

Dentistry to start in 2004

The University has announced plans to offer a suite of oral health programs – including dentistry – in what will be the first new dental school to be established in Australia since 1946.

Located at the Gold Coast campus, the undergraduate places will be offered through QTAC later this year.

The suite of new degrees to be introduced includes dentistry, dental prosthetics, dental technology, and dental and oral therapy.

The programs will embrace Griffith's founding principle of sharing knowledge across traditional boundaries. It is envisaged students, from various oral health specialities, will share facilities as well as their learning experiences.

Graduates will be trained in evidence-based practice as well as learn the skills needed to embrace change and development as new approaches, methods, materials, technologies and contexts emerge in oral health.

The University has also developed a special dual-qualification program in which dental students graduate with a Bachelor of Oral Health and a Master of Dentistry in five years.

The new bachelor degrees in dental technology have been designed for undergraduates wishing to specialise in areas such as denture construction, orthodontics and implantology, and for dental technicians seeking to upgrade to degree qualifications.

The new Master of Dental Technology in Prosthetics will be the first specialist program of its kind offered in Queensland.

Earlier this year more than 100 industry professionals from the Gold Coast region attended an Oral Health Forum on campus to hear first-hand about the new dental school.

Griffith plans to additionally provide a range of oral health services to the wider community.

Prospective students are welcome to contact Jane Bowly, Faculty of Health Sciences, on 07 5552 8313.

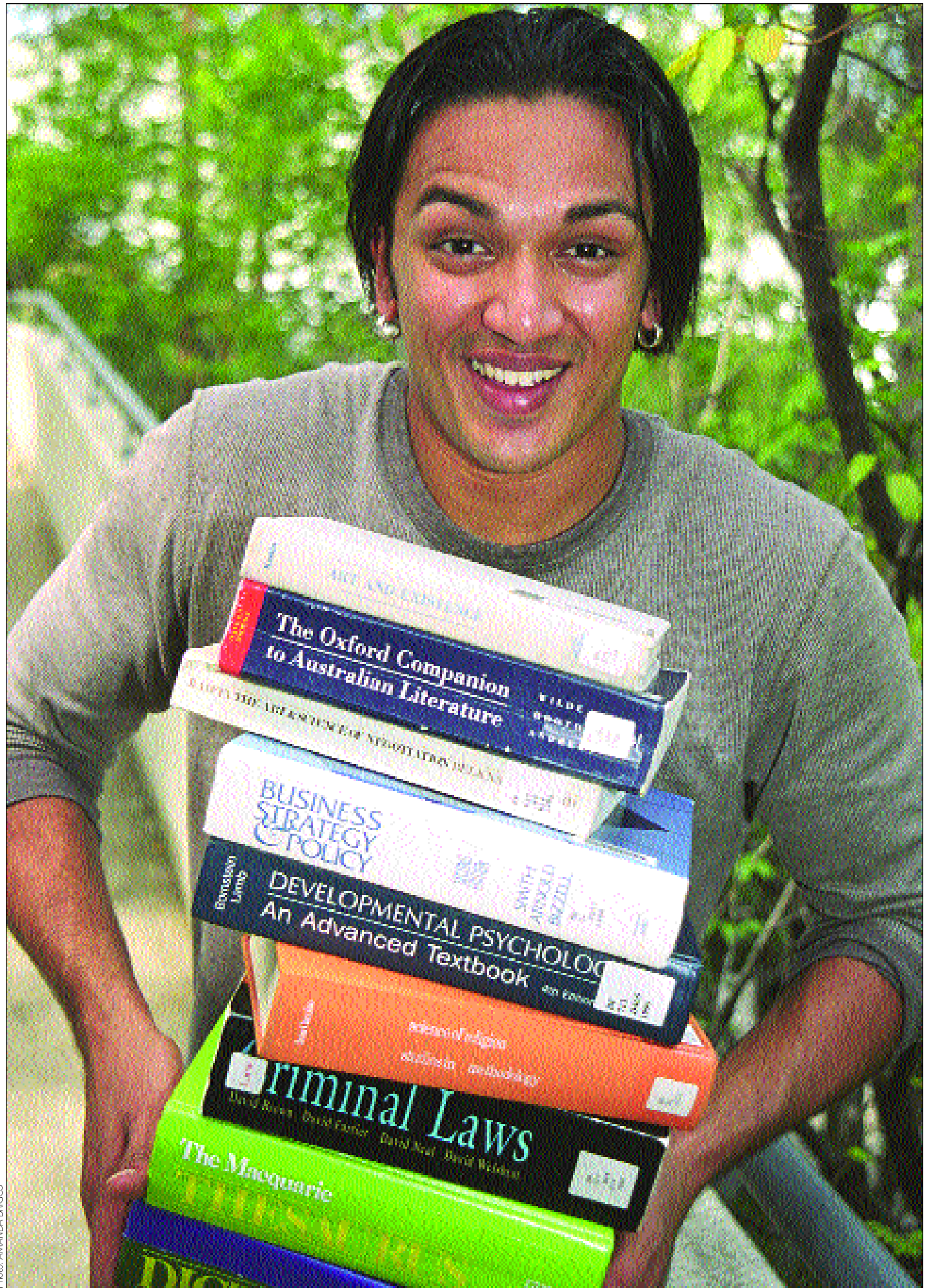


Photo: AMANDA BRIGGS

Back to study

Solomon Kanagaraj is preparing for another year of study in marketing and management. While India is home, Solomon says he loves life on Nathan campus where he lives in Girraween College.



yResearch

Director appointed to new unit p 3



yPeople

Katrin wins sports scholarship p 5



yTechnology

Driverless cars "communicate" p 8

Making connections



At the New South Wales Premier's Forum on Spinal Cord Injury and Condition which attracted 1000 participants, Griffith Professor Alan Mackay-Sim presented on the Queensland Spinal Cord Regeneration Project. It is conducting the first human clinical trial transplanting cells from the nose into the spinal cord. Professor Mackay-Sim and keynote speaker Christopher Reeve (pictured above) discussed the pioneering work at the conference.

