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If you’re looking for a world-class postgraduate program, do a little research on us.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

This month, more than 5500 people are stepping out with a new UQ degree, diploma or certificate. Across all disciplines, these graduates have a qualification that will attract respect throughout Australia and internationally, allowing them opportunities they may have dreamed about as they juggled deadlines, exams and financial pressures.

UQ has cultivated a tradition of excellence since its inception almost a century ago. However, the graduates and staff of 2006 and recent years are different, because they have excelled in an unprecedented era of competition for funding and recognition.

As proof, UQ is at the pinnacle of research universities in Australia, and 2006 has been UQ’s most successful year – bar none – for attracting competitive research funding. Meanwhile, our teachers have continued to accrue national awards and grants, this month receiving more than five times as much funding from the national Learning and Teaching Performance Fund as all other Queensland universities combined. They are the most awarded teachers in the history of national university teaching awards.

Thanks to the success of UQ students and staff, a qualification from this University has never carried more cachet. Concurrently, the downward trend in demand for university places, although lamentable, will eventually generate greater demand for graduates from high-quality institutions such as UQ.

A university education will always be worth much more than a meal ticket. UQ’s 2005 Alumnus of the Year, the President and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company, Dr Andrew Liveris, said of his UQ experience: “This is where I learned how to learn ... intellectually, this is where I became who I am.”

Even for students burdened by financial pressures and forced to spend their waking hours at either study or work, university can be an enriching experience. The Deputy Director of UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, Dr Jackie Huggins, told her personal story when she received an honorary doctorate this month. She has journeyed from a childhood thinking “only whitefellas go to university”, to a distinguished career as an activist academic who has the ear of government and big institutions. She reminded us that universities can be “conduits for social justice”.

Dr Huggins’ history is in tune with that of many graduates who approached university with trepidation, only to find that university is accessible, and that it grants access. The opportunities derived from a university education can repay the sacrifices made to attain a degree, many times over.

I congratulate our 2006 graduates, and the families who supported them during their studies, and wish all the UQ community a harmonious and healthy festive season.

Professor John Hay, AC
Wealth and brains might last, but where's the love?

It’s not often beauty, brains and wealth finish last, especially in the bedroom.

But when it comes to finding a sexual partner in Australia, the top priority for most men and women is finding a partner who loves and cares for them.

The National Study of Health, Intimacy and Social Relations has found most men and women preferred sex partners who were interesting, fun and good companions who had shared interests and activities.

Sex was preferred with someone who enjoyed the experience but the quality or technical love-making ability was not the overriding factor.

Participants in the national phone survey of 1784 men and women, aged between 18 and 59, were asked to rank the qualities they most desired in a sexual partner.

Men and women had almost identical priorities when describing the qualities they sought.

Wealth, looks and brains rated lowest in the study published in the international journal, Marriage and Family Review.

Leads author, UQ Population Health and Social Science Professor Jake Najman, said an unexpected finding of the study was that people placed a higher priority on a sex partner who loved them than a partner whom they loved.

“We obviously need to feel that someone is really concerned about us,” Professor Najman said.

“It appears that we need people to love us. That’s the part I find really interesting.”

Younger participants most preferred someone who was fun to be with while older participants placed more emphasis on having a partner who cared about them, and enjoyed sex.

Married people cared most about enjoying sex and having sex with someone who cared about them.

Homosexual males placed the highest emphasis on someone who was fun to be with and who enjoyed sex.

Professor Najman said the study was originally intended to examine sexual practices and behaviour in the community and to understand why some people were more likely to be infected with sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

“We know that there are many who continue to have unprotected sex with partners who may have a sexually transmitted infection,” he said.

“The reality is that some people are prepared to take high risks to obtain sexual and possibly emotional fulfilment.”

The data used for the survey was collected in 1999, but only recently analysed.

Similar studies have showed sexual partner qualities have changed over the decades with dependability and emotional maturity the most sought-after qualities in 1939.

By the mid-1980s mutual attraction and love ranked highest.

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When men with beards and tattoos are contenders for the stage role of a gorgeous leading lady, you know you’re in for an unusual theatre experience.

A recent UQ-sponsored performance of William Shakespeare’s The Tempest was so unusual that it was an Australian first.

A group of prisoners at Borallon Correctional Centre in south-east Queensland selected and performed The Tempest, with the coordination of Dr Rob Pensalfini, UQ senior lecturer and Artistic Director of the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble.

It was the climax of a pilot program that began in mid-2006 in connection with the UQ-hosted VIII World Shakespeare Congress. The aim was for prisoners to volunteer to improve their communication and social skills with the help of Shakespeare.

Staff at Borallon, which is privately-run by Management and Training Corporation (MTC), had doubts that the program would attract enough volunteers from the all-male prison population.

Borallon’s Assistant General Manager, Ms Tamara Gacesa, said the doubts were due partly to macho prisoners’ “hesitancy to be involved with stereotypical actors”, and partly to discomfort about “the old-world tongue”.

However, Dr Pensalfini quickly dispelled prisoners’ qualms about Shakespeare’s language, and 13 prisoners volunteered. Seven were either freed or transferred as the program progressed, leaving six avid starlets.

“There was no shortage of large bearded men wanting to play Miranda, but in the end, we decided we wanted them to play large bearded males,” Dr Pensalfini said.

Miranda, the beautiful teenager who has spent 12 years on a remote island with her father, Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, was played by QSE member Tamara Meade.

Dr Pensalfini and another QSE actor, Eileen Conway, filled two roles, while the six prisoners (who cannot be identified under Queensland Corrective Services policy) completed the cast.

The story of betrayal, exile, enslavement, revenge, forgiveness and freedom unfolded in the unadorned visits area of Borallon, before a small but appreciative audience of actors’ family members, fellow prisoners, and staff of Borallon and Queensland Corrective Services, on December 1.

Props and costumes were rudimentary, but performing inmates were permitted to cover their prison garb with purple and red velvet, faux sable, silken sashes and golden hats.

Ms Gacesa said that prisoners involved in the program had developed confidence and trust, extremely important attributes for promoting rehabilitation.

The program gained acceptance among the prison population, as those outside the program saw that “very masculine men have been involved in it, and it hasn’t emasculated them”, Ms Gacesa said.

She said the experience was such as success it was well worth repeating next year.

The Tempest at Borallon used the Arts in Community Enhancement (ACE) methodology, built from the techniques of Theatre of the Oppressed overseas.

In mid-2006, Brent Blair, who runs similar programs in the USA, trained QSE members at UQ Ipswich and was involved in the first week of interaction with Borallon inmates.

The pilot project was sponsored by UQ and the Queensland Law Society (through the Queensland Supreme Court Library).

It also was supported by the Queensland Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Judy Spence.

Dr Pensalfini thanked Borallon Correctional Centre for having faith in the Australian-first project, “and letting us bring our wacky artistic ideas in here”.

“TAKING THE BARD BEHIND BARS PROVED A LIBERATING EXPERIENCE.”

SHAKESPEAREAN’S CAPTIVE AUDIENCE
Proteins boost natural barrier to cancer

Scientists have pinpointed two proteins in cancer cells that could eventually halt the spread of tumours throughout the body. These proteins help the body’s natural tumour-suppressor called E-cadherin, which seals the body’s lining cells in the gut, skin, blood and bladder.

Tumours usually lose the E-cadherin protein from their surface allowing cancer to spread.

UQ molecular bioscience PhD graduate Dr Bo Wang said using proteins to boost E-cadherin levels could minimise or stop cancer spreading to other tissues.

“Our work has revealed new pathways and mechanisms for the control of E-cadherin transport which will help us understand and possibly modulate the function of this important protein in cancer cells to reduce or stop tumour growth,” Dr Wang said.

“Any exciting discoveries in our work will lead to potential treatment of cancer and benefit this world.”

For the last year, Dr Wang has been investigating the transport of the protein using fluorescently-tagged E-cadherin in live cells and testing its impact on human lining cells and in breast cancer cells.

He has been supervised by Professor Jennifer Stow from the University of Queensland’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

Dr Wang, from ShanDong Province, studied at UQ on a $6600 scholarship from the Chinese Ministry of Education’s China Scholarship Council.

Fifteen Chinese PhD students won Council scholarships this year.

He said he chose UQ because of its leading biomedical scientists, research institutes and excellent facilities as well as services for international students.

Dr Wang has recently joined the Baker Heart Research Institute in Melbourne as a postdoctoral research officer after completing his PhD studies.

NEW HEARING CLINIC IS IN TUNE WITH COMMUNITY

People seeking relief from hearing disorders now have access to advanced technology and equipment at a UQ public clinic.

