Art attack
Street culture exhibition kicks off

Many voices
Diversity Week in focus
MAKING THE JUMP INTO UNIVERSITY?

THERE’S NO BETTER PLACE TO LAND.

If you’re ready, UQ has the help and support you need to start mid-year. You can email AdmissionsEnquiries@uq.edu.au or call (07) 3365 2203 for individual guidance on the program you’re interested in. With a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, full and part time, there’s no better foundation for your future than UQ.

Apply now. For more info visit uq.edu.au/midyear
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

UQ’s annual Diversity Week is a showcase for achievement in one of the core fields of the University’s mission, engagement. As the only week of its kind in an Australian university, the event gives students, staff and alumni opportunities to be recognised for activities that promote equity and celebrate human diversity.

This year’s entrants in the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards show that innovative teaching and learning, research and commercialisation underpin outreach that has genuine value in our local and international neighbourhoods.

The top $10,000 award went to a project which gives undergraduates a better understanding of how the legal system affects disadvantaged people and provides free legal advice to people who cannot afford a lawyer. In three years it has helped save $50,000 in fees and assisted 400 clients. Led by TC Beirne School of Law lecturers Paul O’Shea and Dr Tamara Walsh, the project is a collaboration with the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House.

The Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre at UQ Ipswich was declared runner up for its success in opening education opportunities to local students, and the UQ Library was highly commended for assisting scholars who are Indigenous, have disabilities or are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

This year the University launched awards for alumni who excel in promoting equity and diversity. Lizzie Brown, the Education, Training & Research Director of Engineers Without Borders Australia, was highly commended, while Dr Ben Mullen, Deputy General Manager of UniQuest’s International Projects Division, was named the winner.

Dr Mullen has three UQ degrees and two decades’ experience working with poor farmers in parts of Asia and the Pacific to improve production and sustainability. His team devoted the past 18 months to a trade-focused plant health project in the Mekong region including Burma. When he received the award on May 14 he was anxiously awaiting post-Cyclone Nargis news of colleagues in Burma.

The aftermath of another recent natural disaster, the earthquake in southwestern China, has motivated one of UQ’s highest academic achievers to launch a philanthropic endeavour. Professor Max Lu, a dual Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, is a founder of a charity established to help child casualties of the quake to continue their schooling. The Sichuan Earthquake Surviving Children’s Education Fund is an initiative of the Federation of Chinese Scholars in Australia (FOCSA), of which Professor Lu is honorary president.

While the University has used official and other channels to offer condolences to all people affected by the recent devastation, groups such as FOCSA give practical effect to a common human desire to help out. The Diversity Week award entrants, like the scholars and professionals who comprise FOCSA, are applying their educational advantage to help people who have not enjoyed equivalent opportunities. I applaud them all.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
Coral Wipeout

Half a century after the last earth-shattering atomic blast shook the Pacific atoll of Bikini, UQ researchers have found some corals are flourishing again, while others appear to be locally extinct.

These are the findings of a remarkable investigation by an international team of scientists who examined the diversity and abundance of marine life in the atoll.

The researchers dived into the vast Bravo Crater, left in 1954 by the most powerful American atom bomb ever exploded (15 megatonnes – a thousand times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb). The detonation vapourised three islands, raised water temperatures to 55,000 degrees, shook islands 200 kilometres away and left a crater 2km wide and 73m deep.

Compared with a famous study made before the atomic tests were carried out, the team established 42 species were missing compared to the early 1950s. At least 28 of these species losses appear to be genuine local extinctions, probably due to the 23 bombs that were exploded there from 1946-58.

The coral survey was carried out at the request of the atoll’s local government.

PEACE PLATFORM

One of only five centres dedicated to protecting civilians from crimes against humanity has been established at UQ.

The Asia-Pacific Centre for Responsibility to Protect (AP-R2P) represents an important new stage in the effort to rid the world of genocide and mass atrocities.

Launched by Dr Edward Luck, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, the new centre is led by prominent international relations expert Professor Alex Bellamy (pictured) from the School of Political Science and International Studies.

“The R2P principle states that all countries have a primary responsibility to protect their citizens from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. When a country manifestly fails to prevent and end unconscionable acts of violence, the international community shares a collective responsibility to respond,” Professor Bellamy said.

The centre will play a key leadership role in engaging the Asia-Pacific region, uniting politicians, government agencies, academics and NGOs to develop peacekeeping and early intervention initiatives.

“The Asia-Pacific region needs an early warning system to prevent humanitarian crises. The centre will act as a regional hub and will form part of the global effort to rebuild shattered societies after episodes of death and destruction,” Professor Bellamy said.

Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences Acting Executive Dean Professor Cindy Gallois said the establishment of the centre was appropriate recognition of UQ’s rapidly growing reputation in the area.

“The R2P Centre is further evidence of UQ’s rapidly growing reputation in the area,” Professor Gallois said.

AP-R2P has among its patrons former President of the Philippines and member of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, Fidel Ramos, and President of the International Crisis group and Co-Chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, Gareth Evans.

Maths Perks Up

A new field in mathematics called percolation has emerged and one UQ researcher has his cup ready to go.

Dr Murray Elder, from UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, is an expert on algebraic graphs called Cayley graphs which have many weird properties.

“Cayley graphs are an example of infinite graphs that just go on and on,” he said.

“The term percolation is used when infinite clusters form in the graphs, similar to water flowing through coffee grounds to form a pot of coffee.”

Dr Elder said for mathematicians it was a challenging and exciting field.

“Percolation is an idea that comes from physics and is currently a hot topic in pure mathematics,” he said.

“This research is maths for maths sake, but, like all cutting edge research, you don’t always know where you will end up, that’s part of the beauty of it.”

Dr Elder’s expertise and passion for the field led to an invitation to the American Institute of Mathematics in Palo Alto, California, for a workshop on percolation last month.

He said the meeting brought together researchers from a range of backgrounds and levels of expertise to collaborate on open problems and conjectures surrounding percolation.

“The satisfaction and opportunities that these types of workshops provide is what being a mathematician is all about,” Dr Elder said.

Gene Puzzle Unlooped

Another piece of the puzzle that is breast cancer has been unlocked.

Dr Melissa Brown, from UQ’s School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, and her team have discovered how a particular gene associated with breast cancer behaves, which one day may lead to better testing for the disease.

Dr Brown and Dr Juliet French from UQ, together with colleagues at The University of Oxford, studied the BRCA1 gene and found it existed in a looped formation.

“Our studies suggest that BRCA1 looks a bit like a bow when the gene is switched off, and that part of this ‘bow’ disappears when the gene is switched on,” Dr Brown said.

“Interestingly, the shape of the bow changes in different breast cancer cells, raising the possibility that this gene looping may contribute to the cancer process.”

She said ongoing studies would identify the specific DNA sequences and DNA binding molecules involved in BRCA1 gene looping.

