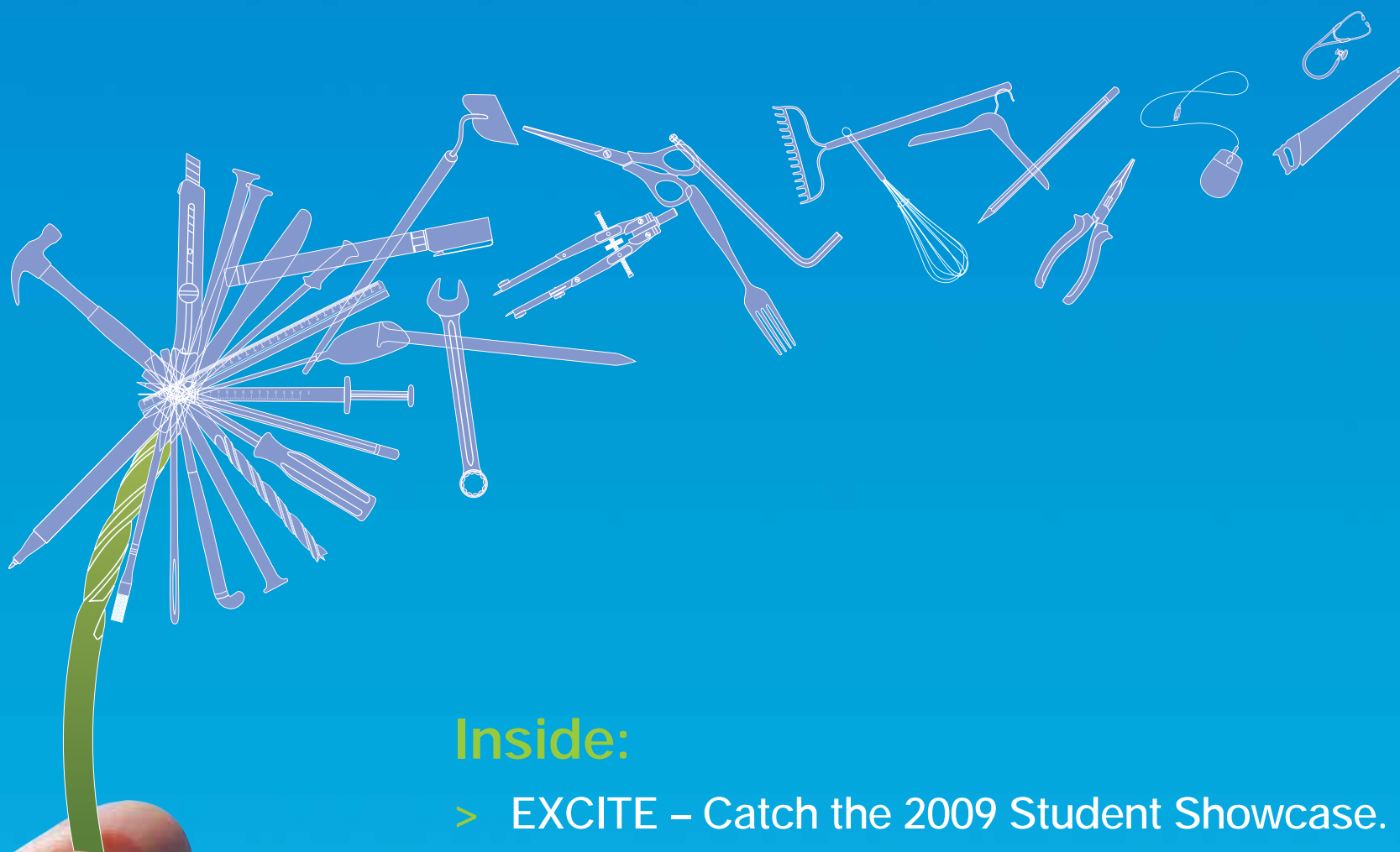




OTAGO
POLYTECHNIC
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago

Update.

What's happening at your Polytechnic.



Inside:

- > EXCITE – Catch the 2009 Student Showcase.
- > Sustainable Housing – SHaC09 heats up!
- > Your career options for 2010 and more!

www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz



I am pleased to introduce the 2009 showcase of Otago Polytechnic student talent and accomplishment – EXCITE, and to celebrate all of the achievements of our students and graduates in 2009.

Students across all career pathways can expect a unique educational experience at Otago Polytechnic. We call it applied learning, but it really means taking theoretical knowledge and testing it out in a practical, hands-on way. This is how we ensure that our graduates are confident, capable and open to new ideas when they enter the workplace.

EXCITE is an opportunity for members of our staff, students (past, present and future) and our wider community to see the outcomes of, and possibilities for, our student projects. Each year I am amazed and impressed by the creativity and innovation of our students as they display the results of their design, research and making. This year, students from Design, Information Technology, Art, Architecture, Health, Sport and Adventure, Engineering, Creative Studies and Hospitality will present their work. In addition, we will be auctioning off this year's charity house – a three-bedroom home built by carpentry students and entered into the Sustainable Habitat Challenge (SHaC09). This house not only showcases the best work of our students and staff, but the generosity of our local community and the possibilities for building sustainable, affordable homes.

This year, it's fair to say Otago Polytechnic has had its challenges and its celebrations. In the face of government funding cut-backs we have proven we can remain strong and committed to our educational values and this remains our key purpose going into the next few years. I am proud of the quality of training and education we provide here at Otago Polytechnic. Events such as EXCITE are clear evidence that our students are among the best in New Zealand, and the performance of our graduates speaks volumes.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of 2009, and a happy new year.

Phil Ker
Chief Executive
Otago Polytechnic

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SHaC09: Team Dunedin Ready for Auction.