The Audiology Clinic at UQ’s St Lucia campus has launched an expanded service, based on an agreement with one of the world’s leading hearing instrument suppliers, Siemens.

The partnership between the not-for-profit UQ clinic and Siemens gives people with hearing problems access to a complete package of testing, rehabilitation, and advanced hearing devices.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the Clinic would help meet a growing demand for treatment of babies, children and adults with hearing disorders.

“Hearing loss affects one in every six Australians and this is projected to increase as the population ages, to one in every four Australians by 2050,” Professor Hay said.

“Siemens’ generosity enables us to offer rehabilitation services, comprehensive diagnostic assessment, hearing device prescription and fitting, and devices designed to prevent hearing damage.

“The new range of services includes rehabilitation involving the fitting of hearing instruments including customised hearing protection devices.

“These can help prevent ear infections and noise damage, and help aid communication in industrial settings.

“For people who have hearing problems or wish to prevent them, this is a significant improvement on the Audiology Clinic’s past role as a testing facility.

“The new technology will be put to the best use by clinicians who are the product of UQ’s outstanding teaching and research.”

The Audiology Clinic completes a cluster of health and rehabilitation clinics that is unique for an Australian university.

The group of four clinics specialise in: audiology; physiotherapy; speech pathology; and occupational therapy.

Professor Hay said the clinics already received more than 30,000 client visits each year, and were a particular benefit to UQ’s local and surrounding communities.

“The opening of Brisbane’s newest bridge, the Eleanor Schonell Bridge, will make it easier for many thousands of residents to access these clinics, which operate on a not-for-profit basis but do not compromise on the quality of expert service,” Professor Hay said.

The clinics are part of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, recognised as the national leader in research in all four disciplines (audiology, physiotherapy, speech pathology and occupational therapy).

The clinics also have an essential role in educating future health professionals, giving students clinical experience as well as opportunities for specialised teaching and research.

Siemens is a major international company specialising in the manufacture and distribution of hearing instruments and accessories.

As part of its growing relationship with the University, Siemens is also donating funding for rural training for a Masters of Audiology Studies student, as well as providing a student prize for outstanding academic achievement.

“Hearing loss affects one in every six Australians and this is projected to increase as the population ages, to one in every four Australians by 2050”

From left, Patient Robin Shaw, UQ Audiology Clinic manager Brianna McGuinness, and Head of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Professor Bruce Murdoch.
Learning leadership

UQ has again been recognised as one of the best teaching institutions in the nation.

Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop announced the 2007 round of the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund on December 7, with UQ receiving the second-highest amount of all universities in the nation.

Allocation of the $83 million in funding is based on government data that ranks the quality of learning and teaching at Australia’s 38 publicly-funded universities. UQ received $8.05 million, the University of Melbourne $8.9 million, the University of New South Wales $6.65 million, the University of Sydney $6.287 million and the University of Technology Sydney $5.556 million.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the funding reflected the University’s commitment to providing its students with leading educators, facilities and courses.

He said UQ received more than five times the amount of all other Queensland universities combined.

“It is a great pleasure to see our high-quality teaching endeavours recognised,” Professor Hay said.

Professor Hay said UQ was one of only two universities nationally to have performed well across all four teaching bands – science, computing, engineering, architecture and agriculture; business, law and economics; humanities, arts and education; and health.

Seven separate indicators of learning and teaching quality were used to allocate the funding including: graduates views of the enhancement of their generic skills; of teaching quality and of their overall satisfaction with their university program; the percentage of graduates in full-time employment; those continuing to further full-time study; drop-out rates; and pass rates.

Learning and teaching awards

ANOTHER CHAPTER HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE UNIVERSITY’S STORY OF SUCCESS IN NATIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS.

UQ initiatives to improve rural medical care and enhance research students’ communication and team skills have won Australia’s highest teaching honours.

The winners of the 2006 Carrick Australian Awards for University Teaching were announced on November 28.

UQ has won more national university teaching awards than any other university since the awards began in 1997.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, congratulated all members of the winning teams.

“The newest winners are continuing a UQ tradition of delivering an outstanding learning experience to undergraduate and postgraduate students,” Professor Hay said.

“During the past 12 months UQ teachers have been awarded more than $10 million from the national funding, plus 10 Carrick Citations (the maximum possible for one university), five Carrick Grants, and three prestigious new Carrick Fellowships (including one Senior Fellowship).

“Due to the combined performances of UQ teachers and researchers, UQ is a leading all-rounder among Australian universities. UQ is pre-eminent in matching sustained success in national teaching awards with excellent results from national research funding rounds.”

The national winners, with each project team receiving $25,000, are:

• An Integrated Package of Innovative Rural Medical Education: Enhancing student outcomes and increasing the rural medical workforce, which is the brainchild of Dr Diann Eley, Dr Louise Young, Associate Professor Peter Baker and Professor David Wilkinson from the School of Medicine.

Dr Eley said the integrated package was built on a strong foundation of an eight-week rural rotation for all third-year medical students.

“Additionally, we have developed a year-long program for third and fourth year students aimed at producing medical graduates who perform well in assessment and regard their rural undergraduate training as enjoyable and high quality,” she said.

Educational innovations introduced through the package include inter-professional study programs, IT and extended rural placement opportunities.

The package applies contemporary information and IT through two innovations – the Clinical Discussion Board (CDB) and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs).

The web-based CDB allows students to discuss experiences and clinical issues with each other at a variety of rural and remote locations, while PDAs provide access to reference materials.

Dr Eley said a trial in which three third-year students were assigned to doctors in small Central Queensland towns had been a success, with all completing rural internships.

• Research Student [Virtual] Portfolio (RSVP): a tool for student and advisor development, which is the result of a collaboration between Dr Catherine Manathunga (project leader, TEDI), Dr Paul Lant (School of Engineering) and Dr George Mellick (School of Medicine).

Dr Manathunga said RSVP aimed to enhance the interdisciplinary teamwork and communication skills of research students.

She said RSVP provided an effective method of evaluating postgraduate research student learning and development through a process of graduate attribute development.

“RSVP consists of a set of attributes, together with a reflective review tool with key performance indicators for each graduate attribute, which provide students and advisors with tangible and practical means of addressing each attribute,” Dr Manathunga said.

“Throughout their candidature, students build a portfolio of evidence of achievement of key indicators. A resource package for students and advisors, together with a training program for supervisors, complete the package.”

Dr Manathunga said the RSVP approach had been well received nationally and internationally.

“The University of Sheffield in the UK has also piloted RSVP and contributed funds for the development of its software,” she said.
SEVERAL HIGH-PROFILE QUEENSLANDERS WERE AMONG THOSE RECEIVING HONORARY DOCTORATES AT THIS MONTH’S GRADUATIONS.

The achievements of six outstanding scholars and community leaders were celebrated when they were awarded honorary doctorates at UQ’s December graduation ceremonies.

Recipients included Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, Reverend John Bathersby, DD, who was presented with a Doctor of Letters honoris causa at a ceremony on December 4.

After completing his training for the priesthood in 1961, Archbishop Bathersby spent his first seven years as a priest in Goondiwindi. He was then sent to Rome for further studies, completing his Doctorate in Theology and Spirituality in 1979.

Appointed Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane in 1992, Reverend Bathersby served as a UQ Senator for 14 years and is Deputy President of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference, and Chair of both the Bishops’ Committee for Justice, Development, Ecology and Peace and Catholic Earthcare Australia.

- Professor Lloyd Sansom, AO, received a Doctor of Science honoris causa at a Faculty of Health Sciences graduation ceremony on December 6.
- Professor Sansom has served as Chair of the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee since 2001 and Chair of the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council from 1991.
- Holding a variety of academic positions spanning a 38-year career, he retired in 2000 as the Head of the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences at the University of South Australia where he is now an Emeritus Professor.

- The achievements of Elizabeth Nosworthy, AO, were recognised with a Doctor of Laws honoris causa at a Faculty of Business, Economics and Law graduation ceremony on December 11.
- A commercial lawyer for more than two decades and the first woman President of the Queensland Law Society (QLS) (1986-87), Ms Nosworthy currently holds 10 positions with commercial, government and charitable bodies including chair of the Queensland Water Commission.
- Ms Nosworthy is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and in 2001 won the Institute’s (Queensland) Gold Medal for an Outstanding Director.
- Other honours include a Centenary Medal (2003) and the QLS President’s Award (2003) for a personal outstanding contribution to the advancement of law and justice.
- Ms Nosworthy holds a Bachelor of Arts (1965) and Bachelor of Laws (1969) from UQ where she has been an Adjunct Professor of Law with the TC Beirne School of Law since 1998. She also has a Master of Laws (1971) from the University of London.
- She became Chancellor of Bond University in 1991 and is believed to be the first woman to achieve such a post in Queensland.

