

Engineering

QUT students are on their way to building what they hope will be Australia's best miniature search and rescue plane – minus the pilot.

The team of students – most of whom are studying engineering – will represent QUT in the inaugural UAV Outback Rescue Challenge in western Queensland in September.

UAVs (uninhabited aerial vehicles) are pilotless planes that can fly autonomously and perform missions that could be too risky for humans.

The QUT students have already designed and built their first UAV, which will be tested in the air over the next few weeks and then redeveloped into a second competition plane.

The miniature plane's task will be to fly from Kingaroy airport to a remote location, deliver vital medical supplies to a farmer, and return to base – all without human intervention.

The team has already secured sponsorship from QUT's Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering, and is keen to find other sponsors.

Team project manager Shane Degen, who is in his fourth year of an avionics degree, said the students were off to a flying start.

"It's been a very intense experience so far but we are happy with how things are progressing," he said.

"I think UAVs are very much the way of the future. They're going to change the way we operate and do things because a lot of the tasks that are currently performed very arduously by people can be performed very easily by UAVs. For example, night-time search and rescues are one area where UAVs



Drop the pilot! New plane set to soar

Avionics students Tom Kiel and Mithun Patel with the team's UAV.

have great potential – the quicker rescuers can respond to a lost person the more chance of saving them."

The students' test plane has a 2.4m wing span, weighs 15kg, and is powered by a 48cc twin cylinder

engine. The competition plane will be a canard wing pusher-prop.

The team's core members are Shane Degen, Lee Condon, Ben Eastgate, Luke Naughtin, Tom Kiel, and Mithun Patel – all fourth-year

avionics students.

The UAV Outback Rescue Challenge will be hosted by the Brisbane-based Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation (ARCAA) at Kingaroy Airport. For details, visit

www.uavoutbackchallenge.com.au.

Potential sponsors for the QUT student team can email shanedegen@hotmail.com.

- Mechelle McMahon

Heart pump hope

Biomedical innovation

A NEW counter-flow heart pump being developed by QUT has the potential to revolutionise future designs of the mechanical heart.

Lead researcher Associate Professor Andy Tan said the heart pump's innovative design was based on a double-output centrifugal model that pushed the blood in a counter direction to ensure correct flow through both sides of the heart, and is the subject of a patent application.

"The counter-flow pump is a bi-ventricular assist device, meaning it supports both the left and right sides of the heart simultaneously," he said. "But what's so groundbreaking is that it's the first device to combine the function of two pumps into one unit."

Professor Tan said current double heart pump technology was too bulky because it required the implant of two pumps that worked independently.

"The problem with two pumps is that it requires different controllers and can potentially lead to an uneven blood flow," he said.

"The concept of the counter-flow pump is that it has two independent impellers to simulate two pumps to augment the operations of the left and right ventricles but is essentially only one. Using independent impellers, the blood is able to flow at a higher delivery pressure as required by the left chamber of the heart, and a slower pressure as required by the right chamber of the heart."

Professor Tan said a shortage of heart donors and high rates of cardiovascular disease were driving scientists across the globe to develop the technology for a replacement heart.

"Each year in Australia, 44 per cent of all deaths are related to heart disease," he said.

"To reduce the number of deaths, treatment is now focused on medical

devices that can assist or totally replicate the function of the heart."

He said a heart pump capable of supporting both chambers would dramatically increase patients' chances of survival.

"Clinical studies around the world have found that patients who received a permanent left heart pump (left ventricular assist device) reduced their risk of dying within one year by 47 per cent," he said. "Unfortunately 25 per cent of these patients went on to develop right heart failure syndrome, infection and multi-organ failure. We have developed the design, and computer modelling has shown that it works."

Professor Tan, who pioneered artificial heart research at QUT, is a member of QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation. He established the QUT/Prince Charles Hospital research team. The group has produced a number of pump designs.

- Sandra Hutchinson



Associate Professor Andy Tan with the pump model.

COMMENT



THE Australian Council for Educational Research has released the results of a study on the factors which influence whether or not a student will complete university study.

They found, as might be expected, that students with high school-leaving rankings – or low OP scores as they are known in Queensland – are more likely to complete, but they also reported that coming from a socioeconomically disadvantaged background (low SES) was not a significant factor.

A study published in 2006 showed that high-performing students from low-SES backgrounds are just as likely to attend university as those from more affluent backgrounds, but also found that students from disadvantaged backgrounds had greater difficulty in making the most of their academic potential.

Professor Barry McGaw, former OECD Education Director, and now Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute, has highlighted the fact that while Australia's school education system is of high quality by international standards, it performs poorly in helping children from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their potential.

While Australia's school system struggles to overcome entrenched patterns of advantage and disadvantage, it is encouraging to see that Australia's universities do a better job.

For QUT's part, we know that our extensive programs of financial support have influenced many

students to persist with their studies.

