Three weeks ago, Griffith launched a major initiative to strategically rebuild our relationships with Schools in order to increase our recruitment of high achieving school leavers. The Griffith Connect – valued partners program aims to increase the number of OP 1 – 6 students choosing Griffith by forging close links with partner secondary schools. Partner schools will be offered priority access to a number of scholarships as well as Griffith events, and professional development opportunities for their teachers.

This strategy is also linked to the launch of a new scholarships program – The Sir Samuel Griffith Scholarships and enrichment programs for high achieving students. A full briefing will be provided at the August meeting.

On the research front, Griffith has had considerable success in the recent Smart State funding round. Over $500,000 of funding was announced by the Deputy Premier, Hon Anna Bligh, during her recent trip to America.

Significant national profile was generated for the University through its sponsorship of the Ideas Festival (29 March – 2 April). Held for the first time on Southbank, and operating out of space between QPAC and the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, leading national and international speakers presented across diverse topics and promoted the open public discussion of ideas of our future. Griffith staff, including Professors Anna Habech, Pat Hoffie, Brendan Gleeson, Ross Homel, Peter Roennfeldt, Julianne Schultz, Huib Schibbers made significant contributions to the Festival.

The build up for the 125th anniversary of the Queensland College of Arts continues. The college which joined Griffith University in 1991 is Queensland’s oldest academy and traces its heritage back to 1 April 1881 when Joseph Augustus Clarke offered the first drawing class to 22 students in the School of Arts building in Ann Street. The first event in the build up was the Honorary Doctors lunch which was held on Tuesday March 7 and hosted by the Chancellor. The event was very successful with 26 of our one hundred Honorary Doctors attending, including the current Governor of Queensland, two former Governors and two former State Premiers. The University was represented by the Chancellor and myself with an excellent presentation on the 125 year QCA anniversary by Professor Marilyn McMeniman.

The major anniversary celebrations will commence in June 2006 during Queensland Week, with an exhibition in the Dell Gallery@QCA featuring work by QCA alumni from 1881 to 1974. A contemporary exhibition and launch of the exhibition catalogue will follow in July. The catalogue will present the most comprehensive survey of Queensland art since Vida Lahey published Art in Queensland in 1959. A program of public lectures and events will accompany these exhibitions. (See attachment 1 for a recent article featured in The Courier Mail.)

On the fundraising front there have been a number of positive developments. Our new Director of Alumni and Development, Ann Gribbin starts at the end of the month. Considerable progress is already being made – a notable event being the launch of the Dentistry and Oral Health Guild on the Gold Coast. The Guild was established in January 2006 to raise funds for the School of Dentistry and Oral Health through donations and
sponsorship from the dentistry and oral health care community and businesses. Pfizer will sponsor a Chair in Periodontology over 5 years.

On a somewhat different note – but again expressing Griffith’s commitment to excellence, our students and alumni excelled in the Commonwealth Games with students and graduates winning fourteen gold, six silver and three bronze medals.

Over the last six months, under the leadership of the Director of External Relations, Margaret Fairman, we have planned the next stage of our advertising campaign, to build on the successful rebranding campaign. I have arranged for a full briefing of Council of the next phase of the strategy at our meeting.

The Office of Quality, Planning and Statistics have prepared the latest progress against the Strategic Plan indicators. (see attachment 2 for a detailed report)

Research

New Smart State Grants to Griffith University
Innovative biotechnology research at Griffith University has been rewarded by the Queensland Government with the recent announcement of Smart State Innovation Fund grants of approximately $500,000. Dr Christine Wells and Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, from Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies, received a $300,000 Innovation Projects Fund grant to increase science’s understanding of genes in stem cells, as well as diseases like Schizophrenia and Parkinson’s disease. A second Innovation Projects Fund grant, worth $43,000 will see the Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies collaborate with the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute to develop breakthrough treatments to fight tropical diseases in developing nations. Griffith Institute for Glycomics researcher Dr Christopher Day is the recipient of a Smart State Fellowship, worth $150,000 over three years. His research may lead not only to a treatment for sufferers of the most common form of gastroenteritis in humans, but also to a technique for eradicating the organism in poultry, which causes the disease.

