Inside this issue

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The Crest

The outside red border – a stylised fern frond or pitau – symbolises new birth, growth, vitality, strength and achievement. Inside the border is the University’s coat of arms. The open book surrounded by the four stars of the Southern Cross is a symbol of learning. The crest design is in the University’s colours of black, red and gold.

For the People

The University’s motto, Ko Te Tangata, ‘For the People’, reflects our intrinsic belief that people are central to the institution and are its most valued resource.

Mission

To combine the creation of knowledge through research, scholarship and creative works with the dissemination of knowledge through teaching, publication and performance.

The Vision for the University of Waikato, informed by our existing high quality teaching and research, is to:

• Deliver a world-class education and research portfolio
• Provide a full and dynamic university experience which is distinctive in character
• Pursue strong international linkages to advance knowledge

The over-arching themes of the Vision are:

• Excellence
• Distinctiveness
• International Connectedness

Sustainability

As part of the University of Waikato’s commitment to sustainability, we prefer to communicate with our alumni and friends electronically when feasible.

The Alumni and Friends e-zine is produced bi-monthly, enabling us to stay in touch throughout the year with a very light carbon footprint. If you wish to subscribe to the e-zine, send us an email at alumni@waikato.ac.nz.

Off Campus magazine is published annually to showcase the year’s top stories and achievements and is posted to alumni and friends around the world. If you’d prefer to receive future issues in a digital format, please let us know.

If we have all your current details, email and postal, we can keep you updated on all the latest news about the University of Waikato and share the year’s highlights.

Email us at alumni@waikato.ac.nz or visit our website www.alumni.waikato.ac.nz.

Front cover picture

Pictured from left are the University of Waikato 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award winners, Annabelle White, Alyn Ware and Dr Judy McGregor.

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Each year as I watch Waikato graduates cross the stage to receive their degrees I am incredibly proud. I know that every person leaves here ready to take on the world – in whichever direction they head and wherever they eventually land.

Certainly our recent Distinguished Alumni Awards, as they do every year, profile the breadth of our graduate successes. Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Dr Judy McGregor, international expert on peace, education and disarmament, Alyn Ware, and celebrity chef and food writer Annabelle White are examples of excellence in three quite different fields. They are people who have embraced and maximised the opportunities offered to them as a result of their Waikato University education.

A recent survey analysed our 2008 economic contribution and revealed that the University is a major driver of the Waikato region’s prosperity, generating 3% of total regional revenue and nearly $1 billion for the New Zealand economy as a whole.

That’s a sizeable contribution, but even so, it doesn’t take into account the huge part our graduates – in their many roles – and our research outputs play in our economy and our society.

Your successes, at international board tables, in academia, industry and within your own communities are a major part of the story of Waikato University. While still relatively young by international standards, we are beginning to see some milestones reached.

This year our School of Science celebrates 40 years, while next year the Law School will have been teaching for 20 years and the School of Education (originally Hamilton Teachers College) reaches its 50-year anniversary. To name but a few of the achievements in a relatively short time, in the last national grading, our School of Science was ranked No. 1 in Chemistry, Ecology and Biology, our School of Education was top in the country. Our Law School leads the way in unique and significant fields of environmental law, human rights and indigenous law, and lecturers in our School of Maori and Pacific Development are sought on the international stage.

Of particular note too is the recognition of the Waikato Management School’s public relations programme by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The foremost body of PR practitioners and educators, PRSA has only awarded its Certification in Education for Public Relations (CIPR) to 22 universities in the world – and just three outside the United States.

I’m delighted to be able to say that Waikato scored better than any other university in this year’s TEC Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships. Of the 14 scholarships handed out, five went to Waikato students. Postgraduate students from the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences were awarded three scholarships worth between $92,000 and $97,000 over three years for their doctoral studies. Engineering student Leon Henderson won $253,000 to undertake his PhD at Cambridge University, and Naomi Simmonds from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences was our fifth recipient for her research into childbirth within a Maori feminist perspective. She won $97,000 over three years.

We welcome the opportunities offered in this publication, in the regular e-zines many of you receive, and the media articles you will see nationally and internationally, to profile many of the achievements of the University of Waikato, our staff and our alumni.

My very best wishes to you in all your endeavours.

Roy Crawford
Vice-Chancellor

A warm welcome to the 2009 edition of Off Campus – the University of Waikato magazine for alumni and friends.

This is my second Off Campus publication since I took up the Director of Development role at the University of Waikato. I am enjoying the chance to highlight the achievements and hard work of the University and its alumni, and connect with them around New Zealand and the world.

My appointment two years ago marked a sharpening of focus for the University of Waikato. Government funding for universities was much larger in days gone by. Now we operate in a strict capped funding environment, with rising costs and extra pressures while still having to deliver on many fronts.

Institutions such as ours are rightly regarded as baskets of knowledge. Students come to take from those baskets, so we must ensure they are always full and that we can provide them with a world-class education and world-class facilities.

New Zealand universities recognise the importance of staying connected to alumni and friends who understand the importance of our work. We must encourage support from those who can help us deliver on our goals of enhancing the student experience and providing an excellent and distinctive university education which links people to the world.

Many of the greatest universities overseas were created through philanthropy, and I believe New Zealanders are increasingly recognising that universities are not ivory towers, but important institutions that contribute to the vibrancy of the community and the nation. A report on the economic impact of this university showed that in 2008 we were worth $749 million to the core Waikato region and nearly $1 billion to the New Zealand economy.

Former students and business leaders are now seeing how their generosity and belief in this University can ensure Waikato continues producing hard-working, well-rounded graduates. These friends support the University in a way that is most meaningful for them and future generations and keeps them connected with us – whether it’s providing a scholarship, helping a particular department or school, or contributing to larger capital projects.

The foresight of the New Zealand government in making tax changes is to be praised; they have enormous impacts on non-profit organisations such as ours which have an important mission to support the nation. These changes make it easier to support universities. Individual taxpayers can claim a tax rebate of 33.3% of the amount donated on any gift (up to a total of the donor’s net income for all gifts in a given year). Money given by corporates for scholarships in keeping with their industry is 100% tax deductible.

The University of Waikato Foundation, our independent charitable trust, will be working hard to help raise support for scholarships and other key projects including our new heart of the campus – the Student Centre. U Leisure and the Waikato Student Union’s campus building fund have already donated $1 million each to the project. Also available is a premier naming opportunity for our world-class Academy of Performing Arts.

This University was established through the vision, hard work and generosity of a determined group of people in 1964. Our community now extends around the region, the country and the world. As we work towards our 50th anniversary, I’d like to invite our wider University community to think about helping ensure the success of the next generation of leaders.

Christine Brabender
Director of Development
Our economic impact

Waikato University worth nearly $1 billion a year to national economy

The study also shows that every job at the University generates another job in New Zealand, with two-thirds of these flow-on jobs located in the core Waikato economy.

Core Waikato has only 5.4% of New Zealand’s population and employment, but is home to 15.2% of the nation’s researchers and 7.7% of its tertiary education.

“Our Waikato punches very much above its weight in the New Zealand intellectual property stakes,” says Prof Crawford. “And at the heart of the core is the University of Waikato.”

The report highlights the partnerships between town and gown that materially diversify a city’s industrial and business capabilities. Together with the Waikato Innovation Park, currently undergoing extension, we’re a great example of what’s been called a ‘communiversity.’

According to the study, university towns such as Hamilton are generally regarded to be more “recession-proof” than other cities, and it is estimated that average wages tend to rise in synch with the share of the adult population with university degrees.

Some $749 million of the University’s total economic contribution was generated in the Waikato region, making up 3% of the entire region’s revenue.

For the core Waikato region – encompassing Hamilton, Raglan, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Huntly and Ngaruawahia – the University’s contribution is even more significant.

“A university, as a place of teaching, research and learning, has direct economic impacts on the home town and surrounding region where faculty, staff and students live, work and play,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford.

“In the core Waikato region, economic activity by the University accounts for 5% of overall revenue – a massive percentage for a single organisation. What that means is every dollar spent by the University in 2008 resulted in $1.21 of flow-on revenue across the core Waikato economy.”

The influential Harvard economist Professor Edward Glaeser had this to say about the importance of education: “Apart from the weather, human capital has been the best long-run predictor of urban success in the last century.”

The report estimates that average wages tend to rise in synch with the share of the adult population with university degrees.

A recently commissioned study shows just how important the University of Waikato is to the surrounding region and the nation. It’s a major economic driver, contributing nearly $1 billion to the New Zealand economy.

The economic impact study, commissioned by the University from independent consultant Dr Warren Hughes, analysed the University’s 2008 economic contribution to the region and the country.

The study shows that spending by the University generated $913 million dollars in the New Zealand economy overall.

The figure covers direct or first-round spending by the University and its students – this includes university fees, revenue from hostel operations and University facilities, and impacts generated from the University’s research activities emanating from research grant revenue.

It also includes the flow-on expenditure into supplying sectors such as retail, energy, transport, sport and recreation, and personal and community services.

The study also shows that every job at the University generates another job in New Zealand, with two-thirds of these flow-on jobs located in the core Waikato economy.

Key points from the University of Waikato economic impact study for 2008

In 2008, the University of Waikato was one of the Waikato region’s main drivers of economic prosperity as well as being a significant contributor to the New Zealand economy.

• University of Waikato operations, together with the expenditures of its students, generated $749 million – or 3% of the entire Waikato region’s annual revenue.

• This revenue impact rises to nearly $1 billion ($913 million) – or 0.4% – for the New Zealand economy as a whole.

• The University directly and indirectly accounts for more than 5,600 jobs in the Waikato region (3.3% of total Waikato employment).

• The University accounts for 5% of economic activity in the core Waikato economy (encompasses Hamilton, Raglan, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Huntly and Ngaruawahia).

• Every dollar generated by the University resulted in $1.21 of flow-on revenue across the core Waikato economy.

• Every job at the University generates another job in New Zealand, with two-thirds of these flow-on jobs located in the core Waikato economy.

