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TOP STORIES



Project to identify best energy options for remote QLD communities

A three year, \$100K project being undertaken at the USQ aims to remove the guess work for rural Queenslanders in choosing reliable, cost-effective energy sources.

Funded through a generous donation to the University from the Brazil family, the project will consider different supplies of energy ie. solar power, gas and diesel driven generators, to identify the most suitable energy supply scenarios for remote and rural communities.

USQ's Deputy Head of Electrical, Electronic & Computer Engineering Dr Tony Ahfock said the project will work towards making up-to-date energy information and decision making tools accessible to remote and rural communities of Queensland.

"The project aims to identify how to best use what is available to the specific community to allow people to make informed decisions about their energy supply.

"To achieve this objective, the project will link with other research projects currently being undertaken in the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying in the areas of photovoltaics (solar panels), electrolysis, solar thermal energy, biodiesel, and Stirling engine and internal combustion engine efficiency improvement."

A partner in a successful broad-scale dryland and irrigation farming business, Lyn Brazil and his wife (and USQ Chancellor), Bobbie are proud to support the project.

"We own properties in Queensland and a remote area of the Northern Territory, so I understand the challenges associated with sourcing and storing energy supplies," Mr Brazil said.

"Similar challenges exist throughout the Pacific and in Africa and I think this project will help the depth of the work on renewable energy within the Faculty."

USQ Alumni and Engineering consultant, Andreas Helwig will complete the project.

"The opportunity for this project motivated me to complete my PhD, as it matches my interest in remote areas and developing nations."

A rail and transport electrical machine specialist, Andreas has conducted various research projects in the field of axial-flux electrical machines, since graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering in 1979.

"Capital costs are a problem out west and lifecycle costs also need to be built in. For example, deep cycle batteries do not have the lifespan they are meant to have under certain conditions, because of current demand transient peaks and troughs resulting from equipment use such as refrigerators.

"Given this, my research will look at maximising and extending the life of batteries and putting together a unique group of technologies that work in remote areas and developing nations that will optimise the supply and demand of energy."

Andreas is confident the outcomes of the project will have international relevance.

"I am honoured to lead an aid program called 'Project Madagascar', so as an aid development worker this project is a great privilege as I will be able to use its outcomes in the future."

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



Australia's first digital Open Day set to go live

Once again students around the country are gearing up for the university Open Day season, but this year the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) is going one step further and launching Australia's first digital Open Day.

With more than 75 per cent of USQ students studying off campus, the award winning distance education provider is cementing its reputation and taking its Open Days to prospective students!

Hosted by YouTube, the digital Open Day goes live on Monday 18 August 2008 and allows students to collect the same information online as they would during a visit to one of USQ's three campuses. Students who preregister will also receive similar hard copy material and merchandise as the students who attend the Open Days.

Digital Open Day creator, Andrea Brosnan, said the concept was developed in a bid to provide people who couldn't physically attend an Open Day with an opportunity to virtually attend one.

"There are many people who don't actually get the opportunity to attend an Open Day, so we thought developing an Open Day online would give them an opportunity to gather information and meet staff- just as though they were on campus," Andrea said.

"It gives our prospective students a chance to find out a bit more about our degrees, our academics and our university in general.

"On the 18th, as every other week day of the year, we are available to answer any questions they may have – via email, on the phone and our 'chat' feature. The digital Open Day also gives students the chance to 'put a face to a name' and get to know our teaching staff in a different setting."

Prospect students will receive information about the library, fees, admissions and degrees from staff who work within these areas via video snippets. They will be able to select 'channels' based on their specific enquiries and access information directly related to their requests.

"We hope that people interested in studying will take the opportunity to jump on line and look around USQ and see what we have on offer."

For more information please visit www.usq.edu.au or call 1800 811 380.

Story: Connie-Louise Rego, *Photo:* Elizabeth Bull



Study to investigate effects of Lantana on soil biodiversity

A masters student from USQ's Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments (ACSC) will undertake a research project to determine the effect of nationally-significant environmental weed, *Lantana camara*, on soil biodiversity.

