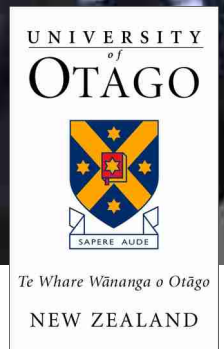


Otago

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
& ART HISTORY 2009

GRADUATES 2009: FRASER BODY, MEGAN WELLS, KATHERINE LOCK, ROSE CHAMBERLAIN, SCOTT CAMPBELL, ELSPETH KNEWSTUBB, RHYS BROOKBANKS



PROFILE: STELLA UNKOVICH-MCNAB

The process of merging two departments into one can take a long time. Budgets, policies, forms of assessment can be brought together relatively quickly. But the merging of two disciplines into something more than their separate parts takes more than effort, it takes a commitment to move forward together. In the eight years since the Department of Art History and Theory was merged with History, this has been a gradual process. Guest lecturers from one programme contribute to a course taught in the other, and have begun discussions of co-taught courses. Postgraduate students that bridge the two disciplines attach themselves to one supervisor from each side, to draw on the diverse expertise that the department can offer.

Students at the undergraduate level complete degrees that combine the two programmes. One such student is Stella Unkovich-McNab, who completed her 400-level studies in 2009 with combined honours in history and art history and theory. In what follows Stella reflects on her experience of combining the two disciplines.

Stella took both History and Art History at school and had enjoyed and done well in both so it seemed logical to continue them. She did not consciously choose to combine them, it just happened that they fitted well together. She found that a knowledge of history and events "allowed me to look at art works in a different way and place them in a historical context." Although papers often crossed similar time periods and regions, the papers did not normally repeat material from the other half of her degree - a different focus

and different writing styles kept the learning fresh.

She found the merged department provided a supportive environment. "I liked how friendly and helpful the department was and how lecturers and staff were always willing to help. I liked how tight many of the students became towards the end of our third year - it helped a lot to have a close group of fellow honours students to work alongside."

Stella completed her dissertation on an art history topic - 'Inscription in Contemporary New Zealand Painting: Communicating the Vernacular in the Art of Nigel Brown and John Reynolds'. It explored the use of written text on artworks, an international technique that is commonly associated with Colin McCahon and Ralph Hotere, concluding that Brown and Reynolds had further developed this method, bringing a New Zealand slant to it through humour and the vernacular. While the dissertation was firmly rooted in an analysis of the history of art, "my history training gave me an idea of how to research more thoroughly and to use the archives more efficiently and also how to conduct oral interviews."

Currently, Stella is treading the path of many new graduates and working in a job unrelated to her study while she figures out what path she wants to follow. She would like to travel in the near future and also to possibly look at doing a masters course in arts management at Melbourne. Wherever her Otago degree takes her, both sides of the department are proud to have played their part in her future.

FROM THE H.O.D.

At a recent teaching retreat, the Department discussed ways in which we might hone the skill set of a generation who now rely primarily on the Internet for their research. We've discussed the possibility of a first year paper, provisionally entitled 'Seeking Sources' in which students will be asked to appraise critically all kinds of different sources, from the printed page, to digital images. The ways in which historians do research is changing and on-line resources - such as *Paperspast* (a word-searchable treasure-trove of New Zealand provincial papers) raise new issues about how we study historical contexts.

STAFF AT THE HAHTSA BALL



Once, we spent many hours (as some of you will remember) poring through whole issues of newspapers looking for material relevant to our topics. That process was frustratingly time-consuming but one of the spin-offs was that, in the process, we absorbed a sense of context from all the side issues that came before our

eyes. It is this sense of context that helps us interpret the key source we might find. We have to be aware that the changing ways in which information is delivered, which makes research much easier in some ways, might also diminish the ability to make judgements about context. Honours students in the Department always gained a good understanding of sources through their research projects. We want to expand opportunities for other students to gain those skills.

Hew McLeod was a treasured Emeritus Professor of the Department who built those skills in the honours programme and we mourn his passing. In his honour, we are setting up an award to assist postgraduate students who have to travel to study their sources. This seems particularly appropriate since Hew's specialist field lay outside of New Zealand, though he did much to highlight the history of the Punjabi community in New Zealand itself.

change but sometimes I am amazed at how things have changed since I joined the Department in 1982. At that time we had one floating typewriter for staff to use. I can remember my amazement when a fellow staff member introduced me to Google by getting me to google my own name - I was amazed at what came up. What we do in the Department, how we teach students, and how they learn, has to respond to these changes. I'm not yet providing podcasts of my lectures, but just as powerpoint and on-line delivery of material over Blackboard have become standard, soon perhaps lecturers too will join the virtual world.

