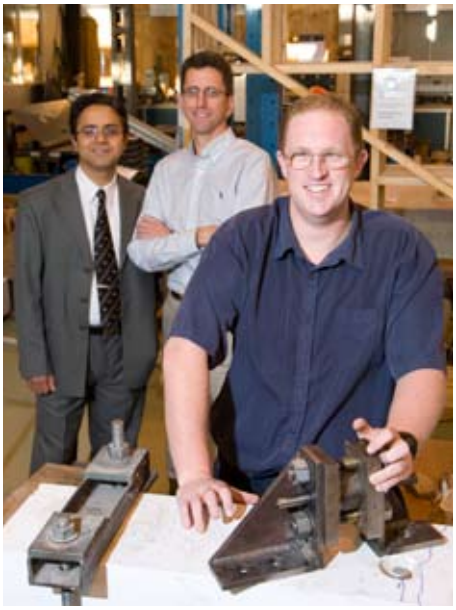
Chronicle

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha
CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

Volume 42, No. 10

Thursday, June 28, 2007

UC student's winning research set to shake up earthquake engineering



MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year category winner Geoffrey Rodgers (right) with his supervisors Dr Rajesh Dhakal (left) and Professor Geoff Chase.

Developing novel devices that virtually eliminate building damage during major earthquakes has won a University of Canterbury PhD student a major award at the MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards.

Geoffrey Rodgers has taken top honours in the Future Science and Technologies category for his invention that has the potential to absorb more energy during an earthquake.

The devices, which are small enough to fit inside building joints, cost just $100 to $200 each but reduce building movement during shaking and eliminate the need for repair or rebuilding after a quake.

The technology is aimed at reducing the impact of 7.0 - 8.0 magnitude earthquakes, the size statistically predicted to hit Wellington every 100 to 500 years.

Geoffrey, who is studying for his PhD in the departments of mechanical and civil engineering, said that while existing structural designs were effective at reducing fatalities, the resulting damage to infrastructure had a long-lasting effect on both the regional and often the national economy, often crippling a community for a decade or more.

"My work is motivated by the need for a new design paradigm that will reduce the impact of major earthquakes and ensure critical services, such as water and hospitals, are maintained. Relatively few lives were lost during big earthquakes in the 1990s in the United States, Japan and Taiwan, however economic losses from each event topped US$100 billion."

He said the devices provided a very low-cost solution to the large economic and social impacts of a major quake.

The device operates on the same principle used when children make spaghetti out of play-dough.

"In our case, we are forcing lead through the hole, not dough" said Geoffrey.

"Through careful design, this motion creates high resisting forces and dissipates large amounts of energy, helping to protect buildings fitted with the devices."

Experimental, full-scale testing and extensive computer modelling has shown 50-80% reductions in building motion during a major earthquake, equating to far more resilient cities and communities.

Geoffrey credits his success to opportunities made available to him at UC.

"The opportunities that I received to work on high level research during my undergraduate degree through summer scholarships and during my final year project were instrumental in convincing me to stay on for the PhD and this project. These experiences were important in providing me with the research and publishing experience necessary to successfully compete for this award where many finalists are at the post-doctoral level."

While his research is continuing to further improve and refine the results, Geoffrey and his supervisors, Professor Geoff Chase (Mechanical Engineering), Dr Rajesh Dhakal (Civil Engineering) and Professor John Mander (Texas A&M University), hope that these devices will ultimately be used in the building industry worldwide.

"It is hoped that Geoffrey's award will raise awareness of the need for diligent investing in resilient communities if the economic and social impacts of a large earthquake are to be minimised," said Dr Dhakal.

"The relatively low cost of the device means that this technology would be readily available to protect all types of critical infrastructure and not just those with a large financial investment," he added.

"This research is clear evidence of the potential and power of collaborating across sometimes rigid discipline boundaries — in this case including innovative design, materials engineering, structural and computational mechanics, and, most importantly, their innovative mix to create the whole research outcome," said Professor Chase.

Geoffrey's win is the latest in a string of successes for Professor Chase's students.

