

INSIGHT

AUT

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUT ALUMNI | ISSUE 1, 2017

GRADUATES GOING GLOBAL

Internz taking AUT talent to the world

CREATIVE CALLING

Meet Apple's Global Group
Creative Director

POSTGRADUATE PATH

How to make the right choice

FLYING HIGH

Cutting-edge drone research

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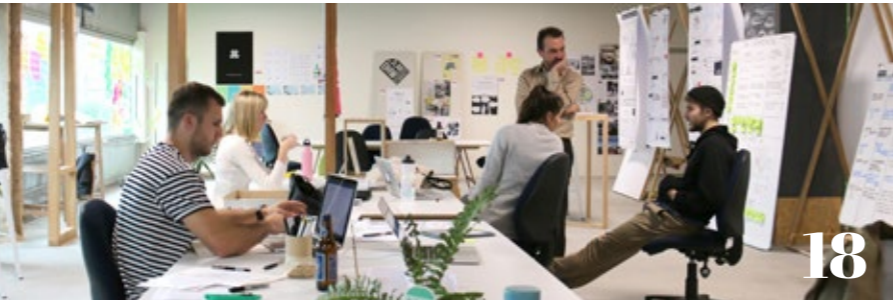
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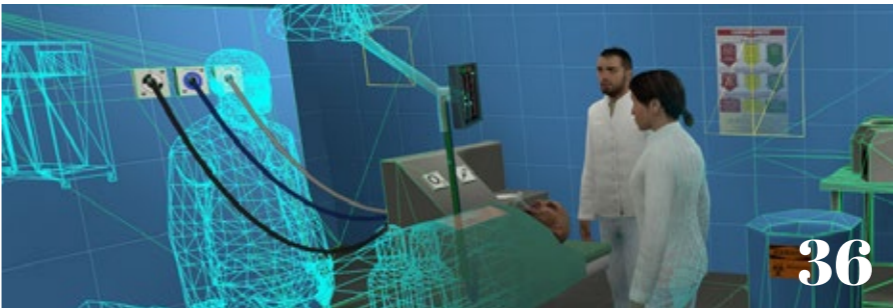
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TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ

Welcome to another great year at AUT.

In my role as Vice-Chancellor I constantly have cause to feel proud of AUT. On a weekly and even daily basis I hear about the superb achievements of our researchers and teachers, our students and our alumni.

I am always delighted by the successes of our AUT community, but I am not surprised by them.

I know how much work our researchers are investing in their respective fields of expertise. I know how much time goes into ensuring that our approach to teaching and learning is keeping pace with best practice. I know how much energy is spent giving our students access to relevant, practical skills and experience with industry both here and abroad. I know how rapidly our alumni network is growing and how well-respected our graduates are.

But not everyone is as aware of the breadth of AUT's successes or the rapid growth and development it has achieved since it was established as a university in the year 2000.

We are the youngest of New Zealand's eight universities by a number of decades, but we are already the country's second largest university. In a competitive tertiary environment we are the only university that is growing – students are choosing to study at AUT.

We are also now New Zealand's third largest postgraduate university. AUT has more postgraduate students than Canterbury, Victoria or Otago Universities. We have 800 doctoral students and the fastest growing number of domestic doctoral students.

Our global rankings continue to climb. The latest QS World University Rankings now place us in the top 450 or the top 3% of all universities worldwide.

Five of our disciplines rank in the top 250 universities worldwide – art and design (top 100), accounting and finance (top 150), communications and media studies (top 200), computer science and information systems (top 250), education (top 250).

Other indicators show us as the leading university in New Zealand for design, communications, sports science, hospitality and tourism, computer science and IT, and many of the health sciences.

We also lead New Zealand (and Australian) universities in terms of our international outlook – this ranking – reflects how many international academics and students we have and how many of our research publications are co-authored with international research colleagues.

Our research gains international attention in a diverse range of fields, for example biotechnology, radio astronomy, ecology, applied neurosciences, big data, predictive economics, biomechanics, linguistics and finance to name a few.

We are committed to a diverse, inclusive learning environment and to making education amenable to more people. Our South Campus is a tangible example of this commitment, it now has 2000 students and New Zealand government has renewed its funding in recognition of its success to date.

As AUT grows we are continuing to invest in our campuses and in providing our staff and students with cutting-edge facilities and learning spaces. We have major development projects underway on the North, South and City campuses and AUT Millennium.

AUT Millennium, where we recently opened a second Olympic size pool as the National Aquatic Centre, was the training base for half New Zealand's medal successes in Rio.

All of these achievements show that AUT is an increasingly competitive

university locally and internationally, however, I am also very proud of the areas where AUT is carving its own path and leading the way.

Our focus is first and foremost to provide our students with an exceptional experience of higher learning, and to send them out as outstanding graduates.

Many universities are beginning to expand their focus beyond the curriculum requirements, but AUT has always known that we must prepare our students with a learning experience that balances knowledge with experience, theory with the ability to apply it, and understanding with the skills to communicate and collaborate.

“I know how rapidly our alumni network is growing and how well-respected our graduates are.”

Evidence of this wider focus includes our programmes that support student entrepreneurship and enterprise, and our Internz programme that connects our students and recent graduates with incredible local and international internship opportunities.

Our research also shows the value we place on collaboration and applied research, development and innovation. Our researchers often partner on industry and government projects, ensuring their work and findings make a direct contribution to our understanding of vital health, science, environmental, computing, engineering and education issues.

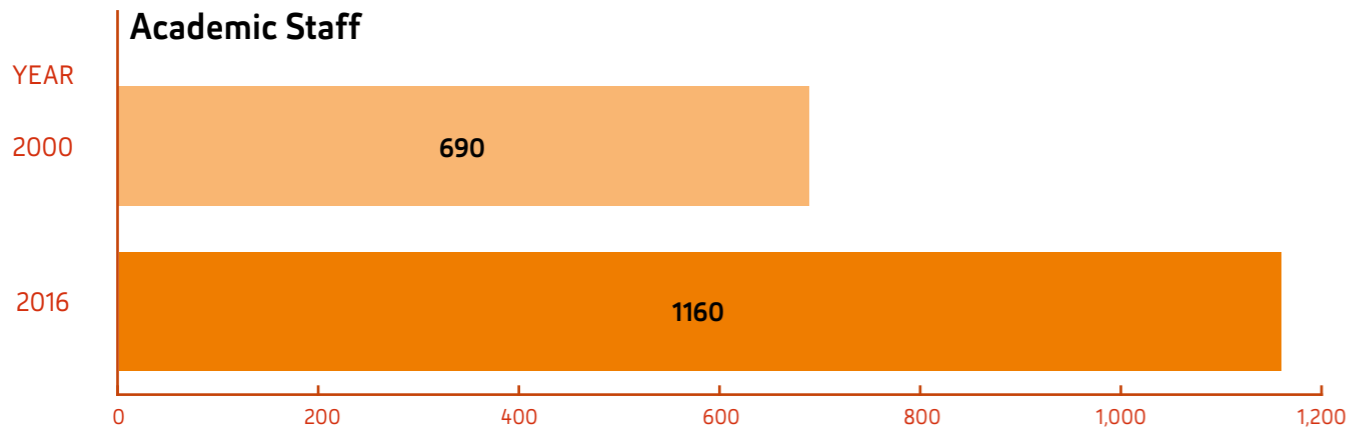
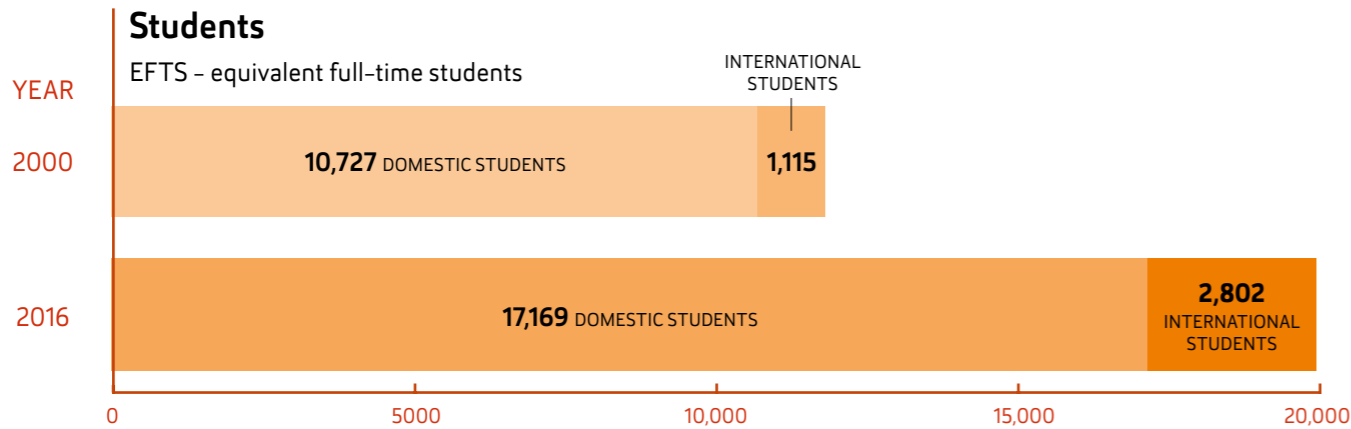
There is much to be proud of at AUT. I hope as you read this edition of Insight – whether you are a current student, new graduate, longstanding member of our alumni network or part of our wider AUT community – you will feel proud of what has been achieved and excited by all the possibilities that lie ahead.

Derek McCormack

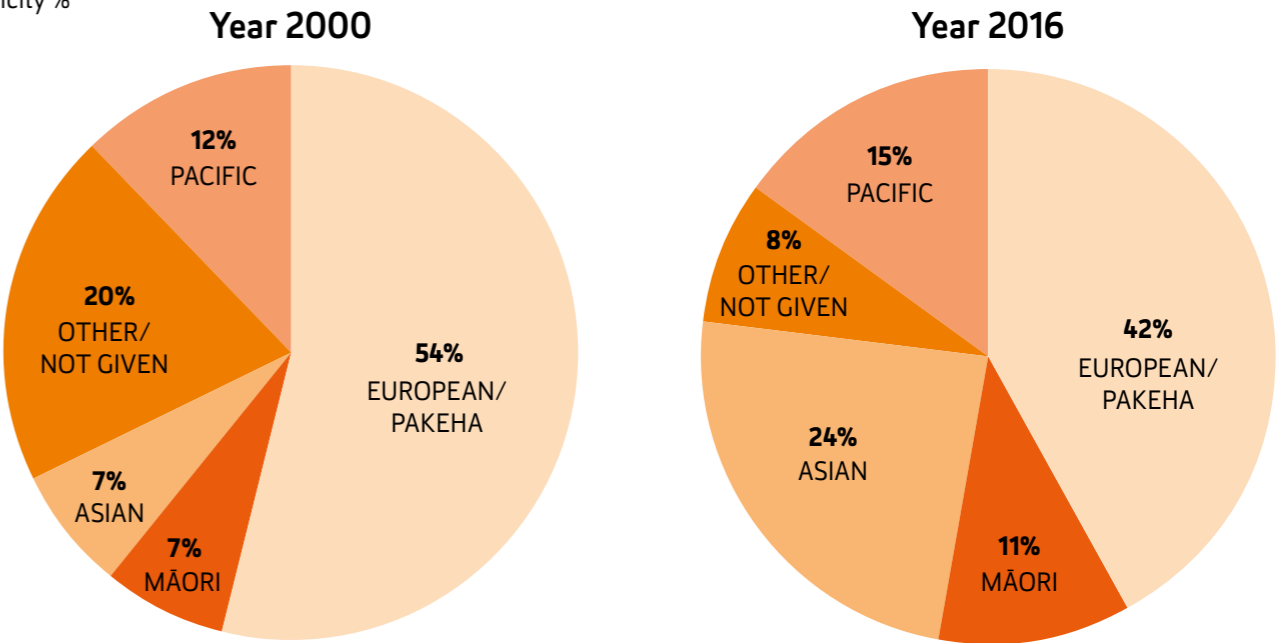
Vice-Chancellor,
Auckland University of Technology

