

COMMUNITY

AUTUMN 2005



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**STUDENTS
MATTER MORE
AT USC**

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COVER:

New students (L-R)
Goedeke Thomas, Eva
Winkler and Jess Miller.

COMMUNITY

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NEWS IN BRIEF

SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The University has appointed Professor Greg Hill, as Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Professor Hill, formerly the Dean of Education, Health and Science at Charles Darwin University (NT) took up the position on March 7.

After many years at the University of Queensland, Professor Hill joined the Northern Territory University in 1995 as Foundation Chair in Tropical Environment Science and was appointed Dean of Science in 1997. He was appointed Dean of Science, Information Technology and Education in 1999 and since late 2002, Professor Hill has been Dean of Education, Health and Science at the now Charles Darwin University.

Professor Hill will be profiled in the next edition of Community.

Professor Hill takes over from previous Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Clark.

Professor Robert Elliot, previously the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at USC has been appointed to the position of Pro-Vice Chancellor, International and Development and will oversee the development, international and marketing functions of the University.

Other senior staff appointments include Director of Education Programs, Professor Tania Aspland was Professor and Director of Programs at Edith Cowan University in Perth and previously held the position of Assistant to the Dean of Education (Bachelor of Education) at QUT.

Professor Aspland is recognised as a leader in the development of Teacher Education programs and from 2000 to 2003, she was involved in industry partnership educational research projects in the Mooloolaba Education District.

Stephen Quinn has been appointed Professor of Communication Studies.

Professor Quinn has recently returned from the United States where he was Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism at Ball State University in Indiana.

Professor Quinn brings with him an extensive international background in journalism having worked in all areas of the media in Australia, Thailand, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates and run journalism courses in nine countries.

COMMENT: UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES



Professor Paul Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

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At the end of last year there was a sector-wide expectancy of growth, following the extensive Nelson reforms. We were a major beneficiary of the allocation of growth places by the Federal Government as it signalled its clear intention to increase the scale of this University.

No one, however, predicted the national slump in application rates and most, if not all, universities will be under-enrolling or dropping OP scores this year.

Whilst the current situation creates headaches for staff, for students the opportunities and prospects have never been better.

For the Sunshine Coast's prospective students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend university, or mature students pondering whether to take that important next step, this set of circumstances is most advantageous.

There are more student places, more scholarships and more courses, than ever before. And because the university-going cohort has shrunk, there will almost certainly be more, and better paid, opportunities on graduation.

It will also mean that whilst at university, students will also be provided with more support. In this respect, universities have been transformed within a generation. No student need feel left alone to sink or swim as I and many others were. The wastage rates in that old system was punitive. Now, students can seek help with the certainty that some assistance can and will be provided.

Students continue to rank their experiences at USC very highly, and we have consistently been amongst the top group of Australian universities in recent years.

I would urge those students still wondering about university entry to commit and not be frightened by higher HECS, all of which can be deferred, and are repaid gradually when graduates have secured a job and are being paid \$36,000 per annum.

A university education remains the best passport to long-term career enhancement.

Professor Paul Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

“Research shows that the better the first year experience, the more likely students are to succeed and complete their studies.”

FIRST YEAR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE MADE EASIER



With more than 1600 new students beginning university for the first time this year, the University of the Sunshine Coast has appointed a First Year Experience Officer to help make the transition to university easier.

Tilly Hinton works with University staff to improve the first year experience for all new students and increase the likelihood that they will successfully complete their degrees.

“Research shows that the better the first year experience, the more likely students are to succeed and complete their studies,” says Ms Hinton. “For this reason the University has made first year experience a high priority.”

Ms Hinton’s role involves planning and implementing university initiatives that create a positive first year experience for students. With a background as a high school teacher, she knows how difficult it can be for students to make a successful transition from high school – or the workforce – to university study.

The focus during Orientation Week was on student activities and support relevant to new students’ needs.

“We spoke with USC staff and students, and looked at best practice at other universities, and as a result came up with a number of innovations to the O-Week program,” Ms Hinton says.

Among these changes is the recruitment of a team of student facilitators – continuing students who facilitated group discussions in which first year students could ask questions and explore concerns about starting university.

