

Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

October 2020

Summary

Teaching has concluded for the 2020 academic year and students are expected to be preparing for the final assessments and examinations. Aotearoa New Zealand is in Alert Level 1 again and it is hoped that this will continue so that there will not be any disruption to the end-of-year examination period. Exams will come to a completion on 7 November.

Graduation ceremonies are planned for the week commencing 14 December 2020. Two additional ceremonies have been added following a high number of applications for the December Graduation ceremonies. This will include the rescheduled UC Graduation Celebration, which was planned for September (for April in absentia graduates) but had to be postponed as a result of the continuation of Covid-19 Alert Level 2 in the South Island. I expect that this year's graduation ceremonies will provide a particularly special sense of achievement given the challenges of the 2020 academic year.

Applications for enrolment in 2021 have opened and numbers are encouraging. I am pleased to see that active applications for Māori and Pasifika student numbers are up significantly on 2019 and all Colleges are showing increases in enrolment compared to the same point in 2019.

In recent days, the Government has agreed to a trial programme of international student entry to New Zealand, with an initial cohort of 250 PhD students (across all eight universities) being allowed to enter New Zealand via existing quarantine facilities to re-commence their studies. UC has prioritised a list of over 50 existing PhD and postgraduate students who are currently enrolled at UC and need to return to Christchurch to complete their research projects.

The multiparty Joint Postgraduate School is a new partnership initiative between University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, AgResearch, Plant & Food Research and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. It's overarching research theme is Food Transitions 2050, and this month, the 15 PhD scholarships available for the initiative, 5 of which are funded by UC, have been allocated to joint supervisory teams in a contestable process. The VCs and CEOs of the five partners met as the Partnership Board on 21 October and agreed to sign a MoU to formalise the ongoing work. The meeting was followed by a lunch with the research staff of the five partners who will be supervising the inaugural cohort of PhD students who will begin their study in 2021.

Engagement

The Knowledge Commons team presented an update on the work thus far at a workshop that included some key members of the community. A total of approximately 60 people attended in person and via zoom. Assoc Prof Te Maire Tau, the Mayor and the Vice-Chancellor all presented their visions for engagement and kotahitanga. Those present then worked to develop key

workstreams that will support the Knowledge Commons' strategic focus into the future. The Knowledge Commons team will align this information with other data collected by its partners and present this back for wider consultation and engagement as part of the Knowledge Commons' strategy.

The Knowledge Commons team continues to reach out to various organisations, individuals, businesses and community groups to determine how UC can support their ongoing mahi. We continue to collate the 150 stories of impact to support our commitment to sharing UC's impact in our local community.

In election year numerous staff in the College of Arts have been involved in analysis, discussion and commentary of political events. Amongst many examples, Peter Field (History) could be heard discussing the US elections on RNZ, Lindsey MacDonald (Political Science and International Relations) provided live analysis of the televised Leaders Debate in Christchurch, whilst the National Centre for Research on Europe, together with the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs (Christchurch) hosted a NZ 2020 election public discussion of foreign policy. The event included four candidates for the upcoming election and was chaired by former UC Arts student, now Strategy and Risk Consultant and former Christchurch city councillor, Raf Manji.

Over the last two weeks the Te Mātāpuna Mātātahi | Children's University (CU) team has facilitated six campus experience events for CU members. Two events were held at Lincoln University and four events were held on UC's Ilam campus. The events provided tamariki with hands-on activities in a range of areas including chemistry, biology, geology, engineering and maths. In total 100 tamariki accompanied by 86 adults visited our campus.

At the end of September the Department of Media and Communication welcomed media studies teachers from local schools onto campus for a professional development workshop focussing on visual analysis and developments in journalism. Response was very positive and another event, this one for media studies students, was suggested for term 1, 2021.

UC Centre for Entrepreneurship (UCE) Impact Summit 2020 held on Saturday 10 October brought together some 200 participants from around NZ. Titled 'Every Day Matters', the focus of the day was empowering people to create a more sustainable world, one decision at a time. The Summit, hosted by UC Centre for Entrepreneurship and the Business School, brought together a diverse range of students, entrepreneurs, innovators, professionals and members of the wider community to share ideas, engage with each other and take action toward a more sustainable future. Following a presentation from keynote speaker, Malcolm Rands, Ecostore co-founder and Fairground Foundation executive chairman, attendees participated in workshops facilitated by UC academics and external stakeholders. The event concluded with a panel discussion between Veronica Harwood Stevenson, Founder and CEO of Humble Bee, Tony Moore, Sustainability Advisor at Christchurch City Council, Brianne West, Founder and CEO of Ethique, and Logan Williams, Entrepreneur, Inventor and Scientist. The MC was Rod Oram, award-winning international business journalist and founding trustee and second chairman of the Ākina Foundation, which helps social enterprises to develop sustainable business models. One key message that the entire panel agreed on was that we can't recycle our way into sustainability – we must change the way we make and consume!