Libraries adopt new services

THE University's network of Information Services Centres and libraries are offering new services in 2003.

A number of changes have been made in the Gold Coast, Mt Gravatt and Nathan libraries, including improved facilities for cashiering, photocopying, assignment handling and assignment submission.

Access to the web-based library catalogue "Griflink" and additional library resources are now available from more computers and there are also more study areas.

There is also a new service, "InfoServices", which integrates and improves on several existing services.

"InfoServices" aims to provide a single point of phone and e-mail contact for most Information Services related customer enquiries.

Also underway is the IP Address Management Project, which is set to change the way the Griffith network is accessed across our multi-campus institution.

The project will enable staff to travel between campuses and link seamlessly to the Griffith Network via computer from most network points.

It will also negate the need for staff to arrange for someone to physically hook up their laptop when moving between campuses.

As always, a host of learning and development programs are on offer.

These "Learning Skills" programs cover various library, computing and study skill sets and in most cases are provided free. Visit an Information Services Centre or library on your campus for further information.



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From the Vice Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis

GRIFFITH students like to think. So here is an unexpected suggestion: what we need at Griffith is more politicians.

I'm not just talking about student politics, but let me offer a good word for Griffith's student political groups. Critics say it can be trivial, ineffective and prone to extremism, but campus politics has been the schoolroom of many of Australia's political leaders.

Under 'clubs' on the Griffith website, you'll find four political groups; the Australian Democrats, ALP, International Socialists and Liberals. There is room for many more.

Not everyone wants to be a politician. Don't be too certain: Political skills are among the most powerful tools in your life, no matter what you plan to do.

Politics means 'who gets what where, when and how'.

To be a good politician, you're going to need to be able to organise, get on with people, know your own strengths and weaknesses and understand how 'the

system' works.

So involvement in political life brings something to every major arena of your life. You'll be a more valuable member of your community and family, a more effective citizen, and more successful in the workplace.

The great thing about being a Griffith student is you can learn essential political skills at the same time as photography, Aikido, or badminton; while you're socialising with fellow financial planning students; or while you're discussing the latest developments in maths and physics.

You'll find all these groups on the website under current students, extracurricular activities and clubs. They've also been showcasing their offerings through stalls and posters during Orientation Week.

And they'll specially welcome people who want to fill one of many organisational roles.

So please include extracurricular clubs in your curriculum. We need more good politicians at Griffith, and in the world.

In brief

Journey of Art

ARTISTS from Queensland College of Art Griffith University have drawn on their travel experiences to create works for a cross-collegial exhibition which has just returned from an Italian tour.

Artists from QCA, the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Tasmania and Curtin University have provided 39 mixed media works on the theme "travel as inspiration". The exhibition, Transit Narratives, will be on display at QCA Gallery, South Bank, from February 14 to April 6. Ph: (07) 3875 3140

Grant success

QUEENSLAND Conservatorium Griffith University (QCGU) has received \$12,625 through the latest Arts Queensland Major Grants round.

The grant will help fund the research and documentation of the

Charles and Kati Marson Collection of musical instruments in preparation for exhibition and other uses.

The project will be coordinated by QCGU Deputy Director - Academic Studies Gregg Howard.

The Marson Collection consists of about 830 traditional instruments worth \$500,000 and was donated to Queensland Museum last year, following a partnership with QCGU.

Graduate wins

QUEENSLAND College of Art graduate Tim Noonan won the open category in the fifth annual What's On Short Cut Film Fest.

Noonan's five-minute film, *Pens at Ten Paces*, was about two competing letter writers. His prize includes \$3500 and visits to the sets of *The Secret Life of Us* and *Big Brother*.

Noonan, who made the film with Per Sveinung Larsen, graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Screen Production Film and Television.

Book donation

NATHAN campus library has received a \$5,000 donation from the Aviation Medical Society of Australia and New Zealand.

The money will be used to purchase additional books for the library's existing collection of monographs and books from the estate of Dr John Lane, who is considered to be the father of Australian aviation medicine.

Law event

THE University co-hosted a major conference on electoral law in December.

The Electoral Law Conference 2002 was an opportunity for electoral scholars, administrators and practitioners to come together to improve research into the area of electoral law.

Senators Eric Abetz and Andrew Murray were among the guest speakers.

In the news

- Dr Anna Stewart, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, was in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Age*, *The Courier-Mail*, and other newspapers and radio nationwide talking on research she and her colleague Dr Susan Dennison completed that showed neglected/abused children were more likely to engage in criminal behaviour.
- Professor John O'Toole and Dr Bruce Burton, School of Vocational, Technology and Arts Education, were on Channel 7 and 10 State News, ABC and 4BC radio, *Sunday Mail* and regional newspapers talking about their drama/peer teaching project.
- Dr Maureen Harrington,

Leisure Studies, was on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and in the *Sunday Mail* with her study on family leisure time.

- Graeme Orr and Dr Geoff Airo-Farulla, both from the Law School, were on ABC Radio National's Law Report.
- Politics and Public Policy lecturer Dr Paul Williams' opinion piece about the appointment of Lawrence Springborg as National Party leader was published in *The Courier-Mail*.
- Deputy Vice Chancellor Ian O'Connor appeared on Gold Coast's Channel 9 news and was in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* in relation to the first and major QTAC offer round. Academic Registrar Lyn Holman also

appeared on Channel 9.

- Cooperative driverless vehicles research by Associate Professor Ljubo Vlacic, Microelectronic Engineering, was highlighted nationally on Channel 7, Channel 9, Channel 10, NBN, Sky News Australia, *The Age*, *The Australian*, *The Courier-Mail*, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and various radio stations around the country.
- Dr Clyde Wild, Environmental and Applied Sciences, was on ABC 612 and in *The Courier-Mail* discussing shark nets.
- Professor Diego De Leo, Director of the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, was interviewed by *The Australian* and ABC radio about suicide prevention.

Special title bestowed: Gold Coast celebrates

THE Kombumerri People and Education Queensland took part in an important Indigenous celebration to mark the transfer of title deeds for 43 hectares of land to Griffith University.

