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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

I extend a very warm welcome to all new and continuing staff and students in a year brimming with excitement and opportunity.

The first significant event of 2004 is the UQ Orientation program designed to help students settle into campus life.

UQ conducts regular surveys of its students and, in response to feedback, we have introduced additional programs and services to ensure new students receive maximum support.

Our students can be confident they are studying at one of Australia’s most outstanding universities – in December 2003, a UQ staff member once again won the Prime Minister’s Australian Award for Individual University Teacher of the Year.

Our academic staff have won or been short-listed for more Australian National Teaching Awards than those of any other university. In addition, the University continues to be ranked in the top two or three nationally on most widely-accepted measures of research performance.

In 2004 UQ will continue to develop outstanding new facilities and research centres. Two new centres which will further strengthen UQ’s leadership in scientific innovation are the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology and the Queensland Brain Institute.

The cultural heart of UQ will also be enhanced this year with the completion in April of the James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre after an extensive 12-month transformation of Mayne Hall.

It will be the new home for the University Art Museum and house Australia’s first National Collection of Artists’ Self-portraits.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the many opportunities available to you at UQ.

Professor John Hay AC

Cover photo: (From left) David Holmes; UQ Guide Alexandra Smith; Yogambha Rameswamy; Paul Chiu; and UQ Guide Petra Suhren outside the Social Sciences and Humanities Library.
Crystal view of Mars life

In a world-first discovery, crystals found in mud samples on earth have been found to match those taken from a meteorite from Mars.

UQ researchers have confirmed the theory that life once existed on Mars.

Dr John Barry, from UQ’s Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, together with former UQ researcher Dr Tony Taylor, found their proof in the water trap at the ninth hole of the Howestern golf course at Birkdale.

Mud samples from the golf course contained magnetic crystals which matched those found in a meteorite discovered in Antarctica in 1984.

In 1996 NASA announced it had found primitive bacteria in that meteorite and since debate has raged in the scientific community whether the organisms were from Mars.

Dr Taylor, together with his PhD co-supervisor Dr Barry, examined the mud samples using a world-first breakthrough in electron microscopy and found the fossil bacteria and the new samples were identical.

“Tony developed a new technique to capture specimens for the electron microscope which allowed us to see through the bacteria and into the gel surrounding the magnetic crystals inside the bacterium,” Dr Barry said.

“This gave us a lot more information about the structure than what we would have seen before.”

Dr Taylor, who now works for the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation in Sydney, said this research seriously challenged doubts of sceptical scientists as it had discovered that many bacteria match the features found in the Martian meteorite.

“Our research shows that the structures found in the NASA meteorite were more than likely made by bacteria present on Mars four billion years ago, before life even started on Earth,” said Dr Taylor.

Dr Taylor said the discovery was the product of painstaking research conducted with other scientists in the 1990s that vastly improved imaging techniques to study bacterial structures. Ultraviolet light was the key and resulted in the detailed analysis of 82 different bacterial types - a major improvement on the 25 identified at that time.

“We became very excited when we discovered that many of the bacteria found had the same biosignature, which resembles a tiny backbone surrounded by cartilage, as that of the Martian fossils,” Dr Taylor said.

Emeritus Professor Imre Friedmann, one of the original NASA scientists to make the life on Mars claim, said he was thrilled by the news.

“The Study of Taylor and Barry now presents evidence that the same features occur in a wide range of bacteria that live on Earth today. The tiny structures, chains of crystals of the mineral magnetite, are comparable to animal skeletons on a microscopic scale,” Prof Friedmann said.

Dr Barry and Dr Taylor’s research was published recently in the Journal of Microscopy.

Professor John Hay now has an “AC” after his name after being recognised in this year’s Australia Day honours list for his services to higher education.

Professor Hay said he was deeply honoured to have been awarded a Companion in the Order of Australia (AC).

Professor Hay, who has led UQ for the past eight years and is currently chair of the Universitas 21 group of international universities, won the award for exceptional services to higher education, especially in research and innovation and in the creation of new academic, research and administrative structures.

“I see the award as a recognition of the vital importance of Australia’s universities in the creation of a knowledge-based future for our nation and as an acknowledgement of the outstanding work done by so many of my colleagues,” he said.

“In my various senior roles in Australian universities, I have dedicated myself to creating strategic opportunities for people with ideas and with passionate commitment to teaching, research and interacting with the wider national and international communities.”

Under Professor Hay’s leadership, UQ has dramatically increased its success in winning research funding.

Its academic staff have also won or been short-listed for more Australian Awards for University Teaching than those of any other university. In 2003, UQ received unprecedented praise for its wide-ranging commitment to excellence in the report of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) Audit.

New sources of external funding have been attracted, totalling almost $400 million, especially from the US-based, The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Queensland Government, for
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major research and cultural initiatives at UQ.

These include the $105 million Queensland Bioscience Precinct which houses UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience; the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology; the Queensland Brain Institute; a major super-computing facility; the UQ Centre; and a new $8 million art museum.

Professor Hay was educated at the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Cambridge University. He held the Chair of English at the UWA where he was also Deputy Chair of the Academic Board. He was Dean of Arts and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Monash University, Vice-Chancellor and President at Deakin University and has been UQ Vice-Chancellor since 1996.

He is the only vice-chancellor to lead two universities – UQ and Deakin – to win the Good Universities Guides’ University of the Year Awards.

Deakin last year named the Dalgety building at its Geelong Waterfront campus the John Hay Building, in honour of his role in transforming the historic woolstores into a modern university campus.

Contributions recognised

Other award winners with close connections to UQ included:

COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AC)

• Sir Bruce Watson (Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) Chair) for leadership in a range of fields of endeavour covering industry and commerce, the arts, and education and for developing medical research facilities of international standard in Australia

OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AO)

• Associate Professor Jill Wilson (Acting Head, School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences) for service to the community in the development and delivery of new models of care through the social support sector of the Uniting Church in Australia.

• Adjunct Professor Michelle Grattan (School of Journalism and Communication) for service to journalism through commentary on politics and government and analysis of Australian civic life.

• Professor Peter Andrews (former Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) Co-Director and current Queensland Government Chief Scientist) for service to scientific research, particularly drug design, and to the development of an Australian research-based pharmaceutical industry.

MEMBER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (AM)

• UQ Alumnus of the Year 2003 Air Vice-Marshal Julie Hammer, CSC, for exceptional service in the fields of electronics engineering in Defence, and military education, as the Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy.

• Barbara Wilson (who has been published by UQ Press) for service to literature as an editor and author, and as a mentor to emerging writers.

MEDAL IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (OAM)

• Dr Llewellyn Davies (Clinical Warden, Rural Clinical Division, Central Queensland Region, School of Medicine) for service to medicine, particularly as a general physician and to medical education.

COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL (PSM)

• Dr Dawn Casey (who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy by UQ at the December 2003 graduation ceremonies) for outstanding public service, particularly as the Director of the National Museum of Australia and instigator of its establishment and opening.
A new UQ research centre dedicated to understanding how the brain functions could lead to new treatments for mental and neurological diseases.

by Lorann Downer

Construction of the purpose-built Queensland Brain Institute is expected to begin in early 2005.

Professor Perry Bartlett, Foundation Chair in Molecular Neuroscience and the inaugural Director of the Queensland Brain Institute, said he was delighted by the Government’s commitment.

“This Institute will be dedicated to understanding how the brain functions,” Professor Bartlett said.

“One day, we could understand how the brain works at a cellular and molecular level and we can use these discoveries to address problems such as Alzheimer’s disease and dementia and look at mental illnesses such as schizophrenia.

“This work will provide, for the first time, a real opportunity to develop new therapeutics to treat mental and neurological diseases.

A sugar boost

The embattled Australian sugar industry has been given a much-needed boost with the launch of the $80 million Cooperative Research Centre for Sugar Industry Innovation Through Biotechnology (CRC SIIB) at UQ.

Federal Member for Dawson De-Anne Kelly launched the CRC on February 2 at the Queensland Bioscience Precinct on behalf of Federal Science Minister Peter McGauran.

She said the Centre would bring exciting opportunities for a sustainable and profitable sugarcane industry. To be based at UQ, it brings together the skills and resources of key sugar research organisations, the Queensland Government and four universities. Core partners include BSES Limited; CSIRO; Southern Cross University; the Sugar Research and Development Corporation; and UQ.

Young UQ researchers were awarded almost $3.5 million in National Health and Medical Research Council’s (NHMRC) Researcher Support Awards and fellowships announced in December.

Johanna Barclay (Dora Lush Biomedical); Dr Leonie Callaway (Medical); Derek Chong (Indigenous Australian Health Research); Darren Gray (Public Health); Dr Samuel Kim (Medical); Madhavi Maddugoda (Dora Lush Biomedical); Katherine Morely (Public Health); Felicity Newell (Dora Lush); Angela Trieu (Dora Lush Biomedical); Irena Vetter (Dora Lush Biomedical); and Charlene Willis (Dora Lush Biomedical) received training scholarships.

Rosa Alati (Public Health); Dr Alison Holm (Australian part-time fellowship); Natasha Koloski (Public Health Fellowship); Dr Li Li (Peter Doherty Fellowship); Stephen Rodda (CJ Martin Overseas Fellowship); Dr Christine Staatz (Overseas Clinical Fellowship); and Dr Kim Yap-Webber (Howard Florey Centenary Fellowship) received training fellowships.

Dr Bronwyn Batterby; Dr Norelle Daly; and Dr Kong-Nan Zhao received industry fellowships.

A sugar boost

The Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC) is a national not-for-profit organisation, the Queensland Sugar Research and Limited; CSIRO; Southern Cross University; the Sugar Research and Development Corporation; and UQ.

The Queensland Brain Institute, together with the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology and the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, now becomes one of the largest concentrations of biological scientists in the world.

“This great step forward could not have happened without the Smart State policies of the Queensland Government,” Professor Bartlett said.

These institutes have transformed Queensland’s standing as a national and international centre for biotech research.

“The Institute will have around 240 scientists when fully established. We are recruiting the best national and international researchers to build on the excellent work already underway at UQ.”

The Institute will develop new molecular, genetic and imaging technologies to drive discovery in the neurosciences.

These technologies permit a greater understanding of the regulation and function of the nervous system, and will also increase understanding of more complex areas such as behaviour, cognition, and ageing.

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UQ adjunct Professor Robert Doneley admits he is “all aflutter” at having been awarded Queensland’s first Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (ACVS) Fellowship in avian health.

Professor Doneley is one of only four such specialists in the country. The fellowship is a peer-based program, recognised by state governments. It indicates the recipient has developed extensive skills, knowledge and ability in their particular field of veterinary science.

Professor Doneley said although the fellowship had been available for 30 years, no one had previously attempted it in Queensland.

“I am not sure why, as there are some very talented avian vets in Queensland,” he said.

UQ Small Animal Hospital director Dr Chris Jensen said an ACVS specialist was the equal of a human medical specialist.

“If anything, the process to achieve that status is much harder,” he said.

To become an ACVS Fellow, an applicant must complete a two-year training program, have a proven publishing record and pass two written exams, oral and practical over a four-day period.

Dr Jensen said more than half the applicants failed.

“There are only about 20 to 30 fellows in each state, covering all the major areas of veterinary science,” he said.

For Professor Doneley, the fellowship caps off a passion for birds that began while working in Bundaberg more than 20 years ago.

“I was asked to give a talk to the local bird club,” he said.

“Having only had one lecture in bird medicine while at university, I had to hit the books to do the talk.

“This caught my interest, and I have been passionate about birds ever since.”

Professor Doneley helps out at UQ’s Small Animal Hospital every Tuesday, treating birds, wildlife, fish and other exotic animals.

He is the Principal Vet of the West Toowoomba Veterinary Clinic, a clinic catering primarily for birds.
Brilliant green turf all year round, needing less maintenance and mowing, could soon be available through new technology being developed at UQ.

UQ Associate Professor Jimmy Botella hopes to develop new turf varieties based on his discovery of a common plant gene that can be “switched-on” to make a plant greener as well as produce more flowers. This technology and two others discovered by Dr Botella and his UQ team have been patented and packaged into a deal valued at $3.26 million, by UniQuest Pty Ltd, UQ’s main technology commercialisation company.

UniQuest has licensed the technology to Origo Bio Biotech, which in turn has contracted Associate Professor Botella to develop new plant cultivars, including turf, with unique growth habits.

Origo Biotech, backed by Origo Investments Pty Ltd, is an Australian company majority owned by Spanish investors.

UniQuest Innovation and Commercial Development manager Andrew Cecil said the new turf cultivar would be ideal for golf courses.

“We intend for this new grass to be lush, slow-growing and require less frequent mowing and fertilising than existing cultivars,” Mr Cecil said.

“Other new products will include unique varieties of flowering plants for potted colour and a cultivar of papaya that is slow to ripen.

“Also, the technologies could be applied to substantially increase the production of important crops like rice.”

UniQuest Managing Director, David Henderson, said he was delighted that Origo had recognised the potential of the technologies developed at UQ.

“Professor Botella is renowned as an expert in his field. Origo’s investment provides a great opportunity to realise a commercial return from these promising technologies,” Mr Henderson said.

Origo Biotech will begin the research and development program early this year.

new products will include unique varieties of flowering plants

in brief

Gottschalk Medal
The Australian Academy of Science has awarded Associate Professor Melissa Little from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) the prestigious Gottschalk Medal for medical sciences.

