ORIENTATION 2006
Fun and fact-finding start year
Exclusive Staff Offer

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

At the start of the academic year The University of Queensland’s unifying role comes to the fore.

Orientation Week (featured on pages 12-13) breathes new life into UQ, as students from 120 different nations and an immeasurable variety of life experiences return to our campuses. One in six of the more than 37,000 students enrolled at UQ is from overseas, and many staff came to Australia originally as international students.

This diversity makes UQ the largest multicultural community in Queensland, and ensures that all students and staff may learn from people with different cultural perspectives.

UQ warmly welcomes all students and staff – new and established – to the 2006 academic year.

Some friendships and professional relationships developed this year will be the formwork for future partnerships between UQ and other institutions. Institutional partnerships are increasingly important to the success of UQ researchers and teachers. Importantly, they create exhilarating opportunities for postgraduate and undergraduate students.

An article on page 5 highlights the value of international alliances between researchers and institutions. The Director of UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, Professor Ian Frazer (who was named 2006 Australian of the Year for his pioneering research leading to a cervical cancer vaccine) is working with Wenzhou Medical College in China and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane to trial a therapeutic vaccine for the most common sexually transmitted disease, genital warts. This alliance has its origins in the work of Professor Frazer’s late research partner, Dr Jian Zhou, who was a Wenzhou Medical College graduate and introduced Professor Frazer to college staff.

Another exciting UQ collaboration could revolutionise air travel. A team under Professor Allan Paull of the Centre for Hypersonics is working with a variety of national and international organisations on hypersonic scramjets. A rocket carrying a scramjet is due to be launched this month near Woomera in South Australia, as part of a project that could dramatically reduce long-haul flying times and lessen the cost of launching communications satellites.

Countless other UQ collaborations will emerge or flourish in 2006. Although they may not attract intense media attention, they will make priceless contributions to global knowledge and unity.

Professor John Hay, AC
The University’s governing Senate has unanimously re-elected Sir Llewellyn Edwards, AC, as Chancellor.

Sir Llew, the 12th Chancellor in the University Senate’s 96-year history, was re-elected for three years in February.

As the 31st Senate is significantly smaller in size to its predecessors, and because several vacancies remained to be filled, Senate deferred election of a Deputy Chancellor until Senate was fully constituted.

The 31st Senate continues for a four-year term.

Sir Llew told Senators his association with UQ had been one of the most special parts of his life.

“I thank Senators very much for the trust you have placed in me and I look forward to serving you as well as I can for the next three years.”

As Chancellor, Sir Llew chairs the Senate, belongs to University committees, undertakes ceremonial roles and represents UQ externally.

Sir Llew, a Senate member since 1984, and Chancellor since 1993, is a distinguished graduate of the University and a former Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland.

Born in Ipswich, he was educated at Raceview and Silkstone State Schools and Ipswich Grammar School.

His first qualification was as an electrician in his family business and then studied medicine at UQ, graduating with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees.

He worked as a Resident Medical Officer and as a Surgical Registrar in Queensland Hospitals before overseas postings in London, Edinburgh and Wales.

Sir Llew was a General Practitioner in Ipswich until 1972. During this time he served as President of the Australian Medical Association (Ipswich Branch), President of Ipswich Grammar School Old Boys Association, a member of Ipswich Blue Nurses Council, and member of the Ipswich Hospitals Board.

In 1972 he was elected to the Parliament of Queensland as the Member for Ipswich representing the Liberal Party. He was appointed Minister for Health in 1974 and in 1978 became Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland until he retired from Parliament in 1983.

He was then appointed by the Federal and Queensland Governments as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of World Expo 88, the major bicentenary event in 1988, and remained in that position until 1989. It was one of the most successful events held in Australia and attracted 18 million visitors over six months.

Sir Llew then entered corporate life, becoming Executive Consultant to Jones Lang Wootton, Australia’s leading property company, now Jones Lang LaSalle, and remains with the company.

He was awarded a Knight Bachelor in 1984 for his services to the people of Queensland.
AUSSIE OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCES NEW VACCINE TRIAL

THE TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE WORLD’S FIRST CERVICAL CANCER VACCINE WILL BE TWEAKED TO FIGHT THE MOST COMMON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE, GENITAL WARTS.

Australian of the Year and UQ cervical cancer vaccine creator Professor Ian Frazer launched a therapeutic vaccine trial for genital warts at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in February.

Patients from Brisbane and China are being recruited for the joint project between UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research and the hospital’s sexual health service, Princess Alexandra Sexual Health (PASH).

Professor Frazer said the vaccine used virus like particles to deliver an antigen for genital warts similar to the cervical cancer vaccine.

“It will target the main causes of visible genital warts which are human papillomavirus HPV6 and HPV11,” Dr Frazer said.

“This vaccine is designed to stimulate the cells in the immune system to fight by killing the cells that are already infected with the virus.”

A pilot study of the vaccine CICRVAX6 by UQ’s Chinese research partner, Wenzhou Medical College, showed it was potentially effective at treating genital warts in humans.

Now PASH is running a larger trial of 120 men and 120 women who have recurring genital warts.

Trial Manager and PASH Senior Medical Officer Dr David Jardine said patients would receive standard treatments and two vaccine shots, which were saline solutions injected into the upper arm, over two months.

Dr Jardine said conventional wart treatments of freezing, burning or painting visible warts with acid might not switch off the active infection.

The trial was launched in conjunction with Wartfest, an annual expo about new developments and treatments for warts, HPV and cancer.

Genital warts are transmitted by skin contact. The 2003 Australian Study of Sex and Relationships of 20,000 adults revealed that four percent of people had visible genital warts.

Professor Frazer said developing a preventative warts vaccine or a combined vaccine for cervical cancer and genital warts was one of the next steps if the therapeutic trial was successful.

“Ideally we want something we can take to the developing world and give to women without having to find out whether they are infected or not,” he said.

Professor Frazer said condoms were effective against sexually transmitted diseases but not genital warts.

The study is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia and the UK’s Welcome Foundation.

UQ recognised as Employer of Choice for Women

The University has again been named an Employer of Choice for Women (EOCFW) by the Federal Government’s Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

The citations are awarded to organisations that have transparent, supportive women’s policies, an inclusive organisational culture and staff development programs that educate workers about rights and obligations for sex-based harassment. UQ has been an EOCFW since 2002 and the current citation is valid until February 2007.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Michael Keniger, responsible for equity matters, emphasised the commitment from senior University staff in addressing employment-related matters for women.

“The University is delighted to receive recognition for its achievements in seeking to improve the status of women staff,” Professor Keniger said.

“We understand that there is still significant work to be done and have prioritised this in The University of Queensland Equity and Diversity Plan.”

From 2001 to 2005, UQ experienced an increase in the proportion of women senior lecturers and professors as well as in continuing academic appointments and in higher level general staff positions.

Other UQ achievements include:
- availability of 28 weeks paid parental leave for eligible staff;
- the first university in Australia to receive breastfeeding-friendly workplace accreditation; and
- new parking arrangements allowing carers to park within a reasonable proximity of the mother’s place of work or study.

