Welcome

Welcome back to the latest edition of the USC Gympie student newsletter, Quest, which will bring you up to date with all the news and services available for students in semester two, 2015.

With the year already half begun, we are now on the home stretch for students who will be completing their last semester at USC Gympie.

On behalf of myself, our administrative staff and academic team I’d like to wish you all the best of luck for your new careers and thank you for being part of USC Gympie’s journey as a growing and flourishing university campus.

At USC Gympie we are proud to welcome students from all backgrounds and fields so it is fantastic to see the inclusion in this edition of a mother/daughter student team who are both fulfilling dreams to become nurses.

Teresa and Samantha Brough are former Tertiary Preparation Pathway (TPP) students and it is rewarding to see how far they have come on their journey.

We finished Semester one 2015 with 217 individual students taking at least one course here at USC Gympie, representing an increase of 50 percent in our student numbers compared to the same period last year. This is putting pressure on our room allocations, and is one of the reasons why we recently increased the capacity of GY.G.17 to 30 students. There are also plans to relocate the ‘PC lab’ to a different room in order to be able to open the concertina door between GY.G.16 and GY.G.17 if needed.

USC Gympie is here to serve the regional community so please help to spread the word that all are welcome and our friendly reception staff are always happy to discuss information about our wide range of study options.

Welcome back everyone and on behalf of the entire USC Gympie team we hope you have a great semester!

Graham Young

A local inspiration lives on

As USC Gympie kicks off the last semester of study for many students it seems fitting to pay tribute to acclaimed artist Craig Medson, who has provided inspiration both locally and internationally.

Many students will be familiar with his Winged Quest three-metre sculpture, which welcomes students as they enter the campus and also formed the inspiration for the name of the USC Gympie Student Newsletter, Quest.

Mr Medson unfortunately died earlier this year following a highly successful career, leaving behind a legacy of breathtaking pieces.

USC Gympie General Manager Graham Young said the campus felt honoured to be home to one of Medson’s most recent works.

“The Winged Quest sculpture was carefully chosen for our campus as many of our students are on a quest to find not only themselves but also to fulfil their dreams,” he said.

“So it is fitting we have a Winged Quest greeting students to inspire them and remind them to aim high.”

Mr Medson is renowned for his skills in using marble, basalt, sandstone, bronze and stainless steel to create rhythmic works that defy the weight of the stone.

His pieces reflected harmony and often included moveable parts such as balancing giant stone pieces so they could be easily moved with one hand.

“While we are greatly saddened by Mr Medson’s death we also feel privileged to be one of the many locations to display his works to the public,” Mr Young said.

As a pioneering Queensland artist, Mr Medson participated in Sculpture Symposia in France, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Japan and Korea.

In 2005 he and his sculptor partner Fiona McCarron coordinated the Maroochy Botanic Garden Symposium, which led to the creation of the Maroochy Sculpture Walk at the Garden.

During that time, a highly successful small-scale sculpture exhibition was also held at the USC Gallery at Sippy Downs attracting thousands of visitors and international artists from Japan, Korea, France, Spain and Europe.

One of his earlier works, High Order, a sandstone and bronze sculpture will also continue to be on display at the USC Sippy Downs Campus.
A family who studies together, gets ahead together

When it comes to studying, two heads are better than one and this couldn’t be more true than for Teresa Brough and her daughter Samantha.

The pair are currently studying a Bachelor of Nursing Science at the University of the Sunshine Coast Gympie after completing the Tertiary Preparation Pathway Program (TPP) in 2014.

TPP provides the skills and knowledge needed for students to succeed in undergraduate degrees.

The mother and daughter student team have just finished their second semester in Nursing Science and both are finding it a rewarding and challenging experience so far.

"It's incredibly satisfying to share a passion with my daughter and I'm very proud to see her doing well," Teresa said.

"There's definitely an advantage to having someone else under the one roof also studying nursing.