“O-Week is really important,” says Ms Hinton. “It is a chance for new students to feel a part of the university, familiarise themselves with the campus and find out what is expected of them – particularly from an academic viewpoint,” she says.

“O-Week is also a time when students can start to form social connections which are so

important,” says Ms Hinton. “It is the kick-off for the social, fun side of university with plenty of activities and events for students to get together and meet other students.”

“The crunch time for first years is at the four- and six-week mark. This is when their first assignments are due and the reality of university study hits home,” Ms Hinton says.

According to Ms Hinton, support networks are vital if students are to succeed at university.

“It is the support networks, both formal and informal, that give students the strength to persevere, even when the going gets tough.”

She says it is important for students to realise that they don’t have to go through the new university experience on their own, and that the University has services in place to assist students in making the transition to study.

“Our first year experience planning, support and strategies are aimed at helping students through

First Year Experience Officer, Tilly Hinton, making the transition to university easier.

this crucial time and on the path to study success and ultimately, graduation.”

For more information on the First Year Experience Program visit the Current Student section of the University’s website <www.usc.edu.au>.

HANDY TIPS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

- get to know other first-year students – you are not alone
- remember that university staff are there to help
- talk to your lecturers and tutors and ask questions – it’s all about interactive learning
- strike a balance between studying and socialising
- manage your time productively and plan ahead
- enjoy the experience!

“... we can enhance an individual’s health and performance, through both physical activity and nutritional guidance ...”

HONOURS SCHOLARSHIP FROM QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT



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A University of the Sunshine Coast student has been awarded an honours scholarship by the Queensland Academy of Sport.

The QAS scholarship provides Sport and Exercise Science graduand Tanya King with the opportunity to plan and conduct nutrition and dietetics research at the QAS.

Two inaugural QAS scholarships were offered to all Queensland university students, with Ms King and a student from The University of Queensland successful.

Ms King achieved a near-perfect GPA of 6.8 during her undergraduate studies at the University of the Sunshine Coast and has her sights set on working in the fields of nutrition and dietetics after completing her Honours degree.

“The major objective of my research will be to improve the competitive performance of elite QAS athletes and teams through

nutrition,” says Ms King.

“I enjoy learning about the human body and the ways in which we can enhance an individual’s health and performance, through both physical activity and nutritional guidance.”

The research carried out will be supported by the Centre of Excellence for Applied Sport Science Research at the QAS, which is the only state-based research centre of its kind in Australia.

The centre was established in 2004 to ensure that the QAS remains at the forefront of athlete development and support worldwide.

The centre is achieving this by facilitating research, providing postgraduate scholarships in conjunction with Queensland universities and funding the development of specialised technologies to assist elite athletes.

Nutrition has been identified by the QAS as an important area for research given the significant nutritional demands of many of its athletes for training and competition.

Tanya will spend the first month of her scholarship investigating several topics of potential interest for her research program.

Her university supervisor, Fiona Pelly and the QAS Nutrition Coordinator, Kerry Leech will be advisors during the selection of a topic for the Honours project.

Dr Sue Hooper, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Applied Sport Science Research is happy to have Ms King on board as part of the research team.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for Tanya to further her studies and work with some of the State’s best athletes, researchers and sport providers in the newest facility of its kind in Australia,” says Dr Hooper.

Sport and Exercise Science graduand Tanya King will conduct nutrition and dietetics research at the Queensland Academy of Sport.

“It has the only sport institute-based Nutrition Training Centre, purposefully designed to teach athletes how to take care of their specific nutritional needs.”

“This scholarship will help build on the knowledge and skills I developed at university, and apply it to a practical setting. I’m hoping it will open doors to many opportunities,” Ms King says.

Tanya advises anyone interested in studying for an honours degree to consider what they want to achieve from their study.

“The independence, responsibility, and advanced skills and knowledge you will gain during your honours year will help pave the way to pursue your career in the health or sporting industry,” she says.

“USC’s entry into this type of nationally competitive grant is indicative of the excellence and high quality of USC researchers...”

USC AWARDED NATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT



The University of the Sunshine Coast has received its first Discovery Grant from the Australian Research Council (ARC).

This is in addition to the linkage grants the University already has from the ARC.