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The study is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia and the UK’s Welcome Foundation.
Librarian to lead learning services

The University will soon have a new Librarian with a title that reflects the increasingly diverse role of the Library’s services.

UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, has announced the appointment of Keith Webster as University Librarian and Director of Learning Services.

Mr Webster will maintain responsibility for 13 libraries across the University with more than two million volumes, 11,289 print journals and 29,551 electronic journals, 29,915 videos and extensive manuscript, microform and pictorial collections.

Currently University Librarian at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, Mr Webster was previously Head of Information Policy at Her Majesty’s Treasury, London.

Professor Hay said the new title reflected the increasing contribution being made by the Library in providing and supporting learning resources and systems in collaboration with the University’s Teaching and Educational Development Institute and Information Technology Services.

“Over the past decade the Library has gone through an enormous period of change due to new electronic technologies that have opened up new ways of learning,” Professor Hay said.

“I am confident that Mr Webster, with his knowledge and experience of library services, will find new ways to enhance the learning experience and provide more efficient and exciting methods of accessing information.”

Professor Hay also thanked Mary Lyons, who has been Acting University Librarian since early 2005, for her dedication.

Mr Webster said he was keen to further develop the ways in which the Library supported world-class teaching and research.

“I’m looking forward to joining one of the most outstanding research libraries in Australia,” Mr Webster said.

“With the role of university libraries becoming ever wider in the day-to-day life of universities, I am keen to ensure that the Library is catering for and providing the necessary support to all students and staff.”

Mr Webster said libraries were no longer places that just loaned books.

“They are centres of knowledge, knowledge that is communicated in many forms, including print, electronic and human interaction,” he said.

“I hope to expand on this flexible approach to learning.”

Meet company representatives, scan opportunities and see what jobs are available at the UQ Careers Fair 2006.

The Fair will take place on March 22 from 11am to 4pm at the UQ Centre.

With over 90 representatives from government and industry, the Careers Fair is one of the biggest of its kind in Queensland.

The event will offer a unique opportunity for students to meet face-to-face with leading employers from government and private industry, explore career opportunities and obtain specific information about individual companies.

Dean of Students Dr Lisa Gaffney said the event was a fantastic opportunity for students.

“Being able to talk to potential employers will allow students to think about the range of career opportunities open to them. They may discover options they had not previously considered,” she said.

Industry representatives will be on hand to answer students’ questions. The fair also includes displays and information packs.

Employers represented will include Accenture, BDO Kendalls, IBM Australia, Environmental Resources Management, Rio Tinto, Schlumberger Oilfield and Sinclair Knight Merz.

Many local, State and Commonwealth Government departments will also be there with information on opportunities for graduates.

Staff from UQ’s Career Hub Online Employment Service and the UQ Union Employment Service will be available with details on how students can find jobs.

The Graduate School and representatives from the Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture will provide information on future study opportunities, which may enhance careers.

Information: www.uq.edu.au/careersfair

Seven Smart State rising stars

Twenty of the nation’s brightest emerging researchers, including seven from UQ, will receive a total of more than $340,000 in funding to support them in undertaking PhD research at Queensland universities.

Deputy Premier Anna Bligh said each researcher would receive up to $21,000 to provide them with the financial support they need to focus on their research efforts, as well as a bonus payment of $1500 if they complete their thesis within three and a half years.

“The Smart State PhD Scholarships program is about supporting our best and brightest students, and highlighting Queensland as the place to pursue PhD research,” Ms Bligh said.

“This funding is ensuring promising researchers are attracted and retained in Queensland, and is helping to build a critical mass of research capability here in the Smart State.”

Ms Bligh said Queensland was continuing to build on its reputation as a centre of world-leading research and development.

“The Queensland Government leads Australia in encouraging the growth of 21st Century industries, having invested more than $2.4 billion in innovation, science and research since 1998,” she said.

“Our investment in research and development is already the highest in the nation, with more money invested on research and development on a per capita basis than any other State or Territory in Australia.”

The UQ recipients of the first round of Smart State PhD Scholarships are:

Jennifer Riesz – Understanding the physics and chemistry of melamins, and their connection to melanoma skin cancer.

Jane Lattin – Investigating beta-arrestin function in macrophages, and their role in controlling chronic inflammation in diseases.

Katie Lee – Reducing mosquito-borne viruses such as dengue fever through a novel mosquito control method.

Sally Hali-Thompson – Examining factors that encourage individuals within organisations to take on environmentally sustainable initiatives.

Nicola Wayte – Searching for novel cancer susceptibility genes by examining families with multiple cancer types.

Joanna Castner – Assessing the effects of deep brain stimulation on language and memory in patients with Parkinson’s disease.

Phillipa Campbell – Studying dengue fever virus surface proteins to determine how the virus gets into cells and how it could be blocked.

PLOT PATH TO FUTURE

Careers Fair helps plot path to future

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Katie Lee – Reducing mosquito-borne viruses such as dengue fever through a novel mosquito control method.

Sally Hali-Thompson – Examining factors that encourage individuals within organisations to take on environmentally sustainable initiatives.

Nicola Wayte – Searching for novel cancer susceptibility genes by examining families with multiple cancer types.

Joanna Castner – Assessing the effects of deep brain stimulation on language and memory in patients with Parkinson’s disease.

Phillipa Campbell – Studying dengue fever virus surface proteins to determine how the virus gets into cells and how it could be blocked.
UQ researchers have discovered that male whales that sing spend more quality time with females.

It is believed that female whales use the male’s song as the basis for mate choice.

The researchers, PhD student Joshua Smith, his supervisor, whale expert Dr Michael Noad from the School of Veterinary Science, and volunteers have tracked whales off Peregian Beach, on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast.

The UQ team has been observing and tracking the whales for the past three years as the whales migrate south from their breeding inside the Great Barrier Reef.

During September and October each year, they recorded whale behaviours, interactions, took genetic samples and used hydrophones (underwater microphones) to record male singers round-the-clock. Scientists had suspected that whale songs were used for female attraction and male repulsion, but the UQ team was the first to provide a range of evidence that linked singing to courtship.

“Songs appear to be directed more towards females possibly as a courtship and mating display than a signal to warn off or repel rival males,” Mr Smith said.

“Singers are joining females with calves more often and singing for a much longer duration with them than with any other social group.

“The characteristics of the song are possibly being used by the female to assess these males.

“The way they structure the songs, perhaps using particular elements like higher or lower frequencies and how well they do that could reflect attributes of that male such as his fitness, maybe his age.”

Mr Smith said male whales sang mostly in the presence of females but the songs also attracted other males.

He said the songs were repetitive but structured, made up of chirps, moans and barks that could last from 10 minutes to 23 hours.

“Their songs are basically broadcast signals that other whales and hydrophones can detect from at least 15 or 20 kilometres away,” Mr Smith said.

He said he couldn’t say the male songs were necessarily attracting females but the songs still helped sexual interaction.

Dr Noad has also disproved a theory that whale songs regulated spacing between singing males.

