

## Health research gets a boost

**THE Genomics Research Centre has attracted a substantial research grant from the first round of a new National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) program designed to fund significant genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics projects.**

The \$978,000 grant will further research started in 2000 to identify the genes responsible for migraine and cardiovascular disease.

The research will focus on the population of Norfolk Island – a unique population with a well-documented history derived from Caucasian and Polynesian ancestry that has had fewer environmental

influences on health due to its geographical isolation.

Chief project investigator Professor Lyn Griffiths said about two-thirds of Norfolk Island's adult population had already provided medical histories, body measurements and blood samples for chemical analysis and DNA extraction.

"It has been very frustrating to be poised and ready to go with this work so the grant is wonderful news for all involved. This grant is very special as we needed significant funds to do a full genome scan on these samples."

Professor Griffiths said the study would involve a huge

amount of genetic and phenotypic information that will be analysed to identify the genes that play a role in two major public health issues.

The first year of the three-year project will focus on testing markers at regular intervals across the whole genome and correlating these back to phenotypic information on health risk factors such as high blood pressure and cholesterol levels and also migraine.

"In the second and third years of the project we will follow up by fine-mapping any implicating regions we can identify," Professor Griffiths said.

"Our ultimate aim is to identify genes that can help improve diagnosis of these disorders, as well as provide information that can aid in targeting existing treatments more effectively and developing new treatments."

Other project investigators include Dr John Blangero (United States), Dr Rod Lea (New Zealand), Dr Simon Heath (France) and Dr Roger Hughes (Griffith's School of Public Health).

Griffith PhD student Claire Bellis undertook the DNA extractions and preliminary analyses that demonstrated further work on the Norfolk

Island population would be extremely useful for gene mapping studies.

Meanwhile, Griffith's Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies' Professor Alan Mackay-Sim received a \$516,000 NHMRC grant to continue research into adult stem cell therapies to treat Parkinson's Disease.

Professor Mackay-Sim said the research was taking a two-pronged approach by studying brain cells from people with the disease as well as transplanting adult stem cells into the brain.

By Mardi Chapman

## Fresh focus on children's wellbeing

**FACE painting, balloons, clown doctors and a sugar plum fairy made for a change of pace recently at the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health when Griffith launched its Children's Health Research Program.**

Taking centre stage for a morning were children from the community. Some had participated in Griffith research programs while others were currently receiving treatment in hospital.

The event coincided with a national Thank You Day initiative by Research Australia, hosted on the Gold Coast by Griffith, to honour the work of health and medical researchers.

The 2005 theme for Thank You Day was *Research for a Better Future for Our Children*.

Pro Vice Chancellor for Health Professor Allan Cripps said the vision for the new Children's Health Research Program was to develop solutions that could maximise the potential for every child to live a healthy life.

"This new program is a natural fit for our university as we will be engaging with the wider community and working across traditional health discipline boundaries to meet

our goals," he said.

"We look forward to fostering partnerships with organisations such as Queensland Health to assist us in delivering quality research that can help improve services and inform decision makers within the health system."

Professor Cripps said he was proud and delighted to support Research Australia's campaign to encourage the community to thank health and medical researchers for their efforts.

Swimming great Samantha Riley and her 10-month-old baby Lucas were at the event to help celebrate advances in health and medical research and honour the expertise and dedication of researchers.

"As a mother of two children, I appreciate the efforts of health and medical researchers who are contributing to a better quality of life for all Australians and for future generations," Samantha said.

Karni Lidell, a former Paralympic swimmer who lives with spinal muscular atrophy, was also on hand to sign a giant 3 metre by 2 metre thank you card.

"I really value the work researchers are doing in furthering our understanding of health and disease," she said.

By Mardi Chapman



THANKS: Professor Allan Cripps and daughter Sophie signed the giant Thank You Day card to honour medical researchers.



From the Vice Chancellor **Ian O'Connor**

## Get Smarter with your Career

RESEARCH has shown that career development improves student satisfaction, engagement, retention and graduate outcomes. As such, Griffith takes it very seriously and in 2003 the Strategic Development Fund allocated funds for the development of a specific program to integrate career development into the lives of our students.

We recently launched the program on a tour around our campuses. Called *Career Smarter*, this new online program aims to engage students with their careers early on in their degree, in parallel with their academic progress.

*Career Smarter* has been developed from scratch by our Careers Counsellor on the Gold Coast, Sharon Hensby, who worked with staff from Student Services, a range of academic elements and Flexible Learning and Access Services. After two years of research, planning and development which included

investigating the flaws and gaps in similar programs from around the world, the team has come up with a program that is the only one of its kind in Australia and possibly even the world.

Developed exclusively for Griffith students, *Career Smarter* gives our students the edge in the national and global employment markets.

Our aim with *Career Smarter* is to provide a framework that assists students to develop their vocational identities in synchronicity with their study and that encourages them to actively engage in

this career development in the important, early stages of their degrees.

Griffith University aims to be in the top 30 per cent of universities in terms of graduate employment and I'm confident *Career Smarter* will be a great asset in reaching this goal. To all those who came along to the *Career Smarter* sessions, thank you. I trust you are enthusiastically spreading the word amongst your colleagues. For those who didn't, log on and see what we can all do, graduates and staff alike, to boost career development at Griffith University.

# The future of Australian cities

IN just 20 years, Australian cities will look very different to today. Changing population demographics, water shortages, spiralling fuel prices and climate change are the forces behind the radical change Australian cities will undergo.

And Griffith researchers are at the forefront of exploring and shaping the destiny of Australia's cities.

