

Griffith Gazette

VOLUME 20 NO. 1

A monthly review of news and events

MARCH 2005

Arts

Photography graduate finds her dream job in war-torn Beirut. p3



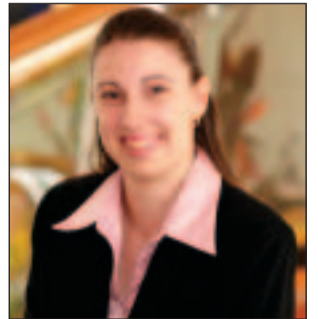
Science

Budding scientists descend on Gold Coast for Siemens Science Experience. p4



Business

Graduate earns traineeship with highly sought-after hotels group. p6



WELCOME: Vice Chancellor and President Professor Ian O'Connor takes time out to talk to first-year medical students Jun Thiang and Drew Cronin at the Gold Coast.

Let the learning begin!

THE university's first medical students are among more than 30,000 people who are exploring Griffith campuses this semester.

While Orientation Week officially runs until February 25, activities and events will roll out over coming weeks to give students every opportunity to get into the swing of study.

It's a time of information gathering and fun, and it's designed to help students understand the goals and expectations of their programs.

Importantly, students can meet their First Year Student Adviser who'll iron out any queries and introduce them to valuable support services.

Gold Coast, Logan, Mt Gravatt, Nathan and South Bank

campuses all feature orientation activities including free workshops, campus tours, library tours, free sample bags, market days, information booths, entertainment, giveaways and much more.

There are workshops on settling into and succeeding at university, basic computing survival skills, stress management, strategies for academic writing, getting Online@Griffith, finding a part-time job, and returning to study as a mature age student.

Market days will have stalls and displays, live music, and barbecue lunches.

Orientation is for ALL students, so the university wants you to come along, enjoy the festivities, and make the most

of your time at Griffith.

Jun Thiang is among more than 80 first-year medical students who'll call Griffith home for the next four years.

She said she had been interested in studying medicine since she was in Year Six and was excited about finally being here.

"What attracted me to Griffith was the chance of a new beginning, a refreshing change, and the opportunity to meet new people," she said.

For information about orientation, managing your studies, timetables, academic programs, enrolment, student services, recreation, or to customise an orientation guide to suit your studies visit www.griffith.edu.au/students

Warm welcome to one and all

ON behalf of the university, I would like to welcome all commencing and returning students and staff to the new academic year. I am looking forward with great anticipation to an exciting 2005 at Griffith in this, my first year as Vice Chancellor.



I know the university community was deeply shocked by the devastation caused by the tsunami in the Indian Ocean on Boxing Day 2004. I have been deeply moved and inspired by the incredible generosity and humanitarian spirit shown by the Griffith community in response to this disaster.

A multi-faith prayer service has been held at Nathan, involving representatives of at least nine faiths. At the Gold Coast campus, an appeal for donations was spearheaded and literally thousands of items were collected including clothes, school supplies, underwear, personal goods and many other non-perishables – estimated to fill 600 tea chests. An independent adviser to the Indonesian Vice

President, Gopal Hutapea, was so overwhelmed to hear of the appeal that he visited the campus on January 18 to personally thank students and staff. I know individual members of our community continue to make contributions, cash and in-kind, to a range of aid agencies.

Griffith University is also currently involved in progressing a range of other aid initiatives which we hope to roll out over the course of 2005. Certainly, our commitment to contributing meaningfully to the aid efforts throughout tsunami-devastated Asia will be long-term and hopefully long-lasting.

On a more local level, across the university our 2005 enrolment is being finalised and among popular programs are Design, Film, Law and Psychology as well as Pharmaceutical Science, Biomedical Science, Physiotherapy and Exercise Science.

Griffith's 600 new Commonwealth supported places, announced by the Federal Government last year, and a likely downturn in applications to universities around the nation, have actually made accessing a place at Griffith

easier for some students. This is a great outcome for Griffith whose commitment to equity and social justice means that we do all we can to ensure that every student with the ability to succeed at university has every opportunity to study and reach their full potential. Welcome to you all.

Joining the university for the first time this year are our first medical students who commenced their studies on the Gold Coast on January 31. The four-year full-time graduate entry degree will complement Griffith's strengths in health-related education and research and will build upon the innovative programs already offered by the university in the fields of Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Oral Health, Dentistry and Nursing. The School of Medicine will be based at the new Griffith Centre for Medicine and Oral Health, a seven-storey state-of-the-art complex which is soon due for completion.

I wish all staff and students a successful and rewarding year and I especially look forward to meeting as many of you as possible throughout its course.

Uni to host PGA Institute

GRIFFITH is now host to the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) International Golf Institute, making it the golf training ground of the Asia Pacific.

The institute is a joint venture between the PGA and the university and initially will be based at the Gold Coast.

Late last year Minister for State Development and Innovation Tony McGrady announced State Government funding for the institute of more than \$471,000 over three years.

"The International Golf Institute will be a place to learn all about the business of golf . . . from golf course management to how to

develop new golfing products. It will also sharpen the skills of existing players and teach people who want to become golf coaches," Mr McGrady said.

The institute will offer degree and postgraduate courses in business management as well as specialist certificate programs relevant to the golfing industry.

It is expected to attract more than 415 students by 2007 and generate \$17 million for the Queensland economy.

