

UNIVERSITY OF Otago

M A G A Z I N E

ISSUE 2: JULY 2002

HIGH COURT WIN:
is it enough to salvage the dental profession?



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VC's COMMENT

We are the best.

On Saturday 18 May, the *Otago Daily Times*' front page headline was "Otago Researchers Triumph". This story reported our outstanding success in the latest Health Research Council funding round and led me to reflect on what we have collectively achieved in recent years that entitles us to say we are the best University in New Zealand.

Briefly, here are some facts which support my claim:

- We are New Zealand's most intensive research University. Last year we attracted more external research funding than any other university in the country.
- We have the best physical facilities in the country. Our new Information Services Building and our student accommodation are but two which are unsurpassed.
- We produce the best graduates. An employer survey showed that 43% rate Otago graduates as better than those from other universities and 50% rate them as good as other graduates.
- We have more of the very best graduates. In the past 10 years, Otago has taken more than one third of all Rhodes Scholarships awarded in New Zealand - more than any other university.
- This year, our law students achieved the best result ever by a New Zealand team in an international Mooting Competition. Otago was placed third overall and was beaten only by Harvard for the quality of the written arguments.
- In business education, Otago has the only New Zealand MBA to have been listed in the Financial Times World Top 100.
- Surveys of seventh form students repeatedly show that Otago University and its student lifestyle is recognised as being the best in the country.

I could list many more achievements in support of this claim, but there is one in particular which must be recognised - the dedication and commitment of our staff. Given the pressures faced in recent years, this has been truly outstanding.

While we should all feel very proud of our achievements and have no hesitation in celebrating our successes, we should not be complacent. Not only must we ensure that we stay in our position as the best in New Zealand, but I suggest that during the next three to five years we raise the bar and set ourselves the goal of advancing New Zealand's first University as a true world class university.

Dr Graeme Fogelberg
Vice-Chancellor
University of Otago

INBRIEF

UNDERSTANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP MAY BOOST PROFILE



Dr Jenny Darroch is exploring ways of changing business leaders' perceptions of expansion.

New Zealand managers are well regarded for having an entrepreneurial spirit and developing innovative ideas. However, there appears to be a gap between developing innovative ideas and then using those innovations to gain an international competitive advantage, says Otago's Dr Jenny Darroch.

The University recently secured a substantial grant from the Government's Tertiary Education Strategic Change Fund to support the development of entrepreneurship at Otago.

As the University's Director of Entrepreneurship, Darroch is using her newly created position to develop a strong teaching and research programme in entrepreneurship for the University. Currently, Darroch is researching the commercialisation of innovations developed in conjunction with University researchers.

Together with Professor Vivienne Shaw from the Department of Marketing, she is beginning a

project that looks at barriers to international entrepreneurship. There are several inhibiting factors for New Zealand firms. Size and lack of resources in particular prevent business growth. For this study, Darroch is particularly interested in how entrepreneurs access capital in order to grow internationally and the experiences entrepreneurs have had accessing venture capital. Overseas research suggests that entrepreneurs should use venture capital to grow their operations domestically and internationally.

"If we had a slightly different attitude towards taking in overseas capital, we might find that we do better," Darroch says.

"What can we do to try to make the country grow and be more innovative, and encourage entrepreneurship where there is an international competitive advantage?"

MĀORI MEN DYING EARLIER THAN NON-MĀORI



Researcher Andrew Sporle has found Māori men are continuing to die earlier than their non-Māori counterparts – regardless of socio-economic background.

A recent Otago study shows premature death rates among Māori males are still much higher than non-Māori.

Public health researcher Andrew Sporle (Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences) and his colleagues Professor Peter Davis and Professor Neil Pearce (Massey University Wellington), analysed data from the 1996 census along with information from death certificates from 1996-97.

"Our main finding is that Māori males continue to die much earlier than non-Māori; in fact they are more than twice as likely to suffer premature death.

"The mortality rates are also higher for Māori males in the top occupational groups compared to non-Māori in the bottom groups."

Sporle says this research indicates the cause is not just a matter of social class. Adjustment for socio-economic differences between Māori and non-Māori produced only a small change in rates.

The research, published in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* in March, also shows Māori males are more than five times more likely to die from readily treatable illnesses than non-Māori. Illnesses such as asthma, chronic rheumatic heart disease, appendicitis, bacterial infections, pneumonia and bronchitis figure prominently as causes of premature mortality.

Similar research was done in 1975-77 and 1985-87, but it is unclear if mortality rates have changed because of differences in the way data were collected and classified. However, high rates of Māori premature death have persisted over this time.

Sporle says the latest research also shows big variations in death rates between Māori males in different socio-economic groups.

The research team says the high rate of readily preventable deaths indicates more needs to be done to address Māori health needs.

CHRISTIANITY SCHOLARS ATTRACTED BY STUDY AT OTAGO



Professor Gerald Pillay from Otago is one of several researchers contributing to a global effort documenting the history of Christianity in the modern era.

Otago researchers have contributed to a Cambridge University-based examination of the global history of Christianity.

The project had a NZ\$2 million grant from the American Pew Charities Fund to produce several studies and collections.

Otago's foundation Professor of Theology and Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Professor Gerald Pillay recently hosted Canadian and southern hemisphere scholars associated with the project.

Pillay was invited to take part in consultations at Oxford, Cambridge and Pretoria during recent years. He sees interesting developments for Otago.

Researchers at the Dunedin meeting plan to publish a book on the social influences of Christianity in New Zealand and Australia.

"This could be the first of several projects spawned by the original study," says Pillay.

He will be working with Otago historian Dr John Stenhouse, Massey's Associate Professor

Peter Lineham, Auckland's Dr Alan Davidson, and Dr Mark Hutchinson from the Sydney College of Divinity.

"It's good to have people from Australia and New Zealand looking at the importance of Christianity in shaping their society.

"These places are broadly considered to be secular and the value of religion is underplayed. We'll be looking at the historical significance of this underplaying and some commonly held prejudices in society."

Other spin-offs include upcoming visits from Munich Professor Klaus Korshocke in September and from leading sociologists of religion Professor David Martin (London) and Professor Robert Wuthnow (Princeton) in December, both keynote speakers at a School of Liberal Arts conference examining the future of Christianity in the West.

RESEARCHERS CHALLENGE AGE-OLD BEDROOM ADVICE



Dust mites: not the most desirable of bed-mates.

Researchers at Otago's Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences are challenging the accepted beliefs that synthetic bedding materials are especially good for asthmatic patients, or that feather bedding is especially bad for asthmatics.

An investigation by the School's Asthma Research Group has found synthetic fibres in duvets carry up to 15 times more dust mites than feather duvets.

Group Director Professor Julian Crane says the researchers took dust samples from pillows, duvets and mattresses in Wellington households from November 1998 until January 1999. As well as finding high levels of dust mites in synthetic duvets, the researchers found six to seven times more dust mites in synthetic pillows compared to pillow feathers.

"It is possible that the increasing use of synthetic bedding materials over the past 20 years has increased the

severity of asthma in New Zealand."

The problem seems to be caused by the covers on synthetic duvets and pillows rather than the filling of the bedding, according to Crane. He says covers on synthetic bedding have a much looser weave compared to feather coverings and this allows dust mites to penetrate the bedding more easily.

"Dust mites would grow perfectly happily in feathers but we suspect that they can't penetrate the covering on this type of bedding."

In the past, synthetic bedding materials were specifically recommended to people with allergies, but Crane says this approach is clearly not a good idea.

"The best advice is firstly to have a simple skin prick test for common allergies. If this shows a reaction to house dust mites, consider covering pillows and duvets with mite impervious covers. The Asthma and Respiratory Foundation can supply these covers."

INBRIEF

FELLOW LOOKS TO SOUTH FOR INSPIRATION



Frances Hodgkins Fellow Scott Eady, seeking inspiration in Otago.

For an artist, Scott Eady's studio looks kind of sparse at the moment. A duck decoy here. A mannequin's head there. While this year's Frances Hodgkins Fellow confirms he has plenty of projects in mind, he's cagey about saying exactly what. But he's prepared to hint, "they'll be big".

It wouldn't surprise. Eady, who holds a Master of Fine Arts with a major in sculpture from Auckland's Elam School of Art, has made a name for himself creating large-scale, hard case and increasingly shiny works of art. The sheet metal, inside-out umbrella that lay outside the Wellington City Art Gallery during the city's Festival of the Arts this year was one of his.

It's a style that's been helped by years working in the construction industry. Eady "builds" his sculptures, drawing upon skills in joinery, welding and fibreglass moulding. Meanwhile, an interest in masculinity – "how it's

expressed, how perceptions of it have evolved over time, and the role the Village People has played in that" – underlie much of his work.

As for this year's body of work, Eady says he's finding plenty of inspiration in the south. Signs on scarfie flats, mostly too rude to print, crack him up. He mentions an interest in Dunedin's fashion renaissance, and bandies around words like "collaboration". And he still shakes his head in disbelief as he recalls driving through remotest Dansey's Pass, and coming across Maniototo farmer Eden Hore's museum of 70s evening dresses.

"Incredible," he says. "That's got to go in somewhere."

STROKE VICTIMS MAY BENEFIT FROM COGNITION RESEARCH



Dr Liz Franz hopes results from her handwriting tasks will be used to help stroke patients learn to communicate again.

Activating different conceptual pathways in the brain might help stroke patients learn to communicate again.

This is the theory being tested by University of Otago psychologist Dr Liz Franz. She is using a handwriting task to investigate the different problems stroke victims have with communication, looking at 20 people from community stroke foundations.

"People with stroke can have difficulty communicating," says Franz. "But since motor control is at the bottom of the hierarchy, trouble at higher levels can be disguised as motor. Something could look like a motor problem but really be a memory problem."

As part of their approach, a digitiser tablet and magnetic sensitive pens are used, so participants can write directly onto a screen, which then feeds into a computer that records the X-Y position of every pen movement.

"We can take apart simple spatial and temporal variables. This is what makes our project novel."

One study, still in its early stages, examines things like a patient's ability to write a lower case "L" and a number one. Despite these being the same symbol, Franz hypothesises that there will be a difference in performance if the symbol is embedded in a word or a number.

