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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The past year has been among the best in UQ’s history on most measures of research success. A number of our researchers have won prestigious awards and substantial grants, and UQ has continued to invest in, and build up, its research infrastructure.

The University recently showcased and celebrated its achievements during Research Week, which culminated with the annual UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards.

The awards, totalling $655,000, recognise the work of 10 outstanding researchers in the early stages of their careers. Details of their projects are featured in this edition.

Over a number of years, these awards have played an important role in rewarding and encouraging the next generation of top UQ researchers and I warmly congratulate all the nominees and the winners.

I was delighted that Robin Batterham, Chief Scientist of the Commonwealth, joined me in presenting trophies to the winners.

Dr Batterham also addressed the awards ceremony, highlighting the importance of excellence in research and praising UQ for acknowledging this through the awards.

In addition, he spoke of the need for greater collaboration or “cross-cutting” linkages across various disciplines and suggested researchers consider better representing the benefits of their work to the general public.

Many UQ researchers who have been recipients of various grants attended the UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards, and I extend my thanks to each of them for their hard work. Their efforts support UQ’s mission of contributing to national research excellence and continue to enhance our reputation as a premier research institution.

Professor John Hay, AC
**Eureka Prize**

UQ’s Conotoxin Research Team was a finalist in the recent Royal Societies of Australia Eureka Prize for Interdisciplinary Scientific Research.

The team, led by School of Biomedical Sciences Head, Professor David Adams, includes Professor Paul Alewood, Professor David Craik and Dr Richard Lewis from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

The team was recognised for its ground-breaking research into the use of peptide toxins from cone snails, known as conotoxins.

The research has led to the development of two drugs in clinical trials.

**Olympic success**

Physiotherapy graduate and Australian long jumper Bronwyn Thompson leapt a season’s best to narrowly miss out on a medal at the Athens Olympic Games.

She recorded the best finish by an Australian female in an Olympic long jump final when she leapt 6.96m to claim fourth place.

Ms Thompson finished a mere 0.04m behind the bronze medalist, South Africa’s Michelle Cueni. Thompson leapt a season’s best to finish a mere 0.04m behind the bronze medalist, South Africa’s Michelle Cueni.

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**Lights, camera, edit**

A group of students have received international praise for their work on the catalogue of the 13th Brisbane International Film Festival.

Students from UQ’s postgraduate program in Writing, Editing and Publishing (WEP) Sally Brown, Jacqueline Lippiatt, Kim Buckle and Jason Emmett spent several weeks on work-experience editing copy and working as publications coordinators for the catalogue.

WEP program coordinator Dr Roslyn Petelin has edited the catalogue for the past three years with help from students and colleague Dr Peta Mitchell.

The catalogue is recognised internationally for the quality of its design and editing.

**Farewell Sir Walter**

The University community paid its final respects to a distinguished former Chancellor at a State funeral held in Brisbane in September.

Former UQ Chancellor (1977-85) and Queensland Governor (1985-92) Sir Walter Campbell, AC, died aged 83 on September 4 after a short illness.

Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, and Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, extended their condolences to Lady Campbell and other members of Sir Walter’s family on behalf of the University community.

A State funeral was held at St John’s Cathedral in Brisbane on September 13.

Born in 1921, Sir Walter attended Downlands College, Toowoomba before enrolling at UQ in 1940.

He interrupted his studies to serve as a RAAF pilot during the Second World War from 1941 to 1946, then re-enrolled in the then five-year Arts-Law degree to graduate Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and Master of Arts.

As a student, he was a University A-grade football forward, president of the Law Students’ Society, leader of the University debating team, editor of Semper Floreat and winner of the Virgil Power prize for topping the final two years of the law course.

As a graduate, he maintained his University connections as a part-time lecturer and a member of the Law Faculty Board.

He served on the University Senate for more than two decades (1963-85), including nine years as Chancellor, and was University Visitor during his term as Governor.

His career in the law included admission to the Bar (1948) and appointments as Queen’s Counsel (1960), a judge of the Supreme Court (1967) and Queensland’s Chief Justice (1982-85).

He also chaired the Queensland Law Reform Commission (1969-73) and the Commonwealth’s Remuneration Tribunal (1974-82).

He was knighted in 1979 and held honorary degrees from UQ, Queensland University of Technology, James Cook University and Griffith University.

In 1992 the University marked Sir Walter’s long and distinguished association with his alma mater by commissioning the sculpting of a bronze bust now located in the Executive Meeting Room of the Brian Wilson Chancellery at the St Lucia campus.

Sir Walter was, in essence, a man of the people, according to close friend Dr Ivor Cribb, AM, foundation Warden of International House from 1965-86 and Deputy Chancellor of the University from 1985-92.

The two met when they enrolled for the same course in 1940, and remained friends ever after.

Both interrupted their studies to go to war, re-enrolled, led active student lives, and maintained close ties with each other and with their University while building successful careers.

“Wally was an extremely talented man who was great fun to be with and who got on easily with everyone, in all walks of life,” Dr Cribb said.

“When he was on parade, he was just one of the crowd. He was the life and soul of the party when we were at University, and he kept that zest and energy all his life.”

“Wally was an extremely talented man who was great fun to be with and who got on easily with everyone, in all walks of life,” Dr Cribb said.

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“Wally was an extremely talented man who was great fun to be with and who got on easily with everyone, in all walks of life,” Dr Cribb said.

“We went deep sea fishing together and played lots of golf. When he was Governor, he liked to play tennis at 7am and then have a swim – but while I’d just sprint for a couple of laps, he’d go on and on, doing innumerable lengths.

“He might have slowed down physically a bit lately – but he never lost his sense of humour, his keen mind or his knack for a quick response.”

**Sir Walter**

The funeral procession enters St John’s Cathedral

Sir Walter’s grandchildren carry his medals
UQ’s leading Australian university commercialisation group, UniQuest, opened an office in Canberra on September 10.

As UQ’s main technology transfer company, UniQuest’s central office is located at the University’s St Lucia campus. The Canberra office will be located in Griffith.

UniQuest Managing Director, David Henderson, said the new office would primarily function as a branch of the company’s International Projects division.

“Canberra is clearly a strategic location for our company, placing us close to key decision makers such as AusAID, which is our main client for international development, as well as for university commercialisation as a whole,” Mr Henderson said.

“This year, we celebrated UniQuest’s 20th anniversary and to also open our first Australian office outside Brisbane is highly symbolic of the company’s growth and maturity.”

UniQuest’s International Projects division is a consultancy and project management group, specialising in the design and delivery of international development projects throughout Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, South-East Asia, the Indian sub-continent and Africa.

UniQuest was established 20 years ago by UQ as the commercial gateway to the University’s intellectual property, technologies and expertise. The company fulfils its charter by assembling teams for international projects, commercialising UQ innovations, coordinating expert consulting services and overseeing research and development projects.

In the Building Effective Systems for the Commercialisation of University Research report released in August by the Allen Consulting Group, UniQuest was cited as representing best practice among Australian university commercialisation entities.

A thens Olympic swimming gold medallists Libby Lenton and Leisel Jones were special guests at the UQ Aquatic Centre Open Day on Sunday, September 12.

Fresh from their success in Athens, Ms Lenton and Ms Jones gave insights into their Olympic experience, answered questions and signed posters.

Ms Jones narrowly missed out on a gold medal in the 200m breaststroke at the Athens Games when she touched home in second position. However, she made up for this as part of the world record breaking 4x100m medley relay team, which took the gold medal. In the individual 100m breaststroke she also picked up a bronze.

Ms Lenton was part of the 4x100m freestyle relay team, which like the Australian medley team, won gold and smashed the world record in the process.