Visitors to Otago Polytechnic who are familiar with the student-built houses auctioned for charity in the previous two years could be forgiven for being slightly surprised by the home that has been taking shape on campus over the last few months.

This year's house appears higher, slightly larger and the rooms are oriented differently. And that's only from the outside. Behind the scenes, a huge amount of work has gone into making the house into an 'ideal' family home for Otago residents.

Early in 2008, Otago Polytechnic made a decision to enter a Dunedin Team in the Sustainable Habitat Challenge (SHaC09), a competition that challenges tertiary teams to design and build sustainable homes for their own community. Its aim is to make ideas and methods for low-energy, low-resource housing a reality for New Zealand and demonstrate that a more sustainable life is practical, achievable and desirable.

It was decided that a team of designers, builders, quantity surveyors and architects would design and draft a house, with the assistance of students, and the finished plans would be executed by a team of carpentry students instead of their usual charity house project. The plan made sense – after all, the \$200,000 proceeds from the last two charity auctions have been redirected straight back into Otago-based charities. In terms of social sustainability at least, the project was already on the right track.

The team started from the position of wanting to build a house suitable for an average Otago family, particularly in terms of heating and energy efficiency.

"At its centre is the aim to design and build a home which will appeal to a common denominator, and while appearing 'normal', in fact encompasses a variety of accessible and sustainable materials and services" says Team Dunedin spokesperson D'Arcy Dalzell. "If we achieve our goals, good use of conventional building techniques means the house will



be affordable to buy. It will cost less to run because of its efficient use of energy, good use of the sun, and good insulation. It will be a pleasure to live in because of good design, including efficient use of space."

To view the end result, contact Metro Realty for scheduled open homes and attend the charity auction, on-site at the back of Otago Polytechnic's L Block, Anzac Ave Dunedin on November 28 at 2pm.

SHaC09: Education Key for Team Central.



Team Central Otago has entered the SHaC09 with a regional team from the communities of Alexandra, Clyde, Cromwell, Queenstown and Wanaka. They are producing a straw bale house for the arid, treeless Central Otago environment.

Their vision for more sustainable housing is combined with the requirements of their client who has commissioned and financed the design and build. A sauna and a loft are in keeping with the client's Finnish roots. Earthen floors, a five tonne masonry stove, thick earthen plasters and a large central earthen 'mass' wall will all act as passive solar collectors absorbing the warmth of the direct solar radiation during the day and warming the home during the cold Central Otago winter nights.



Utilising straw bales as high R6 wall insulation will take a non-toxic, natural, renewable and potentially polluting waste product (as

straw is often burned) to create a wonderfully insulated sanctuary from exterior noise and temperatures. This is a perfect material for the dry Central Otago climate which has few local sources of timber.

There will be no fossil fuels used to meet the space or water heating needs for this home. Passive solar, active solar thermal and a super-efficient masonry stove will keep the interior space and domestic hot water needs just the right temperatures while keeping environmental emissions to a rock bottom minimum.

The team has also been running a series of seminars and workshops designed to help educate the community about the opportunities for more sustainable housing and lifestyle choices in Central Otago. Seminars still to come: Natural Plastering and Introduction to Natural Building. For more information visit: <http://www.shac.org.nz/group/CentralOtagoteam>

'Unpacking' Experiences Enables Success.



Whakamoemiti kia Ihoā o nga Mano. Matua, Tama Wairua Tapu me nga Anahera Pono, Ko te Mangai hei tautoko mai aiane akenei, Ae.

Centre for the Assessment of Prior Learning (CAPL) graduate Piriwiritua (Piri) Rurawhe grew up on the Ratana Marae, and from birth was singled out by his grandparents to become a leader in his people's struggle to improve their lives. By high school he was leading the national youth body for the Ratana Movement (and challenging a few adults' ways of thinking).

Piri's first career was in hospitality, but the money could not compensate for time away from his family and marae. He now works with his community in a number of roles, including the Kaitakawaenga/Cultural Advisor for the Whanganui Regional Primary Health Organisation.

The Bachelor of Applied Management via Assessment of Prior Learning (APL) requires candidates to give a presentation to an expert panel. Piri compares developing his presentation to unpacking a suitcase, and says it gave him an opportunity to reflect upon the value of all his learning experiences, professional and personal.

"Because I was brought up in a Māori community, you saw deprivation, you saw poverty, you saw all the inequalities in health; you saw all the barriers that confronted our people, and all we have to do as a community to try to pull together to get rid of the inequality and the barriers. So that prepared me for later in life."

Importantly, Piri also found that the APL process "opened new opportunities." He was developing his presentation while working on two major health projects, both of which required him to work collaboratively with many different interest groups.

"I think if I hadn't have been doing CAPL [Centre for Assessment of Prior Learning], things might have turned out a little differently. We would have still got there; all of the outcomes would have been met, but I think some of the decisions and the strategies that I put in place with the CAPL process had influenced a lot of that, particularly risk analysis and mitigation. That was huge.

"The major conclusion from my presentation is that Maori have potential. More than at any time in the history of my people, we now have the potential to succeed. Drawing on your past, reflecting on what you did and aligning it to the fundamentals of everyday life is a skill that comes naturally to Māori. The ability to think strategically and to be inclusive of all people regardless of race colour or creed is the foundation of my model."

Relationships Key for Hospitality Lecturer.

>

Daniel Pfyl calls himself a 'Swiss-born Kiwi' but in hospitality terms, he could easily be described as a citizen of world-class cuisine.

Formerly Executive Chef to the Sultan of Brunei, Executive Chef at Hyatt Regency New Delhi, Corporal/Head Chef in the Swiss Army and more, Daniel has now been settled in Dunedin for about ten years. A lecturer in hospitality and business at Otago Polytechnic, he has recently completed his Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Learning and Teaching (Level 7) and is settling comfortably into the School of Hospitality's new premises on Harbour Terrace.