In partnership with B.linc Innovation at Lincoln University, UCE ran the Ag-Tech Shake-up two-day Challenge, which was sponsored by ChristchurchNZ. Teams of students from UC and LU were tasked with coming up with a concept to transform the future of New Zealand agriculture through innovative technology. Combining the expertise of the students from the two universities resulted in some impressive ideas. First place went to Radiant Technologies for its automated pest control

system to identify, spray and destroy Wilding Pines. Runners up were the Auaha team, who came up with a sensor for milk caps to tell consumers whether their milk is fresh, and the Rauhou team, who created a system that uses ruminant waste to produce water lentils (plant-based food protein).

On 23 September the Business School and UC MBA Graduate Association held a pre-election political panel at Turanga on 'The Business of Running NZ Inc'. UC Alumni, MBA Graduates and current students heard from former MPs, Hon Nicky Wagner and Hon Clayton Cosgrove on how preparing for a life in business had prepared them for politics, how politics and business differ, and what the future holds for NZ businesses post-election. UC Economics Lecturer Stephen Hickson facilitated the discussion. On Wednesday 7 October, Stephen Hickson gave an invited talk on the state of the NZ economy and the economic outlook to an audience drawn largely from the engineering and construction industries. The forum was organised by Stellar Recruitment who contacted the University requesting a speaker for one of their regular networking events.

The Department of Economics and Finance has reinstated the UC Finance Professional Speaker Series this year, kicking off with a talk by Craig Brownie from merchant bank Bancorp New Zealand. Craig, who is co-owner and Managing Director of Bancorp, shared valuable insights about how to secure a job in the sector and stories about his recent mergers and acquisitions, infrastructure and private equity deals.

UC MBA students spent the weekend (9-10 October). Christchurch City Council in collaboration with the MBA *Societies in Smart Cities* course and the Smart Cities Council ANZ, developed a Smart Christchurch 'Waste Minimisation' Challenge for MBA students. The founders of the Smart Christchurch programme, Michael Healy and Grace de Leon, spent the weekend guiding students to develop waste minimization business cases for Christchurch City Council. And the Canterbury-Bankstown Council in New South Wales delivered a presentation to the cohort on emerging innovations.

Nine teams presented solutions including using technology and AI to sort waste at the point of collection, developing 'waste 2 value' trading platforms, utilising existing capital infrastructure such as supermarkets as minimisation outlets, and emulating best practices from countries like South Korea. The City Council will assess these solutions in the coming weeks and consider taking forward viable solutions to develop proof of concepts.

The recently established, Colin Fife Memorial Endowment Fund, which honours UC Law School graduate, the late Colin Fife, has seen donations rolling in. Funds will go towards the annual mooted prize competition and law student scholarships. On 23 September the Business School and UC MBA Graduate Association held a pre-election political panel at Turanga on 'The Business of Running NZ Inc'. UC Alumni, MBA Graduates and current students heard from former MPs, Hon Nicky Wagner and Hon Clayton Cosgrove on how preparing for a life in business had prepared them for politics, how politics and business differ, and what the future holds for NZ businesses post-election. UC Economics Lecturer Stephen Hickson facilitated the discussion. UC Economics Lecturer, Stephen Hickson on the NZ Economy and Economic Outlook: On Wednesday 7 October, Stephen Hickson gave an invited talk on the state of the NZ economy and the economic outlook to an audience drawn largely from the engineering and construction industries. The forum was organised by Stellar Recruitment who contacted the University requesting a speaker for one of their regular networking events.

Education – Accessible, Flexible Future Focussed

As teaching draws to a conclusion for the standard academic year plans are in place to manage the examination period under different Alert Level scenarios. While everyone is hopeful that we will remain at Level 1, arrangements have been made to manage a short-notice shift to Alert Level 3 or 4 should that be necessary. These plans include some online invigilation using Zoom and a team of trained invigilators.

While we look to the end of the year, teaching continues through the summer. Applications for Summer School courses have gone live and early enrolments suggest an increased interest in summer school compared to previous years. In addition, FutureU study grants are available for summer school 2020 enrolments of up to \$7,500 per person to subsidise tuition fees for those impacted by COVID-19.

Looking forward to the new academic year, Takere, the new Success Academy initiative, is gearing up for a mid-January launch. The name Takere refers to the hull of a canoe. With a strong, sturdy takere the waka is ready for its journey and is designed to navigate the choppy seas. The hull of a waka is also the place where our voyaging tīpuna stored the resources and taonga necessary for their journey as they moved across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa Pacific Ocean. This pilot programme, catering for approximately 20 students, aims to develop the skills and confidence Māori and Pacific students need to navigate the university landscape, while strengthening their connection as a cohort of first-year students and is part of the strategy for student success.

