

Griffith Gazette

VOLUME 18 NO. 2

A monthly review of news and events

APRIL 2003



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Creating a buzz at South Bank



Preparing to be blown away by performances at Jammin' @ South Bank are Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University students (clockwise from front) Patrick Marchisella, Natalie Low and Nick Tropy.

GRIFFITH'S creative arts will be showcased in May when the university stages the second Jammin' @ South Bank.

Jammin', to run from May 9 - 11, will profile students from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University (QCGU), School of Arts, Queensland College of Art Griffith University (QCA) and School of Film, Media and Cultural Studies.

The event will feature more than 230 separate performances in 35 themed events, involving more than 1200 performers and artists throughout South Bank

and the city.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Arts and Education) Professor Marilyn McMeniman said Jammin' was about further developing Griffith's role as a focal point in bringing the community together to create partnership events designed to maximise involvement and engagement.

"Jammin' also highlights the substantial and growing investment by the university in the South Bank precinct and the importance we place on partnerships which the university is developing with other

organisations in the area.

"Jammin' is an intensive three days of activities including major concerts, small intimate niche events, visual art and community-based workshops all celebrating the connection of Griffith, through its creative arts faculties, with the people of Brisbane."

Several major concerts will be held in the Suncorp Piazza, one featuring James Morrison (who received an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith last year), as well as Cabaret, Salsa, Contemporary Theatre performances and the Lord Mayor's Mothers' Day

Concert Opera in the Park at the City Botanic Gardens River Stage.

A collaborative project between students from QCA and QCGU will feature improvised soundtracks to animated short films. There will also be colourful art installations suspended above the buildings at South Bank.

The event has the support and involvement of Brisbane City Council, South Bank Corporation and South Bank Business Association.

For more details phone the Jammin' hotline (07) 3875 6318 or go to www.jammin.com.au

Research reaches top speeds

UNIVERSITY researchers can now undertake complex computer simulations faster than ever before with the installation of a new High Performance Computer at the Gold Coast campus.

The SUN Microsystems Australia computer is believed to be Queensland's most powerful and will be used by researchers on all of Griffith's campuses.

Gold Coast City Mayor Councillor Gary Baidon officially launched the High Performance Computing Facility in March.

Research Computing Services Manager

Andrew Lewis said the computer would be used to perform complex calculations requiring significant computing power to be completed quickly.

"The High Performance Computer has the capacity to dramatically increase the speed with which researchers can perform calculations for vital research," he said.

"The computer has the potential to allow researchers greater insight, manipulating more data and calculations on increasingly complex problems.

"The primary use of the High Performance Computer will be running simulations in biomolecular and

environmental sciences, engineering and electronics.

"However, many researchers will make use of the computer to perform complex operations."

Mr Lewis said the computer was about 20 times faster than its predecessor and was capable of performing 127,200 million floating-point calculations per second, compared to around 2,000 million calculations performed by the average new personal computer.

"The University's Centre for Biomolecular Science and Drug Discovery completed an investigation which was

running for 600 hours. On the previous computer, this would have taken 12,000 hours to complete.

"As simulations play a vital role in many research activities, the installation of this computer should greatly assist in Queensland's world-leading research endeavours."

The High Performance Computer was developed by SUN Microsystems Australia and is based on a platform of eight V880 computers.

By Anthony Coates



From the Vice Chancellor, **Professor Glyn Davis**

High performance computers have become an integral part of great research.

So an innovative research university such as Griffith needs access to ever growing computer capacity.

The installation last month on the Gold Coast campus of a new super computer – the most powerful in Queensland – is therefore a significant moment.

Gold Coast Mayor Gary Baidon joined university staff and a representative of Sun to launch the new system, located in the Information Services Building.

It is hard to grasp the speed of processing made possible by such equipment.

The new Griffith High Performance Computer can perform 127,200 million floating-point calculations per second.

Run at full power for just one second, it would generate enough numbers – densely printed on A4 paper – to form a stack 25 kilometres high.

Such statistics matter less, though, than the implications for research.

High performance computing is essential for break-through work in areas such as systematic drug discovery, in which complex carbohydrates must be captured in simulation, reconfigured and the changes evaluated.

Such research is at the heart, for example, of Griffith's Centre for Biomolecular Science and Drug Discovery.

On previous equipment, some computations could take around 12,000 hours – about a year – to complete. In early March, CBSDD researchers achieved the same results in around 600 hours.

Indeed, on a single day recently the new high-performance computer was set to work to model and visualise financial market data; analyse water quality on the Great Barrier Reef; undertake a global simulation of ocean chemistry and its effect on climate; determine protein-carbohydrate binding affinity using molecular dynamics; assist communications network simulations; help develop techniques for digital mammograms; improve techniques for handwriting recognition, and complete a failure analysis of a reinforced concrete deep beam.

High performance computers enable researchers to simulate and model a physical situation inside a computer.

It's not cutting-edge science as such, but makes possible the visualisation increasingly central to multimedia applications.

As the Gold Coast Mayor said at the launch, south-east Queensland needs an infrastructure of sufficient depth and quality to attract first-class researchers.

For the many teams that rely on super computing, the new Gold Coast facility is an essential part of the Griffith research story.

Sarah's a super woman

SARAH Laveta-Temple is a "super woman" – only without the cape.

The full-time mother and student travels more than 200km a day to get to and from Logan campus. She has four children, all under the age of seven, and the youngest, who is less than a month old, arrived three days before Semester I started.

"How will I cope? That's a good question. Well, I have a supportive family and things have just been made easier with the university awarding me an Equity Scholarship," she said.

Sarah is one of 62 Griffith students, who were presented with scholarships at a gala ceremony at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University on March 12.

The Equity Scholarship awarded to Sarah is offered to commencing students through Griffith's Equity Scholarships Scheme. The scheme aims to make study a reality for Australian students by offering financial assistance of up to \$2,500 to successful applicants.

Sarah, who has elected to study a Bachelor of Education – Primary, said her scholarship would assist with her university expenses and allow her to focus on her studies.