"My career began with a three-year cookery apprenticeship in Pontresina (near St Moritz, Switzerland)" Daniel explains. Each year I did an eight-week block course in a Polytechnic-like environment. When that was over I worked in some of the top hotels in Switzerland. There was very little money, but I did it for the experience, references and learning."

At Otago Polytechnic however, both cookery and hospitality students get their first taste of hands-on experience in their new training restaurant 'TECHnique'. In Daniel's opinion, it provides a realistic blend of text-book learning and on-the-job training.

"At the new location you can really get that on-the-job training. It's not structured like in industry but you do learn excellent skills. Today in TECHnique for example, 36 customers arrived at once. You can't protect students too much from that, but you can offer them support."



In his spare time, Daniel is a keen mountain biker competing in several amateur events each year 'just for motivation'. He also contributes his time to the preparation of a weekly column in the Otago Daily Times 'Tricks of the Trade' where he shares the simple secrets of the hospitality industry with the general public. His secrets for remaining a great lecturer are just as straightforward.

"The most important thing about teaching is maintaining a good relationship with the students. Without that you have nothing. They're customers and you must have good customer relationships."

A Career to Beat the Recession.

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As a part-time student of the New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Civil) (Level 6), it's been a balancing act for Helen Wightman to meet the demands of her job, the requirements of the programme and hold down her position as student representative in the Otago branch of IPENZ (Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand). She has also found time to play the tuba in the Kaikorai Brass Band, an activity that she jokes 'keeps her sane', but that's another story.

Helen began her career in draughting, an area she chose because of her enjoyment of mathematics, physics and technical drawing at school. She studied for the Diploma in Architectural Draughting (Level 6) at Otago Polytechnic before joining CPG NZ Ltd Consultants (formerly Duffill Watts).

"I started as a CAD technician at CPG, working on American sub-divisions, but the work dried up because of the recession. I was already doing some design and thought I'd follow up by getting a qualification. There is definitely a need for Civil Engineering technicians in the industry."

CPG have sponsored Helen through the programme, and allowed her two days a week for study during term time. Since beginning the Diploma she has noticed her job evolving alongside her new skills.

"The programme has been great fun and a lot of what you learn is super-practical. During the last holidays, I was doing things at work I had learned the previous semester at the Polytechnic. Juggling part-time study with work also gives you great time-management skills, which are essential in this job. I had the benefit of knowing what I wanted from the programme, and therefore the content made sense – I wasn't just learning it for an exam."

Helen's position as student representative for the IPENZ Otago branch, a role she was encouraged into by a former colleague and chairman of IPENZ Otago, has allowed her to network with other young technicians, and facilitate the growth of networks in the area through quiz nights and other activities. She believes the free student membership is worthwhile for trainees as they can access remuneration surveys, employment information and career development advice through their website.

Now approaching the end of her Diploma, Helen shows no signs of slowing down. "I'm going to finish an applied civil engineering diploma I've begun (through Infratrain) which will involve completing tasks such as managing a small project, and then getting peer-assessed. There are always ongoing training opportunities available within my work, so I will continue to gain more experience and further develop my career."

An Opportunity for Growth.

>

Five years ago, Lynley Maxwell was contemplating what to do with the rest of her life.

She was not expecting to live long, as a malignant melanoma found in a mole a couple of years earlier had spread to lymph nodes in her groin. "I bought myself a little house at Moeraki by the sea and spent a couple of years here just walking the beaches and doing my veggie garden and thinking about what I wanted to do."

During this time of contemplation (and healing) Lynley decided to spend the rest of her life doing what gave her the most pleasure. "I have always loved gardening and horticulture so I decided I was going to learn all about plants through Otago Polytechnic – I was going to soak it all up like a sponge, and sit in the front of the class."

Lynley did the National Certificate in Horticulture last year, is doing an advanced certificate this year, and she loves her study so much she's going to do the level 5 diploma next year. She has particularly enjoyed the revegetation work for the Orokonui Ecosanctuary and the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust.

Although she left school at 15 without a qualification, and at 53 is the oldest in her



classes, Lynley has found huge support for adult learners at the Polytechnic. "The tutors are just so marvellous I can't fault them at all. They give you so much encouragement. It was my own determination that got me there, but you only have to ask for the help. And The Learning Centre gives you every opportunity so I can't see how anybody can't learn."

"It's been absolutely perfect and before that I never would have thought of going back to school at all. I think sometimes if you have a bit of a scare you get a new lease on life, and I just love my life. Going to the Poly has been absolutely fabulous for me."

Training to Serve a Rural Community.

>

For Sarah Pezaro, the three years she has spent studying for her Bachelor of Midwifery at Otago Polytechnic has had great rewards, but has also demanded organisation, commitment and sacrifice.

Having been talked into becoming a midwife in 'ten minutes flat', she was perhaps a little under-prepared for the demands of the training, however with so much personally invested in her studies, each and every achievement has felt significant and Sarah now looks forward to the huge value her new skills and abilities will bring to her home-town, Wanaka.

"[Three years ago] I was in a personal space where I was motivated to make a change" Sarah explains. "I realised that I could contribute more to the community than I was doing. My family has always prioritised community service, and in this small community I knew I had to create a position for myself, which would require training of some kind. Because I had experience in this field and knew that I really enjoyed the relationships forged during maternity care, midwifery seemed a logical choice."

"Before I started the training, I approached the local midwives to ask for their support for my training requirements. We live in a small community and I understood that my training

would be taxing on them. One of the benefits of learning around these midwives is that they are aware of my practice style, my strengths and priorities. I am confident that the care I offer is similar to theirs, based on current theory and evidence, and relevant to the population and location.

