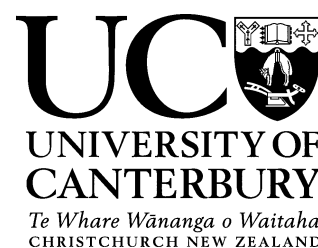


Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council



March 2023

Introduction

The end of the month marked the conclusion of the first quarter of the 2023 academic year. We are pleased to see record enrolment levels as well as the level of student engagement across the campus. UC's long-term investment in student success and distinctive degree offerings, along with the relative affordability of housing and positive perceptions of Christchurch, have resulted in significant growth in the number of new domestic school leavers changing regions to come to Canterbury. International students are also beginning to return, in sync with our recovery plan.

Our 150th anniversary cycle of events has started in earnest. Chancellor Amy Adams, Pou Whakarae Te Maire Tau, Assistant Vice-Chancellor Engagement Brett Berquist and I represented UC at a reception in Parliament hosted by the new Education Minister, the Honourable Jan Tinetti. The reception was attended approximately 100 members of government, alumni and business community leaders. Attendees met three recipients of our new Te Kakau a Māui scholarship, their success coach Angus Howat and University of Canterbury Students' Association (UCSA) President Pierce Crawley. A video featuring the scholarship students (www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZlbyaAvwVE) was well received.

Also, as part of the 150th celebrations, in the annual City to Surf event UC was one of the sponsors of the annual six-kilometre event as well as for 150 staff and students who participated. In addition to the 150 sponsored staff and students, a number of other UC staff and students also took part. The UC anniversary red t-shirts were highly visible both during the event and afterwards at the UC gathering point. Thanks to the Recreation Centre team for running a training programme for many of the participants and for hosting the UC tent alongside the 150th anniversary team. The barbecue run by the Tertiary Education Union was also very much appreciated.

Engagement

The first comprehensive assessment of UC's community impact has now been released to the public. The full report was shared with UC staff on the intranet in late February and the report is now live at www.canterbury.ac.nz/about/community-impact-report. Plans are in development to host events in Christchurch and in the region to share this report with community stakeholders.

One of the highlights of the community impact report is the positive public perception of the Student Volunteer Army (SVA). Over 500 UC volunteers put in the hard work at Dallington Landing for the UC SVA Big Give on Saturday 4 March. The club provided some much-needed weeding and mulching to native plants. After the morning's volunteering, everyone came together at the hub space to bond over good music, kai from the barbecue, and extraordinary company.

We continue our sponsorship of the Young New Zealander of the Year Award. This year's finalists were: Elliot Jones, who is transforming the way New Zealanders think about dyslexia; Georgia Latu, the co-

founder and CEO of the largest poi manufacturer in the world; and the winner was Shaneel Lal, who spearheaded the movement to end conversion therapy in New Zealand. At the Gala Dinner in Auckland on 30 March, a table of eight UC guests was hosted by the Assistant Vice-Chancellor Engagement Brett Berquist and Director of Advancement Thea Kleiber.

The UC Connect public lecture series drew members of the public and our campus community to three Tauhere talks:

- 15 March: “Run It Straight: Towards a Nurturing Masculinity in Polynesian Men” by Senior Lecturer Dr Phil Borell (Ngāti Ranginui, Pirirākau), Aotahi – School of Māori and Indigenous Studies
- 21 March: “The Quest for Alien Worlds and Life Beyond Earth” by UC Erskine Fellow Professor Ray Jayawardhana of Cornell University
- 29 March: “Medicine + Marketing: Pandemic Lessons on Healthcare, Technology, and Reality in a Pandemic” by UC Erskine Fellow Professor Stacy Wood from North Carolina State University and Professor Ekant Veer, UC Business School.

A new book by Emeritus Professor Elisabeth McDonald, which was launched in Parliament on 8 March, analyses prosecutions of intimate partner rape with the aim of improving the trial process for complainants. Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence, Hon Marama Davidson, attended the launch and responded to the findings.