Other scholarships awarded at the ceremony include academic, sports and sports development.



Sarah Laveta-Temple celebrates with husband Paul Temple at the university's scholarship ceremony.

By Jenny Waller

Equity Scholarship winners

Equity Scholarships

Neena Aynsley; Jane Baxendell; Wouter De Greef; Angela Feinga-Appleby; Sally Gray; Jamie Kerr; Samuel Korhonen; Sarah Laveta-Temple; Melissa Piper; Theresa Rimes; Richard Swar; Laura Thew.

Dell Computer Equity Scholarships

Leeza Carswell; Michael Fisher; Andrea Gasparini; Amy Heales; Toni Kassulke; Melanie Loader.

Neville Bonner Indigenous Equity Scholarships

Madeline Leadbetter; Natasha Pflugst.

Griffith University Lions Club Equity Scholarships

Lee Headland; Shelley Hosking; Lisa McLean.

Brisbane MacGregor Lions Club Equity Scholarships

Amelia Beacham; Hayley Kitchener; Maria Nguyen; Nathalie Romond



Andrew Lewis is one of three people who maintain the High Performance Computer.

Young writer wins \$10,000 prize

AN aspiring Melbourne author has won the inaugural Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize which is administered by Griffith's School of Arts.

Andrew Belk, from South Yarra, won the \$10,000 prize for his short story *The Big Jesus*.

The prize attracted 340 entries. Shortlisted writers were Campbell Mattinson, of Footscray, Victoria,

and Ellen Rodger and Katrina Moriarty, both of Stanmore, New South Wales.

Judges were Australian authors Associate Professor Nigel Krauth (from Griffith), Frank Moorhouse and Amanda Lohrey.

Associate Professor Krauth said the School of Arts was excited to be administering the prize as it has one of Australia's largest creative writing

programs as part of its mix of creative arts and media degrees.

"There is not another short writing prize of this magnitude in Australia and the winner will receive significant national recognition in the writing industry," he said.

The School administers the prize on behalf of the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Foundation for the Arts on the Gold Coast.

In the news

- Dr Ben Goldsmith, Faculty of Arts, discussed the popularity of drive-in cinemas on Adelaide radio and in an article in *The Age* newspaper.
- Dr Paul Draper, Music Technology and Multimedia at Queensland Conservatorium, was quoted in *The Courier-Mail*, on the use of "clicktrack" to enhance performances.
- Vice Chancellor Glyn Davis took part in a panel discussion about higher education policy on ABC's Radio National breakfast program.
- Professor Yul Kwon was on radio program *Voice of America* discussing US-North Korea tensions.
- Industrial Relations lecturer David Peetz talked about the Australian union movement on ABC's Radio National Background Briefing. He was also quoted in the *Australian Financial Review* on unemployment among older workers.
- Marketing and Management lecturer Dr Geoff Carter commented on his research into relationships in the workplace in *The Australian*.
- Professor Glyn Davis discussed the need for a new medical school at the Gold Coast campus on ABC TV's Stateline program.
- Dr Martin Bridgstock, School of Science, spoke about his new course "Skepticism, Science and the Paranormal" in *The Australian*, *The Courier-Mail* and the *Gold Coast Bulletin*.
- PhD student Rebecca Voisey was on Brisbane radio ABC 612 discussing how women perceive their bodies.
- Mr Ian Nisbet, Manager Griffith Adolescent Forensic Assessment and Treatment Centre, provided comment to *The Courier-Mail*, Triple J, ABC News Radio, *The Sunday Mail* and AAP on young people who sexually offend.
- Dr Gillian Renshaw, Senior Lecturer School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, made the front cover of *New Scientist* magazine with her team's research into Epaulette sharks.



Published by **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**
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Photography: **Amanda Briggs & Trine Barfod-Jensen**

Registered by Australia Post publication pp446256/0005, ISSN 0818-8483.
Griffith University CRICOS provider number 00233E

Study tracks activity levels

A NEW study has provided the first baseline information on physical activity levels in primary school children in Australia.

The study, conducted by Dr Mich Tomson of Griffith and Dr Tom Cuddihy of QUT, was part of a multi-national project involving Arizona State University, USA, and University of Kalmar, Sweden.

Dr Tomson said the researchers used pedometers (step counters) to determine current physical activity levels of primary children and also looked at Body Mass Index (BMI) and physical self-esteem.

"In Australia we had no baseline figures for how much physical activity primary school children were doing," she said.

"Our study showed children's physical activity levels remain fairly stable across the primary school years which we didn't think would be the case, based on US research from 1990."

In all three countries boys were more active than girls by 2800 steps a day on average (about 30 minutes of physical activity) – girls averaged 11,700 steps and boys 14,400.

The Australian researchers have recommended that if children did between 12,000 and 15,000 steps a day, they would be less likely to be overweight.



Mich Tomson, from Griffith's Faculty of Education, helps Indooroopilly State School student Celia North monitor her physical activity levels.

Dr Tomson said children in the lowest physical activity range had the highest BMI and the highest levels of obesity.

"In all three countries the heaviest children continued to get heavier at a much faster rate than the leaner children. BMI went up

significantly more in the US than in Australia or Sweden, and the US had the highest BMI across all age groups and the largest and most rapid increase in BMI across all ages."

Dr Tomson said children's physical self-esteem was related to both activity levels and BMI yet self-esteem went down in Years 6 and 7 despite the fact activity levels remained relatively stable.

However, the higher the average steps the higher the score on each of the physical self-esteem subscales of the survey.

With respect to BMI, the body attractiveness scale of the self-esteem survey showed the most significant decline as BMI went up. These findings were true for both boys and girls at every age.

Dr Tomson said the next stage of the research was to study high school students "to look for where that big shift comes in physical activity levels".

Drs Tomson and Cuddihy were asked to join the project by Dr Robert Pangrazi, a world leader in primary physical education research.

