Off Campus
2013 IN REVIEW Alumni Magazine

Ready to celebrate 50 years
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.

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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-News is produced regularly, enabling us to stay in touch throughout the year with a very light carbon footprint. If you wish to receive the E-News, 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.waikato.ac.nz/alumni

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Reconnect with us!

The University of Waikato has alumni all around the world – and we want to keep in touch with as many as possible. Every year we produce and post out Off Campus magazine, host events in New Zealand and overseas, and send regular e-newsletters. Go online to view our list of worldwide Alumni Representatives and their contact details, check out our ‘lost alumni’ list and update your details: [www.waikato.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.waikato.ac.nz/alumni)

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From the Chancellor

A trip to Samoa, conferring Honorary Doctorates and attending graduation are among the highlights of 2013 for the University of Waikato Chancellor.

In August I had the immense pleasure of returning to the village of Matautu Falelatai as part of a University delegation to Samoa. It was in Matautu Falelatai in 1997 that I was conferred the chiefly title of Nanai. I was humbled by the honour and to return to the village and meet friends I had not seen for many years was a truly moving experience.

The Samoa visit was one of many highlights in the past 12 months as Chancellor. During the visit the University of Waikato rekindled old relationships and established new ties which, in time, will show great benefits for both the University and Samoa.

In 2013 I also had the great pleasure of presenting Honorary Doctorates to Dame Susan Devoy, Gordon Stephenson, Bernie Crosby and Sir Patrick Hogan. All have made impressive contributions in their particular fields and I consider it an absolute privilege to have welcomed them into the University of Waikato family.

Another often overlooked highlight of any university year is to witness the graduation of thousands of hardworking students as they finish their time with us. Their smiles on graduation day mask the dedication, commitment and sheer hard work that has gone into their studies and I wish them well for the future.

Next year is an important one for the University, as we celebrate our first 50 years and start work to ensure our next 50 are equally as fruitful. We have come a long way in a relatively short time and our reputation as one of the best young universities in the world stands us in good stead as we move forward.

The University has a range of events planned for 2014 and I encourage you all to get involved and help us make it an anniversary to remember.

Rt Hon Jim Bolger, Chancellor

From the Vice-Chancellor

The University of Waikato celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2014. It is a significant achievement but far from resting on its laurels, the University is developing plans for a bright future.

For 50 years, the University of Waikato has forged a reputation for pioneering research, excellent teaching and a student experience second to none. These unique aspects of a Waikato education will continue for the next 50 years – and beyond – as we acknowledge those who set the standards and strive to enhance those standards for those who will follow in our footsteps.

The University’s growing reputation has been recognised with its inclusion among the top 50 universities in the world less than 50 years old, and remains in the top 2% of universities worldwide.

The University’s ongoing development includes a Tauranga campus and work has started on a new Law and Management Building in Hamilton.

In 2013, many staff members were recognised for their work. Professor Linda Tuhiiwi Smith and Emeritus Professor Ian Pool were named Companions of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2013 New Year’s Honours. Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Marston Conder, a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Auckland University; Stephanie Milroy, Māori Land Court judge and WAITANGI Tribunal Deputy Chair; and Singapore-based Edmund Wee, Director of Epigram (Design) and Publisher and CEO of Epigram Books.

Numerous others received teaching and research awards and their continued commitment will ensure a Waikato education remains a valuable asset.

Join us as we celebrate our first 50 years and help us make the next 50 equally as memorable.

Professor Roy Crawford, Vice-Chancellor

The University of Waikato, shaping the future

Next year promises to be an exciting one for the University of Waikato. A time to celebrate as we look back on 50 years of teaching and research excellence, and acknowledge the immense contributions this community has made in developing the University of Waikato into a world-class learning institution.

These contributions include $2.5 million from Sir William and Dr John Gallagher, with their wives Judi and Glenice, to establish the University’s first endowment fund; and the generous gift from Emeritus Professor Ian Graham and his wife Agi to support the Music programme. Philanthropic support from generous benefactors such as the Grahams and Gallaghers enables us to excel and further enhances the region as a significant contributor to New Zealand’s economic and social well-being.

With the commencement of the new Law and Management building, due for completion in 2015, students can look forward to an enhanced learning environment. This state of the art building will join our Student Centre and the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts as stand-out buildings on campus.

The University of Waikato is supported by the Foundation Board of Trustees, which provides guidance and assistance with fundraising. This year we welcomed Michael Jackson and Greg Delaney onto the Foundation.

We hope our alumni and friends will feel inspired to support the University too. For more information, contact University of Waikato Fundraising Manager, Sharon Roux, sroux@waikato.ac.nz
We’ve come a long way in 50 years

While we sit in the top 2% of universities in the world, 2014 will be the last year we can say we’re among the top 50 universities in the world less than 50 years old.

When the University opened, it had just two schools of study – Humanities and Social Sciences – and operated alongside the Hamilton Teachers’ College at Melville. But number 5 Dairy – part of Ruakura Research Station – had been selected for a new university site and the Cowshed, which remains today, was the only building on the site. It was converted to a student lounge and cafeteria and housed the first Student Union office.

The University architect was John Blake-Kelly and it is quite remarkable that the plan Blake-Kelly drew in the early 1960s is pretty much the design the University exhibits today around the core areas off Hillcrest Road and down round the lake, though several buildings have had face-lifts over the years.

The first Vice-Chancellor was Don Llewellyn (later Sir Don) who came from the Chemistry Department at the University of Auckland. He was well-liked and good at getting people on-side. Providing B Block builders with a painted rugby field and goal posts was incentive for them to work hard and the first major building on campus was actually completed ahead of time, used at first for teaching, and later given over to University administration.

Nineteen graduates took part in the first graduation ceremony held in Founders Theatre in 1967. Just days before the ceremony it was decided to confer an honorary degree on the Governor-General, Sir Bernard Fergusson. Founders Theatre was packed for the event and on the day the Governor-General handed over to the University his collection of Māori artefacts that had been collected over many years. He thought it fitting the University be given such taonga. Much of the collection is now on display in the Student Centre.

Today there are seven faculties or schools of study, a campus in Tauranga, and nearly 13,000 students and 1,500 staff. The research and teaching generated in the lecture theatres and labs continues to impact New Zealand and the wider world.

The fact that the University of Waikato exists at all is the result of a huge community drive by a core of dedicated locals and it is appropriate that its motto is Ko Te Tangata – For the People.
Some significant moments and leading the way

We do things differently here...

“Give me a fixed sum of money and I will build you a School of Science more cheaply than you have ever seen before.” So said founding Vice-Chancellor Don Llewellyn addressing the University Grants Committee – and he was as good as his word. That was in the late ‘60s and despite opposition from established universities, Sir Don (as he later became) said that in order to attract more students, Waikato had to offer science – otherwise it wasn’t a ‘proper’ university. The result was four buildings (C, D, E and F blocks), which the VC got for the price of three.

From the outset, Science offered a broad-based curriculum, and that practice has continued and spread across campus, so students get an opportunity to try different subjects before having to specialise and choose their majors.

Waikato led the way with Women’s Studies and it’s true, the University of Waikato (with a little help from NASA) connected New Zealand to the internet before going on to become the first university in New Zealand to have cyber-graduates, completing their teaching degrees online. In 2013, Waikato was the first New Zealand university to offer a MOOC – Massive Open Online Course.

Waikato was the first university to merge with its regional teachers’ college. That happened in 1990, enhancing academic recognition of teaching qualifications and strengthening the University’s community outreach. A year later the Faculty of Law opened, founded on the principles of professionalism, biculturalism and the study of law in context. Te Piringa - Faculty of Law leads the way in the development of a truly indigenous New Zealand jurisprudence.

From its earliest days, Waikato embraced its strong Māori identity and heritage as key features of its distinctiveness. It has renowned strength in the teaching and research of te reo Māori and tikanga Māori, and Māori expertise reaches across the various disciplines including Māori psychology, education, law, social sciences and computer science.

The new Student Centre opened in 2011. It involved extensive renovations to the old library and is now the ‘go to’ place for students seeking information about enrolment, their courses, fees and scholarships. And in 2015, the new Law and Management building should be completed. It will be a welcome change for the Law Faculty still housed in its temporary accommodation from more than 20 years ago.

Ko Te Tangata – For the People

When the Tainui Treaty of Waitangi settlement was signed in 1995, the land on which the University sits changed ownership and became, once again, Māori land. The University had already established strong relationships with Māori and in 1973 opened its Centre for Māori Studies and Research, making Waikato the first New Zealand university to have a dedicated Māori studies arm.

The Centre grew into the School of Māori & Pacific Development, opening in 1996, and in 2011 the University opened its Te Kotahi Research Institute to enhance Māori engagement in research, innovation and development.

Our relationship with Tainui is unique, but the University also fosters close relationships with other iwi groups from around New Zealand.

The University marae Te Kohinga Mārama, opened in 1987 as part of the College of Education, and is an integral part of day-to-day campus life.
BRAVE NEW BOARD: The first professorial board met in 1965. Vice-Chancellor Don Llewellyn is centre back.

AN ALMOST CLEAN SLATE: The beginnings of the Waikato campus. The only building on site is the Cowshed.

Balls, balloons and books mark University's anniversary year

2014 promises to be a momentous year for the University of Waikato as we celebrate our 50th anniversary with a range of events and activities.

The events being planned cover everything from book launches and balloons to balls and buildings as we end our first 50 years and begin the next 50.

On 14 February 1964 the University Council met for the first time and 50 years later, the day will be marked with the launch of a book and DVD on the history of the University, originally begun by Michael King, OBE, and completed – following his death in 2004 – by Emeritus Professor Noeline Alcorn.

In March the Balloons Over Waikato ASB Nightglow will again be held on campus, providing an excellent opportunity for the community to gather for one of the most popular events in Hamilton.

Open days will be held on 16 and 17 May, allowing the community and alumni to see the latest research being carried out and to reminisce and catch up with old friends.

The University and Hamilton City Council plan to combine in August for the social high point of the year, the Town and Gown Ball, marking the University's 50th anniversary and the Council's 150th.

In October, a jubilee sculpture will be unveiled on campus.

Telling the story

Ko Te Tangata – For the People, is an appropriate name for the book telling the history of the University of Waikato. The University’s establishment was driven by the local community and 50 years on it is a vital part of the Waikato economy and community.

For the past four years, Emeritus Professor Noeline Alcorn has been writing a history, due to be released in the new year to coincide with the University’s 50th celebrations. Emeritus Professor Alcorn from the Faculty of Education has interviewed “between 90 and 100” people for the book, some more than once, trawled through University Council and University Grants Committee minutes and reams of articles. She says the detail contained in the old minutes – very formal and almost verbatim – was a rich source of information.

“I thought it was important to tell the stories, as well as record significant events,” says Emeritus Professor Alcorn. “It hasn’t always been plain sailing on campus. Students and staff have managed to make headlines at various times, but that’s all part of our history.

“What becomes clear is that the University, or those running it, were innovative and prepared to be different, or do things differently.” Emeritus Professor Alcorn says the first Vice-Chancellor Sir Don Llewellyn had a vision of what the University should be and he fought for that.

“From the outset there was a commitment to Māori distinctiveness and Māori learning; we were the first to introduce Women’s Studies, and people I spoke to who’d come to Waikato from other universities found that the emphasis placed on students was something to be valued here.”

Emeritus Professor Alcorn says she had to think hard about how to frame the book and says to some extent it is chronological but the four VC’s help carry the story, with each being quite distinctive. “And various themes weave their way through the text – context, people, interaction, assumptions and issues that impacted staff and students.

“The University’s story is an exciting one. It’s a success story, but that success was hard-won.”

The cover for Ko Te Tangata (pictured) was a special commission by long-time staff member and artist Donn Ratana.
A mathematician, a Māori Land Court judge and a Singaporean design-agency owner are University of Waikato Distinguished Alumni for 2013.

They are Marston Conder, a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at the University of Auckland, Stephanie Milroy, Māori Land Court judge and Deputy Chair of the Waitangi Tribunal, and Singapore-based Edmund Wee who is Managing and Creative Director of Epigram (Design) and Publisher and CEO of Epigram Books.

More than 160 guests attended the black-tie dinner at the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts and were entertained by speeches from the three recipients and a performance by voice student Oriana Kershaw.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards celebrate Waikato alumni who have gone on to make outstanding contributions in their careers and communities after graduating.

Each awardee was presented with a limited edition cast-glass figure created exclusively for the award by local glass artist Di Tocker.
Distinguished Professor Marston Conder

Marston Conder studied at the University of Waikato in the 1970s and completed a Master of Social Sciences in mathematics with First Class Honours in 1977. He won two scholarships to study for his doctorate at the Oxford University, completing it in 1980 and winning Oxford’s Senior Mathematical and Johnson prizes for the best doctoral thesis that year.

Following postdoctoral fellowships in Dunedin and Germany, he began a 30-year academic career at the University of Auckland and in 1993, at just 38 years old, he was promoted to full Professor. In 2011 he was made Distinguished Professor – the first mathematician to hold that position at Auckland University.

Professor Conder has served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Auckland, and President of the New Zealand Mathematical Society and Academy of the Royal Society of New Zealand. For a decade, he was also the driving force behind the establishment of the New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.

Professor Conder is well-known for his enthusiasm for mathematics and is a leading authority on combinatorial group theory and computational methods for studying the symmetries of discrete structures.

Testament to the high regard he is held internationally, he was selected as the first Maclaurin lecturer in 2011 to tour the United States as part of a new joint venture between the New Zealand and American Mathematical societies.

Judge Stephanie Milroy

Stephanie Milroy (Tūhoe and Ngāti Whakaue) had established a successful career in the legal profession before deciding to enrol in postgraduate study at the University of Waikato in 1995 – where she graduated with a Master of Laws in 1997.

After previously graduating from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Laws, Judge Milroy began her legal career at Hamilton law firm Harkness Henry – where she was promoted to associate partner, and later was a senior investigating solicitor in Hamilton’s Commercial Affairs Department.

