

THE INTERNATIONAL

Charles Darwin University

WELCOME

INTERNATIONAL LUNCH 2009

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It is almost the end of the semester and most of you will have a couple of examination to take before finally having a month off studies. Examination time can be very stressful for many students and if you believe that you need assistance in dealing with the pressure of exam preparation, please feel free to contact CDU's Student Counsellor for a free and confidential meeting. Tony will be able to provide you with tools to assist you in managing your stress.

For hints on examination preparation, please go to page 3 of this newsletter.

Good luck to all of you and congratulations to those completing after this semester.

Vibeke

International Student Facilitator

Every semester the International Office arranges a lunch for all international students and this semester was no exception. Students were treated to an array of delicious international foods as well as the opportunity to meet some community representatives. CDU Student Square was buzzing with excitement as the

students were greeted by our new Vice Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover, who also took the opportunity to meet some of our international students in person. The entertainment was supplied by four international students who showed off their musical skills on stage. Please keep checking your inbox for details on the lunch for semester 2, 2009.



International students queuing up for some of the delicious food

HELPFUL LINKS

- Immigration : www.immi.gov.au
- OSHC Worldcare: www.oshcworldcare.com.au
- Semester dates: www.cdu.edu.au/timetable/docs/2009_dates.pdf
- Tax information: www.ato.gov.au

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION

The National Human Rights Consultation will be in Darwin on June 1. This is an opportunity for you to share your views on human rights and to be heard. All views and ideas from the Consultation will be compiled in a report which will be submitted to the Australian Government. The key Consultation Questions are:

- Which human rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted?
- Are human rights sufficiently protected and promoted?
- How could Australia better protect and promote human rights?

For more information and to register, please visit the [website](#).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PRESENTS RESEARCH AT HARVARD AND MIT



Charles Darwin University PhD candidate Mohamed Elgendi has returned from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA, where he presented papers based on

his research. Mohamed presented three papers at Harvard Medical School before moving on to MIT where he had been invited as a guest speaker by the Laboratory for Computational Physiology. Mohamed said he felt extremely lucky to have presented at such well-known and leading institutions. "My experience at CDU is unbelievable. Two years ago, I was awarded a scholarship from MIT to

attend that Professional Institute's program Data and Models in Engineering, Science and Business, held on the MIT campus," he said. Last year, one of Mohamed's papers was accepted by Stanford University. This year, three papers have been accepted by the Harvard Medical School as well as an invited talk at Harvard-MIT. "The support of my supervisors, Friso De Boer and Mirjam Jonkman

enabled me to publish in the top-ranked bioengineering conference worldwide for which I am most grateful," he said. "I would like to thank Professor Graham Pegg and Associate Professor Karen Gibb for their help to improve the outlook of PhD students at CDU by supporting them to interact with other excellent national and international research centres in the field."

WORKING DURING THE SEMESTER BREAK

The university is on official break from 22/06/2009-19/07/2009; this *should* mean that students are ok to work full-time during this period.

It is strongly recommended that all students check out the work visa conditions on the DIAC [website](#) and remember that it is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you adhere to the conditions. I realise that some of the VET students might have a

longer break - unfortunately the only *official* break is from 22/06-19/07 and students can only work full-time during this period. The same goes for Higher Education students: some may finish their studies earlier i.e. if they don't have any final examination, unfortunately these students can still only work full-time during the *official* semester break.

If you disagree with this, please contact DIAC for

further confirmation, but remember to tell them that the *official* semester/term break is from 22/06-19/07.

Note: Students who are undertaking a Research degree (Masters or PhD) are only allowed to work full-time during their nominated 4 weeks of annual leave. Remember that your Supervisor has to approve this leave in writing.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of the conditions of your visa and the only way to be 100% sure is to check the DIAC website above.

NEWSLETTERS ON THE WEB

If you wish to read earlier versions of the newsletter, it is possible to access them all on the internet.

Simply click [here](#) and scroll down the page until you see 'Newsletters.'

TAX RETURNS

The official tax year finishes on June 30, 2009 and this means that it is time to lodge your tax returns. Some of you may choose to lodge your tax [online](#) and this is a free and simple way of lodging your tax return. If you are unsure of how to do your own taxes, you can contact one of the Tax Agents or Accountants, who for a fee, will lodge the tax return for you. Look in the [Yellow Pages](#) for contact details.

LEGAL SERVICES

Darwin Community Legal Services provides legal advice to NT residents free of charge.

