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TOP STORIES



Fraser Coast building

Builders have been almost as plentiful as students over the past few months at the University's Fraser Coast campus.

The campus is in the midst of a complete facelift with the addition of a new building as well as renovations to its existing buildings and the development of a major new shade structure.

Work on a state-of-the-art, two-storey building, known as 'C Block', is being constructed between Old Maryborough Road and the University's two existing buildings and will be linked to B-block by an enclosed walkway.

Construction on the building started in October 2007, with completion expected in early July.

The ground floor will become a student hub, containing student-related services such as counselling, Indigenous services, learning support and the centre for the tertiary preparation program.

The top floor will house teaching and seminar rooms and a corporate board-room with audio visual and teleconference capabilities.

While construction has been underway, renovations were carried out on the existing A-block building to develop more office space and provide the main administration and reception area with a much needed facelift.

A series of new private offices replaces a large kitchen and open area workspaces.

The shade structure was completed on time before the opening of the academic year. It is located between A and B blocks and houses fixed picnic-style seating and an electric barbecue.

Story & photo: Katrina Corcoran



USQ Career Fair draws exhibitors from all over

More than 80 exhibitors from across Australia will attend the annual University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Career Fair on Friday 14 March 2008.

The Career Fair gives students an opportunity to meet prospective employers who look to recruit students for graduate positions.

USQ Graduate Transition Consultant Katrina Vagg said many organisations return each year because they are impressed by USQ students.

"We've got exhibitors coming from all over the country. They're flying in from Sydney, Melbourne, South Australia the Northern Territory and even London," Mrs Vagg said.

"Even though employers are recruiting for graduate programs we encourage all students to attend the fair because many employers are also offering vacation positions, scholarships and cadetships to other students.

"Students can talk to the exhibitors to find out what they need to do to prepare for their futures and the skills they will need for when they graduate. Then when the time comes they are better prepared and more employable."

Katrina said students can take steps to prepare before attending the fair.

"It's a good idea to prepare a resume and bring it along and also to research companies beforehand to find out about them and have some idea of what they do



and where you might fit in.

“It’s important to remember not to assume certain companies are only hiring from certain disciplines.

“Try and visit as many exhibitors as possible because many are looking for personal attributes and generic skills rather than the particular degree and experience.

“Often the mining companies are looking for psychologists for human resource (HR) positions and the banks tend to recruit across all disciplines and look at the type of person.”

Free copies of Graduate Opportunities and Unigrad books will also be available for students at the Career Fair which lists numerous graduate programs around the country along with their closing dates and application information.

A full list of employers is available from the Student Services website www.usq.edu.au/student-services/careers.

The Career Fair runs from 11am to 3pm in the USQ Refectory and quadrangle. Media are welcome to attend. *Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Elizabeth Bull*



Students question mayoral candidates

Thanks to our Radio Journalism students, voters will have an opportunity to listen to interviews with candidates in the Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) election.

In the lead up to the local council poll, second year Radio Journalism students conducted interviews with 37 of the 39 candidates. The interviews have been uploaded to a website where voters will be able to listen, when and as often as they like, to the candidates.

The blog site shows the candidates on a single “page”, and provides voters with a unique and comprehensive resource, Lecturer in Broadcast Journalism Dianne Jones said.

“As far as I’m aware, this is the only forum of its kind for the TRC election. It’s also been an excellent opportunity for our journalism students to learn new skills and engage in the political process.

“They had to record interviews, edit and load audio, text and images onto the web. They have had very steep learning curve – skills the students would normally have covered in real life situations across a semester they accomplished in four days and were able to see a timely result for their efforts.

“The exercise was invaluable to the students, but the interviews also provide voters with a comprehensive tool.

“We had no political agenda. All of the candidates were asked the same questions and given a time limit. Only two candidates declined to be interviewed.”

In the space of 24 hours the site received almost 1000 hits.

Ms Jones has conducted and published research into the information sources used by voters during elections. She said over the last four years there had been a steep rise in political candidates’ usage of the internet, in part to bypass the gatekeeping or editorial processes of the traditional media.

“Candidates and voters are utilising sources other than traditional media, so it makes sense that journalists should venture there, and make the news and information they gather accessible to an online audience.”