Throughout her studies at Waikato, Judge Milroy lectured in the University’s Faculty of Law (now Te Piringa - Faculty of Law), earning a reputation as an engaging lecturer and supportive colleague.

She developed a number of courses, one of them being health law. Importantly, she worked on the school’s bicultural legal education and curriculum.

In 2002, Judge Milroy was appointed to the Māori Land Court where she continues to serve as judge for the Waikato/Maniapoto region. In 2010 she was appointed Deputy Chair of the Waitangi Tribunal and since then has served as presiding officer on the Tauranga Moana and Wānanga o Aotearoa inquiries, and is currently the presiding officer for the Mangatu crown forest remedies hearings.

She has researched and presented widely on Treaty of Waitangi and Māori legal issues, and is known as an empathetic and considered legal practitioner.

Edmund Wee

Travelling for the first time out of his native Singapore, Edmund Wee arrived “fresh off the boat” as a Colombo Plan student who’d been assigned to study psychology at New Zealand’s newest university – the University of Waikato. He graduated in 1976 with a Master of Social Sciences with First Class Honours in psychology.

Returning to Singapore, Mr Wee served his compulsory military service as an army psychologist. He remained there for three years and later spent time researching secret society gangsters in prison.

Seeking more creative fulfilment, Mr Wee embarked on a complete career-change in 1987 when he joined Singapore’s national newspaper The Straits Times as a journalist. He was quickly promoted to design editor, travelling widely to see how newspaper design was changing around the world and applying new techniques to the paper at home.

By establishing his own design agency – Epigram – in 1991, Mr Wee oversaw a creative shift in Singapore’s design industry. Initially focusing on annual reports, Epigram was quickly recognised for its unique approach to design, winning numerous awards in Singapore, Asia, Europe and the United States.

In 2008 Mr Wee won Designer of the Year at the Singapore President’s Design Awards – that country’s highest honour in field of design. In 2011, he founded publishing firm Epigram Books and was subsequently named one of Singapore’s 10 most influential people in the arts in 2011 and 2012.
Capping it all off in 2013

April and October are times for celebration in Tauranga and Hamilton when graduands, their families and friends gather for capping ceremonies. In total, 2,494 students graduated this year.

The tradition of marching through the centre of the city is catching on, and it can be a risky business crossing Hamilton’s Claudeland’s bridge on a windy spring day. Claudelands Events Centre has become the venue of choice for graduation ceremonies in Hamilton. Guest speakers at Claudelands’ ceremonies included senior lecturer Dr Timote Vaioleti who spoke in April and his daughter, Fullbright scholar Lora Vaioleti, who spoke in October.

At Te Kohinga Mārama marae, masters graduate, author and Māori games expert Harko Brown was the guest speaker at April graduation and in October, new director of the Te Kotahi Research Institute Associate Professor Leonie Pihama addressed the crowd. Dame Susan Devoy had her honorary doctorate conferred in Tauranga and was the guest speaker there.

The University also hosted a graduation ceremony for MBA students at the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development at Hopuhopu in November.

Honorary Doctorates recognise significant work

The University of Waikato conferred four Honorary Doctorates during 2013. An Honorary Doctorate is the most prestigious award the University can bestow, with recipients recognised for their significant contribution to the University, the Waikato region and the wider New Zealand community.

Dame Susan Devoy

New Race Relations Commissioner Dame Susan Devoy was number one world women’s squash player for more a decade, winning four World titles and eight British Opens. She was named New Zealand Sportswoman of the Year three times, awarded an MBE at 21, and at 34 was made a Dame Companion of the New Zealand order of Merit.

She has given support to many organisations and causes, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Halberg Trust, the Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust, and the National Centre of Cycling.

Bernie Crosby

Bernie Crosby and his wife Kaye founded Prolife Foods in the 1980s and the couple has grown the business into one of New Zealand’s largest privately owned and operated food businesses, employing more than 600 people and supplying supermarkets in New Zealand and Australia.

Mr Crosby supports Hamilton Gardens, the MESH Sculpture Trust, the New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Award and the Coromandel Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust, and he initiated a campaign to raise $1 million to fund neurological research into Parkinson’s disease.

Gordon Stephenson CNZM

Gordon Stephenson CNZM, Waikato farmer and conservationist from Waotu near Putaruru, founded the QEII National Trust in 1977. Today more than 3,500 covenants are registered under the trust, covering more than 100,000 hectares.

Mr Stephenson has had leading roles on the Waikato Conservation Board, the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust, the New Zealand Landcare Trust and the South Island High Country Review Committee. He is a Distinguished Life Member of Forest and Bird, and an honorary kaumatua at Pikitu Marae, Waotu.

Sir Patrick Hogan

For more than 30 years Sir Patrick’s Cambridge Stud was the leading vendor by aggregate at the National Yearling Sales at Karaka – unrivalled in New Zealand horse breeding. It was the unfancied Sir Tristram that kick-started Sir Patrick’s career. The horse sired 45 individual Group One winners including son Zabeel who was named champion sire of New Zealand and Australia 13 years in a row and in turn sired 43 individual Group One winners. Sir Patrick is the only person to have been inducted into both the New Zealand and Australian racing Halls of Fame.
One step closer for new Bay of Plenty campus

Plans to build a new University-led campus as part of Tauranga’s city centre tertiary precinct took another major step forward in August when the Bay of Plenty Regional Council approved funding of up to $15 million to support this initiative.

The Bay of Plenty Tertiary Education Partnership, comprising the University, Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi and Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, will now work with Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust (TECT) to discuss further contributions to this community-driven project. The partnership is seeking $15 million from TECT and the balance of around $37 million will be funded through growth in the Bay of Plenty Tertiary Education Partnership or third parties.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Alister Jones says a CBD campus would provide an important facility for tertiary provision and research, and one which is relevant to the needs of the region.

“We are committed to the region and will continue to grow. But you’ve got to have an infrastructure to do that, so this is the first step.”

He says the tertiary partnership has a great deal of support from regional stakeholders who consider a University-led campus to be critical in creating a sustainable future for everyone in the Bay of Plenty community.

“This project is being driven by the region, not by the University or the partnership in isolation, and it is dependent on regional support,” he says.

The campus will have a focus on regional innovation and entrepreneurship, and be both nationally and internationally recognised as a hub for teaching, learning and research. In the event of community consent to the project, construction of the new tertiary facility is expected to begin in 2016.

A golden future

Stewart Robertson has a job plenty would envy. He’s his own boss, has his own boat, and he takes conservation tours around New Zealand’s Abel Tasman National Park.

He used to drive a water taxi, but in 2010 he left his home town of Motueka with wife and two young children in tow, and enrolled in a Diploma of Marine Studies at Bay of Plenty Polytechnic. He then enrolled at the University of Waikato in Tauranga to complete a Bachelor of Science. His degree included a special topic looking at fish assemblages around artificial reefs.

“I was in the first of Waikato’s Marine Studies cohort – it was all a bit experimental but it worked out great,” says Stew. With a certificate of competency in scientific diving, he became part of the University’s Coastal Marine Group which meant he was involved in the Rena fast response team and has since been asked to join other projects led by the Group, including one in the Kapiti Marine Reserve.

He says he wouldn’t be able to do his current job if he hadn’t studied at Waikato. “It’s set me up and given me the knowledge and confidence to share what I know. I’m proud of what I’ve achieved and my degree gives me the authority to pass that information on.”

Stew gives 5% of proceeds from his Golden Future conservation tours to the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust.

“There’s some fantastic restoration work going on in the Park, much of it by volunteers all working to reverse biodiversity decline, and I’m pleased to be a part of that,” says Stew.

While studying in Tauranga, Stew honed his scientific field skills, undertaking coastal and SCUBA surveys at the Mercury Islands, Tuhua (Mayor) Island and Lissenung in Papua New Guinea. When the Rena ran aground on Astrolabe reef in October 2011, he was part of the fast response team put together by the University of Waikato and Bay of Plenty Polytechnic to survey the outlying islands before the oil slick hit.

Stew now sees himself as an environmental educator. He says word’s getting out about what he’s doing and he’s finding a number of schools in the Nelson-Marlborough region keen to have their students take his tours. He’s also working with his former employer Marahau Water Taxis, helping to steer their business towards a more sustainable future.

CAMPUS COMING: A campus in Tauranga is a step closer thanks to regional council funding.

NOT JUST A JOB: Stew Robertson, diver, tourism operator and environmental educator.

CAMPUS COMING: A campus in Tauranga is a step closer thanks to regional council funding.
Recognising research excellence

The University of Waikato presented Research Excellence Awards for the first time in 2013.

Dr Tahu Kukutai (NIDEA) won the Early Career Research Award for her work in the field of Māori and indigenous populations. Dr Kukutai currently leads a Marsden project investigating how governments around the world classify their populations by ethnicity.

Professor Lynda Johnston won the Community Impact Award. She has spent more than 20 years informing debate and shaping community opinions in issues such as marriage equality, queer identity and sexual health and well-being.

The award for Commercial Research went to Senior Lecturer from Science & Engineering Dr Johan Verbeek. He has established a research career linked with industry in the field of biopolymers, converting industry co-products into useful and non-polluting plastics.

Dr Te Taka Keegan, Computing & Mathematical Sciences, won the Māori/Indigenous Excellence Award. He’s worked on the revitalisation of Māori language for more than 20 years, including working with Microsoft on implementing Māori language characteristics into text and with Google to develop a Māori search facility.

The Waikato Cortical Modelling Group won the Research Team Excellence Award. This group is Professor Moira Steyn-Ross, Associate Professor Alistair Steyn-Ross and Dr Marcus Wilson, plus PhD and MSc graduates. They collaborate intensively with the Waikato Clinical School in the field of neuroscience about general anaesthesia, sleep, cognition and seizure.

Computer Scientist Professor Ian Witten was presented with the Lifetime Research Achievement Excellence Award. He has helped establish the University of Waikato as a leader in data mining, digital libraries, and open source software and is listed in Thomson Reuters Highly Cited researchers.

Two new Companions

Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori and Dean of the School of Māori and Pacific Development, and Emeritus Professor Ian Pool were both named Companions of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2013 New Year’s Honours.

Professor Smith, a leading social scientist and Māori scholar, was honoured for her services to Māori and education. Late last year she was also awarded the Dame Joan Metge Medal by the Royal Society of New Zealand for her outstanding contribution in inspiring, mentoring and developing the capacity of Māori researchers through teaching and research.

Also a Royal Society medal recipient, Emeritus Professor Ian Pool was honoured for his work in demography. Last year he received a ‘festschrift’ (an acknowledgement of a significant contributor to a particular field) from the New Zealand Population Review for his contribution to population and social science research in New Zealand and internationally.

In 2009 he received the Te Rangi Hiroa Medal award by the Royal Society of New Zealand for his work looking at historical approaches to societal transformation and change.

University Medal, Bill Flower

A man who left school at 12 and who has helped generations of young people make the most of their opportunities has been awarded the University of Waikato medal.

Bill Flower left school during the Great Depression as his parents couldn’t afford to send him to boarding school in his native Australia, so he came to New Zealand. He learned to fly and flew Halifax bombers during the Second World War then returned to New Zealand to farm and raise a family.

When the idea to build a university in Hamilton was first mooted, Mr Flower was among the first to volunteer for a committee set up to raise funds for the Halls of Residence.

Mr and Mrs Flower have funded undergraduate prizes in both global and environmental economics at the University and in 2010 launched the Flower Doctoral Fellowship in Economics, which offers $30,000 a year over three years to a postgraduate student to study a subject that promotes New Zealand agriculture. Mr Flower attributed much of his success to his late wife Joan.
Retired but still working

This year saw a number of faculty staff awarded the title of Emeritus Professor or Honorary Fellow, and most are retaining their University links through research and postgraduate supervision.

The title of Honorary Fellow can be bestowed on people who have been long-serving and senior members of either academic or general staff and whose career at the University of Waikato has concluded.

Emeritus Professors must have held a professorship at the University for at least 10 years before retiring and made a substantial and exemplary contribution to the University and in their field of research. In a ceremony in late November, Professor Stewart Lawrence from WMS was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor, while Associate Professor Jan Pilditch (English) and Dr Bill Bolstad (Statistics) were made Honorary Fellows.

AWARDS AND HONOURS
Dean, director and policy adviser among key appointments

This year, the University welcomed a new dean to the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, a senior policy adviser – Pacific, and a new director for the Te Kotahi Research Institute.

Elena Fa’amoe-Timoteo

Elena Fa’amoe-Timoteo joined the University from the Ministry of Education where she’s held several senior appointments. She’ll spend a year developing a policy framework for the University’s Pacific Plan. As the number of Pacific students at Waikato increases year by year, the University wants to ensure its Pacific Plan meets the aspirations, needs and priorities of Pacific peoples. “We need to address that in our planning, both strategically and operationally,” she says.

Ms Fa’amoe-Timoteo is Samoan, grew up in the United States and attended Western Washington University in Bellingham and the University of Auckland.

Robert Hannah

FASS’ new Dean, Professor Robert Hannah, is a classical archaeologist – he’s worked in Pompeii and he knows the night sky better than the back of his hand. As well as having an extensive track record in Greek and Roman art and language, he’s also an expert in astronomy and has extensive experience as an academic administrator and museum curator.

He comes to Waikato from Otago University where he’s spent most of his life. “So I’m getting to know the regions… Waikato is a growing university with a young profile and frame of mind. There’s flexibility in the way people think and an energy that comes with that. I’m excited to be here.”

Leonie Pihama

Associate Professor Leonie Pihama was promoted to director of TKRI in July. She plans to increase research collaboration with faculties at the University, enhance iwi and community access to research and promote more international collaborations. Dr Pihama attended the National Science Challenges hui and says “there must be Māori presence in all the challenges”.

“Māori research aspirations and researchers cannot simply be an appendix to the process. TKRI and Māori research bodies can make a critical contribution to the challenges, and therefore we’re seeking to ensure there’s space for us in the processes and projects.”

Veteran librarian presented with top award

Long-serving librarian Kathryn Parsons has been presented a prestigious award for her work with the New Zealand Collection at the University of Waikato library.