Franz hopes her research will help develop a cognitive therapy for stroke patients.

"If we can activate different conceptual structures in the brain, we might help the ability to communicate. If language is in a different area to maths and symbols, perhaps we can use the undamaged region to facilitate the damaged one."

JAPANESE MUSIC FINDS ITS WAY TO MAINSTREAM



Dr Henry Johnson: an ethnomusicologist with the good sense to study the sounds of an idyllic tropical paradise, Ogasawara.

The best thing about being an ethnomusicologist, according to Dr Henry Johnson, is the fieldwork. Especially if you're studying the music of Ogasawara (Bonin Islands), a series of subtropical, scarcely populated, Japanese islands 1000 kilometres south of Tokyo.

"They're at such a far remove, both geographically and culturally, from mainland Japanese life," says Johnson, who recently spent a week soaking up the islands' sounds. "They're seen as paradise.

"And musically," he adds, "they're fascinating." A succession of Micronesian migrants, European and Hawaiian whalers, shipwrecked sailors, and Japanese and American colonisers have inhabited the islands in the past 200 years. "The result is a decidedly idiosyncratic brand of folk music.

"English words pop up, for example, which the singers don't always understand. The songs involve harmonies and Western

chord structures, but also have a very Pacific flavour, and are often accompanied by a style of dancing more commonly seen in Pacific islands."

But what really interests Johnson is the way Ogasawara's environment, history and traditions have been claimed – and embellished – by contemporary Japanese pop acts.

Ogasawara's music now appears in the international market as sentimental ballads, layered with the sounds of water, birds and Hawaiian guitar.

Elsewhere, a DJ named Kyon takes traditional folk tunes, runs a disco drum track behind them, and throws in some blues piano.

"The musicians emphasise a love of the land and a celebration of diversity, whereas Japan is often seen as an homogenous society with a poor environmental record. There are a lot of very interesting paradoxes going on."

MAPPING BEHAVIOUR IN THE BRAIN



Otago's Associate Professor Mike Eccles and Dr Mike Legge will explore unknown regions of the brain, shedding light on nurturing behaviour.

Scientists Associate Professor Mike Eccles and Dr Mike Legge are combining their knowledge of genetics and embryology to map neural pathways in the mammalian brain. Their highly original model for investigating maternal behaviour has long-term implications for understanding differences in gender and associated triggers of behaviour.

Eccles' fascination with genes grew from his PhD research into the nature of cancer genes. He went on to ask how inherited behaviour could be examined through specific forms of gene manipulation. He joined forces with Legge when they discovered their areas of interest overlapped. Legge's background is in embryology and his work utilises mouse reproductive genetics to complement Eccles' expertise.

They recently received a \$660,000 Marsden grant to fund a three-year research programme focusing on the brain nest-gene mutation, a gene which influences maternal instincts. Behaviour will

be tested in relation to how the gene is inherited in a particular area of the brain depending on which parent the gene has come from. This will allow Eccles and Legge to map altered behaviour in relation to specific regions of the brain. From this they will determine the origins and the underlying mechanisms that inform nurturing and placentophagia (ingestion of the placental tissue).

Legge explains the process: "This approach allows us access [to the brain] and the opportunity to say, 'it appears that in this area of the brain we might see this particular behaviour'." This method side-steps the issue of inaccessibility. It allows science to investigate the complex machinery of the human brain, yielding far greater accuracy than simply observing behaviour can offer. While the research does not aim to solve behaviour patterns, the outcome could assist psychiatrists, for example, looking at behaviour from other perspectives.



FEATURE

c r i s i s

LOOMS IN DENTISTRY

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY HOUSE SURGEON RACHEL WALTERS AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENT MATT BARKER ARE BOTH UNUSUAL CASES – WALTERS FOR STAYING IN NEW ZEALAND FOR A TIME AFTER GRADUATION, AND BARKER FOR RETURNING TO FURTHER STUDY.



PROFESSOR PETER INNES RECOGNISED AN AUSTRALIAN FROM QUEENSLAND'S DENTAL SERVICE IN THE LIFT AT THE OTAGO DENTAL SCHOOL. HE KNEW SHE HADN'T FLOWN ACROSS THE TASMAN TO VISIT HIM.

As bold as brass, the Australian was walking the corridors recruiting Otago graduates with promises of bigger money. Feeling annoyed and helpless, there wasn't a thing the Dean of the Dental School could do to stop her.

Despite a recent High Court victory proving the previous Government was wrong to slash funding for dentistry students in 1994, it is not enough to stem the flow of newly-trained dentists heading overseas to repay enormous student loans with stronger currencies.

As each graduate heads offshore, that means one less dentist or specialist to work in our dental surgeries and public hospitals.

As the haze lifts from this funding disaster, holes are appearing in New Zealand's dental workforce that our graduates once filled.

To a social-minded person who has dedicated his life to training dentists for the past 30 years, Innes is frustrated to see graduates leave - knowing the taxpayer, who spends \$140,000 on each dentistry graduate, is literally not getting the returns they should.

But if this court outcome was round one of a bigger battle, the University of Otago and the 460 graduates who took the action could not have hoped to pack a more powerful punch.

In the judgement, the National Government's surprise Budget night announcement in 1994 to slash the school's funding by almost 50% was declared unlawful, and the decision-making process "irrational".

In her decision, Justice Goddard sharply criticised the then Education Minister, Dr Lockwood Smith, who had thought he could make savings by making the education funding for training dentists and doctors the same. This meant funding for each full-time dental student shrank from \$40,334 to \$25,001 per year.

But what Smith and his ministry failed to take into account was that, for their clinical training, medical students had access to hospitals, funded through the health budget,



Photo: Bill Nichol

while all clinical aspects of dentistry education are provided by the University and had to be taken from the Education budget.

The blunder sent dental student fees soaring from around \$7600 to \$23,000 a year as the University scrambled to recover costs. Fees for all subjects had steadily risen, but no other faculty experienced such a sudden and dramatic fees' hike. The University absorbed the increase for students who had already commenced their training, but new students were confronted with the higher fees.

So it was with a strong sense of injustice that 460 dental graduates joined the University in seeking the court ruling to recover lost costs from the Government. By then, each was saddled with debts averaging \$80,000.

The University and graduates are waiting and hoping that the Labour-led coalition Government (which opposed the action of the National Government while in opposition, and restored the fees for undergraduate dentistry students back to around \$9000 a year in 2000) will repay the money owed - some \$15 million, including interest. At the time of press, the Government was still considering whether it would appeal.

"The court win vindicated everything we've been saying for the past eight years, but it's only just the start," Innes says.

There is evidence that the student debts have already set in train trends that are detrimental to our dental workforce.

The Dental Council of New Zealand - the body which registers dentists - has figures showing many of Otago's dental graduates are leaving and staying overseas longer, leaving too few behind to meet the needs of communities.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY DEAN PROFESSOR PETER INNES (LEFT):
“THE COURT WIN VINDICATED EVERYTHING WE’VE BEEN SAYING
FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, BUT IT’S ONLY JUST THE START.”

The latest council-commissioned workforce analysis in 2000 indicates that even six years after graduation, more than 50 per cent of the class still has not returned to New Zealand. Traditionally, graduates would leave and work overseas, but most would have returned after four years.

Of those who graduated in 1996, for example, only 42% of those surveyed were working here four years later. In March, Rachel Walters – a house surgeon at the dental school – leaves for the United Kingdom.

At 23, she has a debt of \$86,000. Since graduating in 2000, she’s not made any real headway in repaying the capital, let alone the interest – pretty difficult on around \$40,000 a year.

She admits that, while she wants to see the world, she will probably have to stay away longer than she wants, estimating it will take around four years working solidly to pay off her loan. She can earn around 40,000 pounds a year overseas.

She could go home to Otorohanga in the King Country and work for the local rural dentist and live free with her parents. That way she could pay it off in seven years on around \$50,000 to \$70,000. But she doesn’t think that would be fair on her or her parents.

In spite of the debt burden, she remains upbeat.

“I don’t like having it but it doesn’t really affect me because I’m just glad to be doing something I enjoy. I’m not at the stage where I want to buy a house yet.

“My parents are more worried than I am, because they’ve been farming all their lives and they’ve had to live with debt,” she says.

About half of her class is overseas working towards paying off loans. Some were attracted to Australia, others to the UK as well. Then there are some who have returned to their countries of origin.

She’s hoping the Government will honour the judgement and pay her some of the \$20,000 she is owed.

Julian Haszard, 25, was three days out from leaving for London when he heard about the judgement. After graduating, he got a job with the New Zealand Defence Forces as a dentist and worked two other jobs after hours to save money for his travel expenses.

“It was a great way to leave the country knowing something had finally gone in our favour,” he says.

Still, the news didn’t make him cancel his plane ticket. He will soon start work in Victoria, central London, and make some headway on his \$138,000 debt. His first year was 1995 – the class most affected by the rise in dental student fees.

“Because of the fees, I became very conscious of money in virtually everything I did. Some could say that was a blessing in disguise. But I don’t believe it is healthy to have that burden

on you while you’re trying to learn such a lot, not only about your profession but also about life in general.”

The problem of graduate retention is not all about the money. When some graduates leave New Zealand, they may simply be returning home.

Overseas students studying on residency permits make up 40% of the total 54 students accepted into dentistry this year. Grades are the sole criterion used for entry and the average mark required is now A- to A. It used to be in the B to B+ range.

The concern for New Zealand’s dental profession is that so many graduates – overseas and New Zealand-born – are taking one-way flights out of New Zealand, rather than working in New Zealand for a period after graduation. Innes believes there is a way of at least partially addressing the workplace shortage.

At the moment the Government has capped the number of students at 54, with an additional 10 full-fee paying students. He wants to lift the local cap from 54 to 64 (the maximum physical capacity of the school) to help the workforce needs of New Zealand.

Innes says the numbers allowed into dentistry were set in the 1980s on the basis of New Zealand’s projected workforce needs, not on the basis of what other nations require for their populations.

“There’s no shortage of people wanting to be dentists, and I don’t believe you need an A average to be a good practitioner,” he says.

Dental Council of New Zealand chairman Brent Stanley believes the University needs to change its selection criteria so that the extremely high grades, coupled with the high fees, are not a barrier to those who genuinely want to stay and work in New Zealand.