Since 2002, the UQ team has recorded more than a thousand hours of whales’ songs, which is stored as 400GB of data — enough to fill about five computer hard drives.

Mr Smith said Dr Noad’s research has been part of an international project called the Humpback Acoustic Research Collaboration.

It’s a joint project for American and Australian scientists primarily funded by the United States Office of Naval Research but also by the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

Other contributors are the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the University of St Andrews and the University of Newcastle.

Mr Smith said he hoped to work in marine animal acoustics or with the Australian Antarctic Division when he finished his PhD in six months time.

His PhD is also supervised by Associate Professor Anne Goldizen, an ecology expert from UQ’s School of Integrative Biology.

**KNEE PAIN STUDY**

Physical treatments for pain at the front of the knee are the focus of a research project underway at UQ’s Division of Physiotherapy.

Chief investigator Dr Bill Vicenzino said the best management approach had yet to be identified, which was the aim of this study.

Volunteers are being sought who are 18 to 39 and have pain at the front of the knee that affects their ability to do physical tasks.

Participants could be eligible for six free physiotherapy sessions.

Information: 07 3365 4587 or j.buckley@shrs.uq.edu.au

**BREAST CANCER STUDY**

Researchers from UQ, the Royal Brisbane Women’s Hospital and the Queensland University of Technology are studying the role of exercise on women who have upper limb lymphoedema following treatment for breast cancer.

Women who have completed their treatment for breast cancer on one side, at least six months prior to developing upper limb lymphoedema, are being sought for the study.

Information: 07 3864 9645.
A WHEELIE GOOD CAUSE

A UQ LECTURER HAS BEEN GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES THINKING OF A WAY TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY. AFTER GETTING IN A SPIN HE HAS FOUND THE ANSWER.

It’s a fine balancing act combining a hectic schedule with charity work and no more so than for UQ lecturer and GP Dr David King.

Dr King will complete the 10km 40th Walk against Want by riding across Brisbane on his unicycle on March 12.

“I like a challenge and thought this would be a good way to raise more funds,” he said.

Oxfam Australia’s Walk Against Want is a national event that raises money for long-term development work in 26 countries.

Dr King, a lecturer with UQ’s Mayne Medical School and a GP at the University Health Service, is already riding high on his efforts. By late February he had already achieved half of his $2000 target.

He had his first go on a unicycle during a trip to England in the 1980s. “I had a few evenings of trying the unicycles and thought it was fun so when I returned to Australia I thought ‘why not buy one’ and I actually learned how to ride it in the backyard,” he said.

Professor Fotheringham and Madame Liu Fei at the presentation

Gift speaks volumes

A donation to the University is helping ensure students of the Chinese language are lost for neither words nor important literature.

UQ has accepted a generous donation of books from the Brisbane Consulate of the People’s Republic of China, further strengthening links between the two.

On February 15 Consul and Head of Mission Madame Liu Fei presented 320 books covering topics including Chinese language, history, culture and customs to UQ’s Institute of Modern Languages (IML).

IML Director Georgiana Poulter said she was very grateful to the Consulate, which opened in Brisbane in 2005, for the generous donation.

The IML is Queensland’s leading language services provider offering courses in 30 languages. It is also one of Australia’s most comprehensive translation and interpreting services.

“Chinese is the fastest growing language at IML in terms of enrolments so the books will be a great addition to our collection,” Ms Poulter said.

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“Our students range from people who are doing business with China, to the children of migrants who can speak Chinese but want to develop their reading and writing skills.”

“These books will provide students with an extra insight into Chinese culture, customs and society.”

Chinese students are enrolled in a range of programs across all faculties at the University.

The new Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting (English and Chinese) degree has rapidly gained popularity since it started in 2005.

It is one of a suite of programs including a Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma qualification, designed to develop students’ practical techniques and skills of translation between English and Chinese and interpreting between English and Mandarin.

Information: anyone wanting to sponsor Dr King can call the Walk Against Want hotline on 1800 034 034 and ask to sponsor David King in the Brisbane walk, or visit the St Lucia Campus Health Service and ask for a sponsorship form.

BOOK LAUNCH

Executive Dean of UQ’s Faculty of Arts Professor Richard Fotheringham will turn a lecture into a dramatic production to launch his new book charting the history of plays staged in the Australian colonies.

He will discuss the significance of colonial plays during the free lecture on March 16 in the Abel Smith Lecture Theatre from 5.30 to 6.30pm.

The lecture will contain staged readings of scenes from the plays featured in the new book, Australian Plays for the Colonial Stage 1834-1899.

The book contains the scripts of nine colonial plays, beginning with Henry Melville’s The Bushrangers.

STRAIT SCIENCE

Two young UQ biophysics students have taken science to isolated schools in the Torres Strait.

Joel Gilmore and Jenny Riesz said it had been an excellent way to celebrate the World Year of Physics in 2005.

They ran hands-on science workshops and performed entertaining science shows for about 850 students in Years one to 10, visiting seven schools on six different islands.

“We were amazed at how isolated the islands are,” Ms Riesz said.

“Everything has to be shipped in by barge, so groceries cost a fortune, and fresh vegetables are hard to come by.”

Information: 07 3365 3924.

ETHICS VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen for the position of Student Member on the Human Experimentation Ethics Review Committee.

The Committee is UQ’s central ethics policy committee.

The position is open to current UQ students only.

Information: 07 3365 3924.
KOALAS HAVE AS MUCH TO FEAR FROM DOGS AND BUSY ROADS AS LOSING THEIR JUICY EUCALYPTS TO TREE CLEARING, ACCORDING TO NEW RESEARCH.

A University of Queensland study of koalas in Port Stephens shows traffic and dogs are more of a threat to koalas than previously thought.

"In some areas, deaths from dog attacks and cars can be as detrimental to koalas as habitat loss," study author Dr Jonathan Rhodes said.

One fear is that koalas will learn to avoid dogs and instead try to cross busy roads, putting them at risk of road traffic accidents.

Dr Rhodes, a PhD graduate from UQ's School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, studied koalas to show how wildlife survived in fragmented semi-urban landscapes and how to prioritise conservation actions.

He said he had analysed data on koala distributions, koala radio-tracking data, habitat mapping, traffic volumes and dog densities.

Of 41 koalas radio-tracked in the Tomago Sandbeds in Port Stephens, New South Wales between 1995 and 1997, eight died from dog attacks and one died after being hit by a car. Koalas roughly had an annual 14 percent chance of being killed by a dog.

In 2005 34 koalas died on Port Stephens' roads with one death reported for January, according to the Native Animal Trust Fund (.

Port Stephens koala coordinator Geoff Bartlett said there were usually between 20 and 40 road fatalities a year and about six deaths from dogs a year in Port Stephens.

Backburning and tree clearing around powerlines and for new subdivisions also threatened koalas.

Dr Rhodes produced two mathematical models, one to predict the effect of habitat and human interference on koala distributions and another to predict the risk of koala deaths from cars.

He estimated the chance that a car would hit a koala trying to cross a busy road in Port Stephens may be around 20-50 percent, but this would depend on traffic volumes, car speeds, road type, koala behaviour, and time of day.

