
September 2022

Introduction

The past month has been one of celebration, seeing high school students planning their tertiary educational journey during Open Day and UC students completing their educational journey with graduation.

We hosted the first in-person University of Canterbury graduation celebrations since April 2021. In all, 1,372 graduates and approximately 6,000 whānau members and friends attended the four celebrations at the Christchurch Arena. Inspiring addresses were given by UC alumni Logan Williams, Tiffany Sauni, Bridget Williams and James Powell. Graduation stories were shared across our social media channels, while we sent out congratulations messaging across broadcast media and on digital billboards in Ōtautahi Christchurch. The event was a festive and highly successful occasion, drawing a number of compliments from graduates and their whānau.

Over 4,000 aspiring tertiary students and their whānau from across Aotearoa attended UC's Rā Tōmene | Open Day on Friday 9 September. Rā Tōmene is a pivotal date in the University calendar and the biggest event on campus for future students. This is the first time Rā Tōmene has been held in person since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions, and it offered plenty of opportunities for students and whānau to explore the campus and obtain information. Subject information sessions were held throughout the day for visitors to learn more about course programmes and look at potential graduate career pathways. Several student service and support sessions provided a taste of UC life, including a Pasifika breakfast, UC Māori introduction, information on Ōtautahi Christchurch and adult student success stories. Visitors could also join a campus tour to explore UC's top facilities, state-of-the-art labs and award-winning buildings, and hop on a bus to take a look at their accommodation options in the halls.

Engagement

In September, UC hosted Rongo o te Wā, a two-day conference-style event for careers advisors and international directors from schools across New Zealand. Rongo o te Wā was an opportunity for attendees to learn more about UC and Ōtautahi Christchurch as a study destination for their students. Eighty-five advisors and directors attended over the two days and were also able to experience and take part in Rā Tōmene | Open Day which took place on the second day of the event.

The Faculty of Arts and the UC Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities coordinated delivery of Careers in Heritage, an event designed to introduce high school and university students to the diverse range of career options in the heritage sector. This event was delivered in collaboration with the Christchurch City Council Heritage Team, who sponsored it with a \$2,000 grant. In addition to speakers from UC and the Council's Heritage Team, the event included presentations from Underground Overground Archaeology, Heritage New Zealand, Te Matatiki Toi Ora – The Arts Centre, Te Pūtahi, Campbell Conservation Ltd and Stoneworks

NZ. Sixty students attended, including students from Burnside, Cashmere, Hillmorton, Hagley, Papanui, Rolleston and Shirley Boys' high schools. Thanks to the Council's sponsorship, the presentations were recorded and shared online via the UC Careers and UC Teece Museum YouTube channels.

Graeme Plank, a specialist teaching and research technician, and Professor Stephen Ashworth from the University of East Anglia, both Erskine Fellows, presented a Kitchen Chemistry show to approximately 600 children. The show was funded through the Erskine Foundation. Graeme presented a similar show to four groups from Sacred Heart School for their science show and four shows at the Arts Centre for Cashmere Primary.

The School of Earth and Environment held its first-ever Whakatane Kura Taiao – Geohazards Science Camp this month at Wairaka Marae with Te Kura o te Pāroa. Scientists from GNS Science, UC and Auckland University worked together with teachers and the local community at Wairaka Marae to deliver a geocamp steeped in mātauranga Māori and volcano, coastal and geothermal science. Professor Ben Kennedy was heavily involved in developing the programme and students of the School, Kieron Wall and Sriparna Saha (co-supervised with HITLAB and the Faculty of Education), helped deliver an awesome hands-on field, marae and computer game experience.

We hosted a successful alumni networking reception in London, which drew registrations from 65 people, including members of the UK Foundation. Associate Professor Chris Jones attended and discussed his work on the Wicked Bible. Following the reception, Assistant Vice-Chancellor Engagement Brett Berquist hosted the Foundation board members for dinner.