The Gold Coast land, south of Smith Street and adjacent to Olsen Avenue, enables the University to plan the future growth of its southern campus to meet the educational and community needs of the region.

At the event the Kombumerri, or Saltwater People, whose links with the Gold Coast span thousands of years, bestowed the name of Budhalgun ("handsome woman") on University Chancellor and former Governor of Queensland Leneen Forde, AC.

Kombumerri Elder Graham Dillon, OAM, said the cultural title recognised the significant contribution made by Ms Forde and the University to reconciliation.

In her welcome to guests, who included Elders from across the South East, Gold Coast City Mayor Gary Baidon and members of government and Griffith communities, Ms Forde acknowledged the Smith St gathering was being held on the ground of the traditional landowners.

"This land has been the home of a proud and resourceful people with a long tradition of sharing and of caring for youth," she said. "Like the Kombumerri, we at Griffith value culture, the passing on of skills and knowledge, and the care and guidance of our young people. We are honoured by our partnership with the Kombumerri."

New unit builds on research

THE Director of Griffith's new Commercialisation Unit, Rob Cook, says the University is in a unique position to undertake entrepreneurial activity in a way that will stimulate the progression of technology and innovation in Australian industry.

"The University already has sections dedicated to commercialising the inventions and discoveries that result from the research efforts of our academic community and this new unit will seek to build upon these endeavours," Mr Cook said.

"It will also explore new ways and new directions for the University to benefit from commercial interests in research and development and in enhancing the current state of knowledge in many areas where the University has expertise."

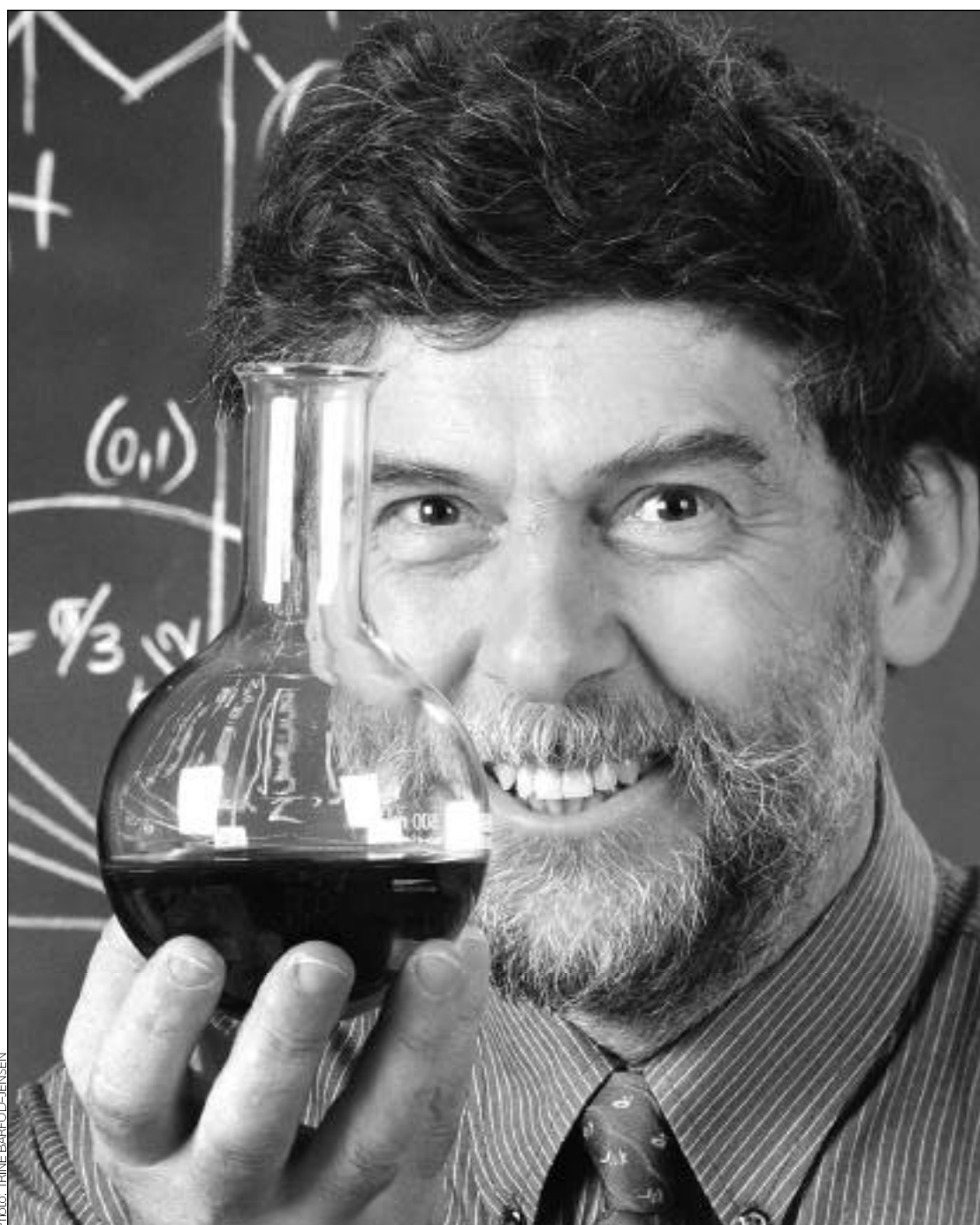
The Commercialisation Unit, established this month, incorporates the Research and Business Liaison area, and the Centre for Business Education and Development (CBED).

Mr Cook said the unit would maintain existing services offered by the Research and Business Liaison area and CBED, as well as develop a more commercial approach to the University's:

- Teaching, research and facilities.
- Management of intellectual property.
- Policies regulating outside work by academics and administrative units.

"The broader aim is to equip the University with the right mix of products and services required to compete in a difficult funding environment with an emphasis on undertaking entrepreneurial activity with integrity."