Staff from the School of Earth and Environment (SEE) have been assisting with the response to Cyclone Gabrielle on the East Coast of the North Island. Professor James Brasington, Technician Paul Bealing and Postdoctoral Fellow Justin Stout are involved in LiDAR surveys that are determining the scale of deposition and erosion in Hawke’s Bay. Disaster, risk and resilience staff are heavily involved with recovery and research: Professor Tom Wilson is fully seconded to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Dr Tom Robinson, SEE staff and students are mapping landslides.

A contingent of 20 UC Aerospace club members and staff, supported by the Mechanical Engineering department, participated in the New Zealand Rocketry Association National Launch Day on 5 March, held near Hamilton. Of the [eight rockets](#) the club launched, the highlight was a test launch of the rocket that will compete at the 2023 Spaceport America Cup in June. The Spaceport rocket achieved the target altitude of 28,500 feet (about 8,687 metres). Valuable test data captured during the launch will be used to optimise the rocket’s performance at the competition. (Read more about [the event and the New Zealand Rocketry Association](#).)

SEE students visited Ōtautahi’s newest constructed wetland, Te Kuru, along with 60 engineers, consultants, planners and urban-water enthusiasts. One aim of the Christchurch City Council project is to manage surface water in the Heathcote Valley to try to mitigate inner-city flooding along the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River.

In February the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences ran its first month of radioactivity workshops for the year for secondary school students. Already, all 2023 sessions are almost fully booked. These workshops assist students with the physics achievement standard 91172 and give them access to technology they would not be able to engage with otherwise.

The Minister of Health has appointed Dr Lindsey Te Ata o Tū MacDonald (School of Language, Social and Political Sciences) to the National Ethics Advisory Committee on health and disability research and services.

Dr Misty Sato, Acting Executive Dean of Education, and Maraea Turketo, Partnership Development Manager in the Faculty of Education, attended the sod-turning ceremony for long-standing school partner Elmwood Normal School in Christchurch on 14 February. The sod-turning signals the beginning of the rebuild of this primary school, sponsored by the Ministry of Education.

Associate Professor Cathy Andrew (Faculty of Health, Acting Executive Dean) attended the MedTech Showcase at Parliament, where Distinguished Professors Maggie-Lee Huckabee and Geoff Chase presented their innovations. Opened by Minister of Health the Honourable Ayesha Verrall, the event was an opportunity to bring together universities, Crown research institutes, healthcare providers, innovators and commercialisation partners with displays and networking opportunities.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future Focused

Throughout the first term, it has been pleasing to see the students making the most of being on campus. This term has seen a number of initiatives around the University to build cohorts and a sense of belonging. Experiential learning and engagement activities, with both classmates and external stakeholders, have made for an exciting start to the year.

The UC Law and Criminal Justice students have had a very special engagement opportunity. The Supreme Court, which was sitting in Christchurch from 20–23 March, has initiated a Student Engagement Programme, arising from one of the two appeals the Court heard, and invited the Faculty of Law to participate. In taking part in the Student Engagement Programme, students were able to view a short, curated video involving counsel from the case online in the week before the hearing. In addition, reserved seating in the courtroom was available for 30 students to attend three sessions across the two sitting days of the appeal (20 and 21 March) and a group of 30–35 invited students plus academic staff could attend a Q&A panel discussion.

Digital Screen students had their first taste of industry opportunities during the inaugural event of the Industry Speaker Series on 7 March 2023. They had the opportunity to engage with industry professionals, learn about their career trajectories and ask questions. After Corban Te Aika opened the event, Sam Witters (Digital Screen Programme Director) made a presentation, sharing insights from her personal journey in the digital screen industry. To conclude the evening, Professor Kevin Watson (Faculty of Arts) addressed the academic and campus vision. The second speaker in the series was creative director, writer and filmmaker, Ian Sweeney who has won many awards for his fun, cheeky and engaging content. He gave examples of his work that has been seen all around the world, explaining how he writes and shapes each script for advertising, content, commercials, music videos and how the audience fall in love with the characters he creates, including Dave the goose from Air New Zealand. The third speaker was James Partridge – Film Producer / Film Festival Director / Marketing Strategist, held on Tuesday 21 March. The talk took the form of a fireside chat with the focus being on the world of film distribution. The students asked many questions, and were fascinated by how movies, television programs and short films make it to the big screens of cinemas, Netflix, and streaming platforms at a global scale. James also shared various examples of his work, what genres appeal to various audiences and in different countries and he encouraged the students to get involved with their studies and networking opportunities here at UC.