"Our research group is proud of the recognition our work has received at these awards as it's the third MacDiarmid winner from my team in four years over three different areas — ICT, bio-engineering and now civil/mechanical

Continued on page 2.

Inside your Chronicle

Forester 'humbled' by presentation of accolade

Associate Professor Bruce Manley with the carved trophy presented to him as 2007 Forester of the Year.

UC academic Associate Professor Bruce Manley has been named Forester of the Year by the New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF).

Professor Manley, Head of the School of Forestry, was presented with his award during a special ceremony at the school on 19 June.

Three Canterbury students were also presented with NZIF student scholarships worth $1000 each. Second year forestry science students Amanda Farrell and Erin Poulson were awarded NZIF undergraduate awards, and PhD student Justin Morgenroth received the Frank Hutchinson Postgraduate Award.

The Forester of the Year Award is presented annually in recognition of leadership and excellence in the forestry sector. It is one of the highest accolades the NZIF bestows.

Professor Manley, a Canterbury alumnus, said he felt "very humble" at being presented with the award.

"I feel very honoured to be recognised by my peers — but in a sense I feel guilty in receiving the award because I've enjoyed my time and experiences in forestry. It's really about the people in forestry and I've been lucky to work with such open people, people who are willing to contribute ideas and come together to develop something for the common good. I'm very proud to be associated with a sector like that."

NZIF President Jaquetta Bradshaw said the award recognised Professor Manley's 31-year contribution to forestry in New Zealand.

"Bruce has undertaken a number of roles for NZIF, including councillor, registration board chairman, journal editor and he remains Convenor of the Forest Valuation Working Party. His contribution to the institute was acknowledged when he was made a fellow in 2000, and this further award is richly deserved."

Professor Manley said he was drawn to forestry as a career while in high school through his love of the outdoors and his interest in science.

"I've never regretted that choice. It's a fantastic sector to work in because of the range of opportunities it provides. You can basically write your own ticket because the sector is so broad. There are career opportunities in management or research or consulting or in policy and planning," he said.

Professor Manley, whose area of expertise is forest modelling and valuation, took up his position at Canterbury in 1999, becoming head of the school in 2006. Prior to that he worked at the New Zealand Forest Research Institute in Rotorua, where he led research teams in resource evaluation and planning, and value chain optimisation. He is actively involved in international research, and has been deputy chair of the International Union of Forest Research Organisation's (IUFRO) Working Group on Large Scale Forest Inventory and Scenario Modelling since 1996.

Workshop to explore conduct of modern-day warfare

The ethics surrounding the conduct of contemporary war will be explored in a one-day workshop being held at UC on 3 July.

The Ethics of War and Peace (EWAP) Workshop, entitled "Jus in Bello: Contemporary challenges in the conduct of armed conflict", is being hosted by the School of Political Science and Communication.

Speakers include international relations expert Dr Marianne Hanson (University of Queensland), Dr Christian Enemark (Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney) and international law lecturer Alberto Costi (Victoria University).

EWAP was set up in 2004 during the Oceanic Conference on International Studies to bring together academics interested in the theoretical and practical issues of war theory and ethical issues surrounding the conduct of contemporary war.

Workshop organiser Dr Jeremy Moses (Political Science and Communication) said the issues covered in the workshop would relate to the war in Iraq and the conduct of the War on Terror.

"But it will also go beyond those topics to look at issues of humanitarian intervention, such as whether other countries should intervene in the Sudan or Zimbabwe and, if so, what kind of military intervention could be justified in these cases, and are there rules governing these kinds of actions?

"These are debates that have been going on for centuries and we're not trying to answer these questions but discuss through the day a variety of approaches to these issues and the elements that create complications."

The workshop will be divided into three sessions — Morality and Medical Ethics, Just War and International Law, and Just War in Practice — with eight papers on topics such as preventing weapons of mass destruction warfare, the accountability and protection of military contractors during armed conflict, wars of transnational liberation and humanitarian law, and the moral status of uranium weapons.

UC student's winning research

continued from page 1.

engineering, including one overall winner in 2004."

Geoffrey said he will use the $5000 prize money to present his work at an international conference and visit academics in US universities.