Mr Cook was previously



Rob Cook heads Griffith's new Commercialisation Unit which is looking at new ways to enhance the benefits of research and development of Griffith University.

President and Chief Executive Officer of Astracon, a US-based software company which sold broadband activation technology to many of the world's

telecommunications giants.

He was also Managing Director of two high profile technology centres in Brisbane, including the former Centre for Information

Technology Research, involving significant input from several Universities.

By Jenny Waller

Drama program helps foil bullying in QLD schools

EDUCATION researchers have drawn on more than 10 years of work for their latest project targeting bullying in Queensland schools.

The project, *Acting Against Bullying*, was launched by Queensland Education Minister Anna Bligh in January.

The program, developed by Professor John O'Toole and Dr Bruce Burton in the School of Vocational, Technology and Arts Education, is an extension of the work they have done on conflict management in Queensland and New South Wales schools.

This research attracted an ARC Small Grant, consultancy funding and an ARC SPIRT Grant.

They are also members of an international drama and conflict management project which has been investigating the use of drama in dealing with conflict in schools for the past 10 years.

Griffith has now received a \$114,000 ARC Linkage Grant and \$160,000 in cash and in-kind support from Education Queensland's Strategic Directions, Research and Policy Branch to implement a three-year



Dr Bruce Burton, Education Minister Anna Bligh, Professor John O'Toole, and Rochedale State High School Principal David McDonald at the launch of the Acting Against Bullying project at Rochedale State High School.

program to target bullying.

Five Brisbane high schools and their neighbourhood primary schools are expected to take part in the project this year with schools in regional and rural Queensland to join in 2004 and 2005.

Professor O'Toole said the program used a specially-designed series of drama techniques to enable students to explore a range of bullying situations common to their age range, and apply their new understanding to their lives.

"The outcomes from schools involved in the conflict management program have been consistently impressive, with some of the worst behaved students being transformed into achievers both in and outside school," he said.

Dr Burton said a senior drama class would be taught basic concepts about bullying, through the use of a drama technique they devised called enhanced forum theatre, and would peer teach younger students within the curriculum. The program would then be rolled down through the school and into primary classes.

"It is through teaching others that students really learn about the causes and effects of bullying," Dr Burton said.

The project has attracted international interest with Swedish researchers adopting the techniques and an American conflict management education group expressing interest. The researchers have also been contacted by drug counselling and prison groups.

By Michelle Hughes

Senior Appointments

- Associate Professor Kay Ferres – Dean of Arts.
- Ms Trish FitzSimons – Head of School, School of Film, Media and Cultural Studies.
- Professor Sharon Bell – Pro-Vice Chancellor (Equity and Community Partnerships).
- Professor John Dewar – Pro-Vice Chancellor (Business and Law).
- Professor Rosemary Hunter – Dean of Law.
- Professor Jan McDonald – Head of School, Law.
- Associate Professor Christine Smith – Dean of Commerce and Management.
- Professor Ross Guest (pictured below), Chair of the Graduate School of Management.
- Associate Professor Michelle Barker – Head of School, Management.
- Professor Allan Cripps Pro-Vice Chancellor (Health Planning).
- Rob Cook, Director of Commercialisation Unit.
- Professor Brendan Gleeson, School of Environmental Planning.



Tracking mozzie hot spots



PHOTO: KAREN KINDT

Dr Pat Dale conducts research in the field.

IT MAY be summer when mozzies are at their worst, but it is research being undertaken during the cooler months which will ultimately help authorities to control mosquito breeding.

Griffith researchers are using thermal imaging equipment to map mosquito breeding under mangrove canopies around Australia so control methods can be focussed on breeding hot spots.

Head of the Australian School of Environmental

Studies and project leader Dr Pat Dale said the best way to effectively control mosquitoes was to target breeding grounds.

“Mangroves are a hot spot for mosquito breeding but are inaccessible and normal air photos cannot penetrate the canopy,” she said.

“The most effective way to monitor breeding in these areas is to take pre-dawn pictures in winter using thermal scanning.”

These images are taken from a plane surveying mangrove areas using heat-sensing

equipment.

“The water is relatively warm at night during winter and shows through the canopy as hot spots which are likely to be where mosquitoes are breeding. The mapping of the mangroves will be used to focus mosquito control and for habitat modification in order to reduce breeding.”

Dr Dale said the mapping completed so far had been invaluable for research into how modifying water flow in mangrove areas could be used

to reduce mosquito breeding.

“Our research has shown it only takes small modifications in water flow in these areas to reduce the number of mosquito larvae.”

It is expected the mapping will be completed by 2004. This research is supported by Commonwealth Government funding through the Australian Research Council.

By Anthony Coates

Busway smartway



You don't have to have an OP 1 to realise that the Busway is the smart way to get to Griffith University. With connections to all campuses, the Busway is stress free, safe and reliable. Guaranteed trip times also make it easy to be on time and keep your academic act together. For customised trip solutions contact TransInfo on 13 12 30 or visit www.transinfo.qld.gov.au



busway smartway



2003 Scholarship Winners

Academic Scholarship winners:

Georgina Watson; Theresa Fullerton; Sandra Diminic; Ryan Oliver; Marita Muller; Matthew Taylor; Nicole White; Timothy Brodie; Alan Burt; Richard Woollard; Dane Laban; Robert Pickham; Adelle Main; Timothy Franklin; Kara Foffey; Natalie Crane.

Sports Scholarship and Sports Development Scholarship winners:

Deborah Lovely; Katrin Kieseler; Nikki Egye; Luke Vedelago; Samuel Simpson; Daniel Lysaught; Deanna Turner; Carlee Spiers; Anthony Still; Lynsey Armitage.

The George Alexander Foundation Scholarship Winners:

Aimee-Lyn Davis; Melanie Loader; Jamie Etwell; Jolie Hannah; Sandra Diminic; Tony Vaughan.

Katrin paddles in her own class

SPORTS scholarship winner Katrin Kieseler has spent half her life pursuing a career in international kayaking.

Now the 25-year-old has her sights set on another career, in primary school education, and has started studying at Griffith's Gold Coast campus.

