

Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

May 2021

Introduction

The 2020 Annual Report was released in late April, with key information about the way UC responded to and experienced the COVID-19 pandemic in that year and the resulting impact on our financial performance. For the first time the report includes a list of academic accolades including national and UC medal winners and our newly named Professores Emeriti.

The Ministry of Education released for consultation the [updated Education \(Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Students\) Code of Practice 2021](#). The Ministry intends to issue new pastoral code legislation in July 2021 to take effect from 1 January 2022. The deadline for all submissions is 21 May 2021. Universities New Zealand will be making a submission on the new code, as will UC and many other New Zealand universities independently.

A very exciting high-l

A few weeks earlier, I did a similar presentation, accompanied by Professor Ekant Veer and Robyn Nuthall at the Environment Canterbury Board hearings on the draft long-term plan.

Partner with Ng i T huriri and Ng i Tahu to uphold the mana and aspirations of the mana whenua.

A new catalogue “He pukapuka hei kai m te hinengaro: M ori and Pasifika Books to feast your mind on” features four Canterbury University Press (CUP) titles ([view](#) a digital version, or [download](#) a printable version). It’s been produced by [Kete](#), an initiative of [The Coalition for Books](#), which aims to engage more audie.9 0043(r)-11(in)2 (itia)6 (ti)-10 (v)2 au(in)2ich ai 4 4C4D (o)Abiatie

Next month, Te Hunga R ia M ori o Aotearoa, Hui- -Tau Conference 2021 will be held at UC, proudly supported by the School of Law and Canterbury Law Review Trust. The theme for the conference was gifted by Dr Moana Jackson, M ori Lawyers as Agents of Mana-Based Change. This nationwide event will bring together a large gathering of M ori legal practitioners, judges, parliamentarians, academics, policy-analysts, researchers and law students. It is an exciting opportunity to host this event at UC, where participants will discuss the changes involved in moving the legal system toward a bicultural setting.

Professor Elizabeth McDonald was the keynote speaker at this year's Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal training workshop, held in Wellington, in which she outlined the processes, practices and reform options for the hearing of proceedings involving sensitive claims. Her work on *Rape Myths as Barriers to Fair Trial Process: Comparing adult rape trials with those in the Aotearoa Sexual Violence Court Pilot* (CUP, 2020) was highly recommended in a review by Associate Professor Scott Optican in *Canterbury Law Review* 26.

Make a positive impact on social sustainability in tautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury.

The Ministry of Education's new [Relationships and Sexuality Education](#) guidelines are out, and teachers and school leaders are getting support to bring the guidelines to life. UC has been awarded the Ministry of Education contract to create effective practice showcases and educator resources to help schools and teachers implement the guidelines. The resources are being designed by Dr Rachael Dixon and Dr Tracy Clelland, School of Health Sciences, who have both taught previously in schools. The resources will be housed on a dedicated section of the Ministry of Education's wellbeing website, with an expected release date of Term 3 2021.

The College of Education, Health and Human Development hosted Sport New Zealand's National Coach Development workshop. At this event, 20 coaches from around New Zealand experienced theoretical and practical coaching development. The organising group for this event included an ex-staff member (Hugh Galvan, now with Sport New Zealand), a BSpC graduate (Mike De Bono – event lead, Sport Canterbury) and a BSpC student intern (Sammy Colvin).

Industry professionals within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sector took over the Engineering Core on Thursday 6 May, giving UC students an opportunity to engage in conversations and explore internship and graduate opportunities with potential employers at the STEM Careers fair. The event facilitated connections between industry and students, and provided an opportunity to increase our presence and impact in tautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury, as well as to retain and grow the diversity of talent in this region.