Ms Jones said news editors now wanted their journalists to have a broad range of skills across all media. Being competent in reporting and writing for broadcast, online and print media strengthened our graduates’ claims to being industry-ready.

Visit www.radiojournalisonline.wordpress.com to listen to the interviews.

Story: Connie-Louise Rego, *Photo:* Supplied



MOVERS AND SHAKERS



Best paper award

A paper based on the research of a USQ PhD student has won the Best Paper Award at the 9th International Business Information Management Conference (9th IBIMA) in Marrakech, 4-6 January 2008.

IBIMA is an academic association dedicated to promote the examination and dissemination of IT management solutions in the contemporary business environment and to bridge the gap between research and practice.

The paper "Building a Framework for Understanding and Improving Information Technology Transfer Process in Arab Countries" by PhD Candidate, Khalid Al-Mabrouk, and Associate Professor Jeffrey Soar achieved the highest scores from reviewers from amongst over 170 other research papers that were selected through blind peer-review.

This paper presented a research-based framework for understanding and improving the IT transfer process in developing Arab countries. The model provides organisations in developing countries in general and in the Arab countries in particular with a detailed picture of the stages for IT transfer process, so that a better understanding may be gained. Organisations are able to utilise the model effectively, reduce the difficulties associated with IT transfer, enhance the chances for long-term success of the IT innovation projects and attain high benefits of technology transfer itself.

Khalid acknowledged the support he has received for his research from USQ's Faculty of Business and his PhD supervisors Associate Professor Raj Gururajan and Associate Prof Jeffrey Soar.

Story: Supplied, *Photo:* USQ Photography



Local actor plays villain in Shakespeare production

When you watch Lachlan Kann disappear into the misogynistic character of Paris in the University of Southern Queensland's (USQ) upcoming Shakespeare in the Park production of Romeo and Juliet later this month, the actor asks you bear in mind that Paris is only a 'circumstantial' bad guy.

Lachlan, a local who grew up in Moorooka and attended John Paul College said he tapped into his own 'inner' bad guy while building the persona of Paris - a part of his nature that sometimes puts his girlfriend off.

"Paris is the villain in Romeo and Juliet; he is Romeo's main rival for Juliet's hand, but for Paris the marriage isn't about love, it is about lust and power," Lachlan said.

"He is a chauvinist, dominating character who believes that women don't have a say in their futures. Rather than trying to woo Juliet himself, he goes directly to her father, Lord Capulet to ask for her hand as if making a business deal.

"But for Paris there is eventual redemption when he realises his mistakes before being killed by Romeo."

Lachlan said one of the main challenges he and his fellow cast faced when preparing for Romeo and Juliet was interpreting and understanding the text and then taking this knowledge to present the story in a way which is appealing and relevant to a modern-day audience.

"We spent six weeks in rehearsals, starting in January and by the time we reach



Springfield at the end of March, we will have performed nine shows in Toowoomba and four in Hervey Bay.”

“It has been an incredibly challenging and rewarding experience but we are all especially looking forward to our three final performances in Springfield.”

No stranger to the stage, Lachlan began his acting career at the age of 7, playing the character ‘Tamino’ in the 1995 production of *The Magic Flute* at QPAC.

“My mother supported me in my first audition in an attempt to bring me out of my shell and improve my social skills, as I was quite a shy kid.”

“I remember enjoying performing, but I don’t remember much more than that. I certainly didn’t decide that acting was going to be part of my future until high school.”

Lachlan studied at the Australian Acting Academy for eight years as a hobby until commencing school at John Paul College and began to take things a little more seriously.

“Eventually I realised that a career in the performing arts was for me.”

Now in the final year of a Bachelor of Theatre Arts majoring in Acting at USQ, Lachlan has plans to pursue work in film, television and stage in Australia before travelling to Europe on a working holiday.

Romeo and Juliet opens on Thursday 27 March and runs until Saturday 29 March 2008, with nightly performances at 7pm on the Education City Mini Oval at USQ Springfield.

Audiences are reminded to bring a blanket or chair to sit on and encouraged to pack a picnic and a bottle of wine to enjoy during the show.

