

The Academy in the LIMELIGHT

November 2015

The newsletter puts tertiary teaching and learning in the limelight and links you with all the latest news from the members of the Ako Aotearoa Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence.

A note from the President

Welcome to the second issue of the new and improved Limelight. This is the biannual newsletter of the Ako Aotearoa Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence. It puts tertiary teaching and learning in the limelight, and links you with the latest news from and about members of the Academy. We aim to reach out to a wide audience, to highlight activities of interest across the tertiary sector. To this end, we have included contact information with each article, so that you or someone in your institution can learn more about any Academy activity that is relevant to teaching and learning at your institution.

Academy members (who have all won National Tertiary Teaching Awards) are always willing to share their practice, and we hope that Limelight puts you in touch with their expertise. The Academy is run by an Executive, and an election for two executive positions is due to be held shortly (as below). The Academy's annual symposium will be held at the end of November, and information about this is also included. We begin, however, with a welcome to the twelve new members who received their awards at a ceremony in Parliament in August.

Eric Pawson, President



The 2015 Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards

We extend a warm welcome from the Academy to each of the recipients of the 2015 Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards. Members of the Executive hosted each awardee and their support persons for afternoon tea in Wellington on the afternoon of Tuesday 11 August. They were then joined by members of the Awards Panel, chaired by Phil Ker, CEO of Otago Polytechnic.

The awards ceremony took place at Parliament House in the evening, with a dinner jointly hosted by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Hon Steven Joyce, and Dr Jian Yang, Chairperson of the Education and Science Select Committee. Ako Aotearoa administers the awards. The Awards celebrate New Zealand's finest tertiary teachers - as recognised by their organisations, colleagues, learners and broader communities. A total of twelve awards were presented on the night for Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching – under General and Kaupapa Māori categories.

The Prime Minister's Supreme Award for tertiary teaching excellence was presented to



*Associate Professor
Suzanne Pitama and
Hon Steven Joyce*

Associate Professor Suzanne Pitama, Director of the Māori Indigenous Health Institute (MIHI) at the University of Otago's Christchurch campus. The Prime Minister's Award recognizes Suzanne's unstinting commitment to tertiary learners and the broader community throughout a 14-year teaching career.

In addition to the Prime Minister's Supreme Award (worth \$10,000), a total of 12 awards were presented to tertiary teachers for their Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching – three in the Kaupapa Maori category and a further nine in the General category. Each awardee receives \$20,000. The recipients are as follows:

Kaupapa Māori Category

Dr Elana Taipapaki Curtis, Senior Lecturer, Te Kupenga Hauora Māori, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, University of Auckland

Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane, Professor of Māori Research, University of Canterbury

Associate Professor Suzanne Pitama (in addition to the PM's Supreme Award), Associate Dean Māori, Director of the Māori / Indigenous Health Institute, Division of Health Science, University of Otago, Christchurch

General Category

Professor Dale Carnegie, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Victoria University of Wellington

Dr Herb de Vries, Senior Lecturer, College of Business and Law, University of Canterbury

Paul Gummer, Senior Lecturer, School of Photography, Art & Design, Universal College of Learning

Dr Eleanor Hawe, Senior Lecturer, School of Learning, Development and Professional Practice, University of Auckland

Clive Humphreys, Principal Lecturer, School of Art, Otago Polytechnic

Dr Roslyn Kemp, Senior Lecturer, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Otago

Marie McEntee, Senior Tutor, School of Environment, Faculty of Science, University of Auckland

Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith, Dean, Graduate Research School, University of Otago

Lara Tookey, Lecturer, Department of Construction, Unitec Institute of Technology

Ako Aotearoa had made a three minute film about each awardee, and these were shown during the dinner. Each awardee then had the opportunity to make a short speech, and the evening concluded with a welcome to the Academy from the President and last year's Supreme Award winner, Dr Karyn Paringatai.



Academy executive elections

The Board of Ako Aotearoa has recently approved a revised constitution for the Academy, and in December elections will be held in accordance with this for two positions on the Executive.

The Executive is responsible for ensuring that the Academy maintains good relationships with its members and with Ako Aotearoa, its Hubs and Board. Executive members each hold a particular portfolio, and between them must ensure that the Academy's annual business plan and budget are sent to the Board

for approval; that the Academy carries out its hosting functions at the annual Awards ceremony in Parliament; and that an attractive annual symposium is organised.