The Brisbane-based swimmer also picked up a bronze medal in the women’s 50m freestyle event.

The appearance by the Olympic stars was the highlight of a family fun day at the Aquatic Centre.

The annual Open Day is a fundraiser for Surf Lifesaving Queensland and lifeguards were present, providing water safety and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation demonstrations.

The day included free learn-to-swim classes, a sausage sizzle and a swimwear sale.

Aquatic Centre manager Jae Marr said the aim of the day was to help families enjoy a safe summer.

“It is important children learn to swim as the Queensland summer rolls around,” Mr Marr said.

“Swimming lessons help children develop lifesaving skills and confidence around water and ensure the whole family enjoys their next summer holiday.”

Mr Marr said the benefits of learn-to-swim classes went beyond safety skills.

“Safety skills are a primary reason why many people initially enroll into lessons but swimming is also extremely good for the development of your child,” he said.

“If you have a young child who is acclimatising to the water, you don’t want them to miss out on valuable parent/child bonding experiences in the pool.”

The UQ Tennis Centre also held its annual Open Day on September 12, which included free activities and an equipment sale at the newly renovated Pro Shop.

Swimming lessons help children develop lifesaving skills and confidence around water.
Scientists freshen up on the media

An annual science competition has given researchers the opportunity to learn how to communicate their work to a wider audience.

Three UQ scientists have undergone intensive media training after being selected for the 2004 Fresh Science competition.

Physicist Michael Harvey, Ken McGrath from the Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Plant Protection and Angus Johnston from the School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences were selected to attend a three-day media workshop.

Fresh Science is an annual competition where 16 early career scientists are chosen from around Australia to help explain their work to the media with the aim of making science more accessible.

PhD student Mr Johnston, who was selected for his invention of a unique technology with the potential to test for hundreds of diseases, cancers and genes in one cheap test, said the training taught them how to write for a public rather than a scientific audience.

“It showed us the public was not interested in what we were doing but rather the impact of what we did,” Mr Johnston said.

“The public generally does not care how complex our science is.”

After the workshops they conducted a number of public talks at universities, libraries and schools around Melbourne about their cutting-edge research.

Mr McGrath was selected for his identification of two plant genes that could lead to new crop varieties resistant to fungal diseases.

He said the best part of Fresh Science was that he learned how to deal with reporters.

“As a scientist you could develop the best thing in the world, but if you can’t communicate it, then the world will never know,” he said.

Mr Harvey, who was selected for his development of an anti-fogging and anti-reflection technology for clear surfaces called XeroCoat, said he had attracted media interest following Fresh Science.

“I have had contact from journalists in both print and radio media, and my story was also picked up by Australian Associated Press,” he said.

XeroCoat recently received $121,000 in financial support from the Queensland Sustainable Energy Fund.

Mr Harvey and his research partner Dr Paul Meredith are finalists in the 2004 Yellow Pages Business Ideas Grants.

Baby rocket’s dummy run

UQ scientists will fly a baby rocket at Woomera, South Australia this month to test new systems ahead of next year’s full-scale scramjet engine experimental flights.

The new flight, using a tiny, reusable payload weighing only 5.8kg, will be known as HyShot Zuni I (or HyShot ZI).

Members of the HyShot international program, Dr Ross Paull and Myles Frost, will use the HyShot ZI payload, which will be attached to a 1.5m Zuni single stage rocket, to explore notions for controlling high-speed vehicles during the small-scale test.

HyShot ZI will pave the way for three scramjet experimental flights, two at Mach 8, or 8000km an hour, and one at Mach 10, or 11,000km an hour, to be held at Woomera next year.

The experimental flights are designed to further scramjet technology.

Scramjets are air-breathing supersonic combustion ramjet engines. They are set to revolutionise the launch of small space payloads, such as communications satellites, by substantially lowering costs.

Dr Paull and Mr Frost said this year’s small-scale flight of HyShot ZI was part of the exhaustive preparation for next year’s flights, which would also include shaker and thermal cycling tests.

The Zuni flight would simulate forces that scientists expected from next year’s full-scale experiments at Woomera.

Dr Paull, Mr Frost and mechanical engineering student Thomas Neuenhahn have designed the new hardware, software and control algorithms that will be tested in the prototype HyShot ZI payload.

The prototype is fitted with an array of computer sensors, Web cameras, manoeuvrable surfaces and a new battery pack design, as well as a tiny parachute.

The 11-minute flight will see the ex-military Zuni rocket take off at a 70 degree trajectory, and burn for 1.2 seconds until it reaches a speed of Mach 3.1, or more than three times the speed of sound.

At burnout the tiny reusable HyShot ZI payload will separate at about 0.6km above the earth when the scientists will conduct several experiments using novel techniques to deliberately create instability and then regain control of the vehicle.

The mission will continue for about one minute until the HyShot ZI payload reaches a height of 6kms above the Earth. The parachute will then be activated to bring the payload safely down.

Dr Paull and Mr Frost were part of the successful UQ-led HyShot II flight that demonstrated the world’s first supersonic combustion in an atmospheric flight test at Woomera on July 30, 2002.

Dr Paull said the presence of onboard cameras would take data acquisition much further.

“We’re still analysing HyShot II data which was excellent and unexpectedly rich,” he said.

“Even two years later, we are gaining new insights and finding intricacies and subtleties which should assist us well in the future.”

The Australian Space Research Institute is the launch provider for HyShot ZI.
Coral grief" uncovered

by Chris Saxby

Ocean studies research is delving deep into the Great Barrier Reef’s past, uncovering for the first time a history of degradation.

A UQ PhD student has developed a technique that can trace pollution and long-term changes to coral reef environments.

His study could provide the first insights from coral skeletons into how synthetic fertilisers, agricultural wastewater and widespread land use change have altered nutrients and water quality since European arrival in Australia.

Guy Marion is examining the effects of human activities on water quality and the health of offshore coral reefs in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

He is using his own geochemical tracer, known as Skeletal d15N, which can track nutrient sources and pollution.

This can be combined with other tracers to develop records of increasing terrestrial discharge reaching coral reefs dating back several hundred years.

"According to recent evidence, most coral reefs worldwide were substantially degraded pre-1900," Mr Marion said.

"Increased terrestrial discharge laden with fertilisers, industrial sewage, sediments, and storm water have degraded the coral reefs of Queensland over the past 50 to 100 years.

"Yet the impacts of this remain controversial due to the absence of reliable long-term data describing water quality.

"Organic matter trapped within the skeletons of multi-century old corals may hold the key to understanding the nature and extent of human impacts and pollution on coral reefs." Mr Marion’s study is attracting praise from the scientific community.

In June he was awarded a prestigious $10,000 2004 International Society for Reef Studies and the Ocean Conservancy Fellowship.

The international student, from the US, is studying under the supervision of world-renowned coral reef expert Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, who heads UQ’s Centre for Marine Studies.

His co-supervisor is international geochemistry expert Professor Malcolm McCulloch from the Australian National University.

Mr Marion is currently putting his diving skills to good use as he extracts coral cores and collects coral fragments ready for analysis in the laboratory.

"Pollution, along with overfishing and climate change, are considered the greatest threats to coral reefs worldwide and are of particular concern in the Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"Manipulative experiments performed on the Great Barrier Reef will liberate data recovered from coral cores, which record environmental change."

Mr Marion first developed the Skeletal d15N tracer while working on a project in Bali with ecological anthropologist Professor Steve Lansing.

"My contribution to the greater project was to figure out a means of tracing water quality change over decadal time periods, and use this to investigate whether excess fertilisers washing out to sea in agricultural wastewater might be accumulating in, and potentially damaging, coastal coral reefs," he said.