• Students spent an estimated $167 million in core Waikato, directly and indirectly generating 3,049 jobs in the area.

• In Tauranga, the University’s 1,711 students spent an estimated $10 million, directly generating 125 jobs in the city.

ECONOMIC DRIVER: The University of Waikato was worth nearly $1 billion in 2008 to the New Zealand economy. Massive University projects such as the $30 million Student Centre will ensure the University remains a major economic driver.
Alyn Ware

The University of Waikato is very pleased to bestow its 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award on Alyn Ware in recognition of his tireless crusade on the issues of peace and disarmament.

Mr Ware graduated from the University of Waikato in 1984 with a Bachelor of Education and Diploma in Kindergarten Teaching and has spent the past 25 years as a tireless advocate for peace education around the world in paid and unpaid roles. He is the global co-ordinator for Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the Director of the Peace Foundation in Wellington, Vice-President of the International Peace Bureau, Director of Antinuclear Lawyers for Peace and a consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms.

Mr Ware played an important role in creating and introducing peace education in this country and the adoption of the 1987 nuclear-free legislation. He has helped draft UN resolutions, and lobbied governments to support them.

Mr Ware is the New Zealand organiser of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence. Previous roles include co-ordinator of the Mobile Peace Van in New Zealand, member of the UN Advisory Group on Disarmament Education, board member of the Global Campaign for Peace Education, UN Co-ordinator of the World Court Project which achieved an historic case in the International Court of Justice on the legality of nuclear weapons, co-founder of Abolition 2000—an international network of more than 2000 organisations calling for nuclear abolition, a delegate to the Nobel Peace Laureates Summit and the drafting co-ordinator for the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention now being circulated by the United Nations Secretary-General as part of his five-point plan for nuclear disarmament.

Mr Ware has also won a $100,000 international award called the Right Livelihood Award, known as the ‘alternative Nobel’. His traits of humility, courage, determination and perceptive leadership in his roles are those that Waikato University is proud to see in its alumni.

IMPORTANT ROLE: Alyn Ware said his award was recognition of the role of peace education.

Annabelle White

The University of Waikato has much pleasure bestowing its 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award on Annabelle White in recognition of her career in cooking and public speaking.

Ms White graduated from the University of Waikato with a Bachelor of Arts in 1980. In 1982 she gained her Graduate Diploma in Education Studies at Waikato and in 1983 she completed a Masters degree (First Class Honours) in History and Geography. Twenty years ago she started food writing for the Sunday Star and has been writing a weekly column ever since. In that time she has published 10 cookbooks and her first, Best Recipes, has now been reprinted for a third time and has sold more than 43,000 copies here and in Australia. Ms White is currently the Sunday Star-Times ‘food detective’ and a food writer, and has worked for various other newspapers and magazines, including a stint as food editor of NZ House and Garden Magazine. She has worked regularly in radio for the past 20 years, hosting a nationwide Newstalk ZB Foodie Show among other slots. Today she presents four weekly radio slots nationwide.

She began appearing on our television screens in 1990 as a food reporter with TVNZ’s Nightline as well as guest appearances on other news and lifestyle programmes. For three years Ms White had several weekly cooking slots on TVNZ’s lifestyle programme, 5.30 with Jude and she is now The TVNZ Breakfast Foodie.

She is in demand as a public speaker and motivator, and runs ‘business etiquette’ sessions for corporate clients and is in regular demand for live cooking shows both in New Zealand and overseas. She is a great example of a University of Waikato graduate using her skills and academic disciplines gleaned during learning to diversify and then strengthen her career.

HONOURED: Annabelle White receives her award from Chancellor Jim Bolger.

Dr Judy McGregor CNZM

The University of Waikato has much pleasure bestowing its 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award on Dr Judy McGregor in recognition of her exemplary contribution to human rights, equal employment opportunities and the media, and in particular her tireless championing of women in leadership.

Dr McGregor has gained national and international recognition for her work as Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner for the Human Rights Commission.

She graduated from the University of Waikato in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts, and went on to qualify in law before gaining a doctorate in political communication.

She has had a distinguished career in journalism, during which she was editor of the Sunday News and the Auckland Star, and in 2004 she was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to journalism.

As a professor at Massey University, Dr McGregor founded the New Zealand Centre for Women and Leadership, and helped establish the New Zealand Women in Leadership Programme in 2007. Dr McGregor is a woman of integrity, intelligence and courage who has given considerable public service to New Zealand. In her commitment to the pursuit of excellence and social equity, she has exhibited all the characteristics of the best of graduates from the University of Waikato.

HONOURED: Dr Judy McGregor CNZM receives her award from Chancellor Jim Bolger.

Dr Judy McGregor CNZM
Peter Sergel

Peter Sergel, the maestro behind the conception and development of Hamilton Gardens, is among this year’s recipients of an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Waikato. Mr Sergel has been involved in Hamilton Gardens for more than 20 years, 14 of them as director, and has worked tirelessly to transform what was a former dog-dosing strip, sand quarry, goat cart track and rubbish dump into a 58 hectare, internationally acclaimed park that contributes to the social, cultural and economic life of the city.

He has always kept the community involved in the gardens’ development by setting up small, single purpose trusts to finance specific projects, and is currently involved in plans to develop three Fantasy Gardens, a Tropical Garden, a Tudor Garden and a Surrealism Garden.

Recently, Mr Sergel was made an Associate of Honour of the Royal Institute of Horticulture. He is chair of the Board of Trustees at Southwell School and founder of the Hamilton Gardens Summer Festival and Pacific Rose Festival.

Dame Lynley Dodd

The University of Waikato’s most prestigious award of Honorary Doctorate has gone to children’s author and illustrator Dame Lynley Dodd. Arguably New Zealand’s best known author at home and off shore, Dame Lynley has written 32 books and is the winner of at least 10 literary awards for her work.

Her most famous creation, Hairy Maclary, has delighted children around the world – sales of Dame Lynley’s books have now reached nine million. Her stories have helped develop children in an interest in books and a love of reading. Children’s literature across the world is the richer because of her.

Dame Lynley Dodd originally trained in sculpture before becoming an art teacher for five years. Her first major success came in 1974 with My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes, which was chosen by Carter Holt Harvey during which time he rose to become director, and then chairman of the board before stepping down in 2003. He was knighted for his services to sport and business, and has also been inducted into the Business Hall of Fame.

During his years in business, rugby wasn’t completely forgotten because Sir Wilson was on the Eden Park Trust Board and had a number of advisory roles with the New Zealand Union. He became the NZRU patron in 2003.

Sir Wilson Whineray

Acclaimed as New Zealand’s greatest All Black captain, Sir Wilson Whineray OBE has this year been awarded an Honorary Doctorate, the University of Waikato’s top academic honour, for his significant contributions to New Zealand rugby and New Zealand business.

Selected for the All Blacks in 1997, Sir Wilson led the side through 67 matches. He played 32 tests for the All Blacks, and was captain for 30, and is still recognised for setting the leadership standards by which everyone else could be judged.

Sir Wilson retired from top-level rugby in 1965 and went on to earn an MBA at Harvard as a Harkness Fellow. He subsequently spent 34 years at what became Carter Holt Harvey during which time he rose to become director, and then chairman of the board before stepping down in 2003. He was knighted for his services to sport and business, and has also been inducted into the Business Hall of Fame.

Hamish Keith

Hamish Keith is the man who brought art into living rooms across New Zealand with his 2007 TV series The Big Picture, is one of the latest recipients of the University of Waikato’s most prestigious award of Honorary Doctorate.

For more than a half century, Mr Keith has been working with, and for, New Zealand art. The author of more than a dozen books, he served on the planning committee and project development board for the Museum of New Zealand, he chaired the National Art Gallery Council and the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council.

As chairman of the Arts Council, Mr Keith was determined that Māori art should have its proper place in the mainstream of New Zealand culture as an evolving and developing art. He spearheaded the establishment of the Council for Māori and South Pacific Arts, and initiated Te Māori - that iconic exhibition that showed in New York and Washington and enabled New Zealanders to gain fresh understandings of Māori art.

A strong believer that art should be enjoyed by everybody, not merely an exclusive few, Mr Keith excels in presenting art in a digestible form. In his Big Picture television and accompanying book, he took New Zealanders on a journey from the first-found cave drawings down South through to a new generation of Māori artists on a journey from the first-found cave drawings down South through to a new century that finds New Zealand art confident, multicultural, adventurous and thriving.

Zena Daysh

Zena Daysh is a tireless campaigner for disadvantaged populations in Commonwealth countries. Zena Daysh is the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Waikato for her international contribution to human ecology and sustainable communities.

A New Zealander who has lived in London for more than 50 years, Ms Daysh calls herself an evolutionist battling for change in people’s attitudes. Her passionate advocacy of collaboration and integration between governments, universities and non-government agencies to improve the lives of the disadvantaged laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) in 1969.

She was awarded the CNZM in 1996, and in 2008 was the winner of the inaugural New Zealand Inspired Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication to influencing Commonwealth governments in creating policies in support of ecological and sustainable communities. She was awarded the United Nations Habitat Scroll of Honour Award in 2003 by the UK Secretary of State for International Development.

Her influence is reflected in human ecology degree programmes that are now offered at a number of universities around the world and the CHEC initiatives that are operating in many countries in Asia and Africa.

Tessa Duder

The University of Waikato’s first woman in residence is among the recipients of the University’s highest honour: Tessa Duder is the latest in a distinguished line of New Zealand writers, including Janet Frame, Don Stafford, Maurice Gee, Margaret Mahy and Michael King, to receive an Honorary Doctorate.

Appointed writer in residence at the University in 1991, Ms Duder completed books three and four in her Alex Quartet series that has become a New Zealand children’s classic, and also found time to appear in the University production of Twelfth Night.

A former journalist, Ms Duder has been winning awards for her children’s books since 1985, many for the novels in the Alex series based on her teenage experiences as a champion swimmer. Other awards include an OBE in 1994 and the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal in 1996, both for her distinguished contribution to New Zealand children’s literature.