For more information contact the institute's chief executive officer, Tracey Howley, on 07 3875 6426 or 0438 140 396 or visit www.griffith.edu.au/commercialisation/pgai

Multimedia students given top job in website design



DESIGNING: Innovative Research Universities Australia executive officer Tony Sheil, Griffith multimedia student Kaye Steel, lecturer Cathie Sherwood, multimedia student Michael Smith, and student group project manager Giuseppina Trimarchi with the new IRU Australia website in the background.

WHEN Innovative Research Universities (IRU) Australia decided to redesign its website, it didn't turn to a company for help. Instead, it selected four multimedia students for the job.

In less than 13 weeks, second year Bachelor of Multimedia students Giuseppina Trimarchi, Laara Curtis, Michael Smith and Kaye Steele completed the research and design for the new, fully functional website.

IRU Australia executive officer Tony Sheil said rather than contracting a web developer to create the site, he called on Griffith multimedia students because of their reputation for possessing practical, industry-recognised skills.

"The original IRU website had its limitations and we wanted a fresher looking design with capacity for

rapid expansion over the next two to three years," Mr Sheil said.

IRU Australia was formed in 2003 with six member universities, including Griffith, which value collaboration in research and education.

Student group project manager Giuseppina Trimarchi said it was great to see an organisation like IRU Australia put its faith in students to create a new website. "It was a valuable learning experience. Dealing with a client first hand, getting feedback and documenting the whole process really opened my eyes to what is involved in managing a project like this," Ms Trimarchi said. The website can be viewed at www.irua.edu.au

By Rhys Stacker

New tennis program

IN keeping with Griffith's expertise in sports management, the university has launched a training program for those currently in or wishing to pursue a career in the tennis industry.

The Certificate in Tennis Management, the first of its kind in Australia, aims to enhance the professional development, skills base and employment opportunities for tennis professionals.

Sports Management lecturer Dr Dwight Zakus said the program recognised there was more to a career in tennis than hitting the ball.

"Griffith's Tennis Management Certificate combines competency skills with management skills at university level," Dr Zakus said.



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Educating for a culture of peace

ALL members of the university community are invited to the annual commencement service on March 10.

It will include prayers by representatives of diverse faiths, an address by ABC Radio National's The Spirit of Things broadcaster Rachael Kohn, and musical interludes including a performance by the Queensland Youth Choir.

Meanwhile, the Multi-Faith Centre is finalising its program of events for the year.

"We're lining up some big events in 2005, including a four-day international symposium in August titled Cultivating Wisdom, Harvesting Peace," Multi-Faith Centre Director Professor Swee-Hin Toh said.

Supported by Venerable Master Chin Kung, the Pure Land Learning College and the Australian National Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation), the symposium aims to educate people about values and principles of diverse faiths for building a culture of peace.

"All faiths have a lot of wisdom to share so we are inviting 20 well-known

educators and thinkers from various faiths and traditions and UNESCO Offices or National Commissions around the world to share their ideas," Professor Toh said.

"There will be a panel of speakers and presenters. At the end we hope to come up with some recommendations for action to help build a more peaceful world through interfaith dialogue and education".

The Multi-Faith Centre will continue to host themed inter-faith dialogues, work with different communities, and celebrate specific observances including Harmony Week (March 15-19), the International Day of Peace (September 21) and Refugee Week. As well the Multi-Faith Centre and the School of Arts, Media and Culture will co-host a one-day symposium with local and international scholars to reflect on the bicentenary of the birthday of Joseph Smith, the founding prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Professor Toh said in the year ahead he hoped to deepen co-operation with the academic community in integrating faith and spirituality within courses and programs.

Fruitful ties

THE establishment of a research centre in Kuala Lumpur will help Griffith and the Malaysian Government work closely to reduce the impact of fruit fly strike on crops in the region and improve trade between Australia and Malaysia.

Late last year Griffith and the Malaysian Government, in collaboration with ASEAN and with the backing of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an International Centre for Management of Pest Fruit Flies (ICMPFF).

Malaysian Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Yassin said fruit flies were a major global problem and remained one of the biggest obstacles to the expansion of horticultural industries around the world.

ICMPFF Director and Griffith Professor Dick Drew said the centre would help increase food production by preventing fruit fly attack on fruit and vegetable crops.

He said this would lead to improved financial stability for communities and alleviate poverty in rural areas.

"It will also facilitate the export trade in fresh fruit and vegetables between Australia and south-east Asia by working with national quarantine services to prevent new outbreaks of fruit flies and develop early warning systems," Professor Drew said.

Initial research at the centre will focus on quarantine surveillance, fruit fly incursion management and fruit fly diagnostics for

quarantine services.

The centre will also promote the use of environmentally safe fruit fly baits developed by Griffith.

"This inexpensive fruit fly bait is made from the yeast waste produced during the manufacture of beer," he said.

"The non-toxic bait is an alternative to spraying large quantities of chemical insecticides on affected crops."

Pictured below at the ceremony were Malaysian Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Yassin, Malaysian Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry secretary general Dato' Abi Musa Asa'ari Mohamed Nor, Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President Professor Ian O'Connor and Queensland Minister for Primary Industries Henry Palaszczuk.

| By Rhys Stacker



Beirut beckons graduate with dream job

PHOTOGRAPHY graduate Cassandra Mathie has found her dream job in war-torn Beirut.