"Working with my supervisor Professor Bob Dunbar at Stanford University, we found that they were, and this finding is now part of the larger policy recommendation to reduce fertiliser usage Bali-wide."

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority and the PADI Foundation are funding Mr Marion’s current research. He is also supported by an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

"I plan to establish a foundation dedicated to the preservation of coral reefs via the integration of sophisticated geo-chemical investigations and clear communication of methods and results," Mr Marion said.

"This should allow managers and politicians to legislate confidently with solid empirical data to support their decisions."

Pollution, along with overfishing and climate change, are considered the greatest threats to coral reefs worldwide.
Artificial Intelligence test

Two major events brought some of Australia’s most creative youngsters to the University recently.

The University played host to more than 200 school teams from across Australia during the largest robotics competition for school students held in Queensland.

The 2004 RoboCup Junior Australian Open and Queensland Championships were held at the UQ Centre from September 4 - 5.

Queensland schools produced good results competing in the categories of Soccer, Open Rescue, Premier Rescue, Dance and Open Dance.

In the Open Dance category, Pioneer State High School’s Probot Singers team from Mackay jived their way into second place in the Australian Open competition.

The school then took a clean sweep of the Queensland event with the Probot Singers taking first place, followed by Disco Techno Strauss and the Green Goblins.

Brisbane schools also celebrated success with the Robohazard team from Brisbane Boys’ College securing the State title in the Premier Rescue category while Toowong State School’s The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything won the Dance competition and came second in the Australian Open final.

Robotics expert Dr Gordon Wyeth, from UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, said many of the teams had been preparing all year for the competition.

“For young students RoboCup Junior provides an exciting introduction to the field of robotics,” Dr Wyeth said.

“It offers a new way to develop technical abilities through hands-on experience with electronics, hardware and software and provides a highly motivating opportunity to learn teamwork skills.”

There was further success for Queensland schools when UQ hosted the Commonwealth Bank Opti-MINDS Challenge the following weekend. Ninety teams from schools in 14 regions across Queensland participated in the event on September 12.

Students had three hours to prepare a solution to a Challenge, put the solution into a dramatic presentation and make their props and costumes.

The successful teams that will go on to represent Queensland at a cultural exchange event in New Zealand include Kingaroy State High School, Suncoast Christian College and Ingham State High School.

Spinal research
UQ researchers are claiming a breakthrough in spinal regeneration research with the discovery of a molecule known as EPHA4 that blocks regrowth of damaged nerve processes.

Professor Perry Bartlett, Director of UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute, said the discovery would be vitally important in developing potential therapies for people with head and spinal injuries.

“If we can block that molecule shortly after accidents, we predict it would lead to regrowth of the nerve processes and therefore lead to recovery of function,” he said.

Added venom
Multi-million dollar funding is allowing UQ scientists, in conjunction with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, to broaden their search for therapeutic drugs based on the deadly venom of Australia’s snakes.

UQ, in partnership with QRxPharma Pty Ltd, has secured an ARC Linkage Discovery grant worth $4.6 million, including cash as well as direct and indirect contributions made by all parties.

The funding will potentially allow UQ’s Venomics group to identify every protein in the venom of Australian snakes.

First Boeing graduate
Grant Stonier has become the first graduate of UQ’s Master of Systems Engineering program – one of the few such programs in Australia.

The program is funded by the Boeing Company as part of the 737 Airborne Early Warning and Control program, known as Project Wedgetail.

Mr Stonier is currently working on Project Wedgetail with BAE Systems in Adelaide.

Graduates from UQ’s Master of Systems Engineering program are expected to be in high demand due to a shortage of qualified systems engineers.
The sea of green and gold jumpers seen at UQ’s St Lucia campus last month was not that of an Australian sports team but Japanese students on a Veterinary School tour.

About 200 animal health technology students descended on UQ for guided tours of the School’s Small Animal Clinic and Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

The students, from the private Yamazaki College in Tokyo, spent half a day hopping from lectures to the Vet Hospital’s radiology and surgery units.

They attended lectures on animal behaviour management and identification and tracking of dogs by microchip and witnessed a physical examination of a greyhound and Staffordshire bull terrier.

The animal health technology students donned their Australian coloured college jumpers as an interpreter led four groups through the Vet School.

Two students even got to hold a feisty baby possum.

Event organiser Dr Trish Clarke said it was the largest group the University’s Vet School had hosted.

Dr Clarke said Yamazaki College requested the September 6 visit because UQ was one of the few universities to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology and Management.

The course equips graduates to work as veterinary technologists, who assist veterinarians in private practice, government agencies or the rural sector.

“The group thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to view pets at close proximity in the hospital and observe the live animal demonstrations,” a spokeswoman for the head of the college Kaoru Yamazaki said.

A UQ academic claims sport and the Olympics have a “quasi-religious” status in Australia.

Associate Professor Jim McKay, from the School of Social Science, told ABC’s Radio National Sports Factor program that people were increasingly looking to other things to get a sense of purpose.

“In some cases it’s a new religion, and sometimes that religion is a New Age religion and sometimes it’s a surrogate religion like sport,” Dr McKay said.

“And sport seems to provide for some people, that sense of security; things can have finality, you can measure things and we can take pride in things.”

Dr McKay said the recent Athens Olympic Games was a strong example of the correlation between sport and religion.

“You just have to look at the newspapers and the way in which all these Greek mythological terms are used right now to describe the swimmers,” he said.

However, Dr McKay warned against putting sports stars on a pedestal.

“Four years down the road, and it is difficult to point out how Cathy Freeman’s victory at the Sydney Olympics has had any substantive impact on race relations in our country,” he said.

Dr McKay also dismissed the widespread belief that Australians are unique in being the only sports-mad nation.

“I think what I would say is distinctive about Australia is the range of sports in which it kind of claims its national identity,” he said.

“If you go to Brazil, indeed most countries in the world, football, what we call soccer, is indeed the unofficial national religion.

“I think all nations take pride in this notion that they can sell themselves or put on a positive glow both internally and externally by using sport.”

Dr McKay noted that Australia’s infatuation with the Olympics was part of the globalisation process.

“It is an era where we are obsessed with being world class on the international scene, sport seemingly provides the indicator that we can take on the big boys,” he said.

Dr McKay recently co-authored a book entitled Globalisation and Sport: Playing the World.
The University’s heritage-listed Customs House in Brisbane will this month reach yet another historic milestone.

The UQ community and wider public will this month celebrate the tenth anniversary of the restoration of Customs House.

To officially recognise the 115-year-old building’s first decade as UQ’s riverside base in Brisbane’s CBD, an Open Day will be held on Sunday, October 24.

This will include a combined morning tea and School of Music concert at 10.30am and various tours throughout the day.

When the Australian Customs Service vacated Customs House in 1988 the future of the historic city landmark seemed uncertain.

However, in 1991 UQ took over the lease and in 1994, after a three-year restoration project costing $7.5 million, the building was transformed into a multi-purpose venue for educational and cultural activities.

Customs House Director Lyn Black said 10 years ago the building had been given a new soul by the University and had come to play an important role in the community.

“Visitors can still feel the presence of the past. Whether they are using the building for business, education, music, art, entertainment or whether they are just curious sightseers, people are still able to enjoy the splendour of its origins,” she said.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said: “UQ is a leader in cultural and intellectual activities in Brisbane and over the past 10 years Customs House has provided a city base for many of those activities.”

“Customs House is a major Brisbane asset.”

The anniversary morning tea concert ($15 per person) will include performances by UQ’s Symphonic Wind Band and the University Chorale.

The program includes the West Side Story collection by Leonard Bernstein, An American in Paris by Gershwin, works by Scarlatti and Ralph Vaughn Williams and a selection of uplifting world choral music.

