Department of Psychology

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of the first term and students are having a break from lectures. We trust that everyone graduating last week, had a great time and celebrated with family and friends.

The next newsletter is likely to be available around 27 May. All items to be sent to Robyn Daly, robyn.daly@canterbury.ac.nz Monday 23 May.

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PhD Successes

Congratulations are due to Kyle Wilson who ably defended his PhD thesis recently. The work, entitled “Friendly fire and the sustained attention to response task”, was judged to be of a high quality by Dr Victor Finomore (U.S. Air Force Academy), and Professor David O’Hare (University of Otago). Kyle’s primary supervisor was Professor Deak Helton, and his associate supervisors were Dr Paul Russell and Associate Professor Katharina Naswall. Professor Brian Haig was the Oral Chair.

Lin Li is to be congratulated for successfully completing his PhD thesis, which has been deposited into the UC library repository. The thesis is entitled “Cross-language negative priming from unattended number words: Extension to a non-alphabetic language”. Lin’s supervisors were Drs Zhe Chen and Ewald Neumann. The two external examiners were Dr Liana Machado from the University of Otago and Associate Professor Ellick Wong from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Professor Simon Kemp was the Oral Chair.

College of Science Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Meredith Blampied who was recently named as one of the three recipients of a PhD Scholarship awarded by the College of Science.

This scheme will see up to six new College of Science PhD student scholarships per year, with a scholarship value of $21,000 per year plus fees for three years. The intention is that the selection process will coat-tail on the central UC PhD scholarship process in order to make the most of the hard work that goes into that process, and also to ensure that opportunities are provided for College of Science students.

A further three College of Science PhD Scholarships will be available in the mid-year June scholarship round so students and supervisors make a note of this new opportunity, which effectively increases the likelihood of success.
**Staffing News**

**Comings…. and Goings…**

On the plus side, we welcome *Carey Treleaven* to the Department in the Administrator role vacated by Barbara Hardie. Carey will be with us through until the end of July. Her hours are Tuesday to Friday 8.00am—4.00pm. She will be undertaking the tasks that Barbara previously did. Carey comes to us from a background at CPIT and CDHB.

Unfortunately announcements of people departing is becoming a regular item (hope that trend doesn’t continue!).

*Kate Freeman* recently left us from her role in the Research Facility and we wish her well for what the future holds and thank her for the contribution she has made to the Department.

**Erskine Fellowship**

*Dr Kumar Yogeeswaran* has been on an Erskine Fellowship from 2 April and returning on 2 May. Kumar has used his Erskine to visit colleagues in his area of Social Psychology in the Netherlands and in the UK. This gave him the opportunity of spending time with them during their academic teaching period to explore various facets of teaching, research and supervision.

**Staff adventures...**

*Neroli Harris* was in a team that competed in the Blue Dog Mountain Bike Relay Event back in March. She teamed up with a former workmate from our Department as well, *Donna Short*.

All was going well until she was coming through the pipe and skidded in the shingle and ended up fracturing both of her wrists, which is why we haven’t seen much of her around for a while.

Donna and her other partner went on to finish the race while Neroli was "patched" up.

She has just returned this week and we wish her well for the remainder of her recovery process.
Te Reo Greetings

Another initiative from our Bicultural Working Group is to show the Te Reo greetings for letters and emails.

A formal letter or email can begin with:

Tēnā koe (name)
“Dear (name) - “Tēnā koe” is used to greet one person.

Tēnā kōrua
“Tēnā kōrua” is used when writing to two people. When using “Tēnā kōrua” you do not have to insert the names of who you are writing to.

Tēnā Koutou
“Tēnā Koutou” is used when you are greeting three or more people, for example a group email.

Whakataukī

The Bicultural Working Group will include a Whakataukī each newsletter. Whakataukī (proverbs) play a large role within Maori culture. They are very important with Maori society, with a meaning often based on Tikanga or history; and can help understand and explore te reo.

Whakataukī

This month the Bicultural Working Party have chosen this whakataukī.

“E rua tau ruru; e rua tau wehe; e rua tau mutu; e rua tau kai.”

“Two seasons of drought; two seasons of scarcity; two seasons of crop failure; two seasons of plenty.”

Recent Publications and Conference Proceedings

Clinical News

Congratulations the following students who passed the Clinical Diploma examination in February.

- Milesa Cepe (Distinction)
- Rochelle Connell
- Joanna Lothian
- Mary O’Donoghue
- Alex Richards
- Esther Vierck

Thesis Congratulations

Congratulations to Nadia Andrews who was recently awarded her MSc with Distinction for her thesis entitled “Can that donkey at the poker table increase prejudice? Investigating the effects of negative vs positive vicarious contact on outgroup attitudes”.

Congratulations to Shelby Hantz who was recently awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her thesis entitled “Are fish oil supplements effective in treating depression and bipolar disorder? A risk/benefit analysis of Omega-3 and mercury levels in top 10 fish oil supplements in New Zealand”.