Sixty-five alumni and community members gathered to hear Professor Julia Rucklidge speak on "Building a Better Brain with Nutrition" at an alumni engagement event in Napier

Dr Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll, Faculty of Health senior lecturer, was the lead writer of the literature review of an Anti-Racism Kaupapa recently published by the Ministry of Health: "[Ao Mai te Rā: The Anti-Racism Kaupapa: Evolution of Racism and Anti-Racism Lessons for the Aotearoa Health System: Stage One Literature Review](#)". The purpose of this literature review was to trace the evolution of the philosophical and ethical underpinnings of racism and anti-racism in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Key Faculty of Health partner Te Papa Hauora (TPH) has continued to work with partners to offer a range of events. This has included the Winter Research Series and the Canterbury Health Innovation Network event focusing on key sector challenges such as regulation, workforce retention and overcoming supply chain issues. The fourth seminar "Learning from the Pandemic" for the TPH Winter Research Series was held on 7 September at Manawa, led by Faculty of Health Associate Professor Laurie McLay. The final seminar in this series, "Co-producing Research", took place later in September. These TPH-sponsored events are valuable for UC staff in terms of both their content and the networking opportunities they create with individuals in the wider sector and key organisations. They have been a wonderful opportunity to strengthen partnerships in health and establish research collaborations.

The Faculty of Health's Dr Chris North gave two presentations at the 9th International Outdoor Education Research Conference in England. They were titled "Newness and Outdoor Learning: Engaging Students or Feeding Consumerism?" and "Writing as Punishment: Teachers' Attitudes to Documentation for Outdoor Learning."

Te Kaupeka Ako | Faculty of Education, alongside our colleagues at Elmwood Normal School, hosted the New Zealand Normal and Model School Association (NAMSA) Annual Conference. Keynote speakers included Hon Lianne Dalziel, Dr Hana O'Regan and Shane Fletcher, the Crusaders Manager. Delegates visited Waimairi School, with the Principal, Mike Anderson, as their host. After listening to speakers from the Ministry of Education, Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand and University of Canterbury, the

delegates ended the day with a workshop on defining the strategic direction of NAMSA. They left the conference feeling a renewed commitment to the partnership with our local normal schools.

Over 20 students, teachers and parent helpers from Riccarton High School's year 10–13 Pacific studies classes made their annual study trip to Macmillan Brown Library this month. Through their visit, students developed their research skills and information literacy and experienced a university library environment.

Computer Science and Software Engineering staff Richard Lobb, Kourosh Neshatian and Liam Laing recently organised and hosted the local session of the New Zealand Programming Contest, which saw 57 teams – including 15 from Christchurch (4 tertiary and 11 high school teams) – competing in five different sections. Our UC teams managed a clean sweep of the tertiary categories: The Lobb Fan Club (Steven Little, Aaron Sevilla, Dominic McNulty) won the Tertiary Junior section; CAJ (Cameron Wu, Alex Widogast, Jack Fawthorpe) won the Tertiary Intermediate section; and cflat (Joseph Grace, Nicholas Grace, Isaac Siu) won the Tertiary Open section and were the overall Aotearoa winners.

Western Institute of Technology New Plymouth (WITT) has recently released its strategy and it refers to partnership with UC. Since the Memorandum of Understanding with WITT was signed in November 2021, Anna McMullen has been appointed in a joint role shared between the two organisations. Whilst being based in Taranaki, she has spent time at UC, meeting with colleagues across a range of engineering disciplines to understand current research activities and educational options relating to renewable energy. She has also engaged with the engineering and energy industries in Taranaki, to determine how UC's work could align to the needs of that region.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future Focused

Students were at the centre of discussions during the student success symposium hosted by the University of Canterbury. The Tūwhitia! Transforming Tertiary symposium, held in early September, brought together approximately 85 experts in equity and student success from around Aotearoa. All participating institutions were represented in panels or presentations and the event was closed by the Minister for Education, Hon Chris Hipkins. This symposium allowed Kia Angitu and UC to gain national visibility for our student success work and feedback on the value of the event has been overwhelmingly positive from across the sector.

