

# Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

August 2020

## Summary

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The excitement of the return to Campus life at the start of Semester 2 has been dampened by the sudden return to risk level 2. Nonetheless, Canterbury remains in a relatively fortunate position and the announcement on Friday 14 August that level 2 will continue was welcomed. At the time of writing this report, we are ensuring that we have plans in place in the case of fast changes to further risk levels.

The experience of the previous lockdown and lessons derived from that experience are proving helpful in our responses and contingency planning. UC is in the final week of the third quarter of the academic year. All lectures are online with labs and some small specialist classes continuing in person with physical distancing. Campus-based tests are proceeding with physical distancing, libraries and common spaces remain open with physical distancing and additional cleaning of UC premises has commenced again at Alert Level 2.

On a pleasing note, Professor Michael Plank and Associate Professor Alex James each received a letter from the Prime Minister, thanking them for their service to Aotearoa and contribution to NZ's world-leading COVID-19 response. The contributions of Professor Michael Plank and Associate Professor Alex James are a great source of pride to all of us and I wish to commend them for their sterling work.

## Engagement

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In advancement of our objective to increase our presence and impact in Ōtautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury, on Wednesday 5 August Professor Ekant Veer and I presented an overview of the Knowledge Commons concept to the CEs/ senior representatives of the Christchurch City Council, Canterbury District Health Board, Ministry of Education, Canterbury Police, and Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce. The presentation was met with unanimous support and the next hui will involve securing signed support from the partners. To demonstrate UC's impact within the community, we also presented examples of the work UC is doing with key agencies in the City and how key people at UC are connecting with members of the community. In the last eight weeks, a total of 18 research projects that link local community members with researchers at UC have been activated.

A presentation that includes examples of these projects will be made to UC staff engaged in community engagement, the Senior Leadership Team and Council in the coming weeks. Staff and students wishing to learn more are welcome to contact Professor Ekant in the first instance.

UC is advancing implementation of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with ChristchurchNZ (CNZ) through enhanced coordination of six to eight major workstreams. Under this umbrella, the UC Business School has signed a Cooperation and Funding Agreement with

CNZ. The agreement marks an important milestone in the Business School's engagement with CNZ to support its regional economic development strategy. In return for CNZ funding (\$150,000 per annum for three years), the UC Centre for Entrepreneurship (UCE) will identify support and accelerate the growth of Christchurch's most ambitious start-ups and scale-ups, particularly those working in the sectors identified under CNZ's supernode strategy. The UCE ThincLab incubator programme will lead these initiatives, in collaboration with its partners in the regional ecosystem including Ara, Te Ōhaka, B.Linc, Callaghan Innovation, Institute of Directors, ThincLab Adelaide and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

As part of the new MBA course, Data-informed Strategy, a weekend intensive challenge was set up for 52 MBA students. The scope for 2IC, designed by key UC engagement partner CNZ, focused on CNZ's strategic supernodes – manufacturing, and food, fibre and agritech – and local business attraction. Over the weekend, students were joined by speakers from IBM US and Google NZ, who advised them on creating data science teams, building a data centre of excellence and linking technology to strategy. Nine teams presented their data-driven solutions to C-suite judges, which was a role that I took up along with Mike Smith (IBM NZ) and Joanna Norris (CNZ). The teams competed for cash prizes totalling \$12,000, generously contributed by the industry facilitators Arun Sebastian (IBM) and Isuru Fernando (Google). Team SubWay took first place and the \$6,000 prize for its proposal to establish a hi-tech centre of excellence in Christchurch using Silicon Valley talent. Team Aices was the runner-up with solutions to tackle Canterbury's manufacturing challenges and Team Hi-Tech Christchurch won the 'wow' factor prize after positioning telehealth as a local business opportunity for Christchurch.

The effort to advance the University's strategic commitment to engagement is very encouraging. A wide range of engagement and collaboration initiatives has been progressed in the past month and a selection is summarised below:

Dr Matthew Cowan of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering recently presented a talk at the Beehive to members of Parliament (MPs) as part of the Speaker's Science Forum 2020. Organised by the Royal Society Te Apārangi, in collaboration with the Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament, this forum aims to present cutting-edge research to MPs and other decision-makers in a non-partisan setting, to inform them about the issues Parliament is addressing. Several MPs turned up to listen and asked Dr Cowan many interesting questions. He explained how his goal is to reduce the amount of energy we need to use every day to slow climate change and enrich lives.

The School of Earth and Environment hosted the Canterbury Geography Teachers Association annual scholarship day. Over 60 Year 13 geography students participated in the event on campus, which Professor Simon Kingham and Dr Heather Purdie supported by providing sessions on climate change.

Staff in the Department of Linguistics have put together Linguistics 200, a five-week lecture series for the University of the Third Age (U3A). This series follows on from the popular Linguistics 100 lecture series that the department delivered last year for the U3A. The new lecture series was designed and advertised in July and will be taught in September and October 2020.

The Department of Media and Communication is running a professional development day for high school media studies teachers on Thursday 27 August. It is also working with the University of Canterbury Students' Association (UCSA) to set up an Editorial Advisory Board to oversee *Canta's* independence and to mentor *Canta* editors.

Law and arts student Amelia Mcluskie and arts Media and Communication student Laura Zonneville collected their inaugural Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) Excellence awards, along with \$1,000 each, at an event on campus at the end of last month. Amelia worked for

ChristchurchNZ for three months earlier this year. Her role, in the agency's Food and Fibre Team, involved researching STEM industry engagement and assisting with a needs analysis of the food and fibre sector in Canterbury. Laura worked for Antony & Mates Digital Content and Advisory, where she created content in the form of videos, interviews, livestreams and graphic posts for community-focused Instagram and Facebook pages. She says that PACE was "one of the most valuable things I have done during my time at university". The PACE internship programme is based in the College of Arts but offered across UC.

