NATIONAL TREASURES
UQ and teachers scoop Australian awards pool
UQ – Australia’s Best Lecturers

“The University of Queensland can claim to have the best lecturers in the country after securing the lion’s share of a $50 million teaching excellence fund.”

At this week’s 2005 Australian Awards for University Teaching ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra, UQ won more awards than any other university – 4 of the 12 awarded. 35 Universities competed.

This commitment to teaching resulted in UQ being awarded $10.424 million in Federal funding. This funding was awarded on the basis of student employment outcomes, student satisfaction, student attrition and student progress. Congratulations to our winners.

Institutional Awards

Teaching Large, First Year Classes
Team Leader – Dr Virginia Slaughter.
An Integrated Approach to Teaching Large First Year Psychology Courses.

Enhancement of the Quality of Teaching and Learning
Team Leader – Associate Professor Caroline Crosthwaite. Project Centred Curriculum in Chemical Engineering.

Approaches to Improving/Enhancing Assessment

Teaching Awards

Physical Sciences and Related Studies
Dr Michael Bulmer.
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Events over the past month have reaffirmed UQ's national and international leadership in teaching and learning, and in research.

Our teachers are Australia's best, and our researchers continue to command a handsome share of the nation's competitive grants.

In November, UQ dominated the 2005 Australian Awards for University Teaching and the Federal Government’s 2006 Learning and Teaching Performance Fund, while performing strongly in Australian Research Council grants.

The success of our teachers at the Australian Awards for University Teaching was unprecedented for any university. UQ won a staggering one-third of the national awards.

Similarly, UQ gained $10.4 million in Federal funding for demonstrating excellence in teaching and learning. This was more than one-third of the top band of the first Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.

Allocations were assessed on the basis of undergraduate employment outcomes or further full-time study, student satisfaction, attrition rates, and student progress.

With this national recognition, UQ puts paid to the myth that research-intensive universities do not also have outstanding teachers.

The University's standing as a research leader was again reflected by the Australian Research Council, which awarded UQ $35.6 million – almost 10 percent of all national funds.

Full credit for all of this success goes to the University's excellent teachers and researchers, many of whom are featured in this edition of UQ News.

They and other staff, students and alumni are consistently elevating UQ's global reputation.

I congratulate each of these outstanding people, plus all students graduating in December, who will further enhance the University’s reputation for national and world leadership.

I also congratulate Professor Ian Frazer, Director of the University’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research.

Professor Frazer’s success crowned a monumental year for him - in which his research led to the world’s first cancer vaccine – by being named the Queensland Australian of the Year 2006. I am sure readers will join me in wishing him the best as he is considered for Australian of the Year status on Australia Day 2006.

Professor John Hay, AC
LEADING ROLES IN UQ’S FUTURE

TWO HIGHLY-RESPECTED ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS HAVE JOINED THE UNIVERSITY’S SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, has announced the appointment of two Executive Deans to the University.

Professor Richard Fotheringham has been appointed as Executive Dean of UQ’s Faculty of Arts, and Dr Stephen Walker as Professor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture (EPSA).

Professor Fotheringham, who took up the position in October, had been acting in the role of Executive Dean since September 2004 when he succeeded Professor Alan Rix who was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ipswich.

Dr Walker, who has been the Executive Director, Engineering and Environmental Sciences at the Canberra-based Australian Research Council (ARC) since 2001, joins the University on February 21.

Prior to his appointment as Acting Executive Dean, Professor Fotheringham was Head of the University’s School of English, Media Studies and Art History, where he promoted strong links between the arts with government agencies, industry and the wider community.

Professor Fotheringham’s record of service to the wider community includes a term as Chair of the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies and as a member of the Board of the Queensland Secondary School Teachers’ Association.

In 2004 he was honoured with a fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

A UQ graduate (BA, MA, PhD), Professor Fotheringham returned to the University in 1979 to teach theatre, film and television studies after a decade working in professional theatre.

Professor Fotheringham’s ongoing research project is a series of scholarly editions of early Australian plays for the Academy Editions of Australian Literature, a series of full-scale critical editions of major works of Australian Literature, sponsored by the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

His other publications include a study of Australian plays and films entitled Sport in Australian Drama and a biography of the short-story writer and playwright Arthur Hoey Davis, In Search of Steele Rudd.

Professor Fotheringham is also convenor of the 2006 World Shakespeare Congress, which will be held in Brisbane in July.

He was Treasurer of the Australasian Drama Studies Association for nine years and served for over a decade on the advisory boards of the Academy of the Arts at the Queensland Institute of Technology and the Arts Centre at the University of Southern Queensland.

Dr Walker acted as Chief Executive Officer of the ARC for a substantial part of 2004.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours from the University of Sydney in 1980.

He completed his PhD in Medicine at the University of Tasmania in 1985 with a thesis on Epicardial potential distributions calculated from body surface measurements using multiple torso models, and was also a research officer at that university.

The majority of his career has been in the CSIRO, where he was a Senior and then a Principal Research Scientist in the Division of Oceanography from 1987 to 1997.

He was then a Principal Research Scientist in Marine research for two years, where he led a team of researchers developing and applying physical and biogeochemical numerical models to environmental issues in shelf, coastal and estuarine systems.

From late 1999 until February 2001 he was the Senior Research Scientist in Aquatic Systems/Environmental Modelling, across two Divisions of CSIRO, operating out of both Canberra and Hobart.

At the ARC, Dr Walker has been responsible for managing research funding and policy in the broad area of sport, culture and education.

The Games are a partnership between UQ, the Queensland Government and the Institute for International Sport, and are a prelude to Queensland hosting the World Scholar-Athlete Games in 2008.

UQ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg said the University was delighted to be hosting Mr Robertson.

“Geoffrey Robertson is one of the world’s great legal minds and his Hypothetical format is widely-acclaimed,” Professor Grigg said.

“The Hypotheticals are renowned for producing challenging and thought-provoking scenarios and this is a rare opportunity for Brisbane to see Mr Robertson live.”

Tickets to Geoffrey Robertson’s Hypothetical are $150, with tables of 10 costing $1500. For bookings, phone (07) 3346 7242 or visit www.scholarathlete.com.au
“ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE” BUT IT’S UQ THAT WILL SET THE SCENE FOR THE WORLD SHAKESPEARE CONGRESS.

The University of Queensland’s success in attracting the VIII World Shakespeare Congress has inspired a “bonanza of bardolatry” and a new academic position for an international Shakespeare expert. UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, officially launched the Congress at Brisbane City Hall on November 21.

He also announced the creation of the Lloyd Davis Memorial Visiting Professorship to draw a leading international Shakespeare scholar to UQ each year. Dr Davis, from the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, passed away earlier this year before his dream of hosting the World Shakespeare Congress was realised.

The Congress – with previous venues including Stratford-upon-Avon, Tokyo, Berlin, Los Angeles, Washington DC and Valencia – will be staged for the first time in the Southern Hemisphere at Brisbane City Hall from July 16 to 21.

“Dr Davis and our Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Richard Fotheringham, achieved a coup in securing the VIII World Shakespeare Congress for Brisbane in 2006,” Professor Hay said. Professor Hay said UQ’s success had inspired a new wave of enthusiasm for Shakespeare.

“Queensland and Australia will enjoy the cultural and academic fruits of their work long after the Congress finishes in July 2006,” he said.

“The Bard will come to life not only on the streets of our city, but also in schools, libraries and performance spaces throughout Queensland.”