One of the most prominent narratives of the symposium was the need for flexibility in terms of pathways, given students are arriving with different strengths and are seeking opportunities for lifelong learning. One such flexible pathway is the new qualification for becoming a health protection officer. The Faculty of Health has received confirmation from the Director-General of Health that the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences (Health and Environment) is now an approved qualification for the health protection officer role. This is the only approved postgraduate qualification for the role in Aotearoa and the only qualification offered in the South Island leading to this role. Dr Sarah Lovell and Associate Professor Arin Basu were the driving force behind this successful application.

Online study options continue to grow. UC's suite of courses on the edX platform now consists of 22 courses, which include seven standalone massive open online courses (MOOCs), five professional certificates and one micro-masters. The most recent addition is a Professional Certificate in Field Volcanology and Hazards. Total enrolments in UCx courses now exceed 95,000 learners.

We are also seeing how the expansion of technology can support our existing offerings. A new Digital Voyages site, Historical Christchurch, was created to support SOCI255: Sociology of the City. A number of resources about the printed history of Ōtautahi Christchurch from the heritage collections in Macmillan Brown have been digitised and made available online. Topics include Industry & Commerce, Workers and Unions, The Built Environment and Christchurch as a Peace City.

Blended learning continues to be the most common approach to teaching at UC. The Future Learning and Development team are launching a framework called Taipapaki, a model through which courses can be adapted for effective blended delivery. Like its predecessor, Aropapaki, this will provide wraparound support for teaching staff but will allow for ongoing development.

In line with the UC Strategy, which highlights the importance of employability for our graduates, UC offers opportunities for our students to take part in events and experiences that link in with possible future careers. The Faculty of Arts hosted a Careers and Conversation night for the Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability (BSEnS) students, which included guest speakers such as Head of Climate Resilience and Sustainability at Christchurch City Council Tony More, Head of Sustainability at Westpac Bank Belinda Van Eyndhoven, and Head of Institutional Relationships at Westpac Andrew Bashford. All the employers were particularly encouraging about the wide range of jobs available, and the need for transdisciplinary problem-solvers in sustainability. They considered that BSEnS offered exciting opportunities for these career pathways.

Public Diplomacy, a course in the Master of Strategic Communication programme (coordinated by Professor Natalia Chaban), hosted its latest diplomatic guest speaker in August. Deputy Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to New Zealand and Political Counsellor Kevin O’Connell presented to the postgraduate students about the EU’s public diplomacy and shared insights into the diplomatic profession’s focus on international strategic communication.

At a more personal level, the attributes of our graduate profile are often visible as our graduates move out of UC. Wellbeing and social connection for Māori have become a career focus for Health Sciences graduate Sophie Thrupp. In her thesis for her Master of Urban Resilience and Renewal completed at UC, she explored the global challenge of social isolation that many communities face and looked for new opportunities to improve mental health and wellbeing. Now, in her role as a public health advisor at Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand in New Plymouth, she is responsible for implementing evidence-based public health action with the goal of reducing inequities. To fulfil this largely advocacy-based role, Sophie draws on the bicultural competency and Kaupapa Māori understanding that she developed while at UC.

Mathematics launched 200 Maths Craft boxes and sold out in just 36 hours! In response to requests from school teachers, parents and students, Drs Jeanette McLeod and Phil Wilson, senior lecturers in the School of Mathematics & Statistics, created and developed Maths Craft in a Box. Each self-contained box includes enough cognitively rich mathematics material to fill several lessons for years 7–13. The boxes are dedicated to exploring the world of fractals in the classroom, with materials to build a fractal sculpture, workbooks providing an illustrated introduction to fractals, and custom-made online instructional videos.