New Zealand’s fastest growing university

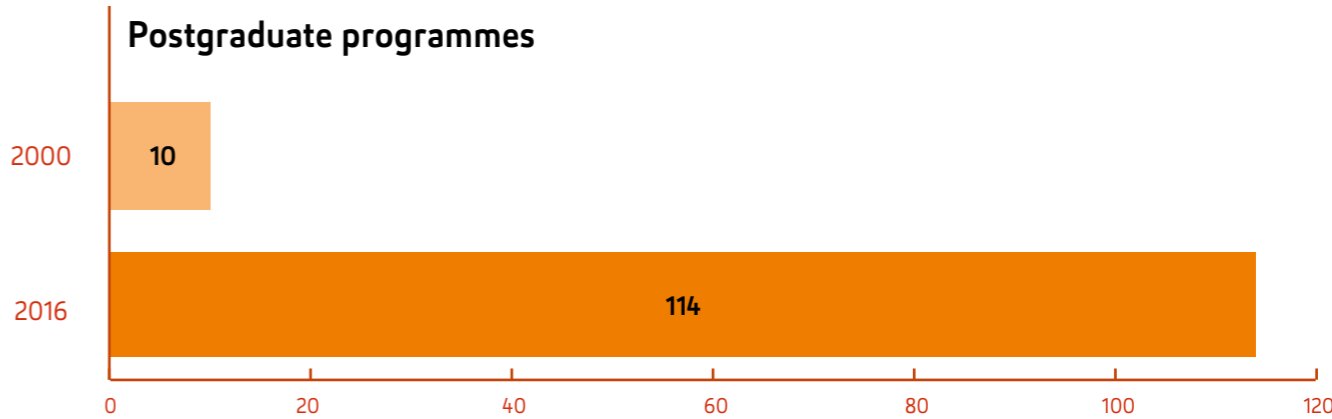
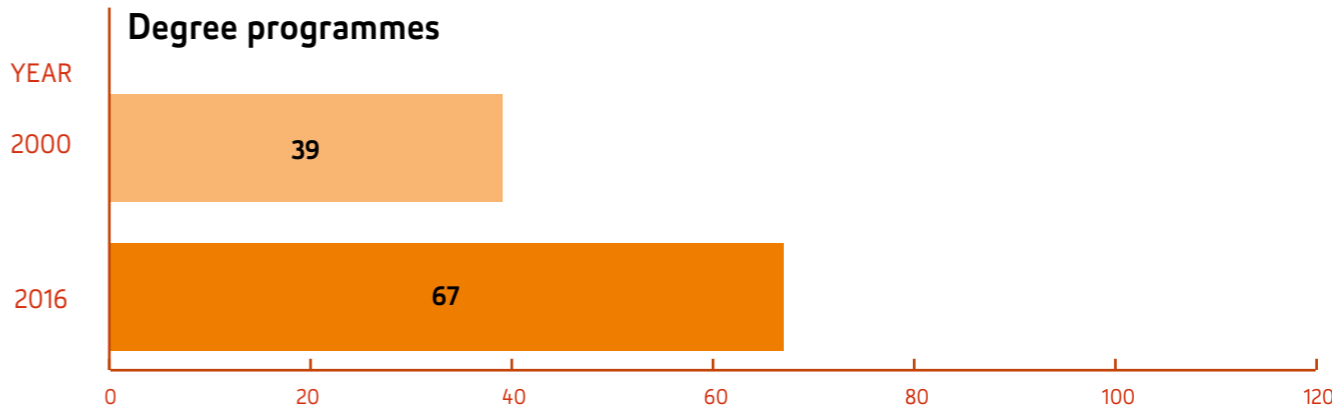
AUT was awarded university status in 2000 – and since then we’ve grown student numbers, degree programmes, academic outputs, research facilities and even the number of campuses.



Diversity*
Ethnicity %



*Diversity of AUT’s domestic students





AUT has more than 60 research centres and institutes with world class expertise, including:

- Colab
- Engineering Research Institute
- Health & Rehabilitation Research Institute
- Institute for Applied Ecology NZ
- Institute for Radio Astronomy and Space Research
- Institute of Biomedical Technologies (IBTec)
- Institute of Culture, Discourse and Communication (ICDC)
- Institute of Public Policy (IPP)
- Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Institute (KEDRI)
- National Institute for Public Health and Mental Health (NIPMHHR)
- National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences (NISAN)
- Design for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) Lab
- New Zealand Tourism Institute (NZTRI)
- New Zealand Work Research Institute (NZWRI)
- Sports Performance Research Institute New Zealand (SPRINZ)
- Te Ipukarea – National Māori Language Institute

Alumnus awarded Fulbright scholarship to Columbia University

Bachelor of Communication Studies (Hons) alumnus Jeremy Olds was awarded a 2016 Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Award and is now studying at Columbia University in New York.



Olds, who graduated in 2012, was a staff writer for Fairfax Media's Sunday Magazine before undertaking his Master of Arts in Journalism (specialising in arts and culture) at Columbia University last year.

Six New Zealand graduate students were awarded a 2016 Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Award, including a one-off payment of US\$31,000 to go toward study costs, up to NZ\$4,000 toward a return airfare to the US, and ongoing support and development opportunities from Fulbright New Zealand throughout their study in the US.

Recipients are selected on the basis of "academic excellence, leadership potential and ambassadorial qualities".

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards to New Zealand and American graduate students to study or research in each other's countries.

JEREMY OLDS,
BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATION
STUDIES ALUMNUS

AUT alumni community site

Our AUT alumni community is growing every year and we have a network of talented graduates working in New Zealand and around the world.

AUT's alumni community has grown by over 70,000 since 2000.

More than 114,000 qualifications have been awarded since AUT became a university in 2000.

Visit alumni.aut.ac.nz to find out more.



AUT RANKS IN TOP 3% OF UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE

2016 QS World University Rankings

AUT is ranked in the top 450 universities in the world – the top 3% of universities in the world.

AUT is no.33 in the world for attracting international students and no.64 for attracting international academic staff.



Global university rankings have seen AUT named New Zealand's most international university and ranked in the top 450 universities in the world.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2016/17 ranked AUT as 19th in the world for International Outlook – which makes it the highest ranked university in New Zealand for International Outlook.

The ranking recognises AUT's ability to attract international students and staff, and how well it engages and collaborates with overseas universities.

In the QS World University Rankings for 2016/17 AUT was ranked as one of the top 450 universities in the world, continuing an upward trend in QS rankings. This puts AUT in the top 3% of universities worldwide.

AUT Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack says AUT's continued improvement in rankings reflects its growth and focus on providing a vibrant learning and research environment.

"AUT is New Zealand's fastest growing University and our focus is on providing a contemporary learning experience for our students."

"It's pleasing to see AUT recognised once again for our international outlook. Evidence shows students within a diverse educational

environment develop more critical thinking skills and more analytical skills simply by having to grapple with the different perspectives that come forward in discussions," he said.

AUT's international outlook was also highlighted by the QS rankings, with AUT ranking as number 33 in the world for attracting international students and #64 for attracting international academic staff.

In the QS ranking of the top 50 world universities under 50 years old, AUT received its highest ranking ever – in the #51–60 band – and was the fourth youngest university acknowledged in this ranking.

Times Higher Education ranked AUT as one of the world's top 150 young universities, based on the quality of teaching, research, citations, international outlook and industry income.

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2016 AUT achieved five rankings that put it in the top 250 in the world. AUT is in the:

- top 100 for Art and Design
- top 150 for Accounting and Finance
- top 200 for Communications and Media Studies
- top 250 for Education
- top 250 for Computer Science and Information Systems

In the QS Stars ratings AUT received the maximum five stars for Teaching, Employability, Internationalisation, Facilities, and Access/Inclusiveness and the AUT Business School received the maximum five stars in Engagement, Facilities, Internationalisation & Diversity, and the MBA programme.

Professor Judy McGregor supreme winner at 2016 Women in Governance Awards

AUT Professor of Human Rights Judy McGregor won the 'Supreme Award in Governance' at the 2016 Women in Governance Awards.

The Supreme Award in Governance is presented annually to a New Zealand woman who, through a lifetime commitment to promotion, support and mentoring has achieved excellence in governance.

Judges for the Supreme Award said Professor McGregor is "well known for promoting board diversity, both locally and internationally and has for many years been considered the 'éminence grise'* for women directors in New Zealand. She is competent and influential in numerous fields, namely law, journalism, politics and business. She is an enormously impressive person, greatly talented and highly respected. At the same time, she is able to communicate with people at all levels and with great warmth. Judy is quite literally 'a national treasure'."

Professor McGregor's research interests span human rights, gender equality, the rights to decent work, equal pay and pay equity and the rights of older people. She also works on women's representation and participation in professional, public, political and community life.

Recently Professor McGregor completed a three-year research project on human rights in New Zealand with Professor Margaret Wilson from the University of Waikato and human rights lawyer, Sylvia Bell. It concluded that New Zealand is regressing in areas such as child poverty, pay equity for women, and social and economic disadvantage for women and resulted in the book: Human Rights in New Zealand: Emerging Faultlines.

The book identifies five critical issues that New Zealand needs to address: the need to improve constitutional and democratic freedoms; child poverty; the over-imprisonment of Māori; women's rights such as equal pay; and the glacial pace of implementing the Convention for Disabled People.

"Our reputation for pioneering commitment to human rights is at stake. For New Zealand to continue to be seen as a global leader in human rights and an example to others, there will need to be new leaders with courage," says McGregor.

"A new kind of leadership in Parliament, government agencies and in communities and civil society is required to champion the urgent need for New Zealand to 'walk the talk' on closing poverty and inequality gaps, and ensuring that disadvantaged people enjoy fundamental social protections at the heart of human dignity and respect."

Professor McGregor is "well known for promoting board diversity, both locally and internationally and has for many years been considered the 'éminence grise' for women directors in New Zealand."

* a person who exercises power or influence in a certain sphere without holding an official position

Apple Creative Director Andrew McKechnie

Nomadic is a fair description for much of Andrew McKechnie's life. He was born in Nairobi then spent parts of his childhood in the Philippines, and Indonesia, moving every few years as his father's career took their family to different parts of the world.

When his parents decided to return home to New Zealand, McKechnie spent one of his longest stretches in one place, attending intermediate, high school and university in Auckland. For McKechnie, school was a time he spent figuring out what he was interested in and what he wanted to do, which to some observers – mostly his teachers – looked like a lack of focus.

"People probably thought that I never stuck to one thing consistently, which is often seen as a negative. But I tried everything. I tried every sport possible: rugby, table tennis, basketball, surfing, soccer, skateboarding, tennis, BMX, snowboarding, windsurfing. And I was the fat kid. I explored all genres of music and the art world. My bedroom walls were filled with a rotating canvas of art and inspiration," says McKechnie.

