

Physics & Astronomy

FROM THE HOD (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROGER REEVES)

Welcome to the last week of term. Many thanks to all the staff, students and visitors who have contributed to the teaching programme this semester.

Good luck to the students sitting exams over the next couple of weeks.

Some significant news for the Department this week has been the announcement of the refunding of the MacDiarmid Institute as a Centre of Research Excellence. Investigators in the Department involved with the CoRE include myself, Simon Brown, Mike Reid and Richard Taylor. A disappointing note was that the Dodds-Walls centre of which the Ring Laser group was a part, fell out of the running after getting to the last hurdle of a site visit. This bid was hosted out of Otago and as many of you will have seen in the press Otago is a little upset as its approach of multiple bids (10 were submitted) doesn't seem to have worked.

Over the break it is likely that FM will be doing some construction in the 4th floor lab. We had earlier identified that the SW corner of the lab was not optimally used and thus have released it back to FM for allocation to other users. They will construct suitable walls and doors to keep the integrity of the lab.

As I said at Tuesday's Department meeting, I am away from next Wednesday until the first week of term. I will be travelling to Europe to attend a conference and taking some annual leave with Karen and Sarah to explore Malta. On the way home we are going to Malaysia to link up with a group of friends on a tour. The Department will be very capably led by Peter in my absence.

TODAY'S SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 08 JUNE

Fred Johnson MNZM, FIPENZ, C Eng., MIET

The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Inc (NZART)

The Electromagnetic Wave – Introductory Demonstrations for the Classroom

NEXT WEEKS SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 15 JUNE TO

Funded by the Australian High Commission and the Royal Astronomical Society of NZ

Munya Andrews

BE HELD IN CHEMISTRY ROOM 531 (LEVEL 5)

Author of “The seven sisters of the Pleiades”

What do Halloween, Atlantis, Subaru, the American Presidential elections, the Petticoat Lane market in London, the ship Titanic and atlases all have in common? Each can be traced to the legends of the Seven Sisters of the Pleiades.

Poets, priests, prophets, shamans, storytellers, artists, singers and historians throughout time have all gazed into the night skies and come under their spell. Inspiring and captivating diverse civilisations, this star cluster has left an indelible mark on the human psyche.



An avid amateur astronomer with a passion for the stars, Munya Andrews was born in Derby, Western Australia to an Aboriginal mother and Scottish father. As a Bardi child growing up in the Kimberley, her grandmother Canice told her many Dreamtime stories of the stars, which fostered an early and lifelong interest in astronomy.

Munya describes herself as a 'Seeker' of knowledge, and she brings a spiritual perspective - an understanding of the world that is largely informed by the Dreaming - to conventional western culture and academic theory. Educated in Australia and the USA, she has degrees in anthropology and law. Her interests range from the scientific to the esoteric, and include astronomy, archaeology,

anthropology, poetry, literature and comparative religions. She is interested in the interaction between science, mythology and culture and the ways in which they inform the other.

JUNE 2007 SCHOLARSHIPS – WEB SITE

View General Scholarships at:-

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College of Science Scholarship

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If you have anything you would like to contribute to the Newsletter, please email Ro on rosalie.reilly@canterbury.ac.nz:
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