At the LIANZA conference in Hamilton, she received the YBP/Lindsay and Croft Award for Collection Services for 2013. The award was for her work in collection development and management, and included a $2,000 grant.

Ms Parsons who began working in the New Zealand Collection in April 1989 says the award is recognition for everyone who works with the collection.

“There are a lot of people involved so it was a team effort, they support me all the time,” she says.

She acknowledged University foundation librarian Jenny King, who gave her a job in the library in 1988, and Tony Millett, who retired from the University library in 2005.

“They guided me and I learned such a lot,” she says. “I knew I had big shoes to fill.”

She was pleased the award was for “building the collection and ensuring New Zealand material is accessible”. The library had built its New Zealand collection from scratch when the University was established. Ms Parsons says they did a good job and “there aren’t many gaps” in its range.

And while some are predicting the demise of libraries with the advent of e-books, Ms Parsons says books aren’t done yet.
A new judge in Samoa

Samoa’s new District Court Judge Leilani Tuala-Warren says “not in a million years” did she ever imagine herself on the bench, and never did she have any aspirations to become a judge. But in August this year, the University of Waikato law graduate and former lecturer was sworn in and became just the second woman judge in Samoa to be appointed to the District Court.

In Samoa, you do not apply to become a judge – you are chosen by the Chief Justice and approved by the Judicial Service Commission. “It was his Honour our Chief Justice, Patu Tiavaasue Falefatu Maka Sapolu who persuaded me to accept the position,” says Leilani. “He said to me, ‘the path that you have set for yourself is not necessarily the path that God has chosen for you’.”

Leilani was raised in Samoa and attended Leififi College. She graduated with a Master of Laws degree (with Distinction) from Waikato in 1997 and returned to Samoa to work for the Office of the Attorney General before coming back to Waikato to teach at Te Piringa - Faculty of Law and Waikato Management School.

She returned to Samoa to practise law in her family’s law firm, Tuala & Tuala Lawyers, until November 2008 when she was appointed Executive Director of the newly established Samoa Law Reform Commission, which she says prepared her well for her new position.

There’s no formal preparation for becoming a judge, but being a capable lawyer is important first and foremost, says Leilani. “You become the best lawyer that you can be and that prepares you for the bench. There are a few formal orientation programmes but you mostly rely on other judges who guide you into the role.”

Leilani is married to Aidan Warren, also a Waikato graduate and a director in the Hamilton law firm, McCaw Lewis. Together they have three children and another due in December. Leilani stays in Samoa and Aidan travels back and forth.

She has fond memories of her time at Waikato, as a place that fostered and nurtured self-development and independent learning and allowed her confidence to grow.

“I hope that what I have achieved will set and continue to set a good example to students in Samoa, especially young women who are interested in the law.”

Busy time for best in the business

As if Tiare Kata Teinakore wasn’t busy enough raising two young children and completing her masters thesis on Te Kauwhanganui O Tawhiao, the first Māori parliament.

Both roles require an almost full-time commitment but the 27-year-old University of Waikato student also found time to train with her kapa haka group Te Iti Kahurangi and compete in February’s national kapa haka champs Te Matatini in Rotorua.

Tiare successfully juggled family, kapa haka and study, handing in her thesis the week before Te Matatini started.

Her and her group’s commitment was rewarded when they finished third equal and brought home a swag of trophies, including an elaborate korowai presented to Tiare for being judged the best female leader of the 41 teams on show.

Tiare is well aware of the significance of the win.

“It’s been 30 years since this korowai has been in the Waikato,” she says.

The victory places Tiare alongside some of the most highly regarded names in the kapa haka world and she says it was “one of the most humbling things in my life” to win it.

“To be even considered in that group of strong women is a privilege, I feel very blessed.”

But Tiare has worked hard for what she’s achieved. “Late nights, babysitters, partners, family support. I couldn’t have done it without the support of my family.”

Te Iti Kahurangi’s fifth time at Te Matatini in 2013 was the first time they’d made it to the finals. That in itself is a major achievement for a group that is less than 10 years old.

When Tiare, her two sisters and two friends set up Te Iti Kahurangi in 2004, competition was the last thing on their minds.

“It was just five people who really loved to sing and to haka and to compose and that remains the same as it has always been,” she says.

Except now the pressure goes on to repeat their success at the next Te Matatini, in Christchurch in 2015.

The University of Waikato is a strategic partner of Te Matatini and alongside Tiare, a raft of students and staff were involved with Te Matatini, either organising, competing or judging.
Waikato University researchers win three Marsden Fund grants

Population growth is theorised to cease globally about 2100, resulting in irreversible population shrinkage in most countries. A research project led by Professor Natalie Jackson and designed to develop a theory of depopulation, and the unfolding mechanisms underlying it to assist policymakers to respond, is one of three research projects led by University of Waikato researchers to receive support from the Marsden Fund, New Zealand’s funding for ideas-driven research.

The Marsden Fund has announced it will distribute $59 million to fund 110 new research projects nationwide, each for a three-year period.

The Marsden Fund supported projects at Waikato University are:

» 'The sub-national mechanisms of the ending of population growth. Towards a theory of depopulation', Professor Natalie Jackson, National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, total funding: $748,000.

» 'Children visiting a museum: information gathering or creative capacity building?', Professor Margaret Carr, Wilf Malcolm Institute of Educational Research, total funding: $778,000.

» 'The Evolution of Biosynthetic Pathways and Metabolism', Professor Vic Arcus, Department of Biological Sciences, with co-principal investigator Dr Wayne Patrick (University of Otago), total funding: $739,130.

Professor Margaret Carr’s project is designed to examine young children’s creative inclinations to puzzle about the unknown and develop innovative working theories. It will challenge international monocultural definitions of innovation potential and creative capacity by examining children’s responses from kohanga reo and kura kaupapa Māori to well-designed museum visits.

Professor Vic Arcus is co-leading a project designed to examine the evolution of a network of enzymes that facilitate cellular metabolism by resurrecting and examining ancient enzymes.

“I’m delighted with our researchers’ successes,” said Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. “Their projects are just some of the exciting work we undertake that has direct relevance for policymakers and business people for developments that will benefit us as a nation and that have clear international relevance.”

The Marsden Fund is administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Marsden Fund Council, and funded by the New Zealand Government. It supports projects in the sciences, technology, engineering and maths, social sciences and the humanities.

Kudos for Waikato researchers

Two University of Waikato researchers claimed coveted KuDos Awards this year while another was presented the lifetime achievement award for his work with manuka honey.

The KuDos Awards were launched in 2007 to celebrate scientific innovations from within the region.

Engineering’s Dr Johan Verbeek won the Hill Laboratories Science Entrepreneur category and Dr Daniel Laughlin from Biology took out the Hamilton City Council Emerging Scientist category. Professor Peter Molan was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award which recognises a researcher who has made a major contribution to the Waikato and the international profile of New Zealand science.

Professor Molan has spent more than 30 years investigating manuka honey’s antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. His work has already earned him an MBE and a New Zealand Science and Technology Silver Medal. “It’s become my life,” he said.

Dr Laughlin, a Senior Lecturer in Biological Sciences, is one of a team of researchers developing and testing a model that can predict where plant species will grow and how their distributions may shift in response to changes in environmental conditions.

Dr Verbeek and his team have been working to create environmentally-friendly plastics where animal by-products produced by the red meat industry are processed into granules that have been modified and optimised to suit a chosen product’s attributes. The granules can then be manufactured into injection moulded or extruded products using industry standard equipment. The work of Dr Verbeek and his team is part of Aduro Biopolymers, the spin-out company formed by Waikato University’s research commercialisation arm WaikatoLink Limited.
Three MBIE funds granted to University researchers

University of Waikato researchers have been awarded $5 million of research funding in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s 2013 science investment round for three projects.

Combining scientific and Māori knowledge

Two University of Waikato researchers will head a $1.84 million, four-year project examining freshwater food gathering areas and how best to manage them through both science and traditional Māori knowledge.

Deputy Director of the University’s Te Kotahi Research Institute, Maui Hudson, and Associate Professor Kevin Collier from the Faculty of Science & Engineering will head the study, Ngā Tohu o te Taiao: Sustaining and Enhancing Wai Māori and Mahinga Kai, with the first step to identify knowledge gaps and study locations.

The research project – developed out of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s new ‘sandpit’ process for identifying research and collaborative research teams – will consider what role mahinga kai could have in representing the state of our fresh water resources, how synergising mātauranga Māori and Western science could enhance the credibility of limits set on using those resources and the best way to communicate research results from hapū level to a national level.

Maui Hudson says they initially want to get together with everyone involved in the study – other universities, Crown Research Institutes, iwi, Waikato-Tainui College, the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and local government — “and get everyone on the same page with what we’re doing”.

While the ultimate result would be cleaner water, Dr Collier says that won’t happen with the study. “It’s the process of how mahinga kai can inform limit-setting that we’re interested in,” he says. “How people can work together and make use of different things from science and mātauranga Māori.”

The lower Waikato River is a likely area for the research and the researchers expect the process that comes from this study will be able to be used as a template for studies on other waterways.

Energy efficiency opportunities

The Director of the University’s Energy Research Group, Professor Peter Kamp (pictured), and his team have been awarded $2.07 million for a three-year project to identify energy efficiency opportunities in the dairy processing and timber drying industries with an aim of saving up to $20 million in energy costs at current levels of production.

Professor Kamp says the energy savings expected as a result of the research will help maintain New Zealand’s export competitiveness.

Together the dairy processing and timber drying industries use about 40% of the primary energy used for industrial process heat in New Zealand.

“This latest contract picks up where an earlier one leaves off,” says Professor Kamp. “It will allow us to continue our experiments, simulations, numerical modelling and analysis with Fonterra and assist our move into working with other industry. The same processes we’ve been trialling with Fonterra may be applicable to the timber industry.”

Professor Kamp says Waikato University is now acknowledged as a centre for mechanical and process engineering in dairy processing and the research contracts they work on provide an excellent springboard for postgraduate students to gain valuable work experience.

Speeding up processes

Biological Sciences Professor Vic Arcus (pictured) heads of a group of 12 researchers and has been awarded $850,000 for a two-year project to develop a new method for designing “next-generation enzymes” for commercial use.

“Research funding is very competitive so when you get a grant like this, it’s a very exciting day,” says Professor Arcus.

The project aims to develop enzymes for commercial use in three main applications: in the manufacturing of biofuels, forensics and diagnostics, and in the manufacturing of chemically complex drugs for the pharmaceutical industry.

Professor Arcus says the new research is a continuation of an earlier Marsden-funded project, “and grew out of our interest in the fundamental properties of enzymes, particularly in their evolution”.

The research team for this project consists of Professor Arcus, Waikato University Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Joanne Hobbs, Professor Emily Parker from the University of Canterbury, Dr Wayne Patrick from the University of Otago and Dr Dave Saul from Hamilton biotechnology company ZyGEM. Research will be conducted at ZyGEM and in laboratories at the three universities.
Six Waikato Fulbright scholars upskill Stateside

Six University of Waikato staff, graduates and students received Fulbright Awards in 2013, giving them the opportunity to spend time studying in the US.

Fran Gourdie headed to New York in August to complete her masters degree at the prestigious Columbia University. Gourdie, who attended Hamilton Girls’ High School, received a general graduate award and will complete a Master of Laws degree in Human Rights and International Trade Law.

Fran – who graduated in 2010 with a BSC and LLB(Hons) – says Columbia’s good reputation was only part of the reason she wanted to study there. “I’ve been practising for three-and-a-half years now so I didn’t want to go back to academia as such.”

She will be at Columbia for 10 months and says her future options remain wide open. She is confident the Fulbright experience will open her up to all sorts of possibilities.

“It’s pretty exciting, I’ve never been to the US,” she says.

New Plymouth’s Samantha Hill received a Fulbright Science and Innovation Award and will complete a Master of Science degree in Sustainability Management.

Samantha – who graduated earlier this year – is also excited about studying at Columbia and says she will eventually return to New Zealand “with a new and more global perspective on sustainability issues”.

She will spend a year and a half at Columbia and says her programme is co-taught by Columbia’s School of Continuing Education and the Earth Institute, which develops practical solutions for sustainability through scientific research and education.

“I was first inspired by their work while reading for my first-year environmental science class, and receiving this award is an incredible opportunity to learn firsthand from experts in sustainability,” she says.

Fran and Samantha were joined by history lecturer Nēpia Mahuika, who received a Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Award and is researching the roles of oral traditions and oral histories as historical sources for Native American and Māori at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Urbana.

Dr Mahuika also headed Stateside in August – with his wife and three children – and says he was looking forward to seeing if his theories on oral history and tradition applied to other cultures.

“It will be good to test them on another indigenous people,” he says. Aside from exposing his thesis ideas to another culture, Dr Mahuika is hoping to complete a book on oral history and traditions and will also speak at several conferences, including one on cultural appropriation in the week after he arrives. “I’ll be busy,” he says.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Melanie Cheung received a Fulbright New Zealand Scholars Award and will spend six months in San Francisco working with world leading neuroplasticity expert Professor Michael Merzenich to see if his work treating brain diseases such as autism, dyslexia and schizophrenia can be adapted to help people with Huntington’s disease, a genetic neurodegenerative disorder.

Dr Cheung – Ngāti Rangitīhe, Te Arawa – has for several years been working with a Taranaki whānau living with Huntington’s disease and says her work with Professor Merzenich is the next step in that project. “We are hopeful that these new and exciting therapies will be effective, but there is still a lot of work to do.”

“Working with indigenous communities means that you have to make progress at the right speed for them,” she says.

Dr Michael Walmsley’s expertise in industrial energy efficiency and heat recovery systems in the food processing industry led to the Waikato University chemical engineer being selected for a Fulbright Scholarship. He will travel to the University of California Davis for five months in February.

“California is the largest milk producer in the USA producing about 17 million litres of milk a year, which is similar to New Zealand,” says Dr Walmsley. “It has milk processing plants like ours that use high levels of heat for their milk powder drying processes.”

