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USQ NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND • AUSTRALIA

10 NOVEMBER • 2004 <http://www.usq.edu.au/newsevents/usqnews>

Champion swimmer goes back to class

AUSTRALIA'S new queen of the pool, Jodie Henry, made the short trip from Brisbane to Toowoomba to address a class of Sports Marketing students and a group of aspiring swimmers from The Glennie School.

Jodie, who shot to national fame after winning three Olympic gold medals in world record time at the Athens Games, appeared at the invitation of the University's Faculty of Business.

In a candid chat with the students, she spoke about her experiences at the Games and of how elite female athletes face difficulty attracting sponsorship.

"It is different for the guys because sport is traditionally male-dominated. With women you have to be good looking as well as talented. It is quite sad because even the plainest male athlete can receive millions where we have to be the complete package."

She also spoke of the tension of racing against some of the best athletes in the world at the Olympics, naming Dutch swimmer Inge De Bruijn as a tough mental competitor.

"It's especially hard when you have her and Natalie Coughlan in the lanes beside you. You also never know if someone has a burst in the outside lanes.

"I tend not to get psyched out and just laugh it off. But because you're on edge all the time, the smallest thing can set you off," she said.

Her pragmatic approach to sport may just be what makes her stand out among her peers and has made her a bankable star.

"I've never been one to write on my walls that I'm going to win. I enjoy swimming but it's not like I'm coming up with a cure for cancer - I'm just swimming up and down the pool fast," she said.

This is the first year the Faculty has run a course in Sports Marketing, attracting an initial enrolment of 40 students. Throughout the semester students have focused on the marketing of sport and also on marketing using sport.

The undergraduate class was developed by Dr Melissa Johnson Morgan to capitalize on her research in the Sports Marketing area. It is a second level course which can be taken as an elective through the Department of Marketing in the Faculty of Business. Dr Johnson Morgan and Dr Jane Summers from the Department of Marketing have also co-authored the textbook *Sports Marketing* which the students use in the class.

Tawanda Mundangepfufu



SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER: Dr Melissa Johnson Morgan, who introduced an undergraduate Sports Marketing course at the beginning of the year, invited Olympic swimmer Jodie Henry to speak to her students recently.



QUEENSLAND HERO: USQ Lecturer in Physics, Dr Brad Carter has been immortalised at the Queensland Museum's new Sciencentre at South Bank in Brisbane. Dr Carter is showcased as one of 12 Queensland Science Heroes, for his involvement with an international research team that discovered a Jupiter-like planet about 100 light years away. The find was significant because not only did the team discover a new planet but one which revealed the best example of another solar system similar to Earth's. The showcase was developed to highlight the depth of scientific talent in Queensland and inspire young Queenslanders to think of science as an exciting and rewarding career choice.

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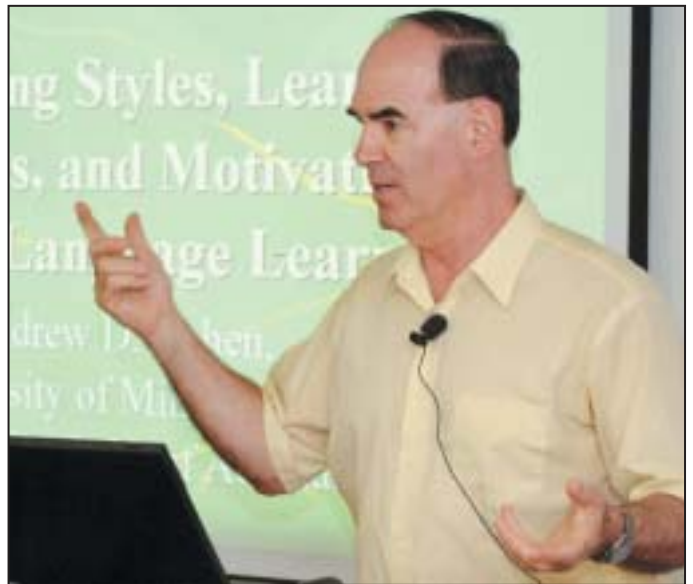
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TAEKWONDO TINA: USQ Bachelor of Science (Psychology) student and Australian Taekwondo Athens Olympian, Tina Morgan visited the Toowoomba campus last month to receive her award as the 2004 USQ Drinksmart Sports Star of the Year award. Tina studies externally with USQ while training at the Western Australian Institute of Sport in Perth. The last year has been busy for the 22-year-old who won bronze at the World Championships, first place at the National Championships, followed by a gold medal at the World Olympic Qualifiers and then a 12th placing in Athens.