By Michelle Hughes

Robert wins

STUDENT Robert Newbery has received an Australian Institute of Sport Education Achievement Award for his work towards his Bachelor of Science at Griffith.

The award was presented at an AIS gala ceremony in Canberra in March.

Robert, who won a 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games bronze medal in diving, continues to train full-time and to study at Nathan campus.

"Through the renowned Athlete Career and Education (ACE) program, the AIS incorporates opportunities for athletes to continue their education or forge a career for their life after sport," AIS Director Michael Scott said.

Diversity

GRIFFITH staff gathered to celebrate International Women's Day on March 11.

A special luncheon was held in the Multi-Faith Centre, Nathan campus, with the theme "Celebrating Diversity".

Chancellor Leneen Forde AC, former governor of Queensland, spoke about Griffith's role in championing diversity.

"A diverse workforce often results in improved decision-making, better understanding of customers' needs, and increased flexibility in staffing," she said. "Here at Griffith we have been practising diversity for many years now. Here it is not just an ideal, it is a practicality."

Art award

QUEENSLAND College of Art Griffith University 2002 Fine Art graduate Bill Church won the \$10,000 Acquisition Award in The Courier-Mail Art Show.

Bill's work, *Haycart*, was among more than 11,000 paintings from 600 mostly Brisbane artists on display at the Brisbane Home Show in early March. *Haycart* was inspired by Bill's three-month trip to Zhijian, China, and his work evokes the daily struggle for survival.

Official start

MORE than 60 people attended the University's Commencement Ceremony on March 13.

Held at the Multi-Faith Centre, Nathan campus, the ceremony marked the start of the 2003 academic year. The Venerable Master Chin Kung, of the Amitabha Buddhist Association, gave the commencement address.

"It is most imperative that our world finds the solution for resolving the conflicts and misunderstandings in our society, finding a way to world peace and fostering mutual understanding and trust among people," he said.

"If all people can learn to be content with their lives, to cooperate with one another, and to work in harmony, then all people will be happy, all families will be prosperous, our work will be in peace, and the stability of our society will be ensured."

Calling all skeptics . . . new course

MIND-READING, ghosts and Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) will be under scrutiny this year when science students put on their Mulder and Scully hats to study the paranormal.

The university has started a new course called Skepticism, Science and the Paranormal which gives students the opportunity to study the areas of science made famous by shows such as *The X-Files* and *The Twilight Zone*.

The course was designed by School of Science Senior Lecturer Dr Martin Bridgstock and is an elective within the Bachelor of Science degree, however, all Griffith students are able to study the course.

Dr Bridgstock said he established the course because he was impressed by the large number of people he came across who believed in the paranormal.

"In establishing the course, we looked at opinion polls showing that a majority of the population believes in psychic healing, and substantial minorities in astrology, mind-reading, UFOs and ghosts," he said.

"The course doesn't take a position on whether the



Dr Martin Bridgstock analyses how Tarot Cards are linked to the paranormal.

paranormal exists. Instead, the aim is to understand what the paranormal is all about and develop skills in deciding what to accept and what to reject. That is far more valuable than telling students what to believe."

Dr Bridgstock said the course would assist students to develop evaluation skills which would be

valuable in many aspects of scientific research as well as in their everyday lives.

"It's important to be able to locate relevant information, make sense of it and come to a considered conclusion. Since knowledge becomes out-of-date so fast, these skills are vital for people today."

And does Dr Bridgstock believe in the paranormal?

"Personally, I'm a moderate skeptic. That means that I haven't seen anything to convince me yet, but I think it's important to keep an open mind on these topics."

By Anthony Coates

\$11.7m for clinical sciences hub

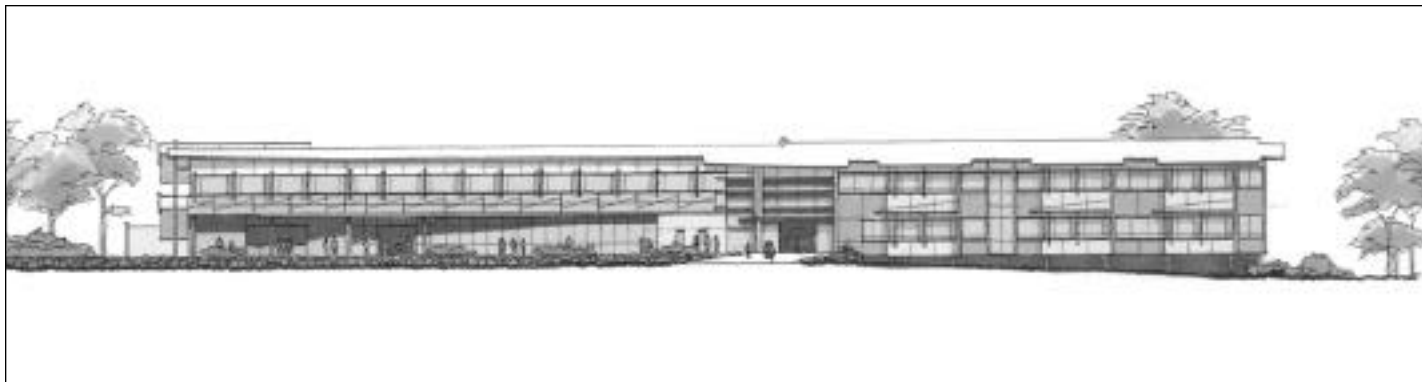
WORK has started on a new \$11.7 million clinical sciences building on the Gold Coast.

The complex will accommodate the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science and house laboratories, offices and research space.

Director for the Office of Facilities Management Sam Ragusa said the new building would be an energy efficient two-story concrete structure with a metal roof.

"Griffith has always included environmentally friendly techniques in the design of our facilities and the new clinical sciences building follows these principles," he said.

The building has been designed to incorporate environmental sustainability using many passive energy saving devices including sun shades for windows, roof insulation and solar hot water systems, and will take



An artist's impression of the new \$11.7 million clinical sciences building on the Gold Coast.

advantage of the benefits of east-west orientation.

