

Twenty One Years of Social Practice at Unitec

"Twenty One Years of Social Practice crossing the oceans of knowledge, bringing diverse people together working towards social justice and critical practice in the ever changing contexts of Aotearoa New Zealand."



The Department of Social Practice celebrated a key milestone on 26 October 2012 as we marked 21 years of service in the Auckland and Waitakere community. Staff, students and alumni gathered together to enjoy an evening of celebration and entertainment including a speech by Raylee Kane, the current Bachelor of Social Practice Monitor, who very eloquently spoke about the history of the department; a poem by Social Practice Lecturer, Ian Hyslop; inspiring words and acknowledgments from Head of Department David McNabb, and a performance by the Department of Social Practice culture group, USSAO, (Students Standing As One). The celebration also included special tributes for Gavin Rennie, the first Head of Department and Julie Waith, the first administrator who were acknowledged for their 21 years of service with the department and were presented with taonga.



Gavin Rennie and Julie Waith (with her two beautiful grand-daughters, Olive (holding her hand) and Maggie looking at the camera) cutting the 21st Birthday Cake with David McNabb in the background



Matua Hare Paniora, Unitec Pae Arahī and Raylee Kane, Bachelor of Social Practice Monitor



Nadine Johnson, Social Practice PA and Ian Hyslop, Social Practice Lecturer

Revolution... and all that talk

Imagination

... As Albert said ...

Is **always** the most important thing

Really

Really, Social Practice is a quivering animal

Ruled by a dream-time Taniwha

Shuddering with life

Breathing slowly

Not some knowledge factory

You are twisting my tongue brother

I may not be young sister

But you are twisting my tongue

It may all have begun with words ...

Or much of **It**

... Words

As Dennis said ...

Nga Kupu Aroha

Words of Love

As Paulo said ...

We rob the oppressed of their words

As Anton said ...

This is not difficult

- Almost ...

Almost surprising that we still award prizes for it

-'No' ... 'Sad', 'yes'

But not surprising

Capitalist culture is ...

After all is said -

Superbly ironic

The primal spark of Enlightenment Science

Eclipsed by the domestic drone of oblong white - ware

... **And** ... so ... they come ...

To listen

To suffer to listen

To listen perhaps to unfamiliar tongues

To listen

To listen perhaps to the lament of the Earth

To listen perhaps to the heart's rising pulse

To listen to words falling like stones

Tearing the skin of a lifetimes illusion

To words that scream quietly to the soul:

'Resist'

And they come

The kind, the brave, and the beaten

They come to **speak**

To speak of a hunger for justice

Wild - eyed love

The warmth of our blood

Words breaking, rolling, leaping in free flight

They come to speak of the heart's pain

And the mind's healing

To speak, as Lawrence said, of **wonder** reborn

To speak in voices of their own making

But not, as Karl said, in circumstances of their choosing

For find voice we must

To live as we might - in a world made whole

If ... we can but break the silence of consent

We may yet speak once more

As Dennis said - in 'words of love':

Nga Kupu Aroha

(Poem written by Ian Hyslop on the Occasion of 21st Birthday Party of the Department of Social Practice, Unitec, 26 October 2012)

Student Success

Master of Social Practice Graduate Diane Woolson Neville, April 2013



Diane with her mother, Janice Woolson, who came from the USA to attend

Diane Woolson Neville graduated with a Master of Social Practice, 1st class honours at the April Graduation ceremony. Diane is originally from Olympia, Washington in the USA but has lived in New Zealand since 2004. She has a BA from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, graduating in 2002 in Political Science and Psychology.

She enrolled in the Masters in Social Practice as professional development for her role as a family violence prevention project coordinator in Rodney. She appreciated the flexibility of the programme for juggling work and study, and later with family life when her son, now two, was born.

Diane's research thesis is entitled: Experiences of advocacy: Situating experiences of contemporary women's advocates within the feminist movement to end violence against women. It is concerned with how the advocates experienced their work with women and how these contemporary experiences align with the wider feminist movement to end violence against women. The research aimed to contribute to our New Zealand efforts to eliminate violence against women. Diane's thesis can be accessed at: <http://unitec.researchbank.ac.nz/handle/10652/2131>

Play at Q Theatre wins event award



Social Practice graduates Laura Ashton and Sheree Veysey were awarded the prize for 'Best writers' for their play performed in "The Big ReTHiNK", an arts festival that encouraged the audience to think again about mental illness

and the stigma associated with it. The play, Making Sense, involved aliens studying for their intergalactic culture exam and trying to understand the destructive relationships that humans of the Western world had with food and their bodies.