The \$150,000 research grant is a major step forward for the University and adds to USC’s national standing among Australian universities as a major criteria for

“USC’s entry into this type of nationally competitive grant is indicative of the excellence and high quality of USC researchers and bodes well for the future of our research endeavours.”

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Thomas, says the grant will establish key research opportunities for the University in the future.

“The ARC, along with the National Health and Medical

“It focuses on refugee students in Queensland’s public education system – students who have come to be regarded as ‘illegals’ and ‘queue jumpers’,” Dr Matthews says.

“Most of these children are fleeing the destruction of their homes and communities due to war, so it is ironic that they have come to represent the evils of the world.”

USC’s Dr Julie Matthews led the successful ARC Discovery Grant application.

Dr Matthews’ background is in ‘social justice in education’, and much of her work so far has focused on minority students and problems of racism and sexism.

As a high-school teacher in the UK she taught on pioneering curriculum projects such as Integrated Humanities and World Studies.

The ARC project will run for three years. Other members of the research team are from The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and The University of South Australia.

“Most of these children are fleeing the destruction of their homes and communities due to war...”

application success is the research track record of the Chief Investigator in the project.

Dr Julie Matthews, Senior Lecturer in Social and Community Studies, led the team’s application to the ARC.

“There is only a 20 per cent success rate in applications for ARC grants, so we were delighted to learn we had received one,” says Dr Matthews.

Research Council, is one of the key funding bodies in Australia for research, and ARC Grants are extremely competitive in the national higher education sector. Receiving one is a coveted award for any university, particularly a regional one,” he says.

The ARC grant, titled Schooling, Globalisation and Refugees in Queensland, will make a difference to young lives across the state.

The project looks at how education institutions address these issues of identity and citizenship. It will have a two-fold approach. First it will produce a website that will educate school children about issues facing refugees.

“Second, the research will undertake policy analysis at international, national and local levels directly associated with refugee education in Queensland,” adds Dr Matthews.

In other government funding news, USC has received \$2million from the Federal Government towards the construction of Stage VI – the new science building on campus. The announcement was made as part of a \$43million funding boost in capital grants funding for universities Australia-wide.

SEEKING CAREER OPTIONS

With more than 650 of the University's students graduating and entering the workforce in March, students are reminded of the importance of planning for what lies beyond their tertiary studies.

According to the University's Careers Officer, Adam Stepcich, students need to identify their career options early on in their degrees.

"Research has shown that students who identify their career options in their first year of study have a greater chance of staying in university and getting a related job at the completion of their studies," Mr Stepcich says.

The University's Careers and Employment Services offer students advice and support, resources and contacts, on career options and job search techniques.

Students can get one-on-one assistance with career counselling, career planning and resume and job application assistance.

"Our goal is to reach students as early on in their degree as possible, and get them motivated about their career options," says Mr Stepcich.

Graduate Employment Officer, Ngaere Blair, agrees. "As a new

student, you don't have to know exactly what you want to do after you graduate, but having a sense of the options available to you can make it easier to choose your courses and take advantage of relevant internship and work experience opportunities," she says.

"We encourage students to get first-hand knowledge and experience in their chosen industry, as it helps clarify if they want to pursue a full-time career in that industry."

According to Ms Blair, employers tend to look for not only work experience, but also life experience, such as overseas travel, community interaction and communication skills.

Building practical life experience while studying allows students to build confidence in their abilities, as well as industry and employer contacts – the networks which become invaluable when graduation approaches.

"The Internet has become a great tool for job research, but students need to remember that jobs are not always advertised – they need to form networks, talk to employers and seek out opportunities," says

Ms Blair. "They need to be as proactive as possible."

Careers and Employment Services regularly work with Sunshine Coast and Brisbane-based businesses to discuss graduate employment opportunities and publicise advertised positions to students.

"We also hold career planning seminars, information evenings and business industry functions," says Ms Blair. "Business owners tend to have as many questions about graduate employment as the students do; so these functions are great in helping clarify how graduates can suit their businesses, and what businesses are looking for in graduates."

Students are encouraged to visit the University's CareerHub website at <<https://my.usc.edu.au/careerhub>> to register a profile, look for advertised jobs, read the latest employment news, and find other useful Internet sites.

