

Vice-Chancellor's R



A new public exhibit curated by Terri Elder, named *Whiria te Tāngata | Weaving the People Together – 150 Years of College and Community*, will feature artefacts from our original campus at the Arts Centre from Thursday 20 July to Saturday 10 September.

On 14 June, Karen reinstated our 114-year tradition of star-gazing in the centre of tautahi Christchurch. At her sold-out talk on the restored Townsend-Teece telescope in the Arts Centre Recital room, participants viewed the telescope in the restored Observatory Tower. The Spinoff covered the event. Public viewing is open for registrations most Friday evenings, weather permitting.

Student success is built not only on their classroom experience, but also the broader supports that they can access. Our academic advising community is one of those key supports, and this month over 30 members of this community came together in their second hui of the year to forge relationships, coordinate advising practices and processes, and build our internal advising network.

Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship programme is an excellent example of how student support can enhance success. The engagement of students who participated in the events of the programme is outstanding. Events include success coaching to build academic independence, careers coaching and home-based activities. A highlight was the end-of-semester event where alumna Julia Arnott-Neenee shared her journey of navigating the University as a Pacific woman. It was a special experience for students to meet representatives from McCall MacBain during their visit.

Finally, student support is going to be an emphasis when we welcome new students to UC for Semester 2. In a pilot of a mid-year orientation, students will not just learn about navigating UC but also have an opportunity to work with LEARN, engage with ACE and have hands-on experiences to get them off to a good start.

Funding successes continue for UC from relatively small research funds before the major 2023 Endeavour and Marsden rounds are announced later in the year.

The Earthquake Commission (EQC) is a significant funder for much of the research on earthquake engineering and natural hazards and resilience. In June, two UC research programmes secured EQC funding, each worth \$450,000. Professor Brendon Bradley (Civil and Natural Resources Engineering) will use his funding to conduct further research on next-generation seismic hazard analysis for New Zealand, while Dr Tim Stahl (School of Earth and Environment) will do further

UC's portfolio of research addressing significant medical issues continues to broaden. Dr Amy Yewdall, a Research Fellow in Biochemistry at the School of Biological Sciences, has been awarded a Health Research Council Emerging Researcher First Grant of \$250,000 to investigate the role of protein oligomerisation in acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). This research has the potential to provide crucial insights into AML and establish a new foundation for developing innovative therapies. Also

global experts, the book traces the development of AI in education from its early foundations in the 1970s to the present day. Dr Megan Gath and Professor Gail Gillon (Child Well-being Research Institute), Associate Dean Brigid McNeill (Faculty of Education) and Professor Lianne Woodward (Faculty of Health) have

Congratulations to the UC scholars who won the Faculty Research Awards for Arts. Associate Professor Justin DeHart (Music) won the Faculty of Arts Research Award in Humanities, Social Sciences or Creative Arts. Dr Madi Williams (Aotahi) won the Kairangahau Māori Research Faculty Award. Dr Jonathan Dunn (Linguistics) won the Faculty of Arts Early Career Research Award in Humanities, Social Sciences or Creative Arts.

The number of students registered with Te Ratonga Whaikaha | Student Accessibility Service has nearly doubled in the past year, now at about 1,000. The service attributes this huge growth partly to a greater emphasis on communicating to students about what it can provide. Accessibility issues include learning difficulties such as attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and dyslexia, mental health issues and chronic illnesses. The service provides note-taking services, reader-writers for tests and exams, and one-on-one support from advisors.

The School of Mathematics and Statistics is delighted that student Jack Aimer has been awarded the prestigious William Georgetti Scholarship, enabling him to further his studies at Cambridge University. Jack is currently completing his Master of Mathematical Science, with Dr Chris Stevens supervising his thesis.

In 2019, UC created a service-level agreement (SLA) between five UC sports clubs – rugby, netball, hockey, football and basketball. Within this SLA, UC has committed to providing services and resourcing with direction from the previous reviews to improve the overall experience within the clubs. These services, all provided by UC RecCentre, include:

- levy-funded strength and conditioning, and performance analysis services in our high-performance space for all Premier teams
- administrative support and upskilling of all interns placed in the programmes
- coach and player development via internal and external resources (regional and national sports organisations, UC)
- club support – for example, with administration, direction, strategy, marketing and resourcing
- alignment of UC branding

Over the past four years, these clubs have developed their performance and participation data significantly. The following achievements are especially notable:

UC Netball: Four years ago, the UC Netball Premier squad was promoted from Premier 2 grade to Premier 1 grade. They made the Premier finals in 2022 and are looking at another promising year in 2023, with four athletes named in the Tactix and most of the team members named in the National Netball League. UC Netball is also home to over 21 teams, the largest club in Canterbury.

UC Rugby: Four years ago, the men's Premier Rugby team was ranked 12th of 12. Today they are placed 1st of the 12 and hold the DCL Shield. After housing many Crusaders through the years, they most recently have 11 players in the Crusaders Academy squad and two athletes who were named in the U20 All Blacks. The women's team holds the Challenge Shield and is second on the table, qualifying them for the Premier women's final. They have 18 players in the Canterbury Farah Palmer Cup wider training squad and four athletes were named in the Super Women's Rugby Aupiki 2023. UC Rugby has 14–16 teams, the highest number participating from a club other than junior sides in Canterbury in 2023.

UC Basketball: The men's Basketball team competes in the Premier division, overseen by Piet van Hasselt, the New Zealand 3x3 coach. They also have one athlete in the New Zealand 3x3 team and Canterbury Rams. After going through a rebuild, the women's Premier team has regained a place in the Premier division this year.

UC Football: In 2019 the UC Football club was not a competitive Premier club, despite its large membership (which has reached over 1,000 this year). Since then the UC women's Premier team has qualified for the Southern League (top six teams in South Island). The women's second team has also moved up to the Premier competition. The men's Premier team is currently sitting in third place and very close to qualifying for the Southern League next season

UC Hockey: The Premier men's team has been at the bottom of the table for the past few years, however, they remain competitive in the grade. A few players compete in regional representative hockey, including the goalkeeper for the Otago National Hockey Championship winning team. The Division 1 women's team came third in the competition last year after spending a few years competing for the wooden spoon. Their goal is to gain a place in the Premier division. UC Hockey remains the club with the largest senior participation in Canterbury. Last year 280 players across 18 teams participated in the winter competition alone, and a further seven teams entered the Master and Summer hockey competitions.

The Staff Wellbeing team ran a successful Menopause Café networking function in mid June. This is part of a series offered in 2023.

A Sleep Smarter Strategies webinar was run for staff in late June. Attendees learnt about the science behind sleep and gained tips on how to improve their sleep hygiene.

As part of the 150th celebrations, staff have been offered

