware of how little you really know; so it is very encouraging to learn that those in the Māori academic community see my work as having value."

Dr Wallace's thesis examined ephemeral elements of hairstyle and head adornment, and stitched and wrapped garments, drawing on evidence from oral tradition, early European graphic images and material collections.

"The last major work in this area was done by Hirini Moko Mead 30 years ago and even then it was done from a different perspective as he was trained at a different time."

Dr Wallace is currently based at the Macmillan Brown Centre and is working on a number of projects including identifying the origins of a feathered head dress held by the British Museum and an oral history of 80-year-old Ngati Porou weaver Whai Pooti Hitchiner.

Spotlight on life in the youth-adult transition zone

How do young people manage the process of leaving school and moving into the post-school world?

A recent workshop organised by the Social Science Research Centre drew together 25 researchers involved in research with young people "in transition", to discuss this. The aims of the workshop were to share information about transition research taking place around the country, to discuss effective research strategies and to identify ways in which youth research can be used in policy.

Participants were drawn from research teams located at Auckland, Massey, Canterbury, Otago and Melbourne universities as well as from the New Zealand Council for Educational Research and the Ministry of Education.

Keynote speakers were two of the foremost youth researchers in Australasia: Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Director of the International Research Institute for Māori and Indigenous Education at the University of Auckland, and Professor Johanna Wyn, Director of



Left to right: Professor Johanna Wyn, Professor Linda Tuhiwai-Smith, Dr Jane Higgins and Dr Karen Nairn at the recent Researching Transition Workshop.

the Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne.

It became clear during the course of the workshop that a feature of the innovative research methods being employed in this field has been the involvement of young people in the design and the carrying out of research. The workshop heard how young people helped to design youth-oriented computer-based interactive surveys, sat on expert panels

hearing submissions in youth tribunals and worked as researchers gathering data about youth identity from their peers. Inspiration for holding the workshop came from success in this years' Marsden Fund round for the research team of Dr Karen Nairn (University of Otago), Dr Jane Higgins (Canterbury's School of Sociology and Anthropology) and Professor Linda Tuhiwai-Smith, Their project, "In Transition:

How the children of the economic reforms articulate identities at the child/adult border", was one of the two largest social science projects to receive funding from the Marsden Fund this year.

"The project will investigate how the first post-1984 cohort of New Zealand children, now aged 15-19 years, manage the transition from childhood to adulthood," Dr Higgins said.

"The project will follow a group of young people living in urban and rural locations in the North and South islands during their final year of school and their first post-school year.

"Its aims include investigating how these young people perceive and articulate their identities as they make the post-school transition; how they experience and manage tensions at the child/adult border; and whether their choices and aspirations are associated with forms of social exclusion in their communities, schools and families."

of Sociology and Anthropology)
and Professor Linda TuhiwaiSmith. Their project, "In Transition:

The workshop was funded by the Social Policy Evaluation and Research Linkages Programme.

Canterbury lecturer gets to the top of Panamanian rainforest research

r Raphael Didham, a senior lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences, has just returned from five weeks in Panama where he participated in a massive international collaborative research project on insects of the tropical rainforest.

Dr Didham and his wife, Laura Fagan, who is an entomologist at Landcare Research, received funding for the project from the Royal Society of New Zealand's International Science and Technology Linkages Fund.

The goal of project IBISCA -Investigating the Biodiversity of Soil and Canopy Arthropods - is to study the vertical stratification of insects in tropical rainforests and to estimate how many species live in the tropical forest canopy. The project is funded by the US Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, the international companies SolVin and Solvay, and by a host of other international funding agencies including the Global Canopy Programme, UK. The total cost of the project is estimated at upwards of 1 million Euro.

Dr Didham said that during the study, new discoveries were made everyday, and it was expected that more than 70% of some groups of insect species collected would be new to science. Although Dr Didham has worked in other tropical countries in the past, he said he was amazed by the "staggering diversity of insects" in Panama.

Ultimately, the IBISCA project will help scientists estimate "ballpark" figures for insect diversity in tropical forests.

Current estimates depend on the assumption that the number of insect species in the canopy represents almost two-thirds of all insect species. This assumption led researchers in the 1980s to suggest that as many as 30 million insect species might exist, but later work has challenged this estimate, suggesting that only 10% of insects live in the canopy.