"I was just very curious, pushing the limits and seeing what ideas, concepts or themes stood out to me. Fortunately my parents were very supportive of this experimental phase in my life. At one point I think I had six piercings around my face."

"But because there were so many things that I was interested in, I did find it difficult to focus intently on what I wanted to do in my career."

"I was also a singer in a band, I was musical, I used to write poetry and lyrics, and all of those things have become valuable tools as a writer and a creative in the industry. But I really struggled after high school figuring out what I should focus my career on."

"[AUT] was probably the first time I felt really confident about my potential and the opportunities I could discover out in the real world. AUT grounded me – in a good way – and scrubbed away those teenage years of cruising. My academic side hadn't been triggered, but it was triggered at AUT."

In the end he chose to study marketing and advertising at AUT, through 'a process of elimination', and it was a decision that played a pivotal role in shaping his career.

"I knew that advertising was a creative industry, and I was always interested in photography, design, film, and writing. But I didn't really understand the true workings behind it. I just felt that it could be an avenue that would allow me to express my different interests."

"[At AUT] I quickly realised that I was pretty good at understanding the whole business side of it too. I was able to apply the logic of the business world in terms of marketing and advertising as well as apply some of my creative flair."

"I felt like I really understood the subject matter and I was actually interested in it. It felt like the real world. It wasn't just theory."

McKechnie says his time at AUT allowed him to discover what he was good at and to figure out what he ultimately wanted to do.

The next pivotal moment was his AUT co-op or internship, which saw McKechnie take on a role with FCB in Singapore.

"I think that was the trigger for my career, doing the co-op. It was pretty transformative

for me and it was a real shock to the system. It was 'the real world'. I encountered a ton of applied learning and was exposed to real business briefs and the workings of an agency. I got put through different departments and they really mentored me as a young copywriter."

McKechnie describes the co-op experience as "super-intense". During his time at FCB the agency helped him develop a portfolio and when the internship was up they offered him a role as a copywriter.

After landing that role McKechnie spent eight years in Singapore at three different agencies: FCB, BBDO, and J.Walter Thompson – working his way from Copywriter to Senior Copywriter and then Creative Group Head.

From there McKechnie set his sights on the US, but despite his successes in Singapore and a string of international awards, including 'Young Professional of the Year' and gold medals at every award show, it still proved tough to break into the US market.

Ultimately it was an agency in Boston – Modernista! – that first recognised McKechnie's talents.

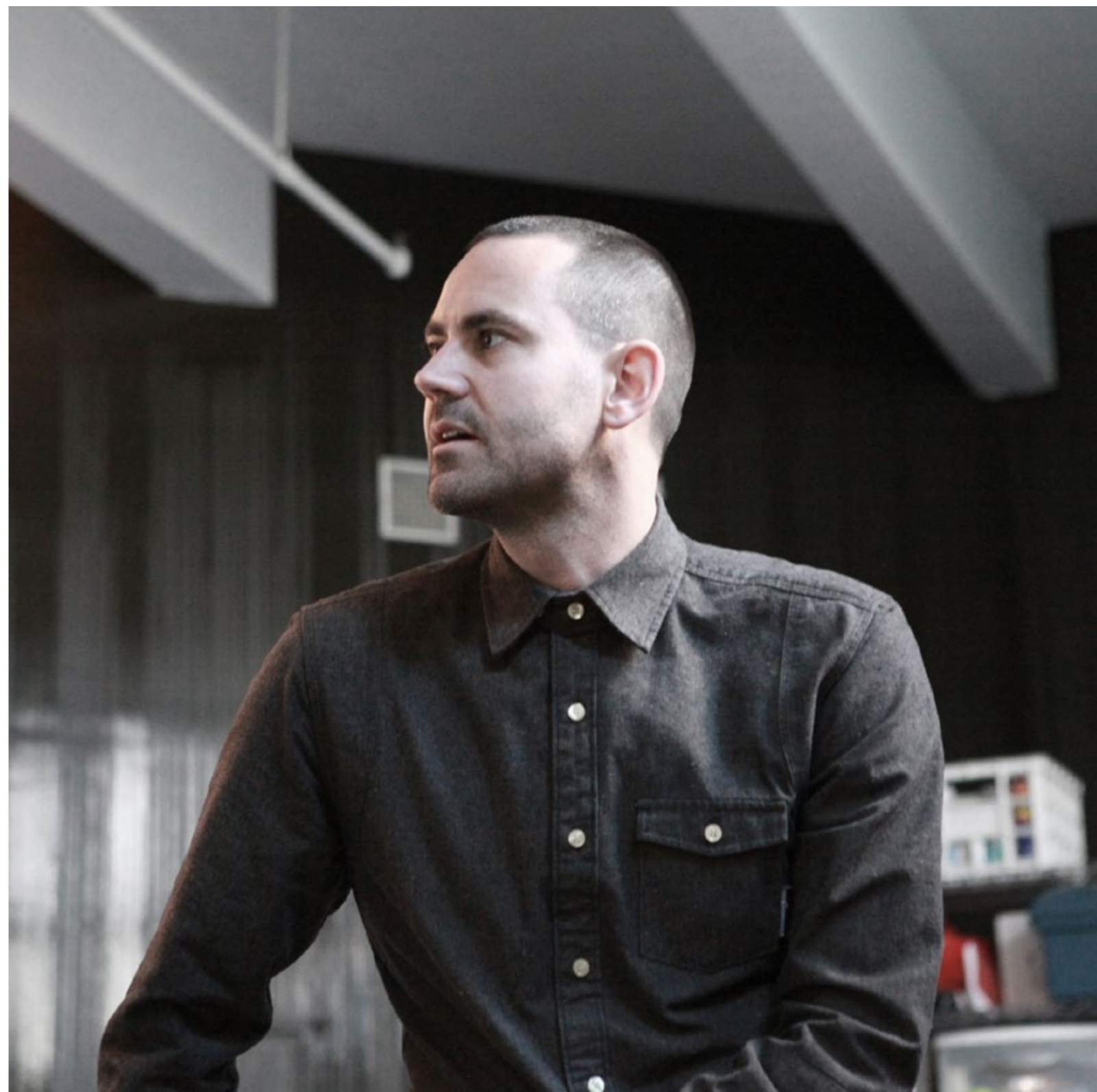
From there he was headhunted to go to New York and join Young & Rubicam

where he ran the global account for LG Electronics and Land Rover North America. Later he moved to DDB New York where he ran the global business for Reebok and created highly acclaimed campaigns for WaterIsLife and the NYC Ballet.

And then Apple called. Now as Global Group Creative Director, McKechnie is based in Cupertino, California leading a 40-strong team of creatives within the influential Design Group.

"I came to Apple to help integrate and dimensionalise the Design Group within Marcom. The team is made up of a diverse mix of disciplines from various creative backgrounds. They've come from industries such as film, interactive, advertising, design, and fashion. We have some of the world's best."

ANDREW MCKECHNIE
GLOBAL GROUP CREATIVE DIRECTOR, APPLE



AUT Internz a two-way talent pipeline

Facebook, Saatchi & Saatchi New York, Westpac Americas, Apple, Paramount Recording Studios, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Sundance Institute.

It reads like a graduate's dream job wish list but these organisations are just a few of the companies that have come onboard as global partners in the AUT Internz flagship internship programme.

Since 2014, more than 72 students have secured internships using Internz to get in front of employers in North America who have presented a steady stream of opportunities for talented, motivated students and new graduates.

Since April last year, nearly 200 New Zealand companies have also been seeking candidates using the Internz programme, using the service to find students in their final stages of study for marketing, engineering, IT, project management, digital production, business and social enterprise roles.

Head of AUT Internz Ella Monahan says AUT Internz is providing a two-way advantage giving local and international companies the chance to access up-and-coming talent and at the same time providing a career

headstart for AUT students.

FCB West in San Francisco welcomed its second creative team of AUT interns in January 2017 for a 12 week internship. Martha Lees and Thomas Klaassen, both 2016 graduates of AUT's Communication Studies School, follow in the footsteps of Tom Davies and Deborah Chae who made an impression there in 2016.

Karin Osanger-Birch, Chief Creative Officer at FCB West said it has been an absolute pleasure hosting interns from AUT. "Your program must be terrific because these guys have really contributed in a huge way with great ideas, great insight and fun energy."

Play Rugby USA in New York has taken five AUT interns through the programme and founder and CEO Mark Griffin says it's been a positive experience.

"We see a real desire from our alumni who may have risen to the top of their professions to 'give back' by providing opportunities to new AUT graduates."

"We find they always fit in well, are self-starters and with some guidance are able to lead a project that leaves a legacy after they return home."

Talima Fruean who studied a Bachelor of Sport and Recreation received an AUT Internz scholarship to intern with Play Rugby USA, and says the internship really broadened her horizons.

Fruean coached and mentored students in schools in Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, assisted in planning the Play Rugby USA recruitment framework and created lesson plans.

AUT alumni are also proving to be strong supporters of the internships.

AUT Business School alum Andrew McKechnie, now Global Group Creative Director at Apple, opened doors for an AUT student to intern at the company's San Francisco headquarters and earlier this year Auckland-based GM of Unleashed Software and AUT alumna Lisa Miles-Heal announced four paid internship opportunities since filled by AUT students.

Monahan says AUT alumni who are in a position to employ young people have been a strong driver of growth of opportunities for AUT students in the international and domestic market.

"We see a real desire from our alumni who may have risen to the top of their professions to 'give back' by providing opportunities to new AUT graduates."

Monahan says a number of the interns have also been offered extended positions or identified new job opportunities during their New Zealand or overseas placements.

Bachelor of Design graduate Felicia Irene was offered a post-internship role as a designer with Saatchi & Saatchi New York after her initial 12-week internship.

Irene's advice to other students taking on opportunities through the Internz programme?

"Be persistent, work hard and have fun. It's not going to be easy for sure, but it's going to be worth it."

For more information, please visit www.internz.aut.ac.nz

(LEFT) TALIMA FRUEAN, BACHELOR OF SPORT AND RECREATION GRADUATE, INTERN WITH PLAY RUGBY USA

(RIGHT) FELICIA IRENE, BACHELOR OF DESIGN GRADUATE, INTERN WITH SAATCHI & SAATCHI NEW YORK

What is AUT Internz?

AUT Internz connects graduating students with employers looking for top talent. It is an online service where New Zealand employers can advertise roles, search for and find students. Partners of the international programme can access AUT students for overseas internships, with the students they select being eligible for scholarships from AUT to get to North America.





Catalyst Fund backs DHW Lab

AUT's DHW (Design for Health & Wellbeing) Lab has been awarded \$80,000 from the Catalyst Fund to participate in an international collaboration looking to improve the experiences of people living with dementia.

DHW Lab co-director Dr Steve Reay says the Catalyst Fund will allow the Lab to develop the partnership it has established with the Sheffield Hallam University's Lab4Living. Moreover, alongside AUT's Centre for Person-Centred Research design opportunities for people living with dementia in both hospital and community environments will be explored.

In the first of several activities planned under the research, a small team from AUT will visit Sheffield Hallam University to work with the Lab4living, and participate in workshops with people living with dementia, their families and researchers.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the lab to grow our international relationships with others working in design for health."

DHW Lab is a collaboration between the Auckland DHB and AUT focused on improving healthcare experiences for patients, families and staff. All the work conducted through the lab is research, contributing to a wider body of knowledge around design and health.