Urban Research Program Director Professor Brendan Gleeson, who will later this month chair the State of Australian Cities Conference in Brisbane, predicted water shortages and increasing fuel prices will be major factors changing the face of

cities in the short term.

"Cities will look totally different with different gardens, homes, buildings and layouts," Professor Gleeson said.

"The days of bowling-green-style lawns are over. Higher water prices will see to that. Backyard pools may also be a thing of the past, except for the elite."

He also identified rising fuel prices as a key factor for producing change in cities, but said the news was not all bad.

"Perhaps people will stop driving their children everywhere. People will be encouraged to walk or ride to work, school and the shops,

which will mean greater opportunities for exercise and social interaction in our cities."

Rising oil prices are also expected to encourage more urban residents to turn to public transport. Anticipating this shift is Professor Ljubo Vlacic, who leads the Intelligent Control Systems Laboratory at Griffith. In collaboration with the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control, Professor Vlacic is developing intelligent, driverless vehicles that could provide vital links between home and the bus stop or train station.

"The cars are powered by electric motors and will provide that important link for people who don't have a bus stop or train station within walking distance of their home," Professor Vlacic said.

Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe is optimistic about the future of cities – if Australia changes its unsustainable habits now. Professor Lowe, who recently completed his latest book, *A Big Fix: Radical Solutions for Australia's Environmental Crisis*, said cities could be sustainable.

"One of the interesting conclusions from the first National State of the Environment report is

that the per person energy use in large cities is actually less than smaller cities or towns because you can have services more compactly supplied," Professor Lowe said.

But the traditional city plan based on a central business district with roads and rail radiating outwards is unsustainable.

"The most likely form for a future city is a network of urban villages. It will have nodes like we already see in Brisbane, such as Garden City, Chermiside or Toowong. A lot of people work and shop in that area and don't have to venture into the city."

**I By Rhys Stacker**



## Artificial intelligence aids cancer detection

GRIFFITH Business School senior lecturer Dr Mohammad Khoshnevisan (pictured left) has achieved a breakthrough in applying artificial intelligence-information fusion to early cancer detection.

He is currently collaborating with Brisbane's Mater Hospital to develop a cancer scanning device that uses missile guidance technology to help better detect cancer cells from Positron Emission Tomography (PET) images.

Dr Khoshnevisan, an international authority on artificial intelligence, is

excited at the crossover applications of his work into the field of oncology and radiology.

He said it was hard to differentiate between benign and malignant human tissue with current magnetic resonance images.

"A cancer patient has a more dynamic metabolism than the average individual," he said.

"The application of artificial intelligence to current cancer scanning technology enables us to view body cells with a higher degree of precision. This helps to reduce the margin for error when studying

fluctuations in body metabolism."

Dr Khoshnevisan is also working with medical centres in Iran on this project.

His joint research into *Dezert-Smarandache Theory of Plausible, Uncertain, and Paradoxical Reasoning* has been warmly welcomed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Dr Khoshnevisan holds visiting fellowships with Harvard University and the University of California-Berkeley

**I By Shamira Barr**

### Children's Christmas Party

PUT stars into your child's eyes this Christmas. Sign your child up for the Griffith Children's Christmas Party. The fun-filled event will feature entertainment by children's group Natty Satty, rides, a sausage sizzle, fairy floss, ice cream, baby animals, Santa and more.

Children of staff and students must be accompanied by an adult. Registration forms are available at libraries across our five campuses.

**When:** Wednesday, December 7  
5pm-7.30pm  
**Where:** Nathan campus oval  
**Cost:** \$3 per child  
**Register:** At any campus library  
**Contact:** Suzette Powell, 07 3735 3135  
S.Powell@griffith.edu.au

### Lions call for spirited donations

SHARE your Christmas spirit by supporting Griffith University Lions Club's annual Christmas Hamper Drive. The drive for non-perishable food closes Saturday, December 17. Hampers will be delivered to needy members of the university and broader community.

John Urquhart, Lions Club member and Director of Technical Services at Nathan, said the club hoped to deliver up to 100 food hampers through the University's Student Services and the St David's Neighbourhood Centre at Coopers Plains.

Drop off points for non-perishables are:

- Gold Coast: G05 1.08A
- Mt Gravatt: M09 1.105
- Nathan: N44, Room 0.06
- South Bank: S01 2.37F

**Contact: John Urquhart on 07 3735 7427.**



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# Language learning goes TEXTual

**THE teaching of language has crossed the technology barrier with Griffith academics trialling the use of mobile phone SMS text messaging as a learning tool.**

School of Languages and Linguistics Associate Professor Mike Levy and Ms Claire Kennedy trialled the teaching approach over a seven-week period with third-year students of Italian in a course titled *Italian Literature and Society*.

Ms Kennedy said the main aim of the project was to test its effectiveness in vocabulary learning.

"We believed we had an approach that could assist with the large amount of new vocabulary students encounter for the first time at this point," she said.

"Students sometimes feel

daunted by the sheer quantity of elaborate language introduced through novels and short stories."

Students were sent messages on their mobile phones in between the scheduled lectures and tutorials. The messages invited them to reflect on, for example, synonyms and antonyms, related words, literal and figurative usage, and the construction of idiomatic expressions.

Ms Kennedy said the study revealed an important "knock-on" effect of SMS messaging.

"That a message may trigger the receiver to actively engage in language learning between classes is enormously beneficial, especially for vocabulary learning. As a result of the messages received, students wrote down words in their personalised dictionaries, looked

up words in dictionaries and grammar books, and carefully considered translations.

"Though the SMS message itself may be short (a maximum of 160 characters) we realised the impact educationally may reach far beyond the initial message, especially with the more motivated students.