Phone: 8982 1111

Freecall: 1800 812 953

Email: info@dcls.org.au

Website: www.dcls.org.au

Please note that they do not offer advice on migration or criminal matters

HEALTH COVER

CDU does not have a Worldcare representative on campus, but does however, have direct computer access to Worldcare facilities from building Red 4. By using the computer, which will have direct link to the Worldcare website, you will be able to process your claims without having to fill in any forms.

Co-located is a telephone which has a 24 hr direct line to Worldcare for further

assistance. Worldcare has also arranged for Direct Billing from a couple of nearby medical centres which is very beneficial to you (please read below). This means that, provided you visit these participating medical centres, you will no longer have to make any claims; the medical centre will invoice Worldcare directly – all you will need to pay is the gap.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The Following Two Medical Centres Offer Direct Billing:

Night and Day Medical and Dental Surgery

Casuarina Shopping Square. Phone: 8927 1899

Casuarina Family Practice Medical Centre

Casuarina Shopping Square (next to Woolworths).

Phone: 8927 7588

Both These medical centres have both male and female doctors on staff.

If you have a medical emergency, please phone 000 for assistance.

COMPLETION LETTER

If you wish to receive a Completion Letter, please follow the below guidelines carefully and **note** that Completion Letters can not be issued until *after* grade-release date (July 7, 2009).

1. Fill out a Nomination to Graduate [form](#) and submit it to staff at the Uni Information Centre. Please write 'International for visa purposes' on top of the form and highlight it.
2. Once that form has been processed (**this will not happen until after July 7!**) and your course status has changed to 'completed' on the system (you can check this on My Student Info on the CDU website), send an email containing **your full name, student number, course of study, date of birth and postal address to:** internationalsupport@cdu.edu.au. Please write 'Request Letter of Completion' in the subject line of the email
3. When your status has changed on the system, CDU will be able to issue you with a Completion Letter. Note: you will not be issued with a Completion Letter until you have completed your program of study.
4. **Your Completion Letter will be posted to the postal address provided (as above) within 10 working days** unless you explicitly ask for it to be picked up from the Reception, Support & Equity Services, building Blue 1, room 111, Casuarina Campus).

CONTACT DETAILS

It is important that you always remember to keep your address details up to date. This is a visa requirement and failure to keep CDU updated is a direct breach of your visa conditions; any breaches can result in your visa getting cancelled. If you wish to change your address you can do so online by accessing (and changing) your information in [Student Net](#).

FEEDBACK AND SUBMISSIONS

If you have any feedback about this Newsletter or have suggestions on what you would like to read about in the future, please send me an email. I am always open to suggestions and would be pleased to receive some contributions from students; if you would like to write something yourself, please send your submission to: internationalsupport@cdu.edu.au.

MIGRATION

Charles Darwin University does not offer migration advice, however, you can log on to the DIAC website for more information:

www.immi.gov.au.

You can also check Business & Skilled Migration NT on

www.migration.nt.gov.au

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HELPS PROTECT DARWIN HARBOUR



Research by an international PhD student is contributing to the protection of the Darwin Harbour's water quality, biodiversity and recreation features. Muhammad Nawaz is mapping the vegetation of dambos, those shallow, seasonally waterlogged valleys without river channels that provide

pathways for water into the harbour. The Darwin Harbour region currently has a series of intact dambos which protect the harbour by filtering organic material and sediment. "Data shows that dambos trap up to 80 per cent of fine sediment, organic material, metals and nutrients that can harm the ecosystems of the harbour," Muhammad said. "This mapping, combined with other research in the region, could be used to assess land-clearing applications and to develop management

plans for specific dambos, which will contribute to the overall protection of the harbour," he said. Muhammad's research is part of a three-year, research project conducted by the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) consortium which is examining the health and sustainability of Darwin Harbour. Scientists from CDU, Griffith University, CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Northern Territory Government's Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

are working together to better understand how nutrients move into and through the harbour ecosystem and develop a Darwin Harbour Region Water Quality Protection Plan. The plan is expected to be finalised toward the end of 2009 and will be presented to the Northern Territory Government for adoption once endorsed by the community.

EXAMINATION HINTS

Here are a couple of hints to help you with the upcoming examinations:

DID YOU KNOW?

CDU has **free** academic literacy tutoring for all students? This includes English for students who have English as their second language.