The UC participated in Open Christchurch, a free weekend festival of exceptional architecture, to raise awareness of UC's local engagement while celebrating UC's architecture, foster positive engagement with the local community, and to generate media coverage. The festival offered people in Christchurch the opportunity to connect with their city by uncovering new spaces and getting up close to the buildings they love. The Ilam campus opened its doors to Jack Erskine, Ernest Rutherford and Puaka-James Hight as well as hall of residence College House. A combined total of 300 attendees came through Ernest Rutherford, Jack Erskine and Puaka-James Hight over the course of the day. In

Education and Research

The future-focused

A nationwide cross-sectional study has generated data that may help mitigate potential inequality in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, or indeed to future pandemics. Areas with high M ori and Pacific populations, including South Auckland and Porirua, are among the most vulnerable. Identifying areas of high vulnerability allows for better targeting of resources. This research was conducted by the College of Science's Postdoctoral Fellows Jesse Wikia and Lukas Marek, Professor Simon Kingham and Associate Professor Malcolm Campbell, along with Dr Matthew Hobbs, College of Education, Health and Human Development.

The UC Community Engagement Hub has partnered with Leadership in Communities, a year-long programme of professional development for community organisation leaders, to conduct research with its 500+ participants in the programme over the last eight years. Postdoctoral Fellow Hilary Dutton and Associate Professor Billy O'Steen will be collecting and analysing data related to how participants' involvement in the programme has affected the organisations they work for.

Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics has awarded the 2020 Tuck Prize to Professor Mike Plank, School of Mathematics and Statistics. The prestigious prize, in honour of the late Professor Oliver Tuck, is awarded for outstanding research and distinguished service to the field of Applied Mathematics. It is only awarded to candidates deemed to be of sufficient merit and is limited to a maximum of one award per year.

Professor Julia Rucklidge's co-authored new book with Calgary research psychologist Bonnie Kaplan, *The Better Brain: How nutrition will help you overcome anxiety, depression, ADHD and stress*, has been called "one of the most important books of the year" by George Henderson of Newsroom NZ, who also states that description is an understatement.

New research co-authored by UC Economics and Finance staff – Head of Department Professor Jędrzej Białkowski, Dr Huong Dang and Dr Xiaopeng Wei – has been accepted for publication in the prestigious *Journal of Financial Economics* (ranked in the world's top two journals in this discipline). The paper, "[High policy uncertainty and low implied market volatility – an academic puzzle?](#)", will be published later this year.

Dr Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll, School of Health Sciences, has been co-opted to be a member of the Health Research Council (HRC) M ori Health Committee. The M ori Health Committee, as a statutory committee of the HRC,

to be hosted at the OCCE 2021, which would explore the different curriculum approaches to integrating digital technologies around the world.

Enhancing postgraduate research

Komodo is a start-up tech company that was founded in 2018 and developed as an athlete monitoring app as part of the Centre of Entrepreneurship Summer Start-up programme. Komodo has evolved into @KomodoWellbeing for schools. UC graduates Chris Bacon (now a Sport Science PhD student, School of Health Sciences), Jack Wood and Matt Goodson develop tailored software solutions for schools. After building traction in the education space, Komodo has customers throughout Australia and New Zealand. The app provides a platform for students to open up about their wellbeing and allows staff to regularly check in with them, helping them to feel supported, safe and happy.

Postdoctoral Fellow Matui Prebble of Ng i Tahu collaborated with a range of international

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

Work continues on embedding our three core Organisational Values (Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga and Tiakitanga) at UC. The April leadership drop-in sessions saw 90 UC leaders actively engaging in increasing their understanding of the Values and determining behaviours that align with them. Feedback from the workshops was very positive and June will see three more workshops offered. An online resource toolkit has been built as a support mechanism for building capability of staff as they look to align behaviours and processes with the Values. People and Culture has commenced reviewing its processes and policies to create alignment with the Values.

The Communications and Engagement team is a finalist for the Public Relations Institute of New Zealand's In-house Team of the Year Award. The team has been recognised for its work over the past year, including providing UC's COVID-19 communications response, delivering the new Strategic Vision to internal audiences and increasing UC's media impact score. The awards ceremony is taking place in Auckland on 28 May.

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Internationalisation –

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