The Catalyst Fund, previously known as International Relationships Fund from the Royal Society of New Zealand, aims to facilitate new small and medium pre-research strategic partnerships with a view of developing high quality international collaborations in science and innovation benefiting New Zealand.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the lab to grow our international relationships with others working in design for health."

(RIGHT) DHW LAB CO-DIRECTORS, JUSTIN KENNEDY-GOOD AND DR STEVE REAY
(LEFT) DESIGN STUDENTS WORKING IN THE DHW LAB LOCATED AT AUCKLAND HOSPITAL

Global science project recognised at NZ Innovation Awards



AUT's role in the world's biggest science project won a highly commended prize at the NZ Innovation Awards.

AUT leads New Zealand's role in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project which will see thousands of dishes across Australia and South Africa act as two giant radio telescopes.

The telescopes, which will be fully operational by 2030, will help create data images allowing scientists to see back to the beginning of the universe for the first time.

AUT and its partners are helping to design the correlator, which houses the high-speed computers. It is the brain of the operation and brings all the data together, correlating it, so it appears to have come from just one telescope – making it easier for scientists to identify important data. AUT is using its radio telescope at Warkworth to help model the demands of the SKA project.

The project won a highly commended in the Research Excellence category at the NZ Innovation Awards in October 2016.

AUT Colab Master of Creative Technologies Alejandro Davila, was also a finalist in the Young New

Zealand Innovator category. Davila has created a virtual reality story-telling experience, called Green Fairy, a first in the Southern Hemisphere.

Te Ipukarea's Te Aka Dictionary & Te Reo Māori app & Tamata Toiere e-repository of waiata and haka, which AUT staff worked on, was also nominated for the Innovation in Media, Mobile and Entertainment category.

The telescopes, which will be fully operational by 2030, will help to create data images allowing scientists for the first time to see back to the beginning of the universe.

In 2015, AUT Professor of Biotech Innovation and Kode Biotech CEO Steve Henry was named Supreme NZ Innovator and winner of the Innovation in Health and Science category.

AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE RADIO TELESCOPES THAT WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE ANSWERS ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE THROUGH THE GLOBAL SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY PROJECT

PHOTO CREDIT: SKA ORGANISATION, MAY 2016

Twitter head of global operations Kate Taylor

Twitter's head of global growth operations Kate Taylor – and Bachelor of Communications alumna – shares some insights into how missing out on her chosen TV major set her on the right path, the importance of mastering soft skills and her preferred type of stress.

Did you have an early interest in technology and business?

Technology less so, but it is something I have since developed a keen passion for. I don't think we push our girls enough to choose sciences, maths and technology at school. We certainly didn't when I was growing up. It just didn't seem like an option for girls back then. However, my dad worked as a management consultant for different businesses and I think his influence might have helped me develop an interest in business.

Did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to do when you left high school?

Oh yes, definitely. I wanted to be a film director.

Why did you choose AUT?

I had heard it was really good. I choose the Bachelor of Communications programme because it had a TV major, but I didn't end up doing the TV major. It was a very small, hand-picked group that were selected for that elective and I just didn't make the cut. However, from that experience I learned that when you start in TV, you start at the bottom. There is a real hierarchy in that profession and you have to work your way up. In contrast to that environment, I like to achieve and climb the ladder as quickly as possible. As I got a bit older, I thought 'oh it was really cool

“The most successful outcome is one where the team dynamic is successful. If you're not working well together you're not usually accomplishing that much and you're potentially spinning your wheels.”

that I didn't end up doing that'. Instead, I went into the technology space where people get a leg up. It's a dynamic industry that doesn't necessarily expect you to 'pay your dues' as much.



the job at CBS Interactive. The job at Twitter was through my husbands' softball team, a team mate had jumped ship from CBS to Twitter. He referred me, so I just had to get through the interviews.

How did you get from a film-focus into multimedia?

At AUT they had a multimedia major, as well as journalism, public relations and radio, and I thought to myself, 'what is going to give me the greatest long-term career options?' I decided the multimedia major was a good blend of creativity and skill that may pay off down the road. It felt a bit like making a 'second choice', but it was in the end the best decision I could have made.

Where did you carry out your AUT co-op?

My mentor, Lara Bowen was the project manager at Terabyte Interactive. I followed her around doing small, project-based jobs. I got to do some really cool work, like the interactive kiosks at Auckland Museum. It was an inspiring experience. A couple of years later I left Auckland for London and Lara was already there, she was my soft landing – she found me a job.

You worked for CBS Interactive for a while. How did you get from there to Twitter?

It's all about who you know. The CBS Interactive role was gained through friendly connections. I play a lot of Ultimate Frisbee and it was this sporting connection that got me

What was the Twitter interview process like?

It was an exhausting process. You go in for the day and you are pretty much locked in. I had maybe five 45-minute to one-hour interviews, back to back. Between the interviews they feed you, and are really nice, but you are still with a chaperone, so it feels like an all day interview.

What are the most important skills you use day to day as Twitter's head of global growth operations?

I would say it's the soft skills that are the most important. The most successful outcome is one where the team dynamic is just right. If you're not working well together you're not usually accomplishing that much, and you're probably spinning your wheels, working against each other's interests. I focus a lot on the team dynamic. My team is all over the globe, so I have to work really hard to understand what's going on for them – are there communication breakdowns? How is our team perceived? How are other teams interacting with us? We're big enough at Twitter, and with my team – disparate enough – that communication issues can become very challenging.

What are the biggest lessons you've learned in your role?

I've learned that the only constant is change. To cope with that change you have to be a very flexible person. No matter how chaotic works becomes, and even if you're in a panic – relationships come first. That's how you'll get what you need. I actually believe that a high rate of change bonds people together. You're all in it together and you are all doing what you can to make the most of any situation. I really value those relationships, and you're not going to get on the wrong side of people if you're constantly nice to them.

Is this a stressful job?

There are two types of stress. There's the 'I feel totally unsupported and everyone hates me, and I've got something to prove', and then there's 'I have such a high volume of work that I don't know how to cope'. And if you've got both of those kinds of stress, then you just want to die.

I have a huge volume of work, however, I'm totally in love with what I do, and I am totally supported. I also get to do very exciting work, so I think I'm very lucky. I believe that's a much more preferable version of stress.

Alumni selected for 2016 ART Venture accelerator programme

Two AUT alumni have had their creative talents recognised with a place on the year-long creative enterprise accelerator programme ART Venture, offered by ART – Arts Regional Trust.

Creative technologist Martin Hill, an AUT Bachelor of Creative Technologies graduate, received his award for MakerSphere.

MakerSphere is focused on giving young New Zealanders more opportunities to be creative, get hands-on and make things.

“Many [young people] struggle to engage with learning in our current school system. This project will engage youth with learning through hands-on projects that stimulate their thinking.”



MARTIN HILL
CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIST AND BACHELOR OF
CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ALUMNUS



Photographer Mardo El-Noor, an alumnus of AUT's Master of Arts (Graphic Design) programme, has received the award for his start-up Martian Studio.

Martian Studio provides creative services in photography, producing highly stylised scenes that can help tell stories about passions and causes, families and friends, and products and services.

Each place on the programme is worth over \$30,000 and includes specialist coaching, a seed funding pitching process and advice to help the recipients develop strategies to take their creative enterprises to the next level.

Chair of Arts Regional Trust Nigel Arkell described the recipients as a “fantastic group of talented, creative practitioners [who] are already making a very real difference to the transformation and growth of Auckland and New Zealand through their creativity, innovation and talent”.

The 2016 ART Venture Award recipients include artist and sustainability designer Miranda Brown, Te Rehia Theatre Company creative producer Amber Curren and Wet Hot Beauties co-creator Judy Dale.

Innovating research through drone technology

Researchers at AUT are being recognised for their creative use of drones to evaluate vulnerable ecosystems and gain insights into inaccessible environments.

AUT researcher, Dr Barbara Bollard-Breen and Professor Steven Pointing from the Institute for Applied Ecology, are developing novel “zero-harm” remote survey tools for conservation solutions.

Using drones, the team is able to map habitats and landscapes, monitor wildlife behaviour and examine human impact on the environment – without leaving a trace of their own.

Earlier this year Dr Bollard-Breen, Professor Pointing and Professor Mark Orams from the NZ Tourism Research Institute took a ‘swarm’ of unmanned aerial vehicles – or UAVs – to Antarctica to aerially scan the McMurdo Dry Valleys, Botany Bay and the area surrounding Captain Robert Scott’s former hut.



All three sites are designated special protected areas but the impact that humans have so far had on them has remained largely unknown.

The study, funded by the New Zealand Antarctic Research Institute, is delivering a world-first, high-quality data set, some of which would be added to Auckland University of Technology's spectral library of ecological records.

"We can't go back in time and eliminate what's already happened there – so we are just wanting to quantify that so we can monitor changes going forward," says Dr Bollard-Breen.

Dr Bollard-Breen, who leads AUT's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) team, has previously used satellite imagery in her research but factors like cloud – a regular occurrence in New Zealand – interfered with the results and meant corrections needed to be made.

"The use of drones in conservation and ecological research is a game changer."

Improvements in the quality of data isn't the only advantage – drones are also more efficient.

In just a day the UAV team can map 100 hectares, collecting thousands of images that are then collated to create high-resolution maps. On foot that same area could take a month to survey.

Growing interest in their research work with drones has seen Dr Bollard-Breen, a lecturer in geospatial science, asked to speak at this year's TEDxAuckland event where she shared insights into how her team have used drones to map threatened ecosystems in Africa, Australia and Antarctica.

This year two of Dr Bollard-Breen's postgraduate students, Ticiana Fetterman and Lorenzo Fiori, also captured unique footage of a Bryde's Whale in the Hauraki Gulf with a UAV.

The footage made headlines around the world including in the Telegraph and BBC and now has close to 500,000 views on YouTube.

Dr Bollard-Breen says using the UAV – which flew at a distance of at least 40 metres from the whales – allowed her students to film without disturbing the surrounding wildlife, revealing footage of the whales feeding that wouldn't have been possible from a boat-based survey.

"Bryde's Whales are critically threatened in New Zealand, so it's thrilling to see them in the wild and to be able to record them feeding from above is very special."

“The use of drones in conservation and ecological research is a game changer.”

AUT dominates at Best Design Awards

AUT has had its most successful Best Awards' night yet. The Best Awards are the country's top Design awards and were held in Auckland at the end of 2016.

AUT was awarded a minimum of one Gold (the top award) in each category while Communication Design had its strongest year yet.

AUT Communication Design graduates won four out of six possible golds in the Student Graphic Design category: Alex Turner, Alistair McCready (now working in London) and Kate McGuinness (currently working in Wellington).

They also won five of the fourteen Student Graphic Design Silvers: Milly Scott, Alistair McCready, Hugo Christian-Slane, Rob Lewis and Eden Short (Masters project for the DHW Lab).