The School of Music hosted its first gala performance for some years to a nearly full hall at The Piano this month. The event involved around 30 students alongside Music staff performing music ranging from student compositions to a Handel aria, Haydn concerto and Prokofiev sonata, to music from singer songwriters and gypsy jazz. Also featured were applied presentations of live electronics and the practicalities of writing music for computer games.

English Lecturer Erin Harrington has appeared in a number of public outlets in recent weeks. She is on the panel of guests in the first episode of the new hour-long podcast *Feminist Yarns* with Kathleen Burns, which is recorded live in front of an audience at performance venue Little Andromeda, and she appears in the first episode of the podcast *The Cost of Love*, discussing the representation of romantic relationships in entertainment media under capitalism. Erin also introduced the Canterbury Film Society's most recent film screening, American drama *The Florida Project*, and she appears as one of the faces of the New Zealand International Film Festival's 2020 campaign "At Home – Online" #NZIFFAtHomeOnline.

The University of Canterbury recently launched a campus-wide survey to catalogue any heritage artefacts that were at the original Canterbury College site. Two recent UC graduates, Natalie Looyer and Amy Boswell-Hore, conducted the survey under the supervision of Terri Elder, curator of the Logie Collection and UC Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities. Earlier this month, the team began its survey in the Department of Classics, where it found several typewriters, two tables, a lectern and a spindled club chair. The chair was of particular interest as it may have belonged to John Macmillan Brown, one of the founding professors at Canterbury College.

Inclusive UC was a two-day challenge that UC Business School ran in late July in partnership with UCSA on Campus catering. Over 30 students worked in eight teams to develop ideas for on-campus events to foster meaningful social interaction between international and domestic students at UC to be delivered in Semester 2 of 2020 with the support of the Business School. The teams benefited from feedback from a diverse range of UC intercultural relations experts, as well as from the expertise of UCE staff to develop their ideas. The placings were: first for a Bubble Tea Workshop, second for an "All you can eat" speed-dating style event and third for a "Bridging the Gap" gala ball. A bonus prize went to a fourth team for their "Multicultural Splash" event, which was in the style of an Amazing Race competition.

The Open Competition Moot Final was held in the Sir William Young Moot Court on Monday 3 August. The 2020 Assistant Moot Master Jono Folwell, supported by the LAWSOC competitions officers (Amelia Gunson and Grechen Nicholls) and Law Lecturer Simon Dorset, did a great job in organising the final. The mooters were Rachel Bedggood, Georgina Boulton, Vincent Kenworthy and Chris Visagie. The bench comprised the Dean, Grant Tyrell (local branch president of the Law Society) with Osborne J presiding. Vincent Kenworthy was presented with the Judges' Cup as winner of the moot and Rachel Bedggood was presented with the Blue Cup for best first-time mooter. Vincent and Rachel will be the Canterbury team to compete at the New Zealand Law Students' Association nationals later in the year.

The Māori Moot Competition took place on Thursday 6 August, again in the Sir William Young Moot Court. Berith Petaia, Anatea Prince, Islay Fowler and Terrence Wagstaff went head to head. UC graduates and current practitioners Dee Morgan, Aja Trinder and John Whitcombe were the judges. The best mooter overall was Islay Fowler. The best Māori mooter – and thus the student representing Te Pūtairiki and UC at the annual Te Hunga Rōia Māori Law Conference next month – was Terrence Wagstaff. Thanks to Law lecturers Adrienne Paul and Simon Dorset, who supported Te Pūtairiki’s Co-Tūmuaki, Kaelym McGrath, in organising this moot.

Campus Experience events are being planned for Te Mātāpuna Mātātahi | Children’s University in the September and October school holidays. These events will be held on campus at both the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University, and tamariki will attend with a parent or caregiver. UC will host four activities, in which academics will cover subjects such as Biological Sciences, Geology, Chemistry, Engineering and Mathematics.

The College of Education, Health and Human Development’s Professional Practice and Partnership Office along with the School of Teacher Education staff who specialise in secondary teacher education hosted the annual Principals’ Day on 24 July. More than 50 principals from schools across New Zealand attended. They interviewed our students in the graduate diploma and master’s programmes for secondary teacher education and gave them insights into the profession of teaching. Feedback on the event is very positive and the principals have made special note of the high-quality and professional engagement of our students.

The School of Teacher Education’s students studying for their Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Secondary) judged the Cashmere High School Science Fair in the last week of July. David Winter, the programme coordinator, supported 25 students to take part in this partnership activity.

The College of Education, Health and Human Development also hosted the annual “Jandals” event in July. The purpose of this event is to engage with Pasifika students from local high schools and their families and is an opportunity for Pasifika families to meet staff and learn about the courses that the College is offering. Over 200 Pasifika students, parents and key Pasifika community leaders attended the event. Motivational speakers included a Pasifika parent representative, a current Pasifika student at UC and the Kaiarahi Pasifika, who shared some of the Pasifika education initiatives that the College continues to offer students to raise their cultural capability and capacity. This event is coordinated by the Pasifika Development Team with the support of the College’s Pasifika Success Group.