Cohort building within faculties has also been in full swing with group inductions and social activities. For instance, the Mechanical Engineering department included a simple design challenge in the 3rd year induction. The purpose of the challenge was to enable students to build whanaungatanga (close connection) within the cohort after two years that were full of interruptions due to COVID-19. Groups of students were challenged to build the tallest tower in 12 minutes, given only four pieces of A4 paper and 70cm of masking tape. This task was too easy for some: the two winning groups both managed to build a structure that touched the roof!

Concentration on first-year academic success to give students a strong foundation for tertiary study continued to be a focus as the first term progressed. Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (PALS) got off to a big start in 2023, as the teaching and student community became familiar with the programme and its benefits. Offerings have been widened to support almost all major courses across most faculties. In week

one alone, 293 students took advantage of PALS in one of its 12 programme offerings. PALS leaders report a significant upswing in interest in the programme and attendance is tracking well.

Likewise, Te Kakau a Māui scholars are participating in the various touchpoints of the programme. Social sessions have been run to connect scholars with their homebase groups. As the term progressed, success coaching began, along with career development learning opportunities. It was special to have three of the scholars attend the UC parliamentary event in Wellington (see the Introduction for more detail).

Students have also been supported in their learning this year with the introduction of workplace safety education. In response to student requests, the Ako ā-Mahi team, in collaboration with Future Learning and Development, the School of Psychology, Speech and Hearing, and Māori and Pacific teams, developed their first online module to support students during their work-integrated learning (WIL) experiences – *Bullying and Harassment Awareness for Work Placements*. Feedback from students has been positive: 95% of students who completed it found it useful, and 95% agreed they are more likely to seek help if they encounter bullying or harassment during a placement. The pilot in the School will be rolled out more widely as experiential learning and workplace experiences continue to expand.

In addition to student development, for the first time Future Learning and Development, in partnership with Ako ā-Mahi, is offering three Distributed Leadership in Teaching Programme fellowships targeted at enhancing institutional capacity in WIL. The topics for applicants to consider are:

- developing a whole-student approach to WIL pedagogy at UC – considering the pedagogy of the human being, with a focus on habits of mind, heart and hand
- enhancing the first-year student experience with professional and experiential learning opportunities in a virtual or blended classroom
- how you can meaningfully build career development learning and WIL into a programme curriculum.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

March has been a very busy month for research, with a peak of research proposal submissions to the Royal Society Te Apārangi and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), announcements of UC academic award recipients, and a series of international delegation exchanges.

Five UC academics have been elected as Royal Society Te Apārangi Fellows in recognition of their outstanding research contributions and leadership nationally and internationally. Te Apārangi has announced that Professor Jennifer Adams (astronomy), Professor Brendon Bradley (earthquake engineering), Professor Bronwyn Hayward (political science and climate change adaptation), Professor Brett Robinson (agricultural science) and Professor Te Maire Tau (iwi history) are receiving this prestigious honour. They represent the largest number of UC awardees of this Fellowship in any one year. Internationally renowned UC graduate, economist Professor David Teece (and currently the Thomas W Tusher Professor in Global Business at the Haas School of Business, Berkeley), was also elected a Royal Society Te Apārangi Honorary Fellow.

Professor Tanja Mitrovic of Computer Science and Software Engineering was recently inducted as a Fellow of the Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education (APSCE). The title of APSCE Fellow acknowledges sustained and distinguished academic contributions to the advancement of research in the field of computers in education at the international level and a strong record of accomplishment in academic networking and services within the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Santiago Pujol, Professor in CNRE, has received the 2023 Arthur J Boase Award from the Concrete Research Council, who recognised him for his outstanding research and contributions to the structural concrete field. The Arthur J Boase Award was established in 1971 in memory of a former chairperson of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) Building Code Committee and American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Committee on Masonry and Reinforced Concrete, two committees that have since become the Concrete

Research Council. This honour is being bestowed specifically for Dr Santiago's contributions to the use of high-strength steel in reinforced concrete members. Santiago will be presented with his award during the ACI Spring 2023 Concrete Convention from 2–6 April 2023, at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square, in San Francisco, California, USA.