Remember we love to hear yours news. Please send it to history.arthistory@otago.ac.nz.

HAHTSA NEWS

The History and Art History and Theory Students' Association (HAHTSA) annual pub quiz was held on 27 May and attracted an unprecedented number of about 200 students and staff from History and other departments, notably Te Tumu.

The association then had a very successful ball at Glenfalloch on 12 September, which was well attended by undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff, dressed to a rock and roll theme.



HAHTSA PUB QUIZ

OBITUARY: HEW MCLEOD

Emeritus Professor Hew McLeod, who made an outstanding contribution to both the Otago History Department and the development of South Asian history as a field, died in Dunedin on 20 July 2009.

Hew was born and raised in a farming family near Fielding. He completed his schooling at Nelson College, before attending the University of Otago, where he completed a BA and then an MA in History. In Dunedin he met Margaret Wylie, whom he married in May 1955, and in that same year Hew began theological studies preparing to be a member of the Presbyterian clergy. At the end of his training, Hew applied to fill a vacancy in the New Zealand Presbyterian Church's mission to Punjab and he took up a position teaching at Kharar in 1958.

This appointment was a turning point for Hew. He quickly developed a deep interest in Punjabi language and culture and immersed himself in the study of the Sikh community. During a furlough from missionary work, he completed a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and then returned to Batala in Punjab where he taught history at Baring Union Christian College for four further years.

In 1969 Hew, Margaret and their four children left India and after some time in Britain, they returned to Dunedin, where Hew took up a Professorship in the History Department. Until his retirement in 1997, Hew was an invaluable member of the department where he championed the study of non-western history and played a key role in developing the honours programme. From his Dunedin base, he produced a sequence of extremely influential studies of Sikh history and his work was central in defining the specialist field of Sikh Studies.

His research ranged broadly, including the editing and analysis of important traditional texts, studies of influential Sikh leaders, the nature of popular religious practice and culture, and the importance of caste, gender, and migration in shaping the Sikh community. Hew was also a pioneering historian of Indian migration to New Zealand, publishing two important books on the development of the New Zealand Punjabi community.

Those of us who took classes with Hew will always remember his meticulous organization, the clarity of his lectures, and his wry sense of humour. Hew's knowledge of his field and his commitment to research was recognized by his colleagues in the department, who also respected his deep investment in developing both undergraduate teaching and a postgraduate research culture. He played



HEW MCLEOD INTERVIEWING SIKHS AT THE HARMANDIR SAHIB (GOLDEN TEMPLE), AMRITSAR, 1963

a very important role in the evolution of the department and was greatly valued as a colleague, friend and mentor.

As a tribute, the department has established a postgraduate travel grant in Hew's name and this award will foster the kind of archival work that Hew valued so much.

Tony Ballantyne

G. S. PARSONSON: HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

A tribute by Erik Olssen

Twenty-five years ago I gave the eulogy for Gordon on his retirement (in those days such eulogies were customary and were entered as Minutes in the Minutes of the Arts Faculty). It was the end of an epoch, I remarked, the epoch of Morrell, Ross, and Parsonson.

Gordon's career started, it is said, when he joined the Railways Department in 1936 and began mastering those skills of penmanship and mental arithmetic for which he was famous among his colleagues. Come the War he served in the Pacific where he gained his abiding love of that ocean and its peoples. After being invalided home he enrolled to study History under the new Professor, William P. Morrell. He was a brilliant student and embarked on postgraduate study, choosing as his topic the history of the Presbyterian church in the New Hebrides. In 1951 he was invited to join the History Department.

Over the next 34 years he served the local (now defunct) Historical Association, the Lecturers' Association, the local branch of the Royal Society, the University and the Hocken Libraries in many capacities. The history of the Pacific and its peoples became his passion. After marrying Rae, and having two daughters, he built his own version of the Kiwi bloke's shed in his backyard, but stocked his not with motor bike engines or garden tools but books, copies of manuscripts, and the endless supplies of pens, pencils and paper. Dennis McEldowney later recalled visiting him:

He was working in his backyard shed, where he escapes the family, and he told me about work he is doing on the distribution of malaria in the Pacific, the puzzle of why it stops where it does, and its influence on the population distribution and living habits. I have never met anyone whose flow of thought is so accessible, so vocal.