Staff and students at UC can look forward to exciting new curriculum initiatives in 2021. The Council of Academic Programmes (CUAP) have approved all proposed programmes, and while waiting on final confirmation from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), we can be confident that we will be launching two new undergraduate degrees in Data Science and Environmental Science. The degrees are modern and reflective of current global developments and will be an excellent addition to our suite of programmes.

Reflecting more flexible and accessible education, the first three UC micro-credentials were approved (Digital Marketer submitted by the School of Business and Transition Engineering Leadership and Energy Transition Engineering, Management and Policy submitted by the College of Engineering). Work is underway developing the online content for these micro-credentials which will be launched in early 2021.

The innovative work UC did in terms of teaching and learning in response to COVID-19 has been showcased to a wide audience as part of Zoomtopia, a conference looking at technology advancements in education. Catherine Moran took part as a panellist and shared highlights of UC's response to moving online and lessons learned.

The UCX launch on the edX platform is expected this month, with five MOOCs becoming available that showcase the breadth of learning opportunities at UC and our expertise in a variety of fields. These first MOOCs include; for A Better Start to Reading – Professor Gail Gillon, Exploring Volcanoes and their Hazards: Iceland and New Zealand – Associate Professor Ben Kennedy, Smart Cities – Associate Professor Chris Vas, Statistical Analysis in R – Professor Elena Moltchanova (Professional Certificate) and Text Analytics with Python – Jonathan Dunn (Professional Certificate).

The Library has welcomed the stronger presence of students on campus for Semester Two. Despite the move to Level 2 the demand for Library services has remained high. The Library is now putting in place our wellness support for students as we move into the final assessment and exam period. The Library is continuing to talk to the UC academic community on alternatives to the use of textbooks and options for open access textbooks as the major publishers continue to increase

costs, refuse in some cases to provide online versions, and put further restrictions on use. As an example we have been advised that Cengage will be tightening their digital rights management on new purchases of Cengage ebooks available via ProQuest, removing rights to print, copy or download chapter-level PDFs on new purchases from 7 September 2020.

Partly in response to the impact of COVID on normal patterns of delivery this year, the Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) programme is finding placements for 40 students over the summer period – four times more than the same time last year. It includes remote internships in the North Island and Singapore. Overall this year about 190 students will have completed PACE placements this year, continuing to garner positive feedback from our exceptional industry partners who have gone above and beyond to support students in challenging times.

The Social Work programme, in the wake of its successful mid-cycle accreditation review, has just finished offering a new community engagement course (SOWK205) providing a timely opportunity for Social Work students to engage with five community organisations: CCS Disability Action, Tangata Atumotu Trust, Shirley Community Trust, Mental Health Advocacy and Peer Support (MHAPS) and Oak Development Trust. Students worked in project teams to apply their community engagement skills and research the organisations' Covid19 responses. The Social Work programme continued to facilitate active engagement between final year students and the social work regulatory body, the Social Workers Registration Board, and the professional Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Work. The purpose of facilitating these connections is to ensure students are aware of the role each organisation will play in their ongoing development and future social work career.

While there were many challenges faced regarding teaching and assessments in Engineering, students and staff have prevailed with a high level of course/assessment success. Final Year Projects were hit very hard in some areas, with disruption to lab and equipment access. However, even with some industrial sponsors suffering major disruption, all our projects started at the beginning of the year are completing, and there have been exhibitions and displays of their work.

In Engineering we have major successes related to equity and diversity this year. We have increased our number of Māori students again this year, and the ratio of female to male students is now well above 20% whereas it used to be as low as 14% some years ago. We hope that programmes like the new biomedical minor will further increase the gender diversity of our incoming student cohort

Now that year end is approaching, we have had a push to try to attract final year students to stay on in many of our Engineering departments, for postgraduate study. This is currently of increased interest to them as employment prospects are less certain at the moment. Chemical and Process Engineering have put together their first Master's degree to help students develop their skills in the absence of employment opportunities at present.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

The TEC has recently announced the ten successful Centres of Research Excellence that will receive funding over the next 7½ years. UC had two proposals, where UC was the proposed host, of fifteen bids in the final phase of assessment. UC's Te Hiranga Rū | QuakeCoRE led by Professor Brendon Bradley has been selected for a further cycle of funding, receiving \$31.5m in funding. A key aspect of QuakeCoRE is to advance the science and implementation of earthquake resilience through deep collaborations coordinated across engineering, physical and social science disciplines and research institutions. Specific developments in this phase of funding are the advancement and application of new smart technologies to earthquake engineering, and the social and economic

mitigation of future earthquake impacts. The other UC-hosted proposal (Te Hiranga Reo), led by Professor Jennifer Hay, was sadly unsuccessful. Professor Hay is beginning to rework a number of collaborative research ideas in the proposal, back into the future development of UC's New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain Behaviour.