"The programme is appropriately academic, evidence-based and thorough – let's face it, no-one wants a midwife who is in any way lacking in education. The profession is affected by changing political context, but with maturity of perspective, I can appreciate the subtleties of the grey areas in-between, and the value of 'robust' discussions from different perspectives. We are all here for the advancement of the wellbeing of mothers, babies and families."

Now approaching the end of her studies, Sarah is realistic about the ongoing work that will be required but looks forward to having a bit more time for herself and her family.

"As a new graduate rural midwife, I recognise the need to keep myself connected to both current information and guidelines, but also to other practitioners, to maintain my sense of purpose and achievement. I will still prioritise my community roles, and of course, I am still a mother. My aim for next year is to be a working mother who my family can be proud of."



EXCITE 09

Otago Polytechnic Student Showcase.

Ants and Ducks all Part of IT.

Senior students of Otago Polytechnic's Bachelor of Information Technology regularly work with museums in Otago and have completed a number of collaborative endeavours since industry-based projects became a key element of the programme.

This year, three students, group name AntWall, have not only completed a project entitled 'Virtual Ants' now installed in the Otago Museum, but have also turned their hand to a new vision of Dunedin in the Otago Settlers Museum.

Virtual Ants is an interactive virtual ant farm, designed to attract more visitors to the Nature Gallery. Motion detection allows visitors to 'interact' with the ants – when they stand on the ant farm surface or put their hands out, nearby ants will come and investigate. If the visitor remains still, the ants will lose interest and disperse.

"This first project was a challenge and we did have some technical issues" explains Trevor Farquharson, who along with fellow

students Jun Cui and Gareth Dorset designed, developed and installed the virtual ant farm. "A big issue was learning how to use motion detection in a low light situation, and the problems Infra Red light can cause when trying to create more light, like casting shadows that are invisible to the human eye, but are picked up by the motion detection program. This first project was good practice for the second."

The innovative second team project, 'Cityscape', was installed in the Otago Settlers Museum at the beginning of November. It features an almost 360-degree panorama of Dunedin, captured by a camera on a 'Gigapan Robot' projected onto a flat wall. One person at a time can zoom in on an area of the photograph, select an object within the image and then frame it. The collected images form a gallery on another adjacent wall, presenting a narrative of visitors' experiences of Dunedin in one day.

Cityscape is installed in the Otago Settlers Museum, Queens Gardens, and is available to use from 10am to 5pm daily.

Award-Winning Design.



Otago Polytechnic student Juliet Symes has already found fledgling success in her chosen field of product design.

Her 'Dusi' Tea Kettle was awarded silver in the Designers Institute of New Zealand (DINZ) Best Design Awards (Student Product Category) and was also recognised in the James Dyson Design Awards earlier in the year.

It is a great achievement for third-year student Juliet, whose previous work includes a flat-sheet poly-propylene lamp now stocked and distributed nationwide by the Port Chalmers Design Store.

"The brief I set was to enter an international design competition called 'Tea-Off' to design

a tea kettle," Juliet explains. "I followed those guidelines but narrowed it down to designing an appliance that functioned as both a teapot and kettle in one.

"I started by researching past and current models and tea rituals. My main inspiration for the form was a Bauhaus teapot I came across in that research. I figure though, a kettle is a kettle, so I really wanted to just focus on getting an emotive, beautiful form."

The kettle is designed to boil on the stove. Tea leaves go in the spout, which also functions as a scoop.

Juliet studied a Certificate in Interior Design in Auckland before moving to Dunedin three years ago and originally began the Bachelor of Design (Interiors) before her love of furniture design drew her to study product design.

Now approaching the end of her qualification, Juliet is hard at work on a major project designed to keep hospital-bound children connected with their parents, without cellphones. Although the work is commercially sensitive, there may be an opportunity for her to showcase elements of the project alongside the lamp and kettle in the end of year product design exhibition Ideate opening November 17 in the Wickliffe Press Building.

OT the Right Choice.

Having travelled extensively, including a lengthy unsupported trek to Base Camp in Nepal, it seems surprising that Hamish Wohlers had a bit of an epiphany simply sitting in a Dunedin classroom. But having deliberated for a while over the right tertiary organisation and indeed the right career path, it was enlightening to arrive at Otago Polytechnic's School of Occupational Therapy and discover he was in exactly the right place.

"After I did a commerce degree, I knew I really wanted to teach so I spent about 18 months in Korea teaching English. I loved teaching; found it to be something creative that involved working with people and I could really see myself making a difference in people's lives every day. Teaching inspired me to look at occupational therapy, and beginning this programme was actually the best thing I've done. Why? Because it's amazing to be able to sit in class and feel that this is exactly what I want to do."

Hamish has had a couple of placements in neuro-rehabilitation including one at Middlemore Hospital, and sees a career in this area as one he would like to pursue. However he's certainly not limiting himself to one possibility. And as the only male graduate in 2009, he sees a raft of possibilities for both himself and other men to enter the industry.

"The sheer scope of OT is amazing – it's not just restricted to one area, and there are so



many generic skills you learn in training and so many pathways to take. There's definitely a need for male therapists though – after all, half of all clients are male!

"I really can't fault the OT staff at Otago Polytechnic, in fact I would commend them. The programme is well-organised and if you are concerned you can go to a member of staff and never feel like you're wasting their time. This third-year especially has been inspiring."

Settling into study has not dulled Hamish's desire for travel and the outdoors however, and he counts trekking, tramping, surfing and open-water diving among his interests.

"In between my first and second year I went back-packing through India. At \$10 a day it was probably cheaper than flatting! I still like the backpacking element of travelling – you always face situations you never thought you'd be in and it's surprising how you react. There's a real personal growth that comes with that."