Organisations including the Queensland Government (Department of Education and the Arts), Brisbane City Council, the Brisbane Festival, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the Museum of Brisbane, the Supreme Court Library, the State Library of Queensland and the Queensland Arts Council are working to stage for the first time in the Southern Hemisphere at Brisbane City Hall.

“Dr Davis and our Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Richard Fotheringham, achieved a coup in securing the VIII World Shakespeare Congress for Brisbane in 2006.”

The official launch was enlivened by actors from three Brisbane schools – Balmoral State High School, Centenary State High School and St Thomas More College – as well as broadsword fighters and a deft Master of Ceremonies, actor Paul Bishop.

Queenland Minister for Education and the Arts, Rod Welford, told the launch that World Shakespeare 2006 would “lead to interest and enthusiasm in dance, music, the visual arts and drama, and perhaps lead in the future to greater employment in the arts”.

Professor Fotheringham gave a taste of an engaging program. “Inside our great cultural institutions, thanks to the support of Arts Queensland, the Queensland Arts Council and our major arts companies, audiences throughout the State will be able to see and hear remarkable works realising or inspired by Shakespeare – in opera, the concert hall, theatres large and small and in museums and galleries,” he said.

The 2006 Brisbane Festival will stage several Shakespeare or Shakespeare-inspired plays and the Queensland Supreme Court Library will display the only copy in Australia of the 1623 First Folio, on loan from the State Library of New South Wales. The Supreme Court Library is also organising a mock trial in which the King of France, represented by Glenn Martin, QC, will argue his claim to King Lear’s kingdom before a court presided over by Sir Gerard Brennan, the former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Academic Board passes the tea set

The new executive of the Academic Board 2006 was sworn in during a ceremony ingrained in UQ tradition on November 7.

After a three-and-a-half year term as President, Professor Jenny Strong passed the silver tea set to incoming President Professor Mark Gould from the Department of Mathematics, marking a new era for the Board.

UQ for presentation to a staff member who exemplified University ideals of leadership in teaching, research and political freedom. It was decided the Academic Board President was the ideal candidate. The Academic Board is the principal policy-making and advisory body to Senate and the Vice-Chancellor on all matters relating to and affecting the University’s teaching, research and educational programs.

Professor Strong leaves the position of president at the end of 2006. During her term in office, the Board oversaw reforms in a number of academic policies, such as coursework postgraduate studies and honours.

Professor Gould said he was grateful for the opportunity to experience a University-wide perspective in his work and valued having been elected as a representative of UQ academics.
UQ has once again been recognised as the nation’s top teaching institution, winning a staggering one third of the 2005 Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) plus more than one third of Federal funds for excellence in teaching and learning.

The University was awarded $10.424 million of the total $30 million given to five universities nationally in the top band of higher education providers in the Federal Government’s Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.

In the AAUT’s, UQ won four of 12 awards in Physical Sciences ($40,000); Teaching Large First Year Classes ($50,000); Enhancement of the Quality of Teaching and Learning ($50,000); and Approaches to Improving/Enhancing Assessment ($50,000).

Federal Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs Dr Brendan Nelson announced the funding and presented the awards at Parliament House on November 29. Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, congratulated the winners at the ceremony.

In the AAUT’s Approaches to Improving/Enhancing Assessment category a group of academics from UQ’s School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences were rewarded for their efforts to increase the skills of occupational therapists.

Team leader Dr Sylvia Rodger said there was a growing demand for occupational therapists that would only increase due to the ageing population. The UQ team was rewarded for developing the Student Placement Evaluation Form, which is able to deliver feedback to students at various points throughout their fieldwork placements.

Despite a shortage of occupational therapists, many university programs such as Psychology attract increasing numbers of students and one of the challenges lecturers face is providing individual tuition to first year students.

In the AAUT’s Teaching Large First Year Classes category UQ won the award for its Integrated Approach to Teaching First Year Psychology Courses.

Dr Michael Bulmer, who won the AAUT in the Physical Sciences category, said he encouraged “intellectual creativity”.

“Science is a very creative discipline. But the first year science program is very much about memorising information, so I try and keep creativity alive in my statistics course,” he said.

In the Enhancement of the Quality of Teaching and Learning category a group from UQ’s School of Engineering collected the award for their Project Centred Curriculum, which operates around a central spine of work-experience team projects.

Dr Bulmer (above) with Biomedical student Emma-Kate Lock. Right: Dr Rodger (centre) with Fieldwork Manager Katie Ward (left) and Clinical Educator Heather Allison

BY CHRIS SAXBY

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Dr Bulmer (above) with Biomedical student Emma-Kate Lock. Right: Dr Rodger (centre) with Fieldwork Manager Katie Ward (left) and Clinical Educator Heather Allison
ON TOP OF THE LEARNING CURVE

TEACHING AND LEARNING WEEK HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE TEACHERS PLAY IN SHAPING STUDENT MINDS.

The University rewarded some of its most innovative, dedicated and exceptional teachers during UQ’s fourth annual Teaching and Learning Week in October.

The UQ Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Research Higher Degree Supervision and Enhancement of Student Learning recognised nine individual and two group winners.

Among the five winners of the $10,000 Awards for Excellence in Teaching was School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE) senior lecturer Dr Peter Sutton who has devised new and efficient ways to respond to student and peer feedback.

Dr Sutton has established a website for anonymous feedback for every course he runs and has introduced SMS text messaging for this same purpose.

Responses to feedback are displayed to students and are discussed in class.

Another winner was Biomedical Sciences lecturer Dr Clare Aland whose fresh and innovative approach to teaching and revisions of the Human Biomedical Anatomy program, have raised student enthusiasm for the subject to new levels.

She relates anatomy to real-life situations and actively involves students in learning by encouraging questions and discussion.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger said teachers were the backbone of the University and the awards recognised their achievements in shaping the next generation of Australian leaders.

“Many students their teachers are more than just the people who mark assignments, they are friends and mentors,” he said.

The awards were designed to encourage and reward sustained excellence in teaching, in higher degree research supervision and in the learning environment.

Awards for Excellence in Teaching winners were Dr Sutton; Dr Aland; Dr Nancy Pachana (School of Psychology); Dr Judith Seaboyer (School of English, Media Studies and Art History); and Associate Professor Catherine Turner (School of Nursing).

Log on to the lab

UQ is one of only seven universities worldwide taking part in an international online collaboration to improve the student learning experience.

UQ was the only Australian university selected as a ‘hub’ institution for the US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) initiative.

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An iLabs project has been developed that makes it efficient to bring online and to manage complex laboratory experiments.

The MIT-UQ iCampus Outreach Program collaboration aims to disseminate innovative educational technology tools that can make a significant difference to how well and quickly students learn new material.

The project was launched on November 2 as part of UQ’s Teaching and Learning Week.

The Week also included forums and showcases featuring guest presenters from Australian and international universities.

During the launch Director of Learning Outreach with the MIT iCampus Outreach Program Dr Phillip Long demonstrated the range of iCampus projects available.

UQ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger said the program was aimed at achieving a substantial impact on higher education through information technology.

“iCampus incubates innovations for laboratories, classrooms and campus communities at MIT and promotes their dissemination around the world. UQ is delighted to be one of the seven worldwide ‘hubs’, ” he said.

As part of the collaboration UQ will initially focus on the development of the Labs and xTutor (a toolkit for creating online courses) projects.

The iLabs project is dedicated to the idea that online laboratories – those accessed through the Internet – can enrich education.

“The iLabs vision is to share expensive equipment and educational materials associated with laboratory experiments as broadly as possible within higher education and beyond,” Professor Keniger said.

UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering staff are currently pursuing a number of experiments based around the technology.

Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning ($20,000 each) went to The Advanced Study Program in Science (Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences and Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture); and Research Student [Virtual] Portfolio (TEDI, Graduate School, School of Engineering and School of Medicine).

Awards for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision ($10,000 each) were awarded to Dr Donald Cameron (School of Natural and Rural Systems Management); Professor Jürg Keller (Advanced Wastewater Management Centre); Professor Hugh Possingham (School of Integrative Biology); and Associate Professor Janet Wiles (School of Psychology and ITEE).
Rhodes Scholar has literary leaning

University of Queensland Arts/Law student Nicholas Luke has been chosen as the 2006 Queensland Rhodes Scholar.

Queensland Governor, Quentin Bryce, AC, made the announcement on November 4 at UQ’s St Lucia campus.

Twenty-three year old Mr Luke hopes to study literature at either a Masters or Doctoral level at the University of Oxford from October 2006.

“I’d like to follow in the footsteps of some of my teachers in English and make a difference,” he said.

“Humanities is a neglected area of focus in Brisbane and Australia and I’d like to play some role in drawing attention to this discipline and inspiring others to study it,” he said.

“I have a passion and enthusiasm for literature and would like to share this with others.”

Mr Luke was awarded his Arts honours degree in 2004 after submitting a thesis supervised by UQ’s Dr Ruth Blair.

The thesis drew parallels between Captain Ahab, a character in Herman Melville’s novel Moby Dick, and Satan in Milton’s poem, Paradise Lost.

Mr Luke ultimately hopes to be an academic specialising in literature criticism.

He is a member of the UQ Law moot team, which became international champions this year after winning the final of a prestigious global mooting competition.

The UQ Law School Jessup Moot team won the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington DC in April.

The competition, which is the largest of its kind internationally comprised the best competitors from 85 countries around the world.

Mr Luke attended Brisbane Grammar School, where he played cricket and Rugby.

He has subsequently coached cricket at Brisbane Grammar and St Margaret’s, and played for Valleys and Warehouse teams.

He also played Rugby for Brisbane Irish and the UQ Law Society.

Before travelling to Oxford, Mr Luke plans to conduct research into human rights at the South-East Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre in New Delhi.

Mr Luke will follow in the footsteps of high-profile Rhodes Scholars including former US President Bill Clinton and former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

The selection committee interviewed five short-listed candidates before choosing Mr Luke.

The Queensland Rhodes Scholar will join five winners from the other states and five from Australia-at-Large — a total of 11.

This year the selection committee received 26 applications for the scholarship.

The 2005 Rhodes Scholar was UQ Bachelor of Economics student Simon Quinn, who is studying for a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Economics at the University of Oxford.

Mr Quinn and Mr Luke are friends, and he looks forward to seeing him overseas.

Rhodes Scholarships, founded in 1902 under the will of the late Cecil John Rhodes, are tenable at the University of Oxford for an initial two years, with the possibility of a third.

Since the scheme began, about 500 Rhodes Scholars have been selected. Women became eligible in 1972.

UQ and global mining group Xstrata are jointly funding a new Chair of Metallurgical Engineering at the University.

The $1.5 million agreement, which was signed on November 11 by Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and Xstrata Copper Chief Executive Charlie Sartain, funds the Chair for 10 years, starting in 2006.

The Chair and UQ strategic funding will be used to oversee and guide the implementation of a new Bachelor of Engineering double major in Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering; encourage students to study metallurgy; and further enhance the reputation of UQ as a research leader in mining and metallurgical engineering.

Professor Hay said UQ had a strong reputation as one of the leading universities in mining and metallurgical engineering.

Professor Hay said UQ had a strong reputation as one of the leading universities in mining and metallurgical engineering.

To maintain this position, support from industry to ensure the quality of the teaching programs and graduates is essential,” Professor Hay said.

“Xstrata has shown great vision in sponsoring the Chair of Metallurgical Engineering. This initiative moves the long-standing cooperation between Xstrata and UQ to a new level.

“The agreement will further strengthen engineering teaching and research, encouraging more students to study in the field.

“UQ’s School of Engineering receives over $7 million per year in research funding related to the minerals industry. UQ also houses the headquarters of the CRC Mining, a $90 million per year Cooperative Research Centre.

“Together with the research centres within the Sustainable Minerals Institute, this research critical mass places UQ as one of the world’s top universities in minerals research.”

Xstrata Copper Chief Executive Charlie Sartain said the agreement would help address the skills shortage facing the resources industry.

“Research has shown there is an annual shortfall of around 20 metallurgical engineering graduates in Australia each year,” Mr Sartain said.

“Xstrata’s agreement with UQ will help address the situation by increasing the number of metallurgy graduates from the University from five in 2004 to 20 by 2008.”

Head of UQ’s School of Engineering Professor Jim Litster said the initiative resulted from extensive consultation with the Queensland Resources Council and the Minerals Council of Australia.

“The program meets the industry’s needs while maintaining the flexibility the students want,” he said.
AUSTRALIANS HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF POOR SERVICE AND WILL GO AS FAR AS SWARING, THROWING TANTRUMS, GETTING PHYSICAL AND MAKING BOMB THREATS TO PROVE THE POINT.

The world’s first international customer rage study, led by UQ, surveyed 240 customers and frontline staff from banks, pharmacies and electricity utilities about their customer rage experiences.

It revealed more women than men were prone to customer rage, which was an increasing phenomenon in Australia with anger often escalating to threats, revenge, sabotage, slander and violence.

Employee rudeness, incompetence and indifference were common triggers for customer rage.

Lead researcher, Professor of Marketing Janet McColl-Kennedy, said most organisations were ill-equipped to deal with customer rage as they had not trained their staff to defuse dangerous situations.

Professor McColl-Kennedy said staff and customers dealing with rage went through an emotional rollercoaster, starting with shock then frustration, anger, exhaustion and hurt after the ordeal.

She said she was surprised and concerned at some of the disturbing stories from the study, such as one customer who threatened to shoot the person who disconnected their electricity.

Customers threatened to blow-up companies when their appliances burnt out and other customers had to be forcibly removed by security.

Another customer warned a company if they came to his property he’d be waiting with a knife and some friends while others threatened to sue and take their complaints to a TV station.

“They’re saying I would shoot, I would kill someone, I would blow up your building — that’s pretty aggressive stuff,” Professor McColl-Kennedy said.

“One customer flew into a rage shouting and banging the counter of a bank when he was advised he’d have to pay a fee for a bank cheque.

“We’re trying to understand what triggers this behaviour and why some people express their feelings verbally while others take out destructive actions against organisations, frontline employees and even other customers.”

Professor McColl-Kennedy is leading the team with researchers from the University of New South Wales and George Washington University, in the US.

The next stage of the study will explore what customers felt and did to explore what customers felt and did to defuse or inflame the rage incident.

This work will be carried out in the US, Thailand and China as well as in Australia and she expected some important cultural differences.

“This ground-breaking research will help business and government service organisations better understand and respond to this growing phenomenon in order to avoid economic, social and emotional losses and minimise damage to property and persons,” she said.

Professor McColl-Kennedy and her team have been awarded a prestigious $240,000 Australian Research Council Discovery Grant to continue their work.

Early findings from their project were presented in the US recently at the American Marketing Association’s Frontiers in Service Conference — the lead services conference in the world.

UQ is hosting next year’s Frontiers in Service Conference, which will be co-chaired by Professor McColl-Kennedy.