Congratulations to Roslyn Fowler who was recently awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her thesis entitled “Protective factors as used in risk assessment for correctional psychology: A conceptual analysis”.

Congratulations to Nalita Naidu who was recently awarded her MSc with Distinction for her thesis entitled “Effects of the chronic Vitamin C treatment on responsiveness to an environmental stressor”.

Congratulations to Joshua Haigh-Ward who was recently awarded his MA with Second Class Honours, Division I for his thesis entitled “Does disruptive behaviour in schools mediate the relationship between children at risk for delinquency and their future offending behaviour?”
MSc Apsy Congratulations

Congratulations to the MSc in Applied Psychology Dissertation students who recently received their awards and also graduated in April.

**Sarah Adams** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “Safety risks associated with helping reciprocity: Influences of the initial helping source”.

**Alexandra Batt** was awarded her MSc with Second Class Honours, Division I for her dissertation entitled “Effect of corporate social responsibility information in recruitment advertisements on job seeker attraction.”

**Emma Clarke** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “Communication and trust: The effect of organisational commitment and change process perceptions on change attitudes”.

**Luke Crossen** was awarded his MSc with First Class Honours for his dissertation entitled “Self-leadership, leadership styles and employee engagement: Testing moderation models”.

**Adam Davies** was awarded his MSc with First Class Honours for his dissertation entitled “An experimental evaluation of peoples’ reactions to differing levels of safety hazards in an office environment”.

**Emma Hansen** was awarded her MSc with Second Class Honours, Division I for her dissertation entitled “The effects of mindfulness on work-related stress, well-being recovery quality and employee resilience”.

**Matthew Holstein** was awarded his MSc with First Class Honours for his dissertation entitled “Examining change process perceptions and proximal readiness for organisational change: The moderating effect of distal readiness”.

**Julian Jennings** was awarded his MSc with Second Class Honours, Division II for his dissertation entitled “Do essentialists benefit from multicultural experience?”

**Alexis Keeman** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “Employee wellbeing: The wellbeing game in two settings”.

**Johanna Lea** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “The effects of exclusion by a robot on self-esteem and prosocial behaviour”.

**Corinne Lucas-D’Souza** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “Unemployment as a screening device? The effect of unemployment status on selection decisions among New Zealand recruiters”.

**Anthony Rasmusen** was awarded his MSc with Second Class Honours, Division II for his dissertation entitled “Tackling the relationship between self-efficacy and performance in rugby”.

**Rachel Shackleton** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “An examination of different measures of work experience, and the relationship between previous experience and safety”.

**Jessica Sletcher** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “The backlash of forward thinking: The relationship between gender quote beliefs and attitudes towards women”.

**Anton Thomas** was awarded his MSc with First Class Honours for his dissertation entitled “Construct validation of Hazard Awareness Test (HAT)”.

**Karen Tonkin** was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “Building employee resilience through well-bring in organisations”.

Karen Tonkin with Katharina Naswall and Sanna Malinen at graduation in April
Seminar Series

Don’t forget our seminar series. Held in Room 252, Psychology Building, 12.00—12.50pm.

Thursday 31 March: Dr Sam Bora (Visiting Erskine Fellow) presented a seminar entitled “Neonatal MRI to predict neurodevelopmental outcomes in preterm infants: Revisiting a decade later” [Is available on YouTube].

Thursday 7 April: Professor Simon Kemp presented a seminar entitled “The myth of ordinal scaling”. [Is available on YouTube].

Thursday 14 April: Professor William Starbuck (Visiting Erskine Fellow) presented a seminar entitled “Useful alternatives to significance tests and binary thinking”. [Is available on YouTube].

Thursday 5 May: Professor Rob Hughes will be presenting a seminar entitled “Drugs and sex, and their interaction”.

If you have missed any, we now have them available via YouTube.

Visit our YouTube site to view

These seminars are open to staff and Postgraduate students are encouraged to attend.

Leave and Conferences

Zhe Chen will be attending the Association of Psychological Science (APS) 28th Annual Convention in Chicago later in May where she will be presenting a poster entitled “The effect of repeated targets on distractor processing with or without working memory load”.

Short-term Rental Opportunity

We have another short-term rental opportunity.

4 bedroom, 2 bathroom house in Cashmere available for short-term rental (while owners overseas), from 8 July—20 August 2016 (6 weeks) for affordable rent.

Warm, sunny home with lovely views and garden. Close to walking tracks and amenities.

If you are interested, please email Ann Huggett, ann.huggett@canterbury.ac.nz
Health & Safety

Check out the Health and Safety Reform Bill from this link http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/hr/docs/health-and-safety-reform-bill-key-changes.pdf.

Other Health and Safety information is below:

- Visitors and Contractors must be inducted to the Department at all times. The paperwork is located at the Main Office.

- If you are involved in a Health or Safety incident at work all reports are filed and sent to H&S Central, but they are also the basis of discussion for the Department and sometime higher Health and Safety Committees. These reports are not confidential but they are no-fault documents, and the idea is to use them to make work-life healthier and safer. Event reports must be signed off by the H&S Chair—Janet Carter and/or must be reported to the Department Safety Officer.

