



# Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

June 2022

## Introduction

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At the time of writing this report, we are anticipating the end of the first semester of the 2022 academic year and many students and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved mid-year break. The year continues to be impacted by Covid with several staff and students isolating and working or studying remotely. On the other hand, with the resumption of international travel, many among the university

## Engagement

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The sixth annual Matarika awards were broadcast live from the National Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa on 18 June in Wellington. Marcus Akuhata - U R Z Q U H F H L Y H G W K H Education Award

behaviour, people, earth science and climatology, environmental science and micro-imaging. An exhibition of the three finalists in each category will be presented in the Ernest Rutherford building from 1 September and an awards event will be held that evening. The exhibition will then run through to Open Day on Friday 9 September.

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, UC is supporting Te Akatoki with a workshop at the : DLXWXXWX \_ 8 & & RPPXQLW\ \* DUGHQV 7KLV LV SDUW RI W DERXW KDUYHVWLQJ WKURXJK WKH VWDU 7XSX—QXNX.

UC final year health students India Wellesley Nursing and Andrea Musgrave Psychology, attended the HPAC sponsored Health Future Leaders course. UC, University of Otago and Ara deliver this oneweek intensive course for their students in partnership with Canterbury District Health Board.

Disaster Risk and Resilience staff in the School of Earth and Environment contributed to the Toloa Pacific Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) Challenge. The Toloa Programme led by the Ministry of Pacific Peoples, awards scholarships to Pacific students to pursue studies in STEAM and become future innovators and leaders in STEAM subjects. The Pacific STEAM Challenge tasks year 9 to 12 students to work in teams to design an innovative solution to a tricky problem and present their product/idea to a panel of judges.

Recent successful conferences included the following:

- x Dr Catherine Theys has won the bid for the 2024 World Congress of the International Fluency. This conference is expected to attract 400 delegates and will be held at Te Pae Christchurch in July 2024.
- x Systems Change for Learner Success is confirmed for September. The 100 delegate conference will be held at Haereia, with an evening function at Te Pae Christchurch on 5 September.
- x New Zealand Geographical Society Conference is confirmed to take place in the Engineering Core over 21-25 November 2022. The 200 delegate conference is led by Dr Edward Charles of the Faculty of Science.
- x The International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction is confirmed for 5 December 2022. The conference of 100-250 delegates will be held on campus in the 1st lecture theatre. The lead academic is the Faculty of Engineering's Associate Professor Christoph Bartneck.
- x The (De)Constructing Minorities and Freedom Conference, involving 100 delegates will be held on campus in Rehua from 9 December 2022. The lead academic is Dr Antonio Viscusi, Faculty of Arts.

## Education – Accessible, Flexible Future Focussed

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The focus for students and staff this month has been on exams. In total, students completed over 400 different exams during the end-of-semester exam time. The large outbreak of COVID-19 at the beginning of Semester 1, led to the decision to hold exams online where possible, with the result that over 350 Tw 12-0unnieaB (s)-1 (a)v g of eTj 04 (s9th)2 (e)6 ( 93 >>BDC 0 g8TJ (.8 remMC ET /Ac -0

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students training to be technology teachers from six, last year to 21 this year. As part of this new entry  
pathway, the expanded cohort of technology teachers receive support starting from when they are  
recruited and including weekly meetings with the cohort, to ensure they are having a successful  
learning experience

Philippines with panellists from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Australian National University and UC.

Dr Jarrod Gilbert, Sociology, completed a major research project funded by the Law Foundation titled "Making Gang Laws in a Pacific Context". He also completed an evaluation of He Kete, a women's residential drug and alcohol treatment programme which was funded by the Department of Corrections.

A just-completed study by researchers from the Faculty of Health will inform future autism research and funding decisions in a New Zealand context. Senior Lecturer Lisa Emerson, Associate Professor Laurie McLay, Dr Ruth Monk from the University of Auckland and Dr Larah van der Meer from Victoria University asked autistic people and the autism community what specific research they would like to see in Aotearoa. Respondents gave clear call for understanding the needs of the population in this country. Co-investigators Lisa and Laurie are establishing the Autism Research Collaborative at UC. The collaborative will support community inclusion in its research through the Autistic Research Partnership, a group of autistic people who will influence research strategy, design and outputs.

The discovery of the Wicked Bible in Christchurch has once again attracted media attention, this time drawing TVNZ to the Macmillan Brown Library to interview Associate Professor Chris Jones for Seven Sharp. As well as highlighting research on UC rare books, the interview showcased the expertise of Macmillan Brown specialist staff.

