MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
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MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
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MASSEY APPOINTS FIRST-EVER PERCIVAL CARMINE CHAIR IN EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Professor David Hayman has been appointed as the inaugural Percival Carmine Chair in Epidemiology and Public Health. Image courtesy of Brad Boniface Photography.

Building on Massey's expertise in epidemiology and public health is the aim behind a position that has been newly established by the Massey University Foundation. The Percival Carmine Chair in Epidemiology and Public Health has been generously funded by Massey alumni Anne and Bryce Carmine to the value of $3.5 million for the next 10 years, and will be occupied by Professor David Hayman from the School of Veterinary Science.

Professor Hayman is a world expert in infectious disease ecology and has particular expertise in emerging bat infections. He holds numerous international roles, including on a newly established "One Health" High Level Expert Panel advising the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Health Organisation on health crises arising from the human-animal-ecosystem interface and strategic approaches to reducing the risk of pandemics. He is also currently involved in a research project that explores what factors allow pathogens, such as coronaviruses, to 'jump' from animals to humans in particular environments.

Anne and Bryce say the ability to endow a Chair in Epidemiology and Public Health will enable Professor Hayman and his team to continue this significant research, and other multi-disciplinary projects, that are of particular importance to the current global situation. "We are delighted to be able to support research that has the potential to contribute so much to society's understanding of infection transmission, spillover and subsequent disease, and potentially inform future policy," Bryce says.

Anne adds that the Chair will provide postgraduate and postdoctoral training in epidemiology and public health in New Zealand, therefore facilitating the development of skilled researchers.

Professor Hayman says he was hugely honoured to be the recipient of this extremely generous donation. "The continuity of the funding and amount allow both long-term planning and flexibility, which will enable me and my team to continue some ambitious infectious disease research both within New Zealand and internationally."

Head of Tāwharau Ora - the School of Veterinary Science, Professor Jon Huxley, says the School is humbled by the generosity of Anne and Bryce. "It is difficult to overestimate how transformative their generosity will be for Professor Hayman and his critically important research, but also for us as a School. Having a named philanthropically funded Chair is a very big deal for our School and is another huge step forward in our aspiration to take the very best of New Zealand veterinary science to the world."

Massey University Vice-Chancellor Professor Jan Thomas says the Chair is significant for the university as it recognises Massey's long-standing expertise in the area of infectious disease. "We are delighted to make this appointment as it will strengthen our contribution and credentials in this area at a time when the world needs it most."

Anne and Bryce are both second generation Massey alumni, and have been heavily involved with the university for a number of years. The new position is named after Anne's father Cam Percival, who graduated with a degree in agriculture in 1945. Subsequent to graduating, Cam went on to make a pivotal contribution to the discovery of facial eczema in sheep in New Zealand, as well as global contributions through his work with the FAO and the World Bank.

The family connections and value of the education each family member received from Massey, plus the desire to give back to Massey were key motivating factors behind the decision to make such a contribution, says Anne. "Our Massey education was critical for both Bryce and I in securing our first jobs and anchoring our future careers."

Anne began her career as a clinical trial co-ordinator for the pharmaceutical company Merck before transitioning to Adis Press as a medical writer. She then went on to gain a Masters of Science from Butler University in the United States. Bryce began his career as a hospital sales representative. He went on to various senior executive roles with Eli Lilly & Co with responsibility for global pharmaceutical sales and marketing, and the development of new products prior to their approval by regulatory agencies. He subsequently became founder, CEO and chairman of biotech company HaemaLogiX and is also a board director for Kazia Therapeutics, a company dedicated to the development of a product that treats a form of brain cancer.

"Anne and I firmly believe that our education at Massey established a scientific curiosity and built an understanding that following the scientific evidence of a well-designed research project is critical for valid conclusions and the creation of new knowledge. This is the essence of Professor Hayman's project that we're now supporting at Massey," Bryce says.

Anne and Bryce have supported a number of projects at Massey since 2017, including providing grants for research in the areas of microbiology and molecular biology.

Left-right: Bryce Carmine, Anne Carmine, Cam Percival and former Massey Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey during a visit to the Manawatū campus in 2014.

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tēnā koutou,

The first quarter of 2022 seems to have been dominated by news of rising interest rates, a slowing housing market, war in the Ukraine, and rapidly rising Covid numbers. Despite all of this, the year has begun well for the Foundation. We were delighted to be able to confirm the appointment of David Hayman into the Percival Carmine Chair in Epidemiology and Public Health in January (see story on page 1). This is Massey's first fully funded chair and a true milestone for the University and the Foundation. It has been a personal pleasure working with Bryce and Anne Carmine and I look forward to seeing Professor Hayman flourish in this exciting role which I know will give so much to Massey and the world.

