CROCODILE ROCK
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

It is the season of Shakespeare, with hundreds of Bard enthusiasts converging on Southeast Queensland for the VIII World Shakespeare Congress. UQ brings the congress (July 16-21) to the Southern Hemisphere for the first time in the event’s 30 year history.

With appearances by a series of prominent and respected Shakespeareans, the congress has attracted academics, teachers, theatre workers and students from at least 30 countries. It is the world’s biggest literary studies conference.

Perhaps most importantly, the event is breathing life into Shakespeare for people outside of academic and theatre circles. School students with a flair for film making, gardeners, the judiciary and even sports fans are driving projects that give a contemporary flavour to Shakespeare’s language.

I congratulate the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Richard Fotheringham, for his pivotal role in attracting the congress to Queensland, convening it, and working with local and international groups to make the congress a widely-enjoyed success.

Another academic who is ensuring that Shakespeare never fades is UQ’s new Lloyd Davis Memorial Visiting Professor in Shakespeare Studies, Professor Peter Donaldson. Professor Donaldson, our first appointment to this chair, hails from Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he co-founded and directs the Shakespeare Electronic Archive. The memorial chair was created to honour the late Associate Professor Lloyd Davis, who was instrumental in UQ’s successful bid for the VIII World Shakespeare Congress. Professor Donaldson’s appointment reinforces that excellent teaching of literature can adapt to the era of the iPod.

Beyond the humanities – but always with an eye on benefits for humanity – UQ bioscience has again been in the headlines. The Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) gained a further five-year commitment of $50 million from the Queensland State Budget in June. This is recognition that the Government’s investment of $92.5 million during the first five years of the IMB is showing a handsome return, by measures including research that will benefit human health and wellbeing, the “brain gain”, economic growth and employment creation.

Centuries have passed since Shakespeare wrote of boiling cauldrons, but we can imagine that the Bard might have been inspired by at least one renowned IMB project: to frustrate the spread of the cane toad by breeding generations of “daughterless” toads.

Professor John Hay, AC
A HIGHER EDUCATION
PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN AT UQ WILL HELP CREATE MORE SUPPORTIVE AND EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

Four UQ academics have been awarded more than $700,000 to improve higher education learning and teaching practices in Australia.

The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education has awarded grants to Professor Peter Adams ($134,749), Associate Professor Fred D’Agostino ($183,000), Professor Ian Cameron ($195,000) and Professor David Radcliffe ($200,000).

Professor Adams’ project will help students overcome a fear of mathematics.

“This project will help students strengthen their mathematical skills and overcome much of their negativity towards the material,” Professor Adams said.

“The project will be particularly useful for students taking courses with large enrolments, as it will enable them to work independently and receive individualised feedback on their work.”

Dr D’Agostino’s project will deliver a staff development program for university program directors, while Professor Cameron’s project will help create an advanced virtual reality environment for undergraduate engineering students. Professor Radcliffe’s project will examine the next generation of learning spaces.

UQ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger congratulated the recipients.

“UQ is the leading University in Australia when it comes to teaching. We have won more national teaching awards than any other university and these grants will help to strengthen teaching at this and other institutions across the country,” Professor Keniger said.

“I congratulate the grant recipients whose projects have the potential to make a real difference to teaching and learning in Australia and internationally.”

The grants were divided into three categories: the Priority Projects Program; the Competitive Grants Program; and the Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Program.

Professor Radcliffe received a Priority Projects Program grant. Priority grants are designed to promote and support strategic change in higher education institutions for the enhancement of learning and teaching, including curriculum development and assessment.

“This project is at the leading edge, globally, of the design of new learning environments,” Professor Radcliffe said.

“It will influence innovation in the design of learning spaces in Australia and beyond.

“It will provide an important step to enable the higher education sector to move beyond the design of traditional teaching and learning spaces to consider the creation of places of learning appropriate for the 21st Century.”

Professor Cameron, the 2003 winner of the Prime Minister’s award for University Teacher of the Year, and mathematician Professor Adams were awarded through the Competitive Grants Program, which supports research, development and innovation related to the enhancement of learning and teaching in higher education.

Dr D’Agostino’s Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Program grant is designed to build leadership capacity in ways that promote and advance learning and teaching.

His project, which has also received funding from the University, will look at developing staff support for those in charge of degree majors.

“The gap in this area is an important one. In many degree programs, the Major is an important structural element, and also important for the way students experience their learning,” Dr D’Agostino said.

“However, in many universities, in Australia and overseas, there is little or no staff development support for the people in charge of majors.”

From left: Professor Cameron, Dr D’Agostino and Professor Adams
Golden opportunity for minerals research

The future of the mining industry will be transformed through the establishment of a $16 million minerals research facility at the University.

The Minerals Characterisation Research Facility (MCRF) will be located at UQ’s Julius Krutschnitt Mineral Research Centre (JKMRC) and will be part of the University’s world-leading Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI).

The Queensland Government, through its Smart State Innovation Building Fund (SSIBF), announced in June that it would contribute $6.1 million to the MCRF project.

JKMRC Director Professor Ben Adair said the MCRF would develop technologies that would transform Queensland’s billion dollar mining industry, enabling it to get more out of current mineral reserves.

“Today mineral processing research is on the threshold of producing a critical mass of knowledge with the potential to create industry-transforming technologies,” Professor Adair said.

Professor Don McKee, Director of the SMI, said a sustainable and profitable mining and mineral processing industry is critical for Queensland’s economy, where minerals represent roughly half of overseas exports.

"The funding from the Queensland Government, along with the support of our industry partners, will guarantee UQ stays at the forefront of innovative and commercially-relevant research," Professor McKee said.

“Today mineral processing research is on the threshold of producing a critical mass of knowledge with the potential to create industry-transforming technologies.” Professor Adair said.

Professor Stuart Crozier, Director of Biomedical Engineering at UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, said MedTeQ would bring about significant advances in health technology by drawing together world-leading researchers with clinicians at Brisbane’s major hospitals.

“Medical diagnostics development is a rapidly growing area world-wide,” Professor Crozier said.

“MedTeQ’s research and development program involves an innovative combination of biomedical engineers with clinicians focused on providing better medical treatment for hospital patients.”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said the establishment of these three major facilities would be a valuable addition to UQ’s internationally-recognised research base.

“These facilities set UQ, and Queensland, at the forefront of research in both the emerging field of biotechnology as well as the established mining industry,” he said.

Queen’s Birthday Honours 2006

The Queen’s Birthday Honours List was announced by the Governor-General on June 12. UQ staff, researchers, graduates and members of the University community were recognised for their contribution to the Australian community.

OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AO)

Professor Julie Campbell (Anatomy and Developmental Biology) - for service to science, medical research and education.

Professor Kay Ellem (QIMR) - for service to medical research through significant contributions in the field of cancer immunotherapy.

Dr Mary Mahoney (UQ Senate) - for service to medicine in the field of general practice, to tertiary education and university administration, and to the community.

MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AM)

David Solomon (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences) - for service to journalism as a commentator on legal, political and constitutional law issues, and to education.

The Hon Keith De Lacy – for service to the Queensland Parliament, to business and public administration, and to the community of Cairns.

MEDAL IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (OAM)

Professor Graham Martin (Psychiatry) - for service to psychiatry through the development of clinical services for children and adolescents.

Indigo Willing (Social Science) - for service to the community through the establishment and administration of the Adopted Vietnamese International organisation.

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL (CSM)

Graham Smith – for outstanding service in the performance of duty as the caterer for the Queensland University Regiment, and in support of the Australian Army Cadets.
Apply for funding

UQ has opened applications for undergraduate scholarships for second semester, 2006.

The University has a number of the Commonwealth Learning Scholarships available. Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships are valued at $2080 per year and Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships are valued at $4161 per year.

Coordinator of Undergraduate Scholarships and Prizes Adriana Jumelet said the scholarships were open to new and continuing students.

