

TAFE INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the last of the TAFE Industry News from Victoria University for 2009. Stories in this edition include:

- [Bon Apetit!](#)
- [VU & AIG Partner to Skill Business](#)
- [Certificate II in Animal Studies](#)
- [Building Lives Brick by Brick](#)
- [Smooth Sailing](#)
- [Making Technology Teaching Safe](#)
- [World Skills!](#)
- [Spotlight on..... Huu Anh Tran](#)

BON APETIT!

Plans to offer internationally recognised culinary courses in Melbourne's west moved a step closer as Victoria University Vice Chancellor and President Elizabeth Harman and senior staff joined Le Cordon Bleu International CEO and President Monsieur André Cointreau for lunch at VU training restaurant, The Terrace.

The partnership, signed earlier this year, will see two new VU hospitality qualifications, enhanced by Le Cordon Bleu's involvement: a Bachelor of Business (Culinary Management) and an Associate Degree in Culinary Management.



After lunch, architects gave an update on the \$2.7 million worth of new hospitality teaching and training facilities that VU will build at Footscray Nicholson Campus by June 2010 with federal government funding.

Renovations will include a new training restaurant, three state-of-the-art training kitchens, two theatre-style demonstration kitchens, and upgrades to change rooms, cool rooms and service lifts.

The new courses and renovations will strengthen VU's position as one of the country's leading providers of high-level hospitality teaching and training.

To find out more about this program contact Paul Whitelaw, paul.whitelaw@vu.edu.au

VU AND AIG PARTNER TO SKILL BUSINESS

Victoria University and the Australian Industry Group officially joined forces in the Skills for Growth program, with the signing of contracts by Anne Jones for VU and AI Group Director – Victoria, Tim Piper. VU and AI Group have established the separate entity, Skilling Business, for the delivery of workforce planning services to small to medium sized enterprises under the Victorian Government's Skills for Growth program.

The partnership sees AI Group utilising their industry knowledge and membership base to market and disseminate information on the services of Skilling Business, which are provided by specially trained VU staff members.



L to R: Russell Savage, Director, Workforce Development Services, Dr Anne Jones, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Director, TAFE, Rachael Pearce, Skilling Business Specialist, Tim Piper, Director – Victoria, AI Group, Rachel Francis, Skilling Business Coordinator, Alan Maguire, Education and Training Advisor, AI Group, Lee-Anne Fisher, Manager, Policy and Projects, Education and Training, AI Group

CERTIFICATE II IN ANIMAL STUDIES

RSPCA Victoria in partnership with Victoria University launched the Certificate II in Animal Studies.

Based at the RSPCA Burwood East site, the course consists of an intensive face to face week of practical activities and experiential learning. Students are guided through the core units of learning and work alongside specialist RSPCA and Victoria University staff to develop new talents. They have many opportunities to demonstrate and build on their practical skills under the watchful eye of the animal behaviourist, vet nurses, animal attendants and animal care professionals.



A variety of online learning assignments and quizzes help students formalise their knowledge and all this prepares them for 4 days supervised work placement and training in the shelter working along side a trained Shelter staff member.

Feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive – testimonials like “If you love animals and want to learn more about a large variety of animals this is a great course to do”, “definitely do it, it’s a great course” were common.

Designed to develop skilled ethical workers for the animal care industry this course focuses on teaching students basic animal needs including providing clean environments, feeding and some first aid. Additionally generic work skills such as communication, dealing with the public and OH&S are all important components.

The RSPCA Education Department is keen to offer pathways for animal enthusiasts to develop skills and learn best practice care and animal welfare. By developing relationships with organisations that have similar values and goals we are able to ensure we have a workforce of well informed and educated animal care workers well into the future.

To find out more about this program contact **Greg Gordon**, greg.gordon@vu.edu.au

BUILDING NEW LIVES BRICK BY BRICK

Victoria University’s bricklaying pre-apprenticeship is attracting a new group of students – migrants and refugees from Burma and Africa keen to fill a need for workers in the buoyant housing market of Melbourne’s west.



Murray Millar, a teacher of the 16-week bricklaying program at VU’s Newport Campus, said the new students are proving to be talented and committed workers, many of whom are soon snapped up by industry.

“After 16 weeks with us, they learn everything from basic first-aid to masonry blockwork, and they would be a confident asset to any employer,” he said.

With an estimated 4500 newly arrived male refugees residing between Werribee and Broadmeadows, and demand for bricklayers and stonemasons expected to grow in the coming years, Murray can foresee the course increasing even further in popularity.

Sunshine resident Faluku Kengo, 30, from Liberia and Altona North resident Thang Bawi, 22, from Burma, say the course has given them new skills and a good start for their new lives in Australia.