Her adult book of short stories which is titled Is She Still Alive? claimed a spot on the best-seller list for 11 weeks.

Ms Duder is deputy chairman of the Spirit of Adventure Trust, and has been national president of the New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN Inc).

Kaa Mataraua Sunderland

Kaa Mataraua and Māori leader Hēni Mataraua Sunderland has been awarded a posthumous Honorary Doctorate for her life-long commitment to education and her service to the community at a local and national level.

Mrs Sunderland (1916-2008), descended from her grandmother, from the senior whakapapa line of Ngāi Manu, the hapu of Te Koiti, and was one of the founding kaa mērati of Te Runanga o Turangauia–a-Kewa – the Gisborne iwi authority. In 1991 she received a QSO for her services to the community and in 2002 she was a key witness for the Treaty of Waitangi Turanginui-a-Kiwa claims. Her detailed account of the history, whakapapa and cultural practices of her region were critical to the Tribunal report.

Mrs Sunderland was a strong believer in education and established the first Te Koanga Reo pre-school in the Gisborne region in 1983. As a leading Māori historian, and scholar on cultural, social and historical information, she mentored students and academics on Māori spiritual beliefs, history, geography, Māori science and agriculture, and provided a tangible connection between the Gisborne region and key Māori staff at the University of Waikato.
Massive Student Centre project on track

Waikato’s $30 million project to turn the Library into a state-of-the-art Student Centre will eventually occupy more than 11,000 square metres, and will house an information commons, food outlets, Bennetts Bookshop, other shops and student services. It will combine traditional library resources with hi-tech IT facilities.

What won’t be as visible will be the huge amount of sustainable design and work that is going into the building, says project manager Tony Dicks. It already has recycled concrete used in the east wing of the building – the extension.

Double glazing – “one of the most complex designs of its type” – and sun-screens will reduce glare, and study spaces will make greater use of natural light. Among other green and sustainable features, the building will have low energy use throughout; will use rainwater collected from the roof for toilets; will generate some of its electricity from solar panels; and will use rainwater collected from the roof to water the 600 native trees and shrubs.

Mr Dicks says added to that, the contractors, Fletcher Construction and Mahoney Ltd-Maunsell/Aecom design for the massive library overhaul and extension, and it’s on track to be completed in mid-2011. Mr Dicks says the east wing is due to be completed towards the end of 2009, then contractors will begin work on the new atrium and staircase on the southern side of the Library.

Mr Dicks says the contractors and library staff have been working well together. “The contractors are careful to keep their disruption to a minimum, and the library staff have been very accepting of the work and the associated noise and upset it causes them.”

Mr Dicks says to date, the contractors have managed to keep disruption to a minimum, and have been working well together. “The contractors are careful to keep their disruption to a minimum, and the library staff have been very accepting of the work and the associated noise and upset it causes them.”

BEAUTIFUL SETTING: The $3 million rebuild of the shops on campus has resulted in a bright, airy and convivial area for staff and students.

In the Bay

University delivers benefits for the Bay

The University’s presence in Tauranga has been hugely boosted this year with major funding announcements which will have direct benefits for the Bay of Plenty region.

In May the University of Waikato and Germany’s University of Bremen announced a major centre of research excellence called INTERCOAST will be established in Tauranga. Interdisciplinary researchers from the two universities will work together on projects that will focus on the Bay of Plenty coast and inner continental shelf, plus comparable areas in the North Sea.

Over nine years, $11 million is being provided by the German government through the DFG, the German Research Foundation.

That was followed with an announcement recently that major players in the region – Environment Bay of Plenty, Priority One and the Port of Tauranga – have pledged their help to ensure Waikato University can deliver scientific research and benefits in the area. Discussions continue with other key stakeholders.

Meanwhile, staff, students and visitors are revelling in the new shops complex which was completed earlier this year. That $3 million project saw the original shops (built in the 1970s) bowled and rebuilt to provide room for seven businesses and plenty of outdoor tables and chairs under a far more convivial canopy area which has a scenic view of the lake and treed area of campus.

The University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Doug Sutton, says the grants are a wonderful start. Environment Bay of Plenty’s endowed of a Professorial Chair, worth $1.5 million over 10 years, will help the University ensure that Tauranga is at the forefront of coastal research. He says:

“The Port of Tauranga has given $50,000 this year and offered in-kind support, and Priority One, the Western Bay of Plenty region’s economic development organisation, has given $50,000 and in-kind help with office space and staff.

“We have strong and valued relationships with all these groups, some of which have supported our work for many years,” Prof Sutton says.

“Environment Bay of Plenty already funds a Chair in Lakes Management and Restoration at the University of Waikato and I am particularly pleased they can already see the value we will bring to industry in the region with our coastal work.”

PROFESSOR DOUG SUTTON: Grants will help put Tauranga at the forefront of coastal research.

Looking to the Future: Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford and Tertiary Education Minister Anne Tolley.

Partners in the Bay of Plenty boost study options

This year has seen the University of Waikato and the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic working together for the needs of the region in a unique relationship not seen anywhere else in New Zealand.

The two organisations last year signed an agreement which strengthens ties and gives people more tertiary options in the region. The programme offers through the partnership enable students to staircase seamlessly between the two institutions from entry level qualifications to degrees, iwi, business and community leaders all provided input into courses that would address the needs of the region, and particularly address skills shortages. One of the major rollouts was a Bachelor of Social Work degree, available only at the University’s Tauranga campus.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says Waikato University is committed to providing education and research to meet the needs of the fast-growing Bay of Plenty region.

PORT SUPPORT: The Port of Tauranga is just one of the Bay of Plenty groups helping the University of Waikato in Tauranga.

The regional council and the port have been heavily involved in the coastal projects to be worked on by INTERCOAST postgraduate students arriving from early next year.

Over the next 10 years, as many as 39 PhD students and postdoctoral fellows, all recruited internationally, will work on projects which will benefit the Bay of Plenty and the North Sea coasts.

Those projects will include the impacts of harbour developments on ecosystems, looking at open ocean aquaculture, and protection and utilisation of the harbour and coastline.

“Bremen University has one of the world’s top five oceanographic institutes, and this centre of research excellence will ensure that Tauranga harbour and its port will be the most comprehensively researched harbour in Australasia,” Prof Sutton says.

LOttO: 3 12 17 23 32 41
Hats off to graduates

It was a celebratory occasion for the 850 Waikato graduates who had degrees and diplomas conferred during the ceremonies at Te Kohanga Marama Marae and the Founders Theatre in October. Graduates took to the streets of Hamilton in fine weather for a procession from Civic Square to the Founders Theatre led by the Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger, and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. Among the graduates were 25 PhDs and one MPhil, as well as Waikato’s youngest student. Eighteen-year-old Michael Hoy graduated with a Bachelor of Science and Engineering, having started his studies aged 14.

All graduates and their families enjoyed the opportunity after the day’s ceremonies to mingle with Mr Bolger and Professor Crawford, as well as local parliamentarians, deans and other University academics. Two honorary doctorates were conferred at the ceremonies, with social historian Hamish Keith and former All Black Sir Wilson Whineray also offering their thoughts as graduation speakers. Other speakers were Waikato alumni and Foundation chair Alastair Calder, and former Chief Financial Officer for Tamei Group Holdings, Hinerangi Raumati.

Graduates took to the streets of Hamilton in fine weather for a procession from Civic Square to the Founders Theatre led by the Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger, and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. Among the graduates were 25 PhDs and one MPhil, as well as Waikato’s youngest student. Eighteen-year-old Michael Hoy graduated with a Bachelor of Science and Engineering, having started his studies aged 14.

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Hats off to graduates

It was a celebratory occasion for the 850 Waikato graduates who had degrees and diplomas conferred during the ceremonies at Te Kohanga Marama Marae and the Founders Theatre in October. Graduates took to the streets of Hamilton in fine weather for a procession from Civic Square to the Founders Theatre led by the Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger, and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. Among the graduates were 25 PhDs and one MPhil, as well as Waikato’s youngest student. Eighteen-year-old Michael Hoy graduated with a Bachelor of Science and Engineering, having started his studies aged 14.

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A Waikato University lecturer and artist drew on her modern Māori weaving work in a talk on collaborative art at a recent international conference in Qatar.

Donna Campbell of the School of Māori and Pacific Development was a professional speaker at the Mousharaka/Icograda Design Conference held at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar earlier this year: Mousharaka means collaboration.

Ms Campbell was part of the group behind the Eternal Thread exhibition that toured the United States for three years—an exhibition that was supported by Tourism New Zealand, Creative New Zealand and Toi Māori Aotearoa. While in Qatar she spoke to delegates about the collaborative process.

“Collaborative art is interesting, because making art is usually such a personal thing but when we work on collaborative projects we are asked to put our own egos aside, step back and look at the big picture. It’s about committing to a vision then working on seeing it through.”

Once she’d adjusted to the beige of the land and buildings, Ms Campbell said the Qatar conference was an enjoyable and enriching experience. “The most amazing thing was networking with an international group of inspiring people with amazing ideas,” she says.

Lizzie Dobson: The Waikato University Hillary Scholar is buzzing with new projects.

With a little bit of fundraising help from the University of Waikato Hillary Scholars Programme, composition student and Hillary Scholar Lizzie Dobson made it to Massachusetts for the foremost professional development programme in contemporary music, the Bang On A Can summer festival.

Lizzie was one of just nine composers worldwide to be selected for the three-week programme for young musicians—and the only Kiwi. She says it was cool to be mocked for her Kiwi accent and have to explain to everyone else what jandals are, but the best thing was being able to talk about music all day.

Bang On A Can was a goldmine full of inspiring people with amazing ideas,” she says. “There were concerts by fellows (that’s what participants are called) and faculty, seminars and workshops. I really enjoyed every bit of it!”

The 35 participants came from all over the world, and Lizzie says she didn’t think she’d ever been exposed to such amazing musicians. “Myself and an Aussie percussionist were the only two from below the equator—and, which was also very cool, we got huge cheers and claps for saying that it was our first time to the US.”