"Selection is based primarily on financial need, but academic excellence is also an important factor," Ms Jumelet said.

"Additional factors such as educational disadvantage, membership of a specific equity group and/or significantly adverse personal circumstances may be taken into account.

"The value of the scholarship is not considered income for tax or Centrelink assessment purposes."

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be an Australian citizen or holder of a permanent humanitarian visa, be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in a Commonwealth-supported place and be financially disadvantaged.

Applicants for Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships must have lived in a rural/regional area for at least three years immediately prior to commencing university studies.

Information: www.uq.edu.au/myadvisor/commonwealth-learning-scholarships-clis
Applications close August 7.

The world’s first cervical cancer vaccine developed by UQ’s Australian of the Year Professor Ian Frazer and his team is expected to be on the shelves in Australia by the end of 2006.

The vaccine, now approved in the US and also by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia, will be a lifesaver for many women as cervical cancer kills about 270,000 women worldwide each year.

Technology developed by Professor Frazer and his UQ team from the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research helped create the preventative vaccine.

America’s Food and Drug Administration has licensed the vaccine, Gardasil, for use with girls and women ages nine to 26.

The Australian Federal Government will consider a plan to use the vaccine for mass vaccinations for Year seven girls aged 11 and 12.

The vaccine protects against four of the dozens of strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes genital warts as well as cervical cancer.

A standard three-shot dose of the vaccine, expected to be available in Australia by September, will cost about $500.

"It is extremely exciting after 15 years to see the product finally reach the point where it will come to market," Professor Frazer said.

"More gratifying still is the fact that women across the world will benefit significantly from this vaccine."

HPV causes abnormal cells or tissue growth on the feet, hands, vocal cords, mouth and genitals.

About 60 types of HPV have been identified so far with each strand infecting certain parts of the body.

Professor Frazer’s contribution to the vaccine has also won praise from one of the premier cancer research groups.

He was the joint winner of the Cancer Research Institute’s (CRI) 2006 William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Tumour Immunology.

Professor Frazer shared the medal with German scientist Harald zur Hausen, the man who first linked HPV to cervical cancer in the 1970s.

He won $5000 and a medallion which was presented at a dinner in New York.

"I’m delighted that our team’s work should be recognised on the international stage in this way," Professor Frazer said.

"It is particularly prestigious to share an award with Harald zur Hausen, who is the father figure of research in HPV associated cancer."

"It’s a great honour to be sharing this award with someone of his stature."

The Coley Award has been presented by the CRI each year since 1975 to recognise outstanding achievements in tumour immunology.

Award winners are chosen by The Academy of Cancer Immunology — a select group of 45 medical specialists, including five Nobel prize-winners, from 11 countries.

CRI supported the first early clinical trials of Dr Frazer’s vaccine, which was created in 1991.

inbrief

HIGHEST PRAISE

Australia’s Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has thanked the outgoing Chairman of the Australian National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UQ Professor Ken Wiltshire, for his “outstanding contribution”.

Professor Wiltshire chaired the Commission from 1993 to 2006 and was a member of the Executive Board from 1999 to 2005. He is UQ Business School’s Professor of Public Administration.

Mr Downer said Professor Wiltshire had been a key participant in the reform working group.

HONG KONG WIN

A team from UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law has won the fourth Hong Kong Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot.

The moot was contested by 14 teams from the Asia-Pacific region. It was the first time an Australian team had been invited to participate in the competition.

The moot problem concerned the criminal responsibility of a fictional prison warden for the rape and murder of female prisoners by military personnel within the prison grounds.

The team of Katherine Del Mar and Belinda McRae was coached by law lecturer Jonathan Crowe.

SPIN OUT SPIRALS

Queensland’s rapidly maturing biotechnology industry has been enhanced with the announcement that a UQ spin out company, Promics Pty Ltd, has been acquired by listed Australian biotechnology company Peptech.

Promics was formed five years ago to develop a new class of anti-inflammatory molecules discovered and developed by Professor David Fairlie and Dr Steven Taylor.
Fossils of the world’s most primitive modern crocodilian have been discovered near the Outback town of Isisford, in central-western Queensland.

The new animal, named Isisfordia duncani, was discovered by an international team of palaeontologists. The fossilised skeleton of Isisfordia duncani, the world’s most primitive modern crocodilian.

AN OUTBACK DISCOVERY HAS LED RESEARCHERS TO CONCLUDE THAT CROCODILIANS ARE TRUE BLUE.

BY ANDREW DUNNE

covered story

Fossils of the world’s most primitive modern crocodilian have been discovered near the Outback town of Isisford, in central-western Queensland. The new animal, named Isisfordia duncani, was discovered by an international team of palaeontologists.

The new species has been named, the first fossils of Isisfordia were found in the mid-1990s in a dried-up creek bed on the outskirts of town. Initial preparation of the fossils was undertaken at the Queensland Museum, with the remainder of the work being completed in Dr Salisbury’s Vertebrate Palaeontology Laboratory at UQ. Kerry Geddes, Dr Salisbury’s research assistant, carried out most of the delicate preparation work on the more complete skeleton, which took two-and-half years and an estimated 3000 hours to complete.

“It was the only part of the skull that had been exposed to weathering.”

In April 2005, after four years of systematic exploration in the Isisford district, Dr Salisbury’s team finally found a complete fossilised skull that would put a face on the new crocodilian. “Apart from a slight difference in size, the rear of this new skull is identical to the portion that is preserved on the first skeleton, so we are sure that they belong to the same species,” he said.

Dr Salisbury said Isisfordia had features that were characteristic of modern crocodilians, such as vertebrae that fit together via loose ball-and-socket joints, and a fully formed bony secondary palate – a kind of second roof to the mouth, that allows air to pass to the lungs without entering the oral cavity.

The research team comprised Dr Salisbury, Dr Ralph Molnar (Museum of Northern Arizona), Dr Eberhard ‘Dino’ Frey (State Museum of Natural History, Karlsruhe, Germany) and Dr Paul Willis (University of New South Wales and Catalyst, ABC TV).

Their research was supported by funding from the Australian Research Council and was conducted in association with Isisford Shire Council, the Queensland Museum, Land Rover Australia and Winton Shire Council as part of the Winton Dinosaur Project. Additional funding was provided by UQ and the Frau von Ketter Foundation, Karlsruhe.

Information: www.uq.edu.au/dinosaurs

It may only have been small by today’s standards, but it represents a very important phase in the evolutionary history of crocodilians.”

“I may only have been small by today’s standards, but it represents a very important phase in the evolutionary history of crocodilians.” Dr Salisbury draws the skull.

The skull of Isisfordia duncani

The research team comprised Dr Salisbury, Dr Ralph Molnar (Museum of Northern Arizona), Dr Eberhard ‘Dino’ Frey (State Museum of Natural History, Karlsruhe, Germany) and Dr Paul Willis (University of New South Wales and Catalyst, ABC TV).

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Information: www.uq.edu.au/dinosaurs
Chinese to hear Australian idyll

A group of Brisbane-based singers will take their blend of Australian choir tunes to China this month for the World Choir Games.

About 20,000 singers in 400 choirs will sing-off for medals in a range of categories judged on their performance and repertoire.

Fourteen of the 25-member Australian choral team, The Australian Voices, are UQ students, teachers, or alumni aged between 17 and 25 years.

Group chairman and second tenor Scott Griffin said the team would showcase its uniquely Australian sound in the sacred, contemporary and chamber music sections.

Most of the songs are about 10 minutes long.

Mr Griffin said the group’s singing was unique because of its Indigenous rhythms, shouting, clapping and songs about Australia’s diverse landscapes.

He said many of the compositions were written by group members including Founder and Artistic Director, Stephen Leek.

“For the past 14 years we’ve been trying to create a unique choral sound,” Mr Griffin said.