The Careers Area (in DG.49) is also open to students and is a source of information on postgraduate study, job hunting and resume building tips, working overseas and graduate destinations.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS:

- Personal career counselling
- Career planning and job search workshops
- Resume and job application assistance
- Drop-in appointments
- Graduate employment resources
- Job email notification service
- Careers Area including graduate resources and computers [DG.49]
- Career Hub - an online student employment career site <my.usc.edu.au>

SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS AND RECRUITERS:

- Promote casual or graduate jobs free of charge
- Provide employment / company information to students
- Arrange contact between students and employers
- Provide contact for arranging internships / work experience for students

For more information, contact Careers and Employment Services on +61 7 5430 1226 or email > careersandemployment@usc.edu.au



Adam Stepcich and Ngaere Blair, offering students advice on career options.



Student support a priority at USC

With more than half of USC students the first in their family to attend university, and a high proportion of mature-aged students returning to study after years in the workforce, student support services play a crucial role at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

A variety of support services are available to both new and continuing students to help them adjust to, and progress through, the university experience, such as academic support and financial assistance, career and counselling services, and disability and indigenous support.

"Students need support in a range of areas – not just in study skills," says Student Affairs Director Sue Carlos. "The greatest benefit for students is the accessibility of our support services – being a smaller campus community means that students have easier access to support."

Several new services were created last year. "We expand our service offerings year on year and are guided by staff and student feedback," says Ms Carlos.

Student Services now coordinates the following support services:

- Transition Program
- First Year Experience Program (see story on page 3)
- Student Mentor Program (see story on this page)
- Enabling Courses
- Academic Skills Services (see story on this page)
- Counselling Service

- Disability Support
- English Language Support
- Indigenous Student Support
- Careers Service (story opposite)
- International Student Services
- Financial Assistance (see stories on page 9)

Student Mentors helping first year students adjust

A successful program which is particularly helpful for new students at the University is the Student Mentor Program.

Student mentors – generally second- and third-year students – provide a friendly face for first year students. Mentors run guided campus tours during Orientation Week, and are available throughout the year to answer questions on university life, refer students to services within USC and provide first-hand advice.

"Our student mentors are trained in communication, leadership, the University's resources and the key concerns of first-year students," says Academic Skills Adviser and coordinator of the Student Mentor Program Margot Reeh.

"They are students who are committed to USC and have a positive attitude towards helping others."

Responsible for helping students develop their academic skills, Ms Reeh offers one-on-one study advice to students, and holds workshops on essay writing, report

writing, editing, exam preparation and analytical skills throughout the academic year.

"It is important for students to know there is a wide range of support services available to assist them," says Ms Reeh, "and that these services are available during the entire academic year."

Student Services are now taking applications from second- and third-year students interested in becoming Student Mentors. Students can find information about the Mentor Program on the Student Intranet <<http://my.usc.edu.au>> or by contacting Student Services on +61 7 5430 1226.

The Student Mentor Program is funded by the USC Student Guild.

The lighter side of university life

Students are encouraged to make the most of their university experience and get involved in the social activities on offer at the University.

There are sporting teams such as rugby union and volleyball; clubs and societies; and social events including movie nights and live bands; to provide opportunities for students to meet, mingle and have fun.

Many of these activities are organised by the USC Student Guild. Run by students, the USC Student Guild's main goal is to help make students' time at the University of the Sunshine Coast more enjoyable. The Student Guild provides essential non-academic services such as sporting, cultural and social activities.

The Student Guild provides the following services to students:

- student discounts, promotions, competitions and complimentary tickets
- free student diary, magazine, newsletters and email bulletin
- regular entertainment and events, such as performances by local bands, and subsidised pizza and BBQ lunches
- access to intervarsity sporting competitions as well as local and on-campus sports, clubs and societies
- exciting new recreation program
- ATM
- student advocacy and representation
- representation with national bodies
- provision of general information for students
- accommodation, tutoring and 'for sale' listings
- 'car pool' listing and public transport timetables
- free student accident insurance
- referrals to solicitors for free legal advice
- short-term student emergency loans (conditions apply)
- emergency accommodation referrals
- employment and work experience listings
- discounted photocopying, scanning, printing, fax and phone services

For more information about how to get involved, contact the Student Guild on +61 7 5430 1272, email <studentguild@usc.edu.au> or visit the website <www.uscstudentguild.com.au>.