Research Quality Framework
The Preferred RQF Model proposed by the Expert Advisory Group (which was appointed by the former Minister, the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP) was officially released in March 2005. However, the new Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has not endorsed the Model in its current form, and has instead appointed a new RQF Development Advisory Group to recommend further action. Consequently, there is now considerable uncertainty about both the nature and timing of the RQF.

Circuits in plastic – Griffith School of Engineering
Griffith researchers have developed a new type of electronic circuit board that is recyclable and uses less toxic materials than traditional printed circuit boards. A research team from the Griffith School of Engineering and the CRC for Microtechnology, led by Professor David Thiel, has developed the patented technology known as Circuits in Plastic.

Jet Ski immobiliser – Griffith School of Engineering
Assoc Prof Steven O'Keefe was commissioned by Warner Village Theme Parks to develop a system for immobilising a jet ski in the event that the rider parted company with the vehicle. This followed an unfortunate accident at Sea World in Sept 2002. The technology has now been successfully incorporated into all Sea World jet skis. Griffith University is proposing to work with Warner Village Theme Parks and the Queensland Department of Workplace Health & Safety to explore wider opportunities to commercialise the technology.
Learning

New Commonwealth Student Places
During April the Prime Minister made a number of announcements in relation to the allocation of funds to support additional medical, mental health nursing, nursing and clinical psychology student places. These places will be in addition to the 2800 growth places across all disciplines that will be allocated this year and commence in 2007 as part of Backing Australia’s Future. While some of the places have already been allocated to Victoria, the University is currently waiting on advice in relation to the bidding process associated with the remaining new student places. The Minister, Julie Bishop indicates the arrangements will involve a tender process (see attachment 3 for media release)

Uni-Start Equity Admissions & Scholarship Scheme
The Uni-Start Equity Admissions & Scholarship Scheme was piloted in 2006 to provide an integrated admission and scholarship process to better assist students who have experienced educational and/or financial disadvantage to gain admission to Griffith University and the program of their choice. The basic eligibility requirements for an equity scholarship include: meet the low socio-economic status criterion, study full-time and applying to gain entry to an undergraduate program. Some scholarships require applicants to be from a rural or regional area necessitating relocation to study.

Of the 457 students who applied through the Scheme, 354 students accepted their place at Griffith University and were subsequently offered the Uni-Start package (consisting of payment of the Student Charge and Capital Development Charge and photocopy voucher). Of those 354 students, 268 were also recipients of a scholarship.

The Uni-Start Equity Admissions & Scholarship scheme comprises –

Admissions
• Applications for admission are individually assessed and bonus OPs/Ranks are awarded for eligible applicants, according to the impact of disadvantage.

• Applicants will in most instances be informed ahead of the first round of QTAC offers if they will be offered a place at Griffith, and in which program.

Scholarships
• Applicants will be considered for a Uni-Start Scholarship Package which includes:
  ➢ a Griffith University Education Costs Scholarship or a Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship
  ➢ for eligible rural and regional students, Commonwealth Accommodation Costs Scholarship
  ➢ and/or a Start-Up Benefit.

• The Griffith University and Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships are currently valued at a total of $8,320 paid in equal installments over a maximum period of four years.

• The Commonwealth Accommodation Costs Scholarship is valued at a total of $16,644 paid in equal installments over a maximum period of four years.

• Eligible applicants will be advised of an offer of a scholarship when they are advised about their application for admission. The offer of the scholarship is conditional on the applicant accepting the offer and enrolling at Griffith.

Ongoing access and transition support
All successful applicants will be eligible to participate in the Uni-Key Program providing access to a customised Pre-Orientation Program, academic and general skill development workshops, and where appropriate, to peer mentors.
Griffith Grants for Learning & Teaching
A Griffith Grants for Learning and Teaching Scheme was established and promoted to university staff in November 2005, primarily to support innovative approaches to learning and teaching consistent with The Griffith Academic Plan 2 and also to identify candidates for the Carrick Institute’s granting schemes. In all 44 grant applications were received and at its April meeting the Learning & Teaching Committee awarded three Strategic Grants, five Signature grants and eight Individual Grants (known as l Grants).

Academic Integrity
The Learning & Teaching Committee considered at its first meeting this year a discussion paper Academic Integrity: Minimising Plagiarism by Utilising Multiple Strategies and acted on its recommendation that a specialized academic advisory group be established with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) as its chair to provide definitions, models and advice on policy and procedures.