The award recognises her work to understand the complex genetic messages controlling kidney development and how this may be applied to prevent or cure chronic renal failure.

It was the second time an IMB researcher has received the Medal, the first being Deputy-Director (Research), Professor Brandon Wainwright.

Pharmacy awards
Nine students from UQ’s School of Pharmacy have won Pharmaceutical Defence Limited prizes for academic excellence.

The on-course honours students were awarded the prizes for receiving a grade point average of at least 6.44 for their third year of undergraduate studies. They each received a cash prize of $1200 and a further $1000 contribution towards their research projects.

The successful students were Hung Tran, Mathew Yeung, Jodie Brown, Claire Vickers, Rachel Hsu, Andrea Lennie, Susan Hua, Khiem Tran and Sherry Wu.

Child health study
Findings from one of the world’s major longitudinal health studies, run by UQ and the Mater Hospital in Brisbane show a child’s long-term health by the time they are 14 may be affected by the social and economic characteristics of their family.

Professor Jake Najman, from UQ’s Schools of Social Sciences and Population Health, who heads the study, said the new research showed that by age 14 some children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds had already had the basis of their future health compromised.

Business leadership
UQ Business School PhD student Marie Dasborough has been awarded the 2003 Kenneth E Clark Student Research Award for best student paper in leadership by the Centre for Creative Leadership in the United States.

Ms Dasborough’s paper, Cognitive asymmetry in employee affective reactions to leadership behaviours, presented a theory that leaders’ behaviours were important sources of positive and negative emotional responses in employees.

She will receive $1500 and travel to the Centre to present her paper at a colloquium this year.
Two school children were struck by a falling tree during a powerful storm that hit UQ’s St Lucia campus on January 30. The children, part of a study group from South Korea, were struck by a tree in the Great Court during the storm and were taken to hospital to receive treatment for their injuries. One of the girls was released shortly after and the second, who sustained extensive injuries, remains in hospital in a stable condition.

Six of the trees brought down were in the Great Court. The Bureau of Meteorology reported that winds in Brisbane during the storm ranged from 80 kmh up to 120 kmh. Groundskeepers were called out to clean-up debris as soon as the storm had passed. A cherry picker was also brought in from the Gatton campus to help clear hazardous tree branches. UQ Property and Facilities Director Alasdair McClintock said although many trees were brought down across campus, property damage was minimal. “No buildings had major hits, and there were no major leaks or disasters other than those two poor children,” Mr McClintock said.

A School of Journalism and Communications building; Glasshouse II; the Goddard Building; and the Richards Building all suffered minor damage. Falling trees brought down power lines in Walcott and Rock Streets, damaged a number of cars, and Services Road was blocked by a fallen tree.

Flags from the Forgan Smith Tower were blown off their flagpoles into the Great Court. Six of the trees brought down

A UQ-specific online employment service enabling students to search for jobs within their field of study will be launched later this month.

The new service, called CareerHub, will be similar to popular employment sites such as Seek and Careerone. However, it will specifically focus on facilitating a connection between UQ students and prospective employers.

The site is based on software originally developed by a former graduate employment officer at Griffith University and is now used by 21 universities in Australia and New Zealand.

Student Support Services (SSS) graduate employment coordinator Mark Krost, who has coordinated the project, said CareerHub would allow SSS to provide a more efficient employment service to students. “Currently we have to put all of our employment information on the Internet manually,” he said.

“This requires a lot of administration work and often there is cross-duplication of information with the faculties. “This new system will get rid of most of this, because it is a dynamic database where employers can update their own information and faculties will be able to link all of their information to one place.”

SSS has been working directly with the faculties to develop the new website. It will include a number of features students have come to expect from online employment services.

Registered students can receive weekly email updates about jobs within their field of study, as well as information on upcoming career-related events at the University.

As well as employment information, the site will also advertise work experience, vocational work and industry placements.

Mr Krost said the best way for students to ensure the website reaches its full potential was by ensuring they took the time to register.

He said the website was on target for release in mid to late February, “If all goes to plan we intend to have this site up by O-Week,” Mr Krost said.
Although Sir Robert Helpmann was one of this country’s most famous international performers, his work in Australia has received little academic attention.

This has changed thanks to UQ PhD scholar Dr Anna Bemrose, who recently completed her thesis *A Servant of Art: Robert Helpmann in Australia.*

As well as researching private and public collections, Dr Bemrose interviewed many of Helpmann’s professional collaborators in Australia and overseas.

These included Michael Paton, Garth Welch, Richard Bonynge, Peter Sculthorpe, Dame Alicia Markova and the late Dame Ninette de Valois.

Dr Bemrose said while there was information on Sir Robert’s work during his time overseas, little had been done on his life before and after his triumphant return.

“Most people seem to think that he went to England and that was where he learnt his craft, but even before he left Australia he had explored most aspects of the arts,” she said.

“He had been involved in experimental theatre in Adelaide and had already choreographed his first ballet.

“While Helpmann’s artistic versatility led him to explore many areas of the arts, it was initially ballet that drew him back to Australia to work with the Australian Ballet, which he showcased to the world.”
Bridging the science gap

More than 180 high school students from Queensland and New South Wales converged on UQ in January to discover the wonders of science and technology.

UQ has played host to the Siemens Science Experience – a fun three days of hands-on science activities for students starting Year 10.

During the event, which ran from January 20 to 22, participants visited mine-sites and museums and took part in various laboratory workshops conducted by some of UQ’s leading scientific minds.

UQ Director of The Siemens Science Experience Dr Adrian Bradley said the university environment provided experiences not normally available in schools.

“Often the bridge between school and university is a large one to cross. The Siemens Science Experience demystifies university and gives students a hands-on opportunity to learn from various experts and find out what careers are available within the scientific field,” Dr Bradley said.

Workshops covered areas including anatomy, physics, engineering, mathematics, entomology and robotics. Students were challenged to build a microscope using nothing more than common household materials.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg delivered the welcome address at the opening ceremony on January 20 at the Steele Lecture Theatre.

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences (BACS) Professor Mick McManus and the Director of Studies for BACS Professor Susan Hamilton also attended the ceremony.

Professor Hamilton delivered an address of encouragement to Queensland’s future scientists during the closing ceremony at the UQ Centre on January 22.

About 400 students attending The Siemens Science Experience hosted by Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology joined the UQ participants for the closing ceremony.

During the ceremony, The National Science and Technology Centre, Questacon presented their Smart Moves show that highlighted significant Australian innovations and inventions.

The Siemens Science Experience was introduced in Melbourne in 1990 and is currently operated by 34 universities throughout Australia.

The event was supported by Rotary and Queensland Rotarians played an active role hosting and supervising students. Program sponsors included Education Queensland and the Department of Innovation and Information Economy.

EPSA held two other events during January designed to give budding engineers and scientists an academic head start.

