



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND**

NEW ZEALAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

School of Theology

Report to NZATS Annual General Meeting
Auckland, 27 June, 2009.

The School of Theology has currently approximately 100 EFTS which will rise a little with the finalizing of enrolments for Semester 2, 2009. Of these 7% are international students; 74% are undergraduate; 9% are in taught postgraduate courses; and 17% are research students. Development of the online Graduate Diploma in Theology continues, following the successful delivery of three courses in 2008, and the School's general education courses for students in non-Theology undergraduate programmes continue to be popular. The School was very pleased to celebrate the graduation of three PhD students in the 2009 autumn graduation.

For 2009 the Head of School, Prof. Elaine Wainwright, is on study leave overseas, and in her absence Dr. Mary Caygill, the Director of Postgraduate Studies, is acting Head of School. Retirements of long-term staff members have continued, and in July 2009 the School will welcome Dr. Nicholas Thompson to the position of Senior Lecturer in Christian Thought and History, joining the Head of School and Dr. Garner as a University employee. At the start of 2010 the School of Theology will transition to becoming a school within the Faculty of Arts, continuing to offer its current programmes.

In the past year the School has welcomed a number of visiting scholars. Prof. Elaine Graham (University of Manchester), a University of Auckland Distinguished Visitor, delivered a number of public lectures, including "Health, Wealth or Wisdom? Religion and the Paradox of Prosperity," and co-taught new undergraduate course in public theology during the 2008 second semester. In the first semester 2009, Dr. Tat-siong Benny Liew (PSR/GTU, Berkeley), taught biblical studies in the School, and delivered a public lecture entitled "Jesus as Flesh: Living and Giving Life in the Shadow of Death" drawing on his work in transdisciplinary study of the New Testament. Prof. Judith Lieu (University of Cambridge) also visited the School briefly, giving a seminar to staff and postgraduate students, and delivering a public lecture "The Battle for the Apostle Paul in the Second Century". The School of Theology also organised and hosted the March 2009 symposium "Science and religion in the 21st century: faith in science, science in faith" with Prof. Bob White (Faraday Institute/University of Cambridge).

Mary Caygill (Acting Head of School)
19 June, 2009