"This type of opportunity to publish and collaborate internationally has been an important part of the experience I have had here and opens up the potential of the work enormously."

The MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards were presented at a function in Auckland last week. The awards are organised by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology with Fisher and Paykel Appliances as principal sponsor.

Chronicle

Next Issue:	19 July 2007
Deadline:	13 July 2007
Editor:	Jeanette Colman Ext 6260 or 364 2260
Staff Writers:	Stacey Doornenbal Jane Lucas John MacDonald
Sub-editor:	Col Pearson
Photos:	Duncan Shaw-Brown Eve Welch
Artwork:	Michele Leeming
Distribution:	Kate Frew
E-mail:	comms@canterbury.ac.nz
Fax:	Ext 6679 or 364 2679
Address:	Communications and Development, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch.

UC physicist honoured as emerging science leader

University of Canterbury physicist Dr Ishwaree Neupane has been recognised as one of the country's emerging leaders in science research.

Dr Neupane is one of three scientists at the international forefront of their specialist research areas to be awarded additional funding for their work by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FoRST).

Dr Neupane, together with Dr Matthew Barnett (Nutrigenomics New Zealand) and Dr Aaron Marshall (Massey University), received the EE Dalton Award in recognition of their presentations at international conferences, collaboration with other researchers worldwide and their mentoring of young scientists in New Zealand.

The EE Dalton Awards are made from a bequest to FoRST from Elizabeth Ellen (Elli) Dalton, of Riverton, in Southland. The bequest is being used as a one-off award to recognise excellent research and emerging leadership of postdoctoral scientists.

Dr Neupane is a FoRST research fellow in UC's Department of Physics and Astronomy. His research centres on measuring and understanding the expansion rate of the universe and the nature of dark energy that accelerates the present expansion. His cosmology research and physics modelling of the universe puts him among world leaders in this field of science. His research has recently featured in *Physical Review Letters*, the journal of the American Physical Society.

Dr Neupane said he was "extremely pleased" to win the $10,000 award.

"I share this honour with all my colleagues, collaborators and graduate students at UC who have worked hard for the past few years to make this possible."

He said the award was encouragement as he worked towards his goal of playing a significant role in the development of theoretical high energy physics and cosmology.

"I want to contribute to the reputation New Zealand scientists, theoretical physicists in particular, have for 'punching above their weight and size' in the international research scene."

The EE Dalton Awards were open to scientists and researchers on FoRST postdoctorate fellowships, with the funding being available for research costs, extending the tenure of their fellowship or to attend international conferences.

The awards were presented in conjunction with the MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards in Auckland last week.

Dr Ishwaree Neupane.

Dancing with the Stars gown to aid charity

Wendy Gunther holds a gown worn by Suzanne Paul in Dancing with the Stars.

A dazzling sequined purple dress worn by Suzanne Paul in *Dancing with the Stars* has sashayed its way into the wardrobe of UC Scholarships Administrator Wendy Gunther.

However, it will not be there for long as Mrs Gunther plans to auction the dress to raise money for Ms Paul's charity, the Starship Foundation.

Mrs Gunther won the dress in the Cadbury "Win a Dress" competition. It was worn by Ms Paul, the 2007 *Dancing with the Stars* champion, during a swing waltz number in episode five of the popular television programme. Cadbury was the main sponsor of the *Dancing with the Stars* programme.

Five purple dresses, worn by the stars or their dance partners during episode five, were up for grabs. Entrants had to nominate the dress they would like and write in 200 words or less why they deserved to win it. Winners were selected by a judging panel including *Dancing with the Stars* dress designer Claire Palmer, who was responsible for creating the Cadbury purple gowns.

An avid fan of *Dancing with the Stars*, Mrs Gunther said she had wanted to win Ms Paul's dress because she was her favourite celebrity in the competition.

"Not just because she is my contemporary but she's such an awesome dancer. She has inspired me to take up dancing again to keep fit."

Mrs Gunther said she had originally planned to give the dress to her sister to wear on her 50th birthday but decided to auction it for charity when her sister opted for a low-key celebration.

"My seven-year-old grand-daughter Shania travelled to Auckland 18 months ago for a heart operation at Starship. This is an opportunity to do something that will benefit patients at the national children's hospital."