As a learning programme partner in the Pop Up Penguins – *Wild in Art* (PUP) initiative, UC has mobilised 25 students from the College of Education, Health and Human Development and Gateway Antarctica to serve as UC Pop Up Penguin Ambassadors. The UC Penguin Ambassadors will be making presentations to 35–40 of the Canterbury schools participating in the PUP programme. The students were generously hosted by the International Antarctic Centre (IAC) for a professional development, including a presentation by Dr Michelle LaRue from Gateway Antarctica. The programme partners have co-developed a school presentation, complete with video of UC researchers and detailed speaker notes, to ensure a top-quality learning opportunity for the participating schools.

## **Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future-focused**

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Following the smooth beginning of Semester 2 and the students having quickly settled back into their routines with bustling classrooms and campus activities, the UC community then had to activate a rapid response to the return to National Alert Level 2, continuing classes uninterrupted

online. With the announcement coming in the fifth week of a six-week term, a number of tests were scheduled during this time; however, these are being conducted as planned with greater spacing across rooms and protocols for remote invigilation, meaning 'at risk' students are still able to complete their work. It is great testament to the preparedness of our staff and students that we could respond so quickly.

UC is in the midst of a major survey period, in which all students have been invited to share their feedback via surveys. As well as exploring the quality of teaching and supervision across all levels of the University, these surveys invite students to share their views on the services on offer across UC, their wellbeing and their campus experience. These are our primary sources of student feedback for the year and provide important information that enables multiple stakeholders across campus to provide better services for our students. All staff are able to access these data through a series of interactive dashboards, which will be updated with 2020 data by the end of next month.

Analytics for Course Engagement (ACE) restarted at the beginning of Week 2 of Semester 2. By taking a proactive approach early in Semester 2, we were able to communicate with students prior to the final date for adding or withdrawing from courses to ensure they were on track to succeed in their studies. To date, the ACE system has identified around 1,300 students who needed additional support in Semester 2, the large majority of whom have re-engaged with their online study materials after contact from various ACE responders. The ACE team is working closely with the halls of residence and is now bringing them into the ACE workflow earlier to ensure they are aware when one of their students starts to disengage from their studies. ACE has managed to help resolve a range of issues, including connecting students with general wellbeing issues to Student Care, assisting with changes in enrolments, and facilitating connections between students and programme coordinators to provide discretionary extensions to assessments.

The Library has been focused on welcoming back students for Semester 2 and re-familiarising them with the services available in three libraries and online to support their learning. AskLive enquiries has increased by 46% in July 2020 compared with July 2019. This shift and other changes have motivated the Library to assess its strategy to ensure its responsiveness to a post COVID-19 world. As a Library, the core of what it does is *tuia te tangata ki te mātauranga* – connecting people with knowledge – which is central to engagement. One example of this alignment is the Library's support for the growing development of online teaching delivery. Sara Roberts has recently spoken to both the Library Committee and the Learning and Teaching Committee on open educational resources (OERs). OERs are freely available, openly licensed educational materials that can be used for teaching, learning, research and other purposes. Open textbooks are one type of OER. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the challenge of providing equitable access to textbooks to support UC learners, on and off campus. The Library is working with Associate Professor Cheryl Brown on academic attitudes to textbooks. In 2019, research on student attitudes indicated that while courses set required textbooks for 86% of students, 56% studied without them and cost was the major reason for this. These findings aligned both with the University Bookshop's expectation that only 25% of students will purchase a textbook and with students' expectations that the Library will provide access. The publishing model of textbooks is increasingly unfit for purpose, often due to poor online access, inflexible licences and high costs. The Library is actively looking at alternatives, including open textbooks, which is leading to a conversation with academics in their roles as teachers and authors.

A significant effort is being made to shift the academic offerings to a more flexible, hybrid portfolio. Online developments range from full programmes to courses and shorter offerings like MOOCs and microcredentials. Examples across the University include:

Dr Jonathan Dunn (Linguistics) has begun filming for the first massive open online course (MOOC) on offer which is related to text analytics. The Linguistics Department has been building on existing strengths in online delivery, now offering all of its papers with a distance course code, as well as the opportunity to complete a Major in Linguistics at UC entirely by distance.

The UC Business School is looking forward to welcoming the Business Taught Masters students starting in Term 3 (31 August). Over 20 new students have enrolled to study online (although they have until Week 7 to withdraw), in addition to on-campus enrolments, which include 10 international students from CCEL College of English and 15–20 domestic students. Two separate orientation programmes will cater for the online and the on-campus cohorts.

Planning is well advanced for the Business master's degree courses that will be offer in Term 1 of 2021 if the borders remain closed, in order to support offshore students currently studying online. However, completing their Business master's degree wholly online may not be attractive to some of these students as they strongly desire the experience of being in New Zealand and highly value the post-study work visa (which requires them to complete 30 weeks' study in New Zealand).

The Master of Applied Finance and Economics (MAFE) programme will be offered fully online, beginning with the January 2021 cohort. Online delivery of this advancing master's programme will continue for at least until such time as all international students have an opportunity to travel to UC.

## **Research – Impact on a Changing World**

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UC, along with other New Zealand universities, has completed the final stage of Centres of Research Excellence (CoRE) assessments in the form of panel interviews. UC was interviewed for two proposed UC-hosted COREs – Te Hiranga Rū (QuakeCORE) and Te Hiranga Reo (a new CoRE on New Zealand linguistics). Professors Brendon Bradley and Jennifer Hay as the existing and inaugural Directors, respectively, each gave a presentation on their proposal and answered questions from the CoRE Assessment Panel around the governance, management, strategic benefit and institutional host support of their bid. Subject Expert Panels have previously assessed the research excellence and merit of all proposals and made recommendations to shortlist 15 from over 30 proposals for this final interview. Ten proposals will be ultimately funded for eight years, with typically an annual CoRE budget of about \$5 million. The successful CoREs will be announced in October.

