

Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

July 2021

Introduction

The first weeks of July brought a period of relative quiet on campus as the students took a well-deserved break and many staff took leave.

Engagement

The mid-semester break created an opportunity to welcome young people to our campus to learn about UC and to inspire them to study here in the future. Te Mātāpuna Mātātahi | Children's University hosted many activities across UC involving academic departments and the Library. For the older school student, Te Aukaha Tau 12 took place earlier in the month. This was a chance for taiohi (young) Māori to explore their pathways to university and see what UC has to offer. A total of 123 taiohi Māori and kaiako attended, mainly from Canterbury schools but one student came from Mana College in Porirua.

In addition to specific programmes, many campus tours were held throughout July. Numbers registering for the 9 September Open Day continue to climb, currently numbers tracking ahead of 2019 when we last held a physical open day. We hosted 121 teachers in the Computer Science and Software Engineering department, and they left with a very positive view of UC, particularly in terms with our Māori whānau and our innovations.

The Knowledge Commons team authored a report that explores the efficacy of the Ministry of Education's Learning Hubs to support multi-cultural engagement in the New Zealand education system. This report will be formally presented to the Associate Minister for Education, the Hon Jan Tinetti, this month.

Through our membership of the Marketing Association, UC hosted an "Off the Clock" networking event for the local marketing community. Presenters shared the development of the concept, execution and results of the **Believe U Can** campaign.

In June we held our first UC Connect lecture of the year. "Radical languages" –, where the panel discussion challenged monolingualism. Overall, this event went well and received positive feedback in the Facebook livestream interactions. We had 261 attendees register and 98 attend the event, while 21 viewed the livestream.

The Ōtākaro Kāhui Ako Conference was held at Shirley Boys' High School in June. It had good attendance with 400 teachers from 12 schools and early childhood centres based in Christchurch's eastern suburbs. It featured a day full of workshops, which included 10 presented by academic staff from the College of Education, Health and Human Development.

UC hosted the Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa (Māori Law Society) Hui- Ā- Tau Conference. Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa was established to bring together Māori who were or are in the legal profession in order to: provide mutual support; identify and respond to the legal needs of Te Ao Māori; educate members on tikanga Māori and Te Ture Pākehā; and conduct legal research. For the first time, Ōtautahi Canterbury, Ōtepoti Otago and Murihiku Southland Māori lawyers and Māori law students combined their groups to become Te Waipounamu for the “Matature” kapahaka performance, which had a strong Ngāi Tahu flavour.

UC together with Education NZ, the University of Auckland and other societies, organised and hosted the 2021 Symposium of NZCA-GREEN, an engineering-focused conference specifically addressing sustainability issues.

The two recently appointed Kaiārahi Rangahau Māori positions within Research and Innovation (R&I) are beginning to make an impact, including by developing partnership opportunities with research proposals and bids and linking researchers with Ngāi Tahu Research Centre, Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngāi Tahu where appropriate.

The College of Education, Health and Human Development hosted the national Bullying Prevention conference. Among the national and international speakers, were UC’s Dr Cara Swit. Professor Bevan Catley (Massey University), Donna Provost (Director, Office of the Children’s Commissioner), Dr Mike Webster (Auckland University), Andy Hearn (Ara), and Dr Sheila Dennis and Professor James Brown (both from Indiana University).

Professor Conan Fee, Head of School of Product Design, gave a keynote address "Creative Engineering with a Product Focus" to teachers at the New Zealand Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools conference (NZAIMS "Beyond Buzzy Bees and Number 8 Wire"), held in Christchurch. Several groups of technology and design teachers visited the School over two days to get an experience of hands-on practical design activities.

The Social Work Department offered a Courageous Conversations professional workshop to educators who are registered social workers providing professional supervision for students. This workshop was aimed at learning to address sensitive issues in a constructive way. It drew 31 participants from 16 different agencies.