Funded in part by the NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change, the ground-breaking study will be conducted by Master of Science student, Heidi Case and will use advanced molecular techniques to compare the DNA of fungi in *Lantana*-infested soils with soils free of the weed.

"Recent estimates suggest up to 120 native species of plants and animals in Queensland alone may be threatened by the weed that has invaded at least 4 million hectares in eastern Australia," Heidi said.

The study will examine the impacts of *lantana* on the vegetation and soils across a broad range of open forests/woodlands on the range escarpment from Crows Nest to Flagstone Creek south of Toowoomba and out to Mt Kent, near Greenmount.

Changes to the soil's microscopic organisms associated with *Lantana* invasion will be investigated in the project which will be supervised by USQ Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Sustainability Dr Andy Le Brocque and Senior Lecturer in Plant Science Dr John Dearnaley.

"There has been some considerable research into the effects of *Lantana* on bushland flora and fauna, however, research has focussed on above-ground components of invaded systems," Dr Le Brocque said.

"We know nothing of what happens to the microscopic biodiversity within the soils."

Almost all plant roots, including most crop species, are colonised by microscopic fungi which are essential for inorganic nutrient uptake in plants, Dr Dearnaley said.

"*Lantana* is known to release chemicals that can suppress the growth of native plant species and possibly also these important fungi," he said.

"It is quite likely that many of the fungal species Heidi identifies will be new to science."

Very recently developed techniques in molecular ecology will be used to identify any differences in fungal species diversity and composition between *lantana*-infested and *lantana*-free sites in the study area.

"Essentially, the technique extracts fungal DNA from the soil, which can then be identified using an international database" Heidi said.

Dr Paul Downey and Dr Pete Turner from the Department of Environment & Climate Change are coordinating a major inter-state project into *Lantana* and showed considerable interest in Heidi's preliminary results. They were also excited by other potential research opportunities in this area.

Further information on this research can be obtained from Dr Andy Le Brocque by phone (07) 4631 1529 or email: lebrocq@usq.edu.au.

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



MOVERS AND SHAKERS



PhD students present UV research in US

Two USQ PhD students were invited to present their research on UV radiation at the 34th Meeting for the American Society for Photobiology in Burlingame, California in June 2008.

Peter Schouten and Joanna Turner attended the conference after winning Frederick Urbach travel awards to assist with travel expenses.

In his third year of PhD research Peter's presentation looked at measuring UV levels under water and was titled 'Measurement of solar UVB exposures in sea water with a high-exposure dosimeter.'

"It involves UV under water so instead of using normal optical meters I am looking at using a simpler system which is easier for marine researchers to take measurements in oceans, creeks and dams etc," Peter said.

Peter's research has been published in Photochemistry and Photobiology.

In her second year of a PhD Joanna's presentation was titled 'Characterising the influence of human UV exposures due to reflective vertical surfaces'.

"My research considers whether there is increased UV exposure by being near shiny, highly reflective surfaces in an unshaded area," Joanna said.

"I have found some results that suggest these surfaces can increase UV exposure by 20 percent which is fairly significant."

The results could have a significant impact for the construction and building workers, she said.

"Guidelines on health and safety for workers only specify being aware of such surfaces.

"Previous research looks at horizontal surfaces but not walls and rooftops. This is something the construction industry should be aware of."

Interacting with international UV researchers was the highlight of the conference for Joanna.

"I thought it was great. There were so many well-known researchers. I've been reading all of these research papers and the people you read work from are there.

"It was great to have peers look over your work.

"I've come back with lots of new ideas because you'd have people coming up at the conference saying have you thought of considering this?"

Peter also enjoyed meeting people well-known in the UV research world.

"You see a few UV celebrities. It's a good way to collaborate."

The pair acknowledged their supervisor Associate Professor Alfio Parisi, the Faculty of Sciences, the Office of Research and Higher Degrees and the Centre for Rural and Remote Area Health in assisting them to attend the conference.

Story: Jane Urquhart Photo:David Martinelli



Local rugby league player selected for world team

Not only did USQ education student Eugene Seddon help Australia score gold at the recent University Student Rugby League World Cup, he impressed the selectors so much he was chosen as part of the Universities World Merit Team.