In addition to our merit-based scholarships, QUT has allocated 1428 needs-based scholarships and bursaries this year, bringing to 2700 the number of students from low income backgrounds receiving such support.

This issue of *Inside QUT* also highlights the important role played by QUT Counselling Services and by alternative entry programs such as Q-Step, which has given students such as Melinda Miller the opportunity to excel.

Professor McGraw will deliver the keynote address to this year's QUT Senior Staff Conference, where we will examine new ways of understanding student needs and enhancing the student experience at QUT.

Higher education brings tremendous economic and social benefits to society and to the individuals who complete it.

However, students now bear a significant share of the cost, and as shown by a recent AVCC survey of student finances, they are combining work with study at unprecedented levels and face many financial and other barriers which can affect their studies.

It is essential that QUT is able not only to provide the best possible university experience, but to extend it to students from all walks of life.

Professor Peter Coaldrake
Vice-Chancellor



'bluebox' markets QUT research

Research

QUT has established a new company as a single point of contact for researchers, investors and industry involved in commercialising the university's burgeoning body of intellectual property.

The new company, "bluebox", was formed to identify and evaluate new technologies with commercial potential, and then streamline the process of bringing these innovations to market.

The company's role is to manage all facets of the commercialisation process including negotiating with companies, managing QUT's patent portfolio, and facilitating partnerships and contractual arrangements, say its newly appointed general managers Colin Kinner and Paige Maguire, *pictured*.

Mr Kinner and Dr Maguire, who are responsible for physical sciences and life sciences respectively, will become the "faces" of bluebox as they hold seminars throughout QUT to meet research staff and actively seek out and assess commercial possibilities in the university.

Each has academic credentials and "real-world" experience in growing technology-based, start-up companies both in Australia and overseas.

Dr Maguire has had extensive experience in basic medical research

and the biotech sector and held a joint fellowship at Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital before joining a Silicon Valley proteomics company.

In Brisbane, she joined UniQuest in 2002 and has been successful in attracting investment capital for various start-up companies, managed existing companies and held two company directorships.

She said bluebox would take QUT innovation "to the world" with a well-resourced, focused, professional approach.

"There is much potential value for QUT if we do this right. We are looking forward to finding innovations we can develop from the QUT community," Dr Maguire said.

Mr Kinner said one of bluebox's key aims would be to foster the entrepreneurial spirit at QUT while ensuring sensible commercial arrangements were put in place with outside parties.

"QUT has developed a large portfolio of potentially valuable technologies that requires professional and timely input to realise its commercial potential," he said.

"We want to implement a professional approach to all commercial dealings involving QUT's intellectual property, and provide a 'one-stop shop'

for researchers and industry to centralise and manage all commercial interactions."

Mr Kinner's experience includes managing a London seed fund with a portfolio of 36 early-stage investments, holding directorships in a number of technology-based start-up companies in the UK and Brisbane.

In previous roles he has been involved in training and mentoring entrepreneurs, developing business plans, and raising venture capital for technology-based startup companies.

QUT bluebox, which is based at 126 Margaret Street, has taken over responsibility for commercialisation from the Office of Commercial Services which will continue to provide services relating to consulting, continuing education, international projects and basic contract research.

- Niki Widdowson

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New head of law school

Rosalind Mason has been appointed as the new head of the QUT School of Law.



Professor Mason is a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland, holds a doctorate from The University of Queensland, and was head of law at the University of Southern Queensland

from 2000 to 2005. Her most recent post was as USQ's deputy dean of business.

She has an established national and international reputation in research in her chosen field of insolvency law and held a long-term appointment as general editor of the *Insolvency Law Journal*.

QUT doffs cap to UQ leader

Honours

QUT has doffed its cap to The University of Queensland and awarded UQ's Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, an honorary doctorate.

The distinguished academic and university leader became a Doctor of the University at a QUT Faculty of Education graduation ceremony at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane this month.

QUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake said Professor Hay was being honoured for his significant leadership nationally and internationally for Australian higher education.

"Professor Hay has been a major force in the rolling-out of the Smart State agenda, and has overseen the transformation of research at The University of Queensland, with the development of major facilities in bioscience, nanotechnology,

supercomputing and brain science," Professor Coaldrake said.

"And over many years Professor Hay has led national efforts to recognise and support university teaching."

The award will cap off a long career for Professor Hay who holds degrees in English literature from the University of Western Australia and Cambridge University, and is a fellow of the Australian College of Educators, the Australian Institute of Management and the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

He occupied academic leadership positions in the University of Western Australia and at Monash University, prior to being appointed Vice-Chancellor and President of Deakin University in 1992.

Four years later he took up his present position as Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Queensland. He retires from that position later this year.



QUT eases Australia's ageing CBDs through their mid-life crises

Sustainability

THOUSANDS of buildings in central business districts of major Australian cities have reached "a certain age" when decisions must be made about their futures.