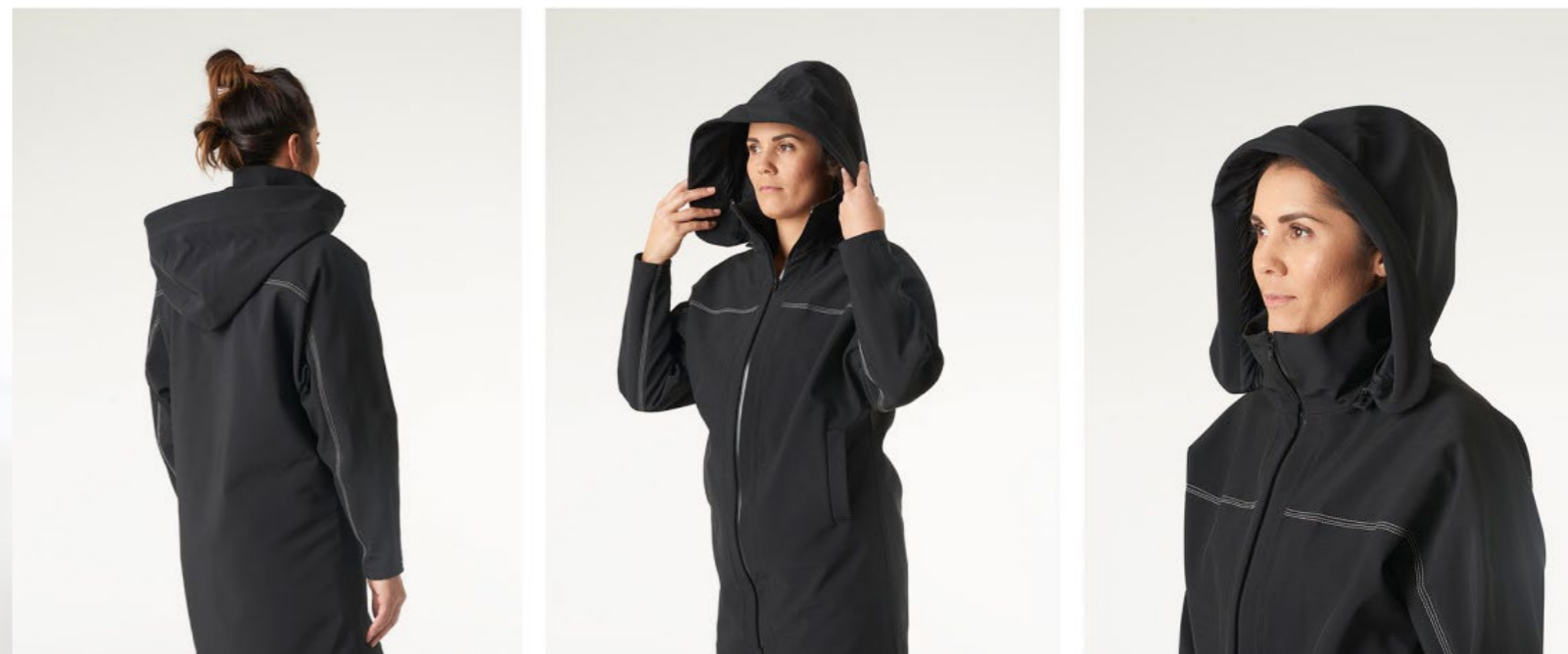
Spatial Design won a gold award for the student project Zoon Pōlitikon which was exhibited at the 2016 Venice Biennale. Spatial lecturer and PhD alumna Fleur Palmer won a gold in the Nga Aho category, and Benjamin Bray from Colab won a gold in the interactive category.

Antonio Wan and Kimberly Ruwhui each won golds for Product Design. Antonio designed a baby bath in collaboration with the DHW Lab and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Auckland Hospital. Kimberly, a fashion student, design a jacket for the farming community.

The Head of School of Art and Design, Professor Thomas Mical, says he is thrilled to see the quality and abundance of our design staff and students' work recognised at national level.

The Best Awards are run by The Designers Institute and are a showcase of excellence in graphic, spatial, product and interactive design.

BEST DESIGN AWARDS 2016 GOLD WINNERS
(LEFT) 'LITTLE ONES' DESIGN BY ANTONIO WAN
(TOP & BOTTOM RIGHT) WAIHOU JACKET BY KIMBERLEY RUWHUI



CNZM recognises services to education and the Pacific



Tagaloatele Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop has been appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to education and the Pacific community.

AUT Professor of Pacific Studies Fairbairn-Dunlop says her own parents moved to Wellington from Samoa to secure a better education and future for their children and it is a goal that she has carried with her – striving to facilitate education opportunities for the Pacific community throughout her career.

A former primary teacher and teachers' college lecturer, she has balanced her work as an educator with an active research career, investigating and publishing on Pacific development issues for over 30 years.

Assessing the appropriateness of global policy and practice for Pacific peoples has been a major focus of her research efforts, in particular as they relate to issues of sustainable development, family systems and security, and gender and youth equity. Her expertise on issues affecting Pacific communities has seen her hold multiple United Nations posts.

"To me, this award stands for the growing understanding that there are many paths to learning and to achieving excellence," she says.

"It confirms that New Zealand recognises the place of Pacific knowledge and practice in educational thinking. It's a huge leap forward, and fits with the country's cultural diversity and goal of equity."

She praises the work of the many others who have contributed to these advances, and to those who have supported her work.

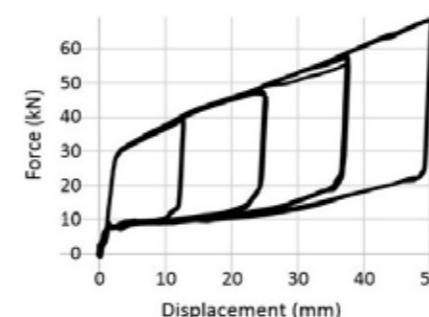
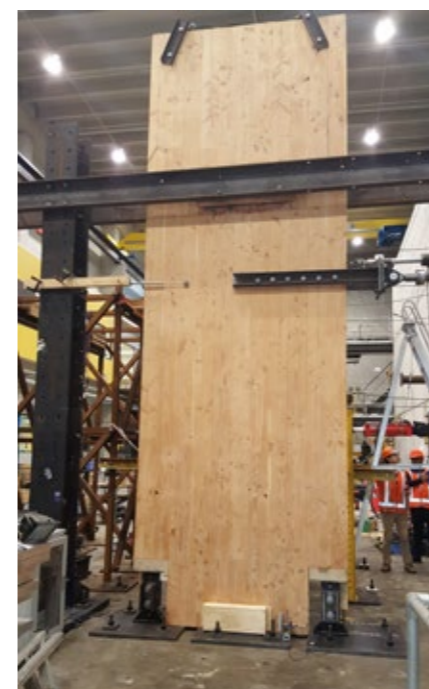
"Our Pacific teachers and writers, and others in the education field are working hard to document Pacific knowledge and how it can be applied in classroom practices."

Professor Fairbairn-Dunlop is now focussed on increasing the level of Pacific people with post-graduate qualifications.

"My aim is to educate students who can earn their place at top-level decision making tables, and sit with just as much confidence in these forums as at the village fono."

“It confirms that New Zealand recognises the place of Pacific knowledge and practice in educational thinking. It's a huge leap forward, and fits with the country's cultural diversity and goal of equity.”

Researcher wins funding for quake tech



(RIGHT TOP) LARGE-SCALE TESTING (UNDERTAKEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND) OF A SHEAR WALL REINFORCED BY RSFJS AS HOLD-DOWNS

(RIGHT MIDDLE AND BOTTOM) RESILIENT SLIP-FRICTION JOINT (RSFJ) WITH DAMPING AND INHERENT SELF-CENTERING

Technology co-designed by an AUT academic that improves earthquake resilience in buildings has won more than three million dollars in government funding.

The Resilient Slip-Friction Joint (RSFJ) was designed by Structural Engineering lecturer Dr Pouyan Zarnani with two members of Auckland University's Civil and Environmental Engineering department when he was a post-doctoral fellow there.

Now Dr Zarnani teaches in the Built Engineering department of AUT's School of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences. The RSFJ research programme will be a collaborative four-year project between the two universities, led by University of Auckland but with an AUT contract of over \$1 million dollars.

Earthquake engineering technology being worked on by AUT's Dr Pouyan Zarnani has the capacity to dissipate earthquake energy as well as self-centering with no post event maintenance to minimise the damage and the residual drift of the structures.

As part of this project, a full-scale 3-storey building reinforced by the RSFJ technology will undergo rigorous testing to simulate a severe earthquake event.

"With a clear global increase in frequency and impact of seismic events, engineers' effort has been focused on the development of techniques which not only provide life-safety, but also aim to minimise damage so that buildings could be reoccupied quickly with minimal business interruption and repair costs," says Dr Zarnani.

"RSFJ technology provides a cost-effective and sustainable solution as there is no need for costly post-tensioning systems for structural self-centring (as common practice), but also it is maintenance free and no need for any connection component replacement after earthquakes which is a serious risk for aftershocks."

"This new Damage Avoidance RSFJ technology can be considered the 3rd generation of seismic solutions after the state-of-the-practice Low Damage and traditional High Damage systems."

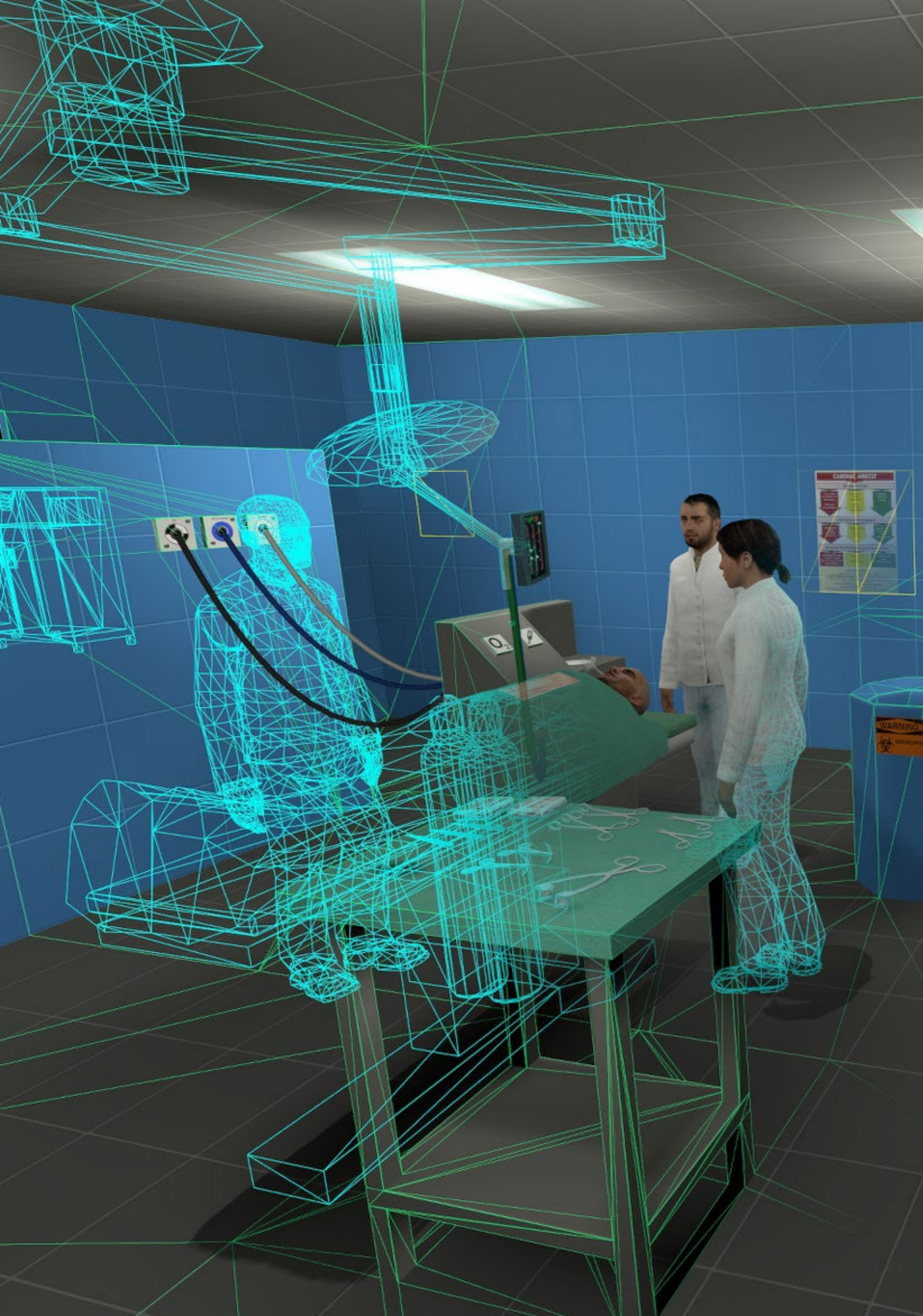
He believes through the successful completion of this research programme, the RSFJ technology will have a global impact on the building industry given it can be used in all types of new and retrofitted structures (low-to high-rise) either in steel, timber or concrete, particularly in countries which are seismically active like those located on the Pacific Ring of Fire.