Koalas crossing roads during peak times would most likely be hit.

He said accommodating increases in traffic volumes on existing roads was preferable to building new roads through koala habitat.

Wildlife crossings, speed reduction zones and wildlife reflectors would also help.

Dr Rhodes said his models could be adapted and transplanted to help form conservation plans for many other wildlife species living in semi-urban areas.

Dr Rhodes conducted his koala research as part of a team that included senior research fellow Dr Clive McAlpine, Ecology Centre Director Professor Hugh Possingham and student Michala Bowen.

Winning a $6000-per-annum Group of Eight (Go8) Scholarship has made a big difference to university study for Javier Navarro.

Mr Navarro, a second-year UQ Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Space) student, was awarded the prestigious scholarship in 2005.

Just four Go8 scholarships are awarded per year by each of the universities involved in the group.

The Go8 represents Australia's leading universities which conduct the vast majority of Australian university research and UQ is the only Go8 university in Queensland.

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial hardship as well as academic excellence.

Mr Navarro, who emigrated from Peru to the Gold Coast with his parents, older sister and younger brother in 2001, achieved an Overall Position One for his studies at Palm Beach/Currumbin High School and applied for the scholarship in early 2005.

His achievements are even more remarkable considering he emigrated to Australia at age 14 with limited English.

He said he had been "very happy and relieved" when he received the letter informing him he had been successful in gaining the scholarship.

"The scholarship helps me with expenses such as my books - about $800 a semester - as well as rent," he said.

"I have also been able to travel back to visit family in Peru, which will more easily enable me to settle in for another year at UQ."

An avid surfer, Mr Navarro returns each weekend to stay with his family on the Gold Coast as well as to catch some breaks at Snapper Rocks and other spots.

He said he chose UQ because it was "the best university" and was where his older sister Alessandra, who is studying towards a dual Bachelor of Business Management/Bachelor of Laws, was also studying.

"It would have been easier for me to select a university or campus on the Gold Coast as I did not want to have to move out of home but I didn’t like what was being offered. In addition, all of my teachers recommended UQ," he said.
Celebrate Diversity Week

UQ staff and students are invited to help celebrate Diversity Week (May 15–19, 2006) and raise awareness about UQ’s diversity, and how it influences our community.

Talk with colleagues and students about developing an activity or event and you may be eligible for a grant. You could also enter the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards if you have developed equity and diversity initiatives within the University ($5000 for an individual and $10,000 for a group).

Information about Diversity Week 2006, the awards, grants and awards ceremony can be found at [www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week](http://www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week) or you can contact The Equity Office on e-mail [equity@uq.edu.au](mailto:equity@uq.edu.au) or phone 3365 3052.

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE
A trial of a new repellent against feral pests has successfully repelled goats for three days at UQ’s Gatton campus.

The repellent, made of fatty acids and sulphurous compounds extracted from tiger poo, has repelled feral pigs, kangaroos and rabbits and may also deter deer, horses and cattle.

“Goats wouldn’t have seen a tiger from an evolutionary point of view for at least 15 generations but they recognise the smell of the predator,” repellent tester Dr Peter Murray said.

Dr Murray, a senior lecturer with UQ’s School of Animal Studies, said the repellent smelt less offensive than cat poo.

Goats in the repellent trial were tracked with surveillance cameras and global positioning system collars to ensure they stayed off affected areas.

The material and encapsulation technique used to entrap and slowly release the repellent compounds were discovered by Associate Professor Bhash Bhattachari, Dr Peter Torley and Dr Pilairuk Boonyai from UQ’s School of Land and Food Sciences.

Animal studies PhD student Tarnya Cox is trialling a clay based version that might work better in rain. She will also test whether the smell from a native carnivore such as the Tasmanian Devil is more potent than that of a tiger. Miss Cox believes the native extract will work better in Australia but she will compare both animals by having each on a diet of kangaroo and goat and collecting their faeces.

Dr Murray said a stronger version of the repellent, which could last for weeks or months, could be useful for aviation authorities wanting to keep animals off runways.

He said it also had enormous horticultural applications for protecting fencing and crops and forest saplings from wild horses, hares, rabbits and kangaroos.

“You might want to put it round the perimeter or under each tree so it would cause all those herbivorous animals to say it’s too scary, there’s something here that might bite me,” Dr Murray said.

“There’s many animals that eat crops in the Lockyer Valley that would recognise a big predator smell.”

The US also has a big repellent industry for roaming deer.

“If we can show this lasts weeks, when we’ve got it from a day to days now, we’ve just tapped into probably a billion dollar market. It’s enormous,” he said.

The National Health and Medical Research Council funding will go to 33 projects across the country and is expected to help prepare Australia for any potential outbreak.

Ms Tippett’s project will explore the important public health role of pre-hospital emergency medical services in containing and managing an influenza outbreak in Australia.

The project will look at ways of managing and supporting the responses of frontline health workers to an infectious disease outbreak.

The research will expand current public health disease surveillance and triage strategies so emergency personnel can manage increased workloads within a highly infectious environment.

Professor Middelberg’s project will look at simplified ways of producing mass vaccines quickly and safely.

The ideal way to protect against pandemic bird flu is to vaccinate all Australians as soon as possible after a dangerous strain starts to spread.

Current technology is unable to quickly deliver a mass vaccine to the entire Australian population but recent advances in manufacturing processes may change that.

UQ researchers will lead two projects announced in February as part of the Commonwealth Government’s $6.5 million bird flu research program.

Professor Anton Middelberg, from the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, and Vivienne Tippett from the School of Population Health, will share in more than $455,000 to look at two very different areas of avian influenza.
Orientation Week 2006 opened with ceremony this year as Indigenous elders welcomed new and continuing students to the campus.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and UQ Union held a flag raising and acknowledgment ceremony followed by traditional meal or Kuppa Mari on February 20, marking the beginning of Orientation Week festivities.

The Week followed UQ tradition with events at all three campuses including information sessions, workshops, music, celebration and Market Day stalls.

Market Day is the highlight of Orientation, attracting large crowds of students with its festive atmosphere. Many first year students attended to have a look at the clubs that were available, what sporting facilities were on offer, and to meet up with friends and find lecture rooms.

UQ student Catherine Tran attended Market Day with her friends to meet new students and check out the stalls and displays.

Town planning student Rupert Macrossan said he enjoyed the give-aways, the opportunity to meet people and the festive atmosphere of Orientation.

UQ SPORT had sporting clubs on display, a tennis and a rowing challenge, and dancing and aerobic performances.

Orientation Week was also an opportunity for students to attend learning workshops and become familiar with the Library. The UQ Library offered tours and workshops on how to use services, locate information and learn research and computer skills.

Most faculties and schools held information sessions, introducing staff and study expectations for the year ahead. There was also a number of classes on writing skills, how to use computer programs and Internet services.

About 2000 international students attended the Getting Started for All New International Students session on the Monday.

The session welcomed international students to UQ campuses and Australia. It included life skills, information on student cards and services and tips on getting around Brisbane.

