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April 2023

## Introduction

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Term one ended with wonderful celebrations of graduation in the week of 4 April, with Pasifika celebrations held on Wednesday 5 April. We had 1150 graduates, approximately 1000 friends, 115 Council members, staff and volunteers attend our three University of Canterbury Celebrations at Christchurch Arena. Four honorary doctorate recipients gave inspiring graduation addresses. Graduates reflected the range of degrees on offer at UC and, importantly, highlighted UC's commitment to life-long learning with learners across ages and stages of life.

After a short break, it is heartening to welcome the students back to campus. There have been a number of student events marking the start of the second term and I was pleased to attend of Oceania Fest this past month. To mark the beginning of graduation week and to celebrate our 150th anniversary, a celebration was held in the central city on 10 April. The importance of Graduation and the University to the city and region was highlighted. Aika delivered a speech that acknowledged the university's 150th anniversary.

UCSA President Pierce Crowder proposed a toast.

One of the films produced on the occasion was produced solely using virtual productions.

## Engagement

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Nearly 500 people attended the Chancellor's fundraising gala dinner on 27 April at Te Kōwhiri, which raised over \$260,000 towards the Te Kakau a Māori. Miriana Kamo, served as master of ceremony and interviewed several scholarship recipients. At the event, John McCall MacBain announced a gift of over \$1 million in support of the scholarship (\$825,000 from the McCall MacBain Foundation with a further \$200,000 donated by UniLodge). Flags and banners marking the 150th anniversary line Cashel Street and the 27th several buildings and the airport were lit in red. Ten photo boards are on display on High Street highlighting the history of the university.

The next day Professor Ian Wright hosted a fundraising golf tournament at Russley Golf Course. His teams were supported by several corporate sponsors. On Friday evening, I had the privilege of participating in UC's Community Feast when over 300 people gathered bringing a network with UC researchers, local government members including Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter and the public. Guests shared a meal and enjoyed the evening.

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Table and preserves and pickles by the Canterbury Community Gardens Association. A series of videos on social media highlighted food sustainability issues (UC expertise and community action) to expand the conversations beyond the event itself.

On Saturday, UC Rugby celebrated 150 years of UC and 140 years of UC Rugby with a special cake. With all UCour teams played at home from 11.00am

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Committee for University Academic Programmes (CUAP). Of particular note was the approval of the fully online degree, the Master of Organisational Psychology. Psychology has led the way with online development producing successful MOOCs and then Micromasters, extending to the full degree.

Student success continues its strong focus. Under the governance of Kia Angitu < I μ D μ ] scholarship programme is well underway, having had a very successful Term one. Fourteen staff volunteers

Activities around research reputation and rankings have progressed during the month. UC has committed to a submission audit and another 5-year cycle of the QS Stars Rating scheme. This rating scheme is different from QS rankings and takes a more holistic approach to the offer and supporting experience for international students and is an important factor for international student recruitment. Similarly, UC has signed off its data submission for the QS World University Rankings with the outcome to be announced 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 using the new methodology.

UC's imprint in both regional and national deep technology innovation continues. The New Zealand HTech Awards are the nation's premier technology awards programme, celebrating the country's most successful "high-tech" companies and highest achieving individuals. Dr Sean Fee (UC PhD alumina) has been selected as a finalist in Young Achiever category. Sean is CEO of Precision Chroma, a UC spin out company founded on the research of Professor Conan Fee on 3D printed chromatography columns. Award recipients will be announced at a gala dinner hosted in Christchurch on 28 June 2023.

UC is continuing to refine its student advising, finalisation of postgraduate supervision policy, and evolution of orientation and researchers skills development for incoming doctoral students. UC is also increasing its focus on doctoral student recruitment, but also increase the retention rate for those students on the research programme. To the former, the Dean of Postgraduate Research has been part of a recent New Zealand delegation visit to Vietnam, with a particular focus around their "Project Vietnam" programme to have a nation-wide upskilling programme of current and future Vietnamese academics with PhDs. UC has recently released calls for the 2023 "Sustainability / SDG" and Accelerator Doctoral Scholarship with a total of 80 on offer.