The concept has previously been awarded winner of the Spark's \$100k Challenge.

The RSFJ technology will have a global impact on the building industry given it can be used in all types of new and retrofitted structures.

**Smarter use of big data:
national centre to create new
data technology platforms**





Building world-leading data technology platforms that create industries and keep talented young New Zealanders in this country is the focus of a new national organisation based at AUT.

The INTERACT Centre of Technology Excellence aims to create a quantum leap forward in New Zealand's ability to be a leading developer of data technologies and to retain IT and data science graduates in local industries.

INTERACT operates as a highly networked, industry-linked organisation with the central aim of addressing questions around large scale streaming, big data processing and analytics.

The national centre is expected to deliver economic gains through new technologies in areas including: Smart City Transportation, Predictive Analytics in Social Services, Precision Medicine, Environmental Surveying, Disaster Management & Prediction, Precision Agriculture and Autonomous Vehicles.

AUT's Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Professor John Raine, says "INTERACT will significantly increase New Zealand's engagement in data-intensive R&D, an area where we have lagged internationally, but which offers the opportunity for advanced technology development and potential spin-off industry benefits."

Current projects at AUT that are part of INTERACT include the use of neural computing in predicting earthquakes, the matching of therapeutic drug regimens to an individual's genetic make-up, using drones to make and analyse 3-D maps of plant species in the wild, working with sensor networks, cameras and data analytics to make driverless cars safer, and creating predictive models that support social services decision processes when intervening in families at risk.

The INTERACT collaborative framework will generate a number of PhD graduates and seek to retain them in New Zealand through exciting research and industry opportunities. INTERACT will attract talent through postdoctoral fellowships and grow industry capabilities through close interaction with New Zealand companies.

Hosted by AUT, INTERACT has been conceived as a collaborative national organisation with key research partners such as the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, Massey University and the University of Waikato, together with Callaghan Innovation and Opus International Consultants.



(TOP & LEFT) DR STEFAN MARKS
TURNS DATA INTO A VISUAL
EXPERIENCE USING VIRTUAL REALITY

“INTERACT will significantly increase New Zealand's engagement in data-intensive R&D, an area where we have lagged internationally.”

Senior research staff from all New Zealand universities have engaged in INTERACT R&D projects.

INTERACT has a substantial list of industry partners, and existing multinational corporate partners, with others being introduced by Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) and is currently seeking to boost institutional support for its R&D activities through Government investment.



ENTREPRENEURS MEETING DURING THE NINE-WEEK PROGRAMME HOSTED BY CO.STARTERS@AUT

Co.Starters@AUT offering headstart for aspiring entrepreneurs

An entrepreneurship programme that has helped launch more than a thousand businesses internationally is now being offered at AUT.

Co.Starters@AUT is a nine-week programme that helps entrepreneurs evaluate the strength of their start-up idea, understand what makes a sustainable business and develop a practical plan to get their venture up and running.

AUT has run the programme through four rounds since launching it in early 2016 and Martin Bell, Director of AUT Co.Starters, says the aim is to nurture entrepreneurial behaviour and give students and alumni the tools they need.

“We know that today’s students and tomorrow’s graduates will follow very different career paths to previous generations and many students choose start-up and entrepreneurial careers over traditional jobs.”

AUT already offers several student enterprise initiatives including a kickstarter weekend, a business idea competition and an enterprise challenge.

Bachelor of Product Design graduate Praveer Srivastava took advantage of the enterprise initiatives while studying at AUT and won the AUT Kickstarter challenge – along with teammates Tom Davies and Ben O’Connor – with an idea for a sensor-based alarm system for hot cars which would be triggered if a child was left in their car seat.

While studying at AUT, Srivastava was also mentored by AUTEL (AUT Enterprises Ltd) on his start-up idea for a software service product that helps tour guides manage groups of travellers.

Now Srivastava is working to launch his start-up – ‘Gypsee’ – while also sharing his knowledge as one of the Co.Starter facilitators.

“I think my business background combined with design thinking skills gained at AUT alongside the fact I am currently working on my own start-up means I can empathise with the participants and really motivate them to create their own opportunities and take a non traditional path post graduation,” says Srivastava.

Topics covered in the nine-week Co.Starters programme range from marketing and messaging, growing and retaining customers, distribution, revenue, bottom lines, start-up and ongoing costs, break-even points, sales projections, cash flows, growth plans and working on pitching their ideas to investors.

Co.Starters manager and facilitator Sabrina Nagel says the programme is unique because it is open to anyone with a business idea who wants to develop it further, it can be pursued while studying or working full-time and it harnesses the power of community.

“At AUT, our Co.Starters cohorts are a mix of students, alumni and business people and it is run by trained facilitators who bring in guest speakers from the local business community to add different perspectives to the learning. By drawing on that local expertise we think it really harnesses the power of community.”

“We know that today’s students and tomorrow’s graduates will follow very different career paths to previous generations and many students choose start-up and entrepreneurial careers over traditional jobs.”

For more information and to apply, please visit www.costarters.co.nz

Top tips for launching your start-up venture

Co.Starters start-up facilitator and product designer Praveer Srivastava shares his top five tips to get your start-up off the ground:

TAKE A RISK

Experiment with your ideas and take chances. Trial and error – and ‘failure’ – are a necessary part of entrepreneurship.

SOLVE A REAL PROBLEM

Create something that first and foremost solves a real problem.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR WELLBEING

Starting a business is hard and it can mean lots of late nights. Try to take care of your health while you work on your start-up.

SHARE YOUR IDEA

The more people you speak to, the better your idea will become. People often think of entrepreneurs as working alone but the successful ones don’t.

HAVE A GOOD TEAM OR NETWORK

Choose people with complementary strengths to your own skills and create a network of partners and advisors.

Research leads to multi-million dollar boost for government programme



A \$7 million dollar annual funding boost for the NZ Government's 'Family Start' home visiting programme was prompted by empirical research commissioned from AUT's Centre for Social Data Analytics (CSDA).

In 2016 it was announced that Family Start funding would be increased by \$7.3 million per annum and the Family Start evaluation led by Professor Rhema Vaithianathan, co-director of the CSDA was referenced as evidence.

Minister of Social Development Anne Tolley said the decision was made to invest in "those who are in the most need of support by increasing the funding for Family Start, an evidence-based intensive home visitation programme with proven results".

"Family Start has been shown to increase mothers' use of community-based mental health services, child immunisation rates and participation in Early Childhood Education."

In addition to these outcomes, the research team led by Professor Rhema Vaithianathan found that babies in Family Start families had a lower risk of Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy.

A strong advocate for the potential of data to support better policy and decision-making, Professor Vaithianathan welcomed the Government's decision to invest an additional 25 percent annually in Family Start.

"This outcome demonstrates the value that academic research can add when Government is looking at where to invest taxpayer dollars for maximum impact."

"Family Start had been running for over 15 years but had never been evaluated for impact until now. Evidence like this research allows Government to make educated decisions about spending."

The Family Start research used rich linked administrative (de-identified) data for children born between 2004 and 2011 and researchers completed an impact evaluation using two separate quasi-experimental methods.

Other authors on the research were Professor Tim Maloney (CSDA, AUT), Moira Wilson (MSD) and Sarah Baird (George Washington University).

"This outcome demonstrates the value that academic research can add when Government is looking at where to invest taxpayer dollars for maximum impact."

Professor Vaithianathan has also lead evaluations of two other Ministry of Social Development programmes, (Social Workers in Schools and Teen Parent Units) with final results yet to be announced.

Campus Developments

Keeping pace with a changing world



Keeping pace with student growth, changes in teaching and learning, and advances in technology has seen AUT continue to invest in developments across its campuses.

Over the next eight years AUT has committed a \$250 million budget to construction and refurbishment on its city, south and north campuses.

Overseeing the extensive development works is Group Director Estates Dr Tony Lanigan who says the focus is on creating campuses that students, staff and the community enjoy using and that offer excellent infrastructure and facilities that are fit for purpose.

Lanigan says one of the greatest challenges is creating learning and teaching environments that are adaptable and allow for evolving curriculum and research demands.

“Learning has become richer and more complex, technology is enabling new ways of learning and generating the tools to support this, students are seeking more collaborative experiences and we need to develop buildings that support that.”

Work has begun on the new 12-storey Engineering, Technology and Design (ETD) building bordering St Paul and Symonds Streets at AUT's City Campus. The expected opening date for ETD is early 2018.

Following the brief for ‘future-proofed’ learning environments, this \$100 million-project will provide collaborative social learning spaces, flexible delivery labs, purpose-designed labs for concrete, timber and structural testing and an

experimentation roof and areas known as ‘making spaces’. The ETD building will also have dedicated project studios for students, a café and exhibition space.

“Learning has become richer and more complex, technology is enabling new ways of learning and generating the tools to support this, students are seeking more collaborative experiences and we need to develop buildings that support that.”

“Sustainable design is another important focus for our team and our developments incorporate a range of features including low energy light fittings and heating, cooling and ventilation systems and high performance facades for sun shading and temperature management.”

At South Campus stormwater will be treated through new raingardens and the existing lake. Concept plans for the North Campus take into account the campus’ unique coastal location and its relationship to the local ecology and geography.

Other current projects include the new MH building on AUT's South Campus opening for semester one 2017. A 380-space carpark has already been built in anticipation.

On the North Campus the ground floor of AF building has been refurbished and now provides students with group

ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE NEW
ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN
(ETD) BUILDING LAUNCHING EARLY 2018

and individual spaces to study, collaborate, learn and relax in a social environment, as well as bookable meeting rooms, onsite computers and space for students to work with their own devices.

Concept design on the new 'A1' building is progressing. A1 is being designed as the 'heart' of the North Campus and due for completion in 2019. The development will bring together health, sports, environmental and applied sciences into a single biological sciences precinct and is intended to offer more space for applied research and industry collaboration with shared specialist facilities.

The first stage of A1 is the development of the new health clinic facility on Akoranga Drive. It will incorporate the interprofessional health clinics and the Health Counselling and Wellbeing Clinic.

"The co-location of these services will result in efficiencies and provide improved facilities for teaching and treatment."

What's new on AUT's four campuses?