Mechanical Engineering students participated in the preliminary rounds of the Warman Design and Build competition. This annual international design competition challenges students to push boundaries by developing robots that perform a particular task. This year’s task involved carrying a wheel across a chasm via a wire, depositing the wheel in the designated location and returning to the starting location within a set timeframe. For the UC rounds, students were grouped in teams of four and many teams were composed of a mix of Mechanical Engineering and Product Design students. On the day of the competition, the atmosphere in the Mechanical wing was like a sporting event. Some impressive-looking robots malfunctioned spectacularly, and some dishevelled-looking robots performed the task surprisingly well. In the end, a finger-loading seesaw robot performed all the tasks in record time and will go on to represent our University in the international finals in October.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

UC’s research continues apace and its impact remains strong, at a time of the year when we are learning about significant funding outcomes as the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

announces how it will allocate \$239 million of funding from its Endeavour Fund (see below). The remaining significant funding results – from the Marsden Fund – will be announced in early November. UC is also continuing to see success in disseminating our research through research outputs and community engagement, which includes acceptance of research publications in high-impact journals.

Faculty of Health Senior Lecturer Dr Matt Hobbs has recently completed a study using GPS tracking devices to find out where teenagers hang out and what impact that location has on their physical activity levels and how long they spend in cars. It is one of the first studies to use both GPS data to track adolescents and a comprehensive measure of the type of environment they are spending time in. The study used environmental data from The Healthy Location Index that a team of researchers – including Matt and Spatial Data Scientist Dr Lukas Marek – developed at UC's GeoHealth Laboratory. The Healthy Location Index classifies areas of Aotearoa New Zealand based on how healthy or unhealthy each neighbourhood is. A key finding from this research was that the more time adolescents spend in areas with better access to health-promoting features, the more physically active they are likely to be. The research was published in the academic journal *Health & Place*.

UC's transdisciplinary research clusters are, as intended, producing interesting research at the boundaries of traditional disciplines to address key societal challenges. The Cluster for Community and Urban Resilience (CURE) has published recent research around urban accessibility to improve health, sustainability and communities. The work uses geospatial techniques to “determine x-minute walkable neighbourhoods” within all 14 New Zealand urban areas and the 500 most populous US cities. Wellington is New Zealand's most accessible city, where 61% of the population is within 15 minutes of all necessary amenities. Interestingly, a major limitation to greater accessibility and sustainability of New Zealand cities is the lack of access to supermarkets. The research results are published in the academic journal *Cities*. They have also led to the development of interactive dashboards to assist public policy and planning in the future development of New Zealand cities.

Results of new research (undertaken by newly appointed Professor David Frame in the School of Earth and Environment) have been published in the prestigious *Nature Climate Change* journal. The article looks at the expected frequency and impact of heatwaves across Aotearoa New Zealand due to climate change. Notably, the research indicates the greatest impact will be in the northern half of the North Island, though eastern coastlines including Canterbury will experience a moderate impact.

Associate Professor Kathryn MacCallum, School of Educational Studies and Leadership, has edited Springer publication *Industry Practices, Processes and Techniques Adopted in Education*, which has 52 authors from 11 countries.

Senior Lecturers Kay-Lee Jones and Dr David Pomeroy and Associate Professor Sara Tolbert, School of Teacher Education, gave a public lecture, sharing their research in collaboration with five diverse schools on effective transitions to non-streamed mathematics. They spoke of the triumphs and dilemmas that the de-streaming transition involves.

The Faculty of Arts and the UC Teece Museum launched the Canterbury College Heritage Collections Survey in 2020. Over the two years since then, the project secured two grants totalling \$24,879.12 from Lottery Environment and Heritage. Stage One of the project involved undertaking a survey of UC's historic artefacts that related specifically to the staff, students and buildings of the original Canterbury College site (now Te Matatiki Toi Ora – The Arts Centre) between 1873 and 1957. Stage Two, which was completed in August this year, continued the work of locating Canterbury College artefacts, but in addition expanded the survey range to include artefacts that illustrated the history of Canterbury as an institution between 1957 and 1999. As a result of this work, 265 artefacts or groups of artefacts were identified and catalogued in departments, schools and units across the University. View them at www.nz museums.co.nz/collections/200934/university-of-canterbury-canterbury-college-collection.