UC continues to secure COVID-19 research response funding via the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) COVID-19 Innovation Acceleration Fund. Professor Mark Jermy (Department of Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded \$513,000 for a research project entitled “Infection risk model of airborne transmission to facilitate decisions about PPE, ventilation and isolation in shared indoor spaces”. The research will apply UC's engineering expertise in fluid mechanics of breathing and blood flow, and in droplet and particulate spray transport, and is prescient given recent developments around renewed COVID-19 community transmission in New Zealand.

The Department of Media and Communication has resumed its departmental research seminars (Wednesday, 3–4pm), profiling research by staff, postgraduates and alumni, and is inviting other departments to join in as audience and presenters. Adding to that, the Department of Global, Cultural and Language studies has instituted a new research seminar series: *Global Visions: Reo, Ahurea*. The series will focus on languages (reo) and cultures (ahurea) from a global and transnational perspective, focusing especially on topics that extend beyond the Anglosphere. For the

first presentation, Dr Serena Kelly spoke on the topic of “Rhetoric and reality – the NZ-EU Free Trade Agreement in the times of COVID-19”.

UC’s Distinguished Professor Jack Copeland (Philosophy) has been appointed to the Governing Board of Mangalam University in Delhi, and also to an honorary Distinguished Professorship at Mangalam. The Governing Board meets by Zoom.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Ian Wright, with three counterparts from Australian universities, participated as an invited panellist in a *Times Higher Education* webinar about the risk and opportunities to research in Australasian universities in a post-COVID world. Some of the questions the panel discussed included: In light of the outbreak of COVID-19, how have public perceptions of university research changed? Will universities and researchers see a shift to more blue skies research and how will this impact future collaborations with governments and industry? How have associations of universities (for example, Universities New Zealand, Group of Eight) supported researchers in response to the pandemic? What impact will restricted mobility have on the flow of academic talent including PhD students between institutions? Could this threaten the Antipodean research reputation? What role have the social sciences played during this turbulent period? Over 900 participants registered for the webinar.

As part of UC’s response to COVID-19, two new programmes were announced to ensure UC’s PhD programme continues to evolve while New Zealand’s borders remain closed to new international students. First, UC has launched a new process to allow PhD candidates with an accepted offer from UC to start their studies from overseas. The process is supervisor-driven, with applications considered on a case-by-case basis. Considerations will include: the point at which students must be located in New Zealand to progress their research; a plan B if border restrictions do not ease within 12 months; whether the PhD could be completed, in its entirety, at a distance within four years of full-time study; and whether appropriate levels of support and resourcing will be available to the student. As kaitiaki of this cohort of offshore students, UC is developing a dedicated programme of support.

Second, as New Zealand competition for PhD students increases, a new doctoral scholarship offering, the UC Aho Hīnāore | Accelerator Scholarship for existing UC students, has been announced – with applications closing on 14 September. The goal of this scholarship is to transition UC’s best and brightest current students and recent graduates to doctoral studies at UC. The kupu Aho Hīnāore refer to a luminescent light, which is a fitting name for this scholarship. A total of 30 UC Aho Hīnāore | Accelerator Scholarships will be made available, with at least two awarded to each college and five to Māori and Pasifika students. The UC Aho Hīnāore | Accelerator Scholarship comprises a \$6,000 small project scholarship to fully test research aptitude and, if a student is successful in that small project, they will be awarded a \$28,000 stipend plus domestic fees per annum for a maximum of 360 points of enrolment in a UC doctoral programme.

Research & Innovation has facilitated the spin-out of a new company, Functional Coatings Holdings Limited, in partnership with tech incubator Astrolab. This company will be a vehicle to further commercialise the intellectual property developed by Professor Susan Krumdieck (Mechanical Engineering) and her previous PhD student, Johann Land. University of Canterbury will have a 10% shareholding in the company, while Professor Krumdieck and Johann will have a 10% and 20% share respectively.

The College of Science has a growing portfolio of mātauranga Māori research. In this past month, School of Earth and Environment PhD student Clare Wilkinson made the news for her new article in the journal *Earth Surface Dynamics* with her supervisors Tim Stahl from UC and Dan Hikuroa from the University of Auckland. She was interviewed on TVNZ Breakfast

(<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/combining-indigenous-western-scientific-knowledge-pathway-greater-understanding-study>) and Māori TV.

Dr Daniela Liggett from Gateway Antarctica gave an international keynote talk entitled “Small glimmers of hope amidst the turmoil of a pandemic? The implications of COVID-19 for Antarctic research and governance” at the Science Council of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research meeting on Wednesday 5 August. For more information, go to <https://www.scar2020.org/plenary-events>

The College of Engineering recently hosted key staff from all of New Zealand’s defence forces. They are interested in training and research with us, and met with staff in the Wireless Research Centre and the HITLab. Of particular interest was the link between their research into how learning works in simulated environments and UC’s current investigations of remote laboratory teaching options.

Professor Stephen Todd has been invited to attend the annual general meeting of the Legal Research Foundation in Auckland for the announcement of the Foundation’s 2020 writing awards. Professor Todd’s 2019 publication *Todd on Torts* (8th ed) has been shortlisted for the best book award and his article “Common Law Protection for Injury to a Person’s Reproductive Autonomy” (2019) 135 *Law Quarterly Review* 635 for the best article award.

Professor Philip Schluter and Dr Matt Hobb (**Health Sciences**)s had their paper on tooth decay among New Zealand youth published in the prestigious *JAMA Paediatrics*, the highest-ranking journal on paediatrics, perinatology and child health in the world. Their work was featured on TVNZ Breakfast and in other media outlets (<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/news/2020/kiwi-pre-schoolers-losing-teeth-to-painful-preventable-tooth-decay.html>).