When the aspiring primary school teacher was selected to play for Australia he didn't expect to receive such a prestigious accolade.

"About 200 people played in the World Cup from the eight competing nations, and only 13 of us were selected on the World Merit team," he said.

"It is terrific. It's such an honour."

The Australian team remained strong throughout the competition, winning first place in the grand final game against England which was held on Saturday 20 July 2008.

"The games were a really good standard of footy. Australia was the more dominate team- we came out undefeated."

Eugene was amongst five other Australian players who were selected to receive the honour.

"Since Australia was such a strong team and finished first, it made sense that a few of us were selected in this world team. It's something that will really boost your profile."

Eugene has played local representative football for Toowoomba, south-west and Queensland teams over the last few years, and said after years of working for a butcher, he decided to fulfil his ambition to be teacher and enrolled in USQ's Tertiary Preparation Program (TPP).

Having successfully completed TPP Eugene commenced his degree earlier this year.

'University is going well. The study is going well and my marks have been good so far so personally I'm fairly happy.

'The thing I like the most about USQ is the Elite Athlete Program that's in place here, headed by Sharon Brabon. It's a program that identifies and understands students with sporting commitments in and away from uni and staff do all they can so that our sporting commitments doesn't hinder our learning here at USQ.

'Without this program I reckon I'd find playing league with my studies fairly difficult.'

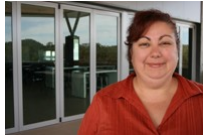
In 2005 Eugene played in the Queensland Cup with the Broncos feeder Club the Toowoomba Clydesdales.

He has also played for the Queensland Rangers, and in 2006 Eugene played against the New Zealand Residents National Team in New Zealand.

The first University Student Rugby League World Cup was held in New Zealand in 1986.

Eight nations participated in this years games including, Wales, Scotland, France, England, Ireland and New Zealand.

Story: Connie-Louise Rego, Photo: USQ Photography



Commerce student kick starts career

With job markets becoming increasingly competitive more university students are choosing to give themselves a head start by beginning their careers while completing their final year of studies.

Many students find the combination of a university degree coupled with work experience puts them on a fast track when looking for career advancement opportunities.

USQ Springfield campus third year Commerce student Annette Noonan has hit the ground running, taking on an accounting job while still completing the final year of her degree.

The mature-aged Ipswich student said the work experiences she would gain at Lovetts Accounting firm would complement her studies giving her an advantage over others.

"I am hoping that working in accounting while completing my studies will help steer me faster towards my career goals," Ms Noonan said.

"The firm looks after small business clients, so I will be getting hands on experience looking after super funds and trust funds amongst other things."

Ms Noonan decided to continue into university study after completing a Diploma of Accounting at TAFE.

"I have always worked in clerical or account type roles, but decided to take my career to the next level and study the Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting.

"I chose to study at USQ Springfield because of its proximity to my home in Ipswich and because the program offered exactly what I was looking for.

"By completing the diploma first, I was able to have some courses in my Commerce program exempted which has shortened my program overall.

"I have also studied in semester three to fast track my studies, which has been great."

Ms Noonan said the support she received at home and at university helped her through her studies.

"My husband and children were all very supportive and the lecturers at USQ were always available for me to talk to whenever I needed."

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



USQ lecturer wins Excellence in Spatial Sciences Education award



For the third year in a row, a USQ Surveying lecturer has taken out the Excellence in Education and Professional Development Award at the Queensland Spatial Excellence Awards held recently on the Gold Coast.

The 2008 Individual Award for Education and Professional Development was presented to Senior Lecturer in Spatial Sciences, Peter Gibbings, in front of more than 350 members of the industry at Movie World on Friday, 18 July.

The award is presented to a practising academic who has substantially contributed to the study and promotion of spatial science through teaching, research, publication or professional activities.

With 10 years experience in teaching at tertiary level Mr Gibbings has been published in nine journals and has presented papers at many conferences..

Mr Gibbings believes USQ's teamwork, professional experience and dedication to the field gives them an edge over competing metropolitan universities.

"USQ is a much smaller university but we are well resourced in the spatial sciences field."