Gordon's enthusiasm for his subject extended to his teaching. The accessibility of 'his flow of thought' transformed some papers into dramatic narratives that students rewarded, when the year ended, with thunderous applause. Whether he was explaining the impact of rinderpest on the Barbarians or malaria on the Melanesians, or reconstructing some mariner's route from a combination of archival sources and his own voyaging in the same seas, he has ever illustrated Collingwood's dictum that the historian is first and foremost a detective. He was also deservedly famous for the length and erudition of

his comments on essays and thesis drafts; not that you had to agree with him. You did need to address the argument and the evidence, however.

Historians of the Pacific long recognised Gordon's 'great critical acumen', his genius for asking the central question, and his redoubtable skill as essayist and controversialist. He has been known to stamp where angels fear to tread, and get away with it. His contribution to the great debate about whether Polynesians navigated the Pacific by accident or deliberate choice, came out on the side of choice when most scholars in most disciplines still insisted that Neolithic navigators could only have traversed the world's largest and wildest ocean by a mixture of luck and accident. He lacked our knowledge and computer models but got it right through a combination of direct experience sailing in unknown seas, shrewd observation, and intuition. His fieldwork in the New Hebrides in 1964, equally, led to his brilliant essay on malaria as the explanation for the artificial islands that first attracted his attention when serving with the 3rd NZEF. Sheer intellectual chutzpah allowed him to see not only that the Islanders were central to their conversion to Christianity - a radical view even 35 years ago - but that it was principally their desire for literacy and its associated powers that convinced them of God's truth. He has always been audacious, versatile, 'deep probing', and determined to follow the argument wherever it led.



GORDON WITH DAUGHTER ANN PARSONSON,
AND GRANDDAUGHTER KATIA NOORDHOF

In the 25 years since his retirement, Gordon has beavered away on Samuel Marsden. In the process he has become part of the very fabric of the Hocken. If I am lucky enough to be alive in another 25 years, I am confident that he will be as busy as ever on yet another challenging project.



Angela Wanhalla won both the University of Otago Early Career Award for Distinction in Research and the Rowheath Trust Award and Carl Smith Medal, in recognition of her exceptional early-career research achievements. In association with the latter she delivered a public lecture entitled 'An Intimate History of Interracial Violence' on 18 June 2009. She also organised a symposium, 'Interracial intimacies: New Zealand Histories', with national and international speakers, and 45 attendances.

Her first book, *In/visible Sight: the Mixed Descent Families of Southern New Zealand*, was published by Bridget Williams Books in October.

Judy Bennett's book, *Natives and Exotics: World War II and the Environment in the Southern Pacific*, was published by the University of Hawai'i Press. Covering a vast geographical area from New Guinea to Bora Bora, from the point of view of Pacific natives as well as the millions of Americans, Australians, New Zealanders and Japanese stationed in the area, Judy's new book is essential reading for those interested in environmental history, Pacific studies, and a different kind of war story that has surprising relevance for today's concerns with global warming. In November the department was able to celebrate Judy's promotion to Professor.

Together Judy and Angela have continued the department's impressive success rate at achieving Marsden Grants, for a three year study entitled 'Mothers' darlings: Children of indigenous women and World War Two American servicemen in New Zealand and South Pacific societies'. This is the eighth Marsden grant that the department has been awarded in the past seven years, a tremendous achievement in a very competitive field.