"This interconnectedness between in-class and out-of-class activity only occurs successfully when the mobile phone messages are very carefully integrated into the content and goals of the wider scheme of work, in this case the topic of the novel being studied."

The researchers hope to repeat the study next year focusing on a different course, *Italy through the News*.

By Michelle Smith



A NOVEL APPROACH TO TEACHING: Claire Kennedy has trialled the use of mobile phone SMS texting to teach Italian vocabulary.

## Balancing public good with privacy concerns

**PROFESSOR Fiona Stanley AC's 2005 Griffith Public Lecture is now online at [www.griffith.edu.au/griffithlecture](http://www.griffith.edu.au/griffithlecture)**

Titled *Data for a Civil Society: How we can harmonise privacy and use population data for public good*, the lecture explored the need for this population data research and the public's misperceptions of it.

Professor Stanley (pictured right) said population data – information data that is already collected and held in a range of government and academic databases – was an important research resource that should be used to significantly improve the delivery of health solutions to the community.

A campaigner for child and family health and Australian of the Year in 2003, Professor Stanley's lecture discussed her work in Western Australian studies with strong evidence of the public good that comes from linked data research.

Among the evidence she presented at the lecture was the establishment of the WA Maternal and Child Health Research Data Base, a unique collection of data on births across that state which has enabled identification of trends in maternal and child health and led to ground-breaking preventative programs, such as folate in preventing spina bifida, and improving maternal and child health in Indigenous communities.

"The findings illustrate the very real power of linked population data in delivering significant public benefits and how it can be achieved while respecting and addressing public concerns about privacy," Professor Stanley said.

"Importantly, data can be de-identified and, in accordance with



the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines on privacy, enable important health research to be conducted in the public interest."

"However misperceptions persist amongst the general public about why researchers and planners want to link data and use it. Recently, other countries such as UK and Canada, whose legislation often influences Australia, have started to limit the use of this information without having a proper debate about the public good aspects. Issues of individual rights to privacy seem to have dominated the debate without thinking of the public good.

"Many researchers in Australia feel it is time to demystify this debate and work together to improve health and well being across Australia using this important research tool."

This was the third annual Griffith Lecture which was inaugurated in 2003 to explore emerging issues facing Australia in the 21st Century.

By Alexia Deegan

## Griffith's northern exposure

**OVER 100 graduates and some 500 family members and friends attended Griffith's International Graduation Ceremony in Toronto, Canada, recently.**

The graduates were mainly from the Master of Teaching program as well as Business and Engineering. PhDs were also presented to Dr Richard McCurdy (Faculty of Science) and Dr Jennifer Lynes (Faculty of Environmental Sciences).

Making the Canadian Graduation Ceremony even more memorable was the award of an Honorary Doctor of the University to "the girl in the picture", Kim Phuc.

One of the most powerful images of the Vietnam War was that of a badly burnt nine-year-old Kim Phuc running down the road following an attack on her village.

After the conferral of her award, Kim shared the story of her extraordinary journey from war-torn Vietnam to virtual exile in Cuba, to political asylum seeker in

Canada, to United Nations Ambassador for Children – moving many audience members to tears and a standing ovation.

The ceremony was followed by the first alumni dinner at which the Griffith Canadian Alumni Network was launched.

With close to 1000 alumni from Canada, the network will provide opportunities for Griffith graduates to connect with each other professionally and personally and to stay in touch with the university.

The working group is planning a range of activities, including an e-newsletter and a special event to celebrate Australia Day. If you would like to become a member of the working group please contact [alumni@griffith.edu.au](mailto:alumni@griffith.edu.au)

By Trisha Roe



# Griffith child care

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3735 7959, 3735 5189 [www.griffith.edu.au/campuslife/childcare](http://www.griffith.edu.au/campuslife/childcare)

# Group's success is child's play

The Griffith playgroup recently celebrated 25 years with a party and the release of findings of a parent survey.

THE Griffith playgroup, supported by the School of Cognition, Language and Special Education, is used as a teaching resource for Early Childhood Education students, under the supervision of coordinator teacher Helen Alley, an experienced early childhood teacher.

Ms Alley and Dr Glen Palmer, a former Early Childhood Education Senior Lecturer, surveyed past and current users of the playgroup to ascertain their needs and expectations.

Dr Palmer said extra Federal Government funding for playgroups acknowledged their importance, particularly for children and families at risk. However, she said their

survey showed other families also benefited from playgroup participation.

"Current users are well-qualified, professional people who are not looking for empowerment or management skills," Dr Palmer said.

"Nevertheless they want support in their parenting and the adult interaction that comes from a good playgroup. For them, the key to the effectiveness of the program is having a coordinator who has the professional knowledge and experience to offer support to both children and families."

Dr Palmer said the main reasons parents gave for attending the Griffith playgroup over others were:

better facilities and equipment, more creative activities, and the fact that other playgroups were more like mothers' meetings with no coordinator/supervisor.

The playgroup operates on Tuesday from 9am-noon in the Out-of-School-Hours building on Recreation Drive, opposite the childcare centres on Nathan campus.

The 25th year celebrations were attended by current parents and children, first playgroup coordinator Mrs Denise Bender, Ms Shirley Pyatt from Brisbane District Office for Playgroup Queensland, and Griffith staff and students.

By Michelle Smith



PLAY TIME: Dr Glen Palmer plays with Thomas Nicolson and Maxine Deeb.

## Uni-Start to boost students' careers

**A NEW admission and scholarship scheme will offer educational and financial help to up to 200 uni hopefuls who want to start their undergraduate studies at Griffith.**

Scholarships Officer Michelle Trainor said applicants who met the selection criteria of the new Uni-Start scheme would receive bonus OPs and ranks. In some cases they would be offered Griffith places ahead of the first round of QTAC offers.