“We are a nationally auditioned group and it is great to see the hidden talent in our own backyard.”

UQ singers in The Australian Voices are: Alexandra Dyer, Alyssa Mills, Amy Francis-Cairns, Andrew Pennay, Celia Fitz-Walter, Erinn Marrington, Fergus Parker, Leah Hallett, Meg Tait, Meredith Brown, Sarah-Jane Welch, Scott Griffin, Taufig Hoven and Tom Gardner.

Mr Griffin said some of the UQ singers were music students, but some were involved in computer science, law and business.

Information: to follow the travels of these young singers, visit www.theaustralianvoices.com.au

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Everyone plays their part

A new theatrical production has asked the audience to ‘play’ a part.

Theatrical producers are used to the harsh words of the critics but one Australian producer did not just expect criticism from her audience, she encouraged it.

UQ PhD student Caroline Heim recently produced Anne of the Thousand Days at the Brisbane Powerhouse as part of her research into audience reception theory.

A professional actress with New York and Sydney theatre credits, Ms Heim studied not just the reaction of the audience but also the interaction between the audience and the play. Symposiums were held after each play to critically discuss the production values.

Her PhD thesis entitled Audience Text is at the cutting edge of theatre theory.

“It’s about interaction with all of the different texts and public discourses including the play, the program and the posters,” she said.

“I’m looking at what happens on the actual night.”

It was the first time Anne of the Thousand Days had been produced in Australia in more than 50 years and ran at the Powerhouse in June.

The play tells a story known and loved depicting the turbulent relationship between King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

Ms Heim said she chose to use Anne of the Thousand Days for her study as she wanted to attract the broadest audience possible to get the broadest response possible.

“Because I’m looking at audience orientated criticism I was looking at getting a very mainstream audience,” she said.

“I also wanted a play that wasn’t very well-known even though the story is well known.

“It’s a relationship play so it speaks to the audience.”

Ms Heim said the play took six months to produce through her production company, Crossbow Productions.

“Because it is part of my PhD I wanted to be in control of all the public discourses that I used so I designed the poster, I wrote the program notes, the only thing I didn’t do was direct it,” she said.

Associate Professor Joanne Tompkins from UQ’s School of English, Media Studies and Art History is supervising Ms Heim’s PhD. It is the first time this type of PhD study has been attempted at UQ.

“I’m looking at what happens at the theatrical event. It’s really brand new, I’m establishing a whole new way of looking at the theatre,” Ms Heim said.

“I’m either a trailblazer or I’m mad.”

Ms Heim said that in one sense she was creating an audience text. She is currently writing up her findings.

Ms Heim previously studied in New York at the American Academy of Dramatic Art and worked on the New York stage for six years, predominately in lead roles.

It was in New York that she formed her theatre company before returning to Australia where she has produced and worked in plays and starred in numerous popular TV shows.
BONNER HONOUR

SHARON BRIESCHKE HAS STARTED A TRADITION FOR HER FAMILY AND ONE FOR HER COMMUNITY.

Three months after becoming the first person in her family to go to university, Sharon Brieschke won the inaugural Heather Bonner Memorial Scholarship – a $5000 annual prize for women enrolled at UQ Ipswich who live in the Ipswich area.

Winning the scholarship was a high point in a two-decade journey from check-out chick to high-achiever for the Ipswich mother of three. Along the way she overcame self-doubt and grew into a role model for young people in her community, including her three daughters.

“When I was younger I never thought about going to university; my family circumstances meant I never had the opportunity,” said Ms Brieschke, who is studying for a dual Bachelor of Behavioural Studies/ Bachelor of Education degree.

“I left school when I finished year 10 and I was 15. I had no other formal qualifications before I started university 20 years later.”

After years working at supermarket checkouts and on factory production lines, Ms Brieschke took a job as a teacher aide at Ipswich State High School, her alma mater. Soon, colleagues were urging her to take the university challenge – but 18 months passed before Ms Brieschke summoned the confidence to apply.

After a few daunting first weeks at UQ Ipswich, she loved it.

“I found that the tutors and the lecturers were very good right at the beginning, and they eased you into it,” she said.

In each of her first two years at UQ, Sharon won a Dean’s Commendation for High Achievement.

By third year she had become the inaugural Heather Bonner Memorial Scholar, named after one of Ipswich’s most distinguished women. “The scholarship has been a blessing - scholarships are a great way to assist students with the financial burden of attending university,” Ms Brieschke said.

She said she was particularly proud of the fact that the scholarship recognised her community contributions, which include coordinating homestay programs for visiting Japanese school students.

Ms Brieschke has now proved to herself that she can successfully maintain a happy marriage, care for daughters aged 10, 15 and 17, work and study at the same time. “And my daughters are all very proud of their mum,” she said.

The death and destruction on Australian roads is costing the nation $17 billion each year, according to a UQ report released in June.

The report shows that the rate of fatalities in the Northern Territory is more than three times that of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, the three most populous states, and equates to 3.63 percent of the Territory’s economic output.

Queensland and Western Australia’s fatality rates were found to be slightly higher than the national average, possibly due to the greater distances travelled on highways and rural roads in those States.

Research team leader, Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine (CONROD) Associate Professor of Health Economics Luke Connelly, was so amazed at the economic magnitude of the carnage nationally that he re-checked the figures.

“In fact, the methods we used provide a conservative estimate of the total costs,” Dr Connelly said.

The report was presented at the first Research Forum of the Australian Centre for Economic Research.

The research provides the first State-by-State comparison of road trauma costs in Australia and has already been published in the prestigious international journal Accident Analysis and Prevention.

Dr Connelly said the $17 billion annual total represented 2.3 percent of Australia’s gross domestic product.

“In other words, the cost of traffic crashes in this country is more than two percent of its total economic output per year,” he said.

The research includes the cost of fatal and non-fatal accidents, and looks at the human costs such as hospitalisation and workplace disruption, as well as vehicle and other costs, such as provision of emergency services.

It found a marked variation between the States in the number of road trauma accidents and the associated costs. The research also suggests that although the number of fatalities has plateaued, the number of hospitalisations has increased.

“The damage and pain inflicted by more than 25,000 serious injury accidents each year is reflected in these costs. But our totals don’t even touch upon the considerable burden that non-fatal injuries can impose on the victims and the families who care for them,” Dr Connelly said.

Professor Peter Brooks, Executive Dean of UQ’s Faculty of Health Sciences and committee member of the International Bone and Joint Decade, said the research findings should be a “wake up call” for the Northern Territory.

“Motor vehicle trauma is one of the issues raised by the International Bone and Joint Decade and highlighted in a United Nations and World Health Organisation report last year as one of the world’s biggest public health issues, Professor Brooks said.

He said the high level of single vehicle rollover crashes in the Northern Territory, where there is no speed limit on many roads outside urban areas, showed there were significant safety issues to be addressed.

“Crash data also showed high rates of alcohol use and low rates of seat belt use. What action is the Northern Territory Government going to take to restrict speed, alcohol and enforce the use of seat belts?” Professor Brooks asked.

He called on lobby groups such as the Australasian College of Surgeons through its Trauma Committee to once again draw attention to this issue.

Information: http://www.acerh.edu.au/
Over the moon

UQ astrophysics researchers have received a massive 220-night allocation from the Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) for a project to study Dark Energy.

The project will involve the largest-ever galaxy survey undertaken by telescope and will measure some 400,000 distant galaxies.

Project leader Associate Professor Michael Drinkwater said the technology at the AAT would allow the research to be undertaken in Australia, well ahead of any international competition.

“We will use the new AAOmega facility to survey galaxies in the distant universe and these measurements will enable us to test one of the major theories of Dark Energy,” Dr Drinkwater said.

“Dark energy is a mysterious force which is causing the expansion of the universe to accelerate. Its nature is completely unknown and it may require new laws of physics to be written.”