"I began kayaking at age 12 after I was identified through the school I attended in Berlin," she said.

"I later became a junior and senior world title holder and until 2001 I represented Germany in competition. I was also selected for the Sydney Olympics but political problems in the sport forced me to retire four weeks beforehand.

"After considering my future, I decided the best way to further my international sporting career was to emigrate to Australia.

"People kept telling me the Gold Coast was the best place to train, live and study, so I made the move and I absolutely love it here."

Since her move, Katrin has won a string of national and international titles in K1, K2 and K4 events as a member of the Queensland Academy of Sport.

She was also asked to become a role model in the State



Former world champion kayaker Katrin Kieseler.

Government's Get Active Queensland Schools Program.

The program requires her to visit primary schools throughout Queensland and promote the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle.

"Visiting schools has helped me realise I not only want to excel in kayaking but become a qualified teacher," she said.

"The scholarship will give me

the flexibility I need to undertake my studies and continue kayaking.

"I feel Griffith is the best place for me as it is a progressive and dynamic institution that will provide me with the support I need to succeed."

Sports Scholarships are worth up to \$5,000 a year for the duration of an undergraduate program.

They allow students an extra year to complete their degree and provide flexibility in their study program to meet the demands of competition.

Other scholarships offered this year range from recognising academic excellence to providing financial assistance with on-campus accommodation.

By Jenny Waller

Budget: how it affects family leisure

ORGANISED sport and after-school activities are taking away from family time, especially in middle-income families, preliminary results from a new study by Leisure Studies senior lecturer Maureen Harrington have shown.

Dr Harrington, who presented a paper at the recent Eighth Australian Institute Family Studies Conference, researched the differences between the leisure activities of middle-income (those earning more than \$30,000) and lower-income (less than \$25,000) families.

She said organised after-school sport activities were more characteristic of middle-income families who talked about the long-term benefits of organised leisure activities for developing good citizens and achieving success. However, middle-income families also noted organised sport was a major constraint on family leisure activities.

She said fewer parents from lower-income families were involved in their children's sport, which tended to be school-based.

"They did, however, tend to give greater emphasis to more immediate outcomes of staying together as a family – learning to compromise, share and get along with others," she said. "Mothers and fathers in lower-income families talked about leisure in their family life without rancour, what they did for fun and enjoyment was not shaded by comparisons with the leisure opportunities they did not have for lack of material resources."

The next stage of the study is to collect diary and interview data from a further five middle income families and seven lower income families to expand the data set to 30 families. The study potentially contributes to a better understanding of Australian culture by



Leisure Studies research aims to improve our understanding of Australian culture.

uncovering some perceived benefits and contradictions of family leisure.

"It may lead to a re-examination of community beliefs about the benefits of children's sport and recreational clubs by indicating some of the constraints imposed on shared leisure among family members, particularly for middle-income families," she said.

She said it may also lead to practical knowledge about the strategies used by lower-income families to engage in shared family activities and the benefits of these activities.

"Learning to play cards or to do carpentry, painting scenery for a church pageant and cooking together are shared activities that lower income parents did with their children in my initial study," she said.

Dr Harrington said knowledge about low-cost shared family activities that enhanced family bonding could appeal to families across the income spectrum as alternatives to rushing children from one organised activity to the next.

By Rachael Layton

MBA wins five-star rating

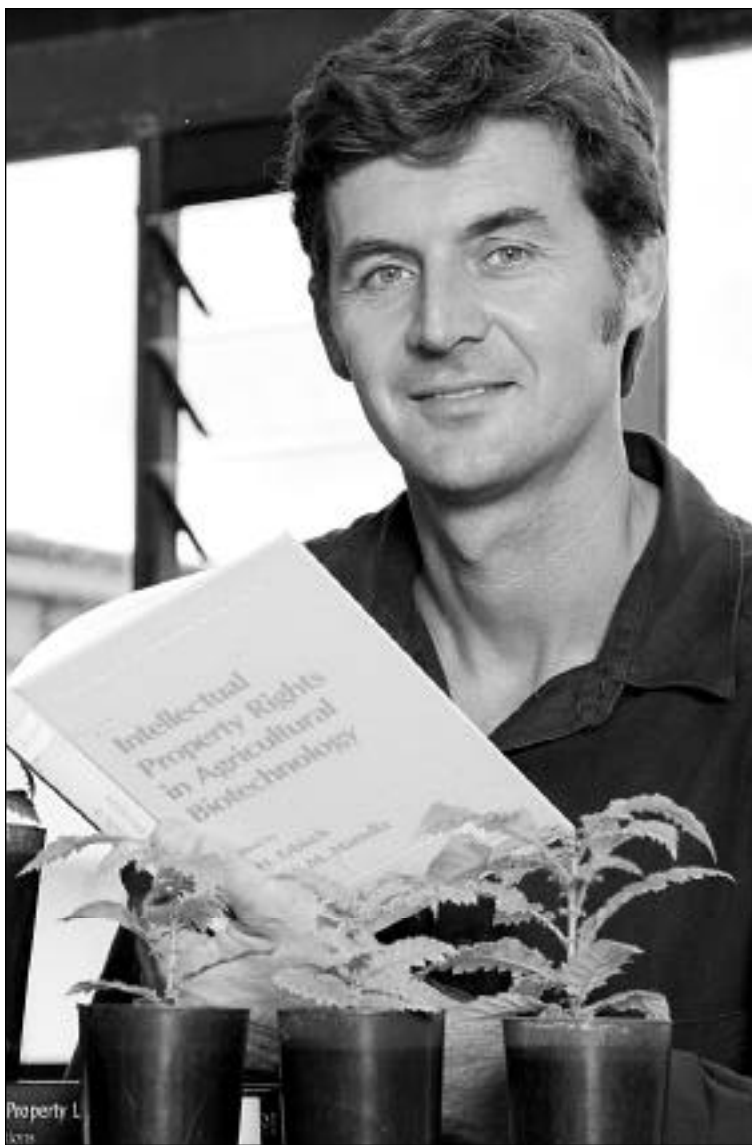
THE University's MBA and MBA International programs have been awarded prestigious five-star ratings by the Graduate Management Association of Australia (GMAA).