At present, overseas-trained dentists from places like India, Iraq and South Africa are coming here to practise as dentists and specialists, plugging some of the gaps in the workforce caused by graduates failing to return.

“We get up to 15 or 16 applications for New Zealand dental registration from overseas-trained dentists per month – that’s a substantial increase on previous years,” Stanley says.

“Basically, the influx of dentists from overseas is maintaining our workforce. Without them, the situation could be more dramatic.”

The New Zealand Dental Association backs the call for a change in the way applicants are assessed.

“When we talk to graduates, a proportion of them are back in their countries of origin,” says Association chairman David Crum.

“Those who stay would rather work in the main centres because that fits better with their culture. They don’t identify with the rural areas, which desperately need graduates.”

Innes admits he is under some pressure to interview students pre-entry. But this could leave the university open to accusations of discrimination. Instead, perhaps a person would need to be a resident in New Zealand for two years before they can apply. Or both New Zealand and overseas students could have some sort of bursary from the Government and pay it back by working in New Zealand afterwards. These are ideas that may be explored.

Clearly, the loss of graduates is starting to affect ordinary New Zealanders needing a dentist.

Says Innes: “Until the higher fees came in, we had a mix of students who were keen to work across the spectrum of society – all socio-economic areas. They seem to be coming mainly from the higher socio-economic areas now.

“Will a student from Remuera want to treat people in Otara?”

Rural areas and larger provincial towns are now suffering from patient overload – a situation that has noticeably worsened since the funding blunder.

Dentists on the West Coast of the South Island, in Southland and Gisborne are under increasing stress, says Crum.

In those areas, the population-to-dentist ratio is one dentist for every 3000 people, compared to the optimal ratio of one for every 1500 to 2000 in the main cities.

Unable to get graduates to work in their practices, some dentists can’t even find buyers if they want to retire.

Dentists are constantly on call, cannot get a break and burn out easily. For communities reliant on only one dentist, that means long waiting lists for work people need done in their mouths.

If these dentists have to walk away from their practices, then that will leave whole communities without care, or having to travel long distances to get it.

Crum says the debt problem and a global market for dentists and specialists doesn’t help.

What graduate would want to go into a rural area under those circumstances, when they could go to Australia?

Again, it isn’t hard to find an example of the very thing the Dental Association is concerned about.

Garth Forbes is the sole dentist in Wairoa: population 9000.

The last newly qualified Dental School graduate he had, worked with him from 1995 to 1997.

Since then, Forbes hasn’t been able to attract any new graduates, not without trying. The last graduate to inquire went to Australia where he could earn \$40,000 a year more.

He laughs when asked if he’s on call.

“Yes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are four rural doctors here. I’m on my own,” he says.

He withdrew his practice from the market last year after trying to sell it for the previous three. It cost about \$300,000 to set up, yet the asking price was around \$250,000.

Fortunately, he helped build another practice in East Tamaki as an investment, and that would hopefully see him right in retirement when he decides to leave Wairoa.

“We like Wairoa though. The climate’s good, the fishing’s good and we’ve got a great lifestyle,” he says.

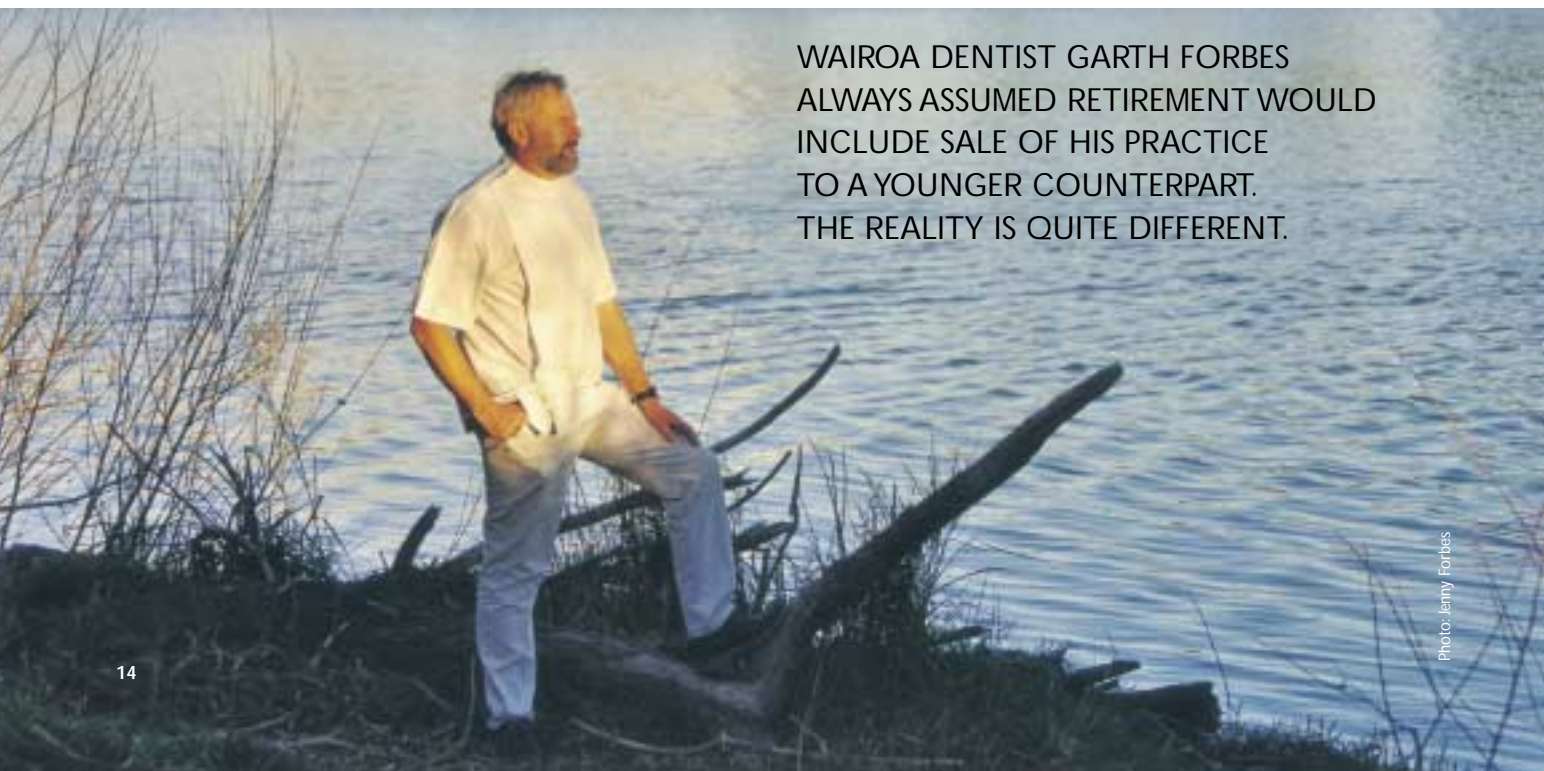
“But lifestyle alone is not going to be enough for rural health practitioners to come here.”

He believes if a graduate should want to go there, they would get a wide variety of experience on people with dental or oral health problems.

If he had his way, the Government would sponsor bright rural children willing to return to rural areas once they graduated, or pay off student loans after a period of rural service.

Unless something changes dramatically, there is also a looming shortage of specialists that could hit New Zealand in about 10 years as the old guard retire.

The Dental Council’s workforce analysis at 2000 shows a



WAIROA DENTIST GARTH FORBES
ALWAYS ASSUMED RETIREMENT WOULD
INCLUDE SALE OF HIS PRACTICE
TO A YOUNGER COUNTERPART.
THE REALITY IS QUITE DIFFERENT.

decline in the numbers of dentists in postgraduate training. In 1996, 37 dentists were in postgraduate studies, 47 in 1997, 52 in 1998, 42 in 1999, 36 in 2000, and 27 in 2001. There are 39 postgraduates enrolled in dentistry this year.

Unlike the medical registrar programme for doctors, dentists have no access to relatively well paid jobs in public hospitals while they do their specialist course. Either they stay in practices earning up to \$100,000 a year, or they take the plunge and go for three years without income and come out as a specialist.

Matt Barker, 32, returned from overseas after paying off his first student loan and started his postgraduate course in orthodontics last year.

The fees are \$22,000 per year, and on no income he admits it is difficult, although his partner, a teacher, is very supportive.

He's not ruling out going overseas to work as a specialist to pay off his predicted \$66,000 debt when he's finished the course.

In the past three years, seven people have graduated as specialists in orthodontics. Of these, six have moved overseas, with only one returning so far.

Postgraduate study is a major upheaval for partners and families. Some postgraduate students commute from as far afield as Christchurch and Wellington, travelling home at weekends.

"I believe in contributing towards my education, but \$22,000 a year, on top of a lack of income for three years, is highly discouraging," he says.

Professor Tom Kardos is a teacher at the Dental School. With a dearth of students wanting to do postgraduate studies, he says, come fewer people wanting to study beyond their Master's and doing PhDs in dentistry. He's always believed the School of Dentistry needs to maintain its international reputation for producing high quality research.

"Our cream of the crop of graduates are going overseas. Most of them specialise but very few come back and do PhDs, which take another three or four years of full-time research and study.

"The profession cannot advance without a strong research base. Without graduates entering into research-based careers, the reputation of dental education in New Zealand will be eroded."

All this creates a vicious cycle that the Dean fears has the potential to gradually erode the Dental School over a number of years.

"I agree we need more staff – not only clinically competent but also with a good research background. It would be great to see more New Zealand graduates becoming teaching staff. Otherwise the shortage will affect us and we will end up needing to recruit mostly overseas teaching staff who may not have the research desire or capabilities," he says.

He believes the problems caused by the funding error can work their way out of the system in a few years. But the postgraduate fees need to be reduced now or the shortage of specialists and academics in dentistry will see a demise in international standing.



Photo: Bill Nichol

Postgraduate courses are funded by the Clinical Training Agency, an arm of the Ministry of Health. They have refused to lift the subsidy that would allow the school to lower the fees, but more efforts are being made to get them to change that stance.

"Their main priority, which worries us, is making sure they have enough people to staff the public health system. But most dentists don't work in hospitals, so if that's their priority then they're not going to fund much in the way of dental graduates," says Innes.