“This information may lead to more sensitive pre-symptomatic testing for breast cancer and the identification of new therapeutic targets,” she said.

The research was recently published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Shortcuts

One of only five centres dedicated to protecting civilians from crimes against humanity has been established at UQ.

The Asia-Pacific Centre for Responsibility to Protect (AP-R2P) represents an important new stage in the effort to rid the world of genocide and mass atrocities.

Launched by Dr Edward Luck, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, the new centre is led by prominent international relations expert Professor Alex Bellamy (pictured) from the School of Political Science and International Studies.

“The R2P principle states that all countries have a primary responsibility to protect their citizens from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. When a country manifestly fails to prevent and end unconscionable acts of violence, the international community shares a collective responsibility to respond,” Professor Bellamy said.

The centre will play a key leadership role in engaging the Asia-Pacific region, uniting politicians, government agencies, academics and NGOs to develop peacekeeping and early intervention initiatives.

“The Asia-Pacific region needs an early warning system to prevent humanitarian crises. The centre will act as a regional hub and will form part of the global effort to rebuild shattered societies after episodes of death and destruction,” Professor Bellamy said.

Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences Acting Executive Dean Professor Cindy Gallois said the establishment of the centre was appropriate recognition of UQ’s rapidly growing reputation in the area.

“The R2P Centre is further evidence of UQ’s rapidly growing reputation in the area,” Professor Gallois said.

AP-R2P has among its patrons former President of the Philippines and member of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, Fidel Ramos, and President of the International Crisis group and Co-Chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, Gareth Evans.

Maths Perks Up

A new field in mathematics called percolation has emerged and one UQ researcher has his cup ready to go.

Dr Murray Elder, from UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, is an expert on algebraic graphs called Cayley graphs which have many weird properties.

“Cayley graphs are an example of infinite graphs that just go on and on,” he said.

“The term percolation is used when infinite clusters form in the graphs, similar to water flowing through coffee grounds to form a pot of coffee.”

Dr Elder said for mathematicians it was a challenging and exciting field.

“Percolation is an idea that comes from physics and is currently a hot topic in pure mathematics,” he said.

“This research is maths for maths sake, but, like all cutting edge research, you don’t always know where you will end up, that’s part of the beauty of it.”

Dr Elder’s expertise and passion for the field led to an invitation to the American Institute of Mathematics in Palo Alto, California, for a workshop on percolation last month.

He said the meeting brought together researchers from a range of backgrounds and levels of expertise to collaborate on open problems and conjectures surrounding percolation.

“The satisfaction and opportunities that these types of workshops provide is what being a mathematician is all about,” Dr Elder said.

Gene Puzzle Unlooped

Another piece of the puzzle that is breast cancer has been unlocked.

Dr Melissa Brown, from UQ’s School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, and her team have discovered how a particular gene associated with breast cancer behaves, which one day may lead to better testing for the disease.

Dr Brown and Dr Juliet French from UQ, together with colleagues at The University of Oxford, studied the BRCA1 gene and found it existed in a looped formation.

“Our studies suggest that BRCA1 looks a bit like a bow when the gene is switched off, and that part of this ‘bow’ disappears when the gene is switched on,” Dr Brown said.

“Interestingly, the shape of the bow changes in different breast cancer cells, raising the possibility that this gene looping may contribute to the cancer process.”

She said ongoing studies would identify the specific DNA sequences and DNA binding molecules involved in BRCA1 gene looping.

“This information may lead to more sensitive pre-symptomatic testing for breast cancer and the identification of new therapeutic targets,” she said.

The research was recently published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
University life might not be as carefree as it sometimes appears, with new research showing many stressed students don’t seek psychological help.

More than half the 384 students who attended the health service of an Australian university studied reported mild to very high levels of psychological distress, including depression and anxiety.

Distressed students suffered serious disruptions to their education and emotions, and on average were unable to work or study for eight days in a month and at reduced capacity for an additional nine days.

These results, published in the Australian Family Physician journal, are believed to be one of the few studies to measure the mental health of students attending a university health service.

More than a quarter of students (26 percent) were likely to have a mild disorder, with about 16 percent likely to have a moderate disorder and another 16 percent likely to have a severe mental disorder.

About 65 percent of distressed students had not accessed any support services or treatments. Most patients were full-time, female undergraduates between 18-24.

Study author Dr Helen Stallman, a clinical psychologist and researcher with UQ’s School of Psychology, said she was worried and surprised that so many students were distressed and not seeking help.

Dr Stallman said students were stressed by many factors such as academic demands, increased freedom, risky behaviours, balancing family and work commitments and financial pressures.

Molecules from cone snail venom and African plants are being used by Queensland researchers as a blueprint to develop an oral drug to treat chronic pain.

Professor David Craik and Dr Richard Clark (pictured) from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) have received $218,275 from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to aid in translating their research into a product available for Australians to use.

Studies on the molecule they have developed have shown it is effective in relieving neuropathic pain in animals.

“Neuropathic pain is one of the most severe forms of chronic pain, and very difficult to treat,” Dr Clark said.

“Regular pain occurs when the nervous system is stimulated by, for example, an injury, whereas neuropathic pain occurs when the nervous system itself is damaged.

“Current treatments in neuropathic pain only provide meaningful relief for one in three patients, and all of the current market-leading drugs have serious side effects, as well as taking up to three weeks to begin to take effect.”

Peptides (small proteins) from cone snail venom have attracted recent attention from scientists, as they can target receptors with a high degree of accuracy, thus eliminating severe side effects.

But peptides also degrade rapidly in the body. Professor Craik and Dr Clark have overcome this problem by engineering a circular peptide, using a circular protein backbone discovered by Professor Craik and found in plants such as violets.

The NHMRC development grant will allow the researchers to further test their molecule to fully establish its therapeutic potential.

“Successful outcomes from this project will provide additional confirmation of the suitability of our molecule as a treatment for neuropathic pain,” Dr Clark said.

“Armed with this data, we will be able to secure a commercial partner and develop this molecule into a tablet for sufferers of chronic pain.”
UNIVERSITY REGIMENT CELEBRATES SUCCESS

The Queensland University Regiment led the pack at the recent Royal Military College of Australia Graduation Weekend, outperforming its interstate counterparts on the eve of its 60th anniversary.

The regiment contributed the highest number of graduates, imparting what Honorary Colonel Major General John Pearn described as a “fitting tribute” to its longstanding legacy of success.

“Since it was founded, initially as the Queensland University Rifles, the regiment has been one of the principal army reserve units training young men and women for leadership careers in the Reserves of the Australian Defence Force,” Maj. Gen. Pearn said.

Fourteen cadets graduated across a variety of arms and service corps, with QUR’s Lieutenant Tyson Brock awarded the top prize nationally for leadership. Lt. Brock has been posted as a Platoon Commander at the 25th/49th Battalion of the Royal Queensland Regiment, where he will lead a group of 30 soldiers.

