GUC Board announces new Director

The GUC Board has announced that Natalie Nelmes will succeed Meredith Wills as the next Director of the GUC.

With Meredith set to retire at the end of 2014, the Board has just completed a rigorous recruitment and selection process which attracted applicants from throughout Australia and beyond.

“We’re delighted to announce that after this very competitive process, Natalie Nelmes has been selected as the next Director of the GUC,” Chair Steve Douglas said.

“The Selection Panel was unanimous in its view that Natalie was the standout candidate who exceeded all criteria for the role and the GUC Board has absolute confidence that she will maintain and grow the supportive culture of the GUC that was so ably created under the leadership of Director Meredith Wills.”

Natalie’s appointment is effective from 1 January 2015.

“I’m passionate about the opportunities GUC provides to our community and about our Mid West community itself,” Natalie said.

“I have been fortunate in my five years at GUC to have worked closely with the Board, Director Meredith Wills, all GUC staff, our students, our partner universities and key community stakeholders to build the knowledge and foster the relationships necessary to guide the future of this great local institution.

“I’m very much looking forward to the challenge to lead GUC on our continued path to sustainability and further extend the opportunities we provide for our community.”

Meredith said she was delighted that she would be leaving the GUC in safe hands.

“I’ve given my heart and soul to GUC and know that Natalie also shares the same values,” she said.

“We’ve been conscious of succession planning for some time so I know there will be a smooth transition for staff, students and all our stakeholders.”

GUC will celebrate Meredith’s outstanding contribution to the GUC toward the end of November.

Accounting students to graduate

The first of our accounting students are set to graduate!

Dave Bergin and Jason Turner were two of the inaugural students to begin their Accounting Degree when a new partnership was formed with CQUniversity in 2011.

The students have since seen the program continue to grow in size and recognition, forming one of the strongest cohorts of students at the GUC.

The program is recognised within industry circles across the Mid West, providing its students with relevant learning materials coupled with hands on experience.

“I’m thrilled to be nearing completion of this degree. It was certainly a great opportunity to be able to complete it with the flexible benefits of remote on-line delivery from CQU, combined with the structure and support of local tutors at GUC, an ideal platform for a part time student balancing study with other commitments,” Dave said.

“I’ve gained a lot of knowledge through the degree, that will benefit my career and am very grateful to GUC for the support they’ve given me along this journey.”

Accounting tutor Jacinta Potts and fellow students Robyn Zadow and Rachel Smyth congratulate Jason Turner.

Right: Dave Bergin
Education students get the edge with CMS program

The Geraldton Universities Student Squad, also known as GUSS, has recently formed in an effort to enrich the university experience of the students of the GUC.

The GUSS launch was celebrated with a sausage sizzle and a night of fun and games. Thanks to all of the students who attended this launch.

Hopefully we will see more faces at our next social event.

Keep up to date with GUSS by having a look at the noticeboard located in the student kitchen or by joining the GUSS Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/GUC.GUSS or emailing GUSS on guss@guc.edu.au.

Knowledge and skills in the management of student classroom behaviour is the topic of discussion during a three phase program for GUC education students.

The GUC initiated program is being conducted by accredited WA Department of Education consultants and teachers, with the aim of providing students with foundation strategies needed for effective teaching and learning in a positive classroom environment.

The high standard of presentation during a recent workshop was commended by both academic staff and students of the GUC, with Education Coordinator Dr. Mort Harslett saying, “The material covered was highly relevant to those students set to complete their term 4 practicum, and gives students an opportunity to connect their practice to theory learnt during their course.”

The upcoming phase two of the program will allow students to observe expert teachers in action in the classroom.

Students then have the opportunity to have a one-on-one session with the teacher to discuss what they saw during their observation.

Principals and teachers of Geraldton schools have responded positively to the program.

Engineering student receives Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarship

GUC Engineering student Matthew Harp has been awarded the University of Southern Queensland's Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarship.

Assisted by Aboriginal Student Support Officer at the GUC Tiambra Calvin, Matthew filled in the application and was thrilled to discover he was successful.

Tiambra reinforced the importance and significance to students of applying for scholarships when they arise.

“All universities offer scholarships to their students with different criteria that can provide financial assistance during study,” she said.

“But we also must not forget the Hollomby Foundation’s scholarship program and their strong support of our local students studying at the GUC.”

GUC Director Meredith Wills congratulated Matthew on his application to his studies and said the scholarship win was well deserved.

For further information on scholarships available at the GUC visit www.guc.edu.au/students_scholarships.aspx.
Students enjoy new campus amenities

GUC students have been enjoying spending more time at the GUC since the arrival of a variety of new furniture this month.

The GUC’s new look library has proved a big hit with students providing them with an additional study area.

The library includes a brand new work station complete with study lamps and seating to ensure students can utilise the area effectively. Also inside both buildings are new two and three seater couches, featured at the end of each corridor and in the student kitchen.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:
Interested in being a part of this year’s Sunshine Festival parade representing GUC? Email guss@guc.edu.au to get on board!

TUTOR in Profile

The GUC is fortunate to have many highly qualified and experienced people to tutor in the programs we support from a range of universities. This column will provide you with an insight into one of these tutors each newsletter.

Gabrielle Bracks

The GUC welcomed Gabby, our tutor for Business Law, to the GUC Academic team this year.

With more than 15 years of commercial law experience behind her, Gabby is now sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience with her Business students.

Beginning her law career in Perth, Gabby worked in commercial litigation for seven years before moving with her family to Geraldton in 2001.

She spent more than 10 years in local law firm Ruby and Associates Lawyers, which saw her handle civil matters, commercial advisory work and commercial drafting.

A change of direction saw Gabby join start-up company Hit Nitz 4 6 Pty Ltd, which was sold to a larger company in December 2013.

Gabby said her tutor role at the GUC has given her the opportunity to share her law experience with the students.

“I have really enjoyed my role at the GUC and being able to give back to the business students in the classroom,” she said.

“The business degree is one which is very relevant in today’s workplace and sees a variety of students from different backgrounds completing the course.

“I have always enjoyed tutoring and to be able to watch as the students grow within their degree and subsequently their careers, is a very rewarding experience.”
Nursing scholarships awarded thanks to Hollomby Foundation

The first scholarships since the commencement of University of Southern Queensland’s Nursing program begun at the GUC in Term 2, have been awarded.

The recipients (pictured above) were awarded the following scholarships as part of the Hollomby Foundation’s Scholarship program:
- Two $5,000 scholarships provided by the Hollomby Foundation awarded to Kylie Crudeli, with the second shared between Eloise Green and Michelle Speldewinde.
- St John of God Hospital Geraldton’s $1,000 scholarship awarded to Aleisha Cragan.
- Rotary Club of Batavia Coast’s $1,000 scholarship was awarded but due to the withdrawal of the student will now be offered again in 2015.

Along with these scholarships, the Hollomby Foundation also supported the first nursing cohort with their travel costs to Toowoomba for their residential schooling in August.

“The cost for this travel would have been a great disincentive for students to enter the new nursing program so the Hollomby Foundation stepped in, generously underwriting travel and accommodation for these students to the overall value of $20,000,” said Natalie Nelmes, Special Projects Manager at GUC.

2015 scholarships will be open for application from November this year.