

2004 Award of
Excellence for
Institutional
Achievement



USQ NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND • AUSTRALIA

21 JULY • 2004

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USQ wins Commonwealth award for excellence

USQ has won the Commonwealth of Learning Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement at the third Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning held in Dunedin, New Zealand earlier this month.

This prestigious award adds to the suite of national and international awards already won by USQ in the fields of open and distance learning, education export and multiculturalism.

In 1999, USQ was voted Best Dual Mode University by the UNESCO-based International Council for Open and Distance Learning (ICDE) and in the same year USQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Global Learning), Professor Jim Taylor, was awarded the ICDE Individual Prize for Excellence for services to distance education. These awards were followed by the Good Universities Guides Australian University of the Year 2000-2001 (joint winner) for developing the e-University, the NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission award for multicultural marketing, the Queensland Government Export Award (education category) and the Queensland Multiculturalism Award.

USQ Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Bill Lovegrove, who was in Dunedin to accept the award, said he was delighted to receive the Commonwealth of Learning's most prestigious award and that USQ had once again won international recognition for its provision of flexible learning opportunities for people with diverse social and cultural backgrounds.

"In recent years USQ has developed international leadership in online education as one component of what we describe as a 'triple option, dual mode' service for learners of all ages," Professor Lovegrove said.

"We believe that the use of pedagogically sound teaching materials and support systems make it possible for learners to achieve quality outcomes irrespective of their mode of study.

"At USQ, we surround and support our teaching and learning function with e-infrastructure that facilitates administrative and academic support campus-wide and across all disciplines, regardless of whether they are on-campus or external students."

Professor Lovegrove said USQ's international awards reflected the university's leadership in flexible learning and the use of modern information communication technologies to build learning communities.

Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources and Member for Groom, Ian Macfarlane, congratulated USQ on gaining the award.

"As Australia's Minister for Industry, I am well aware of the growing 'industry' of online education. It has been through learning organizations such as USQ that Australia has developed and maintained leadership in this increasingly competitive field," Mr Macfarlane said.

"USQ has been instrumental in achieving this lead and this has come about as a result of the university's long-time commitment to providing quality distance education to people where they live, and its commitment to the strategic planning and development of the necessary infrastructure and university systems to deliver education at a distance. Central to this



INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Director of the Distance and e-Learning Centre Associate Professor Alan Smith and Vice Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove display the Commonwealth of Learning award at the recent presentation ceremony in Dunedin.

success has been a commitment to quality of content and especially quality of service to its students."

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is a 53 member inter-governmental organization created by the Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. The COL works with Commonwealth nations to improve access to quality education and training for more than 1.7 billion people.

COL recognises and honours excellence in distance education through its biennial awards. To date, 10 institutions and 21 individuals have been honoured at two ceremonies held in Brunei Darussalam and Durban, South Africa since the awards originated in 1999.

Gus Snow-McLean

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SENATE VISIT: Senator George Campbell (right) visited the Fibre Composites Design and Development Centre (FCDD) at USQ recently with Senator Claire Moore to find out more about the successful operation of the Centre. Executive Director of the FCDD Professor Gerard Van Erp (left) gave the Senators a tour of the Centre and is pictured here showing Senator Campbell FCDD's latest materials development.

NAIDOC PRIDE: The USQ community commemorated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Week (4 July - 11 July) with a Flag Raising Ceremony and speeches in the quadrangle. The Director of the Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Centre, Neville Perkins, welcomed attendees and introduced this year's theme of "Self Determination - Our Community, Our Future, Our Responsibility". President of the Toowoomba Aboriginal Elders Council, Jim Hagan (pictured), further elaborated on this theme by highlighting the increasing importance for the Aboriginal community to effectively represent its views and opinions to the Australian Government especially since the demise of ATSIC. Acting Vice-Chancellor Jim Taylor re-affirmed USQ's support for and its commitment to improving education for Indigenous students.



