
April 2023

Introduction

Term one ended with wonderful celebrations of graduation in the week of 4 April, with special Māori and Pasifika celebrations held on Wednesday 5 April. We had 1150 graduates, approximately 3750 whānau and friends, 115 Council members, staff and volunteers attend our three University of Canterbury Celebrations at Christchurch Arena. Four honorary doctorate recipients gave inspiring graduation addresses and graduates reflected the range of degrees on offer at UC and, importantly, highlighted UCs commitment to life-long learning with learners across ages and stages of life.

After a short break, it is heartening to welcome the students back to campus. There have been a number of student events marking the start of the second term and I was pleased to attend part of Oceania Feast on 29 April hosted by the University of Canterbury Global Society (UCGS) in partnership with Te Akatoki, CUSSA, Tongan, Fiji, Cook Islands, PNG, Solomon Islands and Pacifica development team at UC celebrate the diverse culture of Oceania.

150th anniversary celebrations gained momentum this past month with a series of events in the City. To mark the beginning of graduation week and to celebrate our 150th Anniversary, a street parade was held in the central city. Mayor of Ōtautahi Christchurch, Phil Mauger spoke at the parade about the importance of Graduation and the University to the city and region as a whole. Pro-Chancellor Shayne Te Aika delivered a speech that acknowledged the university's 150th and congratulated the graduates and UCSA President Pierce Crowley proposed a toast.

One of the films produced on the Digital Screen campus using the temporary Virtual Production studio set up in the Jack Mann building early last year has won the Best Visual Effects award at the Poppy Jasper International Film Festival in California. The short film title 'Time Tourists' was produced by local company Resonate in association with CerebralFix, UC, ChristchurchNZ and Pixel solely using virtual productions techniques.

Engagement

Nearly 500 people attended the Chancellor's fundraising gala dinner on 27 April at Te Pae, which raised over \$260,000 towards the Te Kakau a Māui scholarship programme. UC alumna, Miriama Kamo, served as master of ceremony and interviewed several scholarship recipients. At the event, John McCall MacBain announced a gift of over \$1 Million in support of the scholarship (\$825 000 from the McCall MacBain Foundation with a further \$200,000 donated by UniLodge). Flags and banners marking the 150th anniversary line Cashel Street and on the 27th several buildings and the airport were lit in red. Ten photo boards are on display on High Street highlighting the history of the university.

The next day, Professor Ian Wright hosted a fundraising golf tournament at Russley Golf Course. Eight teams were supported by several corporate sponsors. On Friday evening, I had the privilege of participating in UC's Community Feast when over 300 people gathered, bringing together Ōtautahi's food sustainability network with UC researchers, local government members including Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter and the public. Guests shared a hangi by Grenville Ratima (Ngāi Tūāhuriri) with salads and desserts by Green Dinner

Table and preserves and pickles by the Canterbury Community Gardens Association. A series of videos on social media highlighted food sustainability issues (UC expertise and community action) to expand the conversations beyond the event itself.

On Saturday, UC Rugby celebrated 150 years of UC and 140 years of UC Rugby with a special cake. With All UC our teams played at home from 11.00am. UC played Lincoln for the Hart-O'Reilly Trophy (named after the legendary pioneer of Women's rugby in New Zealand, our Laurie O'Reilly) and won the Trophy for first time in over a decade. The Chancellor was there to celebrate and present the trophy. That evening, I attended a service of thanksgiving at the Transitional Cathedral organised by Senior Ecumenical Chaplain the Reverend Dr John Fox with The Right Reverend Dr Peter Carrell, Bishop of Christchurch, officiating. On May 2nd, over 2,000 community members and alumni attended talks on UC research across the city, including Lincoln and Lyttleton, in our inaugural Raising the Bar event. Thank you to our academic speakers.

UC is visible in external advertising across the city and country with an evolution of the longstanding "UCME" campaign. This year's edition focuses on student choice and uses the UC logo lockup for the 150th anniversary. The ad will appear through September to support the school leaver recruitment campaign.

The UC Teece Museum ran successful outreach programmes over the school holidays with Christchurch City Libraries and Selwyn District Libraries introducing 7–12-year-olds to the Logie Collection and Greek mythology.