QUR Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Cotton said the graduates had represented their various corps well, exhibiting great dedication and commitment.

“The spread of corps was quite broad – we had graduates posted to infantry, artillery, transport, electrical and mechanical engineers, engineers, and signals corps, just to start,” she said.

The results provided an ideal introduction to the milestone year, setting the scene for anniversary celebrations which took place last month.

Highlights included a visit by Captain Keith Payne, VC (pictured), Australia’s only surviving Victoria Cross winner, along with a formal dinner held at Cromwell College.

While the anniversary provided an opportunity to engage in nostalgia, Lt. Col. Cotton said it also highlighted just how far the regiment has come since it was formed in 1948.

Despite the changes and updates, which have included extended and expanded activities at the Witton Barracks at Indooroopilly, Lt. Col. Cotton said the unique opportunities offered by a career in the reserve have remained constant.

The Queensland University Regiment has its headquarters in Walcott Street, St Lucia. There are opportunities every Tuesday evening for students to visit and find out more about becoming an Officer in the Army Reserve.

Research commitment

The University has bolstered its commitment to training future generations of researchers by creating a new senior position with a focus on early career researchers.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield announced in May that Professor Alan Lawson was the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training). This is a 50 percent appointment, with Professor Lawson retaining some strategic planning and development responsibilities in the UQ Graduate School, where he has been Dean since 1998.

“UQ, as a leading Australian research university with global networks, has a responsibility to continuously improve its research performance,” Professor Greenfield said.

“It is essential that we strengthen and maintain a sustainable research community by giving research higher degree (Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy) students excellent training and mentoring.

“Fostering early career researchers and helping them to identify career pathways and develop the skills they will need is equally important.

“UQ has sound credentials in these areas, thanks significantly to Professor Lawson’s work over the past decade as Dean of the Graduate School. In 2007 we had around 3700 research higher degree students and 20 percent of them were international, from more than 90 countries.

“The new position will enable Professor Lawson and the University as whole to build on its record, giving greater emphasis to research higher degree students, their transition into the workforce and the development of talented early career researchers.”

The new Dean of the Graduate School is Professor Christa Critchley, Professor Critchley has been Deputy Dean since 2002 and has continued to carry out teaching and research in the School of Integrative Biology during this time.

Professor Lawson’s research interests include higher education policy (relating particularly to research higher degrees), post-colonial theory and Australian literature.

He holds a PhD from UQ, a Master of Arts from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours and a University Medal from the University of Newcastle. He has worked at the University since 1979.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) reports directly to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor David Siddle.
DIVERSITY ON SHOW

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS SURROUNDING SPIRITUALITY WERE THE FOCUS OF DIVERSITY WEEK 2008.

A lively panel discussion chaired by popular broadcaster and author Phillip Adams, AO, was among the highlights of recent Diversity Week celebrations.

More than 300 people gathered on May 14 to watch the debate, which was titled “Wired for Warfare? Packaged for Peace? Does spirituality divide more than it unites?” and reflected this year’s theme The Spirit of Diversity.

The evening also saw the presentation of the annual Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards, which recognise staff, students and graduates who are pursuing inclusive initiatives which benefit others.

The $10,000 Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Award was presented to a group led by TC Beirne School of Law lecturers Paul O’Shea and Dr Tamara Walsh.

The team coordinates LAWS 5180, a course that allows undergraduate students to better understand how the legal system affects homeless and other disadvantaged people.

It is estimated that in three years, the project (run in collaboration with the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House) has helped save $50,000 in fees and assisted 400 clients.

Runners up were the Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre at the Ipswich campus, whose “Realising Opportunity” program has successfully opened up higher education options for local students, while the UQ Library was highly commended for a range of initiatives promoting inclusive access to resources.

Also singled out for his achievements was Dr Ben Mullen, who was named the inaugural Alumni Equity and Diversity Award winner.

A UQ Bachelors, Masters and PhD graduate, Dr Mullen was honoured for two decades of work helping farmers boost production and sustainability in countries including Vanuatu, PNG and Burma (Myanmar).

Dr Mullen is now based at UniQuest, where he is Deputy General Manager of the International Projects Division.

Lizzie Brown, the Education, Training & Research Director of Engineers Without Borders Australia, was highly commended.

The awards were presented after the panel discussion, which featured Aboriginal elder and child-care advocate Aunty Mary Graham, Professor of Social and Cultural Development at Victoria University; Hurriyet Babaçan and Dr Virginia Cawagas, co-Conference Program Chair of the recent Asia-Pacific Interfaith Symposium.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger said Diversity Week was an important part of the UQ calendar and that this year also marked 40 years of operation for the University’s Interfaith Chaplaincy Service.

“We’ve held Diversity Week since 2003 and each year the dialogue between the many different parts of the UQ community has gotten stronger, thanks to increasing levels of engagement with an expanding program of workshops, lectures and events,” he said.

INFO ➔ To access pod and vodcasts of the panel, visit www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week

A thoughtful artwork by UQ psychology student Lachlan McIntyre has won the popular Diversity Week design competition, edging out 60 entrants.

Titled “Interconnections” (above), Mr McIntyre said the piece was created to show how people share many similarities despite their outward differences.

Faces are used because they are the principal way in which people identify each other, with the use of primary colours deliberate as they blend easily to form secondary ones, representing the characteristics that unite and set us apart.

He was presented with the $1000 prize at the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards, with Michelle Simpson highly commended for her entry.

Meanwhile, a collage of UQ faces and places (below) has taken out first prize in the inaugural Faculty of Business, Economics and Law Diversity Week Photography Competition.

The winning work by Master of Economics student Tonny Wahyu Poerwono features black and white portraits of students interspersed with campus images that spell out “diversity”.

A gallery of the winning entries in both competitions is available on the Diversity Week website.
SU RPR E HONOUR
IN 2020 SUMMIT

Having submitted her application 15 minutes before closing time, UQ PhD student Eliza Matthews was surprised to be chosen to take part in the historic 2020 Summit in April.

Ms Matthews was among 27 University of Queensland representatives, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit Deputy Director Dr Jackie Huggins and Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Dean Professor Peter Brooks.

“A few friends and colleagues suggested I nominate, so I put in an application 15 minutes before they closed, and then forgot all about it until I was called by a journalist from the ABC’s PM program for an interview,” Ms Matthews said.

The 2020 Summit took place at Parliament House on April 19-20 and aimed to help shape a long-term strategy for the nation’s future.

Ms Matthews was one of 1000 delegates selected from around Australia who discussed solutions to some of the country’s most pressing issues.

Ms Matthews is studying with the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics on the topic “Bring the Bombs out of the Basement: The United States, the NPT, and the sui generis states of India, Pakistan and Israel, 1961-1973.”

She was a member of the 2020 team discussing Australia’s future security and prosperity.