- Queensland’s Governor, Quentin Bryce, AC, was presented with a Doctor of Laws honoris causa, at a Faculty of Business, Economics and Law ceremony on December 13.
- Graduating from UQ with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws, Ms Bryce spent 14 years teaching Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law and Legal Aspects of Social Work at the University.
- Prior to becoming Governor in 2003, Ms Bryce worked in a number of notable roles including Queensland Director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, inaugural Director, Women’s Information Service Queensland, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and as the first Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner.
- She is also a member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Geneva, Chair of the National Breast Cancer Centre Advisory Network and Vice-President of the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties.

- Dr John Fenwick, Executive Director (Structures) in the Department of Main Roads Queensland, received a Doctor of Engineering honoris causa at a Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture ceremony on December 15.
- Elected to UQ’s Senate as a Member of Convocation from 1990 until 1992 and from 1999 to 2005, Dr Fenwick has been an Adjunct Professor in the University’s School of Engineering since 1996 and was instrumental in the establishment of a Main Roads Chair in Engineering. Graduating from UQ in 1965 with a first-class honours degree in Civil Engineering and a University Medal, he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1967 and completed a Doctorate of Philosophy (Structural Engineering) from the University of Oxford.

- A bridge specialist, Dr Fenwick was a member of the project team for the design and supervision of a number of major Brisbane construction projects including the Riverside Expressway, Captain Cook Bridge, Houghton Highway and Gateway Bridge, and has been an advisor on aid projects in the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, India and China.
Gatton gold for top vet

A veterinarian who has made significant contributions to the Australian cattle industry for more than three decades was awarded the prestigious UQ Gatton Gold Medal earlier this month.

Professor Keith Entwistle began his tertiary education at Queensland Agricultural College, which later became UQ’s Gatton campus, before completing a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (also at UQ), and a PhD at the University of Sydney.

A leading beef cattle researcher, Professor Entwistle has enjoyed a distinguished career which has taken him around the world: from Julia Creek, Townsville, to south-east Asia, North America and Latin America and now finally to Armidale in the New England region.

He spent 18 years with James Cook University’s Graduate School of Tropical Veterinary Science and a further nine years with the University of New England (UNE) as Executive Dean of the Faculty of the Sciences.

Professor Entwistle played significant roles in the development of Queensland DPI’s Toorak Research Station and in the operations of the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) for Beef, Wool and Cotton. In addition to the Gatton Gold Medal – awarded annually to an outstanding Gatton alumnus – Professor Entwistle was recently named the winner of the Gilruth Prize, the highest-ranking award of the Australian Veterinary Association.

Activist awarded

The work of a leading Indigenous academic towards reconciliation was recognised when she received an honorary doctorate at a UQ graduation ceremony on December 4.

Jackie Huggins, AM, is known internationally for her work as an author, historian and activist, and has served as the deputy director of UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit since 1997.

Of the Bidjara (central Queensland) and Birri-Gubba Juru (north Queensland) peoples, Ms Huggins attended Serviceton State School in Inala at a time when Indigenous Australians weren’t counted on the national census.

Motivated to pursue higher education by her grade five teacher Beryl Roberts – who was present at the ceremony – Ms Huggins worked at the ABC and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs before commencing undergraduate studies at UQ.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in anthropology and history in 1987, Ms Huggins moved to Adelaide where she completed a Diploma of Education and then honours in history and women’s studies at Flinders University.

Becoming a Member of the Order of Australia in 2001 for services to the Indigenous community, Ms Huggins has served on numerous boards and is currently a Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia and a director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous History.

With next year marking the 40-year anniversary of the 1967 referendum that granted Indigenous people citizenship rights, Ms Huggins said it was time Australia acknowledged past mistakes and moved forwards.

“It will take generations in order for reconciliation to become a reality in our country, but at least we’re in the initial phases,” she said.

“In this process we advise people to talk the talk and we want them to walk the walk now.”

Studying at UQ’s Gatton campus has led one young agronomist to develop Australia’s first online grain-trading site.

The site, www.brownliesgrain.com.au, will give grain producers access to more markets and also help them receive top dollar for their product.

Adam Brownlie began his career studying agronomy at UQ Gatton and working on a grain farm during his studies and holidays.

During his degree he also had an opportunity to travel to Wisconsin to gain further knowledge about US grain products and the world grain market.

Having experienced the local market first-hand and with some international experience under his belt, Mr Brownlie built the prototype for his web-trading site while studying overseas.

“I was looking for a way to help producers find previously unknown markets, giving them access to more information to improve decision-making and confidence in what to plant, how much to invest and where and when to market their produce,” Mr Brownlie said.

Recently awarded a Graduate Diploma of Agribusiness, Mr Brownlie is now focused on completing his Masters in 2007.

“The agricultural industry is so fast-moving that young people can get a start and make a difference extremely rapidly,” he said.

“The success of www.brownliesgrains.com.au is living proof of this.”
A record number of students graduated from the University’s Ipswich campus in December.

Around 250 students graduated at the campus’ ceremonies, held at the Ipswich Civic Hall on December 11. Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ipswich Professor Alan Rix said it was the largest number of students to graduate from the Ipswich campus since its inception in 1999.

He said the record number was testament to the Ipswich campus’ growing popularity as a tertiary education destination for students. “We look forward to introducing these graduates to Ipswich city, business and industry,” Professor Rix said.

“We wish our graduates every success in the future and strongly encourage them to maintain contact with the campus and their peers through the Ipswich Alumni Network.”

Two graduation ceremonies were held to cater for the increasing number of graduating students. The Arts and Business, Economics and Law Faculties graduation took place at 5pm, while the Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture; Health Sciences and Social and Behavioural Sciences was held two hours later.

Claypave Managing Director and UQ graduate Dr Allan Andersen was the guest speaker for the first ceremony.

Fellow alumnus and Ipswich Girls’ Grammar School Principal Florence Kearney gave the guest address at the second ceremony.

Arts, Business, Economics and Law ceremony valedictorian Erin Coster said she had formed a strong bond with the town and University. “I loved living in Ipswich and going to uni in Ipswich,” she said. “I had everything I needed at my doorstep.”

A Kingaroy resident, Ms Coster moved to study at the Ipswich in 2004, graduating with a Bachelor of Contemporary Studies (Arts).

A fellow graduate at the ceremony was former President of the Ipswich Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team Angela Ruhland, who led the team to be Australian finalists in the national SIFE championship earlier this year.

Ms Ruhland, who graduated with a Bachelor of Electronic Commerce (Business), is already working with Ipswich firm Harding Martin Chartered Accountants.

Mr Carmichael received a number of awards during his studies, including admission to the Dean’s Honour Roll in the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, winning the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Prize 2004 and the Thomas Brown and Sons Ltd Prize for 2005, as well as achieving Dean’s commendations for every semester. “I was fortunate to be able to use knowledge from my maths degree and apply it to my commerce degree,” he said.

“I’d like to pay tribute to my supervisor Dr Jamie Alcock, whom I met studying financial maths at the UQ Mathematics Department and who subsequently helped me in the UQ Business School. “My thesis introduced a new nonparametric method for pricing American options which basically uses past stock price data to predict current option prices.”

An all-rounder, Mr Carmichael balanced his studies with sport. He coached junior rugby and volleyball at his old school, Iona College at Wynnum, and played suburban rugby for the Wynnum Bugs.

Mr Carmichael
LOWDOWN ON DEEP SEA

MARINE SCIENTISTS ARE PREPARING FOR EXPEDITIONS TO THE DARKEST PLACES ON THE PLANET.

By Andrew Dunne

A new frontier in marine science is about to be crossed when Australia’s surrounding deep sea is explored using manned submersibles for the first time.

Known as Deep Australia, the project will draw researchers from around the world on a specially fitted out ship that will carry two submersibles capable of diving one kilometre down.

Researchers from the universities of Queensland and Curtin (WA), the Australian Institute for Marine Science (AIMS) and museums in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland will be at the forefront of the expedition, along with a team of scientists from a variety of fields and organisations keen to discover what lies beyond our shores. The first of a number of expeditions is expected to launch in late 2007.

Lead researcher Professor Justin Marshall said while similar research had been undertaken in the Northern Hemisphere, nothing like this had been attempted in our waters.

"We only have a very limited idea of what really lives down in the depths around Australia," Professor Marshall said.

"Previous, manned research has relied on divers using rebreathers that only go down maybe 50 to 100 metres.

"And the only time we get to look at examples of what lives deep down is when a dead specimen, like a giant squid, floats to the surface or on deep-water trawling expeditions.