Carrick Australian Awards for University
Work is currently underway to prepare applications for the Carrick Institute’s new award category Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning due on the 15 May and the Awards for Teaching Excellence and Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning due on the 14 July. Griffith University will submit 10 citations, 5 applications for the Awards for Teaching Excellence and 4 applications for Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning.

Course Outline Project
May 2006 sees the conclusion of the Course Outline Project, which began in July 2003 in response to a self-review of the University’s course management processes, prior to the AUQA audit. The Course Outline Project’s central aim was to enhance student success at Griffith by ensuring that all courses are supported by a current Course Outline with consistent content and presentation, available to students in a timely manner via a central location.

The key deliverables of the project were:
♦ Course Outline template – a standard course outline template was developed that prescribes the minimum content, structure and style for all Course Outlines across the University, and draws course data from the PeopleSoft system to ensure consistency between the Course Outline & the Course Catalogue.
♦ Course Outline System – this system is web-based and is delivered via the Griffith portal. The system supports the creation, approval, modification and publication of Course Outlines.
♦ Publication Deadlines – the revised Course Approval and Evaluation Policy requires that all courses have a course outline published via the Course Outline System by the following dates:
  o First week of February for semester 1 course offerings
  o Week 15 of semester 1 for semester 2 course offerings
  o Week 15 of semester 2 for semester 3 course offerings.
♦ Role of the Course Convenor – more detailed statement was prepared including a checklist of tasks.

This project has resulted in Course Outlines being of a consistently higher quality and available in a timely manner for students.

Learning Environment Committee
The newly established Learning Environment Committee has been particularly active with the development of the Griffith e-Learning (GEL) Fellowships and terms of reference for a Griffith e-Learning Strategy/Plan. The GEL Fellowship scheme provides annually a six-month fellowship for four Griffith academic staff members to be released from School/Department duties to design and build multimedia resources to support learning in the courses/programs in which they teach. Applications for the fellowships have been invited for semester 2, 2006 with a closing date of Friday 28 April.
One of the recommendations from the external review of the University's Information Services Division was that an e-learning plan be developed to underpin the University's Learning & Teaching Plan by the end of 2006. The Learning Environment Committee has prepared terms of reference for the Griffith e-Learning Strategy and plans to workshop a draft of the strategy with Professor Diana Laurillard, Chair of Learning with Digital Technologies at the London Knowledge Lab, part of the Institute of Education, University of London, when she visits Griffith on Tuesday 20 June.

People: Staff

There was an overwhelming response from both the Griffith community and the general public with messages of support following the regrettable and distressing incident experienced by Aunty Delmae Barton in early March. She is a valued member of Griffith and a highly respected member of the indigenous community so it is very pleasing to know that she is making steady progress towards a full recovery.

Professorial Appointments
Five professorial appointments have been made since our last meeting. (see Attachment 4)

Celebrating Teaching @ Griffith
On 14 March the University held its fourth annual Celebrating Teaching @ Griffith gala event. At this event the University recognised over 60 Griffith teachers who have actively, persistently and carefully reflected on existing knowledge and its application in professional settings. Winners of the 2005 Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching and the inaugural Faculty Learning & Teaching Citations were joined by recipients of major awards from bodies including the Australian Awards for University Teaching, Institution of Engineers and the Planning Institute of Australia. Graduate Ruth Link, 2005 Naiman Clarke Junior Lawyer of the Year gave an inspiring address about the learning experiences she gained at Griffith and how it prepared her for her career. More than 300 people gathered at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University on March 14 to acknowledge the significant achievements of Griffith staff.

Fulbright Professional Award: Business/Industry (Coral Sea) Award
Brett Freudenberg, Lecturer in Accounting, Finance and Economics has been awarded a Fulbright Professional Award: Business/Industry (Coral Sea) Award. Brett will be hosted by the University of Illinois (College of Law) from 11 December 2006 – 16 April 2007. The title of his research will be: A New Business Form for Australia? Lessons to be learnt from the United States.