- The H&S Reform Bill in NZ is available at Health & Safety Reform Bill: Are You Ready? (PDF)

- NZ Emergency Service 1-111

- UC Security = Emergency on Campus 6111 or 0800 823 637

- UC Non-emergency = 6888

- The Health & Safety Toolkit on the intranet is https://intranet.canterbury.ac.nz/hs/toolkit/index.shtml

- The Department H&S Action Plan is available for staff on Y drive and also available on the Department website http://www.psyc.canterbury.ac.nz/health%20and%20safety.shtml

Please also note the new evacuation assembly area for the Psychology Building below. Re-entry to the building is NOT when the alarms stop sounding, but when the all clear is given by the Building Warden.
Godzone Adventure Race

Forget Richie McCaw…! we have our own legend here in the Department who competed in this Adventure Race as well. Fleur Pawsey (PhD) was a member of Seagate team, only one of 3 all female teams that completed in this endurance race that gained more media coverage than ever because of Richie’s entry. That was good for everyone as we all got to hear about this race when we wouldn’t have normally.

So, Fleur has given me some information to pass on to all of us novice endurance armchair athletes! 2016 was the first year that all-female teams have been allowed, rules state there must be at least one female in the team so the usual configuration is 3 male, 1 female, to maximise strength.

Seagate finished 11th out of around 60 teams, in 4 days, 12 hours. A day and a half ahead of the next female team and 12 hours ahead of Richie.

They covered around 500km made up of trekking, mountainbiking, sea kayaking and white water canoeing, and had 9-10 hours sleep over the 4½ days.

The team goal was to move efficiently through the course while still having fun, and Fleur tells me that is something they definitely achieved and it was the most fun she has ever had in an adventure race. She commented that they are usually most definitely type 2 fun—fun in hindsight once the suffering is over, but the Godzone Race was enjoyable right through. Her highlights included surviving the white water section with no capsizes, a spectacular sunset on the top of Mt Owen, and spotting shooting stars and phosphorescence as they kayaked down Abel Tasman Park to the finish line in Kaiteriteri on a cloudless, clear night.

Congratulations to Seagate and Fleur.
Whatever happened to...

A new column for the Newsletter following up on our former students and how they came to study Psychology and also where they might have ended up. It is fascinating to keep up with where our student colleagues are. This one is from Courtney Lowther.

If you are a former student and would like to share your story, please contact Robyn Daly, robyn.daly@canterbury.ac.nz.

I graduated from the University of Canterbury in 2014 after eight years of study, in which time I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology, an MSc degree, and a BA(Hons). I qualified as a Clinical Psychologist and then worked at the forensic service in Christchurch for two years. I spent the majority of that time in the most acute inpatient unit, Te Whare Manaaki, where I worked with males and females with complex mental health presentations and who had also offended. I also completed court reports for issues regarding fitness to stand trial, insanity, sentencing, and preventive detention. While it was initially a daunting experience to write these reports (mainly due to the fear I would have to present in court), I received a lot of guidance and support and soon found my feet.

In late 2015 I decided it was time to start a new adventure so I made the move across the ditch to slightly more stable ground in Sydney, which is where I now live. Before I moved I had managed to secure a job as a Clinical Psychologist at the Forensic Hospital, which is in an area called Malabar (just south of Bondi and Maroubra). I only worked there for a few months in a female inpatient ward, but found it a great stepping stone. At the start of March, I started working at the Community Forensic Mental Health Service (also near Maroubra Beach). My work here involves completing assessments and reports for most of the forensic patients in NSW who are either due to be or have been released back into the community (usually with some conditions such as remaining abstinent from substance abuse, and receiving mental health treatment). A “forensic patient” is someone who has been found not guilty by reason of mental illness, or being unfit to stand trial. We also see high risk people who are not forensic patients but who team members are concerned about and thus want support around risk assessment and management. While that all sounds a bit confusing, essentially I assess someone’s mental illness and risk of reoffending, whether that be violent, sexual, stalking, arson or something else, and make recommendations to the treating teams about how to manage their illness and risk.

Sydney is a great and lively place to live, but I must admit I am missing the cooler weather (especially after 5 days of 42 degrees).

I have always been drawn to working in the area of forensics and I think that first started during my honours year at university when I took the forensic psychology paper. I enjoy being able to combine mental health with the offending behaviour in my work and find it a fascinating area to work in. If anyone is interested and would like to further discuss working in clinical psychology, forensics, or working in Australia, then I am more than happy to chat with them (I promise I won’t poach too many people!).

Courtney Lowther
Clinical Psychologist
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Photo Gallery

We farewelled **Barbara Hardie** in style at the Staff Club on Thursday 7 April. It was great to spend this time to say our farewells and wish her well on her retirement. It was great to also have some former colleagues and of course Barbara’s family, husband Keith and daughter Laura, join us as well. I think the smile says it all!