Sheree and Laura both graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling from Unitec. Sheree has also completed her Masters in Social Practice in 2011, while Laura is currently completing her MSocP research thesis which examines young women's ideas around feminism and post feminism.

Actors Glen Manchester and Marion Shortt perform in Making Sense. Marion is also a Unitec alumni from the Performing Arts School. Photo compliments of Erin Gaffney.

West Auckland Women's Institute presents Bachelor of Social Practice Student, Carolynn Hunter with \$250 book grant



Nominated by Social Practice lecturers, Sue Elliott and Gavin Rennie, Carolynn was thrilled to be a recipient of the West Auckland Women's Institute book grant award of \$250.00.

Carolynn's words of acceptance follow:

I would like to give thanks to the Auckland Women's Institute for making this award available. I would

also like to thank my Unitec lecturers for their nomination for this award.

No one who achieves success does so without the help of others.

It is with humility and grace I acknowledge this help with deep gratitude.

Sara-Jane Sadler Memorial Award recipient 2012, Tamasin Beattie

The Sara Jane Sadler Award - 'for courage in adversity' was given to third year student, Tamasin Beattie, at an event on 26 November 2012.

The Sara-Jane Sadler Memorial Award was established in 2010 to commemorate, Bachelor of Social Practice student, Sara-Jane Sadler, who died of cancer. The intention of the Award is to acknowledge a Bachelor of Social Practice student, who, like Sara-Jane, demonstrated courage in the face of adversity.

Staff Success

Chief Executive's Award for Exceptional Service (Te Toi Huarewa)

Winner: Sustainability Champions

Congratulations to Dr Geoff Bridgman and Associate Professor, Dr Ksenija Napan for being part of the Sustainability Champions team that won the Chief Executive's

Award for Exceptional Service (Te Toi Huarewa).

David McNabb - President of the Council for Social Work Education in Aotearoa/ New Zealand



Head of Department of Social Practice, David McNabb was elected President of the Council for Social Work Education in Aotearoa/New Zealand. David and Dr Catherine Hughes, Programme Leader, Bachelor of Social Practice, represent Unitec on this body. This carries on a tradition established when Gavin Rennie used to chair the schools of social work group.

Implicit in David's roll as President is an involvement as an executive on the Council for Social Work Education Aotearoa/ New Zealand. CSWEANZ is the national network of schools of social work and has representation from all the providers offering recognised social work programmes with the Social Workers Registration Board. Membership of the executive will involve leading the Council on addressing issues in the sector, engaging with stakeholders and developing social work education.

Manakitanga - Hosting Visiting Scholars & Allied Groups

The Council for International Fellowship



The Department of Social Practice hosted Carol Blair, (shown in photograph) President of the Council for International Fellowship, Aotearoa NZ and five international social workers (Elke

SCHERNHAMMER from Austria; Rekha PHADKE from India; Virginia PINTO from Argentina and Lisa (Maria) SANDSTROM and Maria JOHANSSON from Sweden) from Monday 29 October to Thursday 1 November 2012 as part of the wider programme offered by the Aotearoa branch of the Council for International Fellowship (CIF). The visit began with a Powhiri on the Unitec Marae and then held two days of workshops on the Auckland/Aotearoa context and the role of social work here. We co-hosted an evening session with CIF at the Mt Albert campus where the visitors presented on their social work practice. Approximately 50 social workers attended from across Auckland. This visit followed on from a successful visit in 2010 when we undertook a similar co-hosting role.

Visiting Fulbright Scholar Associate Professor Carol Plummer



Sue Elliott with Carol Plummer at the Africa Community Organisation Forum Inc Women's Day event, March 2013

Associate Professor Carol Plummer of the School of Social Work, the University of Hawaii completed her month with us as a Fulbright Scholar. Her focus was on the fields of: natural disaster response, family violence, and responses to child abuse and neglect. Also collaborations around indigenous approaches to research. She presented two public seminars; a lunch time seminar on responses to family violence and child abuse and neglect, and an evening seminar on lessons from Hurricane Katrina. A number of community agencies, and external academics attended along with a range of Unitec staff.