"But if we don't do something, 10 years down the road there will be a problem providing specialist clinical care and a considerable group in society won't be able to afford dental treatment from specialists."

Staff at the dental school are already seeing more Dunedin people with severe dental disease.

"Some staff are telling me the state of dental health in this country is as bad as it was when I was a student in the 60s," Innes says.

"When I first came as Dean in 1992, the oral surgery staff complained that students were getting limited experience in extracting teeth. Now the number of extractions the dental school does has been going up 10% to 12% each year."

"It's great experience for students but bad news for the population."

So, is a return to poor oral health in this country the end product of systemic rot creeping into our dental health system?

Crum says the Association does not have any recent statistics available on the state of the nation's teeth.

A comprehensive study was last done in 1988. He says it is time the Government dedicated some research funding for another so we are better informed.

If there are two bright spots on the horizon, it is that New Zealand is still seen by many graduates as a great place to live. And our dollar is rising.

Jo Galer

PROFILE

DR GHAZALI MUSA
SETTLES DOWN TO
ACADEMIC LIFE,
AFTER A LIFETIME
OF ADVENTURE.

DOCTORAL RESEARCH INSPIRED BY HIGH-ALTITUDE SPORTS

GHAZALI MUSA SPENT HIS TWENTIES PURSUING
HIS LOVE OF TRAVEL AND SPORT.
FROM SKY DIVING TO SNOW BOARDING,
SCUBA DIVING TO LONG DISTANCE CYCLING,
HIS PURSUITS HAVE BEEN THOSE OF AN ADVENTURER.

ORIGINALLY FROM MALAYSIA, MUSA'S EARLY ACADEMIC CAREER PLACED HIM IN MEDICINE, WHICH HE PRACTISED FOR FIVE YEARS IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE. His interest in human geography developed while travelling through more than 50 countries worldwide. Today, he combines his knowledge of travel and endurance sports with his medical background.

Musa's PhD on the health effects of high-altitude pursuits on travellers in Tibet and Nepal was completed late last year. It was inspired while he was still a medical doctor, on one of his greatest adventures - cycling 1000 kilometres across Tibet, from Lhasa to Kathmandu. He challenged himself to maintain speed at a height of 5000 metres, while crossing mountain passes on the Tibetan plateau. Despite his medical background and rigorous preparation, he developed altitude sickness. On reflection, he began to ask himself why a medical doctor, knowing the consequences of high altitude pursuits, would still push his physical limits too far.

"I didn't realise this behaviour is no good in high altitude. I shouldn't have had this competitive attitude to challenge my body in the mountains. You have to respect the mountains and nature, rather than challenge them. You should enjoy the experience and immerse yourself in it."

As part of his Postgraduate Diploma in Tourism, started at Otago in 1997, Musa surveyed the geographical aspects of

diver satisfaction at Sipadan Island, Malaysia. He knew scuba-diving and combined this with his expanding knowledge of human geography. He gained a distinction for this thesis, before embarking on his PhD.

His initial application to carry out research in Tibet was rejected by Chinese officials. Undaunted, he went to Kathmandu in Nepal, a city where 70 per cent of tourists travelling to Tibet begin and end their journey. Here, he conducted his research freely, focusing on international tourists and examining their travel preparations, their motivations for travelling, their knowledge of the area and their behaviour in the mountains. Finally he recorded their health consequences and how they coped.

The interaction of body and mind is known as psychoneuroimmunology. The science takes account of the mind and emotions' effects on immune function, which can be greatly enhanced when the mind engages positively with stress in the environment.

Musa's research discovered that travellers' motivations had a positive or negative effect on their health. Those who travelled to Tibet or Nepal for spiritual reasons, for example to deepen their understanding of Buddhism, were less likely to get sick than people who travelled for physical adventure.

"Spiritual travellers are basically psychologically calm. Why are they less prone to becoming sick? We're not quite

sure in terms of activity - perhaps they engage in less strenuous activity or know their own limits better."

He also profiled adventure travellers whose motivations were physical. Surprisingly, they were more prone to sickness, despite better preparation than the spiritually inclined. They learnt more about the local area they were travelling to, and were more likely to immunise.

"But people who travel to 'get away' bring their anxiousness to the mountains. On the mountains, you're not encouraged to move higher without proper acclimatisation. For people who have this anxious style, they tend to move up the mountain too fast."

This is, not surprisingly, one of the main causes of mountain sickness.

Musa identified other elements in the equation. The presence or lack of competition was a factor in the health outcomes. People who travelled with a group of friends were more likely to develop mountain sickness or respiratory ailments than those who travelled alone, because of the culture of rivalry in groups. The lone traveller fared better because of lack of competition, while the spiritual traveller disregarded competition entirely. The latter two concentrated on the experience itself.

He found that tour-operated groups were less likely to get sick than groups of friends. Detailed planning and accounting for the dangers of extreme and unfamiliar physical conditions, such as weather and atmospheric conditions, mitigated the likelihood of mountain sickness.

Musa returns to Otago later this year to take up a visiting lectureship in the Department of Tourism. His long-term plan is to specialise in health tourism, but first he plans to broaden his knowledge base in all aspects of tourism, including tourism management, culture and heritage.

He feels privileged to be offered a position at Otago, a university he holds in very high regard. But he confides that Dunedin is not a long-term option for him. "I cannot deny Otago is very, very beautiful. But sometimes I feel the isolation here, it's a bit too far from the major cities of Asia and Europe."

Although Musa grew up in a small fishing village on the east coast of Malaysia, he moved to Kuala Lumpur at a young age to study. Since then, he has travelled the world pursuing an academic career, including time at the University of Holland.

His travels have instilled in him a strong sense of cultural awareness and his passions extend beyond the appreciation of nature. He is committed to educating people on issues of cultural tolerance, and is passionate about world peace. Religious and cultural tolerance, and diminishing the gap between rich and poor worldwide are as important to him as his academic commitments.

While he now advocates a less frenetic approach to sport and adventure, he has certainly challenged himself in many fields. When asked about his many awards and accolades, Musa seems genuinely confused by the question. His modesty masks a career of high achieving. Reading through his resume reveals numerous awards in swimming, including a Bronze Medal at the Australian World Masters Games in 1993, and he has climbed a dozen or so of the world's highest mountains.

During the past 15 years, he has reaped the rewards that come from pushing the limits of physical fitness and mental endurance that characterise high calibre sporting achievements. But now, at 36, Musa is looking forward to a quieter life. He plans to return to trekking; however, with a revised sense of adventure.

Maari McCluskey



OPINION

KNOWLEDGE and SOCIETY?

Professor Keith Ballard, Dean, School of Education

Photo: Sharron Bennett

“The knowledge society” is a recent political slogan. It sounds like a good idea. Education is implicated because teachers are seen as contributing to knowledge, to what people know. But the word “society” in this slogan is also important. Since 1984, our major political parties and those who vote for them have emphasised a neoliberal New Right focus on the individual. Our communities and institutions are thought of in terms of self-seeking people making choices that will benefit themselves. Independence, not interdependence, is the new social and moral order.

Along with this, New Zealand has adopted a commercial market model of human behaviour that pervades all sectors. While commerce and competition are a dynamic and often creative aspect of an economy, it is not necessarily the case that commercial values and procedures can deliver education, health and social services on an effective and equitable basis. In our education system, for example, the market model has seen schools increasingly divided along socio-economic and ethnic lines with inequality of resources and a decline in student performance in those schools that are the market losers in this competitive system.

Research on poverty and a loss of social cohesion in New Zealand shows that income inequality has grown more rapidly in New Zealand than in other OECD countries. A third of all New Zealand children and 72% of single-parent families live below the poverty line. The well-being of people who are poor, and through that the well-being of communities in general, might be improved by quality public services. But from their voting behaviour, it would appear that the majority of New Zealanders do not want a taxation rate that would allow for an appropriately funded public health, education and welfare system. In that case, I think the idea of “society” warrants scrutiny.

A commitment to individualism and to a commercial market model also has implications for our working lives. The


ideological belief that we are primarily motivated by self-interest carries with it the implication that we are not to be trusted. We need “incentives” to make us work. Our schools and other institutions must operate in an environment of marketplace contestability so that we must constantly be threatened to perform or perish, we must be watched and endlessly reviewed, assessed and audited to ensure that the “purchaser” (employer, student, parent...) gets maximum (“efficient”) and “quality” benefit from the “provider” (teacher, lecturer, principal...). Because people cannot be trusted, relationships must be contractual and written down. Engagement with others thus becomes a technical matter, one that is described in increasingly fine detail, requiring a particular language of charters, governance, goals, objectives, strategies, profiles and portfolios.

Teachers, from primary to tertiary, who become embedded in these concepts and practices may become compliant and self-regulating – surely the ultimate controlling achievement of seemingly endless performance assessments and reviews, and a serious threat to risk taking and creativity. Some may take on the identity of the so-called new professionalism, serving the ideology and structures of globalised capital as managers of “learning outcomes”. Some resist and subvert. But for others, performative institutions are alienating and dehumanising. They experience what sociologist Richard Sennett describes as the “corrosion of character” which emerges when commitment and responsibility (which are not the same as an externally monitored “accountability”) are not valued. They will be lost from education, from health and from other institutions – the very institutions that a knowledgeable society might be expected to rely on for the well-being of all.

FEATURE



Photo: Yolanda van Heezik



PLANNING FOR TOURISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

AFTER NINE YEARS
IN SAUDI ARABIA,
DR PHIL SEDDON
RETURNS TO OTAGO
TO DIRECT THE
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
DIPLOMA COURSE.

The Rub' al Khali, Saudia Arabia's Empty Quarter.

*Dr Phil Seddon:
back in New Zealand but still working
with Saudi wildlife authorities.*

IN A COUNTRY MOST OF US MAY NEVER VISIT, DR PHIL SEDDON WEARS A RED CHECKED CLOTH ON HIS HEAD. HIS WIFE, DR YOLANDA VAN HEEZIK, IS NOT ALLOWED TO DRIVE IN PUBLIC, BUT OFF-ROAD TAKES THE WHEEL. THEY HAVE A PET FOX. THERE IS A COMPLETE ALCOHOL BAN.