Ms Mathie flew to the Middle East in February for a two-year AusAID-funded project to develop a photography program for marginalised Palestinian refugees.

The project combines her experience in documentary photography and community development to enable people to tell their stories through images.

"If I had to write the perfect job description, this would be pretty close," she said. "It's exciting and it's going to be quite challenging. Lebanon is a country of extremes – you can grab a coffee at a Starbucks in Beirut and yet blocks away there is no running water."

Ms Mathie's project received a financial boost when she received a \$5000 Pureland Peace Travel Scholarship from Griffith University. The scholarship provides Griffith students and graduates with the opportunity to undertake

travel that will enable them to make a contribution to the cause of peace.

Ms Mathie said she would teach young people about photography and how it could be used as a creative tool to help restore self-image, self-confidence and overcome war trauma.

"It will be about using a creative response rather than an aggressive response and working at a grass-roots level," she said. "I can show them how photography can help them communicate their stories to the outside world and create a better understanding of their lives."

This use of photography as a tool in community development is something Ms Mathie has pursued since graduating. She has travelled the world living in the communities she has photographed.

"Community development allows you to positively interact with communities," she said. "To be able to have that access into the community makes your work a lot more informed." Back on home soil, Ms Mathie used the same community development format last year to document the lives of the Brisbane Sudanese community.

"There is a growing Sudanese community in south-east Queensland and I wanted to show their community to the people of Brisbane to create a better understanding between the two cultures," she said.

The Museum of Brisbane commissioned the work which was exhibited at the museum at the end of last year.

Ms Mathie, who completed her Bachelor of Photography in 1997, described her university degree as a stepping-stone but said she continued to learn and grow through her experiences.

"It gave me a foundation and a glimpse of what was possible, an insight into what was out there but it's an ongoing process of educating yourself," she said. "That's why I travel – it gives exposure to what is possible and what you can do."



PHOTO FINISH: Photography graduate Cassandra Mathie at her exhibition of photographs of the Brisbane Sudanese community.

| By Rachael Layton

Hands-on science experience



EXPERIMENTING: Hannah Milford, 14, makes green slime at the Siemens Science Experience.

MORE than 180 budding scientists descended on the Gold Coast and Nathan campuses in January as part of the Siemens Science Experience.

The national event for high school students entering Year 10 is in its 15th year and aims to provide hands-on activities and experiences for students interested in science, chemistry, engineering and electronics.

Queensland Minister for Education Anna Bligh officially opened the event. She said Queensland and Australia needed more scientists in the future and urged students to consider a career in science.

"What are going to be the big issues of the future? How we manage our water supply, how we manage air quality, how we manage food distribution. I think the answers to some of these questions are sitting in this room," Ms Bligh said.

"We need every one of you to keep the sort of enthusiasm that brought you here today, to think about how you might be able, in a long-term way,

to contribute to solving these problems."

Engineering lecturer and event organiser on the Gold Coast, Charles Hacker, said the three-day event allowed students to visit university laboratories, hear from leading Griffith scientists and learn about careers in science.

"The event shows students that science and engineering are fun and can make good careers," Mr Hacker said.

Students at the Gold Coast constructed bridges from drinking straws, learned to measure their heart rate and made cosmetics in chemistry labs. At Nathan students built their own bicycle lights and made slime from basic chemicals.

St Mary's College student Hannah Milford, 14, said she had a general interest in science. "We've done the theory so this year I'm really looking forward to prac," she said.

By Rhys Stacker

Naming ceremony recognises doctor

RESPECTED mathematics and teacher educator Dr Jack Briggs has been honoured by the university with the science education building extension at Mt Gravatt now bearing his name.

On the Mt Gravatt campus Dr Briggs was Head of Mathematics from 1971 to 1978 and Head of Mathematics, Science and Computing from 1982 to 1988. He passed away on September 16, 2001.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Arts and Education) Professor Marilyn McMenemy said Dr Briggs had made an enormous contribution to education locally, and his contributions were significant at state, national and international

levels. "At the state level, Dr Briggs helped set primary and secondary mathematics curricula through his work on Department of Education committees. He was also the first Coordinator of the Combined Course Preference Centre, the forerunner of the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre," she said.

Nationally, Dr Briggs was Vice President of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia during the 1980s.

"He also published many conference papers and journal articles and co-authored a textbook on teaching mathematics for pre-service primary teachers that is still used today."

Skal scholarship awarded

FIRST year student Courtney Darkins has been awarded the inaugural Gold Coast Skal Club Tourism and Hotel Management Scholarship.

As part of the \$2000 scholarship, Ms Darkins (Bachelor of Hotel Management) will visit the Skal Club in 2005 to speak about her achievements.

Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management Deputy Head Chris Guilding welcomed the club's support.

"The equity scholarship was funded by Skal to

encourage and assist a first year tourism or hotel management student who has demonstrated high academic achievement," he said.

"It helps put a high quality education within reach of someone who may otherwise be unable to afford it and rewards them for their hard work."

Skal is an international organisation which brings together all sectors of the travel and tourism industry and focuses on the benefits of doing business based on ethics, friendship and trust.

A new ethos for our age

GRIFFITH REVIEW'S latest edition is themed The Lure of Fundamentalism and features new voices and leading writers who delve into various aspects of 21st century fundamentalism, its global roots and Australian connections.