The GMAA, the national association of MBA graduates, assessed MBA programs Australia-wide on the basis of standard and value of each program and placed the Griffith programs among the top seven MBA programs in a field of 37.

The University's Graduate School of Management Director, Professor Greg Bamber, said while other surveys tended to be more superficial and focused on cost and length of time the program had been offered, the GMAA survey assessed the crucial elements of MBA programs.

The GMAA assessment was based on measures of important factors including staff and student quality, industry linkages, curriculum, facilities and graduate outcomes. There has been a 25 per cent increase in the number of prospective students applying for Griffith's MBA programs each year since 1997.

Biotech creates IP mindfield



Professor Brad Sherman is researching in intellectual property issues surrounding biotechnological inventions.

COULD the protection of biotechnological inventions under intellectual property laws prevent people accessing new medicines, treatments and research?

The issue will be investigated in a research program headed by Professor Brad Sherman from Griffith's School of Law and one of Australia's leading experts in intellectual property law.

The program will look at how intellectual property ownership of new drugs, medical tests and agricultural production techniques may restrict public access to them.

"There are widely held reservations about whether life forms should be patented at all, but the international trend is towards allowing such patents," Professor Sherman said.

"One of the fears raised is that patent monopolies and the costs associated with licensing may reduce access to medical methods and genetic testing."

Professor Sherman, who has been appointed a technical expert to a working group on intellectual property and biotechnology for the United Nations, said anecdotal evidence suggested patents were having an adverse effect on the delivery of new medical tests and treatments.

"This was especially the case over the reluctance of pharmaceutical firms to supply patented AIDS drugs at accessible prices to patients in Africa," he said.

Recently the European Parliament raised concerns that attempts by a United States biotechnology firm to patent genetic tests for breast cancer could have fundamental ramifications for the delivery of health care.

"There is also mounting evidence that commercial secrecy is hindering pure research by preventing scientists from sharing information," Professor Sherman said.

He said the research would also look at intellectual property issues surrounding genetic advances in food technology.

The three-year project, which has received Australian Research Council funding, aims to describe current IP law, practice and trends in Australia and compare it with what's happening in the United States and European Community.

The research will also study the impact of IP law on particular industries and recommend possible reforms to Australian law.

By Rachael Layton

Richter scale for beaches

The Griffith Centre for Coastal Management, in partnership with Gold Coast City Council and Coastalwatch, will soon establish a new tool for assessing beach conditions.

A research team is developing an assessment tool which will permit a rating system of beach conditions impacting on safety, leisure and the environment.

Director of the Centre for Coastal Management Professor Rodger Tomlinson said the project had national and international significance.

"Beaches are a significant part of Australian lifestyle and economic development and the same can be said for overseas destinations. Monitoring of variable beach conditions is vital for beach safety and management of storm erosion," Professor Tomlinson said.

"The predictive assessment tool for beach conditions we are developing will use video imaging and neural network analysis to permit a rating system."

The research project team received an Australian Research Council Linkage Project grant to the value of \$92,000 per year for three years to develop the coastal management tool.

"The tool will be developed into a software analysis system which will include components of artificial intelligence to enable the system to use feedback loops to create a better prediction of the beach morphology, relative to the breaking wave characteristics," Professor Tomlinson said.

"This should result in a product that will permit accurate forecasting of beach and bar conditions, enabling us to form a reporting system which could be adopted by coastal management and marine safety organisations around the world.

Professor Tomlinson said the new monitoring tool would be used to inform the community about coastal conditions in a similar way the Richter scale is used to assist the general community understand the impact and severity of earthquakes.

"What we will do is create a similar scale for beach health and safety which will be a tool through which we can help the community understand their beach so they are better able to participate in decisions about their beach's future.

"A beach condition trend indicator such as this would assist lifeguards and surf lifesavers to prevent unnecessary deaths."

By Anthony Coates

Project proves work placements are prized

INDUSTRY placements are among the best ways for students to develop generic skills and abilities relevant to the work place, a Griffith study has found.

The *Griffith Graduate Project - Stage Four* surveyed 164 graduates who had completed work placements as part of their degree between 1997 and 2000.

More than 70% of graduates said the generic skills and abilities developed during their industry placements had contributed to the advancement of their careers.

When presented with three learning contexts in which opportunities for generic skills development existed, work placements again figured prominently.

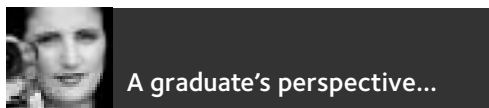
Positive responses amounted to 82.5% for industry placements, 78.9% for University degree programs and 77.2% for post-graduation employment.

Project leader Dr Gay Crebert said the data strongly supported the positive value of work placements for developing generic skills such as oral and written communication, teamwork, information literacy and assuming responsibility.

"Written comments also indicated work placements assisted them with professional skill development and these abilities had ongoing importance in their careers," she said.

"This was reflected again in the quantitative data, with 98% agreeing generic skills development had lasting importance in post-graduation employment."

The aim of the *Griffith Graduate Project* is to better prepare graduates for life, employment and further study through generic skills development



A graduate's perspective...

Rebecca Goss was involved in Stage Four of the Griffith Graduate Project. She said the generic skills she developed at University helped her obtain full-time employment.

Ms Goss, who graduated with a degree in Justice Administration in 1997, recently became Quality Enhancement Co-ordinator for Centrelink.

"My University field placement was difficult at first as I was shy - particularly when placed in new situations. But it was a challenging experience and I found getting my first 'real' job so much easier following the placement," she said.

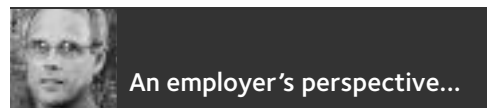
"I had already experienced an interview, was familiar with the office environment, knew how to network and could communicate with a range of different people - all generic skills needed to succeed in the work place."

while at University.