EDUCATION FELLOW: USQ Associate Professor and Head of Early Childhood, Dr Gillian Potter, has been awarded a Fellowship of the Australian College of Educators for 2004 for her outstanding contributions nationally and internationally to early childhood education and family studies through innovative practices, research and scholarship. Dr Potter attended a presentation ceremony in Adelaide last month to receive her accolade along with 28 other educators who have been judged by their peers as making an outstanding contribution to education in Australia.



AFRICAN RELATIONS: A Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education delegation including chief executives and legislators took a study tour of USQ's Toowoomba Campus recently, after attending the 3rd Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning in Dunedin, New Zealand. The delegation was given an overview of distance education at USQ by Director of the Distance and e-Learning Centre Associate Professor Alan Smith, and a tour of DeC. Pictured from left to right is Deputy Vice Chancellor Jim Taylor, Senator Abubakar A. Ibrahim Jnr, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Australia Mr Ibrahim Saleh, Minister Counsellor, Nigerian High Commission, Canberra, Hon (Dr) Shehu Garba Matazu, Chairman of the House of Committee on Education and USQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove.



ADVENTURE ABROAD: Faculty of Education Administration Manager, Greg Jones, has become a published author with his book "Our Ancient Right of Access" now available at Mac Campbell's in Toowoomba and at selected Dymocks stores nationally. The book is a collection of travel stories including interesting tidbits, observations and historical research from trips to the United Kingdom and Ireland with his wife Faculty of Business Administration Manager, Jill Douglas. Mr Jones was interviewed by WinTV, Jim Campbell on 4WK and Graham Healy on 4AK about his accomplishment.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Alan Smith

**DIRECTOR OF
THE DISTANCE AND
E-LEARNING CENTRE**

ANOTHER international accolade! Professor Lovegrove and I were at the Pan Commonwealth Forum in a very chilly Dunedin, New Zealand last week to accept an award from the Commonwealth of Learning. Having only now just thawed out I will explain to you the significance of the award and what it means for USQ.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is a 53 member inter-governmental organization created by the Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. The COL works with Commonwealth nations to improve access to quality education and training for more than 1.7 billion people.

COL recognises and honours excellence in distance education through its biennial awards. To date, 10 institutions and 21 individuals have been honoured at two ceremonies held in Brunei Darussalam and Durban, South Africa since the awards originated in 1999. With the Vice Chancellor's approval, I developed our application (a submission strictly limited to 1,000 words) in February this year, highlighting USQ's strong record in the provision of flexible learning opportunities for people with diverse social and cultural backgrounds.

The USQ award is for "Excellence in Distance Education" in the Institutional Category. This recognises and celebrates outstanding achievement and innovation in the open and distance learning by an institution of the Commonwealth. This year 25 applications were received from 14 Commonwealth countries. The applications covered a wide spectrum of open and distance education provision. Evaluating such a diverse array was indeed a challenge for the international jury. The jury applied the following four criteria for evaluating the institutions:

1. Use of open and distance learning;
2. Significant institutional achievement;
3. Innovative and effective use of appropriate technology; and
4. Outreach to the otherwise remote, unreached and marginalized communities

A shortlist of seven institutions was drawn up, and it was determined that awards would be made to the two most outstanding institutions.

Coincidentally, the other institution which was successful in this category was the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, an institution which we have close links with especially through the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying which offers combined award programs in a number of areas.

According to the judging panel USQ "demonstrates how flexible learning options using appropriate technologies and a strong commitment to the development of good practice can reach out to a range of international and multicultural audiences ... demonstrating exceptional performance practices that have been carefully modulated to the changing and emerging needs of students, stakeholders and society."

While the Vice Chancellor and I were delighted to be able to accept this award in person, we should all take credit for contributing to USQ's continued success in the area of distance education. It validates the hard work from staff in faculties and the service areas of the University in keeping USQ at the forefront of best practices in teaching and learning at a distance. We remain, both nationally and internationally, a benchmark institution in this field.