Associate Professor Jay Yang, from the School of Urban Development, *pictured right*, said these ageing buildings were products of the '70s building boom.

"They no longer meet tenants' changing requirements or reach energy efficiency standards and the question is: demolish and build new or 're-life' through refurbishment," Professor Yang said.

He has addressed the dilemma by developing a tool to help building owners decide on an option, after extensive research with a national team of building industry experts and researchers from three universities at the Co-operative Research Centre for Construction Innovation, headquartered at QUT.

"We have developed a set of guidelines to test the commercial, technical and environmental viability of re-living projects," Professor Yang said.

"As buildings age they become more costly to run, no longer allow the functionality for today's work styles, and they can potentially make people sick.

"With the growing commitment

to sustainability, improving existing building stock is an attractive option and it is estimated up to 50 per cent of annual capital budgets will go to re-living by the year 2020."

Professor Yang's research team studied the "re-living" of three 30- to 40-year-old government buildings in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney to bring them up to the standards of today's office operation and environmental performance.

"High construction costs, labour shortages and scarce resources, and the increasing emphasis on sustainability have all been directing the attention towards 're-living'," Professor Yang said.

Professor Yang said different parts of buildings had different life spans.

"Whereas the building structure may last 80 to 100 years, facades date aesthetically and physically with a shorter life of 30 to 40 years, while mechanical systems such as lifts, ventilation and air-conditioning last only 20 to 30 years," he said.

"But communications and computer systems need to be changed every three years or so while the partitioning and power cabling have a life of five to 10 years.

"Because of changes to office work routines, organisational flexibility, occupational health standards, and environmental rating of buildings, each of the ageing building's elements



presents challenges to building owners.

"Reliving gives the opportunity to coordinate all these aspects and to rebuild a healthier and better performing building with non-toxic material, innovative systems and

maximum use of natural ventilation and daylight.

"Such upgrade to office space will help reduce vacancy rate and improve rental returns."

- Niki Widdowson

Volunteers needed

Public Health

YOU might not be overweight, but you could be "overfat", according to QUT researchers who need people to help them with a project to better measure body composition.

Dr Liz Isenring and Professor Lynne Daniels from the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation are investigating more accurate methods for assessing body composition than the widely-used body mass index (BMI).

"Someone could be classed as being a healthy weight using BMI, which compares height to weight, but they might be 'overfat' if you look closely at their body composition," Dr Isenring said.

The National Health and Medical Research Council postdoctoral research fellow said BMI was challenged by the fact muscle weighed more than fat.

Her team is working with bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) and the newer bioelectrical impedance spectroscopy (BIS).

These simple, effective, non-invasive techniques use electrical currents and a liquid solution to determine how much water is in a body.

"BIA is used by dietitians, nutritionists and fitness experts to estimate the amounts of fat and lean tissue in the body," she said. "BIS is a newer technology that, until now, has been used mostly for research.

"But the information against which data is calibrated in existing devices may not reflect an accurate picture of the Australian population.

"Through this research, we hope to use our data to validate and calibrate the technology to be more accurate."

The QUT research data will be cross-matched against data from a UQ study by Associate Professor Leigh Ward.

Dr Isenring is seeking 60 QUT staff and students of all shapes and sizes, between 18 and 65 and generally healthy, to have their body composition assessed.

A free summary of individual body composition will be available to volunteers. Call 07 3138 6113.

Sifting out secret ingredients to fast bowlers

Human movement studies

RESEARCHERS from across the world have applied to be part of a new sports study at QUT that aims to identify the keys to creating brilliant fast bowlers.

QUT's PhD Scholarship in Cricket Fast Bowling Expertise is being jointly offered by the university, Cricket Australia (CA) and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

The Head of QUT's School of Human Movement Studies, Professor Keith Davids, said applications had poured in for the PhD scholarship.

"It's already proved extremely popular - I've had applications from Pakistan, India, the USA, the Netherlands, Ireland, New Zealand and the UK," he said.

Professor Davids said the successful candidate would embark on a three-year study of Australian fast bowlers.

"We're taking a two-prong approach - we're looking at expert fast bowlers now and also talking to them about how they came through the pathways to reach that elite level," he said.

"We want to see if there's any lessons that can be learnt which would benefit the developing players who will be Australia's fast bowlers of the future. Maybe one of those lessons will be that there's a variety of ways to the top ... for example, Glenn McGrath didn't come into the Cricket

Australia system until after he was 17."

The study will also look at junior players in the Under 15 and Under 17 ranks and survey the cricketing community on the grassroots development of young cricketers.

The research will be overseen by Professor Davids, fellow QUT researcher Dr Ian Renshaw, Cricket Australia sport scientist Dr Marc Portus, and Australian Institute of Sport performance analyst Dr Keith Lyons. It aims to build upon previous research by Professor Davids and Dr Renshaw on fast bowling skills, including the regulation of the run up.