"What we’ll have for the first time are manned submersibles able to go down to depths of 1000 metres to examine first-hand the habitat where these creatures actually live."

Professor Marshall, from UQ’s Vision Touch and Hearing Research Centre, said he would be particularly looking at the sensory systems of sea life that live in dim light or total darkness.

"We expect to discover many examples of new species and the ways of life they have adopted in the deep," he said.

Research sites already identified by the expedition include the outer slope of The Great Barrier Reef, Osprey Reef off Far North Queensland, deep sea canyons off the South Australian and West Australian coasts and sea-mounts off New South Wales and Victoria.

The deep-sea research will be filmed using the latest HD TV cameras in deep-sea housings by both Australian and international documentary makers, potentially including a company closely associated with James Cameron, director of the Hollywood classic Titanic and the IMAX documentary Aliens of the Deep.

The Deep Australia project will also combine specialised adventure tourism with scientific research, with berths for a limited number of contributing supporters from the general public able to get up close and personal with the scientists and what they might uncover.

"An opportunity like this has never been available in Australia before and as you can imagine, we are all very keen to get out to sea," Professor Marshall said.

Some already discovered denizens of the deep. Photographs courtesy of Dr Marshall.
FERRY FAREWELL

THE UNIVERSITY HAS THANKED THOSE WHO KEPT THE DUTTON PARK FERRY RUNNING.

T he University officially thanked the proprietors and others associated with the Dutton Park ferry service at a special ceremony on December 14. UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and Secretary and Registrar, Douglas Porter, hosted a morning tea opposite the ferry terminal at the University’s St Lucia campus.

“The Dutton Park ferry service has made travel safe and convenient for generations of UQ students and staff,” Professor Hay said.

“Thousands of people will remember the courteous drivers of the Pamela Sue, Loyalty and Vicky Lynn as part of their University lives.”

Attendees at the morning tea included Robert (Bob) Kent and wife, Del, proprietors of the service since its inception almost 40 years ago.

According to Mr Kent, UQ’s Student Union had convinced Lord Mayor Clem Jones of the need for the service through a 4000-signature petition but six months after the service began in March 1967, numbers of passengers were well short of expectations.

“It turns out the petition had been gathered largely at the Regatta Hotel as a bit of a prank,” Mr Kent said.

“We took over the service with a subsidy from the Council but it has since more than paid for itself.”

“The passage of time has proven that the students got it right and Clem Jones was right to get us to build ferry vessel Pamela Sue – our first boat for the Dutton Park crossing.”

The service grew from a fare of five cents, limited running hours and 300 passengers a day in 1967 to two boats, a fare of $1.40, four captains on staff, 1900 passengers per day and crossings from 6.30am until 9.55pm, five days a week.

The new bridge was completed almost two months ahead of schedule and its opening was marked with a free family day featuring activities, entertainment and food stalls.

For information on new bus routes, telephone 13 13 20 or visit http://www.translink.com.au/. Some details are on page 23 of this issue of UQ News.

There will be a number of access points for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the bridge.

A map can be downloaded from the Brisbane City Council website (www.brisbane.qld.gov.au).

GRASSES A GROWTH INDUSTRY

UQ researchers are about to embark on an ambitious research project to develop more water-efficient turf grass varieties.

The project aims to help Australians maintain lush, green lawns while reducing water consumption in their gardens.

The $3 million project will be funded through a four-year Australian Research Council grant. Contributors and collaborators include one of Australia’s largest turf producers, the Jimboomba Turf Group, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) and the Council of Mayors.

This project is the brainchild of Dr Chris Lambrides, who will lead the project with Dr Don Loch from the DPI&F.

According to project supervisor, Associate Professor Ian Godwin, approximately one third of domestic water is applied to gardens, including turf grass lawns.

“This project will develop tools to select turf grasses that maintain quality with reduced inputs of water and nutrients, leading to an overall reduction in resource use,” Dr Godwin said.

The project will involve developing an innovative turf breeding program using Australia’s native germplasm, which has evolved in the driest inhabited continent on earth.

“We will use the unique diversity of Australian couch grasses to identify new turfs for domestic, sporting and amenity lawns,” he said.

Other investigators will also include eminent UQ plant physiologist Professor Shu Fukai, DPI&F genomics expert Dr Tim Holton, and distinguished USDA Cynodon breeder Professor Wayne Hanna.

Growing demand for Australian turf and turf-related goods both nationally and internationally has led to a multi-billion dollar Australian turf industry.

According to Dr Godwin, increased urbanisation and current lifestyle factors have led to this success.

“Increasing urbanisation and outdoor lifestyle choices have led to the tremendous growth that we are currently seeing in the industry,” he said.

Turf in Australia is a major “new” horticultural industry, and one that affects many Australians.

The Managing Director of Jimboomba Turf Group, Mr Lynn Davidson, said the project was “the most significant development undertaken for the Australian Turfgrass Industry.”

“With the aid of the latest science and the inclusion of some of the country’s top researchers, the nation can look forward to having a range of efficient high performance grasses to choose from for domestic, sporting and commercial applications,” Mr Davidson said.
The British Government has called in UQ parenting expert and psychology Professor Matt Sanders to tackle the country’s unruly youth.

Professor Sanders, who created Triple P (Positive Parenting Program), met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in November before the PM announced a $10 million parenting help package.

The money will pay for parenting experts to give a hand to families in 77 areas across England to tackle juvenile crime and anti-social and public nuisance problems.

Invited as a parenting advisor to the Downing Street meeting, Professor Sanders said he spoke to Mr Blair about the importance of developing effective parenting programs.

“It was a fascinating experience to be in the inner sanctum of British Government,” Professor Sanders said.

“It was actually quite a relaxed event once we got through security.”

Three evidence-based parenting programs, including Triple P, will be used in the UK.

Professor Sanders’ advising role follows the success of Driving Mum and Dad Mad, a popular UK TV show based on five families’ journeys through Triple P.

Professor Sanders has also been touring Europe in an effort to rollout the program in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Holland and Denmark.

“Governments around the world are increasingly recognising that good parenting is related to the prevention of many social and health problems, including anti-social behaviour. It is clear that a public health approach to parenting is needed,” Professor Sanders said.

The University of Queensland’s School of Tourism took out top honours in the Tourism Education and Training category at the 2006 Queensland Tourism Awards held last month.

Accepting the award, Head of UQ’s School of Tourism Professor Chris Cooper said the award reflected the School’s determination to ensure its programs and services satisfied industry needs as well as being academically rigorous.

“This award demonstrates that not only can we bridge that gap between ‘town and gown’ but also that it is the key to success,” he said.

“We were competing against a number of experienced and quality tourism providers, and to be recognised as Queensland’s leading tourism education provider is a great honour.

“I believe UQ is set apart by the strength of its relationships with the tourism sector, most notably as the only Australian university to be an accredited member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the current Chair of the World Tourism Organization’s Education Council.

“I am tremendously grateful to all of our partners in industry, particularly Tourism Queensland, for their endless support and assistance in facilitating relationships between Queensland’s many tourism stakeholders.”

Around 1200 tourism leaders and representatives attended the gala awards ceremony to celebrate and commemorate excellence in the industry, held this year at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Tourism Minister Margaret Keech said the Queensland Tourism Awards recognised the best of the best and it was inspiring to see so many worthy entrants.

“The Tourism Education and Training category – so important for the future of our industry – was won by UQ’s School of Tourism for their contribution to the growth and talent in tourism,” Mrs Keech said.

“Clearly, if the industry has talented, enthusiastic, well-trained and knowledgeable operators, from the people at the coalface to others in senior management, it will continue to flourish and prosper.

“Professional training and further learning can be just as important for those who have spent many years in the industry, as it is for those just starting out.”

The Ipswich-based School of Tourism will now progress to the Australian Tourism Awards in Sydney on February 23, 2007.
HUMAN SERVICES
UQ’s Ipswich campus will offer a new degree in 2007 which prepares students to work in a range of human service roles with individuals, groups, families and communities.

The Bachelor of Human Services will enable students to critically examine the theory and values underpinning human service practice and acquire skills for working in the industry.

The program is designed to meet the accreditation guidelines of the Australian Institute of Community and Welfare Workers Inc.

Information: (07) 3381 1513 or visit www.uq.edu.au/study.

LIFE TO LIVERS
The discovery of a protein essential in the process of liver regeneration could lead to treatments for serious liver diseases such as hepatitis.

The protein, cavelin-1, was identified by scientists from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience and the University of Barcelona.

“The liver has an amazing capacity to regenerate and repair itself after damage, but in some diseases, such as hepatitis and cirrhosis, the liver is so damaged that it loses this regeneration capacity,” said Professor Robert Parton, one of the scientists.