Dr Drinkwater said the allocation was approved in May under the AAT’s inaugural Large Project grants.

He said running costs for a single night on the AAT were $20,000 and the allocation represented an investment of $4.4 million.

The galaxies for observation will be selected from ultra-violet data from the Galaxy Evolution Explorer Satellite and additional observations by the Caltech partners are valued at $3 million.

Dr Drinkwater will work with fellow researchers Dr Kevin Pimbblet and Russell Jurek from UQ Physics. The project team also includes members from Swinburne University of Technology (co-leaders), The University of New South Wales, the Anglo-Australian Observatory, Caltech, Johns Hopkins University and UBC.

IN SPACE, WHO WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR YOU SCREAM – AND HOW?

UQ RESEARCH IS TAKING JOURNALISM WHERE IT HAS NEVER GONE BEFORE BY ASKING THE QUESTION: HOW WILL PEOPLE STAY IN TOUCH IN OUTER SPACE?

Dr John Cokley, from UQ’s School of Journalism and Communication, is working with a multi-disciplinary, international team of researchers looking at how people will communicate with each other in space, and especially how they will send and receive news.

Dr Cokley said the idea of researching news communications for space communities, or “Astronauts as Audiences” as he has dubbed it, might sound a bit far fetched in Australia, but this type of innovative research was taken very seriously in Europe and America where space agencies command billions of dollars in annual budgets.

“As humans expand into space, communities will form,” Dr Cokley said.

“These have already begun to form in small ways, such as long-duration missions on the International Space Station, the space shuttle and small-scale tourist excursions into space now being planned by Sir Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic corporation.

“The US, Russia, Europe, China and Japan are all rushing to form space communities and at least one will succeed within about 10 years.

“This makes it essential that these communities be properly theorised and planned by social scientists like ourselves, so that haphazard development does not occur.

“It’s not pie in the sky – it’s future town planning, which includes media and communications planning.”

Dr Cokley said one of the biggest problems facing space communities is the dominance of men.

“This could lead to a wild-west mentality, similar to places like Alaska and Australia of the 19th Century where towns were full of task-orientated men just there to do a job,” he said.

“If that really how we want space to be colonised?”

Dr Cokley said this lack of gender equity made it all the more important people in space communities had “news from home” and “stayed in touch” with family members and friends.

Dr Cokley’s previous research into other remote communities, such as Antarctica, had shown even the simple act of having local newspapers faxed to isolated workers could make a huge difference.

“Astronauts have ‘ham’ radio and even a version of the Internet now that is going someway to meeting these needs,” he said.

The second of these collaborative studies – including Dr Cokley, with UQ’s Dr Eric Louw, Dr Sally Babidge and James Cook University’s Dr Frances Gordon – is entitled Making media work in space: an interdisciplinary perspective on media and communication requirements for current and future space communities, and has just been published in the UK-based International Journal of Astrobiology.

Dr Cokley is also working with aviation experts Dr Ray Cain and doctoral student William Rankin of the Florida Memorial University in the United States on further research in this area.
A new program developed by UQ researchers will help prevent financial abuse of the elderly.

The researchers, from the School of Psychology, have developed a Social Vulnerability Scale (SVS) that assesses the likelihood of an older person being taken advantage of.

According to PhD student Donna Pinsker, one of the stereotypes surrounding older people is that they represent easy targets for acts of deception, fraud and exploitation.

"Abuse of the elderly can take on many forms including door-to-door scams, telemarketing fraud, investment fraud, bogus lottery wins requiring an initial payment, and the purchase of unneeded or overpriced home maintenance services," she said.

Ms Pinsker said the consequences of exploitative acts against older people could be devastating.

"For this reason, it is vital to detect or prevent such acts wherever possible. Our scale has been designed to assess older adults' social vulnerability, which is an important indicator of exploitation," she said.

Ms Pinsker said the scale was unique worldwide because most of the methods used to assess competency in older people evaluated aspects of their thinking and reasoning.

"Our scale looks at people's actual behaviour in everyday life and can be used to identify people who may be socially vulnerable, which is an important indicator of exploitation," she said.

"In the future, we hope to make the scale available to general practitioners and psychologists to help them make judgements of capacity in older people."

With the proportion of older people in the community increasing, government policy now favoured the expansion of support services for older people who are residing at home rather than in aged-care facilities, Ms Pinsker said.

"It is essential that these people who are living independently in the community can do so competently and safely," she said.

"The SVS opens up new and important avenues for assessing skills for independent living, and may prove particularly useful for distinguishing older people who are at increased risk of exploitation in its various forms."

Ms Pinsker said that old age itself did not predispose a person to exploitation, rather, the degree of exploitation was in proportion to the vulnerabilities arising out of the person's physical, cognitive, social and financial circumstances.
International House will hold its popular Soirée event on August 5. The multi-cultural residential college at UQ’s St Lucia campus holds the annual festival as part of its open day.

More than 3000 students from 120 countries and an equal number of Australian-born students have called the college home since it opened in June 1965.

Current residents are from all four corners of the world, with students from large countries such as the US and Germany joined by those from destinations such as Polynesia, Venezuela, Ghana and Qatar.

Soirée is a significant cultural event in the University calendar and attracted more than 3000 people in 2005. Food stalls offer a range of tasty traditional dishes prepared by residents, while continuous music and entertainment is presented on two stages.

Director of International House, Dr Carla Tromans, said the event gets better and better every year. “Live entertainment with food and beverages from around the world keeps the crowds happy,” Dr Tromans said. “The most amazing thing about this extravaganza is that the whole event, which has been running for 40 years, is planned and implemented by International House residents and the Soirée Committee.”

Soirée Convenor Claire Jorgensen said it would be a fantastic day that would embody International House’s rich multicultural ethos. “From around the world, we bring you international food, beverages and entertainment, opening your eyes to a whole new world,” she said. “It’s a free entry event run by student volunteers and is a fantastic experience that all will enjoy.”

The festival will run from 11am to 4pm at International House. Entry is free and is open to the public.

ORGANISERS HOPE NEXT MONTH’S SOIRÉE, A SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL EVENT IN THE UQ CALENDAR, WILL ATTRACT MORE THAN 3000 PEOPLE.

Mr Tate

UQ’s Information Technology Services (ITS) has demonstrated its commitment to quality management by passing its six-month follow-up audit after achieving ISO Certification Standard 9001:2000 in December 2005.

ITS Director Nick Tate said all staff had been involved in working towards the internationally acknowledged certification, which is awarded to organisations for meeting strict quality management standards.

“Quality management relates to the processes followed to meet customers’ quality requirements and enhance customer satisfaction. Continuous improvement of processes is a major focus of the ISO standard,” Mr Tate said.

The audit, carried out by the National Association of Testing Authorities Certification Services International, concluded that ITS had undertaken a large number of initiatives to improve system processes since the certification was achieved last year.

“Bringing ITS’s quality management standards into line with ISO 9001:2000 has produced a number of benefits, including improved business continuity and a better understanding of how systems interrelate,” Mr Tate said.

Information: www.iso.org
A unique collaboration between UQ and a US university is opening the eyes of international students to the environmental challenges facing Australia’s major coastal ecosystems.

The Stanford Australia Coastal Studies program has so far seen 126 Stanford University students travel to Australia to experience and learn about the mega-diversity of Australia’s rainforests, coral reefs and mangroves.

Program Director and Director of UQ’s Centre for Marine Studies Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg said the 12-week learning experience took students from Brisbane to Stradbroke, from Heron Island to Mackay and from the Daintree River to the northern reefs of the Great Barrier Reef.

“Our goal is to bring students to an understanding of these important yet threatened ecosystems by allowing them to learn and research within them,” Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

“There is nothing more exhilarating than seeing students on Heron Island or in the Daintree exiting lectures to see first-hand, topics that were being discussed in the lecture hall.”