Ms Black said more than 155,000 visitors had passed through its grand Corinthian-columned entrance during the past 10 years and she hoped to see many more over the next decade.

“I would like to extend a very warm welcome to those people who have visited Customs House to come along and be part of the festivities,” she said.

“For those people who have not yet had chance to see inside this beautiful heritage-listed building, the Open Day will be a great opportunity to see what they have been missing.”

Its vast hall, the Long Room, which was originally the main public area for customs transactions, is now a grand ballroom while a stylish eatery is situated in what was once the Queen’s Warehouse.

The Customs House Art Gallery hosts national and international collections and for the past 10 years has been the permanent home of the Stuartholme-Behan collection of Australian art.

The collection spans the transition of Australian painting from 1788 to the present and is considered one of the most comprehensive single collections of Australian art.

Ms Black said the University, which now owns Customs House, was extremely grateful to the more than 2000 donors who had generously contributed over the past decade to help restore, maintain and preserve the building.

“Financial contributions have helped make possible the transformation of the Brisbane Customs House into a focal point for cultural, intellectual and heritage appreciation,” she said.

For information about the anniversary celebrations and other Customs House events please visit: www.customshouse.com.au.

Visitors can still feel the presence of the past… Customs House is a major Brisbane asset.
Solid investment in scientific advances

by Andrew Dunne

Some of the University’s most promising academics were rewarded at a ceremony celebrating research excellence.

UQ researchers studying subjects as diverse as sunscreens for fish, young people and mobile phones, and how babies understand themselves to be human were recognised in this year’s UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards.

Ten leading UQ researchers were honoured with grants totalling $655,000 at a gala ceremony at the UQ Centre on September 23.

Now in their sixth year, the annual awards recognise outstanding performance and leadership potential, and form part of UQ Research Week.

The winners were presented with their awards by UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and guest speaker at the event Australia’s Chief Scientist Dr Robin Batterham.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle congratulated the winners and commended the diversity of their research.

Professor Siddle said the UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards were among a range of initiatives created by the University to foster and nurture exciting research projects.

“Awards such as these are designed to foster the next generation of quality researchers,” he said.

“This year’s winners were part of a hotly contested field. The quality and diversity of their research augurs well for the University.”

Another highlight of the week was a public forum on research commercialisation held on September 20.

The forum was moderated by ABC Radio National’s Sandy McCutcheon and examined the topic, Universities have a responsibility to commercialise their research: academics as entrepreneurs.

“A number of schools and institutes, as well as the Graduate School and Office of Research and Postgraduate Studies, held seminars, workshops and other events during Research Week.

Professor Siddle said the University’s research and research-training performance consistently ranked in the top three among Australian universities on widely-accepted measures. UQ researchers competed favourably with the world’s best in many areas.

He said as part of its research strategy, the University had invested significant sums in key projects and had been able to attract matching financial support from government and external donors.

“This approach has been extremely fruitful, particularly in projects related to bioscience, nanotechnology and neuroscience.

“UQ Research Week has highlighted a selection of important projects and the UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards have introduced the work of some of our brightest young researchers,” Professor Siddle said.

Funding for the winning researchers was provided by the UQ Foundation, UQ’s research-only budget and the Vice-Chancellor’s Strategic Initiatives Fund.

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Young ring in new mobile generation

The mobile phone and the Internet have become more than communication tools for a whole generation of young people.

Dr Gerard Goggin is hoping to find out why.

“Despite popular conceptions of mobiles and the Internet being widely used by young people, little research has been done in the area,” he said.

Dr Goggin has received a $60,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards grant.

Using focus groups, online forums and in-depth interviews, both in metropolitan areas and rural regions, his study will target people aged between 12 and 20 to build up a picture of the influence of the technologies.

Knowledge key to cleaner kidneys

Understanding how our kidneys absorb protein from urine should give medical researchers more ammunition to fight skyrocketing kidney disease in diabetics.

A team of UQ researchers led by Dr Philip Poronnik, a senior lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences, is unravelling the kidneys’ molecular processes.

Kidneys filter about 180 litres of blood a day, removing waste products for excretion into urine.

“When our kidneys become damaged, the filters become leaky,” Dr Poronnik said.

He will use his $70,000 from UQ’s Foundation Research Excellence Awards to further his research.
**TRACKING PATH OF HUMAN AWAKENING**

How and when babies and young children understand what it means to be human is the subject of Dr Virginia Slaughter’s research within UQ’s School of Psychology.

Dr Slaughter has been awarded a $45,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award for a project examining the development of knowledge about human beings in infancy and early childhood.

“We’re all human so studying how we come to understand ourselves is important in itself for making sense of our lives,” Dr Slaughter said.

She said the research could provide new insights into some forms of developmental disorder where understanding self and others is atypical or incomplete.

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**NO GUESSWORK FOR BETTER INVESTMENTS**

The business world will have a better method of evaluating big investment projects and meeting required returns if Dr Maosen Zhong has his way.

For the next two years Dr Zhong from UQ’s Business School will devise a step-by-step formula to predict equity capital – the amount shareholders invest in their company.

He said the results would help financial managers and treasury staff evaluate investments and help stock investors meet required returns on investments.

Dr Zhong, a senior lecturer in finance, received a $75,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

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**VIRUS FIGHT AT MOLECULAR LEVEL**

A promising lead in developing anti-viral drugs with the potential to fight human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) and herpes simplex virus (HSV) has been boosted by a $50,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

The award will enable the Institute for Molecular Bioscience’s (IMB) Dr Norelle Daly to determine the molecular structure of retrocyclin, a molecule with the ability to protect human cells from HIV infection.

“Given the worldwide increase in the incidence of AIDS, there is enormous interest in identifying naturally occurring antiviral molecules,” Dr Daly said.

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**PUTTING THE BRAKES ON LIVER DISEASE**

A UQ researcher is working to halt the progress of chronic liver disease.

There is no effective treatment for halting the progress of the disease in the 50 percent of people who fail anti-viral therapy.

A liver transplant may be the only treatment for the 15 to 20 percent of those who progress to end stage liver disease, but there is a lack of donor organs.

Dr Julie Jonsson, a member of the Liver Research Group at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, has found a protein molecule known as angiotensin, which might help halt progression of the disease.

She has received a $75,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

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**STRUCTURES BUILT FOR NEW SCIENTIFIC ERA**

Delving into the micro universe to make big improvements to everyday products such as paint and coatings has Dr Michael Monteiro working at the cutting-edge of science.

Dr Monteiro, a materials chemist with UQ’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, received a $75,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

He is looking at better ways to make complex polymer architectures.

“In the past when a polymer was found to work for an application, people modified it by adding other polymers to get better properties,” Dr Monteiro said.

“But now we have the capability to design products for specific applications.”

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**ENTANGLEMENT ON A QUANTUM SCALE**

A new research project could lead to improved internal computer network security at banks and financial institutions.

Dr Andrew White of UQ’s School of Physical Sciences has won a $75,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to undertake work on the project.

He said quantum cryptography was of great interest to financial institutions.

“This research aims to realise the fundamental unit of quantum information, the multi-level quantum system or qudit,” he said.

“To date, most scientific experiments have realised only their simplest two-level incarnation, the qubit, or quantum bit.”

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**SUBTERRANEAN SEARCH FOR ANSWERS**

To examine the transport of potentially toxic chemicals from the land into the sea, Dr Ling Li, from UQ’s School of Engineering, takes his research underground.

Unlike most other studies into the leaching of agricultural-based chemicals into the sea, which focus on above ground activities such as river flow and run-off, Dr Li’s work looks at what’s happening beneath the ground’s surface.