The research sector across Aotearoa New Zealand has both been invited to contribute to and proactively offered insight into the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. UC has been especially responsive given its expertise in this area. MBIE has written to all universities and Crown research institutes, foreshadowing requests over March for expertise in the response to the extreme weather event and announcing a reprioritising of \$10 million in funding through to June 2023 for this effort. Government and the research sector are anticipating a national approach akin to the response to COVID-19, where research and expertise could make a substantive difference. The letter specifically mentions the University of Canterbury and its near-immediate initiative to undertake detailed optical LiDAR mapping of land sliding, and zones of erosion and deposition across the East Coast region. This team, led by Professor James Brasington and working with Christchurch Helicopter Limited, was in the field within days of the cyclone. In surveying the Esk Valley and hinterland catchment, Aropaoanui and Tukituki rivers, and parts of Tairāwhiti, the team covered some 1,500 square kilometres in total with vertical resolution to 1 centimetre. Comparison with pre-cyclone digital terrain models has enabled mapping of both erosion and deposition zones. The scale of the disaster is highlighted by the finding that silt deposition equivalent to 200,000 truckloads occurred within the lower Esk Valley alone.

Professor Tom Wilson (School of Earth and Environment) has had his current secondment as the Chief Science Advisor to NEMA extended to 100% of his time while various government agencies develop plans to understand both the short- and long-term impacts of the cyclone. Tom has extensive experience and expertise in disaster risk and resilience.

Similarly, Professor Rien Visser (School of Forestry) has been invited to provide expert advice to the ministerial enquiry into forestry slash, as well as to other entities including forestry companies, regional councils and non-governmental organisations, about how timber clearance waste – or 'slash' – relates to harvest operations and forest catchment management principles. Distinguished Professor David Schiel (School of Biological Sciences) and Professor Chris Battershill (University of Waikato) have commented on the impact of sediment from Hawke's Bay erosion (and forestry operations) on the marine environment generally and on coastal rocky reef communities in particular. They are co-investigators of an MBIE research project examining land-sourced impacts on the marine environment, in partnership with iwi and resource managers.

The annual Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) subject rankings have been announced recently. UC now has three subjects in the top 100 globally, as Geography has joined Civil Engineering and Linguistics in this category. Among other subjects covered in QS rankings, Agriculture and Forestry, Geology, Geophysics, Earth and Marine Science, and Politics and International Studies rank in the top 200, while Education, Communication and Media Studies, and Law are in the top 250. UC is strongest in the broad fields of Engineering and Natural Sciences, where it ranks second nationally, while the broad fields of Arts and Humanities, Social Science and Management, and Life Sciences and Medicine have lower national rankings.

The International Research Network (IRN) is a new metric within QS rankings, measuring subjects by their degree of international co-authorship. UC's highest-scoring subject area for IRN is geophysics (which encompasses engineering geology and geotechnical earthquake engineering research) from QuakeCoRE, the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering and the School of Earth and Environment.

Academic and employer surveys are currently open for the 2024 QS rankings. QS institutional rankings are set to be announced on 7 June this year, followed by attendant subject rankings this time next year. The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact rankings will be announced on 30 May.