THERE'S NOTHING SO PRACTICAL AS A GOOD DEGREE

Innovation Centre provides students with practical experience

Businesses based at the Innovation Centre are giving University of the Sunshine Coast students the opportunity to gain on-the-job experience and business know-how.

Four business students recently went beyond the call of duty, working during their university exam period and Christmas holidays as market testers for client company Calthapharm® Australia Limited.

The students undertook a variety of marketing tasks to ascertain consumer and retailer acceptance of Calthapharm's flagship product, Q-daily®. Q-daily is a range of specially formulated products which provide complete and natural sources of vital nutrients, sourced from locally grown fruits and vegetables.

"The students attended the retailer training evening, and conducted in-store market research and product sampling,"

says Calthapharm director Sara Brewer. "They displayed excellent commitment, attending every week, and consumers responded to them well, which enabled us to collect useful data."

The students have gained a lot of practical experience from the exercise, according to intern and Bachelor of Business (International Business) student Brad Donovan.

"It was a great experience," he says. "I never expected work experience to be as enjoyable as this was, and it gave us an excellent opportunity to participate in market testing for a new product.

"Internships are a valuable part of our studies – the University should encourage even more of it among local businesses."

Ms Brewer came across the four enthusiastic students while attending a Business Students' Careers Forum organised by the University last year.

She used the opportunity to call

for volunteers during her presentation, and students Shaun Denaro and Jamie Holland responded. Brad Donovan and Jon Dunkley came on board the project after having previously worked with Calthapharm on a university assignment.

The students were congratulated on their hard work and dedication by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Thomas, and Dean of the Faculty of Business, Professor Deborah Ralston.

"This kind of interaction between business and the University is so important to the students' learning experiences," says Professor Ralston.

The Innovation Centre has a strong history of internships – the Innovation Centre administration has used USC student interns, and software developers Typéfi at one stage had around a dozen students working on software testing. Kook Multimedia has used high school

trainees – one was recently employed by the company as a software programmer.

INNOVATION CENTRE CELEBRATES THIRD BIRTHDAY

The University's Innovation Centre celebrated its third birthday on February 7. The business incubator has already reached 71 per cent occupancy of its expanded space within six months of opening the second stage of the facility in July 2004, and currently has more than 50 people working in the Centre. With a growing range of client companies operating in fields such as software development, multimedia and web management, IT and nutraceuticals, the Innovation Centre is increasingly being recognised as a hub for technology businesses on the Sunshine Coast.

Strong links between the Innovation Centre, client companies, and the University provide students with valuable business experience: Dean of the Faculty of Business Professor Deborah Ralston with business students and Calthapharm interns (left to right) Brad Donovan, Jamie Holland, Shaun Denaro, and Jon Dunkley.

Photo courtesy Sunshine Coast Daily.



CBAD student awarded ADFAS scholarship

New and continuing students are being encouraged to apply for the wide array of scholarships, bursaries and prizes available at the University.

An expressive style and enthusiastic attitude helped student Max Duff to win the \$3500 ADFAS (Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society) scholarship last year.

Mr Duff, a third year Computer-Based Art and Design student, believes winning the scholarship has developed his confidence and defined his career direction.

"I'd never applied for a scholarship before and thought I'd give it a go," says Mr Duff. "It was a scholarship in an area that really interested me, plus it had internship experience included."

The ADFAS Scholarship is offered by the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society Sunshine Coast division, and is awarded to a student in either the Bachelor of Arts (Computer-Based Art and Design) or (Design and Communication) at the University.

Winning the scholarship aided Mr Duff greatly in his studies, with the funds received enabling him to buy industry-standard computer-based art and design equipment.

The ADFAS scholarship also includes funding for the student to complete a curatorial internship in the University Art Gallery.

"I worked in the set-up of art exhibitions and exhibition openings and promotion," says Mr Duff. "I also used my design skills throughout the year, designing a gallery newsletter and exhibition flyers."

"Experience is a designer's most valuable asset, and the most important thing to have when looking for a job."