The 2004 Australian Student Mineral Venture from January 10-22 allowed students to visit mine-sites and research centres while the Future Engineers Australia Management Project from January 12-16 taught students team-building, problem-solving and time-management skills.

Abalone and humans relatively close

We may be at different ends of the food chain but a UQ researcher has drawn a link between abalone and humans.

Dr Liz O’Brien, who studied parts of the genetic code of the tropical abalone for her PhD thesis, found humans and abalone shared genes that were also active in the brain and sensory system.

“When we analyse DNA code we find incredible genetic similarity between very different animals,” Dr O’Brien said.

“Some genes are so well-suited to the roles they play they have remained unchanged despite millions of years of evolution.”

She said conservation of such gene code and expression in animals that had evolved independently for millions of years also indicated an essential function for these genes.

“They are so well-suited to the role they play that they have not been altered for millennia,” she said.

“It’s amazing to think about how powerful evolution can be. A common starting point gave rise to animals as complex and as different as abalone and humans.”

Dr O’Brien said her work was very easy to get excited about.

“The discovery of these genes and their proposed function adds another bit to the puzzle and reaffirms that at one time we all had a common ancestor.”
Student life starts with fun and fact-finding
Orientation can be a daunting time for many students new to university life. The UQ Orientation Week from February 23 to 27 hopes to make the experience easier by providing information sessions, tours, and social activities.

UQ Student Centre Acting Manager Sherrie Hoang said this year, for the first time, the orientation process would be split into Pre-Orientation, Orientation Week and Recovery Week.

“It’s designed to give students time to adapt to university life while they learn about the facilities and services on offer and get to know other students,” Ms Hoang said.

The UQ Union’s biggest event of the year, the St Lucia campus Market Day, will take place on Wednesday, February 25 where students can grab a free showbag and diary and sign up with any of 140 clubs or societies. The Ipswich and Gatton campuses will each hold a Market Day on Thursday, February 26.

2002 UQ Master of Philosophy graduate Aimée Heuzenroeder, who was recently awarded a $150,000 General Sir John Monash Scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge, remembers her orientation experience well.

“It’s designed to give students time to adapt to university life while they learn about the facilities and services on offer. Whether you’re new to Brisbane or just new to the University you have to be prepared to ask questions, even ones that seem silly,” she said.

“Let people know when you need a bit of help, be it with your course or finding work or accommodation. You’ll be surprised how willing people are to lend a hand and it’s invaluable to develop a support network.”

An important part of orientation will be the social activities that allow students to relax.

The highlight of these will be the UQ Union’s Big Gig concert at the St Lucia campus on Friday, February 27. Acts will include Pete Murray, Soma Rosa, Hilltop Hoods and Kid Kay Ferris.

UQ Ipswich will hold a Parents’, Partners’, Friends’ and Students BBQ on Thursday, February 26. This will be followed by a welcome from UQ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg.

UQ Gatton students can sign up for on-campus accommodation on Thursday, February 26. The same evening, the UQ Gatton Student association will host the Boxers, Boots and Hats free dance at the Campus Club from 8pm.

A free UQ Orientation Guide has been produced with information about all activities, including academic advisory sessions and Library/Cybrary services. Students attending Library/Cybrary tours sessions will receive a free coffee or ice cream.

“A library tour was an essential part of the orientation experience; I can’t recommend that highly enough,” Ms Heuzenroeder said.

“If you become familiar with the library services right from the beginning then you have a head-start and you also know who to approach with tricky questions when they arise.”

Students can find out about Orientation activities by logging on to www.uq.edu.au/orientation.

Orientation helps new students get to know each other, find out about UQ services and facilities and explore University life and culture.

by Chris Saxby
Minorities of major importance

UQ academic Dr John Bradley says he will use his Yachad Fellowship to study minority group tensions in Israel.

Dr Bradley is one of two UQ academics to have won the recently announced scholarships, along with PhD student Ruth Knibble.

He will travel to Israel in July to investigate how minority Jewish groups from different backgrounds sought to maintain the traditions of their homeland.

The Yachad Scholarship Fund is a national award giving Australians the opportunity to do research in Israel.

Dr Bradley said inspiration for the research came from his own experiences as a Jew and his research into Indigenous Australians.

“I’m trying to show that the Jewish world is not just one monolithic structure, but that there are all these tensions in the structure and I’m really interested in these tensions,” he said.

“And I’d like to know how they play out in day-to-day life.

“I think you will find many similarities between Australian minority groups and other groups all over the place.”

It is the second time an academic with a background in Indigenous Studies has won the Australian Yachad Fellowship. Leading Indigenous academic Professor Marcia Langton from the University of Melbourne won in 2002.

Ms Knibble, who is completing a PhD in chemical engineering, will use her scholarship to travel to the Technion Institute in Israel to work on fuel cells in its microscopy department. “My research will be in the same field as my PhD, where I am trying to develop a fuel cell system for small-scale operation,” she said. The fund pays for all travel and accommodation expenses, and organises a research program.

Drug abuse study

A study into the prevalence of drug abuse among people being arrested could have implications for police and the community at large.

It showed 86 percent of people arrested had a substance-use disorder compared to just seven percent in the general population.

The research, supervised by UQ’s Head of the Department of Psychiatry Associate Professor Gerard Byrne and Professor John Saunders, Chair of Alcohol and Drug Studies, found amphetamines to be the most abused drug.

The study, published in the Medical Journal of Australia, was authored by Brisbane psychiatrist Dr Edward Heffernan with assistance from Joe Finn.

Grey nurse shark

Volunteers from UQ’s Underwater Dive Club (Unidive) have published a report into vital habitats of the endangered grey nurse shark.

The team has created geo-referenced maps and conducted baseline surveys at several habitats in south-east Queensland.

Chris Roelfsema, who coordinated the study with Carley Bansemer from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service said Unidive volunteers had dedicated 10,000 hours to collecting information to better understand grey nurse shark habitats.

A four-page handout has been produced that will be distributed to dive operators.

Firstlink fund

UQ researchers are invited to apply for grants from the Firstlink Fund to help prepare competitive ARC Linkage – Project Grants or NHMRC Development Grant applications.

The fund is a joint initiative of the Office of Research and Postgraduate Studies (ORPS) and UniQuest UQ’s main technology commercialisation company.

The Firstlink grants, worth up to $2000, can be used for travel or research assistance. Applications close at ORPS on March 1, 2004. Information: 07 3365 3571, d.ford@research.uq.edu.au

UQ racers revving up for US

The UQ Formula SAE team will be taking their hi-tech car to compete in the United States next year after leading the Australian entry of 15 in an international event at Tailem Bend in South Australia in December.

Despite having to stay up all night to replace a problem gearbox, the UQ team finished third overall behind Georgia Institute of Technology (USA) and Chalmers University (Sweden).

