DLO Rename Reflects Changing Role

Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) will be known as Information Technology Liaison Officers (ITLOs). **ITLOs will now have a vital role in involving departments in the University's Information Technology planning processes.**

Joe McLean, from the Vice-Chancellor's Committee on Information Technology (VCIT) secretariat, addressed a meeting of DLOs in late October.

He stressed, "**ITLOs would play a key role in communication by providing a University-wide network of people concerned with IT management**.

"IT Liaison Officers will be asked to **coordinate responses on IT planning and policy issues** on behalf of the area they represent.

"It is envisaged that the group will provide an **avenue for discussion of University wide IT issues and would contribute to the development of University policies**.

"IT Liaison Officers will be asked to disseminate VCIT information and to be supporters of the implementation of University IT policies and standards."

The original DLO program was launched in late 1994 to develop more effective channels of communication between the Prentice Centre and its clients. As departments appointed DLOs, ease of access to information on Prentice services has improved significantly. DLOs in turn have been able to provide the Centre with vital feedback on the effectiveness of those services.

While the announced changes will move the emphasis from purely technical to broader policy issues, current technical communication via channels such as email, will remain.

For more information on the ITLO program, contact John Currie (ext 54429 or email j.currie@.cc.uq.edu.au) or the ITLO in your department.

Above: *Joe McLean addressing the DLO meeting explains ITLOs will play a key role in communication on IT planning and policy*
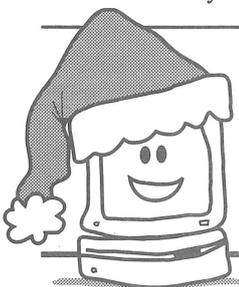
From the Director...

Looking at the past 12 months, 1996 has been a year of many changes at the Prentice Centre.

As part of Prentice's role in the University's IT development, we are working on the quality of service we provide, which has led to a quality assurance project and better risk management planning. Prentice is not alone as the University itself has had significant corporate changes, and I am pleased with the way Prentice staff have responded to these.

1996 has seen internet growth continue to explode, as has demand for dial-in access. In response, Prentice has upgraded UQnet and the modem bank to offer better services. Services introduced during 1996 such as *digital photography, web development,* and the *Data Backup and Archive service*, to name a few, have been received well. *VideoVision* has been upgraded with digital equipment. Other services such as *Facilities Management* and *software licensing* continue to grow.

Looking ahead to 1997, we will be caring for our customers even more, particularly our colleagues at Gatton and other remote locations. We'll be striving for a broader range of services and easier access to them.

Thank you for your patronage during 1996, and we look forward to a prosperous 1997.   *Graham Rees*

*Merry
Christmas
from the Prentice Centre*

Information Technology Support
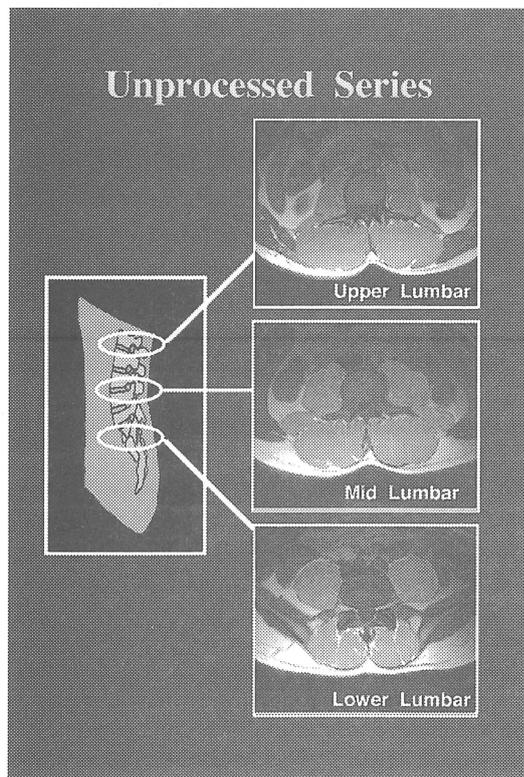
Effective Presentations — WITH SLIDES —

Effective presentations depend on appearance as well as content. Craig Engstrom of Human Movement Studies recognises the importance of both these aspects; he recently won the *John Sutton Memorial Young Investigator's Award* for his research and slide presentation about cricket bowlers' back injuries.

Craig has his slides imaged by Prentice's Multimedia Design Unit, which specialises in computer-generated slides.

"Cliff Leigh from Multimedia first starting creating slides from my PowerPoint files about a year and a half ago. Originally Cliff advised me on the best software and design for backgrounds, borders and text. It's the design I always use because it's effective. Both interstate and internationally, people comment and ask me where I have my slides made."

Many of Craig's slides contain MRI images (Magnetic Resonance Images) which can lack clarity when reproduced. "Cliff showed me how to manipulate the MRI images to look their best on slides. I use slides for dozens of presentations. It is a good medium to take anywhere, and I can customise my presentation. I also use online PowerPoint presentations but at present, I get the best resolution for MRI images on slides."

For more information about slide presentations, collect the newly updated *FactSheet 12: Slide Presentations and Digital Imaging* from Client Service, or Prentice's Multimedia Design Unit (ext 57561 or email mmdesign@cc.uq.edu.au). Departments interested in a presentation on how to create effective slides can contact Multimedia.

Above: *This picture containing MRI images is a sample slide from Craig Engstrom's award winning research and presentation depicting cricket bowlers' back injuries. The slide has been manipulated to suit this publication. Craig's slides were imaged at the Prentice Centre's Multimedia Design Unit.*

Renowned Scientist visits UQ

Professor Richard Dawkins, renowned Biological Scientist, visited the University of Queensland recently, co-sponsored by Prentice's University Technology Shop.

Professor Dawkins was a keynote speaker at the Apple University Consortium (AUC) Conference held at the University of Queensland in September. His address entitled, "Beyond the Biomorph" explained how computers can play a role in observing evolution.

"At the AUC conference Professor Dawkins demonstrated the process of evolution using a computer. In a few minutes we saw what natural selection takes hundreds to millions of years to achieve," said Stephen Atherton, Manager University Technology Shop, Prentice Centre.

Following the AUC Conference, Professor Dawkins visited Heron Island Research Station to address students supervised by Zoologist, Dr Craig Johnson.

"Professor Dawkins visited Heron Island to discuss a particular natural selection issue about coral reefs with me, and to talk to students of the Coral Reef Ecology course. In his lecture to the students he discussed evolution and natural selection, particularly in the context of coral reefs," said Dr Johnson.

What's the difference between a 586 and a Pentium?

Many people wonder about the difference between a "586" and a "Pentium", so we thought we'd explain it.

Until the Pentium processor arrived, Intel let us talk of processors in obscure terms. The x86 architecture, first seen in the 8086 "XT" (an 80386 was "386" and so on) was the default name of each generation of processor. However, marketing needs, and the fact that you cannot copyright a number, led Intel to market the 80586 as the Pentium chip.

Matters were confused when chip manufacturer Cyrix used the x86 format to brand their latest processors. Cyrix's 5x86 and 6x86 processors are commonly referred to "586" and "686", which is how we refer to the Pentium and Pentium Pro chips from Intel (the 80586 and 80686). So when somebody has a "586", they might actually have an Intel or a Cyrix chip, which have some significant speed and design differences.

Let's hope we move to more intuitive processor names in the future. Intel's next generation chips have code names using "MMX", *if that helps...*