Among members of the university community contributing to this national quarterly are Griffith Asia Institute Director Michael Wesley and Humanities Professor Wayne Hudson.

Professor Wesley will also discuss his essay at the university's upcoming literary lunch on March 18. The event will be held at the Multi-Faith Centre, Nathan.

Among writers in this edition are Hugh Mackay, who delivered the 2004 Griffith Lecture, Murray Sayle and Chas Savage. Lee Koffman, Randa Abdel-Fattah and Eliza Blue give their own unique perspectives on the role of religion in the lives of young women – the fashionable appeal of the Kabbalah, the fragile acceptance of a Muslim woman, and the emergence of religion as the new ideology on university campuses.

"In many ways these young writers provide an update on how as a society we are encouraged to perceive different religions and how we react or, at times, overreact to different practices," editor Julianne Schultz explained.

Griffith REVIEW: *The Lure of Fundamentalism* also features significant essays which provide background to current events in various parts of the world.

"While we should seek to understand the lure of fundamentalism, the dangers of acquiescing to its


simple certainties are profound," Professor Schultz said. "The lessons from history are there for us all to see but are only too often repeated."

For literary lunch bookings and payment, contact Susan Storey on 07 3382 1018.

See www.griffith.edu.au/griffithreview



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Wesley addresses Australia's Asian studies shortage

ASIAN expertise in Australia was declining rapidly and would leave the nation a less valuable partner to many of its key allies, Griffith Asia Institute Director Professor Michael Wesley said.

Professor Wesley said Australia's diplomatic and intelligence expertise was once highly valued and sought after by allies in Washington, London and elsewhere. He said this won Australia a seat at the great councils of the West.

"With a dramatic decline of students participating in Asian studies we are losing what I believe to be our national asset," he said.

"Even the federal foreign policy, defence and intelligence agencies will find it increasingly difficult to recruit staff with crucial Asia skills."

Professor Wesley said an understanding of Asia's future was critical for Australians to understand their own future.

"Since its European colonisation, Australia has always lived in a Western-defined and managed world order. However, the states of Asia are becoming more powerful and self-confident in

their external relations and now is not the time for Asian studies to be cast aside," he said.

Regarded as one of Australia's most dynamic international relations scholars, Professor Wesley said the aim of the Griffith Asia Institute (formerly known as the Griffith Asia Pacific Research Institute), was to address Australia's Asian studies crisis and provide important platforms to stimulate public debate on and raise awareness of Asian issues.

"The Griffith Asia Institute is now one of the few remaining Asia-focused think tanks left in Australia," he said.

"It is imperative that Australia maintains this expertise in Asian studies as our world increasingly becomes defined by Asian countries."

The Griffith Asia Institute will host a public lecture as part of its February conference titled "Post-Saddam Iraq: Gambling the future of democratisation and the free market ideal?"

For more details visit the website at www.griffith.edu.au/centre/asiainstitute/



PEACEFUL CLASSROOMS: Helensvale primary school students with the colourful peace mural they painted.

Promoting peace in primary classrooms

PLAY, paint and problem-solving were among the strategies used in a pilot project promoting peace in schools.

About 16 Griffith education students volunteered at 10 Gold Coast schools working with individual students and class groups on a range of projects for the Peaceful Schools, Peaceful Classrooms program. It was funded by a Community Service Grant from Griffith University and the Rotary Club of Ashmore.

Centre for Professional Development Director Maxine Cooper, who developed the program, said first-year education students worked with school teachers to look at how the peaceful school communities approach could be incorporated into each school.

Some of the initiatives included working with small groups of students and individual students with social and behavioural

difficulties, planning activity programs focused on peace for the whole class and painting a peace mural for the whole school.

Dr Cooper said the project benefited both the education students, for whom it was their first practical experience in a school environment, and the schools, teachers and primary students.

"For the education students, it helped get their ideas about themselves as a teacher developed before they had to do it more formally," Dr Cooper said. "The feedback from the schools was that it made a difference and they had seen improvement in some of the children. The project has shown all those involved the need for schools to be safe, happy places for everyone."

It is hoped the volunteer project will continue in 2005 with the experienced participants buddying with new teacher education students.

| By Rachael Layton

Creativity could be key to A.I.

A PHD candidate's efforts to inject an element of creativity into artificial intelligence (A.I.) systems recently won him \$500.

Information and Communication Technology student Peter Blain was awarded the Griffith research higher degree prize after he presented his ideas to a panel of lecturers.

Mr Blain is embarking on an ambitious doctorate to examine the viability of Perceptual Activity Theory as a means to model aspects of human creativity and potentially use them for robots and AI programs

Perceptual Activity Theory seeks to explain how the mind understands the world. Mr Blain said it was an understanding based upon active exploration rather than inner pictures or descriptions. Traditionally AI systems have been programmed with a certain view of the environment around them.

"With robots, for example, you build a model of the world. But once the environment changes from the one programmed into it, the robot doesn't know how to deal with it," Mr Blain said.

"It's about getting rid of data structures or representations that introduce rigidity and inflexibility, and giving robots planning and memory and creativity."



INJECTING CREATIVITY: Student Peter Blain is working to improve Artificial Intelligence systems.

By programming robots and AI systems to operate more like the human brain, they could potentially simulate mental imagery, or imagination, which Mr Blain says is important in creativity and intelligence.

| By Rhys Stacker

Expertise recognised at Australia Day awards

TWO of Griffith's own were among 14 Queensland finalists in the recent Australian of the Year Awards.