The hard work was rewarded on the second day of the event when the UQ car, which weighs 243kg and has a 55kW engine which propels it from 0 to 100kmh in 4 seconds, won the first endurance section.

The $5000 grant from the Society of Automotive Engineers (Australia) (SAE-A) will allow the UQ team to test the car in races and trials against the world’s toughest opposition.

Associate Professor David Mee, the Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture Faculty advisor to the UQ team attended the competition at Tailem Bend and said he was impressed with the team’s dedication in the face of adversity.

“They worked together very well, under some difficult conditions, and were able to prepare a very competitive vehicle for the important endurance events,” said Dr Mee, from the School of Engineering.

Besides the Australian teams, the Tailem Bend competition attracted three of the top five American teams and one each from Sweden, Japan and Germany.
When you are trying to find out how to be a better batsmen you should go to the best.

That’s exactly what UQ researchers have done by looking at what visual skills elite batsmen have that make them better players.

And with the project funded by Cricket Australia and the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS), the researchers are also getting access to the best of the best through the Australian cricket team and the leading rising stars through the QAS.

The research is being conducted by PhD student Sean Müller, Professor Bruce Abernethy and Dr Guy Wallis from the School of Human Movement Studies and Dr Damian Farrow from the Australian Institute of Sport.

Mr Müller said while reaction times for both novices and elite players could be similar, his project is trying to discover what visual cues top players pick from a bowler that makes them superior.

And they are using the latest in video technology available through UQ’s Information Technology Services to do it.

“We filmed bowlers from a batsmen’s perspective and then, through video manipulation, we occluded different parts of the delivery such as all the information after the ball was released,” Mr Müller said.

“We then asked the batsmen to watch the video and to predict the type of ball bowled.

“Next we removed individual body parts, such as the hand or the arm, from the footage of the bowler and measured how this alters the batsman's prediction of ball type.”

Mr Müller hoped this would lead to a way of reliably anticipating a bowler’s delivery so batsmen were better prepared.

“By getting those visual cues from the players at the highest level we can design a training program to not only make current players better, but also to identify and train the next generation of batsmen,” he said.

Willow taken to technology

UQ researchers are using video wizardry to discover why some batsmen are heroes while others score zeros.

Can a frog known to bury itself in mud for months on end hold the key to avoiding muscle wastage in people with broken bones?

That’s the question being posed by UQ researcher Dr Nick Hudson who was recently awarded his PhD into how the green striped burrowing frog (Cyclorana alboguttata) can lay dormant for long stretches without any effect on its muscles.

Muscle-wasting is one of the biggest problems for people who experience long-term physical inactivity.

Dr Hudson said the frogs were commonly found across eastern Australia.

His research showed they enter a state of inactivity – called aestivation – for up to nine months.

He said aestivation was characterised by metabolic depression where the heart-rate and breathing slowed down.

“It’s a bit like hibernation, which bears go through in winter,” he said.

“Despite being in such a state for long periods, there was no sign of muscle-wastage or bone-deterioration as would be expected.”

Dr Hudson, who was also the Australian 800m running champion in 2002, said his research could have applications for humans.

“The structure of frog muscles are similar to ours,” he said.

“As such, someone might be able to take my research and carry it over into human research.

“Who knows, it is possible in 50 years humans might be able to use this frog’s technique to stop muscle wastage.”
High degree of celebration

There were broad smiles on the faces of around 5500 students awarded degrees at UQ’s December graduation ceremonies. Eight high-achieving Australians were also awarded honorary doctorates during the month.
Queensland Premier the Honourable Peter Beattie MP was among a group of prominent Australians from a wide range of fields to be awarded honorary doctorates by the University at graduation ceremonies held in December.

The University conferred around 5500 degrees at the 14 graduation ceremonies held during the month.

Mr Beattie, a UQ graduate, became an honorary Doctor of Science and was guest speaker at a December 10 ceremony for 300 graduates from UQ’s Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences.

The honorary doctorate recognised his leadership and commitment to higher education through Smart State initiatives and support for biotechnology and nanotechnology research.

- Richard Stringer was awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy at a Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture ceremony on December 8 in recognition of his distinguished career and contribution to preserving Queensland’s architectural heritage.

A great deal of Mr Stringer’s early work was conducted for the National Trust of Queensland. His most recent exhibition *Vanishing Queensland* highlighted significant losses Queensland’s built environment.

- At the UQ Gatton graduation ceremony on December 13, well-known conservationist Dr Aila Keto AO was awarded a Doctor of Science in recognition of her distinguished career and contribution to environmental conservation.

Dr Keto helped achieve an end to all rainforest logging on Queensland public land in 1994. An Adjunct Professor in UQ’s School of Agronomy and Horticulture since 2002, she is helping develop UQ Gatton’s Centre for Native Floriculture.

- Dawn Casey PSM, the former Director of the National Museum of Australia, received an honorary doctorate at the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences ceremony on December 16.

Ms Casey was presented with a Doctor of Philosophy in recognition of her distinguished career and contribution to Indigenous society.

An honorary fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Ms Casey has received numerous other accolades including three Commonwealth Public Service Australia Day Medals and a Centenary Medal.

- Supreme Court Judge of Appeal the Hon. Justice Glen Williams was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws at a ceremony on December 16.

The degree recognised Justice Williams’ distinguished career in law and his contribution to the University.

Justice Williams was admitted as a barrister in 1962 after completing Arts and Law degrees, both with first-class honours, at UQ. In 1978 he became a Queens Counsel.

He chaired the Queensland Law Reform Commission between 1993 and 1996 and was appointed the president of the Industrial Court of Queensland in 1998 and to the Court of Appeal in 2000.

- Former Queensland Government Minister Pat Comben was made an honorary Doctor of Philosophy at a December 17 ceremony for his commitment to heritage, environment and wildlife conservation issues.

He grew up in England and immigrated to Australia where he worked as a jackaroo, then with a mining company before completing a Bachelor of Arts at UQ and a MBA at Bond University.

He entered State politics in 1983 and became Minister for Environment and Heritage before becoming the Minister for Education. He is a now Councillor with the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Geographical Society.

- Also on December 17, poet Rodney Hall AO was awarded a Doctor of Literature in recognition of his distinguished career and his contribution to Australian literature.

An internationally renowned author, he has written 11 novels. He has twice won the Miles Franklin Award for *Just Relations* in 1982 and in 1994 for *The Grisly Wife*.

In 1994 Mr Hall was honoured with a membership of the Order of Australia.

- Bioscientist Dr Chev Kidson, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science in recognition of his contribution to the development of science in Queensland and internationally on December 19.

Previously Professor of Medical Biochemistry and Head of Department in Biochemistry at UQ, Dr Kidson is currently a Professor with the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Bangkok’s Mahidol University.

- Other honourees included Noel Meurant who was awarded the 2003 Gatton Gold Medal.