It will also have a 24-hour learning centre, two seminar rooms, a computer teaching room, a 100-seat lecture theatre, a Pro-Vice Chancellor's Office, and a cafeteria funded by

the Student Guild.

"In a first for Griffith University, the staff offices and research facilities will be built in cluster format with common foyers to make them more interactive," Mr Ragusa said.

The start date for the building was originally

scheduled for mid-February but was delayed a month due to rain.

Mr Ragusa said the building should be ready for occupancy in March 2004.

yBy Melissa Pizzato

Picture: CONRADE GARGETT, DEICKE RICHARDS

Artist gives students a helping hand

ART is a full-time passion for Sebastian Di Mauro who juggles his creative endeavours with teaching up-and-coming artists and designers at Queensland College of Art Griffith University (QCA).

Sebastian is Creative Director of QCA's professional graphic design studio, Liveworm, which is staffed by Design students.

He is also a prolific painter, sculptor and installation artist. In the past 20 years, Sebastian has held 30 solo exhibitions and been involved in around 100 group shows. His work features in more than 20 public, private and corporate collections throughout Australia.

Most recently, Sebastian has ventured into public art. His first major commission, the witty and whimsical "Chat", is a larger than life pair of cast aluminium hands on the footpath at 175 Eagle Street, Brisbane.

Sebastian was one of 22 artists shortlisted for the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, Australia's

richest art prize for sculptors. Almost simultaneously he had a solo exhibition in Melbourne and won the inaugural Montalto Acquisitive Sculpture Prize.

Sebastian's art has continually evolved — from painting to installation to sculpture, from private to public.

"I moved away from painting initially because I was finding the process and the two-dimensional medium limiting in what I could achieve and communicate," he said.

"I started installation because I felt I wanted my work to be more experimental and evocative — to do and say more. From there, it was quite a natural progression to sculpture.

"Installation uses a mix of art forms. This is challenging and demanding, but the potential is fantastic. I work with any material I feel is appropriate for what I'm trying to say."

Sebastian's media are diverse and have included olive oil, sugar, carpet underlay, steel and photography.

As design and artwork become an increasing part of our daily lives, and as the public artwork industry continues to evolve, Sebastian says it is increasingly important for the public to engage with art.

"I create art for myself initially — I set the parameters — but I like to think that people are able to interpret the work in their own way. I make art because I have to make it, because it's part of my life. I think the more it relates to me as a person, the more powerful it is."

Sebastian is as passionate about his teaching at QCA. He lectures in design, oversees student work at Liveworm, and supervises postgraduate students in sculpture and fine art.

"I love teaching and I enjoy helping the students find their feet as artists and designers. I'm here to act as a mentor — that's the way I teach."

Sebastian is currently working on a public art proposal for the Brisbane Magistrates Court.

yBy Michelle Hughes



Sebastian Di Mauro with his first foray into public art — a larger than life pair of cast aluminium hands at 175 Eagle Street, Brisbane.

Photo: TRINE BARFOD-JENSEN

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おめでとう Congratulations

MASAHIITO Nishizaki and Koichi Shioya are among 30 Japanese registered nurses who have graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration) from Griffith this semester.

These students take the total number of graduates for the Nissoken Project to more than 550.

The School of Nursing runs the degree program in Japan by correspondence with Japanese tutors who provide support.

Students who successfully completed the four core subjects attended a one-week schooling program in Australia consisting of workshops, lectures and presentations and a hospital visit,

and finished with a graduation ceremony.

Mr Nishizaki and Mr Shioya said they thoroughly enjoyed their first visit to Australia but the highlight was receiving their tertiary qualifications from Griffith.

"I specialise in resuscitation and emergency room nursing and registered with the Nissoken Project to further upgrade my skills in these areas," Mr Nishizaki said.

"I really liked the program's flexibility which allowed me to continue working full-time while completing degree qualifications."

Mr Shioya, a registered nurse who specialises in neurosurgery, said he discovered the Nissoken



Masahito Nishizaki (left) and Koichi Shioya celebrate with their classmates on the Gold Coast after the graduate ceremony.

Project while using the university's website.

"I found juggling full-time work and study rather challenging but am now considering doing a postgraduate course," he said.

"I really enjoyed learning new

writing skills but my favourite subject was reflective practice as it has made me more empathetic towards my patients."

The graduation ceremony was held in March on Gold Coast campus.

Power of flight in minds with wings

THINK about famous and influential teachers and among the names which may come to mind are Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato and his pupil Aristotle.

Their quest for knowledge helped shape modern scientific and philosophical thought and their students through the ages remember them.

Last month at Griffith, Bachelor of Environmental Engineering graduate and university medallist Cheryl Desha had cause to reflect on her own experiences of teaching and learning at her alma mater.

She was preparing a speech for one of the two important Excellence in Teaching Award celebrations which were being held to honour some of Griffith's best.

Ms Desha, an environmental engineer with Arup, said she valued her time at Griffith and especially the mentors who have continued to inspire her.

"One of the reasons I chose Griffith was the enthusiastic response I received when I first rang and enquired about the environmental engineering program," she said.

"I was on the phone for 20 minutes with the adviser, learning about the integrated teaching approach and the university's personal style.

"From that point I knew that Griffith viewed the individual as important, and this was evident throughout my studies.

"When you've got a passion for something, you take the time to learn – you want to learn. I believe teaching is the same. If you are passionate about your subject, you want to share your knowledge. The

experience is then more enjoyable for everyone."

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Ian O'Connor said quality teaching was core to the university's future.

"We must recognise and honour quality teaching and we must celebrate our great teachers," he said.

"As a student-centred research university, we know that to inspire and to enrich the educational experience will help equip our graduates to make their place in the world.

"We also recognise the importance of staff development, collaboration and team work."

Professor O'Connor said the annual awards provided an important platform from which to recognise good practice.

Among other teaching and learning initiatives at Griffith are teaching orientation programs for sessional and academic staff and a dedicated teaching and learning portal on the website with a range of information about awards, grants and other useful information.