Students from the new Professional and Community Engagement course 225 “Workplace Skills and Corporate Social Responsibility” were given the opportunity in Semester 1 to work in small teams assisting Hawkins Construction by creating a project proposal intended to have a positive societal impact in the context of Hawkin’s re-build of a local primary school in east Christchurch. Guest speakers who shared their stories of corporate social responsibility and their relevant expertise with the class came from a wide range of organisations including: Sharesies, Brown Bread, Hawkins, FUSH, The Female Career and more. A broad range of lecturers from, the School of Aotahi, Sociology, Media & Communications and Business contributed to this course.

Professional staff from UC Careers and the People and Culture team also led the students in some work-preparedness exercises which the students really appreciated. As an event where people work together from across the University and the city, this course exemplified a kotahitanga effort focused on preparing students for the workforce in a rapidly changing world.

UC Entrepreneurship's next Disrupt Challenge, *The Future of Health Challenge* with Te Papa Hauora has been secured. It will take place later this month with the aim of securing 40-50 participating teams.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future Focused

Academic development is an essential component of accessible, flexible, future-focused education. Implementing it involves a partnership across academics, students, and specialist support teams like Future Learning and Development. For instance, the LEARN | AKO Redesign Steering Group (a group of academics and instructional designers) has been established to guide the decision-making process for the redesign of the learning management system to ensure a contemporary, consistent, and high quality learning experience for learners. The Future Learning and Development team are also working closely with the Evaluation and Student Insights team to enhance the quality of student engagement data currently generated from LEARN.

Academics across UC have engaged in professional development for the benefit of improving education for our students. Eleven Distributed Leadership in Teaching Development Programme (DLTP) scholars have now been selected (six, from 2020 and five from 2021) to lead across 10 different teaching and learning projects aligned with the 2020-2030 UC Strategy. Associate Professors Cheryl Brown, School of Educational Studies and Leadership, and Sara Tolbert, School of Teacher Education, presented their work as Distributed Leadership of Teaching Scholars at the first Ako Anamata: Ed Talk. Their topic was "Principles and Praxis for Pedagogies of Care in a Post-digital University. That was followed by a presentation from Dr Rosie Cameron, who is working on adaptive technologies for teaching.

Nationally, Ako Aotearoa has published the final report in national, longitudinal (six year) study of law students led by Professors Lynne Taylor, and Ursula Cheer and Dr Valerie Sotardi:

<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/developing-a-law-student-profile-a-longitudinal-study/the-making-of-lawyers-expectations-and-experiences-of-sixth-year-aotearoanew-zealand-law-students-and-recent-law-graduates/>

Data from the longitudinal study have informed initiatives to improve the teaching and learning of law students at UC and other Aotearoa New Zealand law schools. Initiatives at UC include a peer mentoring programme for first year students, and a cohorting scheme for students in their second and third years of study.

Analytics for Course Engagement (ACE), a predictive and proactive approach to student success, is a finalist in the 2021 Council of Australasian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) Award for the Improving Student Success category. The awards ceremony will be later in July.

As part of Kia Angitu | Student Success Programme initiatives, Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (PALS) have had a successful first roll-out in Semester 1. Early evaluative findings from the Semester 1 pilot session point to the benefits for students who participate. Almost all students who attended PALS sessions noted that it had helped them understand course material. In addition, PALS attendees report their self-efficacy increased by 14% between the beginning and the end of semester, compared with limited to no change for the non-PALS students. This result is a strong endorsement of the benefit of providing additional supports for students who indicate needing assistance early. PALS is

set to be rolled out to STAT101 for Semester 2. UC has plans for refining and expanding the programme in 2022.