The program, which began in 2003, also takes the students to Sydney and Canberra to learn about Australia’s culture, history and political system.

“This is one of the most exciting programs I have ever developed or taught,” Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

“I literally look forward each year to this program. Talented and motivated students and an exciting academic program, what more could I ask for?”

Students undertake five courses: Coral Reef Ecosystems; Coastal Resource Management; Coastal Forest Ecosystems; Australian Studies; and a Targeted Research Project.

“We have also deliberately made the program multidisciplinary – integrating knowledge from a wide array of expert areas,” Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

“This is the only way to allow students to develop the skills required to understand the complex processes and interactions within the coastal zone of any country.”

Some students attend the program having never previously been outside the US.

“By the end of the program, students have a much more sophisticated and comfortable idea of Australia as well as their own country,” Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

Far right: Professor Hoegh-Guldberg
PHOTO: Guillom Saggin
THE HEALTH WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

BY PROFESSOR PETER BROOKS,
EXECUTIVE DEAN, UQ FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

“Australia, like many other developed nations, is embracing an ageing population and an increasing percentage of that population has chronic disease. Currently, approximately 11 percent of the total workforce is engaged to some degree in the health industry, but it is suggested that we need to increase this percentage to around 20 percent by 2025 if we are going to maintain the level of delivery of health services to the population that we currently enjoy. This will not be achieved just by increasing doctors and nurses but by developing different models of health service delivery including extension of roles of current and new health professionals.

The health workforce of the future will need to be more flexible and mobile with a significant portion of these workers being multi-skilled.”

Instrumentalities in many countries have concluded that the medical workforce is adequate for our future and in fact in Australia, medicine is still the only university course where numbers are controlled by the Federal Government.

There is some anecdotal evidence the healing professions are becoming less attractive to students, however, we need to acknowledge that health sciences courses, whether they be medicine or the allied health professions, are still some of the most highly sought after by school leavers. Developing new models of health care will be important as we move forward and this may involve health workforce extension where existing health workers are involved in a variety of other activities and are able to access Medicare benefits for their work. This might include:

- pharmacists involved in some routine prescribing;
- radiographers reading x-rays;
- pathology technicians being involved in routine histopathology screening and possibly some diagnostic work;
- nurse practitioners being involved in chronic care;
- nurse practitioners or physician assistants developing skills in colonoscopy, minor surgery or anaesthetics; and
- physiotherapists performing triage of musculoskeletal injuries in the emergency department.

A key element of role extension for health workers is that it should be seen as liberation for those groups of workers being substituted for. For example, routine x-ray reading by radiographers allows radiologists to spend more time on more interesting investigational work, or carrying out angiography.

The nurse practitioner movement has been developing for a few years, but is still not well accepted by the medical profession, although this is changing. In the rural sector for example, nurse practitioners can be extraordinarily helpful in providing healthcare to isolated rural communities. Nurse practitioners and practice nurses are probably better accepted in general practice and there is some data to suggest those practices employing nurses are in fact more effective and more profitable.

Consideration also needs to be given to the development of a range of new health practitioners – physician assistants, surgical and anaesthetic assistants and others. In the US there are some 60,000 physician assistants who grew out of the ‘medics’ returning from the Vietnam War. These health professionals graduate from some 130 training programs across the US, the majority being associated with medical schools or health science faculties. The value of having PA training programs within health science faculties is that it allows inter-professional learning and the early adoption of the concept that health workers are very much a part of a “team”. The physician assistant program in the US is usually conducted over a 26 month period and involves training in basic sciences as well as clinical aspects. Postgraduate programs and continuing education are gaining in popularity and the physician assistants in the US take on a range of activities from primary care to involvement with a number of specialties including orthopaedic surgery, critical care, gerontology, management of chronic disease, sports medicine and a range of others.

One of the major issues surrounding this whole area of health workforce is that patients need to be convinced that they are going to be able to receive excellent care from these new health professionals. It is, therefore, very important that these new professionals are trained and assessed appropriately and that they are involved in continuing education programs and career development.

Data from a primary care setting assessing the acceptance of nurse practitioners in the UK suggests that the community consider them highly effective and as good as doctors in delivery of services and providing care.

As we move into the 21st Century, health will remain a significant challenge to governments of all persuasions. Australians need to focus on who is paying for health and how we set priorities for funding in healthcare. This country has never really had a community debate on this issue and there are a number of potent arguments to suggest that we need an increase in total healthcare funding from the nine percent of GDP that we currently maintain. However, we probably do not need to reach the levels of healthcare funding in the US (16 percent of GDP) driven by a primarily private system. If we are going to maintain the equity and access that we have had to healthcare across the country we need to have that debate and make sure that the community is well and continually informed about healthcare challenges and its costs.

As physician Lewis Thomas said in 1974 “There has never been a period in medicine where the future looked so bright. There is within medicine, somewhere beneath the pessimism and discouragement resulting from the disarray of the healthcare system and its stupendous cost, an underlying current of almost outrageous optimism about what may lay ahead for the treatment of human disease if we could only keep learning”.

“The health workforce of the future will need to be more flexible and mobile with a significant portion of these workers being multi-skilled”
Slick new technology to revolutionise oil production

MORE EFFICIENT EXTRACTION OF OIL WILL PAY OFF IN DOLLAR TERMS AT THE PUMPS FOR LONG-SUFFERING MOTORISTS.

Nanotechnology to help extract more oil from oil fields has been developed by researchers from UQ’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN).

With oil companies forced to leave behind as much as two barrels for every barrel of oil they produce, the revolutionary technology could help reduce the cost of supplying petrol.

Known as Pepfactants®, the peptide technology can control the emulsions and foams used in a wide range of industry processes and could impact on a range of products from petroleum to specialty chemicals and therapeutic drugs.

Developed by Professor Anton Middelberg and Dr Annette Dexter, details of the technology were published recently in the prestigious *Nature Materials* journal.

Professor Middelberg said Pepfactants® was a disruptive technology with the potential to be used in ways that as yet cannot be foreseen.

“Emulsions, or mixtures of two immiscible liquids like oil and water, are found just about everywhere from mayonnaise to moisturising cream to products for delivering chemotherapy drugs,” Professor Middelberg said.

“Our process enables the reversible and controllable making and breaking of an emulsion or foam, in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. For example, Pepfactants® allows for the very quick separation of oil and water as well as the reversible reformation of the emulsion.

“An obvious application of the technology is in oil production where water is used to force oil to the surface of the well. Pepfactants® would allow the easy separation of the oil/water emulsion on the surface. It would also change the viscosity of the oil to increase the amount of oil extracted from each oil reserve.”

Pepfactants® recently won an Emerging Technology Award at the TechConnect Summit 2006 Conference in Boston.

UQ’s main commercialisation arm UniQuest Pty Ltd plans to licence the technology into a start-up company and is seeking investment partners in Australia, Europe and the US.

“Our process enables the reversible and controllable making and breaking of an emulsion or foam”

TAKING THE LEAD ON TOXIC POLLUTION

Reducing the toxic pollution of landfill sites from lead in the circuits of dumped electronic equipment is the aim of a research agreement between the University and a major Japanese metals company.

UQ and Nihon Superior Company Limited have entered a three-year research alliance to continue developing a revolutionary alloy technology discovered by the company’s chief executive Tetsuro Nishimura.

The technology provides an environmentally-friendly alternative to lead solder currently used in circuitry.

Millions of outdated computers and other electronic components with circuitry joined by lead solder are buried in landfill sites worldwide each year, with the amount set to soar.

With heavy metal toxins such as lead leaching into the ground, many governments, led by the European Union, are banning the use of hazardous substances in electronic equipment.

UQ Associate Professor Arne Dahle and Dr Kazuhiro Nogita from the Division of Materials Engineering have consulted with Nihon Superior on lead-free solders for the electronics industry for two years.