He has been awarded $60,000 in funding from the 2004 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards.

The money will be used to fund his project examining the groundwater pathways of land-derived chemicals into coastal waters.

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**HOW CLEANER FISH ‘SLIP, SLOP, SLAP’**

Dr Lexa Grutter, from the School of Life Sciences, is examining how coral reef fish obtain their own sunscreens.

She is using an underwater hyperspectral ultra-violet (UV) sensitive camera system, to visualise the UV damage on cleaner-fish.

The fish, Labroides dimidiatus, peck at the bodies of other fish to remove parasites.

“This study is significant because sunscreen compounds in fish were only recently discovered in the mucus of coral reef fish and appear to protect them from UV damage,” Dr Grutter said.

Dr Grutter has received a $70,000 2004 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.
Bound for Japan

A UQ student has won a prestigious scholarship to Japan.

Ben Stein, a fourth-year Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws student, has been chosen to attend the 2004 Mitsui Educational Foundation (MEF) scholarship trip to Japan later this year.

Mr Stein will be among a group of students from eight Australian universities to embark on an 18-day tour of Japan from November 23 to December 11.

The aim of the tour is to help develop and expand the field of knowledge and friendship between Australia and Japan, as well as to broaden the tertiary education of Australian students.

It will be the first trip outside Australia for Mr Stein, who was one of 63 UQ applicants.

During the selection process five of these applicants were interviewed by a panel consisting of Jan McCreary (International Education Directorate), Dr Julie Duck (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences) and Brendon Lutwyche (Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture).

The students will travel to Kyoto and Nara to see many of Japan’s best-known shrines, temples, markets and business and financial districts.

They will also meet Japanese university students and spend two or three days with a Japanese family.

After completing the trip to Japan in December, Mr Stein will write and submit a report based on his experience.

It is the 33rd consecutive year that MEF has sponsored Australian students’ visits to Japan and the first time since 1997 that UQ has been nominated to be part of the program.

Twenty-one UQ students have participated in the program since its inception.

Heritage Trail opens

UQ Gatton celebrated its status as the State’s first tertiary institution with the launch of a Heritage Trail during the Gatton Campus Open Day in August.

Launched by Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, the tour draws on a variety of stories to guide visitors through the campus’ 107-year history.

Campus Manager Janelle Zahmell said the tour was a self-guided walk with signs highlighting significant events in its history.

The trail was initiated by Dr Annie Ross from the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management and developed and implemented by student Bruce Thompson, with support from lecturer Greg Siepen.

Stemming research

Two UQ postgraduate researchers have each received $10,400 from Australia’s National Stem Cell Centre to further work on promising early stage projects.

Andy Hsu from the Mater Medical Research Institute, supervised by Dr Alison Rice, is working on a project entitled Proof of Principle for the use of CTL induced by RNA loaded CD34+ stem cell derived DC to eradicate acute leukaemia post-transplantation.

Thanh Nguyen, from the School of Biomedical Sciences, supervised by Dr Peter Noakes and Dr Peter Kaye, is researching Cytokine Signalling in Embryonic Stem Cells.
When Pompey Raymond pulled up a bunch of waterlilly roots and took a bite, the look on his face said it all. “No good,” the Aboriginal elder said as he spat them out and kept trudging through the remote Northern Territory waterhole.

Mr Raymond was guiding a team of academics and Jingili people to record culturally significant data on the Jingili culture for an Indigenous land claim on a Territory cattle station.

Thirteen people – Jingili elders and youth, two Northern Land Council anthropologists and two UQ language experts Dr Mary Laughren and Dr Rob Pensalfini took part.

They crammed into three four-wheel drives (4WDs) and walked through 320 kilometres of old cattle trails, halfway between Alice Springs and Darwin.

“It was like a little nomadic 4WD tribe going along the traditional route,” Dr Pensalfini said.

“For the traditional owners it was the first time they had been to some of these places for 10 or 20 years.”

The group trekked along Newcastle Creek, a dry creek bed dotted with waterholes that winds through the sprawling cattle station Beetaloo.

For four days they recorded everything of cultural significance – individual rocks, trees and waterholes.

There are hundreds of sacred sites but the group visited about 30 of them. Along the way Mr Raymond would taste-test water lilly roots and other ‘bush-tucker’ such as bush cucumbers, small green fruits that grow on ground creepers.

“The fruit is about the size of a cherry tomato and covered in fine hairs,” Dr Pensalfini said.

“He showed us how to rub the hairs off the fruit, then he ate one and gave one to me. “They taste identical to cucumbers.”

He said there were several times the group couldn’t stop overnight at what looked to the untrained eye to be good campsites but were home to Dreaming ancestors.

“We were able to visit these sites and sit near them, but not to camp at nearby waterholes, so as not to disturb the ancestors,” he said.

Aboriginal elders who have been through certain animal ceremonies, such as the emu ceremony, have to avoid naming, seeing or being near certain creatures.

“One day, as we were driving, we saw an emu off to the left and one of the old men promptly ducked down under the dashboard so as not to be seen by it,” Dr Pensalfini said.

“On another occasion, we were at a waterhole that had a stone outcropping by its shore, which was part of an emu Dreaming. The old man had to keep referring to it obliquely as ‘that black one’ or ‘that one I can’t say’.”

Car problems were more of a worry than emus as one of the cars became bogged one day at sunset, only five kilometres from a bitumen road.

“It was the ingenuity of one of the Jingili men, Dicky Miller, who suggested using broken-up ant hills under the wheels for traction, that set them free.

Dr Pensalfini collected 13 hours of audio recordings from the trip.

The group also documented dozens of rock carvings showing turkey and emu tracks, as well as rainbows, kangaroo tracks, boomerangs and children’s hand and footprints.

Dr Pensalfini was paid by the Northern Land Council to record data on people’s connection to the land at Beetaloo. This sort of information is useful in potential land claims.

“If you’re going to make a land claim you have to establish that firstly the people making the claim are (a) Aboriginal, and (b) people with ceremonial ties to that land,” Dr Pensalfini said.

At age 68, born and raised on Beetaloo and having worked as a police tracker and experienced drover, Mr Raymond’s Jingili knowledge is valuable and the UQ experts wanted to record it for future generations.

“Pompey is not necessarily the oldest, but he is the most senior in terms of ceremonial knowledge and responsibility for this area,” Dr Pensalfini said.

“He has always lived very near to his traditional territory and has been instrumental in the culture surviving to the extent that it has.”

Apart from the academic value, Dr Pensalfini said he hoped the survey would help the owners gain access to fish, hunt and live on the land.

“We brought with us a number of the next generation of Jingili people and clearly Pompey hoped that they would learn from the trip,” he said.

“They certainly did, but as none of the youngest people speak Jingulu or know the songs by heart, there is a distinct possibility that soon the knowledge will be gone.”

About 20 people spoke Jingulu when Dr Pensalfini first worked with the community in 1995, but now it is estimated only about 10 speakers remain.

Basic initiation ceremonies are still performed almost every year, though the number of men who know the songs relating to this has declined.

“The remaining speakers are men and women, all over the age of 40, but mostly in the 60-80 year range.”

Dr Pensalfini said Mr Raymond “choked up” as he retold stories at waterholes and sang dreaming songs.

“He was very clearly, visibly and audibly quite moved by being back at this land,” he said.

“He was moved to tears on a number of occasions as he thought about the decline of the culture, and spoke about the people who used to live on this land.

“He put on a wry smile when he talked about his generation possibly being the last to know these songs, but it was clear that he was very sorry.”
Due reward for miraculous staff

Twenty-four of the University’s most dedicated staff have been recognised at the annual UQ Miracle Worker Awards.

Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, presented the miracle workers with their awards at a UQ General Staff Association breakfast ceremony held at the Innes Room in the Student Union Complex in September.

General staff were nominated by their co-workers for qualities such as selflessness, knowledge-sharing, good communication and leadership.

The awards were established in 1995 by the Scitech General Staff Communications Group and originally grew out of an Action Learning Program.

Secretary of the General Staff Association Kay Whitfield said the awards breakfast had been enormous success and a great occasion for staff to get together.

“The awards are greatly valued by those staff nominated to receive them and it is fantastic to see more and more staff supporting their colleagues every year,” Ms Whitfield said.

Those rewarded for their miraculous work were Tricia Bichel, Daniel Callan, Max Corliss, Peter Dare, Allison Golding, Eddie Hall, Lyn Jessup, Diane Jones, Karen Joyce, Jan King, Val Lawson, Jill Maalsen, Hilary Mackie, Fiona Marshall, Marie Morrison, Kathleen Page, Chris Paten, Ulli Paten, Kaylene Power, Melva Quilliam, Pam Tupe, Ann Walton, Sharmaine Wells and Katrina Wenzel.

The winner of the 2004 General Staff Self Development Prize, Genevieve Healy, was also presented with her award by Deputy Chancellor Robert Wensley, QC.

Ms Healy, a research assistant who is studying for a Master of Public Health, was rewarded for her sporting achievements and outstanding work at UQ’s Perinatal Research Centre.
Fraser dingoes team up

Fraser Island dingoes are surviving as a “superpack” roaming up to 120 kilometres a week. They are more tolerant of each other than their mainland cousins and move around the island depending on turtle and fish seasons, according to UQ dingo researcher Nick Baker.

Mr Baker has been researching the ecology of Fraser Island dingoes for his PhD since the fatal dingo attack on nine-year-old Clinton Gage in 2001.

The island’s large population of dingoes has often clashed with tourists. Some tourists continue to illegally feed or approach the dingoes despite heavy fines.

Mr Baker has been collecting dingo DNA, recording dingo encounters and tagging and tracking the dogs.

“On the mainland you have these strong packs that will kill anything off that tries to come into their area,” Mr Baker said.

“What we want to see is dingoes being wild, doing what wild dingoes do and a big part of that is removing the dependency on supplementary food from humans.”

Dingoes can move safely through occupied territory and groups shift around the island where resources are greatest, depending on seasons.

“They learn very quickly that at certain times of year there will be fish available along the beach,” he said.

“For example in tailor season when there are thousands of fishers on the island.

“We see a distinct shift in activity to the north of the island when turtle season is on.”

Most dingo activity is on the eastern side of the island with some adults travelling 27 kilometres in six hours.

One dingo ousted from his group travelled about 120 kilometres in a week down the eastern edge of the island from Waddy Point to Hook Point.

“It’s unusual for them to travel through other dog’s territories like that so quickly,” Mr Baker said.

“When he actually turned up 100 kilometres away he didn’t have a scratch on him.”

Mr Baker said the dingoes remained a wild population with less human interaction, largely due to the dingo management plan and more rangers.

“You don’t get people doing as many stupid things as they used to do like trying to feed them and leaving food out in campgrounds,” he said.

By February, Mr Baker’s research should detail more than 30 types of dingo prey and provide information about where the dogs moved to throughout the year.

Genetic data will reveal how pure the island dingoes are, how many there are and their genetic variability.

It is estimated there are between 100 and 200 dingoes on Fraser Island, which Mr Baker said was a high density of dogs for the area.

Mr Baker’s research was supervised by Dr Luke Leung from the School of Animal Studies and was funded by a $67,000 grant from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

What we want to see is dingoes being wild, doing what wild dingoes do

by Miguel Holland
The literary road

A story about working-class life has brought high praise for its award-winning author.

A UQ student has won a major literary award for a story inspired by a trip across the Nullarbor more than 10 years ago.

Julienne van Loon, a PhD student in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, won The Australian/Vogel Literary Award for her novel Road Story, which she worked on as part of her PhD.

The $20,000 prize is awarded to a writer under 35 for an unpublished manuscript.

Ms van Loon’s story is a gritty, violent drama about a teenage girl who leaves her injured friend in a wrecked car and makes a dash for a complex country.

“I wanted to depict their kind of working-class life, outside of farming, which is under-represented in our literature, particularly from the female point of view,” Ms van Loon said.

“The judges said the story was “tense, vital and dynamic,” and “a great evocation of beyond the Black Stump in contemporary Australia”.

Road Story will be published next year by Allen and Unwin.

Grant King, 3

Steven Ralph lives alone and drinks alone. When his luckless life as an advertising copywriter is about to implode he prescribes himself a dog. 75 kilos of canine anti-depressant. Caesar is his four-legged clover, and suddenly anything seems possible. Until Ralph’s world becomes a dog’s breakfast, literally.

Gerard Windsor, I Have Kissed Your Lips

In this deeply affecting story of mothers and sons and lost babies, Gerard Windsor explores the extremes of our human hopes and fears.

Jillian Watkinson, The Hanging Tree

When Bill Masters decides to write a family history, a story to pass on to his children, he finds a letter dated New Year’s Eve 1976, six months before he was born. Through the letter, Bill discovers the stories of his uncles, Wilson and Ben, who shared the love of one woman, and uncovers a complex drama of determination, tragedy and triumph.

David Smiedt, Are We There Yet?

Chasing a Childhood Through South Africa

In a nation full of confusion and contradictions, David Smiedt journeys across South Africa in search of a father he’s almost forgotten. From Soweto to Cape Town, from Kruger to Kimberley, what he finds is shocking, entrancing, surreal and stunningly beautiful. This travel memoir offers a rare and timely tribute to the very fabric of South African life.

Phil Scott Brown, Travels with My Angst

Phil Brown has travelled widely but reluctantly since his Hong Kong childhood. With a veritable kitbag of phobias at his disposal he finds any exotic destination a special challenge. With his more adventurous wife Sandra, Phil worries his way around the world, seeking the perfection of unlimited cable TV channels and twenty-four-hour room service. Travels with My Angst is a new breed of travel book for those who are happier to read about, rather than endure, their globe-trotting adventures.
History uncovered

Artefacts from the south-west Pacific are providing an insight into early human settlement of the region.

An archaeologist from UQ is part of a major international study in the South Pacific, funded by the French Government.

Associate Professor Ian Lilley, of UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, is one of only three non-French archaeologists of the more than 30 taking part in the multi-component project, with UQ the only non-French institution listed as a principal partner.

Dr Lilley and his colleagues will work in New Caledonia, examining pottery and other finds up to 3000 years old from the Loyalty Islands, an eastern New Caledonian province.

He and a group of French and New Caledonian archaeologists will focus on the island of Tiga to locate and excavate sites containing human skeletal remains as well as Lapita pottery — a beautiful, intricately chiselled, usually red-washed ware found throughout the south-west Pacific from the islands off New Guinea to Samoa and Tonga.

Lapita’s designs, in combination with carbon-dating of organic materials found with it, provide vital clues about the colonisation of the Pacific from 3300 years ago by peoples of mixed Melanesian and south-east Asian origin.

Although people had settled out as far as the Solomon Islands at least 30,000 years ago, “Lapita people” and their descendents were the first humans to colonise the region.

“Lapita remnants found on the remote Willaumez Peninsula in New Britain suggest these people arrived shortly after a nearby volcano, Witori, erupted to devastating effect,” Dr Lilley said.

“Stone tools and other remains beneath a thick layer of volcanic ash suggest the original inhabitants of the area had lived on the Peninsula for more than 35,000 years.