Genomics Research Centre Director and School of Medical Science Head Professor Lyn Griffiths was one of four finalists in the Australian of the Year category.

Griffith Business School Department of International Business and Asian Studies Emeritus Professor Colin Mackerras was one of four finalists in the Senior Australian of the Year category.

The National Australia Day Council received nearly 1900 nominations for the awards which include the Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Local Hero categories. Each finalist demonstrated excellence in their field or a significant contribution to the community or nation.

Professor Griffiths' nomination and selection as a finalist in the awards predominately recognises the 10 years of work she has invested in researching the

genes involved in migraine.

However she was delighted to share the honour with a Griffith colleague from a completely different discipline.

"I thought it was just outstanding that two of the 14 finalists in Queensland were Griffith University academics," she said.

Professor Mackerras was recognised for his body of work and leadership in the teaching of Asian studies over many years.

Highlights include his chairmanship of the National Asian Language and Studies in

Australian Schools taskforce from 1994 to 1999 and of the Queensland School Curriculum Council from 2001 to 2002.

Professor Mackerras was also honoured by the University Council which awarded him the Emeritus Professor title in December.

Also receiving the title were Professor Peter Brosnan and Professor Bill Hogarth. It acknowledges distinguished service to scholarship and to the university.

| By Mardi Chapman

Serena's career coup in Kakadu



KAKADU CALLS: Business graduate Serena Ludcke prepares for a management traineeship program in Kakadu National Park.

BUSINESS graduate Serena Ludcke will swap life in suburbia for the beauty of Kakadu when she starts her management development traineeship with the highly sought-after Intercontinental Hotels Group in March.

Ms Ludcke is one of four Griffith graduates selected for the major hotel chain's Corporate Management Development Program.

Four of the seven trainees accepted were Griffith graduates, testimony to the university's strength in hospitality management education.

Kirsty Mallitt, Deborah Hawken, Carly Archer and Serena Ludcke will spend 18 months gaining experience in various management functions at hotels within the chain's northern region which extends from the Gold Coast to Darwin.

Ms Ludcke said she was not only looking forward to gaining management experience in areas including human resources and marketing, but also working in a number of different hotels in the world heritage listed Kakadu National Park.

While studying for her Bachelor of Business/Hotel Management, Ms Ludcke worked as an assistant manager at a Gold Coast coffee chain and at the annual Gold Coast Indy Car race.

"The experiences were good because I could apply the management skills I learnt at uni to both jobs," she said.

Ms Ludcke will start her traineeship program in March.

By Rachael Layton

In the News

Here is a glimpse of some of the Griffith stories that have recently made the newspapers, radio and television.

- Dr Felicity Grace (School of Arts, Media and Culture) discussed the strains placed on celebrity marriages in *Who Weekly* magazine, Sydney's *Sun-Herald*, and on various ABC radio stations.

- Dr Stephen Smallbone (School of Criminology and Criminal Justice) featured on AM Saturday discussing the distribution of images of children on the internet. Dr Smallbone also appeared on ABC's 7.30 Report for a story on the public hounding of convicted sex offender Dennis Ferguson.

- Jason Nelson (School of Arts) featured in metropolitan and regional newspapers discussing internet game-playing and its effect on relationships.

- Earle Bridger (Queensland College of Art) was on ABC and other radio stations discussing ethical and legal issues in relation to photographers and the paparazzi.

- Politics lecturer Dr Paul Williams was interviewed for print and broadcast media around Australia about the ALP's leadership.

- Associate Professor Michael Meadows (School of Arts, Media and Culture) featured in *Campus Review* discussing his interest and research in rock climbing.

- Professor Michael Wesley's (Griffith Asia Institute) essay about the motivations of suicide bombers was published in the *Australian Financial Review*. Professor Wesley also wrote an opinion piece about the Iraqi elections published for *The Courier-Mail*.

- Professor Lorelle Frazer's research into franchising was referred to in articles in *The Australian Financial Review*, *Business Review Weekly*, *Sunday Age* and *Sun-Herald*.

- Stephen Winn (School of Cognition, Language and Special Education) was on ABC radio discussing optimum learning environments in school classrooms.

- Business PhD student Sara Branch spoke to print and broadcast journalists about her research into the workplace bullying issue of "upwards bullying".

- Professor Judy Searle has been on radio and television news and in print in recent months discussing accreditation of the School of Medicine and the arrival of Griffith's first medical students.

- Dr Marie Cooke's nursing research on using music to reduce anxiety before day surgery was covered by local, regional and national print media.

- The launch of Professor Grant McTainsh's DustWatch website coincided with a large dust storm over Queensland. He featured on numerous ABC Radio stations as well as *The Courier-Mail*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Gold Coast Bulletin*.

- Microelectronics expert Dr Yongsheng Gao and his facial recognition technology featured in *The Courier-Mail* and on several news websites including SMH.com.au

- Professor Brendan Gleeson provided expert comment in relation to a recent national survey into how children spent their leisure time. He was quoted in regional and metropolitan newspapers across Australia.

Online learning allows nurse to do Master's



FLEXIBLE LEARNING: Postgraduate nursing student Coralyn Gerhardt gets online tips from Associate Professor Wendy Moyle.