CUSTOMERS BLOW TOP AT POOR SERVICE

WORLD RANKING UP

UQ has climbed up the rankings of the best universities in the world in the annual top 200 table, produced by the UK’s Times Higher Education Supplement.

The University climbed two spots to 47th, cementing its reputation as the top university in Queensland and one of the top in Australia.

UQ was the only Queensland university to be included in the top 50 in the world and one of only six in the country.

UQ was also ranked in the top 25 of the world’s top social sciences universities, 40th in the top technology universities, 56th in the top science universities and 89th in the top arts and humanities universities.

LONG WAIT FOR AWARD

Four years after being nominated by The Times as a worthy candidate for an Ig Nobel award, UO’s “pitch drop” experiment has made the big time.

UQ visiting scholar Professor John Mainstone was one of 10 international recipients of the 2005 Ig Nobel Prize.

The prizes are awarded in various disciplines to celebrate the unusual, honour the imaginative, and spur people’s interest in science, medicine and technology.

The “15th First Annual” Ig Nobel Prize ceremony was held at Harvard University in October.

Professor Mainstone and the late Professor Thomas Parnell received the award for conducting an experiment that began in 1927 — in which a glob of congealed tar has been slowly dripping through a funnel, at a rate of one drop every nine years.

Professor Parnell established the experiment to show that materials like pitch, a derivative of tar which is solid at room temperature, can exhibit fluid properties.

GOOD EXPERIENCE

Almost 3700 students responded to the recently conducted UQ Student Experience Survey.

Conducted every two years, the survey is part of UQ’s quality assurance processes.

The 2005 survey was the third conducted by UQ and was completed by 3672 students, more than 100 of whom won prizes, including a laptop, for returning a completed survey.

A summary of the 2005 results will be made available to students and provided on the UQ Teaching and Learning website in 2006.

Information: www.uq.edu.au/teaching-learning
HYDROGEN HIT

AN INNOVATIVE AND COST EFFECTIVE FUEL STORAGE TECHNOLOGY HAS WON A $100,000 UQ BUSINESS SCHOOL COMPETITION.

Startup company Hydrexia Pty Ltd beat seven Enterprize competition finalists to score $100,000 seed funding to progress its technology after winning this year’s UQ Business School Enterprize competition.

The company’s technology uses a solid-state storage method based on an innovative magnesium alloy that is manufactured using low-cost casting techniques.

Hydrexia Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Ng said the technology was five times cheaper than its closest competitor.

“Hydrogen has the highest potential of the alternative fuels to replace carbon-based fuels, such as oil and coal, because its by-products – heat and water – have no negative impact on the environment,” he said.

“Progress towards the wider adoption of fuel cells that use hydrogen has been hampered by the lack of a hydrogen storage technology that meets three key requirements: storing a high density of hydrogen, safely and at low cost.

“Hydrexia’s proprietary technology solves the hydrogen storage problem by delivering on all three of these requirements.

“That’s why this technology removes one of the last remaining technical barriers to the broader use of fuel cells and hydrogen.”

Winner of the i.lab technology incubator prize, LEO Tuning also offered greenhouse benefits – this time by optimising vehicle tuning at all times using a new “active-mapping” technique.

Larry Weng said the LEO Tuning system – which is named in honour of the inventor’s late father – used real-time data from the engine to adjust the fuel mixture each revolution to meet operating conditions.

“We are looking forward to working with i.lab over the next 12 months to further develop the technology,” he said.

“We’ll have the benefit of i.lab’s extensive network of investors and mentors as well as training opportunities and the use of office and meeting facilities.”

Head of the UQ Business School Professor Tim Brailsford said the competition was fierce with all eight finalists presenting very strong commercialisation prospects.

“The standard of entries this year has been extremely high and I think all the finalists have the potential to become successful businesses,” he said.

Now in its fifth year, UQ Business School’s Enterprize competition provides $100,000 in seed capital to the winner.

Professor Brailsford said all the finalists were winners because the detailed business plans developed for Enterprize made each of the businesses much more appealing to investors.

“The Enterprize after-party is full of conversations between team members and potential investors, advisors and mentors,” he said.

“It’s very exciting to be in at the beginning of so many future success stories.”

A project by a UQ graduate has been recognised as one of the best environmental science and engineering PhD studies in the world.

Dr Adrian Oehmen’s discovery of operational factors that can improve phosphorus removal in wastewater treatment systems has provided the wastewater industry with strategies that could improve the performance and reduce the costs of full-scale wastewater treatment plants.

He received the 2004 CH2M-Hill PhD Thesis Award from the Association of Environmental Engineering and

Science Professors at a ceremony in Washington DC on October 31. It is the first time in the award’s 17-year history that a student from a non-US university has won.

“A high level of phosphorus in rivers and other waterways stimulates the growth of toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae),” Dr Oehmen said.

“These cyanobacteria can have harmful effects on plant and animal communities in waterways, which is why phosphorus must be removed from wastewater.”

Dr Oehmen’s thesis centred on understanding the metabolisms of the microorganisms responsible for removing phosphorus from wastewater in treatment plants and their competition with other organisms.

Dr Oehmen, who was based at UQ’s Advanced Wastewater Management Centre, received a cheque for US $1000.

His PhD supervisors Associate Professor Zhiguo Yuan and Professor Jürg Keller were also recognised.

Dr Yuan said Dr Oehmen’s research had made a substantial contribution to knowledge on biological phosphorus removal systems.

“His findings will likely have a significant impact on the operation of many full-scale wastewater treatment plants worldwide,” Dr Yuan said.

Dr Oehmen, who graduated from UQ earlier this year, received an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship and a UQ International Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

His research was sponsored by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Waste Management and Pollution Control through the Environmental Biotechnology CRC.
A bequest of $650,000 from the estate of Lisa Palmer, who died of cancer after living with a paralysing spinal injury, has been accepted by UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC.

“It is a great honour to accept this grant from SpinalCure Australia for the Lisa Palmer Spinal Research Consortium, headed by the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI),” Professor Hay said.

“It is one of Australia’s largest private grants for spinal research and is recognition of the outstanding research underway at the QBI.

“The bequest comes to us from a thoughtful young woman whose legacy may eventually be a cure for paralysis caused by spinal injury.

“Paralysis caused by spinal injury affects about 18,000 Australians. Every day another Australian suffers this type of injury and the average age of Australians when injured is 19.

“Lisa Palmer’s legacy will fuel the quest for a cure; her contribution may one day prove to be priceless.

“Importantly, it will contribute to work towards a centre for brain and spinal cord repair at the QBI.”

Ms Palmer died of inoperable cancer in 2004, aged 29.

The cancer ended a courageous battle against spinal injuries that Ms Palmer had suffered while aged in her early 20s.

A car accident in 1997 left her with quadriplegia and dependent on a ventilator.

SpinalCure Australia Chief Executive Officer Bob Turner said the executors of Ms Palmer’s estate and SpinalCure Australia had agreed that the bequest should be used to fund the consortium.

The consortium comprises the QBI, Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) and the University of Melbourne Centre for Neuroscience.

“The QBI’s exemplary work was chosen from an impressive list of projects,” Mr Turner said.

“We are delighted that the Lisa Palmer Spinal Research Consortium will significantly contribute to this centre of excellence in Australia, which we believe is making a major contribution to spinal research,” QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said.

It will also help kick start the establishment of a centre for brain and spinal cord repair at the QBI.

“It will allow the team at the QBI and our consortium colleagues to further our discovery that inhibiting the molecule EphA4 leads to spinal cord repair.