According to Ms Matthews, Australia has an important role to play in preventing the production and distribution of nuclear weapons around the world.

“Australia can play a greater role in nuclear weapons non-proliferation around the globe and how we can increase the focus on nuclear studies here at home,” she said.

During the summit, Ms Matthews was involved in discussions and the formulation of a document to advise the Federal Government on how to proceed with protecting Australia’s security and planning to ensure the country plays a proactive role in world affairs.

In 2005, Ms Matthews won a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to research US foreign policy history and nuclear non-proliferation in Washington DC.

— WENDY BURFORD

UQ PRESENCE AT YOUTH EVENT

Before 1000 of Australia’s top minds gathered for the 2020 Summit, a youth version was staged, with UQ student Alan Huynh among the participants.

Mr Huynh, a medical student and resident at International House, was one of 100 delegates aged between 15 and 24 invited to travel Canberra.

“I am genuinely concerned about the direction our country is heading in and am willing to put my hand up to be part of a dynamic process which will help build a more confident, prosperous and healthy modern Australia,” Mr Huynh said.

“The Youth Summit presented a unique opportunity for me to share my thoughts on existing and evolving intergenerational challenges which Australia faces.”

The 2020 Youth Summit kicked off on April 12 in Canberra and saw participants discussing the ten critical areas on the agenda for the Australia 2020 Summit and providing information to go forward to the main event.

Mr Huynh said he was particularly passionate about promoting increased understanding of critical issues in Indigenous, global, multicultural and rural health, while identifying potential public health strategies to improve the wellbeing and living standards of all.

“It is important to keep an open mind and be receptive to well argued, cogently presented ideas. After all, active listening is just as important as talking when communicating with others,” he said.

Mr Huynh said he hoped to forge a career which combined clinical practice and research with humanitarian work.

Historic appointment

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield has congratulated Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, Queensland Governor since early 2003, on her appointment as Australia’s first woman Governor-General.

Ms Bryce, who is the official Visitor to the University, is a UQ graduate, former UQ academic and an honorary Doctor of Laws recipient, and will take up her new appointment on September 5.

“The University is delighted to hear of Ms Bryce’s appointment,” Professor Greenfield said.

“She has a wonderful record of community service and professional expertise and will serve the office with dignity, ability and respect.”

Ms Bryce graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from UQ, where she later spent 14 years teaching Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law and Legal Aspects of Social Work.

She has served as Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner; Queensland Director, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission; and inaugural Director, Women’s Information Service Queensland, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Professor Greenfield said a number of former Governors-General had close links with the University. They include:

• Former UQ Senator, the Right Rev Dr Peter Hollingworth (Governor-General 2001-2003);
• Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient the Hon Sir William Deane (Governor-General 1996-2001);
• UQ economics graduate and honorary Doctor of Laws recipient, the Hon Dr Bill Hayden (Governor-General 1989-1996); and
• Former University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor, and Doctor of Laws recipient, Professor Emeritus The Right Hon Sir Zelman Cowen (Governor-General 1977-1982).
Climate for a Smart State hat trick

A UQ expert who pioneered research linking climate change projections with coral reef distress is the 2008 Smart State Premier’s Fellow.

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg is the third UQ researcher to win the government’s top science prize and was one of the world’s first scientists to show how projected changes in global climate threaten coral reefs.

“For some time now Professor Hoegh-Guldberg has been saying that unless we act to protect the Great Barrier Reef, we could see a situation where in 30 years’ time we won’t have much of our wonderful Reef left,” Premier Anna Bligh said as she announced the award at UQ on May 21.

With Professor Hoegh-Guldberg leading a scientific session at an important climate change and oceans conference in Spain, Premier Bligh presented the award to his partner in research and life, Dr Sophie Dove.

The five-year fellowship provides more than $2.5 million to Great Barrier Reef research by Professor Hoegh-Guldberg and a large team.

The Queensland Government’s $1.25 million contribution is matched by UQ, and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are also sponsors.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield congratulated Professor Hoegh-Guldberg and commended the Queensland Government for its continuing support.

“Twenty years ago Professor Hoegh-Guldberg was showing how rising temperatures caused coral bleaching, and in 1999 he became the first scientist to accurately link climate projections with a global pattern of coral distress,” he said.

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said coral cover was declining quickly – at a rate of one to two percent a year.

“Through this fellowship I hope to capitalise on the vast amount of available information, to take Australia to the next level of understanding climate change and how we can deal with it,” he said.

The winner of the first Smart State Premier’s Fellowship, in 2006, was UQ’s Professor Ian Frazer, co-inventor of the cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil. The 2007 winner was Professor Mandalayam Srinivasan of UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute whose research on insect vision is being applied to navigation and robot technology.

TALES FROM TURTLES

UQ MARINE EXPERTS ARE UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF OUR COASTLINE’S HEALTH THANKS TO THE HUMBLE TURTLE.

The frog may be the environmental bellwether of the land, but UQ researchers reckon when it comes to the sea, we should look to the turtle.

Dr Mark Flint, from UQ’s School of Veterinary Science, said turtles may be an amazingly good indicator of the health of our coastline.

“Their declining numbers in Moreton Bay and other key areas around the world are really telling us something is wrong,” Dr Flint said.

He said part of the problem also stemmed from not knowing enough about what made a turtle tick and his research aimed to establish health measurements for marine turtles for the first time in Australia.

“Most of the current research centres around surveillance of turtle numbers and declining population,” Dr Flint said.

“What we are trying to do for the first time is establish what is clinically ‘normal’ for the health of a turtle.

“By getting that basis for a health assessment, we may then be able to determine the diseases affecting turtles and provide better ways of treating the sick and injured ones.”

He said current health treatments for turtles were very hit and miss, despite the dedicated work of many rescue operations such as Sea World, Australia Zoo and Underwater World.

“We find many turtles that are successfully rehabilitated by vets, often die when released back into the wild and we have very little idea why,” Dr Flint said.

“Hopefully our research will open up new insights and help us to help the turtles more.”

Dr Flint said he was working closely with the man widely credited as one of the world’s leading turtle researchers, Dr Col Limpus.

Dr Limpus, who is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Veterinary Science, president of the International Sea Turtle Society and Chief Scientist with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has been researching turtles for more than 40 years and said this new research would be a boon to his work.

“Without some understanding of the health of turtles, we can have difficulty in correctly identifying causes of their decline,” he said.

“We know a lot about cattle and sheep because humans have been working with them for thousands of years, but with sea turtles it really has only been the last 50 years that we have been serious about understanding their function.”

Dr Flint’s research saw him take part in the annual turtle rodeo in Moreton Bay in May, where he worked alongside researchers from Sea World and the EPA.

— ANDREW DUNNE
UQ NEWS, JUNE 2008

➔

10

smart state

UQ was chosen to host the launch of the Queensland Premier’s new blueprint for the “Smart State” when Premier Anna Bligh unveiled the strategy’s third stage at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience in May.