Te Kaupeka Ako | Faculty of Education celebrated 25 years of delivering teacher education in Whakatū | Nelson at the Nelson Centre of Music Arts on 2 March. The evening was attended by past students, directors, managers and friends of the former Christchurch College of Education and our current Te Kaupeka Ako | Faculty of Education, as well as mana whenua, Waihaere Mason and Karen Wells supported by Apitoni Filiai.

UC was successful in its bid to host the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), expected to bring more than 1,000 international delegates to Christchurch in July 2024. Professor Donald Matheson led the academic content working closely with UC Events, Christchurch NZ, and Tourism NZ.

Dr Lindsey MacDonald (Language, Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts) has been appointed to the New Zealand Police Expert Panel on Emergent Technologies. This is an external, independent, expert panel providing advice and oversight from an ethical and policy perspective of emergent technologies. See <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/programmes-and-initiatives/police-use-emergent-technologies/advisory-panel-emergent>.

Civil and Natural Resources Engineering recently opened the exhibition of its Architect in Residence, Matthew Dudzik. "Collective Convergence" sheds light into the strength, unity, and beauty in Aotearoa New Zealand. The artworks will be on display until the 12th of April 2023 in UC's central library – Puaka James-Hight building.

Dr Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Health has been appointed by the New Zealand Government as co-chair to design a survivor-led independent redress system for historic abuse in care.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future Focused

Colleagues across campus have welcomed students back and it has been pleasing to hear that students continue to engage with their lectures and social and study activities. Term two also saw new Erskine Fellows joining us. While fewer than term 1, with five new fellows joining, it is a pleasure to welcome them to campus. The start of term two also coincides with new developments being put forward to the

Committee for University Academic Programmes (CUAP). Of particular note was the approval of the first fully online degree, the Master of Organisational Psychology. Psychology has led the way with online development producing successful MOOCs and then Micromasters, extending to the full degree.

Student success continues its strong focus at UC. Under the governance of Kia Angitu, Te Kakau a Māui scholarship programme is well underway, having had a very successful Term one. Fourteen staff volunteers have now conducted their first (of many) homebase meetings with around 12-13 students in each group. The scholarship recipients have also participated in Careers and Success Coaching sessions. Participation has been vibrant, and student feedback indicates the high value of the programme in supporting their transition. Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (or PALS) continues to deliver success for Kia Angitu. Recent analysis revealed that in courses that offered PALS last year, attendees were 2.3 times more likely to be retained into 2023 than non-attendees. There has been a step change in delivery of PALS offerings such that in 2023 it will be available to 89% of the first years, resulting in a wide reach across the first-year cohort.

An additional scholarship, The Aho Hinatore scholarship is opening in mid-May and will be granting up to 70 scholarships for the academic year 2023/2024. This esteemed scholarship aims to support the most talented students who are either currently enrolled or have recently completed their studies. 57 Scholarships were awarded for 2022/2023 with 51 scholarships awarded to students and 6 to projects or supervisors.

A highlight has been the visibility of UC in the Work Integrated Learning Space. The first UC Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Student Showcase was held on 19 April. The poster event featured nine students nominated by their faculty to present on how their work-integrated learning experiences changed their understanding of their major discipline. The event attracted 30 community and industry partners, some who have fostered UC students on their professional development journey through many seasons, and some who are newly engaged to make positive impact. The event also welcomed staff from across the University who engage students in work-integrated learning experiences, as well as several students, invested in the value of WIL. After the event, the posters were held on display in the Undercroft. This was topped off by UC acting as hosts of the NZWIL conference, held in Christchurch for the first time. Many staff took part in the presentations and the conference was hailed for its success in having the greatest number of participants as well as presenters in its history.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

Following the busy period of MBIE and Marsden proposal bidding and submission in March (with >230 research proposals now under assessment), April has returned to a steadier state of research endeavour across the university.

A key aspect of the research strategy is to diversify external research income – particularly from private industry (where appropriate), and international funds. For the former, Te Kura Tāura | Graduate School will have a new resource to seek and develop partnership funding for more “industry” supported doctoral scholarships. For the latter, UC will leverage the new opportunity with New Zealand now having Associate Member status within the NZD\$160 billion **Horizon Europe** – the EU research and innovation programme running from 2021 to 2027. The fund is now open to New Zealand researchers and organisations, so UC is ensuring it is well positioned to apply for this new funding source. Jace Carson, a Strategic Project Consultant within UC’s Research & Innovation Office, is heading to Europe at the end of April to attend the conference of European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (attendance expected to top 1400), to develop research office to research office connections for partnering on bids and promoting our interest in partnering. UC will be the only New Zealand participant at the conference. He will also connect a number of European universities to promote UC research strengths and identify potential areas for future collaboration. He will also meet with the MBIE Science Councillor in Brussels.