Mrs Gunther said the dress was "stunning".

"It's so glamorous with diamantes down the bodice and the velvet fabric glitters. It is a very special dress."

Scholarships

Electric Power Engineering Centre Undergraduate Scholarships worth $5000 each have been awarded to: **George Baildon**, **Stephen Butler**, **Adrian Gin**, **Timothy Hosking**, **Michael O'Brien**, **Maria Perrone**, **Sean Pollard**, **Bradley Rooney** and **Rowan Sinton**. Rowan and Maria also received the Electricity Engineers' Association Scholarship valued at $4500.

Riccarton Rotary Jubilee Scholarships worth $5000 each have been awarded to **Geoffrey Howard** and **Wilfrid McKerras**.

Awards give general staff members opportunities to upskill

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp (centre) is pictured with Vice-Chancellor's General Staff Development Award recipients (from left) Penny Moore, Joan Gladwyn, Julian Murphy, Gavin Blackwell, Craig Galilee, Beth Dunn and Antoine Monti.

Seven University of Canterbury staff members received funding to attend courses and do further study in the latest round of the Vice-Chancellor's General Staff Development Awards.

Staff development awards of up to $5000 are available every six months for general staff. They are designed to encourage and support professional development activities such as further study, specialised training, staff exchanges and conference attendance.

The latest awards were presented to the recipients by Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp at a special ceremony on 13 June.

School of Biological Sciences microbiology technician Craig Galilee will use his award to fund a visit to the International Collection of Micro-organisms from Plants (ICMP) at Landcare Research in Auckland.

Mr Galilee said the techniques he currently used to maintain and manage the University's microbiology collection were "old, time-consuming and not always suitable". His visit to ICMP will allow him to learn more about how its collection is looked after with the intention of applying those techniques and practices to the University's collection.

Julian Murphy, electronics technician in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, received funding to attend a five-day advanced training programme at the headquarters of National Instruments in Austin, Texas, in August. National Instruments is a producer of automated test equipment and virtual instrumentation software.

Mr Murphy said Mechanical Engineering had recently purchased National Instruments hardware and software solutions and the training he would receive in Austin would not only help him develop professionally but also allow him to teach others how to use the technology.

College of Science Outreach Co-ordinator Joan Gladwyn's funding will allow her to attend the 13th conference of the New Zealand Institute of Physics in Dunedin in early July.

She said the conference, which will be attended by science educators in the tertiary and secondary sectors as well as research scientists, would be a good opportunity to extend links and find out more about how to encourage more secondary school students to take up physics.

"Science Outreach will benefit in that we will gain information about how to encourage interest in physics among high school students. Additionally, discussion with physics teachers from around New Zealand will enable us to target future Outreach presentations and other activities at high school students. Ultimately, this should enable us to encourage more students to study physics at the University of Canterbury, benefiting the College of Science and the University."

Gavin Blackwell, sport science technician in the School of Science and Physical Education, will use his award to attend and present his research entitled "Comparison of Four Blood Lactate Analysers during Anaerobic Threshold Testing" at the Health Exercise Science Technicians' Association (HESTA) annual conference at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra in November.

Beth Dunn, First Year Experiences Co-ordinator in Student Advisory Services — Student Recruitment and Development Unit, will use her award to attend the 10th Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education Conference in Brisbane in early July.

Mrs Dunn said she was looking forward to meeting Australasian colleagues and developing new skills by familiarising herself with the latest research and thinking in the field of pastoral care of first year university students.

"I am delighted the Vice-Chancellor is supporting my professional development in this new role within the University."

Sociology and Anthropology IT Technician Learning Support Antoine Monti received funding to attend the annual eFest conference in Wellington on 25-27 June.

He said today's tertiary students had different and definite expectations of what, how and when they wanted to learn. This meant there was a need to make more use of online learning opportunities and technologies in course delivery.

Mr Monti said participation at the conference would help him to offer better learning support to staff.

School of Biological Sciences Administrative Assistant Penny Moore will use her award to further her Photoshop and allied imaging software training by attending courses at the National College of Design. She will use her new skills to help maintain and develop the school's website.