Tickets cost \$25 adult, \$20 concession, \$10 child and \$65 family and can be purchased from the Ipswich Civic Hall by phone (07) 3810 6100 or online at www.ipswichcivichall.com.au

Tickets can also be purchased on-site at the Festival Box Office open from 6pm each night.

For further details about the Festival, visit www.usq.edu.au/shakespeare.

The USQ Shakespeare in the Park Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of its 2008 sponsors: Toowoomba Chronicle, WIN Television, Symphony Hill Wines, Toowoomba City Council, Hervey Bay City Council, the Fraser Coast Chronicle, Queensland Events, the Queensland Times, Dornbusch Partners, Channel 7-Queensland, Ipswich City Council, Bell Dixon Butler Lawyers, Education City, Civil Mining & Construction Pty Ltd, Cardno, La Mer Luxury Apartments, USQ Faculty of Education and the Myer Foundation.

Story: Jo-Ann Sparrow, Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



School of Information Systems Advisory Meeting

Terms of reference, expectations and goals of the Information Systems Advisory Committee were formalised during an inaugural meeting of the group on Thursday 28 February 2008.

In his opening address, the Chair, Mr Peter Grant spoke of the current crisis in the information technology (IT) industry where job vacancies outstrip available graduates and current student enrolments.

He said one of the objectives of this meeting would be to ascertain how the School could contribute towards advancing IT's standing in the community.

"One important message that should be passed on is that IT is not just about hardware and software – IT has significant people and social factors too," said Mr Grant.

Head of the School of Information Systems at USQ, Professor Mark Toleman, spoke about the strategic plan for the School along with an update on the performance of the School.

Members of the Committee include:

Mr Peter Grant, State Director, Qld, Northern Territory and Pacific Islands, Microsoft

Mr John Williams, Head of Technology and Payment Systems, Heritage Building Society

Mr Trevor Henderson, Managing Director, Downs Microsystems and Convener of the Toowoomba branch of Australian Computer Society

Ms Karen Sheales, Teacher at Toowoomba State High and Regional Coordinator of the Girls in ICT Program

Professor Mark Toleman, Head of the School of Information Systems

Dr Aileen Cater-Steel, Chair of the IS Research & Higher Degrees Committee

Mr Dave Roberts, Senior Lecturer, School of Information Systems

Ms Linda Goder, Postgraduate Student Representative

Ms Sascha Davies, Undergraduate Student Representative

Mrs Rae Jones, Administration Officer for the School of Information Systems.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 1 May 2008.

Story: Supplied, *Photo:* Elizabeth Bull



Australia Day honours for USQ lecturer

Lecturer (Information Systems) in the Faculty of Business at Springfield, Mustafa Ally, was awarded the inaugural Robbie Williams Memorial Award for the Multicultural Citizen of the Year at the Mt Gravatt and Mansfield Australia Day Awards. Mr Ally received the award for his work fostering positive relationships between Muslims and other organisations and for charity fundraising.



Steven Goh presents at Engineers Australia conference

Lecturer in Manufacturing & Materials and Engineering, Steven Goh, was invited along with his former student, Captain Warren Coaker, Project Manager with the Defence Materiel Organisation to present at the Victorian Chapter of the Centre for Engineering Leadership & Management (CELM) on "How engineers become CEOs" and "The engineering manager of the 21st century" on Wednesday 12 March 2008. Mr Goh presented to more than 70 senior engineering managers.



Professor Ron Toomey visits USQ

Adjunct Professor in the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Australian Catholic University Ron Toomey presented *Values Education: The relationship between Values and Quality Teaching: the implications for teachers' education* for the Faculty of Education on Thursday, 28 February 2008. [Please click here for the link to the presentation.](#)

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



Burn-out a problem among new teachers

An education expert has told a group of beginner teachers on the Fraser Coast that new teachers were at a significant risk of burn-out in their first few years on the job.

Education Queensland Executive Director of the Wide Bay Burnett region Kirsti Kee told teachers at the *Beginner and Returning Teachers Workshop* in Hervey Bay that burn-out was a serious problem.

She said beginning teachers were the most valuable resource Education Queensland had.

“You bring fresh ideas to the education sector and provide vital challenges to the education ethos and the wider profession,” she told them.

“The danger for you lies in well-documented evidence that indicates that beginning teachers are at a significant risk of burn-out in the first few years of their career.