LANGUAGE LEARNING: Professor Andrew Cohen from the National Language Resource Center at the University of Minnesota conducted a workshop for the Centre for Language Learning and Teaching in USQ's Office of Preparatory and Continuing Studies (OPACS) on *Learning Styles, Learner Strategies and Motivation in Second Language Learning*. Professor Cohen's current research involves the study of the impact of Study Abroad Guidebooks, including one on language and culture strategies for students, and the impact of web-based self-access materials in Japanese and Spanish on students' learning functions.



RUSSIAN CONNECTION: A group of Faculty of Business students participated in a live videolink tutorial recently with the Far Eastern National University (FENU) in Vladivostok, Russia. Lecturer Ray Hingst hosted the interactive session which is the first joint tutorial to connect students at FENU and USQ. Students at FENU study selected courses, including Business Communication and Applied Administration, as part of their five year undergraduate degree program.



FRESHLY PLUCKED: USQ Music students had the rare pleasure of participating in a masterclass with Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Richard Tognetti who was visiting with the ensemble for a performance at the Empire Theatre. Viola student Ashlyn Keck (pictured right) sought feedback for her rendition of the Viola Concerto by English composer, Malcolm Arnold. Violin student Caroline Hopson also benefited from the brief one-on-one session rehearsing *Rhapsody No 1 for Violin and Piano* by the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok.

Religious groups highlight similarities

USQ'S Equal Opportunity Office recently hosted a Multi Faith prayer service in the Allison Dickson Lecture Theatre.

The service was organised by the University in conjunction with the Baha'i Community of Toowoomba and the Austcare Refugee Week Committee, and included prayers by Aboriginal, Jewish, Zoroastrian Scripture, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic and Baha'i community representatives.

Organiser Ms Nura Behjat from the Kumbari Ngurpai Lag centre said the event was dedicated to the unity of all religions.

"All the faith traditions of mankind hold many of the same spiritual values, such as reverence for the Creator, appreciation of nature and respect for the sacredness of life. Furthermore, they all promote the cultivation of the virtues of love, kindness, honesty, humility, discipline and service," she said.

"It is therefore important for us to take

part and worship over this common ground."

She said despite a foundation of shared beliefs, religious differences often caused suspicion and animosity between people of different faiths.

"Our similarities in belief often go unnoticed and misunderstandings prevail. The more we know about their religions, the more we will see similarities," she said.

Tawanda Mundangepfufu



PROFESSOR
David Harvey
PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR
INTERNATIONAL QUALITY



USQ Directions provided detailed background about the importance of the international program to USQ. International students now make up 28 per cent of USQ's student enrolment and provide approximately one-sixth of the revenue. While growth on-campus has been strong, growth offshore has been exceptional, and USQ has now one of the largest offshore programs of any Australian university.

Growth of the international programs provides opportunities and creates problems. There is little doubt that the environment now has a global focus and the university needs to ensure that: its curriculum has an international orientation; that content and delivery are culturally sensitive and appropriate; and, that the end product, our graduates, are internationally aware and multicultural global citizens.

USQ Directions flags several mainstream initiatives in this area. The first is the development of a broad-based internationalisation strategy, together with a strategic plan. This is likely to lead to us engaging in considerable debate about things such as: the size of the university; the size of its international activity; the number and nature of our partnerships; the geographic distribution of our students; the distribution by Faculty; and, the degree of risk that we wish to engage in. At the moment the Faculty of Business leads in international recruitment, but this means that the Faculty is fairly exposed to a downturn in the international markets. As such, it seems appropriate to be raising questions about just who can do what, and be setting some

targets for recruitment and related activity across the board. Linked to this debate is the whole question of fee levels and profitability. These debates also need to be set firmly in the context of the entire USQ strategic plan. We need to grow in order to spread our overhead costs, but our DEST based growth is seriously limited, and largely confined to Wide Bay and Springfield. Our full fee domestic activity clearly could be boosted, but the major engine of growth at USQ has been, and is likely to continue to be, the international program.