Dr Walmsley plans to study two processing plants to see how they’re reducing fossil fuel dependency by increasing uptake of factory heat recovery opportunities, and solar energy opportunities for renewable co-generation of process heat and electricity.
Two top achievers

Two doctoral students studying very different subjects were awarded University of Waikato Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships this year.

Kiri Cutting

Kiri Cutting is a US-born doctoral scholar (mum from Nelson, New Zealand, dad from Delaware). She is focusing her PhD research on urban restoration ecology, looking at natural areas in Hamilton that have been degraded by human activities, and finding practical ways to restore them for the future benefit of people and nature alike.

The scholarship adds an extra one-time $5,000 to Kiri’s $22,000 annual doctoral scholarship. Selection for the top achiever scholarships is based on grade point average and other factors such as prior academic accomplishments.

As part of her research Kiri has planted 180 tawa seedlings in Hamilton’s weediest gully areas, and will spend the next two years gathering data on their survival and growth rates, seeing how the seedlings grow amongst the weed Tradescantia, more commonly known as Wandering Jew, and in clear and mulched areas.

As well as the tawa experiment, Kiri will also work in the Waikarekohe Natural Heritage Park near Hamilton Zoo, studying restoration plantings.

Sheeba Asirvatham

Sheeba Asirvatham has been awarded the Wilf and Ruth Malcolm Postgraduate Scholarship for 2013 in recognition of achieving University of Waikato’s top doctoral scholar status.

The scholarship is made up of an annual living allowance of $27,000 for the first year, and $26,000 for the second year plus full fees for the duration of the scholarship, a travel, conference or research cost allowance to a total of $4,000, and a contribution towards thesis binding.

For her PhD, Sheeba is researching the career development and vitality of academic women in New Zealand. Her study will include women from Waikato and other universities.

While her mum is a graduate, dad a postgraduate and both brothers have engineering degrees, Sheeba is the first from her family to study away from India.

“My family encouraged me to come here. They wanted me to have international exposure and develop my talents.”

The award was established to mark the retirement and honour the contribution of Professor Wilf Malcolm as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waikato in 1994.

Battalion Scholarships

Three University of Waikato students were awarded 2013 Ngārimu VC and 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarships. They’re undergraduate students Kiharoa Milroy and Te Rina Popata and doctoral student Curtis Bristowe.

Kiharoa is the grandson of Māori language expert Professor Te Wharehuia Milroy and the younger Milroy is a fluent speaker of te reo too. He’s part way through a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education.

Kiharoa’s scholarship is $10,000 a year for the next two years, and Te Rina Popata’s received the same amount for the duration of her law degree.

She applied for her scholarship in te reo. “I saw the application and thought ‘I can do this’. I was spurred into action, knowing my grandfather Sir James Henare was commander of the 28th Māori Battalion and a major leader in the kōhanga reo movement. That makes the scholarship all the more special.”

Curtis Bristowe was one of two students awarded a doctoral scholarship. He’s received $25,000 for his research into the formation of a Kaupapa Māori inspired strategic framework to guide and focus Māori film-making practice.

Rona Scholarships

Mahuru Robb and Ray Tana have received $10,000 Rona Scholarships in 2013. Up to 10 of these scholarships are awarded in New Zealand by Te Pūtea Whakatupu Trust each year; offered to Māori completing degrees in fisheries, aquaculture or marine sciences.

Mahuru (Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Ranginui) is studying towards her Master of Science in Freshwater Ecology, looking at how mātauranga Māori and science work together to assess wetland health.

“I’m working at the Toreparu wetland, just south of Raglan and am fortunate to have the support of people from Mōtakotako marae.” The project seeks to understand how tools such as the wetland cultural health index (WCHI) are applied and how well Māori values are communicated within mainstream society and to environmental decision-makers.

Ray Tana’s (Ngāti whātua and Ngāpuhi) doctoral research is based on expanding the current understanding of Antarctic toothfish life-history and population structuring throughout Antarctica. Specifically, he has been extracting chemical markers from Antarctic toothfish otoliths (ear bones), collected by long-line vessels from areas around Antarctica and using these chemical markers for stock assessment purposes.
Sarah Bluett works for energy corporation Chevron, based in Houston, Texas. It’s a long way from when she first began her studies at the University of Waikato.

“I wanted to be a marine biologist my whole life, but I fell in love with geology doing a second-year Earth Science paper. I really loved the field course and the associated mapping work and after that I dropped my biology work and went full on with Earth and Ocean Sciences,” she says.

“I think I am drawn to geology because it is such a powerful tool to understand how the world around you works,” she says.

Sarah graduated with a BSc, majoring in Earth Sciences, and an MSc.

While doing her MSc in 2008, she applied to Chevron. She was flown to Western Australia for the interview and was accepted into the company’s five-year graduate programme, Horizons.

“Trot last count there were five Waikato grads at Chevron. Adam Vonk started things off and got the job first, then Brad Hopcroft and I were hired. A couple of years later Karl Jager was hired and then Michael Taylor,” she says.

After four years at two different sites in Western Australia, Sarah applied for the job in Houston, a city she has fallen in love with.

“It is central to so many travel opportunities and the food here is amazing. It is such a diverse city, we can eat food from all over the world. Plus my husband and I love American Football.”

She is currently training to be a petrophysicist.

“The ultimate goal of my job is to determine how much oil and gas is present in a reservoir, and the nature of the rocks which make up a reservoir,” she says.

“It’s a varied role which integrates geology, chemistry, engineering and all other sciences in the energy industry. There is always something new to work on, it is a challenging field of study, but very exciting. I know that when I do my job correctly, I can help my company to operate safely without impacting the environment. This is extremely important to me.”

Sarah says her Waikato education has helped her career.

“The highly varied classes offered meant that I graduated with a well rounded knowledge of all the processes which act on the earth to influence geology,” she says.

“On any given day I may need to call on information learnt during a chemistry, biology, geology, hydrology, oceanography, (and so many more) lecture or field trip.”
New York likely to remain home for BMS graduate

There will be a great deal of change in the media and technology industry in the next 10 years, and Joel Krutz intends to be right in the middle of it.

Joel graduated from the University of Waikato in 1996 with a BMS and headed to London. After several short-term contracts, he secured a role at MTV Networks, where he has remained for 15 years in a number of roles, including CFO for the MTV Emerging Markets and VP of MTV Network International Finance & Operations.

He moved to New York in 2007 where his current role involves directing all business planning and performance evaluation processes “to ensure we are aligned with the strategic and financial expectations of Viacom management and our shareholders”.

“I’m very happy, and lucky, to be working with some of the world’s most recognisable brands and in a constantly evolving business that I really enjoy.”

He says his time at Waikato set him up well for his professional life.

“My first year at Waikato was undoubtedly one of the funniest, and most formative of my life to date with the friends I made that year having become friends for life.”

Alumna recognised for youth engagement work

Communications alumna Natalie Palmer was recognised this year for her youth engagement work with the Professor Ted Zorn Waikato Alumni Award in Management Communication.

The Ted Zorn Award has been granted annually since 2004 to a graduate of the Department of Management Communication who has excelled in a communication position and served as a role model for students.

Natalie graduated from the University of Waikato with a Bachelor of Communication Studies in 2005 and quickly landed a job as communications adviser at Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Two years later she moved to the Tauranga City Council where she initiated Tauranga’s Youth Engagement Project to encourage young people to become involved in council and to have their say on decisions that affected their city.

The project involved implementing a variety of fun and fresh, youth-focused engagement techniques including a sell-out show that saw candidates for the 2011 local government elections get grilled in front of a live audience of more than 700 young people.

“Councils around the country are constantly doing work that affects young people – however the problem is, most people either don’t know it’s happening or don’t know how to have their say. Implementing a campaign that used the latest technology and trends and was directed specifically at them meant that we had a successful outcome,” says Natalie.

The award also recognised Natalie’s other career achievements, including her accreditation by PRINZ (Public Relations Institute of New Zealand) two years ago. She is currently based in Hamilton as communications adviser for the Hamilton City Council where she works across a range of Hamilton-based community initiatives.
MAJOR PROJECTS / ART ON CAMPUS

First sod turned for Law and Management building

At dawn on Monday 14 October, a ground breaking and blessing ceremony was held at the University of Waikato to mark the start of work on the new Law and Management building.

Following a karakia by Rahui Papa, Pou Tikanga for Te Piringa - Faculty of Law and Chairperson of Te Arataura, the executive committee of Waikato Tainui, there were speeches and the turning of the first piece of ground by Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. A light breakfast was held in the Waikato Management School after the ceremony.

Excavation works on the site will be carried out over the summer months, with the goal being to have most of this phase completed before the start of A Semester 2014.

Construction of the new Law and Management building will take about 18 months, and staff should be able to move in sometime after July 2015. The new building will house Te Piringa - Faculty of Law and Waikato Management School’s Centre for Corporate and Executive Education as well as student services.

It will also feature new teaching rooms, offices, interview and meeting rooms, computer labs and a moot courtroom.

New sculptures brighten up University campus

Sitting outside the School of Māori & Pacific Development is Kōanga by Eugene Kara. The series of bronze forms represent the history of the land, the people, the University and our future.

Kōanga (spring) is a time that brings new beginnings and this work was inspired by the gardeners of the past and their aspirations for a sustainable, healthy and prosperous future for the community.

Each figure derives its form from the elegantly shaped Māori tools that were used for gardening. The seven figures are clustered together to represent a unified whānau that shelters and protects the future generation coming through. Sculptor Eugene Kara worked with students from New Zealand Welding School to create Kōanga using cast molds.

Nga Tohu Mārama (Understanding) in Oranga Lake is by artist Jeremy Shirley. It too has seven figures – motifs that represent Kingitanga, Polynesia, diversity, truth, excellence, communication, awareness and growth, and the seven ‘icons’ reflect the University whakatauki/motto ‘Ko Te Tangata’ – For the People.
Former student flying high

Penny Khull is mastering the skills required to handle a high tech helicopter but credits her time at the University of Waikato with teaching her how to be a leader.

Penny is a pilot with the Royal New Zealand Air Force and is currently undergoing training to fly the Air Force’s new Agusta 109 helicopters. It’s a technical job but one which she is thriving on as she makes long term plans for a successful military career.

Penny studied a Bachelor of Management Studies, majoring in Finance and Strategic Management with First Class Honours, and graduated in May 2010.

Her association with the Air Force began while she was studying. “Half way through my degree I joined the Territorial Air Force on the Royal New Zealand Air Force University Scheme. This meant the Air Force paid for my fees and a living allowance for the last two years of my study. Once I completed my study I then went full-time into the Air Force to do an Officer Training Course before completing my pilot’s course.”

She is now an officer in the RNZAF and a qualified pilot.

And while flying and a BMS seem worlds apart, Penny says her studies have laid the groundwork for becoming a good leader.

“The officer training course was centred around being an effective leader in today’s military and a number of the management models and theories covered in this course, we also covered in my strategic management papers,” she says.

“My role at the moment is largely focused around learning and improving my flying skills; however as my flying experience increases it will become more focused on captaining a team to achieve the outcomes required. My management degree gave me a really good grounding in all aspects of business and management and even though I work in a government entity where there is no profit, there are still budgets to work to and costs to be saved.”

She has plans to eventually fly the new NH90 helicopters before moving into a training role and continuing her progression through the ranks.

“In 10 years time I would like to be an instructor on the helicopters and be in a senior officer role, such as in charge of training or operations of the Helicopter Squadron,” she says.

And even though flying helicopters sounds like a dream job, she still credits the University of Waikato with providing many abiding memories.

“Wellington is a great place to study and to live. I had some of the best times of my life with my friends at university,” she says.

Lucas de Jong reporting for BBC World in UK

Lucas de Jong is a born story-teller. Already an accomplished public speaker by the time he left high school, it was only natural that Lucas would carve out a successful career as a television reporter and wind up telling some of the world’s biggest stories – which he does now as a broadcast journalist for BBC World News.

It was his talent for public speaking (he was runner-up in the Lions Young Speechmaker of New Zealand competition in 2005) that secured Lucas a place at the University of Waikato as a Sir Edmund Hillary scholar.

He says he “looked everywhere” before deciding on a Bachelor of Communication Studies at Waikato. “The flexibility of studying and the BCS itself really sold me on Waikato,” he says. “I was able to study across communication, media studies and even social sciences.”

Following a year’s further study in Auckland, Lucas drew on connections he had made at Waikato to land internships with Fairfax Media and TVNZ. He spent over a year as a producer and reporter on TV1’s Breakfast programme, later basing himself in the capital as Breakfast’s Wellington reporter.

He’s covered some of New Zealand’s recent major events for TVNZ, including the Pike River Mine disaster, the 2011 Rugby World Cup and the devastation following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake – which he recalls as a hugely defining moment for him.

“I was fresh to being a journalist and the stories were just everywhere, happening in real time. It was definitely the most poignant moment in my career so far.”

After finishing up at Breakfast, Lucas and his fiancée (who, by the way, he met while living across the hall in Student Village) travelled around Europe before settling in London.

Initially a freelancer for BBC World, Lucas is now based in London covering news and events as part of BBC’s 24-hour news coverage.

“With BBC World, you’re working on the biggest stories in the world. So I bounce around a bit, producing stories, editing, doing voice-overs, even overnight reporting. I really love being out in the field, seeing stories unfold in front of me.”

With the BBC known for its formal style of reporting, did the unique Kiwi accent hold him back at all?

“Not as much as I thought it would. Actually, I think it’s been an advantage as we have reporters all over the world, so it’s good to have that international flavour… though I did have to work on pronouncing a few things differently!”
A clean sweep for Waikato on the water

The Harry Mahon Memorial Trophy and the Bryan Gould Cup both sit safely in the University of Waikato’s trophy cabinet after Waikato men’s and women’s crews won the 2013 Gallagher Great Race.

The men’s event was close, with Waikato out-rowing Cambridge and defending champions Sydney University. It was Waikato’s eighth win in 12 outings. Tobias Wehr-Candler and Jade Uru made it back from the World Championships in South Korea to jump in the Waikato boat.