For the first time this year, the Student Centre held New to UQ Information Sessions for first year students in the weeks leading up to Orientation.

Orientation Coordinator Eunice Ngunu said the New to UQ Sessions were a huge success.

"We had large numbers of students attending the sessions but also parents and family members," she said.

"On some occasions, we were forced to hold two sessions because we had such a good turnout."

"New students found the sessions very beneficial and we will definitely be holding them again next year."

The Week finished with the UQ Union’s Ignition Festival on the Friday night at St Lucia with a band line-up that included Shihad, Little Birdy and Thirsty Merc.
Above: (from left) Jessica Sullivan, Libbee Garrett and Iain Henderson at the Ipswich Market Day. Right: Jamie Iker and Melissa Johnstone at the Gatton Market Day. PHOTO: Lyle Radford

Red Painting play in the Great Court

Judy Breeze and Janine Conway from the Underwater Club. PHOTO: Lyle Radford

From left: Travis Taylor, William Bean and Emily Knight at the Ipswich Market Day

From left: Sarah Warby, Caroline Hughes and Al Clark at UQ Gatton. PHOTO: Lyle Radford

From left: Cromwell College residents Andre Bec, Tristan Bec and Callum Morrison at the St Lucia Market Day

David Young and Rachel Davey from the Outdoors Club. PHOTO: Lyle Radford.
Dr Kevin Pimbblet, an astrophysicist with UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, has been traveling to the edges of the universe. He has just finished a decade-long project cataloguing clusters of galaxies that stretch almost three billion light years away.

To give you an idea of how far that is, the nearest star outside of our solar system is 4.22 light years away. And not only was he looking at things a long, long way away, he was also looking at the biggest structures in the Universe.

“Clusters of galaxies are the most massive gravitationally bound objects in the Universe,” Dr Pimbblet said. “These are some of the largest structures you will find, with the distance from the core to the edge of the clusters reaching up to 10 megaparsecs, or 32.6 million light years.”

Again to put that into perspective, when you look up into the night sky and see our galaxy, the Milky Way, it is only 100,000 light years across.

Dr Pimbblet said apart from cataloguing galaxy clusters in the southern hemisphere for the first time, his work is also helping us gain a greater understanding of how our Universe evolved.

“One obstacle in our understanding is that many studies to date have only examined clusters of galaxies in isolation to their surroundings, an obstacle this research overcomes,” Dr Pimbblet said.

“If we can’t understand how galaxies form and evolve we can’t understand our Universe.”

Dr Pimbblet’s research was recently published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

The cataloguing of galaxy clusters will help unravel the evolution of the universe.

The more than 500,000 Australians with intellectual disabilities can feel invisible to the health care system, according to the Director of UQ’s Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability (QCIDD).

But this is about to change thanks to a UQ project that is removing the barriers to health care for people with intellectual disabilities (ID).

QCIDD Director Associate Professor Nick Lennox is leading the Health Intervention Package.

He said a pilot study of the project in Brisbane had reported noticeable improvements in health care for those Australians with ID.

“It showed significant improvements in health screening and health promotion, improved health advocacy and was acceptable to those with ID, their families and GPs,” Dr Lennox said.

After having initially been supported by the State Government, the UQ project was then awarded $779,500 by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2005.

The project is divided into two parts: a Comprehensive Health Assessment Program (CHAP); and the introduction of a health advocacy tool called the Ask Diary in which adolescents with ID and their parents record the interactions with their GPs.

The CHAP program, a GP-based health review process, resulted in significant increases in immunisations, a six-fold increase in the detection of vision impairment and a massive 30-fold increase in hearing testing.

The Ask Diary also resulted in improved health outcomes in areas including relationships with GPs and increased health screening. Dr Lennox found that 61 percent of people with ID, parents and paid carers who used the diary reported being better advocates.

The diary is also used in the classroom with picture pages for communicating symptoms and others for recording health problems.

Studies show there are many unrecognised health problems in adolescents with ID. Vision and hearing defects are the most prevalent, with obesity, incomplete immunisations and skin conditions also very common.

Dr Lennox said people with ID were too often left behind in the progress that had been made in improving the health of Australians.

“Adolescents with ID face enormous difficulties in obtaining even the most basic health care,” he said.

“There are few avenues for them to become empowered and to improve and protect their own health.”

QCIDD is part of UQ’s School of Population Health and is jointly funded by the Department of Disability Services Queensland and Queensland Health.

Research into the Health Intervention Package is continuing at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane.

“Adolescents with intellectual disabilities face enormous difficulties in obtaining even the most basic health care”
UQ engineers are investigating ways to strengthen high-voltage electricity transmission towers to minimise damage from downbursts. Downbursts are intense wind fields created when a strong downdraft collides with the ground and diverges. They are responsible for most of the severe winds during storms in Southeast Queensland. Most high-voltage towers, which supply industry and major infrastructure such as mines and airports, were designed to withstand conventional wind gusts but not the loading and unpredictability of downbursts.

UQ Engineering PhD candidate Michael Chay and his advisor Dr Faris Albermani have found that long span structures such as transmission lines could be destabilised by downbursts.

“The type of wind conditions we design for are very different from those that occur during a downburst,” Mr Chay said.

“We need to find a way to incorporate these conditions into our codes of practice to ensure a safe and reliable design and avoid unnecessary and expensive repair.”

Downbursts usually last for a couple of minutes over several square kilometres and often go undetected by weather stations.

Mr Chay and Dr Albermani have spent the past three years researching downbursts and their potential to damage high-voltage towers.

“They lack accurate data about Southeast Queensland downbursts and have been using overseas data instead to test their mathematical model of a downburst.

But Dr Albermani said they hoped to collect local downburst data by installing acceleration and wind meters on three high-voltage towers throughout Southeast Queensland.

He said it would cost about $70,000 to install the meters and collect the data but it would be worth it as Queensland’s power supply depended on these towers.

“If they collapse it’s very expensive. The repair is about $1 million per kilometre of line,” Dr Albermani said.

“That’s excluding the insurance and loss of power to industries.

“And usually when they collapse they don’t collapse one at a time, they pull down another three or four.”

RESEARCHERS ARE DESIGNING SAFE AND RELIABLE HIGH-VOLTAGE TOWERS THAT CAN WITHSTAND EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS.

A pilot program designed by students from UQ’s Faculty of Health Sciences is helping employees of a major development and construction company avoid work-related skin conditions such as cancer.

The Sunsafe Workplace Program was devised as part of UQ Work Service and linked third and fourth year students with the Emerald Group, which employs a large workforce of outdoor workers on construction projects.

UQ Work Service was set up in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences two years ago to give occupational therapy students practical clinical experience, and was recently expanded to include physiotherapy students.

Project coordinator Ingrid Panitsch said the program targeted workplace skin health risks and combined medical, policy and workplace health services to reduce the risk of work-related skin conditions.

“This was particularly relevant given that Queensland has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world,” she said.

Ms Panitsch said programs were tailored to suit both workers and work environments to ensure content relevance and strategic risk reduction.