"The scholarship is open to all nationalities and we're particularly looking for someone with a sports science background who's very good at measuring human movement," Professor Davids said.

He said the successful cricket scholar would conduct much of the research at the AIS's cricket bowling laboratories in Canberra, as well as spend time in Brisbane at QUT and CA.

The successful applicant for the PhD Scholarship in Cricket Fast Bowling Expertise is likely to start by July. About \$100,000 of research funding will support the PhD student working on the study over three-and-a-half years.

- Mechelle McMahon



Dr Ian Renshaw and Professor Keith Davids



Researcher Clare Christensen

R u o k with dig lit?

Education

YOUNG people should be admired for their digital literacy and not criticised for being bad spellers, according to an education researcher from QUT.

The assistant dean of research in QUT's Faculty of Education, Professor Erica McWilliam, said a "moral panic" about declining literacy standards and calls to revert to traditional English curricula failed to take into account the strengths of "digitally literate" people.

"When a young person writes 'cu l8r', you can either look at it as bad spelling or as an impressive short messaging capacity," Professor McWilliam said.

"In a digital world, being able to communicate quickly is essential. Sometimes spelling can actually get in the way. We wouldn't use sentences to put together a shopping list and there are not many professions looking for 600-word essays in a dot-point world.

"Texting, podcasting, generating hypertext, and editing images and sounds are now much more important than being able to pen an essay."

Professor McWilliam said digital literacy – being able to use technology for more effective and efficient communication – should be considered equally important to traditional literacy.

"It's all about purposes. Productivity depends on speed in the 21st century workplace. Having the capacity to navigate the internet quickly and to communicate fast are capabilities that should be taken more seriously."

Professor McWilliam said it was not a case of throwing out traditional spelling and grammar but that literacy had many facets now, and many of them were about smart technology use.

Real-life science key to risk

Learning innovation

MOST young Queenslanders, despite studying at least three years of science, don't use scientific thinking to make decisions about the risk of things like using their mobiles or drugs and alcohol.

QUT PhD researcher Clare Christensen, of QUT's Centre for Learning Innovation, said many young people did not develop "risk literacy" because they didn't call on their science education to help them make informed decisions.

She said this was because science had not been made relevant to their personal lives and was missing from their decision-making toolkit.

"Current science education does not appear to equip young people to

assess health risks or make decisions involving scientific knowledge," Ms Christensen said.

The results of her study of 28 people aged 18 to 26 suggest high schools should use more real-life scenarios affecting young people personally to instil the use of scientific inquiry in their decision-making.

Ms Christensen, who has taught high school science for 20 years, asked her study participants about issues where the science was uncertain or still contested by scientists.

Using the example of possible health risks of mobile phones use and brain tumours, she found young people dismissed scientific research on the subject on inadequate grounds.

"Most judged mobile phone health risks as low, more on a personal desire

for their phones to be safe instead of seeking out and weighing up the scientific arguments for and against radiation from mobile phones being linked to brain tumours," she said.

"Their understanding of the nature of radiation was generally inadequate and confused, and their judgment of the risk was not based on understanding of scientific knowledge or of scientific risk estimates."

Ms Christensen said a concerning finding was that young people explained disagreement between scientists as merely "trying to prove their own opinions".

"This demonstrates that they do not understand the nature of scientific inquiry, particularly that disagreement and argument among scientists are integral to developing scientific

knowledge," she said.

"This misunderstanding of contested science could be feeding disaffection with science and causing people to rely on alternative sources of knowledge." Ms Christensen said current science education's disconnection from students' lives could also be contributing to the decline of enrolments in senior science subjects and the resulting shortage of scientists and engineers.

"The use of authentic inquiry and discussion of contested science in classrooms offers greater opportunities than traditional approaches for student to appreciate the nature of scientific knowledge, particularly the role of disagreement and argument in the development of reliable knowledge."

- Niki Widdowson



Hannah Gartside

Library dresses up

Fashion

BRISBANE Square Library has become a much more fashionable place thanks to the talents of QUT fashion graduates and students like Hannah Gartside.

Hannah is one of four emerging designers whose work is currently on show in the George Street library, as part of a move to promote fashion – and fashion research – and attract young people to the library.

The featured designers are Hannah, who is in her third year of QUT's fashion degree, and QUT fashion graduates Carla O'Donnell, Shilo Engelbrecht and Gail Reid (of the Gail Sorronda label).

Hannah, fellow third-year student Monika Holgar, and graduate Paula Dunlop also recently ran a two-day fashion workshop at the library for a small group of enthusiastic teenagers from Kelvin Grove State College.

She said the aim had been to help them learn about the design process, including the important task of fashion research and utilising library resources.

"Doing your research is imperative – especially when you are designing conceptually," she said.

Hannah favours recontextualised materials when she makes her garments, and has recycled linoleum, scarves and even tea-towels in her quest for unusual designs.

Her work on display at the Brisbane Square Library – a pale blue silk dress – pays homage to 1950s style.