Dr Didham says that researchers have been "nipping at the edges" of this topic for some time, but



The canopy balloon in action in Panama. The 400m³ single-person helium balloon allows the researcher to be almost neutrally bouyant and walk freely over the top of the rainforest canopy - tethered to a strong safety line. Inset: Dr Raphael Didham and Laura Fagan inside the Ikos after a long night-climb into the forest canopy to light-trap insects.

previous studies have not been robust enough to be widely generalised to all insect species.

To achieve a more acceptable sample size, IBISCA invited 33 entomologists from 15 countries (representing a large proportion of all tropical canopy entomologists in the world) to participate. They also chose a range of new technologies developed in the last five years to study the forest canopy including fixed canopy cranes, a giant helium balloon and a giant canopy raft.

The raft, constructed of plastic beams and netting and weighing more than three-quarters of a tonne, was flown into place by helicopter and fixed by professional climbers.

He and Ms Fagan also had a memorable night sleeping in hammocks 35m above the ground in a fixed tree house called the "Ikos". The pair spent the night fighting off swarms of biting insects attracted to the tree house by the light trap attached to its roof.

Dr Didham said the hundreds of bites they received were a small sacrifice however, as the best moth sample of the entire study was caught that night.

After collection, all the samples were pooled and separated into 40

focal groups. Each group was then assigned to a pair of researchers with expertise in that taxonomic group for identification and analysis.

Dr Didham and Ms Fagan are responsible for the Order Diptera, or the flies. The collection includes the largest fly Dr Didham has ever seen – stretching as long as his palm and more than 2.5cm wide.

This project complements Dr Didham's current research programme in New Zealand, which focuses on fly species in the forest canopy.

Dr Didham and Ms Fagan plan to return to Panama in May 2004 and again in 2005 to continue with the project. Phase II in 2004 will investigate seasonal variation in the

vertical stratification of insects, and in 2005 a workshop will be held to discuss the results.

Also in 2005, the principal scientist for IBISCA, Yves Basset, will visit the University of Canterbury to share his knowledge of worldwide forest canopy research and technology, which Dr Didham believes will help inspire scientists here to co-ordinate various canopy research already under way in NZ.

"There is a growing awareness of the importance of forest canopies in NZ, and the University of Canterbury has more researchers on aspects of the forest canopy than any other university in the country."

Laura Sessions



2004 UC Desk Calendar - \$9.95



Features 13 scenes from the University of Canterbury. Ideal as a gift for friends or family.

Available from the Alumni Office, Level 5 of Registry, open 8.30am-5pm, Mon-Fri. All sales contribute to the Alumni Association's Student Scholarship Fund.

Physicist retires after 34 years

Associate Professor Rod Syme (Physics and Astronomy) retired this month after more than three decades at the University of Canterbury. During his career, Professor Syme made outstanding contributions in teaching, research and administration.

Professor Syme completed his PhD in the Physics Department in 1965, and after a postdoctoral fellowship with Professor Frank Spedding at the University of Iowa in the United States, he began his lecturing career at Canterbury in 1969.

"The highlight of my time here has been the people I've worked with and the students I've interacted with. I've made many friends during my time here."

Professor Syme's research has focused on condensed matter physics spectroscopy, and his main interest has been using rare-earth ions as a probe of crystalline materials. His supervision has helped to produce a number of Canterbury graduates specialising in solid-state spectroscopy.

Lasers are the primary tool that he uses in his research, and he established the first operating laser in New Zealand with a colleague in 1964.

He has particularly enjoyed collaborations with Dr Glynn Jones (Physics and Astronomy) and with Dr David Lockwood, a former



Associate Professor Rod Syme and wife Pat reminisce with friends and colleagues.

University of Canterbury student who now works for the National Research Council in Canada (NRC).

Dr Jones said "Professor Syme had been an outstanding research co-worker and colleague. "He was a very loyal, conscientious, reliable and trustworthy member of the team, and his co-operation and involvement have been both greatly enjoyed and appreciated." Professor Syme was Head of the Physics and Astronomy Department for seven years, a period that he describes as "challenging but rewarding". He has been Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies since 2000.