International collaboration continues to develop. As part of expanding collaboration and cooperation between the United States and New Zealand in space and aerospace, New Zealand signed the Artemis Accords in 2021, and more recently a Space Agreement between the two countries in late 2022. Additionally, during a tour of New Zealand, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator Bill Nelson and Deputy Administrator Pamela Melroy visited UC along with Minister the Hon Ayesha Verrall and New Zealand Space Agency officials over two days. UC presented on a suite of current joint UC and NASA projects: supporting Rocket Lab and its involvement in the Artemis Project; new sensor development for hydrological monitoring; biotechnology developments in micro-gravity; use of Antarctic observation of Earth; near-Earth asteroid detection and interception; and adaptive-optical satellite tracking from Mt John Observatory. More broadly the presentation covered sustainability issues of rocket launching and space situational awareness. During the visit, UC science student Leah Albrow was one of five Kiwi postgraduate students awarded a 12-week internship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, supported by the government-funded New Zealand Space Scholarship programme.

The US delegation also visited a number of local city aerospace innovation companies (eg, Kea Aerospace and Dawn Aerospace). These companies have expanded dramatically in recent years, thanks in large part to the contribution of UC graduates. Nationally, the New Zealand aerospace sector, including 16 private innovation aerospace companies based in Christchurch, is worth \$1.75 billion in annual revenue.

The US Ambassador to New Zealand, Mr Tom Udall, has recently visited UC's Mt John Observatory at Takapō, hosted by Dr Michele Bannister (School of Physical and Chemical Sciences) and postgraduate research students. Dr Serena Kelly travelled to Bangkok for the launch of the large new UC grant, called "EU in the Indo-Pacific", held by the National Centre for Research on Europe. This prestigious grant involves 27 international partners.

Publication in prestigious journals is ongoing. This month in *Nature Communications*, UC's Biomolecular Interaction Centre team, working with Italian, Swedish and US collaborators, has published on substrate-binding proteins with relevance to pathogenesis and antimicrobial resistance.

Te Kura Tāura | Graduate School continues to progress well. The Academic Board has now endorsed a new Supervision Policy for promulgation in April. Promising advances are also evident in doctoral recruitment, as well as orientation and induction programmes for newly arrived students.

UC will partially sponsor the annual, Christchurch-based Food, Fibre and Agritech Challenge. This eight-week pre-accelerator, with a \$30,000 cash prize pool, is designed to equip individuals or teams with the tools, resources and support they need to commercialise their research. The programme includes mentorship from industry experts and access to a wide network of resources. UC's Research and Innovation team is actively encouraging UC academics to submit ideas with potential commercial application.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

The annual University and Tertiary Sport New Zealand Championship Series is under way. A number of Faculty of Health staff are supporting UC teams with preparation, coaching and sports analysis. The 2023 series will see the continuation of inter-tertiary rivalries across New Zealand's eight universities and in eight sports, with points from each event accumulating towards the overall National Championship Shield and National Spirit Award – Te Kaitiaki. UC, which mounted a serious challenge against the University of Auckland in both 2021 and 2022, is hoping for another successful year after coming tantalisingly close to taking the overall series win last year.

The Faculty of Health has facilitated a number of short videos shared UC-wide on Tū ki te tahi, promoting biking for health, wellbeing and sustainability. Alongside these promotional videos, cycle workshops have been run for staff to gather and share their love of cycling and gain confidence with cycle maintenance.

The Recreation Centre has begun Run Canterbury for 2023. This programme, which has been operating for over 20 years, is targeting the Selwyn Half Marathon on King's Birthday Weekend this year. The Centre now collaborates with the Ugly Boys Running Group (a subsidiary of Lads Without Labels), which sees just over 100 students and staff meeting at the Centre for training runs twice a week.

It is encouraging that participation levels at the gym are returning to pre-COVID levels. From the start of term 1 (20 February) until 20 March, it had 27,951 visits. It typically sees over 1,100 visits a day, particularly on weekdays. The gym's 6,810 members include approximately 6,500 students.

The Student Care team has held a range of orientation talks with faculties to outline the services that it can provide for students. It has also delivered drug and alcohol awareness training for the taurima and residential assistants of all halls. Similar training has been run for the UC wellbeing navigators, students with the role of connecting peers with UC's wellbeing services. Student Care has also worked with the wellbeing navigators to workshop their role in supporting students in distress – initial assessment, intervention and referral.