“The success of this pilot will promote future partnerships between the University and employers whose workers have solar exposure as a result of work related activities,” she said.

“These will aim to minimise adverse occupational skin exposures such as ultra-violet and chemical exposure for workers, and to raise awareness of risk minimisation strategies.”

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Ms Panitsch thanked the Emerald Group for its involvement in the pilot.

“Emerald Group have shown they are a health-conscious employer, which is good news for their workers, but their commitment is also of significant benefit to many other employers who now have access to a unique service,” she said.

“They deserve credit for taking the lead on this important issue.”

The six-month project was also supported by the Queensland Skin and Cancer Foundation.
World’s top parenting experts meet in Brisbane

About 180 international parenting experts met at the UQ Centre on February 16 and 17 for the sixth annual Helping Families Change conference.

Conference co-organiser Professor Matt Sanders, a UQ psychology and parenting expert, said the conference focused on the latest developments in child and family welfare, childhood obesity and family and parenting methods.

These included the results of a Canadian parenting study and the success of UQ’s Triple P — Positive Parenting Program in the United States, Japan and Australia.

Triple P was developed over 25 years by Professor Sanders’ UQ team to strengthen families and is being used in 14 countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America.

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie was a keynote speaker at the conference.

Professor Sanders said widespread parenting problems were a major public health risk but parenting programs could help.

“The single most important thing we can do as a community to prevent children developing serious behavioural, emotional and learning problems is to assist parents in the important role of raising children,” Professor Sanders said.

“A lot of parents are not coping with their kids and are worried about them, but relatively few are doing parenting programs.”

He wants Triple P to be accessible to every family in Australia and see the stigma taken out of receiving parenting help.

“We’re saying that using proven and tested parenting strategies should be like taking driving lessons, widely available and everybody does them,” he said.

Conference highlights included an address by University of North Carolina health economist Professor Ron Prinz spoke about postpartum depression and the other areas of the country as well as children in Western Australia and in about the health of Indigenous reduced child maltreatment.

Whether parenting interventions effective parenting of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

Best defence is title defence

THE BEST DEFENCE FOR A GROUP OF UQ LAW STUDENTS WILL BE THE DEFENCE OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT TITLE.

UQ’s T.C. Beirne School of Law team has qualified for the international finals of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot for the second year running.

The final will be held in Washington DC from March 26 to April 1, with the UQ team set to defend the title they won in 2005. Director of Mooting Programs at UQ Jonathan Crowe said the team members were excited about qualifying for the international competition.

“The international finals are a great opportunity for the students to test their advocacy skills at the highest level,” Mr Crowe said.

“In addition, the team will get the chance to meet law students from around the world with a shared interest in international law.”

During the Australian regional rounds of the Jessup competition held in Canberra in February, UQ reached the grand final.

The final was held in the High Court before a bench including the Honourable Justice Susan Crennan.

The UQ students narrowly lost the grand final to Bond University but both teams have secured a place to represent Australia at the international finals in Washington.

The team consists of Emily Absolon, Faheem Anwar, Aruni Jayakody, Gobind Kalsi and Claire Schneider.

Three recent mooting alumni Ryan Goss, Michael Hodge and Christopher Peters coached the team.

Allens Arthur Robinson, Dibbs Abbott Stillman and Minter Ellison sponsor the team.

From left: Ms Schneider, Ms Absolon, Mr Kalsi, Mr Anwar and Ms Jayakody

ETHICS OF ANATOMY UP FOR DISSECTION

Ethical dilemmas associated with the study of anatomy will be discussed at a public lecture at UQ next month.

The guest speaker at the UQ School of Biomedical Sciences’ Wells Bequest lecture is the University of Otago’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Professor Gareth Jones.

The lecture will be held at UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience Auditorium at 5.30pm on April 5.

Professor Jones said the once arcane world of anatomy had undergone a radical transformation in recent years which extended beyond the dissecting room.

From Plastination to Human Embryo Research: anatomical investigations and their ethical dilemmas will explore the way in which an understanding of the human body provides an insight into some of these issues.

Professor Jones said a new paradigm was needed for both scientific and ethical thinking on the subject of anatomy.

“What few appear to realise is that the revolutionary nature of this science is not simply opening up new therapeutic vistas, but is actually transforming our view of very early human life,” he said.

The consequence of this transformation for embryonic stem cells, Professor Jones said, is that they will come to be regarded as cells to be used routinely in experimentation and therapy, and not as controversial cells to be avoided at all costs.

“If and when this transformation takes place, embryonic and adult stem cells will be seen for the comparable entities they are and will be utilised as appropriate in research and treatment,” he said.

Professor Jones is Professor of Anatomy and Structural Biology at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

From 1983 to 2003 he was Head of the Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology.

He trained at University College London and University College Hospital and is a Visiting Fellow of St Edmund’s College, Cambridge, and an Adjunct Professor at Liverpool Hope University in the UK.

UQNEWS, MARCH 2006
 QUEENSLAND’S SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE A SPECIAL MUSIC PROGRAM ON THE CURRICULUM.

A unique musical extravaganza launched the year-long Queensland Kodály Choral Festival last month.

The festival, a collaboration between UQ, the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia, Mt Alvernia College and Padua College brought together singers and musicians from across the State to promote music education.

There were several performances from both instrumental and choral groups and a speech by Australian composer Dr Colin Brumby, who reflected on the role of choral singing in music education.

Festival co-organiser James Cuskelly, from UQ’s School of Music, said the festival was a year-long program.

“Zoltán Kodály was a noted Hungarian musicologist, linguist and composer. He developed an approach to music education that is based on the belief that music education is the right of every person, that singing is the foundation of all music education and that musical literacy is a prime goal,” Mr Cuskelly said.

“This approach has been adapted and used in Queensland primary schools for some 25 years now and the program is developing in secondary schools, pioneered by UQ graduates.”

The UQ program is regarded as one of the most significant Kodály-based programs in Australia and is developing an impressive reputation.

“The development of the secondary program is of particular significance as we are the only people in the world who have been successful in adapting the philosophy for this age group,” Mr Cuskelly said.

“The festival is a celebration of the adaptation and development of this aural-based methodology in the State.”

“He developed an approach to music education that is based on the belief that music education is the right of every person”

GRADUATING TO JOBS

UQ graduates under the age of 25 and available for full-time work have again achieved outstanding employment rates and high graduate salaries.

Graduate Careers Australia’s Graduate Destination Survey 2005 released in December showed that UQ graduates continued to be highly sought after by employers.

In the national performance figures compiled by the Federal Government, UQ achieved a full-time employment rate for bachelor degree graduates for 2004 of 85.4 percent against the national full-time employment figure of 80.9 percent.

UQ graduates reported high full-time employment rates in fields such as Medicine (100 percent); Pharmacy (97 percent); Veterinary Science (92 percent); Speech Pathology (80.7 percent); Physiotherapy (78 percent).

PUBLIC BUS STUDY

About 300 volunteers are needed for a study into public bus transport in Brisbane’s northern suburbs.

The project will examine ways of improving bus transport for older people, and whether these improvements can also help younger people.