World championship silver medallist Zoe Stevenson and bronze medallist Kayla Pratt also made it back to Hamilton and helped Waikato women win by 20 lengths from Sydney and Melbourne universities; their 10th win in race history and their fourth successive victory over the long and tough 3.85 kilometre upstream course.

The secondary school winners were Hamilton Boys’ High School and Sacred Heart, Hamilton. Napier Boys’ High School and St Bedes, Christchurch were second and third in the boys race, while Sacred Heart out-rowed Waikato Diocesan and Westlake in the girls’ event.

Cycling partnership benefits more than sports

The University of Waikato’s partnership with the Home of Cycling Charitable Trust is part of a strategic commitment that will have long term benefits for communities, schools, educators and researchers, along with elite athletes from a range of sports, not just cycling.

Construction of the $28.5 million National Cycling Centre of Excellence (Avantidrome) complex near Cambridge is nearing completion and along with the national cycling body – BikeNZ, Triathlon New Zealand will also move to the Home of Cycling complex.

The University has invested $1 million over five years in its partnership with the trust to develop a range of research and consultancy services around community and high-performance sport in the Waikato region, where New Zealand Rowing also has its high performance centre.

The partnership gives the University tertiary naming rights for the centre and staff and student access to world-class facilities.

University of Waikato Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Alister Jones says the partnership is about more than cycling and is part of the University’s wider commitment to engaging with the community.

“It ticks all the boxes,” he says. “It connects to schools, it connects to communities and it is part of an integrated structure. It’s about active communities, it supports sport in the community, the next level of students coming through, our Hillary (scholarship) work, the whole range. It’s not just about elite sports.”

Professor Jones says the University will establish a high performance lab at the Avantidrome and there will be research opportunities covering a wide range of fields, including Health and Physical Education, Sports Management, Event Management, Coach Development and Engineering.

“It’s broader than just sports,” he says.
Marathon effort for alumni

Waikato alumni Chris Dunn and Sam Gibb ran the highest and possibly toughest race in the world, the Tenzing Hillary Marathon, in May.

Not content with tackling just the regular 42km marathon, the pair signed up for the 60km ultra-marathon, starting at Everest Base Camp (5364m) and finishing at Namche Bazaar (3446m).

The marathon was created to commemorate the first successful ascent of Everest by Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary in May 1953.

Qualified snowboard instructor, international level wake-boarder and action sports fanatic, Chris completed the 60km ultra-marathon in 12 hours, 39 minutes to take eighth place, one spot ahead of Gibb, who finished the gruelling event in 14 hours, 20 minutes, 30 seconds.

“Ever since I was a Hillary Scholar I’ve had a goal to visit Everest Base Camp,” says Chris, who’s a graphic designer for Gold Coast based water sports company Jetpilot.

“I wanted to understand what Sir Ed endured on his expedition to the summit.”

The University of Waikato supported Chris, helping to cover his training costs and his stay in Nepal.

Sam graduated from Waikato in 2009 with a BMS/LLB(Hons) and works in Singapore.

“When I made it to the finish line, there were no cheers, no tears and no congratulations, only half a dozen people waiting at the finish line to mark down times and hand out medals. While I felt emotional and overwhelmed I just couldn’t believe it was finally done.”

Oar-some achievement by rowers

The University of Waikato had five students attend the World Rowing Championships in 2013 and two of them returned home from Chengju in South Korea with medals. The five also got home just in time to play a winning role in the Gallagher Great Race.

BMS student Kayla Pratt, pictured bottom, second from right, and BSc student Zoe Stevenson, top right, both made the podium at the September world champs.

Zoe teamed up with Fiona Burke to claim silver in the women’s double sculls while Kayla and team mate Rebecca Scown claimed bronze in the women’s pair.

They were among five University of Waikato students who attended the showpiece of world rowing. BMus Fergus Fauvel was part of the men’s quad with Hayden Cohen, Nathan Flannery and Karl Manson who finished fifth in Korea while BSc students Tobias Wehr-Candler and Jade Uru were in the men’s coxless four with Bobby Kells and Adam Tripp. They also finished fifth.

Still got the Blues

Cricketer Natalie Dodd and rower Jade Uru took out the top two accolades at the 2013 Wallace Corporation University of Waikato Blues Awards, with Dodd named Sportswoman of the Year and Uru named Sportsman of the Year.

Natalie is completing a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary). She was selected in the 2013 World Cup team to India and was named Northern Districts Women’s Player of the Year 2013.

Jade is studying for a Bachelor of Science at Waikato. His rowing highlights include competing at the 2012 Olympic Games and the 2013 World Champs.

The Pou Ahurea award for Māori Person of the Year went to Corey Wilson who is studying for a Bachelor of Business Analysis – Financial. He represented Northcote Premier Men’s Softball Team at the National Men’s Open Club Championships.

Creative and Performing Arts Person of the Year went to pianist Andrew Leathwick, studying for a Bachelor of Music with Honours. His music highlights include winning the 46th National Concerto Competition, New Zealand’s foremost national music competition.

Natalie, Corey and Andrew are all Sir Edmund Hillary scholars.

Other major awards among the 72 Blues Awards were:

» University Club of the Year – Waikato Management School Student Association
» Sports Team of the Year – Hamilton Star University Cricket Club, Premier Cricket side
» Sports Coach or Creative/Performing Arts Tutor of the Year – Criss Strange
» Service of the Year – James Hancox (Sport), Brendan Theodore (Creative and Performing Arts)
» Long Service Award (10 years or more service) – Kevin Bradley
» Creative/Performing Art Group of the year – Carving In Ice Theatre
Scholarships awarded ahead of Fieldays fun

A visit from Prime Minister John Key was one of many highlights of the annual agricultural show piece, Fieldays, held at Mystery Creek over four days in June.

The University of Waikato stand holds a prime position just inside the main Fieldays pavilion, allowing it to attract visitors such as the Prime Minister and Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy, who also spent time visiting the stand.

Along with its high profile stand, the University of Waikato – which is a strategic partner of Fieldays – was also represented in the Innovation Centre, with a unique hole-drilling dibbler designed and constructed by University staff and students from the Faculty of Science & Engineering, while Professor of Agribusiness Jacqueline Rowarth hosted a popular seminar for young people outlining the vast employment opportunities available in the agribusiness sector.

Two Fieldays scholarships were presented to students prior to the event. The New Zealand National Fieldays Society funds the University’s New Zealand National Agricultural Fieldays Sir Don Llewellyn Scholarship worth $22,000 yearly.

PhD student Talia Hicks received hers for her work looking at how to decolour bloodmeal and work this into the bioplastic manufacturing process. She’s working with Dr Johan Verbeek on the project, which is being commercialised under the company Aduro Biopolymers.

Bloodmeal bioplastic uses low-value animal waste to create a high-value plastic that breaks down without polluting the environment. Applications include agricultural plastic sheeting, seedling trays, plant pots and even biodegradable golf tees. Talia’s research is aimed at changing the colour of the bioplastic without compromising its physical integrity.

Nadia Laubscher was also awarded a Fieldays Scholarship to help her study soil-flipping in the Galatea basin and the effect this has on the soil makeup and moisture retention of the soil.

Soil-flipping involves mechanically digging into the top 1-2m of soil and tipping it end over end, mixing the different layers of soil. The underlying pumice layers are broken up in the process and buried soil that contains more clay and nutrients are brought to the surface – effectively making a modified soil.

Kingitanga Day – action and variety

New Zealander of the year Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond and Ngāi Tahu head Sir Mark Solomon were keynote speakers at Kingitanga Day 2013.

Dame Anne’s speech was titled Rivers, Rangitira and Relationships, while Sir Mark talked business, advocating Māori take a more collective approach to their economic enterprises and work across iwi.

There were workshops on raranga (traditional Māori weaving), haka, poi and stick making, and myths and legends. Lectures ranged from volcanology to Māori involvement in the private military security industry.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori Professor Linda Smith says Kingitanga Day is an opportunity not only to engage widely with the public and the community, but also to showcase the cultural diversity on campus and reflect the University’s excellence across all areas.
Good lectures for cold nights

The Waikato community has embraced the University’s Winter Lecture Series which runs throughout August, attracting near-capacity crowds to this year’s four events. Topics ranged from Hobbiton to mental health, education and the arts.

Sue Whiting, Manager of the Matamata PR Association said her town had learnt to wear its Hobbiton label with pride. She outlined the benefits and changes the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings movies had made to the town. Kiri Goulter, CEO of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism, talked about the wider effects the films have had on tourism, while Dr Carolyn Michelle from the Audience Research Unit at the University talked about her international surveying pre- and post-Hobbit screenings. “From the Lord of the Rings fans who couldn’t wait to see the new film to the J.R.R. Tolkien purists who thought he’d be turning in his grave.”

The second lecture looked at mental health – institutionalisation, depression and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Associate Professor Catharine Coleborne explained the evolution of mental health care. World fashion founder and CEO Denise L’Estrange-Corbet said medication had been her saviour for clinical depression. “The mind is a wicked thing,” she said. “It makes us what we are – good and bad. We can’t take bits of it away or fix a department.”

Dr Nicola Starkey, a specialist in neuropsychology and psychological assessment in the University’s School of Psychology, said TBI was an invisible epidemic, the leading cause of long-term disability in children and young adults and by 2020, TBI was likely to be the third greatest global burden of disease.

Three education academics, Dr Bill Ussher, Associate Professor Deborah Fraser and Dr Noeline Wright looked at different aspects of teaching, including technology and creativity, but all agreed that despite changes in classroom teaching and the rapid rise of technology in the classroom, there was plenty of good learning going on in our schools. “It’s a high stakes business,” said Dr Ussher, “but the large majority of teachers are working on track to deliver quality learning for all.”

More of a conversation than a lecture, the fourth event looked at the state of the arts in Hamilton. Arts patron Sir James Wallace said the city needed a dedicated public art gallery. CEO of Creative Waikato Sarah Nathan said public art was coming alive in the region, with an abundance of talent. Steph Chalmers, artist and University Art Collection Curator, also supported the idea of a dedicated art gallery, but also defended the city museum that struggled to be all things to all people.

Remembering Rufus Rogers

While many locals might remember Anthony ‘Rufus’ Rogers (pictured) as an MP for Hamilton East, on campus he’s known best for being a key driver of the eight year campaign in the 1950s and early 60s for a university in the Waikato.

Fifty years on, Dr Rufus Rogers’ family, members of the Rufus Rogers branch of the Labour Party and MP Sue Moroney were invited on campus to join past and present University staff for a tree planting ceremony and plaque unveiling in memory of Dr Rogers. The tanekaha and plaque are on the field side of Oranga Lake opposite the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts.

Dr Rogers represented Hamilton East from 1972-75.

He was a good friend of the University’s foundation registrar Norman Kingsbury. At the planting, Mr Kingsbury spoke about Dr Rogers’ life and times – his community approach to life, his support in getting Māori studies accepted as an academic subject, and “his good and decent nature”.

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FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Pacific success for Waikato classmates

Two former University of Waikato classmates are the only New Zealanders selected to take part in a programme aimed at addressing new and emerging threats to the Pacific region.

Rhodes Scholar Briar Thompson and Fulbright Scholar Lora Vaioleti, classmates during their Waikato studies, join three other scholars – two from the Federated States of Micronesia and one from Hawai’i – on the Pacific Security Scholars programme.

It is run by the Emerging Science and Technology Policy Centre, in partnership with the Hawai’i-based Pacific Islands Society and the Center for Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Studies at Georgetown University, Washington DC.

The programme acknowledges a number of “new and emerging security challenges” for the Pacific, from mitigating the threat posed by emerging technologies to addressing the myriad of climate change challenges.

It works with academics, business leaders, societies and governments to help address these challenges head-on.

The scholars will research and write about the policy implications of four emerging security issues in the Pacific Islands region, under the guidance of expert mentors on traditional and non-traditional security issues. Their work will be published alongside some of the world’s most influential thought-leaders on Pacific affairs and will also be presented to the diplomatic missions of the 2014 Pacific Islands Forum.

Lora graduated from Waikato with a Master of Management Studies and is a research fellow for the Center of Unconventional Security Affairs at the University of California, Irvine and the Indigenous Māori and Pacific Adult Education Charitable Trust. She says the programme provides a rare opportunity to be closely mentored by highly regarded experts in the field.

“The calibre of the mentors in this programme is impressive, and this experience will be an invaluable progression of my work in the Pacific as I look towards a PhD in human security and resilience in 2014,” she says.

Briar, who recently completed an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at Oxford and is beginning a second masters, says she’s looking forward to extending her knowledge of the different topics.

“It’ll be a good challenge for me to learn more about, and keep up to date with, a range of security issues that I haven’t had much exposure to before.”

The scholars will work on the same assignment to start with, which is around emerging science and technology and their possible impacts on Pacific Island states.

“Troubling” report by doctoral student highlights deficiencies in councils’ environmental monitoring

University of Waikato doctoral student Marie Brown made headlines when she released her study on environmental monitoring. She says as many as a third of resource consent holders are breaking environmental promises.

As part of her doctorate, the law and science student assessed how pre-agreed “ecological compensation” was being met across 245 conditions in 81 different resource consents granted across New Zealand. She found that just over 35% of requirements were not being met and agriculture was the worst of all the activity type surveys.

“In my former life as a council officer, I observed these exchanges occurring all the time, where damage to the environment results in an agreement being made for a positive conservation action to be taken,” says Marie. She was curious as to how this mechanism was being implemented across the country, given that there was little specific policy around it. Her study has prompted calls for authorities to crack down on environmental monitoring efforts.

Marie, who completed her PhD this year, says ecological compensation is separate to simply minimising environmental effects caused by a consented activity.

“It could be a subdivision developer agreeing to restore a nearby wetland by repairing hydrology or undertaking pest control.”

Of 10 activity categories surveyed on a scale of zero to three, the energy generation industry scored perfectly, meeting all conditions under issued consents.

The bottom ranked activity was agriculture, where just under 5% of agreed compensation was fully achieved. Large-scale operations were found to have better compliance, as were those where compensation was agreed early in the application process.

Green MP Eugenie Sage said the research was “troubling” because nature was losing out in more than a third of the cases reviewed.