The Childhood Wellbeing and Research Centre won the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation Wine and Art Auction Research Funding of approximately \$108,000 for a literacy project. Other highlights include Graduate Women’s gift to support “Moana Rising”, a joint programme with the Pacific Development Team and the Māori Development Team to create a support group mentoring Pasifika and Māori women to complete their degrees. It is envisaged that 30 Pasifika women and 50 Māori women will join this programme. Lighthouse Vision Trust scholarships were secured to support the visibly impaired with \$10,000 scholarships for those that qualify.

## **People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students**

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Thank you to the leadership, staff and students of the School of Biological Sciences who, at short notice and for health and safety reasons, have moved teaching and research activities out of the Pūtaiao Koiora building into other facilities. This follows a structural assessment by external experts, conducted as part of our ongoing seismic upgrade programme. The assessment is being reviewed and consideration of longer-term options will follow.

The UC RecCentre has recovered fairly quickly following the lockdown arrangements in place between March and June. July saw an increase in members (first growth since lockdown) but the daily average of 1,200 visits per day is consistent with levels of engagement in previous years. However, the RecCentre will remain on reduced opening hours with fewer classes for the rest of this year. The reduction of hours is helping to lessen the impact of the three months of lost revenue from lack of on-site access.

Three years ago the College of Engineering developed ENG ME!, a peer-mentoring system for first-year Intermediate students. Second-year students were trained to be mentors to new first-year



students, and then in year two of ENG ME!, when previous mentors were in their third year, they supported new mentors in year two, who mentored the new first years. Eventually the system becomes self-supporting although academic staff provide oversight. Some time ago the School of Law adopted this approach, and recently the Department of Sport Coaching and the College of Arts have been talking to Dr Daniel de Walt, the staff member responsible for overseeing ENG ME!, about implementing the scheme in their colleges too.

A key challenge to student wellbeing during 2020 has come from the financial impacts of COVID-19. During lockdown, UC began looking at various strategies to ensure students receive the level of financial support they need to continue their studies in what we expected to be an increasingly challenging environment. A range of initiatives is in place to support UC students.

Funds were identified for doctoral students, which the Postgraduate Office could make available by repurposing previously unspent UC Foundation (UCF) funds to create the Kopa Iti Fund. The Pōhā Iti Scholarship has also been introduced to provide up to 100 bursaries of \$3,000 for students most in need, and support for Māori, Pasifika and Rainbow students specifically has been provided via the Office of Assistant Vice-Chancellor Māori, Pacific and Equity network and an outreach approach.

UCF also launched a new fund, Kono Iti, to support other students suffering hardship or challenges, with UCSA providing an initial triage service for all UC students requiring financial assistance. The Chancellor and I created the first funds with members of UC Council volunteering a 20% pay reduction, and additional funds were sought from the UC wider community and alumni. To date, \$161,000 has been pledged although only \$51,000 is currently available in cash.

In May the Tertiary Education Commission notified UC that it had made available \$742,000 under the Hardship Fund for Learners (HAFL) to provide temporary financial assistance for currently enrolled tertiary learners who are facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because take-up of hardship funds in Semester 2 has increased, it is likely UC will use all of the funding available through HAFL in 2020 and will also draw on the other funds created. Actual spend to date is \$436,000 for nearly 160 students, with a further \$291,000 committed to further support. About 50 Māori, Pasifika and Rainbow students have received support.

## **Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked**

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At the conclusion of Semester 2 enrolment there are over 250 international students studying with UC off shore in online courses and more are expected to enrol in the Business Taught Masters programmes in late August. This outcome is very good considering that prior to February this year UC had no international students studying off shore in online courses, and it is a spur to action to attract more students online. A working group is engaged in defining which programmes may be offered to international students as part of UC's Summer Programme and to "online to campus" cohorts beginning in Semester 1, 2021. In parallel, colleges are considering their commitment to transnational education partnerships that could complement UC's traditional recruitment.

The focus of international recruitment now shifts to the 2021 academic year. With the possibility that borders will remain closed to many students for the start of Semester 1, the priority is to convert as many international National Certificate of Educational Achievement students as possible from throughout New Zealand. Plans are also being developed to host international high school graduates over the summer break in a 'Head Start' bridging programme in conjunction with UC International College and CCEL.

UC Economics and Finance Senior Lecturer Kuntal Das and the IRO's Sandeep Sharma participated in a webinar panel on 24 July, hosted by UC's Mumbai-based agent Aliff Overseas Consultants, on "Why do we need more economists than engineers?". The webinar was a brand-building and recruitment exercise to encourage the study of economics at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to promote the University of Canterbury as an international study destination. Mr Das and Mr Sharma discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the world economy, highlighted existing and emerging career opportunities for UC Economics graduates and featured UC's expertise in teaching economics. The event was targeted at students, parents, school counsellors and influencers, as well as entrepreneurs and professionals in India. The video (<https://www.facebook.com/aliffoverseas/videos/387364062237942>) has had over 800 views on Facebook.

The School of Teacher Education continued its exploration of opportunities to host student teachers in the Cook Islands and to expand its professional development opportunities for teachers in English language and reading development during a conference call with the Cook Islands Minister of Education. The School also continues to recruit overseas teacher education students, particularly in the secondary and early childhood sectors. It is undertaking contingency planning to support students who arrive late in the 2021 academic year.