The resource boom and population growth was creating demand for spatial science graduates, he said.

"We believe our graduates really are of a superior standard because they're being snapped up by the large mining and construction companies even before they graduate.

"We find a lot of our students complete their final year of studies externally while they work in industry all over the world."

No stranger to accolades, Mr Gibbings is the recipient of several professional awards both individually and jointly including the 2005 Spatial Excellence Award for the best research article; a 2006 and 2007 joint Carrick Australian Award for University Teaching and a 2003 USQ University Medal for excellence in the design and delivery of teaching materials.

Mr Gibbings will now travel to Canberra for the Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards in November.

Story: Ally Martell, Photo: Cindy Laine



PhD student assists with agricultural education in Africa

Centre for Systems Biology PhD student Noel Knight recently returned from North Africa where he assisted some of Australia's leading plant disease experts to deliver a two week Master Class on 'Soil-Borne Pathogens of Wheat'.

The Master Class was delivered to 20 young scientists from Tunisia, Algeria, Iran, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Turkey.

The class was partially sponsored by the Australian Government's Crawford Fund which is dedicated to international agricultural research aimed at reducing poverty and hunger, enhancing regional security, sustaining the natural resource base for agriculture and providing benefits to Australian farmers.

"The Master Class featured a mix of lectures, laboratory workshops and field trips," Noel said.

Noel's role was to act as a technical assistant during laboratory and field sessions.

"It was a privilege for me to work alongside world experts in soil-borne cereal diseases."

Noel said his travels represented a unique opportunity to experience the application of agricultural research in one of the world's fastest growing regions.

Leaders of the Master Class were drawn from University of Sydney, University of Adelaide, SARDI (South Australian Research & Development Institute), CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, Turkey), ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, Syria) and INRAT (National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia).

Following the Master Class, Noel travelled to Turkey with CIMMYT's Dr Julie Nicol to visit field trials in her disease screening program.

"The networks I have established will enhance the reputation of the Crop Improvement Group within CSBi and provide us with very valuable collaborations in the future," he said.

CSBi Centre Director, Mark Sutherland, said the organisation worked hard to give its research students a global perspective on the work they were involved in.

The CSBi was formally launched in February 2007. It facilitates research in understanding complex biological functions.

Story: Ally Martell Photo: Supplied

Do you know someone who has been promoted, received an award or recognition internally or externally? Please [email us](#) with information about their achievement.

OTHER NEWS



Elite Athlete Program assists Springfield students

Most students find it a challenge to combine work, study and a private life, but USQ Springfield campus Education student Liam Capewell has the added pressure of playing sport at an elite level.

The 21 year-old rugby league player used the USQ Elite Athlete Program to help him meet his study commitments while continuing to play football for the Gold Coast Titans, Burleigh Bears and Australian representative sides.

Liam said without the assistance he has received through the program he couldn't have continued studying while playing sport at this level.

"My first year at uni was full time on-campus and it happened to coincide with a boom year in my football career," Liam said.

"I won a contract to play for the Titans and I wasn't sure how I could continue to study while I played football.

"Through the program I was able to let my lecturers know what my commitments to the club and work were and they helped me to structure my studies around that.

"I also went on a tour to England last year with the Australian University side which was a great experience, but the tour clashed with the end of semester exam block," he said.

"Through the support I get from the Elite Athlete Program I was able to get a six month extension on my exams to do them during the next exam block.

"This was a real load off my mind and I was able to concentrate on playing – we won the series 2-1 against the Great Britain teams.

"I work three days a week and train four days with the Burleigh Bears. That leaves me with Mondays and Fridays to concentrate on my studies.

"I come to Springfield campus on those days and do a lot of my work then, and catch up with my lecturers via email."

The former Ipswich Grammar School student said he hoped to score another Gold Coast Titans development contract this year.

Coordinator of the Elite Athlete program Sharon Brabon said the Elite Athlete Program at Springfield campus already had five students registered, including a swimmer, netballer, two rugby league players and a wheelchair rugby player.

"There are 86 students registered across all USQ campuses representing more than 30 sports.