“However, they seem to have been wiped out by the catastrophe because the only items found directly above the ash layer are Lapita pottery and things commonly linked with it.

“The colonisers may have then settled on the Peninsula because it was a good source of a scarce volcanic glass known as obsidian, highly prized for use as spearheads, shaving implements and ceremonial items.

“Lapita is the key to demonstrating that all South-Pacific islanders share a common ancestry, a fact that could become a catalyst to closer links in the region but which can be unpopular among nationalist political groups.”

Dr Lilley said it was thought the early colonisers set sail in substantial canoes from their homes in the Bismarck Archipelago near New Guinea, colonising the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and American Samoa over the next 500 years or so.

Their descendents, by then recognisably “Polynesian”, later colonised virtually all the islands between Hawaii, Easter Island and New Zealand between 1000 and 1500 years ago.
TO RENT/HOUSE SIT

Kelvin Grove: 3bd hse, can come furnished, avail. Aug 2005. Close to transport, universities, schools and hospitals. Home exchange in Vancouver, Canada available. Haida: haidaluke@yahoo.ca or haida.luke@uq.edu.au

Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island: 3bd (1 queen/4 single), walk to beaches, shops and hotel, stereo, CD player, TV, gas BBQ, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer, no pets. Malcolm: 07 3365 5764 or m.mclennan@uq.edu.au

WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT

Mature-age postgrad student needs rent-free hse sitting for minimum 3 months from Nov-Dec. Good housekeeper, gardener, good with Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and The University of Queensland Postgraduate Research Scholarships (UQPRS): to provide a living allowance while undertaking a research higher degree. Worth: $18,484 per annum. Closing: October 15. Information: 07 3365 4838 or scholarships@research.uq.edu.au

The Zonta Advancement Grant: offered to improve the status of women. The grant has been awarded in the past to assist with tuition fees, child minding, books and transport. Worth: $1000. Closing: October 15. Information: 07 3365 9801 or 07 3378 9645.

CAMLA Essay Competition: for students who submit an essay of 1000-3000 words on a topic relating to communications or media law. Worth: $1000. Closing: October 29. Information: rosie@bigpond.net.au


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UQ NEWS DEADLINES 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE NUMBER</th>
<th>COPY DEADLINE (FRI)</th>
<th>PUBLICATION DATE (TUE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>539</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>November 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2 ends: November 20</td>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>December 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics.
Proud families celebrate international graduations 2004

UQ’s tradition of holding graduation ceremonies in major cities in South East Asia has again been warmly welcomed by international students.

A world-renowned “bird flu” researcher and University of Hong Kong Emeritus Professor received an Honorary Doctorate of Science at a UQ graduation ceremony in Hong Kong in September.

Emeritus Professor Kennedy Shortridge is a pioneer in researching the potentially deadly disease, leading to the establishment of preparation systems to deal with future outbreaks.

Professor Shortridge, a UQ graduate, moved to Hong Kong in 1972 after completing his PhD at The University of London in 1971, commencing studies in 1975 into how avian influenza viruses spread to humans.

His studies drew attention to the importance of domestic poultry and pigs as the most likely sources of the virus for humans.

Professor Shortridge’s findings, including the hypothesis in 1982 of southern China’s role as an epicentre for the emergence of pandemic influenza viruses, enabled the development of surveillance and preparation systems for future outbreaks. His work was crucial to the early detection of the H5N1 “bird flu” outbreak in 1997, potentially saving incalculable lives.

Professor Shortridge, who recently retired from HKU’s Department of Microbiology after 30 years, received his degree and addressed the Hong Kong ceremony, on September 17.

UQ Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards, AC, Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and other senior University executives including Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg and Executive Deans Professors Michael Keniger (Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture) and Linda Rosenman (Social and Behavioural Sciences) presided over the Hong Kong graduation.

They were also in attendance at the Singapore graduation ceremony on September 12 and the ceremony in Kuala Lumpur on September 15.

Among the graduates at the Singapore ceremony was University medallist and UQ table tennis champion Hoi Shun (Antony) Lui.

He received his University Medal and graduated with his Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) with first-class honours.

Mr Lui is currently completing a PhD within UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering and has been awarded a UQ Graduate School Scholarship to cover his living expenses during his PhD studies.

Among the graduates in Kuala Lumpur was Norshamliza Chamhuri, who received her Master of Agribusiness degree before a large contingent of family and friends.

“I didn’t take the opportunity to graduate in Australia as my family and friends couldn’t accompany me there. I didn’t want to graduate alone without them by my side,” Ms Chamhuri said.

“I chose to study at UQ as I was interested in the fact I could combine agribusiness courses with other business and economics courses related to my work.”

UQ NEWS, OCTOBER 2004

Journal turns 50

The UQ-produced Australian Journal of Politics and History (AJPH) has celebrated its 50th volume.

The journal was founded in November 1955 by Professor Gordon Greenwood, who intended the AJPH to become a high-level discussion forum, a vehicle for quality political and historical works and authoritative source for information about Australian politics.

“There have been changes in the frequency of the journal’s appearance since then, but it has continued to appear without interruption over that period,” AJPH co-editor and history lecturer Andrew Bonnell said.

AJPH is published by UK based Blackwell Publishing and is distributed worldwide.

Law heritage program

A new heritage program is recognising the achievements of staff and students at the University’s TC Beirne School of Law.

Head of School Professor Charles Rickett said the program had been developed to encourage pride in the School, a strong sense of mutual identity among graduates and to help develop moral and material support for the School from its alumni.

Those involved in the program recently set up an ANZAC Day display at the Walter Harrison Law Library, recognising the courage and sacrifice of five Law School members who died in service during World War II.

Information: Roz Sheldrick, 07 3365 2361 or email: r.sheldrick@law.uq.edu.au

No street boundaries

Australia’s next generation of Oscar winners will perform in the UQ Drama Studies and School of English, Media Studies and Art History presentation Boundary Street, with scenes from Who’s Afraid of the Working Class.

The play, at the Cement Box Theatre from October 14 to 16, is set around Boundary Street in Brisbane’s West End.

Information: 07 3365 2593 (bookings essential, adults $8, concession $5, October 11 preview $5).
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

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SEMINARS

- Wednesday, October 6
  Australasian Centre on Ageing, Breakfast colloquia series 2004, Older single women: what is there to look forward to? Professor Christina Lee (7-9am, Royal on the Park, Brisbane CBD, bookings essential). Details: 07 3346 9084 or accevents@uq.edu.au
  Queensland Brain Institute.
  Neuroscience seminar series 2004, ‘Affective’ neuroscience and neuroimaging, Associate Professor Lea Williams, Westmead Hospital, Sydney (noon, Seminar Room 305, Skerman Bldg). Details: 07 3346 9559.

- Thursday, October 7
  Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies.
  Identity theft, or what’s the use of having an identity, Professor Mark Foster (5.30-6.30pm, The Mayne Auditorium). Details: 07 3346 9764 or admin.cccs@uq.edu.au
  Philosophy Staff and Students Seminar Program.
  Love, ethics and authenticity: reading Simone de Beauvoir with Le Droeuf and others, Michelle Boulous (3-5pm, Room 1- E348, Forgan Smith Bldg).
  School of English, Media Studies and Art History.
  Australian hip hop music, Renae O’Hanlon (1pm, Room 540, Michele Bldg). Details: 07 3346 3137.