Lizzie had to write a seven-minute composition to be workshoped, performed and recorded at the festival. Called Maratua, the piece featured two flutes, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion, vibraphone and two ethnic instruments from Kyrgyzstan.

“A huge highlight was meeting the performers from Kyrgyzstan—they both played in my piece, and then there was a female singer from Uzbekistan who sounded so amazing! I was the only composer who had written for the ethnic music, and everyone was quite interested in how I did it.”

“I used loads of Māori hīnga, what they call ‘terminal glissando’—a fall of the end of notes and phrases, and wailing type sounds which worked great on all the woodwind to imitate the Māori instrument the kōauau.”

She also got to hobnob with an international who’s who of contemporary classical music, including a personal composing session with Steve Reich.

Lizzie came back to New Zealand buzzing with plans for new projects—“I’ve been so, so inspired by everything that’s happened at Bang On A Can,” she says. “I have notebook pages full of ideas for projects and pieces—anything from solo works to crazy mixed combinations of instruments.”

This year she and two other Waikato composition students, Hannah Gilmore and Matthew Childs, reached the finals of the 2009 NZSO/Childs Corporation Young Composer Awards. All 12 finalists for the awards won the opportunity to have their orchestral compositions workshoped and recorded by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Lizzie and Hannah were also finalists in the 2008 awards and Lizzie also won a 2009 prestigious Blues award from Waikato University.

Waikato wins government funding

Six major research projects at Waikato University have been awarded $6.2 million in government funding this year.

Two large science projects won funding from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST).

Earth and Ocean Sciences Professor Peter Kamp won six years of FRST funding worth $2.7 million to research oil and gas resources in New Zealand’s frontier basins. The contract is a collaboration between Waikato University, Yale and the University of Pennsylvania. Understanding how the basins work and have evolved is key to finding petrol and gas in them.

Biologist’s Professor Bruce Clarkson has secured a further three years of funding from FRST at $300,000 a year to continue the University’s work on restoring natural ecosystems in city areas. It will ensure the work that has been done in Hamilton can be spread to three other cities around New Zealand. Those cities will be decided by the end of this year.

Under Manden funding announced in October, the University won a $1 million contract over three years to look at the Māori way of death. Professor Ngāhia Te Awekotukau of the School of Māori and Pacific Development and Associate Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora of the Māori and Psychology Research Unit will lead a team to explore and record tangihanga practice past and present. Findings from the research programme—Aşakura: the Māori way of death—will be made available to whānau, hapū, the health services, police and the funeral industry.

Waikato also won three other prestigious Manden Fund contracts. A $773,000, three-year project headed by the Management School’s Professor Juliet Roper will look at the vulnerability of New Zealand’s global environmental positioning, and an FMG, with plans for new projects—“I’ve been so, so inspired by everything that’s happened at Bang On A Can,” she says. “I have notebook pages full of ideas for projects and pieces—anything from solo works to crazy mixed combinations of instruments.”

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Around the schools

**Gift aims to get computer scientists away from their screens**

A generous gift by US-based Waikato alumnus Craig Nevill-Manning of Google has given the University’s Department of Computer Science the chance to emulate Google’s famous workplace culture.

The donation is being spent on upgrading the department’s social space, and turning it into a place where staff can seek inspiration as well as relaxation.

Computer science lecturer Dr Te Taka Keegan says it’s an opportunity for staff to break out of the traditional computer scientist mould. “It’s a really good idea if we can get staff and students out of one-on-ones with their computers,” he says. “Computer science can be quite intense, so it’s important to encourage people to get out and have a break.”

Dr Keegan is just back from six months at Google headquarters in California. It was an extraordinary experience; he says, working somewhere with 10,000 people, 35 buildings, 17 cafes and pick-up-and-use electric scooters and bikes for getting around the campus.

“Just a little. Waikato’s computer science department may not run to Gustar Hens or a pool table, says Dr Keegan, but the plan is to make the social space more conducive to creativity by bringing in some squashy sofas for conversations, a big screen Nintendo-Wii for game playing, café-style tables and chairs for informal meetings, and a massive whiteboard for brainstorming. They might even go for a massage chair or two.

“The culture here is more about having a cup of tea, so that’s a challenge for us,” he says. “What we’re trying to do is break out of the mould and encourage lateral thinking.”

Dr Nevill-Manning, who completed his PhD in computer science at Waikato University, led the development of Google, which evolved into Google Product Search, and played a key role in developing Google Maps. He is currently engineering director at Google’s remote engineering centre in New York.

His gift to the University to enhance the social space in computer science is just the latest example of how Dr Nevill-Manning has kept his ties to New Zealand. He’s also helped promote his homeland through Google internships for New Zealand graduates; funding for New Zealand-based research projects; and sabbaticals and speaking opportunities for New Zealand academics visiting the US.

In 2009, Dr Nevill-Manning was honoured with a Kea World Class New Zealand Award for his contribution to the ICT sector and his work to enhance the nation’s reputation around the world.

The University of Waikato Foundation has established a special fund in the US to allow alumni and friends living there to support the University with tax deductible contributions. For more information, email foundation@waikato.ac.nz

**Law Talk: Former Speaker of the House, Margaret Wilson, is back at Waikato University.**

“Do you know what is it about Google that’s so good? It’s its teaching of law in context, and I hear students which is probably just as well!”

Margaret Wilson, is back at Waikato University. Former Attorney-General, Speaker of the House and Minister of Labour Margaret Wilson has returned to Waikato University.

Before entering Parliament in 1999, she was the Foundation Dean and Professor of Law at Waikato. She’s back as Professor of Law and Public Policy - teaching and researching - and hopes to find time to write as well. She confesses to missing Wellington just a little.

“The thing I miss most is the variety of people you meet as they pass through Parliament is an interesting place and it’s only natural to miss aspects of a job that eats up most of your waking hours.”

Students taking Constitutional Studies and Law and Public Policy paper reap the benefits of Prof Wilson’s hands-on experience and next year will be teaching a graduate course on international law. “I’ve always enjoyed teaching and I find it still do, which is probably just as well.

“I think the strengths of Waikato Law School are its teaching of law in context, and I hear students say that time and time again, its commitment to Māori legal education and the priority it places on students and teaching.”

Recently Prof Wilson was in Sydney presenting a paper at the International Society for Labour Social Security Law World Congress, joining high profile labour law specialists meeting to cover aspects of labour law and industrial relations in the current global financial crisis.

She talked about the evolution of New Zealand’s employment relations institutional framework, arguing that while economic and social factors are important in the construction of frameworks, so is the ideological position of the government of the time. She suggested that increasing ideological positioning of the statutory frameworks has created instability and questions whether or not stability can be attained again.

Earlier this year Prof Wilson, who has an Honorary Doctorate from Waikato University, was awarded the Distinguished Companion of New Zealand Order of Merit. “And no, I didn’t consider swapping it for the title of Dame. I’m comfortable with the decision not to accept an English honour. My family has been in New Zealand for nearly 200 years, so I’m a proud New Zealander.”

**Around the schools**

Engineering a difference far away from home

Raglan drystock farmer Michael Carter knows a lot more about deserts than most Kiwi farmers – thanks to a chance encounter at Fiji days.

Mr Carter, who farms 100 hectares with two of his sons, has spent much of the past three years helping establish water supplies for some of the world’s poorest and most war-torn communities in parched northern Africa.

In May, he headed out to the Ethiopian-Eritrean border for another 12-month stint as a water and habitat engineer with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

“I’m working in an area with lots of displaced people and prisoners in POW camps due to the long-running border dispute there, putting in new boreholes, wells, latrines and organising hygiene training,” says Mr Carter, who has a Masters degree in earth sciences from the University of Waikato.

He’s not fazed by operating in a warzone – in 2007-08 he spent 12 months with the ICRC based in Darfur. “The first hurdle was getting used to the sound of gunfire in the streets at night; they’re certainly not shooting possums, but I quite enjoyed it!”

The work there involved lots of fieldtrips to villages not even on the map in remote and difficult terrain. Mr Carter’s team was at constant risk of ambush and looting by bandits – “one plump duck ready for the plucking” as he describes it.

Yet he says humanitarian work in these conditions is addictive. “It’s quite unique, a whole world on its own. And the ICRC is second to none in supporting its delegates, you feel like you belong to a family.”

Born on his farm, Mr Carter left school at 16 and spent 20 years farming before a chance encounter at Fiji days changed his life forever: “I saw a University of Waikato promotion at Fieldays and thought I’d try a couple of papers part-time. Nine years later I had my Masters in Earth Sciences.

Then I saw an ad for engineers on the ICRC website and I thought I’d give it a crack.”

Six weeks later he was on the plane to his first posting in Liberia.

Mr Carter says there’s a big demand in the aid sector for water and habitat engineers. “Much of the work is to do with finding subsurface water; and almost half of the people working as water and habitat engineers have backgrounds in geology, earth sciences and hydroscence.”

He says Kiwi delegates, most of whom are engaged through the New Zealand Red Cross, have an excellent reputation as aid workers. “We function pretty well in the field, I guess we aren’t complicated, and we’re just a ‘do it’ sort of people.”

With a Raglan friend, Kevin Ansley, Mr Carter is even developing a prototype hand pump using off-the-shelf NZ parts for use in rural Africa.

“In both my previous missions nearly half the pumps weren’t working properly at any given time because they were of such poor quality. It was so frustrating: the average working life between overhauls was just seven months. Imagine the cost in human health!”

But there’s no place like home, and Mr Carter makes sure he spends plenty of time on his farm between missions. “I’ve just had 12 months back farming. A cool climate, fresh air, food I want to eat – it’s a good way of cleaning yourself out.”

Law Talk: Former Speaker of the House, Margaret Wilson, is back at Waikato University.
A pair of experienced language curriculum writers at the University of Waikato have gone international – creating a curriculum for the English-language programme at one of Taiwan’s top language institutes.

