

Mathematician first to receive medal



Dr Carlo Laing is the first New Zealand-based mathematician to receive the medal for outstanding new researchers that is conferred annually by the Australasian organisation for industrial and applied mathematics.

The organisation says Dr Laing has been presented the 2008 JH Mitchell Medal in recognition of the breadth and depth of his achievements. Dr Laing is a senior lecturer in mathematics in the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences at the University's Auckland campus.

In addition to teaching at all levels, he is recognised as a researcher with an extensive record of publications to his credit – some with leading international researchers in his area of dynamical systems.

These world leading researchers supported his nomination for the medal. They credit him with developing many of the tools in the area of neuronal modelling and described his work as “deep, beautiful and original”.

“Dr Laing has proved himself to be a leader in research as well as a capable and enthusiastic expositor of applied mathematics on a wide variety of levels, and will doubtless continue to make strong contributions to our subject well into the future,” the citation says.

Acting DVC during transition



Dr Sandi Shillington will take up the role of Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) while Professor Ian Warrington is Acting Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Shillington will continue her existing responsibilities as Palmerston North Regional Registrar (Student Life) during the transition period to the arrival of Vice-Chancellor Designate Steve Maharey later this year.

Professor Warrington says Dr Shillington has provided leadership to the Student Services management group since 2002 and has also been a member of the Regional Executive Group since that time.

“Her responsibilities include the welfare of all students on campus and in this regard she is a New Zealand Vice-Chancellor's Committee representative on the cross agency General Student Support National Sector Group, involving the ministries of Education and Social Development, and the Inland Revenue Department.

“I am confident that Dr Shillington will be an able steward as Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) during the interim period.”

Making the case for integrated coastal management

Learning how to better manage the world's coasts is the focus of a new book co-edited by Associate Professor Bruce Glavovic from the Resource and Environmental Planning Programme.

He is one of eight editors, from India, Germany, Britain, China, the United States and Italy, who contributed to the just-published *Integrated Coastal Zone Management*.

The book presents case studies from around the world, including many Asian countries, Africa, North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Island nations, and elsewhere.

Its 39 chapters are organised according to seven themes related to integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).

ICZM is defined as a governance process that involves all interests and disciplines in promoting the sustainable coastal development, including the integration of social, cultural, economic and environmental interests.

The book's themes include global to local scales of ICZM, human dimensions and social, physical and biological aspects, and closely linked topics ranging from biodiversity conservation to hazards and risk management, the impact of climate change, and the application of remote sensing and geospatial technologies.

Dr Glavovic says the case studies in the book demonstrate the incredible importance and value of the world's coasts. “Coastal communities face many challenges – especially given rapid population growth,

development intensification, destruction of coastal ecosystems and exposure to coastal hazards in the age of climate change,” he says. “The coastal zone is an interconnected socio-ecological system that needs to be managed in an integrated manner.

“Current management efforts are, however, ad hoc and compartmentalised. They fail to promote sustainability and expose communities to extreme hazards – as tragically demonstrated by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.”

Dr Glavovic says ICZM offers distinct advantages over prevailing management efforts.

“It offers an integrated and collaborative approach to people-centred development while maintaining diverse, healthy and productive coastal ecosystems.

But putting ICZM into practice is neither simple nor easy.

Our case studies highlight opportunities and challenges for developing a new philosophy and practice of collaborative and integrated coastal governance that can lead to more sustainable and resilient coastal communities.”

Dr Glavovic is the first Earthquake Commission Fellow in Natural Hazards Planning.

His work focuses on building sustainable, hazard-resilient communities, drawing on current and previous research in southern Africa, Brazil, the United States, Mexico, Indonesia, the Maldives and New Zealand.

New Business Advisory Board member

The latest member of the College of Business Advisory Board, Peter Douglas, brings with him an extensive network of Māori affiliations. Currently chief executive of Te Ohu Kaimoana, he also has considerable senior management experience in both the public and private sectors.

Mr Douglas is based in Wellington and was the principal Māori adviser at the Ministry of Social Development, a senior manager in business banking at Westpac and an adviser in the Prime Minister's Department and Cabinet during the period of the 1992 Māori fisheries settlement.

He has led a number of hapu and Māori

organisations. He has been a chairman of Ruapuha Uekaha Hapu Trust since 1997 and lectured in business studies at Te Wānanga ō Raukawa from 1996 to 2000.

He holds a Bachelors degree in social science from Waikato University and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard.

The advisory board was established in 2006 by the College of Business to ensure strong links with the commercial world.

It is headed by Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O'Reilly and has representatives from across the country who are aligned to programmes offered by the college.

College of Education appointments

Dr Ben Kahrwald has been appointed to the position of Senior Lecturer in Distance and On-line Learning, in the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy.

“Ben is very suited for this position,” Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says.

“I am confident that he will serve students and colleagues very well in this new role, and

he will add strength to the College's research in this area.”

Dr Sally Hansen has been appointed acting Director of Teacher Education.

Dr Hansen's is involved in ongoing research and publications in the area of gender and literacy, particularly with reference to the achievement of boys in writing at the secondary level.