"Uni-Start provides an integrated admission and scholarship process assisting students who have been educationally and financially disadvantaged to gain admission to the degree of their choice at Griffith," she said.

"Uni-Start supports people whose socio-economic circumstances,

disability, home location and other qualifying issues have impacted on their ability to achieve their educational aspirations."

Uni-Start applicants will automatically be considered for a scholarship package worth up to \$16,644 over four years to help with the cost of their studies.

Successful applicants may also be eligible for a Griffith or Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship, a Griffith or Commonwealth Accommodation Costs Scholarship, or a Start-Up Benefit.

For details of scholarships at Griffith, call toll-free on 1800 097 594 or go to [www.griffith.edu.au/scholarship](http://www.griffith.edu.au/scholarship)

By Simone Thorne

## Griffith academic contributes to Iraq's electoral law process

Iraqis voted in an historic referendum on the country's draft constitution on October 15. Griffith law academic Graeme Orr shares the part he played in the country's electoral law reform.



FEW of us dream of playing a role – however slight – in shaping history.

Electoral law expert and Griffith

Law School senior lecturer Dr Graeme Orr (pictured) recently did just that.

At the invitation of the American Bar Association, he had a hand in advising the Iraqi Constitutional Drafting Commission on possible models for entrenching independent electoral administration.

"The American Bar Association had been co-ordinating free expert

international assistance to the Iraqi commission," Dr Orr said. "As electoral administration is not developed in the Middle East, the Iraqis were interested in input from Australia and Canada."

Dr Orr said the constitution drafting process had been hurried, more than was ideal.

"The Iraqis had been drafting in the face of deadlines imposed by both internal necessity to avoid a drift into further lawlessness and civil war, and external pressure due to the US desire to keep the process towards full independence 'on track'.

"In contrast, the Australian Constitution was drafted over a leisurely 10-year period, even though it is a much simpler, more formal document.

"But like Australia, the Iraqi constitution will only be adopted by popular referendum, and will create a federal system."

Dr Orr said the proposed constitution was rich in Iraqi cultural values as well as civil, social and economic rights.

"For example, one qualification to stand for the Presidency is 'a good reputation ... [to] be known for integrity, rectitude, justice and devotion to the homeland'. And Ministers 'must have a university degree or equivalent'.

"Honour and education are esteemed in Iraq. Western constitutions don't elevate such aspirations to legal requirements."

By Shamira Barr

## 2005 in Review

IN another huge year for the university, new facilities such as the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health were opened, and research centres such as the Institute for Glycomics received substantial funding boosts. Griffith continued to demonstrate its wide-ranging expertise via its Professorial Lectures program and by hosting major national and international conferences.

Our creative and performing artists attracted kudos for their individual talents as well as their collective contribution to the social and cultural fabric of the community. Our innovative teaching programs continued to expand and attract domestic and international interest.

To review just some of the highlights of 2005, go to page 8.

# Business graduates get a headstart

In a continuing bid to enhance employability, the Griffith Business School is developing a program to systematically embed generic skills development into first-year courses.

THE learning development initiative ultimately stands to benefit thousands of business students by honing skills including problem identification and analysis, written communication, critical thinking and group interaction.

Learning Development Unit manager Ms Robyn Stephens and Learning Advisors Dr Sara Hammer and Dr Wendy Green work with Griffith Business School (GBS) staff in implementing the program.

"This contextualised, incremental approach to generic skills development makes it a first for GBS," Ms Stephens said.

"The students develop their skills through assessment, supported by contextualised, purpose-designed lectures and tutorials."

Course convenor Associate Professor Bradley Bowden said the approach was particularly relevant to first-year students as it gave

them the foundation and skills for life-long learning while simultaneously developing their knowledge base.

"I'm using case studies as a medium in which to develop the skills component within my course.

"Students have to identify a problem in the case study and conduct a literature review.

"They also have to produce a research report which tests them on critical thinking, problem identification and solving, writing and original library research."

Dr Hammer said the skills program had been designed after listening carefully to the needs of employers.

"The days when graduates managed with technical skills alone are long gone. Employers now want workers who are skilled problem solvers, ethical decision makers, good team players and creative thinkers," she said.

And it appears students can't get



*BENEFITTING FROM LEARNING SKILLS: Students Tari Zador, Kym Turner, Yasser Muhammad Daud and Liang Yue, with course convenor Associate Professor Bradley Bowden (centre).*

enough of this approach.

Bachelor of Commerce student Kym Turner has found the learning method very helpful.

"My engagement with this subject has been significantly greater because of the emphasis on ongoing learning and on combining theoretical with practically linked knowledge. I

hope future subjects are conducted in this format," she said.

Student Demelza Walker agrees. "I have found this course particularly helpful in developing my skills in essay writing," she said.

"Although I already knew the basic concepts of how to write an essay, I had little knowledge or practice of research. I found myself

challenged when I was forced to research a topic that wasn't set out for me."

"As a result of this exposure, I have gained very important skills that I know I will need in advancing my degree in Bachelor of Commerce, and later on my career."

**| By Shamira Barr**

## Seniors switching to virtual education

**U3A Online at Griffith will give isolated older people across the globe access to short courses and useful information.**

The collaboration between Griffith and the University of the Third Age Online was launched recently by Australian Government Minister for Ageing Julie Bishop.

Also unveiled was a new resource booklet about successful ageing called *A Voice Worth Listening To*. It features in-depth interviews with people aged 80 and beyond about their ongoing contributions to Australia and New Zealand.