Dr Diane Johnson, senior lecturer in General and Applied Linguistics, and Associate Professor Winston Cribb of the School of Māori and Pacific Development (Language and Language Education) have co-written a new curriculum for students of English language at Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages in Kaohsiung, Taiwan’s second-biggest city. Between 6000 and 8000 students enrol in Wenzao’s 36-credit English programme each year.

The new curriculum is part of a $NZ250,000 research-focused instructional excellence project funded by the Taiwan Ministry of Education and conducted at Wenzao. Dr Johnson and Dr Cribb are also two of the six international consultants asked to evaluate the impact and outcomes of the project.

It’s not the pair’s first foray into curriculum development. They were principal writers for the NZ Ministry of Education curriculum for French and German, and Dr Cribb was also a principal writer for the Te Reo Māori curriculum.

Wenzao’s link with Waikato goes back 10 years, says Dr Cribb. “This is just one in a long line of collaborative projects with Wenzao. Di and I go once or twice a year to Wenzao, and it’s become a real friendship.”

Other projects include a teacher training programme for newly appointed Wenzao staff, as well as research and development initiatives.

The Wenzao link was forged through a friendship Dr Johnson developed with one of her MA students, Ellen Huang Wu, who was a staff member at Wenzao. Ellen is now retired, and is back at Waikato to do her PhD.

Dr Johnson is the recipient of a 2008 national tertiary teaching excellence award, and a 2008 University of Waikato tertiary teaching excellence award.

MINED OF INFORMATION: Masters student Quan Sun won first place in an international context, using Waikato University’s Weka data mining software.

If you’ve ever wondered why certain types of junk mail make a beeline for your letterbox, it’s all because of clever data mining. Data mining pulls out useful and pertinent information from a whole mass of information, and from it can make predictions about patterns of behaviour – so if you’re getting junk mail about tropical holidays or power tools, it’s because the model has put you in the top 10% of most likely consumers.

A Waikato Masters student in computer science and former web developer, Quan Sun is certainly a clever data miner: he’s won first place in an international competition using the award-winning Weka data mining software developed at the University of Waikato.

Quan was placed first in the ‘hard’, graduate/post-doctoral section of the annual University of California San Diego Student Data Mining Competition, which attracted more than 300 entries from top universities in North America, Europe, Asia and Australasia.

The competition was in four sections – with ‘easy’ and ‘hard’ options for both undergraduate and graduate/post-doc students. All competitors were set the task of predicting anomalies in some e-commerce transaction data.

Quan says figuring out the answer took him about a month, working on the data for two to four hours a day and brainstorming ideas with his wife, who’s a PhD student in engineering at Waikato.

“I couldn’t have done it without Weka,” he says. “Weka is like the Microsoft Word of data mining, and at least half of the competitors used it in their entries.”

In 2005, Weka software won the Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery Service Award from the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining. The open-source software has been downloaded by more than 1.5 million users worldwide.

Quan’s masters supervisor, Associate Professor Ebe Frank, says the win provides yet more evidence that the University of Waikato’s Computer Science Department is a good destination for students. “Quan’s success demonstrates the benefits of studying at a department that produces internationally competitive open-source software such as Weka. Here at Waikato we not only write widely-used software; we also teach our students to become expert practitioners.”

Quan, who also did his first degree at Waikato, says his previous work as a web developer has given him good attention to detail, which is essential for datamining. He’s planning to continue on to doctoral study when he completes his MSc.

The University of Waikato’s new Dean of Law has left behind the largest law school in Canada to head up one of the smallest in New Zealand.

But Professor Brad Morse has big plans for his new charge, and says the two schools actually have a lot in common. “When I was first at Ottawa in the 1970s, we underinvested and underpromoted our excellence, and so we were not as effective as we should have been.

“Today, the University of Ottawa has 1,600 full-time students and more than 100 full-time staff, and gets the most applicants of any law school in Canada. This year, we had 3,600 applicants for just over 200 places.”

Waikato’s School of Law currently has 600 equivalent full-time students – the highest number ever; and Prof Morse says the School has plans to attract even more applicants, particularly for the Diploma of Law offered at the Tauranga campus.

“We have strengths that I think place the School in the first rank already in some fields,” he says. “For example, we have the largest number of academic staff working on environmental issues and the most Māori staff of any law school in New Zealand. I think we can make up 24% of our student body.”

Prof Morse says in the past the School hasn’t really blown its own horn, and he wonders if it’s a lack of self-confidence or that Kiwis are just too polite.

“We need to spread the word about the talent that exists here, and be proactive in creating research clusters, launching more journals and conferences, and upgrading our web presence;” he says. “I want students to be coming here because this school in particular fields is recognised as the best law school in New Zealand.”

Prof Morse is no stranger to New Zealand. A specialist in indigenous issues and a frequent adviser to governments and indigenous organisations in Canada and Australia, he’s been making regular visits here since 1982, and has been an adviser to the Waitangi Tribunal and the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission.

New Zealand, he says, provides a stark contrast to the experience of some other settler societies.

“It’s at the forefront of some interesting initiatives, such as having Māori seats in Parliament and the Māori Land Court that’s become a critical agent within Māori society for resolving disputes. And the Treaty Tribunal has been highly influential for other countries coming to grips with fundamental grievances. It’s been extraordinarily creative in the way it deals with modern issues while remaining grounded in the Treaty of Waitangi of 1840.”

It’s the strong social justice focus of the Waitako School of Law that’s brought him here.

“Law schools frequently forget law is all about human beings,” he says.

“Wakato has committed itself to developing an indigenous jurisprudence, drawing on the best of tikanga Māori and imported law to forge the most effective, beneficial and appropriate jurisprudence for New Zealand today and for the future.

“That’s what sets Wakato apart from all other law schools in New Zealand and around the world, along with its commitment to providing the Waikato experience for its students.”

NEW LAW DEAN TAKES UP REINS

HONGI: New Law Dean Professor Brad Morse, right, presses noses with Tom Rea from the School of Māori and Pacific Development at the powhiri.
The Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) has been the foremost body of PR practitioners and educators, with 22,000 members and 10,000 affiliated students. The PRSA Certification in Education for Public Relations (CEPR) has been awarded to only 22 universities in the world. Waikato is one of just three universities outside the United States to have won certification.

“The PRSA’s endorsement puts Waikato on the global map,” says Associate Professor Debashish Munshi, who chairs the Department of Management Communication. “This certification says our graduates are ready to take a job anywhere in the world.”

To meet the requirements of the CEPR, the Waikato Management School submitted a dossier of information and hosted a three-day site visit by two PRSA reviewers.

“We had to meet nine separate standards, including providing information on what we do to maintain relationships with past students and PR professionals, and how we organise internships for our current students,” says Dr Margalit Toledano, who teaches PR at Waikato and is herself the first New Zealand Fellow of the PRSA.

The CEPR reviewers noted that firms offering internships to Waikato students particularly valued the fact that the management communication programme sits within the Management School, so students are exposed to business concepts from day one.

They also commented on the Management Communication Students’ Association (MCSA), the first of its kind in New Zealand, which they noted was well-grounded in relation to PR practice and practitioners. The MCSA is affiliated with PRINZ, the Public Relations Institute of New Zealand, and offers students mentoring and networking opportunities.

Dean Professor Richard Price says the two gatherings helped highlight the School’s successes over the years and reminded people of current achievements. “It was very satisfying to see how our teaching and research excellence has impacted on lives and careers.”

The School of Education – dating back to the Hamilton Teachers’ College days – celebrates 50 years of teaching next year, and the School of Law celebrates 20 years in existence. The University of Waikato Management School has PRSA certification,” he says. “It’s an international guarantee for prospective students of the quality and practice-relevance they’ll find at Waikato Management School.”

Dr Munshi says PESA certification shows Waikato’s management communication programme stands head and shoulders above the rest.

“No other programme in the southern hemisphere has PESA certification,” he says. “It’s an international guarantee for prospective students of the quality and practice-relevance they’ll find at Waikato Management School.”

Dr Munshi says PESA certification shows Waikato's management communication programme stands head and shoulders above the rest.

“When violent events occur involving aggressive youth, people are quick to blame the influence of violent video and computer games – but an expert at the University of Waikato says his research shows that players’ relationship with game violence is far more complex than cause and effect.

Dr George Schott is a psychologist who lectures in Screen and Media. A specialist in Game Studies, his research was voted one of the top 10 most significant academic papers at this year’s Game Developers’ Conference in San Francisco.

Currently Dr Schott is the recipient of a Marsden Fast Start grant to research what attracts young people to violent games, and his findings show it’s not simply the violence. The 61 students he observed and talked to (53 male, 8 female) said they were drawn to the survival challenge and the forward thrust of the games, not the killing or maiming.

Players felt that the violence they encountered in video games was no different to what appears in films. They liked the interaction of games, rather than the passivity of television watching; and now took seriously the idea that games incite violence.

The public is quick to pounce on the violence in Grand Theft Auto, but Dr Schott says it’s an R18 game, not designed for children. “Gaming is not just a children’s culture,” he says. “There are adult gamers in their 30s and 40s but marketers pitch to young people and in particular young men. None of the players I surveyed asked to play R18 games.”

There’s no meaningful public discussion around games, says Dr Schott, which is why he’s become involved in public organisations to give a youth perspective. He’s a member of the Hamilton City Council’s Creativity and Identity Forum and has worked with Parentline to help educate their members and counsellors about video games.

Waikato University had the country’s first PhD in game studies and was the first university to offer courses in the subject. In Dr Schott’s third year paper, students make films in games. Known as Machinima, the game space allows students to create their own movies – their own plot, but with the game’s location and characters and using the FPS (First Person Shooter) as the camera viewpoint. It’s a technique used by movie producers to see if their scenes are going to work.

Fulbright Scholar Award

Associate Professor Douglas Pratt has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Visiting Scholar Award and will teach and conduct research at Georgetown University in Washington DC in 2009/2010. The Fulbright Award is for New Zealand academics to conduct research and teach a course at the Centre of Australian and New Zealand Studies for one or two semesters.

Dr Pratt’s course will examine, among other things, the development of religious diversity in New Zealand over the past 200 years. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences lecturer will also research and write on Religious Plurality and Extremism: the problem of violence and terrorism.