Activities around research reputation and rankings have progressed during the month. UC has committed to a submission audit and another 5-year cycle of the QS Stars Rating scheme. This rating scheme is different from QS rankings and takes a more holistic approach to the offer and supporting experience for international students and is an important factor for international student recruitment. Similarly, UC has signed-off its data submission for the QS World University Rankings with the outcome to be announced on 7th June 2023 using the new QS methodology.

UC's imprint in both regional and national deep technology innovation continues. The New Zealand Hi-Tech Awards are the nation's premier technology awards programme, celebrating the country's most successful "high-tech" companies and highest achieving individuals. Dr Sean Feast (a UC PhD alumina) has been selected as a finalist in Young Achiever category. Sean is CEO of Precision Chroma, a UC spin out company founded on the research of Professor Conan Fee on 3D printed chromatography columns. Award recipients will be announced at a gala dinner hosted in Christchurch on 23rd June 2023.

Te Kura Tāura | Graduate School continues to embed its establishment both with more resourcing in student advising, finalisation of post-graduate supervision policy, and evolution of orientation and researcher skills development for incoming doctoral students. A key aspect of Te Kura Tāura is to grow doctoral student recruitment, but also increase the retention rate for those students in a doctoral research programme. To the former, the Dean of Postgraduate Research has been part of a recent UC and New Zealand delegation visit to Vietnam, with a particular focus around their "Project 89" programme to have a nation-wide upskilling programme of current and future Vietnamese academics with PhDs. Te Kura Tāura has recently released calls for the 2023 "Sustainability / SDG" and Aho Hīnātore | Accelerator Doctoral Scholarships with a total of 80 on offer.

The first UC Doctoral Orientation for 2023 was held on 17 March and was attended by 55 students. It was an all-day event comprising a welcome, followed by sessions on doctoral milestones and processes, an interactive panel discussion between experienced students and supervisors, and Professor Diedre Hart and Anton Angelo discussing academic integrity. Feedback was very positive with many students appreciating the chance to meet peers and learn more about their doctoral journey at UC. The next orientation will be held on 21 July 2023.

UC researchers continue to contribute to international conferences and publish their research. Associate Professor Kumar from the School of Psychology Speech and Hearing, and Associate Professor Christoph Bartneck from the Computer Science, co-authored the first comprehensive study into New Zealanders' attitudes towards AI. The paper published in the journal AI and Ethics, is based on a survey of nearly 50,000 people in the longitudinal New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study.

Dr Rory Clifford (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoē) of HIT Lab NZ has received a UC Vision Mātauranga Development Fund award for his project *Te Waka o te Ōtakaro Whakaata Mariko*. Dr Kris Tong of HIT Lab NZ will co-lead the *Matariki Hunga nui project* with Noel Park of University of Otago. As part of SfTI's 'bolt-on' projects, early career researchers from Ātea have been funded to extend this work and build a mobile phone-compatible Mixed Reality (MR) based tātai arorangi (Māori astronomy) experience with immersive content about Matariki.

Faculty of Health, Professor Laurie McLay and Senior Lecturer Lisa Emerson, organised a highly successful Autism Research Symposium in Canterbury. This included presentations from Laurie and Lisa, as well as Professor Dawn Adams, Dr Jenna van Deurs, Dr Ruth Monk and Dr Larah van der Meer. This highly successful event was attended by organisational leads, service providers, clinicians, and researchers from throughout New Zealand. The Autism Research Collaborative was launched during the event, which will be co-directed by Laurie and Lisa.

Four UC academics across Political Science and International Relations (Faculty of Arts) participated in the International Studies Association 64th Annual convention in Montreal, Canada (15-18 March 2023). Jeremy

Moses, Geoff Ford, and Sian Troath convened and participated in a roundtable 'Visualizing Future War', while Sian Troath and Geoff Ford presented a paper 'Tracing the trust in trusted autonomous systems'. Jeremy Moses presented a paper on 'The Hidden Politics of Autonomous Weapons Systems'. Pascale Hatcher and Geoff Ford presented on 'Deep sea mining and the green technological transition' at the panel 'Cooperation, Contention and Creativity in Global Extractive Industries' organised by Pascale Hatcher.