“The education sector cannot afford to continue losing teachers to early career burn-out at the rate that it currently is.”

Twenty-four new teachers, from south to Gympie and north to Gin Gin, attended the one-day workshop run by the USQ Fraser Coast Education Faculty at its Hervey Bay campus.

It was designed to enable the new teachers to reflect on their first few weeks on the job.

They discussed the highlights of life in the classroom as well as problems associated with teaching. Their concerns included issues with classroom management when dealing with disruptive and disrespectful children. Other concerns included appropriate punishment for misbehaviour and issues when parents who did not care about their children’s bad behaviour.

Education Faculty Associate Director Associate Professor Romina Jamieson-Proctor said the day was a great successful.

“It provided beginning teachers with the opportunity to explore their successes, their challenges and their concerns as early career professionals.

“This workshop will be followed by a series of professional development opportunities for beginning teachers across the region, provided by Faculty of Education Fraser Coast staff throughout the year.

Story & photo: Katrina Corcoran



Project to support women in Science, Engineering and Technology

A networking lunch for women in Engineering and Surveying was held at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) on Wednesday, 20 February 2008 as part of a broader effort to build support for female students studying in these fields.

External students attending residential schools mixed with academics at the lunch which was part of the Go Women in Engineering, Science and Technology (GO WEST) project.

GO WEST is a USQ equity funded project to mentor female students and staff in non-traditional areas of study.

Project Coordinator and President of the USQ Women's Network Inc. Dr Jacqui McDonald said GO WEST was designed to provide support and networking opportunities to women in Engineering, Science and Technology.

"Through the GO WEST project we aim to establish links between USQ students, staff and professionals in Sciences, Engineering and Technology in rural and remote areas," Dr McDonald said.

"Women in these areas are very under-represented. We are aiming to build networks to support them and provide a digital network where they can keep in contact.

"Through the project we are looking at holding information sessions, networking with industry and linking industry bodies and associations such as the Society for Engineers and the Queensland Government Office for Women with student groups."

President of the Women in Engineering and Surveying (WIES) student club, Nikki Mead, attended the lunch and said the GO WEST project was a great initiative to assist women in the non-traditional fields.

WIES Club plans to support female students in their study at USQ.

"Part of the process will involve establishing a mentor system for first-year women in these areas," Miss Mead said.

"A lot of girls find the first year of study full-on. If they had mentors to ask questions of they could find out that once you're in second and third year it gets easier."

Dr McDonald said the GO WEST initiative will also work towards encouraging women to enter non-traditional areas of study.

"The project is a pilot – we wanted to start with USQ students to make USQ a place where female students feel accepted and supported and then help make the University a more attractive place for female students to go into those areas."

For more information on the GO WEST project visit the website <http://www.usq.edu.au/women/gowest.htm> or contact Dr Jacqui McDonald on (07) 4631 2314. WEIS Club information is available at www.usq.edu.au/engsurv/students/foesclubs.

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



USQ Island a hit with Law Symposium

Professor Geraldine Mackenzie, Head, School of Law and USQ PhD student and Second Life consultant, Lindy McKeown, demonstrated USQ's Second Life Island and the Law School's virtual courtroom at the Queensland Law Society Symposium on Friday, 7 March 2007. The business uses of Second Life were explained as audiences learnt how USQ Law was looking at innovative learning and teaching methods, including interactive virtual teaching. A highlight of the presentation was a live demonstration of Second Life, including a guided tour of the USQ courtroom and the facilities on USQ Island.



Relocation of the Learning Centre

The Vice Chancellor recently launched the relocation of the Learning Centre to the Library. Coordinator (Academic Learning Skills) Associate Professor Janet Taylor said this new learning centre is the next step in the University's goal to support students in their learning journey. By co-locating with the library it will bring together two key academic learning support essentials and moves closer to the integrated learning space for students envisaged by the University. The Learning Centre has been in operation on the Toowoomba campus since the mid '90's and directly supported around 1000 students each year with general learning skills, critical reading and writing skills and mathematics.

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



Scholar shares findings on quality teaching and learning

Improving the quality of students' learning through high quality teaching was the theme of the visit by Professor and Director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning at the University of Sydney Keith Trigwell on 18 and 19 February 2008.