Researchers need 140 volunteers aged more than 60, and 140 aged less than 60, who will participate in a discussion group and complete two questionnaires.

Researchers from UQ and Curtin University of Technology are carrying out the study, which is jointly funded by the Australian Research Council, Queensland Transport and the Queensland Department of Communities.

Information: 07 3346 7485.
Queensland’s most promising tennis players have a new home following the announcement that UQ has become the base for the State’s new National High Performance Academy.

Introduced by Tennis Australia as a centralised training program, the Academy is based at the UQ Tennis Centre, bringing together the State’s leading junior players for high level coaching and development.

Tennis Queensland chose the University on the strength of its tennis centre and access to sports science, gym and athletics facilities.

Tennis Queensland’s State Director of Player Development Graeme Brimblecombe said the Academy provided a great opportunity for the next generation of tennis stars.

“About 30 players will be selected on a term-by-term basis,” Mr Brimblecombe said.

“These players will have access to an integrated training and tournament program, with sessions focusing on match play and drilling, as well as strength and conditioning to ensure they receive an overall training experience.

“This Academy is about lifting the profile of tennis and maintaining Queensland’s reputation as the breeding ground of champions."

UQ SPORT director Kim Guerin said the Academy’s establishment highlighted the organisation’s capacity to deliver high performance programs in partnership with other sports bodies.

“It utilises our collective resources to deliver a total high performance package specifically in the areas of facilities, coaching and sports science,” Ms Guerin said.

UQ Tennis Centre Manager Troy McGrath said the Centre would be a home for high calibre young players and the development hub for tennis in Queensland.

“It will create more opportunities for young people in our programs at UQ and show them where they can go with their sport,” Mr McGrath said.

“The UQ Tennis Centre now offers a full program of services from beginners to elite athlete development.”

The Academy’s first intake of players began training in February.

Six UQ students will chase their dreams at this month’s Commonwealth Games in Melbourne (15-26 March).

Caitlin Willis (4x400m relay, athletics), Melanie Kleeberg (200m, athletics), Leith Brodie (200m IM, swimming), Andrew Mewing (200m freestyle, swimming), Robert Newbery (diving) and Annabel Luxford (triathlon) have all been selected to wear the green and gold.

Willis and Kleeberg are part of the all conquering UQ Athletics team and will join 5 other club members representing Australia.

For Law student Willis it has been an impossible dream come true.

“I thought I didn’t have a chance a year ago” she said.

Willis claimed a berth in the 4x400m relay alongside Jana Pittman and Tamsyn Lewis by finishing third in the 400m trials at the national championships.

“The whole experience has just been one big whirlwind, and now I just can’t wait to get down there and compete”, she said.

For Arts student Kleeberg her individual selection in the 200m was sweet reward for four years of hard work.

The sprinter competed in the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games in the 4x200m relay and was determined to claim an individual berth for the Melbourne Games.

“I just keep thinking of having 100,000 people in the grandstand all cheering for me and it gives me goose bumps”, she said.

Medical student Robert Newbery has qualified for his third Commonwealth Games while Applied Law student Annabel Luxford is a gold medal contender in the women’s triathlon event.

Swimmers Andrew Mewing and Leith Brodie will both be making their debut Commonwealth Games appearances and just can’t wait for the buzz of the home ground at the Aquatic Centre.

“I want to swim faster than I ever have before,” Mewing said.
Sport is more like religion than even sports-mad Australians might realise, according to a new book.

Lone Sailors and Spiritual Insights, argues that winning isn’t everything — it’s how we face failure that shows our sporting and spiritual maturity.

The author, UQ religion expert Associate Professor Richard Hutch, said sailing was spiritual because it tested human character with triumphs and tragedies from rough seas to mental challenges.

Dr Hutch detailed the experiences of dozens of solo sailors based on interviews with Australian sailors such as Jesse Martin, one of the youngest to circumnavigate the globe.

The book begins with the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht race in which six people died.

Dr Hutch said all the technology in modern yachts was not enough to save those sailors.

“The human dimension opens up when things go wrong,” he said.

“How does a human being face limitation, face failure in spite of relying on technology? Doing so and succeeding at it is human spirituality.”

Dr Hutch said people could learn a lot about themselves from sport and spirituality and facing daily limitations and failure.

“What happens in Australia, is that most people are not that interested in formal religion, but they are very interested in personal spirituality and especially sport,” he said.

Dr Hutch said links between sport and religion should be recognised more widely.

“People who seek personal meanings in sport, rather than just weekend recreational activity, are akin to religious people the world over without quite realising it,” he said.

“A UQ student has become the first female Australian skeleton athlete to compete at a Winter Olympic Games.

Occupational therapy student Michelle Steele finished 13th in the women’s skeleton at the Torino Olympic Games in Italy in February.

Despite not featuring in the medals she was pleased with her runs.

“I’m happy with it. The experience of being here tonight, I wouldn’t trade it for anything,” she said.

Steele clocked a combined time of 2:03.09 over her two runs, 3.64 seconds behind winner Maya Pedersen of Switzerland.

Skeleton involves sliding head first down a bobsleigh course at speeds of up to 120 kilometres an hour on a thin sled.

A product of the Australian Institute of Sport talent identification program, Steele came to skeleton from surf lifesaving, bursting onto the scene in 2005. She slid into sixth place in her first World Cup event in Calgary only a year after first taking to the ice.

Steele, who has only been on the Australian National Team for a year, said there were elements of her runs in Torino that could have been better.

“It was hard to go from three days of training and six runs to really get runs nailed down. So there were things tonight we were still playing around with and trying to fix,” she said.
UQ students are performing well in Business Review Weekly’s National Student Share Investment Award.

President of the UQ organising committee James Cheung said UQ was one of the seven out of 25 tertiary campuses to have exceeded its sign up target with 211 portfolios in the game.

The 12-month game started on September 18 2005 and requires participants to manage up to five $200,000 portfolios each allocated across five to 10 companies listed on the ASX 300.

As of February, UQ’s Alex Jordan was fourth, making $133,002 profit (66.50 percent return), while Will Tynan was 14th and Carl Kulfetwer 21st.

Daily results are available at www.studentshares.com.au with the top performers highlighted.

Promoted at UQ by both the UQ Cashflow and Investment Club and the Financial Management Association of Australia, 3292 entrants from universities and other tertiary institutions across Australia have submitted 6082 portfolios.

Members of the organising committee at UQ included Mr Cheung, Adam Losmargis, Wai Juan Soo, Allison Cunningham, Alex Jordan and Jacob Turner.

They will invest $1 million virtual dollars for the chance to win $10,000 real dollars.

As well as the chance to win $10,000, the top 10 percent of participants will be acknowledged on the Summit Honour Role, distributed to finance companies across Australia.

There are also cash prizes worth $100, $300 and $600 for outstanding results over one, three, and six months.
When Samantha Hall was beaten and strangled by her former partner Michael Bodsworth in 1996, Dr Lynne Milne was a mature-aged student completing her PhD in the Department of Earth Sciences. Dr Milne had never met the victim or the murderer and knew nothing about them. Yet as a palynologist studying pollen and spores, her expertise would prove invaluable in solving the crime.