Mr Duff is now working towards completing his studies and pursuing a career in graphic design in the industry of extreme sports.

"Extreme sports and freestyle moto-x is where my passion lies," says Mr Duff. "There is a strong bond between extreme sports and art and design, as it all comes down to expressing your own style. I consider creating a beautiful piece of artwork to be on the same level as landing a super

Max Duff, third year CBAD student, received an ADFAS Scholarship which includes an curatorial internship at the University Art Gallery.



smooth 360 down at the local skate park. It's all just a way of expressing my style I guess!"

University Scholarships Officer Barb Palmer says there are plenty of scholarship recipients like Mr Duff who can attest to the positive experiences a scholarship can offer.

"We encourage all students to investigate any scholarship opportunities which might be open to them," says Ms Palmer. "There is a perception that scholarships are only for academically gifted students, but in fact scholarships and bursaries are available to a broad range of students and on a range of eligibility criteria."

Students can contact the Scholarships Officer on +61 7 5459 4520 or email <bpalmer@usc.edu.au>.

Businesses pitch in to assist students

Local business identity John Shadforth has banded together with fellow business colleagues and friends to find a way of providing financial support to University students.

The Scholarship Fund is the successful result, which currently provides scholarships to business students.

"Not everyone can afford to give \$3500 each year for a student scholarship, so John asked a group of people to give to a common fund," explains University Foundation Executive Officer Andrew Pentland. "The Scholarship Fund is a very proactive approach to making student support more accessible to our community."

Ten businesses and business operators have so far donated \$9500 to the fund, and Mr Shadforth says he was pleased by the response of his colleagues and friends.

"Being able to support students over the course of their studies is very rewarding, and I welcome others in the community to participate."

Brendan Powell, USC Indigenous Services Coordinator, is studying for an MBA this year.



Two Bachelor of Business students, Joanne Bates and Dallas Siddals, are recent recipients of the scholarships. The scholarships are available to second year business students.

GIVING TO USC

There are more than 200 bursaries, scholarships and prizes (including Commonwealth Learning Scholarships) on offer to USC students in 2005.

These gifts provide financial support to undergraduate and postgraduate students, and are generally awarded on either financial need and/or academic merit.

There are many different ways local businesses and the community can help support the University and its students.

For more information, contact the University Foundation on +61 7 5430 1104 or email <apentlan@usc.edu.au>.

Indigenous staff scholarship

Brendan Powell, Indigenous Services Coordinator with Student Services, has been awarded one of only five national Indigenous Staff Scholarships by DEST (Department of Education, Science and Training).

The scholarship enables Mr Powell to take leave to undertake 12 months full-time postgraduate study. He commenced an MBA (Master of Business Administration) on campus in February.

The scholarship, with an annual value of \$31,000, is one of the largest scholarships awarded to any student at USC.

"Indigenous services and student numbers are growing so quickly that I felt I needed some sort of business training behind me," says Mr Powell. "In gaining an MBA I'm hoping to be able to one day manage USC's own indigenous unit."

"It's a little daunting returning to full-time study after seven years, but I couldn't pass up such a great opportunity. I am getting strong

Melanie Syron, acting Indigenous Services Coordinator.



support from USC, in terms of allowing me to take 12 months off on study leave."

DEST awards the scholarship based on two primary selection criteria:

- The extent to which applicants have actively encouraged Indigenous students to participate in higher education and complete their course; and
- The extent to which applicants have demonstrated leadership with regard to Indigenous issues within the higher education sector.

INDIGENOUS SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT AT USC

Indigenous students at the University are encouraged to apply for several indigenous scholarships, including:

- Zonta Club of Caloundra Indigenous Bursary – this is provided to a first-year female student, coming to the University as a school-leaver. The bursary is awarded on academic success and financial need.
- Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW) Sunshine Coast branch offer up to eight bursaries to second-year and third-year female students, with one bursary of \$1,000 available to an indigenous student.
- Indigenous students are also encouraged to apply for the Commonwealth Learning Scholarship. There are several on offer, which are aimed at assisting with the cost of education and in some cases, accommodation.

For more information on these and other scholarships available to students at the University, contact the Scholarships Officer on +61 7 5459 4520 or email <bpalmer@usc.edu.au>.

