

Amy Neel from the University of New Mexico, USA: Semester 2 2018

Where have you come from, and what do you teach?

I'm on the faculty of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I teach undergraduate and graduate students who will become speech-language pathologists (speech therapists). At UC, I'm teaching a course on motor speech disorders, deficits in speech that accompany neurogenic disorders such as Parkinson disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), stroke and head injury. The course focuses how to help individuals with these devastating disorders to communicate effectively.

What interested you in the Erskine Programme/why did you want to come to UC?

I met my UC colleague Megan McAuliffe at a professional meeting, and I served as an external reviewer for her doctoral student, Annalise Fletcher. I admire Megan's work greatly and was excited to have the opportunity to work with her. At my home institution, I'm very interested in working with students from under-represented groups, including Native American and Hispanic students. Learning about how New Zealand universities work with Maori students was also a big draw for me to come to UC.



What have you been doing at UC?

Megan McAuliffe and I have begun working on several research projects including a study of speech intelligibility in speakers of English as a second language and an investigation of New Zealand vowel characteristics in the QuakeBox Project recordings. I've also been learning a lot about sociolinguistics through attending seminars and lab meetings with UC's wonderful Linguistics faculty and students.



What have you most enjoyed about your time here at UC/Christchurch?

I've really enjoyed the company of my department colleagues and Erskine Fellows throughout the university. And I've had the good fortune to be to sightsee, hike, and watch birds all over Christchurch, Canterbury, and the South Island. My road trip to Stewart Island and Milford Sound during the term break was a travel highlight – getting to see kiwis in the wild was a dream come true.

Amy meeting wekas on Stewart Island