For nine years, the Kiwi couple lived in Saudi Arabia. Now, the University of Otago graduate and his wife are back at Otago's Department of Zoology, where Seddon heads the wildlife management diploma course. He still liaises with the Saudi Tourism and Wildlife Commissions as they work to establish a master plan for Saudi Arabian tourism that also protects the land and its wildlife.

After completing his PhD in Zoology in 1988, on the impacts of habitat loss on the breeding success of yellow-eyed penguins on the Otago Peninsula, Seddon and van Heezik took up post-doctoral positions in South Africa. There he studied the breeding strategies of the African penguin. Based on his arid-land experience, he landed a job in Saudi Arabia, as research co-ordinator at the National Wildlife Reserve Centre (NWRC), primarily working with two Arabian species - the houbara bustard and the Arabian oryx.

Seddon went to Saudi with no preconceived ideas about what it was going to be like.

"I was completely ignorant. I was like a sponge; whatever happened, I just absorbed it."

He and van Heezik learned to speak what he calls "survival Arabic", because the rangers they worked with did not speak English.

"Arabic is relatively easy to speak badly and hard to speak well," he says. "We knew enough to talk about wildlife, but we probably said all sorts of outrageous things and didn't even know it. The rangers were too polite to laugh, or too stunned!"

Saudi Arabia is a country with a lot of unspoken rules: a conservative society, with restrictions on where expatriates can go, and what they can do. The society follows a strict interpretation of Islam, although Seddon says some public attitudes have been diluted somewhat through satellite television.

Women cannot show their faces, or even their hair in public. "A man won't necessarily have ever seen his sister-in-law's face."

Cultural restrictions meant it was inappropriate for him ever to meet his colleagues' wives.

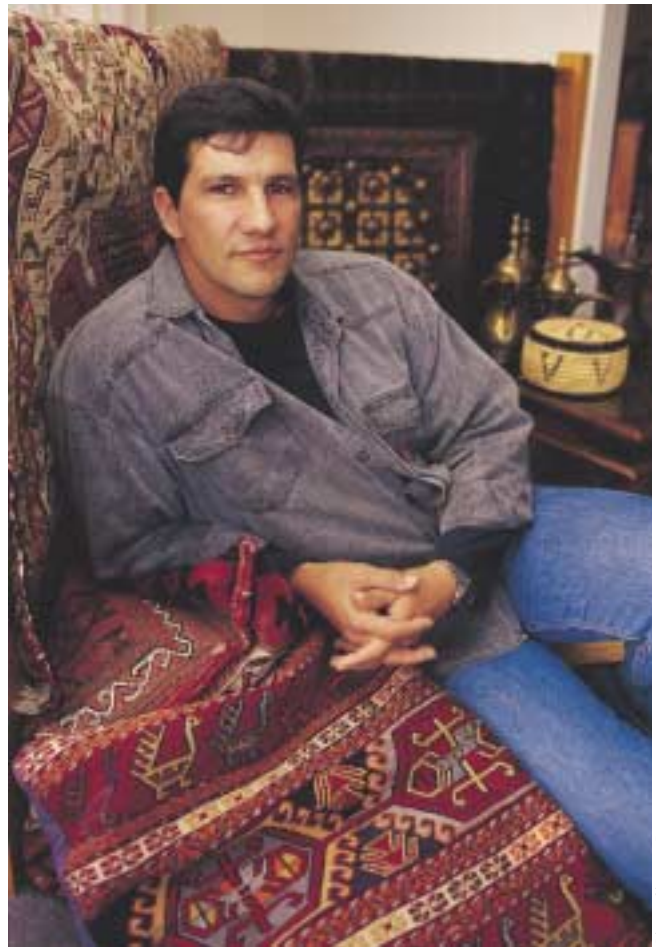


Photo: Sharron Bennett

Seddon and van Heezik were concerned with the conservation management of native species within a number of terrestrial protected areas. However, these areas were human exclusion zones: to keep the wildlife safe inside the areas, they kept people on the outside. This policy meant the protected areas did not get much public support or funding. In order to generate more public interest in the areas, the Saudi wildlife authorities realised they needed to provide opportunities for recreational activities that would bring people into these areas, but have minimal impact on the environment. These activities could be structured to increase public awareness of the need for conservation. Such a combination of outdoor recreation and conservation is the core of true ecotourism. And that is Seddon's area of expertise.

But planning for tourism development in Saudi Arabia is very different to planning in tourism for New Zealand. At the start of last century, Saudi Arabia was a patchwork of warring sheikhdoms that became united under a charismatic leader, Ibn Saud. In 1938, the newly-created Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hit oil. At the time of peak oil production and peak prices during the 1980s, the Kingdom was making US\$3000 per second. Seddon says Saudi Arabia is an example of what happens when you take a largely nomadic and conservative society and add unlimited money. It has since become increasingly urbanised, with vast improvements in health,

education and lifestyle. But the oil dollar has also brought damaging consequences to natural habitats and wildlife.

"They've developed so very far so fast. They suddenly have all the trappings of developed society but the speed of change has meant attitudes have not adjusted at the same rate. Littering is a major problem; hunting is a favourite pastime; goats and sheep overgraze the natural vegetation in most areas. There are also many unsophisticated nature tourists who would rather have access to amusement parks, than enjoy a natural setting for itself. Because tourism is in its early stages and protected areas have not allowed people in before, Saudi Arabia is in a good position to plan for ecotourism from scratch and look to other countries for guidance.

"In Australia and in Canada, ecotourism planning is sophisticated and comprehensive. New Zealand is not yet a world leader in ecotourism management, but is likely to move in the right direction. For Saudi Arabia, we can point to the best examples and say 'there's a system that works: what features can we apply?'"

But it is important always to be aware of the physical and social contexts. "Something that works in New Zealand won't necessarily work in the Middle East. You have to gauge the attitudes of Saudis to things, find out what people want to do on holiday and then provide for appropriate leisure activities and facilities that minimise the impact on the environment."

For Seddon, one of the best things about working in Saudi was the responsibility he was given. "There are far too few people working on conservation management, so once you're on site you have more and more opportunity to do things - just because there's no one else there to do them. Once you get within the system and become trusted by the Saudi authorities, it's a fast track to get into the position where you're contributing to government policy."

One of the things he noticed most upon returning to New Zealand was just how publicly people live. In Saudi Arabia, Seddon and van Heezik's house was a traditional design. It had small external windows and was built around a courtyard garden to accommodate the cultural importance of privacy.

New Zealanders' casual attire also provided a culture shock. "There's much more flesh exposed. Men wear shorts to town here. If they wore them to town in Saudi, they'd be dragged off the streets for being inappropriately dressed in their underwear."

A shame given Saudi temperatures, which can be up to 48 degrees Celsius in the shade and 60-plus degrees Celsius in the sun.

One man Seddon knew took an off-road short cut on his way home from work and broke down in a sandy patch. "It was the middle of summer. He made the mistake of walking and only lasted a couple of hours. He was just on his way home."

Work in protected areas took Seddon, van Heezik and their now five-year-old son, Connor, to some remote locations. He was always uneasy being in such places with his family because there was so little room for error. Not only was there heat to contend with, there was also potential for disaster arising from such things as snakebites, or even just punctures. When they went into the field, they always took at least 40

litres of water. On some trips, they had to take three spare tyres and a puncture repair kit because the basalt rock of the Northern deserts tears tyres. "We averaged a puncture a week up there, and came back with the tyres all patched up." But he says it's possible to do field work in extreme heat - you just have to drink a lot and move slowly.

It took the family more than a year to get used to Dunedin temperatures again, when they returned for Connor to start school. Nine years was a long time to be anywhere, says Seddon. The couple have a five-year contract at Otago, which they hope will become permanent. In Saudi Arabia, they had one-year contracts, and were sacked three times by the French management at the research centre. The couple were a bargaining chip for the centre: if the programme was not given more money by the Saudi Government, then the French sub-contractor argued they would have to lose some of their field research workers (as opposed to their management staff). "It worked, in that the Government increased the Centre's budget, but it was a funny way to make us feel like valued employees," he laughs.

Returning to Dunedin has changed their lives in other ways. They had to leave behind something unexpectedly precious to them: their pet red fox. Sophie-B was part of a strategy to help captive-bred houbara bustards survive once released in the wild. More than one third of those previously released had been killed by mammalian predators - mostly red foxes. So van Heezik and Seddon set out to train young bustards to recognise the fox as a dangerous predator. The bustards remained unconcerned by the stuffed red fox used at first, so the couple decided to train them using a live fox. The family took Sophie in as a kit and she lived in the house with them. Seddon says she was like a mix between a dog and a cat: "gorgeous and affectionate".

The training did improve bustard survival rates, but when they left Saudi, Sophie went to Arabia's Wildlife Centre in Sharjah, United Arab

Emirates, where she and a hand-reared male red fox help educate children about native wildlife.

For Seddon, the novelty of Saudi Arabia never wore off. "I never took for granted how very different everything was. The smell of incense and spices in the markets, the five daily prayer calls, the summer heat during the day."



Male houbara bustard in display plumage.

Photo: NWRC Photo Library

Lisa Macknight

PROFILE

EMERITUS PROFESSOR
JIM FLYNN,
A HUMANITARIAN OF
TERRIFYING INTELLECT,
WHOSE LIFETIME OF
ACHIEVEMENT HAS
EARNED HIM THE
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
DISTINGUISHED
RESEARCH MEDAL.

Photo: Alan Dove

AN AUDIENCE WITH PROFESSOR JIM FLYNN

AS AN INTERVIEW SUBJECT, EMERITUS PROFESSOR JIM FLYNN'S REPUTATION PRECEDES HIM, SCARILY. A man of principle, he lost academic posts in the United States in the 60s for his "pro-black" views. He presented research that famously criticised those who believed in the genetic inferiority of blacks. His first-year political studies paper on the great thinkers of history is legendarily difficult. To cap it all, he has an *effect* named after him. And while the "Flynn effect" documents rising IQs between generations, I wasn't banking on any inter-generational advantage as my particular appointment with the Professor drew closer.