The second major initiative flagged in USQ Directions is in the area of business planning and contract development. Over the next few months all contracts will be reviewed and a new approach to contract development will be taken. In developing this new approach the views of AUQA will be paramount. These include: contract and approval issues; authorisation issues; due diligence; the process of consultation and support; appropriate risk management; good communication and review processes; curriculum and language issues; promotion and marketing issues; admission issues; teaching issues including the selection of teachers, and their induction, accountability; and the teaching, pedagogy and language; assessment issues; academic support issues including library and IT support; pastoral support issues; and, evaluation and review processes.

It is anticipated that the review process will use the AUQA guidelines rigorously. The critical importance of the international activity at USQ makes this inevitable and appropriate. However, it needs to be recognised that this process will equally inevitably, in my view at least, mean that we need to be more responsive to changed systems than we have been in the past. Utilisation of the AUQA framework should give us more confidence in the future that an appropriate balance between academic and commercial issues can be maintained.

Homestay providers needed for 2005

ALTHOUGH the academic year is drawing to a close, Student Services staff are already trying to find homestay accommodation for some of next year's new international students.

While most international students choose to live in Residential Colleges or rental accommodation adjacent to the campus, there are many who prefer to share aspects of Australian family life.

Manager of International Support, Gary Logan, said homestay has the potential to bring about intercultural awareness, mutual understanding and benefits both the student and the host family.

"Housing an international student can be a very rewarding experience. Students value the opportunity of conversing in English, being involved in daily life and learning, and having the company of other people. A homestay is also one of the ways for international students to become adjusted to the Aussie lifestyle.

"Our lifestyle is often vastly different to theirs and that change can be difficult for some. Homestay providers can establish important relationships that ensure that visitors to our country are well-adjusted in their new environment," he said.

Students pay \$150 per week to live as part



of a local family. Those families who do sign up are kept in constant touch with Student Services who provide advice and support on any issues that may arise.

Toowoomba residents who would like the opportunity to experience having an

international student for a homestay on a short or a long term basis should contact Dellie Burton, International Support, Student Services on (07) 4631 2882.

Tawanda Mundangepufu

Rural scholarship program assists preservice teachers

MANY education graduates are placed in rural schools within three years of graduating, according to the USQ's Faculty of Education Administrator of Professional Experience, Sheila King.

Mrs King said to assist students to be prepared for teaching in rural areas, the Faculty of Education had initiated a Preservice Teacher Rural Experience Sponsorship program.

The inaugural program received support from three Queensland Shire Councils, with \$500 sponsorships.

Both the Murweh and Paroo Shire Councils sponsored one student each and the Balonne Shire Council sponsored two students and has also agreed to continue its support for two students each year, for a further two years.

"The Faculty of Education began the program to encourage students to complete professional experience in rural areas. This can be quite a costly exercise for students if they have to take leave from jobs and pay travel and accommodation expenses," Mrs King said.

Sponsorship recipients were: Katrina Pukallus-Smith, who received her sponsorship from Murweh Shire Council and will complete professional experience at Charleville State School; Tanya Pearce, who was sponsored by Paroo Shire Council to complete professional experience at Cunnamulla State School; and Vanessa Charlton and Narelle Rhode, who were sponsored by Balonne Shire Council and will complete professional experience at St George State School and St George Special School, respectively.

The sponsorship program also received further support through the federally funded South-West and Central Priority Country Area Programs (PCAP) in the form of assistance with transport and associated costs. Tamara Owen,



COUNTRY LIFE: Faculty of Education Administrator of Professional Experience, Sheila King (middle) arranged for graduating education students Tanya Pearce (second left), Vanessa Charlton (second right), Narelle Rhode (right), Katrina Pukallus-Smith (below) and Tamara Owen (left) to be placed in rural and remote schools to complete their course requirements.

who will complete rural teaching experience at Bluff State School, received sponsorship from Central PCAP.

"The students will be completing the set requirements of their course and will experience rural placements. All the recipients are very excited and are looking forward to working with the communities," Mrs King said.

The students are due to complete their three week placements on 12 November.

Fiona Taylor



Tertiary prep pathway to a fair go

FROM the time he was 12, Peter Garang lived most of his life fearful for his and his family's safety. Now he lives in Toowoomba as a refugee, and no longer has to worry about personal security.