ON AGRIBUSINESS
Twenty-nine students from the UQ Gatton campus have visited six different Asian destinations for up to 10 days as part of six different Asian destinations.

The Thinking of Asia project has been running for 14 years as part of the Bachelor of Agribusiness program.

Students undertaking the course are working on market research projects for industry partners.

Destinations during the visit included Seoul, Bangkok, Singapore, Dubai, Western China and Shanghai.

THE WORKPLACE DILEMMA
WHY SOME PEOPLE SPEAK OUT WHEN THERE ARE PROBLEMS AND OTHERS STAY SILENT IS THE SUBJECT OF A UQ BUSINESS SCHOOL RESEARCH PROJECT.

A UQ Business School PhD student studying employees’ responses to wrongdoing in the workplace has looked at why some Bundaberg Base Hospital employees reported their concerns about so-called “Dr Death” Dr Jayant Patel while others remained silent.

Marissa Edwards conducted an in-depth case study of publicly available transcripts of the Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry into deaths associated with the surgeon as the first stage of her research.

“The case study supports existing theory around silence and whistle-blowing, particularly the idea that people are motivated to remain silent for different reasons, and the finding that contextual factors affect whether people choose to speak up,” she said.

“For example, employees’ testimony indicated that some people were afraid that they could suffer adverse consequences if they made a formal complaint.

“Others felt that speaking up would not make a difference to the situation.

“Dr Patel’s status as Director of Surgery at the hospital also seemed to influence employees’ willingness to report their concerns to management.”

She said that although there was existing research into whistleblowing, little had been done to understand why some people decided to say nothing.

“We know that ‘bad’ behaviours such as discrimination, bullying, sexual harassment, sabotage, fraud, and negligence happen in organisations, but we know very little about how people who observe such incidents react, and how their emotions, thoughts, and the context influence their behavior,” Ms Edwards said.

She is currently working on the second stage of her research and needs to talk to people who have been exposed to adverse workplace incidents, including as witnesses or targets.

“I am interested in how people respond once they have witnessed or experienced wrongdoing in their workplace,” Ms Edwards said.

“The interviews will be completely confidential and I’m hoping people will come forward to share their stories in a safe, non-judgemental environment.”

Ms Edwards presented her findings to date at the annual meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management in Yeppoon earlier this month.

For more information, or to participate in the project, phone 07 3346 9325 or email m.edwards@business.uq.edu.au

Cannabis abuse has roots in conflict

Step-parents and family conflict can push teenagers to cannabis abuse and dependence.

UQ research shows that teenagers who live with a step parent and in an unhappy family are more likely to develop serious drug dependencies than peers who live with their biological parents or who have happily married parents.

Children who lived with a step father were more likely to abuse cannabis than those living with single mothers. Financially poor mothers and those who were under 20 years of age when their child was born, were more likely to report cannabis-use disorders than mothers who had a tertiary education.

And children who had smoked cigarettes by age 14 were more likely to report cannabis abuse or dependence as young adults.

The findings come from studying 2303 young adults and their families from birth to 21 years of age in Brisbane.

Lead researcher Dr Reza Hayatbakhsh, from UQ’s School of Population Health, said more research was needed to explain the link between marital problems and child cannabis use.

He suspected some of the pathways could be inadequate parenting style, parent-child interaction and child problem behaviours.

The teenagers in the study have been taken part in the Mater-UQ Study of Pregnancy.

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ALZHEIMER’S LINK TO DEPRESSION TRACED

THE AGEING OF AUSTRALIA’S POPULATION HAS MADE RESEARCH INTO DEMENTIA STUDIES A NATIONAL PRIORITY.

UQ researchers are examining a possible link between a history of depression and anxiety and the likelihood of developing Alzheimer’s disease, the most common form of dementia, later in life.

The research team, headed by UQ School of Medicine Associate Professor Gerard Byrne, was the only Queensland group and one of just eight nationally to receive support from a special $4.4 million allocation for dementia studies administered by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Dr Byrne, Head of Psychiatry at UQ, said the three-year, $530,000 grant would help fund an extension of UQ’s Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) longitudinal study of ageing in women (the LAW Study), led by UQ School of Medicine’s Professor Soo Keat Khoo.

The LAW study, believed to be the only one of its kind in the world, has tracked the health of 511 women aged between 40 and 80 over the past five years through clinical examinations, questionnaires, face-to-face interviews, blood samples and special testing.

Aspects covered include sociodemographics and nutrition, lifestyle factors, cardiovascular health, hormone levels, mood changes, memory function, balance, bone health, fat/lean mass composition and oral health.

The UQ research team, including Professor Khoo, Associate Professor Robert King (Psychiatry) and Dr Nancy Pachana (Psychology), are particularly interested in the development of anxiety and depression in the study group.

Dr Byrne, Director of Geriatric Psychiatry at the RBWH, welcomed the NHMRC funding for dementia studies administered from a special $4.4 million allocation nationally to receive support as the longitudinal study had, until now, relied mainly on generous donations from private benefactors especially the Asian/Chinese Community and industry through the RBWH Research Foundation.

Dementia currently affects 200,000 Australians with 1000 new cases diagnosed each week. Given the nation’s ageing population, further research into the causes and effects of dementia, the leading cause of the non-fatal national disease burden, was more important than ever before, Dr Byrne said.

Alzheimer’s disease affects one in 25 Australians over the age of 60. Symptoms include memory lapses, problems with thinking of the right word for common objects, difficulty making decisions, confusion and personality changes, such as irritability.

One aspect under investigation by the team would be whether Alzheimer’s disease led to greater levels of depression and anxiety or whether existing symptoms of depression and anxiety predisposed people to developing Alzheimer’s disease, Dr Byrne said.

“We will also look at the possible role of variations in several genes in the development of symptoms associated with dementia. One of these genes is responsible for transporting lipids (fats) around the brain and another is associated with mood and personality,” he said.

Dementia leads to a decline and loss of intellectual abilities such as impaired memory, judgment and abstract thinking as well as personality changes. It can be distressing for both the person directly affected as well as those closest to them with patients often requiring long-term care.

Unique research at UQ could revolutionise the treatment of pain relief – thanks to a humble sea snail.

Dr Jenny Ekberg, a Research Fellow with UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences, has studied a toxin produced by a marine snail found on the Great Barrier Reef, which has the ability to precisely target chronic pain without severe side effects.

“Chronic pain can be caused by an initial injury that affects the nerves, or conditions such as diabetes and arthritis,” Dr Ekberg said.

“The problem with current drugs, such as morphine, is that they sometimes offer only marginal relief and come coupled with lots of problems with tolerance and side-effects.

“Our research show that a natural product, a conotoxin from the marine snail Conus marmoreus, produces pain relief without apparent side-effects in animal models of chronic pain.”

The study, done with colleagues Professor David Adams in the School of Biomedical Sciences, Dr Richard Lewis at UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience and Professor Mac Christie at the University of Sydney, was recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr Ekberg said sufferers of chronic pain could have the added problem of there being no reason for the pain.

“The patient experiences severe pain because their nerve cells that are responsible for pain transmission are overactive,” she said.

“This is primarily due to abnormal activity of voltage-gated sodium channels in the nerve cells.

“Conventional drugs, such as local anaesthetics, block all types of sodium channels, causing severe side-effects.

“Our toxin only blocks a specific channel – the first time a toxin like this has been shown to work – therefore providing pain relief without severe side-effects.”
Astronomers earn star research posts

Five UQ students have won stargazing scholarships to work at the best observatories in Australia and the world's premier telescope in Chile.

The physics students are Peter Jensen, Brendan Griffen, Andrew Kels, Shaun Ferris and Chris Banks.

They will each spend between two and three months working on various astrophysics research projects during their summer breaks.

UQ's Head of Physics Associate Professor Michael Drinkwater said the vacation scholarships would give the students excellent practical experience.

Mr Jensen will work in Chile on the Gemini South Telescope, which has an eight-metre diameter and is built on the best geographical position in the Southern Hemisphere to observe the universe. Funded by an international research partnership between Australia, Canada, United States, Argentina, Brazil, The United Kingdom and Chile, Gemini South works in tandem with an identical telescope in the Northern Hemisphere.

Dr Drinkwater said Mr Jensen was one of the first group of three Australian students to win scholarships to study at the telescope in Chile.

Mr Griffen and Mr Ferris are off to the Australian National University (ANU) while Mr Kels will study at The University of Sydney.

Mr Banks was also offered an ANU scholarship but instead accepted a scholarship to work alongside Dr Drinkwater on a new galaxy survey.