The booklet was researched and prepared by U3A ACT's Dorothy Braxton, U3A Online at Griffith's Dr Rick Swindell and Charles Sturt University's Dr Elizabeth MacKinlay.

Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor said Griffith was delighted to be involved in the projects, having supported the U3A movement in Brisbane and the Gold Coast for more than a decade.

"Taking an active role in supporting these projects highlights just how serious and committed Griffith is about lifelong learning," Professor O'Connor said.

"We recognise many older people may become ill, or suddenly find themselves caring for a loved one, or in other circumstances which



*U3A ONLINE GOES LIVE: At the launch are Dorothy Braxton (Canberra), Federal Minister for Ageing Julie Bishop and Griffith's Dr Rick Swindell.*

prevent them from getting out and about or attending their local groups or accessing their usual support networks.

"U3A Online at Griffith is an important new gateway, and the University is pleased to be playing an active role in helping to bridge these gaps to improve access to resources including low-cost courses and other online support to help exercise the mind, body and spirit for successful ageing."

The university freely hosts the server and provides technical, personnel and other ongoing support to the initiative.

See [www3.griffith.edu.au/03/u3a/](http://www3.griffith.edu.au/03/u3a/)

**| By Alexia Deegan**

## Clinical sciences complex opens on Gold Coast

**REPRESENTATIVES from local hospitals, community health services, health industry groups and professional associations joined hands with the university recently in celebrating the official opening of the Clinical Sciences complex on the Gold Coast campus.**

The two buildings in the \$30 million complex have been purpose-built for the specific teaching and research needs of the schools of Pharmacy, Nursing and Midwifery, and Physiotherapy and Exercise Science.

They also provide facilities shared with the broader campus community, including two lecture theatres, seminar and meeting rooms, a student learning centre, physiology, biochemistry and dry anatomy laboratories.

Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor said the clinical sciences complex will provide learning opportunities second to none for the many professionals who would train here in the decades to come.

"By bringing disciplines together under the one roof, there will also be greater opportunities for collaboration within the complex as well as across the university. We look forward to working with government, industry and the community at large in developing innovative educational programs and health solutions for the future."

While opening the complex,



*INDUSTRY SUPPORT: Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) state manager Milton Burrell and Professor Nerida Smith in the API-sponsored pharmacy dispensary.*

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie emphasised the vital link that existed between the university sector and the provision of health care in the state.

Head of Nursing and Midwifery Dr Elizabeth Patterson said the new clinical areas, including a 16-bed simulated hospital ward and 20 patient examination cubicles, were extremely functional.

"We now have the capacity we needed for really effective clinical teaching. Other disciplines such as pharmacy and nutrition will also use some of these areas."

Head of Pharmacy Professor Nerida Smith said the new formulation laboratory and sterile dispensing suite had already been used by the Pharmaceutical Chemists Compounding Association to train pharmacists in the preparation of sterile products such as creams, infusions and eye drops.

Local sporting organisations have also approached the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science to access their expertise and facilities for fitness assessments of squads.

**| By Mardi Chapman**

# What's on

## LECTURES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

**Inventing the Future: Supremacy and Automatic Control Decision Systems.** Professorial Lecture by Professor Ljubo Vlacic on autonomous, driverless vehicles and control engineering. **Venue:** N18, Central Theatre 1, Nathan. **Time:** 5:30pm.

## SEMINARS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

**Our Melanesian Neighbours: New Hope or Still Falling?** Free Griffith Asia Institute public seminar by ABC Pacific Correspondent Mr Sean Dorney. **Venue:** Lecture Theatre, Queensland Art Gallery, 5.30pm. **Contact:** 07 3735 3730.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

**2nd State of Australian Cities Conference.** An Urban Research Program-hosted conference on the contemporary form and structure of Australian cities. **Venue:** Queensland Conservatorium, South Bank. **See:** www.griffith.edu.au/conference/soac2005 **Contact:** 07 3735 5176.

## EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 TO SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2006

**Thiess Art Prize 2005.** Displays works by graduating students of Queensland College of Art. More than \$5000 in prizes. **Venue:** DELL Gallery @ QCA, Wed-Fri 11am-4pm, Sat-Sun

noon-4pm. **Contact:** 07 3735 3140.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

**ICT Project Expo.** Showcases final-year projects in information technology and multimedia. **Venue:** EcoCentre, Nathan campus, noon-5pm. **Contact:** Angela Tuffley 07 3735 5022, a.tuffley@griffith.edu.au

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

**Journalism Education Association conference.** Journalism educators, working professionals and students from Australia and the South Pacific discuss journalism education and training at the 30th annual conference. **Venue:** Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers

Paradise. **See:** http://live-wirez.gu.edu.au/jea **Contact:** Ben Isakhan, 07 5552 8489.

## CONCERTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**Music Theatre Students in Concert.** Students from the 2005 Music Theatre class present the culmination of their year's work. **Venue:** Ian Hanger Recital Hall, 6pm. **Tickets:** \$5 (at the door). **Contact:** 07 3735 6241.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Southern Cross Soloists 10th Birthday Concert.** The group performs the same program that launched them a decade ago. **Venue:** Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank, 3pm. **Contact:** 07 3735 6241.

# Law students receive hands-on practice

**FOURTH and final-year Gold Coast law students had a taste of legal practice this semester, through a partnership between the Griffith Law School and Gold Coast law firms.**

The students were the second cohort in the Semester in Practice program, which gave law students a real-life experience of working alongside practising lawyers and clients.

The students worked one day a week over 13 weeks with one of 16 participating law firms and legal professionals.

They dealt with complex legal questions in areas as diverse as family law, criminal law, alternative dispute resolution and commercial arbitration.