"We can bounce ideas off each other and help one another to understand some of the more difficult concepts."

Teresa is juggling her part-time study commitments with a full-time job as an AIN at Blue Care's Winston House Aged Care Facility and said the convenience of USC Gympie was vital.

"There is no way I could have done TPP or studied as well as shift work without USC Gympie. I would have had to study externally, so I'm very lucky," she said.

Samantha who finished at Gympie State High School in 2012 juggles part-time work with her full-time nursing sciences courses.

USC Gympie Manager Graham Young said USC Gympie is home to many TPP study success stories and is pleased to see the mother and daughter duo doing well.

"USC Gympie attracts a range of students from mature age to recent school leavers and it is wonderful to see how transformational study can be for students especially those from the same family," he said.

"I wish Teresa and Samantha all the best in their studies and look forward to seeing their progress."

A passion for understanding

For USC Gympie Social Sciences student Anne-maree Clark, educating children with special needs is not enough, she wants to understand and help them as well.

Anne-maree's drive to help has led to her enrolling in a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Psychology at USC Gympie.

She said she chose to study at USC Gympie because it provided the ideal transition to life as a student.

"Going back to study as a mature age student is always daunting and USC Gympie is a friendly environment to make that transition," she said.

"I've always wanted to do more with my work and dream of one day doing child psychology or guidance counselling."

"I feel so very lucky to have USC Gympie right on my door step. Study simply wouldn't have been an option for me if it had not been located locally."

Anne-maree said after surviving her first semester of full-time study there is no stopping her and encouraged others to give it a go.

"There is no harm in trying something new and venturing into unchartered territory, you never know what you are capable of until you try," she said.

A helping hand behind the scenes

A life behind the scenes at USC Gympie's state of the art teaching facility is just the ticket for laboratory technician, Shirley Callaghan.

Shirley is responsible for preparing practical classes including the maintenance of equipment, conducting test runs of experiments and maintaining a safe work and teaching environment for students and teachers alike.

With a diverse scientific and academic background including an honours degree in zoology and a post-graduate diploma in education, Shirley feels at home working on the campus.

"I love science and in the two years I have been working at USC Gympie I can say no day is ever the same," she said.

"I enjoy supporting the academic staff in their teaching roles and providing a high quality practical experience for students."

Shirley has worked in a range of scientific fields including molecular biology and histology in addition to roles as a high school teacher and at other laboratories.

"I feel very lucky to have such a high quality university located on its doorstep," Shirley said.

"It's not only convenient to be so close to my place of employment it's also very rewarding to see the local community grow, learn and develop from the opportunities offered at USC Gympie."
The IT Insight

New semester, new IT headaches? Well it doesn’t have to be at USC Gympie. Here are a few IT tips and tricks from the experts to ensure your return to study for semester two is a breeze.

WIFI Connecting to the USC Gympie building WIFI can be completed by visiting wireless.usc.edu.au on your device and following the set up instructions. If you require technical assistance with connecting you can use the virtual IT helpdesk located in the student common area on the ground floor.

Student Printing Students have access to an A4 black and white and colour printer, photocopier and scanner in the USC Gympie building. However in order to use these you will need to add student printing credit to your account. To add credit to your student account using a Master/Visa card, visit www.usc.edu.au and then go to the log in section and select online payments. For larger print jobs you can order these online by going to student printing online under the log-in section.

Student IT assistance You can use the virtual IT helpdesk in the student common area to get support to troubleshoot issues with your personal devices such as Laptops and iPads. You can also use the telephone located amongst the three student PCs in this area to call the Student IT Helpdesk on ext 4455. For hands on assistance keep an eye out for our student IT Connector on Welcome Day and during weeks 1 and 2 of semester. Hint: look for the bright orange shirt!

Still stuck? Come and see one of our staff at Reception and we’ll do our best to help you.

Students and staff won’t be the only ones visiting USC Gympie campus if the university has its way, with a resident frog pond recently completed on the site.