The work has been coordinated by their Materials Engineering colleague Dr Jeff Gates and UQ Materials Performance researchers.

“We have been able to provide detailed knowledge about Nihon Superior’s alloys, and so have strengthened its patented technology,” Dr Dahle said.

The UQ solidification group headed by Dr Dahle was identified by Nihon Superior as the best in the world in this area.

Their research has for the first time involved documenting in detail the solidification mechanisms in the revolutionary alloys and the reason for their superior soldering behaviour.

“With cash funding of more than $450,000 plus additional provisions of resources such as equipment, material and exchanges, we are confident this work will ultimately lead to the discovery and development of even better lead-free solders for the future,” Dr Dahle said.
The man regarded as the father of medical research in Queensland, Professor Emeritus John Howard Tyrer, CBE, has died, aged 86.

Recognised by his peers as one of the most notable mentors in clinical medicine and research in Australia, Professor Tyrer became The University of Queensland’s first full-time Professor of Medicine in 1954. Over the next 30 years, he shaped medical teaching in the State and lay the foundations for Queensland’s excellence in medical research.

UQ Medical Society patron Professor John Pearn said Professor Tyrer was an exemplary role model for the many thousands of medical students whom he taught with such elegance and clinical acumen.

Current Head of UQ’s School of Medicine Professor Ken Donald said medical education had come of age through Professor Tyrer’s work.

Professor Tyrer, a neurologist of international standing, presided over teaching and research in four hospitals and the development of the Royal Brisbane Hospital’s Clinical Sciences Building. By his retirement in 1985, his research teams were making their mark nationally, attracting a high level of research grants.

During his early medical career, Professor Tyrer, a University of Sydney medical graduate, developed Australia’s first heart-lung machine which took over the operation of a patient’s heart and lungs during heart surgery. This landmark invention would be used in the following decade during Australia’s first cardiac bypass operation. He also developed a special pressurised suit to help pilots overcome high altitude problems during a WWII stint with the Royal Australian Air Force.

Post-retirement, Professor Tyrer, who continued teaching pathology until he was 78, focused on children’s language difficulties. He tested hundreds of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other learning problems and designed individual programs to help them cope with everyday school life.

Professor Tyrer had a passion for culture, languages, the arts and reading and writing history, which culminated in his 455-page book, The History of the Brisbane Hospital, published in 1993.

Professor Tyrer is survived by his wife Dr Patricia Tyrer, seven children and three grandchildren.

ADHD: medication is not the only way

Researchers from UQ’s School of Psychology are calling for families with a child diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) between the ages of four and nine to take part in a group program aimed at helping parents manage their child’s behaviour.

Children with ADHD commonly display disruptive behaviours that are difficult for parents to manage. It is widely recognised that the best treatment for ADHD is a combination of medication and behaviour management training.

Triple P Positive Parenting for parents of children with ADHD has been designed to strengthen the family’s capacity to care for a child with ADHD and manage problem behaviour.

The program aims to give families a better understanding of ADHD, of why their children behave the way they do, and how to manage difficult behaviours.

The program involves attending four, two-hour groups held weekly, followed by three weekly phone calls and finishing with one more two-hour group. All together, the groups will run over eight weeks.

Parents will not be asked to cease their child’s current medications or other treatments while they participate in the program.

Information: details about the Triple P Parenting Program for Parents of Children with ADHD are available from Jennifer Piercy (email jkpiercy@psy.uq.edu.au). The program will be supervised by Dr Kate Sofronoff (email kate@psy.uq.edu.au).
SHAKESPEARE’S ROLE IN INSPIRING ONE OF SOUTH EAST ASIA’S MOST CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL PRISONERS WILL FEATURE AT A CONGRESS HOSTED BY UQ NEXT MONTH.

SHAKESPEARE SETS IMAGINATION FREE

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Professor Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, will be a keynote speaker at the VIII World Shakespeare Congress to be held in July.

A voice for moderate and progressive Islam, Dr Ibrahim read the complete works of Shakespeare four times during the six years he spent in solitary confinement in a tiny Malaysian prison cell.

Dr Ibrahim was convicted and imprisoned on charges of abuse of power and misconduct in 1998. He was released in September 2004 after the Malaysian Federal Court threw out the misconduct conviction.

“I see Shakespeare as a major figure of international and humanitarian dimension,” Dr Ibrahim said.

“In the solitude of my prison cell clearly Shakespeare appeared to me as a brilliant genius of all times and for all cultures.

“I am in debt to Shakespeare in that sense because I was able to fly away from that small constraint of those four walls during incarceration to become this major spectator of this classic work of that great genius.”

UQ Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Richard Fotheringham, said it was significant that Dr Ibrahim was a keynote speaker at the first Congress to be staged in the southern hemisphere in the Congress’s 30-year history.

“Dr Ibrahim uses Shakespeare as a way to describe some very important sharing that we have between western religions and eastern religions, in particular between Christianity and the Islamic world,” Professor Fotheringham said.

“Because of this he is able to bridge the cultural divide.

“That is so very important to us in the early 21st Century.”

Dr Ibrahim will make a keynote address to the VIII World Shakespeare Congress at 9am on July 19 at the Brisbane City Hall.

Professor Fotheringham, who is also the Congress convener, said Dr Ibrahim’s knowledge of Shakespeare would bring a new level of understanding to the Bard’s works in the 21st Century.

“The Congresses are only held every five years so it’s the first since the disastrous events of September 11, 2001,” he said.

“Of course that’s drawn attention to the role of Shakespeare in the cultures that speak Arabic and believe in the Muslim faith.

“We have a lot of Islamic neighbors in our region, and it’s very important that we talk to them on common cultural ground. Shakespeare helps provide that ground, as he has become the world’s author.”

Legendary actress Dame Judi Dench has sent her blessing to next month’s World Shakespeare Congress in Brisbane, declaring the world needs the healing power of great art.

Dame Judi, who is President of the International Shakespeare Association, said: “As the time for the World Shakespeare Congress comes closer, I marvel yet again at the way in which admiration and love for the work of our greatest writer have the power to transcend international boundaries”.

“The world has never been in such need of the healing power and inspiration that great art can confer.

“As representatives of many nations prepare to gather in Brisbane to celebrate Shakespeare, I send my heartfelt wishes for the success of this historic event.

“I regret that I cannot be there in person, but I will be there in spirit.”

A famous graduate of UQ, Dr Bill Brown, will be Master of Ceremonies during the Congress. Dr Brown is internationally acclaimed as an actor, director and dramatist.

The VIII World Shakespeare Congress will be held at Brisbane City Hall from July 16 to 21. Information: www.shakespeare2006.net

SUPREME SCENE COURTED BY ACTORS

The VIII World Shakespeare Congress has inspired a troupe of actors to invade the State’s highest court.

In an Australian first, the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, a professional theatre company resident at UQ, will borrow serving judges and turn the Banco Court in the Queensland Supreme Court Complex into a theatre.

The ensemble has named its production Shakespeare’s Briefs – or – Let’s Kill All the Lawyers.

It will include trial scenes from works such as The Merchant of Venice and The Winter’s Tale.

“It’s very sporting of the judiciary to cooperate with the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble in this way,” said Dr Rob Pensalfini, a senior lecturer in UQ’s School of English, Media Studies and Art History who is Artistic Director of the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble.

“Perhaps it proves that many lawyers are frustrated actors.”

UQ’s Professor Richard Fotheringham, who is Convenor of the VIII World Shakespeare Congress, said fun projects such as Shakespeare’s Briefs would help guarantee the success of the Congress, which will take place in Brisbane from July 16-21.

Other Congress-related court events include a major exhibition entitled Shakespeare and the Law, the highlight of which will be the display of Australia’s only copy of the 1623 First Folio – the first collection of Shakespeare’s plays.