Two existing CoREs, in which UC was a partner, were not refunded – Brain Research New Zealand and Medical Technologies, and this will have some impact within the Colleges of Science and Engineering. In contrast two new CoREs hosted by University of Otago (Coastal Peoples : Southern Sky) and University of Auckland (Healthy Hearts) have some UC presence, UC will also have greater participation in the refunded BioProtection CoRE hosted at Lincoln University.

As the end of 2020 approached it is a busy period for Research & Innovation staff. The research consultant team is now focussed on supporting academic staff to prepare and complete applications for submission to the MBIE Smart Ideas and Endeavour Research Programme 2021 round. Currently there are 53 Smart Ideas applications, of which 26 are carried forward from the delayed 2020 round which is now conflated with the 2021 cycle. There are also 13 Endeavour Research Programme applications being developed. The R&I team is also compiling information for three submissions, including the QS Star rating submission, Times Higher Impact submission, and the Stats NZ biennial research & development survey.

In funding news, UC has secured \$1.388m over the next three years following the announcement that eight projects have been funded through New Zealand's two joint research programmes with Singapore on Data Science and Future Foods. Through the Catalyst: Strategic – New Zealand-Singapore Data Science Research Programme, Professor Richard Green has secured \$520,698 in sub-contract funding for his part in a Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research-led programme entitled “Bridging the gap between remote sensing and tree modelling with data science”. Through the Catalyst: Strategic – New Zealand-Singapore Future Foods Research Programme, Professor Ren Dobson has secured \$867,799 in a sub-contract on an Auckland-led project entitled “Understanding the interactions between plant-based protein and cellular agriculture”. MBIE's funding commitment for the eight projects totals almost \$23m over three years, and represents New Zealand's largest ever single investment in a bilateral science programme.

This month the R&I Commercial Team have successfully filed a patent, and negotiated an out licensing deal for the rights to use it, with ZinCovery, an award winning spin-out company formed by Jonathon Ring, ex-UC Masters student and Associate Professor Aaron Marshall, (Chemical and Process Engineering). The company is in the process of raising \$1m to develop the novel technology aimed at making the galvanized steel industry waste-free.

UC have also agreed with Talegent, a company specialising in the provision of tools that predict prospective employees' performance, minimum royalty rates and the marketing plan for a psychometric test developed by Associate Professor Chris Burt (School of Psychology, Speech & Hearing). The test is aimed at assessing awareness of Health and Safety Risks, and Talegent will market the tool to companies here and in Australia.

The team have also supported Associate Professor David Leung, (School of Biological Sciences), and his PhD student Negisa Darajeh, with their entry in to the BridgeHub 2020 Water Challenge, for which they have been selected as finalists. The competition offers over \$250,000 in prizes and is open to both Australian and New Zealand Innovators.

Finally, R&I have worked with Christchurch NZ to highlight the University's capability in Precision Farming, automation and robotics, with an aim to UC being included as a key participant in the planned Horticultural Robotics Institute centred in Hawkes Bay. UC is also working with

Christchurch NZ to profile key research and innovations being developed by UC, both in Green Technologies and medical technologies, two themes which align closely with the city's identified super-nodes. Together with UCE, Christchurch NZ, the Mayoral Forum, BLINC and AgResearch, R&I are also lending support to a national Food and Fibre Challenge, to be run later this year

As teaching comes to an end, staff turn to focus on their research, and the Southern Hemisphere conference season kicks off. Staff in Science and Engineering are currently organising an materials science conference in November called [Materials Conference@UC2020](#) to promote interdisciplinary collaborations and new projects. The theme of the conference is – appropriately for 2020 – Overcoming Challenges in Research

Postgraduate Research

The Dean of Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Research Office staff are currently developing a new programme of doctoral orientation, which will commence in January 2021. There will be three primary aspects to this orientation: (1) short online orientation video for viewing upon enrolment, (2) in person orientation workshop held approximately three times annually and facilitated by the Dean of Postgraduate Research (topics will include expectations of doctoral students at UC, working with your supervisor, defining and working towards your career goals, becoming a part of the UC student and academic community), and (3) a specific additional orientation workshop for international students (i.e., working within the NZ research and academic context).

In addition, the same team is developing a virtual programme of professional development and gatherings for students commencing overseas due to COVID-19—with the aim of building a cohort and interdisciplinary community of overseas research students. It is anticipated that this, alongside their supervision and project experience, will improve the student experience, aid retention, and lessen isolation in this cohort.

The Aho Hīnātore | Accelerator project and doctoral scholarship has been a popular offering, with 80 applications received for this round. The outcomes of this scholarship round will be announced in mid-October, but it is anticipated that 45 scholarships will be awarded rather than original proposed 30 scholarships due to the very high quality of students and projects submitted.

The [Jane Soons](#) Memorial Fund has been established in the UC Foundation to support Research and scholarships in the area of Geography and Quarternary Studies, in 1971 Jane became UC's first female professor. Sadly Jane passed away in early September 2020. Consideration is being given as to appropriate ways to celebrate her life and contribution more visibly on campus.