Professor Trigwell presented a lecture on "Teaching and Learning Scholarship" as part of Learning and Teaching week at USQ.

Professor Trigwell said the approach of teachers to their students' learning is integral to providing high-quality teaching.

"The way people think is so important. The variation in thinking is closely related to variation in acting and variation in student learning," he said.

"Teaching is the key. Teachers who are aware of their students as people and are more aware of the students the quality of teaching is higher and learning is higher as well."

In researching factors contributing to high quality teaching Professor Trigwell identified key influences.

"Assessment is the main key driver of high quality learning," he said.

"The first thing students do is find out how the course is assessed. Then they gear their program based around that.

"Yet so many teachers change aspects of the learning objectives and when the students have geared their program to the assessment and then find out it has changed it has serious consequences.

"Teachers need to show students an example of the changes to the course which is linked to changes assessment at the start."

Coordinator (Academic Learning Skills) of the Learning and Teaching Support Unit Associate Professor Janet Taylor said Professor Trigwell's presentation would be used for staff development in the future.

"We are extremely lucky to have Keith for a couple of days. He is one of the most highly respected researchers in the field of learning and teaching in higher education. He has a vast experience, both nationally and internationally, to share with USQ.

"We will be recording a number of interviews with Keith that will be located on the LTSU web site and used for professional development in the future. The ideas and concepts within them are great discussion starters for the development of learning and teaching at USQ."

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



Pump Some Iron at USQ Springfield Gym

Feel like building a bit of muscle, toning up, getting fit or even getting involved in a fantastic sport? University of Southern Queensland Springfield campus gym may be the place for you.

Former national weightlifting champion and USQ Engineering student Craig Wegert has begun a weightlifting club at the University gym and is inviting anyone to join.

Craig said he came up with the idea to start a community based weightlifting club when he decided to begin lifting weights again himself after a 10 year hiatus.

"I work behind a desk as a Civil Auto Cad designer and find myself sitting down for a large part of every day," Craig said.

"Like many people who sit down for most of their work day, I wanted to get active again and lose some weight. Weightlifting and strength training speeds up your metabolism and is a great way to do this.

"Weight training is used by athletes and professional sportspeople all over the world and the club will be a great addition to the facilities already at the USQ gym."

Craig has lifted weights since the age of 11 and became a competitive weightlifter at the age of 24.

"I was shy when I was young and weightlifting really lifted my confidence and made me get out there and meet people.

"I retired from competition in 1998 and had a little bit of a comeback in the 2000 Australian Championships, but apart from that I have been non-competitive for about 10 years.

"My love and passion for the sport has always been there and while I am studying here at the Springfield campus I would like to promote weightlifting to the staff, students and the local community as a great sport and a way to achieve health goals."

Craig is a Level 2 Nationally accredited coach with the Australian Sports Council and can guide club members in weightlifting whether they wish to do it for fitness, to aid with training for another sport, body building or just for basic fitness.

"If we get some competitive weightlifters here while we are at it, then that would be great."

Round One of the Queensland Weightlifting League and Masters League kicked off last month with Craig becoming the first USQ Weightlifting Club member to enter the competition.

He placed 1st in the 105+kg category and earned 66 points in the first round of the league and broke the Queensland Masters 35 to 39 years 105+kg Class Snatch, Clean and Jerk and Total records.

He is now well on his way to achieving a personal goal of competing in the 2009 World Masters Championships in Sydney.

To be a member of the USQ Weightlifting Club you must first become a member of the USQ gym.

For further information on joining USQ gym phone 3470 4100 and for more information about the USQ Weightlifting Club email Craig at USQweightlifting@hotmail.com.

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



Shakespeare Festival wraps up another fantastic season

With only three shows left the University of Southern Queensland's (USQ) Shakespeare in the Park Festival is about to see the final curtain call.

Record number crowds have attended this year's Toowoomba production of *Romeo and Juliette*, and the cast and crew are preparing to move on to Springfield where the people of the area will enjoy their first Shakespearian festival.

Toowoomba audiences can still catch the show tonight (Wednesday March 4), Thursday (March 5) or Friday (March 6). Audiences are also invited to attend the final community forum which will be in the park before tonight's show.