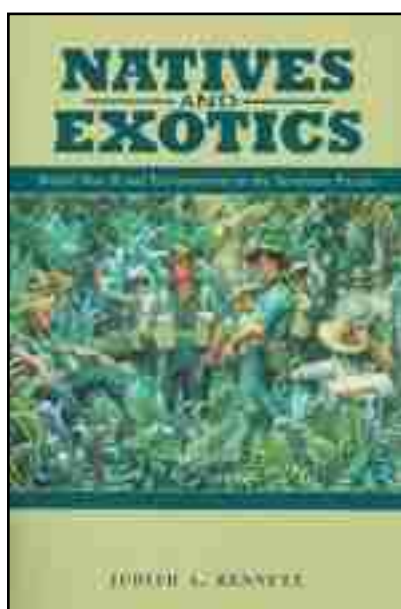
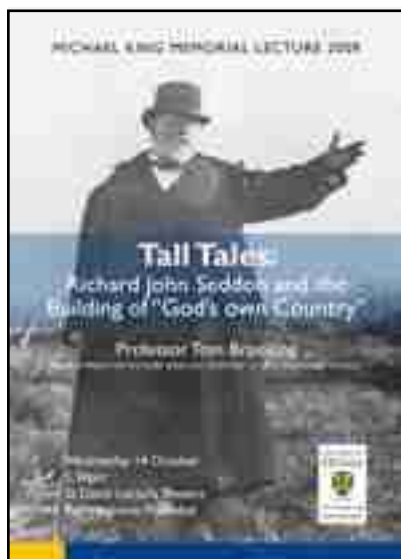
Mark Seymour presented a paper at a symposium at Victoria University of Wellington, 'Italian Studies in New Zealand' in October 2008 and co-organised a symposium, 'Love and its Histories: The Italian Case', held at the University of Otago's Auckland Centre in Feb 2009.

Russell Johnson introduced a new and innovative 300-level paper entitled 'Freaks and Normals: U.S. History as Disability History.' The course traces concepts of 'normality' in United States history from the 19th century up to present day, and reflects Russell's developing research interest in disability as a lens through which to view U.S. history.

Angela McCarthy presented a paper on migrants in NZ lunatic asylums at the New Zealand Studies Association conference in Frankfurt. She published a chapter in *The New Oxford History of New Zealand* on migration and ethnicities, as well as an article on Scottish migrants in Australia in *History Scotland*, 2009.

Barbara Brookes has just returned to the department after a year of 'glorious study leave'. She spent the first six months based at the Hocken Collections in Dunedin, then visiting scholar in History at McGill University, where she worked on a number of papers, including two on the history of hairdressing with Catherine Smith, PhD 1999. She had the privilege of working in the Osler Library for the History of Medicine at McGill where she worked on archival sources relating to two sisters, Maude (who became a famous cardiologist) and Alice (who suffered from mental illness) Abbott.

Tom Brooking attended the Agricultural History conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, in June 2009, and was appointed to the Carstenstein committee to judge the best article published in the *Journal of Agricultural History*. In August he attended the first world congress on environmental history in Copenhagen, where he participated in panels on war and environment, and deforestation in



New Zealand.

In October Tom gave the department's annual Michael King Memorial Lecture. His talk, 'Tall Tales: Richard John Seddon and the Building of "God's own Country"' was based on research for his upcoming book on Prime Minister Seddon, and was well received by the audience.

Tony Ballantyne returned to Otago in January 2009 after spending 2008 at Washington University in St Louis, USA. He recently published a volume of essays edited with Antoinette Burton entitled *Moving Subjects: Gender, Mobility and Intimacy in an Age of Global Empire*, which includes essays by former Otago graduate students David Haines, Frances Steel and Rachel Standfield. This year Tony gave the annual Allan Martin Lecture at the Australian National University, and a public lecture in the Auckland University Series 'Writing History in Twenty-First Century New Zealand'.

Rory Sweetman presented a paper at the Irish Australasian History Society in Wellington in July.

Mark Stocker continues as Art History and Theory Programme Co-ordinator. He is currently editing volume 30 of the *Journal of New Zealand Art History*. He has forthcoming publications in the *Burlington Magazine* (on Bertram Mackennal), *The Medal* (on Marian Fountain) and *Apollo* (on British art at Te Papa).

Peter Leech gave conference papers on 'Japanese Modernism' at the University of Otago and at the 33rd Colloquio Internazionale de Historia del Arte at St Cristóbel de las Casas, Mexico. His essay 'Secularising the Sacred: On Piero della Francesca's "Madonna del Parto"', in a volume edited by Pieter Krieger, *La Imagen Sagrada y Sacralizada*, is in press.

Judith Collard has recently returned from study leave, during which she delivered a public lecture at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich and was an invited speaker at the Dublin Medieval Society; the Early Modern Circle, University of Melbourne; and at the Medieval and Renaissance Seminar, Monash University. Earlier in the year she was an Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne. Her article 'King John and the symbol of the falling crown in the Chronicles of Matthew Paris' was published in *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History*, and 'Flores Historiarum Manuscripts: The Illumination of a Late Thirteenth-Century Chronicle Series' was published in *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte*.