Information: Shakespeare’s Briefs will run from July 17-20 between 1 and 6pm and July 21 at 1pm only. Tickets: $15 ($10 concession and groups). Duration: approximately 50 minutes. For bookings: bookings@qldshakespeare.org or 07 3365 3269.

PHOTO: Jason Weeding, courtesy lime.net.au

UQ NEWS, JULY 2006
Queensland’s Chief Scientist Professor Peter Andrews, AO, presented the inaugural UQ School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences academic awards in May.

More than 100 guests attended the awards, which were held at UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience. The awards celebrate the achievements of undergraduate students studying Chemistry, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Microbiology and Parasitology.

The award winners were: Danielle Anderson (Australian Society for Parasitology Prize); Erin Anderson (Academic Excellence Award and the Microbiology Prize); Leilani Corbett (Academic Excellence Award); Jennifer Chung (Alumni Prize); Jasmine Davis (Australian Laboratory Services Prize); Jack Dixon and Jeffrey Mark (Biochemistry Alumni Prize); Hang Nga Nguyen (Australian Laboratory Services Prize in Chemistry); Kresten Nielsen (Academic Excellence Award and the TGH Jones Prize); Jessica Suwanasilp (RACI 3rd Level Chemistry Prize); Nicola Wayte (Biochemistry Alumni Prize); Zoltan Dekan (Honours Research Prize); David Nguyen (RACI 1st Level Chemistry Prize); Jessica Rowley (CSR Prize in Chemistry); and Kristian Weegink (Edward Taylor Memorial Prize).

Awards under the microscope
From left: Dr Bradley, Ms Diplock, Dr Baker, Dr Meunier and Mr Henderson. PHOTO: Lyle Radford

**PATTER OF TRAILBLAZING FEET**

The lives of pregnant women and new born babies could be made easier thanks to the winners of UQ’s 2006 Trailblazer innovation competition.

Dr Andrew Bradley has developed a neonatal hearing screening device to reduce the amount of time taken to test the hearing of babies. The project aims to improve the cost-effectiveness of universal neonatal hearing screening, which will make the screening more accessible in regional and remote parts of Australia as well as in developing nations.

Singing for You and Your Baby, a program developed by Drs Elizabeth Mackinlay and Felicity Baker to teach first-time mothers the benefits of singing to their babies, also won a Trailblazer award.

The package will enable mothers to experience constructive parenting techniques by encouraging lullaby singing and mother-infant bonding.

Run by UQ’s primary commercialisation company, UniQuest Pty Ltd, Trailblazer is an annual event designed to reward and inspire researchers as well as promote innovative research with commercial potential.

UniQuest Managing Director David Henderson said the quality of Trailblazer entries continued to improve each year.

“We were greatly encouraged by the calibre of entries, which was significant, particularly for the first time mothers on singing to their babies.

**Award winners:**

*Open category ($7500):* Dr Andrew Bradley (EPSA) with a neonatal hearing screening device; Dr Frederic Meunier (BACS) with a selective motoneuron delivery system; Naomi Diplock (INPAVS) with a biological control for Parkinsonia aculeate; and Drs Elizabeth Mackinlay and Felicity Baker (EPSA and Arts) with a guide for first time mothers on singing to their babies.

*Student category ($2000):* Barnaby Osborne (EPSA) with a filament wound carbon fibre telescope mirror; Catherine Hynes (SBS) with a social IQ test; and Shelley Wilkinson (Health Sciences) with The Pregnancy Pocketbook.

**Random twist for storytelling**

UQ software engineer Chooi Guan Lim has created a computer storytelling program that gives children a random educational experience.

The program called, Adaptable Digital Narrator, is text-based dispursed with pictures that tell changing stories as children read and interact with the plot.

Mr Lim said children interacted with the system by using the keyboard to choose a different path in the story.

He said the child could control the story by performing actions such as picking up objects, moving to different places and talking to friends.

“The number of story paths is not limited, but the endings are currently limited to only two endings, a good and a bad ending,” Mr Lim said.

“The objective is to talk to friends, find out the things they like and give these things to them.

“If you give enough of the things they like, the story has a good ending. If you give them enough things that they dislike, then the story ends badly.”

Mr Lim, who is in the final semester of his honours degree in computer science, said his program could improve imagination and creativity and encourage children to read.

“My program is low-tech if you compare it with the fancy 3D stuff that’s out there nowadays in a computer game,” he said.

“But that’s not its purpose. The purpose is to provide educational value.

“Reading is an educational activity, which is why text was chosen.”

He said his program was significant because many games and educational software lacked random storytelling.

**COUNT ON US**

The 15th National Census of Population and Housing will take place on August 8 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics is urging everyone to be counted.

The Census provides a snapshot of everyone in Australia and is used for planning purposes by governments, private institutions and the community. It helps determine things such as transport routes.

Everyone who is in Australia on August 8 should be counted. This includes international students, visitors and tourists.

Information: www.abs.gov.au/census

**YOUTH PLATFORM**

UQ’s International Association of Students in Economics and Management (AIESEC) at UQ held its Queensland Developing Leaders Day and Annual State Conference in April.

It was organised in conjunction with branches at Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology. The event was attended by 80 students.

AIESEC is the world’s leading platform for young people to develop their potential. It has more than 18,000 students and recent graduates as members.
UQ Marketing Professor Bettina Cornwell explores the US$33.8 billion world of global sports sponsorships in her new book published by Berg.

Professor Cornwell said Global Sports Sponsorship was one of the few books to analyse the cultural, economic and social consequences of sponsorships around the world.

She has teamed up with Associate Professor John Arnis from the University of Memphis in the US to edit the book’s 16 chapters.

Some of the topics in the 336-page book include the strategic nature of global sport sponsorship and the role of celebrities in global advertising.

It also examines controversies surrounding acceptable sponsorship, how sponsorships are used to build global alliances and local markets and ways to evaluate sponsorships.

“It’s a valuable book in the sense that it covers a wide range of perspectives such as marketing, sport management and sociology,” Professor Cornwell said.

“The overall international focus sets the book apart from a lot of others that are out there.

“The contributors are international and at the top of their fields and there are many international threads throughout.”

Professor Cornwell said there were sports marketing books in abundance as well as how-to books on sponsorship but she said Global Sports Sponsorship was more of an academic offering.

“It’s not a textbook per se, but it has been adopted as required reading in a number of courses in the US and Europe.

“It is also very readable for a business person. It’s accessible and not heavily laden with academic jargon.”

The first print run sold out quickly and paperback versions of the book are available online through Berg or from bookstores for about $65.
NEW STUDY BUDDY

Forget X-men robots with super-human powers, PhD student Michael Milford is proving that Homo sapiens can do anything they put their minds to.

The 24-year-old UQ robotics and artificial intelligence student is taking inspiration from his super-human subject matter, finding time not only to study for his PhD, but also to publish educational textbooks for school kids and complete the odd marathon in his spare time.

Mr Milford has just finished the Complete School package, which is on sale now at Dymocks bookshops. The high school educational resource, which includes textbooks and DVDs, covers the entire school Mathematics and English curriculum.

“I like to challenge myself. I wanted to do something that nobody had come close to trying before so I came up with the idea of creating a robot that can move around its environment intelligently.

“Specifically we are looking at getting a robot to explore an unknown environment autonomously, create a map of that environment so it can navigate from A to B and getting it to adapt to changes in its environment,” he said.

The technology can be used in any situation that requires a robot or moving vehicle to have some level of autonomy.

“We are trying to create robots that can think and function intelligently and reactively to their environment,” he said.

Mr Milford said he hoped to further his research in the area of robotics after completing his PhD.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering with first class honours in 2002, and has already had success with his first two textbooks Not a C Minus and Painless Physics, which have sold more than 5000 copies around Australia.