People: Students

Launch of Griffith Connect
As mentioned earlier in my report, the Griffith Connect- valued partners program was recently launched at both the Gold Coast and Nathan Campuses and is a program designed to strengthen the University by attracting more high achieving students and to recognise and manage relationships with high schools. To drive these relationships in 2006, a Manager, Student Recruitment has been employed within External Relations to devise and implement a formal relationship management strategy with high schools; direct the activity of the Promotions Team who carry out school visits; and liaise closely with schools and elements of the University to present coordinated activities. Based on QTAC data, and recognising existing relationships, 81 high schools in our key catchment areas have been selected as potential partners in the program. This mutually beneficial program offers a range of benefits to each high school, including scholarships as mentioned earlier in my report, admission schemes, special accesses and preferential visits, in return for open communication channels with high school students, staff and parents, and opportunities to work directly with these groups. Formal launch functions were held on March 29 at the Gold Coast campus and March 31 at the Nathan campus. Forty four secondary schools were represented, as well as the Regional Executive Director of Education Queensland for the Gold Coast area, Mr Glen Hoppner. Nineteen schools signed on immediately to the program and a further ten schools...
have since signed on for the program. Others have indicated their intention to do so. During the next month the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Manager, Student Recruitment will be visiting the principals of the schools who were unable to attend the functions and brief them on the program.

Careers Fairs
The Careers Fairs, on March 21 at Nathan campus and March 24 at Gold Coast campus once again attracted strong interest from employers, professional associations and recruitment firms taking up the offer to talk to students on campus about graduate opportunities. The number of participants on each campus was an increase on 2005. Students at the Logan Campus were provided with transport to the Nathan Fair.

Graduations
The first Graduation ceremonies for 2006 were held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on 7 and 8 April with awards being received by graduates from the Griffith Business School, the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education, Griffith Law School, Queensland College of Art and the Queensland Conservatorium. The Honorary degree of Doctor of the University was conferred upon Emeritus Professor Colin Mackerras, Ms Helen Lynch, Professor Margaret Gardner and former Vice Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis at these ceremonies. The final ceremonies will be held in Brisbane on 19 April (Griffith Health, Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology and the Faculty of Science) and Logan on 26 April. In total, 3,359 students are eligible to graduate at the April ceremonies with 2,641 electing to attend their ceremony.

From 2007, Griffith will no longer be holding April ceremonies. Students meeting the requirements of their degrees at the completion of Semester 2 will have their awards conferred in December and Semester 1 students will graduate in July/August.

Griffith will be holding 3 International ceremonies in 2006 in Taiwan, Beijing and Toronto. The Taiwan and Beijing ceremonies will be held in late May with the Toronto Ceremony being held in October. Whilst in Taiwan, the University will be awarding the honorary degree of Doctor of the University to the Venerable Master Hsing Yun at the Fo Guang Shan Monastery in Kaohsiung.

Physical facilities and information resources
Capital Works
Gold Coast
G31, Arts and Education 2
Work is progressing well on this building. The roof is now complete with internal fit-out advancing well. External finishes are being applied and the scaffolding has begun to be dismantled.
G33 Student Centre
Site clearing has begun for the Student Centre. Sketch plans are now well developed and design work is proceeding.

G34 Administration
Site clearing has begun for the Administration building. Sketch plans are now well developed and design work is proceeding.
Research facilities in Science 1
Refurbishment of level 4 of Science 1 for the Centre for Aquatic Processes and Pollution is now complete with staff having moved into the premises.

Carpark Extension
Tenders are being called for the construction of stage 3 of car park “G” on the Gold Coast Campus. This car park extension of 108 spaces will largely replace those car parks lost at the western end of the campus because of new building construction.

Student Residential Village
Leases and other agreements have been finalised and signed between the University and Campus Living for the provision of student accommodation at the Gold Coast campus on portion of the Smith Street land facing onto Edmund Rice Drive.

Centre for Medicine and Oral Health
Fit-out of the research floor of the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health has now been completed.

Logan

Nursing Laboratories
Work has commenced on refurbishment of some of the space vacated by Photography to provide needed additional laboratories and specialist training facilities for nursing in Academic 1.

Nathan

Queensland Microtechnology Facility
Construction of the facility is now complete and staff are moving into the space with equipment gradually being installed and commissioned.
ESKITIS Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies
Sketch plans have been developed for this project and application for Development Approval has been lodged with the Brisbane City Council. This project is subject to BCC planning controls as it is not on the University’s Nathan Campus.

South Bank

Griffith Film School
Tenders are currently being called for the first stage refurbishment of the former South Brisbane Post Office and Library as the Griffith Film School.
**Information Services**

Information Services currently tests service quality, service reliability and system availability through a number of surveys and system tools. Attachment 5 is a 2005 End of Year Performance Report for information.