Professor O'Connor said staff – past and present – and students would be encouraged in coming months to nominate excellent teachers for the 2003 Excellence in Teaching Awards. Nominations close on September 26.

Details are available online at www.griffith.edu.au/tandl/

yBy Alexia Deegan

Excellence in Teaching Award winners



Individual Teacher Award
Associate Professor Robyn Zevenbergen
School of Education and Professional Studies

Associate Professor Zevenbergen began teaching mathematics education at Griffith 10 years ago. She is a strong believer in continually seeking new ways of better developing her students' learning environment and in linking practice to theory. "Students need to be educated in cutting-edge theories and practices because when they graduate they become responsible for the learning of so many young people," she said.



Individual Teacher Award
Ms Shaunnagh Dorsett
School of Law

Ms Dorsett joined the university's Law School in 1994 and is also the Undergraduate Program Convenor for the Faculty of Law. She teaches property law and native title and says her job is enjoyable because she gets to facilitate the development of students' understanding and analytical skills. "Teaching in a law school also provides me with the opportunity to introduce future lawyers to the important ideas of social and legal justice," she said.



Beginning Teacher Award
Dr Glenn Finger
School of Education and Professional Studies

Dr Finger began teaching full-time at Griffith five years ago as a lecturer in Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and is a former physical education teacher, primary school teacher, deputy principal and acting principal. He said he enjoys teaching at Griffith because it is an innovative and dynamic institution that allows for genuine dialogue with students and immerses students in the use of ICTs to extend and enhance teaching and learning. "The best part is I'm working with future teachers, so I see a strategic importance in immersing our students in high quality teaching and learning environments."



Team Teaching Award
Dr Jim Richmond and Dr Rick Swindell
School of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

Drs Swindell and Richmond are senior lecturers and the creators of the university's mobile Greenhouse Lab. They have taught together for more than a decade and, in that time, have also developed a number of other teaching resources to raise awareness about global climate change.



Honours & Postgraduate Coursework Supervision Award
Dr David Shum
School of Applied Psychology – Health

Dr Shum started teaching at Griffith in 1990 as a tutor. To date, he has supervised 20 Honours and six Masters of Clinical Psychology coursework theses to successful completion. Most of the projects he has supervised involved collaboration with professionals in external organisations such as hospitals, community organisations, and rehabilitation centres. He believes the most rewarding aspect of supervising projects is watching students develop the ability to think critically and scientifically about their work.



Higher Degree Research Supervision Award
Professor Jane Hughes
Australian School of Environmental Studies

Professor Hughes has worked at Griffith since 1978 and was initially appointed as a teaching fellow in ecology. She is a dedicated and caring teacher, who believes in mentoring and encouraging her students through various support mechanisms.

Jeweller takes up residence at QCA

ENGLISH jeweller and silversmith Annabet Wyndham will be developing her own practice while taking on the role of Queensland College of Art Griffith University's (QCA) first jeweller-in-residence.

Annabet is based at QCA for three months until May as part of a UK-Australian exchange involving 16 jewellery artists.

Gold and silversmithing lecturer Lyle Tweeddale said Annabet would hold workshops for students and artists during her residency.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our students to observe an established jeweller, seeing her go through developmental and experimental stages through to actual products," he said.

Annabet's work includes jewellery and "tea utensils" such as spoons, forks, tea strainers and small jugs.

"I like pieces you can use day to day and I like food so I like making beautiful things that can be used for eating," she said.

Annabet said she was looking forward to having three months "to be creative" and to see what Australian jewellers were doing.

"I haven't been in a college situation for a long time. In the UK I have worked only in adult education with people who do this as a hobby.

"It will be interesting to be



Jeweller-in-residence Annabet Wyndham, from England, has some of her work on display in the foyer at QCA Gallery.

around people starting from the beginning.

"For me, being here is a time to experiment, possibly with slightly different material or completely different forms. It's easier to do something completely different when you're away from your

normal work area."

QCA graduate Sheridan Kennedy, now in Sydney, is one of eight Australian artists travelling to the UK as part of the exchange project.

yBy Michelle Hughes

Negotiation win for law team

A GRIFFITH law team has won the National Negotiation Competition.

The students will now go on to compete in the international competition in Canada in July.

DrinksSmart*

THE university's active participation in the Queensland Health DrinkSmart* Program has been commended by Redlands MP John English.

He recently launched a CD-ROM designed to assist universities reduce the risks associated with alcohol when planning events and to achieve best practice policy.

The DrinkSmart* program aims to raise awareness about responsible alcohol consumption among young adults.

Going abroad

QUEENSLAND Conservatorium Composition lecturer Gerard Brophy returned to Kuala Lumpur in March as tutor for the first stage of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra's Forum for Malaysian composers.

This two-year initiative involves six composers from around the world being chosen to work intensively with the orchestra. Later this year Gerard will collaborate with the Hong Kong University Gamelan group to present a piece as part of the Music Department's 25th anniversary celebrations in October.

Aviation news

GRIFFITH has formed an alliance with Singapore's Mil-Com Aerospace Training Centre. In announcing the alliance, Premier Peter Beattie commented on the School of Aviation's international reputation as an innovative educator.

"Today's agreement confirms that status," he said.

Griffith began professional pilot education in 1990.

It was the first in Queensland to offer a Bachelor of Aviation degree and a Master of Aviation Management.

Scholarships

WANG Jing has been studying international business at Griffith as part of her Queensland study scholarship.

Queensland Education Minister Anna Bligh visited sister-city Shanghai late last year to present the scholarships.

The 13 winners received their awards in front of a television audience of more than eight million people.

Recipients, like Wang Jing, are now studying at universities and schools across Queensland.

"I think when I go back home and tell everyone about what I saw and what I experienced . . . they will all know that Queensland is a good state for travelling and studying," she said.

"I hope that there will be more students coming here for study."

Sharks cut O₂ use — research

A GRIFFITH researcher has found Epaulette sharks employ special protective mechanisms when exposed to low amounts of oxygen which could have applications in human physiology.