The HIT Lab NZ in the College of Engineering have been approached by Facebook (through a third party) to conduct their user studies. Facebook are unable to do this face to face anywhere else in the world at the moment, and we are delighted to be able take part in this exciting new project for UC.

Publications

Associate Professor [Mike Grimshaw](#) (Sociology) has edited a special collection for [Continental Thought & Theory on The Problem of Trump](#). The collection brings together thinkers from NZ (UC's Peter Field, Cindy Zeiher & Mike Grimshaw), America and Brazil to consider the problem of Trump & Trumpism. It situates Trump as not only an American problem but also a global problem: the signal of a shift in politics and society that, this collection demands, must be resisted not only by bodies but perhaps, most importantly, by minds.

Last month, [Associate Professor Ruth McManus](#) (Sociology) e-presented the paper “Sustainable Dead: Seeds of Cultural syncretism in body disposal“ at the [Death and Culture III conference](#) hosted by St. John York, UK. Sharing the stage with contributors from Norway and Japan, the paper explores how new forms of, and attitudes to, bodily disposal are emerging. It takes the widespread cultural shift toward sustainability and charts how this is taking shape in the tangible world of cemetery development in New Zealand. As land and resources become scarce and sustainability seeks to shift from rhetoric to practice, new sites and forms of interment are being mooted, but must negotiate existing traditions and conservatism in ways that can allow for cultural departures and syncretism. This paper details ways in which independent outfits (a church, a nurse, a quarry business and architects) are emerging as pioneers of sustainable body disposal in New Zealand. The paper will form part of a planned edited collection with the working title *The Sustainable Dead*.

UC Lecturer in English [Erin Harrington](#) has a chapter in the new anthology *Women Make Horror*. The volume is the first book-length study of women filmmakers in horror film, the first all-women edited book on horror film, and the first book to call out the male-bias in written histories of horror, illuminating precisely how, and where, these histories are lacking. Erin’s chapter, “[Slicing Up the Boys’ Club: The Female-led Horror Anthology Film](#)“, contextualises the female-directed film *XX* (2017) within the long and male-dominated history of horror anthology and omnibus films.

Dr Liz Macpherson (UC Law School): has just published (with co-author Pia weber) ‘Towards a Holistic Environmental Flow Regime in Chile: Providing for Ecosystem Health and Indigenous Rights’, in *Transnational Environmental Law*. This article is part of a Symposium Collection, edited by Liz put together on Indigenous Water Rights in Comparative Law arising out of a research workshop held at UC Law School in 2018. The article is available to view [here](#)

Professor Annick Masselot (UC Law School): ran a virtual seminar on Friday 2nd October on behalf of the New Zealand Labour Law Society entitled: *Employment Law in an uncertain environment: Utopia or Dystopia?* 100 people registered for the virtual seminar, which was chaired by retired Judge Colgan. A wide range of speakers attended from NZ and Australian Universities, as well as practitioners, including the new Chief Judge for the Employment Relations Authority. UC academic s from a range of discipline areas participated, including Dr Matt Scobie (Management), Dr Sanna Malinen (Management), and Professor Katharina Naswall (Psychology). The event was recorded and is available on the web-site of the New Zealand Labour Law Society: <https://www.newzealandlabourlawsociety.nz/>.

Professor Elisabeth McDonald (UC Law School): led a half day seminar on 28 September for Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Development officials about her research on rape trial processes and its relevance to the roll out of specialist victim court support in sexual cases.

Reflections on the development of Economics at UC: The evolution of Economics’ teaching and research at the University of Canterbury has been featured in the New Zealand Association of Economists’ publication *Asymmetric Information* Issue #67. The issue contains an interview with former Head of UC Economics Department, Professor Frank Tay about Economics at Canterbury from the 1920s onward, an interview with BCom Alumni, Bill Rosenberg, former chief economist of NZ Trade Union Council, and Paul Walker (BA Hons), PhD), Blogwatch.

School of Earth and Environment, Prof Jamie Shulmeister was a co-author on a paper published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a top multidisciplinary earth science journal – “Proglacial Lakes Control Glacier Geometry and Behavior During Recession” The paper was led by a co-supervised PhD student at the University of Leeds (Dr Jenna Sutherland). This paper should have a significant impact on climate change debates in New Zealand. It is already in top 5% of all research by

altimetric score having been officially published 9th October\$1.1M sub-contract signed with AUT to Dr Rita Dionisio. The sub-contract is within the National Science Challenge Building Better Homes, Towns and Citi

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

The Mahere Oranga | Wellbeing Plan has been finalised and it includes a range of milestones and actions associated with staff and student wellbeing. It describes Te Pae Māhutonga which is the model of health promotion and wellbeing that has been adopted by UC and it commits to a number of actions related to training, communication and support.