Visiting Scholar Professor Louise Phillips



Visiting Scholar Professor Louise Phillips from the Department of Communication, Business and Information Technologies, Roskilde University, Denmark also visited the Department of Social Practice in semester one, 2013. Her aim was to establish research collaborations in which she proposes the productive exchange of ideas based on our experiences with research on

(and using) collaborative and participatory approaches to producing and communicating knowledge.

Alumni Profiles - Where Are They Now?

Bachelor of Social Practice Graduate (2011), Eric Beaudoin



Eric Beaudoin graduated from the Unitec Bachelor of Social Practice with a major in social work in 2011. He is from Quebec, Canada and moved to New Zealand in 2008. Prior to his social work training Eric worked within the hospitality industry. Eric states:

"As a student at Unitec I was constantly invited to reflect upon and to further develop my own set of values and beliefs in order to ensure that I would become a safe, empathetic and caring social practitioner. Upon the completion of my study

at Unitec I felt ready to put the theories I had learned into action and I was inspired by the possibility to work alongside other professionals to further my personal and professional development. I was fortunate in obtaining a Social Worker Intern position with the Auckland district Health Board and am currently pursuing another year of part time study completing a Post-graduate Certificate in Mental Health.

I am currently working in an inpatient Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre in Auckland and the work involved is extremely rewarding. Thank you to the Men's Health Trust for helping me financially with a scholarship in 2011 and all my lecturers for supporting me in making my journey at Unitec a success.

Obituary

Fare-welling our much loved and deeply respected teacher Fraser McDonald



Fraser's tangihanga at Te Noho Kotahitanga marae, 31 January 2013

Unitec's Te Noho Kotahitanga marae was overflowing with people, stories, tributes, fine mats, tears (and even some jokes as Fraser would have wanted) on Thursday 31st January as Unitec staff, students, members of the Pacific community, close friends and whanau came together to farewell and honour - our esteemed colleague, friend and rangatira - Fraser McDonald.

Fraser lectured at Unitec for over 16 years, including on the Certificate in Community Skills, the Graduate Diploma in Not for Profit Management and the Bachelor of Social Practice. We will always remember Fraser for his sense of fun and the stories and jokes he wove into his teaching. Many of us have benefited from his commitment to ensure students were able to see their own potential and then supported them to make sure they went on their journey towards reaching it. Fraser always put his students first, especially the Pacific students in New Zealand and in the Pacific. All of his students will have a very long legacy through the knowledge, wisdom and encouragement that he imparted. The story told of the student who emailed him a draft assignment at 3 am in the morning and got an immediate reply saying "you forgot the

attachment" is just one of many examples of his dedicated pastoral care.

A Trust fund for Pacific Education scholarships has been set up in Fraser's name to honour his work and to create a legacy for his work in supporting Pacific students to access education. If anyone would like to contribute to this fund donations can be made to the Fraser McDonald Trust 38-9006-0782606-01

Haere, haere, haere, dear friend, colleague, Pacific kaumatua to us all, encourager of us all to do more than we believed we could.

Social media

Stay connected with Social Practice Alumni

You can stay connected with the Facebook Page, Bachelor of Social Practice Alumni

You can also join the Unitec Alumni group on LinkedIn.

Social Practice Newsletter

If you know of any Social Practice graduates who have not received the Alumni newsletter or please ask them to contact: Anne Walsh, awalsh@unitec.ac.nz so she can update our Alumni data base and forward them a copy of our panui.

Alumni benefits

You can also check out our new Unitec Alumni website pages (www.unitec.ac.nz/alumni) to see what our alumni network offers and other ways you can stay connected.



Take your social practice career to the next level

Advance your skills and knowledge in social practice with postgraduate study at Unitec. Our Postgraduate Certificate in Social Practice, Postgraduate Diploma in Social Practice or Master of Social Practice will increase your awareness of the critical issues and debates in social practice and prepare you to respond effectively to complex situations.

Semester 2 courses begin on 26 July 2013. Enrol online now.

For more information, contact programme leader Helene Connor on 09 815 4321 ext 5010 or email hconnor@unitec.ac.nz.



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