Professor Phil Butler, Head of Physics and Astronomy, said Professor Syme put a great deal of himself into the department and the University.

"As head of department he was respected by all for his handling of issues relating to staff and resources allocation. He steered the department through difficult times and provided his wisdom and guidance in many matters. It should be noted that when a wheel fell off the department van and was delivered to his office, Rod took it in good humour. The wheels did not fall off the department during his term.

"He is regarded as a fair and just person, and he has provided the same wisdom over recent years in his position as Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies. There are many students around this University who have benefited from his work on the regulations or sorting out difficult issues. Rod is a University member who never cuts corners: he provides the highest of standards," said Professor Butler.

"Rod has been a mainstay of the Laser Spectroscopy Experimental Research Group and the quality of his research and supervision of research students is outstanding."

After retiring, Professor Syme will continue to conduct research and work with students at Canterbury through an adjunct research associate position.

"Administrative duties have taken some time away from my research in recent years and I look forward to returning to that."

He also plans to pursue his long-time involvement with athletics and sports officiating. As the only New Zealander on the athletics section of the International Olympic Committee, he has attended the last two Olympics and plans to continue his involvement in officiating at future sporting events. Professor Syme said that he has witnessed huge changes during his time at Canterbury and hopes the

University will weather current

changes as well. "Canterbury has been

a very important part of my life and I

hope to see it flourish in the future."

Laura Sessions

Posters win awards in Melbourne



BELL, LAMB & TROTTER

FUNERAL DIRECTORS LIMITED

A Canterbury Tradition Since 1872

Ian Bell and staff provide a caring, professional service that is a unique and fitting tribute, reflecting your loved one's life, personality, beliefs and culture.

> Ph 03 389 7999 Fax 03 389 9485

FERRY PARK CHAPEL, 297 FERRY ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH



Kenny Chitcholtan (left) and Sophie Walker (right) with their supervisor Dr Ashley Garrill (Biological Sciences).

Two Canterbury biochemistry students won poster competition awards at the recent ComBio 2003 conference in Melbourne.

PhD student Kenny Chitcholtan picked up an award from the New Zealand Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for his poster

on how fungi grow. It was the second year running that Kenny's work was honoured by the society. Masters student Sophie Walker received the best student poster award from the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists for

her work on fungal invasion mechanisms.

From Beijing to Zimbabwe and back - supplying a Chinese view on the world

or busy Chinese radio journalist Chen Xuefei Canterbury University is an opportunity to pause and take stock of her profession.

Xuefei is at the University's School of Political Science and Communication on a study trip supported by her employer, China Radio International.

China Radio International, which first went on air in 1941, acts as a voice of China to the outside world. It broadcasts in 38 international languages and five local dialects, and has 29 overseas bureaux.

In her 13 years working for the station, Xuefei has travelled all over China, created new radio programmes, such as *Investing in China* and *Biz China*, and won several of the country's major broadcasting awards.

She has come to Canterbury to have the opportunity to "think more theoretically" about her profession, she says. In China, she has had to learn on the job and had little time to learn about the finer points of journalism.

A colleague recommended New Zealand as a good place to study, and Xuefei chose Canterbury after checking out the journalism programme's website and contacting its head, Mr Jim Tully.

Xuefei has been expanding her understanding of journalism by attending departmental lectures and visiting radio stations and newspapers. Her commitment to journalism is evident from the daunting pile of readings on media law and ethics sitting on her desk in the department.

Her motivation to succeed academically stems from her early experiences working in the field with her peasant parents, she says. "Physically you felt very healthy, but also you desired to do some mental work."

After two hardworking years at high school, she set her sights on studying English. "I was so impressed by my English teacher. I find the English language is very humorous and very beautiful."

She studied English at Liaoning University and international politics at the People's University in



Journalist Chen Xuefei has come to Canterbury to think more theoretically about her profession.

Beijing. But journalism had been lingering in the back of her mind.

She approached China Radio International, then known as Radio Beijing, for work. After passing the station's examination, she was hired as one of its 80 English language staff.

Xuefei worked in the Beijing newsroom as a programme editor for four years. As a young woman without a husband or children, she was frequently given early morning and night shifts.