Now these two stages of the project have wrapped up, it is clear that the University holds a significant range of heritage collections that celebrate and illustrate the history of both the University and the wider community it belongs to. Objects, information and images gathered as a result of the survey will form the basis of an exhibition being planned to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of UC in 2023.

As noted, the University of Canterbury has been successful in the 2022 MBIE Endeavour Fund. UC won 10% which is a good result given that other Universities, Crown Research Institutes, and International Research offices were all bidding into this fund. This is the best result for the last seven to eight years. **Professor Andy Nichols**, School of Earth and Environment received **\$11.8 million** funding for his research programme: “Pūhiko Nukutū: A Green Hydrogen Geostorage Battery in Taranaki”. In addition, five out of our six shortlisted Smart Ideas proposals were accepted, with each receiving \$1 million in funding. The successful applicants were:

- **Professor Ren Dobson**, “A Simple Capillary Platform for Real-time Diagnostic Devices: In-house Wine Testing as Proof-of-principle”, School of Biological Sciences
- **Associate Professor Alex Yip**, “Creating Soilless Precision Farming via Ultraclean Water Production: Invention of Weather-adapting Green-tech”, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering
- **Dr Tom Logan**, “Innovating Climate Risk Assessment: A System-wide, Geospatial Approach for Councils and Communities”, Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering
- **Dr Giuseppe Loporcario**, “Low-carbon and Seismically Resilient Solutions for 3D Concrete Printed Homes”, Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering
- **Professor Martin Allen**, “High-efficiency Gallium Oxide Power Electronics for New Zealand’s Zero Net Emissions Future”, Department of Electrical and Computing Engineering.

UC has secured additional funding in partnership with other universities or Crown research institutes that are the project lead. One notable accomplishment is that Distinguished Professor David Schiel and Dr Mads Thomsen (Biological Sciences) co-developed a University of Waikato-based programme “Toka Ākau Toitu Kaitiakitanga – Building a Sustainable Future for Coastal Reef Ecosystems” along with University of Otago, NIWA, various regional councils and several iwi. Together with GNS Science researchers, Dr Tim Stahl is studying “Large Landslides as Ground Motion Calibrators in the Hikurangi Margin”, which will involve extensive palaeoseismic investigations over the lower North Island. In Biological Sciences, Associate Professor Matthew Stott is contributing to a University of Waikato project on “A Ligase-based Solution for Non-natural Nucleic Acid Synthesis” and Professor Jason Tylianakis is involved in an MBIE Endeavour Fund proposal based with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, “Integrating Trees to Target Zero Carbon and Add Value to Rural Landscapes”. Dr Andrew Howell (School of Earth and Environment) is involved in a programme on “Our Changing Coast Sea-level Rise on Aotearoa’s Dynamic Margin”, in which Victoria University of Wellington is the lead.

Associate Professor Sarah-Kate Millar has been successful in gaining a research grant from Netball NZ to investigate its netball smart, injury prevention programme. This project is a combination of biomechanics and performance analysis of netball tournaments, to which multiple postgraduate students and undergraduate performance analysis students will contribute. This research began with the South Island Secondary Schools tournament held in Timaru on 29 August, where the team obtained extensive high-quality data and will continue with upcoming tournaments.

The University of Canterbury continues to perform well in commercialising its research, which is having valuable real-world impacts. Through this work, we have three finalists named in the KiwiNet Awards:

- **Momentum Student Entrepreneur Ben Scales**, University of Canterbury, “Designing a Better World through Smarter Materials”
- **Breakthrough Innovator Award Jonathan Ring**, Zincovery/University of Canterbury, “Zincovery: Decarbonising Zinc Recycling”

- **Researcher Entrepreneur Award Distinguished Professor Maggie-Lee Huckabee**, University of Canterbury, “Innovative Technologies for Rehabilitation of Swallowing Impairment”.