UC and the UCSA ran a catered event to show manaaki for our Iranian student community in acknowledgement of the events that have been unfolding in Iran since September last year. With internet blackouts and social media restrictions, communication between students here and their families in Iran has been challenging. This has had an impact on our Iranian students. Student Care has been providing pastoral support and access to financial assistance.

The Director of Equity and Student Wellbeing, Gilbert Taurua, was invited to join a government delegation to Vienna to take part in a United Nations conference on Indigenous-Led Harm Reduction, a forum focusing on substance abuse issues. He participated in bilateral and trilateral discussions with other nations including Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and the US, and was one of the conference speakers.

Senior Lecturer David Bell has recently celebrated 50 years with UC. After being appointed to Geological Sciences in November 1972, less than a decade later he helped establish Engineering Geology, which remains the only programme of its kind in Australasia. Over his time at UC, David has supervised or taught most engineering geologists in New Zealand and many in Australia. The event celebrating his 50 years included numerous tributes from his ex-students, many of whom are now industry leaders. Sandy Ormiston, from his original graduate student cohort, gave a keynote address. About 70 people attended in person while many more connected online to hear David give a personal overview of Engineering Geology in Australasia and prospects for the future. He continues to teach engineering and resource geology at undergraduate level.

To complement the online staff onboarding process, we have held a series of 'pop-up' sessions for new staff to gather and discuss with the relevant UC colleagues a range of issues that they might be working on as they settle into UC. It is an opportunity to meet each other and to interact with experts on issues such as UC's digital systems, immigration, wellbeing, health and safety, and professional development. While these forums are open to all staff, they are particularly targeted at new academics who have joined us for the start of Semester 1.

People and Culture team has been running a series of workshops for leaders on courageous conversations. These workshops provide practical skills to deliver honest, constructive and strategic feedback in order to help staff model UC's values and build a team culture of kotahitanga. Participants learn about communicating candid feedback in a non-threatening and constructive manner.

Staff have also had a range of opportunities to enhance their wellbeing. Notably they have been able to take part in a seminar entitled "Practical Tips to Counter the Cost-of-Living Crisis", an "Assistive Technology" workshop about software to help maintain quality and consistency of work, a "Menopause Café" gathering, and a neurodiversity webinar.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

On 2 March, UC held a second international orientation event for late-arriving international students, recognising that government delays in visa processing have had an impact on some students, and ensuring that all international students receive the onboarding support they need.

UC hosted President Hitoshi Takahashi and Chairman Taiji Hozawa of Sendai University, Japan, to celebrate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that continues our longstanding engagement with Sendai University in broad areas of research and teaching.

UC and Faculty of Health sports staff hosted a delegation from the German Sports University (GSU) of Cologne on campus this month. The delegation included the President (Vice-Chancellor), Vice-President (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and International Director of GSU and was hosted by School of Health Sciences Emeritus Professor Ian Culpan, who has taught into the GSU of Cologne's International Masters in Olympic Studies Programme since 2013. As staff in the two universities have had a long-term academic relationship, the delegation was an opportunity for them to further strengthen established joint research initiatives, collaboratively influence global policy formation, contribute to programme teaching, look at establishing a staff exchange programme and discuss other possible initiatives for the future.

UC hosted senior leaders from the US-based Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP). This alliance, funded by the US National Science Foundation, aims to increase the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded to historically marginalised populations. Agreeing on a similar vision, LSAMP and UC seek to increase access to international research opportunities for historically marginalised students.

Professor Megan McAuliffe led a delegation to Vietnam to explore the development of research and research training partnerships with Vietnamese universities, and Project 89 funding from Vietnam's postgraduate scholarship scheme, as well as to represent UC at Universities New Zealand events held during this trip. This activity is necessary to support the deepening of UC's in-market footprint for future Vietnam recruitment activity, particularly in relation to postgraduate research and research training.

Dr Graham Wise, the UC Director of International Development, has taken up the position of Board Chair of Christchurch Educated. This international education body helps UC to engage with international education industry stakeholders in the Christchurch region.