Enhancements that support our graduate profile have also been evident. Recently the ENCH390 class joined Joseph Hullen from Ngāi Tūāhuriri/Ngāti Hinematua for a two-hour field trip in the central city to discover how Māori identity and historical narratives are being woven into the new Ōtautahi Christchurch streetscape. Joseph belongs to the Matapopore Charitable Trust, the mana whenua voice responsible for realising Ngāi Tūāhuriri/Ngāti Tahu values, aspirations and narratives within the city's post-quake recovery. Following the field trip, students were asked to reflect on how including these narratives impact mana whenua and Pākehā communities. The field trip was the first of three planned activities for this year's CAPE Biculturalism Workshop.

Canterbury University Press has signed a contract to publish *Ngā Hau e Whā o Tāwhirimātea: Culturally responsive teaching and learning for the tertiary sector*. The book will be freely available as an open access title, supported by funding from Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga | New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence. The lead authors are Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane, Adjunct Associate Professor Sonja Macfarlane, Dr Matiu Tai Rātima, Jennifer Smith and Te Hurinui Karaka-Clarke.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

Professor Alessandro Palermo, Dr Gabriele Chiaro and Ernesto Hernandez from the School of Engineering were awarded a prestigious award from the International Association of Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) for a paper they wrote on “Eco-rubber Seismic-Isolation Foundation Systems: A sustainable solution for the New Zealand context”.

UC recently had two winners in the Engineering NZ ENVI Awards. The purpose of the ENVI Awards is to celebrate amazing engineers and engineering feats. The Student Engineer of the Year was awarded to Francis Pooke for his Novel Design of Tracheostomy. Francis is a Mechanical Engineering student who navigated medical device design challenges with exceptional ease to develop an elegant solution and potentially life-saving device. The Engineering Education Award was won by Adjunct Professor Susan Krumdieck, also in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Her work on transition engineering has been recognised for being required for effective action on climate change and for building a sustainable future.

Academic commentary on key issues continues to be a focus. Professor Sally Gaw featured on TVNZ's *Sunday* programme, where she discussed lead exposure and how, after decades of phasing it out in paint and petrol, lead remains in the environment and is still a public health issue. In regard to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on biodiversity and climate change, Senior Lecturer Jonathan Tonkin stated that biodiversity loss and climate change are intricately linked, while Professor Ben Kennedy commented that satellites in the future will target volcano monitoring to assist with predicting volcanic eruptions. Dr Michele Bannister spoke to the BBC alongside world-leading astronomers about the Oort Cloud, a strange, frigid phenomenon found in the coldest, darkest reaches of our solar system that contains material from other stars.

Associate Professor Dean Sutherland, Mel Tainui, and Sarah Wiki-Bennett presented to the College of Education Health and Human Development **staff and students on** Ethics and Māori Consultation. Obtaining ethics approval is an important step in conducting robust research. This symposium is

aimed at providing staff and students with an overview of the role of research ethics, UC-specific aspects of gaining ethics approval, considering when Māori consultation is needed, and the co-design and early planning of research projects when engaging with Māori.

Clare Wilkinson, a research assistant and Earth surface scientist at UC, presented at the Māori research seminar and has recently successfully defended her PhD. Originally from the east coast of the United States, Clare received her BSc Honours in Geology from Washington and Lee University. Inspired by the rivers and people of Aotearoa New Zealand, her research aims to weave geomorphology and mātauranga Māori to better understand landscape change through time. Her work with Professor Angus Macfarlane, Dr Daniel Hikuroa and Dr Matthew Hughes is focused on strengthening bicultural research potentials in Earth science.

Over the last six months, a range of science students has presented their research through a podcast series focusing on postgraduate research. Master's student Catherine Sivertsen completed the 12-episode series by discussing her research on improving language development in children, including the beliefs and practices of language development among New Zealand kindergarten teachers.