USQ Springfield nears reality

FEDERAL Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendon Nelson, has hailed the Australian Centre for LifeLong Learning (ACLLL), which will house USQ's proposed Springfield campus, as part of the future for educating Australia.

Speaking at the official soil-turning ceremony which marked the beginning of construction at the ACLLL educational precinct, Dr Nelson said the ACLLL would be part of Australia's largest master-planned community.

The campus, in Brisbane's western corridor, will be set up in partnership with the Springfield Land Corporation and constructed by the James Fielding Group. USQ plans to administer the campus in collaboration with other education providers, including those registered to conduct English as a Second Language and private and vocational training, as well as with schools and early childhood facilities.

"There are other life-long learning models around the country but to start literally from the ground up is an enormous task and is very important," Dr Nelson said.

"Increasingly, all of us are not only having to upgrade our skills but to change them as well."

Dr Nelson also offered USQ additional Commonwealth-funded places if the Springfield campus was successful.

"We will look at population growth over the next four years, and if Springfield continues to grow, more places will be made available to USQ," Dr Nelson said.

Under current agreements the Springfield campus will have been allocated 205 new Commonwealth places by 2008. USQ is set to receive a total of 479 new

places at its Toowoomba, Wide Bay and Springfield campuses by that time.

Springfield Land Corporation Chairman Maha Sinnathamby said the current rate of migration to Greater Springfield was three families each week and the community was expected to accommodate 60,000 residents within the next decade.

"The start of work here signals Greater Springfield's promise to embrace life-long learning from pre-school to tertiary and beyond," Mr Sinnathamby said.

USQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove said the project placed USQ in the 'unique position' of developing a campus at the same time its community was growing.

"We'll have an opportunity to introduce the children of this region to a university from an early age. We also see this project as a wonderful 'laboratory' to develop graduates who are ready to join the workforce," he said.

State Education Minister, Anna Bligh, said the development would help Queensland shed the 'dubious honour' of historically lower school retention levels than other states and less students continuing with higher education.

"It is no surprise that education is the driver behind Springfield's development. The Queensland Government has also recently approved another primary school for the area," she said.

"It is especially pleasing for me to see USQ as a partner in developing Greater Springfield. It is one of Australia's newest universities and in a very short time has built itself a very good reputation."

Tawanda Mundangepfupfu



PUNCHING THROUGH: Dignitaries at the groundbreaking ceremony for USQ's Springfield campus celebrate the beginning of construction work at the site. They are (from left) Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove, Queensland Minister for Education and the Arts, Anna Bligh, Maha Sinnathamby (Chairman, Springfield Land Corporation), Federal Minister for Education, Science & Training, Dr Brendon Nelson, and Nick Collishaw (Executive Director, James Fielding Group).

2004 northern university games



▲ A University of Queensland soccer player crosses the ball into the opposition's 18 yard box during the men's bronze play-offs against Queensland University of Technology.



MORE than 2000 university students took over sporting fields across Toowoomba at the start of the month to take part in four days of competition which included 13 sports in men's, women's and mixed contests.

The overall winner of the *DrinksMart** 2004 Northern University Games was the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) with USQ finishing an admirable 4th place on the points ladder.

USQ claimed the Population Cup, which is calculated by taking into account the number of students at each university and how well the university performs at the Games. USQ Student Guild President Kevin Stapleton proudly accepted the trophy from NUG Ambassador and Shotput Olympian Justin Anlezark.

USQ picked up a silver in the men's volleyball, a gold in the men's squash, a gold in the mixed netball and a bronze in the men's basketball.

Griffith University went home with the Spirit Award for their overall attitude, support and sportsmanship.