Professor Ann Brower's research report from 16 years ago on her ongoing work on high-country land tenure were influential in the passing of the third reading of the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill in May 20

Similarly, UC postgraduate students continue to make their mark. Amongst Fulbright New Zealand award winners announced for 2020 is one of our Mechanical Engineering students, Briana Steven, who is among the Fulbright New Zealand Science and Innovation Graduate Award winners. She is using the award to complete a Masters of Engineering in Bioengineering at UC Berkeley. Brianah has also received D & S & K R + Scholarship but this has been put on hold to allow her to complete her studies at UC Berkeley before returning to UC to start her PhD.

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The annual Academic Promotions round has commenced. As part of the preparation for staff applications, an interdisciplinary group of senior female academics has run a workshop for female colleagues about the process. This important event is one of a series of initiatives aiming to achieve equitable access and opportunities for all staff who want to progress up the academic ranks.

The Director of Student Wellbeing, as part of his initial information gathering in his new role, has run a series of workshops and meetings to gather feedback from students and staff about UC's wellbeing services for students.

On Pink Shirt Day, students and staff ran a number of successful events promote a stop to bullying and to celebrate diversity, kindness and inclusiveness. It was good to see so many members of the UC community joining in the spirit of the day by donning pink clothing.

The Director of Accommodation Services hosted a meeting between Sarah Pallett, MP for Ilam, and the principals of our student accommodation partners. As well as providing a briefing to Ms Pallett on the h and their services, the forum was an opportunity to canvas a range of issues such as student safety, and

Two of our International Office team Anna Foster and Monique van Veen joined Minister of Education the Hon Chris Hipkins at the largest conference in the world. The Annual Conference and expo of NAFSA Association for International Education that took place in Denver in the first week of June. Education New Zealand sponsored the opening plenary, giving them a speaking slot, organised the New Zealand stand at the trade expo, and launched a new branding campaign "Take a New Look at a New Zealand Education". Eight of UC's international students wore D Q H Z O \ G H V L J Q H G N — N D K X J A D G Y H S W L R A V A R I Z O A at the event profile was Bryann Avendaño, from Colombia, who is studying Civil and Natural Resources Engineering at UC.

The Minister's comments echoed the government's mantra of value over volume as borders reopen. Changes to post-study work (PSW) rights have been confirmed and are not as significantly changed for the university sector as the original proposal. Masters and PhD graduates continue to benefit from a three-year open post-study work visa after a minimum of two semesters of study on-shore. Bachelors graduates can receive up to three years proportional to their time spent on-shore. Offshore, online, and pathways studies are not recognised as contributing towards the minimum 30 weeks of study on-shore required for PSW rights.

In preparation for the new marketing push, faculties identified priority programmes for growth potential. We developed a new incentive package for new international students in 2024 that includes a regional cultural excursion as well as access to experiential opportunities, such as virtual micro-internships. The response from key channels was positive in Denver. However, as the government resumes on-shore student visa processing after two years of border closure, we anticipate challenges to returning to stable enrolment patterns over the next two to three years.

## Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

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A key foundation and enabler of our digital transformation is our platform for requesting help and services, not just from Digital Services but across the many service provider teams here at UC. Last year Digital Services kicked off the Service Experience programme and this month the ServiceNow powered platform launched. This platform will make it far easier for all staff and students to ask for help and find information about the services available at UC. This step just for IT services, all significant service provider departments will be onboarded to make the experience far easier. The platform will also enable new process automation and orchestration capabilities which will be increasingly leveraged for efficiencies.

The continued strategic drive to make finding information easier will be completed by the launch of the new UC intranet in Quarter 3. Progressing the final designs involves extensive activity with content administrators across UC, helping them understand the opportunities the new SharePoint online platform opens up for sharing information, search, rich visual interaction and personali-

In May, Council endorsed the CyberSecurity strategy and business case is currently under consideration. Whilst the team have been progressing the strategy and programme business case they have continued to drive many roadmap items with the cyber 'hit squad'. Multi-factor authentication





## VC Activities

28 May 2022	Attended the Africa Day Expo event
6 June 2022	Attended The Organ Curator's Happy Anniversary concert 2022 at the Christchurch City Hall
9 June 2022	Met with alumnus Bruce Ullrich
11 June 2022	Attended the World Premier screening of the feature documentary Be at the Isaac Royal Theatre.