Peter gave a moving account of his life story at the USQ launch of Austcare Refugee Week. The event was also used to announce the introduction of 20 tertiary preparation program scholarships that are sponsored jointly by the University and the Toowoomba Austcare Refugee Committee.

"I began life as a refugee when I was 12. We spent three years in Ethiopia but when war broke out there we decided to go back to Sudan. Many people died from hunger and drowning or were killed by rebel militias on that return," he said.

His family then left Sudan for Kenya, where they lived in a crowded refugee camp. According to Peter, people are confined in a small area in these camps and the original inhabitants of the area are very hostile. "Some of these locals would come and steal our food supplies at night," he said.

Peter said he was happy to now be living in Australia, where the quality of healthcare and education is years ahead of that in the squalid camps.

"Education is a major factor in life. In Africa many people are affected by war but here in Australia both young and old have access to learning," he said.

Pro Vice Chancellor (International Quality) Professor David Harvey, who spoke at the function, said education was a key element to unlocking the potential of refugees.



PETER GARANG (foreground) hopes to gain entry into university after completing his Tertiary Preparation Program. He is flanked by Pro Vice Chancellor Professor David Harvey and Toowoomba Austcare Refugee Week committee members Masoud Ali-Akbari and Mrs Isabelle Jenner.

Professor Harvey highlighted the University's record on multiculturalism, reminding guests that USQ was the first Australian university to have a formal multicultural policy.

"This University has won a number of multicultural awards and has a substantial international program. We are therefore continually learning, and the need to improve our understanding of the cultural, educational and commercial parameters of our partners is paramount," he said. *Tawanda Mundangepfupfu*

Psych Clinic welcomes new clients

NATIONAL Psychology Week is being celebrated by health services and universities across Australia from 7-13 November this year and also marks the third year of operation for the USQ Psychology Clinic.

Psychology Lecturer and Clinic Coordinator, Dr Des Coates said National Psychology Week aimed to generate an understanding of what services psychologists offered and the benefits of those services.

"Some people have an ingrained fear of seeing a psychologist and think they're only there to service people who are going crazy," Dr Coates said.

"In fact, psychologists can assist people in a variety of ways. For example, elite athletes employ sports psychologists to help them compete at their best, corporate business people seek help to deal with work stress, smokers may want help to quit or some people need help with anger management."

The USQ Psychology Clinic is operated by probationary registered masters and doctoral psychology students who are engaged in the practical placement part of their studies (similar to a medical internship) under the supervision of Dr Coates who is a registered



RELAXED SETTING: USQ Psychology Lecturer and Clinic Coordinator Dr Des Coates (pictured) supervises probationary registered masters and postdoctoral students who service clients in the informal rooms of the USQ Psychology Clinic.

psychologist and member of the Australian Psychological Society.

The clinic offers services for a discounted rate in a variety of areas including psychotherapy, consultation and assessment for both individuals and groups.

The main focus of the clinic is Health Psychology as this is the specialty of the University's postgraduate degrees.

"Health Psychology looks at the links between the mind and the body and at ways in which the mind can influence physical health - for example the mind can be trained to trick the body into reducing or eliminating pain sensations - and the ways physical health can influence the mind - for example chronic illness can lead to depression, anger, anxiety, and isolation."

"We also assist people with stress management, anxiety problems, phobias, low self-esteem, grief and adjustment problems, career worries, fear and burnout."

For further information about the USQ Psychology Clinic or to make an appointment phone (07) 4631 1763.

Susan McDonald

Posters pin-point psych awards



SHORT-TERM memory and environmental stewardship research won Associate Lecturer in Psychology, Kerry Neale (right), and Head of the Psychology Department, Associate Professor Grace Pretty, peer recognition at a recent Psychology Conference in Sydney.

Ms Neale and Dr Pretty each presented posters, detailing their research in one of seven poster presentation sessions, held during the 39th Annual Australian Psychological Society Conference.

Each received an award for best poster presentation in their relevant discipline sections, based on the content of research as well as the overall design and presentation.

Ms Neale's poster entitled, 'A cueing explanation of semantic similarity in short-term memory' discussed research that she and Associate Professor Gerry Tehan conducted. The research contributed to Ms Neale's thesis and took nine months to complete.

Dr Pretty's research looked at the relationship between sense of place, subjective quality of life and environmental stewardship of rural Australians. She conducted the research over the past two years, as part of a team, which included Director of USQ's Land Use and Research Centre, Professor Charlie Zammit and Associate Professor of Psychology Paul Bramston.