“Lisa Palmer’s generosity will boost our pioneering research into the regeneration of damaged spinal cords,” Professor Bartlett said.

“The bequest comes to us from a thoughtful young woman whose legacy may eventually be a cure for paralysis caused by spinal injury.”

FEZ FREE FOR FILERS

New digital file repository software developed by programmers at the UQ Library is being made available for free to other organisations.

The software known as Fez would benefit any organisation with a large demand for digital file preservation, according to Andrew Bennett, Executive Manager of the Library’s Technology Service.

He said the software could be used to build and manage repositories of publications, images or learning objects, and could also handle mixed-use repositories, which might contain databases, documents, spreadsheets, institutional records and multimedia.

The software is based on PHP and MySQL and works as a front-end to Fedora 2.1.

It can run in both Windows and Linux environments.

Information: it is available for download at http://sourceforge.net/projects/fez/
The strength and depth of UQ’s research was acknowledged nationally in November when the University received almost $36 million of Australian Research Council (ARC) funding for 110 projects.

UQ received the third highest amount of funding in Australia, following the University of Sydney and the Australian National University.

In Queensland UQ won 68 percent of the more than $82 million for projects in the State.

UQ’s success includes a record result for the University in Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) grants where nine out of 14 applications worth $5 million in total were approved, placing UQ equal first in Australia.

The University was also third nationally in attracting Discovery Project Fellowships, 15 in total.

Successful projects included:

- Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, is part of the AustLit project, which received more than $540,000 in LIEF funding to develop specialist databases relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers, multicultural writers, and regional and colonial writing from Queensland and Tasmania;

- Associate Professor Jenny Martin (Institute for Molecular Bioscience) will lead a $1 million project to establish an online infrastructure allowing greater collaboration between molecular and materials science researchers;

- Professor Craig Franklin (School of Integrative Biology) will lead projects worth almost $1.9 million. One project aimed at understanding crocodile behaviour in remote regions through satellite tracking will be a collaboration with “Croc Hunter” Steve Irwin;

- Professor Maree Smith (School of Pharmacy) will lead a $372,000 project to develop an in vitro method to identify novel morphine-like strong analgesics with reduced adverse side effects;

- Professor Peter Mora (Earth Systems Science Computational Centre) will lead a $273,000 project to provide better warning systems for tsunamis; and

- Professor Matt Sanders (School of Psychology) will lead a $263,000 project looking at ways to reduce the emotional costs to families and children where parents divorce.

UQ has attracted multi-million dollar funding for research projects including a technique to generate environmentally-friendly electricity and a drug to block the growth of fat cells.

The underlying particle science and engineering will have implications for many industries”
Dirty dishwater could soon be providing the electricity to power wastewater treatment plants thanks to an ARC Discovery Grant of $1.3 million over five years, the largest awarded to UQ.

A UQ team has developed a technique that removes pollutants and organic compounds from wastewater and turns them into environmentally friendly electricity.

PhD student Stefano Freguia from the Advanced Wastewater Management Centre (AWMC) expects applications arising from the technology to be available within five years.

“Our experiments have shown that the chemical energy contained in the organic matter present in wastewaters can be recovered as electricity by using microbial fuel cells,” he said.

Microbial fuel cells are similar to common chemical fuels cells but use microbes as catalysts.

AWMC Director Professor Jürg Keller said the cells could be used to generate renewable electricity to power wastewater treatment plants while at the same time removing the pollutants.

Groundbreaking research into cancer and human obesity was among 45 UQ projects to attract $22.25 million in National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding in October.

UQ’s allocation of $22,224,648 was the largest to any Queensland institution and was the fifth largest nationally.

It represented a $6 million increase from the 2004 NHMRC grant round.

UQ’s Dr Louise Hutley was awarded $422,625 for her work on a drug to block the growth of fat cells.

The School of Medicine researcher is working on a project entitled FGF-1 In Development of Human Obesity.

Using human fat tissue Dr Hutley has identified a growth factor crucial to the development of fat cells.

“These findings form the basis of novel therapies that will target and block development of new fat cells, thus limiting the growth of fat tissue," Dr Hutley said.

The largest UQ award of $1.84 million went to Professor Tom Gonda, Dr Brian Gabrielli, Dr Sean Grimmond and Dr Simon Barry from the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research.

Dr Gabrielli said the money would be used to form the Arrayed Retroviral Expression Cloning Facility, the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

“The project will enable us to look at the function of every gene in the human genome, and has applications in just about every biological process including cancer, neurological diseases and metabolic diseases,” he said.
SYMBOLS OF CONTACT
sought on Tamborine

STUDENTS ARE WORKING WITH AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ON A MAJOR ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT.

Clockwise from left: stone artefacts found at the site; Eastern Yugambeh Limited's Earl Sandy takes a break from excavating a test pit; the site on the edge of Waterford-Tamborine Road; volunteers collect artefacts; and conducting test excavations. PHOTOS: courtesy Dr Ulm

BIOCHEMISTRY REP
Dr Agnieszka Lichanska from the UQ Department of Oral Biology and Pathology in the School of Dentistry has been elected as a State representative for the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB).

The ASBMB promotes Biochemistry and Molecular Biology throughout Australia. Dr Lichanska said the organisation was involved in developing new approaches to teaching biochemistry and molecular biology at all levels.

POWER TO THE PROJECT
A final-year thesis project investigating power quality has won budding electrical engineer Jonathan Dennis the Engineers Australia prize for a Final Year Student Project in Technological Management and/or Innovation in Engineering.

The project, sponsored by Powerlink, investigated the effect a new type of electric locomotive soon to be introduced in Central Queensland is likely to have on power quality within the Queensland electricity network, with particular focus on harmonic distortion.

inbrief

WATER QUALITY
Southeast Queensland’s waterways have remained mostly in good health in 2005.

These were the findings of the Southeast Queensland Ecosystem Health Report Card released in October by UQ’s Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield, Chair of the Healthy Waterways Scientific Expert Panel.

UQ provides scientific support and conducts some of the fieldwork for the report.
A chance observation by two UQ scientists conducting virus research almost 18 years ago has resulted in a vaccine 100 percent effective in treating cervical cancer.

The vaccine is called Gardasil™ and is expected to be submitted for approval by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

If the drug is approved the vaccine should be available in early 2006.

The drug, being developed by Merck & Co, resulted from pioneering research by Professor Ian Frazer from UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research and his research partner, the late Dr Jian Zhou.

Professor Frazer was delighted when it was announced in October that final-stage clinical trials had shown the drug to be effective.

But his joy was tinged with sadness because Dr Zhou, who died in 1999, did not have the chance to see their work publicly recognised.

Professor Frazer and Dr Zhou identified how to make a vaccine against the human papillomavirus (HPV) strains that cause cervical cancer nearly 18 years ago.

“It came from a chance observation that we made when we were working on how the virus worked as a virus,” he said.

“We showed that if you could express the proteins that make up the shell of the virus in the right way in the laboratory, they actually assembled themselves as virus-like particles and induced an immune response that would be likely to protect patients against infection.”

Professor Frazer said it was almost unheard of to achieve a 100 percent efficacy rate in any treatment.

“It’s the first time in the world a vaccine designed to prevent cancer has been developed,” he said.

Professor Frazer said Gardasil™ would only protect women who were not infected with HPV.

Last month he was named the Queensland Australian of the Year for 2006 and will represent the State in the national Australian of the Year Awards.

Researchers at UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research (CICR), based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, have pioneered a new approach for the treatment of cervical cancer.