Dr Gillian Renshaw has studied the tropical Epaulette shark, which has adapted to surviving in the low-oxygen environment of reef platforms, for more than six years. "The brain of most animals will go into failure if oxygen levels fall too low, but there are some exceptions and Queensland's Epaulette shark is one of them," she said.

"A surprising finding was that these sharks employ special protective mechanisms to survive the natural periods of low-oxygen which occur during nocturnal low tides on the shallow platforms of the Great Barrier Reef.

"One of the ways that the sharks do this is to turn off areas of the brain which are non-essential.

"In fact, our studies have found that Epaulette sharks . . . actually turn down oxygen consumption while turning up tranquilliser-like neurochemicals that dampen brain activity."

While Dr Renshaw's research has benefits for shark transportation, she and her research team from the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science are now keen to apply these findings to human studies.

"We are working towards identifying the right combination of conditions to turn on these protective mechanisms in humans by tracking the switching mechanisms that help the brain shut down," she said.

"We are looking specifically at pre-conditioning as a way of eliciting intrinsic protective responses."

Dr Renshaw is currently undertaking pilot research with a group of volunteers and is seeking funding to support her research.



Dr Gillian Renshaw conducting research in her lab at the Gold Coast campus

"This year, we will determine whether we can apply our findings to assessing human trauma, which may prove beneficial to stroke and heart-attack victims, as well as to newborns suffering birth hypoxia,"

she said. Dr Renshaw and her research team are hoping to release their initial findings in June.

By Melissa Pizzato

Partnership with QIBT strengthened

THE university's relationship with the Queensland Institute of Business and Technology (QIBT) recently became a lot closer.

Griffith and QIBT signed an agreement outlining their shared vision to provide high quality education for students into the next decade.

Chair of the national Information and Business Technology (IBT) Group Rod Jones said QIBT was proud of its partnership with Griffith.

"QIBT is committed to providing an environment that encourages students to achieve excellence in their studies," he said.

"We recognise not everyone can gain entry to university through traditional pathways but when given the opportunity they can achieve the highest academic standards."

Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove welcomed the QIBT agreement, saying the stronger relationship would deliver benefits to students and staff.

At Mt Gravatt campus, QIBT offers a number of programs in partnership with the university.

The programs are taught by Griffith lecturers and are based on the first year of

university degree programs.

Tusitha Jayatunge is one of QIBT's and Griffith's high achievers.

He completed a Diploma of Information Technology at QIBT and transferred into the second year of Griffith's Bachelor of Information Technology.

With top results in all of his subjects, Tusitha now has his sights set on a Master's degree in computer science and software engineering.

"Studying at QIBT really prepared me for the transition to tertiary study," he said.

"The tutorial groups and lectures were smaller, there were longer teaching sessions and, when needed, extra study support.

"All of these elements combined equipped me with the skills I needed for university.

"And look at me now. I'm one year away from finishing my undergraduate degree and I'm already planning my Master's."

QIBT was established in 1997 and is one of several IBTs across Australia.



Tusitha Jayatunge has been developing computer code as part of his studies at Griffith.

Environmental protection versus free trade

ARE free trade and environmental protection inconsistent, or can economic globalisation be used to support sustainable development?

That was the question faced by a group of 45 law students who took part in an intensive summer course on how free trade affects global environmental protection efforts.

The subject, "Trade Globalisation and Environmental Law", is the first of its kind to be offered to undergraduate students in Australia.

During the three-week course, students studied the dilemma countries faced when

trying to pursue both trading opportunities and domestic environmental priorities.

Course Convenor Professor Jan McDonald said ecological integrity was often undermined in the quest for economic competitiveness in a globalised trading world.

"Many countries are reluctant to introduce expensive environmental protection measures unless they can demand the same of their competitors," she said.

"Yet, international trade rules restrict their ability to impose conditions on trading partners."

The students, who took part in a mock

negotiation on the final day of the course, also looked at how the World Trade Organisation (WTO) influenced ecologically sustainable development.

Professor McDonald said international environment treaties, domestic environmental laws, product standards, quarantine laws and even ecolabelling schemes were potentially subject to WTO scrutiny.

"The WTO has improved its green credentials in recent years but, as a trade body, it is primarily concerned with economic growth," she said.

Students foster hope for non-profit group

THE opportunity to prepare a marketing report for a foster care program not only gave a group of students valuable work experience, it also provided a lifeline for a Gold Coast organisation.

After eight years of placing teens in need with foster carers, Muyim Shared Family Care was at risk of losing its funding because of a lack of carers.

Coordinator Yvonne Olsen approached Griffith's Marketing and Management lecturer Debbie Grace last year for marketing help to recruit more carers.

Despite having to complete

the project during the summer break four students – Malinda Waide, Lyndle Williams, Anne Bakke and Hege Amundsen – volunteered and after months of research and analysis handed over a marketing report at the end of February.

Ms Olsen described the support of the Griffith team as "fantastic and inspiring".

"It shows that people do really care about young people and there are people out there who have the knowledge and are willing to help out," she said.

Ms Olsen said the students' work had not only helped the program retain its funding, it



Malinda Waide (right) with the marketing report she and her fellow students, including Lyndle Williams (left), prepared for Muyim Shared Family Care with guidance the organisation's Co-ordinator Yvonne Olsen (centre).

had attracted interest from the Department of Families, from whom Muyim receives funding, as well as other foster care organisations.

"We're leading the way in developing a model for other organisations," she said.

Foster carer Jenny Anderson, who has cared for

more than 20 young people during the past seven years, said she had seen first hand the struggle Muyim had in recruiting care providers.

"It's a big problem so to have this research is a huge help," she said.

Student Malinda Waide found applying textbook marketing solutions to the real-life problem of a struggling non-profit organisation a challenge.

"It's easy to come up with marketing campaigns when you don't have to worry about money or human resources but this project brought me down to earth," she said.

"Everything we said and

did had to be realistic."