Faculty of Engineering undergraduate students, Ed Langlands (BE(Hons) Software Engineering), Giles McGrath (Bachelor of Product Design), and Ham Scown (Bachelor of Forestry Science) were granted the Engineering Undergraduate Publishing Prizes for students submitted their papers to Scopus-indexed conferences and journals, such as ITiCSE, a top Computer Science Education conference (CORE A) where Ed Langlands' paper was accepted for publication. The main purpose of this Prize is to encourage undergraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering to write and submit papers for publication to peer-reviewed journals or conferences. The aim is to support the Faculty to increase its university and PBRF rankings.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

To recognise International Administrative Professionals Week, and as part of the 150th celebrations, UC hosted a professional networking group, AdminZ, at an event to celebrate International Administrative Professionals Day on 26 April. I was pleased to deliver the opening address and then participate in a panel discussion Dawn Baxendale, Christchurch City Council Chief Executive and Joanne Gallop, President of Adminz.

After the Staff Hui with the VC in March, and the pause in April due to the holidays, the Staff Hui will continue in May. Keith Longden will be presenting the 2022 annual financial report.

A Code of Pastoral Care verification review of the UC Accommodation Services portfolio was undertaken by Universities New Zealand and NZQA. Initial verbal feedback from the auditors has indicated no compliance issues, and positive engagement during the audit process with students, UC support services, UCSA and our accommodation partners.

A new online platform for assisting students to search for quality private accommodation has been launched. StudentPad is used extensively in the UK. UC is the first New Zealand university to implement this tool.

Updated Accommodation Partner agreements, reflecting the revised Code of Pastoral Care, have been concluded with College House, Rochester and Rutherford Hall and Arcady Hall.

During Term One Student Care ran a Dungeons and Dragons Therapeutic group inclusive of Neurodivergent students. The group focused on communication, problem solving, increasing confidence, managing anxiety, and developing confidence and social skills. The evaluation was positive, and we are linking with other specialists in this area to enhance the experience in Term Two. The group already has a significant waiting list.

The UCSA has run its inaugural Clubs Expo. The aims for the day were: to build solid relationships with clubs at the start of the new year; to inform club leaders about what UCSA does and what it can offer them throughout their time at UC; to promote interclub collaboration; to complete club induction; and to inform clubs about significant topics that will assist them throughout the year. An emphasis during the day was health, safety and wellbeing, including presentations from both the University health and safety team, and the UCSA events team on how to run events in a safe, inclusive manner. Also discussed was reputational risk, and how clubs should conduct themselves, both in person and online.

A second pop up session for new staff, initiated by People and Culture and run in partnership with Digital Services, has been held. Thirty new staff, including nine academic staff, from all areas of UC attended. They

were able to connect with each other and get answers to questions about their hire and induction process, professional development opportunities, and health, safety and wellbeing issues. The session also included advice on technical issues from Digital Services staff.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

Student visa approvals for New Zealand are up sharply with volume for the start of 2023 approaching that of 2019. Processing speed continues to be a challenge for New Zealand with 67% of the university sectors' applications taking between 11 and 30 working days, similar to what was reported in February. Overall, Immigration New Zealand's capacity is heading in a positive direction, and regular reporting is provided to the university sector.

Final full-fee enrolments for Semester One are 647, which is 133% up from last year. As forecast, the non-award (study abroad) sector was the first to resume, reaching nearly 90% of 2019 enrolment levels. The "Take a New Look at Canterbury" incentive campaign has helped stimulate this growth. Graduate programmes have seen a stronger than expected recovery, 434% up from last year, whereas the undergraduate market is up 67% from last year.

The Faculty of Engineering has developed a mentorship programme for international students commencing the BE (hons) qualification. This year's pilot was particularly appreciated by Malaysian government scholarship holders (MARA) and will be expanded in 2024.

Continuing the New Zealand focus on India, Graham Wise, Director of International Development, represented UC on an Education New Zealand trade delegation to India. He furthered partnership discussions initiated by a previous UC delegation late last year.

Professor Paul Gardingen FRSA, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement at Bangor University, Wales, and UC alumnus, visited campus in April to explore collaboration. The multi-lingual and multi-cultural Bangor University has a particular strength in sustainability and forestry research. and seeks research engagement with UC.