Both Dr Pretty and Ms Neale attributed the quality of design of their poster presentations to the assistance they received from Faculty of Sciences Psychology technical staff member, Susan Gibson.

Fiona Taylor

Boys join the science summer fun



FOR the first time, USQ will be offering a *Boys in Maths, Technology and Science Summer School* in January next year to be run in conjunction with the popular 16th annual *Girls in Maths, Technology and Science Summer School*.

The Faculty of Sciences has identified a need to include boys in the enrichment program aimed at year 10 students to encourage them to choose studies in Science and Mathematics for years 11 and 12.

To be eligible for either the girls or boys Summer Schools students must be entering year 10 in 2005 at either a state or private school in Queensland; they do not necessarily need to be the highest achievers but must have demonstrated academic ability and an interest in Science and Mathematics; and, they should desire advice and direction regarding subject selection and career pathways.

Special consideration is given to boys from rural, isolated and urban disadvantaged areas and students who may not have access to such extra curricula activities.

Application forms to attend the Summer Schools are available by visiting www.usq.edu.au/gmts3

What's On

November

EDUCATION LAW FORUMS: Education Queensland is conducting a series of community forums across the State this month to outline the proposed changes to education laws and to seek feedback from students, parents, employers and the broader community. For more information and to express an interest in one of the forums submit your details at <http://education.qld.gov.au/review/forums.html>

13 November

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS CLOSE: Visit <http://www.usq.edu.au/scholarships> for details and an application.

19, 20, 23-27, 30 November and 1-4 December

NUNSENSE II: Presented by the Toowoomba Repertory Society at 94 Margaret Street and directed by USQ's Elaine Coates. Join the Little Sisters of Hoboken in a zany, fun filled musical romp guaranteed to leave you with a smile on your face. For bookings phone Cathy Nash on 4630 6034.

19 - 20 November

ROMA CUP FESTIVAL 2004: Pack your swags and head 360kms west of Toowoomba for the Roma Cup 2004. On the Friday is the Pre-Cup Party, followed by the running of the Roma Cup on Saturday. The festival will also feature Queensland's most rockin' all girl band Chick Flick. For further details Ph: Taree Birse 0418 192 640.

30 November

WINEMAKING SEMINAR: The Australian Wine Research Institute Roadshow seminar will address a number of issues and challenges winemakers face. The seminar will be held at the USQ and runs from 9am - 5pm. The seminar costs \$30 and bookings are essential. To make a booking or for more information contact Jim Lawrie on (07) 4683 4211, stoneridgewine@bigpond.com. Send payments to Queensland Wine Industry Association, GPO Box 1177, Brisbane QLD 4001.

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locking, sports performance tyres, automatic, only 89,000 km. Ph: Tara on 0422 371 134.

MEN'S BICYCLE: 28 inch bicycle - 12 gears. Steel frame. \$50 Ph: Rhoderick McNeill on X 1132 or email mcneill@usq.edu.au.

MOUNTAIN BIKE: Apollo Alpine, Shimano SIS 18 speed gears, Alloy rims, VGC, \$100, Ph: 4636 3510.

OAK ANTIQUES: Silky Oak dining table, 1930's barley twist with leadlight sideboard, six chairs including carver \$800; Tasmanian Oak sideboard \$350; Silky Oak wardrobe \$175; English Oak dressing table includes mirror \$375. Ph: X 2069

PIANO FOR SALE: Upright Victor, good condition, suitable for beginner as the asking price is cheap \$399. Ph: Selly on 0403 731 723 or 4630 1889.

ROLLER DOORS: 2 x 2.8mtrs with remote \$150 ea. 4 Burner BBQ with gas bottle gc \$65. Ph: 4634 6262 or 0410 519 432.

SUBARU LIBERTY: 1991 red sedan, aircond, auto, cruise control, electric windows, RWC, 293,000km. Great reliable car, \$6200. Ph: 4637 8885 or X 1664.

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UTE: 1988 Ford Falcon XF, t bar auto, air con, power steering, RWC, exc condition. \$4800 ono. Ph: 0413 601 600.