Susan McDonald

◀ USQ Team Manager Kaylee Ballinger (left) distributed volunteers Di Speers (right) and Joyce Newcomb (back left) with uniforms and accreditation, as well as team tracksuits to Volleyballer Chris Hillman and Netballer Danah Wuttke at a team barbeque prior to the Games.



▲ The University of Queensland and Griffith University battled it out on the netball court for supremacy with UQ going home with Gold.



▲ The University of Queensland touch team stormed down the field against Griffith University Gold Coast in the men's finals but were defeated by GUGC.



▲ Overseas competitors Team USA made a dominant impression on the University of Queensland Women's Volleyball team in the finals winning Gold.

◀ Bond University's Vikki Fitness, Jess McCauley, Lisa Washington, Nicole Solomon and Shanna Delbridge come together in support of their men's Rugby Union team which lost to University of New England in the finals.

Rural research attracts worldwide attention

Medical practitioners around the world were recently alerted to a study led by the Director of USQ's Centre for Rural and Remote Health, Professor Desley Hegney, entitled 'General practitioners' perceptions of after hours primary medical care services: a Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia study.'

An alert to the article, which was published in the electronic Journal of Rural and Remote Health in 2004, was posted on WONCA Online, the website publication of the World Organisation of Family Doctors that has over 160,000 members.

Professor Hegney said the posting meant that rural doctors all over the world would be directed to the article.

"It's really good when you do work that gets published and it gets to the people concerned with the research. International rural doctors can read about how Toowoomba doctors feel. It's really great."

The study was conducted by Professor Hegney, Lecturer of Statistics Paul Fahey and Research Assistant Annette Nanka, using a grant of \$45,000 from the Federal Government's Department of Health and Aging, in partnership with St Andrews hospital as a feasibility study into whether St Andrews should establish an on-site after-hours primary medical care clinic.

The paper reported on the qualitative results of the study - interviews with 30 randomly selected local GPs, 15 of each gender, asking their opinions on the provision after-hours primary medical care in Toowoomba.

The study found that the majority of participants believed the current provision of after-hours primary medical care was adequate. However, it was poorly remunerated, had an adverse effect on their lifestyle and could endanger their personal and their patient safety. Given a choice, they would prefer to refer all patients seeking care between 10pm and 8am to an Emergency Department. During this time, they felt, the need to see a doctor should be an emergency anyway.

Professor Hegney said the after-hours primary medical care unit did not go ahead at St Andrew's although a need was identified, because there was a lack of doctors willing to provide their services at that time.

Professor Hegney has also recently received an Australian Research



WORLDWIDE ALERT: A study conducted by Professor Desley Hegney (right), Paul Fahey and Annette Nanka was posted as an alert on WONCA online, the website publication of the World Organisation of Family Doctors, recently.

Council grant of \$400,000 over three years in partnership with the University of Queensland, to head a study on identifying models of personal and community resilience that enhance psychological wellness, in Stanthorpe, with input from the Department of Primary Industries, Combined Rural Traders and Lifeline. USQ team members are Senior Lecturer in Nursing Dr Cath Rogers-Clark and Research Fellow, Dr Elizabeth Buistra. Other team members are from UQ.

Fiona Taylor

IFP builds understanding

STRIKING the balance between academic success in a new environment while trying to deal with an unfamiliar culture can be quite daunting for many new international students.

That is why Student Services runs the International Friendship Program, a program that pairs international students with Australians, allowing each to understand and learn from the other's culture. Program co-ordinator Rachel Cleary says the program has benefited hundreds of students over the years.

"We have found that this program is mutually beneficial. Our international students enjoy getting to know Australians and getting to know the Australian lifestyle.

"The families, especially those with children, also find this program to be especially engaging," she said.

German exchange student Daniella Dung has just completed a semester in Toowoomba, and believes the IFP has taught her about Australia outside university life. She is happy she learnt first-hand about the Australian way of life as opposed to learning from packaged tours.

"I feel like I really know the culture of this country," she said.