Other significant donations in the first quarter of the year included a generous gift to the Max Chapple scholarship fund, a gift to the Sir Neil Waters Scholarship fund, and another donation from the Port of Napier to support research into Little Blue Penguins.

The excitement of securing an academic Chair was somewhat dampened by the decision in early March to move the opening of the Refectory to an online event. While restrictions on events are lifting, the outbreak is also reaching record numbers in this region, and continuing with the event (even on a smaller scale) did not seem sensible. We have therefore created a video **HERE** so you can see the completed building from a safe distance and hope that we will one day soon be able to safely host large crowds on campus again.

Finally, on behalf of the Foundation Board I would like to acknowledge the sad passing of two great men; John Luxton on 16th November 2021 and Colin Harvey on the 28th of January this year. Both John and Colin were past Trustees of the Foundation. Our thoughts are with their families. Kua hinga te tōtara i Te Waonui a Tāne.

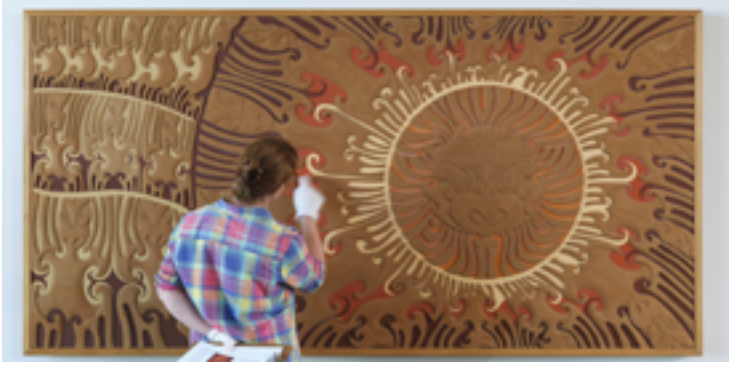
Kia kaha alumni and friends
Mitch and the Foundation team

Mitch Murdoch, Director, Massey University Foundation

EVENTS FOR 2022

Refectory Opening (online):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygeuDSY6nM8

GROUNDBREAKING ART MAKES DIGITAL DEBUT



Condition reporting for Whiti te Rā by Cliff Whiting. Photo credit: David Lupton.

A project to share the stories of major art works belonging to the former Palmerston North Teachers' College has won more than $23,000 in funding.

The stories of up to 10 significant art works, many by former teachers of the college, will be shared online as digital narratives based on interviews with the artists, where possible, and their families.

The Massey University Foundation obtained a grant of $23,600 from the Stout Trust, managed by Perpetual Guardian, to fund the project's research, interviews and cultural advice.

Dr Susan Abasa, Museum Studies programme co-ordinator at Massey University, says many of the "landmark" works represent a turning point in the way the artists worked. For example, one of the pieces, 'Whiti-te-Rā' (1969), is the first work by carver Cliff Whiting made from custom wood as opposed to native timber.

Other works selected include those by carver Fred Graham, and print-maker Marilynn Webb, who with Cliff Whiting were both based in Northland for a period of their art-making careers, Susan says.

"It's been really thrilling to discover the connections between the artists and the Palmerston North Teachers' College."

Professor John O'Neill, from the Institute of Education, says the works will hopefully be the first of many to be curated in such a way. "We want people to look at them and understand the energy and creativity, and blood, sweat and tears that went into them, and also the excitement they generated in the local community and nationally."

Further funding has been sourced internally through the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The works are permanently on display at the Institute of Education.

BEQUEST BOOSTS SCHOLARSHIP'S REACH

A scholarship fund in memory of outstanding Massey history student Max Chapple has received a $100,000 bequest from his mother.

Max's sister Jessica has also contributed $20,000 to the fund, which is managed by the Massey University Foundation.

The donations mean the fund has become one of the most substantial scholarship funds in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and will increase the value of the Max Chapple Memorial Scholarship awarded to postgraduate history students.

Max, a promising journalist and historian, completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History at Massey University in 1995, before taking his own life in December that year. His mother, Barbara, passed away last year and gifted a portion of her estate to the fund.

Jessica says her mother wanted to remember Max's passion for history and continue his legacy by helping other students in his name. "Our family philosophy is one of giving; from an early age we were encouraged to give and help others."

Jessica also felt motivated to donate from her inheritance because the Foundation is growing the fund through investments, she says.

Max's university girlfriend, Elizabeth Thompson, says Max seized every opportunity to learn at Massey, and had huge respect for his lecturers and fellow students. "Max wanted to know how the world worked and had worked, so that he could help to make it better."