The project has five stages and the final phase should be completed mid-year.

The purpose of Stage Four was to explore the relationship between undergraduate programs with work placements and the work place by surveying the perceptions of graduates and employers.

Survey respondents in the graduate survey had all completed work placements with the schools of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Leisure Studies and Microelectronic Engineering as part of their degree.



An employer's perspective...

Garry West-Bail, the general manager for Hockey Queensland, was also involved in Stage Four of the project.

He took part in a forum on its findings and is a strong supporter of University work placements.

In the past six years, Hockey Queensland has had five students complete University work placements.

The company has also employed six full-time employees, three of whom completed their Leisure Studies degrees with industry components at Griffith.

"I believe the interaction between employers/students/university during and after practicums will help produce graduates with more realistic expectations of the workplace and the skills and abilities they need to succeed," he said.

The final stage of the *Griffith Graduate Project* will further investigate the relationship between work placements and University degrees from graduates' perspectives.

Stages One to Three examined the extent of generic skills implementation in Griffith undergraduate courses and identified the characteristics of a Griffith graduate.

Each stage of the project has involved University staff from several administrative, support and academic elements.

By Jenny Waller

New program



JEAN-CLAUDE Boulenaz (pictured) has just completed the first year of the University's new Master of Suicidology program.

The world-first program has been developed by the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP) at Mt Gravatt campus.

It caters for students with work or research interests in suicide prevention who want to obtain clinical and research-based skills/knowledge at an advanced level in this specialist area.

Applicants are not required to hold an undergraduate degree, although this is preferable.

Mr Boulenaz, who has no previous tertiary qualifications, said he was accepted into the program because of his invaluable work experience.

"Suicide prevention is an area of extreme interest and in my current job it will help me to more effectively carry out my role with Queensland Health," he said.

Mr Boulenaz, who oversees the Queensland Government Suicide Strategy for both the Sunshine Coast and Cooloola Suicide Prevention Networks, said the degree program was extremely relevant to suicidology.

"It is both a theoretical and practical course taught by the best of the best," he said. "And it will further equip me to perform my role in a more informed manner."

Mr Boulenaz, who has been working in the area of suicide prevention in South-East Queensland for more than 20 years, said he has been looking forward to his future studies.

"The material is so enriching and thought-provoking that it's actually enjoyable to do this course," he said.

yBy Melissa Pizzato

Boys tune out in music

BOYS are not participating in certain music activities at school because they are not considered masculine pastimes, a Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University (QCGU) study has found.

Scott Harrison's PhD research found boys would often sing in a rock group or musical, but not in a choir and tended to avoid instruments such as the flute, violin and clarinet.

Mr Harrison, a teacher with almost 20 years' experience, said the study reinforced the experiences he and his colleagues had as music teachers in schools.

He said his research had struck a chord with educators worldwide – he presented some of the findings to a conference for music educators in Norway in August last year and

has been invited to deliver an address in England this year.

In his study, men were asked to reflect on their experiences of school music.

Mr Harrison said although some of the men were oblivious to any gender incongruity while studying music at school, others had things thrown at them and were called names.

He said boys in co-ed schools recalled worse experiences than those in single-sex schools.

"The school experience for some students can be so awful, which is sad because if gender perceptions didn't exist more boys might go into the arts at the school level," he said.

Mr Harrison has also identified a number of tactics some schools have implemented to overcome musical gender stereotypes.

These include:

- Having a singing repertoire and a uniform that will appeal to boys.
- Having a school policy to make people aware this is a bullying issue and how to overcome it.
- Organising single-sex activities in co-ed schools.
- Emphasising perseverance and team activities.
- Ensuring there are positive role models.

Although he belonged to a rock band in high school, Mr Harrison now sings in the Opera Queensland Chorus and lectures in Singing at QCGU's Young Conservatorium.

yBy Michelle Hughes

Wine research is on the nose



Dr Graham Trout is testing the wines of Australia with the aim of improving their smell and taste.

BETTER quality wines and less cork taints ruining your favourite drop is the aim of a new project by scientists from the School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science.

Food Science and Nutrition Convenor Dr Graham Trout is undertaking research into the smell and taste of Australian wine.

Dr Trout said his research

would determine how grape production techniques, wine growing region and wine-making techniques could influence the sensory profile of wine.

"We will be undertaking tests on the wine using a team of trained wine assessors and an electronic nose to collect information on the odour and flavour fingerprint of Australian wines," he said.

"Once this information is analysed, it will be made available to wineries. The wineries will then be able to use this information to improve their product."

Dr Trout said his research would also identify and quantify common wine faults, particularly cork taint, by using sensory evaluation.

"We will be comparing the

results we achieve with our human wine assessors to the results we reach with an electronic nose.

This will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of an electronic nose for assessing cork taint, compared to that of trained human noses. Currently, almost all wineries use human assessors."

yby Anthony Coates

What's on

PROFESSORIAL LECTURES

March 20. Professor John Dobson, School of Science – "The whole is more than the sum of its parts – or is it? Surprises in many-body theory and nanoscience". Venue: CT1, Nathan. Time: 5.30pm.
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 Beverly 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.

– More on page 8

Ben's global trip



Ben Glass maps a new course which is taking him around the world in 300 days.

HONOURS student Ben Glass is on a race against time.

He has embarked upon a 50,000km cycling and sailing adventure, called the Brink Expedition, which will take him to some of the most extreme places on earth.

But there's a catch.

The entire journey – that began in South America on October 31, 2002 and continues through the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and ends in Australia – must be completed within 800 days.

"The challenge is for us to reach Sydney Harbour on Christmas Eve 2004," Ben said.

"Even if it means enduring and navigating the most difficult terrain and extreme weather on the planet."

At present, the Brink Expedition is travelling through the Pantagonian Desert near the Andes in Argentina.

"We have ridden more than 1,000km and are slowly starting to adapt to this new way of life

away from the comforts of home," he said.

"For example we are carrying equipment your average cycle tourist wouldn't carry because we're filming a documentary. So when you add an extra 10kg of equipment onto everything else it is quite a burden to wear over 50,000km in 800 days.