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENT

Melanie Syron will be acting Indigenous Services Coordinator while Mr Powell is on study leave.

Ms Syron can be contacted on +61 7 5459 4439 or via Student Services.

ORIENTATION WEEK 2005

Orientation Week 2005 was a huge success with more than 900 people attending the welcome session in the Innovation Centre.

During the week, new students signed up to sporting teams, attended workshops on study skills and strategies for coping with university life, and were welcomed to their faculties with a series of induction and information sessions.

Students also enjoyed the bands, sporting events and free BBQs.

NEW STUDENTS SNAPSHOT*

Total	1684
Females	1080
Males	604
Aged under 20	67%
Aged 21 and over	33%
First in family to attend university	52%
From the Sunshine Coast	1124
From Brisbane	169
From interstate	74
From overseas (total)	230
From USA	118
Have OP 1 to 10	39%

TOP 10 PROGRAMS BY ENROLMENT

BSc (Sport and Exercise Science)	119
Bachelor of Education/Arts	91
Bachelor of Business	88
Bachelor of Arts	85
BA (Communication)	78
BBus (Accounting)	78
Bachelor of Education/Science	77
BBus (Tourism)	65
BA (Computer-Based Art and Design)	52
BBus (Management)	50



*As at 21 Feb.

Figures do not include new students enrolled in on-line courses, only those attending courses on campus.





Program helps community Keep Pace with education

The University's Keep PACE Program will continue in 2005, with a variety of important information sessions planned for students, their parents, and the community.

Keep PACE, a program for advancing community education, is a series of free information sessions and workshops designed to demystify the tertiary experience.

Nine sessions were held for students, their parents and community members last year, on topics ranging from 'developing your academic writing and study skills' and 'expanding your horizons - opportunities after high school', to 'land the job you want - develop your career skills'.

"Session attendance ranged from six to 130 people in each session," says organiser, External Relations Officer Kylie McKenzie.

"Feedback on the sessions was encouraging, and so in 2005 we will be expanding the career sessions to offer free one-on-one career guidance appointments with our careers and employment staff," says Ms McKenzie.

"Additional sessions have also been scheduled for parents of school leavers keen to gather vital information leading up to the QTAC application process."

The informative sessions, which are open to the public, will be held on campus from March through to December. The first four sessions for 2005 are listed below and the entire calendar of Keep PACE events for 2005 is available at <www.usc.edu.au>.

For more information on Keep PACE or to secure your place,

contact the External Relations Officer on +61 7 5430 1117 or <kmckenzi@usc.edu.au>.

Keep PACE - Hosting international students - becoming a homestay family
March 9 or April 13, 6.30pm

Keep PACE - A taste of university life - Headstart program for Year 11 and 12 students
March 16, 6.30pm

Keep PACE - Taking the big step - choices after high school
April 20, 6.30pm

Keep PACE - Back to school - returning to study
April 27, 6.30pm

School students vying for a headstart

Interest in the University's Headstart program has soared for 2005's student intake, with more than 130 people attending the information evening held late last year.

Since then, around 90 applications have been received from high school students across the Sunshine Coast, making entry into the 2005 program the most competitive yet.

The Headstart Program - a Year 11 and 12 university experience - enables 60 students to study at the University each semester.

"The Headstart Program is designed to create a seamless transition from school to university," says Ms McKenzie.

"The program allows Year 11 and 12 students to complete accredited undergraduate university courses while still at school."

The number is capped to 60 entrants to maintain the high quality of service offered to the Headstart students.

Emma Gibbs, a Sunshine Beach State High School Year 12 student, is in her second semester of study at USC as part of the Headstart Program.



Dawn Oelrich, Art Gallery Curator



Entry to the program is based on academic and personal achievements, and results show that 36 per cent of Headstart students receive grades of Distinction or High Distinction during their time at USC.

QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre) application statistics show that 90 per cent of the University's Headstart students in 2004 went on to apply for a place at university.

"This is significant, as the primary aim of the program is to aid students' transition to, and uptake of, university study," says Ms McKenzie.

"Parents and teachers have commented on the improved confidence and maturity of Headstart students since participating in the program, with some students significantly improving their academic results at high school as a result of their participation in the program."