Creative Communication.

If she had not been told by a high-school teacher that she had no future in the creative arts, then Charli Donaldson may have arrived at Otago Polytechnic a few years sooner. Instead she spent several years as a student of contemporary music before enrolling in the Certificate of Creative Studies.

Now she is embracing the diversity that her programme offers, and exploring ways to translate her passions (both long-held and newly discovered) into a fulfilling career.

"I found out about the Certificate through a friend of mine and I liked the spectrum of what you could try. I really hadn't thought of studying anything creative before, even though I'm a creative person."



In addition to the core courses of drawing and creative processes, Charli elected to study jewellery, photography, animation and print-making with what she considers to be mixed results.

"Well, I discovered that I am not a 'natural' animator despite it being one of my favourite electives! I did enjoy photography, and became fascinated with Polaroid cameras. I loved darkroom photographs and being in control of the entire process from concept, to shooting, to development/darkroom printing.

"I'm a very visual person and I think lyrically and musically. Being a musician and being visual worked quite well with photography."

Now weighing up her options for 2010 and putting together a portfolio, Charli is considering a Bachelor of Design specialising in Communication, or a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the School of Art.

"In the future I would love to look at blending music, film, and animation to create music videos and also using photography, drawing and illustration to design music related merchandise. Therefore, long term, I need to look for a qualification that's going to fit best with my goals.

"I'm learning to live and work in an inspired creative way – to keep seeing, to keep doing and to push far beyond what I think I know!"



SITE
School of Art

COLLECTIONS '09
School of Fashion

CHARITY HOUSE AUCTION (SHAC 09)
Carpentry

LAST WORD
Communication Design

IDEATE
Product Design

INFUSE
Interior Design

INDUSTRY SHOWCASE
Information Technology

DESIGN SHOWCASE
Year 1 and 2 Design

OTHER SHOWCASES

Creative Studies
Design
Health and Wellbeing
Architectural Draughting
Quantity Surveying
Construction Management
Mechanical Engineering

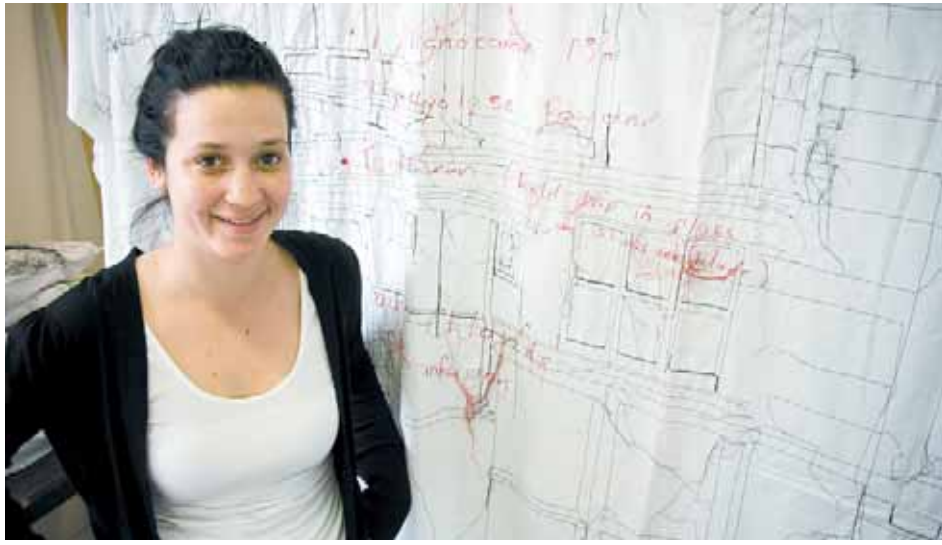
Civil Engineering
Trades (Automotive, Carpentry, Electrical, Mechanical)
Product Development Centre
Natural Resources – Plant Sale

FOR MORE INFO:

EXCITE will be held at various locations around the Otago Polytechnic Campus and the Wickliffe Press Building, Corner Albany and Forth Sts.

www.op.ac.nz/excite
0800 762 786





Artist Highlights Mental Illness.

Tenille Lategan's latest artwork invites viewers to vicariously experience something many would probably rather not imagine at all – being locked in a padded cell.

Tenille, who is studying textiles at Otago Polytechnic School of Art, has constructed a life-sized cell using materials such as hospital sheets and pillows. It promises to be a highlight of the SITE exhibition, the School of Art's annual showcase of student work and a major event on Dunedin's cultural calendar.

The finished product will have a pleasant, innocuous exterior, possibly embroidered, she says, which will stand in contrast with the claustrophobic intensity of the interior. Part of her aim is to highlight what she says is the gap between "the face that people with mental illness often present to the world and the suffering they actually experience."

Like many New Zealanders, Tenille has suffered from depression in the past, and she says that fostering an open, honest dialogue about mental

illness is a major aim of her work as an artist. "It still seems to be a really closed topic here in New Zealand," she says. "I'm trying to generate an awareness about mental illness, what it must be like to suffer from it, and in particular, what it must be like for people who come out of an institutional setting and have to re-enter society."

Her own awareness has grown greatly in the past year, she says, as she has delved into the long and complex history of mental health care and institutions in Otago. She is particularly interested in the recent transition from institutionalisation to community-based care, and hopes to make this the focus of a Master's project, beginning next year.

"I definitely don't feel that I'm done yet, so I'd really love to have the opportunity to carry on with these ideas and take them further," she comments. At the same time, she describes her explorations of mental health issues as "a therapeutic process for me."

"It has actually given me a lot of closure."

Futurist Fashion.

Diane Rohmetts is completing her final year of the Bachelor of Design (Fashion), a programme she took up part-way into a degree in Art History and Theatre Studies at university. Her studies reflect a combination of interests that are likely to shine through at this year's Collections runway show, for which she has explored concepts of 'futurism' in her garments.