Associate Professor Arindam Basu from the School of Health Sciences is providing many insightful contributions to public knowledge about COVID-19. He appeared in Euronews Live TV (an NBC partner that is aired worldwide) on 9 April, responding to questions about why New Zealand was doing so well in its response to the pandemic. He also spoke to SBS TV Australia on 9 April about the meaning of herd immunity and masks, as well as to Mike Hosking and Sam Curran on NZ Radio channel and Wallace Chapman on RNZ about the lockdown and New Zealand's recovery. Associate Professor Basu has been mentioned in over 20 articles that have circulated in Australia, New Zealand, India and the UK on topics ranging from herd immunity to clusters. He has published two articles in The Conversation (<https://theconversation.com/the-herd-immunity-route-to-fighting-coronavirus-is-unethical-and-potentially-dangerous-133765> / and <https://theconversation.com/why-new-zealands-coronavirus-cases-will-keep-rising-for-weeks-even-in-level-4-lockdown-134774>) and has a third in the pipeline. He has also written several notes for Science Media New Zealand on the state of the New Zealand response to this outbreak.

The School of Physical and Chemical Sciences hosted an informal visit by the Ambassador of Mexico, His Excellency Alfredo Pérez Bravo, on the main campus and at Mt John, where he experienced star-gazing. The ambassador celebrated Matariki with the School and heard first-hand about some of the research that is going on in the School and the wider University.

## Organisational Efficacy

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Recruitment initiatives are in full swing for the highly competitive domestic market. Unfortunately, the on-campus Open Day planned for 27 August, will likely be postponed. We had 692 people attend our virtual event last month and we started marketing later due to COVID-19. Campaigns are in market for mature students, including alumni, and a targeted engagement process is also in train for existing students who are potential postgraduate recruits.

This month our school liaison team will begin its course planning with school leavers using a new digital course guide. The guide was developed to prepare us for the COVID-19 situation, but also provides a sustainable solution and captures data that we can use to communicate more effectively with students in the future.

On 6 August, a collaboration between ChristchurchNZ, Ara, Lincoln University and UC resulted in 304 people registering to attend “Explore your Study Options”, an event focused on the future growth sectors in our region (supernodes). This was a great way to advance our goal of speaking to adults considering study options, while also engaging more broadly with other tertiary institutions and industry leaders for the betterment of Waitaha Canterbury.

Aukaha Tau for Year 12 students, held on 30 July, drew 120 taiohi Māori and 22 kaiako from 15 different schools. This represents a significant increase in attendance from the 78 taiohi Māori who attended in 2019. A number of recent UC Connect lectures have positioned UC as contemporary and prepared to hold courageous conversations, and have kept UC in the spotlight.

The Liaison Office continues to prepare for the important phase of school leaver course planning, with the web team delivering digital course planning to support this. A support resource for students (linked from emails sent directly to them) was also launched. Work is underway to support the online marketing required for the upcoming launch of UCX (our edX offering – MOOCs) and micro-credentials coming to market in the next few months.

Applications for accommodation opened on 1 August and are tracking at the same level as last year with over 800 to date. Virtual tour numbers have increased by 57% in the last four weeks. There is significant interest in the new accommodation building Tupuānuku, with over 300 applications already.

Through the UC Foundation, UC is sponsoring the Young New Zealander of the Year, with nominations open until 30 August. This provides a great vehicle to showcase our work with the Student Volunteer Army Foundation and its service awards programme through schools across Aotearoa and our new Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership programme. More broadly this sponsorship highlights UC’s strategic vision and commitment to social good and making a difference in our community.

Canterbury University Press published John Newton’s *Llew Summers: Body and Soul* in July. John Newton follows Summers’ beginnings as a self-taught artist, and his relationships and family life, through to his success as one of this country’s most recognisable sculptors with works in public spaces throughout New Zealand. The book has been published with the support of Creative New Zealand.

In the five months since its publication as an Open Access title, Elisabeth McDonald’s *Rape Myths as Barriers to Fair Trial Process* has had more than 2,229 downloads. Most have accessed it from New Zealand and the USA.

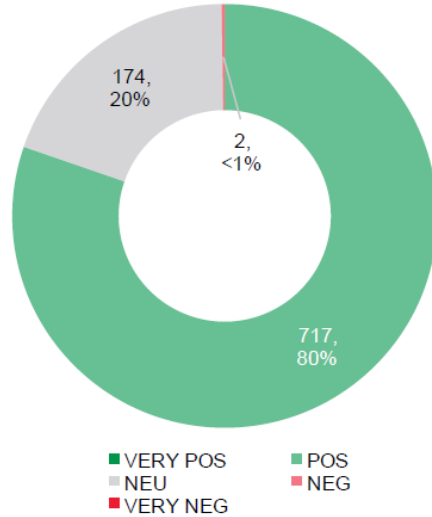
Work is continuing in the Alternative Laboratory and Studio Delivery Options, led by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Engineering, Jan Evans-Freeman. We have trained several lecturers and technical staff in using 360-degree cameras to develop remote access to labs, and we have purchased two high-end cameras for more sophisticated delivery of laboratory-based material, which includes providing better sound and a more interactive student experience. We also have examples of using virtual reality and video in the teaching of inaccessible technologies (such as those under ultra-high vacuum) and expensive microscopes.

## **News media**

Following on from a strong quarter 1 news media result, we have produced excellent results in quarter 2 (April–June).