"I've been making clothes since I was a kid – we used to do fashion parades with my grandma when I was seven," she said.

Hannah said she had loved her QUT course and definitely planned to make fashion her career after uni.

"I'll be in it for life, no questions," she said.

"After I finish uni this year I hope to go to London to do work experience and then come back and do honours and postgraduate study."

QUT fashion lecturer Kathleen Cattoni said the university hoped to continue its relationship with the Brisbane City Council and run future fashion workshops at the library.

- Mechelle McMahon

Graduate joy



Uni has been a life-changing experience for one of the Education Faculty's brightest grads, thanks to her own hard work and QUT's Q-Step program.

Education

IF someone had asked Melinda Miller in 2002 where she'd be in five years' time, she would not have said she'd be starting a PhD after receiving multiple awards for university study.

Melinda graduated from QUT on April 12 with first-class honours in early childhood education, plus a university medal for high academic achievement.

Back in 2002, Melinda was a sole parent struggling to make ends meet with government support.

"My marriage had ended and I had to make a decision about how to provide a secure future for my child," she said.

"Teaching is a career path that has always appealed to me ... I love the company of

children and I thought the structure of the school year would suit my role as a parent, having school holidays and the like."

While studying her bachelor's degree Melinda found herself achieving "surprisingly" high marks and decided to enrol in an honours program.

"In my second year I was approached to work as a research assistant in the School of Early Childhood and I have worked there part-time ever since."

As well as receiving a university medal, Melinda has been awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Initiative Scholarship and a federal government Australian Postgraduate Award scholarship to fund her PhD studies at QUT.

She said the opportunity to do research, combined with working as a classroom

teacher, should set her in good stead.

Her research will focus on developing a professional development model that supports teachers to analyse how their own cultural background influences their teaching practice.

"Completing a PhD broadens my employment choices, my earning capacity and my level of personal and professional development," she said.

Melinda joined QUT through the Q-Step program, a special entry program for low-income students applying for admission into most QUT undergraduate courses.

"As a low-income student, I have also been able to apply for numerous bursaries, scholarships and a free computer," she said.

"These equity initiatives have kept me

afloat during the past four years."

Melinda says that, while it has been difficult combining the role of sole parent with that of a full-time student and part-time worker, it has been worthwhile.

Unfortunately Melinda's biggest fan didn't get to see her graduate – the 6.30pm ceremony was too close to five-year-old son Jackson's bedtime.

Jackson did, however, get to share in his mother's academic success when he attended the QUT Faculty of Education STAR awards for student achievement and recognition on March 27.

For more information about Q-Step, email qstep@qut.edu.au or phone 07 3138 3731.

- Carmen Myler

Brisbane Festival director awarded top QUT honour

Honours

BRISBANE arts identity Lyndon Terracini has been honoured for his contribution to the state's cultural and artistic growth with a QUT honorary doctorate.

The arts administrator and international opera singer was made a Doctor of the University during a graduation ceremony at the

Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Mr Terracini is currently artistic director and CEO of the Brisbane Festival – a role that followed his outstanding success as the driving force behind the Queensland Music Festival over five years from 2000.

"His contribution to QUT and the arts community of Brisbane has been considerable," QUT's Creative Industries Faculty Executive Dean

Professor Susan Street said.

"He has also built an international reputation in contemporary opera and music theatre over many years following his debut performance with the Australian Opera in 1976.

"Since then he has given many notable performances on the stages of some of the world's great opera houses in the Netherlands, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Berlin, Zurich, London

and Italy. He has performed a host of great baritone roles, overseas and in Australia, including Figaro in *The Marriage of Figaro* which he also filmed for UK television.

"In addition, he has written a screenplay for the film, *The Widower*, for which he received an AFI award nomination in 2005."

Mr Terracini's enthusiasm for the arts has been recognised nationally.

In 2000 he was awarded a fellowship by the Music Fund of the Australia Council for the Arts and in 2006 he was awarded the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch cultural leadership award by the Australian Business Arts Foundation.

Professor Street said Mr Terracini has had a close association with QUT's Creative Industries Faculty as a member of the faculty advisory committee.

World opens with scholarship

Sun scientist at UN summit

QUT sun scientist Michael Kimlin joined some of the world's leading environment experts in Singapore last week when he addressed the United Nations Global Business Summit for the Environment. Dr Kimlin was invited to speak at the summit on the topic of climate change, ozone depletion and health. The Kelvin Grove researcher heads up the QUT-based Australian Sun and Health Research Laboratory.

Justice moves to GP

Justice students can now enjoy the benefits of studying in the Brisbane CBD, following the relocation of QUT's School of Justice to the Gardens Point campus. The school, which has 850 students, was previously located at the university's Kelvin Grove campus. The relocation was celebrated at an official launch on April 19 at X Block.