Waikato University is at the forefront of the government’s efforts to tackle poor adult literacy and numeracy, winning a multimillion-dollar contract to lead and deliver professional development in this field.

The three-year contract with the Tertiary Education Commission will see Waikato University train tutors at polytechnics, wananga, private training establishments and in workplaces. The University will deliver leading-edge courses for trainers and develop a knowledge base in the area of adult literacy and numeracy.

About 49% of Kiwi adults have low literacy, and about 51% have low levels of numeracy.

Waikato University’s School of Education Dean Professor Alister Jones says the contract – which is worth between $3 million and $4 million in 2009 – ensures the University can establish a national programme to help the sector build its capability and to ensure ongoing improvements in literacy and numeracy.

“Being able to read and write and work with numbers is vital to learning new skills and having higher value, higher paid work. It’s also very important to life outside the workplace,” Prof Jones says.

The aim is to embed literacy and numeracy in programmes delivered at tertiary organisations and train the tutors to also identify when students need help.

“We know that improving literacy and numeracy skills best happens when the learning is closely linked to the learner’s immediate context, learning needs and interests. However this requires well-qualified tutors who can teach literacy and numeracy,” he says.

Waikato University Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says the School of Education is rated Number 1 in the country according to government rankings. “This relationship is a tangible example of how excellence in education can be applied nationwide and how we are putting theory into action and making a difference to the lives of New Zealanders.”

TEC Director Tertiary Network David Nicholson says TEC is pleased to be working closely with Waikato University on the initiative. “They have shown that they have the expertise to build professional development across this broad sector, in a meaningful and cost effective way. Having a strong, well-respected partner to deliver professional development means the whole sector will benefit.”
The man who mastered a string of highly successful TV ads designed to encourage Māori and Pacific women to have cervical smears and breast screening is the winner of this year’s Waikato University Ted Zorn Alumni Award for management communication.

Graham Bethune, Communications and Marketing Manager for the National Screening Unit at the Ministry of Health, is a Waikato Masters graduate with a long and successful track record in communication.

The Ted Zorn Award, given by Professor Ted Zorn, is presented to Waikato management communication graduates who are excelling in their field and who have a strong focus on ethical practice.

Mr Bethune was Waikato University’s Director of PR and Marketing for five years before going to Auckland City Council in 2002. There he led the team that managed communications for projects such as the $191 million Auckland International Airport share sale, the development of the Britomart Transport Centre and the $38 million sale of the council’s pensioner housing portfolio.

His move to the Ministry of Health gave him responsibility for managing the communications for five national health screening programmes including BreastScreen Aotearoa, the National Cervical Screening programme and a range of antenatal and newborn screening.

He says studying at Waikato University prepared him well for what he’s doing now, though he didn’t see it at the time. “I actually did my Masters thesis on government advertising campaigns, and look where I’ve ended up. I’d love to be able to say it was all part of a well thought-out plan.”

He says when you’re at university you wonder what all the point of the theory and research is, but once out in the workplace the reasons become clear. “And I’m fortunate that the ministry recognises the importance of investing in good communications and that we produce is underpinned by good research.”

Mr Bethune says he was grateful to receive the Ted Zorn Award. “It’s a great honour and it’s pleasing to see the work of communicators being acknowledged.”

Last year Mr Bethune received national awards for his work in government public relations and market research effectiveness.

International rower, polar adventurer and former Waikato University student Jamie Fitzgerald has visited selected Waikato and Tauranga schools to inspire their young leaders.

The visits were part of a partnership with Waikato University. The programme, Reaching Peak Performance: The Edge of Stretch, aims to build on the students’ achievements to date and equip them with planning and analytical skills to take their talents further.

Mr Fitzgerald, who graduated from Waikato with a Bachelor of Communication Studies in 2004, helps students create a road-map of goals and learn how to approach and assess their goals analytically. “Success is the result of stretching ourselves – thinking the options through analytically, backing our judgement, adapting proven processes, and believing in our ability,” he says.

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Scholarships make a huge difference to university students who are increasingly feeling the burden of the costs of studying. Waikato’s Director of Development Christine Brabender says individuals and organisations can help alleviate this.

The University of Waikato awarded about $1 million in scholarships in 2008— one of the largest scholarship programmes in the country.

However, as costs continue to rise for university students, Waikato’s Director of Development Christine Brabender is urging people to think about funding scholarships to help New Zealand’s future leaders.

“Students face massive debts compared with 20 years ago when many of today’s leaders were studying. They received a level of government funding to go to university,” she says.

“The average student debt today for just a three-year undergraduate degree is $15,000 and it’s not likely to drop. Scholarships can help reduce this burden on students,” Ms Brabender says.

Large Hamilton institutions such as Orbit Corporate Travel, Gallagher Group Ltd and the Waikato Times already contribute generously to the University of Waikato Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme. The programme inspires excellence, all round development and leadership in design, performance or sport for students who are already academic high achievers.

“These organisations understand that private investment in scholarships helps prepare the leaders of tomorrow.”

While the full fee Hillary Scholarships are Waikato University’s most prestigious, Ms Brabender says there are about 150 other scholarships and awards at Waikato, many of which have multiple recipients.

“For example, the Perry Foundation provides important support for students, through an endowment fund for undergraduates and graduate scholarships and an annual scholarship in business management,” she says.

“Waikato University believes in providing good, strong scholarships for everything from the top Hillary Scholarship through to adult learner awards. Private support for scholarships frees up University resources for other priorities.”

Ms Brabender says if 1000 alumni gave $100 each for scholarships that would allow the University to instead channel its funds into projects such as the Student Centre.

Donations to the University of Waikato Foundation for scholarships or other projects may be made to honour someone or support a particular area of study.

Major donors and sponsors are recognised through publicity and are invited to special events. Scholarships at postgraduate level are critically important to maintain and enhance high-level research at Waikato which will contribute to economic growth.

“These represent an opportunity to train at the highest levels in areas that have commercial and social outcomes,” Ms Brabender says.

Three-year PhD scholarships provide students a living allowance of about $22,000 a year plus tuition fees.

Summer research

Academics across the University of Waikato have come up with 107 different ways for students to keep themselves busy over the coming summer recess.

A record number of Summer Research Scholarships are being offered this year, the 10-week research placements come with a $5,000 stipend for the student and give supervisors an extra brain and pair of hands for their research projects.

Topics in the sciences range from using artificial intelligence to create aunker that uses no unnecessary water to looking at the feasibility of extracting collagen from eggshells for use in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

Electronic engineering Professor Jonathan Scott is looking for a student for a project on using electric fields to accelerate the process of maturing fine wines. With the help of technicians and a glassblower, the student will build a machine using wood, plumbing and an audio amplifier to process wine samples.

“One of the major costs to wine producers is simply the storage of wine while it matures,” says Prof Scott. “The machine will probably look like a cross between Heath Robinson and Back to the Future. But once we’ve proven it, we can approach winemakers with a straight face!”

From other faculty there are opportunities are to find out more on the letters of Frank Sargeson, why we cry over fiction, sick building syndrome, and improving human-dog communication.

Researcher Dr Nicola Starkey wants to find out the most effective ways to get the best performances from dogs and how to help her collect data. They’ll have to local dog training clubs, interview experienced and inexperienced dog trainers and take videos of trainers and dogs in action to determine factors that undermine training success.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate Research and Supervision) Professor Giselle Byrnes says the Summer Research Scholarships benefit students and researchers, students get hands-on research experience and get to work alongside leading researchers; while academics get the chance to kick-start new research projects or advance existing research. “It’s a win-win situation,” she says, “and for students, a summer scholarship can also be an important pathway into postgraduate research.”

Student finds a place on the ice

ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE: Stephen Archer is heading for the ice this summer courtesy of two scholarships.

Antarctica's extreme environment is important. “These minute life forms - invisible to the naked eye - could give us a clearer picture of what life forms could exist on other planets and give biologists a better understanding of how these unique organisms live in such a harsh environment,” he says.

Stephen has been awarded a Waikato University Masters research scholarship of $12,000 to assist with his study, and also a New Zealand Post Antarctica New Zealand research scholarship which will cover his trip to Antarctica.

He works with experts from the University of Waikato’s Department of Biological Sciences and representatives from NIWA.

The NIWA team has already taken biological samples from the ponds as they freeze for their research projects.

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Stephen to use in this study. Now he’ll be working with the ponds at the height of summer when they are most active. “We need to find out the plankton content of the water – it hasn’t been done before on these unique ponds that I’ll be testing on Bratina Island. We expect the biological community in each pond to be different, depending on size, depth and age as each pond has its own unique chemical profile.”

Stephen is building a special sampling rig to help him collect his samples. “I’m basically going round different departments at the University collecting the bits and pieces I need for this project because I need to have it built before I go in November. The machine will collect the bacteria-laden water, store and filter it, and leave me with a biomass that I’ll be testing on Bratina Island. We expect the biological community in each pond to be different, depending on size, depth and age as each pond has its own unique chemical profile.”

Stephen says he’s been interested in biology since kindergarten – his teachers there called him either David Attenborough or David Bellamy, so going to the ice is a dream come true.

The needs of transgender people and what motivates volunteers are two studies being carried out by Waikato University students who have received Trust Waikato Student Community Grants.

There are four grants in total amounting to $8000 - awarded to students whose research has the potential to improve the lives of people in the Waikato.

Lisa Stone’s masters research is examining reactions to trans people in social spaces and the strategies trans people use to retain their identity, dignity and safety.

Kirstie McLaren is studying volunteers; how organisations can retain them and the link between volunteering and well-being, while Kevin Hogg is looking for ways the Waikato Valley Cricket Association can increase its funding support.

PhD student Anna Cox is studying community gardens (and similar initiatives) that could help reduce food costs for people and create opportunities for more healthier and collective communities.

Top achievers

The University of Waikato topped the recent Tertiary Education Commission’s Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships, with Waikato students winning more than $60,000 in scholarships.