"We also have performance artists and coaches in the scope of the program."

Students who register with the program receive assistance in organising assessments, timetables, enrolment and examinations.

For an athlete to be recognised by the program they are identified by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), state or territory institute or academy of sport or a relevant national association.

"USQ will consider all sports and sporting commitments though," she said.

"A report I prepared on the program last year indicated a 30 per cent increase in registration of elite athletes over the past 18 months.

"I've had a lot of good feedback from the students in terms of the benefits for them and its something they have used effectively."

For more information about the USQ Elite Athlete program go to www.usq.edu.au/eliteathletes.

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



Demand for Engineering and Surveying programs increases

As demand for engineers and workers in the mining and construction industries reaches new heights, applications for engineering programs at the USQ are following the trend.

Across the faculty applications to study in semester two are up by 46 percent on 2007 with an increase of 165 applications.

Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Frank Bullen said the statistics reflect the demand for programs that offer flexible study modes.

“There is an increase in people going to a job and when they study with us they can take their degree programs with them,” Professor Bullen said.

“Demand for workers outside the city has increased so more people want to study remotely. We fill that need.”

Provision of a range of degree programs to suit different levels of experience is also an advantage.

“USQ offers a spectrum of integrated programs from the Associate Degree in Engineering through to a PhD so students can start at any level and finish at any level. We give them that flexibility.”

Spatial Science programs are in high demand, with the Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology up 300 percent, climbing from seven to 21 applications and the Bachelor of Spatial Science increasing 200 per cent, from 10 to 22 applications.

The results reflect the demand for engineering and surveying graduates, particularly in rural areas.

A report released on Tuesday by Graduate Careers Australia found engineers in regional areas earn an average of \$3200 more each year than their city counterparts.

Professor Bullen said this is not surprising with the current mining and resources industry boom.

“It is expected. The engineering development and the mining resources development has drawn engineers out of local council and construction industries.

“The construction industry can’t get people, the government can’t get people.”

Professor Bullen predicts the situation will continue until supply can meet demand.

“It will continue in the short term until supply catches up with demand, that will probably be in about three to five years.”

Story: Jane Urquhart Photo: USQ Photography



Work integrated learning gives USQ students the edge

Students at the USQ Springfield campus will be a step ahead of other graduates with the University announcing it has expanded its Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program across all undergraduate programs.

USQ Springfield Career Learning Consultant Annissa O'Shea said the WIL program offered USQ Springfield students a wide range of opportunities to gain work related experiences while still at university.

"The job market today is so competitive that experience in the workplace is an invaluable asset to graduates," Ms O'Shea said.

"WIL provides opportunities for our students to apply the theoretical knowledge they learn in the lecture room to the workplace.

"Through WIL they can develop, practice and consolidate their skills and develop an understanding of their chosen profession.

"Employers today have high expectations of graduates, which is why we have included the opportunity to undertake WIL experiences across all of our undergraduate programs."

Third year psychology student Lindsay Dale has recently completed a work placement with Better Life Directions psychology practice as part of his Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) program.

The placement saw him shadow two psychologists as they conducted counselling and training sessions in Hervey Bay, Kingaroy and Cherbourg.

Mr Dale said the work placement gave him a wider understanding about the reality of working in a psychology practice.

"I was able to sit in on one-on-one counselling sessions and attend a group training session for the wives of Vietnam veterans.

"The training sessions were aimed at helping wives better understand what their husbands had been through in Vietnam and gave them some tools to help them cope at home.

"I was able to participate with the group and share in the struggles they faced. It was a great experience.

"Working in Cherbourg helped me to gain a basic understanding of aboriginal culture. Their family structures and terminology are different to those I am used to - for instance an Auntie is a tribal elder rather than your parent's sibling."

He said through the work placement he learnt about the administrative challenges faced by practicing psychologists.

"There are so many day-to-day administrative limitations they are faced with, such as dealing with Medicare, work cover and third party providers."

Mr Dale chose to complete his work placement outside of Brisbane and Ipswich as he plans to work as a registered clinical psychologist in a regional area when finished studying.

"I think working in a regional centre where there is less specialisation of psychology would allow me to deal with a broader range of clients.