It has been a successful and busy semester all around for UQ astronomers, after they observed the transit of Mercury across the face of the sun last month.

Queenslanders were in an ideal position to view the phenomenon, which will not take place again until 2032.

Top honour for Chilean VC

Australia’s first Chilean PhD graduate and current President (Vice-Chancellor) of the Universidad Austral de Chile, Professor Victor Cubillos Godoy, is UQ’s 2006 International Alumnus of the Year.

He was conferred with the title at a December 13 graduation ceremony at UQ St Lucia for the Faculties of Biological and Chemical Sciences and Natural Resources, Architecture and Veterinary Sciences.

Professor Cubillos has been a pioneer for Queensland and Australian education in Latin America, in particular the development of key research collaborations between UQ and Chile in agriculture and veterinary science.

He has come a long way since completing English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) studies and a PhD program in animal pathology at UQ from 1980 and 1987, with his academic career at the Universidad’s Institute of Animal Pathology this year culminating in his election as Rector (President/Vice-Chancellor) of the Universidad.

Rectors in Chile are elected by fellow academics so it is a very high honour and a fitting tribute to Professor Cubillos’s expertise and leadership in the field of veterinary science.

Originally enrolled at an American university for his PhD studies, Professor Cubillos switched to UQ after becoming convinced that it was the best university in the world at which to study animal pathology.

He was one of the first three ELICOS students at the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ) in the early 1980s and later became Australia’s first PhD graduate from Chile. With his election as Rector, he is also believed to be the first Australian-educated academic ever to reach the post.

Professor Cubillos attributes his successes in higher education teaching and research to his experiences as a PhD student at UQ and the professional relationships formed.

His personal experience of the benefits of an international education have led to him establishing student exchange programs between the Universidad and a range of countries including Australia.
WITH THE WARMER MONTHS UPON US, A UQ VET EXPERT IS ENCOURAGING PET OWNERS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR POTENTIALLY LETHAL PARASITES.

With the start of summer, veterinarians from UQ’s Small Animal Clinic and Teaching Hospital have been inundated with pets suffering from tick paralysis.

Although paralysis ticks can occur all year round, their peak period is spring and summer when warm weather combines with periods of rain.

Paralysis ticks normally infest native Australian animals, but can also cause problems when they infest livestock, domestic pets and humans.

The paralysis tick *holocyclus* is found along the majority of the eastern coast of Australia and is especially prevalent in the southern and western suburbs of Brisbane.

With an estimated 20,000 domestic animals paralysed every year in Australia, tick prevention is a major focus for vets and pet owners. UQ Professor of Companion Animal Medicine and Surgery, Professor Gail Anderson, is warning all pet owners to be aware of the potential danger associated with the summer season and the increased prevalence of ticks.

“We encourage all pet owners to be aware of the threat that can fatally paralyse their cats and dogs,” Professor Anderson said.

“Pets are primarily exposed to ticks when they traverse thick scrubby bushland, but unkempt suburban backyards can also provide a habitat for ticks.

“By keeping backyards clear of unnecessary vegetation and debris, pet owners can reduce the risk to their pet. Not frequenting areas where grasses are overgrown will also decrease the risk of infestation.”

Vital warning signs for impending paralysis include loss of appetite, lethargy, altered bark or meow, coughing, retching, gagging or vomiting, groaning or grunting, altered breathing, and wobbliness or weakness in the limbs.

Professor Anderson is urging pet owners to take notice of these crucial warning signs. “Should owners notice any of these signs in their pets, they should contact their veterinarian immediately,” she said.

If left untreated, paralysis ticks can cause loss of the reflexes that protect the pet from inhaling food and water leading to aspiration pneumonia and possible death.

It is extremely important to conduct a tick search daily. Ticks found and removed early are much less likely to cause serious injury to the pet. Ticks can often be difficult to find, even when fully engorged.

The most common sites of attachment are around the head and neck and under the arms or collar, but they can attach anywhere on the skin.

Pet owners should talk to their veterinarian about tick preventative drugs and strategies. There are good topical products and collars that can decrease the risk of infestation.

Should owners find a tick on their pet, they should seek veterinary advice.

For 24-hour assistance, contact the UQ Small Animal Clinic and Teaching Hospital on (07) 3365 2110.
UQ’s world-leading mining, chemical and metallurgical engineering studies programs have received a further boost with the appointment of two new professorial chairs.

Sponsored by Australia’s largest coal miner and exporter, BMA (BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance), the chairs are part of a five-year, $2.7 million package to strengthen links between the University and the Australian mining industry.

Professor Peter Knights has been named BMA Chair of Mining Engineering, while Professor Anh Nguyen from the University of Newcastle will become the BMA Chair of Minerals Processing.

UQ Head of the School of Engineering Professor Jim Litster said the pair would take on a leading research and teaching role in the University’s mining and minerals processing engineering programs.

“Through the chairs there’s an enhanced relationship between the company specifically, the resources industry more broadly and the University in research areas as well as teaching. It will be a relationship of many different levels,” he said.

A mine operations, maintenance and equipment expert, Professor Knights is the Program Leader of UQ’s Smart Mining Systems project and has worked as a research engineer and Professor of mining engineering in Australia, Canada and Chile.

Professor Nguyen is an international authority on colloid and interface chemistry of coal and minerals flotation, and has worked as an engineer, scientist and Professor in (the former) Czechoslovakia, Germany and USA.

Professor Nguyen said forging links between the University’s engineering programs and industry was crucial if student outcomes and research goals were to be met.

“With the BMA partnership, UQ will carry out world-class research projects aimed at solving long-term industry problems, such as water and energy usage and environmental management,” he said.

“The collaborative efforts of industry and universities like the UQ-BMA partnership are needed to achieve a sustainable workforce and advancement for the future.”

BMA Manager of Research Cam Davidson said the appointments would increase the number of skilled mining graduates entering the workforce.

“BMA’s sponsorship is aimed at maintaining a high level of teaching expertise to support the University’s first-class mining and minerals processing programs, and at the same time greatly enhance the research capability in these core fields,” he said.

Professor Litster said the School of Engineering’s industry-focused approach was popular with students, with a 30 percent increase in enrolments in 2006.

The BMA appointments complement existing faculty alliances with Xstrata, Thiess, Main Roads and Boeing.

Businesses can now access the talent and skills of UQ Business School MBA students at a fraction of normal consulting rates.

A strategic alliance between the UQ Business School and corporate consultancy firm Tuscon will provide a stream of talented, pre-assessed MBA students available on a contract basis for a minimum three-month period.

CEO Justin Robinson said the company had formed an alliance with the UQ Business School.

“This will enable us to tap into some of the country’s brightest young minds,” he said.

“We have also developed an extremely rigorous pre-assessment process, ensuring an exceptionally high standard of candidates entering the program.

“By taking responsibility for the human resource functions associated with our candidates, we help business to reap the benefit of highly-skilled individuals without the hassle and red tape normally associated with employing both local and international resources.

“Access to these resources can help employers cope with the skills shortage currently facing many Australian businesses.

“And by using current MBA students, they benefit from the most recent research and analysis without paying top dollar consultancy fees.

The program also provides access to Master of Commerce, Master of Business, and Master of Technology and Innovation Management students.

“Businesses can now access the talent and skills of UQ Business School MBA students at a fraction of normal consulting rates.”

Justin Robinson, CEO Tuscon, Naomi Todd, Director Tuscon, and Phil Bamber, BEL Faculty Employment Services Officer
Station turns turtle

Australia’s turtles were in the spotlight at the biggest-ever annual open day at UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station on North Stradbroke Island on November 25.

UQ Turtle Fest, celebrating the Year of the Turtle, attracted a record crowd of more than 2000 from Stradbroke Island and Brisbane.

Event organiser and station education officer, Dr Kathy Townsend, said the community feedback from the day had been positive.

“This one event has increased community awareness of the plight of Australia’s turtles and the research that is being conducted,” she said.

Highlights included turtle specimens from the Queensland Museum, a live reptile show from Cool Companions and an underwater link to a diver in the turtle tank at Reef HQ in Townsville.

Seventy UQ volunteers, from first-year students to professors, academics and administrators from the St Lucia and Gatton campuses helped out at the event.

Corporate sponsors included Consolidated Rutile Limited, Positive Signs and Independent Marine Biochemistry Research, while vets from Underwater World and Australia Zoo showcased their work on injured sea turtles.

Government agencies involved included the Environmental Protection Agency, Moreton Bay Marine Parks, Healthy Waterways, Australian Customs Service and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Local groups included the Salt Water Murri’s and Goenpul Bibonmari, the Australian Coral Reef Society, Wildcare Australia, Dunwich State School, Straddie Board Riders Club, Stradbroke Island Historical Museum and the Australian Marine Conservation Society.

