WELCOME!

Welcome to the November edition of Recruitment News from the University of Tasmania. We hope that you find Recruitment News a valuable resource. If you have any suggestions for improvements please email your comments to Edwina.Cummings@utas.edu.au

Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer Program
14 January to 23 January 2009

2009 will see another Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer Program. This is a successful cultural community-based partnership between the University of Tasmania, Newstead College, Launceston College, TAFE Tasmania, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and the Launceston City Council. This Summer School has been carefully designed to offer students a variety of interesting and rewarding creative arts workshops. Programs range from Photography, Theatre, Arts Textiles, Culinary Design, Ceramics, Sculpture and Furniture Design to Virtual Reality and Advanced Media. Many of the workshops reflect a distinctly Tasmanian experience – food, natural environment, heritage and natural science.

A full copy of the program and brochure is available at www.acadarts.utas.edu.au. Applications can be made online at www.utas.edu.au/apply.

HOT TOPICS
- Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer Program
- UTAS student profile
- Health Science Taster Days
- UTAS HIT Lab AU update

Student Profile:
Tess Whitton

Enjoying the benefits of moving from Mt Eliza to study at UTAS!

Growing up in Mt Eliza Tess Whitton always knew that she would have to leave home to study at university but is relieved to have made the move to UTAS.

Since beginning her Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Business degree, plus an Associate Degree in Arts at UTAS this year Tess is surprised about how easy the transition has been. “The UTAS staff are helpful and assisted me in shaping my degree to include everything I was hoping to study.” Tess has enjoyed many other benefits as a UTAS student. “The smaller lectures and ability to get to know your lecturer are the most notable benefits. The community of UTAS is also very special, from lecturers to the Schools and Faculties. It’s not easy to get lost in the masses or miss out on opportunities like you may in larger universities. The Hobart campus is also a really pleasant and beautiful place to study and just a quick flight from Melbourne! I have reduced travel time compared to what I would have expected had I gone to uni in Melbourne.”

Tess’ advice to future students is simple. “Think about all your options and remember there are many benefits at a medium sized uni like UTAS. People tend to be more caring and are on your side. I believe the contacts I’ve made already will help me work in other parts of the country or overseas. The opportunities and benefits from a medium sized uni can give you the edge over those on the mainland!”

UTAS Accommodation 2009

Do you have students coming to UTAS in 2009?

Don’t let them wait until they have their uni offer - applications for accommodation are still open!

Details of UTAS student accommodation can be viewed http://www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/accommodation.html
Students interested in Health Science?

**Health Science Taster Day - December 2**

The School of Human Life Sciences, UTAS (Launceston Campus) will be holding a special “Health Science Taster Day” for Grade 9 and 10 students on **Tuesday 2 December 2008**.

This interactive day is being held to provide students who are interested in studying the health sciences with an opportunity to find out more about courses offered by the School of Human Life Sciences, and subsequent career paths. Workshops will be offered in the areas of Biomedical Science, Health/Nutrition, Exercise Science, Medical Imaging, Cell Biology and Environmental Health. Interested Grade 9 and 10 science students are invited to fill out the application form indicating four choices of workshops. Applications are available from Sue Musgrave, School of Human Life Sciences, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1320, Launceston 7250. Phone (03) 63243934 or fax (03)63 24 3995 or email susan.musgrave@utas.edu.au

Above: UTAS Biomedical Science Students

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**School of Computing & Information Systems - new HIT LAB tipped to be world leader**

The University of Tasmania has recently established the Human Interface Technology Laboratory Australia (HIT Lab AU) - only the third centre of its kind in the world - based on the highly successful HIT Labs at the University of Washington, USA and the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Human interaction with computers at present is generally limited to simple input devices like the keyboard or mouse. “Human interface technologies” (HIT) refers to the natural and humanistic ways that people interface with digital devices as well as with other people remotely over large distances, using the full range of human senses and gestures. These technologies are becoming more and more important because of the increasing demand for intuitive interface tools to enable people to communicate and drive the growing capacity and complexity of digital computing devices. The virtual and mixed reality technologies of the HIT Lab AU, located within the School of Computing & Information Systems at the Launceston campus, focus on creative design, visualisation, simulation and interactive entertainment providing study and research opportunities for students across many schools and disciplines including Architecture & Design, Visual & Performing Arts, Nursing, Human Life Sciences, Education, Human Movement and the Australian Maritime College. There are exciting opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students to do creative and applied projects based on real world problems and utilising cutting-edge technologies. These technologies can create a new **virtual sensory experience** for people without actually being in the situation, or **augment the physical environment** with virtual objects. The HIT Lab Au has two major facilities featuring highly advanced technology:

- **Vision Space**: a three-screen immersive stereo projection system enabling groups of people to view and interact intuitively with a computer-generated world, as if it were real
- **Access Grid or Decision Theatre**: a high-end, collaborative communication facility that includes high definition videoconferencing facilities

The Vision Space is configured as a mega screen for the Access Grid to allow experts from around the world to teach UTAS students in an immersive video-conferencing environment and provide opportunities for international research projects.

**HIT major commencing in 2009**. The HIT Lab major will commence in 2009 with two exciting, introductory units that are available as electives to students from most courses: **Virtual Reality & Advanced Media Technology** (semester 1) and **Augmented Reality & Advanced Media Technology** (semester 2).

**HIT unit in the Creative Arts Summer School**. A “taster” HIT unit will be offered in the Creative Arts Summer School in January 2009 entitled “An Introduction to Virtual Reality and Advanced Media Technology”: The unit will be taught by Professor Tom Furness (founder of the world renowned HIT Lab US at the University of Washington in Seattle) and Professor Young Choi, Interim Director of the HIT Lab AU. The unit, offered in a group project setting and open to all students regardless of background, will explore the exciting field of mixed reality and concepts and technologies for interfacing humans to complex machines. College and university students undertaking the summer school unit can gain elective credit towards a range of UTAS degrees. For details on how to apply for this summer unit visit [www.acadarts.utas.edu.au](http://www.acadarts.utas.edu.au) or for more information on the HIT Lab go to [http://www.hitlab.utas.edu.au/wiki/Home](http://www.hitlab.utas.edu.au/wiki/Home) or contact Chris Carstens, Project Manager, HIT Lab AU on phone 03 62 263347 or chris.carstens@utas.edu.au.