During the community forum audiences are invited to discuss the many youth-related concerns raised in *Romeo and Juliette*. Festival Producer, Dr Rebecca Scollen, said the forum will provide a platform for the community to talk about issues such as suicide and relationships.

"Our choice of *Romeo and Juliet* brought with it a responsibility to offer our audiences an opportunity to openly discuss some of the issues presented on stage.

"Art is all about communication and about presenting ideas that help us reflect on the way we live our lives and interact with each other. The play, *Romeo and Juliet*, is still as relevant today as it was hundreds of years ago, and as such it shows that our emotional lives as humans on Earth haven't really changed that much.

"The forum allows us the space to think further about the ideas presented in the play and to directly consider them in relation to our real lives."

The Forum will feature a panel of expert local practitioners including psychologists from Magnolia House, John Henry and Catherine Ketton, USQ Lecturer in (Psychology) Counselling Gavin Beccaria and DISCO Youth Support Co-ordinator, Jennifer Nothdurft.

Festival organisers have received fantastic reviews from audiences of all ages.

Head of Department, Roxane Scott, from Boonah State High School said the show was energetic and the children loved it.

"The show was innovative and full of energy. Great sets and some standout performances.

"Our kids really enjoyed the show. There is nothing like live theatre to inspire students and give them understanding as the text comes alive. Students were engaged and still talking about the costumes and set days later."

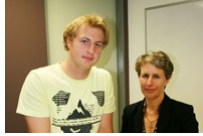
Don't miss the last three shows- tickets are available from the Empire Theatre Box Office by phone 1300 655 299 or online www.empiretheatre.com.au. Tickets can also be purchased on-site in Queens Park at the Festival Box Office which opens one hour prior to each performance.

The Community Forums are sponsored by the Myer Foundation. For more information please contact visit the Festival website

www.usq.edu.au/shakespeare or call USQ Artsworx on 07 4631 1111.

The USQ Shakespeare in the Park Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of its 2008 sponsors: Toowoomba Chronicle, WIN Television, Symphony Hill Wines, Toowoomba City Council, Hervey Bay City Council, the Fraser Coast Chronicle, Queensland Events, the Queensland Times, Dornbusch Partners, Channel 7-Queensland, Bell Dixon Butler Lawyers, Education City, Civil Mining & Construction Pty Ltd, Cardno, La Mer Luxury Apartments, USQ Faculty of Education and the Myer Foundation.

Story: Connie-Louise Rego, Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



Springfield students get their first taste of Law studies

Former Ipswich Grammar School student Matt Skinner was among the Law students who attended the University of Southern Queensland's (USQ) inaugural School of Law Welcome Reception recently.

This is the first year that USQ has offered the law program, and as part of orientation week the faculty hosted a lunch and information session where students got the opportunity to meet lecturers and familiarise themselves with the University.

First year student, Matt Skinner, will complete combined Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce degrees over the next five years.

"I decided to do Law and Commerce after completing my work experience and spending time at a courthouse observing cases," Matt said.

"I just really enjoyed being in the courtroom, listening to what was going on around me and learning."

"I am leaning towards a career in industrial relations or economics at this stage, but it is still early days and I may find that another area is of more interest down the track.

Matt, who was the recent recipient of a Faculty of Business Law Scholarship said he owed a lot to his parents who sacrificed to give him a great education.

"I am the first person in my family to go to university and I am grateful for the opportunity, I really have to thank them.

"The scholarship will be fantastic as it will take some of the pressure off my parents and me while I am studying.

"I chose to come to USQ at Springfield, because it is a smaller campus, close to my home at Peak Crossing and the staff and students have a really positive attitude.

"I was looking forward to the reception today as it was an opportunity to learn a bit more about the year ahead and meet my lecturers and other students."

Head of the School of Law, Professor Geraldine Mackenzie said enrolments in both the undergraduate and postgraduate programs had exceeded their expectations.

"We are thrilled with the overwhelming response we have received for both the Bachelor of Laws and the Juris Doctor programs," Prof Mackenzie said.

"It was great to finally meet our new students at the law welcome reception and information sessions on Tuesday."