He said it had been a super-human effort to combine both his PhD and work on the educational resource along with his marathon running – he was second in the Australian University Championships.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND PRESS
NEW RELEASES: JULY 2006

PAPER EMPIRES
by Craig Munro and Robyn Sheahan-Bright $45.00
This book tells the inside story of Australian publishing over the past half-century. It begins with the larrikin pioneers of the 1950s and 1960s and follows the fortunes of the independents and multinationals that followed in their wake. Two fascinating local successes include the reinvention of Allen & Unwin and the creation of Lonely Planet.

With dozens of in-depth profiles of book trade identities, as well as many themed case studies, Paper Empires explores the myths and traces the interconnected histories of book publishing, bookselling and reading.

HOME TO MOTHER
by Doris (Gonkora) Pilkington $16.95
(Th Block the Education of the Rabbit-Proof Fence)
Molly, Gracey and Daisy are on the run, determined to escape the government institution for Aboriginal children removed from their families. Barefoot, without provisions or maps, tracked by native police and planes, the girls follow the rabbit-proof fence 1600 kilometres north, knowing it would lead them home. Their journey reveals a past more cruel than we could ever imagine.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND BOOKSHOP
CURRENT BESTSELLERS

1 The Year Nick McGowan Came to Stay (Spank R) The University of Qld Press $22.95 Fiction
2 Other Side of You (Vickers S) Harper Collins $32.95 Fiction
3 Michael Eyes The War Against the Ugandan Child (Granqvist R) UMEA University $22.95 Non Fiction
4 The Da Vinci Code Film Tie in (Brown D) Random House $19.95 Fiction
5 The Emblematic UQ Orientation Book (Pennei M) The University of Qld Press $5.95 Non Fiction
6 Marley & Me (Grogan J) Allen & Unwin $26.00 Non fiction/Biography
7 Twelve Books that Changed the World (Bragg M) Hodder $55.00 Non Fiction
8 Weather Makers: The Past & Future Impact of Climate Change (Flannery T) Penguin $32.95 Non Fiction
9 Australian Heartlands: Making Space for Hope in the Suburbs (Gleeson B) Allen & Unwin $24.95 Non Fiction
10 The Flower The Thing (Cronin M) The University of Qld Press $22.95 Non Fiction/Poetry

THE PASSENGER
by Laurie Duggan $23.95
The Passenger is a collection of poems that shows Duggan’s continued interest in place and a marked tendency to memorialise; that is, a continued interest in ways of rendering the world and the world of experience as present and as fragile.

PRISONERS OF THE JAPANESE: LITERARY IMAGINATION AND THE PRISONER OF WAR EXPERIENCE
by Roger Bourke $39.95
It’s probably true to say that several postwar generations of Americans, Britons and Australians, although no doubt aware of the many memoirs of former prisoners of war of the Japanese, have constructed their understanding of that experience largely from its popular fictions.

To date, academic studies have concentrated on non-fiction prisoner-of-war writing. Prisoners of the Japanese is the first book to analyse the major fictions of the prisoner-of-war experience under the Japanese. It covers The Bridge on the River Kwai, Nevil Shute’s A Town Like Alice, J G Ballard’s Empire of the Sun and John Doyle’s ABC television drama Changi.
The 2nd Straddie meeting on skin biology: September 22-26, UQ’s Moreton Island Bay Research Station, Stradbroke Island

This conference is sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science through their Boden Research Conference program and will focus on all aspects of skin developmental biology.

Topics will include the development of the integument, stem cell biology, wound healing and tissue engineering and skin carcinogenesis. Abstract submissions close August 21 and early registration closes July 21.

Information: confinfo@smms.uq.edu.au or www.smms.uq.edu.au/boden

THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS CELEBRATES ITS 85TH YEAR BY FORMING CLOSER TIES WITH THE INDUSTRY ITS STUDENTS WILL ONE DAY LEAD.

A media industry-based sponsorship that helps journalism students, the appointment of a new Journalist in Residence, and a conference program are just some initiatives marking a major milestone for journalism at UQ’s School of Journalism and Communications.

This year the School celebrates 85 years of providing quality journalism and communications education, making it the oldest such provider in Australia.

Head of School, Professor Jan Servaes said the birthday was a milestone not only for UQ but also building a business and market plan for the paper which will concentrate on student interests and issues. JAC supplements the ‘Newspace’ initiative which leads journalism education as an online channel for student reporting: text, audio and visual,” said Head of School, Professor Michael Bromley said. JAC and the daily work of the School is under the lens of an SBS TV documentary crew which has been filming the paper’s progress.

The School has further strengthened links into the media industry with the appointment of a new Journalist in Residence; former industry with the appointment of a new Journalist in Residence; former ABC radio and television current affairs reporter and producer, John Austin.

Mr Austin has 28 years experience in broadcast journalism, ministerial relations, and government and private corporate communications and public relations.

“I’m enjoying interacting with students and staff and helping build industry links,” he said.

“Look forward to contributing something back to journalism and communications, which have been very good to me professionally,” he said.

For enquiries and registration of this conference, visit www.law.uq.edu.au/obligations or email Trisha Barbour at t.barbour@law.uq.edu.au

“we are further developing our program to cater for the massive changes occurring in the industry and with media consumers.”

THE A U S T R A L I A N J O U R N A L I S M C O M M U N I C A T I O N S
prizes


- The Thomas Morrow Prize: for an undergraduate who, as part of a course of study, writes the best essay on a topic in the field of Australian exploration and history. Well-presented honours theses will be considered. Worth: $430. Closing: November 17. Information: 07 3365 2620.

classifieds

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

TO RENT/HOUSE SIT
- House sitter wanted from Aug 16 to Nov 1. Two bd hse, close to UQ and transport, all mod cons. Must love dogs. Patricia: 07 3870 0609.

WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT
- Visiting professor and wife require furnished unit or hse from Sept 2006 to June 2007. David: d.vaney@uq.edu.au

- House-sit/rental wanted by arriving senior scientist. Mid July for 6 months plus. Cost negotiable. Will look after house/pets. Mike: mike.gidley@uq.edu.au

- House-sitting offered by mature-age, female, postgrad., non-smoking, full-time employment, pref. 12 months duration cls St Lucia, quiet living standards, plant/ animal lover. Diana: 0409 767 570.

Rhodes Scholarship for study at the University of Oxford

Closing date 1 September 2006
Applications are invited from women and men aged between 19 and 25 for the Queensland Rhodes Scholarship for 2007.
Information seminars will be held at The University of Queensland, Griffith University, QUT and Bond University.

Details of dates and venues are available by ringing (07) 3365 1318 during office hours.
Information about the Scholarship and application forms can be obtained from Mr D Porter, Honorary Secretary, Queensland Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, The University of Queensland, Qld 4072.

www.uq.edu.au/rhodesscholarship

UQnews deadlines 2006

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LIBRARY HOURS are available on the Library’s homepage at www.library.uq.edu.au
Got a great idea? So have we.

You’ve got a great business idea and we’ve got one of Australia’s most valuable business plan competitions – we should get together.

At UQ Business School we don’t just talk about supporting entrepreneurship and innovation. We put our money where our mouth is. And we’re talking big bucks. In 2001, we launched Enterprize – a business plan competition for budding entrepreneurs. It’s still one of the richest in Australia with $100,000 in cash to the winning team.

Interested?

To enter, simply produce a detailed business plan by 24 July and present it to judges and invited guests – including venture capitalists at the famous ‘pitch day’ in October. Competing teams must include a current University of Queensland student. UQBS works with interstate entrants to identify UQ students who can add value in terms of their business skills.

For more information e-mail enterprize@business.uq.edu.au or visit www.enterprize.uq.edu.au

Closing date for business concept plans – Monday 24 July 2006
Announcement of Enterprize finalists – Tuesday 1 August 2006  |  Enterprize pitch day – Friday 13 October 2006