"It was great to meet people from the general community. I also found that I could mirror my own culture and my way of thinking to the Australian culture," she said.

Daniella says the most unusual discovery she made about Australians in her time here is their work ethic.

"In Europe, we tend to think Aussies are very laid back, but despite being much more easygoing, people here do get a lot done.

"I also haven't met anyone in Australia who wasn't friendly."

Tawanda Mundangepfupfu



FRIENDLY EXCHANGE: Daniella Dung identifies with Australian culture after spending a semester on exchange and taking part in the International Friendship Program. She hopes to return soon to visit her new-found friends.

What's On

30 July

DOWNLANDS COLLEGE ART EXHIBITION: the 2004 Art Exhibition opens Friday 30 July at The Graham Centre from 7pm. Champagne Supper is \$25 with tickets available from the College Front Office. The exhibition is open to the public on Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August from 10am - 4:30pm. Admission is \$4 and free for students. Phone 4690 9500 for more details.

31 July

USQ WIDE BAY OPEN DAY: Have a Whale of a Day at the USQ Wide Bay Open Day from 12 noon to 4pm. Enjoy continuous entertainment, food stalls, jumping castles, free movies, traditional dancers and much more. Find out about the degree and diploma courses available at the Wide Bay Campus and tour the great facilities. For further information contact Gus Snow-McLean 4631 2977.

4, 11, 18, 25 August & 1, 8, 15 September

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS WORKSHOPS: Topics addressed include motivation, anti-procrastination strategies, reading & note-making skills, academic writing, time management, memory enhancement, stress management, exam preparation, and individual reflection. Offered Wednesdays from 12:15 to 1:45pm at T125. Further information available from Student Services (G Block) 4631 2372 or OPACS (S211) 4631 2751.

Uni Trader

FOR SALE

BARINA: Holden Barina Swing. Excellent condition, fully serviced, five door, 1994 model. Must see. \$5500 ono. Ph: Tom on 4631 2903 or 4635 7413 A/H.

BICYCLE: 16" Sportsworld Mega Force, suit child 6 - 7 years, \$35. Ph: X1760.

BORDER COLLIES: Purebred Border Collie pups, six weeks old, black & white, good markings, CCP registered, 4 females and 2 males, \$420 each. Ph: 4688 1302 or 5466 1308 A/H.

BUNK BED: Tubular convertible bunk bed plus two mattresses, all as new, \$ 350. Brand new leather lounge 1+2+3, \$ 2000. Ph: 0401 686 218.

DESK: Steel frame, 3 drawers, 900w x 1500l x 740h, comes with monitor stand. \$80. Ph: 4630 4707.

GAS HEATER: Rinnai Gas Heater in perfect working order, \$250 ono. No longer needed. Ph: X2040.

GIVEAWAY DOG: Reluctant giveaway, Doberman 8 year old, very quiet, de-sexed Ph: Natalie X2840 or 0409 595 886.

MAGNA: Mitsubishi Magna, 98 sedan, Auto, A/C, PS, CL, power mirrors, towbar, 139km, fully serviced with log book. Ph: 0431 171 521 or 4635 4235

MANY BARGAINS: EPSON Stylus Colour 200 printer \$25; Thule BICYCLE CARRIER for roof rack, used once, 2 @ \$150 each; NT BEER BOTTLES, 2L collectors item, 2 @ \$5 ea. Ph: 4631 2930 or 4638 0472.

PRAM/STROLLER: Mothers Choice convertible pram/stroller, reversible handle, navy blue, boot cover included, excellent cond \$180. Ph: X1171.

RENAVATORS MATERIALS: Brand new stainless steel Bosch elec UB/wall oven and natural gas cooktop \$1900 neg. (was \$2450 new); Silky oak double-hung windows \$10ea. Ph: 4631 2930 or 4638 0472.