Dr Toni Collins has worked with the Earthquake Commission and Resilient Organisations to help businesses better protect their staff and customers in future earthquakes:

<https://www.eqc.govt.nz/news/new-research-to-help-businesses-increase-seismic-safety>

Researchers [Associate Professor Cathy Andrew](#) and [Dr Isabel Jamieson](#), School of Health Sciences, and Jacinda King, Nursing Manager at Canterbury District Health Board, conducted in-depth interviews with 14 Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) nurses during the summer of 2020–2021. As experienced nurses and nursing education leaders themselves, the researchers wanted to capture the contribution and nature of the nursing role during the pandemic and the impact on nurses professionally and personally. Their research expresses the MIQ nurses' commitment to keeping New Zealand safe from COVID-19, including by exceeding safety standards, coping with daily risk and adapting to sudden changes in their workplace. However, the nurses in this UC study still felt ostracised by the wider community, other health professionals and sometimes their own families, heralding the need for our thanks and not our fear.

Dr Sibi Walter, School of Health Sciences, drew attention for his comments on the world Test cricket final between New Zealand and India. Whether or not overuse injuries at the elite sports level influenced the result of that particular match, they are in any case preventable with the right approach <https://bit.ly/3gZbYYi>. UC's Bachelor of Sports Coaching programme features a focus on performance and injury prevention to prepare graduates to contribute to the performance of New Zealand athletes on the international stage, with the expertise to add benefit at elite through to community-level sports.

Associate Professor Laurie McLay, Professor Neville Blampied and Associate Professor Karyn France, School of Health Sciences, found one in four children on the autism spectrum in Aotearoa New Zealand is given melatonin to help them sleep. The research team is also exploring more efficient and accessible models of sleep treatment, as well as the collateral benefits of sleep treatment for children with rare genetic developmental disabilities. Associate Professor McLay leads the UC Good Nights Programme, an innovative research programme and cost-free nationwide clinical service

focused on the treatment of sleep difficulties in children with autism: **Sleep treatment used by 1 in 4 children with autism.**

In a service role, as Chair of Sport and Exercise Science New Zealand (SESNZ), Professor Nick Draper, School of Health Sciences, was elected by the Board of SESNZ to be the New Zealand representative on the newly formed International Confederation of Sport and Exercise Science Practice (ICSESP). ICSESP has been formed to advance sport and exercise science practice worldwide. The founding countries and lead organisations include Australia (ESSA), USA (ACSM), UK (BASES), Canada (CSEP) and New Zealand (SESNZ). A key piece of the work is to advance practice and the availability of services in the field of (accredited) exercise physiology. Sport and Exercise Science New Zealand has been a leader in this work, having hosted the leaders (president, chair or CEO) of ACSM, BASES and ESSA at the 2019 SESNZ Conference for initial discussions.

In the first half of 2021, the Postgraduate Research Office (PGRO) developed a dedicated UC Doctoral Orientation programme, which was held for the first time in April. The Doctoral Orientation day was developed in response to Postgraduate Experience Questionnaire feedback, in which students indicated that they wanted clear and comprehensive information regarding expectations, degree requirements and important doctoral milestones – as well as opportunities to meet with other doctoral students from across UC. Following the first running of the programme, and based on feedback from attendees, the PGRO has made some changes to the second orientation event, which is scheduled for mid-July.

Overall, new doctoral enrolments are up in 2021. There had been a 36% increase in new doctoral enrolments compared with the same time in 2020. The Aho Hīnāture | Accelerator programme, aimed at transitioning UC's best and brightest students into doctoral studies, is one initiative that appears to have assisted in the growth in numbers, alongside growth in externally funded PhD projects. The success of the Aho Hīnāture | Accelerator programme in its inaugural year has led to a planned expansion for 2022 – with a recent call for projects and a commitment from UC to fund a minimum of 40 Aho Hīnāture | Accelerator PhD scholarships next year.