Max was the sole or joint winner of the top history student award for every year of his three-year Bachelor degree, and prior to his study at Massey had won three national journalism awards.

The Chapple family has a strong belief in the value of university education and academia, Jessica says. Max and Jessica's father, Don Chapple, was a professor of sociology at both Auckland and Waikato Universities. Their uncle, Dr Tony Chapelle, was an historian at Massey, and their cousin is currently a PhD student there.

DECADE OF ALUMNI GIVING TOPS $915,000

The Massey University Foundation's 2021 Annual Alumni Appeal raised over $145,000 towards students facing hardship, a landmark pasture management study and the University's emergency Advancement Fund.

More than 900 alumni donated during the appeal – a two-week direct mail, email and phone campaign that constitutes the Foundation's largest annual fundraising drive.

Alumni have donated more than $915,000 since the Foundation launched the first annual appeal in 2012.

Claire Murphy, Foundation Annual Giving and Communications Manager, says alumni gave generously towards student hardship bursaries last year, with contributions totalling $98,124.

"For these students the playing field is not level and it is often only the help of others that allows them to reach their potential. Students who receive our hardship grants are very humble and grateful for the support of alumni. Often the fact that someone believes in them is as significant to them as the financial relief offered by the bursary."

The already-strong demand for the bursaries has increased during the Covid 19 pandemic, with some students suffering significant financial stress as employment opportunities decrease, costs rise and families are unable to support them, Claire says.

> *"For students [receiving hardship bursaries], the playing field is not level and it is often only the help of others that allows them to reach their potential."*

Alumni also donated $38,338 to a Massey University research partnership planned with the Ministry for Primary Industries that aims to measure the results of different pasture management practices on both dairy and sheep farms, for the ultimate betterment of New Zealand's pastoral industries. Massey researchers, led by Professor Danny Donaghy from the School of Agriculture and Environment, sought $60,000 to install "on-farm" cameras and fund a website aimed at educating schools and the general public about the project's information and findings, and agriculture more generally.

"There's a growing interest in how safe, high-quality food ends up on the table", Danny says, "but at the same time there's a disconnect between urban and rural populations. While the planned project is huge and will monitor and measure a wide range of results; support from alumni will allow us to highlight pastoral farming to school kids and our urban public."

The Appeal also sought donations towards Massey's Advancement Fund, used at the discretion of the Massey University Foundation board and the Vice-Chancellor to meet select and urgent financial need. Alumni contributions to this fund, which last year reached $8973, are highly valued.

Alumni also took the opportunity to donate to other causes during the appeal, including to the Alumni Student Scholarship Fund and the Massey Business School Development Fund. Total donations for the appeal reached $151,386. Alumni in New Zealand and 15 other countries contributed, including the USA, United Kingdom, Singapore, Canada and Hong Kong.

About 15 students made calls during the appeal, eliciting not only donations from alumni but also advice and stories from their time at Massey, Claire says.

"We remain very grateful to our alumni for their support and generosity, particularly as the pandemic continues to affect our students, staff and fundraising efforts. Alumni play a huge role in ensuring the Foundation can support deserving staff and students, and their vital research."

A group of 2021 Annual Alumni Appeal student callers outside Tiritea House.

STRONG DEMAND FOR PROJECT HOPE

The Project Hope Working Group has also designed a leadership course.

A groundbreaking Massey course empowering young people to address major issues such as climate change, Covid and inequality is attracting strong demand and will seek further funding to grow.

He Kaupapa Tūmanako/Project Hope sees high school-age students – from New Zealand and around the world - guided by Massey University sociologists and student mentors to address issues troubling them through a series of "hopeful" practices.

The Massey University Foundation has sourced $10,000 in funding for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences course – which is unique in New Zealand and now in its third iteration.

Dr Warwick Tie, senior lecturer and Project Hope co-leader, says demand for the course outstrips capacity, with many high schools expressing interest.

Secondary school pupils in Auckland, Manawatū and Iceland participated in the first two iterations of the four-week course. About 170 students from Auckland, Palmerston North, China and Fiji are taking part in the third - completely online - course.

Participants are encouraged to identify issues concerning them, and are then directed towards practices of hope – through individual thought, connecting and working with others, and action and expression.

In response to demand, the College's Project Hope team have designed a sister course for student mentors that aims to build leadership skills through problem-solving and resilience, Warwick says.

"Resilience in the face of failure is going to be essential as we grapple with catastrophic world problems that present more obstacles than answers."

Past students are also contributing to an essay on the course, which will be published by Harvard University Press in a book on innovative educational approaches during periods of ecological stress.