Still, I had been reading Flynn's latest book *How to Defend Humane Ideals*. My hopes weren't high: the dry two-tone cover, the subtitle 'Substitutes for Objectivity', and the retail price of \$124.95, suggested Professor Flynn did not have a mass audience in mind.

But what Professor Flynn talks about matters. We all know that we should be nice to one another, but try finding a rational basis for this belief. Written clearly and argued ferociously, Flynn fronts up to millennia of moral philosophers, and his achievement is not slight. He offers an approach for promoting the principles of equality, empathy, humanity and diversity – all that is good and decent in the world – "without using suspect ethical truth-tests and proofs".

And, talking me through his ideas, Jim Flynn is friendly enough: he is concerned about the comfort of my square-toed boots. And his office was a mess, which I found somehow comforting.

Flynn accepts that yes, it is impossible to prove any objective moral truth. "In the end," he says, "your commitment to humane ideals has to come from the heart."

But according to Flynn, this is no reason to go all Nietzsche on it. He points out that, equally, "it's impossible to prove that any ideals, including ours, *lack* moral truth". From a philosophical standpoint, therefore, the two camps are on even footing. "So a racist, for example, would have to find other reasons to justify their 'anti-humane' position." And

that, says Flynn, is when the combined force of logic along with empirically-gathered, critically-analysed data can kick in.

"In my view, anti-humane arguments can be defeated, case by case, on those grounds."

"My students are often surprised. They think it is enough to say that racism is wrong and that they have right inherently on their side. They come to me now and say, 'I didn't realise how informed you have to be, what you need to learn, to promote these ideals.'"

And Flynn admits that he has to accept the possibility that some day he may come up against an opponent who has a case. "Like [US researcher] Jensen, he had a case. He used science to support his position that the genes of blacks explain why they, on average, have lower IQs than whites. I think he is mistaken, but future evidence could always go his way."

True to form, Flynn's response to Jensen came through uniting the forces of philosophy and psychology. He called on one hand for a deeper exploration of Jensen's statistics, and on the other, he asked people to consider the consequences of his views. "Even if you accept Jensen's case, you still have to concede that the top 25% of blacks overlap with the top 50% of whites. Each person still has the right to be considered on his or her merits."

And in Flynn's view, this constitutes a strong case for affirmative action. "If people are judged negatively on the basis of their race, they should be compensated for this through other mechanisms."

So, in an ideal society, would equality be valued above all? "Not in the sense that everyone has the same income or possessions. But those at the higher end of the scale should not be so far removed from those at the lower that they have lost touch with what it's like to live with less." Not so much equality, says Flynn, but empathy.

It's an ideal, laments Flynn, that New Zealand has spent the past two decades moving steadily away from. "It's my worry that we've gone too far. Perhaps we can't get back."

Nicola Mutch

ALUMNI INSIGHT

EXPAT KIWI AT HOME IN MOSCOW

OTAGO GRADUATE ROBIN MUNRO
NOW LIVES AND WORKS IN MOSCOW.
IT IS A DIFFERENT CITY FROM
THE ONE HE FIRST VISITED
21 YEARS AGO, BUT STILL
FASCINATING IN
EVERY REGARD.

One of Moscow's many street kids takes a nap in a metro station.

I FIRST CAME TO A SNOWY MOSCOW IN FEBRUARY 1981 AS PART OF WHAT WAS THEN THE LARGEST GROUP OF NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS TO ARRIVE IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL - THERE WERE FIVE OF US. Otago University had some relationship with the Pushkin Institute, where it was possible to study Russian for courses of a few months.

I had been well prepared. Even when I was at school I had attended university extension classes by the brilliant but eccentric late Dr Nicholas Zisserman.

His successor as head of the Russian department, Associate Professor Peter Stupples, led a stimulating team of lecturers including Dr Andy Barratt, Tom Gott and the late Jim Harvie. I had also been lucky to be taught in my first year by native Russian Ziunia Parshukova, who had me speaking a halting version of the language in just a few short months.

Twenty-one years ago the aged and ailing Leonid Brezhnev was still in power and the Soviet Union was creaking to an end that it still did not foresee. Russians could get into trouble for contacts with foreigners and they kept their distance. So easily distinguished by our clothing, hairstyles and even our complexion - fresh fruit was beyond the means of many Russians and this showed on their wan faces - locals stared at us.

It could be scary - there was tension in the air after an assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan and I panicked one night when explosions went off across the city. Was this the end of the world? No, just some fireworks celebrating the Day of the Soviet Army.

It was my first long period away from home. I was 22 and didn't really know how to look after myself. I didn't like the bland and greasy food served at our hostel and snacked on kefir, a tasty kind of sour milk, bread and oranges while charging around exploring the city.

I lost two stone in two weeks and only started paying more attention to my diet after I fainted one day in the metro. Even then, by the time I left at the end of three months I had something like scurvy - bleeding gums, hair loss and peeling skin.

Today, fresh fruit is available year-round in Moscow - you can get anything you want in Moscow, provided you have the money to pay for it.

I made many more trips to Russia - three more times before the Soviet Union collapsed and almost every year afterwards. I became a journalist, first with the *Timaru Herald* and then with *The Press* in Christchurch and wrote about what was happening under Gorbachev and Yeltsin.

In 1996, a friend who was a nightwatchman at the nurses' hostel told me about a resident who had been on an American

Field Scholarship to Russia. She had met a New Zealander who was in charge of an English-language newspaper in St. Petersburg.

That year, I travelled to Russia's second city, met the man and made several contacts in the newspaper business. Over several years, one of these blossomed into romance and, in early 1999, I took some leave without pay from my job in Christchurch and moved in with my partner whom I married in 2000.

I wasn't sure what the job prospects here would be, but very quickly I started working at *The Moscow Times*, the capital's leading daily English-language paper and have been here ever since.

At first, I worked in Ulitsa Pravdy, or the Street of Truth, where numerous small-circulation publications rent rooms next to huge printing presses that used to spout millions of pages of Communist propaganda each day. I found the street name rather Orwellian - actually it was named after the Soviet newspaper, *Pravda*. *The Moscow Times* has since moved to more nondescript premises on the outskirts.

The rich colours and cultures of Moscow's gypsies, Central Asians and Caucasians could make this an international city, but it doesn't have that certain something of a cosmopolitan metropol like Paris, New York or London. Moscow is not Russia - with the exception of St. Petersburg and a handful of other regional capitals, most of Russia has been drained of the lifeblood of cash and has sunken into a kind of economic slumber.

Like most foreign professionals and a fraction of the Russian population, I enjoy a high standard of living and have interesting work.

I work for a paper that is read by most of the city's ambassadors and by the bosses of the multinationals that have opened representative offices here. About 35,000 copies are issued free each day, and it is reputedly popular with students of the English language. In any case, more than half of our readers are Russian.

I am a reporter writing about news and the currently booming real estate sector.

The editorial staff are about 50:50 Russian and expat.

Most of our work concerns the expat community, politics and the better-off part of society.

But we rub shoulders with the general population when we use public transport.

The wealthiest people drive past us in their black Mercedes with tinted windows - but only from one traffic jam to the next - Moscow's streets are clogged with more cars than they can cope with.

I see the poor and the drunks going through the rubbish bins, collecting beer bottles and begging in the metro (subway or underground) stations and trains. Old women augment their meager pensions (about NZ\$200 a month) by selling fresh herbs, spring onions, and pumpkin and sunflower seeds near the metro entrances.

Often beggars with one or more limbs missing - injuries they presumably sustained in Afghanistan or Chechnya - wear military uniforms. Some of these, however, have never been near any front and were incapacitated through some act of drunkenness.

Young people smoke and drink liberally. Beer is openly swilled on the street by men and women, partly because of the cheap, high-quality brews that entered the market in the last few years.

Every day I see hundreds of men in military uniform. Overspending on the military has been pinpointed as one of the key reasons for the demise of the Soviet Union, but the economy still supports a giant, impoverished military machine.

The Chechen war is a bleeding wound in the national consciousness, but the public tolerates it with resignation.

The Communists are divided and losing influence, but homo sovieticus's ghost haunts daily life: the democratic aspirations that flowered under Gorbachev were swept aside by Yeltsin and his power- and money-grabbing coterie. Things have developed in such a way that there is no visible opposition to the Kremlin or most regional and municipal administrations, and no mechanism for making them accountable to the public.

I like to think of my job as a reporter as a representative of the public, asking the questions they would like to know the answers to. Despite transparency being a word officials like to bandy around, it takes blood, sweat and tears to get the answers to the hard questions.

The privatization processes of the early and mid 1990s failed to create competitive enterprises attractive to investment - much more cash is still flowing out of the country than into it. A handful of so-called oligarchs control most of the wealth. That wouldn't matter so much if there were opportunities for others to do their own thing, but bureaucrats meddle in every area of life.

I can recognize the behaviour of minor officials that I read about at university in works by Gogol and Dostoevsky. Administrators act as if their job is to create masses of red



Photo: Martin von den Driesch

The base of a statue in the Ploshchad Revolutsii metro station.

tape: this spawns corruption, bribery, raises costs and throttles small and medium-sized enterprises.

The nation's leading reformer Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref wants to change all that. He has instituted and is still driving liberal economic changes that should yield sustainable economic growth.

Russians who have studied overseas and the children of Russians who emigrated long ago are returning with not only the knowledge, but also the culture of doing things the western way.

They are not simply introducing foreign ways – they bring systems of accountability and transparency without which it is impossible to make economically rational decisions.

Since the 1998 financial crisis and the devaluation that followed it, the economy has been getting stronger each year, even in the face of the global downturn. Newspapers live from advertising and *The Moscow Times* seems sure to be able to thrive here for some years yet.

But, still ranked No. 63 in terms of competitiveness by the World Economic Forum, Russia will take many years of steady progress before it can stand shoulder to shoulder with western economies.

Nevertheless, Russians, who put up the first satellite and the first man in space, like Kiwis, can do anything. If they don't fall into the old trap of "one step forward, two steps backward" they have a golden future.

Robin Munro



Robin Munro was at Otago from 1977 to 1980. He completed a BA(Hons) in Psychology.

If you are an alumni of the University with a story to tell, a culture to share or an experience to recount – please contact us at mag.editor@otago.ac.nz

UNINEWS

SNIPPETS

SEYCHELLES SIGNING

An agreement signed between the University of Otago and the Republic of the Seychelles will allow up to nine sponsored Seychellois students to study dentistry and medicine at Otago each year.