NOT all Griffith students will be spending most of their study time on campus in 2005.

Some have the option of studying online and accessing courses otherwise unavailable to them due to work, family and other commitments.

Postgraduate student Coralyn Gerhardt didn't even know how to work a computer when she started as a mature-age undergraduate student in the School of Nursing at Logan campus.

However the registered nurse is now two thirds of the way through her Master of Advanced Practice (Gerontological Nursing), and is a keen advocate of the benefits of online learning.

Ms Gerhardt lives at Logan Village but works full time at the Mount Olivet Hospital in Kangaroo Point. She found online study was a more convenient option for the hours she worked.

"I would have had great difficulty swapping shifts or having days off to do courses that were not offered online," she said.

"However I can still go on-campus and use the facilities, as well as enjoy all that energy that is around a university."

Griffith has restructured its postgraduate nursing programs for 2005, streamlining most of the existing

programs into the one Master of Advanced Practice.

Postgraduate convenor Associate Professor Wendy Moyle said clinical streams on offer included Critical Care Nursing, Emergency Nursing, Community Health, General Practice Nursing, Gerontological Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Palliative Care, Sexual Health and Infection Control.

"In keeping with Griffith's focus on flexible learning, most courses offer a high level of web-based interactivity while some programs such as infection control are delivered fully online," she said.

School of Nursing Research Fellow Dr Philippa Seaton said online education was particularly useful in extending knowledge for postgraduate students.

She said the multimedia and interactive potential of online courses not only enriched the learning environment and actively engaged students, but also allowed for courses to meet the highly individual learning needs of students.

"Online learning also helps build information and communication technology skills that are required in high-tech health care environments," Dr Seaton said.

By Mardi Chapman

Information fusion work recognised by NASA

THERE is nothing artificial about the intelligence required to create precision software applications for non-precise information.

Business senior lecturer Dr Mohammad Khoshnevisan is a world leader in the field of information fusion, a new area of artificial intelligence which provides greater accuracy and precision in decision-making applications.

Late last year, Dr Khoshnevisan's joint research work "An Overview on Dezert-Smarandache Theory for Information Fusion, Khoshnevisan, Smarandache and Dezert theory" received a warm welcome at the North American Space Agency (NASA), United States of America. The paper received a NASA award.

Dr Khoshnevisan collaborated with Dr Florentine Smarandache (University of New Mexico, USA) and Dr Dezert (National Aerospace, France) on the research project.

"Information fusion is a very new area – it's only about eight years old," Dr Khoshnevisan said. "It minimises error and the time lag in many engineering type applications and has a lot of uses, for example in military programs and financial engineering.

"We're working on expanding and trying to create new software so people can use this in the marketplace and we hope to apply for a government grant in Australia," he said.

Depression link to superwomen

THE emotional pressure to be superwomen could be leading to an increase in women's depression, results of a pilot study by sociologist Simone Fullagar have shown.

Dr Fullagar, whose study looked at women's experiences of depression and processes of recovery, said while genetics and chemical imbalance had long been attributed as causes of depression, the condition had to be looked at in a broader context.

The qualitative study looked at the experiences of 48 women aged 20 to 66 who were recovering from depression and highlighted that women's increasingly busy lives and societal pressures were factors in depression.

"Women are taught to care for others before themselves so often they don't, or aren't able to, take time out when they need to," Dr Fullagar said.

"We need to look at the impact on our mental health of social expectations about gender responsibilities at home, work and in relationships.

"In our society depression is most often seen as a psychological or medical problem which means the social context of women's emotional wellbeing is often not well understood," she said.

"The women in our study identified some very important social relationships that have contributed to feelings of depression as well as

the experience of recovery."

She said increased workloads (domestic and outside the home), pressure to look good and be a perfect mother could all impact on a woman's mental health.

Larger problems such as domestic violence and childhood abuse could also contribute to depression.

"These are social issues related to gender inequalities that manifest within individual experiences of depression," she said.

Dr Fullagar said for many women, depression was also a catalyst through which they made changes in their work, leisure and family lives along with their sense of identity.

"It is important that we see these experiences as a form of expertise about depression that can be used by policy makers and professionals to think more critically about the nature of women's depression today," she said.

Dr Fullagar has received a three-year ARC grant to continue researching the social forces shaping women's experience of depression and recovery.

The preliminary findings of the pilot research were presented at a community-university forum in February.

By Rachael Layton

Sculptor sows seeds for Thiess Art Prize



WINNING WORK: Shena Collins' sculpture which won the 2004 Thiess Art Prize.

FINAL-YEAR art student Shena Collins won the 2004 Thiess Art Prize for her sculptures made from beachside Casuarina tree seed pods.

The annual prize, which is open to Queensland College of Art (QCA) graduating students, attracted a wide range of artworks including photography, painting, sculpture, jewellery, digital media and contemporary Indigenous arts.

The accompanying exhibition was displayed at the Dell Gallery @ QCA.

Dell Gallery @ QCA curator and Thiess Art Prize preselection judge Simon Wright said Shena's work incorporated found objects, and in the case of her winning work titled Casuarina, used the pods from coastal Casuarina trees.

"This group of sculptures can be seen as a response to and a concern for the environment, and was recently part of a group show at the Gold Coast City Gallery," Mr Wright said. "Shena's sculptures have allowed her to

intuitively interpret her own appreciation of organic forms."