Up, up and away

Things have been a bit up in the air for the Department of Communication Disorders recently.

The Communication Disorders Village has been moved to a site off Montana Avenue as part of site preparation work for the construction later this year of the UCi3 Innovation Centre.

Facilities Management Director Peter Molony said two 250-tonne cranes and a sophisticated removal trailer were used to remove the nine buildings from their Creyke Road site.

"We had a great run of fine dry weather and were able to move the buildings in four days. It ran really smoothly. There was a bit of creaking and groaning but no problems overall."

The new Communication Disorders Village is accessible off Engineering Road adjacent to the Engineering Road car park.

Information evening highlights study awards available for teachers

The College of Education recently hosted an information evening to promote Teacher Study Awards to local primary and secondary school teachers.

Each year up to 150 general awards are available nationwide to primary and secondary teachers who wish to complete a qualification, improve an existing qualification or undertake research of relevance to education. Teachers can get 32 weeks paid leave to attend University for a year or up to 16 weeks to complete courses.

Jan Daley, Coordinator Educational Leadership Qualifications in the School of Educational Studies and Human Development, said 68 people attended the session on 14 June, up on last year's attendance of 28.

Andrew Huston from the Ministry of Education talked about the application process and how to optimise the chances of success. He said a key consideration for granting an award was whether the teacher had started the additional study in their own time while still teaching.

Ms Daley said there was a great success rate for those who attended the evening last year because their applications were exemplary.

"The applicants realised that they must have a well thought through study plan that had been worked out with the lecturer, which was achievable in the timeframe and was going to contribute positively to their education sector and position in their school."

Three current study award recipients were on hand to share their experiences. Carla Smith, Associate Principal of Cashmere High School; Jude Hammond, Deputy Principal of Marlborough Girls' College; and Sean Bailey, Deputy Principal of Somerfield School; all have fulltime study awards to complete their Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership.

Left to right, Jude Hammond (Marlborough Girls High), Sean Bailey (Somerfield School) Andrew Hutson (Ministry of Education) and Carla Smith (Cashmere High School) at the Teacher Study Awards information evening.

Ms Smith, who is also using her award to start on her Masters of Teaching and Learning, said being paid a salary while studying "makes it all possible".

"I had previously completed four papers towards the diploma part time so this has been a wonderful opportunity to study fulltime and really focus on my research.

"It is such a privilege to be able to focus on my professional learning and have time out from my job to reflect on my practice and my future. There is no doubt in my mind that this study leave will make me a better associate principal."

For more information on Teacher Study Awards visit www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/studyawards.

Unit's new name better reflects its functions, raises visibility

The University of Canterbury's Academic Policy and Programmes Unit (APPU) has a new name.

The unit is now known as the Academic Quality Assurance Unit to better reflect the work undertaken by the unit's staff. The new name came into effect on 11 June.

The unit, a team of four working with Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Dr Jan Cameron, oversees academic regulations, policy, programmes and processes, academic appeals and grievances, audit and overall academic quality assurance at the University.

Tasks undertaken by the unit include development, oversight and review of academic regulations and policies, internal and external programme and course approval, and advising staff on academic processes. Its overall mission is to assist the University in achieving excellence in its academic activities, and to minimise any risk associated with internal or external non-compliance.

The unit also provides administrative support to the Academic Committee, Academic Programmes Committee, Academic Board, Academic Appeals Committee and Discipline Committee.

Academic Policy and Programmes Unit manager Heather Dickie said that over the past two years the unit had taken on new responsibilities, with staff now providing a greater diversity of expertise so its old name no longer accurately reflected the work it undertook.

She said a recent review had also revealed that many UC staff did not know what the unit was or what its work involved.