Demand for mental health services and support has remained high across the Health Centre and Student Care teams. To manage this ongoing high demand, have engaged additional contract counsellors to help manage the demand. As an example of the increase in demand, the Student Care team in September last year met with 250 unique students compared to 409 students this year, with the average number of contacts being 2.04 with each student.

Staff have voted for the favourite charities they wish to support through Payroll Giving this month which include Christchurch City Mission, St John Ambulance, Kids Can and the Cancer Society of NZ. Further information on gifting through payroll will be circulated to staff in coming weeks. 11% of staff have donated to the UC Foundation to support projects at the University.

School of Music students are continuing to make their mark on the New Zealand musical scene, with third-year student Thomas Bedggood particularly in the news. Thomas' piece 'Smoking Mirror' has been chosen for this year's Todd Corporation Young Composer's Award and will be recorded by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Of this piece, Thomas has said: "Smoking Mirror is inspired by facets of Nahua culture and legends – the term "smoking mirror" refers to ancient local mirrors of polished obsidian, which give all reflections a dim, smoky, ephemeral quality, glazed with red auras thanks to the composition of the volcanic glass." Thomas is also involved in the Latin American CAPE/NZSO Cultural Exchange Programme, where he is a part of a group of composers who have been tasked with a 15-minute composition of Latin American influence over the next two months, and as part of its Arts Excellence awards, the Dame Malvina Major Foundation Christchurch Committee, Thomas has been awarded the Cecily Maccoll High Achiever Award. Thomas will be using the funding towards his Honours year, which will include collaborations with various composers and performers across New Zealand.

The 2020 UCSA Staff of the Year awards were celebrated in early October, with a wide range of winners from across the University.

- College of Arts – Nancy Chu
- College of Business and Law – Assoc. Prof. Herb de Vries
- College of Education, Health and Human Development – Dr Valerie Sotardi
- College of Engineering – Assoc. Prof. Sid Becker
- College of Science – Prof Ian Shaw
- UCSA Executive Special Award – Steve Gibling, Director of Wellness Services, Student Services and Communications
- UCSA Executive Special Award – Riki Welsh, Team Leader in the Pacific Development Team
- UCSA Executive Special Award – Anne Scott, University Librarian

- Outstanding Support of International Students Award – Jonie Chang, Senior International Student Advisor, Student Care
- Above and Beyond Award – Nicole Anfang, Postgraduate Student Advisor, Business School
- Best Online Learning – Dr Craig McConnochie
- Superstar of the Year – Desmond Breeze
- Great Character – Assoc. Prof. Sid Becker
- Technical Staff of the Year – Garry Cotton
- Administrator of the Year – Heather Couch
- Supervisor of the Year – Assoc. Prof. Michael Grimshaw
- Lecturer of the Year Supreme Award – Assoc. Prof. Sid Becker

There were also a number of ‘Student create your own award’ categories for staff. Amongst these was ‘Top Dog of Tangents’ - Hamish Oliver (Music) physically demonstrating depth and sample rates on Zoom; and ‘Endearingly Obsessed with their Area of Expertise’ – Richard Bullen (Art History and Theory) for teaching that is “refreshing, endearing and ridiculously captivating”.

Saturday 10 October marked 107 years of celebrating student success at the Blues Awards evening. Students who have excelled in Sports, Community Engagement and Arts were celebrated at this prestigious event. Notable awards include the Outstanding Achievement in the Arts Award received by Violinist and Composer Thomas Bedggood following national and international recognition for his compositions, and the Outstanding Achievement in Community Engagement Award went to Bariz Shah for his community work Post-March 15 and during COVID-19.

The Outstanding Contribution to Sustainability Award was received by Levi Collier-Robinson for his contribution to growing indigenous science, Tulsi Lathia received the Outstanding Contribution to Equity and Diversity Award, and Te Matua Flanagan received the Outstanding Contribution to the Māori Community Award. As for the Major Sports Awards, Hamish Dale was the winner of the Official of the Year Award, Piet Van Hasselt received the Coach of the Year Award, and the Sports Person of the Year went to Bronwyn Dibb.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

In recent days, the Government has agreed to a trial programme of international student entry to New Zealand, with an initial cohort of 250 PhD students (across all eight universities) being allowed to enter New Zealand via existing quarantine facilities to re-commence their studies. UC has prioritised a list of over 50 existing PhD and postgraduate students who are currently enrolled at UC and need to return to Christchurch to complete their research projects and has established a project team to support this initiative.

As reported last month, interest from international students to study at UC in 2021 continues to be strong. The September QS Insight Survey of Current and Prospective International students had New Zealand rated at the top of countries who handled the coronavirus outbreak very well (49% versus Germany at 27%, followed by Canada 26% and Australia 22%) and promisingly 53% of respondents said this response made them reconsider where to study overseas. Research continues to show that international students prefer to study on campus, and with Canada and the UK now accepting international students to study in country, we are at risk of losing some of this demand elsewhere.