He said the entries in the competition were impressive. "Painting and photography were strong once again, but sculpture was the real surprise for me," Mr Wright said.

"For some of these emerging artists this is their first exhibition in a public gallery, and I'm aiming to assist launching awareness of their practice and get them in front of audiences that include writers, dealers and collectors.

"Last year several artists went on to attain representation at some of our top private galleries, and we attracted several new collectors into contemporary art. It's a confidence builder for our finalists and contributes in so many ways to the local arts community."

The Thiess Art Prize offers more than \$5000 in prizes. Krystal Barnes won the People's Choice popular award category.

What's On

LECTURES

February 25. "Post-Saddam Iraq: Gambling the future of democratisation and the free market ideal?" Speakers: Anthony Bubalo (Lowy Institute), Professor Ira Chernus (University of Colorado) and Professor Amin Saikal (Australian National University)

Time: 6-7.30pm. Venue: Central Theatre 2, Nathan. RSVP: Honor Lawler on 07 3875 3730 or email h.lawler@griffith.edu.au

March 10. "Myocardial Ischaemia: Molecules to Medicine, Mice to Men". Speaker: School of Health Science Professor John Headrick. Time: 5.30pm – light refreshments served. Venue: G17, Theatre 4 (Lecture Theatre 3 and 4 complex), Gold Coast. Contact: RSVP to Melinda John on 07 5552 8314 or email m.john@griffith.edu.au

April 21. "Seeking Justice in the 21st Century: The contested Politics of Race and Gender". Speaker: School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Professor Kathleen Daly. Time: 5.30pm – light refreshments served. Venue: S05, Room 2.04 (QCA Lecture Theatre), Queensland College of Art, South Bank.

May 19. "Intensive Care and beyond; Improving the Transitional Experiences for Critically Ill Patients and their Families". Speaker: School of Nursing Professor Wendy Chaboyer. Time: 5.30pm – light refreshments served. Venue: : G17, Theatre 4 (Lecture Theatre 3 and 4 complex), Gold Coast.

June 16. "Croquet the Clusters: Capability Brown's Top Tips for Stunning Film Landscapes". Speaker: Griffith Film School Professor Ian Lang. Time: 5.30pm – light refreshments served. Venue: S05, Room 2.04 (QCA Lecture Theatre), Queensland College of Art, South Bank.

EVENTS

Until February 27. Revolutions Revelations Resolutions. Photographic exhibition by internationally acclaimed photographer and Griffith Adjunct Professor Tim Page. Tim confronts our views of war and peace with powerful images of the Vietnam War, and the consequences of war, juxtaposed against the natural peace and beauty that surrounds us. Time: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-8pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Venue: Brisbane Powerhouse. Free admission. Contact: 07 3358 8600.

Until March 24. Blur. Venue: Dell Gallery @ QCA. Hours: Wednesday-Friday 11am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday noon-4pm. Contact: 07 3875 3140

March 15 and 18. Griffith University Careers Fairs, Nathan and Gold Coast. Major government and private sector employers recruiting final-year students for graduate jobs in 2006 will attend. Professional associations, professional development exhibitors and student professional associations will also be represented. Time: 11am-2pm. Venue: March 15 – Undercroft, Nathan. March 18 – Link Walkway, Gold Coast. Contact: Kim Adcock 07 3875 5453, k.adcock@griffith.edu.au

March 14. The first seminar in the Celebrating Teaching series "Developing Student Satisfaction and Success". See www.griffith.edu.au/tandl/celebratingteaching RSVP L.Wright@griffith.edu.au

April 2-May 22. Zootopia: Posters from the Urban Jungle. Venue: Dell Gallery @ QCA. Hours: Wednesday-Friday 11am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday noon-4pm. Contact: 07 3875 3140

April 11-17. Encounters: Meetings in Australian Music. Includes concerts, lectures and a symposium devoted to

200 years of musical meetings between Aboriginal and European cultures in Australia. Venue: Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, South Bank, and the Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts. Contact: 07 3875 6376, www.griffith.edu.au/encounters/

May 26-July 10. Sessera – the first public gallery solo exhibition by Torres Strait Island printmaker Dennis Nona. Venue: Dell Gallery @ QCA. Hours: Wednesday-Friday 11am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday noon-4pm. Contact: 07 3875 3140

CONCERTS

March 23. Michael Kieran Harvey, Performing as part of Queensland Conservatorium's Kawai Keyboard Series. Featuring four movements from Olivier Messiaen's Catalogue d'Oiseaux. Venue: Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Contact: 07 3875 6241.

April 29. Melody and Romance. The Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra presents Mozart, Poulenc and Brahms. Venue: Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Contact: 07 3875 6241.

May 25. Southern Cross Soloists. Showcase Concert Two features an all-Italian program, including Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Cherubini, Rossini and Berio. Venue: Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Contact: 07 3875 6241.

June 3. Winds of Change. The Conservatorium Wind Orchestra presents Hultgren, Persichetti and Holst. Venue: Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Contact: 07 3875 6241.

In search of a common language



MUSIC COLLABORATION: Didgeridoo virtuoso William Barton will perform at the cross-cultural music event, Encounters.

THE Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre critically examines 200 years of musical meetings between Aboriginal and European cultures in Australia during Encounters – Meetings in Australian Music, from April 12-17.