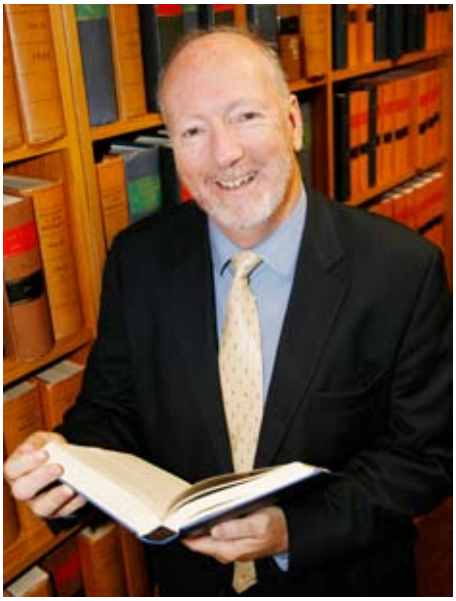
"One of the recommendations of the review was to improve the visibility of the unit and what it does. By changing the unit's name we hope to raise the unit's visibility by providing a better and more inclusive description of what the unit is all about."

Ms Dickie said that while each individual team member had their own areas of expertise, all were involved in quality assurance "and we want to be seen as a team, not as individuals".

A function was held to celebrate the establishment of the unit on Monday 11 June.

The team in the Academic Quality Assurance Unit are (back row, from left) Kelly de Lambert, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Jan Cameron, Dr Joanna Cobley, (front row, from left) Pam Grant, Heather Dickie and Elizabeth Ackermann.

Visiting expert on professional ethics of lawyers to give memorial lecture



The rules and regulations governing the professional behaviour of the legal profession will come under scrutiny next week.

Legal ethics specialist Professor Brent Cotter QC (above), the New Zealand Law Foundation's Distinguished Visiting Fellow for 2007, will deliver the Neil Williamson Memorial Lecture in Christchurch on 2 July on the topic "The evolving 'public interest' dimensions of professional ethics for lawyers".

An internationally recognised authority in legal ethics and professional responsibility, Professor Cotter, Dean of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, said there may be a need for the profession to develop new frameworks within which to operate.

"I believe there has been growing public interest in the way in which lawyers govern themselves and some of that growth has been brought about by governing failures by law societies and by virtue of the general evolution of society questioning authority," he said.

"I also think that because the public is learning more about the rules that lawyers adopt to govern their behaviour people are starting to ask questions about fundamental ethical issues and the values behind these rules."

Professor Cotter said lawyers have, historically, strongly valued and aggressively protected lawyer-client confidentiality.

"However, citizens have begun to ask questions about that confidentiality: whether in some circumstances that aggressive almost unqualified commitment to lawyer-client confidentiality goes too far and whether there are some examples where societal interests should be considered."

Examples include lawyers who learn about a client's intention to commit a crime, lawyers who come into possession of physical evidence which could be damning to a client's case or those who learn of their client's continuing financial misbehaviour.

"While there is a strong professional need to protect the lawyer-client confidentiality these are also situations where there is a public interest dimension to setting aside that confidentiality in order to protect someone from harm.

"Such situations raise questions about where the zealous protection of confidentiality ends and where some larger obligation to society begins."

Professor Cotter, who is being hosted during his fellowship by UC's School of Law, said it would be helpful to the legal profession if an ethical framework was developed so such decisions were not left to the individual lawyer to make.

"I personally don't like the idea of these decisions being left entirely to an individual lawyers' own set of values because we do have to work in some kind of reasonably consistent system."

Prior to taking up his position at the University of Saskatchewan, Professor Cotter held a number of portfolios as Deputy Minister for the Government of Saskatchewan, including deputy minister of justice, deputy attorney general, and deputy provincial secretary.

While in New Zealand he will spend four weeks at Canterbury University and a week at each of New Zealand's other law schools.

- Professor Cotter will deliver the 2007 Neil Williamson Memorial Lecture on 2 July, 6pm, in the Victorian Parkview Room, Copthorne Central, 776 Colombo St.

Web redesign completion celebrated

After redesigning more than 50,000 web pages in just 14 months, the University of Canterbury Web Team certainly has cause for celebration.

Just one day after sending the last page live, the web team was joined by about 60 web administrators from throughout the University to celebrate the completion of the Web Rebranding Project.

Web Manager Ken Beatson said the project began in early 2006 with the brief to develop a new design and then convert all standard UC internet sites.

"The top level of the UC site went live in April 2006. Since then we have been spending most of our time on converting the rest of the sites and ironing out the inevitable curls which come with a significantly different web design rollout.