Winners announced

Five lucky students have been named as winners of a QUT competition held during Orientation Week and the Week 4 "Ask Me" initiative. Business student Sarah Hoskin bagged first prize – a HP laptop, valued at more than \$1250. Cassandra Lawrence (education), Amber Brown (justice studies), Jessica Beecher (justice studies/human services) and Hamish Mulligan (business) each won an Apple iPod Shuffle. The "Ask Me" campaign aimed to help new students settle into uni life.



Marissa Castro

Humanities

A DESIRE to learn more about other cultures and one day work overseas has helped QUT student Marissa Castro win a \$5000 scholarship.

The Eatons Hill 17-year-old has won the QUT Northern Corridor Scholarship for 2007 to help her studies at QUT's Carseldine campus.

The scholarship is open to residents of Pine Rivers Shire, Caboolture Shire and Redcliffe City, who are enrolled to study a degree through QUT's School of Humanities and Human Services.

It is judged on the strength of each student's written application and their academic record.

Marissa has just started a double degree in arts and creative industries, and is particularly keen to broaden her knowledge of international affairs.

She said she hoped combining an arts degree with her interest in the creative industries would broaden her career options.

"I'd always been really interested in multimedia and film studies, and then I became interested in other cultures and travel and the idea of working internationally," she said.

"I'd like to one day maybe work in foreign relations or perhaps education and teaching.

"I consider it important to have a good knowledge of global affairs as events that occur in

other countries affect our own society politically, environmentally and economically."

QUT's Executive Director of Northern Campuses, Associate Professor Jane Williamson, said the university looked forward to supporting more students in future years with the annual scholarship.

"Many of our students live in the rapidly-developing corridor to the north of Brisbane," she said.

"This scholarship aims to help high-achieving local students who are embarking on their first year of studies in humanities or human services."

- Mechelle McMahon

Survey finds counselling helps keep students at uni

Student services

RESULTS from a recent survey suggest that more than half of the 3900 students who attended QUT Counselling Services last year may have decided to stay at university because they sought help with their problems.

QUT counsellor Nikki Oughton, pictured right, conducted an evaluation of anonymous student satisfaction surveys and found 96 per cent presented for help primarily with a personal problem.

Ms Oughton said 13 per cent of students surveyed reported they would have left university without counselling support, while a further 36

per cent said it "at least contributed greatly" to their decision to stay at QUT.

She said that, while students' problems were not always related to university, the stress of personal problems could make it very difficult for students to concentrate on study or prevent them from showing up to lectures.

"These problems can include things such as anxiety, depression or family and relationship issues," she said.

"When students are dealing with a number of significant personal problems, it means they aren't really able to pay attention to uni because these other things are so distracting and their focus is elsewhere. If we are able to help them

come to some conclusions about how to manage their personal problems, it clears up some mental space so students have more time to focus on their studies."

Ms Oughton said symptoms of stress or anxiety included irritability, poor memory, lack of concentration, crying a lot, or tension in shoulders, arms and legs.

"Everybody's body has its own signals – they should use these as a cue to take action with some stress-management techniques."

Counselling Services are available on all campuses – call 3138 3488 for details.

- Carmen Myler



Susan Hedge and Justen Bersin

Mooters win at Oxford

Law

QUT law students Justen Bersin and Susan Hedge have been doing a lot of arguing lately ... and it's paid off. The talented mooters have just won the prestigious International Intellectual Property Law Moot at Worcester College in Oxford.

QUT was the first Australian team to compete in the annual event, which pits students against each other in a mock courtroom.

Justen and Susan were undefeated throughout the competition, beating George Mason University School of Law (Arlington, Virginia) in the final. Along the way, they also defeated the University of Nantes, Oxford University, the National University

of Singapore and the University of Hong Kong.

The invitation-only event included two-member teams from 19 universities around the world.

Competitors were judged on their speaking and performance skills, as well as the strength of their legal research.

Susan is in her fifth year of a double degree in law and mathematics and has competed in more than 10 moots.

"I've loved it the whole time I've been studying ... competing in moots gives me an adrenalin rush every time," she said.

"There are also great opportunities to make contacts because you get to meet the judges, barristers and solicitors who are involved in these

events."

QUT's strength in intellectual property law was one of the reasons why the students particularly wanted to compete in the Fifth International Intellectual Property Law Moot.

"We have such a wealth of IP professionals here so there has been a lot of support for us," Susan said.

Justen, a third-year law student, said the students had been practising for the event since November.

He said they'd been "arguing with everyone" – not just each other – in preparation.

"It's a very intense experience ... it's the mental equivalent of an extreme sport," he said.

- Mechelle McMahon

Industrial design

TECHNOLOGICAL devices are the must-have features of modern life, but new QUT research shows users are often disenchanted within weeks of purchase.

PhD student Rafael Gomez, pictured, has looked at people's experiences with portable interactive devices (PIDs) such as mp3 players and hand-held computers or personal digital assistants (PDAs) over the course of six months.