The relevant clauses of the Constitution state that the Executive will consist of between five and seven elected members, with the option of co-opting two further members 'if particular skills are needed and/or to ensure appropriate gender, geographic, or other representation. If no Committee member

is qualified to represent Māori, the Committee will co-opt such a person'. Each Academy member has one vote for each vacancy. The call for nominations will go out to members in early November, with a reminder at the symposium later that month. Electronic voting will be open for one week in early December, and the successful candidates for the two vacancies will be announced about 10 December. The new members take office on 1 January and attend their first Executive meeting in the new year.

Mark Brown as Ireland's first Professor of Digital Learning

Academy member Mark Brown has been busy since he took up the position at the start of 2014 as Ireland's first Professor of Digital Learning and Director of the newly established National Institute for Digital Learning (NIDL) [<http://dcu.ie/nidl>]. He is based at Dublin City University but his involvement in a number of large European funded projects requires him to travel frequently. One project Mark led in his first year was the development of a new brand for online and transnational education to promote flexible learning for students studying off-campus. The new brand was officially launched in August last year and is called "DCU Connected" [<http://connected.dcu.ie>] to reflect the nature of the connected learning

experience rather than focusing on a delivery methodology.

Mark has also extended his professional connections in the United States; as Ireland has strong relationships with American colleges. Arizona State University, the largest public university in the U.S., is an official partner with DCU and Mark has been involved in several collaborative initiatives, including the development of a joint online Masters degree in Biomedical Diagnostics. A highlight from one of his visits to the U.S. was the opportunity to meet Hillary Clinton at an invitation only event on the future of higher education in San Francisco.

Want to know more? Email mark.brown@dcu.ie



Mark Brown pictured with Hillary Clinton

Different ways of learning

A thinking paper for an Academy member who has little opportunity to discuss technical teaching stuff with anyone! By Academy member Frances Denz

As educators we understand that there are different ways of learning. We have studied the pedagogy behind these, and yet many are still inclined to provide approving commentary for the way they themselves learn. We often see our own learning style as the norm, the way it should be done, and the other ways are outliers, to be addressed, but as an add on, an extra as it were.

If our brain is wired differently it may produce different results from the same information, or it may come up with the same result, but with different tangential learnings along the way. This comes to mind as I contemplate two extremely successful models I have developed recently to teach a couple of quite complex topics to people with a mix of learning styles.

I asked some of my Māori students what was the quickest way for them to learn something new. This was not a scientific research project. I was preparing teaching material for the next lecture, and wanted to know how best to teach a complicated topic quickly and easily. These were senior managers and company directors. Simplified pictures (cartoons) based on familiar precepts, stories and common experiences was the request. So that is what I designed. I now have a new model of Governance, designed for the New Zealand experience, using simple cartoon components. And Strategic Planning has been based on a pa site



which demonstrates the range of thinking required for this topic.

Using illustrations they are familiar with provides the platform for their new learning. The model here is of a sandwich. The bread at the bottom is reflective learning and identifying their own experiences. The filling is using new ways of putting that information into use, plus new information and the top component is the actual practice of the new learning – the experiential and applied component. This provides a valuable triangulation of the information.

Applied learning and reflection on the results is a wonderful methodology.

But often we forget the reflection component. The other thing that is often forgotten is checking against common sense! At all parts of the process students are asked “does this make sense to you?” And in preparing this think paper I have decided the next model I would like to develop is teaching how to utilise reflective learning. I was delivering a workshop the other day to senior nursing staff and was quite stunned to discover they didn’t even know how to start this process, which is so essential when undertaking “supervision”.

Want to know more? E:mail fdenz@stellaris.co.nz

Cooperative inquiry into the effectiveness of teaching

Academy member Ksenija Napan (Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Massey Albany) is part of a transdisciplinary group of passionate teachers who have decided to engage in a cooperative inquiry into effectiveness of their teaching. The group is called the ‘Cooperative inquiry into effectiveness of teaching’ and the members are: Ksenija Napan, Jenny Green, Shirley Jülich, Jane Terrell, Judy Thomas, Warwick Stent (all from Massey University, Albany Campus) and Lynnemaree Patterson (from Whitecliffe College). It is a collaboration between the School of Social Work,

School of Accountancy - Massey Business School, School of Nursing, Life Sciences - Massey Institute of Food Science and Technology, and the National Centre for Teaching and Learning, Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design.