The profession is much more challenging than many people realise, Murray said.

“Bricklaying has flown under the radar, but nine out of ten houses are still constructed with bricks,” he said. “I tell the students that brickies are the last tradesman on a project, and yours is the work that shows.”

VU’s pre-apprenticeship bricklaying program is the only course of its kind in Melbourne’s west. Up to 15 students are taught full-time in two eight-week semesters, which end with a Certificate I and II in bricklaying.

Students can then work as an apprentice with an employer for a further two and a half years before they are fully qualified bricklayers.

The cost of a 16-week course for health care card holders is \$140 and about \$1000 for non-concession.

To find out more about this contact **Murray Millar**, murray.millar@vu.edu.au.

SMOOTH SAILING!

VU is currently training around 600 students over the next 6 months in the ship building industry. BAE Systems in Williamstown who have the contract to build the hulls of new ships and the have engaged VU for their training needs. The program started in October.

To find out more about this program contact David Scott, david.scott@vu.edu.au.

MAKING TECHNOLOGY TEACHING SAFE

VU commenced delivery of course 21820VIC, ‘Safe use of Machinery for Technology Teaching’ in October. This course is a mandatory requirement for all Secondary College teaching staff who work in a technology area. It makes application of relevant OH&S legislation for the teaching environment, assists Technology teachers to recognize unsafe practices and assesses Technology teachers in the safe use of machines.

WORLD SKILLS!

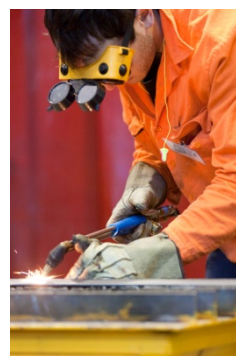
VU recently held three ‘Visit VU’ Events which coincided with the 2009 Regional WorldSkills competitions.

VU hosted the regional competitions which saw competitors from VU and other TAFE organistations compete in Beauty Care, Hairdressing, Sheetmetal work, Welding, Electrical Installation Systems, Signcraft, Plumbing, Construction Steelwork, Bricklaying, Cabinetmaking, Carpentry, Detailed Joinery and Shopfitting.

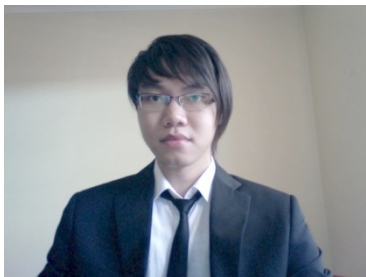
These competitions ran over three full days starting on 18 October at the City King campus followed by Sunshine and Newport campuses.

WorldSkills is a Skill Olympics - anything you can complete an Australian Apprenticeship in is a category in the competition, with International competitions every two years attracting 200,000 visitors with the sole goal of encouraging skill excellence.

Regional Competitions are the first in the two year cycle of events held at TAFEs and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) allowing Australian youth to compete over one day for recognition in up to 50 trades. Winners in 2009 may be eligible to advance to the National Competition to be held in Brisbane in 2010. Winners from the National competitions may be eligible to progress to the International event and represent their country, or are offered scholarships to travel and work overseas.



SPOTLIGHT ON HUU ANH TRAN



For some years now, the ASX (Australian Securities Exchange) has been managing 2 Sharemarket Games, one for Secondary School students and one for the public. VU used a version for several years as a learning tool in Accounting and Financial services courses. Recently, VU has been prevented from using the tool due to a stronger enforcement of the rule that the students should be secondary school students. VU therefore designed a substitute for continual use as a teaching tool?.

This semester, Anh Tran, completing his Advanced Diploma of Accounting, decided to test his knowledge and skill in the Public Sharemarket Game. The game is conducted over a 10 week period; but Anh spent many weeks just studying the market and its behaviour, focussing very strongly over the last two weeks on active trading.

Anh finished in first place within the Victorian sector, involving approximately 4000 participants. While this is an outstanding achievement, he also finished in the top 5 places for the whole of Australia, competing against approximately 14000 participants. For the statistically minded, Anh converted \$50000 into approximately \$67000 in the course of the Game.

VU is very proud of Anh's achievement. And of course, he is over the moon, but very matter of fact about the whole thing. He is very willing to discuss his strategy with anyone willing to listen ! Anh's approach, and his personality to a degree are summed up in his own words:

"Diversified portfolio was another key to minimize the loss when I did not have any idea. Overall, I listened and learned enormously from public ideas. I traded mostly with my feeling which controlling my greed and fear was absolutely a lifetime job. Honestly, luck played a very important part of my game. I truly believed that: The harder I work, the luckier I get!"

Further information on this newsletter or any of the stories; please contact Mina Hilson, mina.hilson@vu.edu.au.