He graduated with a Diploma in Horticulture at the Queensland Agricultural High School and College (now UQ Gatton) before joining the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI) in 1953.

He is widely known as the “father of the Australian mango industry”.

During his 50-year career with the DPI, he established the Bowen Horticulture Research Station.
Tenor tuning up for career in medicine

Dr George Forgan-Smith has two reasons to be singing — he has graduated with his UQ medical degree and was among the first members of the acclaimed group “The Ten Tenors”.

Also a long-time singer with the Queensland Opera Company, Dr Forgan-Smith said he would be humming tunes from favourite operas such as Madam Butterfly and Carmen in the lifts at Logan Hospital this year.

The Ten Tenors perform in the music hall tradition, and together have a broad training in opera, music theatre and theatre. In 2002, they extensively toured Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Australia. This year, they performed in the United States and Europe.

In 2002, Dr Forgan-Smith took a year off his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery studies to perform with The Ten Tenors both here and overseas but recently left the group because of his busy schedule.

His graduation ceremony on December 19 also featured graduates from the Schools of Dentistry and Pharmacy.

School of Medicine Head Professor Ken Donald said Dr Forgan-Smith was one example of the changing face of young medical students.

“T...
Dr Evan Munns, the first Aboriginal Bachelor of Dentistry graduate from UQ, said he planned to work among Indigenous communities.

Dr Munns, who graduated with his degree at a ceremony on Friday, December 19, also said he was happy to be seen as a role model for his people.

“If my efforts encourage other Aboriginal people to not only begin university studies but more importantly to finish them, then I’m happy to be seen as a role model,” he said.

Completing his five-year degree as a mature-age student while married with four children aged seven and under, Dr Munns said university was often a difficult option for Aboriginal people, especially those from country areas.

“Family is extremely important to Aboriginal people and to come away to study is a big step. I was lucky as I was married to Robyn and accommodation was provided courtesy of my mother-in-law Ruth Williams while in Brisbane,” he said.

Originally from Mount Isa, Dr Munns worked as a dental technician in the town for nearly nine years before deciding on a dentistry degree.

“I nearly chose carpentry instead as I wanted a career in which I could use my hands,” he said.

He said he planned to spend a few years working as a dentist in Brisbane before returning to the country lifestyle.

He thanked both the Head of the School of Dentistry, Professor Greg Seymour, and the University’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit (ATSIU) staff for their support.

“They helped with tutors and computers, but especially encouragement,” he said.

“I nearly chose carpentry instead as I wanted a career in which I could use my hands.”

I nearly chose carpentry instead as I wanted a career in which I could use my hands.

Indigenous role for Aboriginal dentist

Patricia Atkinson completed an Arts degree at the University of Queensland (UQ) after a lifetime of learning.

She said she had always been interested in literature and writing, but had not pursued it until later in life.

“College tradition dictated that I eat my lunch apart from the male members of staff because the dining-hall was out of bounds to women,” she said.

“This was relaxed in 1975 when the College became co-residential.”

In 1984, with retirement looming, Ms Atkinson decided it was time to fulfill her lifelong dream of completing an Arts degree at UQ.

“Acceptance as a mature-age student at the University delighted me as the terminology seemed to befit a seasoned old cheese,” she said.

“Here at last was my chance to indulge in my passion for literature”.

Not satisfied with just an Arts degree, Ms Atkinson went on to complete Honours and a Master of Arts.

“The longer I studied at university, the more I desired to increase my knowledge; so many options presented themselves, so many avenues for all kinds of exciting fields of study,” she said.

Before enrolling in the graduate certificate, Ms Atkinson wrote two plays, Walking the Wire, and One Darby, Two Joans.

Walking the Wire was short-listed and commended in a national play writing competition organised by the Speech and Drama Teachers’ Association of Queensland for their Diamond Jubilee.

One Darby, Two Joans was selected and performed at the Short and Sweet Season of plays at Newtown Theatre in Sydney.

For the final project of her certificate, Ms Atkinson extended One Darby, Two Joans into a full-length script, and was delighted to be rewarded with a mark of seven for her effort.

Ms Atkinson

Here at last was my chance to indulge in my passion for literature.

f lifelong learning
Hypersonics pace quickens

An historic agreement to coordinate and exploit the country’s research in hypersonics and scramjet technology was signed in December.

The agreement between three of Australia’s largest universities, two state governments and the Commonwealth Government, formed the basis of the Australian Hypersonics Initiative.

Hypersonics is the study of velocities greater than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5). It has been an area of specialised research in Australia since the early days of rocket flights from Woomera.

The Initiative will build on Australia’s leading role in hypersonics, demonstrated last year when UQ successfully launched the world’s first experimental flight of an air-breathing supersonic ramjet engine (scramjet), and commissioned the world’s largest interplanetary flight simulation wind tunnel.

This success paved the way for widespread interest nationally and internationally in supporting Australia’s hypersonics research.

The technology will be useful for low-cost satellite launches and high-speed missile propulsion.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the Australian Hypersonics Initiative was signed at the University during the ceremony, exactly 100 years after the Wright Brothers historic December 17, 1903, first powered plane flight at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina.

The purpose of the MOU is to formalise the links between the various expert groups in the country, and to create the strongest possible platform for capitalising on Australia’s potential to be a leading participant in a major industry of the future.

Guests at the ceremony included the Chief Defence Scientist; Dr Roger Lough; UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle; Professor John Baird of the Australian National University; James Walsh of the University of New South Wales; Director of Technology and Service Industries with the Department of State Development Brian Anker; and Professor Joseph Lai of the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

The parties will work cooperatively to develop hypersonics technology in Australia, and take a coordinated approach to marketing the expertise internationally.

Professor Hay said Australia had the largest pool of University-based hypersonic researchers in the world, with some of the most advanced equipment for simulating velocities up to 50 times the speed of sound.

“We have more than 20 years of experience in hypersonics research and today’s agreement gives us the opportunity to build on that success by advancing hypersonics expertise in concert with our colleagues in other universities and Defence,” he said.
Larry lapping it up
by Lynda Flower

A tired, hungry and homeless dog has been given a new lease on life by a UQ Gatton animal physiotherapy student.

Every dog has his day and for 10-month old Border Collie Larry it was the day he was adopted by UQ Master of Animal Studies (Physiotherapy) student Lesley Harrison.

But three months earlier, as an RSPCA cruelty case, it seemed as if Larry’s days were numbered.

Larry had been almost starved to death and when rescued by the RSPCA weighed just over three kilos.

He was nursed back to health by Fairfield Refuge veterinary staff Dr Anne Chester and Dr Anne Coville until his condition stabilised and his weight reached 12 kilos.

Then it was discovered that Larry had hip displasia, a hereditary disease in dogs, and needed an operation.