Erika Wolf organised the Russian Studies Research Cluster conference at Otago in March

2009. She is working on an exhibition of Soviet photography in print for the Zimmerli Museum at Rutgers University and co-editing an anthology on early New Zealand photography.

Erik Olssen is finishing a couple of projects: a history of the New Zealand Fruitgrowers Federation 1991-2006 and a history of Black's Flat (near Ophir). His *An Accidental Utopia*, a co-authored study of marital, worklife and inter-generational occupational mobility in southern Dunedin, is expected soon from Otago University Press. Erik reports:

I've always had an interest in fruit and wanted to see whether - for the last chapter of my history of NZ - fruit in particular and horticulture more generally might allow me to tie together some of my themes without getting bogged down in the relentless tide of political changes . . . I'm also particularly interested in fruit as a case study in globalisation and as a case study of the role of scientific research and market research in an industry.

Dot Page's present project is a history of the business arm of the Presbyterian Church of Otago and Southland. For most of its life it was known as the Church Board of Property and is now the Foundation Trust Board. The story of the Board goes back to the pre-settlement decision to retain an eighth of every land sale for religious and educational purposes. This built up to a very substantial asset in land and cash, which has been variously administered, utilised and argued over in the years since 1848. It's a significant element in the business history of the Southern region.



JOHN STENHOUSE

Christine Whybrew, PhD student, contributed an essay to the volume *Capturing Port - D. A. De Maus: photography, music, and community spirit in nineteenth-century Port Chalmers* (2009), published by the Port Chalmers Regional Maritime Museum.

PhD student Kenton Storey has been awarded a Doctoral Fellowship by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Kenton tells us that he applied for the scholarship twice before while in Canada and both times was 'recommended for funding' but did not make the final cut. This third time, he believes his confirmed status as a PhD candidate at Otago and references from within the department made the difference. This scholarship provides Kenton with additional funding for the next three years while he researches the comparative history of New Zealand and Vancouver Island in the mid 19th century, with a particular focus on settler anxiety related to the threat of indigenous violence and racial discourses within these colonies' print cultures.

As winner of the 200-level award at the end of 2008, now-300-level History honours student Tim Hyland had the opportunity to take an 8-week summer internship at the Otago Settlers Museum. The Museum holds a number of remarkable early computing machines, ranging from the punch card systems of the 1920s-1960s, to the room-sized 'big iron', to precursors of the PC, dating from about 1963. Using them as a starting point, Tim investigated early computing technology and development in Dunedin, in various contexts, including local government, industry, banking, a variety of finance companies, and the University. Tim's key finding was that Dunedin was at the forefront of computing technology in New Zealand - Cadbury's, the DCC and the University were all early adopters of the latest computer technology.

Chanelle Carrick, BA (Hons) Otago, embarked on an MA on alternative photographic technologies in NZ contemporary art. Elspeth Knewstubb commenced an MA on Ashburn Hall, Dunedin's private mental asylum.

Ryan McLane began his PhD in the department this year, under the supervision of Judy Bennett and Barbara Brookes. Before he came to Otago he was director of a public health department in Alaska. Ryan has two Bachelors degrees (one in nursing, the other in history) and two Masters degrees (one in public health and the other in international relations). He jokes that he did nursing to fund his passion for history, but his professional and educational backgrounds now coalesce in his PhD research, which focuses on non-

pharmaceutical responses to the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-1921, using Fiji, the Samoas and Tonga as case studies.

Ryan's research, which begins from the fact that Western Samoa was ravaged by the flu, while nearby American Samoa was barely touched, will add historical depth to our understanding of reactions to epidemics in an era of swine flu. Not coincidentally, Ryan's expertise has already been sought by two University of Otago residential colleges, with whom he worked on pandemic planning during 2009. He chose Otago because it seemed like the best all-round



DR GEORGE DAVIS WITH SUPERVISORS

vantage point for study of the South Pacific. The NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade recently awarded Ryan a travel grant, which he will use to support archival research in Auckland and Wellington.