"It would also be great to live close to where I work and become part of the community rather than commuting into the city.

"One of the reasons I chose to come to USQ to study was the fact I could combine work experiences into my studies, giving me the ability to ground the theory in reality.



“It is very important for students get to see their chosen career from all sides before they finish their studies.” To find out more about USQ Springfield campus Work Integrated Learning programs visit www.usq.edu.au/springfield/.

Story and photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



University launches electronic resource system

The University is taking its reputation as the leading provider of flexible education one step further with the development of a cutting edge electronic resource centre. Going live in semester two, the progressive digital resource system, DiReCt, will not only revolutionise the way USQ delivers study materials but how students access information.

Executive Director of the Division of Academic Information Services, Professor Alan Smith, spoke at the launch of DiReCt on Tuesday 15 July saying while other universities have introduced similar resource systems, none were on the scale of that being developed at USQ.

“DiReCt is a joint project between staff in the Library and the Distance and e-Learning Centre which is quite complex.

“It allows the University to provide study materials more efficiently as it avoids unnecessary duplication of the same information in different courses and will reduce copyright expenditure,” he said.

“It will also allow students to access study material more easily and from a single central source.”

Essentially DiReCt will allow lecturers to upload study material to a central source which can be accessed by students anywhere via the web.

The project will help the University reduce the printing and distribution costs associated with producing and sending hardcopy materials.

Once loaded to CD's information will also be uploaded the system allowing students to access all their material in once location.

Lecturer in History, Dr Catherine Dewhirst, praised the new system saying her students were already in favour of the concept.

“At the end of last semester I asked the students verbally what they thought of the resource centre concept.

“A number of students said DiReCt was such an improvement on WebCT.”

Professor Smith said the new system had great potential, and he looked forward to seeing it develop further.

“DiReCt is an important step in making available information resources to all USQ students regardless of location. It complements the other resource systems used by the Library and reinforces our strong commitment to students and the concept of resource-based learning.”

Story: Connie-Louise Rego Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



USQ and local businesses collaborate in student development

Students from USQ's Faculty of Business will get insight into local companies in the 2008 Business Boardroom Series.

The first event of the series was held at Heritage Building Society on the evening of Tuesday 22 July 2008.

Faculty of Business Student & Corporate Engagement Coordinator Carmel Cavaye said the series raises student awareness of career opportunities in their local region.

"Recent feedback indicated our students are looking for a practical, relevant, hands-on insight into various companies in the Toowoomba area," Ms Cavaye said.

"The Business Boardroom Series gives students that opportunity while giving businesses the chance to engage with prospective employees of the future.

"In the past we have found this sort of networking event extremely effective, one of our students has been offered a part time position with a business after she attended an event in May."

Each event involves students meeting the company leaders, learning about the main functions of the business and touring the facilities.

"Students will also hear from a recent graduate so they can understand the process from someone they can relate to."

Carolyn Athanitis is studying a Master of Professional Accounting and said she is looking forward to attending the event at Heritage.

"I am particularly interested in attending the event at Heritage," Ms Athanitis said.

"I'd like to hear more about their approach to business. I've used their business for part of an assignment but no matter how much you read it's your impression that really assists your judgement."

Ms Athanitis said she believes the event will be worthwhile and has registered to attend the second event at McConachie Stedman Accountants on Wednesday, July 23 2008.

"It presents us with an opportunity to get a fly-on-the-wall insight into a business," she said.

"It's also an opportunity for networking and learning about the culture of the business."

Story: Jane Urquhart Photo: David Martinelli



NAIDOC celebrations

NAIDOC week was celebrated with a BBQ in the quadrangle on Wednesday 23 July 2008. Mia Roberts, Joe Roberts and Shane McIntosh cooked up crocodile, kangaroo and sausages for the crowds.



COMING EVENTS



7 August Corporate Club Breakfast hosted by Clewett Lawyers

8 – 31 August West-Space Exhibition USQ Arts Gallery

13 August West-Star Motors Twilight Ensemble Recital

17 August Toowoomba Open Day

23 August Springfield Open Day

If you would like to promote an event in *USQNews* and on the USQ Coming Events web site please email news@usq.edu.au with the details.