In 1804, French anthropologists François Péron and Louis de Freycinet transcribed into Western musical notation three short illustrations of Australian Aboriginal music, creating the first surviving European attempts to come to grips with the music and traditions of Indigenous Australia.

This formed the starting point of an exploration of musical meetings in word, sound and moving image. To be held at the Queensland Conservatorium and the Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts, Encounters features concerts of traditional, popular and western art, music, film screenings, public lectures and a symposium.

It features Peter Sculthorpe, the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, William Barton, Toni Janke, a host of other Indigenous musicians, and more than 200 Conservatorium staff and students.

Event curator Vincent Plush said the European mind was still struggling to come to grips with Indigenous culture.

A symposium on “Celebration, Appropriation

and Reconciliation”, mounted with the Musicological Society of Australia, Queensland Chapter, will facilitate critical debate on past harmonious and dissonant meetings between the two cultures, and look at the potential of future meetings.

Research Centre Director Associate Professor Huib Schippers said, historically, there was ample evidence of inappropriate use of musical materials, images, instruments and dances.

“Encounters does not aim to gloss over these occurrences, but invites open debate between representatives of all stakeholders: communities, musicians, venues, and institutions,” he said.

“In more than two centuries, we have not been able to find a common language. It is naive to assume that music is a universal language that crosses all boundaries, but it can certainly be a basis for fruitful dialogue. With the format we have chosen for this event, we hope to forge stronger links between academia, professional practitioners and communities.”

For more information visit www.griffith.edu.au/encounters or contact 07 3875 6376 for a brochure.

By **Brendan Layton**

Griffith rewards excellent teachers

GRIFFITH has announced the winners of its annual Excellence in Teaching Awards which recognise and reward outstanding staff.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor John Dewar congratulated the award recipients and finalists who were nominated by their students and colleagues.

“The recipients have used innovative teaching methods and inspired and motivated their students to learn,” Professor Dewar said.

The award winners are:

Individual Teacher Award

Dr Paul Williams (Department of Politics and Public Policy, Griffith Business School)

Highly Commended: Sam di Mauro (Queensland College of Art)

Sessional Teacher Award

Mr Brenden Ward (School of Human Services)

Highly Commended: Tiziana Ferrero-Regis (School of Languages & Linguistics, School of Arts, Media & Culture)

Natalie Loxton, (School of Applied Psychology)

Elaine Pidgeon (School of Public Health)

Early Career Award

Dr Dianne Dredge (School of Environmental Planning)

Highly Commended: Phillip Falk (Griffith Law School)

Team Teaching Award

No winner awarded

Highly Commended: Dr Sue Trevaske and Dr Susana Eisenchlas (School of Languages & Linguistics)

Honours and Postgraduate Coursework Supervision

Dr Jay Bandaralage (Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics)

Higher Degree Research Supervision Award

Professor John O’Toole (School of Vocational, Technology and Arts Education)

Highly Commended: Dr Wendy Loughlin (School of Science)

Innovation Across the Institution Award

U3A Online project led by Dr Rick Swindell (School of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning)

Highly Commended: Research Methodologist in Residence program

Professor Antony Selvanathan, Associate Professor Saroja Selvanathan, Dr Patti Cybinski and Dr Suri Rajapakse (Griffith Business School)

The achievements of these award winners, along with Griffith’s 2004 Australian Awards for University Teaching winners Professor Wayne Hudson and Dr Rick Swindell will be celebrated at a function on Tuesday, March 22, at the Queensland Conservatorium, South Bank.

For details about each award recipient visit www.griffith.edu.au/tandl/

And the readership survey winner is . . .

CATHERINE Howe is the lucky winner of the Griffith Gazette annual readership survey competition.

Staff and students had to complete

the survey to be in the draw. Ms Howe will receive a \$250 Co-Op Bookshop voucher for taking part.

The Office of External Relations thanks all survey participants.

United effort to give aid



GENEROSITY: Indonesian students Khaerul Adam (left) and Dinda Hersada (centre) and Griffith Tsunami Appeal coordinators Vicki Roberts (second from left), Catherine Longworth (second from right) and Doreen Fielding (far right) with the truckloads of toys donated.

IN typical Griffith fashion, students and staff across all campuses gave generously to help the international aid effort mounted in response to the tsunami disaster.

Besides digging deeply and donating funds to the major relief organisations, a university-wide appeal collected goods filling 600 tea chests with items from clothes and toys to school supplies.

Griffith Tsunami Appeal coordinator Catherine Longworth said the toys were labelled with a message of hope from Australia written in local languages by Griffith’s Indonesian, Thai and Sri Lankan international students.

“For children who have lost everything we hope these toys will give them something to cuddle and love,” she said.

Gopal Hutapea, an independent advisor to the Indonesian Vice President, was so

overwhelmed when he heard of the generosity of the Griffith community he visited the Gold Coast campus to meet the people behind the appeal.

Many businesses and organisations joined Griffith’s appeal and they include Garuda Airlines, Mango, Gold Coast Indonesian Community, University of Indonesia (coordinating distribution), Ikin Storage and Citycare (Brisbane).

The Multi-Faith Centre has a webpage (www.griffith.edu.au/centre/mfc/) so students and staff can share their experiences of and reflections on the disaster. Contributions to the webpage can be sent to Linda Hu at l.hu@griffith.edu.au

The university has offered counselling and advice to international students affected by the disaster, and a prayer service we held at Nathan.