The $120 million package gives more support to individual researchers than the first two Smart State chapters, which featured big-ticket infrastructure.

“All up, we will spend around $43 million providing scholarships, fellowships and other research grants to individual researchers – compared to $12 million in the previous strategy,” Ms Bligh said.

Welcoming the focus on people, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the strategy would “enhance Queensland’s attractiveness as a destination for researchers at all stages of their careers”.

UQ’s IMB was also the launching pad for the second stage of Smart State in April 2005, by then Premier Peter Beattie. In other Smart State funding news, UQ has secured eight of 18 Queensland Government Fellowships, worth up to $21,000 each to help with PhD studies.

The fellowships, worth $7000 each year, top up the students’ Australian Postgraduate Awards.

The IMB recipients of the 2008 Smart State PhD Scholarships, and their areas of study, are:

• Robert McLeay, who will develop modelling software for different genetic regulatory networks.

• Carol Kistler, who will research a new protein and its connection between regulating fat in the human body and hormone secretion from the brain.

• Elizabeth Skippington, who will study the function of proteins and how they work as part of the molecular networks that control the inner workings of living cells.

• Leesa Wockner, who will develop sophisticated genetic analysis that can be applied to the study of cancer.

• Megan Auld, who will study upper limb function in children with hemiplegia—a form of cerebral palsy where paralysis affects one side of the body.

• Elizabeth Leddy, who will investigate the regulation of iron stores in patients with haemochromatosis, a disorder that causes the body to absorb an excessive amount of iron.

• Rebecca Goulter, who will use an Atomic Force Microscope to understand the physiological and chemical properties of food bugs.

• Marianne Diaz, who will investigate the role of the Ski protein on muscle and fat metabolism. The study could help predict the onset of type 2 diabetes.

Mr Terrill said he hoped his formula would form the basis of an automated sleep monitoring system that was cheaper and easier to use than current methods.

“In the future, diagnosing a sleep problem may be as simple as putting on a breathing monitor during a night’s sleep at home, in your own bed,” he said.

Minor infant sleeping problems can result in daytime sleepiness and inattention, with prolonged problems causing behavioural and learning difficulties.

Mr Terrill said research showed up to 20 percent of Australian children had symptoms of sleep problems but there were very few facilities investigating sleep problems in Queensland.

The next step is to test his formula on teenagers and adults.

Mr Terrill is a National Health and Medical Research Council scholarship winner and is supervised by Associate Professor Stephen Wilson and Dr Gus Cooper, who is Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at the Mater Children’s Hospital.

Research funding complements new medicine studies

The University is leading the way on research into complementary medicines and their mainstream medical use.

The National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) has awarded $660,000 to Associate Professor Luis Vitetta to establish a NICM Collaborative Centre for Transitional Preclinical and Clinical Research in Nutraceuticals and Herbal Medicine.

Dr Vitetta, from UQ’s School of Medicine, said the centre would unite experts in complementary and conventional methods.

“Australia is one of the largest per capita users of complementary medicines in the western world,” Dr Vitetta said.

“And as such large consumers, it is important to fully investigate the efficacy and safety of those practices and products that are not part of conventional medicine. “What we are seeing in the community is an enhanced interest in health and specifically people wanting health advice, as the primary source of their health options.”

Dr Jon Adams, from UQ’s School of Population Health, was also awarded $430,771 in a National Health and Medical Research Council Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) grant to look at CAM use among middle-aged women across the urban-rural divide.

From left: PhD student Philip Terrill, Dr Gus Cooper and Associate Professor Stephen Wilson

MATHEMATICS SIMPLIFIES THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP

A UQ researcher has created a new way to measure breathing patterns in sleeping infants that may also work for adults.

PhD student Philip Terrill has designed a mathematical formula that measures varying breathing patterns that indicate different sleep states, such as active or quiet sleep.

Mr Terrill said a band placed around a child’s chest recorded breathing rates that were then analysed using the new formula, based on the maths of chaos theory. It has been successfully tested on 30 children so far.

Current sleep monitoring involves an overnight stay in a hospital sleep lab with specialised equipment needing regular attention of a nurse, doctor or sleep technician.

Mr Terrill said research showed up to 20 percent of Australian children had symptoms of sleep problems but there were very few facilities investigating sleep problems in Queensland.

The next step is to test his formula on teenagers and adults.

Mr Terrill is a National Health and Medical Research Council scholarship winner and is supervised by Associate Professor Stephen Wilson and Dr Gus Cooper, who is Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at the Mater Children’s Hospital.

From left: PhD student Philip Terrill, Dr Gus Cooper and Associate Professor Stephen Wilson

MATHEMATICS SIMPLIFIES THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP

A UQ researcher has created a new way to measure breathing patterns in sleeping infants that may also work for adults.

PhD student Philip Terrill has designed a mathematical formula that measures varying breathing patterns that indicate different sleep states, such as active or quiet sleep.

Mr Terrill said a band placed around a child’s chest recorded breathing rates that were then analysed using the new formula, based on the maths of chaos theory. It has been successfully tested on 30 children so far.

Current sleep monitoring involves an overnight stay in a hospital sleep lab with specialised equipment needing regular attention of a nurse, doctor or sleep technician.

Mr Terrill said he hoped his formula would form the basis of an automated sleep monitoring system that was cheaper and easier to use than current methods.

“In the future, diagnosing a sleep problem may be as simple as putting on a breathing monitor during a night’s sleep at home, in your own bed,” he said.

Minor infant sleeping problems can result in daytime sleepiness and inattention, with prolonged problems causing behavioural and learning difficulties.

Mr Terrill said research showed up to 20 percent of Australian children had symptoms of sleep problems but there were very few facilities investigating sleep problems in Queensland.

The next step is to test his formula on teenagers and adults.

Mr Terrill is a National Health and Medical Research Council scholarship winner and is supervised by Associate Professor Stephen Wilson and Dr Gus Cooper, who is Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at the Mater Children’s Hospital.

Research funding complements new medicine studies

The University is leading the way on research into complementary medicines and their mainstream medical use.

The National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) has awarded $660,000 to Associate Professor Luis Vitetta to establish a NICM Collaborative Centre for Transitional Preclinical and Clinical Research in Nutraceuticals and Herbal Medicine.

Dr Vitetta, from UQ’s School of Medicine, said the centre would unite experts in complementary and conventional methods.

“Australia is one of the largest per capita users of complementary medicines in the western world,” Dr Vitetta said.

“And as such large consumers, it is important to fully investigate the efficacy and safety of those practices and products that are not part of conventional medicine.

“While we are seeing in the community is an enhanced interest in health and specifically people wanting health advice, as the primary source of their health options.”

Dr Jon Adams, from UQ’s School of Population Health, was also awarded $430,771 in a National Health and Medical Research Council Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) grant to look at CAM use among middle-aged women across the urban-rural divide.
UQ and NASA look AHEAD

The University has signed a memorandum of understanding with NASA to continue close collaboration on hypersonic propulsion projects.