Participating students Jason Whittle and Melanie Ott said the hands-on learning had been

invaluable in preparing them for a future in law.

"You couldn't pay enough for experiences like this," said Jason, who worked at the Southport District Court with Judge J.E. Newton.

"The placement program helped me mature by opening my eyes to the intricacies of the profession. The contacts I made through interacting with practitioners, judges and associates were priceless."

Melanie enjoyed the diverse legal work at Southport-based Price and Roobottom Solicitors. She is currently into her fourth year of a five-year double Bachelor degree in Law and Psychology.

"I sat in on interviews with clients, instructed a barrister at the Supreme Court in Brisbane on a case, observed cases at the Magistrates Court in Southport,

served documents on people and worked on statements of claim, affidavits and letters to clients," she said.

"I'm now better prepared for work as an articulated clerk as I've seen what the job requires and the skills I need to improve before I get out there."

Program convenor Kieran Tranter said the integrated law degree approach involves students in learning by doing because "honing your practical skills as a lawyer is just as important as grasping the theory of law".

"The placement program received very positive feedback from both host organisations and students since it was piloted in 2004. We hope to get more law firms on board in the future," he said.

Price and Roobottom consultant Mr Rob Franklin welcomed the program as a natural fit in a region



*HONING LEGAL SKILLS: Program convenor Kieran Tranter discusses the placement program with law students Jason Whittle and Melanie Ott.*

that is experiencing rapid growth and a need for skilled professionals to cater to the needs of residents and businesses.

"It serves the needs of both Gold Coast law firms and aspiring professionals who wish to base their learning and working lives here.

"Over the past three years, we have recruited several Griffith law graduates. All have been exceptionally well-trained and equipped for the rigours of legal practice."

**I By Shamira Barr**



## Write a short story about Brisbane and WIN \$6000

**One Book Many Brisbanes, Council's new short story competition, gives you the chance to write one of the stories that the whole city will be talking about.**

Ten winning entries will each receive a prize of \$6000 and will be printed in the 2006 One Book Many Brisbanes anthology.

Why not tell your tale about Brisbane?

For information about the competition, pick up an entry form from your local library, phone Council on 3403 8888 or visit [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/libraries](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/libraries)

This initiative is another way Council is inspiring a creative Brisbane and achieving our vision for the city's future – *Living in Brisbane 2010.*

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## Centre hopes to solve algae mystery

**THE Griffith Centre for Coastal Management (GCCM) is using sophisticated computer modelling techniques to understand why Noosa's Main Beach is coming under siege from algae blooms over summer.**

GCCM has joined forces with Noosa Council and Delft University in The Netherlands to research the phenomenon, which has resulted in the non-toxic algae *Hinksia Nordida* washing up along the north-facing beach for the past three seasons.

Since July this year GCCM Director Professor Rodger Tomlinson has been conducting a review and modelling of the site as preparation for a field trial in December. The trial is likely to use either a diversion net or air-curtain to trap the algae and prevent it washing onto the beach.

"It's very much a research **I By Rhys Stacker**

project we are involved in. No one knows what the likely issues will be in trapping and disposing of the algae," Professor Tomlinson said.

GCCM is undertaking modelling to understand how physical processes may be contributing to the build-up each summer.

"For example, a subtle shift in the direction of wave action in the summer months may be to blame. We are also examining changes in coastal ocean temperatures."

Professor Tomlinson said the project was significant for GCCM because it strengthened international linkages, in particular with Delft University.

"It also allows GCCM researchers to develop their modelling skills. It brings us to state-of-the-art in terms of the latest computer technology in this field."

# Families: For the good of the nation

THIS edition of national quarterly journal *Griffith REVIEW*:

*Family Politics* examines "the family" from many angles – personal, economic, social – and its enduring importance.

Editor Professor Julianne Schultz said attitudes about the family were as diverse as the mosaic of policies and politics that relate to it. She said the edition celebrated excellent



writing, and it was fitting to dedicate it to author, historian and philosopher Donald Horne who wrote the memoir titled *Mind, Body and Age* in the *REVIEW*'s fourth edition last year. Professor Horne died in his home city of Sydney in September, surrounded by family.

"This edition of *Griffith REVIEW* is dedicated to Donald Horne, who in many ways encapsulated the enduring value of a strong family and the foundation it provides for participation in public life," Professor Schultz said.

"As we approach Christmas with all its connotations for families, there is sure to be something in this edition to strike a chord with everyone."

Writers in this tenth edition include

Joanna Mendelssohn, Sandy McCutcheon, Carmel Bird and Robert Hillman, who recall in graphic detail the heartbreaking consequences of social pressure to conform to the rigid norms of a model family.

While Creed O'Hanlon writes about what it means to be the son of Morris West, Anne Coombs puts the case for an amnesty for visa overstayers with strong Australian family ties.

"Whatever your notion of family today there is no doubt that it will have changed from even a decade ago, and regardless of the shape or size of the family closest to you, there is no doubting the resilience of the family as an institution, and its topicality in Australia today," Professor Schultz said.

See [www.griffith.edu.au](http://www.griffith.edu.au) for summer gift subscription specials or call 07 3382 1018.

**STOP PRESS:** Randa Abdel-Fattah's article *Living in a Material World* in *Griffith REVIEW: The Lure of Fundamentalism* has won The Alfred Deakin Prize for an Essay Advancing Public Debate in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. Patrick Holland has won the emerging talent category in the 2005 Queensland Premier's Literary Awards for the manuscript *The Long Road of the Junkmailer*. Patrick recently published *The Angel in the Travelling Show* which appeared in *Griffith REVIEW: Up North – Myths, Threats and Enchantment*.