But she didn't mind. She found she enjoyed the excitement generated by the high pressure. Events like the Gulf War, the Asian Games, and the Olympics spurred her enthusiasm.

"All these big events... I always feel so exciting. You always think whenever, whatever happens, you will be a witness of history."

She was transferred to the current affairs division, where she spent four years producing radio pieces on a wide variety of subjects. Her bilingualism was put to the test. She interviewed locals using Chinese, wrote her stories in English, and used English to read on air.

One highlight was interviewing BB King; another was a documentary she wrote on China's "little emperors" – only-children who are spoilt by their parents.

In 1998, she was posted to Zimbabwe to cover 14 southern African countries, an experience that saw her interviewing Nelson Mandela and the presidents of Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique. "You talk with different people, big shots and small shots."

After returning to China, she led a team of reporters covering the National People's Congress, China's highest legislative body, and witnessed improvements in the country's democratic and legal systems.

Xuefei says she has enjoyed the challenge of introducing China to foreigners, and teaching Chinese a little about the outside world.

She will return to China early next year and is not sure where her career will take her next.

She tells Hans Christian Andersen's story of the girl with red shoes who couldn't stop dancing. "I think a journalist writing a story is just like that. When you have your story out, you feel some kind of fulfilment."

Rebecca Palmer



Q and A Time!

- Q. Are you retiring at the end of 2003, or continuing in a part-time capacity?
- A. Yes
- Q. Do you know that you can receive NZ Superannuation at age 65 whether or not you are in paid employment?
- A. No
- Q. Did you know that you can reduce the tax you pay on your retirement payout if you are earning over \$60,000 p.a. by directing this lump sum into an approved superannuation fund?
- A. No
- Q. Do you know that you can uplift your GSF and NPF superannuation as a transfer value lump sum?
- A. No

Turn the No's into Yes's today phone Andrew Doak CFP on 377 6675 or email adoak@chc.e-spicers.co.nz



strategic financial advice

Spicers Portfolio Management Limited

www.e-spicers.co.nz

Garden Party at Cashel









(Clockwise from top left) (I) Guests stroll through the beautiful gardens. (2) Julia Jenkins and Jennifer Molina of the Canterbury chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society help pour champagne. (3) Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp, Registrar Alan Hayward, Mrs Beverley Sharp and Mrs Viv Hayward relax in the garden. (4) Guests enjoy views of the garden from the comfort of the Trengroves' home.

The weather sparkled for the 101 guests gathered at the Alumni Association's annual Garden Party.

Held on 23 November, the event was this year hosted at the beautiful four-hectare Cashel Garden of architects John and Pauline Trengrove in Ohoka.

Guests strolled leisurely about the various colour-themed flower gardens, sweeping lawns and stunning avenues of natives, and were also afforded the privilege of viewing the interior of the Trengroves' Palladian-style house and their extensive collection of contemporary art, which includes many pieces by Mrs Trengrove.

The Trengroves created Cashel from a bare 10-acre paddock in 1993, re-interpreting in the New Zealand setting the composition and symmetry of the classical gardens of Europe. They have a close association with another famous

Canterbury garden, Ohinetahi, which is owned by Mrs Trengrove's brother Sir Miles Warren, and which they played a significant part in establishing. This was the setting of last year's UCAAA garden party.

The Alumni Association warmly thanks the Trengroves for their hospitality.

FREE GRADUATION SHUTTLE

AVOID PARKING HASSLES, METER MONEY AND STRESS

Take advantage of our FREE graduation shuttle service. For graduands, staff, friends & family.

GETTING TO GRADUATION

Shuttles depart from the Fine Arts Car-park (Clyde Road end of Arts Road or University Drive) 12.00 noon, 12.20, 12.40, 1.00, 1.30 Route: First stop —The Arts Centre (for graduands) then onto the Town Hall for supporters.

RETURN TRIP

Shuttles depart from outside the Town Hall on Kilmore Street

4.30, 4.50, 5.10, 5.30

Route: First stop — The Arts Centre then back to the Fine Arts Car-park at the University of Canterbury.

For enquiries contact the Alumni Office, Ph (03) 364-2913