Border restrictions continue to have a considerable impact on the doctoral student community and on staff. Approximately 45 students have commenced their PhD studies from overseas while waiting to enter New Zealand. Significant staff resourcing has been directed to the development and pastoral care of this student group; some students have now been conducting PhD studies overseas for over 12 months, and with recent border updates will remain there for the foreseeable future. Five of these students, funded via New Zealand Government contracts, have recently been approved to apply for a student visa under the “other critical worker” exemption process. A further nine applications are in progress. The PGRO has taken the approach of dedicating staff members as single points of contact for students in the overseas cohort, and in applications for border exemption, which has been welcomed by students and staff alike.

Gateway Antarctica's Adjunct Associate Professor Bob Frame is the lead author of “Antarctica's Gateways and Gatekeepers: Polar scenarios in a polarising Anthropocene”, published in the transdisciplinary journal *The Anthropocene Review*. The paper highlights the need for future-making at the interface between science and policy.

Lecturer David Pomeroy, School of Teacher Education, and Dr Jeffery Quaye had an article published in June in the international journal *Educational Studies in Mathematics*. It is titled “Social Class

Inequalities in Attitudes towards Mathematics and Achievement in Mathematics Cross Generations: A quantitative Bourdieusian analysis”: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10649-021-10078-5>

Enhancing of UC’s research publication impact continues to gain pace. A recent example is a publication by Professor Jędrzej Białkowski, Dr Huong Dang and Xiaopeng Wei in the *Journal of Financial Economics* describing relationships between political uncertainty in the US and UK and market volatility. This is the first time a UC academic has published in this particular highly ranked journal.

Open access titles published by Canterbury University Press have been accessed this month as follows:

- *Rape Myths as Barriers to Fair Trial Process: Comparing adult rape trials with those in the Aotearoa Sexual Violence Court Pilot* (2020) brought 107 total visits to UC’s research repository page. Top country views: New Zealand, Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Canada.
- *Ngā Kōrero a Mohi Ruatapu: The writings of Mohi Ruatapu* (CUP, 1993; OA facsimile digital edition 2020) brought 34 total visits to UC’s research repository page. Top country views: New Zealand, United States, United Kingdom, China, Germany.
- *Ngā Kōrero a Pita Kāpiti: The teachings of Pita Kāpiti* (CUP, 1997; OA facsimile digital edition 2020) brought 15 total visits to UC’s research repository page. Top country views: New Zealand, United States, Canada, United Kingdom, China.

UC is contributing to several new or revised Government strategies, where our expertise is providing an informed view of Government policy development. Strategies currently receiving UC input are Infrastructure, Transport Emissions, Energy Efficient Products, Sustainable Biofuels, Housing and Urban Development, Family Violence, and Hatred and Discrimination.

A collaboration with the University of Adelaide has led to a successful Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) bid for Heavy Industry Low-Carbon Transition. This Australian-funded programme supports industries’ ability to compete in the international heavy industry sector and but with a sustainable production footprint. Further applications into other CRC rounds, where UC would be an international partner, are being explored for Plastic Waste, Lasers, Water Security, Hydrogen and Well and Productive People. These initiatives will underpin UC’s strategy of enhancing our research reputation in Australia.

A multidisciplinary project led by Dr Mike Hickford and Distinguished Professor David Schiel will be the first to use ecological and fishery data to gauge the impact of commercial and recreational whitebaiting on the long-term sustainable future of the species. The research team includes UC’s Professor Angus McIntosh; Professor George Perry from the University of Auckland; Dr Shane Orchard from Waterlink Consulting and Dr Eimear Egan from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

Gateway Antarctica staff were involved in the annual Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) meeting. Senior Lecturer Michelle LaRue was part of the research team that put forward information to the CEP to request an increased level of protection for Emperor penguins. Natasha Gardiner, PhD candidate, also participated in the meeting as a member of the New Zealand delegation. The delegation was led by UC Geography and Gateway Antarctica Graduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies graduate Jana Newman, who is now at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. UC Postgraduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies graduate Ceisha Poirot, now General-Manager Policy, Environment & Safety at Antarctica New Zealand and leader of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs' Environmental Protection Expert Group, was the New Zealand representative to the CEP.