The UC Online to On-campus programme offerings are now available and the recruitment team are working closely with students and agents to create a pathway to enrol and commence studies at UC even with the borders still closed. All Colleges have online to on-campus courses available, and notably the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) and Bachelor of Science have made the first year of courses available online for the first time.

The international recruitment team are working closely with agents and Education New Zealand (ENZ) to utilise their virtual events schedule. In October events (on top of the regular agent training and promotions) include: 12 India, 10 China, 4 SE Asia, 2 Indonesia, 2 Philippines and 1 France. Diversifying the recruitment portfolio from a geographic and programme perspective is underway and a number of transnational education opportunities are currently being explored.

For international students that are at high school in New Zealand and can't return home at this time we have arranged for a special summer bridging programme together with UCIC. Students can study STATS101 (a common course across many programmes) and get a head start on their university studies. The special programme also features support to improve academic skills and importantly the opportunity to connect with like-minded students whilst living in on-campus accommodation at University Hall.

Study Abroad programmes are in abeyance, however continued engagement with Study Abroad partners and participation in US Fall virtual recruitment fair season continues as lead times mean current recruitment has commenced for 2022. We continue to explore virtual options for outbound students and new diverse partnership opportunities.

Organisational Efficacy

School leaver course planning across Aotearoa continues with 2,464 course plans completed to date. This is materially up on our numbers in 2019, and recognises the early work the Liaison team did in moving online for information evenings and utilising the new digital course planning.

Applications for enrolment are looking strong, but it is still very early in the cycle. Pleasingly, active applications for Māori and Pasifika student numbers are up significantly on 2019 and all Colleges are showing increases on enrolment from the same point in 2019. Campus tours continue on an almost daily basis, allowing people who were unable to join us due to Open Day not being able to run with COVID restrictions, to experience our extensive facilities and beautiful campus. Adult market enquiry is increasing, and the FutureU offering for those made redundant due to COVID-19 continues.

As at 9 October, accommodation places for first-year students are oversubscribed, including Tupuānuku, with waiting lists in place. Overall, there are 2,194 accommodation offers confirmed and pending for 2021, a 1.8% decrease year-on-year. Engagement continues with accommodation operators on gaining assurance of compliance with the Interim Code of Practice (2019) for Pastoral Care of Domestic Tertiary Students. A draft Partnership Agreement and supporting evidence base is under development with the three independent halls.

Tupuānuku continues on schedule for completion on 23 December and the operator, Unilodge has appointed the Village Manager who will be working with the University team on the transition and operations from December.

External funding (excluding fees and research) totals \$4.8m to end of September, including \$500k that has come directly to UC and \$4.3m to the UC Foundation, 500 supporters in total. Major gifts of note in September include \$103k from Tait Foundation to support PhD Accelerator Scholarships and Women in Engineering and \$25k from Chapman Tripp to establish an endowment for a Mooting Prize in memory of Colin Firth.

The recently established, Colin Fife Memorial Endowment Fund, which honours UC Law School graduate, the late Colin Fife, has seen increasing donations. Funds will go towards the annual mooting prize competition and law student scholarships.

The UC Foundation Annual Report is available [online](#) and has been sent to all 2019 supporters showing the impact of their support across students, teaching, research and facilities and the 2020 [annual appeal](#) has been sent to alumni. Alumni newsletters in September included Young Alumni, Alumni and Erskine Fellows with alumni events in Wellington and a virtual event on financial planning for young alumni. Alumni Facebook followers tipped over 7,000 for the first time with LinkedIn followers at almost 6,000, these groups are in addition to UC pages.

Finances:

September 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)	4,329	(2,910)	7,239	3,818	2,422	(1,396)
Capital Expenditure	66,299	86,805	20,506	111,988	88,370	23,618
Cash/ Short Term Investments	226,892	196,927	29,965	153,628	199,803	46,175

We had been budgeting for an operating **deficit** as at the end of September 2020 of (\$2.910) million, but have returned an operating **surplus** of \$4.329 million.

This is a favourable variance to budget of \$7.239 million. This favourable variance mainly relates to \$24.428 million less operating expenses (largest savings are in travel and conference expenses, consultancy expenses, outsourcing/ contracts, scholarships, commission and levies, contract teaching, contractors, promotional activities, and laboratory consumables), the majority being 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 \$0.730 million of 2019 SAC funding wash-up and \$0.421 million more interest income.

This favourable variance has been partially offset with unfavourable variances coming from (\$4.269) million less research external income, (\$7.036) million less full fee tuition income, (\$2.375) million more depreciation, and (\$2.660) million less sundry income.

We are forecasting for a surplus for the full year of \$2.422 million. Expected reductions in revenue in relation to full fee tuition fees, PBRF, research income and forecast increases in expenses in relation to depreciation expenditure and retirement provision, are largely offset by improved interest revenue and forecast reductions in expenses in relation to personnel and operating expenses.