- Friday, October 8
  School of Biomedical Sciences.
  Cardiac remodelling in hypertension and heart failure. Effects of gender and chronic adrenoceptor blockade, Vincent Chan (1-2pm, Room 305, Skerman Bldg).
  Working Papers in Archaeology Seminar Series.
  ‘Stopping all stations to Beenleigh’: constructing an authentic repertoire, Dee Gerring (2-3pm, Room 323, Steele Bldg).
  Philosophy Staff and Students Seminar Program.
  Love, ethics and authenticity: reading Simone de Beauvoir with Le Droeuf and others, Michelle Boulous (3-5pm, Room 1- E348, Forgan Smith Bldg).
  School of English, Media Studies and Art History.
  Australian hip hop music, Renae O’Hanlon (1pm, Room 540, Michele Bldg). Details: 07 3346 3137.

- Thursday, October 14
  School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, On French and Israeli wars of decolonisation: a comparative approach, Lorenzo Veracini (4.15-5.30pm, Room 323, Michele Bldg). Details: 07 3346 6320.

- Friday, October 15
  IMB Seminar Series, Automated CryoElectron Microscopy at NRAMM, Associate Professor Clint Potter, National Resource for Automated Molecular Microscopy, The Scripps Research Institute, USA (noon, QBP Auditorium). Details: 07 3346 2056.
  School of English, Media Studies and Art History.
  The events on and around the origins of the future: ecological impulses, extraterrestrial imperatives and the Biosphere 2 Experiment, Chris Coughran (1pm, Room 540, Michele Bldg). Details: 07 3346 3137.
  School of Biomedical Sciences.
  Coupling GPCRs to neuronal excitation: studies on sensory cells, Philip D Marley, University of Melbourne (1-2pm, Room 305, Skerman Bldg).
  Working Papers in Archaeology Seminar Series.
  Recent excavations and analyses from Copan, Honduras, Michael Haslam (2-3pm, Room 323, Steele Bldg).

C

CONCERTS

- Thursday, October 7
  School of Music.
  Free lunchtime concert, Masters candidate Meredith Oostenbroek presents a program of French violin music (12.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Friday, October 8
  School of Music.
  Free lunchtime concert, Masters candidate Pauline Man presents a diverse program including Bach’s Viola da Gamba Sonata No. 2 (12.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Thursday, October 28
  School of Music.
  Opera workshop performances (7.30pm, Princess Theatre).

- Sunday, October 31
  School of Music.
  Sundays at Customs House, includes performances by the Symphonic Wind Band and the Brass Ensemble (11.30am, The Long Room, Customs House).

OTHER EVENTS

- Thursday, October 14
  School of Music, Free lunchtime concert, Masters violin candidate Miranda Carson will perform (12.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Wednesday, October 20
  School of Music, Sleath String Performance Prize, featuring performers playing works from a wide range of string repertoire (6.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Thursday, October 21
  School of Music, Free lunchtime concert, Ayako Okomo presents her second Masters recital on harpsichord (12.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Sunday, October 24
  School of Music, Anniversary Morning Tea, Customs House celebrates the 10th anniversary of its restoration with performances by the Symphonic Wind Band and the University Chorale (10.30am, The Long Room, Customs House, $15). Details: 07 3346 8999.

- Wednesday, October 27
  School of Music, Sleath String Performance Prize for postgraduates, UQ’s postgraduate string players will compete for this esteemed prize, (6.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Thursday, October 28
  School of Music.
  Free lunchtime concert, Masters viola candidate Pauline Man presents a diverse program including Bach’s Viola da Gamba Sonata No. 2 (12.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Monday, October 11
  School of Music.
  Music Students’ Society Wind Performance Prize, this concert will showcase the School’s finest wind players (6.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

- Wednesday, October 13
  School of Music.
  Staff Club Twilight Concert, a wide selection of works from the chamber music repertoire (6pm, The Eleanor Room, Staff Club, adults $15 or concessions $10).
Q7 What aspects of UQ News, if any, do you feel are unnecessary and why?  
(Please record your response)


Q8 Overall, how do you rate the value of UQ News for building relationships with UQ?  
(Please tick one box only)

- Extremely valuable [ ] 5
- Very valuable [ ] 4
- Valuable [ ] 3
- Not very valuable [ ] 2
- Not valuable at all [ ] 1

Q9 What improvements (if any) could be made to make UQ News more relevant and useful to you?  
(Please record your response)


Q10 Which of the following options for receiving UQ News would you prefer?  
(Please tick one box only)

- In the mail [ ] 1
- On-campus [ ] 2
- Internet/website [ ] 3
- Something else (Please specify) [ ] 4

Q11 Some articles and stories in UQ News are available in more detail on the UQ website. Knowing this, how likely are you to seek out specific areas of interest online in the future?  
(Please tick one box only)

- Extremely likely [ ] 5
- Somewhat likely [ ] 4
- Unsure [ ] 3
- Not very likely [ ] 2
- Not at all likely [ ] 1

Q12 Have you accessed UQ News Online?  
(Please tick one box only)

- Yes [ ] 1
- No [ ] 2

D1 Gender  
(Please tick one box only)

- Male [ ] 1
- Female [ ] 2

D2 What is your age?  
(Please tick one box only)

- 18 years or under [ ] 1
- 19 – 25 years [ ] 2
- 26 – 35 years [ ] 3
- 36 – 45 years [ ] 4
- 46 – 55 years [ ] 5
- Over 55 years [ ] 6

D3 Which of the following best describes your current relationship to UQ?  
(Please tick one box only)

- Business partner/ Affiliate of UQ [ ] 1
- Lecturer/ tutor/ researcher at UQ [ ] 2
- Student at UQ [ ] 3
- General UQ staff member [ ] 4
- Something else (Please specify) [ ] 5

D4 Which of the following best describes the industry you work in?  
(Please tick one box only)

- Education [ ] 1
- Banking/ Finance [ ] 2
- Marketing/ Communications [ ] 3
- Accounting [ ] 4
- Retail [ ] 5
- Medical [ ] 6
- Law [ ] 7
- IT [ ] 8
- Something else (Please specify) [ ] 9
This questionnaire has been developed by TNS, an independent market research company, to provide The University of Queensland (UQ) with reader input about the content of UQ News. Your feedback is highly valued.

> All responses will be treated in the strictest confidence.
> Please return completed questionnaires by NOVEMBER, 5 2004.
> If you work or study at UQ you can place this questionnaire in an internal envelope and send to: Director, Office of Marketing and Communications
> Alternatively, please tear off this page and either fax back to (07) 3847 9122, or return in an envelope clearly marked as follows (stamp is unnecessary): TNS, Reply Paid 80208, Greenslopes Qld 4120.
> If you have any enquiries please call (07) 3847 9800 during business hours.

Q1 On average, how many copies of UQ News do you read in one year? (Please tick one box only)

1-3 copies     1
4-6 copies     2
7-10 copies    3

Q2 How much time (in minutes) on average do you spend reading a single edition of UQ News? (Please tick one box only)

Less than 5 minutes     1
5-10 minutes       2
11-19 minutes    3
20-29 minutes    4
More than 30 minutes 5

Q3 How many people, other than you, usually read your copy of UQ News? (Please tick one box only)

None (self only)     1
1-2 other people  2
3-5 other people 3
6 or more other people 4

Q4 Which aspects of UQ News do you find of interest? (You may tick more than one box if appropriate)

Articles about UQ 1
Stories about achievements 2
UQ events/ activities 3
UQ research 4
Links with industry updates 5
Stories about staff 6
Stories about students 7
Visual content 8
Something else (Please specify) 9

Q5 Please rate the style and layout of UQ News, for visual appeal and being easy to read. (Please tick one box only)

Not at all appealing       Extremely appealing 12345678910

Q6 Thinking about all aspects of UQ News, please rate the relevance of the publication to you. (Please tick one box only)

Not at all relevant       Extremely relevant 12345678910