The largest of the 14 scholarships went to Waikato University student Leon Henderson who has just embarked on his PhD at Cambridge University in the UK. He was given $75,000 over three years to look at minimising fuel consumption in large vehicles around town while keeping them easy to manoeuvre and addressing safety concerns.

Four other scholarships were given to Waikato University students.

Naomi Simmonds won nearly $97,000 over three years to look at childbirth within a Maori feminist framework in research called Reconfiguring Maori Maternities; Simon Ware, Michael Walmsley and Samuel Sarjant get scholarships ranging from $32,000-$97,000 for research in the computer science field including online reading, artificial intelligence and formal methods.

The Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships support top doctoral students and aim to increase the supply of highly trained researchers and highly skilled graduates.
University books
A selection of books written or edited by academic staff at Waikato University.

New Oxford History of New Zealand
If you’re expecting to find a definitive statement about who we are in the just-published New Oxford History of New Zealand, think again. The first up-to-date, multi-authored general history book of its kind, The New Oxford History holds a mirror up to our complex past and complicated present.

The book sets out to explode the myth of national identity,” says Professor Giselle Byrnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor Postgraduate Studies at the University of Waikato, who conceived the project and edited the collection of 22 specially written essays.

“New Oxford History of New Zealand

Sustainable Future
A new publication highlights the wide reach of the University of Waikato’s research, from ecosystem research in Antarctica to poverty mapping in China, and demonstrates the University’s substantial contribution to sustainable development.

Research and Innovation: Leading the Way to a Sustainable Future is published by the University of Waikato, and is available online at www.waikato.ac.nz/research

Critical Thinking
This guide to argument analysis, co-authored by University of Waikato senior lecturer in philosophy, Dr Tracy Bowell, and former Waikato academic Dr Gary Kemp, is now in its third edition. Aimed at students and professionals who want to improve their reasoning and arguing skills, the book now has a companion website with exercises and examples. The website is updated every three months by Dr Bowell and an international team of colleagues and PhD students.

Outstanding: Research about Women and Sport in New Zealand

Outstanding: Research about Women and Sport in New Zealand, edited by Camilla Obel, Toni Bruce and Shona Thompson, is published by the WMIER, University of Waikato.

Tales of tall ships
Born just a few miles away from Captain James Cook’s birthplace in north-east England, John Robson grew up fascinated by the story of Cook’s voyages of exploration. Today he’s the University of Waikato’s map librarian and assistant librarian, and has used his considerable research skills and archival knowledge to publish four books on Captain Cook and his voyages.

Mr Robson’s book details the development of Cook’s navigational and seamanship skills, how he became a maritime surveyor, cartographer, “more than adequate” astronomer, and a proven leader of men.

On the Edges of Development: Cultural Interventions
Big business, financial institutions and capitalist powers have wreaked much havoc on the Third World in the name of development. Two University of Waikato academics - Associate Professor Priya Kurian from the Department of Political Science & Public Policy and Associate Professor Debashis Munshi from the Department of Management Communication - are among the editors of a new book on how cultural insights can support alternative pathways to development. The essays from a diverse group of scholars and activists conceptualise alternative ways of improving the living conditions of women and men in different parts of the world and focus on solutions that integrate gender, diversity and development with the realities of people’s lives.

Outstanding: Research about Women and Sport in New Zealand
This first collection of research about New Zealand women and sport brings together the work of researchers who explore women’s experiences in sports as diverse as netball, snowboarding, rugby, bodybuilding, soccer, field hockey and rhythmic gymnastics. Co-edited by Dr Toni Bruce of Waikato’s Department of Sport and Leisure Studies, the book includes three chapters by Waikato contributors. Dr Bruce discusses sport and the media, researcher and snowboarder Dr Holly Thorne offers insights into women in the snowboarding culture, and Dr Richard Pinglo focuses on men’s interpretation of women’s rugby.

A Continent on the Move: New Zealand Geoscience into the 21st Century
A book part-sponsored by the University of Waikato and with contributions from eight academics has won the environment category of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards. Edited by Dr Ian Graham of CNS Science and published in 2006, A Continent on the Move: New Zealand Geoscience into the 21st Century brings together 120 specialists to focus on the geological history and landscapes of New Zealand.

The Montana award judges said the book is “scientifically exacting yet accessible”, and is likely to become a benchmark publication for popularising earth sciences in New Zealand. The University of Waikato’s Professor David Lowe says the book – which was originally conceived as a project to celebrate the Geological Society of New Zealand’s 50th anniversary in 2005 – was four years in preparation and at 400 pages with beautiful colour photos, diagrams and maps, is destined to become a classic – as both a coffee table book and an authoritative text.

A new textbook aimed at teaching visual arts students to write has won a national design award. "Saying What You See" by leading wildlife photographer Rod Morris, the book is dedicated to my namesake. “Most species of our mammals are familiar, but you might need some help to distinguish a Norway rat from a ship rat, or between short-tailed and long-tailed bats.”

The content of the bilingual booklet provides the best manage them. For pests, what is being done to manage them. A Photographic Guide to Mammals of New Zealand, written by Allan Watson, includes a general introduction on the history and unique characteristics of New Zealand mammals, and then summarises the main details of their distribution, food, breeding and population status of each species, and for pests, what is being done to manage them.

The book also won the lifestyle and contemporary culture category at the 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. "It’s a lovely old library, full of wooden shelving, brass fittings and leather tables, and when I opened the third logbook, I found it had been opened the third logbook, I found it had been open disapprovingly. And I said it's me, it's me! So my book is dedicated to my namesake."
In the community

The Great Race

It’s become a major event on the Hamilton events calendar, and the Gallagher Great Race again brought out the crowds for the river race featuring Waikato University men’s and women’s eights against crews from Oxford and Sydney universities. The crews rowed 4.2 kilometres upstream, starting at Ann Street and crossing the finish line at Ferry Bank. The results were mixed but the event was again declared a resounding success.

Olympic single sculler Emma Twigg teamed up with fellow students for the women’s race, and they looked to have it in the bag, leading from the start. At the last 500 metres they had two boat lengths on the visitors, but to everyone’s surprise they were overtaken and beaten in the last 50 metres. It’s become a major event on the Hamilton events calendar.

Lots of scullers who, thankfully, were equally strong in the sweep boat. Passing under the Fairfield Bridge they were two lengths clear of Oxford and were three lengths clear at the Claudelands Bridge. The fear was that despite leading in the harder conditions, Waikato would get mown down in the dying stages.

Oxford made a huge effort to close the gap but much to the relief of spectators couldn’t do it in time and the Harry Mahon Trophy goes into the Waikato University trophy cabinet for another year.

The University sponsors the secondary school races which cover 3 kilometres up river, and this year featured boys teams from national champions Hamilton Boys’ High, Wanganui Collegiate, St Paul’s Collegiate and Taumarunui Boys’ College. Taumarunui took home the cup.

Waikato University was a strong presence at the races, with tents, staff, and cardboard fan-whackers for people to wave. It followed the University’s formal welcome to the Oxford and Sydney teams earlier in the week at the University.

Alumna new face on University Council

Former Environment Waikato chair and Waikato University alumnus Jenni Vernon is the new delegate on the Waikato University Council.

She’s one of four ministerial appointments on the council where she’ll serve an initial four year term, replacing the late Graeme Weld. The full University Council meets eight times a year.

Mr Vernon attended Waikato University as a mature student completing bachelor and masters qualifications. She’s been a Kahlfield Scholar, served on numerous community organisations and is a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

“I feel honoured to have been appointed to the council,” she says. “I’m passionate about the Waikato and appreciate the huge role the council plays in promoting the region – its university plays in promoting the region – its university plays in promoting the region – its university plays in promoting the region – its university plays in promoting the region.”

In the community

Fieldays success

WINNING STAND: University of Waikato representatives members at the best premier feature stand, from left Engineering Chair Dr Brian Gibbitts, student Ben Deadman, Student Recruitment Manager Susan Law and senior tutor Natalie Madkema.

Prime Minister John Key ignored his busy schedule and spent twice as much time as he was allocated at the University Fieldays’ stand this year. The University is a strategic partner of Fieldays and this year won Best Premier Stand with a design that brought the outdoors indoors and featured different ecosystems.

The theme for Fieldays 2009 was My Land, Our Environment which provided an ideal opportunity for the University to highlight many of the research programmes staff and students are undertaking. Sustainability is a central driver in our research programmes and we take a strong leadership role in areas of environmental, economic and industrial sustainability, and in research supporting social and cultural sustainability.

Our stand had live fish, grass, a real forest and bird sounds and made a restful retreat for Fieldays visitors. In addition, the University hosted a series of seminars featuring our own staff and invited guests, including high profile economist Gareth Morgan. The big media topic was Associate Professor Stuart Lockie’s take on rural land prices and spent twice as much time as he was allocated.

Susan Law and senior tutor Natalie Madkema.

The free, annual lecture series brings experts to Hamilton to give different perspectives on timely and relevant topics. Last year featured sustainability.

Hosting the big glow

The Balloons Over Waikato NightGlow has successfully made Waikato University its new home, attracting about 80,000 people to this year’s annual spectacle.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says the Waikato campus is one of the most spacious, beautiful and accessible in New Zealand. “Holding the Nightglow here provides an opportunity to share our campus with Hamilton and the broader Waikato community.”
University of Waikato Foundation

Strengthening the foundations of a great University

FINE FOUNDATION: University of Waikato Foundation trustees, from left, Terry Booth, Patron Dr John Gallagher, Deputy Chairman John Revington, Deputy Chairman Michael Crawford, Pat Peoples, Mark Donovan and Ken Williamson. Front from left, Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford, Adrienne von Tunzelmann, Chairman Alastair Calder, Chancellor Jim Bolger and Sharon Taylor.

The University of Waikato Foundation – Te Pou T aunaki – raises funds in New Zealand and overseas through donations, bequests, endowments, sponsorships and gifts to support the University. Here, the Foundation’s Chair, Alastair Calder and its Patron, Dr John Gallagher, talk about why the organisation is so important, and we profile the Trustees.