The department has continued to produce quality postgraduates. Since our last newsletter Mary Berry ('The Architectural and Social History of "Olveston", 1902-1906: A Study of Edwardian Modernity') and Antje Lubcke ('The Photograph Albums of the New Zealand Presbyterian Mission to the New Hebrides') have completed MAs.

Three doctoral students have also completed their studies. Petronella van de Wijdeven submitted 'From Art Souvenir to Tourist Kitsch: A Cultural History of New Zealand Paua Shell Jewellery until 1981'. Occasional tutor and retired teacher George Davis completed 'Anzac Day meaning and memories: New Zealand, Australian and Turkish perspectives on a day of commemoration in the twentieth century'. Gwen Parsons' "'The Many Derelicts of the War"? Great War Veterans and Repatriation in Dunedin and Ashburton, 1918 to 1928' is now housed in the departmental library. George has subsequently had an article 'Turkey's Engagement with Anzac Day' published in *War and Society*.

Honours graduate of the department **Frances Steel** sends us this news from Australia: “I completed my doctorate in 2008 at the Australian National University. My principal supervisor was historical anthropologist of the Pacific, Professor Margaret Jolly, and I was also very fortunate to have Tony Ballantyne, Paul D’Arcy (another Otago alumnus), Vicki Luker and Ann McGrath as advisors.

My book, revised from my PhD, is called *Oceania under Steam: Maritime Transport and Colonialism, 1870s-1910s*. It will be published by Manchester University Press in their Studies in Imperialism series, edited by John MacKenzie.

I joined the School of History and Politics at the University of Wollongong at the start of 2009. The opportunity to teach at Otago last year has proved invaluable in making the transition back across the ditch. I have introduced a new subject at 200 level, ‘An Ocean of History: An Introduction to the Pacific World’, and have been teaching into different subjects on Australian history. In one of these, called ‘Locating Australia’, I have focused on aspects of Australia’s relations with New Zealand and the Pacific. Teaching is structured quite differently here, with larger classes, tutorials held on a weekly basis, and at 200 and 300 levels subjects generally run with one weekly lecture and one two-hour seminar.

There are some interesting new initiatives underway at Wollongong, with an interdisciplinary New Zealand Studies Centre, the first of its kind in Australia, launched in the Faculty of Arts this year.”

Doctoral graduate and former teaching fellow **Sue Heydon** is now teaching at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Otago. Her book *Modern Medicine and International Aid: Khunde Hospital, Nepal, 1966-1998* has just been published by Orient Blackswan.

Former student **Sandy Bardsley** is currently enjoying leave from her position at Moravian College, Pennsylvania, as a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Sandy’s book *Venomous Tongues: Speech and Gender*

in Late Medieval England, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, won the First Book Prize of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. According to L.R. Poos, *Venomous Tongues* makes a ‘unique contribution’ through its ‘interdisciplinary approach and the way it situates scolding within a broader range of issues specific to the legal and social history of the period’. More recently Sandy has published *Women’s Role in the Middle Ages* (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2007).

Ruth Harvey, recent MA graduate, curated the exhibition ‘Fixated’ at Puke Arilli, which opened in July.

Former honours student and President of OUSA **Steven Sutton** won a Commonwealth Fellowship to do a PhD at Cambridge on crises and resource use decisions, commencing in September 2010. There he will meet up with **Simon Layton** who is pursuing his PhD on ‘Commerce, Authority and Piracy in the Indian Ocean World, c.1780-1850’.

Former Honours student **Susan Haugh** is now teaching at Southland Girls’ High School. She has an article from her 490 dissertation, on the Waipiata Sanatorium, forthcoming in *Health & History*. Masters graduate **Michael Bagge** has recently begun a PhD in pharmacy, looking at the elderly and their attitudes to medicine.



DR FRANCES STEEL



ALUMNI NETWORK

The University of Otago has recently launched NetCommunities, a website that has networking facilities for all Otago alumni. The site showcases new developments in alumni relations at the university, including a life-long otagoalumni email addresses, an alumni directory which helps you catch up to old classmates and friends, and a History and Art History network with news from the department. The site also enables you to update your address or other details online, register for alumni functions, and update the university with your life since graduation.

To give it a test drive, visit <http://alumni.otago.ac.nz/>.

Want to share where your degree have taken you with other graduates? Email history.arthistory@otago.ac.nz and let us know. Please advise in your email whether you want your news to be included in the next newsletter.