"I think I have always been interested in fashion – not so much the trend-side, but having my own style. I couldn't find it in the stores, so I make my own" explains Diane. "There's a correlation between art history and fashion and I like to put that into my garments. Art is meant to be everlasting – I like the thought that my work is not just a throw-away thing, but something to be kept."

"I'm currently inspired by the futurist movement at the moment; the speed, the violence. There's this idea of an angle that passes through all five of my garments. It's a structural shape speeding through the garments leaving trace."

Diane will present a final collection in a monochromatic palette of black, white and grey using industrial finishes such as latex coatings.

"My collection plays on the idea of perception and awareness and its dimensional changes through movement. It features manipulation of traditional shapes and tailored garments as they communicate a sense of structure that reflects my concept."



"My ethos is about the style, not the fashion. I want to make something of quality that's going to last, rather than something that's seasonal. I see myself as a designer, not just a fashion designer. When you buy a chair it's because it's going to last, you don't buy it thinking I'll buy another chair in six months."

"I've really enjoyed the degree. I've learned a lot about how I design, and the way I have learned to approach designing has changed dramatically. After graduation I think the smartest move is to work in the industry. It will be good to get experience and see how it really works. Then, maybe, my own label."

Communication Students Have the Last Word.



Amanda Keen

"My client projects in my final semester have been focused on designing wine labels for various clients around the country. I really enjoy being able to translate the clients' visions, wine/vineyard background/origin and market trends into a compelling design solution. My advice for future students? Take in and experience everything, never turn down an opportunity."



Joe Gallagher

"I am currently producing a Freeskiing Training Series in the form of a TV pilot episode. This blends my two strongest passions together: film making and freeskiing. I love working in the mountain environment with highly skilled people pushing the limits of their sport. In the not too distant future I would like to set up as a freelance camera operator specialising in outdoor documentaries and extreme sports footage."



Simon Daley

"My most enjoyable project to date was the promotional material I designed last year: a simple graphic concept based on the sound of a hand clap. At the moment, the majority of my energy is going into a final project, a ten minute retro sci-fi flick. I really like the mix of graphic and moving images. Best advice – don't let your quirkiness become the cake, it works better as a sprinkle."

Aiming for the Film Industry.



Fine Arts student Rohana Weaver juggles a life of extremely varied interests. Making fibreglass animal heads is one. Fire-eating, and vegan baking are others. Now about to graduate with a specialty in sculpture, Rohana is in the midst of figuring out how to translate her love of performance art, musical performance and the physical art-making process into a full-time career.

"I've always made art, and the choice of whether or not to do this degree really came down to the fact that I didn't want to work in hotels or as a waitress for the rest of my life. With this qualification I can always teach, but what I really want to do is work in the film industry making props and costumes. It's something I've already done a bit of for my performance troupe."

Rohana joined a circus-performance group through Clubs and Societies when she arrived in Dunedin. Stilt-walking is definitely part of her repertoire, however she describes herself as 'more of a fire-performer' and regularly performs with local troupe 'Highly Flammable'. It's a sideline that appears to fit reasonably well with the drama and flair of her latest artistic works which have circus-carnival themes and a touch of glam.

"For my final exhibition (SITE 2010), I'm putting together a series of three animal heads in fibreglass covered in glitter. I began looking at the carnival-esque and the representation of animals from an animal rights (but not necessarily animal activist) perspective. I've also explored models of oppression for both animals and women."

Rohana's animal heads are modelled in clay and then a plaster-cast (waste-mould) is taken. The fibreglass is laid into the waste-mould so that it becomes a strong, hard, light hollow shell.

"When it comes out the fibreglass is white-ish, then I bog, sand, bog, sand and prime and paint" explains Rohana. "The colours are painted on individually then I lay the glitter."

"Originally I thought I might be a painter but I have always been interested in sculpture. I felt this Department challenged me artistically and the skill-base is wider. It's only now, after four years, that I've begun to realise how much I've learned."

Rohana currently has pieces on exhibition at COCA – Centre of Contemporary Art in Christchurch (part of an exhibition that will also travel to Auckland and Dunedin) and in Melbourne's Place Gallery.



Golf Presents International Opportunities.



Regan Johnston began playing golf at age 14 and was 'hooked straight away'. Now he just plays for fun when he can, but spends the majority of his time as a caddy on the Nationwide Golf Tour in the United States.

A graduate of the Diploma in Sporting Performance (Level 5) and the Diploma in Sport Management and Coaching (Level 5) at Otago Polytechnic's Institute of Sport and Adventure, Regan believes his qualification set him on a career path that he hopes eventually will lead to a win in a major PGA Tournament.

"I chose sporting performance at Otago Polytechnic because I wanted to take part in training to improve my own performance in my sport of golf, but also to learn about what it takes to be a professional or high-level athlete. Before I took part in the sporting performance programme I completed my Diploma in Sports Management and Coaching at Otago Polytechnic gaining my Diploma with excellence and also the Coach/Manager of the Year award.

"After completing my programme I gained a job with New Zealand Golf as a Junior Golf Development Coach. I met some high profile people in the golfing industry including Tiger Wood's caddy Steve Williams who told me to head to the United States and give caddying a go while I am young.

"Caddying is an unusual job in that I don't have a set day, but more a set week. On Monday I usually either fly to another city and tournament and then head out to the course for three or four hours and walk it to get correct yardages and information for my player. Tuesday is a full day where my player and I practice and play a full round and Wednesday we play in a Pro-AM with some celebrities or sponsors of the tournament, or practice for around three hours. Thursday and Friday are official tournament days. Usually the days are around eight hours long. After Friday "the cut" is made and the top 60 professionals play on the weekend for the money. Saturday and Sunday are the final two rounds of the tournament.