"The project was helped a great deal by the foundation provided by the old UC template deployed previously in 2003-5," said Mr Beatson.

In total, 136 standard University websites have been converted involving about 50,000 individual pages.

Although the rebranding is officially complete, Mr Beatson said "there is always more work to do".

"The Staff Intranet was not part of the project and will be addressed separately later. We're developing a new style guide and further enhancements to help people get the most out of the new design."

The web team is also getting ready to trial a new Content Management System (CMS) to make updating web pages simpler and quicker.

"I'd like to say thanks again to the many people who worked with us to support the new design and make it a success. We now look forward to working more with our colleagues to make the most of the UC web and to secure our leadership position among New Zealand tertiary websites."

The Web Team raise their glasses to celebrate the completion of the Web Rebranding Project.

Flexibility powerful draw card for College of Education

Flexible learning options offered by the College of Education are providing students with an alternative to the traditional on-campus delivery of courses.

More than 1850 students are currently enrolled in Flexible Learning Option (FLO) courses and are studying towards initial teacher education qualifications in early childhood, primary and secondary teaching as well as a range of postgraduate education qualifications.

Distance Learning Co-ordinator Des Breeze said the students were based throughout the country with clusters around regional campuses in Rotorua, Tauranga, New Plymouth and Nelson.

Distance learning was first trialled by the Christchurch College of Education in 1995.

"Regional programmes were then set up in Rotorua and on the West Coast in response to requests from local educational communities concerned about the shortage of trained teachers in their areas.

"Today we provide a flexible learning service to students throughout New Zealand. In 2006 about 25 to 30 per cent of the college undergraduate student population were involved in flexible learning.

(Left to right) Roselle Bremmers, Cherie Boyd, Angie Willington and Des Breeze with some of the FLO material to be dispatched to students around the country.

"Our students tend to be mature students. They appreciate the opportunities flexible learning provides for them and they are very motivated to succeed."

FLO students complete the same course requirements as on-campus students.

"The courses are taught by the same lecturers who deliver on-campus courses at the college," said Mr Breeze.

Courses are delivered via a variety of media including print-based instructional material, audiovisual and online resources. Early childhood and primary programmes involve attendance at a College of Education campus/centre for some parts of the qualification while other qualifications such as the Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning can be studied completely at a distance.

"We were fortunate that the college had access to an instructional design team which supported lecturers to develop existing courses for flexible delivery or to write new courses and qualifications specifically for flexible delivery.

"In addition, FLO students are well supported by the Education Library which provides them with access to their excellent library and information services."

Mr Breeze heads the FLO office which includes administrators Lynette Magson and Sue Henley. The office is supported by the Dispatch Centre which manages the publication, printing and distribution of all course material. More than 10,000 items are dispatched by the centre each year. They also manage all print-based assignments and some tests which are conducted outside of the exam centres.

Founder's descendant visits Macmillan Brown Library

Felicity Brichieri-Colombi may have been on her first visit to New Zealand but she felt immediately at home at the University of Canterbury's Macmillan Brown Library.

Mrs Brichieri-Colombi is the granddaughter of Professor John Macmillan Brown who established the University's Macmillan Brown School of Pacific Studies and associated library through a generous endowment.

Walking into the Macmillan Brown Library, Mrs Brichieri-Colombi was surrounded by family heirlooms and admitted to feeling "quite overwhelmed".

Raised in Europe, Mrs Brichieri-Colombi now lives in Devon, England, but said "New Zealand has had a place in my heart all my life".

Professor Macmillan Brown was appointed professor of English and classics at the newly established Canterbury College in 1874, one of only three foundation chairs. In 1887 he married Helen Connon, the first woman to graduate MA in New Zealand and the first woman in what was then the British Empire to take the MA degree with honours. She later went on to become the principal of Christchurch Girls' High School.

Professor Macmillan Brown retired from teaching in 1895 and devoted his time to the study of Polynesian anthropology and ethnology, building up a large collection of artefacts from his regular trips to the Pacific islands. He was a member of the University Senate from 1879, vice-chancellor from 1916, and chancellor from 1923 until his death in 1935.