Lead researcher Dr Nigel McMillan said the finding was based on the method of “gene silencing”, a novel technique to target and turn off single genes in a cell.

“Our research shows not only can we stop cervical cancer cells from growing in the test tube, but we can also completely eliminate the formation of cancer tumours in animal models,” Dr McMillan said.

Director of the CICR Professor Ian Frazer said the research represented a significant step towards developing gene therapy for cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in women aged 25-50 worldwide and causes around 300 deaths a year in Australia.

Cervical cancer is caused by infection with the human papillomavirus and is the result of the over-production of two viral cancer-causing genes called E6 and E7.

The research team was able to turn off the production of these genes in cancer cells, resulting in the death of the cancer.

“Because these viral genes are foreign we can treat normal cells and they remain unaffected by our treatment,” Dr McMillan said.

“Development of treatments for humans would be an advance over the current treatments, radiation and chemotherapy, which kill not only cancer cells but also normal cells, which leads to hair loss and nausea.”

“We can also completely eliminate the formation of cancer tumours in animal models”
Ageing debate on for young and old as social reality hits

A “BABY-BOOMER” QUEST TO DISCOVER THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH MIGHT LEAD TO AN IDENTITY DROUGHT FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS.

A ustralian society’s obsession with looking younger is set to collide with the reality of an ageing population, a UQ researcher has warned.

According to Mair Underwood, who presented her work at the Emerging Researchers in Ageing 2005 conference in Brisbane in November, the current fixation with trying to postpone ageing is increasing and the current older generation might be the last to age gracefully.

“There is more and more emphasis being placed on postponing and reversing signs of ageing and we are increasingly being given the means to look younger, with options such as cosmetic surgery and botox,” Ms Underwood said.

“If the appearance of ageing is starting to be thought of as a choice, how will those who look ‘old’ be regarded? Will they be considered failures?

“We already stigmatise those who are overweight because we consider the condition of their body to be their responsibility. Will this also be the case with the appearance of ageing?”

Ms Underwood’s PhD study examined how people of different ages felt about and understood their bodies. It indicated baby boomers were at the forefront of the anti-ageing movement.

The numbers of this group will result in the doubling of the population over 65 by 2051, which makes coping with ageing an important issue.

“People show at least two responses to the threat or reality of a stigmatised body. While some choose to change their body to prevent stigma, there are limits to how much you can change the body,” Ms Underwood said.

“Therefore, some take a second option – to redefine who they are so that it doesn’t include the body.

“Older people told me they were still the same person, it was just their body that had become old.”

Se said people under 60 were found to usually take the option of changing their body, while older people were more likely to accept their changing bodies and adapt by using non-body related factors to define themselves.

There was also some indication that baby boomers would age differently.

“We are living in a society where we are told that our appearance is a reflection of our worth. This has major implications in an ageing population in which nobody wants to look old.”

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Tim Gaze is spending less time at University and more time on the road touring with musician Jimmy Barnes.

Since March, the UQ Ipswich staff member has been sharing lead guitar in Barnes’ touring band.

“It’s been great working with him because he’s very serious about doing a good job and getting a lot of energy from the music,” Mr Gaze said.

“It’s really guitar driven music and he likes it pretty loud and he likes the guitars to be doing a lot of the work.”

After receiving a call out of the blue, Mr Gaze has been playing up to five shows a week for Barnes’ new platinum selling album Double Happiness.

“He just thought of me at a time when he was putting a different band together,” he said of Barnes, the newest inductee to the Australian Recording Industry Association Hall of Fame.

“To be able to be play to large amounts of people and have that level of energy, you can’t beat that.”

Mr Gaze has been a guitarist for most of his life, playing and recording with artists such as Renee Geyer, Gyan, John Paul Young, Stevie Wright, Rose Tattoo, Gary Moore, Air Supply, John Lord from Deep Purple and Bob Daisley from Ozzy Osbourne.

He is a respected blues guitarist and has enjoyed success with The Tim Gaze Band and continues to pick up live and studio work.

As a project officer at Australian Creative Resources Online (ACRO), Mr Gaze is part historian and part documentary maker.

“ACRO is a growing digital collection of free audio, video and images that artists can use non-commercially to make new creations. Not only is he asking musicians and artists to submit material, Mr Gaze has recording interviews with famous artists such as veteran rocker Russell Morris who performed the 1980s hit The Real Thing.

He said he asked artists about how the digital world of computers and online resources had changed and how artists produced and marketed their music, art and media.

“I ask them how they’re writing songs, do they work with computers, what do they think about filesharing, what do they think about copyright, intellectual property issues and how they use modern computer skills to put material together,” Mr Gaze said.

He said other artists such as Brian Cadd, Ross Wilson, surf movie pioneer George Greenough and Jimmy Barnes were on his interview list.

Mr Gaze is co-writing with singer/songwriter Gyan for her double album.

GAZING AT THE ROCK STARS

A UQ IPSWICH STAFF MEMBER HAS PUT DOWN HIS BOOKS AND PICKED UP HIS GUITAR, SHARING A STAGE WITH ROCK LEGEND JIMMY BARNES.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN

An Ipswich woman studying at UQ will begin a new tradition in 2006 by becoming the first Heather Bonner Memorial Scholar.

UQ’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Ipswich, Professor Alan Rix and State Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan launched the Heather Bonner Memorial Scholarship at the Ipswich campus in October.

“The Ipswich Women’s Development Fund, the brain child of Ms Nolan and the Ipswich Region Chamber of Commerce, worked wonders by raising the funds for this annual scholarship,” Professor Rix said.

“The $5000 annual scholarship is one of the richest scholarships for students at the Ipswich Campus.

“The first woman to receive the scholarship will establish a proud tradition that immortalises a wonderful woman, the late Mrs Bonner.

“Mrs Bonner passed away in Ipswich on October 21, 2004.

“Mrs Bonner’s passing was a great loss to Ipswich.

“Mrs Bonner achieved a great deal, sometimes in the face of adversity.

“Civil rights was one of her passions and she was active in the One People of Australia League, which was instrumental in achieving the vote for Indigenous Australians.

“The first Heather Bonner Memorial Scholar will be awarded in April 2006.

Applicants must be women studying at the Ipswich campus and residents of the Ipswich region.

Information: www.uq.edu.au/ipswich
Associate Professor Tomas Riha, former Dean of UQ’s Faculty of Commerce and Economics and Director of Studies of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (BEL), died on October 23.

Dr Riha, who retired from the University in December 2002, had an exceptional life both personally and academically, according to BEL Executive Dean Professor Ian Zimmer.

He was Dean of Commerce and Economics from 1996 and was later foundation Director of Studies for the BEL Faculty.

In the latter role he served as Chair of the Faculty’s Board of Studies, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, and was a member of many Faculty and Academic Board committees.

Professor Zimmer acknowledged Dr Riha’s contribution to the development of the BEL Faculty’s global focus when, as Director of Studies, he facilitated articulation, twinning and exchange agreements with a number of international institutions in Asia and Europe.

Dr Riha produced more than 60 publications in his lifetime with his major contribution to economics being the History of German Economic Thought.

He is survived by his wife Olga, daughters Renata (a medical graduate, who died in a helicopter accident in April while delivering medical aid to Indonesian earthquake survivors.

The University of Queensland Medical Society held a special service on Remembrance Day 2005 for Squadron Leader Paul McCarthy, a 1997 medical graduate, who died in a helicopter accident in April while delivering medical aid to Indonesian earthquake survivors.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, De-Anne Kelly, joined Dr McCarthy’s family, friends, colleagues and dignitaries for the service in the grounds of the School of Medicine at Herston.