"The best thing about this is it combines my love of golf, travel, and the outdoors all in one.

"The sporting performance programme really does prepare you for the world of top level sport as you come out with a great knowledge of the proper ways to train and prepare for an event or tournament. It gives you an advantage over your sporting peers having this knowledge and training. Without my Sports Management and Coaching Diploma I wouldn't have got a job with a national sporting association as a coach. And without that I wouldn't be where I am right now!"

As a student at Otago Polytechnic's Cromwell Campus, Mark Brooks was the recipient of the first scholarship offered by New Zealand Golf to sports turf management trainees. The award allowed Mark to line up with the green staff at the NZ Golf Open – his first major tournament.

Now a student at Ohio State University undertaking an internship at the prestigious Quail Hollow club in Charlotte, USA, Mark has taken a big step up, and is working full-time in a job he describes as 'unreal'.

"Quail Hollow is the club to belong to in Charlotte. There are 365 members and membership costs are huge, but not just anyone can join – you have to be nominated by ten members. You can be a billionaire and still not be a member.

"I got here two weeks before the Thursday of the tournament so I was thrown in the deep end. In my first two weeks I did 192 hours. We had to be at work at 3am to set up everything and we usually wouldn't finish until 10 or 11pm. It was a hard week!

"After the tournament was over we scalped the course without even getting a day off. Any areas that didn't come back have to be 'sodded'. In total we laid 12 acres of sod on the whole golf course and let me tell you that's a lot of turf!

"On average we do about a 60 hour week, with two days off. Since we have bent-grass greens and it gets so hot here we have to 'syrringe' all

the time to keep them cool. It takes just one day of hot weather and we have wilt on the greens. The amount of machinery we have over here is unreal – you name it, we have it, and it's so good working somewhere that has everything possible. We just renovated all of the bunkers – 74 of them at a cost of \$8,000 a bunker. They were all done in less than a month.

"The superintendent here has organised for me to go up and work the Barclays Golf Tournament in New Jersey, at Liberty National.

"The programme that I'm doing this internship through is Ohio State University. It's a pretty cool campus that has 65,000 students – it's the second biggest college in the USA. Ohio brings in hundreds of international students every year, so it runs smoothly. Once I applied, it took two weeks from when I received a call from the college, to the time I arrived in the States. Quail Hollow's a pretty unreal place to work. I would recommend the internship to anyone who's thinking of doing the programme."



Super-Yachts a Draw-Card.



Amanda Linklater began her hospitality career working in a Four Square in the small town of Palmerston, East Otago, where she grew up, and then progressed into cafeteria work. It was a job a lot of young kiwis undertake while studying at high school, but for Amanda the experience triggered something more.

Now a student of hospitality management at Otago Polytechnic, Amanda is turning the art of table-setting, cocktail-making and food and beverage service into a career pathway that is already taking her places.

"I've worked in hospitality since I was young and I just love it. It's always changing and is a fun job. Sure, it's hard work, but it's also rewarding. I love the programme at the Polytechnic, because I've never really been a book person; I learn from doing. Here you do a lot more hands-on learning – coffee-making, silver service etc.

"I originally applied to join the navy, but wasn't accepted for the position. I had thought I might try again, but now I've started entering hospitality competitions and am doing really well. I won the regional competition for food and beverage service in Invercargill earlier in the year, and was asked if I'd go to the nationals in Auckland to compete. I won two golds, one silver and one bronze medal and was placed second overall."

In the national competitions, Amanda was required to compete in four classes – table-setting, beverage and wine service, cocktails and barista. Each required strong background knowledge, a touch of invention and an absolute dedication to perfection.

"In table-setting you're given a Table D'Hote menu to set. This means getting entrée, mains, soup and dessert cutlery set out perfectly. Then you need a water glass, red wine and white wine glasses, a bud vase with floral arrangement, cruets, a butter-dish, a side plate and knife. You're given 30 minutes to clean the chairs and table, sweep the floor, polish the glassware, make the floral arrangement, polish the cutlery, make sure the tablecloth is placed perfectly and make a napkin fold to finish off."

For the barista competitions, Amanda invented a tamarillo and white-chocolate smoothie which received high praise, and a tea called 'Otago Sunrise' which the judges named the best of the tea inventions on the day.

When Amanda completes her National Diploma in Hospitality (Management) (Level 5) in 2010 she is considering a move overseas.

"After graduation I'd like to go to France and work on super-yachts where you get paid for your work and earn great tips. One day though I want to own my own hospitality business – a chain would be great! Something like Lone-Star, that's well-known all over!"

Applied Learning 'Whole Different Ball Game'.



Adam Keen is aptly named – especially when it comes to sports.

"I've always really loved sport so I did a triple major in Phys Ed at Otago Uni. That's unusual, but I did extra theory papers. I then chose Otago Poly's Graduate Diploma in Physical Conditioning (Level 7) for the applied, practical learning. It's been really good. I've learned a lot. Although I had the theory behind me at uni, being able to apply it is a whole different ball game. You're not thrown in at the deep end, you're guided through it."

His time at Otago Polytechnic has given Adam confidence that he can have his dream career in sports conditioning. "Because it is a soft science I reckon that experience is everything. You can

know all the information in the world, but if you can't apply it, what's the use of having it?"

"The course offers an array of subjects that relate to the conditioning field. You not only learn how to programme and prescribe training for athletes, you also learn how to communicate, teach and interact with athletes successfully."

Students work hands-on with top regional athletes and their support teams. Adam has worked with the power lifter Zane Waapu-Wairama and saw him move from lifting 180kg to a 'pretty awesome' 210kg, and go onto the National Competitions in performance best form. He's also the shadow physical conditioner for the Otago Netball Academy, the physical conditioner for the Otago Netball Team, and has an internship with the Otago Highlanders, helping to implement their pre-season conditioning.