**Engagement and Community Partnerships**

**Affiliation with Christchurch College of Education**

In 1997, Council approved an affiliation with the Christchurch College of Education (CCE) in New Zealand in recognition of the mutual benefit to be derived from developing strong academic links and relationships between the two institutions.

The CCE has advised the University that they will be merging with the University of Canterbury at the end of 2006, pending confirmation of the merger by the New Zealand Ministry of Education. In light of these developments, the CCE has provided Griffith with a notice to end the affiliation.

Over the last 10 years, both institutions have vigorously pursued activities identified in the Deed of Affiliation’s “Areas of Cooperation” including the delivery and joint development of academic programs (in particular the Bachelor of Business Management, the Professional Doctorate in Education, and the Master of Environmental Education); conduct of collaborative research; exchange of staff members and students; presentations of seminars, conferences and workshops; and the exchange of materials and other information.

In addition to close ties in business studies, strong links have also been established in special education, environmental education, sports coaching and the performing arts. CCE’s research profile and flexible learning activities have developed significantly through collaboration with Griffith staff.

Professors Max Standage, Marilyn McMeniman and Neil Dempster played an important role in developing the relationship with the CCE as members of the joint Liaison Committee.

**Griffith REVIEW**

On Friday 17th March 2006 Chris Sarra, the Director of the Institute for Indigenous Leadership in Education and Development spoke brilliantly at the Griffith REVIEW Literary Lunch held at Logan Campus. One hundred and ten colleagues (internal and external) heard Chris speak passionately about his experiences as Principal of Cherbourg State School during an interview with Julianne Schultz (Editor, Griffith REVIEW). This event built upon the Jeff McMullen lecture held at the Brisbane Institute on the 28th February 2006 where he discussed "Closing the space between us - the crisis in Aboriginal health and education" to a packed house. On the same night Professor Glyn Davis, Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University delivered his essay at The Sydney Institute entitled - "What is the future for Australia's public universities?" All three events were held to launch the current edition of Griffith REVIEW Getting Smart: The Battle for Ideas in Education, and will be podcast on the Griffith REVIEW website (www.griffith.edu.au/g Griffithreview) on 1 May 2006.

**Multi-Faith Centre**

On 21 February, the Multi-Faith Centre held a successful National Symposium on the theme of Responding to Cronulla: Rethinking Multiculturalism supported by Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Centres of several universities and diverse faith and multicultural organizations. Over 200 participants throughout Australia attended to listen to speakers from universities, government agencies, and faith/interfaith institutions who presented ideas and experiences related directly to the Cronulla situation as well as national and international contexts. Valuable lessons were drawn for policies and practices which can help prevent similar conflicts in the future.

The University's Annual Commencement Service was held on 7 March to welcome students, staff and members of the wider university community to the 2006 academic year. Leaders of
several faiths contributed prayers in a multi-faith service followed by a guest address on the theme of interfaith dialogue by a leading Australian Christian historian and scholar, Dr. Rosemary Gill, formerly an Associate Dean in the Brisbane College of Theology. Musical performances were also presented by the Mt. St. Michael's College choir and Jingjing Lu, a Griffith Conservatorium postgraduate student.

On 21 March the Multi-Faith Centre celebrated National Harmony Day otherwise known as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which seeks to promote the social, cultural and economic benefits provided by Australia's rich cultural and linguistic diversity and to overcome racial intolerance or disharmony. The event included a multi-faith prayer service, musical performances and a panel of speakers representing the efforts of faith-based schools or educational programs in integrating inter-faith perspectives in their programs. The Multi-Faith Centre presented its Report on Enhancing Inter-faith Dialogue in Queensland, focusing on faith-based schooling initiatives, to the sponsor of the project, Multicultural Affairs Qld, Dept of the Premier & Cabinet.

Griffith Sports College
The Griffith Sports College has enjoyed the fruits of an extremely successful Commonwealth Games for our elite athletes. Fourteen gold, six silver and three bronze medals translated into a hypothetical 5th place on the international medal tally. More importantly, the athletes were all given the opportunity to meet with their Course Convenors prior to the Games in a bid to ensure they kept abreast with their academic load. Feedback suggests that satisfaction levels are high and that Griffith continues to enjoy a strong reputation in elite athlete circles around the country. A celebration function is planned for Friday 28 April on the Nathan campus at lunchtime. As we get further into Semester 1, the Griffith Sports College is in constant contact with its elite athlete constituency (now numbering in excess of 100 students) who require pastoral care across a variety of issues. The 'one-stop-shop' strategy appears to be working to the satisfaction of students and academic staff alike, enabling both groups to channel their responses through a single agency (Griffith Sports College).