UQ's Centre for Hypersonics, the largest university engineering group of its kind in the world, conducts research into all aspects of hypersonic flight, which is five times the speed of sound. This includes test facilities, air-breathing engines, rocket flight testing, aerothermodynamics, computational fluid dynamics and optical diagnostics.

Head of the UQ HyShot Group and Chair of Hypersonic Propulsion, Professor Michael Smart, said the new MOU continued UQ's history of collaboration with NASA over the past 20 years. “Exchanges of staff and students and research collaborations between UQ and NASA were pioneered by Australia's first professor of space engineering, UQ’s Emeritus Professor Ray Stalker,” Professor Smart said.

“This new agreement continues opportunities for Australia’s next generation of space engineers to gain international expertise,” Professor Smart returned from NASA Langley in 2005 to work on air-breathing engines known as scramjets, and to share his expertise with postgraduates.

He said the new MOU would give UQ access to NASA's computational fluid dynamics (CFD) research and provide exchange opportunities. The first activity under the MOU was the visit to UQ of NASA Langley research scientist Jeffery White to provide instruction in NASA's CFD code for hypersonic flows, called VULCAN.

HYPERSONICS RESEARCH BOOSTED

The University has joined with the Defence, Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) to advance Australia’s leadership in hypersonics research.

UQ has appointed two new professors in the field, with Dr Russell Boyce, formerly of the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy named DSTO Chair and Professor in Hypersonics, while Associate Professor Michael Smart, formerly of NASA, has been appointed to the new position of Chair and Professor in Hypersonic Propulsion.

Executive Dean of UQ's Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture Professor Stephen Walker welcomed the appointments and thanked DSTO for its ongoing support.

“These shock tunnels have since been extended to speeds beyond this to simulate entry of spacecraft into atmospheres of other planets.”

Rocket pioneer wins prestigious award

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield has congratulated two Queenslanders with UQ affiliations who were honoured at the ATSE Clunies Ross Awards in May.

The awards recognise people who have made important contributions to science and its application for the benefit of Australians. Emeritus Professor Raymond Stalker, AO of the Division of Mechanical Engineering received a Lifetime Contribution Award.

As Australia’s first professor of space engineering, he has made the search for economical access to space his research focus, demonstrating pioneering originality and persistence for more than 50 years.

He invented the Free Piston Shock Tunnel, which enabled it possible to perform wind tunnel research at Earth orbital velocity.

He moved to The University of Queensland in 1977 and led its space engineering program for two decades until his retirement.

In 2002, The University of Queensland's HyShot group staged a scramjet flight at Woomera, the first group in the world to produce supersonic combustion in flight.

Dr David Noon, Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of GroundProbe Pty Ltd in Brisbane is another of the five ATSE Clunies Ross award recipients.

A UQ Bachelor of Engineering and PhD graduate, Dr Noon received an award for his continuous online system that integrates radar and visual images to remotely measure small movements of rock walls in large open-pit mines.

This technology prevents injury and saves lives and equipment damage in mines in Australia and overseas, and was developed by Dr Noon and a UQ team during his doctoral studies.

Emeritus Professor Raymond Stalker
IN BRIEF

BOARD CHANGES
Professor Susan Hamilton has been appointed President of the Academic Board for 2009.

The body is the University’s principal academic advisor to the Senate and the Vice-Chancellor. The President acts as the executive officer of the board and chairs the board and many of its committees.

Professor Hamilton is currently the Deputy President of the board and was previously Director of Studies in the Biological and Chemical Sciences Faculty.

She co-leads a Carrick Priority Project aimed at developing a diagnostic tool for teachers to research their teaching in the molecular life sciences. She is also chair of the University’s Gender Equity Subcommittee.

She succeeds Professor Mark Gould in the post.

EMMANUEL REACHES OUT
Emmanuel College is keen to re-establish ties with alumni it has lost contact with.

If you are a former Emmanuel student and would like to keep in touch, the college would love to hear from you.

You can catch up with college news, attend events and network with peers, mentor a current student, volunteer to help with database research or help organise a blockbuster event for the upcoming Centenary celebrations in 2011/2012.

INFO ➔ Call (07) 3871 9362 or email s.burridge@emmanuel.uq.edu.au

UQ ADVISES FEDERAL POLICE
The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has engaged The University of Queensland’s Social Research Centre (UQSRC) to evaluate its overseas policing operations.

Funded by the AFP, UQSRC will conduct a three-year research project assessing the activities of the International Deployment Group (IDG).

Project Manager Bryn Hughes said the research would help the IDG to gauge the success of its international policing interventions.

The project team is led by Professor Alex Bellamy from the School of Political Science and International Studies, and includes two AFP-funded higher degree researchers, in addition to several other UQ research students.

Ancient mystery UNLOCKED

A 2000-year-old mystery has arrived at UQ in the form of a large golden earring, now on public display in the R D Milns Antiquities Museum.

Thought to be from the Hellenistic Period (4th–1st century BC), the earring is among the collection’s newest objects, which include a terracotta figure of the fertility goddess Astarte, a silver Greco-Roman ring and two bronze military medallions (phalarae).

Museum curator and lecturer in Ancient History Dr Sonia Puttock said rough dates were known about the items but the rest remained elusive.

“We have to do the research on them to find out just exactly what they are. When you buy an object you’ll often get a broad date but often you don’t get a provenance (origin),” Dr Puttock said.

Each year the museum obtains new artefacts which can be matched with current teaching and research areas – anything from a study of the Roman military to ancient myth and magic.

Dating the objects involves tracking down references in historical texts and images and finding likenesses in other collections around the world.

Dr Puttock said mistakes were common – a recent example being a stone and terracotta mosaic thought to belong to a certain period until UQ researchers tracked down a similar item in Sicily and set the record straight.

“We have to try and find the context of an item and if something’s been out of its context for hundreds of years it’s difficult. You’d be surprised what you can find out about an object when you’re researching it,” she said.

Dr Puttock, an expert on Romano-British jewellery, said the earring had aesthetic value today but would have been prized for something much more important two millennia ago.

“The little goose on it, for example, it will signify a specific god and the workmanship is important. It’s not just a decorative earring, it would’ve had some significance,” she said.

“There’s lots of things you can learn about the ancient world from these objects.”

The museum has the second most valuable collection of its type in Australia and is named in honour of a previous Professor of Classics, Emeritus Professor Bob Milns, AM.

Each year selected UQ students are given a chance to research and stage an exhibition as part of their coursework, with the collection also in demand by historians working around the world.

INFO ➔ The museum is open between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, with groups able to organise tours in advance. Extra details are available at www.uq.edu.au/antiquities

— CAMERON PEGG
SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH HERE TO STAY

UQ has secured a continuing PhD scholarship in the area of schizophrenia research, thanks to a $550,000 donation.