WINE COLLECTION: to be sold as a set. Approx. 5 dozen mostly quality reds, purchased for their long-term cellaring. Always cellared at constant 15 degrees. Ph: Don for details on (07) 4632 9910 a/h or email smithd@usq.edu.au.

WINE COLLECTION: for sale as a set. Approx. 30 dozen, many in half-dozen lots, including reds, whites, botrytis and fortified. Always cellared at constant 15 degrees. Ph: Don for details on (07) 4632 9910 a/h or email smithd@usq.edu.au.

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5 KITTENS: 3 x white, 1 x ginger, 1x ginger/white. Ph: 4630 1378.

WANTED

ABOVE GROUND POOL: 6mx3m (minimum). Interested in round, oval, rectangle. Ph: 4630 1378.

FRIDGE: Any type of working fridge. Needed for Rural Fire Brigade Station. Ph: X 1805.

HAND LAWN MOWER: in good condition. Ph: 4613 6222 evenings.

PEEK-A-BOO DOLLS: Does anyone make 'Peek-a-boo' dolls. I would like to have one made for Christmas. Ph: Annette X 1661.

Newsmakers

BERNADETTE PRYDE, Associate Lecturer in Voice was quoted in the *Entertainment Weekly* lift-out in The Chronicle about the USQ Performance Centre's production of *Blackbox Shakespeare*.

PROFESSOR BILL LOVEGROVE, Vice-Chancellor and President was quoted in The

Fraser Coast Chronicle and on ABC Southern Queensland about the Federal Education Minister Dr Brendan Nelson's proposed education reform.

CHRIS KOSSEN, Associate Lecturer in Communication Studies discussed on 4GR a research project he has undertaken to better understand the problems facing older workers.

DAVID TURNBULL, Researcher for USQ's Centre for Astronomy, Solar Radiation and Climatology was quoted in the *Sunday Telegraph* in Sydney, on his research into shade structures

DR KRZYSZTOF BATOROWICZ, Equal Opportunity Coordinator was quoted in the *Maryborough Herald* about multicultural forums held in Wide Bay.

DR MELISSA JOHNSON MORGAN, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Marketing & Tourism, was interviewed by *SBS World View* about her views on the proposed sport super-brand in Melbourne which would see the Rugby Union, AFL, Soccer and Rugby League in Melbourne all sharing the same "Melbourne" brand and also on trends in Sports Marketing in Australia.

NURA BEHJAT, Associate Lecturer in Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag discussed the multi-faith prayer service at USQ's Toowoomba campus in *The Chronicle*.

PETER MCIIVEEN, Careers Counsellor with Student Services outlined on ABC Southern Queensland the wide range of bursaries and scholarships USQ offers.

PHILLIP GEARING, Senior Lecturer in Music was quoted in *The Chronicle's Entertainment Weekly* lift-out and interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland about his twilight organ recital *Totally Organic*.

SCOTT ALDERDICE, Head of the Theatre Department was interviewed by *Entertainment Weekly*, about the Theatre Showcase.

STEPHEN HAGAN, Associate Lecturer in Preparatory Studies for USQ's Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Higher Education Centre had an article published in the *KooriMail* and *Online Opinion Website* about the voting patterns of Indigenous voters.

PROFESSOR SUSAN BAMBRICK, Provost of the Wide Bay Campus was quoted in the *Maryborough Herald* and *Hervey Bay Independent* regarding the new USQ scholarships. She was also quoted in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* about plans to attract more international students to the Wide Bay campus.

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	ASF Group
Photography	Media Services, USQ
Printing	USQ Printing Services
Next Publication	24 November 2004
Deadline	Noon, 15 November 2004
Advertising Enquiries	Gus Snow-McLean (07) 4631 2977
Fax	(07) 4635 5550
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Seeds of The Hanging Tree come to fruition

THAT much anticipated follow-up record, tour, film or in this case novel is what plagues the dreams of many creative types who have had what appears to be overnight success with their first offering.

But Bachelor of Arts (Communication and Media Studies) graduate and winner of the inaugural Queensland Premier's Literary Award for an emerging author in 1999, Jillian Watkinson, has shelved her personal doubts to publish a critically-acclaimed second novel, *The Hanging Tree*.

"You know I never felt any pressure from my publisher about producing a successful second-novel but I knew that if I wanted to become a professional writer then I had to produce another marketable product," Jillian said.