Director of Student Recruitment Ryan Thomas travelled through Southeast Asia as part of the Universities New Zealand International Committee delegation. Led by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waikato, Professor Neil Quigley, the delegation was a follow-up to the delegation last year led by the then Minister of Education, the Rt Hon Chris Hipkins. This year's delegation included a courtesy call to the Ministry of Higher Education in Malaysia to discuss a number of potential collaborations with the Deputy Secretary-General (Public Policy) and a visit to Lembaga Pengelola Dan Pendidikan in Jakarta to strengthen the opportunity of students sponsored by the Indonesian Government. New Zealand alumni functions were also held Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. After this visit, the delegation attended the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education Conference in Bangkok.

Dr Serena Kelly travelled to Bangkok for the launch of the large new UC grant, called "EU in the Indo-Pacific", held by the National Centre for Research on Europe. This prestigious grant involves 27 international partners.

The Erskine Programme has 68 visiting Fellows from around the globe scheduled for 2023. It hosted a very successful morning tea to welcome the Term 1 visitors on 15 March.

Experience Canterbury and the West Coast is a new initiative to increase full-fee equivalent full-time students (EFTS) and is available to Study Abroad students who take at least two science courses in Semester 1. Over the weekend, students stayed at the Cass and Westport field stations to learn about the geology and history of the areas. Highlights were visiting Castle Hill, Arthur's Pass, Punakaiki and Tauranga Bay, and hearing from West Coast locals, including an ecotourism guide and Buller District Mayor Jamie Cleine. The experience will be offered to the second semester Study Abroad students and will be marketed to Study Abroad partners for students in 2024.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

Since 2012 Anne Wignall has generously provided annual funding for the Pukemanu Centre for Child and Family Psychology Services. Over the last few years, she has given \$50,000 each year towards: scholarships for interns and summer fieldwork scholars in the clinic; a salary for a child and family psychologist to work with preschoolers to help prevent greater difficulties down the track; resources for parents; and professional training for staff in the clinic.

For the year March 2023 to the end of February 2024, Anne's funds will be going to: two internships of two days per week, each lasting six months and together covering the whole year; a summer fieldwork scholarship for four days per week from November to the end of February (14 weeks); and funds for staff to continue to provide a preschool intervention service 1.5 days per week over the year.

Student enrolment numbers for 2023 are looking very positive. Domestic students EFTS are up 4.6% (619 EFTS) from 2022 levels and international student EFTS are up 70.4% (406 EFTS). This will have a positive impact on budgeted revenue outcomes as the budget expectation was for only a small increase in total EFTS.

The Digital Services and Ako ā-mahi | WIL teams have been progressively training and rolling out the new WIL platform this quarter to the Faculty of Education. Training has also commenced for the Faculty of Science, with rollout planned for quarter 2. This platform will allow UC to significantly improve placement management and roll out effective processes to ensure the wellbeing and safety of students while learning through work.

The audited Annual Report is expected to be signed off at Council on 12 April, so the Accounting, Audit and Tax team is now starting to shift focus to other priorities and also preparing for a holiday break after financial year-end.

Environmentally Sustainable

In late February, three members of Facilities Management attended professional development relating to new sustainability reporting frameworks. A particular focus was on new New Zealand Climate Standards released by the External Reporting Board.

The Aotearoa Bike Challenge saw high staff engagement throughout February: together 14% of UC staff cycled over 58,000 kilometres. As a result, the University came first in New Zealand for tertiary education organisations, second in Christchurch for large organisations, and third overall in New Zealand for large organisations. The UC Cycle Plan 2023–2030 is currently out for consultation and the final version is expected in April. During February, FM electricians provided electrical supply to the secure bike parking facilities at Central lecture theatres and Engineering to facilitate e-bike charging.

Building on the second-place finish of last year's team, a group of Mechanical Engineering students are competing in the US Department of Energy 2023 Solar Decathlon. This year, the team is competing in the New Housing division of the Design Challenge. Over 20 universities competed in this division at the semi-final event, held virtually on 24–25 February. The top 10 entries were selected to participate in the

competition's final round. The UC team was among those selected and will compete at the finals event held from 20–23 April at the National Renewal Energy Lab (NREL) Headquarters in Golden, Colorado, USA.