More schools than ever are participating in Headstart this year, with 18 high schools between Caboolture and Gympie taking part in the program.

A HEADSTART ON THE FACTS

- fifty-two courses on offer across three faculties
- eight scholarships available each semester (three on financial merit, three on academic merit, two on indigenous status)
- guaranteed entry to any USC degree on successful completion of two Headstart courses
- \$375 per course - this fee is heavily subsidised by the University
- students attend (on average) three hours of lectures and tutorials each week
- applications for Semester 2, 2005 close on April 29

Contact the External Relations Officer on +61 7 5430 1117 for more information

New Gallery Curator

Dawn Oelrich was welcomed as the University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery's new curator in January.

Ms Oelrich was previously based at Redcliffe City Council, where she coordinated the shire's art gallery for eight years.

Ms Oelrich has planned a vibrant and diverse exhibition program for the University Gallery in 2005, with the first exhibition, the Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award (JADA), opened on February 24.

See page 12 for the Semester 1 Gallery program.

Speechcraft course

An eight-week introductory course on the art of public speaking will be run by the University of the Sunshine Coast Toastmasters Club commencing February 25.

The aim of the course is to encourage better listening, thinking and speaking skills, and improve confidence in public-speaking situations. Those who complete the course will earn credit for the first three speeches in the Toastmasters Communication and Leadership manual, should they choose to become a member of the Toastmasters Club.

University staff, students and members of the community are invited to attend the course on campus. The cost is \$50, which includes course material and the eight learning sessions.

For further information contact John Kay on +61 7 5493 2406 or Gai van Hees on +61 7 5445 2213.

CALENDAR

EXHIBITIONS

More than 7000 people visited the array of exhibitions at the University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery in 2004.

2005 is set to be another big year, with a vibrant program of arts and culture planned from February to November.

Semester One Exhibition Dates

- 24 FEB – 2 APR** Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award
7 APR – 30 APR Boom Baby Boom
5 MAY – 4 JUN MCA Unpacked II
9 JUN – 24 JUN Student Exhibition

HOURS (DURING EXHIBITIONS):

Monday-Friday 10am-4pm; Saturday 1pm-4pm.
Closed Sundays and public holidays.

COST:

Admission is free and the public is welcome. School and community group tours can also be arranged.

MAILING LIST:

If you would like to be included on our mailing list of gallery events please contact Di Southwell on +61 7 5430 1104 or <dsouthwe@usc.edu.au> for further details.

University of the Sunshine Coast 2005 Gallery Exhibition Program proudly supported by Coastline BMW.



Peter Atkins, *Death in Venice (Black Crow Painting-Venetian Harbour)*, 1991, oil on tarpaulin, 215.0x204.5, Museum of Contemporary Art, gift of Loti Smorgon and Victor Smorgon, 1995.

From MCA Unpacked.

Photo: Paul Green, © the artist.

Academic Dates in 2005

SEMESTER 1: 21 FEB – 19 JUN

Orientation:	14 – 18 Feb
Census date:	24 Mar
Intra-semester break:	28 Mar – 3 Apr
Exam preparation:	30 May – 1 Jun
Exams:	2 – 19 Jun
Inter-semester break:	20 Jun – 17 Jul

SEMESTER 2: 18 JUL – 20 NOV

Orientation:	13 – 15 Jul
Census date:	19 Aug
Intra-semester break:	19 Sep – 2 Oct
Exam preparation:	31 Oct – 2 Nov
Exams:	3 – 20 Nov

JUNE/JULY INTENSIVE SEMESTER: 1 JUN – 8 JUL

Census date:	16 Jun
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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SUMMER SEMESTER: 28 NOV 2005 – 10 FEB 2006

Census date:	16 December
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University Events in 2005

Graduation:	31 Mar
Voices on the Coast Literature Festival:	30 May – 4 Jun
Guidance Officer Orientation Day:	3 Jun
TSXPO (Tertiary Studies Expo) in Brisbane:	16 – 17 Jul
Sunshine Coast Careers Expo in Buderim:	19 Jul
Courses for Careers Day:	21 Aug
Schools Excellence Expo:	21 Aug
Voices Plus:	21 Aug