As Ms Hall’s body had been found lying among flowering wattle trees the police asked Dr Milne to help with the investigation. “I got dragged into this case pretty much against my will,” she said. “I was trying to write up my thesis. But there was nowhere else for the police to go.”

Dr Milne is now a lecturer in the Centre for Forensic Science and a Senior Research Associate in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences at the University of Western Australia. She works on about five cases a year for State and Federal police. She recently wrote a book, A Grain of Truth, about the case. The book examines the facts of the murder case and looks at Dr Milne’s personal experiences while she worked on the case.

Ms Hall had lived in Gympie with her two children and was estranged from their father. Her car was found in Gympie but Mr Bodsworth denied having recently been in Noosa or driving the car.

However, wattle flowers were found in the car and on the rear numberplate. Dr Milne examined pollen from the wattle species found in Noosa and Gympie and worked out how they were different. Pollen was examined from flowers found in and on the victim’s car as well as vacuumings from inside the car and tape-lifts taken from Mr Bodsworth’s clothing.

“The study revealed that the flowers were from Noosa and that most of the pollen in the car and on the suspect’s clothing was also from Noosa,” Dr Milne said. This evidence was used to arrest the suspect and help commit him to trial.

Mr Bodsworth was convicted of the murder in 1998 and sentenced to life imprisonment. “It was the first case in Australia where palynology had been used in a criminal investigation,” Dr Milne said.

Dr Milne has since worked on numerous cases including rape and drug investigations.

NEW APPROACHES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A new book edited by a UQ academic examines the issue of domestic violence.

Intimate Partner Abuse and Health Professionals, to be launched this month, is based on research evidence and addresses a wide range of health professionals including doctors, nurses, psychologists and social workers.

Dr Gwenneth Roberts from UQ’s School of Medicine said the book would be a useful resource for health professionals. “It will be of value to practitioners, researchers, teachers and students alike,” she said.

The book, which was co-edited by Dr Kelsey Hegarty from the University of Melbourne and Professor Gene Feder from Queen Mary’s School of Medicine and Dentistry in London, demonstrates that intimate partner abuse is an ancient problem. “It’s only over the past two decades that research has shown the high prevalence and physical and psychological consequences associated with the problem that bring survivors into contact with the health system,” Dr Roberts said.
SEMINARS

- Wednesday, March 15
  SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, Cytochrome P450 catalysed oxidations, Dr James De Voss (1pm, Room 1-E212, Forgan Smith Bldg). Details: s.tett@pharmacy.uq.edu.au

- Thursday, March 16
  CENTRE FOR CRITICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES, Staging the Nation-to-be: Australian plays exploring the colonial stage, Professor Richard Fotheringham (5.30pm, Abel Smith Lecture Theatre). Details: www.cccs.uq.edu.au

- Tuesday, March 21
  QUEENSLAND ALCOHOL & DRUG RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTRE, Crystalline methamphetamine and the drug market in Sydney, Rebecca McKelin, UNSW (2pm, Room 113, School of Population Health, Herston). Details: qadrec@ph.uq.edu.au

- Wednesday, March 29
  SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, QABA-C antagonists for myopia and memory disorders, Dr Mary Collins, University of Sydney (1pm, Forgan Smith Bldg). Details: s.tett@pharmacy.uq.edu.au

- Wednesday, April 5
  SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, Can we reduce medication errors by improving systems and skills? Ian Coombes (1pm, Room 1-E212, Forgan Smith Bldg). Details: s.tett@pharmacy.uq.edu.au

SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, Wells Bequest Public Lecture, From plastination to human embryo research, Dr Sandra Wells, BSc, MSc, PhD, BAppSocSc, MAppSocSc, FBCS, FIBiol, FCSA, Wells Bequest Public Lecture, From plastination to human embryo research, Dr Sandra Wells, BSc, MSc, PhD, BAppSocSc, MAppSocSc, FBCS, FIBiol, FCSA (1pm, Room 1-E212, Forgan Smith Bldg). Details: Sandra.Wells@health.qld.gov.au

Thursday, March 16

- FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, world renowned pianists Max Olding and Pamela Page play Messiaen’s ethereal Visions de l’Amen (12.30pm, Nickson Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

- Monday, March 20
  FREE RECITAL, Courtenay Lind, Masters cellist, presents an eclectic program with works by Haydn, Prokofiev and Sollima (7pm, Nickson Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

- Sunday, March 26
  SUNDAYS AT CUSTOMS HOUSE, the School of Music’s Genesis Quartet will perform (11.30am, the Long Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

- Monday, March 27
  FREE RECITAL, postgraduate singer Paula Hannon will perform a powerful program (7pm, Nickson Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

- Thursday, April 6
  FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, final year soprano Emily Holland (12.30pm, Nickson Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

- Sunday, April 9
  FREE ORGAN CONCERT, Greg Mayer, cellist, presents an eclectic program of works by Haydn, Prokofiev and Sollima (7pm, Nickson Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

- Monday, April 10
  FREE RECITAL, Innovative Ensemble Collusion (12.30pm, Nickson Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

- Thursday, April 13
  FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, the delightful Schubert String Quintet in C Major, Op. 163 will be performed by the Infamous Five (12.30pm, Nickson Room). Details: concerts@uq.edu.au

classifieds

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

TO RENT/HOUSE SIT

- House sitting services offered by mature-age female postgraduate with full-time employment, pref. 12 mths duration, c. uni, non-smoker neat, quiet, plant/animal lover. Diana: 0409 767 570.

- UQ Staff member is looking for house sitting from end of April 2006. 3 bd, commuting distance to UQ (15k). Non-smoking couple with 2 boys. Keen gardener, good with animals, very clean and conscientious. Sue: sedwards@bel.uq.edu.au

- Visiting professor needs 3 bd furnished accommodation from April 15th. Anticipating a house sit from mid to late April 2006. Available for a week, s/n: 56119 2219 or n.alexander@uq.edu.au or Thomas: thomas@trenzczek.net


- 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: $5500. Closing: March 31. Information: 07 3365 1984.

- The General Staff Prize: for a member of the general staff with a period or periods of full-time service totaling at least 3 years, who graduated in the previous calendar year. Worth: $400. Closing: March 31. Information: 07 3365 1984.

- The R.D. Arida Bursary 2006: for students who have not previously studied at tertiary level and whose home residence is in Chartered Towers City or one of the shires of Dalrymple, Flinders or Cloncurry. Closing: April 14. Information: 07 3365 1984.

The R.N. Hammon Scholarships 2006: for Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have completed at least one year of an undergraduate or postgraduate program at a Queensland university or a Queensland College of TAFE. Closing: March 31. Information: 07 3365 1984.

- The Venerable Archdeacon Leon Hayes Adult Undergraduate Scholarship 2006: for full-time undergraduate students of not less than 25 years of age who have lived or worked in the area of the Darling Downs for a period of 12 months. Worth: $500 per annum. Closing: April 7. Information: 07 3365 1984.

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