The awards will be presented on 6 October at the KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards – an event to honour Aotearoa’s research commercialisation heroes and their entrepreneurial spirit.

The joint “Food Transitions 2050” Graduate School, in which UC, Lincoln University, AgResearch, Plant and Food and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research are multilateral partners, has received 30 applicants for 10 funded PhD research projects starting in 2023. Food Transitions 2050 continues to build the capacity of new people around the themes of Food and Future Landscapes, Food for a Carbon-zero Future, Food Consumer Transitions, and Food Governance.

Members of the Postgraduate Research Office and Digital Services project team have spent a week participating in discovery workshops for the Higher Degree Management software (GEM). The purpose of these workshops was to better understand the University’s requirements and establish processes and workflows to bring numerous administrative processes online.

A further transformative agreement that UC has signed allows publishing in Open Access journals without payment of Author Publishing Charges (APCs). This is a Read and Publish agreement with Portland Press, the publisher for the Biochemical Society.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

In the week of graduation celebrations, I hosted a well-attended reception for UC staff to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Guests enjoyed canapés, a cash bar and light live music by Ella Guillemot-Mene, while having an opportunity to hear about our plans for the upcoming 150th Anniversary celebrations including our grassroots fundraising campaign for Te Kakau a Māui, our new 150th scholarship. The campaign encourages alumni, staff, council and board members, and members of the broader Christchurch community to donate \$150 to go towards 150 scholarships for our 150th.

We are currently experiencing the lowest COVID-19 case numbers among students since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2022, at an average of six to seven student cases per day. We expect this number to continue through the semester, and potentially increase as we get closer to exam time as students are required to register their COVID-19 status on Assura to receive COVID-19 special consideration. Welfare support, including welfare calls, grocery support and power bill subsidies, remains in place for students.

The People and Culture team has launched a new Wellbeing website. The site has been co-designed with the Mental Health Foundation’s Workplace Wellbeing team. It gives staff access to resources to learn about and work on health, happiness and stress levels.

The new staff intranet page “Working Here” was launched with a celebration. The first section to go live was People, Culture and Development Services. This has also enabled People and Culture to launch fortnightly messages for staff – People and Culture Pānui (notices) – in addition to items on the staff blog Tū Ki Te Tahī. Intranet sections with information from other service units will follow.

Through the People and Culture Pānui, all staff can access the Health and Safety Dashboard. This gives staff the same information from which the data for the monthly Council report are drawn and allows them to see the health and safety trends to which they are contributing by using Assura. This transparency will help demonstrate the value of logging incidents and observations.

Bargaining has commenced with the trade unions for new collective employment agreements. On 21 September, the Tertiary Education Union (TEU) national office organised a members' vote about whether they should be balloted about strike action in support of the union's national claim of a one-year agreement with an increase to salaries and wages of 8% per annum. All union branches, including UC, voted in favour of a ballot. Our understanding is that the TEU's aim is for industrial action to influence an increase in government funding for the sector. The date of the secret ballot at UC is unknown at the time of writing. Local talks have been constructive and are continuing.

UC is leading a national Committee on University Student Pastoral Care (CUSPaC) project to explore the issues associated with access to secondary and tertiary mental health and addiction services. A small group has been established to investigate how universities are managing students presenting with moderate to severe mental health and addiction issues. This project will include scoping referral pathways to external mental health providers and responders and may include developing a reporting template for the New Zealand Qualifications Authority and/or advocating to Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority on how to address unmet need across our system of universities.

UC has established a new Wellbeing Advisory Group that brings together a group of selected staff and students to centralise discussions and recommendations on the best ways to work together to enhance wellbeing at UC. The group is tasked to review the previous Mahere Oranga | Wellbeing Implementation Plan 2020–2025 and has started to develop the framework and key principles for a new plan. We are working towards developing the plan by the end of this calendar year.

