



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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A newsletter for alumni and friends



Overwhelming response to glasses drive

In our November issue, we asked our alumni and friends to donate their spare pairs of glasses to residents in Samoa who are unable to purchase their own. Our Distinguished Alumni Award winner Erna Takazawa, Samoa's first fully-qualified optometrist, [described the immense impact](#) that improved eyesight can have.

Over the course of the last few months, you donated a grand total of over 230 pairs of glasses. We were delighted by the response and thank you warmly for your generosity.

If you have any spare spectacles taking up space in a drawer, you can still send them to: Project – Erna in Samoa, Selwyn Homestead, 21 Youngs Road, Papakura 2110.



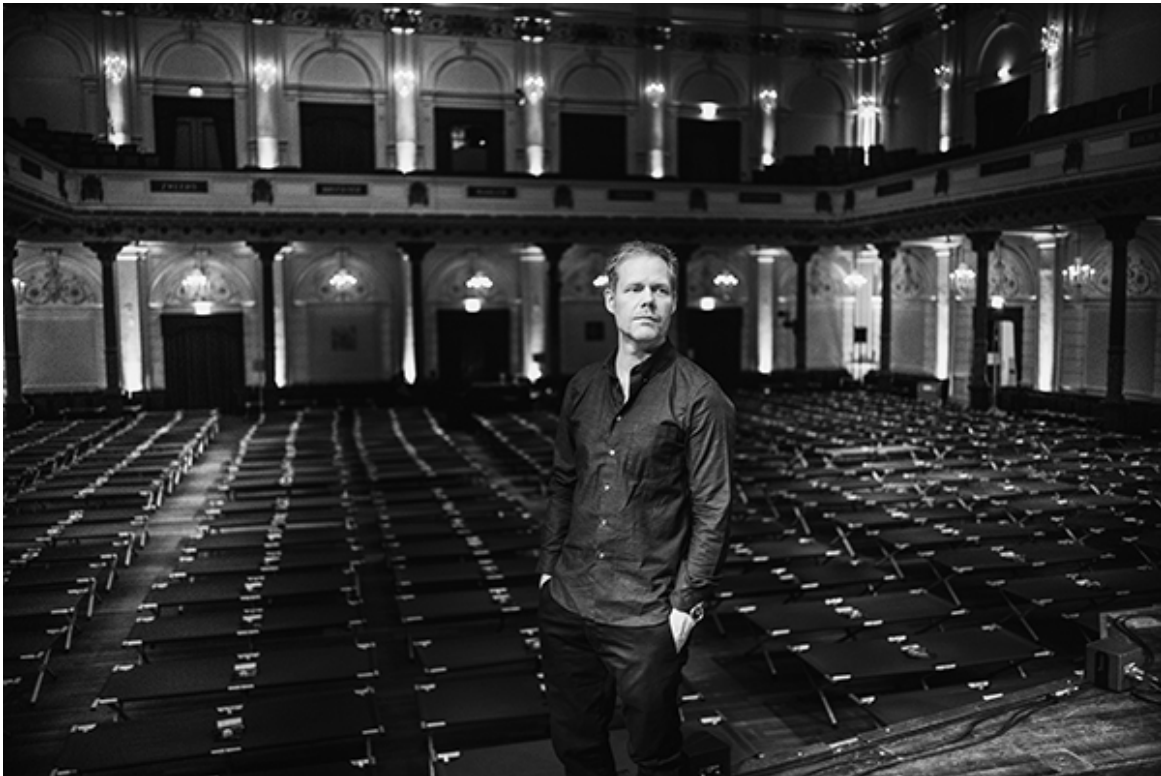
Wanted: New Volunteer Alumni Coordinator

Our Volunteer Alumni Coordinators (VACs) are instrumental in keeping alumni and friends outside of Auckland connected to New Zealand and the University, and helping build social and professional networks with like-minded people.

Departing Singapore VAC, Winsie Chen (pictured), explains the role and the incredible value she gained from her experience. If you are interested in filling in her shoes, we are eager to hear from you.