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



MIT and Michigan State University staff visit USQ

Two senior American academics visited the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Toowoomba Campus recently (18-20 February 2008), as part of the University's involvement as the only Australian member of the OpenCourseWare Consortium (OCWC).

Director of the OCWC, based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Mr John Dehlin, and Executive Director of Michigan State University's MSUglobal, Dr Christine Geith, travelled to USQ to participate in discussions about a potential joint project in the area of online learning.

During their visit, Mr Dehlin and Dr Geith viewed a range of USQ systems and services for online delivery which could underpin the proposed project, including the University's online learning management, customer relationship management and cross-media electronic publishing systems.

USQ's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Learning Services) Professor Jim Taylor, said the proposed project has the potential to enable USQ to work with prestigious and well-known international universities that are committed to increasing access to higher education, especially in developing countries.

'The visit by Mr Dehlin and Dr Geith indicated the regard with which USQ was held, in terms of its leadership in distance and online learning,' Professor Taylor said.

Mr Dehlin has been Director of the OCWC since 2006. Prior to that was Director of Outreach at the Center for Open and Sustainable Learning at Utah State University, as well as having undertaken various roles during a seven year stint with the Microsoft Corporation.

'As Director of the OpenCourseware Consortium, we could not be more pleased to have USQ as a member - and very much look forward to working closely with Professor Taylor and his USQ team on new innovations around the growing OpenCourseWare movement,' Mr Dehlin said.

As Director of the University of Michigan's entrepreneurial business unit, Dr Geith works with academic partners worldwide to develop online institutes, programs and services and said the visit to USQ was very productive.

'USQ is an outstanding example of a dual mode university with impressive innovations and awards,' Dr Geith said.

Mr Dehlin and Dr Geith spent some time in Brisbane before flying back to the US, where they will continue to collaborate on the Project with Professor Taylor, via internet and video link.

A collaboration of more than 100 higher education institutions and associated organisations from around the world, the OCW Consortium aims to create a broad and deep body of open educational content using a shared model.

The mission of the OCW Consortium is to advance education and empower people worldwide through free and open digital publication of high quality educational materials.

USQ joined the OCW in 2007, and remains the only Australian member of the Consortium.

Story: Supplied, *Photo:* Liza Mattiazzi



COMING EVENTS



- 13 March – 18 April [One plus One Exhibition](#)
- 14 March [USQ Career Fair](#)
- 27 – 29 March [Shakespeare in Springfield](#)
- 29 March – 1 April [First International Messian Conference](#)

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



- [Welcome to 2008 staff reception](#)
- [International O'Week BBQ](#)
- [Students flock to Bay for O'Week](#)
- [USQ welcomes students to O'Week 2008](#)

Our roving photographers are on the loose. Whether you are at a 40th Anniversary event or the launch of a new centre you could be snapped!

STUDENT PROFILE



Samara-Jo Alexander

What are you studying?

A bachelor of Business part time while I am working.

Why did you choose USQ?

When I began studying I was living in Sydney and I had heard that USQ had a great reputation for external students, and I did eventually want to move to Toowoomba.

What are you going to do when you finish studying?

I would like to own and operate my own business, hopefully in fashion or events management.

If you were stranded on a desert island, who would you want to be stuck with?

Probably a wardrobe full of designer shoes and clothing (laughs)!



NEWSMAKERS



Making headlines this fortnight: Centre for Australian Indigenous Knowledges Lecturer Stephen Hagan had a spread in *Penthouse*...about the *Nigger Lovers* Documentary. Head of Psychology Peter Terry was quoted in *SELF magazine* in the U.S on the connection between listening to music while you exercise, and the motivational/psychological benefits. Meanwhile USQ's Director of Community Engagement Di Paez was on the airwaves discussing the mayoral forum hosted at the University.