Te Pūnaha Matatini recently nominated Associate Professor Tammy Steeves for the Society of Conservation Biology Oceania Section 2022 Regional Distinguished Service Award. She was highly commended for her achievements in conservation geonomics research that is conducted in ethical partnership with Indigenous communities and conservation practitioners to recover threatened taonga (treasured) species in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Classics BA(Hons) student Kieran Knowles is the recipient of a scholarship from the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand to study at the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies, Macquarie University. Under the supervision of Associate Professor Alison Griffith, Kieran is completing his honours research essay on the coinage of the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt, using unpublished coins from local collections (the Canterbury Museum, Otago Museum and Teece Museum) and will use his time at the Centre to prepare his work for publication.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

With the resumption of New Zealand's student visa processing, UC is excited to see our international students gradually returning to campus. More than 60 students, including PhD candidates who started their studies offshore, are arriving in time to continue Term 4 in person. The International Support team is running regular drop-in orientations to welcome these students to the on-campus community, while preparing for a larger cohort of students to arrive ahead of Semester 1, 2023.

International students who arrived in Ōtautahi via the final border exemption cohort were officially welcomed to the city by Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Deputy Mayor for Selwyn Malcolm Lyall at a special event for UC, Lincoln University and Ara students. One of the highlights of the event, held at Tūranga, was a kapa haka performance by Ko Tāne, welcoming the students to our city.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor Engagement Brett Berquist and Internationalisation Director at UC Business School Dr Will Shannon represented UC at the European Association for International Education conference in Barcelona. They reconnected with many of UC's exchange partners for the first time in three years.

Meanwhile the International Recruitment and Study Abroad teams continue their recruitment efforts for 2023 and beyond from key UC source-markets offshore.

Professor Natalia Chaban submitted her final report of the four-year multinational research project that had the support of the Jean Monnet scheme within Erasmus+ of the European Commission. The project studied the cultural diplomacy of the European Union. Natalia was an associate investigator in the research consortium leading the New Zealand chapter of the project. In addition to the research outputs, she reported the key findings and recommendations of the New Zealand-specific project to the Delegation of the EU to New Zealand. She met EU diplomats in person during several briefing sessions dedicated to the EU's public diplomacy in New Zealand.

From the end of Term 3, a new Student Research Hub within the Public Diplomacy and Political Communication Forum (again led by Natalia) started its work, together with the Embassy of France to New Zealand, on a project on France's sports diplomacy towards New Zealand and communications. It unites undergraduate and postgraduate students of Media and Communication. The project is supported by the Embassy of France.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

The last month has seen the continued delivery of key digital projects impacting on organisational efficacy. Also during the month, discussions have started on forming a business process improvement unit under Strategy and Planning to coordinate and deliver specific end-to-end process improvement across UC.

Since last month's launch of UC's new Intranet, the Workplace Experience team has been busy resolving initial defects and listening to feedback. The new Intranet provides extensive capability to make it easy to find information and people at UC and that capability will continue to be improved. Many departments have now migrated to or have established new content on the Intranet and the team will continue to support content administrators in learning how to get the best from the Intranet platform's content management capabilities as we work towards decommissioning the old Intranet by the end of this year.

In partnership with various departments, Digital Services continues to progress the digitisation and cloud migration of UC processes in line with UC's strategic vision of organisational efficacy, nurturing staff and thriving students. In the last month, a number of key projects have reached significant milestones. Higher Degree and Ethics management have begun detailed implementation workshops with their preferred platform provider. Work Integrated Learning has reached the stage of signing a contract with its preferred platform provider and initial departmental onboarding is expected before the end of the year. Digital Services has also been enabling the roll-out of a clinic management platform, Nookal, with all clinics on track to be onboarded by end of September.