Professor Rob Savage, Dean of Education, York University Canada, has been a visiting Erskine Fellow for the Child Wellbeing Research Institute during March and delivered a talk about the complex factors that support the development of reading and literacy skills for young children.

Professor Laura Czerniewicz, Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT), University of Cape Town visited Te Kaupeka Ako | Faculty of Education in March. She delivered a public lecture on Digital Inequality in Higher Education and a seminar on Critical Perspectivism and (Social) Media.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

As a result of feedback obtained through workshops during the Strategic Plan development process and consultation across the university on alternative internal funding models the Financial Services and Strategy and Planning teams are working on a three-year planning and budget process. The three-year timeframe will include three-year strategies, plans and KPI's linking to the UC Strategic plan for every Faculty and Service unit and also include the 2024 budget and indicative budgets for 2025 and 2026, which will encourage faculties and departments to take a longer-term view.

Faculties are making good progress onboarding new Faculty Managers. These new roles were created to provide operational leadership within each faculty, thereby enabling each Executive Dean to better focus on their respective academic vision and mission. The Faculty Managers responsibilities include: working with their Executive Deans and Heads on plans, KPI's, triennial plans and working together as a pan-UC team continuously improving processes across the university.

Some significant milestones were reached across a number of UC Digital transformational initiatives over the prior month.

The business case for the Digital Information Programme was approved at Planning Finance and Resources Committee. This multi-year programme of work will enable UC to adopt a modern information management framework and platform, reducing various risks in how we manage information today at UC, reducing silos and leveraging cloud technology to improve efficiencies. A supporting change management programme will engage across UC on a multi-stage adoption journey.

One of our core academic digital initiatives is the transformation of curriculum management. Today this is supported by a web of legacy internally developed on-premise solutions. These are hard to maintain and don't provide the efficient capabilities and user experience our staff expect. They also do not provide the data integration services required from a modern curriculum management platform. Following business case approval last year the Academic led, Digital Services partnered, project team have selected the preferred platform vendor and are now in finalising contracts whilst the wider project mobilises to commence detailed implementation planning. Again, a comprehensive change management programme will engage across UC in the migration and adoption of the new platform.

The digital security team have continued to listen to feedback and have rolled out further MFA improvements for students ensuring that student user experience is enhanced. They also recently hosted more cyber culture awareness events, a continuous programme to provide visible awareness and engagement.

The Digital team have also been busy supporting multiple audits in the past period including the Capital Asset Management Audit, the internal audit of Cybersecurity as well as the Audit NZ audit.

Environmentally Sustainable

On 17th April we released a new survey which asks academics to enter details of courses whose content is aligned solutions for, or supplying students with the tools to solve, any of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The survey runs for four weeks. In the first two weeks we received responses from 41 academics, covering 86 courses, identifying an average of about 2.6 SDGs per course. The data will be used to publicly advertise how we are aligning our teaching with the SDGs.

With respect to research, a number of our doctoral students are making important contributions. PhD Student Chichi Zhang is developing technology and relevant materials to help produce green hydrogen from Aotearoa New Zealand's abundant supply of woody biomass and the country reach its renewable energy goals by 2050. PhD student Karan Titus has identified a clean, renewable geothermal-bioenergy source with the ability to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere more effective than any other common climate change mitigation strategy. Postdoctoral Fellow Alberto Ardid is researching geothermal instability, to understand the different ways that geothermal fields in Aotearoa New Zealand can become unstable and how we can spot imminent threats and PhD student Jhulimar Castro is part of a team t has been working on experimental research to turn pine trees into green hydrogen. This could support the speed-up of the technology's commercialisation and help contribute to Aotearoa New Zealand attaining net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Drilling activities continue for the Science Precinct Ground Source Heat Pump and works to convert the llam boilers have commenced. The final resource consents were granted for the conversion in April.

Fifteen EnviroSoc students have been actively supporting the pest trapping programme organised by the Sustainability Office in partnership with Predator Free Riccarton.

A Waste Contract Working Group has been established between Facilities Management, the UCSA and UniLodge to look at opportunities for greater efficiencies, collaboration and improved environmental outcomes through our respective waste services contracts.

Sustainable commuting targets were set and form the basis of a new Sustainable Commuting Plan to sit as a companion to the revised UC Cycle Plan. From the 2020 baseline, we propose a 2% increase in cycling by 2030, a 4% increase in the use of electric vehicles by 2030, and similar increases in bussing, walking, scootering and similar.