SLIDE PROJECTOR, Braun Paximat, with portable screen GC \$100. RW Williams boots size 7 1/2 1 pair black, 1 pair tan \$95 each. Sleeping bag, down filled, mummy style, good condition \$65 Ph: 46363510.

SOFA: 2 seater, blue cord fabric, good condition, wooden feet \$150. Ph: X1171.

WASHING MACHINE: F&P, Frigidaire (fully automatic) in excellent working order. Test permitted. \$200 ono. Ph: X1624 or 0414 682 629.

WATER BED: Queen size. New bladder. Good heater and controls. Cedar coloured pine frame. Dismantled and ready to take. \$150 ono. Ph: Dave on X1308 or 0402 351 647 or 4659 7609 A/H.

VACUUM: VAX 2000 watt Wet or Dry Vacuum with Steam Cleaning accessories. Excellent Condition and working order. \$250 ono Ph: 4614 0020.

TO RENT

A GREAT REFERB: Vacy St, 2 bed, new kitchen, lug, big laundry, private court yard, 10 min stroll city, 1 min Clifford Gdn, \$180 p/w Ph: 0401 711 875.

ROOM FOR RENT: Room available 1 August in 3 bedroom house in Smithfield. To share with one USQ female staff member and one female student. \$70 per week plus expenses. Ph: X1557 or 0407 584 825.

SHAREHOUSE: M/F to share f/f townhouse cls to CBD. Prefer non-smoker, environmentally friendly bohemian \$100 all inclusive. Ph: 46383843.

WANTED

BOOKS: The RSL Westhaven Retirement Village and Nursing Home is starting up a library for the elderly residents. If you have any books (fiction or otherwise) at home that you no longer want to keep and you feel may be of interest to these folk. Ph: Karen Pickering on X1177.

DOG LOVER: Preferably a family to look after maltese cross 1 yr old puppy with a shining personality for one year. Owner going overseas. Ph: X2940.

HOUSEMATE: To share furnished house Newtown till mid December \$75pw plus expenses. Garage space available. Ph: X2915 or 0408 550 602.

Newsmakers

GEOFF COCKFIELD, Head of the Department of Economics and Resource Management appeared on ABC Southern Queensland as an expert for political talkback.

PROFESSOR FRANK CROWTHER, Dean of the Faculty of Education was interviewed by WIN TV about the Commonwealth of Learning Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement won by USQ.

PHILLIP GEARING, Senior Lecturer in Music, was featured in the *Vestlansnytt* regarding his organ recital at Herøy Church in Fosnavåg, Norway on 19 June, and in the *Tromsø Bypatrioten* regarding his organ recital in Tromsø Cathedral, Norway on 26 June.

DR ANDREW HOEY, Senior Lecturer in Human Physiology in the Faculty of Sciences was quoted in *The Chronicle* about his work in the Muscle Research Laboratory of USQ's Centre for Biomedical Research and his involvement with the *Directions for Muscular Dystrophy: planning today for tomorrow* Conference held at USQ.

JANNETTE KIRKWOOD, Head of Planning and Development at the Distance and e-Learning Centre was quoted in *The Chronicle*, *Dalby Herald* and appeared on WIN TV about the Commonwealth of Learning Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement won by USQ.

DR MIKE KOTIW, Associate Professor (Microbiology) was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland by presenter Chris Jensen who visited USQ's Biomedical Research Centre.

PROFESSOR BILL LOVEGROVE, Vice-Chancellor was quoted in the *Campus Review* about the economic impact of regional universities, in the *Queensland Times* about the allocated HECS places for the Springfield campus and the *Australian Financial Review* about the progress of the Springfield campus.

PROFESSOR MALCOLM MCKAY, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) was quoted by ABC Southern Queensland about USQ's bid for a Micro and Nano Technologies Co-operative Research Centre node on campus.

JANELLE MCPHAIL, Senior Lecturer (Marketing) with the Faculty of Business was quoted in the *Weekend Australian* about her nationwide survey of self-service banking and its findings.