"To learn from these guys, you can't put a price on it. One of our lecturers is the All Black physio Pete Gallagher. Hearing his stories and advice shows you what is possible."

"Since I'm not going to be the athlete I dreamed of as a kid, now I can train professional athletes, and get paid for doing the thing I love. What's better than that?!"

Kiwi Accent Big Challenge.



Ahmed Sadik was halfway through a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Baghdad when he got the opportunity to leave his war-torn home country and immigrate to New Zealand.

After successfully studying Otago Polytechnic's Certificate in Foundation Studies in English for Speakers of Other Languages, he now has the skills he needs to resume his studies in Electronic Engineering, which he hopes to take to a Masters or PhD level.

"The programme was great", Ahmed says. "We were speaking, reading and writing in English of course, but we were also learning techniques for how to achieve academically, how to pass tests in English, and matters of speed – how to read 2000 words and answer 15 questions in an hour."

In fact, Ahmed says, it was the Kiwi accent, rather than the language, that he found

challenging when he first arrived. "All the movies I'd watched were American, and so were most of the soldiers in Iraq. But I'm used to it now. I communicate with many Kiwis."

"And I play indoor and outdoor soccer here," adds Ahmed, commenting that spending time socially with New Zealanders "is great for my English."

Making friends has been easy, he says, something he attributes to the easygoing culture of the country. "I love this place, the people, the weather, the environment. I told my mother when I left that I would never love any country as much as I loved Iraq, but now that I'm here I realise I was wrong!"

Ahmed's parents have since joined him in Dunedin, so it seems that he has won his mother over to his side. And with many years of university study on the horizon, he says he is more than ready to settle in for the long haul in his new home.

Cricket and Computing – A Career Combined.



As the capstone project of his Bachelor of Information Technology programme, Matthew Johnston and his team took up the challenge to markedly improve the split-second decision-making skills of rugby players through technology.

Successful completion of this project in 2005 marked not only the end of Matthew's programme of study, but was unexpectedly a catalyst for a career that combines his programming skills with one of his major passions, cricket.

"Our project was displayed at the BIT Industry Showcase at the end of the year, and Ian Taylor (of Taylormade Media) brought three guys down to have a look. A few weeks later I was asked if I was interested in a job."

Matthew joined the sports division of Animation Research, a leading computer graphics production facility based in Dunedin, where he was immediately put to work producing real-time sporting graphics for television broadcast.

"I started, and within two weeks I was on a plane to Auckland to work on rugby league, learning to operate equipment in a live TV studio. The next week I had to actually operate the equipment for half a match. The following week I had to set up and train another person! After two months Ian said 'do you have a passport?'"

Matthew was put on a plane to India where he spent several weeks operating cricket scoring software and producing live TV graphics in a studio that was receiving live feeds from around the world. The job was high-pressure; Indian viewers had the choice of watching live cricket coverage, replays, or a channel devoted just to

the graphics his team was producing. It was the first of many trips Matthew has taken to India, where cricket is indeed a national obsession.

It was fortunate that Matthew had a bit more up his sleeve than programming skills. A member of the Green Island Cricket Club and long-time fan of the game, a little understanding went a long way to coping with the pressure.

"They wanted a young person who could travel, and it was sink or swim. If you can't work under high-pressure then you would be no good for this job. My cricket experience definitely helped because I already knew how to score a game. And while I didn't have all the skills I needed when I entered the job, studying at the Polytechnic, especially the project work, gave me the tools so I could actually learn quickly."

"I had no idea this job would exist – the phone call came out of the blue. In the end I stumbled into possibly the best job of my life."



Finding Her Feet.



Karyn Hucklebridge has had more challenges thrown her way than the average adult, but right now, she's not about to let anything bring her down.

Currently completing a Foundation Studies programme, every achievement reinforces her decision to keep aiming for her goals and her recent acceptance into the National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing at Otago Polytechnic's School of Veterinary Nursing is the icing on the cake.

"I lasted until halfway through seventh form at high school – I wanted to stay, but was bullied and really didn't know how to study. I went to Salvation Army and did Lifeskills for Young People and the following year, started a National Certificate in Retail, but I really wasn't ready for it. Somebody referred me to Cargill Enterprises – something as minor as my epilepsy was enough for me to be classed as 'disabled' although in reality I might only miss half a sentence or take a bit longer to cross the street."

It wasn't until Karyn decided to try Approach Community Education, a adult learning service offered by the Methodist Mission that things really began to click.

"I decided to go to Approach and I was there for just over one year. There I had the most success I've had so far. I achieved four National Certificates in one year in

employment skills, computing in levels 1 and 2 and got halfway towards a business administration unit. Approach recommended Otago Polytechnic for me because I would get one-on-one support. Now I'm finishing level 3 foundation studies and doing animal care block courses."

Working with animals had always been a dream of Karyn's and her acceptance into the animal care programme was cause for celebration for her and all of her supporters. It came at the same time Karyn was awarded an Outstanding Adult Learner Award during the ACE awards evening at the Dunedin Town Hall.

"When I was 16, I boarded with a family where the mum was a veterinary nurse. She was in canine behaviour and I was part of the rotation along with her two kids to go along and help. I thought 'I can do this' and ever since then I knew what I was aiming for. I have no hesitation when people ask me what I want to do."

"Receiving the award was pretty good. In a way it was particularly good because of the medical stuff I went through growing up. It was great to show those who had underestimated me earlier in life. I had tried a few times at education, but at Approach and now, something in my brain kicked in - now I'm like a sponge, soaking up the knowledge!"



What direction is your career taking next year?

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