College of Arts' Wei Teng (Department of Global, Cultural and Language Studies) has been awarded a Science Whitinga Fellowship from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for a project called "In the Lay-reader's Eyes – Reassurance of Translation Quality". Wei will research lay readers' opinions of the quality of translation in health and legal texts, to better understand how the most effective messaging can be achieved. The Whitinga Fellowships were highly competitive, with only 30 awards across New Zealand, so this is an excellent achievement.

Postdoctoral fellow Alan Bischoff, from the School of Earth and Environment, won the best paper award at the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Conference 2021. The paper is a collaboration with the University of Adelaide and the University of Aberdeen, investigating the feasibility of sequestering carbon dioxide into subsurface basaltic rocks.

The UC Foundation [2020 Annual Report](#) on the impact of philanthropy at UC was distributed electronically and in print to donors in June. The publication shows the broad range of support donors give to students, teaching, research and facilities at the University and provides a useful document for stewardship and cultivation of new gifts.

UC innovators with their health technology solutions have taken a clean sweep in the 'Best Translation of Research' category at the 2021 national HealthTech awards:

- winner: UC Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering Senior Lecturer Dr Debbie Munro for her Diagnostic, Implantable Sensor System for Spinal Fusion
- first runner-up: UC Professor in Psychology, Speech and Hearing and head of UC's Rose Centre for Stroke Recovery and Research, Professor Maggie-Lee Huckabee for her BiSSkApp – Seeing the way to rehabilitation of swallowing impairment.
- second runner-up: UC Mechanical Engineering PhD student Jake Campbell for non-invasive glucose monitoring in the neonatal intensive care unit
2nd Runner Up: UC Mechanical Engineering PhD student Jake Campbell: Non-invasive glucose monitoring in the neonatal ICU.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

Māori student headcount is now 1,853, up 337 on the same time last year, and the total of 575 Pacific students represents an increase of 80 on the same time last year. Te Waka Pākākano advisors had 250 student engagements with 78 students throughout June.

Following the Council's endorsement of UC's organisational values at its June meeting, a range of workshops and other initiatives is underway to further socialise the values among staff. Discussions include how the values translate into day-to-day practice.

The People and Culture team has piloted a new online staff orientation system, Enboarder, with the approximately 2,000 fixed-term and casual semester-only academic support staff at UC. This system allows the team to much more easily orient new staff to the essential information they need to start their roles, such as University values, staff benefits, health and safety, and other fundamental policies and procedures. The system's reporting functionality enables leaders to receive feedback about who has engaged with the information. After the pilot, the system will extend to all new roles.

A successful staff development day was run in early July for over 100 professional and general staff from a range of areas throughout the University. My thanks to the professional staff community of practice, UC Admin Plus, for their leadership of this excellent event.

At that development day, a group of senior female staff, with the support of People and Culture, hosted a soft launch of a UC Menopause Awareness Programme. The formal launch, part of UC's 2021 Wellbeing Plan, will occur on World Menopause Day, 18 October. Events that day will include a staff seminar with leading endocrinologist Dr Anna Fenton. The project team is currently preparing a guideline, a website with information and resources, and a support guide for leaders. They also want to implement a Menopause Support Group of contacts who would be available for confidential discussions.

Professor Simon Kingham has accepted another three-year term as Chief Science Advisor for the Ministry of Transport.

In New Zealand's Celebration of Volunteering week, we acknowledged the commitment and work of our volunteer charity Trustees in the UK, USA and New Zealand that enable us to fundraise in support of the University.