NEVILLE PERKINS, Director of USQ's Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Centre was profiled in *The Chronicle* as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.

DR CHERYL PERRIN, Lecturer in Nursing and **NICCHIA SCHUTT,** Faculty of Sciences Safety Co-ordinator were quoted in the *National Safety Magazine* about USQ's implementation of the NSCA No Lift program.

DR JOACHIM RIBBE, Lecturer (Climatology) with the Faculty of Sciences was interviewed on ABC Radio National about research regarding the El Nino - La Nina phenomenon and how he hopes the research will affect government policy making.

USQ NEWS	is published fortnightly by Marketing and Public Relations, The University of Southern Queensland, Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Qld
Editor	Gus Snow-McLean
Journalists	Susan McDonald Tawanda Mundangepfupfu Fiona Taylor
Design & Production	Concept Art & Design Group
Photography	Media Services, USQ
Printing	USQ Printing Services
Next Publication	4 August 2004
Deadline	Noon, 26 July 2004
Advertising Enquiries	Gus Snow-McLean (07) 4631 2977
Fax	(07) 4635 5550
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Wide Bay high schools engage with SIFE



SIFE SUCCESS: USQ Provost Professor Susan Bambrick and Lecturer in Business Penny Richards with the award winning USQ, Fraser Coast Students in Free Enterprise Team of Jasmine Steer, Benedict Radclyffe, Kate Cherry and Chelsea Donaldson.

BUSINESS students from four Wide Bay high schools will begin a Funny Business program at the Wide Bay Campus this semester to learn from award-winning student mentors and USQ Faculty of Business staff, how to make a real small business turn a profit.

Last year USQ's Fraser Coast Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team began a Funny Business program with the Business students at Urangan State High School with resounding success. USQ Lecturer in Business, Penny

Richards who is also the SIFE team mentor said the program at Urangan was so successful that it has now extended to include Hervey Bay State High School and Maryborough's Aldridge State High School and St Mary's College.

"One of the main drivers of the program was to prove to Year 10 students that their preconceived ideas about business being boring were incorrect," Mrs Richards said.

"We also wanted to encourage more students to study business subjects in years 11

and 12 and to consider business at a tertiary level. The concept has also helped us to provide University students studying secondary education with the opportunity to participate in Professional Concept Experience and to provide secondary school teaching staff with support during the running of the program."

The USQ Fraser Coast SIFE team has just returned from the national SIFE competition in Melbourne where it was extremely competitive in a field of 30 Universities.

The Wide Bay team led by SIFE President Chelsea Donaldson, with members Kate Cherry, Benedict Radclyffe and Jasmine Steer won: first runner up in the Kimberley-Clark League with prize money of \$1,000; winner of Best Other Enterprise Education Program for the Funny Business initiative in schools gaining them a certificate and a cheque for \$1,000; winner of Best Measurement of Project Effectiveness for Funny Business with a certificate and a cheque for \$500; and, a commendation for the entry of Funny Business in Cadbury Schweppes Best Community Initiative with a prize of 10kg of Cadbury's Chocolate. Individual awards were also presented to Provost of the Wide Bay Campus Professor Susan Bambrick for Most Supportive Administrator and to Jasmine Steer for contributing 50 hours of work to SIFE team.

For further information on Students in Free Enterprise contact Penny Richards on 41 206 118.

Gus Snow-McLean

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Global Learners



This year's mid-year orientation program took place over two weeks to give new international students more time to settle in before the commencement of second semester classes. Ng Jing Hong (Malaysia), Verena Schnedl (Austria), Randal Fedje (Canada) and Hasan Mahmud (Bangladesh) are part of the 126-strong intake, and are all looking forward to studying in Toowoomba. Various activities held throughout the orientation included campus tours, information sessions, faculty orientations, a Toowoomba city tour and visits to Dreamworld on the Gold Coast and Chinatown in Brisbane.