Capital expenditure is \$20.506 million below budget. Most projects are under budget but expenditure related to the UC futures projects is (\$6.904) million over the year to date budget of \$2.481 million, largely as a result of the \$9.183 million Rehua final payment paid in March that was not considered in the budget. The remaining capital spend (excluding UC Futures) is favourable by \$27.410 million, against a year to date budget of \$84.324 million. As one might expect, the Covid-19 lockdown significantly curtailed capital expenditure, but which is now returning to normal levels.

The September 2020 cash position of \$226.892 million is higher than budget by \$29.965 million. The higher than expected opening cash balance and lower capital spend has 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 Sept) 2020	2020
Domestic 1st Year	3,662	3,767		
Returning	8,704	9,255		
Total	<u>12,366</u>	<u>13,022</u>	<u>13,653</u>	<u>13,735</u>
Full Fee 1st Year	922	952		
Returning	781	918		
Total	<u>1,704</u>	<u>1,869</u>	<u>1,686</u>	<u>2,015</u>
Total	14,069	14,891	15,340	15,749

Budget and Forecast is not calculated down to year at UC

Enrolment data is based on the same date across years i.e. 6th Jan vs 6th Jan

Applications to Enrol data is now report on the same date across years i.e. 6th Jan vs 6th Jan

ATE data is based on student headcount and based on the students citizenship status rather than fee type. Enrolments data is based on EFTS and the students fee type (Domestic or International).

'International' refers to the students NZ citizen/residency status rather than their fee paying status. Most international students will pay International fees but not all. As PhD students generally pay domestic fees this table

Environmentally Sustainable

The first online event in the four part Sustainable Development Goals Summit Series, 2020-2021, co-hosted by UC and Lincoln, will take place on Thursday 19 November. It is hoped around 300 people will participate in this national conversation. The second and third events will take place online in March and June respectively, with the fourth (face to face) event taking place on 9 and 10 September 2021. Preliminary work to engage the UC academic and student community in this series has commenced.

Staff in R&I are busy preparing our first submission to the Times Higher Impact survey. We will submit data against our achievements against the UN SDGs, although we are not required to submit

against all of them. This has involved understanding the metrics, identifying where we will gain the greatest traction, and focussing our work on those few SDGs.

The Sustainability Culture Index survey for students was distributed in late September and received 2,154 responses. The staff version of this survey has been analysed, and reveals an above-average commitment from UC staff in practicing sustainability actions as compared to other Higher Education organisations. The full results of both the staff and student surveys will be presented together when they are available.

Work has begun on identifying key actions that can be taken to enhance collaborations with the Christchurch City Council on sustainability initiatives. These may include proactive framing of research questions by CCC, and academic representation in one-off community engagement processes.

UC's waste signage is currently being redeveloped and an approach highlighting the 'waste hierarchy' will become more prominent in 2021. This is part of a concerted effort to confront the waste crisis and to educate the UC community about those items that should be avoided, as well as continuing education about sorting waste to reduce contamination.

A draft web page for the new (virtual) UC Sustainability Hub, to promote and make more visible everything we do in that space, is ready to be taken to the Sustainability Programme Board in October for comment and content. Currently there are five areas that are highlighted – Teaching and Learning, Research, Campus Projects, Events, Recognition. Pages will link to relevant teaching and research areas, so that students, potential donors and stakeholders will be able to quickly navigate to see that we are doing and where.

Finally, October is *Biketober* and an effort is being made to celebrate the UC cycling community and to encourage cycling and e-bike purchases. The Sustainability Office organised a bike breakfast event, which was attended by 240 people. E-bike trials are also taking place.

Past Events	
25 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended and spoke at the UCSA Staff of the Year Awards
5 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker at Rochester & Rutherford Hall Formal Dinner
6 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended 2020 Stuff Leaders Debate
7 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met via Zoom with the Association to Advance Collegiate Business Schools (AACSB) Accreditation Panel • Attended via Zoom ACU Pacific Regional Committee Meeting
9 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended via Zoom AACSB re-accreditation meeting
10 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended UCSA Blues Awards Dinner
14 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted Christchurch Knowledge Commons Update Workshop on campus
16 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended UNZ VC's Meeting
21 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted Multiparty Joint Postgraduate School: Leaders Meeting on campus • Attended via Zoom TEC/UNZ Learner Success Project Steering Group • Hosted UCSA Executive Dinner
22 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted TEC Executive on campus to present the UC Success Academy • VC on annual leave (1/2 Day)
23 October 2020 – 26 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC on annual leave
27 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended 2020 Leaders Roundtable Dinner

Upcoming Events	
29 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending NZQA Board Meeting in Wellington
30 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending via Zoom UNZ VC Meeting
2 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting TEC Board Meeting on campus
5 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending Canterbury District Police Awards • Attending Friends of the UCSA Function
9 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending Lunch Meeting with Director of Ako Aotearoa