Te Rū Rangahau | Māori Education Research Lab has a new home on the fifth floor of the College of Education, Health and Human Development's Rehua building. The research space has been outfitted with artwork dedicated to the research lab. Te Rū Rangahau is a place of vibrant scholarship where postgraduates and staff can discuss plans, analyse activities, write proposals, report on and complete projects and, importantly, express whanaungatanga.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

UC celebrated a legacy partnership in a virtual signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Sendai University, Japan. The MOU recognises the two universities' shared connections in disaster risk and resilience, and post-disaster community engagement. It will enable future student flows once borders reopen.

In line with our globalisation strategy, which includes forming connections throughout the Asia Pacific region, UC has signed an MOU with Universitas Gadjah Mada, the top-ranked university in Indonesia. The MOU allows us to explore short courses, student mobility, dual degree programmes and Study Abroad.

Twelve Australian exchange students were due to arrive and commence study at UC under a new exchange agreement with the University of Wollongong. While study plans were in place to allow most students to commence from offshore, due to the extension of the current suspension of the travel bubble with New South Wales most students have now elected to defer until 2022.

Meanwhile, 10 UC students will complete virtual exchanges online with UC global exchange partners. Work has begun on the 2022 Study Abroad prospectus and the International Relationships Office is working with UC's Risk Management team to review the travel policy to consider UC students undertaking exchanges to Australia in 2022. A programme of meetings with UC's Study Abroad direct partners has been completed, with plans underway for continued advising and recruitment initiatives for the second half of the year.

Most students who are part of UC's allocation under the 1,000 international returnee (COVID-19 exemption) cohort have arrived back in New Zealand and are either in MIQ or back on campus. We

look forward to formally welcoming these students back to UC with an event on 4 August, which UC staff and external stakeholders including the Chinese Education Consul (based in Christchurch) will attend.

Two orientation programmes for international students have taken place for Semester 2. One was an on-campus programme, which welcomed those new international students who are in New Zealand and have come to us through foundation pathways; the other was a programme for online to on-campus new students who are starting their studies with UC from their home country. Support has also continued to be offered to current online offshore students, particularly in helping with the examination period and invigilation enquiries.

Te Kura Umanga | UC Business School has partnered with Taylor's University, Malaysia to launch its new Bachelor in Accounting (FinTech) (Honours) degree. The three-year degree blends the fundamentals of accounting with technology-focused subjects such as blockchain and data analytics. It is the first degree in Malaysia that enables students to specialise in FinTech at the undergraduate level.

As part of the programme, students can choose to spend their final year studying at UC and graduate with a UC Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting, with a minor in Information Systems, alongside their Taylor's University degree. Taylor's University is the highest-ranked private university in Malaysia and wider Southeast Asia, recently jumping 47 places to 332nd in the QS World University Rankings 2022. The programme has three intakes per year, with the first intake starting in August 2021.

Dr Will Shannon, Internationalisation Director at Te Kura Umanga | UC Business School, presented at New Zealand Partners Workshop Week 2021 on reinterpreting internationalisation for a post-pandemic world. He presented a vision for a more meaningful version of internationalisation in higher education and provided examples of what UC Business School is doing to make this vision a reality. The event brought together more than 45 international speakers, across 234 sessions, along with over 2,200 partners from the Asian region with the aim of collaborating to build the future of the international education sector.

Te Kura Umanga | UC Business School hosted a celebration for 24 completing students from pathways with three Malaysian partner institutions: Kolej Yayasan Saad, Kolej Profesional MARA and Kolej Poly-Tech MARA. The group began their studies in the UC Bachelor of Commerce degree with one-year advanced standing in July 2019, and most will now be returning to Malaysia.

At an International Education Forum, Minister of Education the Hon Chris Hipkins shared his thoughts about his optimism for the sector. He noted that opportunities will start to flow soon, and we need to capture those opportunities. His key messages were that it is a time to transform and to keep moving forward with purpose.