The importance of turtle research was shown in the lead-up to the event with the release into Moreton Bay of a rehabilitated juvenile hawksbill turtle.

A Redcliffe fisherman rescued the turtle in October after finding it floating on Moreton Bay.

It had “floating syndrome” where a gut blockage prevents food from being digested. It then decomposes, leaks gases into the body cavity and causes the turtle to float.

The project has been jointly funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation’s Global Competitiveness Program and industry members.

Ms Lim-Camacho said the meeting was the first to include representatives from the entire supply chain – from grower in Australia to florist in Japan.

“The group included a grower from Victoria, a foliage supplier from Queensland, an Australian exporter, and Japanese importers, auction houses and florists,” she said.

“We also had representatives from the Australian Flower Export Council and the Queensland Government Trade Office in Tokyo,” Ms Lim-Camacho said.

Native species such as the kangaroo paw and umbrella fern are seen in many Japanese homes.

“Australians mainly use flowers to celebrate special occasions, but the Japanese are huge consumers of floral products,” Ms Lim-Camacho said.

Flowering initiative

A UQ initiative has brought together growers, exporters, importers, auction markets and florists in Japan to discuss the marketing of Australian flowers into the country.

The project has been jointly funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation’s Global Competitiveness Program and industry members.

Ms Lim-Camacho said the meeting was the first to include representatives from the entire supply chain – from grower in Australia to florist in Japan.

“The group included a grower from Victoria, a foliage supplier from Queensland, an Australian exporter, and Japanese importers, auction houses and florists,” she said.

“We also had representatives from the Australian Flower Export Council and the Queensland Government Trade Office in Toyko,” Ms Lim-Camacho said.

Australian native flowers are hot property in Japan, providing an increasing percentage of the country’s thriving floral industry.

Native species such as the kangaroo paw and umbrella fern are seen in many Japanese homes.

“Australians mainly use flowers to celebrate special occasions, but the Japanese are huge consumers of floral products,” Ms Lim-Camacho said.
A report launched this month by UQ’s Australasian Centre on Ageing has identified major issues of concern for older Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

The report says the size and composition of Australia’s older migrant population is bringing new challenges to government, service providers, and community organisations.

Centre Director Professor Helen Bartlett said people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities would make up almost a quarter of the population aged over 65 over the next decade.

The CALD group is part of an overall ageing population with 13 percent of people already 65 and older, a figure which will rise to 19 percent in the next 20 years.

“This raises many important questions such as what types of services these people need, what special needs and requirements they have and how best we can meet their needs and demands,” Professor Bartlett said.

The report, Ageing and Cultural Diversity in Queensland: Working Together to make a Difference, has found the issues faced by these older people were often exacerbated by a number of factors such as migration circumstances, the person’s age at the time of their migration, gender, and geographical location.

“Importantly, we’ve found that cultural and linguistic diversity needs to be taken into account in developing strategies to help improve the well-being of older people from CALD backgrounds,” Professor Bartlett said.

“Improved transparency, greater communication, and coordination between service providers and policy makers should be crucial elements of a strategy.”

Professor Bartlett said she hoped the current project would lead to further targeted research to provide a much-needed evidence base for policy and program development and implementation.

“We need to develop new and innovative strategies such as improved community involvement in appropriate policy and program development and more research to inform decisions that will improve the physical, emotional and social well-being of older people from CALD backgrounds.”

The project was financially assisted by the Queensland Government, through the Multicultural Assistance Program, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office for Seniors, Queensland Department of Communities.

A team of postgraduate journalism students has gone global with the assistance of their own news website.

Led by UQ journalism lecturer John Cokley, the group has produced stories for NewSpace, an online news portal maintained by the School of Journalism and Communication.

With an ever-evolving media industry, Dr Cokley said the next generation of journalists needed to embrace new technology and become audience-savvy.

“The digital environment allows audiences and journalists to work much more closely together,” he said.

“When I started out in journalism, journalists went out into the community, found news, selected news according to their own criteria, manufactured the news and then sold it back to the audience, whereas now the audience is a little bit pickier.

“The audience wants some say in it, they want some recognition and they want control.”

The students’ work can be found online at www.newspace.uq.edu.au and researched and produced stories for niche audiences across print, broadcast and online mediums.

Dr Cokley – who has investigated the news needs of far-flung communities in the Antarctic, outback Queensland and even outer space – said the course tapped into new research about how different groups received and consumed information.

“A community is a community and if you can find out what they are interested in, and how they talk among themselves, then you have a better chance of delivering news that is interesting to them and that they are likely to want to buy,” he said.

He said the goal of NewSpace was to produce journalists able to work in many media environments.

“It allows the students to put together their basic news-writing skills, sound and visual production skills, and ethics, into a demonstrable project that says we can not only think practically and vocationally, but we can think in communication theory, we can think about communities, and who the people are we’re addressing.”

The students’ work can be found online at www.newspace.uq.edu.au.
SOUND BUSINESS

LINKS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESS COULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL, AN EXPERT SAYS.

An Australian research leader has told a gathering at UQ that a stronger focus on “commercial benefit” rather than the more narrow and traditional interpretation of “commercialisation” might be in the interest of universities as well as wider society.

Professor Peter Høj, the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Council (ARC), told an Australian Research Leadership Dinner at Customs House that new knowledge arising from university research should be made available to end-users in a format that was readily usable and did not have a prohibitive entry price.

This could lead to greater use of university research and through that, enhanced economic activity. This would in turn be likely to convince a variety of stakeholders of the benefits of private and public investment in universities.

Professor Høj cited his decade-long experience in the wine industry to support this view.

He said he was concerned that during the past decade, the success of university research and development had been narrowly measured by income from commercialisation – such as spin-offs, licences and patents – whereas the focus should have been on broader commercial benefit.

“Even the greatest universities in the world struggle to derive more than five percent of their total income from commercialisation outcome,” he said.

“What we should focus on is commercial benefit. Instead of pricing your IP (intellectual property) out of the market, you’re actually saying, ‘Here is our IP, we have protected it appropriately, and we are happy for you to get it at a price where it is worth your while to take a risk’.

“If that happens to a greater extent and the private sector starts to play with that IP … then you might just see that there is greater commercial benefit generated in society with spin-offs such as enhanced exports, employment and revenue.

“Through that, you will, of course, have increased company taxes. You will have some people who make money and they might just remember why they made all that money.

“You might have a pathway to greater philanthropy, and people giving something back to the universities.”

Professor Høj cited two causes for optimism about the changing mood of business towards universities. One was a new Business Council of Australia (BCA) report which argued for strong links with universities and identified the need for human capital.

The other was a report from a working group to the Prime Minister’s Science and Innovation Council.

Professor Høj was on the group, which called for rectification of under-investment in universities to shore up Australia’s advantage from the Chinese and Indian economic booms.

“Even the greatest universities in the world struggle to derive more than five percent of their total income from commercialisation outcome”

The Brisbane Institute has appointed former UQ Professor Kay Saunders, AM, as its new Executive Director as the independent public issues forum and research-based organisation looks to stimulate positive debate and offer solutions on a wider range of pressing public policy issues.

Emeritus Professor Saunders has a distinguished national and international reputation as a leading public intellectual with a broad and passionate interest in public policy.

“I look forward to working with our primary sponsor, The University of Queensland, and major sponsors the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government whose support is vital to the Institute’s success,” Professor Saunders said.

Formerly Research Professor at UQ’s Australian Studies Centre, Professor Saunders has served on a range of State and Federal Councils including the Premier’s Advisory Council on Women’s Policy, the Queensland Government’s Cultural Advisory Council, the Australian National Maritime Museum and Australian War Memorial.

Her most recent books include 1901: Documenting Australia’s Federation, War on the Homefront, and Between the Covers … Revealing the State Library of Queensland’s Collections.

She is also co-author of A Crowning Achievement: A Study of Australian Beauty, Business and Charitable Enterprise, which accompanies the Miss Australia Quest exhibition which is currently on display at the Museum of Brisbane.

Professor Saunders said her new role would allow her to present intellectual ideas and knowledge to a public forum in an accessible and stimulating way.

“We intend to broaden the range of speakers and research issues at the Institute and to offer positive solutions to some of the very real public policy challenges that Brisbane and the wider region is facing,” she said.

“Some of the issues we will be looking at include corporate responsibility and the role of business in intellectual debate, as well as having a fresh look at the environmental debate.”

Institute Chair Ray Weekes said Professor Saunders brought an extensive network of academic, senior executive and government contacts to the role.