Over the past ten years students, staff, industry partners and the community have benefitted from new facilities and acquisitions across AUT Millennium, and the City, North and South Campus. Some highlights include:

City Campus

- Sir Paul Reeves Building
- The new Student Hub and Tech Central spaces
- Major update of Piko and Four Seasons restaurants

North Campus

- Creation of walkway connecting Akoranga bus station to the campus
- New lecture theatres and atrium
- Investment in the Millennium Institute of Sport and Health, now known as AUT Millennium

South Campus

- Established South Campus and major refit of three buildings onsite
- Purchased additional land for future growth



ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE NEW ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN (ETD) BUILDING LAUNCHING EARLY 2018



Picking the postgraduate path

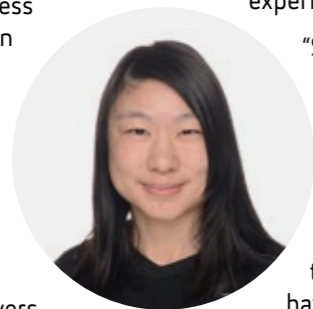
Choosing to ‘go back to university’ is a big decision but it can also offer big rewards. AUT Employability and Career Specialists Shaun Pulman, Rebecca Du and Angela McCarthy have some advice on the value of postgraduate studies and how to choose the right option.

For some people a love of learning will be enough to drive them back to university for further study, but Employability and Career Specialist Rebecca Du says there are many practical drivers too.

“Developing specialist knowledge and skills in a particular field can add to your employability or make you more valuable to a current employer. Graduate surveys also show you’ll earn more in the long-run compared to those with an undergraduate qualification.”

Du says aside from the measurable advantages, people who take on postgraduate studies stand to gain well-developed research and critical thinking skills, exposure to new perspectives and innovative ideas, and they benefit from access to the latest insights in their chosen field.

AUT Employability and Career Specialist Angela McCarthy says pursuing postgraduate studies also signals to employers that you’re a believer in lifelong learning, which is increasingly valued in today’s work environment.



“With the rapid changes technology brings to the workplace, we all need to be upskilling and often a postgraduate qualification provides a lot of stimulus and new innovation and thinking for the individual and their role.”

Successful timing

To get the most out of postgraduate study Employability and Career Specialist Shaun Pulman advises gaining some industry experience first.

Pulman says there are several reasons why postgraduate study can be more valuable to someone who has spent time working and has industry-related experience.

“Someone with work experience is more likely to choose a postgraduate qualification that they enjoy and that relates to an area they have a strong interest in – they’re more likely to really know what they want to do because they have spent time trying out the industry,” says Pulman.

“Employers who look at a CV of a postgraduate student are more

likely to see a pattern of considered professional development if the candidate has interspersed periods of time in the workforce with study.

“Someone with work experience is more likely to choose a postgraduate qualification that they enjoy and that relates to an area they have a strong interest in.”

If you’ve chosen to go back to postgraduate study it shows you are motivated to upscale and that’s something employers will value.”

Taking a break from university before returning to take on a postgraduate qualification also lessens the likelihood of study fatigue, something Pulman says he knows from personal experience.

“Going straight from undergrad to postgrad can be a long stretch, and it’s easy to get ‘stale’ part way through.”

McCarthy adds that some people find they are revitalised by postgraduate study and end up seeing the world in quite a different way.

“That can have a huge impact on your job and your personal life too.”

Choosing the right programme

Research, research, research is the unanimous advice about choosing a programme.

“Think about what you’re interested in and then research all the postgraduate programmes on offer,” says Du.

Pulman and Du also recommend talking to lots of different people. “Once you have narrowed down your options, talk to lecturers who work in the area you’re interested in and discuss possible research areas,” says Pulman.

“Thinking about research opportunities and the chance to learn more about your chosen area should be exciting and it should motivate you to take on the challenges of postgraduate study. If it doesn’t, you might not be ready yet.”

It can also be helpful to talk to current postgraduate students to gain a realistic understanding of the programmes you’re considering.

If you have a career goal in mind, talk to employers in your chosen area about the skills and qualifications that they are looking for.

“You can also talk to us, that’s what we do as AUT’s Employability and Career Specialists or you can chat to the AUT Postgraduate Liaison Manager about the programme that’s best for you,” says Du.

In addition to deciding on your programme Pulman says you also need to think about whether you’ll be studying full-time or part-time and how long you are allowing to complete your postgraduate qualification.

Paying for it

Figuring out how to pay for postgraduate study can be a daunting thought.

“If you’re currently employed and plan to undertake postgraduate studies in the same industry, one possibility is to approach your employer about whether they would be prepared to support your studies,” says Pulman.

Support might take the form of part-time working hours so you can continue working while you study, or your employer might contribute to your fees based on a commitment from you to continue working with the company when you graduate.



Scholarships are another important option to consider – take a look at all the scholarships on offer because the criteria for eligibility varies widely and you might find one that exactly fits your research focus.

Check out AUT’s Scholarship and Awards section on the website or visit universities.ac.nz for all the postgraduate scholarships that are available.

Tips for postgraduate success

TAKE THE TIME TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PROGRAMME

Don’t rush into postgraduate studies – research all your options, think about what you enjoy and where you want this to take you in your career.

WORK ON TIME MANAGEMENT

Postgraduate study requires discipline – particularly with independent, research-based programmes – particularly if you’re juggling work/life commitments.

Make a schedule, map the programme milestones and stick to them. If you’re struggling, ask for help sooner rather than later.

SAY ‘YES’ TO THE HELP ON OFFER

AUT has a range of support services in place for postgraduate students – use them. Attend the postgraduate workshops and research talanoa. Apart from practical research and study skills, you’ll also develop a network of people who are tackling the same challenges.

NETWORK WITH INDUSTRY

If you’re already working in your chosen industry then this is less critical, but if you’re looking to forge a new career at the end of your postgraduate studies you should start building your new industry network now. Attends events, join the relevant industry association, find a mentor, read the latest industry research and publications.

AUT LIVE open day attracts thousands of potential students

AUT LIVE enabled the university to showcase the dynamic environment of enquiry and research where students can gain knowledge and learn how to apply it in real situations.

“The largest and most ambitious event AUT has ever undertaken” is how Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack described the AUT LIVE open day held in August 2016.

AUT LIVE was developed as a way to showcase AUT to a large number of prospective students and give them an insight into what it is like to study at New Zealand’s fastest growing university.

The open day was a massive success with 6,670 registrations, an estimated 10,000 visitors on the day, more than 5,000 check-ins (captured electronically) to information sessions around AUT campuses and more than 580 faculty staff sharing insights into courses and opportunities.

McCormack says the one-day event was an opportunity to demonstrate that, by enrolling at AUT, students will be part of the community of

expertise that exists in AUT’s schools and institutes.

“AUT LIVE enabled the university to showcase the dynamic environment of enquiry and research where students can gain knowledge and learn how to apply it in real situations.”

“Thanks to the passion, hard work and support of people from across the university and beyond, it has been a resounding success.”

Building on the success of the day, McCormack says a huge amount of work has gone into following up with prospective students and processing applications for 2017.

AUT LIVE

THE MOST OPEN DAY

- **6,670** registrations
- **10,000** visitors on the day
- more than **5,000** check-ins to sessions throughout the day
- **588** faculty staff talking about their courses and opportunities

Professor honoured for contribution to sport research

AUT Professor of Strength and Conditioning, Michael McGuigan, has been named 2016 William J. Kraemer Outstanding Sport Scientist of the Year. The award was granted by the National Strength and Conditioning Association of the USA, and recognises exemplary contributions to the field of applied exercise and sport science.

Professor McGuigan was nominated for the impact of his research on high performance sport in New Zealand, which has focused on strength and power development and assessment in athletes.

McGuigan says the award is especially significant because it is awarded by the leading organisation for Strength and Conditioning practitioners and researchers in the world.

"It is an important affirmation of the work I've been doing. The mission of the organisation is to bridge the gap between science and practice, which has been the focus of my research."

Professor McGuigan has worked with many elite athletes throughout his career, including the Silver Ferns, Valerie Adams and other New Zealand Olympians, but he counts building the next wave of sport scientists among his career highlights.

"Anytime a student completes their degree and attains a job working in high performance sport is extremely rewarding."



PROFESSOR OF STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING, MICHAEL MCGUIGAN
SPORTS PERFORMANCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEW ZEALAND



Like a seed, an idea needs the right conditions for growth.

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MEKE EVENTS FOUNDER OLIVIA HALL DISCUSSED TURNING TO NATURE FOR INSPIRATION IN HER EVENT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS

Project 16 Speakers advise making space for creativity

'Creativity in Business and Beyond' was the theme for the 2016 Project conference, which attracted international and local speakers from creative powerhouses including Google, Verge and Sneaky Surf.

This was the third year AUT has hosted the Project16 event and organiser Martin Bell says attendees were buzzing about the ideas shared on the day.

"One of the clearest ideas that came out of the day is that people need to make time for creativity and to give it some space and energy. It was fitting that everyone who took part in Project16 had made time to share these ideas and have really important conversations about how to foster creativity and use it in business."

Sneaky Surf founder and former executive director of Lonely Planet, Gus Balbontin shared his advice on having a "clear vision and a vague plan", and described creativity and innovation as "a game of volume".

IP company James & Wells co-founder Ceri Wells shared some useful insights into the obstacles for innovation in Kiwi companies. These include a failure to recognise value, not thinking outside New Zealand, size of the market and lack of competition, a failure to

own and control innovation, and an unwillingness to lose control over an idea.

Founder and GM of New Zealand company Meke Events, Olivia Hall spoke about drawing on nature for inspiration and life lessons, and how creativity is a central driver in her own event management business.

Other advice from Project16 speakers included making time for creativity by scheduling meetings with yourself, learning how to "fail well", being generous with ideas and the importance of good storytelling.

Earlier in the year The Project team also hosted an event with Adriana Gascoigne, Founder & CEO of Girls in Tech, the US-based non-profit organisation devoted to educating and mentoring women in the tech industry.

Further information visit www.the-project.co.nz

"People need to make time for creativity and to give it some space and energy."

Air pollution linked to strokes

Research led by AUT Professor Valery Feigin has uncovered air pollution as a major contributor to around one third of strokes worldwide.

Professor Feigin's work drew on data from the Global Burden of Disease Study to estimate the disease burden of stroke associated with 17 risk factors in 188 countries, and found air pollution is among the top ten contributors to stroke burden.

It is placed seventh, behind risk factors such as high blood pressure, obesity, smoking and not eating enough vegetables.

Director of AUT's National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences Professor Feigin says the extent of air pollution effects was surprising.

"A striking finding of our study is the unexpectedly high proportion of stroke burden attributable to environmental air pollution, especially in developing countries."

The findings were published in the The Lancet Neurology this year and widely covered by international media.

"A striking finding of our study is the unexpectedly high proportion of stroke burden attributable to environmental air pollution, especially in developing countries."



PROFESSOR VALERY FEIGIN
DIRECTOR OF AUT'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STROKE AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCES

PhD milestones

Family business provides initial spark for PhD

A love of accounting and education spurred Agnes Masoe to study for her Bachelor of Business in Accounting and Management at AUT – but that wasn't enough.

Masoe, who is now an AUT lecturer in accounting, continued her studies with a Master of Business and this year graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting.

Her PhD examined what constitutes accountability within the field of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Samoa, and how this influences the ways in which NGO accountability is discharged.

Her research found that the practice of accountability within Samoa is constituted by the dominant influence of funders and the regulator.

Masoe's research makes a recommendation for parties involved in NGO sectors in developing countries, such as Samoa, to expand their views on what constitutes NGO accountability.

She maintains that NGO accountability within developing nations, can, and should be, more than a practice focused on discharging prescribed reports.