### Coverage by Tone

In quarter 2, COVID-19 academics to provide dominated media pick-up coverage decreased as a reporting across the stories to the UC News UC channels to external from 53 stories in quarter



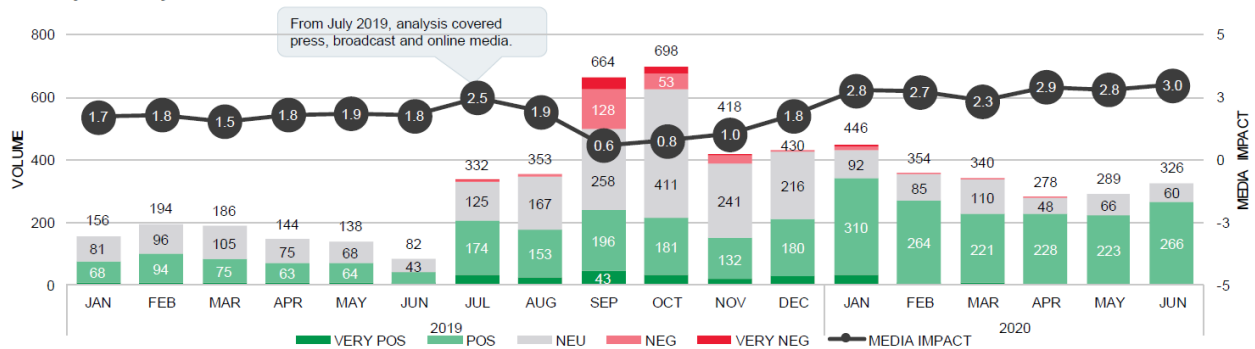
created many opportunities for expert commentary, but also and coverage. More general result, but this was consistent with sector. However, we published 73 webpage and shared them through audiences during quarter 2, up 1.

Academic commentary coverage, with students the third leading theme most positively reported.

was the leading theme of and alumni second. Research was of coverage by volume, but the

UC's media impact score for quarter 2 was 2.9, well above the 2.5 benchmark for the Australian and New Zealand education sector. The graph below shows the monthly trend in our media impact score.

### Monthly Trend by Tone



The multivariate media impact score is based on the tone of our media coverage (graph left) and the likely impact of that coverage on our key audiences and communities (table above).

Over the period 9 July to 11 August 2020, national online, print and broadcast media made 991 mentions of UC.

In the period from 10 July to 12 August 2020, we published nine articles for The Conversation. UC content in total achieved around 275,000 views for this period.

### Philanthropy and Alumni Relations

Philanthropy and sponsorship income is higher than this time last year, with \$4.3 million being received and \$1.6 million distributed to the end of July. One of the highlights for July has been Lady Tait's \$340,000 donation for the Sir Admiral Tait Scholarship for a boy from Timaru to study at UC. This scholarship has been running for a number of years and now has an endowment to run in perpetuity.

The Payroll Giving project in collaboration with Human Resources is due to roll out to staff in August. Staff will be able to pick their favourite charities for the launch.

One of the first alumni gatherings post-lockdown was watching 'Radioactive' at Lumiere Cinema in the Arts Centre. The sell-out screening was well-received and was the perfect subject matter for the

location. The film depicted the life of Madame Curie with flash-forwards to the impact her discoveries with husband Pierre had on the world.

In addition to calling almost 1,000 to students during lockdown, the fundraising team have had 248 significant engagements (phone call/meeting) with 186 prospects (including nine members of the SLT) around engagement and philanthropy on behalf of the University. Of those contacts 30 of them have made a significant gift of over \$10,000, contributing to the \$4.1m raised so far this year. Our largest gifts have been the legacy of Peter Holland which was confirmed with the Solicitor in January and received in March of just over \$1m to support Pasifika and Māori students pursuing Environmental Research and a \$340 endowment from Lady Tait for the Sir Admiral Tait Scholarship for students from Timaru Boys to attend UC. The latter has been a long established and prestigious award that has been funded annually, Lady Tait has shown her trust and belief in the UC Foundation to ensure this scholarship is maintained in perpetuity for the benefit of the University.

In addition to the work of the fundraising team, our academics and business managers in the colleges have secured a total of \$1.4m in external income from 54 organisations, \$991k of which has been stewarded through the UC Foundation, the remainder directly to UC. The University has also secured \$665k in expense recovery from 54 organisations. A further \$108k has been pledged by the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation in support of the Child Wellbeing Institute at UC

## Finances

July 2020	Actual Year to Date \$000	Budget Year to Date \$000	Budget Variance Year to Date \$000 Fav/(Unfav)	Budget Full Year \$000	Forecast Full Year \$000	Full Year Forecast to Budget Variance \$000 Fav/(Unfav)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	3,199	(11,534)	14,733	3,818	3,779	(39)
Capital Expenditure	54,009	67,279	13,270	111,988	95,000	16,988
Cash/ Short Term Investments	249,275	223,576	25,699	153,628	191,884	38,256

We had been budgeting for an operating **deficit** as at the end of July 2020 of (\$11.534 million), but have returned an operating **surplus** of \$3.199 million.

This is a favourable variance to budget of \$14.733 million. This favourable variance mainly relates to \$20.939 million less operating expenses (largest savings are in travel and conference expenses, consultancy expenses, outsourcing and contracts, scholarships, contract research, contract teaching, contractors, promotional activities, and laboratory consumables), the majority of which are related to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown. Some of these favourable variances will be sustained and have been reflected in the year-end forecast.

Other favourable variances relate to \$3.589 million more domestic student fees, including Student Achievement Component (SAC) funding, with \$0.730 million of this relating to the 2019 SAC wash-up and \$0.414 million less personnel expenses.

This favourable variance has been partially offset by unfavourable variances coming from (\$4.717 million) less research external income, (\$1.783 million) more depreciation and (\$1.565 million) less sundry income.