Emotions ride Schubert's song cycle

THE feelings of rejection, loneliness and isolation clouded by the silhouette of a German winter will be captured at a special twilight performance of Schubert's song cycle *Die Winterreise* (The Winter's Journey) at the USQ Arts Theatre on Wednesday 28 July from 5:30pm.

USQ Lecturer in Music and renowned tenor vocalist, Dr Rhoderick McNeill, will sing in partnership with Bachelor of Music final-year student and international concert pianist, Renate Turrini, to take the audience on a journey of the mind of a man who walks the path of an outcast rejected by his betrothed and on a road to total despair.

Franz Schubert's collection of 24 songs expresses an emotional narrative, traditionally performed in the early 19th century in informal household settings, but Dr McNeill says the presentation in the tiered theatre is sure to still encompass an intimate relationship between singer, pianist and audience.

"The genre of the song cycle uses a minimalist approach because it lacks the dramatic acting of opera but instead allows the audience to create their own vision of the story in their mind," Dr McNeill said.

The duration of the song cycle is 70 minutes and both vocalist and pianist are actively performing the entire time.

"It is an exhausting work of music to perform. There is one particular song about half way through that is particularly demanding but even the interpretation and portrayal of the story through voice, tone colour and facial expression requires great concentration."

The Winter's Journey is laced with sentimental and metaphorical



moments; for example the man upon an icy stream with a frozen top layer which he likens to his hardened exterior, with the flowing water beneath representing a roaring torrent of emotion.

"It is a dark story but there are warm moments of nostalgic longing for his former partner. Most people can relate to the emotions of a relationship break-up but the character of Schubert's song cycle is on a dramatic downward spiral which I expect will make the audience feel relieved about their own lives."

For further information and booking enquiries please contact the USQ Performance Centre Box Office on 4631 1111.

Susan McDonald



EN GARDE: Staged combat was taught at The Paddy in Oz 14th Annual Paddy Crean Workshop and Symposium, as part of the McGregor Schools Winter Arts Retreat. Organised by the International Order of the Sword and the Pen (IOSP), the workshop, which was the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere, attracted a range of people, from actors, choreographers and even stage combatants that travelled especially from Norway. The Paddy in Oz Co-ordinator, Nigel Poulton(left), spars with IOSP Executive Director Robert Seale (right), during one of Master of Arms, Ramon Martinez's classes, Spanish Rapier. Throughout the retreat Martinez held classes on French, Spanish and Italian Rapier fighting techniques and was one of seven instructors. The idea of the workshop was to give staged combatants a better understanding of the real techniques of combat.

Peter Rorke Recital

One of Australia's foremost chamber ensembles, the **Southern Cross Soloists**, featuring a unique combination of oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, piano and soprano present an irresistible feast of French music from composers Canteloube, Ravel, Schmitt, Rameau and Lully.

Friday 23 July
7.30pm USQ Arts Theatre
\$20 Adult / \$16 Conc / \$5 Child

TWILIGHT VOCAL RECITAL

A Winter Journey

Franz Schubert's great song-cycle takes the listener on a journey of the mind - with heart-rending beauty in 24 songs.

Tenor Rhoderick McNeill and pianist Renate Turrini will present *Die Winterreise* (The Winter's Journey)

Wednesday 28 July
5.30 - 6.30pm USQ Arts Theatre
\$12.50 Adult / \$10 Conc / \$5 Child

The Grapes of Wrath

Adapted by Frank Galati from John Steinbeck's novel, this play probes the very nature of equality and justice in America during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Follow the Joad family as they travel across America in search of a new life in California.

16-21 and 26-28 August
7.30pm USQ Arts Theatre

Matinees 11am Wed 25 Aug &
2pm Sun 29 Aug

\$19 Adult / \$15 Conc / \$10.50 Preview