The Teaching and Learning Experience team has been busy working with the Timetabling team to implement Time Edit, a modern scheduling and booking platform. This will replace Syllabus Plus and provide a better timetabling and booking experience for staff and students. The first release, timetabling, is due to go live in October so that we are using Time Edit for our 2023 timetables. In 2023 the team will be delivering improved booking functionality that integrates with Outlook and integrates better with our student channels.

The Digital Relationship, Advisory and Engagement Product team has been developing a Stakeholder Management application as a key component of our Dynamics CRM platform with the initial release set to launch this month. 'UC Industry' is initially focused on building a unified view of industry contacts and organisations to replace siloed platforms and spreadsheets, creating a scalable solution that applies to all stakeholders and gives a 360-degree view of UC's external stakeholders. UC Industry will enable various teams across UC to develop deeper and more personalised relationships with industry stakeholders. UC

Industry will provide effective Stakeholder Relationship Management capability, allowing for the central management of contact information, record of engagements and communications, and alerts, and will support a much more informed and coordinated approach to stakeholder engagement.

Facilities Management has recently been in further discussions with EcoCARE Pacific Trust about the donation of surplus used resources. Along with other organisations, UC has supported EcoCARE Pacific Trust in re-homing decommissioned property in schools and hospitals of Pacific Island nations since 2006. Over the years, a number of schools and hospitals in Tonga, Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu have received approximately 5,000 computers, 2,000 desks and chairs, 30,000 educational books, 1.5 million sheets of A4 printer paper, 40 microscopes and numerous other items including sports equipment. UC's support in providing items we no longer need was particularly important after the recent tsunami in Tonga damaged or destroyed resources in numerous schools. The opportunity to partner with EcoCARE supports UC's sustainability aspirations and finds a worthwhile new home for items that might otherwise contribute to landfill.

Environmentally Sustainable

At the September Sustainability Committee meeting, members reported that academics in their faculties were more than happy to identify specific courses they teach that link with relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and have started doing so. This is the culmination of a carefully considered exercise to introduce the concept of this alignment, and it will bring UC in line with many other universities around the globe.

On 27 and 28 September, Professor Jan Evans-Freeman, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sustainability, was the host at two staff hui where she outlined recent work and new plans to take the University forward in our sustainability journey. She addressed the building works for the boiler conversion and the new ground source heat pump work, new projects in the Sustainability Office with regard to biodiversity, and the ALSDO project to reduce the use of energy and hazardous substances by introducing some remote laboratory working. She also explained the processes in place to monitor our progress against the Strategy, by way of the Sustainability Programme Board that advises the team (primarily in Faculties Management), and the academic work being carried out by the new Sustainability Committee.

In August, Universities New Zealand (UNZ) agreed to join the Aotearoa Collective for Public Transport Equity following recommendations from the UNZ Expert Panel on the SDGs. This work was facilitated by UC's Sustainability Office and involved input from all eight universities – an example of SDG 17: Partnership for Sustainable Development in action.

The University heard from Environment Canterbury that the review of the Orbiter bus route (which formerly passed the Ilam Campus) has been finalised. The Orbiter will not be returning to Ilam Road.

VC Activities

2 September	Met with the Knowledge Commons Partners
5 September	Opening address for the Systems Change for Learner Success Symposium Tuwhitia
16 September	Met with Arthur Ellis, Vice-Chancellor for Research at the University of California
21 September	Met with the Association of Commonwealth Universities via Zoom – this didn't happen?
22 September	Attended Lincoln University Chancellor's Cocktail function
23 September	Attended the Lincoln Graduation – Faculty of Agribusiness and Commerce
28 September	Met with Dr John Wood – former UC Chancellor
28 September	Speaker at the Mental Health Awareness Week Community Expo
29 September	Attended the New Zealand Qualifications Association Board meeting in Wellington
30 September	Speaker at the University of Canterbury Students' Association Choice Awards at Haere-roa