The frog pond is intended to be home to an array of local aquatic and bird life and is fed by the university’s rain tanks.

The pond will adjoin part of the proposed USC Gympie Buranga Garden Cultural Space, to be located behind the campus.

USC Gympie General Manager Graham Young said the frog pond was a reflection of USC Gympie’s commitment to providing a sustainable study environment for students and staff.

“As well as providing a lovely, calm presence for students, the pond will also provide a much needed water source for the local aquatic and bird life,” he said.

“It is part of our commitment to harmoniously existing with our local, native wildlife and to developing a space where students can interact with the environment.

“It complements the wildlife breeding boxes we recently established on the trees in the bush behind the main building”

Finding liberation in education

For USC Gympie Social Sciences student, Cornelia Dighton, the minds of criminals have proven to be the inspiration for the ultimate career change.

A former high flyer in the business and corporate world, Cornelia decided to swap suits for study books with the help of USC Gympie’s Tertiary Preparation Pathway course.

Cornelia said she never would have even considered it if USC Gympie hadn’t been on her doorstep.

“I love the feel of the campus, it’s so convenient and not overwhelming,” she said.

“Students are able to have a more intimate and engaged study experience, allowing you to develop better relationships with lecturers and tutors.

“I never would have considered going back to university if USC Gympie hadn’t made it so easy to do so, and now I absolutely love it.”

Cornelia said she is focused on majoring in criminology and wants to understand why criminals behave and act the way they do.

“I am interested in trying to understand how a criminal’s mind operates and most importantly how to anticipate or prevent future tragedies”, she said.

“If anyone is thinking about making a change and considering going back to study I say just do it.

“There is liberation in education and the best advice I’ve ever been given is to just feel the fear and do it anyway.”
Student exam tips

When it comes to exam time it's easy to fall into a panic and not know where to start. A few students who have been there before have provided some tips and insights for those who are starting their first semester or are already feeling unsure about the semester ahead.

Anita Dakin
Bachelor of Business / Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)
• Take as many notes as possible during lectures. Listen for hints and clues and link them to exam review study sessions and highlight key objectives.
• Sleep. Make sure you get a good night’s sleep the night before. If you don’t have sleep you can’t concentrate.
• Study groups — participate in study groups and talk to the rest of the class. Sometimes you can explain things better to each other or differently and it can be understood more clearly.

Michelle Walker
Bachelor of Primary Education
• Make sure if you don’t understand something, don’t hesitate to clarify it with the lecturer.
• You can record exam notes on your mobile phone and listen to them while doing something else or play them on car stereo if you have blue tooth.
• Lots and lots of coffee and chocolate for the sugar boost.
• If for some reason you are late beginning study don’t stress, just make a start and read notes right up to exam. Literally! You might be surprised by how much you remember!

Kitrina Smedes
Bachelor of Nursing Science
• List the learning objectives from each lecture slide and answer them with dot points and make sure you prioritise the list.
• Make a list of all new words learnt in the semester in alphabetical order, define them and have someone ask you what each means. Visualise the words and reduce the list as you answer each correctly. Trust your recall.
• Print diagrams out in vivid colour and read them twice a day in a routine. Eg put in the bathroom and over sink or next to the front door and look at them and memorise them daily.
• Start studying early so you can sleep well the night before the exam. Your recall will be drastically reduced without sleep.

Events and key dates

There are plenty of upcoming events and important dates for students in Semester 2 2015—these include:

Key Dates
• Classes Commence
  27 July
• Last day to swap/change class
  7 August
• Fee due date
  14 August
• Census date
  (last day to cancel/withdraw from study without incurring a financial penalty)
  28 August
• Headstart evening
  8 September
• Last day to cancel/withdraw from study without incurring an Academic Penalty
  25 September
• Mid Semester Break
  28 September–2 October
• Student Lunch
  TBC
• Central Exam period
  9–20 November