Griffith University EcoCentre
The EcoCentre’s community seminar series for 2006 began in March with a forum on water and the challenges that face one of our most precious resources. Attended by 35 community members and titled 'Water…the last drop', the forum was the first of a two part series on this most important topic. The panel with a wide range of expertise on the current water issues addressed questions from the audience about what is happening and where we are heading.

The panel was specifically chosen to facilitate and promote a lively session on the topics of the current drought, water sources and storage, water usage and water restrictions. Panel members were represented by Griffith University, Brisbane Water, Logan City Council and the Bureau of Meteorology. Each month the EcoCentre will be hosting a community seminar with topics relative to the environment and of particular interest to the community.

International

Delegations
The University hosted 21 international delegation visits between 7 February 2006 and 6 April 2006. Some of the highlights were as follows:

BHUTAN:
Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC)
On Friday, 10 March 2006, a delegation headed by Dasho Bap Kesang, Secretary of the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) met with the Pro Vice Chancellor International, Dean of Faculty of Environmental Sciences and staff from Griffith International at the Nathan campus. They visited with the purpose of exploring possibilities of scholarships, faculty exchange and facilitation for Bhutanese students particularly in Environmental Sciences. An MOU is expected to be signed later this year and the relationship with the
RCSC Bhutan is the result of visits by Professor Lex Brown to Bhutan (since the mid 1990s) when he was in the country for a United Nations Development Program and became aware of Bhutan’s keen interest in environmental education for its people. At the conclusion of the visit the Secretary and delegation members had the opportunity to talk with Bhutanese students currently studying at Griffith University on scholarships.

**INDONESIA:**

*Indonesian Ministry of Environment*

On 21 & 22 February 2006 a high profile delegation from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment, headed by The Executive Secretary, Mr Ariel Yuwono, visited Griffith University. During their visit an MOU was signed by Professor Ian O’Connor at the Gold Coast campus. Professor Max Standage has signed several agreements with the Ministry of Health (Indonesia) in the past but this is the first agreement that Griffith University has signed with the Ministry of Environment. The MOU will enable Griffith University’s Centre for Environment and Population Health to provide capacity building support in terms of short training programs for MOE staff in environmental management; and develop undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs in Environmental Management, Environmental Planning, Population Health, Environmental Education and Human Resource Management for Ministry staff delivered by Griffith University in partnership with MOE. In addition, the MOU will enable the development of PhD programs in the Environmental Health area and the development of joint proposals in collaboration with MOE, particularly in the post-tsunami environment.

**KOREA:**

*Deputy Minister of Education and Human Resource Development (MOEHRD)*

On 6 April 2006 a high profile delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Education, South Korea, Dr Gwang-Jo Kim, visited the Nathan campus. Professor Ian O’Connor hosted a lunch for the delegation which was also attended by several senior staff from Griffith University. The Deputy Minister of Education is well placed, and agreeable to, exploring the possibility of helping Griffith University with arrangements to send Griffith University students to Korea.

**SAUDI ARABIA:**

*Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education*

On 6 April 2006 a high profile delegation from the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education, headed by His Highness Prince Dr Khalid Bin Abdullah Al-Meshari Al-Saudi, Deputy Minister of Education for Girls’ Education visited the Mt Gravatt campus. They met with Professor Neil Dempster, Dean of Education and several other key academic staff from the Education faculty as well as Ms Ann Hammond, Deputy Director (International Business Development Unit) Griffith University. Discussions were lively and the delegation asked many questions, particularly in relation to our teaching training programs as well as distance learning. At the conclusion of their visit they were taken on a tour of the Faculty of Education facilities. It’s expected that over 150 Saudi Arabian students will be studying at Griffith University by 2008.