Masoe says her family prizes education and moved to New Zealand while she was in secondary school so she could take advantage of better educational opportunities.

"In my case, the love of accounting and education in general has been almost genetic."

"Growing up in Samoa, our Sunday lunch conversations tended to revolve around accounting – my mother and her three accountant brothers often described the world in these terms, and the fact that my parents ran two family businesses meant business and accounting ideas surrounded me."

"I found my own passion for accounting by helping out in my parents' businesses as a teenager, learning all about invoices, receipts and supplier payments in a real-world context."

Problem-solving the key to engineering

Women are engineering things all the time, they just don't realise it according to Ngaire Hart who graduated with her PhD in engineering this year. Hart is the second Māori women to earn her PhD in this field but she says she was always destined to be an engineer.

"I was always going to be an engineer. I'd always wanted to fix stuff, make stuff, and redesign stuff. I cut up my mum's wedding dress when I was five so I could redesign it, and took her transistor radio to bits."

Although maths wasn't a strength for Hart she says she ultimately realised that engineering was not necessarily about maths, it was just problem solving.

"Women are engineering all the time without even knowing it." Hart's doctoral research monitored the habitats of New Zealand's native bees using special image-processing software. Over the course of her research – which spanned seven years – Hart monitored sites on Mt Parihaka, Mt Tiger and Memorial Dr and found the number of active nests reduced by close to 60 per cent. Figuring out why these bees are struggling is research that would fall to an ecologist but Hart says it as an important question because as keystone pollinators the demise of these bees could have a huge impact.

DR NGAIRE HART,
ENGINEERING GRADUATE
WITH HER FAMILY



ST PAUL St Gallery: Critic & conscience



(LEFT) DIENEKE JANSEN, WORKS WITH LENS-BASED MEDIA: PHOTOGRAPHY AND MEDIA

(TOP RIGHT) LOUISA AFOA, MIX OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND INSTALLATION WORK

(BOTTOM RIGHT) JOHN VEA, WORKS WITH THEMES THAT FOCUSES ON LABOURERS, SEASONAL AND FACTORY WORKERS

Since it opened in 2004 ST PAUL St Gallery has become a successful hub for contemporary art and design, fulfilling the dual role of exposing the AUT community to the work of local and international artists and providing a platform for the works of current students and alumni.

A common theme running through the work exhibited at ST PAUL St, which spans three gallery spaces, is the idea of 'critic and conscience of society' – a key responsibility of universities outlined in the New Zealand Education Act.

Led by Gallery Director and Curator Charlotte Huddleston and Assistant Director Abby Cunnane, the gallery team select a range of contemporary

works and programmes each year informed by the idea that "the arts have a particular capacity to speak critically about society".

Louisa Afoa, John Vea and Dieneke Jansen are three of the AUT alumni who were selected to exhibit at ST PAUL St last year and while they each have enjoyed significant successes elsewhere they say AUT's gallery is a huge asset to the University.

Louisa Afoa

Afoa says ST PAUL St Gallery's annual symposium and lectures make it "a hub for critical thinking" and for students the proximity to artists is invaluable.

"As an art student you get to experience exhibitions by high profile local and international artists, go to the openings and often meet the artists involved in the show," says Afoa.

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Visual Arts in 2012, Afoa has exhibited at several Auckland galleries, was the recipient of the Artspace Tautai education internship, co-founded the arts website #500words and co-

directed the artist-run space RM.

In 2016, Afoa returned to AUT to complete an Honours degree in Visual Arts.

Through her practice she says she aims to create socially conscious narratives which offer insights into marginalised communities.

Afoa works with a mix of photography and installation and says she is drawn to 'time-based media'.

"I like how moving image allows narratives to unfold through time and as the artist I'm able to determine the pace of that unfolding. So the more time you spend with the work, the more context you are given."

Afoa has taken part in two shows at ST PAUL St this year. The first was group show Te Ihu o Mataoho, a collaborative project led by Rebecca Hobbs which advocated for the appreciation of Auckland's volcanic field or 'nga puia o Tāmaki Makarau'.

The second exhibition Afoa took part in this year, with her video works 'Coconut oil and Beneath the surface' was also a group exhibition: Influx, the Tautai tertiary exhibition curated by Ane Tonga.

Influx was a celebration of contemporary Pacific artists and of the Pacific, but also of tertiary practice at a time when many artists begin to develop a sense of political urgency.



John Vea

Vea also took part in the Influx exhibition with his untitled work featuring five modified parking meters. In place of parking tariffs the five meters displayed information about seasonal workers' visa permits and hourly pay rates.

The work came from conversations with seasonal workers and was originally developed for the Museum Theatre Gallery (MTG) in Hawke's Bay – it was a finalist in the regional art category of the 2016 New Zealand Museum Awards.

Focusing on labourers, seasonal and factory workers is a consistent theme in Vea's work.

He says all his works begin with talanoa or conversations with his community and through his work he aims to give a voice to people who struggle to be heard and have their say.

"My community, the society that I come from, is working class, factory workers, and my work is an expression of the conversations I have with them," says

Vea, who completed his Bachelor of Visual Arts and Masters at AUT and has recently come back to pursue his PhD.

"I want to empower them as the storyteller. It can be hard for them to communicate, to protest or to have their say, and I want to highlight their experiences, bring them into the open and encourage other people to have a conversation about it."

Vea's works, which are a mix of sculpture, moving image and performance, have been exhibited in numerous galleries including Ramp Gallery (Hamilton), Pātaka Art + Museum (Porirua) and Papakura Art Gallery.

Other notable achievements include a two-week residency in Hawaii, being selected to take part in the Honolulu Biennial in 2017 and his work Import/Export being shown as part of the exhibition To All New Arrivals at the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

Import/Export features large plaster-cast cones that Vea has dubbed 'urban taros' and which he says speak to the monotonous, low-paid labour-

intensive work which often falls to Pacific workers.

"People who work in repetitive jobs, like picking on a plantation, tend to go into a trance, sort of hypnotised by the monotony of what they're doing. People who haven't done that sort of work don't understand so I'm trying to share the sense of what that's like with my work."

Vea says exhibiting at ST PAUL St and having access to the gallery space set aside for students in Te Ara Poutama has been really valuable but he says the gallery's most important function is as a "portal to the world".

"ST PAUL St gives us access to international artists and exposes us to contemporary concepts and ideas, and allows us to see the standard of work that is being set outside Aotearoa."

JOHN VEA, INFLUX EXHIBITION WITH
UNTITLED WORK FEATURING FIVE MODIFIED
PARKING METERS

Dieneke Jansen

Both an AUT alumna and a Senior Lecturer in Visual Arts, Jansen describes ST PAUL St as a "fantastic learning and teaching space".

"We are so fortunate to have a world-class gallery right on our doorstep with such a welcoming and inclusive kaupapa. With a team that are responsive to ideas and enthusiastically and critically engaged in art, education and the institutional frameworks there are many, many opportunities for staff, students and alumni to engage in."

In her own practice Jansen works with lens-based media: photography and video.

"This has a direct relationship with the world, and 'speaks' not only of itself as a cultural tool but also of what it is pointing at. I am interested in expanding the notions of documentary practice, addressing the problematic history of the lens as a colonial tool and acknowledging that artmaking is about accountability."

This year at ST PAUL St she exhibited her solo work Dwelling on the Stoep which looked at three distinct housing complexes in Jakarta, Amsterdam and Auckland, exploring ideas of ownership and access and the socio-political context for these developments.

"Societies' ideologies, values and social relations manifest visibly in housing. In many societies there has been a shift in recent years toward housing as a product. Housing has become an important means of absorbing surplus capital, a defining process of capitalist economy."

In addition to the solo exhibition commissioned for ST PAUL St, over the last few years Jansen has also been awarded a five-month CK12 artist residency in Rotterdam, received the New Zealand National Contemporary Art Award in 2013, co-edited An Urban Quest for Chlorophyll and was invited to create new work for the 2015 Jakarta Biennale.

Jansen says her Masters of Art & Design, which she completed at AUT ten years ago, established her art-making career and enabled her to develop her own personal direction as an artist and educator.

Now, she says, a combination of the ethos within the School of Art & Design – which has been ranked first in New Zealand and 51st in the world by QS World University rankings – and the work of ST PAUL St Gallery contributes to a strong alumni community.

"We maintain a strong sense of connection with what has become an extensive whānau of art makers and thinkers," says Jansen.

"Exhibitions openings, curatorial symposiums, artists talks, lectures, panel discussions, workshops and off-site programs are all well attended and are highly celebrated in the broader art community."

Coming up at ST PAUL St Gallery

24 FEBRUARY – 31 MARCH 2017

Still, Like Air, I'll Rise

Hannah Brontë, Skawennati, Esther Ige, Lisa Reihana, Salote Tawale, Leafa Wilson & Olga Krause. A group show bringing together a series of works from local and international artists that express powerful dissent against oppression and racism.

Der Papalagi (The White Man)

A solo exhibition from artist Yuki Kihara which explores ideas about Samoan nationalism and explores ethical boundaries between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation.

Research scholarship to shed light on racism in NZ health system

AUT Masters student Emma Rawson has been awarded the inaugural Whakauae Pae Tawhiti Scholarship for Māori Health Research, to further her work investigating institutional racism in public health units' human resources practices.

The scholarship was awarded by Whakauae Research Services, the only iwi-owned and mandated health research centre in Aotearoa.

Under the auspices of Ngāti Hauiti, an iwi located in central Rangitikei, the organisation is focused on enhancing outcomes for Māori through high quality research of relevance to and driven by Māori aspirations – and on building the numbers of Māori health researchers needed to do so.

Rawson's research will examine the experiences and observations of senior Māori staff within the public health workforce, to identify sites where institutional racism is a barrier to equitable outcomes in health.

Existing research indicates that racism negatively impacts on health outcomes – whether personally mediated or institutional racism – diminishing the efficacy of healthcare services provided for and by Māori.

Rawson's research will build on this foundation by providing important

insights into the experiences of the Māori public health workforce, and identifying particular areas of concern.

Rawson, a consultant in public health and former District Health Board Māori health promoter, views research as a powerful tool for addressing inequality and inaction – and sees its potential to ensure more responsive human resources practices in public health units.

"As a result of this research I hope to work with Māori and non-Māori leaders, academics, activists and policy makers – here and internationally," she says. "Ultimately I want to help transform systems and organisations, so they're responsive to the needs of Māori, provide effective care and achieve the outcomes they are charged with providing."

Existing research indicates that racism negatively impacts on health outcomes.



DR AMOHIA BOULTON (RESEARCH CENTRE DIRECTOR - WHAKAUAE RESEARCH SERVICES), EMMA RAWSON, NEVILLE LOMAX (CHAIR OF TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI HAUITI) AND RĀTĀ CORNELL (RŪNANGA DELEGATE, TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI HAUITI), SOON AFTER PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AT RĀTĀ MARAE

The logo for Auckland University of Technology (AUT) is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters within a black rectangular box. The background of the entire page features a repeating pattern of stylized, overlapping triangles in shades of gold and brown, creating a dynamic, geometric effect. A portrait of Professor Stephen Henry is positioned in the center-left, showing him from the chest up, wearing a dark jacket over a dark shirt, with a slight smile. The background behind him is a blurred laboratory setting with various pieces of equipment.

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Times Higher Education rankings

Professor Stephen Henry, CEO of Kode Biotech. His world-first invention is expected to be widely used in the medical sector within the next ten years.