Jillian had been writing in her spare time for seven years while working as a nurse in rural Queensland, New Zealand and the Scottish Highlands before completing the award-winning novel, *The Architect*, which established her relationship with the University of Queensland Press.

However, the seeds of Jillian's *The Hanging Tree* were planted in her mind back in 1993 when she was a third-year student at USQ and wrote a manuscript as part of her assessment.

"I was collating ideas and characters for *The Hanging Tree* as early as 20 years ago and began writing it at university but I didn't feel



like I had the maturity to continue developing the idea," she said.

The Toowoomba-based writer cites the influence of her friends' stories and family backgrounds as the basis of many of her

characters and storylines for the novel in which the young narrator, Bill Masters, moves between the past and the present day as he explores a century of social and political change through the stories of his ethnically mixed rural Queensland family.

"I love the stories that other people hold inside them and I get really excited when I can pick up on patterns in social backgrounds or feelings and moods. I don't like to use a formula in my writing but I do like to start with a visual image in which I can see something happening."

While she enjoys the cooler climate of Toowoomba, Jillian makes regular treks to Brisbane where she is studying a Master of Philosophy (Creative Writing) which will see her hand in her current manuscript for marking in March.

"I see value in studying creative writing at a university for its networking and mentoring possibilities. Toowoomba poet Bruce Dawe, who taught me at USQ, has been a major influence in my creative life."

Jillian says that even though her latest manuscript is due early next year it will take about another year to get it to a publishable standard.

"I believe good writing is all about how you craft it. It is 95 per cent crafting your product and revision."

Susan McDonald



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Gemini Project Brings new art concept to USQ



CARL CONRAD Merten and Rex Steele Merten

A NEW art concept that fuses jewellery designing and hand-crafting with classical techniques of sculpture will be offered for the first time at the 2005 McGregor Summer School.

Together, designer and master jeweller, Rex Merten and his twin brother and sculptor, Carl Merten, will bring to Queensland an exclusive course for advanced artists and craftspeople presented as The Gemini Project.

As one half of a talented gene pool, Rex is a master jeweller and winner of four Diamonds International Awards and six Australian Design Awards. His other half, Carl has earned an enviable reputation in Australia and internationally with a wide range of major public sculpture commissions, exhibitions and workshops.

The twins have trialled and fine-tuned the program which they believe is not offered anywhere in the world and make it their personal responsibility that every participant

is rewarded with the best possible outcome - a beautiful, unique and practical artwork.

Based at their private studio, "Chinook" - situated in the historic district of Uralla on the New England tablelands of northern New South Wales - the twins have merged their talents and combined international reputations to offer several courses ranging from "weekenders" to 14-day "holidays".

The course they will be offering at the McGregor Summer Arts Retreat is "Macro and Micro" which refers to the artists' embrace of the two contrasting disciplines ranging from fine jewellery to massive sculpture.

Participants will complete an individually designed and unique piece of table sculpture in bronze, aluminium, stone, timber or other medium into which pieces of jewellery would be incorporated as beautiful elements of the formal sculptural design. This could be a table piece, wall mounted or

simply free standing.

The program is structured around a logical sequence of skills-based training beginning with: sketching and designing; planning for a practical expression of aesthetic concepts; wax carving and modelling; casting processes, stone and wood carving; and jewellery designing and hand-crafting.

This exciting learning experience will include informed discussion about creativity, technique, equipment and studio facilities for sculptors. At times hot and noisy, the sculpture casting element of this course will open up an exciting new world of creative possibilities for sculptors and jewellers alike.

The 2005 McGregor Summer School runs at USQ from 10-21 January.

For further information about other course offered call the McGregor Schools on 4631 2755.

Susan McDonald

The Beggar's Opera by John Gay

Conductor Arthur Johnson Director Anna Sweeny

Take a step back in time ... into London's colourful underworld ... for a savagely funny satire on marriage, money and morals.

1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 December
7.30pm
USQ Arts Theatre

Matinees
2pm Sun 5 & Sun 12 Dec
\$25 Adult / \$20 Conc / \$10 Child

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THEATRE RESTAURANT

Join us under the mistletoe for a night of crazy Chrissie cheer.

Laugh your way into the spirit of Christmas with a merry mix of songs and sketches sprinkled with humour, good natured folly and all the usual madness of our Theatre Restaurant.

10, 11, 17 & 18 Dec
7pm
USQ Refectory