The purpose of this research is twofold: being a support group for each other while introducing innovative teaching methods in our everyday practice, and evaluating cooperative inquiry as a methodology for improvement of teaching practices and development of innovative teaching methods.

Want to know more? E:mail K.Napan@massey.ac.nz

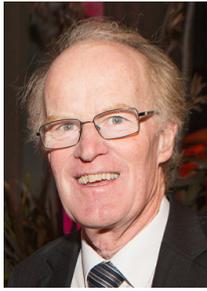


Photo by Gail Stent

News from the Ako Aotearoa regional hubs

Southern Hub

Bridget O'Regan, the Southern Hub Regional Manager for the past seven and a half years, and a champion of both the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards and the mission of the Academy, has retired.



University of Canterbury members made a presentation to her on the day of her retirement in August. Bridget promoted a variety of events with Academy members and was keen that these should continue. A welcome for the new 2015 members in Christchurch was held on October 21 at the MindLab in the city. A welcome event for the new Dunedin members was held in Dunedin, at the Salvation Army Education and Employment premises in Dunedin, on Tuesday November 10. Both events were well attended.

Neil Andersen, Acting Regional Manager, Southern Hub

Want to know more? E-mail: neil.andersen@canterbury.ac.nz

Central Hub

What a pleasure it was to again provide executive support this year for the TTEA panel when it met in Dunedin on the May 26. Despite the freezing weather the panel stuck to the difficult task of



making very fine distinctions among the 34 nominations. Selena Chan from CPIT represented the Academy on the panel and provided her usual astute analysis and contributions.

A greater pleasure was to attend the awards dinner at the Banquet Hall in Parliament on the 11th of August. For me it is the highlight of my working year; nothing beats celebrating excellent teaching and this year was no exception.

Academy members have again volunteered to contribute to seminars across the central region. These seminars have three Academy members speak for 15 minutes each about aspects of their teaching and briefly about how they prepared their portfolio. The seminar ends with up to 30 minutes of questions to and

answers from those three as a panel. They have been very well attended in the past with informative presentations and stimulating debates. So, a huge vote of thanks to Alison Campbell, John Davies, Jude Roddick, Mike Scott, Rhiannon Braund, Sophie Nock, Caro McCaw, Bryony James and James Paterson. All have freely agreed to share their expertise and be away from home in the interests of continuing the debate about excellent tertiary teaching

Finally, as the days lengthen and a deserved break approaches, I wish all Academy members the best for the remainder of the year and a sensational year of teaching in 2016.

Ian Rowe, Regional Manager, Central Hub

Want to know more? E-mail: i.rowe@ucol.ac.nz



Liz Fitchett (Waiariki Inst of Technology), Dara Davenport (ACE Waitakere), Lara Tookey (Unitec) and Marie McEntee (University of Auckland)

Northern Hub

Northern Hub celebrates excellent teachers

Each year, the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards held at the Beehive are followed by a lunch for northern region recipients. One purpose of the lunch is to bring together the newest awardees and those from previous years. This year's event was marked by the whanaungatanga experienced by all who arrived. Tasty food was provided by Intrigue Catering, accompanied by a rolling slideshow of all those who have received awards in the northern region since 2002. Those attending spanned the years from 2002 through to 2015.

Ruth Petersen, Regional Manager, Northern Hub

Want to know more? E-mail: ruth.petersen@aut.ac.nz

Academy Executive

Listed below are current members of the Academy Executive, and their portfolio designations. Feel free to contact them at any time with any matters related to their portfolio or the Academy in general.

Eric Pawson: President
(eric.pawson@canterbury.ac.nz)

Selene Mize: Vice President, Coordinator of Policy Process / Coordinating Constitution (selene.mize@otago.ac.nz)

Alison Campbell: Internal communication and Facebook (acampbel@waikato.ac.nz)

James Paterson: Marketing; sponsorship and Northern Hub
(James.Paterson@boppoly.ac.nz)

Kelly Pender: Engagement with Hubs, regions and Māori Caucus
(Kelly.Pender@boppoly.ac.nz)

Tony Zaharic: Symposium 2015, succession planning, strategic planning and archivist, including database of members (tony.zaharic@otago.ac.nz)