Dr Felice Zaccari, a retired GP, and his late wife Mary Zaccari, have provided research funding to the University for many years, and recently donated enough capital to ensure the project continues in the long-term.

“We wanted to create a scholarship that would support a cause that needs research,” Dr Zaccari said.

Schizophrenia is a severe and debilitating psychiatric disorder, the cause of which is unknown.

It affects approximately one percent of the population, and is characterised by disruptions in language, thought, perception and social activity.

The donation will fund a perpetual scholarship, to be co-administered by the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research and the Schizophrenia Fellowship of Queensland.

The current recipient of the Zaccari scholarship is Amanda Jones, from the School of Medicine, whose aim is to uncover whether some cases of schizophrenia could be categorised as an autoimmune disease.

Ms Jones, whose PhD is due for completion this year, said receiving the scholarship had lessened the financial pressure associated with her medical research, which could expand treatment options for schizophrenia patients.

“I’ve had the scholarship since 2005 and I wouldn’t have been able to finish without it,” she said.

INFO ➔ www.qcsr.uq.edu.au/

Many students struggle to achieve a GPA of 6.5 out of a possible 7 but UQ scholar Amanda Acutt has done so while overcoming an even greater challenge: a total visual impairment.

The Arts/Law dual degree student is the holder of the Kym Broadhurst Scholarship, which was set up through a donation from James Broadhurst, whose late daughter also had a visual impairment.

Ms Acutt, who lives at St John’s College on St Lucia campus and navigates with the aid of a cane, said her impairment made her studies labour-intensive at times.

She types notes into her computer and has a special screen-reading software program called JAWS for Windows that reads text aloud. Similarly, all her readings need to be converted into Microsoft Word format, which can be time-consuming, but she proudly points out she has never had an extension on an assignment.

Ms Acutt said her scholarship relieved financial pressure and allowed her to focus on her studies.

“I am encouraged by the fact that there are people out there who believe I can succeed. I appreciate the financial support provided by this scholarship,” Ms Acutt said.

“It’s a lot of work but I really enjoy my course because I can see where it’s taking me.”

But simply excelling in her studies isn’t enough for Ms Acutt, who is applying to go on exchange to the University of Nottingham in England next year.

Mr Broadhurst, who along with his wife established the scholarship in their daughter’s memory, said he is pleased the donation is helping a student like Ms Acutt.

“Amna sounds like a very exceptional young lady and I am really thrilled the scholarship is helping someone like her,” he said.
Recreating an overland odyssey

Just over half a century ago, six intrepid Oxford students set off on a journey of epic proportions, traversing continents, deserts, frozen mountains and rivers in their quest to drive overland from London to Singapore.

Defying those who had failed in the attempt before them and in spite of brushes with bandits, bad weather and disappearing roads, six months and six days later their two Land Rovers rolled into the Lion City to flashbulbs and thunderous applause.

Fast forward to 2008, and this month UQ alumnus Dan Nicolau and current student Drew Sonne, along with four of their Oxford peers, are set to retrace the 20,000km passage in the name of tradition, scientific enquiry, and of course, adventure.

For 26-year-old Mr Nicolau, who will act as expedition leader, the journey represents the culmination of a childhood dream.

As a teenager, the keen traveller resolved to one day take the longest overland trip he could see on the world map (at the time figuring Lisbon, Portugal to Vladivostok in the then Soviet Union).

“Ironically, it was not until I was 25 and came to Oxford for a Doctor of Philosophy that I heard about the 1955 ‘First Overland’ (the name given to both the historic trip and the best-selling book that immortalised it in print),” Mr Nicolau said.

“Remembering my childhood ambition, the idea of redoing this trip began to simmer very slowly in my head.”

It wasn’t long before Mr Nicolau had added five active, enthusiastic students to his expedition team, with each member bringing their own unique mix of skills and interests.

Together, the group hoped to document the exhibition using a range of different media (including a documentary, book, audio, and photos), and to do so in a multidimensional way, reflecting the team members’ diverse backgrounds.

“We will paint a global, coherent and integrated picture of the journey from biological, political, linguistic, sociological, musical, historic, economic and geographic points of view,” he said.

“The First Overland provided a snapshot of the Old World as it was in the 1950s and the retracing of the expedition after more than 50 years holds the unique potential to tell us how and in what ways the world has changed in the last half-century.

“By recording our observations and findings across this longest of overland journeys, we can help others to have a more accurate, objective and understanding view of the world and to glimpse parts often forgotten by the West.”

For 22-year-old UQ Arts student Drew Sonne, who will oversee the expedition documentary, this means a chance to indulge his fascination with building design and style.

“Given the wide range of areas we’ll be travelling through, I’ll also be documenting the shift in style of both classical and modern architecture as we move across the continents,” he said.

INFO ➔ More about the Far Eastern Expedition and the students involved can be found at www.fareasternexpedition.com

— LUCY MANDERSON
If you thought UQ only existed within sandstone and mortar locations, you’d be mistaken. Thanks to Dr Helen Farley, a Studies in Religion lecturer, the University is soon to have a virtual presence as well.

Dr Farley and Dr Rick Strelan, from the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, were last year awarded a $30,000 UQ Strategic Teaching and Learning Grant to construct a Studies in Religion Island in Second Life.

Their plan is to create different religious spaces – such as a mosque, a Hindu temple and Freemasons’ lodge – allowing students an opportunity to visit places of worship that may be inaccessible in real life.

“For students to get to a Hindu Temple or a Taoist Temple, for example, it could mean an expensive trip,” Dr Farley said.

“There’s also an ethical consideration – people don’t really want students gawking at them and disturbing their genuine religious practices.

“Creating these spaces in Second Life gets rid of those types of problems.”

Second Life is a virtual world that enables its users, called residents, to interact with each other using their online personas, known as avatars.

The UQ Island will form part of the New Media Consortium Education Precinct where 250 educational institutions are located, including Harvard and Princeton.

As well as creating religious spaces for students to visit, Dr Farley said she hoped to build teaching areas where virtual lectures and tutorials could be held.

“I actually taught a meditation class at my apartment in Second Life, just to see if conducting a virtual tutorial was possible,” she said.

“I’ve also had some of my students visit different religious spaces, and then meet at my apartment for a debrief session.”

Dr Farley said a virtual learning environment could be particularly beneficial to students who lack confidence in a classroom situation, who don’t speak English as their first language, or who have a disability.

Another advantage was the ability to bring together students who lived in different geographical locations.

“I supervise a PhD student who lives in Melbourne and we have regular meetings at different places in Second Life,” she said.

In late 2007 Dr Farley completed a course on teaching in Second Life, offered through Boise State University, and is currently undertaking a Masters in Education in Information and Communication Technology.

The UQ Studies in Religion Island is expected to be accessible to all avatars by semester two this year.