Captain Patrick Weinrauch, a fellow UQ Medical School graduate, who studied and lived with Dr McCarthy during his student days, recited the Ode.

Dr Weinrauch paid tribute to Dr McCarthy, who he said was a “consummate sportsman and a big-hearted gentle giant.”

“During his third year at medical school Paul enlisted as an undergraduate scholar to the Royal Australian Air Force,” Dr Weinrauch wrote in a tribute to his friend.

“It seems like just yesterday we were standing together shoulder to shoulder at the Medical School ANZAC day ceremonies, paying our yearly respects to past medical students of the University who had given their lives in the service of our nation.

Dr McCarthy was later foundation Director of Studies for the BEL Faculty.

He is survived by two sons, Ian Zimmer, BEL Executive Dean Professor and academically, according to西红柿 Rioha, who retired from the University in December 2002, had an exceptional life both personally and academically, according to BEL Executive Dean Professor Ian Zimmer.

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Dr Loy is survived by his six children, Inge, Curtis, Kim, Adam, Max and Emma, and his only brother, Gareth.
If there's one thing Associate Professor Dorothy Watts is more passionate about than ancient history, it's teaching others about the wonders of past civilisations.

And so, after winning a 2004 UQ $10,000 Excellence in Teaching award, Dr Watts decided the money would be best spent buying new pieces for the University's Antiquities Museum.

An expert on the Roman and Celtic civilisations and author of several books on the subject, Dr Watts used her prize money to purchase a terracotta ritiarius (gladiator) statue and a Roman jug.

Dr Watts said the study of classics and ancient history – one of the foundation disciplines at the University – allowed students to better understand the world around them.

"I think it's one of those things where if you don't know your past you really can't appreciate your present," Dr Watts said.

As the gladiator peers out from its glass case, Dr Watts points out the similarities between the 1900-year-old statue and a much more recent Australian cricketing great.

"This little ritiarius is just like Matt Hayden, with the foot forward and you can imagine the batting pads up here and him doing a wonderful cover drive," she said.

"In order to pass time while undergoing rehabilitation, I thought this would be a good project to do because it would help people in need."

Since creating the Ezy Grant Writer program and website Mr Lim has had little spare time.

He is in his final year studying for an honours degree in computer science and works as a UQ tutor and research assistant.

Mr Lim also runs his own software business called Skyjuice Software, which is expanding into Web hosting.

He has created a range of batch-based software and one of his best sellers, Quick File Rename, can quickly rename large amounts of files automatically depending on a set naming pattern.

"The aim of my software is to improve users' productivity and lessen workload," he said.

International companies such as Boeing and Accenture use his software.

For his honours thesis he is working on ways to enhance digital storytelling to children by building a text-based system that will tell changing stories through interaction.

Mr Lim said he believed the system would improve their imagination and creativity.

A COMPUTER PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY A UQ STUDENT IS HELPING AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES APPLY FOR FUNDING.

A UQ software engineer is doing his bit to help charity and community groups and businesses access millions of dollars from grants.

The engineer, Chooi Guan Lim, has built a computer program called Ezy Grant Writer, which guides users step-by-step on how to apply for grants.

Subscribers pay to access the program, which generates a grant proposal in a range of formats from a series of 50 questions.

Ezy Grant Writer creator, Brisbane marketer Julie Van Croonenborg, said Mr Lim had worked tirelessly for 12 months despite heavy study loads.

"His commitment to the project and its vision will mean that hopefully thousands of Australian charities, their volunteers and beneficiaries will reap the rewards of the hard work of the development team," Ms Van Croonenborg said.

Mr Lim, who is originally from Singapore, was connected with Ms Van Croonenborg through a student-industry training program.

An injury from indoor soccer was another reason he became involved.

"Last year I broke one of my ligaments and had to undergo knee reconstruction," he said.

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TWIN STORIES EXPLORE CULTURAL DILEMNAS

We are still intrigued by stories about twins but they are increasingly used to explore questions of gender identity and sexual identity, according to a new book. Twins in Contemporary Literature and Culture, asks why we keep telling tales about twins in films, novels and the news and how the stories are updated for modern consumption.

Some of the repeated storylines are about brotherly love, the evil twin who steals her sister’s lover, the homicidal twin, the reuniting of twins separated at birth, warring twins or the confusion of lookalike twins.

The UQ Ipswich author and intercultural communication and cultural studies lecturer, Dr Juliana De Nooy, examined hundreds of twin stories in films, novels and the media from the 19th to the 21st Century.

She found that modern twins stories tended to portray characters that contrast sexually or culturally, whereas in earlier centuries a common split was spiritual: a mortal and an immortal twin.

“We just don’t get twin stories about that anymore. Our twin stories are all about splits in the self, because we’re so self-absorbed,” Dr De Nooy said.

“There’s a huge variety of twin films about twin brothers but when you actually look at twin sister films they’re always identical twins played by the one actress, and they tend to be thrillers where one sister tries to steal the other’s husband.”

“On the other hand, you often find twin brothers teaming up together, not one trying to kill the other to steal the girlfriend. It’s not parallel at all.”

Dr De Nooy said twins were used to explore social issues of the day such as balancing work and family.

Conventional literary wisdom said the 19th Century was the “heyday of the double” but Dr De Nooy said 20th Century storytellers had not trivialised twin storylines but explored new issues.

And she also wanted everyone to know that she conceived her book about twins long before she gave birth to her own.

“They arriving proves the dangers of becoming too absorbed in a research project.”

Thrilled with award

A NEW PLAY DESCRIBED AS A GOTHIC THRILLER HAS WON ITS WRITER A PRESTIGIOUS $20,000 AWARD.

UQ drama lecturer has recently been awarded one of the nation’s richest playwrighting prizes.

Stephen Carleton, who teaches in the school of English, Media Studies and Art History edged out almost 200 other entrants to win the prestigious $20,000 Patrick White Playwrights’ Award with his play Constance Drinkwater and the Final Days of Somerset.

Currently completing his PhD in drama, Mr Carleton said the play was “a postcolonial gothic thriller” that explored race relations in Queensland’s far north at the turn of the 20th Century.

“Probably the play is saying that the north has always been multicultural, yet it’s often regarded as being a racist place,” he said.

A UQ graduate, Mr Carleton has worked as a director and playwright and has established his own theatre company in Darwin.

He said after the many years of hard work spent penning his award-winning play, he looked forward to its premiere as part of the Queensland Theatre Company’s (QTC) 2006 season.

The Patrick White Playwrights’ Award is an initiative of the Sydney Theatre Company and is open to Australian playwrights 20-years-old or over.

Constance Drinkwater and the Final Days of Somerset is on at QTC’s Bille Brown studio.

“Probably the play is saying that the north has always been multicultural, yet it’s often regarded as being a racist place”
An iconic early print, recent canvases exploring her childhood in Brisbane and a book dealing with the bureaucratic classification of Indigenous people, are all part of an exhibition spanning 15 years of Judy Watson’s artistic achievements.

The exhibition features 66 drawings, prints, paintings and books, as well as some bones. Over the past 15 years Ms Watson has documented her personal experiences and connections with her grandmother’s country around Riversleigh station in north-west Queensland, her international travels, explorations of the body and recently her childhood in Brisbane.