The first UC Doctoral Orientation for 2023 was held on 17 March and was attended by 55 students. It was an all-day event comprising a welcome, followed by sessions on doctoral milestones and processes, an interactive panel discussion between experienced students and supervisors, and Professor Diedre Hart and Anton Angelo discussing academic integrity. Feedback was very positive with many students appreciating the chance to meet peers and learn more about their doctoral journey at UC. The next orientation will be held on 21 July 2023.

UC researchers continue to contribute to international conferences and publish their research. Associate Professor Kumar from the School of Psychology Speech and Hearing, and Associate Professor Christoph Bartneck from the Computer Science co-authored the first comprehensive study into New Zealanders' attitudes towards AI. The paper published in the journal AI and Ethics is based on a survey of nearly 50,000 people in the longitudinal New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study.

UC has received funding from the New Zealand Government for the Digital Skills Accelerator. The funding is for the Digital Skills Accelerator programme, which aims to help people develop the skills they need to succeed in the digital economy. The programme is a partnership between UC and the Department of Labour. The programme is currently in its first year and will run until 2025. The programme is a partnership between UC and the Department of Labour. The programme is currently in its first year and will run until 2025.

Moses, Geoff Ford, and Sian Troath convened and participated on a panel 'Visualizing Future War', while Sian Troath and Geoff Ford presented a paper 'Tracing the trust in trusted autonomous systems'. Jeremy Moses presented a paper on 'The Hidden Politics of Autonomous Weapons Systems'. Pascale Hatcher and Geoff Ford presented on 'Deep sea mining and the green technological transition' at the panel 'Cooperation, Contention and Creativity in Global Extractive Industries' organised by Pascale Hatcher.

Faculty of Engineering undergraduate students, Ed Langlands (BE(Hons) Software Engineering), Giles McGrath (Bachelor of Product Design), and Ham Scown (Bachelor of Forestry Science) were granted the Engineering Undergraduate Publishing Prize for students submitted their papers to Scopus indexed conferences and journals, such as ITiCSE, a top Computer Science Education conference (CORE A) where Ed Langlands' paper was accepted for publication. The main purpose of this Prize is to encourage undergraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering to write and submit papers for publication to peer-reviewed journals or conferences. The aim is to support the Faculty to increase its university and PBRF rankings.

## People – Nurturing Staff Thriving Students

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To recognise International Administrative Professionals Week, and as part of the celebrations, UC hosted a professional networking group, AdminZ, at a event to celebrate International Administrative Professionals Day on 26 April. I was pleased to deliver the opening address and then participate in a panel discussion with Dawn Baxendale, Christchurch City Council Cll Executive and Joanne Gallop, President of Adminz.

After the Staff Hui with the VC in March, and the pause in April due to the holidays, Staff Hui will continue in May. Keith Longden will be presenting the 2022 annual financial report.

A Code of Pastoral Care verification review of the UC Accommodation Services portfolio was undertaken by Universities New Zealand and NZQA. Initial feedback from the auditors has indicated that the



Some significant milestones were reached across a number of UC Digital transformational initiatives over the prior month.

The business case for the Digital Information Programme was approved at Planning Finance and Resources Committee. This multi-year programme of work will enable UC to adopt a modern information management framework and platform, reducing various risks in how we manage information today at UC reducing silos and leveraging cloud technology to improve efficiencies. A supporting change management programme will engage across UC on a multiple adoption journey.

One of our core academic digital initiatives is the transformation of curriculum management. Today this is supported by a web of legacy internally developed on-premise solutions. These are hard to maintain and don't provide the efficient capabilities and user experience our staff expect. They also do not provide the data integration services required from a modern curriculum management platform. Following business case approval last year the Academic led, a local incasdo leo leo Oct 2017 (3) (1) 26 ( 5TJ -0. (u3 (

A Waste Contract Working Group has been established between Facilities Management, the UCSA and UniLodge to look at opportunities for greater efficiencies, collaboration and improved environmental outcomes through our respective waste services contracts.

Sustainable commuting targets were set and form the basis of a new Sustainable Commuting Plan