Marie now works as a senior policy analyst for the Environmental Defence Society.
A kaupapa Māori approach to the business of tourism

The cruise ship industry is booming and shows no signs of letting up, and during their often short time ashore international visitors are keen to have an ‘authentic’ cultural experience.

Waikato doctoral student Ash Puriri, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rongomai-wahine and Ngāti Porou, a veteran of cruise ship entertainment, is working with Professor Alison McIntosh at Waikato Management School to develop a model for sustainable Māori tourism enterprise – one that embraces Kaupapa Māori philosophy and doesn’t compromise or commodify Māori culture.

“For my masters degree I researched Northland-based Taiamai Tours, an organisation that’s culturally authentic and successful. I wanted to find out what they were doing, their main motives and challenges and how they operated day to day.

“Taiamai began and continues to thrive without strategy or business plan, believing that their business focus shouldn’t be on profit so much as taking care of and ensuring the sustainability of taonga. Now I’m digging a little deeper to find out if Taiamai’s model can be applied in different situations. It concerns me that many Māori businesses self-terminate after about five years.”

For his doctoral research, Ash is seeing how cultural beliefs – epistemology, ontology and cosmology can be applied to a model specifically for the cruise ship industry. “Some critics argue that indigenous people seldom have control over tourism development and activity but if there’s better understanding about the factors that make Māori tourism authentic and if we find out for certain the factors necessary for sustainable Māori tourism enterprise from a Māori cultural view point, then researchers and potential business owners would have a model with clear pathways to follow.

“This has the potential to go far wider than the tourism industry.”

Ash graduated with his Master of Management Studies in April this year, made all the more special because his wife Karleen, Waikato Tainui, graduated with a Bachelor of Electronic Commerce. “I used to be a photographer,” says Karleen. “I had my own business but with rapidly changing technologies, I wanted to learn more about how those technologies were influencing and changing business.”

She became adept at juggling study and four children. “There were plenty of late nights, but I think as an adult student I had a lot more understanding and experience about life and business and that helped my learning.”

He used to work valeting cars. Then he held down a job at The Warehouse. Now Elye Parata has a law degree and is off to Saudi Arabia on a five-year scholarship from King Saud University.

The University of Waikato student graduated with a Bachelor of Laws, majoring in law and political science specialising in international relations and security studies.

“I’m really grateful to have this scholarship. It is a blessing from God for me,” says the 25-year-old Mormon. “I’m not an A student, I just study hard, and do my best.”

Elye (Ngāti Toarangitira) is also grateful to the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, which has done “99% of the co-ordinating of this for me”.

While at King Saud University, Elye will spend two years learning Arabic followed by three years studying for a Bachelor of Arts in Hebrew and French.

As a young fellow, Elye studied texts from many religions and dreamed of one day going to the Middle East. With this scholarship and help from many staff at the University, this dream is about to come true.

The King Saud University scholarship will cover flights, fees, living costs, text books and also a flight home once a year for the duration of the scholarship.
The gift of music

Emeritus Professor Ian Graham and his wife Agi this year donated $500,000 to support the University of Waikato’s Music programme.

Emeritus Professor Graham recently retired from Endace, a data network monitoring technology company spun out of research done while he was at the University of Waikato. Endace, which was listed on the Alternative Investment Market in London, was sold to a US company, Emulex, in February.

The Graham’s $500,000 donation follows other gifts the couple has made to the Music programme over many years. The latest gift is intended to be used within the next two to three years to help further enhance the profile of music at the University of Waikato.

Emeritus Professor Graham, Dean of the Faculty of Computing & Mathematical Sciences from 1990 to 2003, says the couple’s initial support of the New Zealand Chamber Soloists (featuring key Music staff Lara Hall, James Tennant and Katherine Austin) has led them into wider support for the programme.

“We want to help promote Waikato’s Music programme around the world and support students and staff. The department is full of top performers who share their love of music with their students, and we’re pleased to think we might be able to contribute to that.”

One of the first projects the money supported was the staging in Italy of Senior Lecturer and composer Mike Williams’ opera *The Juniper Passion*, set during the battle of Monte Cassino in 1944. When it had its stage debut in June it became the first New Zealand-composed opera to be performed in Italy, the birthplace of opera 400 years ago.

Associate Professor Martin Lodge, convener of Music at Waikato, says the Graham’s donation is helping connect the University of Waikato to the world. “We have proven top-flight composers, performers and teachers here and it’s wonderful to be able to showcase them internationally.”

The Grahams were at Monte Cassino for *The Juniper Passion*’s opening night. The entire town got behind the performance which ran for four nights, with Italians handling many parts of the production alongside dancers from New Zealand, and singers from New Zealand, Australia and the United States.

Inaugural Zena Daysh scholar announced

It’s not easy being away from family and friends, studying for a PhD in a foreign country with an 11-year-old son in tow.

But Sangion Tiu is making a pretty good fist of it and things have taken a turn for the better with the Papua New Guinea scholar announced as the inaugural recipient of the Dr Zena Daysh Doctoral Fellowship in Sustainability.

The Fellowship is named for New Zealand-born Zena Daysh, founder and Chair of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council and a long-time advocate for sustainability. The University of Waikato conferred an Honorary Doctorate on her in London in 2009 and when she passed away in 2011 a generous bequest was made from her estate to fund the Fellowship.

Sangion is working towards her PhD researching traditional ecological knowledge and sustainability with implications for developing a policy framework for sustainability education in Papua New Guinea.

She says the Fellowship award was a huge relief. “It relieves the pressure of looking for work to try and make ends meet,” she says.
Hillary Scholars off to Nepal

Four University of Waikato Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars will travel to Khumba Valley in Nepal next year to work with the local community.

Luke Coxhead, Natalie Good, Sharee Hamilton and Steven Rae were awarded the Step Higher Award and will spend three weeks in Nepal to see first-hand the community projects Sir Edmund Hillary started.

Natalie is studying a conjoint degree combining a Bachelor of Management Studies and a Bachelor of Law. An avid snowboarder, she’s looking forward to the opportunity of travelling to Nepal.

“I applied for the award because it was such a fantastic opportunity to go overseas and it’s not something that I would pass up. I want to experience what Sir Ed created in Nepal and see first-hand the impact one person had on the community.”

Like Natalie, Sharee is also studying a conjoint degree in Management and Law and wants to get into a graduate law position once she finishes studying. The basketball player had her eyes set on the Step Higher Award since last year and says it’s a “once in a lifetime opportunity”.

Luke is in his honours year of a Bachelor of Management Studies and has a graduate position lined up with Ernst & Young in Auckland once he’s finished at Waikato.

For Master of Management Studies student Steven, he says applying for the award was an opportunity he couldn’t miss. “It’s just one of those opportunities where you have to give it a go.”

The Step Higher Award, sponsored by Compass Group, covers each scholar’s travel, accommodation and daily allowance for up to three weeks. Compass Group is the world’s leading provider of contract food and supplier on campus for hospitality services.

New appointments for Foundation

Two Waikato business personalities have been appointed to the University of Waikato Foundation board of trustees this year: Greg Delaney and Michael Jackson.

Greg Delaney is General Manager Fertiliser Operations and Distribution for Bay of Plenty-based Ballance AgriNutrients. He gained a Bachelor of Management Studies with Honours from the University of Waikato and prior to joining Ballance in 2002 had a successful career in the forestry industry and was the Auckland regional manager for waste management company EnviroWaste.

Michael Jackson retired in 2011 from leading Hamilton law firm Tompkins Wake after a 40-year career practising law, and many years as chairman of partners. A passionate advocate for the Waikato region and for Hamilton in particular, Michael joined the University’s board of Foundation Trustees this year in anticipation of upcoming fundraising activity for the new Law and Management building – planned for completion in 2015.

The University of Waikato Foundation is an independent charitable trust set up to support scholarships, research and projects at the University of Waikato.

Alumni Association appeal 2013

The Alumni Association is keen to see more students gain from a University of Waikato education.

To that end, the association has decided to run an appeal for funds to increase the number of scholarships the University offers. “Scholarships are a proven magnet for attracting top students,” says Alumni Association President Glen Hughes.

“Scholarships tend to attract innovators and leaders – people keen to make a difference in the societies they live in – so we’ve launched this appeal to alumni and friends and hope that they’ll support future students in their study.”

For more information go to www.waikato.ac.nz/foundation
Coining it in the export market

It’s not every day the BBC makes you an offer you can’t refuse. Simon Harding is the Chief Executive of NZ Mint and this year his business was asked to mint the Dr Who 50th commemorative coin, complete with TARDIS on one side and QEIl on the other.

“New Zealand doesn’t have a tradition of coin collecting, but overseas, particularly in Russia, it’s common to give people coins on special occasions. Ninety-seven per cent of our coins we mint for export. The Russians love them,” says Simon.

Simon’s a Waikato alumnus. He graduated with a BMS in 1987, majoring in that little-chosen combination of accounting and politics, and immediately stepped into the job of president of the Waikato Students Union. “That was a good experience. It was a unique opportunity and while I didn’t realise it at the time, I was using my new degree. I had staff, a budget and I was responsible for a range of WSU activities such as Radio Contract, Nexus and the cafés, and I sat on the University Council.”

The following year he went overseas and mostly stayed away until 2002, taking jobs in the finance industry, including positions in London’s Futures and Options Exchange and the International Petroleum Exchange (now ICE Futures Europe). And with three fellow Waikato grads, he bought a Land Rover and drove from London to Cape Town. “We met as first years in Student Village – three of us were BMS students and the other was studying Earth Sciences. The trip took eight months.” (And they’re still friends.) Another Waikato earth scientist is head of sales and marketing at NZ Mint.

When Simon came home from overseas, he knew he didn’t want the corporate life and looked to invest in his own business. “After a frustrating year at looking at businesses for sale, many of which would have amounted to buying a job, I bought a beauty school – a sure fire way to be given a hard time by your mates – and then grew the business both organically and through acquisition to a national provider, and then I sold to a private equity group seven years later.”

After that, he bought a controlling interest in NZ Mint. “I wasn’t ready to retire and I have three young sons – five-year-old twins and a three-year-old.”

The business buys and sells investment-grade gold and silver, produces jewellery, and mints and sells coins. “The key is with coins, they have to be legal tender, otherwise they are just a medallion so we have an exclusive relationship with the Government of Niue to manufacture legal tender. Every coin bears the Queen’s effigy on one side and is legal tender in Niue. For example, our limited edition gold Dr Who Coin has a nominal value of $200. However you would be mad to spend them on your Niuen winter holiday as the metal value of the gold is around $1800 and collectors are buying them for $3,000.”

Simon says the business gets a lot of commissions; they mint coins to celebrate all manner of occasions or events, or people. “We have struck coins commemorating everyone from Darth Vader to Pope John Paul with some interesting characters in between. I think because we’re a private firm we’re agile and flexible, and have good turnaround times. We will outsource if we have to; it’s our people and intellectual property, rather than the heavy machinery, that is the key to our business.”

And he thinks he’ll stay with the business for a good while yet. “I can see plenty of growth potential and I’d like to be a part of that.”

New Zealanders at the Western front

University of Waikato senior lecturer in French Dr Nathalie Philippe’s book The Great Adventure Ends – New Zealand and France on the Western Front was launched in Wellington by Chris Finlayson, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, ahead of the First World War centenary next year.

The book is a collaboration between Dr Philippe, Waikato University Distinguished Alumni Dr Christopher Pugsley, John Crawford and Matthias Strohn, with contributors from France, Germany, England and New Zealand in varying fields of expertise: historians, artists, journalists, families, researchers, academics, a filmmaker and a surgeon. “There have been so many books published on Gallipoli that we wanted to put the emphasis on New Zealand’s experience on the Western Front,” says Dr Philippe.

Dr Philippe’s chapter, Feeding Civilians in Occupied France, looks at how food relief reached civilians living in northern France under German occupation, and the more research she did, the more personal it became.

“My grandmother’s family is from Lille. I also discovered I had family in Le Quesnoy which was liberated in 1918 by the New Zealanders. My grandfather fought in World War I, and I was always curious about him. He was such a gentle man. It was hard to think he actually must have killed people. That’s why it was so important to me to include the families’ perspectives in this book.”

Dr Philippe is now translating and adapting the book into French.
October is when the University pays special attention to its postgraduate students. “We want Waikato to be the university of choice for postgraduate students,” says Pro Vice-Chancellor Postgraduate, Professor C Kay Weaver.

“We value the contributions they’re making to the world of scholarship and the creation of new knowledge and we’re conscious we have to prepare them for a life after their degree, whether they plan to remain in academia or leave for jobs in other research institutes, or go into business.”

Throughout October there’s a series of events that enables doctoral students to introduce their research to a wider audience, meet doctoral students from other faculties, and attend workshops that can assist them through their study. Students participate in the Three Minute Thesis competition and in faculty conferences.

“It’s not enough just to have a PhD. We encourage our students to publish, present, tutor and teach, which helps them in the academic job market and hopefully they’re more rounded for work outside academia too,” says Professor Weaver.

“With more doctoral candidates enrolled in 2013 than ever before, it is getting much easier to share the journey with other doctoral candidates.”

### Citizen science wins Three Minute Thesis

Rotting leaf litter, a guy who hates maths, and banjo playing at farmers’ markets all made for an interesting and informative evening at the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) final on 22 October.

The 10 finalists each had three minutes and a static PowerPoint slide in which to explain their thesis to judges and a full house at the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts.

Comedian Michele A’Court was MC for the night, and described the PhD students presenting their theses in three minutes as “brainy people talking very fast” to an “intelligent but non-specialist audience”. In the end there could only be one winner, and that was Monica Peters from the Faculty of Science & Engineering who took away a cheque for $3,000 and has secured a spot in the Trans-Tasman 3MT next year in Perth. Monica also won the People’s Choice Award, based on audience votes, of $500.

Monica’s presentation was called “Collaborating with Community: Harnessing the Power of Citizen Science”. Her research is into community groups throughout New Zealand who are restoring degraded landscapes. She is exploring whether their ‘citizen science’ monitoring data can be integrated with ‘professional science’ data to build a more complete picture of environmental health.