Fellow student Anne Bakke said while the project was challenging it gave her the opportunity to use the knowledge she had gained through her studies on a practical, real-life problem.

Lyndle Williams volunteered for the project to gain hands-on work experience.

As part of the students' recommendations, Muyim Shared Family Care will change its name in mid-March to SAFE, and the new logo and website will be developed by Griffith staff.

By Rachael Layton

Playgroup proves valuable

A PLAYGROUP on Nathan campus is proving a valuable teaching resource for Early Childhood Education students.

The playgroup, supported by the Faculty of Education, has been operating for more than 20 years, serving both the community and Early Childhood Education students.

Early Childhood Education Senior Lecturer Dr Glen Palmer said third year Early Childhood students were rostered to participate in the program as part of their studies. They do so under the supervision of coordinator Helen Alley who is a qualified early childhood teacher.

"Each student attends at least two sessions, giving them the opportunity to interact with really young children – babies up to five-year-olds," Dr Palmer said.

"It's a very non-threatening way for them to have contact with young children and babies and interact with parents. The sessions also form part of their assessment. They are required to observe and plan, then reflect on this afterwards; this becomes part of a bigger assessment item."

The playgroup operates on Tuesday from 9am-noon, with parents and children attending for two hours within that time. It takes place in the Out-of-School-Hours building on Recreation Drive, opposite the childcare centres on Nathan campus. The playgroup may be used by anyone, including university students with children. A weekly fee is charged.

For more information contact Dr Glen Palmer on (07) 3875 5660 or Helen Alley on (07) 3379 9004.



AT PLAY: Tamryn Jones, Dr Glen Palmer, student Danielle Romanin, Helen Alley and Jamie Rankin at the Playgroup on Nathan campus.

Graduate scores dream job

AFTER working as a civil designer for several years, Paul Galvin knew he needed to further his studies if he was to progress his career, but the Bachelor of Civil Engineering graduate couldn't have dreamed of where his degree would take him.

Paul had a job as a Project Manager on a \$100 million road construction project even before he received his testamur.

"I am amazed as to how many doors it has opened for me. I am now working in a job that I would not have dreamed of prior to commencing my degree," he said.

"I commenced a graduate position with the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) New South Wales in January 2002. The position is on a six-month rotational basis, and gives me the opportunity to find the direction which I would like to pursue within the organisation.

"My first rotation is as a Project Manager at the West Charlestown Bypass project. I have enjoyed this experience so much that I have been extended in this position until the project is opened to traffic in early 2003.

"There are many opportunities in my current position with the RTA to obtain a wide range of experience in all aspects of engineering."

Paul was an outstanding student



Paul Galvin enjoys some time out on the job with the New South Wales Roads and Traffic Authority.

while studying Engineering at the Gold Coast campus, receiving a Griffith Award for Academic Excellence in 2001 and the Australian Institute of Steel Construction Undergraduate Steel Design Award in 2002. He attributes his success to his time management skills.

"As I had come from full-time employment to being a full-time student, I treated my studies as a job. I started at 8am and finished at 5pm, regardless of lecture times. This time management ensured that I always had time for other things whilst keeping up-to-date with my studies," he said.

"I feel that my experiences prior to commencing my degree have helped to give me the motivation and maturity to remain focused. I believe that being a mature-age student has given me an advantage rather than being a liability.

"Studying at Griffith was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences in my life. My initial choice of Griffith was due to its close proximity to my home and work. However, after commencing my studies at Griffith, I knew that I had made the right choice."

By Anthony Coates

Family support program delivered on Gold Coast

THE School of Applied Psychology has developed a Family Interaction Program (FIP) for families on the Gold Coast.

FIP provides two programs specifically tailored to meet the needs of distressed families and their young children – the STEP Program and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT).

Minister for Families the Honourable Judy Spence MP recently launched the FIP as part of the Queensland Government Department of Families' *Queensland Families: Future Directions Targeted*

Program of Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative.

The School of Applied Psychology received \$181,025 from the State Government for the FIP and hopes that by offering assistance to distressed families, family functioning will be improved and children will have happier and healthier lives.

FIP Co-Director Professor William Pithers said: "By taking part in research which occurs as part of FIP, children and families help us to understand how to

better help other families who also have had tough times.

"They have the ability to give other children and families a tremendous gift – the knowledge that will lead to the development of programs that will give them the hope for better times, and the skills to get there."

The funding provides for three full-time staff, training and equipment and will help FIP evaluate the STEP Program and PCIT for one year.

FIP Co-Director Dr Melanie Zimmer-

Gembeck said the STEP Program was about taking steps to prevent further distress and was aimed at children between eight and 12 years, who were suffering the clinical symptoms as a result of trauma and abuse.

"PCIT is for children aged three to seven and aims to strengthen the parent-child bond, increase effective parenting skills, improve social skills, and decrease behavioural problems such as tantrums, defiance, and opposition," she said.

Courting the public interest

THE involvement of a group of law students in a public interest pilot program has given many people at the end of their legal tether the chance to have their day in court.

Six students – Jen Clark, Louise Formosa, Paula Rogers, Kate Fitzgerald, Craig Pratt and Ben Cochrane – took part in the Public Interest Lawyering pilot, an elective course offered for the first time last year.

They worked one day a week at the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House (QPILCH) which organises member law firms to provide free legal services in cases which raise public interest legal issues. Griffith Law School was a foundation member of QPILCH.

Student Jen Clark said the QPILCH training was a sharp learning curve.

“We had the opportunity to witness the law’s broader social impacts as the focus was not so much on what was best for the individual applicant, but the extent to which a positive outcome would benefit the broader community,” Jen said.

The students had to assess each case to see if it fitted QPILCH’s criteria of public interest which meant it had to impact on a significant number of people; be a matter of broad public concern; affect disadvantaged or marginalised groups and/or there was a need for legal intervention to avoid significant and avoidable injustice.

If the case did fit the criteria the students would prepare the case for law firms and barristers who did pro bono work for QPILCH.