OUT AND ABOUT



[Principals' Lunch](#)

[Fraser Coast Open Day](#)

[Fraser Coast Moving Forward Together Forum](#)

Our roving photographers are on the loose. Whether you are at a conference, event or the launch of a new centre you could be snapped!



STAFF PROFILE



Annissa O'Shea

What is your position at USQ and what does it involve? Career Learning Consultant. Psychologist who specialises in career learning and counselling. My job involves helping students identify their career path and help them develop the skills and knowledge to navigate their way to their end goal. It involves counselling, psychometric assessments, linking them to potential employers and helping them maintain their motivation and focus while studying.

How long have you been working at USQ? 6 months

Are you working on any interesting projects at the moment? I am working on making Careers and Employment tools more accessible to students via the web and through their StudyDesks. I am also working with faculties on the Springfield campus to include more work-based and career-related experiences into students' learning journey.

What is your funniest moment at USQ? Every meeting I have with the Faculty of Science at Springfield.

What is the most satisfying part of your job? Seeing students have their 'aha' moment – when they realise that there are multiple career options available to them and that there are many pathways along which they might travel to get to where they want to go.

What is one thing that no one else knows about you? I make and sell porcelain and ceramics in my spare time.

How do you most like to spend your weekends? Ideal: Under water, trekking through rainforest. Reality: Crash tackling (and trying to contain) a 9 month old English sheep dog puppy, fixing things around the house he has demolished during the week while I am at work and hunting down a PhD topic.



STUDENT PROFILE



Lisa Campbell

What are you studying? I am an external student studying a Bachelor of Business majoring Marketing & Public Relations with four subjects remaining before graduating.

Why did you choose USQ? I choose to study a Business degree at USQ when I was in my final year of high school (year 12). The Business faculty had a great reputation for their curriculum and relevance to the work place. When I attended the USQ Open Day their staff were extremely helpful, friendly and willing to provide me any information that I needed. There was and still is, a huge number of services available for the students at USQ and no one ever seemed to be busy to answer my questions.

How did you find studying externally? I was a bit anxious when I changed from an internal to external student but the transition was extremely smooth with constant assistance. Even though I am a 'hands on' learner, I found studying externally rewarding with the only difference being that I study at home and not in a classroom. Lecturers are only too willing to help and they ensure we understand and enjoy the material we are learning.

What are you going to do when you finish studying? When I graduate I want to continue to work in the thoroughbred horse industry in the field of marketing, public relations and journalism, combining both of my passions – thoroughbreds and business.

If you could have dinner with any three people alive or dead who would they be? John Singleton (Singo), John Messara & Gai Waterhouse.

NEWSMAKERS



Making headlines this fortnight: Deputy Head of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering Dr Tony Ahfcock was on the airwaves talking about a new project to determine optimum energy sources for rural Queensland communities. Taekwondo champion and USQ student Tina Morgan was quoted in *The Courier Mail* about her preparations for Beijing and studying by distance education and Professor of Distance & e-Learning Alan Smith was quoted in *Qantas In-Flight Magazine* talking about online education.

Note: You will need your USQConnect username and password to access this web page on USQIndex.

Please email news@usq.edu.au if you would like to receive a daily USQ media monitoring report.



UNITRADER



Car for sale: Mazda 323 Astina, 5 door hatchback, 4 cyl, air cond, power steering, drivers airbag, power windows, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, excellent condition - only 86 000 klms, \$8900. Ph: 0438 378 220.

2002 Mitsubishi Mirage: 3 door hatchback, 5 speed manual, 4cyl, a/c, p/s, driver airbag, white, economical, reliable, 86 000km, \$8,500. Phone Jane x2559.

UniTrader: Do you have an item you are looking to swap, sell or buy? Please [email us](#) with your listing for inclusion in UniTrader.

PHOTOS



The USQ photographers are on campus snapping functions and catching everything on camera! You can check out their work on the [USQ Photography webpage](#). If you like what you see in USQ News and would like them to photograph your function or event please call Liza, Cindy or Liz on 4631 2472.