*Saudi Arabian Ministry of Health*

Two gentlemen from the Saudi Ministry of Health visited Griffith University for a week from 20 February 2006, under the “Young Professionals” program, a program run and funded by the Council for Australian-Arab Relations. The visit was co-hosted by Griffith International and the School of Nursing. During their visit they met with various staff and students from the School of Nursing. In addition, they visited the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Oral Health, Pharmacy, and Medical Science, and were taken on tours of local hospitals and medical centres. Upon their return to Saudi Arabia they will provide a report to the Ministry of Health to instigate potential collaborations with Griffith University. This conveyance of information to the Ministry of Health, to their peers is important for Griffith University. Communication between existing Griffith University Saudi students and new Saudi students is very close, and partly responsible for the growth in this market.

**TAIWAN:**

*Taiwanese University President Delegation*
On Sunday 2 April 2006 Professor Ian O’Connor hosted a lunch for the Presidents of the top 10 universities in Taiwan on the Gold Coast. In receiving the delegation on Sunday April 2, Griffith University paved the way for future international collaboration for MOU/ Exchange agreements, scholarship students and research collaboration.

The delegation’s visit to Australia was particularly timely, as the Taiwanese government has recently granted their top tier universities approximately AU$400 million to increase levels of international cooperation. These institutions are keen to work with Australian institutions on cooperative research projects. In addition, Griffith University is very keen to develop strategic partnerships in Taiwan.

PAKISTAN
On Monday 3 April, Queensland Education and Training International (QETI), arranged for the Deputy Minister of Pakistan to visit Griffith University and meet with Michael Jeh, Manager, Griffith Sports College to discuss Griffith's capabilities in sport and local sporting facilities including the Gabba.

BRUNEI
Queensland Education and Training International (QETI) arranged for the Brunei Deputy Minister of Education to visit the Queensland Conservatorium, South Bank.

Griffith English Language Institute (GELI)
GELI continued to attract strong ELICOS enrolments in its second course for the year, with numbers in Brisbane 21% up over the corresponding course last year. Gold Coast numbers remained the same while mixed programs at Mt Gravatt are up approximately 70% over semester 1 2005.

The newly accredited Business English Certificate (BEC Vantage) is currently on offer and, with the very little promotion, has attracted 10 students to its first offering. The first academic module of another new program, International University Studies (IUS), which runs throughout semester one, has also attracted nine students. These are small numbers, but important new English language initiatives.

International Administration and Marketing
As at 3 March 2006 Griffith International had received 9,509 applications from fee paying overseas students (FPOS) for the 2006 semester 1. This compared with 8,506 at the same time in 2005 – an increase of 11% in applications. 7,976 offers were made, up by 9% compared with 2005 but acceptances were down slightly.

Benchmarking Of Griffith’s International Operations
The Australian Universities International Director’s Forum (AUIDF) Benchmarking Survey 2005 results have revealed that Griffith International again operates very efficiently compared to the other Australian universities’ international offices. Some examples include:

- The average cost of an international student commencement in Australia in 2005 was $3,126 and for Griffith it cost $2,219 (all international office costs including commission divided by number of commencing students).
- Of the 33 Australian universities that responded to the survey, Griffith was the fourth largest in terms of number of commencing international students and received the seventh highest revenue at $85 million from international student enrolments.
- Median country cost of recruitment nationally $1,347; Griffith slightly higher at $1,479.
- Conversion of applications to commencements national average 25%; Griffith 32%.
- Marketing staff per 1000 commencements nationally 5.3; Griffith 4.6.
Admissions staff per 1000 commencement nationally 5.3; Griffith 3.7.

International student support staff per 1000 commencements nationally 4.2; Griffith 1.9.

Caseload per 100 exchange students nationally 0.79; Griffith 0.59.

**Media Analysis March 2006**

*Press, Radio, TV*

A total of 1,758 media items pertained to Griffith University for the period 1 – 31 March 2006, compared with 723 for the same period in 2005. Removing media generated by the Aunty Delmae Barton incident, which accounted for 123 items, brings this total down to 1635, which signifies a substantial increase.

In total, Griffith received 1,058 mentions on radio, 393 mentions in press and 307 mentions on television (this analysis includes the Aunty Delmae reports). The large gains in radio and television coverage reflect a large proportion of coverage syndicated nationally.

The *Courier Mail* was the leading publication, accounting for 16% of total press coverage received. For broadcast media, Radio National was the leading radio station, accounting for 59 items, while Channel 9 Gold Coast was the leading television station, with 6 items.

*Media coverage by volume and circulation/audience – March 2006*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Press</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>1058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>1758</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>