National and international recognition for her work has included the 1995 Moet and Chandon Fellowship and she co-represented Australia in the 1997 Venice Biennale. One of her most famous works, the guardians (1990), is a configuration of five loosely defined figures emanating from a light abstract space, evocative of weathered images on rock walls.

The predominance of the human figure in her earlier work receded around this time and began to be replaced with other forms. These included works from 2000 such as head, heart, ribs, which is a visceral image of the internal terrain of the body. The 1997 prints, our bones in your collections, our hair in your collections, our skin in your collections, emerged from Watson’s anger at the treatment of her ancestors and the practice of removing remains and artefacts to museums all over the world.

The four bomb test drawings in the exhibition were produced upon arrival in France for her Moet and Chandon Fellowship in 1995, each representing one of the French bomb tests conducted in the Pacific that year. The canvas vessel for a deluge was inspired by the 1974 Brisbane floods, while found ten inches under referred to an Indigenous shield found at Archerfield aerodrome, close to where she grew up at Acacia Ridge.

“The shield, which is now in the University’s Anthropology Museum, triggered a new sense of Aboriginality for me — I had associated Aboriginal culture with my family in north-west Queensland not suburban Brisbane,” she said.

The painting two canoes, which was the basis for the public artwork, heart/land/river at the Brisbane Magistrates Court, alludes to the story of the three convicts who stole two canoes from local Indigenous people to venture up the Brisbane River. The artist’s book, a preponderance of aboriginal blood, commissioned by the State Library of Queensland will be exhibited for the first time in its bound format.

In the book, Ms Watson has overlaid images of blood onto original documents from the archive of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy’s Community and Personal Histories Branch.

“When I saw this material I was outraged at the sort of treatment and classification that my own family, especially my wonderful grandmother, Grace Isaacson, were subjected to by white authorities,” Ms Watson said.

“I dedicated the book to Loris Williams who first showed me these documents and introduced me to the term “a preponderance of aboriginal blood”.

“Loris was integral to the book’s making, but she passed away before it was completed.”
**OBJECT OF INTELLIGENT BUSINESS**

The UQ Business School’s Teaching and Learning Committee and course coordinators can determine the effect of prerequisites on student success rates through reports devised by the winner of the 2005 BusinessObjects User Prize.

Designer Nicolette Drake from the UQ Business School, said the reports had greatly benefited the committee and course coordinators, and that she had learnt a great deal during its development.

BusinessObjects is the business intelligence tool that interfaces with the UQ Data Warehouse and the Reportal. The Data Warehouse stores a wide range of data from a number of disparate sources for easy and efficient access by users without the need for IT intervention. A suite of reports developed by Narelle Larney from the Inter-

**classifieds**

- Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics.

**TO RENT/HOUSE SIT**

- Corinda: 1 female and her lovable dog offer furnished room for rent in hse for short-term rental for non-smoker, $120/wk. Lynne: 07 3379 6898 or lynnel@uqconnect.net
- Sunshine (UK): 3-4bd f/furnished semi-detached cottage, available June to September, 40 mins by train to London, hse exchange possible. Helen: h.gilbert@uq.edu.au
- Academic and experienced house-sitter needs house-sitting position from February 5. Has experience in caring for pets and can provide references. Ravinder: 0422 923 933, panopticonrooks@yahoo.com
- Visiting academic needs 1bd accommodation close to the University’s St Lucia campus from January 22 to February 10. Jill: jsweeney@biz.uwa.edu.au
- Professional couple, 12-year-old daughter, well-trained small dog need accommodation for 2006, house sitting or renting, pref. easy walking distance Chapel Hill State School. Helen: 07 3873 1904, neleh@acenet.net.au
- Academic needs house-sitting position from January-July 2006. Happy to look after pets. References available, flexible with moving in/out dates. Jeffrey: j.minson@griffith.edu.au
- Visiting academic needs 4 bd/2bth air-conditioned, upscale, exe-grade furn. home in St Lucia from Jan 1 – July 1. Needs washer/dryer and Internet connection. Thomas: tom.noordewier@uvm.edu
- Has experience in caring for pets and can provide references. Ravinder: 0422 923 933, panopticonrooks@yahoo.com
- Visiting academic needs 1bd accommodation close to the University’s St Lucia campus from January 22 to February 10. Jill: jsweeney@biz.uwa.edu.au
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**WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT**

- A new University of Queensland staff member is looking for accommodation from January 2006 for 2 adults and 2 children, 3-4bd preferred. Ilana: ilana.mushin@arts.usyd.edu.au
- Academic and experienced house-sitter needs house-sitting position from February 5. Has experience in caring for pets and can provide references. Ravinder: 0422 923 933, panopticonrooks@yahoo.com
- Visiting academic needs 1bd accommodation close to the University’s St Lucia campus from January 22 to February 10. Jill: jsweeney@biz.uwa.edu.au
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**prizes**

- The Clem Jones Sporting Scholarships 2006: for students who can demonstrate the potential to perform at a high level in their chosen sport and who intend to join and represent a University sporting club. Worth: $5,000 per annum for 3 years. Closing: February 24. Information: 07 3365 1984.
- Alfred & Olivea Wynne Memorial Scholarships: for students who are residents of the Maryborough district or have family connections with that area. Closing: March 24. Information: 07 3365 1984.
- The Constantine Aspromourgos Memorial Scholarship for Greek Studies 2006: for UQ Bachelors or Masters graduates of not more than five years standing who are undertaking a postgraduate program in the area of Greek studies. Worth: $5,000. Closing: March 31. Information: 07 3365 1984.
The golden partnership of World Champion rowers Sam Conrad and Hardy Cubasch was strengthened when both were named joint winners of Sportsman of the Year at UQ’s Blues and Sports Awards dinner on October 28.

Business student and UQ SPORT scholarship holder Conrad and Commerce graduate Cubasch tied for the prestigious award after their gold medal winning performance together in the coxed pair at the Senior World Rowing Championships in Gifu, Japan in September.

The win capped off an outstanding year of results including wins at the National Championships in the men’s coxless pair and coxless four, as well as a first place at the Interstate Regatta in the men’s coxless pair, coxless four and coxed eight.

Conrad attributed the success of their partnership to being good friends with different strengths that complemented each other.

“Where I’m weak he’s strong and vice versa – and each win we raise the bar of what we believe we can achieve,” Conrad said.

Triathlete Annabel Luxford took out the Sportswoman of the Year title ahead of a strong field of nominees.

The Master of Applied Law student and UQ SPORT scholarship holder claimed the illustrious award after a whirlwind year of success including her recent selection to the 2006 Commonwealth Games team.

The honour of representing Australia at the Games will become a reality after a solid win at the recent selection trials in Melbourne and if this season’s form is anything to go by she will be a serious contender for a place on the podium.

“I have grown up watching the Commonwealth Games and it’s just great to think I will be a part of that great sporting tradition on home ground,” she said.

The gala dinner to announce the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year also celebrated the achievements of the year’s top ranking UQ athletes and officials with the best performing athletes of 2005 awarded prestigious Blue and Half Blue Awards.

The spirit of the Blues was also reignited when 20 recipients from the 1970s returned to be recognised for their sporting achievements.

UQ honoured athletes from the 1970-1979 era and acknowledged their contribution to UQ sporting traditions and excellence with a specially struck medallion from the Royal Australian Mint.
Exclusive Staff Offer

As a result of our valued relationship with ANZ, we are able to provide UQ staff with access to unique benefits on a wide range of banking products and services known as anz@work. Here are just a few of the great benefits available:

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**Gatton Campus:** Toni Capell, 07 3823 3712 or email capellt@anz.com

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