## In brief

### Digital poetry win

CYBERSTUDIES lecturer and new media artist Jason Nelson has won an international digital poetry prize. Jason won the poetry section of the *1st Ciutat de Vinaros Digital Literature Prize*, which is an initiative of Hermeneia, a research group focussing on literary studies and digital technology at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya and the town of Vinaros, Catalonia, Spain. Jason's winning entry comprised several poems which he translated or wrote specifically for a web environment. The competition was open to all writers who use digital technology to a significant extent in the creation of their work.

### Hospitality management diploma leads to Griffith degree

GRIFFITH University has entered into a partnership with The International Hotel School @ Palazzo Versace and the Bremer Institute of TAFE that will pave the way for inaugural graduates of the Diploma of Hospitality Management commencing next year to articulate into Griffith's Bachelor of Business (Hotel Management) degree. The Bachelor of Business (Hotel Management) is offered at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus.

### Keynote address on APEC

GRIFFITH Business School Professor Greg Bamber recently gave a keynote address on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) at the International Industrial Relations Association's Congress of the Americas in Santiago, Chile. He discussed APEC's relevance to the practice of management and employment relations.

### Celebrating 100 years of Queensland women lawyers

THE Law School is co-sponsoring a Supreme Court of Queensland Library publication entitled *A Woman's Place: 100 Years of Women in the Law in Queensland*. The book marks the centenary of the enactment of the Legal Practitioners Act 1905 which enabled women to be admitted as legal practitioners in Queensland.

### Politics of organisational change seminar

THE Centre for Work, Leisure and Community Research, together with several elements of the Griffith Business School, recently co-hosted an inter-disciplinary seminar by Aberdeen University Business School, UK's Professor Patrick Dawson. He addressed a packed audience on the political process of change and competing narratives on organisational change. Professor Dawson has an international research reputation in the area of organisational change and has published more than 50 refereed journal articles.

### Population ageing not all doom and gloom

PROFESSOR Ross Guest from the Griffith Business School's Graduate School of Management recently

delivered a professorial lecture on *Why Nations Can Afford Population Ageing*. He turned conventional wisdom on its head by arguing that the impact of population ageing will be less detrimental to Australia's living standards over the next few decades than is generally believed. He presented his reflections that the government's baby bonus scheme and increased compulsory superannuation cannot be justified on the basis they are needed to protect future living standards.

### Wangaratta Festival of Jazz

LOUISE Denson, pianist and Lecturer in Jazz at Queensland Conservatorium, was invited to perform at the prestigious Wangaratta Festival of Jazz late last month. Held annually in Victoria, this internationally renowned festival boasts over 100 performances by local, national and international acts. Her ensemble, The Louise Denson Group, including sessional staff member Helen Russell, Con graduate Phil Noy and current student Sacha Kloostra, played two sets of Louise's originals, including several new compositions. The piano trio *Misinterpretato*, made up of Conservatorium graduates Sean Foran, John Parker and current student Chris Pearson, also performed at the festival. The performance came at the end of their three-week tour of NSW and Victoria promoting the release of the group's latest CD, *In is In*.

### New Honours program

THE School of Public Health is introducing a new Honours program in 2006 that may appeal to students in a range of health-related disciplines such as psychology, nutrition, environmental science, education, medicine or dentistry and oral health. The program aims to attract people into public health earlier in their career than is usual. Potential applicants can contact the School of Public Health up to the end of January to discuss potential research topics and supervisors. Expertise within the School is broad-ranging and includes nutrition and physical activity, food safety, environmental health, public health medicine, development issues, sociology, health management and health behaviours. See [www.griffith.edu.au/school/pbh](http://www.griffith.edu.au/school/pbh)

### Accounting students win ICAA work experience placements

SEVEN first-year Griffith Business School accounting students were among 22 students from across Queensland who were awarded work experience placements with Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia-accredited (ICAA) firms in the Brisbane and Gold Coast regions. These coveted placements are part of the ICAA's CA Achiever program, the institute's annual award which recognises outstanding first-year accounting students across Australia. The students will undertake placements ranging from two to eight weeks with firms including the "Big 4".

## Interactive website to help launch careers

**AN innovative career development program has been unveiled to give students a headstart in establishing their career and securing employment.**

*Career Smarter* is a sophisticated, online program with comprehensive information and interactive features offering students the opportunity to engage in career development from the start of their university studies.

Head of Careers and Employment in Student Services Tony Lyons said *Career Smarter* was one of the most all-inclusive career development programs.

"It's certainly the most comprehensive program we have encountered in our research and discussions with other universities in Australia and around the world. After two years of research, planning and development, we're excited to launch the service to Griffith students and staff," he said.

Mr Lyons said although students could participate in the program independently, academic staff would also play a key role in the delivery of the program by integrating it into courses.

"Career development is about **I By Shona Upson**

much more than getting a job, and academic development and career development need to proceed hand-in-hand if our students are to achieve their career potential.

"Helping students to identify and work towards their career goals while they are studying is a vital part of successful career development. Career development has also been shown to contribute towards student engagement and retention."

Students enter the site through a secure login and can chart their progress by documenting relevant skills and how they have been actively applied, and keeping their responses to self-assessment exercises. The program provides specialised resources including career values clarification modules, job application and interview resources, a resume builder and career portfolio, information on how to find jobs that aren't advertised, and insights into the skills and qualities most valued by employers.

Staff can view the program at [www3.griffith.edu.au/03/careers](http://www3.griffith.edu.au/03/careers).

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# 2005 Year in Review

## January



- Griffith's first cohort of medical students commence their four-year graduate entry program based on the Gold Coast.