He found that people were generally excited with their PIDs in the first few weeks but often became annoyed or frustrated with them as time went on.

"When people first buy their mp3 player for example, they may take it everywhere with them but later, they realise there are some things about the product that annoys them," Mr Gomez said.

"When they walk into their offices, for example, the music remains at the same volume and they can't hear people talking to them, or they can't use the scheduler on their PDA while using it as a phone.

"My research shows that people may be happy initially with the way the devices work but they aren't happy with the way they interfere with other aspects of their lives."

Research conducted on mobile phones has found that while people are addicted to the devices (with 900 million mobile phones sold worldwide last year), they still have not adjusted to people's social and cultural contexts.

For example, in very public spaces such as restaurants, people are often annoyed at having to listen to ringing mobile phones or people's mobile



Technology not all it's cracked up to be ...

phone conversations.

"While people should be able to think for themselves by turning their mp3 player off when they reach the office or turning their phones off in restaurants, manufacturers of these devices could use

my research to alter how the services are delivered within diverse social and cultural contexts," Mr Gomez said.

"For example, new software making these devices 'smart' could allow them to detect the context and

alter volume or switch itself off accordingly."

Mr Gomez is conducting his research at QUT's Human-Centred Design Research and Usability Laboratory.

- Toni Chambers

Business gems awarded



Business

TWO business academics have won best paper awards from the world's leading publisher of management journals and databases, Emerald.

For the second year running, advertising, marketing and public relations lecturer Richard Oloruntoba, pictured, has won an outstanding paper award at the Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence.

His paper, "Humanitarian aid: an agile supply chain?" was published in *Supply Chain Management: An International Journal* in 2006.

School of Management PhD researcher Sukanlaya Sawang was recognised for her paper "Are country and culture values interchangeable? A case example using occupational stress and coping".

The paper, was published in the *International Journal of Cross Cultural Management*.

- Carmen Myler

Stay home, save world - economist

Economics

GOVERNMENTS should legislate to make people work less in order to improve quality of life and reduce environmental damage, according to a QUT economist.

School of Economics and Finance head Professor Tim Robinson said a fundamental flaw in our economy compelled people to work more than they should, because they only considered the monetary reward for their effort.

Professor Robinson said as nations became wealthier, increasing congestion and environmental damage caused people's quality of life to decrease, leaving them no happier today than they were 50 years ago.

He said rather than comparing work effort to take-home pay, people should compare it to the much lower "environmentally adjusted income" that took account of the negative impacts, or externalities, caused by excessive work, production and consumption.

"When people get paid, they don't realise they get a whole lot more than they bargained for in the form of adverse side effects of their work effort," said Professor Robinson, who is also a researcher with the Institute for Sustainable Resources at QUT.

"We fail to see that when we get \$1000 pay, for example, deduction of

the cost of traffic congestion, global warming and fished-out fisheries, means that we're only getting about \$600 for our work effort.

"If we did realise this, we'd conclude that our current level of work effort is not worthwhile."

Professor Robinson said if everyone worked less hours and reduced their output, the environmental footprint of their work would be reduced and their increased quality of life would more than compensate for the reduction in take-home pay.

The researcher said it was fruitless for an individual to work less and reduce their consumption as this would not affect overall levels of environmental damage: the whole society needed to get off the treadmill.

"Although some environmentalists have called for us to reduce our consumption, this would be pointless unless we also reduced the level of output by working less," he said.

Professor Robinson said his "intuitive" solution required a "command and control", interventionist approach to reducing environmental damage, rather than a free-market approach.

"Governments need to support a range of policies that discourage rather than encourage people's work effort as is currently the case," he said.

"By encouraging both parents to work and by discouraging early retirement, governments around the



Professor Tim Robinson and his wife Veronica Horgan, pictured with their three children, Chloe, Thomas and Nicola.

world are exacerbating the problem."

Professor Robinson said policies designed to reduce work effort should have a long-term focus and be implemented slowly over time to allow the economy to adjust smoothly to lower, but sustainable, levels of

production and consumption.

Professor Robinson is the author of a new book, *Work, Leisure and the Environment*, which is published by Edward Elgar Publishing.

- Carmen Myler

WHAT'S on...

