



# Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

February 2022

Introduction

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This month

on campus. The move to Phase 2 with the Red Light setting continuing places greater responsibility on individual institutions in determining how they respond to evolving situations.

Professor Catherine Moran is working with the Academic Liaison Group and the Executive Deans to implement flexible delivery models while following the public health measures, such as mask wearing and vaccination, as well as TEC guidance. Each faculty is focused on flexibility in delivering its teaching programme, acknowledging that all of our staff and students will need to work remotely.



- x WKH SURM Jeremy, Geoffrey and Sian authored an article in The Conversation New Zealand's evolving position on AWS, which attracted considerable public interest (over 70,000 reads)
- x Jeremy as featured on 1NEWS on New Zealand's position on AWS on 20 December 2021
- x tKH SURMHFW WHDP Based on Individual Rights and Wdg Scts for the Public and other scholars in the field.

For their part, Jeremy Moses, Geoffrey Ford and Sian Troath discussed the potential for autonomous drones in warfare at the 2022 New Zealand Political Studies Association online conference

Education –

Several students also have the opportunity to get involved outside the classroom. The Mechanical Engineering Department, led by Bill Mohs, is sponsoring a student team competing in the United States Department of Energy Soar Decathlon. This competition challenges entrants to design a Net Zero Energy building, with the aim of improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of a building.

Jessica Stone, an MSc Part II student in the Marine Ecology Research Group, was awarded a Postgraduate Scholarship from Te Papa Atawhai. Her research focuses on the cultural and ecological value of native species and their interactions with habitat. Her experimental work involves testing the interactions of habitat and the effects of climate change on native species. The scholarship has a value of \$15,000.

identifying and purchasing appropriate information resources. Staff are also busy designing and creating their online and face-to-face teaching for the start of term.

The following are viewing statistics for Open Access [LW OHV SXEOLVKHG E\ & 8 3](#)

- x Rape Myths as Barriers to Fair Trial Process: Comparing adult rape trials with those in the Aotearoa Sexual Violence Court Pilot (2020) brought 66 total visits to UC's research repository page this month. Top country United Kingdom, Canada.
- x [1J— .ÀUHUR D 0RKL 5XDWDSX 7\(CHP, 2003; DA factsmile digital R KL 5\)](#) (edition 2020) brought 39 total visits to UC's research repository page this month. Top country YLHZV 1HZ =HDODQG 8QLWHG 6WDWHV 8QLWHG .LQJG
- x [1J— .ÀUHUR D 3LWD .—SLWL 7\(CUP, 1997; DOFAK Studio digital 3LWD](#) (edition 2020) brought 22 total visits to UC's research repository page this month. Top country YLHZV 1HZ =HDODQG 8QLWHG 6WDWHV &DQDGD 8QLW

## People—Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

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As detailed at the start of this report, most of our efforts with and for staff so far in 2022 have been in planning and preparation for the advent of COVID with a focus on health and safety and business continuity.

Nevertheless, we have been able to celebrate over the summer, the achievements and efforts of our staff in a range of areas.

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- x Emerging Researcher Award, Senior Lecturer Sarah Flanagan of the School of Biological Sciences
- x Innovation in Teaching Award, Postdoctoral Fellow Rodrigo Martinez Gazoni of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences
- x Excellence in Research Linkages Award, Professor Brett Robinson of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, working in collaboration with Environmental Science and Research (ESR)
- x [.DXSDSD 0—RUL %LFXOWXUDO &RPSHWHQFH DQG &RQ](#) Phoebe Macrae of the School of Psychology, Speech and Hearing
- x Health and Safety Champion Award, Chemical Compliance Team Tom Davison of the School of Biological Sciences
- x Outstanding General Staff Award, Senior Specialist Technician Stephen Hemmingsen of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences
- x Culture Champion Award, Technician Brigitta Kurenbach of the School of Biological Sciences.

UC has appointed four new Distinguished Professors [WKH\ DUH](#)

- x Distinguished Professor Steven Ratuva, was recognised for his global leadership in pioneering interdisciplinary research in a range of fields including ethnicity, security, politics,





For their Engineering New Zealand fellowships congratulations to Professor Geoff Chase (Distinguished Fellow) and Professor Mathieu Sellier (Fellow).

Suzi Hall and the team in the Pukemanu Centre have been awarded \$150,000 from the Wylie Foundation, via UC Foundation. This funding has been provided over the next three years specifically for work with children and their families on anxiety. Funding is to cover staffing as well as training via FearLessTriple P and parent workbooks. Postgraduate students in the Child and Family Psychology programme will benefit from engagement in this work

2021 Computational Fluid Dynamic graduate Holly Millar made headlines in the New Zealand Herald for the continued success of her final H D U Scholarship to take part in the UCE Summer Startup programme where she's creating her safe sex prototype.

EPE Centre has supported last minute endeavours of some of the Power Engineering Excellence Trust (PEET) members to secure summer interns (at Edison, PowerCo, Horizon Network, MainPower, EEA) and Engineering graduates (at MainPower, Wellington Electricity, Orion) by advertising vacancies on available platforms for UC students.

Congratulations to final-year Engineering student Jennifer Berry, who has become the only New Zealander and first person from the southern hemisphere to win a prestigious Brooke Owens Fellowship. This fellowship recognises exceptional undergraduate women and other gender minorities with space and aviation internships, senior mentorship and a lifelong professional network.

## Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

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New Zealand continues its position as the slowest country to reopen its borders to international students. A fourth and final cohort of 5,000 international students have been announced for Semester 2. This had been in discussion since late last year, but details were not ready at the time of the announcement and have not yet been confirmed. 2019 market share is applied to the current quota to arrive at institutional share. We currently have 405 international students offshore and will ask about their intentions as soon as Government confirms details.

Consultation is underway on Government's proposed revisions to work rights for international students. MBIE's proposal works against calls from other sectors of government for universities to embrace transnational education (TNE), online, and market diversification. Notably, the Ministry of Education's consultation on what 2BI -7 I1 (ul)-2 (tonl)-2 (i)-2F 0 Tc 0 Tw 4 (t)gnHu(or)3 ( uni2 (e)4 (s

(SSO) and to validate these against the Government's vaccine register. Once code is validated it is disposed of. The data from 10 Td 8yJTJ 0

Biodiversity improvements will be advanced in 2022 through the employment of a fixed-term Biodiversity 3 U R M H F W V . This role is currently being advertised.

The procurement plan for the Climate Change Infrastructure Assessment (flagged in the Climate Change Risk Register) is being finalised. We intend to go to market in quarter two to start work by quarter three.

UC, Z L W K : D L N D W R 8 Q L Y H U V L W \ D Q G is developing a DPA for the O O E H L Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Declaration roundtable. This online event aims to provide