We are forecasting for a surplus in line with budget for the full year of \$3.8 million. Expected reductions in revenue from international tuition fees, domestic tuition fees and SAC, the Performance Based Research Fund and research income along with forecast increases in expenses related to depreciation expenditure are largely offset by improved interest revenue and forecast reductions in personnel and operating expenses.

Capital expenditure is \$13.270 million below budget. Most projects are under budget but expenditure related to the UC futures projects is (\$8.548 million) over the year-to-date budget of \$0.804 million, largely as a result of the \$9.184 million Rehua final payment in March that was not considered in the budget. The remaining capital spend (excluding UC Futures) is favourable by \$21.818 million, against a year-to-date budget of \$66.475 million. Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 lockdown significantly curtailed capital expenditure, but it is now returning to normal levels.

The July 2020 cash position of \$249.275 million is higher than budget by \$25.699 million. The higher-than-expected opening cash balance and lower capital spend have been partially offset by less cash from operating activities (largely due to less income).

For further details, please refer to the latest monthly financial report.

	EFTS			
	Full Year Enrolled			
	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Budget
	2018	2019	(as at July) 2020	2020
<b>Domestic 1st-year</b>	3,662	3,767		
<b>Returning</b>	8,704	9,255		
<b>Total</b>	<u>12,366</u>	<u>13,022</u>	<u>13,624</u>	<u>13,735</u>
<b>Full Fee 1st-year</b>	922	952		
<b>Returning</b>	781	918		
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,704</u>	<u>1,869</u>	<u>1,645</u>	<u>2,015</u>
	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,069</b>	<b>14,891</b>	<b>15,269</b>	<b>15,749</b>

Notes:

Budget and Forecast are not calculated down to year at UC.

Enrolment data are based on the same date across years. e.g. 6 Jan 2019 vs 6 Jan 2020.

Applications to enrol (ATE) data are now reported for the same date across years e.g. 6 Jan 2019 vs 6 Jan 2020.

ATE data are based on student headcount and on the student's citizenship status rather than fee type.

Enrolments data are based on EFTS and the students fee type (Domestic or International).

'International' refers to the student's New Zealand citizen or residency status rather than their fee paying status. Most international students will pay International fees but PhD students generally pay domestic fees.

## Environmentally Sustainable

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The Sustainability Programme Board, chaired by Professor Jan Evans-Freeman, had its first meeting on 7 August. Membership spans Facilities Management, the Sustainability Office, People and Culture, all the colleges and Research & Innovation (R&I). Topics included looking at sustainability priorities in the Major Investment Plan and developing a visible and virtual platform at UC for disseminating sustainability-related activities in teaching, research and campus management and development. This Board will also receive updates on the submission to the Times Higher Education Impact rankings, which is being run out of R&I.

We ran our Transport Survey for the first time since 2016 during July. More than 2,000 staff and students responded and the data are being analysed. Also being processed are data from the twice-yearly bike stand use count, which is undertaken for resource consenting purposes.

The Sustainability Office, together with academic staff from Biology and Natural Resources Engineering, is planning a significant sediment removal from the Engineering Pool (which is between E8/E9 and the new Beatrice Tinsley bike stands).

The Sustainable Development Goals Summit is being held in Christchurch next year. A national stakeholder group has been established, as well as a local working group, which has hired an event manager and a part-time communications assistant. Associate Professor Te Maire Tau, Director of the Ngai Tahu Research Centre, has indicated support and has ideas that will be woven into summit planning.

We have been preparing to run the Sustainability Culture Index – a benchmarked survey for higher education organisations. The staff version of this is due to run in August and will provide useful baseline data about present staff and student views on sustainability performance at UC.

Student engagement with sustainability at UC was very strong in July, as measured by social media engagement. Much of this was related to Plastic Free July, although the Transport Survey also engaged a considerable number of students.

<b>Past Events</b>	
30 July 2020	Attended Powhiri in Auckland for VC of University of Auckland, Dawn Freshwater
31 July 2020	Met with CE of Waimakariri District Council, Jim Palmer, and Mayor Dan Gordon
3 August 2020	Met with James Stringer, Box 112
4 August 2020	Met with Nuha Fathina, UCSA - Commerce
5 August 2020	Hosted a Christchurch Knowledge Commons meeting
6 August 2020	Attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Universities NZ Attended a meeting with ANZ's Chief Economist, Sharon Zollner
7 August 2020	Attended an induction day for NZQA Board
11 August 2020	Attended part of REANNZ Board Meeting hosted at UC Attended a formal dinner at UC's College House
12 August 2020	Attended a Learner Success meeting with TEC
18 August 2020	Met with Haydn Rawstron
19 August 2020	Met with British High Commission, HE Laura Clarke
21 August 2020	Attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Universities NZ

<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
25 August 2020	Speaking at Health Research Society of Canterbury Poster Expo 2020
26 August 2020	Speaking at Rongo o te Wā at UC
27 August 2020	Attending a Zoom meeting for NZQA Board Meeting
31 August 2020	Attending a meeting with ChristchurchNZ Speaking at UC Toastmasters Club event
1 September 2020	Attending UC Graduation Celebration Ceremonies
2 September 2020	Speaking at Māori Research Hui
7 September 2020	Attending TEC Board Meeting to be hosted at UC
9 September 2020	Visiting Cass Field Station and High Country
15 September 2020	Speaking at Local Government Professionals Annual Summit
18 September 2020	Attending a Zoom meeting hosted by Universities NZ
23 September 2020	Attending a Zoom for Learner Success hosted by Universities NZ
24 September 2020	Attending NZQA Board Meeting