“It was great fun and it took a lot of practice,” says Monica. “I didn’t go into it with the expectation of winning, just for the experience and to improve my public speaking.”

The runner-up prize of $1,500 went to Damon Whitten from the Faculty of Education with his presentation “Understanding and Enhancing Adult Learners’ Beliefs about Mathematics”.

Presentations were critiqued on comprehension, engagement and communication by judges Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Alister Jones, University Council member Jan Jameson and Emeritus Professor Ian Graham.

3MT, supported by Prior Blackburn and the University of Waikato Foundation, is the highlight of the University’s Postgraduate Month in October. The event showcases research being carried out by the University’s PhD students.
At the forefront of software development

From Hamilton’s Hillcrest High School to Silicon Valley, it’s been quite a journey for computer science alumnus Gian Perrone.

Gian knew early on what he wanted to be – a computer scientist.

During Year 11 at Hillcrest High School, Gian sat the University of Waikato Computer Science Scholarship exam and gained provisional entrance to the University’s Computer Science programme.

“Although I originally intended to carry on in high school and finish Year 12, the fact that I was able to gain provisional entrance to the Computer Science Department meant that I was really ready to specialise further and dive into the subject I loved.”

At just 16, Gian began a Bachelor of Science with Honours, majoring in computer science; and quickly followed that up with a Master of Science with Honours, finishing in 2009.

Gian has always been drawn to the research side of studying and undertook a significant amount of independent research during his degree. “The BSc ended up being a really great degree for me. I was interested in pursuing a very research-focused specialisation, so I was able to pick a programme that really maximised the amount of research I was able to do as an undergraduate.”

He praises the leadership and mentoring he received from computer science staff, in particular former lecturer Dr David Streader and Professor Steve Reeves. “They influenced me hugely and were really able to challenge and stimulate me. I was given a lot of freedom to read widely and they taught me a lot about how to be a researcher.”

All those formal methods and software engineering skills that Gian honed at the University of Waikato led to him completing his PhD earlier this year at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, and it was here he was finally able to meet some of his “academic heroes”.

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The secret life of a software development engineer

For a long time, all Mark Stavelley’s family knew was that he was working for Microsoft somewhere on the company’s Seattle campus. But in May this year, with the announcement of Microsoft’s Xbox One, Mark finally got to reveal he’s been working as a senior software development test engineer on the new console.

“I write software that simulates behavioural actions on various software systems. It simulates a month of a behaviour over an hour or weekend and finds performance problems or stress problems. It’s a really neat discipline and requires really creative thinking and problem-solving.”

The Canadian says working on something such as Xbox One is a once in a lifetime opportunity and most likely wouldn’t have happened, had he not studied at Waikato.

“I came out of New Zealand a very different person,” says Mark. “I’ve since taught at different universities, done research at world-class facilities, and finished a PhD. Through all of these things I have reflected on my time at Waikato and been thankful for how I was encouraged and pushed to excel. Professors in Computer Science really made a tremendous impact on me and I’ve never looked back. Waikato has a really neat way of capturing that real Kiwi innovation and creative spirit.”

He says that ‘show us what you’ve got’ attitude is a great mindset. “Now I’m at Microsoft we’re encountering computer challenges every day, we’re solving problems no one has ever solved and that approach has been fantastic.”

Mark made it back to Waikato University in August as part of a Microsoft recruiting trip and hopes it won’t be the last time he gets to return.

“People at Microsoft can get sabbaticals and while I’m not senior enough, if I get to that stage, rest assured I’ll be on the phone to Waikato to see if they need a visiting lecturer from Microsoft. Waikato gave me a tremendous start and I will always be grateful. Plus I really miss mince and cheese pies.”
Ties strengthened during Samoa visit

The University of Waikato reinforced its strong links with Samoa and forged new relationships during a four-day visit in early August.

A high-level delegation, led by Chancellor Jim Bolger and Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford, met with Head of State, His Royal Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi and Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi during the visit and presented both men with Chiefs rugby jerseys, a move which went down well just two days after the Hamilton-based team had won its second successive Super Rugby title.

The delegation also met several other government ministers, community leaders and educational representatives during the trip, which Professor Crawford says was an outstanding success.

“We were humbled by the warm welcome we received and greatly appreciated the opportunity to not only rekindle old friendships but to build new relationships, which I am sure will prove beneficial to both Samoa and the University of Waikato for many years to come.”

Professor Crawford says the University of Waikato has committed to enhancing the Pacific dimensions of the institution and to helping improve the achievement levels of Pacific students. This visit will play a key role in those plans, he says.

“Areas such as tourism, health care, education and the public sector are priorities for Samoa and the University of Waikato offers excellent programmes in many of these areas.”

Samoa is home to many University of Waikato alumni, many of whom hold senior positions within both the government and private sector organisations, and about 60 former students attended an alumni function, which Professor Crawford says was testament to the hard work of the former students.

Alumni attending the function included Finance Minister Hon Niko Lee Hang, Attorney General Ming C Leung Wai, National University of Samoa Vice-Chancellor Professor Fui Tu’ua Iloa Asoufo So’o, new District Court Judge Leilani Tuala Warren and CEO of the Digicel Group Fiaailetoa Pepe Christian Fruean.

Waikato connects with alumni

This year saw the introduction of a series of Young Alumni events in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga and Wellington. Hundreds of young alumni turned out to hear from Waikato Management School lecturer Dr Heather Connolly who spoke on the importance of networking and tips and tricks for getting it right.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Alister Jones and Pro Vice-Chancellor International Associate Professor Ed Weymes hosted more than 100 alumni and friends in Beijing and Shanghai as part of a larger trip to China to explore collaboration opportunities with Chinese educational institutions.

Back in New Zealand, alumni and friends were welcomed to a variety of events featuring renowned University staff.

Auckland alumni were treated to the New Zealand premiere of composer John Psathas’ Corybas and Aegean at the Auckland Town Hall by University music staff – the award-winning New Zealand Chamber Soloists.

Senior Fellow in Music Dame Malvina Major presented a music master class with three talented voice students at well-attended events in Wellington and Christchurch in October.

In Tauranga, Dr Johan Verbeek spoke on his research and work into processing techniques that are turning manufacturing by-products and waste into raw materials for new products and sources of energy.
Coastal scientist remembered with a barge

Some might consider having a barge named after them an unusual memorial, but for Professor Terry Healy, it was a fitting gesture.

Professor Healy was New Zealand’s pre-eminent coastal scientist, with expertise in the areas of coastal erosion, sedimentation and hazard management. He used his skills and knowledge to help with port and marina developments throughout New Zealand and was held in such high regard that up at Auckland’s Port Harbour Marina they named a new, purpose-built split hopper barge after him.

Professor Healy died in 2010 and his widow Judy-Ann says the unusual memorial would have appealed to Terry’s Irish sense of humour.

“Terry had very strong links with Pine Harbour and having a barge named after him is very appropriate and he would see it as an honour.” Judy-Ann says he would be equally as happy to see the first monies distributed from the Terry Healy Memorial Award fund, which was launched following the professor’s death. The awards went to University of Waikato postgraduate students Andi Ramli and Stephen Hunt who both received $750 to assist travel to international conferences.

“It was Terry’s philosophy to get all his postgraduate students to attend international conferences, either here or overseas. He believed that was part of their education, having contact with these renowned scientists whose work they had read about in their studies. I remember helping him with the International Coastal Symposium held in Rotorua and to see the young ones engaging with well-known experts was a fantastic experience,” says Judy-Ann.

Andi used her award to attend the Asia Pacific Coastal Conference in Bali in September while Stephen will attend and present his work at the Coastal Dynamics Conference in Bordeaux, France, in June next year.

“It’s just good experience really, to share your work outside of New Zealand. It’s really cool,” says Stephen.

Young face at council table

When her classmates at primary school wanted to be princesses and firemen, Tania Tapsell (pictured) wanted to be prime minister. Politics is in her blood and at 21 Tania has just been elected to the Rotorua District Council, the youngest councillor by far.

“When I was 14 I was part of the city’s Youth Council and since then I’ve sat on different youth councils, and been a member of various advisory groups and funding panels for the Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Youth Development. That’s given me good governance experience and also shown me the power of individuals to make change,” she says. In 2010, Tania represented Todd McLay at Youth Parliament as a youth MP.

She is currently a student at the University of Waikato and has one more semester to go to complete her Bachelor of Management Studies, majoring in marketing and human development. “I left school at 16 and completed diplomas in business and marketing at Waiariki Institute of Technology then moved over to Waikato’s management degree.”

Her recent political campaigning coincided with Waikato Management School’s strategic case competition, which meant she was flat out in September and October, but she says her university team mates were supportive and worked around her political commitments.

“I campaigned on three main issues: advocating for families, for increased community input into council’s financial decision-making process, and for the future. Rotorua has a young population compared to other cities and I think the council should reflect that. Before I came along there wasn’t anyone on council under 40.”

Tania is a Te Arawa, Ngāti Whakaue rangatahi, born and raised in Rotorua. And if the surname Tapsell seems familiar, her great-uncle Sir Peter Tapsell was the first Māori Speaker of the House, and on her mother’s side, her grandfather Selwyn Bennett was a previous Rotorua councillor.

And just to wrap up, when she’s not round the council table or poring over her university text books, Tania plays a mean game of touch. She was selected for the New Zealand Māori under 21 mixed team in 2012.

Tania’s a firm believer in education, and while her studies at Waikato haven’t focused on politics she says she’s used the skills and knowledge learnt in a variety of ways. She also urges other young people to push current perceptions. “Don’t let others define what you can and cannot do. Set your goals, and work hard towards achieving them. And importantly, never give up on yourself.”
MOOC makes its mark

The University of Waikato launched New Zealand’s first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) this year and the topic really picked itself. It was Data Mining with Weka.

Weka (or the Waikato Environment for Knowledge Analysis) is open source software developed in the Department of Computer Science: it has been downloaded around the world more than a million times.

“So a lot of people were already using it,” says Professor Ian Witten. “It made sense to show people how to use it, to help them learn more about data mining.”

Professor Witten says as more and more of life is conducted online, vast amounts of information are being generated. “And this software can sift through huge databases and extract previously unknown patterns across any aspect of life you can imagine – from transport to health to commerce.”

As with many developments in new technology, data mining has its share of hype, says Professor Witten. “But there is no magic in machine learning, no hidden power, no alchemy. Instead there is an identifiable body of practical techniques that can extract useful information from raw data.”

When the word went out via email and social media that Waikato was offering the five-week MOOC, 6,000 people signed up, “from almost every country in the world”, says Professor Witten. “But of course not everyone has done the different modules – about a third have done some or all of the course, which is typical for courses like these.”

The MOOC was delivered in the “cloud” using Google’s CourseBuilder platform, and when it wrapped up at the end of October, more than 1,000 participants had completed the assessment and received a digital Statement of Completion from Waikato University.

The course videos were posted on YouTube and the Chinese video site Youku, with Chinese and English subtitles. “We’re pleased with the response, and we’ve learned a lot from delivering our first MOOC. We plan to run the course again in March next year and we’re also considering an ‘advanced’ version of the course,” says Professor Witten.

Meanwhile, he says the feedback has been encouraging and heart-warming. “We got an email from a man in Costa Rica suggesting more topics for us to offer – he said it was like writing his Christmas list.”

Finding out what drove Marsden

‘The World, the Flesh and the Devil’ – sounds like an interesting read. This year’s writer in residence, Emeritus Professor Andrew Sharp, has been working on a book about the Rev Samuel Marsden – what drove the man as he attempted to introduce civilisation and fight worldly sin (drinking, blaspheming, fornication, prostitution, disobedience, violence, and worldly pride of place) and the devil in the antipodes.

“So it’s not a biography – it’s more a history of Marsden’s life and opinions and also reflects some of the lives and opinions of the people he lived among,” says Emeritus Professor Sharp. “He really had to feel his way through these new environments in New South Wales, New Zealand and the Society Islands. Some of the people he was working with, convicts and Māori for example, weren’t readily receptive to his Christian preaching, such things as Christ’s saving grace, the concept of the holy trinity and the promise of everlasting life. And they did not much wish to give up sinning.”

Emeritus Professor Sharp has been researching the book for “six or seven years”, reading hundreds of letters written by Marsden, stored in collections all over the world.

He has lived in London since 2006, so the Waikato residency has allowed him to complete his New Zealand research, and also to travel to Australia. He hopes the book will be ready to go to print next year, which marks 200 years since Marsden settled the first Christian Mission in New Zealand.
While Lorde won the big award, the Silver Scroll, for her hit song Royals, Mr Maxwell picked up the APRA Maioha Award, celebrating contemporary Māori music, for the song Ruaimoko, which was performed by his niece Maisey Rika – a University of Waikato alumna – and Anika Moa.

Mr Maxwell – Te Whakatōhea, Te Whānau ā-Apanui, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Awa, Tuhoe, Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Maniapoto – wrote the song while Mahuia Bridgman-Cooper composed the music.

He says the song was a lament written after the devastating 2011 Christchurch earthquake which killed 185 people.

“That inspired me to write the song, that’s what it’s about, the Māori god of earthquakes and eruptions. I composed a song about what he was doing, devastating Christchurch. It’s a lament and pays tribute to the people who lost their lives and what the residents of Christchurch were going through, being homeless and displaced.”

He had largely forgotten about the song until he was invited to the awards evening.

“I thought I was going there just to support my niece,” he says.

“I didn’t even know I was up for an award.

“It was a bit of a shock really. I don’t really listen to songs I’ve written so I just went for Maisey.”

While the win was totally unexpected, it’s not the first song Mr Maxwell has written.

He is an expert in tikanga Māori and has a strong background in the performing arts, as a composer of haka, mōteatea, waiata-ā-ringa and poi, but Ruaimoko was his first foray into contemporary music.

And quite a successful foray, as it turns out.

“I’m quite impressed really,” he says.

The winning song appears on Rika’s 2012 album, Whitiora, along with a couple of others written by Mr Maxwell and some of his masters students.