"The team doesn't have a support vehicle either, which means we have to be even more disciplined about what we take with us. But it is still early days for the expedition and it is clear to us that we will be seeing and doing some amazing things."

Ben, 25, completed a Bachelor of Communication at Griffith in 2001 and will complete Honours upon his return.

He is integrating a large part of the Brink Expedition into his thesis. He is videotaping interviews with people from 27 different countries and will use this information to form a post-expedition analysis and documentary for his thesis.

Driverless cars are ready to roll

RESEARCHERS from the University's Intelligent Control Systems Laboratory have developed technology which could lead to cooperative driverless vehicles being on our roads in the near future.

They have developed hardware and software which enables vehicles to undertake everyday driving manoeuvres in cooperation with each other, independent of humans.

Project leader Associate Professor Ljubo Vlacic said his team have completed what was believed to be the world's first on-road demonstration of a cooperative driving solution for unsignalised intersection traversal and an overtaking manoeuvre by autonomous road vehicles designed for cities.

"The aim of our research is to revolutionise the transport industry sector by deploying in-car cooperative autonomous driving systems capable of not just overriding but entirely replacing human

drivers," he said.

"In late December we successfully tested our technology in Rocquencourt, France, using three computer-assisted experimental vehicle platforms developed by the French scientific organisation INRIA and their industry partner ROBOSOFT.

"The tests were undertaken in an outdoor environment in cooperation with researchers from INRIA's IMARA laboratory.

"We interfaced Griffith University's hardware and software modules with their onboard computers allowing the vehicles to simultaneously perform a variety of cooperative autonomous driving manoeuvres in real-time."

Associate Professor Vlacic said the technology was ready for deployment in low-traffic areas such as resorts and retirement villages.

He said the technology could also be used on suburban streets in the near future for a door-to-door service designed to complement existing

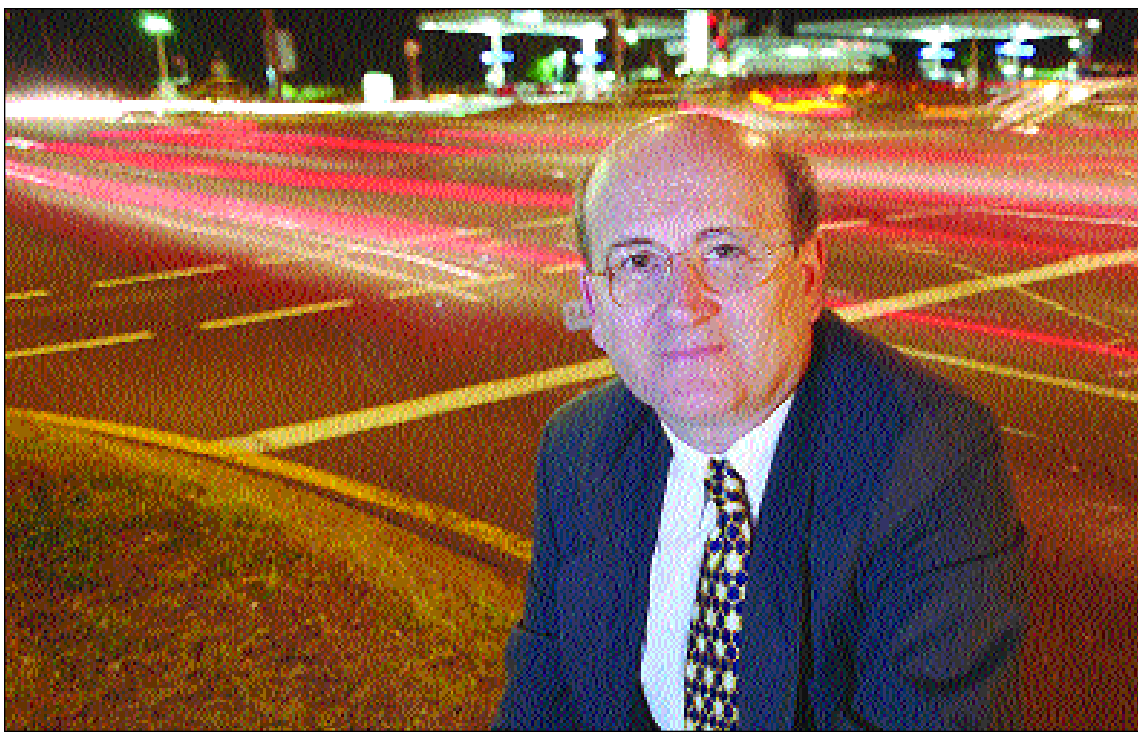
public transport means, by moving people to and from bus and railway stations.

"To take our research to the next stage or commercially implement some of the existing solutions, we need to secure significant funding," he said.

Associate Professor Vlacic was invited by European Union researchers to join them in developing a novel urban transportation system based on automated vehicles. He has also been involved in three European Union research projects.

His research being undertaken at the Intelligent Control Systems Laboratory is funded by Griffith University, the Australian Government's Innovation Access Program – International Science & Technology (DEST, AusIndustry), the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Research Council, and the French Embassy in Australia.

By Anthony Coates



Associate Professor Ljubo Vlacic and his team are road testing their cooperative transport solution and all lights are go.

What's on

EVENTS

March 13. Commencement Ceremony. Time: 4pm. Venue: Multi-Faith Centre, Nathan campus.

March 17. Gold Coast Celebration for Teaching Excellence at Griffith University. Time: 6pm – 8pm. Venue: Gold Coast Activities Centre.

March 19. Celebration for Teaching Excellence at Griffith University. Time: 6pm – 8pm. Venue: QCGU.

Until April 6. Transit Narratives, an exhibition of 39 mixed media artworks.

Venue: QCA Gallery, South Bank. Hours: Wed–Fri 11am–4pm, Sat–Sun noon–4pm. Ph (07) 3875 3140.

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.

May 9–11. Griffith University hosts Jammin', a three-day program 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 Infor-

mation 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.