The University has also agreed to make places available for sponsored Seychellois students to undertake postgraduate study in educational assessment.

The agreement formalises long-term arrangements for Health Sciences education of the people of the Seychelles, and reflects the University's successful ongoing efforts to diversify its international student base.

ANATOMY MUSEUM

The University's Anatomy Museum has been named in honour of the outstanding service of Emeritus Professor William Trotter, who died last year. It is now known as the W. D. Trotter Anatomy Museum.

Professor Trotter was head of Anatomy and Structural Biology at Otago from 1969-1983. He was responsible for the first attempts to remodel the Museum into an accessible resource centre for students.

NEW MICROSCOPE FACILITIES ESTABLISHED

Science Minister Pete Hodgson recently opened the university's new Centre for Confocal Microscopy, which houses the university's two new confocal laser scanning microscopes.

The microscopes, worth more than \$900,000, allow researchers to image live cells without physically sectioning them – a major advantage in studying the dynamics of cellular function.

Associate Professor John Leader of the Department of Physiology says the microscopes are already opening up exciting new research possibilities.

A LEGACY FOR EXCELLENCE

In 1909, Thomas Hocken left £10,000 to the University of Otago. The result was the Hocken Library, one of the two major collections dedicated to New Zealand's past.

In 1943, William Evans, a local family doctor, bequeathed the residue of his estate, some £70,000, to the University. The William Evans Visiting Fellowships bring several distinguished international scholars to Otago each year.

In 2000, Priscilla Wunsch left \$3 million for scholarships to Otago for Taranaki students who couldn't otherwise afford a tertiary education.

You can read these stories and more in a new brochure called *A Legacy for Excellence*. It explains how to leave money to the University through the specially-established University of Otago Foundation Trust. It details various types of bequests and includes a simple codicil form to attach to a will.

Making a donation through a will is a powerful way of supporting the University at a level not possible during one's lifetime. It permanently links the name of the donor, or the memory of those to whom it is dedicated, to the University.

For a copy of this brochure, please contact the Alumni and Development Office, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand, tel 64 3 479 5246, fax 64 3 4796522 or email alumni@otago.ac.nz.

WORLD-CLASS FERTILITY RESEARCHER RETURNS

University of Otago star graduate Professor Allan Herbison returns to Dunedin from the United Kingdom next month to create a new research unit at the University's School of Medical Sciences.

The University and UK-based medical charity Wellcome Trust are providing more than \$2.5 million so the eminent neuroendocrinologist can establish a Dunedin-based research unit investigating how the brain controls fertility.

Professor Herbison's research will focus specifically on discovering new treatments for infertility.

Vice-Chancellor Graeme Fogelberg is delighted one of the University's most distinguished graduates is returning to his alma mater.

"The University of Otago is committed to enhancing the quality of its research output and Professor Herbison and his research team will make a significant contribution to the University's worldwide reputation."

The Otago research unit will be located in the University's Department of Physiology.

OTAGO SCOOPS HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDING

In its best performance yet, the University of Otago won \$16.58 million, or 50 per cent, of the Health Research Council's total available funding.

Twenty-seven Otago research projects received funding for studies ranging from gene technologies in the fight against colorectal cancer to exploring attention deficit disorder in children to improving Maori dental services.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg says it is an outstanding achievement in a highly-competitive field.

"This is a stellar result for the University of Otago - one which clearly commends the superior quality of health research being conducted by our researchers."

Otago also led the way last year, receiving \$14.39 million (46 per cent) of the available funding for 17 projects.

Those results were impressive enough, but the fact that the University was able to improve its standing this year was due in part to the extraordinary efforts of Otago researchers, Fogelberg says.

"Our very best researchers really came through for us. To a one, they submitted research proposals which not only demonstrate sound science, but will potentially result in real health benefits to New Zealand society."

HOCKEN GOES HI-TECH

The University's Hocken Library, a national treasure of historical documents, has received a \$250,000 grant from the Lottery Environment and Heritage Committee.

The grant will help fund a four-year project to ensure the public has online access to the Hocken's invaluable heritage collections of archives and manuscripts.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg is delighted that the Hocken's

role as a resource for all New Zealanders is being supported.

He says it should allow for even greater public access to the "treasure trove of important materials".

Hocken Librarian Stuart Strachan says the library would have fallen further behind other national institutions in terms of access without the grant to progress the project.

"Having those archives and manuscripts fully catalogued and

searchable online will make a big difference to academic researchers and the general public who turn to the Hocken for research material," he adds.

While the Lottery grant is for two years only, the Library is free to re-apply for future funding to cover the four years it is expected to take to achieve its goal: 100 per cent computerised archiving of the archives and manuscripts collections and 50 per cent of the individual items.

UNICLIPPINGS

APPOINTMENTS

Mary Cull as Manager of OU Careers Advisory Service. She was previously a director and consultant for the Wellington-based Tall Poppies management consultancy company.

Marian Simms as Professor and Head of the Political Studies Department. Professor Simms was previously Reader in Political Science at the Australian National University.

OU Science graduate **Ross Peat** as Microsoft's New Zealand country manager, replacing another OU graduate **Geoff Lawrie**, who relinquishes the role after six years.

Professor **Frank Frizelle** of Otago's Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences as Editor of the New Zealand Medical Journal.

Ex-New Zealand cricketer **Warren Lees** as Head of Cumberland Hall of Residence. Mr Lees previously managed the Otago Boys' High School Hostel.

Colin Dawson as the first Chief Executive Officer of Otago Innovation Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Otago. Mr Dawson was a former Managing Director of the Calan Group.

OU Chemistry graduate **Nigel Kirkpatrick** as CEO of the Crown Research Institute Industrial Research Limited.

OBITUARIES

Emeritus Professor **Peter Coville**, of Pharmacy (57). Professor Coville was foundation dean of the OU Pharmacy School, and an internationally influential and respected academic and teacher.

Rev Dr **Harold Turner** (91). Dr Turner had OU's first Honorary Doctorate of Divinity conferred on him for his contributions to Theology and the University. He founded Arana and Carrington Halls, and pioneered the ecumenical student chaplaincy and later the study of New Religious Movements.

Emeritus Professor Tom Cowan, (85). First professor of Accountancy at OU and tireless advocate for a range of public interests.

ACHIEVEMENTS

University zoologist **Lloyd Spencer Davis**' book *The Plight of the Penguin* won the non-fiction category and was named book of the year in the NZ Post Children's Book Awards in March. Graduate **Sandy McKay** won the Junior Fiction Award at the same awards for her book, *Recycled*.

OU graduate **Farah Palmer** captained the Black Ferns Rugby team to its second World Cup victory. Team members with Otago connections include **Melodie Robinson**, **Annaleah Rush**, **Monalisa Codling** and **Hannah Myers**.

Five Otago researchers were honoured for their services in the Queen's Birthday and Golden Jubilee Honours list:

Professor **Jim Mann** of Human Nutrition and Medicine and Dr **Diana Hill** of Biochemistry became Companions of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM), while Professor **Erik Olssen** of History, Dr **Jean Fleming** of Anatomy and Structural Biology, and Professor **Anthony Reeve** of Biochemistry became Officers of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM). Also, OU Law graduate and Honorary Doctorate recipient **Judith Mayhew** was made Dame Commander (DBE) in the English Queen's Birthday honours list.

FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Professor **Gerald Tannock** of the OU Microbiology Department was made a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology in recognition of his international standing and distinguished scholarly achievement in this field.

Dr **Peter Crampton**, senior lecturer at the University of Otago's Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, has won a prestigious Harkness Fellowship to undertake a Johns Hopkins University-based study exploring how best to provide essential primary health care services to low-income populations.

Biochemistry junior research fellow **Kylie Drake** has received \$75,000 from BMW New Zealand Ltd, Cure Kids, and the Leukaemia and Blood Foundation towards PhD study into the genetics of childhood leukaemia.

Foundation of Science Research and Technology Bright Future Enterprise Scholarships have been awarded to **Paula Brown** for PhD study in Geography, **Amonida Zadissa** for PhD study in Biochemistry and **Suzanne Fillery** for an Honours project in Food Science.

HONORARY DOCTORATES

The University conferred Honorary degrees on two distinguished graduates: **Allan Hubbard** (HonLLD) and Dr **Christopher de Hamel** (HonDLitt). Mr Hubbard was recognised for his business success and extensive philanthropic works, while Dr de Hamel was acknowledged for his status as a widely published international authority on medieval manuscripts and early printing.

GRANTS

As well as winning \$16.58 million of the Health Research Council funding pool, OU researchers gained \$11.24 million in this year's Foundation for Research Science and Technology funding round.

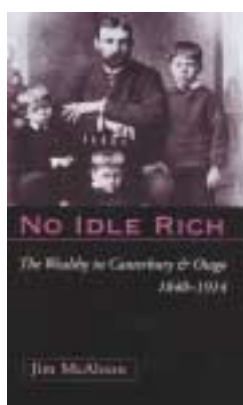
The University also received \$3.6 million from the Tertiary Education Strategic Change Fund to help fund IT developments, the new zoology building, a dental therapy programme and a Māori Affairs Adviser in the Vice-Chancellor's office.

BOOKS

LANDFALL ESSAY PRIZE WINNERS

The Landfall Essay Prize, judged by Margaret Mahy, was announced by her on National Radio in early May. Sharing the prize was Otago graduate Kapka Kassabova. Her essay, *We too are Europe* was described by judge Margaret Mahy as “factual, plain and yet poetic - arousing the sort of imaginative responses most commonly touched on by poetry or fiction”. The \$2500 prize was shared with Patrick Evans, of Canterbury University.

Lawrence Jones, Emeritus Professor of English, University of Otago, was among the finalists in the competition. His essay, *The Mushroom Cloud, the Long White Cloud and the Cloud of Unknowing*, is about moving to Otago from America in the early 1960s to escape the atom bomb, and then finding his family facing a new threat on September 11. The winning essays and five finalists, as well as artwork by Richard Killeen and the usual sample of current prose, poetry and reviews, are published in *Landfall 203: Search*, edited by Justin Paton (University of Otago Press, \$24.95).