In the University's Campaign For All Our Futures we set ourselves the target of actively engaging with over 100,000 of our alumni. Our global VAC network is a critical part of this engagement strategy.

[READ MORE](#)



Competition giveaway

If you are a fan of classical music, we have just the ticket for you. March marks the beginning of the annual Auckland Arts Festival and the University of Auckland is proud to support the festival as an official sponsor.

We are excited to announce that we have four free tickets to give away to the Vivaldi Recomposed/Three Worlds performance on Sunday 18 March at 7pm. In these two arrangements, composer Max Richter (pictured) reinvents Vivaldi's unmistakable Four Seasons and Virginia Woolf's prose into his own breath-taking score. Entries close on Tuesday 13 March.

[ENTER HERE](#)



The University goes global

The University of Auckland has launched a new degree designed to get students exploring and tackling the big issues of our increasingly globalised world.

The Bachelor of Global Studies, the first of its kind in New Zealand, offers majors in Global Environment and Sustainable Development, Global Politics and Human Rights, International Relations and Business, and Transnational Cultures and Creative Practice.

The new degree crosses traditional faculty boundaries, with students able to take courses that span disciplines across the University. Students are also required to study another language and culture, and are expected to spend time working and studying overseas.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Director Wendy Kerr and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

Lend your skills to innovate on campus

The University's Unleash Space was officially opened by the Prime Minister on 21 February. This state-of-the-art facility will help to unleash entrepreneurial potential and generate solutions to the problems facing New Zealand society.

This unique space would not have been possible without the major gifts given through the University of Auckland Campaign For All Our Futures by Sir Owen G. Glenn, Beca, Chau Hoi Shuen Foundation, Hynds Foundation, Li Ka-Shing (Canada) Foundation and PwC.

The centre is now seeking volunteers with entrepreneurial and business skills to share their knowledge and expertise with the next generation of innovators. Whether you would like to lead a seminar, mentor a group or judge a competition, your insight would be greatly appreciated.

[BECOME A VOLUNTEER](#)



The next wave of globalisation

Despite a substantial reduction of trade and investment barriers, the global economy remains far from integrated. Now is precisely the time to focus on the next wave of globalisation, says Professor Andrew Bernard, one of the most highly cited economists of our time.

Professor Bernard will be giving a free public lecture on Thursday 22 March, at the Business School.

[READ MORE](#)



Step up your leadership

NZLI's flagship Leadership Mindset Programme is ideal for middle-managers who are looking to create a step-change in their career. This programme will help identify your own leadership work, engage productively with conflict and difference and develop a leader's mindset. The next programme commences on March 20.

Each year we offer alumni the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to attend the Leadership Mindset Programme. Applications open April 13. If you would like more information please contact Philippa Collins via philippa.collins@auckland.ac.nz

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Celebrate the work of the Liggins Institute

The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences turns 50 this year and is celebrating the contribution that scientists at the University's Liggins Institute have made to the healthcare of mothers and babies.

Hear more about the big breakthroughs and what's on the horizon from founding Director Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, current Director Professor Frank Bloomfield, and newest Associate Professor Dr Katie Groom, at a free public lecture and drinks reception on Wednesday 28 March at the University's Fale Pasifika.

[REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT](#)

IN BRIEF



Adelaide & Sydney Biennale

Join Associate Professor Linda Tyler on a five-day guided tour for the 21st Biennale of Sydney, featuring major new commissions and recent work by contemporary artists from around the world.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



University academics to examine mental health

Professor Ron Paterson of the Faculty of Law (pictured) will chair the government inquiry into mental health services, which will include Co-Head of School Māori Studies and Pacific Studies Dr Jemaima Tiatia-Seath.

[READ MORE](#)



Augmented Reality leader joins University

One of the pioneer developers of Augmented Reality and co-founder of ARToolWorks, Professor Mark Billinghurst, has joined the University's Auckland Bioengineering Institute.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

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