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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Students gain industry experience

While some university students were enjoying a break over the holidays, thirteen students took up the opportunity to gain valuable work experience at Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL).

Providing 10 weeks of paid employment, the QAL Undergraduate Vacation Program allows students to work alongside professionals in their field to assist with projects and to experience real-life working environment.

Process Engineering Superintendent Gerry Graham said the vacation program had been going for over 30 years and provided students with the opportunity to work on projects that value added to the refinery operations.

"In twelve weeks the students start and finish a project which contributes to the refinery operations in some way. The project may be stand alone or subset of a larger project, though either way the outcome benefits both the student and QAL," Mr Graham said.

Chemical Engineering vacation student Anthony Almarza will follow on with his vacation student experience with a four month Professional Engineers Placement (PEP) at QAL as part of his final years study for a Bachelor in Chemical Engineering at University of Queensland.

"I've found that the project work needed to characterise the filtration system in the Precipitation section of the refining process has helped me develop valuable practical skills that completely complement and further my university studies. I'm really enjoying the lifestyle at QAL and I'm looking forward to staying on longer as part of the PEP scheme - as the work on my project will become my final thesis." Mr Almarza said.

Another Chemical Engineering student enjoying the program is Martin Randall. Also studying at University of Queensland, Martin has been working as part of the Process Engineering team to optimise the design of the neutralisation plant, which will be built at the Red Mud Dam in 2007.

Although the major focus of the Undergraduate Vacation Employment Program is on engineering disciplines there are also opportunities within science, chemistry, commercial, business, human resources and accounting.

The Australia wide selection process is undertaken in the last quarter of the year and advertised through university campuses. Further information is available from the QAL website.

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For further information, contact:

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