Music

- QUT Urban Country Music Festival

Jimmy Barnes, John Williamson and Troy Cassar-Daley are just some of the true-blue talents lining up for the QUT Urban Country Music Festival in Caboolture from May 4 to 7. Tickets from Ticketek or www.urbancountry.com.au. Staff and students can also visit the Caboolture campus on May 3 for the Tallon Street Jam – free live music and a \$5 lunch. Free shuttle buses will run from all QUT campuses on the day. www.caboolture.qut.com



Events

► **APRIL 26 - MAY 2**
QUT's second-year actors feature in the Russian turn-of-the-century melodrama *Three Sisters* at QUT Gardens Theatre over five nights. Tickets for this tale of sibling relationships and marriage survival cost \$10 to \$18 and can be booked through GardensTix on 07 3138 4455. www.gardens theatre.qut.com

► **MAY 1**
Join Game Audio Australia director Mick Gordon for a free public talk at 5pm on how to make a living in the games industry. It's part of the *Game On!* series of events presented by QUT Precincts and the Kelvin Grove Urban Village. The venue is the KGV Community

Hub in Carraway St, Kelvin Grove. www.ciprecinct.qut.com

► **NOW - MAY 20**
QUT Art Museum hosts *15 Years of Urban Art Projects* – an exhibition including original drawings, CAD illustrations, working models and other stages from design to the street. UAP was established in 1993 by QUT graduates Matthew and Daniel Tobin. www.artmuseum.qut.com

Seminars

► **MAY 9**
QUT hosts an alternative entry information evening at Kelvin Grove campus for prospective mature-age students. The night is aimed at people who may not have studied for many years but would like to find out

if their experience qualifies them for uni entry. Recent school-leavers can also attend for info on how to upgrade OPs or build on TAFE studies. RSVP on 07 3138 3918.

Conferences

► **MAY 3-4**
Gardens Point campus hosts a two-day sugarcane bagasse symposium on bagasse pulp and paper production. www.bagasse.qut.edu.au

► Visit www.whatson.qut.edu.au for more event listings and to submit your upcoming event.



Dean stays in step

Dance

STEPPING out of the dean's office and into the studio, QUT's Professor Susan Street recognises the importance of connecting with students.

Professor Street, pictured above, admits as head of the Creative Industries Faculty it is often difficult to balance her workload as an executive dean with her love of dance and choreography.

But for six hours every week Professor Street is heading back to the studio to work with second year students on *Dance Bytes* – an upcoming QUT dance event.

"It is the most fantastic six hours of my week. I get into the studio and I think about nothing else but the students in the room. In an otherwise very busy and stressful week, it is a welcome break," she said.

"For me the benefit of going back into the studio means I have direct contact with students."

Professor Street's experience as a distinguished dancer and

choreographer has taken her around the world, where she has combined her artistic leadership with significant management responsibilities.

In 2005 she returned to Australia and QUT to take up the position of executive dean.

"I saw these students perform when they were first-year undergraduates and I was so impressed with them as a group and also as individual dancers," she said.

"Their end-of-year performance, choreographed by Csaba Buday, was a real showcase for each one of them. It was high energy and technically very difficult."

Professor Street said in contrast, her choreography was much more subtle and attempted to challenge the dancer's interpretive skills.

Her new dance work involves 16 students and is composed of an amalgamation of eight versions of the song *Hallelujah*, first released by Leonard Cohen. It is one of several works that make up the *Dance Bytes* production.

Professor Street said because of QUT's reputation as a global leader in the creative industries, high-calibre dance students from interstate and internationally were attracted to study here.

"Over the past five years the faculty has realised an ambitious vision to position itself as a global leader in the creative industries," she said.

"As a faculty we are now working on strategic consolidation, interaction and purpose of the independent parts of the faculty and bringing these together as a whole, as well as working with other faculties and external partners." *Dance Bytes 2007* features original 'bite-sized' contemporary works by Australian choreographers in an exciting and diverse mix of jazz and pop styles, featuring all three years of QUT's dance performance students.

Dance Bytes will be held from June 12 to 16 at QUT Gardens Theatre. For bookings, contact GardensTix on 07 3138 4455.

- Sandra Hutchinson

about IQ

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SPORTS NEWS

QUT's men's volleyball team has returned home triumphant after blitzing the competition in the New Zealand University Games held in Christchurch from April 10 to 14.

The QUT team dominated all New Zealand teams to claim gold.

Even a tournament team, comprising the best players from all NZ uni teams, couldn't

match the QUT volleyballers going down three sets to nil.

"This is a great achievement for the boys who this year are aiming to be QUT's first volleyball team to win three Australian University Games championships back to back," QUT volleyball event manager Dave Shanahan said.

Around campus...



Peter's big art...

Leading Queensland artist and QUT graduate Peter Alwast is the latest person to be featured on the 45-metre-long public art billboard at QUT's Creative Industries Precinct. His work, *Drawing*, was attached by an abseiling team this month and is now on show to thousands of commuters each day along Kelvin Grove Road. Peter is also the artist who created the giant spheres that adorn the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation.

Poster competition

Visual arts student Megan McCarthy, pictured with her poster *Magazines do more than illustrate*, was one of the students who took part in QUT's media poster competition at the Creative Industries Precinct. The event highlighted the work of first-year Creative Industries students, particularly those studying media and communication.



Party time

Gansters, molls and other suspect characters invaded the Dusk wine bar at Gardens Point recently for the QUT Social Club's *Gansters and Molls* party. Pictured left to right are Drew Jacobson, Mate Frankic, Tony Tofon, Justin Daley and Shelly McCann.