Lecturer in Surgery at UQ’s School of Veterinary Science Sue Sommerlad performed the femoral head osteotomy operation and Larry went into Ms Harrison’s care for postoperative physiotherapy.

Ms Harrison is undertaking postgraduate studies in animal physiotherapy at UQ Gatton, one of only two Masters programs in this field in the world.

The program provides qualified human physiotherapists with training to transfer their skills to animals, particularly performance and companion animals such as dogs and horses, to meet a growing international demand.

Ms Harrison is studying the rehabilitation of dogs after femoral head excision surgery, and is seeing clinical cases at UQ’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

“The project is studying whether postoperative physiotherapy techniques, which have proved successful for humans, are useful for animals as an adjunct to veterinary medicine,” Ms Harrison said.

“It’s early days yet, but the signs are very encouraging. After eight weeks there have been significant changes to Larry’s gait and an increase in his muscle bulk, evidence that an established exercise regime is beneficial.”

Larry’s muscle-building regime involves an on-leash, one-kilometre walk each day and selected off-the-leash activities. He also walks up and down hills, slopes and stairs and walks regularly on sand. Future therapy will include swimming.

Ms Harrison said Larry’s rehabilitation would take another six months before his muscles were strong enough to withstand a second operation on his other hip.

From left: Ms Sommerlad, Dr Chester and Ms Harrison with Larry

All-together for a different Diversity Week

UQ will be celebrating difference during this year’s Diversity Week.

Under the theme of “All-Together-Different”, Diversity Week will run from May 10-14.

Diversity Week began last year to promote the diversity of the UQ community and to encourage further improvements to the work and study environment.

A highlight for 2004 will be the inaugural presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards, which will be ongoing, and the Diversity Action Project Awards.

The Vice Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards will recognise contributions that improve equity and diversity, or raise awareness of equity and diversity within UQ. There will be one $5,000 award for an individual and $10,000 for an organisational unit. These Awards were launched during last year’s Diversity Week.

Four Diversity Action Project awards, valued at $2,500 each, will be provided to an individual or group for a project that will advance or support diversity at UQ, particularly in enhancing cross-cultural understanding and anti-racism policies.

These Awards will be funded from money remaining from the Vice-Chancellor’s Committee Against Racism, whose role has now been taken up by a subcommittee of the new Senate Standing Committee for Equity, Diversity and the Status of Women.

All awards will be presented by UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay AC, at a lunch to be held on May 14 at Brisbane Customs House.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Margaret Gardner said Diversity Week was an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of the UQ community.

“The student and staff populations of UQ are becoming increasingly diverse. Different cultures, world views and points of view contribute to the richness of work and life at UQ, and benefit us all,” she said.

“Diversity Week means we can showcase and celebrate diversity and, through the awards, acknowledge the great work already going on and provide some well-deserved support for the individuals and organisational units that contribute to diversity at UQ.”

Information: www.uq.edu.au/about/diversityweek
Vale Professor Francis

UQ’s first Professor of Veterinary Preventative Medicine died on December 17, 2003, aged 88.

Professor John Francis took up the position in 1952 with what was then the Faculty of Veterinary Science where he was Head from 1952 until 1980. He served as Dean of the Faculty from 1955 until 1960.

Retiring in 1983, Professor Francis was responsible for the original development of the School of Veterinary Science Farm and its Droughtmaster cattle heard. He took a key role in the establishment of the Virology Research Unit, now the John Francis Virology Laboratory.

Appointments

The University of Queensland Senate in December voted to promote 12 leading academics from Associate Professor to Professor effective January 1 this year.

The appointees are: Professor Linda Blackall, Professor Ian Cameron, Professor Geoffrey Cleghorn, Professor Susan Hamilton, Professor Michael Jennings, Professor David Kavanagh, Professor Jurg Keller, Professor Brian Key, Professor Jeffrey Lipman, Professor Dounie Macdonald, Professor Victor Rudolph and Professor Maree Smith.

Canadian internship

Three Bachelor of Education students last month began a 12-week internship at secondary schools in Vancouver, Canada.

Simon Fox, Nicole Denington and Yosiko Ozawa, students in the Graduate Entry program, underwent a competitive selection process to be chosen for the exchange.

The students will be enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

After returning to Australia at the end of May they will be eligible to graduate and start work as secondary school teachers.

Clean-up day

A clean-up day will be held at UQ on Sunday, March 7, to coincide with the nationwide Clean-Up Australia Day.

The event is being organised by the United Nations Student Association and will take place between 9am and 11am.

People wishing to participate should meet at the UQ Union Complex. All participants will be provided with gloves and rubbish bags.

New scholarships

UQ will offer more than 300 new scholarships this year as part of the Federal Government’s higher education reforms.

UQ has been allocated the highest number of Commonwealth Learning Scholarships in the country with 319 worth between $2000 and $4000 each, totalling more than $1 million.

Two types of scholarships will be available: one valued at $2000 a year for up to four years to help low-income students meet the cost of education and another valued at $4000 a year for up to four years to help meet the accommodation costs for low-income rural students who have to move away from home to attend university.

For both scholarships, students must be in a full-time study in a Commonwealth-supported place.

UQ has been allocated 135 Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships. The total grant amount is $1,006,000.

Information on how to apply for the scholarships will be posted on the UQ website www.uq.edu.au later this month.

Recent appointments

Chair of Molecular Pharmacology

By bringing together some of the best minds and some of the best drug research facilities in the country, UQ’s new Chair of Molecular Pharmacology is hoping to save thousands of lives.

That is the plan of Professor Rod Minchin who recently joined UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences from the University of Western Australia where he was Associate Professor of Pharmacology.

He said his new role would bring together scientists from many disciplines to spur on research in drug discovery and drug development.

“If there is enough infrastructure and enough talented people, which we have here, then we increase the likelihood of developing new therapies,” he said.

He said his focus would be particularly growing the drug development stage at UQ, something that has been almost non-existent before in Australia.

“We already do great work in drug discovery and at the other end in clinical trials,” he said.

“But by adding in that pre-clinical phase of development, we can value-add to the work we do.”

Professor Minchin studied toxicology at the National Cancer Institute in Washington DC and has spent time at the University of New South Wales as a QEII Fellow.

He said he believed UQ was the place to be in terms of biotechnology.

“There is a lot that can be done here with the support UQ and the State Government is giving,” he said.

“Right now in Queensland, we have the resources and the skills to bring together a critical mass that can achieve great things.

“There is the potential here to save thousands of lives with the work we are doing and that will be the payoff for the Queensland public.”

Understanding the threat of terrorism

A newly appointed UQ academic is warning Australians not to be complacent when it comes to terrorism threats.

Dr Carl Ungerer, from UQ’s School of Political Science and International Studies, believes the threat of a terrorist act in Australia has been heightened since the case of suspected terrorist Willie Brigitte last year.