- Staff and students demonstrate their support for victims of the Boxing Day 2004 Tsunami by contributing to relief efforts and attending multi-faith prayer services.

## February



- A phase 11 clinical trial of a potential new treatment for multiple sclerosis commences on the Gold Coast under the supervision of neurologist and School of Medicine lecturer Dr Simon Broadley.
- Australian School of Environmental Studies' Professor Grant McTainsh launches the DustWatch website as part of a project to monitor dust storms in outback Australia in an effort to better understand erosion.
- A video resource to help families cope with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is launched. *Out of the Shadows: Understanding the experiences of siblings following their brother or sister's ABI*, is the result of a five-year research project conducted by the Centre for Work, Leisure and Community Research and School of Human Services.

## March



- Professor Allan Mackay-Sim's groundbreaking work harvesting adult stem cells from the lining of the nose stimulates a visit to the Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies from Federal Health Minister Tony Abbott.

- *Business Review Weekly* ranks Griffith University sixth in its list of 50 smart Australian "companies".

## April

- Queensland Premier Peter Beattie announces that Griffith will be a partner in a \$2.4 million International Water Centre.
- Griffith Law School celebrates a decade of its clinics program which gives students the opportunity to develop practical legal skills by working on real-life cases in a range of legal workplaces.



- The ecology at Griffith University's Logan campus is boosted by the addition of 1,000 trees under the Powered by Trees environmental sustainability project launched at Logan campus.
- Griffith and Ho Chi Minh City University sign an agreement that will enable Vietnamese engineering students to study at the Gold Coast campus.

## May



- The Vietnamese Prime Minister meets with Griffith researchers on the Gold Coast campus to discuss tropical fruit fly research. Field trials suggest a bait made out of beer by-product can reduce infestations by up to 95 per cent in some crops.
- Photography graduate Cassandra Mathie wins the 2005 Citigroup Private Bank Australian Photographic Portrait Prize as part of the 2005 Archibald Prize awards. The \$15,000 prize was for her portrait, *Ali and Rahma*.



- Five dental technologists become the first graduates from the School of Dentistry and Oral Health. Griffith is the first university to offer Bachelor and Masters programs in dental technology.

## June

- Griffith welcomes \$3.5 million from the Queensland Government's Smart State Research Facilities Fund to support the establishment of the country's first public compound library. The library, to be based at Nathan campus, will boost Australia's bio-scientific research capability.
- Research from the School of Environmental Planning shows less than 30 per cent of primary school-aged children walk or ride their bikes to school. Parents report that a fear of assault or injury contributed to their decision to drive children to school.

## July



- The Griffith Islamic Research Unit is launched to provide a forum for the discussion of issues facing the Muslim community and be a focus point for research on classical and contemporary issues surrounding Islam and the Muslim faith within the Australian context.
- The Queensland Government announces plans to build a new teaching hospital at a cost of approximately \$500 million at the Gold Coast campus at Parklands and to fund extra 235 doctor-training places at Griffith.



- The Centre for Medicine and Oral Health opens on the Gold

Coast adjacent to the Gold Coast Hospital. The \$36 million centre is home to the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and Oral Health.

- Construction starts on a \$10 million Queensland Microtechnology Facility at Nathan, a joint initiative between Griffith and the Queensland Government to house Australian research into novel memory devices.



- Indigenous Law School graduate Ruth Link is named Queensland Young Lawyer of the Year.

## August



- The university's Gold Coast campus welcomes its first intake of Master of Nursing students from Japan.
- A national study on *Sustaining Culture: The role of performing arts centres* developed by Griffith in partnership with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, The Arts Centre, the Sydney Opera House and the Adelaide Festival Centre is awarded \$346,000 by the Australian Research Council.
- Griffith Asia Institute hosts a major energy security conference to explore the key issues affecting the growing competition for energy in the Asia Pacific. It also explores the ramifications of various Asian countries' attempts to ensure their own energy security.



- Griffith Asia institute (GAI) doctoral student Daniel Halvorson wins the inaugural David McGrath Memorial Fellowship. The GAI-administered scholarship aims to deepen the pool of expertise on Asia Pacific issues by funding

postgraduate study on Asia.

- The university launches the inaugural Griffith Innovation Challenge for final-year Griffith students. They are required to form teams of up to five people and to develop a business plan for a commercial, service or community-oriented initiative.

## September

- The Service Industry Research Centre brings together key players at the *Strata and Community Title in Australia for the 21st Century* conference, the first of its type to be held in the country.
- Griffith academics and students join 200 national and international writers for this year's Brisbane Writers' Festival.



- Queensland Premier Peter Beattie announces \$11 million funding for the Institute for Glycomics. The funding, to be matched by the university, kickstarts a \$22 million expansion of the Gold Coast-based institute, the only dedicated facility of its kind in Australia researching carbohydrates as potential drug discovery agents.

## October

- Griffith Asia Institute hosts a public lecture by Mr Kevin Rudd MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, on *The Security Situation in Iraq*. He discusses the threat of a civil war developing between the different communal groups in Iraq.
- Professor Fiona Stanley AC delivers the 2005 Griffith Public Lecture titled *Data for a Civil Society: How we can harmonise privacy and use population data for public good*.
- Australian Government Minister for Ageing Julie Bishop launches U3A Online at Griffith, a new website giving isolated older people access to short courses and useful information.
- Griffith University and venture capital company SciVentures Investments Pty Ltd announce they will share equity in Aqua Diagnostic Pty Ltd, a company established to develop a prototype water quality-monitoring device using groundbreaking PeCOD™ technology developed at Griffith.