Dr David Small and Dr Christoph Teschers, School of Educational Studies and Leadership, participated in a Global Citizenship in New Zealand workshop. The focus of the workshop was to build a comprehensive understanding of how organisations discuss and measure "global citizenship" and related terms, and what unique New Zealand values and frameworks need to be considered in this context.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

The Digital Information Technology Services team, led by Rudo Tagwireyi, has improved our cybersecurity with patching processes, improved communications, made changes to our email security to reduce phishing risks and replaced our firewall architecture in ensuring the defence of UC in the wake of the unprecedented global and local attacks against both public and private organisations.

Pilots of Microsoft 365, including Microsoft Teams and OneDrive, have now been rolled out and have resulted in popular uptake and feedback. A major part of UC's workplace modernisation is enabling the use of the best cloud technologies and deploying a collaboration platform for our people, to collaborate both internally and with other institutions and partner organisations. Following the initial pilots, the team is now ready to commence roll-out across UC.

The Digital Strategy team has progressed the development of the UC Digital Vision, which will shortly be shared, and has commenced research work on an experience framework that will ultimately inform UC's digital channel experience strategy and roadmap. Leveraging design thinking and user-centred design practices, the team is now deep in research with students to identify key pain points and key opportunities for UC Digital teams to explore soon.

The alumni website has added a Notable Alumni section with updated profiles and has reformatted the Young Alumni profiles. In June, 225 new connections joined the Alumni Relations group on LinkedIn. Alumni supported colleagues across UC by sending out the Mech Connect to Mechanical Engineering graduates, provided job details and locations for the Master of Urban Resilience and Renewal programme, supported the Business School with lists for the MBA dinner invite and researched the Queen's Birthday Honours list for the Communications team. Work is also underway to identify 150 alumni and staff to feature in the 150th anniversary year in 2023.

In collaboration with three University departments, a new UX designer will work to improve the user experience of our students and staff across the website, UCGO app, student first forms and our Learn student environment. Recognising this user journey through our platforms and ensuring consistency is also the goal of a new digital designer, who is supporting the updating of graphics for the website, the student Learn environment and the UCGO app.

Environmentally Sustainable

An air travel survey will be sent to all UC staff in August. The Sustainability Office intends to complete an analysis of the results by the December meeting of the Sustainability Programme Board.

Nick Hughes, Asset Operations Manager in Facilities Management (FM), is working with the Field Services Manager, the Carbon and Energy Manager and the Sustainability Office to further refine the carbon sequestration programme for Mt Barker. A Request for Information will be sent out to market shortly to help FM procure specialist support to collate information and document a programme of works by quarter 2 of 2022.

UC is supporting a youth-led sustainability initiative by hosting the EnviroPAST conference, a two-day conference on plastic and sustainability for 150 young people. The conference has sold out and is being held in the Ernest Rutherford, Beatrice Tinsley and the Engineering Core buildings.

The third online hui on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held, with 101 registrations and 90 attendees. Promotions related to this event reached 14,000 people across our social media channels. The Sustainability Office is now focused on the face-to-face summit to be held at UC. This involves approximately 24 workshop sessions and a 'community feast' in town (a collaboration between multiple agencies), along with field trips on the second day, which are being organised largely by staff at Lincoln University and Christchurch City Council, with support from our UC team.

The Universities New Zealand Panel on the SDGs is now chaired by Dr Matt Morris from the UC Sustainability Office. As such, the group is refining its vision for the nine years to 2030 and its role in supporting the SDG summits. It is also exploring the opportunity to define a collaborative research programme in line with its current Terms of Reference.

The report from the recent waste audit is anticipated within the next two weeks. It is expected to highlight the challenges we are facing with contamination of the bins by users, along with opportunities for streamlining our current systems and how this fit with recent announcements from the Government related to phasing out certain single-use items. Staff in Facilities Management will meet with our waste services provider to discuss the audit findings and develop a strategy in early August.

The second bike stand utilisation audit for 2021 will be completed in the final week of July. The March audit showed a significant drop in cycling numbers compared with March 2020, something we are monitoring closely.