“I think Brigitte clearly showed that there is a potential threat to Australia,” he said.

“Here was a man with known links to Al Qaeda who was thought to be planning a terrorist act in Australia.

“Australia’s profile as a target has been raised because of our involvement in Iraq but we are also a target just because we are a liberal western democracy.”

Fried 2004 would see further unrest in the region, particularly as Indonesia moved towards direct elections.

“That won’t be the cause of problems but in such a chaotic political atmosphere, it is easier for extremists to emerge,” he said.

Dr Ungerer is a new addition to the teaching staff this year coming from former Labor leader Simon Crean’s office, where he was foreign policy advisor before the leadership change.

He previously worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as well as the Office of National Assessments.

At UQ, he will lecture in International Relations where he will teach the next generation of diplomats as well as further his own research.

“We are developing at UQ a core group of people who are well-versed in Australian foreign policy and security issues,” he said.

Dr Ungerer said he planned to make the international relations courses practical so students would perform roles expected of diplomats.

In brief

Mrs Minchin said the teacher education within the School to internationally represented an effort to save thousands of lives.

Molecular Pharmacology is hoping to achieve great things.

By bringing together a critical mass that can have the resources and the skills to bring together a critical mass that can achieve great things.

Professor Minchin Dr Ungerer

UQ on Sunday, March 7, to coincide with the nationwide Clean-Up Australia Day.

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Information on how to apply for the scholarships will be posted on the UQ website www.uq.edu.au later this month.
Concerts, special lectures, seminars and UQ events of general interest are published in this section. Entries, including date, time, contact name and telephone number, should be sent to c.saxby@uq.edu.au

**SEMINARS**
- **Tuesday, February 17**
  School of Biomedical Sciences. The role of organic anion and drug transporters in the liver: from SLC to ABC, Professor Bruno Stieger, University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland (12:30pm, Skerman Bldg).

- **Friday, February 20**
  School of Biomedical Sciences, Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 in the signalling pathway from cholinergic and glutaminergic receptors, Professor Joanna Strosznajder, Polish Academy of Sciences, (1pm, Skerman Bldg).

- **Friday, March 5**
  School of Social Science and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, Working papers in archaeology seminar series, Analysis of the Camooweal Surface Collection, Tamara Brown, (11am, Michie Bldg).

- **Wednesday, March 10**
  School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, State growth and development, Colin Wade, Spatial Development, Colin Wade, Spatial Analysis Executive Annexe, 102 George St, City).

- **Friday, March 12**
  School of Social Science and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, Working papers in archaeology seminar series, Dirty archaeology: a soil change, Dr Tom Loy, (11am, Michie Bldg).

- **Wednesday, March 17**
  TC Beirne School of Law, Liability insurance, The Honourable Dr Des Derrington QC (8am, Customs House). Details: 07 3365 3498

- **Friday, March 19**
  School of Social Science and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, Working papers in archaeology seminar series, Neo-Darwinian selectionism, casualty and truth in the explanation of culture change, Dr Tom Loy, (11am, Michie Bldg).

**CONCERTS**
- **Sunday, February 29**
  UQ Ipswich. Service to celebrate the commencement of the academic year, Pastor Mark Edwards, Ipswich Region Community Church (2.30pm, Rooms 116 and 117, Bldg 12 UQ, Ipswich). Details: 07 3361 1463

**OTHER EVENTS**
- **Sunday, March 14**
  UQ SPORT, Come ‘n try triathlon, (6am, UQ Aquatics Centre).

**CLASSIFIEDS**
- **TO RENT/HOUSE-SIT**
  - St Lucia: 2bd + study unit, spacious, f/furn, $350/wk from Jan 1. Graham: ghn@maths.uq.edu.au
  - House-sitter needs 6 month minimum stay from March 20. Catherine: 0417 541 030 or vantagepetal@hotmail.com

**UQ NEWS DEADLINES 2004**

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**PRIZES**
- Queensland Freemasons’ Scholarships 2004: for at least fourth-year, fulltime undergraduate students who are Freemasons or children of Freemasons of five years’ good standing. Worth: $1000 each. Closing: March 4

- Clem Jones Sporting Scholarships 2004: for academically able students who can demonstrate potential to perform at a high level in their chosen sports. Worth: $5000. Closing: March 5

- EOH Hardy Memorial Scholarship 2004: for Indigenous people of Queensland to attend UQ. Worth: $7500. Closing: March 12

- WH and HW Harris Bursary 2004: for a female student who attended a Queensland secondary school in 2002 and is a lineal descendant of a person eligible to be accepted as a member of the War Widows Guild, Australia, Queensland Branch. Worth: $750 per annum for three years. Closing: March 19

- Alfred and Oliveya Wynne Memorial Scholarships 2004: for Maryborough and district students to attend UQ. Closing: March 31

- George Essex Evans Scholarship 2004: for an outstanding student to complete honours or a graduate diploma in philosophy in English. Worth: $5100. Closing: March 31

**SOME OF THE STORIES THAT PUT UQ STAFF IN THE MEDIA**

**BIRD FLU**
ABC Darwin radio interviewed virologist Dr Paul Young from UQ’s School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences on the rapid spread of the bird flu virus.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
Jamie Gillespie from the Australian Computer Emergency Response Team at UQ was interviewed by Sydney 2UE radio station about the recent MyDoom computer virus.

**OBESITY**
The Redcliffe and Bayside Herald reported that a team from UQ’s Institute of Molecular Bioscience had made a world-first discovery, isolating a “drugable” gene that plays a vital role in accelerating metabolic rate and weight loss.

**QUEENSLAND ELECTION**
The Sydney Morning Herald, Australian Financial Review, The Queensland Times, ABC and B105 radio were among media reporting comments from Associate Professor Paul Reynolds and/or Dr Rae Wear from the School of Political Science and International Studies on the announcement of the Queensland election and Merri Rose’s resignation from Cabinet.

**STEVE IRWIN**
The Courier-Mail, The Australian Financial Review, The Canberra Times, ABC television’s The 7.30 Report and ABC radio’s Background Briefing were among numerous media outlets that quoted Professor Jeff Wilks from UQ’s Centre for Tourism and Risk Management and/or Professor Matt Sanders from UQ’s School of Psychology, on the controversy surrounding Steve Irwin holding his baby son while feeding a crocodile.

**UQ NEWS DEADLINES 2004**

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Submissions are invited from all interested persons. Terms of Reference for each review can be obtained from the Academic Board Office by telephoning extension 51321.

Please note that submissions must be received by the due date.

**School and Centre Reviews for Semester 1, 2004**

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**Life Sciences**

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**History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics**

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**Social Science**

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**National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology**

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**Microscopy and Microanalysis**

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Submissions are invited from all interested persons. Terms of Reference for each review can be obtained from the Academic Board Office by telephoning extension 51321.

Please note that submissions must be received by the due date.