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**Te Kahautu Maxwell shares the stage with Lorde**

He may not be as well known as a certain Ella Yelich-O’Connor, aka Lorde, but University of Waikato senior lecturer Te Kahautu Maxwell from the School of Māori & Pacific Development got to share the limelight with the chart-topping pop star during the APRA Silver Scroll Awards in Auckland in October.

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**International study to understand transitions**

Faculty of Education staff are involved in a four-year, five-university international collaboration looking at transition in education. The Waikato academics are all from the Department of Human Development and Counselling and this year travelled to Mälardalen University in Sweden as part of the study. The other universities involved are the University of Strathclyde, UK; University of Iceland; and Charles Stuart University, Australia.

The project is called ‘Pedagogies of Educational Transitions’ (POET) and New Zealand researchers are being funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Associate Professor Sally Peters, leader of the Waikato team, says researchers in each country are working on existing research programmes and the exchanges provide opportunities to extend and share skills, expertise and experiences with others, providing new directions for analysis and project design and “generating outcomes greater than the sum of the parts”.

Dr Peters’ current research focus is the transition from pre-school to primary school, but other researchers in the team are interested in a range of transitions, including the transition from primary to high school, to university, and masters students in counselling taking the next step into professional counselling and cultural identities.

Vanessa Paki co-leads the Waikato project because of her strong commitment to cultural knowledge and expertise in kaupapa Māori.

“Our work at Waikato within the wider POET project includes building research capability that can address research questions of particular interest to Māori communities” says Dr Peters. The other Waikato researchers who went to Sweden were Nadine Ballam, who’s based in Tauranga, and Dr Elmarie Kotzé.

In April next year, the University of Waikato will host researchers from the four other institutions. A 500-level paper on Educational Transitions will be offered in A Semester 2014 so that students who are interested in this area can benefit from the POET exchange.
The nature and status of customary law

Several years of extensive research, intense compilation and tight collaboration finally make in-depth insight into Māori customary law readily available. Te Mātāpunenga: A Compendium of References of Māori Customary Law is both a book for dipping into and a reference work.

At the Wellington launch, Chief Justice Dame Sian Elias said she read it from cover to cover, all in one go, as it was so interesting.

The authors – Professor Alex Frame, Dr Richard Benton and Paul Meredith – were all part of Te Mātāhauariki, a research institute based at the University of Waikato, where work on Te Mātāpunenga commenced in 1999.

“Up until this project, there was no systematic written material. There was widespread confusion as to the nature and status of Māori customary law and its place in the legal system,” says Professor Frame, who succeeded Judge Mick Brown as Te Mātāhauariki’s Director in 2005.

“There were clusters of material, in libraries, National Archives, and other public and private collections. Our job was to systematically bring together as much as we could, in consultation with knowledgeable kaumatua, academics and jurists. It was an exercise in detective work aided by a good measure of serendipity.”

Thanks to digitisation, it became possible to comprehensively study Māori newspapers published between 1842 and 1932, an enormously rich and unprecedented resource for Māori language and cultural information, providing a wide spectrum of Māori political, cultural and social history.

Initially funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology as part of Te Mātāhauariki’s research programme ‘Laws and Institutions for Aotearoa New Zealand’, the final editing and publication of the book was facilitated by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment with logistical support from Te Piringa - Faculty of Law.

Te Mātāpunenga is published by Victoria University Press, and was launched at the University of Waikato in November 2013.

Waikato students make world computer programming finals

Success at solving computer programming problems has guaranteed a team from the University of Waikato’s Computer Science department a trip to Russia.

The University team, Trigraph, consists of second-year students Tom Levy, Matthew Law and Ryan Smith.

After placing among the top teams in the regional ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) programming competition, Trigraph has been selected as one of the top two collegiate teams from the South Pacific region to compete in the world finals of the ACM-ICPC (International Collegiate Programming Contest). The other team from the region is from the University of New South Wales.

Ryan Smith says he was happy but surprised the team made it to the world finals.

“It think’s really amazing that we’re going to Russia and will be competing against international teams. We’re all shocked but very happy.”

The last time the University of Waikato was represented at the world finals was in 2000 when the competition was held in Orlando, Florida.

Senior Lecturer in Computer Science Bill Rogers, who will accompany Trigraph to Russia, says the team members are all outstanding students.

“The world finals will be a great experience for them. Just to participate in this significant competition is what it’s all about,” says Mr Rogers. “This competition is taken very seriously in other parts of the world.”

The team will head to Ekaterinburg in the Urals for the competition in June 2014 where they will be up against 120 other teams. Teams will have five hours to solve as many programming problems as they can under competition conditions.

The collegiate computer programming competition is hosted by Ural Federal University, sponsored by IBM and is regarded as the oldest, largest and most prestigious programming contest in the world.


**Waikato students win international case competition**

It’s official – Waikato University has the best case competition team in New Zealand and quite possibly the world.

At the 2013 international final of the SDS business case competition held in Queenstown, the Waikato team of Isabelle Atherton, Stuart Barrass, Jamie Carson and Greg Johnston beat teams from Otago, Auckland, Victoria, AUT and Canterbury universities, and six more teams from Australia, Canada, Singapore and China.

Teams were given a business case and had five hours to develop a strategy that they then had to present to judges and respond to 10 minutes of questions by the judging panel.

As they prepared, teams weren’t allowed to use the internet or contact anyone outside the room. The first case was for the Otago Racing Club.

Isabelle Atherton says they’d expected the locals to win that one. “But we won it, and then we had Tatua Co-operative Dairy Company for our second case. We won that round as well and ended up being the only team with maximum points, which put us into the final against Otago, Auckland and Alberta.”

Isabelle is completing her Bachelor of Management Studies with Honours in Marketing and International Management at Waikato Management School (WMS) and says the Waikato team, hand-picked from previous competitions at Waikato and around New Zealand, worked well together because they all brought different skills to the team and had defined roles going into the competition.

“We’re all fourth-year management students doing honours, but we’re doing different majors, or have different strengths that complement each other. Stuart’s amazing with numbers, for instance; he was so valuable. There’s no way you can win this kind of competition without incredible team work. I reckon our great dynamics were a sure factor of our success.”

Associate Professor Kathryn Pavlovich from the Department of Strategy and Human Resource Management at WMS travelled to Queenstown with the team and says the Waikato students were outstanding. For the first time in the competition’s history, the same team won the overall competition and the Spirit Cup, which is a fun competition that runs alongside the main event.

Isabelle says it was an intense week, but it’s got her thinking about coming back to uni next year to do a specialisation in Entrepreneurship and Strategy.
Hole lot of research in Science and Engineering

It seems a fairly simple thing, to dig a straight hole, but it took University of Waikato senior lecturer in engineering Dr Mike Duke and his team several months to perfect a machine that drills holes accurate enough to ensure pine cuttings grow straight.

The hole-drilling dibbler was built from scratch at Waikato University for treestock company ArborGen, which uses it to drill holes in nursery beds for pine cuttings to be planted in.

Cuttings which don’t grow perfectly straight are rejected before being planted out into forests and Dr Duke says the machine has helped the company improve productivity by an estimated 30%.

“They had a lot of rejects because the holes were not straight and varied in depth,” Dr Duke says.

ArborGen NZ’s Operations Manager Mark Ryan says his company is New Zealand’s largest nursery producer of pine trees for the forest sector. “The company plants many millions of trees each year and reject trees are a significant and unwanted expense.”

Dr Duke had the dibbler on display at June’s National Agricultural Fieldays at Mystery Creek, near Hamilton, and says it received plenty of interest from visitors.

He says it was a good opportunity to show off the work being done by University academics, many of whom have a proven track record in the agritech field.

“The main objective is to demonstrate real-world solutions in the local agritech industry.”

The $110,000 project was jointly funded by the company and Tokoroa-based TechNZ.

The project was given further support when ArborGen asked the University’s third-year mechanical engineering design students to come up with a way to plant one pine seed in each compartment of a seedling tray in the shortest time.

University of Waikato engineering technician Alan Smith says the dibbler “took care of the second stage of the pine tree planting process, so ArborGen Australasia came back to us and asked for a machine that could mechanise the first stage, which is planting the seeds in the seedling trays”.

“The task was quite challenging: if the machine distributed more than one seed in one compartment, this wasn’t counted.”

The winners on the day were Sam Brien, Jeff McDowell, Josh McIntyre and Phill Ross, whose prototype seeder was judged the easiest to use by Antoinette Roberts, an ArborGen Australasia nursery manager.

Me and China’ speech a winner

For the third consecutive year, a Waikato University student has won the national Chinese Bridge Speech Competition, with first-year student Campbell Gin taking top honours.

Competing against students from other New Zealand universities, Campbell had to prepare and deliver a five-minute speech in Chinese to a theme of ‘Me and China’.

His speech was a dialogue about meeting an old man on the street in China and trying to have a conversation with him, even though they spoke in completely different dialects.

“I portrayed both of the characters, the old man and myself, and basically we just tried to teach each other about our different dialects, which turned out to be quite a comedy act,” says Campbell.

“I guess my speech was quite unique in that way and quite original.”

A first-year conjoint Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts student, Campbell is taking Chinese and Te Reo Māori and it was staff members from the Chinese programme who encouraged him to enter.

“I had great support and encouragement from the staff here and they even listened to my speech and critiqued it, so that I could perfect my delivery.”

Campbell secured a one-year scholarship to study at the Confucius Institute at Fudan University in Shanghai, China. The scholarship will cover his fees, accommodation, living allowance and teaching materials.

On top of this, Campbell will be representing New Zealand tertiary students in China in July next year, competing against other winners from around the world.

In 2011, Steven McIntosh won first place in the competition and last year Sarah Thomson took top honours. Both students were from the Chinese programme at the University of Waikato.
Honours for Alumni

The University of Waikato is proud to congratulate several alumni, staff and students awarded in the 2013 New Year and Queen’s Birthday Honours.

New Year Honours

CNZM – Companions of the Order of New Zealand
» Emeritus Professor David Ian Pool CNZM; demography researcher, University of Waikato (services to demography)
» Professor Linda Tuhiai Te Rina Smith CNZM; Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori and Dean, SMPD (services to Māori and education)

MNZM – Members of the Order of New Zealand
» Mr Nathan Phillip Cohen MNZM; BMS, 2012 (services to rowing)
» Mr Joseph Sullivan MNZM; BSpLS student (services to rowing)

QSM – The Queen’s Service Medal
» Mr Jonathan Harold Tanner QSM; University of Waikato Foundation Trustee, GradDipPFinPlan, 1998 (services to hockey)

QSO – The Queen’s Service Order
» Mr Nicholas William Rogers QSO; BSc, 1974, MSc, 1978 (services as a land damage assessor)
» Ms Catherine Mayann Williams QSM; BSc, 1998 (services as a geotechnical engineer)

Queen’s Birthday Honours

CNZM – Companions of the Order of New Zealand
» Dr Hamish Henry Cordy Keith OBE, CNZM; Honorary Doctorate, 2009 (services to the arts)
» Dr Kevin John Roberts CNZM; Honorary Doctorate, 1998 (services to business and the community)

MNZM – Member of the Order of New Zealand
» Mrs Susan Margaret Matthews MNZM; BA, 1996, MEd, 2000 (services to health)
» Mr David Thomas Wardell MNZM; BEd, 1982 (services to education)

The New Zealand Antarctic Medal
» Professor Thomas George Alan Green; former staff, Department of Biological Sciences (services to Antarctic science)

Alumni Association awards

Congratulations to the winners of the 2013 Alumni Association Prizes for Excellence. These prizes recognise academic excellence and are awarded to second-year students with the highest grade point average in each Faculty or School in their first year at Waikato.

The winners were: Kerry Lockhart (FASS), Tom Levy (FCMS), Shirrleee Hohaia (FEDU), Russell Nye-Wood (FLAW), Lewis Dean, Elise Hall, Daniel Krippner and Melissa Oosterwijk (FSEN), Maihia Keelan-Cox and Aimee Raharuhi (SMPD), and Megan Burton-Brown (WMS).

A helping hand

The University of Waikato chapter of the International Golden Key Honours Society has grown in leaps and bounds this year, thanks in part to the chapter’s enthusiastic pursuit of community service.

The chapter’s Community Services Officer, Jackson Mason-Mackay, has been at the forefront of Golden Key’s community initiatives, organising the successful English Learners Corner for new migrants in Hamilton and promoting LGBT awareness on campus.

Jackson’s in his fourth year of a social sciences degree at Waikato. He’s extremely passionate about giving back to the community, and when he’s not studying he can be found volunteering with the Refugee Orientation Centre and Iris Community Living, assisting adults with intellectual disabilities.

“Volunteering for me is just about helping people out. All the work I do is really fun, and best of all, it’s useful for the people I’m working with.”

Waikato Graduate Women support scholarships in 2013

Three doctoral awards and seven masters study awards were presented by the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women to outstanding University of Waikato students undertaking postgraduate study.

The recipients of a Merit Award for PhD study were Jane Green (SMPD), Sarah Lockwood (WMS) and Amy Marfell (FEDU).

Masters scholarships were awarded to Emma Clarkson (FASS), Emma Coker (FASS), Caitlin Easter (FASS), Melissa Jager (FSEN), Jess King (FSEN), Sarah Moratti (FSEN) and Bronwyn Scott (FASS)

For more information on Waikato Graduate Women, contact Ann Mackay: ra.mackay@xtra.co.nz
Back in the 1960s with no history or tradition to follow, University of Waikato leaders were free to write their own rule-book. They introduced new models of education, offered flexible qualifications, new courses and innovative research.

Waikato was the first New Zealand university to offer women’s studies, establish a bi-cultural law school, join with its local teachers’ college, and it linked New Zealand to the world with the internet.

As valued alumni, we look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary with you in 2014. Look out for your invite to alumni 50th celebration events.

Know any other alumni? Encourage them to get in touch with us by emailing alumni@waikato.ac.nz

For more information visit waikato.ac.nz/50
At the University of Waikato, the possibilities are endless.
Tō te Whare Wānanga o Waikato, he kura toi e kore e mimiti.