The Foundation and the College will seek long-term funding sources to continue and expand the course, which will need $3-$4 million over the next three years, Warwick says.

BIOLOGICAL NANORODS WIN INVESTMENT

Massey University start-up Nanophage Technologies has won seed funding to commercialise a technology that could transform diagnostic testing.

Researchers led by Jasna Rakonjac, Nanophage Technologies founder and Associate Professor at Massey's School of Natural Sciences, have developed novel biological nanorods that potentially could be used to create affordable and sensitive medical and environmental tests.

The nanorods were developed over the past decade with funding from Massey alumni Bryce and Anne Carmine via the Massey University Foundation, Massey Ventures, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Palmerston North Medical Research Foundation.

The technology will now be commercialised by Nanophage Technologies, in partnership with Massey Ventures and private investment firm Bridgewest Ventures. Callaghan Innovation's Deep Tech Incubator Programme is also supporting the start-up through a repayable grant.

The nanorods are safe for human and environmental use, can be applied in a variety of tests quickly and cheaply, and are inexpensive to manufacture, says Jasna.

"Biological nanorods will transform diagnostic testing as they have potential to detect the presence of molecules at far lower levels than other diagnostic tools on the market, allowing for early action or medical intervention."

The Carmine's generous funding supported a PhD student, a Post-Doctoral Fellow and a technician, and was instrumental in developing the technology. "I am immensely grateful for their support."

WILDLIFE CHAMPIONS: TURITEA SCHOOL STUDENTS FUNDRAISE FOR WILDBASE HOSPITAL

Wildbase Hospital staff care for a young kiwi

Children from Turitea School organised a fundraiser to help support the Massey Wildbase Hospital. The Kauri class organised the selling of Christmas cards and baked goods, raising just over $1000.

Wildbase is New Zealand's only dedicated wildlife hospital based within a veterinary school, and is a highly-respected teaching and research facility. It treats 400 patients on average each year, 50 percent of which are endangered or threatened species.

Patients include kiwi, takahe, sea birds and other native birds, as well as raptors, lizards, tuatara, sea turtles and marine mammals.

The Foundation would like to thank Turitea School for their fundraising efforts, and for making a difference in the care of sick and injured native wildlife.

SCREENING TOOL TO IDENTIFY VISUAL ISSUES IN CHILDREN NETS $50,000 DEVELOPMENT GRANT

An Austin user tests the first version of the app while Dr Nicola McDowell looks on.

A Massey-developed screening tool to identify vision issues in children has won $50,000 in funding to further its development.

The Austin Assessment iPad application can identify visual issues commonly associated with cerebral vision impairment (CVI) – issues originating in the brain rather than the eye – and is the first screening tool of its kind for the condition. It could ultimately be used to improve educational outcomes for children around the world experiencing learning difficulties due to CVI.

The Massey University Foundation secured the $50,000 grant from the Clyde Graham Charitable Trust, managed by Perpetual Guardian. The app is the brainchild of Dr Nicola McDowell, a lecturer at Massey's Institute of Education, who has CVI herself, which she acquired after suffering a brain haemorrhage when she was 16.

The visual difficulties associated with CVI can make many aspects of a child's life challenging, including their learning experiences, social interactions and physical activities, Nicola says.

"You are living in a world of visual uncertainty. It can affect your ability to see movement, or multiple things at the same time."

Nicola developed the Austin Assessment for her PhD following an experience she had when working as a specialist teacher supporting blind and low-vision children. She noticed a boy with cerebral palsy and CVI, Austin, was struggling with a card-matching activity.

With funding from Massey Ventures, the assessment was made into an iPad application in which children play a card-matching game of increasing difficulty. The app monitors their response times, accuracy and eye movements. A trial showed it was very effective in identifying children with brain-related vision issues. "Children with issues took twice as long as those without across all levels of the game."

The $50,000 from the Clyde Graham Charitable Trust will be used to upgrade the application and develop themes for its training mode, designed to improve visual function. This will allow the app to be used in two research projects to validate it as a screening tool. "I'll also be looking to identify classroom-wide strategies that support those children assessed as having issues, as well as other children, without needing extra time and funding."

CVI is difficult and time-consuming to diagnose, but recent research out of the United Kingdom shows that as many as 3.4 percent of children in mainstream education – potentially one child in each classroom in New Zealand – could have these visual issues.

The goal is to seek further funding to develop and launch the app, along with a website informing parents and educators how they can support children with CVI, Nicola says.

"I am hugely grateful to the Clyde Graham Charitable Trust, Massey Ventures, our app developer Springload and the Massey University Foundation. I don't want any child to sit in a classroom and suffer like I did."

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