Cases on which the students worked included a community action group protesting the effects of an irradiation plant and a group of people opposing a major motorway upgrade.

Jen, who is currently completing her Practical Legal Training at Griffith, said the



Jen Clark was one of the students who worked at QPILCH as part of the Public Interest Lawyering pilot program.

experience was a valuable learning exercise from both a professional and personal perspective and reinforced her belief in the benefits of public interest lawyering for all law students.

“We not only gained a direct insight into the common legal issues and obstacles facing pro bono clients, but were also confronted with the very meaning of public interest lawyering and the issues facing providers of public interest legal services,” she said.

Course convenor Associate Professor Jeff Giddings said Griffith had been involved in the QPILCH project since its incorporation last year.

“It’s in keeping with the community service commitment of the Law School and is a good example of where we are leading the way in the involvement of students in a broader range of law related workplaces,” he said.

YBy Rachael Layton

Teamwork mechanics

INDUSTRIAL Relations PhD student Keith Townsend’s study into what makes effective workplace teams will benefit employers and employees alike.

The study will use interviews with about 200 team members from a range of organisations to determine how particular team structures work for employees and managers.

“We are looking at how organisations can set up team structures that are more productive for the organisation and more enjoyable for employees,” Mr Townsend said.

His initial research found the level of satisfaction team members received from a work group had a big impact on its effectiveness.

“Team members who have higher levels of autonomy will be more productive and happy than employees with low levels of autonomy,” Mr Townsend said.

He said the level of satisfaction of team members could directly affect an organisation’s profitability.

“Disenchanted employees tend to rebel against a sense of lack of control by deliberately under working, taking sick leave and other behaviours aimed to re-establish a sense of power,” he said.

The study is due to be completed at the end of next year.

What’s on

EVENTS

April 11. Griffith Logan Information Evening. Venue: Logan campus auditorium. Time: 6.30pm–8.30pm.

April 11–June 1. An exhibition of contemporary Chinese painting at QCA Gallery, South Bank. Hours: Wed–Fri 11am–4pm, Sat–Sun noon–4pm. Ph (07) 3875 3140.

April 15. Redland Information Evening. Venue: Redland Community Cultural Centre. Time: 6.30pm–8.30pm.

May 9–11. Griffith University hosts Jammin’ @ South Bank, a three-day feast of music and creative arts. For a full program go to: www.jammin.com.au

GRADUATIONS

Brisbane: **April 3.** 6pm. Faculty of Arts and Queensland College of Art. Venue: QPAC.

April 4. 2pm. Faculty of Commerce and Management (all commerce degrees), Faculty of Law and Graduate School of Management. Venue: QPAC.

April 4. 6pm. Faculty of Commerce and Management (all other degrees). Venue: QPAC.

April 5. 2pm. Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology and Faculty of Science. Venue: QPAC.

April 5. 6pm. Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Nursing and Health and Faculty of Environmental Science. Venue: QPAC.

April 23. 6pm. Faculty of Education. Venue: QPAC

April 24. 6pm. Queensland Conservatorium. Venue: QCGU.

Gold Coast: **April 11.** 2pm. Faculty of Commerce and Management (B Business), Faculty of Law, Graduate School of Management, Faculty of Environmental Science. Venue: Gold Coast Arts Centre.

April 11. 6pm. Faculty of Commerce and Management (all other degrees) and Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. Venue: Gold Coast Arts Centre.

April 12. 2pm. Faculty of Arts, Queensland College of Art, Queensland Conservatorium and Faculty of Health Science. Venue: Gold Coast Arts Centre.

April 12. 6pm. Faculty of Nursing and Health and Faculty of Education. Venue: Gold Coast Arts Centre.

Logan: **April 26.** 6pm. Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Commerce and Management, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Nursing and Health and Queensland College of Art. Venue: Logan Entertainment Centre.

PROFESSORIAL LECTURES

April 16. Professor John O’Toole,

School of Vocational, Technology and Arts Education — “Making daisychains: Playing to learn to research into playing to learn . . .” Venue: Auditorium, Mt Gravatt. Time: 5.30pm.

May 15. Professor John Fien, Australian School of Environmental Studies — “Learning to care: Education and compassion”. Venue: EcoCentre, Nathan. Time: 5.30pm.

June 19. Professor Beverley Sparks, School of Tourism and Hotel Management — “Waiter, what’s that fly doing in my soup? . . . Responding to service failure in the hospitality industry”. Venue: Lecture Theatre 4, Gold Coast. Time: 5.30pm.

July 17. Professor Jane Hughes, Australian School of Environmental Studies — “What genes can tell us about ecology and evolution”. Venue: CT1, Nathan. Time: 5.30pm.

August 21. Professor Roy Rickson, Australian School of Environmental Studies — “Global industries, local communities and environmental sustainability”. Venue: CT1, Nathan. Time: 5.30pm.

September 18. Professor Joy Cumming, School of Cognition, Language and Special Education — “Why schools: Their purpose and directions for the 21st century”. Venue: Auditorium, Logan.

Time: 5.30pm.

October 16. Professor Bill Merrilees, School of Marketing and Management — “Strong brands and innovation: Paradox resolved”. Venue: Lecture Theatre 4, Gold Coast. Time: 5.30pm.

SEMINARS

Griffith Asia Pacific Research Institute Seminars. Venue: Room 1.22, Macrossan Building, Nathan campus. Time: 12.30pm – 1.50pm:

April 3. Kaye Broadbent. School of Industrial Relations. “Sisters Organising Themselves”.

April 17. Dr Chris Mitchell. Chief Executive Officer. GRC for Greenhouse Accounting. “The Kyoto Protocol”.

May 15. Pasuk Phongpaichit. TBA.

May 22. Dr Borge Bakken. Division of Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, ANU. “Crimes, Lies, and Statistics. The Riddle of Crime in China”.

May 29. Professor Paul Bowles, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada. “The US and East Asian Regionalism”.

June 5. Doug Smith, School of International Business and Asian Studies. “Public spaces in China”.