The couple had two daughters — Millicent, who married Archibald Baxter, and Viola who married Antonio Notariello. Millicent and Archibald's son, James K Baxter, is remembered as one of New Zealand's finest poets.

Mrs Brichieri-Colombi's mother, Viola, was an accomplished artist and while visiting the library Mrs Brichieri-Colombi was reacquainted with a preparatory watercolour her mother sketched of long-time friend Dame Ngaio Marsh about a year before she died. She later viewed the oil painting at Ngaio Marsh House in Cashmere.

"My mother and Ngaio were good friends all their lives."

At the library she was also able to view the portrait of her grandfather painted by Archibald Nicoll (1886-1953) and see the bust of Helen Connon crafted by James White.

During her visit she also met with Kyleah Traber, a first year student and recipient of a 2007 Helen Macmillan Brown Bursary.

"Staff at the library and the Centre for Pacific Studies were delighted to meet Felicity, and share with her the rich heritage bequeathed to the University by her family," said the library's assistant manager Jill Durney who organised the visit.

Mrs Felicity Brichieri-Colombi holds a preparatory watercolour her mother, Viola Notariello, sketched of her long-time friend Dame Ngaio Marsh. Behind her is the bust of her grandmother, Helen Connon.

Wide-ranging book explores human-animal relations

A new book, co-edited by a University of Canterbury academic, takes a ground-breaking look at a wide variety of human-animal relations from *King Kong* movies to people who undergo major body modification to look more like animals.

Knowing Animals, co-edited by Dr Philip Armstrong (Culture, Literature and Society) and Associate Professor Laurence Simmons (University of Auckland) has just been published by Brill Academic Publishers in the United States. It is part of the Human-Animal Studies series edited by Kenneth Shapiro, the founder and editor of *Society and Animals*, the foremost international journal in this field.

Dr Armstrong, who is co-director of the recently launched New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies based at UC, said the book arose out of a conference hosted by the School of Culture, Literature and Society (CULS) which took place in Christchurch in December 2003.

"That event was almost single-handedly organised by Professor Howard McNaughton of CULS, and was notable for the emergence of considerable interest in the area of human-animal studies. The editors decided to bring together the most interesting human-animal themed papers from the conference and also invite other chapters from major figures in international literary and cultural studies."

The book contains essays by Dr Armstrong (animal rights and agribusiness), CULS colleague and NZCHAS co-director Dr Annie Potts (extreme body modification of humans into "humanimals"), and Canterbury PhD student Tanja Schwalm (exotic animals in circuses). It also contains essays by two of the centre's high-profile international associates, radical philosopher Professor Alphonso Lingis (formerly of the University of Pennsylvania) and leading scholar of post-colonial literature Professor Helen Tiffin (University of Tasmania).

"It is one of the first volumes to deal with human-animal relations across the full range of the various interdisciplinary fields that contribute to cultural studies. It includes approaches deriving from philosophy, art history, sociology of science, literary studies, embodiment studies and film studies," said Dr Armstrong.

"The topics covered are no less wide and include the concept of animality in continental philosophy, especially the work of Jacques Derrida; phenomenology and avian intelligence; animals in literature; ideas of animality in the *King Kong* films; animals in the circus; animal rights, agribusiness and animal research; body modification and becoming-animal; extinction stories; cannibalism and human-animal relations; dog stories; Bill Hammond's bird pictures, and the use of human-animal narratives in biological control."

Knowing Animals has two more local connections: the striking cover image is taken from a painting by Canterbury Fine Arts graduate Joanna Braithwaite, and one of the chapters reproduces and discusses half a dozen paintings by Lyttelton painter Bill Hammond.

- *Knowing Animals*, edited by Laurence Simmons and Philip Armstrong, published by Brill Academic Publishers, 2007, paperback, 296 pp, 32 illustrations. ISBN 978 9004157 73 6.

Photos used with kind permission of Katzen and Catman.

PhD student Tanja Schwlam and Dr Philip Armstrong (top right) with a copy of Knowing Animals. Body modification is illustrated in the book with images of Katzen (left) and Catman (bottom right).