New University of Waikato Foundation chair Alastair Calder says Hamilton would be a far less vibrant city without the University. “The contribution of the students and staff and their families to the local economy is huge and there is amazing potential with the intellectual property housed there.” A recent survey reveals University of Waikato operations, together with student expenditure, generated $749 million of the entire Waikato region’s annual revenue in 2008.

The University Foundation is an independent Charitable Trust and its role is to support and resource the University of Waikato to raise funds. These funds may be used for better facilities, on infrastructure or scholarships, to increase our profile and to help take new New Zealand ideas to the world. The Foundation needs community support to fulfil its role.

“The university-city-region relationship is important,” says Mr Calder. “They need each other to thrive, and the role of the Foundation trustees who represent interests in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty is almost evangelical – selling the benefits of Waikato University to the wider community who will want to invest in the University’s future.”

Mr Calder founded Calder and Lawson Travel in 1984. He is still actively involved in an associate company, Calder & Lawson Tours operating “travel and learn” tours for the over 50s, and is a director and trustee of several organisations including Agri Travel International, an inbound tour operator, and Hamilton International Airport. “I’m Waikato born and bred, studied at Waikato University and passionate about the city and the region which has been very supportive to me. Now I’m in a position where I can put something back to the community and therefore, I’m keen to enhance the links between business and the University.”

New Zealanders don’t yet have a strong tradition of giving to universities, not like in the US where businesses and former students contribute large sums towards scholarships, buildings and other projects. “But recent changes to the tax rules are very favourable for charitable contributions and represent a significant step in promoting philanthropic giving in New Zealand,” Mr Calder says. Under the new rules, individual taxpayers can claim a tax rebate of 33.3% of the amount donated on any gift (up to a limit of total net income) for all gifts in a given year. “The Foundation encourages businesses, alumni and friends to support the University as an economic driver of the region and a leading educational asset.”

Patron a long-time University supporter

Terry Booth has been with the University Foundation from its beginnings 15 years ago. He ran his own business Terry Booth Toyota for 30 years, has sold several sporting committee positions and was a member of the Life Education Trust for almost a decade. Mr Gallagher, who has recently become Patron.

Dr John Gallagher, who was given a University of Waikato Honorary Doctorate in 2008, has helped guide the University’s development through an active role on many of the Council’s committees, including Audit and Risk, University Charter and Profile, and the Finance Committee.

He was a major supporter for the establishment of the Academy of Performing Arts and was instrumental in gaining the necessary sponsorship for that project, including from the Gallagher Group, run by brother Bill who was also given a Waikato Honorary Doctorate in 2008.

Mr Gallagher has also contributed time and money to the development of the Don Llewellyn Sports Pavilion and provides ongoing support to the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme.

Mr Gallagher believes the primary function of the Foundation is to raise money to extend the services the University offers, in its academic programmes, its research, the services and scholarships it can offer students, and its buildings and facilities.

“New Zealand universities are notoriously under-funded compared with other countries,” says Dr Gallager. “We have to find new and innovative ways to try to meet the shortfall. We cannot sit by and do nothing or we’ll stagnate and lose status that’s been hard earned.

“So we need to get the word out about the importance of having a university in our region, for financial and intellectual reasons, and the Foundation is creating opportunities for people to make a contribution to the prosperity of the region. People often bequest money to organisations, give scholarships or other gifts and in doing so provide real and long-term benefit to the wider community.”
Alumni groups

Alumni Association rewards students

The Alumni Association gave 10 awards this year to University of Waikato alumni to acknowledge excellence. The Waikato Alumni Association established the University of Waikato Alumni Prizes for Excellence in 1998. The $500 prizes aim to celebrate academic excellence across the University and are awarded to second-year students with the highest grade point average in each School or Faculty in their first year at Waikato.

The prizes, which alternate each year with the Alumni Masters Scholarships, were awarded by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford and the Alumni Association Committee President Dave Williams at a function earlier this year at the YEL Energy Trust Center of Performing Arts.

Alumni From the Alumni Association President

This year has been a year of re-evaluation for the Alumni Association Committee. Last year’s Committee identified the Association’s role as one of advocacy, brainstorming and communication, and this year we have been looking at how we might do that. Since the University’s Development Office and Alumni team are responsible for communicating with all alumni, we are free to advise and brainstorm on behalf of our Life Members.

To that end, I have been meeting with Deans, Heads of Department, and members of the wider community to find out how the Alumni Association may best serve the University. Other Committee members have been speaking to Life Members. Several ideas have been mooted as a result of these communications:

• the establishment of a mentoring programme by alumni for undergraduates
• opportunities for alumni to provide work experience or research projects to students
• the establishment of small alumni scholarships for specific courses or papers
• the setting up of an academic forum where alumni may put forward suggestions to the University’s Academic Board for possible future courses.

I believe it is vital for alumni to make time to support our alma mater - by enhancing the student experience, by building relationships with them, and thereby enhancing the value of our own qualifications.

If you are able to offer support for any of these initiatives, or can serve on the Alumni Association Committee, please contact me at alumni@waikato.ac.nz

I look forward to hearing from you.

David Williams, President
University of Waikato Alumni Association Inc.

Alumni University of Waikato Alumni Representatives

Alumni Representatives keep in touch with other University of Waikato alumni in your area, providing networking opportunities and helpful contacts as you travel the world. Tap into a network that can work for you.

On Campus

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION - 07 838 4500 - teach@waikato.ac.nz
SCHOOL OF LAW - 07 838 4780 – lawalumni@waikato.ac.nz
WAIKATO MANAGEMENT SCHOOL - 07 838 4676 - wms-alumni@mgmt.waikato.ac.nz

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AUCKLAND - Oliver Wu - Oliver.Wu@zdth.com
NAPIER - Kerry Bartlett - kbarlett@etra.co.nz
WELLINGTON - Sue HiIlsa - shi156@paradise.net.nz

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PERTH - Jeremy Snow - jsnow@fjord.net.nz
SYDNEY - Katalins Hudders - katalins@hotmail.com
SYDNEY - Heman Kamalanathan - heman.pilla@gmail.com

Rest of the World

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MALAYSIA - KOTA SAMARAHAN, SARAWAK - Norazula Abdul Azis - norazula@ics.unimas.my
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USA - PUEBLO, COLORADO - Gary Kirby - pueblogolfer@hotmail.com
USA - THORNDAKE, MAINE - Anne Schmidt - anne_schmidt@umit.maine.edu
WESTERN SAMOA - APIA - Quandolita Reid-Enan - q.renan@mesc.gov.ws

Budget car benefits for alumni

As the preferred rental car supplier to the University of Waikato, Budget is extending great rates to alumni. Benefits include reduced corporate rates and lower excess on C Class vehicles and lower airport and ferry terminal fees.

Reservations can be made through the Budget website, or by calling Budget Reservations on 0800 BUDGET (0800 263 438) and quoting BNC # 1729504.

Graduate Women supports students

Two science students and one education student are benefiting from Waikato Graduate Women Merit awards for doctoral study. The three winners this year were Nadine Ballam, Emma Littlejohn, and Jennifer Blair. They receive $2500 a year for three years and supplementary membership of Waikato Graduate Women.

Nadine Ballam, from the School of Education, is working on a thesis entitled “Defying the odds: gifted and talented young people from low socio-economic backgrounds”.

Jennifer Blair, from the Department of Biological Sciences in the School of Science and Engineering, is studying factors controlling common smelt abundance and trit production in the Roturua Lakes.

Emma Littlejohn, also from the Department of Biological Sciences, is studying the biochemistry and biology of pin domain proteins in tubulins.

Waikato Graduate Women is a branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women. It works to empower women by offering a range of scholarships and opportunities to engage in advocacy at local, national and international levels.

For more information, visit www.nzfgw.org.nz

Off Campus | 2009
Defence Force head spends day at Waikato

The head of the country’s defence force took a day out of his busy schedule to spend at Waikato University addressing a graduation ceremony and attending an evening function. Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae, the Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force, is the youngest person and the first Māori appointed to the role. He holds a Masters degree from the University of Waikato and was honoured with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2008.

He said the Waikato University students he met at the May graduation ceremony were bright, talented and eager to make a contribution to their country.

Later that day, Lt Gen Mateparae spoke at an alumni and friends event at Waikato University’s WEL Energy Trust Academy of Performing Arts. Nearly 200 alumni and friends, including several retired and serving military personnel, spent an engaging evening listening to him speak and networking.

Lt Gen Mateparae told those gathered how struck he was by Waikato’s excellence, giving several examples of recent Waikato University stories in the media. He also took several questions from the audience ranging from what the Defence Force can offer the nation’s young people to New Zealand’s role in peace keeping to key moments and people in his life.

Māori rights advocate and the last remaining signatory to the Waitangi claim, Saana Murray, visited the University of Waikato recently to acknowledge the research work done by the University’s Honey Research Unit.

Mrs Murray, a Ngāti Kuri elder, met Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford and other University representatives to express her appreciation to the University over its advanced research work in manuka honey for the benefit of Maori and all of New Zealand.

Mrs Murray was one of six claimants who, on behalf of their iwi, filed the Waitangi Tribunal claim 262 in 1991. The claim concerns the rights over flora and fauna and has since expanded to issues regarding intellectual property.

Mrs Murray, along with her whānau, travelled from the Far North to Auckland for Mrs Murray to receive a Companion to the New Zealand Order of Merit award prior to continuing on to Hamilton for the University function.

The University’s Honey Research Unit specialises in investigating the healing properties of honeys such as their anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. Its research has shown that manuka honey is a premium honey for killing bacteria and healing wounds.

Prof Crawford says Mrs Murray’s visit highlighted one of Waikato’s important connections with iwi throughout the North Island in particular and the University was pleased to welcome Mrs Murray and her whānau. “Our honey research is a good example of work being done at the University that has positive implications for northern iwi and indeed, the international health scene.”

At the University of Waikato we punch above our weight. Our postgraduate and higher degree students benefit from academic challenge, professional support, and research opportunities that equip them to take on the world – as academics, researchers and business leaders.

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