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



1998 Mitsubishi Triton Dual Cab GLS Ute - Petrol & Automatic. 135000 kms. TJM sidesteps and TJM bulbar. IPF spotlights. Sony 10 stack cd player. Aluminium tray with ladder racks, also have rack for the front. Toolboxes built into the tray. Ideal tradesmen's Ute Regularly serviced and well looked after. Rego until 25 June 2008. \$16000 ono. For more info or to view phone Daniel on ext 1346 or 0400650710

2001 VU Commodore Utility – White. Registered to Aug 2008, Automatic, Airconditioning & CD player. \$9,500 negotiable (Can email photo if needed)_Phone Kathryn on work phone 074631 2076 or after hours on 07 4635 4073

2007 Mazda Tribute, V6 AWD Wagon, Panther Black , Only 4,800kms, Immaculate Condition, Power Windows & Mirrors, CD Player, Luggage Racks, Still Under Mazda Factory 3 year Warranty, (Photo available on request). Registered until August 2008. ONLY \$27,500 ono. Call Kathryn on 4631 2076 during work hours or 4635 4073 after 5pm

Bridesmaid Gown - Mr K Bridesmaid Gown, Size 10-12, Peacock Blue, Paid \$200, but will sell for \$40. Photo Available on request. Ph: Ext 2076 or 46354073 after hours

Camera equipment for sale: Canon Eos 300D 6.3 megapixel digital SLR camera, BGEI battery grip and 18-55mm lens: \$300 Canon Eos 30 film SLR camera, Metz external flash, 28-80mm lens: \$200 Canon Speedlite 420EX (external flash suitable for Canon digital SLR cameras): \$250. All equipment is in excellent condition, and is perfect for a keen photography enthusiast. All instruction manuals are included. Contact Dave on 0407 375 859 or extension 1480

Desk - "Hamilton" Office Desk (1560x800) purchased from Twmba Everyday Living Only 12 months old. \$400 negotiable, Photo available on request, Ph: Ext 2076 or 46354073 after hours

Dining Suite - "Hamilton" 10 Seat Dining Suite (2500x1200) purchased from Twmba Everyday Living Only 12 months old. \$1,800 negotiable, Photo available on request, Ph: Ext 2076 or 46354073 after hours

Grand Father clock movement - Complete. Best brand available. Never used. Hermle (German) triple chime with brass plated gongs, weights with brass shells, moving moon dial, 270mm lyre pendulum adj. case feet, all hinges, knobs door lock & pull (all brass), magnetic door catches. Full plan for cabinet to suit movement. Original cost \$2,352-00. Will accept \$1,950-00. Ph x 1127 or 4681 1584

Mitsubishi Verada KS 1995 - Auto, Cruise Control, Air Con, Power Steer, Elec Windows, CD Player. Only 154,000kms. \$5,500. Owner has new car and wants to sell. Contact: Liza # 2472 or 0419 660817

Pair of solid timber wardrobes – honey coloured, 1. double door hanging space with shelf above and double door with half length hanging space, with three external access drawers below the hanging space. Cost \$750 new, need to sell due to moving. Will sell both for \$250. Contact: x2997 or 0439 783 631

SPECIAL OFFER –Sponsors of the Chinese Spectacular are offering staff or anyone from Toowoomba a 15% discount on all ticket prices. Group booking over 10 will receive an extra ticket free. Students can purchase tickets for the discounted price of \$55 and a free bus service will also be provided from Toowoomba. For more information on this special please contact Yan Zhao on 4631 1071. For information on the show please visit <http://www.bestchineseshows.com>

Tandem Builder's Trailer - Purchased from Westbrook Trailers in 2007.



Registered to 31 March 2008. \$5,000 negotiable (Can email photo if needed).
Phone Kathryn on work phone 074631 2076 or after hours on 07 4635 4073

USQ Hairdressing Salon – Easter Draw! Valued at \$150. Have any hair or beauty service between now and the 20 March 2008 to receive a complimentary entry into the Easter Draw! Easter Draw includes two hair cut vouchers, 1 x 250 ml shampoo, 1 x 375ml conditioner, hair moisturiser, healing salts, unique fudge water bottles, fudge thongs, cooler bag and an chocolate Easter bunny! Contact Robyn on ext 2907 to make an appointment

USQ Hairdressing Salon – Fudge Promotion for March – Buy two fudge products for the month of March and get the choice of a fudge water bottle, fudge thongs or a shoulder bag!

Wedding Gown - Stunning Touch of Romance Wedding Gown purchased in 2007. Paid \$1695 but will sell for \$350. Size 8-10, Photo available on request, Phone Ext 2076 during work hours or 4635 4073 after hours

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.