“Professor Saunders has worked with State and Federal Ministers across the political spectrum as well as the heads of the Army and Navy and captains of industry,” he said.

“Her ability to work with all sides of policy debate will be important in maintaining the Institute’s independence and prominent civic position as a dispassionate commentator on policy issues affecting greater Brisbane and South East Queensland.”
UQ Business School PhD student April Wright was stumped when she first started investigating the relatively recent English county cricket practice of importing overseas players.

While she had planned to analyse the practice as a strategy for generating spectator interest and skills transfer in internationalised sports, once she began conducting interviews at county cricket clubs she soon realised it was more complicated than that.

“I was struck by the paradox inherent between county cricket’s traditions and the modern demands of sport as commercial entertainment,” she said.

Her research took her into the archives of Marylebone Cricket Club at the legendary Lord’s Cricket Ground – where she combed minutes of meetings and documentary records from 1937 to the late 1960s.

Ms Wright said she found a complex relationship between cricket’s traditional ideology and the economic rationalism necessary for the financial sustainability of county clubs in the modern game.

“In Victorian England, first-class county cricket became an institutional carrier for English moral character,” she said.

“The expression ‘it’s not cricket’ as a way of describing unacceptable behaviour in daily life is a classic illustration of the moral authority of the cricketing code at that time.”

However, the practices adopted by the clubs changed substantially in the post-war period.

“New practices like importing foreign players – which contradicted the ideology of cricket as a game for ‘English gentlemen’ and ‘amateurs’ – somehow became incorporated into the institution of first-class county cricket.”

As well as scouring the documents, Ms Wright also conducted interviews and observations at three county clubs to understand contemporary practices.

Ms Wright said she found that the modern market logic of sport as business continued to challenge English cricket’s traditional moral ideology.

“It’s an ongoing struggle between cultural capital and economic capital in defining what county cricket should be,” she said.

One in four Australian women have received an abnormal result on a Pap smear test.

A report, published in health journal Sexual Health, has found nearly all women had had at least one Pap smear test in their lives with more than one quarter (26 percent) reporting an abnormal result.

Two-thirds of these women were treated at clinics after abnormal tests with about one in five women reporting negative effects on their sex lives.


Dr Fran Boyle, a contributing author and UQ School of Population Health Senior Lecturer, said abnormal test results were more common than most women thought.

“With widespread screening inevitably comes a greater likelihood of detecting abnormalities,” Dr Boyle said.

“An abnormal result can arise for a number of reasons, many of which are not cause for alarm.

“For many women the immediate assumption is that it is something very serious.

“We really need to think about how the term abnormal Pap smear and the different meanings of such a result are communicated to women.

“We also need to ensure that women are well-prepared for the possibility of an abnormal result because it is something that is relatively common in the community.”

Dr Boyle said the strength of this study was that it was one of the few based on women from the general community and not on women who had been to clinics.

Dr Boyle worked with researchers from UQ, The University of Birmingham, and QUT on the study results.
EVENTS
• Friday, December 22 - Sunday, February 4
  The University Art Museum welcomes a new exhibit: “Fireworks, tracing the incendiary in Australian art.” “Fireworks” comprises over 50 works by historic and contemporary artists, including Sidney Nolan, Ronnie Tjampijinpa and Wendy Sharpe. Details: The Mayne Centre 3365 9004.
• Monday, 15 January - Friday, 16 February
  Student Support Services are holding an Introductory Academic Program (IAP) for beginning AusABD and APS students. Students are encouraged to register online. Details: Student Support Services ap@courses.uq.edu.au
• Tuesday, January 22 - Thursday, December 24
  The TC Beirne School of Law and The University of Queensland are hosting the 19th Annual Australasian Tax Teachers Conference. The theme for the conference is “The Pursuit of Simplicity – Simply Impossible?” More than 50 presenters from Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Hong Kong will speak on a range of topics relating to tax issues. Details: Trisha Barbour t.barbour@law.uq.edu.au
• Wednesday, February 14
  Uniquest’s Consulting and Research Division are running a half-day seminar on “Tax Issues over 50 works by historic and contemporary artists, including Sidney Nolan, Ronnie Tjampijinpa and Wendy Sharpe. Details: The Mayne Centre 3365 9004.

classifieds

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

WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT
• NATHAN: 25-35yo professional to share 3bd, 19m house, big deck, polished floors, one lockup/remote garage free, broadband internet, dishwasher, leafy, quiet surrounds, close to city, shops and bus. $130 (per room) a week + expenses. 0402 220 377
• Wanted: studio or one-bed flat close to St Lucia campus from February 2007. Qiao Liu: goodlawliu@yahoo.co.uk.
• Professional couple seeking accommodation for 12 months from January 07: happy to house sit during this time. Please contact Clare on 0419 563 185.
• For sale: two storey, four-bedroom home on 7.46ha of gently sloping lower ridge land with two dams and town water near Gatton campus. Two bathrooms, central fireplace and a/c. Contact (07) 5462 1987 or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au.

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around campus

prizes

Queensland Freemasons’ Scholarships: three scholarships are available to full-time students in the fourth or subsequent year of an undergraduate program. Awarded on academic merit with preference given to Freemasons, and sons and daughters of Freemasons of at least five years good standing of the United Grand Lodge of Qld. Worth: $1000. Closing: February 28, 2007. Information: www.uq.edu.au/myadvisor/other-scholarships-and-bursaries or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or 07 3365 1984.


Constantine Aspromourgos Memorial Scholarship for Greek Studies: open to UQ bachelors or masters graduates of not more than five years standing who are undertaking a postgraduate program involving studies which pertain to at least one area of Greek studies. Worth: $5750. Closing: March 30, 2007. Information: 07 3365 1984 or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au.

Bridge bus services

In conjunction with the opening of the Eleanor Schonell Bridge between UQ and Dutton Park on December 17, TransLink is introducing three new bus services.

City-UQ via Cultural Centre, South Bank and Annerley (route 109)
• Services will depart every 10 minutes during peak times and every 20 minutes during off-peak times on weekdays; and every 30 minutes on weekends.
• Services will run seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.
• Rail passengers from the Ferry Grove, Doomben and Gold Coast lines can transfer at South Bank. Eight Mile Plains–UQ via Buranda, PA Hospital and Dutton Park station (route 169)
• Save up to 20 minutes by avoiding the CBD.
• Cheaper fares by avoiding the CBD and not travelling to zone 1.
• Services will depart every 15 minutes on weekdays, and every 30 minutes on weekends.
• Services will run seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.
• Bus passengers from Logan City and Redland Shire transfer at Buranda.
• Rail passengers from the Cleveland line transfer at Buranda.
• Rail passengers from the Beenleigh line transfer at Dutton Park.

Professional Internship Program

FOR UQ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

• Gain valuable work experience in your chosen area of study
• Enhance your career opportunities
• Internationalise your resume/CV
• Receive professional training, a work report and a reference

For further information on the Professional Internship Program (PIP) please contact the Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ) by email pip@ict.uq.edu.au or visit www.ict.uq.edu.au

INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING & TESOL EDUCATION (ICTE-UQ)
For once, there wasn’t a football in sight when UQ medical student and international rugby union star, John Roe, took to the stage.

The only screaming fans were his family and instead of a winner’s trophy, the Queensland Reds captain received his medical graduation award.

Dr Roe has taken eight years to complete the normally four-year MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) due to professional rugby commitments.

Dr Roe has played 19 tests for Australia and recently captained the Prime Minister’s XV in Japan.

He began studying medicine at UQ in 1998, but due to international playing commitments and a contract with the Queensland Reds, he deferred his study for 18 months in 2000 and then completed the degree whenever his busy schedule of playing commitments would allow.

Dr Roe often spent some of his free time on tour reading medical books to try to maintain his level of knowledge and skills.

“The lack of continuity made returning to study difficult,” he admitted.

“There was always a new group of students and complex subject matter. I often needed to re-learn information and skills…”

Extra proud on graduation day was Dr Roe’s wife Kate, who he met at medical school, and who graduated with Dr Roe’s initial class of students in 2001.

She is now training to become a general practitioner. The couple has a 17-month-old son, Alexander.

While the 29-year-old back rower is considered the “old man” of rugby by his team mates, his medical opinion is that his body is “holding up pretty well”.

Dr Roe’s future in medicine may involve studying surgery, but there is another year left on his Reds contract before he considers pursuing further medical training.

Dr Roe graduated with a cohort of 230 MBBS students on December 15.

UQ’s School of Medicine is no stranger to combining football and medicine.

Head of the School, Professor Ken Donald, 70, who retires at the end of this year, is himself a former Wallaby.

Professor Donald played on the wing for Australia between 1957-59, representing the Wallabies in 10 Tests.