WEALTH IN COLONIAL NEW ZEALAND

Also published in May was *No Idle Rich: The Wealthy in Canterbury and Otago 1840-1914*. The author is Dr Jim McAloon, a PhD graduate in history from the University of Otago.

Otago and Canterbury were “lands of sheep and gold” where every kind of agent rapidly prospered - bankers, merchants, clothing manufacturers, importers, solicitors, brewers, millers and stevedores.

No Idle Rich is a major contribution to New Zealand historiography, contributing to our understanding of the colonial economy, of the class structure of colonial society, and of the values and perceptions of the rich. McAloon concludes that the colonial wealthy of Canterbury and Otago were emphatically not an idle rich, but a thoroughly modern group, who lived by the capitalist values of thrift, hard work and moderation.

No Idle Rich: The Wealthy in Canterbury and Otago 1840-1914 by Jim McAloon (University of Otago Press, \$39.95).

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS OF UNIVERSITY STAFF AND ALUMNI

Rewarding Service: A History of the Government Superannuation Fund, Neill Atkinson. University of Otago Press, in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, 2002.

The Life of Brian: Masculinities, Sexualities and Health in New Zealand, edited by Heather Worth, Anna Paris and Louisa Allen. University of Otago Press, 2002.

Clothing, Textiles and Human Performance, R.M. Laing and G.G. Sleivert. The Textile Institute (UK), 2002.

Life at the Limits: Organisms in Extreme Environments, Dr David A. Wharton. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Development of Movement Coordination in Children, edited by Geert Savelsbergh, Keith Davids, John van der Kamp, Simon Bennett. Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2002.

Interceptive Actions in Sport: Information and Movement, edited by Keith Davids, Geert Savelsbergh, Simon Bennett, John van der Kamp. Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2002.

Mathematical Vistas: From a Room With Many Windows, Peter Hilton, Derek Holton and Jean Pedersen. Springer-Verlag, New York, 2002.

Essentials of Human Nutrition (second edition), edited by Jim Mann and A. Stewart Truswell (Sydney). Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002.

The Biogeochemistry of Iron in the Ocean, K.A. Hunter and D.R. Turner. John Wiley and Sons, New York.

The Plight of the Penguin, Lloyd Spencer Davis. Longacre Press, 2001.

Sport Stars: The Politics of Sporting Celebrity, D. Andrews and S. Jackson. Routledge Publishers, UK, 2001.

Female Brain, C. Darlington. Taylor & Francis.

My Father the All Black, Sandy McKay. Longacre Press, 2002.

Knowledge, Cause, and Abstract Objects: Causal Objections to Platonism, Dr Colin Cheyne. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht/Boston/London, 2001. (The Western Ontario Series in the Philosophy of Science, volume 67).

WRITTEN A BOOK LATELY?

If you are an alumni of the University and have recently produced a book, tell us about it - mag.editor@otago.ac.nz

MOOTERS DO OTAGO PROUD... AGAIN

A team of University of Otago law students has shown that it is possible to argue your way to success.

Five Otago students representing New Zealand were recently placed third in the world at a highly prestigious moot competition, the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court.

The Jessup competition is held in Washington DC and is the world's largest, most prominent moot competition. Participating students are required to analyse a legal problem based on a hypothetical international dispute and then present arguments in front of a panel of judges.

This year's competition was the largest ever, with 75 teams representing 62 countries taking part in the international rounds. Overall, 385 law schools and 1900 law students participated in the national, regional and international rounds of the competition.

The Otago team of Christopher Curran, Hamish Forsyth (oralists), Alexandra Smithyman, Reuven Young and Phillipa Jones came third equal with the United States, represented by Harvard Law School. Together with the team from Harvard, the Otago team received the most awards in the 2002 Competition.

University of Otago international law specialist Kevin Dawkins, who coached the team, believes the key to success

was a combination of team work and intensive preparation. According to team member Hamish Forsyth, taking part in the competition gives students the analytical, critical and oral skills that will set them in good stead for a career in law.

As well as coming third overall, the team won second prize in the Alona E. Evans Awards for the best set of memorials (written arguments) in the international rounds and first prize in the Richard R. Baxter Awards for the best applicant memorial throughout the entire competition. Team member Christopher Curran, who was recently awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, was also awarded a scholarship to attend Georgetown University in Washington DC for being the best non-United States oralist presenting argument on a team with the best written submissions in the international rounds.

The team's success raised the profile of the University and the Law Faculty internationally, says Faculty Dean, Professor Mark Henaghan.

"It shows that our students are as good, if not better, than any students anywhere in the world, including those at the most prestigious private universities. We are also very fortunate to have teaching staff who do this work in their own time, on top of all their other work."

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ALUMNI

COURT OF CONVOCATION

Like many universities, the University of Otago has a Court of Convocation. The Court as such never meets: its sole purpose is to elect three of its members to the University Council. The Otago Court of Convocation consists of all those who hold a degree from the University of Otago, and Diplomates who hold three-year Diplomas (the Diploma in Home Science, the Diploma in Physical Education and the Diploma in Land Surveying).

Elections to the Council by the Court of Convocation are held every four years. Any member of Council is eligible for re-election, but not for more than four consecutive terms of four years.

Elections are run under statutory requirements set down in the Election of Members of the Council Statute 1991. The requirements are published

in the University Calendar and on the University's website www.otago.ac.nz.

An election for three Court of Convocation members on the University of Otago Council will be held in November this year. Nominations will be sought in September and voting papers will be sent out in early October with the third edition of the *University of Otago Magazine*.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

If you have been contemplating a class reunion, the Alumni and Development Office can help. We organise mailings to class lists, advise on other aspects (especially if they're to be held in Dunedin) and will happily publish advance notices in the magazine or on the website. For further information, contact Karin Warnaar, Alumni Relations Officer, tel 03 479 5649,

karin.warnaar@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Otago's medical graduates have a strong tradition of class reunions and the School of Medicine has considerable experience helping with such events. If you are planning a reunion, please contact Ellen Hendry at the Department of General Practice, tel 03 479 7430. Ellen can advise on class mailing lists and on access to Dunedin campus facilities during reunions.

ST MARGARET'S COLLEGE

St Margaret's College 1953-55 reunion, to be held September 2003.

If you'd like to know more about this reunion, or could help us get in touch with other former residents, please contact St Margaret's College, tel 03 479 5543, st.margarets@otago.ac.nz or write to Dr Dorothy Page, 51 Moana Crescent, Dunedin.

Your superannuation entitlements - what you need to know

If you are a member of the Government Superannuation Fund (GSF), National Provident Fund (NPF), or a Personal Investment Fund, now is a good time to discuss your options with Russell Quin.

With New Zealand superannuation unavailable until age 65, it is important to understand your superannuation options and provisions. For example:

- How to utilise the Transfer Value option in the GSF and NPF schemes.
- How to move your GSF and NPF at retirement.
- Other issues affecting you, such as;
 - lump sum versus pension advice,
 - ideas on the assignment provision, the Property (Relationships) Act and its impact on your assets.



Russell Quin

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ALUMNI

CHEMICAL BONDING

Information for students is only a part of the new-look web pages which support Otago's Department of Chemistry community at <http://neon.otago.ac.nz/chemistry/chem.htm>. That classic chemical motif, the periodic table, provides easy navigation around staff and research information.

The table's 'elements' are links to pages which also include social reports and profiles of former chemistry students. "AI" links to an invitation to alumni to take part in an interactive network to help keep everyone in touch.

Chemistry's alumni co-ordinator Kate McGrath says the intention is to create an online community of the department's alumni and students. She encourages chemistry alumni to register on the site.

MELBOURNE FUNCTION 18 April 2002

Around 150 guests attended the Vice-Chancellor's cocktail reception for alumni held at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne.

The first University function in Melbourne for several years was very successful, and the date for the next has already been fixed. During the evening, many alumni expressed an interest in regular contact with the University. Master of ceremonies Trevor Moyle (BCom, 1972) was delighted to announce that a Melbourne alumni group will be established. A strong steering committee has already been formed to work on a programme for the future.

The group will be formally launched at a dinner on 1 August.

ALUMNI FUNCTIONS 2002

Melbourne: Thursday 1 August

Sydney: Friday 2 August
Pre-Bledisloe Cup Cocktail Reception

Kuching: Monday 5 August

Sibu: Tuesday 6 August

Kota Kinabalu: Thursday 8 August

Auckland: Thursday 29 August -
Friday 30 August

Wellington: Thursday 5 September -
Friday 6 September

Christchurch: Wednesday 18
September

Sydney: Thursday 31 October

Further details for functions will be published on the alumni web pages as they become available.



ALUMNI RESOURCES

ALUMNI BENEFITS

Otago alumni may continue to use the **University of Otago Library** resources after leaving the University. If you live in the greater Dunedin area, you may apply to the Lending Services Librarian to become an approved borrower. Visitors to the city are welcome to use the resources in the library, and some electronic services are available through the library web pages. Unfortunately, for copyright reasons, many databases are restricted to current students and staff, and library services are not available by distance. For further details on library regulations relating to alumni use, see www.otago.ac.nz/alumni.

Visitors to the University are welcome to stay at the **Executive Residence**, which offers quality accommodation at competitive rates.

Tel 64 3 479 9151 Fax 64 3 479 9180
www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/execres/

Visitors to Dunedin are welcome at many University **recreational facilities**. The **Unipol** gymnasium is open to casual users and **Recreation Services** runs a programme of leisure activities and hires out camping and sporting equipment.
www.otago.ac.nz/recreation
www.unipol.co.nz

Alumni are welcome to visit the **University of Otago's Auckland and Wellington Centres**. Facilities include extensive conference and multi-media facilities for hire, and a Human Performance Centre in Wellington.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Finding lost friends

If you'd like to contact someone from Otago you've lost touch with, the Alumni Office may be able to help you.

Under NZ privacy legislation, we can't give out addresses, but if we have current information for the person you're looking for, we will pass on your message and contact details.

You can submit your request via the web at www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/keepintouch/findinglostalumni.html

Updating your address

Please keep us informed of your current address so we can be sure to include you in University alumni activities in your area. Changing your contact details when you move is easy at www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/keepintouch/changeofaddressform.html

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