To access this service, please log on to:

www.cdu.edu.au/allsp

- **Be prepared:** it cannot come as a surprise to you that you have upcoming exams, so ensure that you revise well in advance and that you contact the lecturer for clarification if you are uncertain about any of your subjects.
- **Bring in a dictionary:** students from a non-English speaking background can bring paper-based dictionaries in to the examinations. Students do not have to apply for this; simply bring the dictionary with you on the day of the exam.
Note: *electronic dictionaries and thesauruses are not permitted!* This is very important and if you do turn up with an electronic dictionary or thesaurus, it will be taken away from you for the duration of the exam.
- **Apply for extra time:** students from a non-English speaking background and who are in their first year of study, can apply for extra writing/working time during examinations. These students can get up to 10 minutes extra per hour (maximum 30 minutes). You must fill out the [application form](#) and submit it to Student Services as soon as possible.
- **Revise old examination papers:** Look through the [CDU Library database](#) for old examinations and use this in your exam preparation.
- **Find your own approach:** some students may find that they prepare better alone whilst others prepare to study with other students. There is no right or wrong way, the main thing is that you find a method which works for you.
- **Take regular breaks:** exam preparation is a very stressful time and students often study for long hours in order to ensure that they cover everything, please ensure that you take regular breaks. Walk away from your desk every 50 minutes for a 10 minute break. Not only will you find the break a relief, but you will also be able to better retain what you have just been studying.
- **Do not sit the exam if you are genuinely sick:** if you are sick there is no point in you sitting the exam. Not only will it be very uncomfortable for you, but you will also not be able to perform to the best of your ability. CDU has processes in place to assist students who are unable to sit their exams due to illness or other circumstances beyond their control. Should you be unable to sit all or any of your examinations, please fill out the [Special Examination](#) form and submit it to the Student Info Centre. Please note that there is a section which must be filled out by a medical practitioner.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Charles Darwin University has a range of support services available to students. All of these services are confidential and free of charge and are located in Support & Equity Services in Building Blue, room 111. Please contact the Receptionist on 8946 6288 for appointments. To avoid disappointment please

ensure that you turn up for your appointment on time. If you are ten minutes (or more) late, your appointment will be cancelled and you will be asked to reschedule. It is imperative that you ring up and cancel if you are unable to be on time in order for us to accommodate another student.

International Student Support

Vibeke Foss



Counselling Services

Tony Cole



Senior Academic Advisor

Chris White



Disability Support

Kerrie Coulter



INTERNATIONAL JOBSEEKERS

CDU's Careers & Recruitment team has developed a guide to assist international students in their job search. The guide contains useful tips on how to write a CV as well as contact details for some possible employers around Darwin. Please access the guide [here](#).

GREEK GLENTI FESTIVAL

Some of you may have noticed that a large part of the Darwin population originate from Greece. This is celebrated each year at the Greek Glenti which is the biggest show of ethnic celebration in the Northern Territory. It is held at the Bicentennial Park on the Esplanade on June 6-7 and it is a spectacular event with a variety of Greek food stalls as well as local- and interstate performers. There is no entry fee, so grab a couple of friends, a chair or a picnic blanket and help the Darwin community celebrate their Greek heritage.

ONLINE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

I am sure most of you know already, but it is now possible to get in contact with me, the International Student Facilitator, online. This means that you can log on from anywhere without worrying about having to come to Casuarina campus.

I am available on MSN Messenger every Monday (excluding public holidays) between 2-4pm Darwin time. Simply add: intl.support-CDU@live.com.au to your contact list.

I am also available for *short* consultations in my office every Monday and Wednesday between 10am-12pm, so you are always more than welcome to pop in for a short (10 minute) visit. You do *not* need appointments during these times.

Should you wish to arrange for a longer consultation, please make an appointment to see me by phoning 8946 6288 or by emailing international.support@cdu.edu.au. My office which is located in Building Blue 1, room 111 (Support & Equity Services).

If you are unable to come to Casuarina campus, please make an appointment and ask for a phone consultation and I will phone you at the arranged time.

CPA EVENTS IN ASIA IN JUNE

If any of you are in Singapore in June, please read the message below from CDP Australia. "Ever thought about what the next step is after completing your university studies? Looking for a rewarding global career in finance, accounting or business? The credit crunch has brought about uncertain times in the employment market. It is now more important than ever to think about how to stand out to the employers. Partner with

CPA Australia - one of the world's largest accounting bodies with a membership of more than 122,000 professionals in 100 countries of which 20,000 hold senior management positions. Equip yourself with the CPA (Aust) designation - the global professional accountancy designation for strategic business leaders. Register for a complimentary Information Session in **June 2009**, conducted at CPA Australia

Singapore Office. The session will explore the many benefits of becoming a CPA (Aust) and having a professional qualification that can provide you with the credibility and versatility to work in any industry, in any position, anywhere in the world". For more details please contact Carole Kong of Singapore Division at +65 6836 1233 or sg@cpaaustralia.com.au

Click here for details of upcoming events in [Hong Kong](#), [Beijing](#) and [Shanghai](#).