– PENNY ROBINSON
Earthquake AID

A UQ research and commercialisation dynamo is lending his energy to a new charity for survivors of last month’s earthquake in China.

Professor Max Lu, of UQ’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) and School of Engineering, is one of the founders of the Sichuan Earthquake Surviving Children’s Education Fund, which aims to be a lifeline for the schooling of devastated children.

Launched on May 21, the fund is run by the Federation of Chinese Scholars in Australia (FOCSA), of which Professor Lu is honorary president.

“Our aim is to ensure that orphaned, badly injured and disabled children living near the epicentre, in Beichuan County, can at least retain hope that their educations will continue,” Professor Lu said.

“More than 80 percent of the buildings in Beichuan Town were completely demolished by the May 12 quake and about 1000 teachers and students were buried at Beichuan High School alone.”

Professor Lu said FOCSA would partner with Sichuan education authorities and school principals to ensure all donations were used to assist children’s education. Funds will sponsor a school to rebuild classrooms, or provide children with financial support for tuition and living expenses, so that they can continue studying.

FOCSA’s membership is several thousand Australian-Chinese professionals and scholars, most of whom have PhDs.

“A voluntary committee will monitor the use of the fund in China and will track children’s progress,” Professor Lu said.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the leadership and great effort by Drew Titmarsh, Sophia Gu, Lzhong He, Joe Codamo, Jeff Hou, Gordon Xu, Mingxing Zhang and also AIBN Deputy Director (Operations) Donna Hannan.”

“She has officially extended condolences to the people of China via the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, His Excellency Mr Zhang Junsal.”

INFO → To donate, visit http://e-research.csm.vu.edu.au/ict/donation.php

– FIONA KENNEDY

MEDICAL STUDENTS GIVE BACK

UQ medical students are working to advance health care in rural India through a project providing developing communities with medical supplies and equipment.

Now entering its second year of operation, the Manali Medical Project began when second year students Juergen Landmann and James English undertook an internship at the Lady Willingdon Mission Hospital in northern India.

What began as basic fundraising efforts soon resulted in an outpouring of support, with sponsors around the world since generating $14,000 in cash and medical supplies.

Mr English said he was overwhelmed by the response and treasured the experience of seeing the funds at work.

“Seeing the money being put into action made all the hard work worthwhile,” he said.

Mr Landmann said it was clear these initiatives would improve standards of health care in the communities.

Aside from the obvious benefits, the founders said fundraising efforts were also helping increase global health awareness among young Australians.

Much of the sponsorship has come from Brisbane school St Joseph’s College Gregory Terrace.

Students have raised funds for a variety of initiatives and when it came time to recommit to the project this year, the school was joined by sister school All Hallows.

The project is now also being integrated under the banner of UQ’s medical equity organisation TIME (Towards International Medical Equality).

Since its commencement in 2005, TIME’s student-run umbrella Medical Aid Project has delivered over $250,000 of medical aid to health care facilities in Indonesia, India, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Kenya, Nepal and rural Australia.

INFO → www.timeuq.org
PET PARTNERSHIP BOOSTED

UQ’s School of Veterinary Science has stepped up its focus on animal health through a stronger partnership with premium pet food maker Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

The initiative has been welcomed by the Head of School Professor Jonathan Hill, who said the partnership would benefit both veterinary education and the health of companion animals.

Hill’s Pet Nutrition has partnered for several years with UQ, providing funding for a part-time senior lecturer in clinical nutrition, Dr Scott Campbell, and now a full-time clinical nutrition support veterinary technician, Natalie Harvey.

They teach and consult on a range of specialist nutritional issues primarily for cats and dogs through UQ’s Small Animal Clinic and Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the St Lucia campus.

Hill’s Technical Services Veterinarian and UQ alumnus Dr Delisa Appleton said the company looked forward to enhancing the nutritional advice given through the clinic and teaching hospital.

“To my knowledge, this is the first time that a full-time small animal nutritional technician will be based at a university,” Dr Appleton said.

“The reason we are doing this is for the betterment of not only the patients, but the whole veterinary profession.”

PET PARTNERSHIP

As if undertaking a full-time degree wasn’t enough, a group of UQ vet students have given up their Sundays in an effort to improve pet health.

The 12 undergraduates, who are members of the UQ Vet Students Association (UQVSA), will offer free pet health checks at K9 Capers and A New Leash on Life – dog owner events run by Brisbane City Council.

President of the UQVSA, Ben Porter, said students had been keen to offer their expertise.

“These events will provide an opportunity for students to improve their clinical skills, and, at the same time, improve their communications skills with pet owners,” Mr Porter said.

“This is exactly how it would work in practice – vets have to treat dogs they have never seen before, and be able to communicate effectively with their owners. It’s a chance for students to use everything they’ve learned in lectures and prac.”

K9 Capers aims to encourage dog owners to have fun with their pets while teaching them new canine skills, and is held at off-leash parks around Brisbane every second Sunday from 1.30pm–4pm.

A New Leash on Life is being run each Sunday as part of the 10,000 Steps Brisbane program, and promotes human fitness through dog walking.

As well as offering free pet health checks at both events, UQ students will be bringing along dogs currently housed at UQ’s small animal clinic, which are available for adoption.

“These events will allow the dogs to further improve their socialisation and behaviour skills,” Mr Porter said.

“Moreover, we aim to find these dogs new homes and promote the adoption scheme run by the animal clinic.”

INFO → To learn more about the events, contact (07) 3365 3490 or uqvsa@uq.edu.au

CARING FOR CANINES

One of the world’s leading authorities on equine reproduction, Professor William “Twink” Allen, presented a one-off Australian lecture to an audience of 200 people at Customs House recently.

Hosted by UQ’s School of Veterinary Science, the event provided attendees with a rare insight into Professor Allen’s research and expertise and showcased plans for the University’s new Equine Hospital, which is planned to be completed late next year.

Professor Allen is the Director of The Paul Mellon Laboratory of Equine Reproduction in the UK and a former research lecturer at the University of Cambridge. His visit included a tour of UQ Gatton, where the $80 million Veterinary Science precinct will be built.

The lecture followed the school’s first foray into the Gold Coast Magic Millions Horse Sales in March, where UQ hosted an information stand.

Head of School Professor Jonathan Hill, Senior Lecturer in Equine Medicine Dr Janene Kingston and Capital Campaign Director Janice Wilson were on hand to answer questions about UQ programs and research and meet graduates working in horse racing and training.

Professor Hill said being involved with the event provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase the work of UQ students and staff.

“Our presence at the Magic Millions undoubtedly helped to profile the value of our future vets to the owners, breeders and buyers in attendance,” he said.
You’re invited to the UQ Information Evening for Parents & Prospective Students

UQ Centre
St Lucia campus
Wednesday 25 June 2008
5pm – 7.30pm
(free parking under the UQ Centre)

Come and experience UQ first hand and find out more about your child’s future study options.

On the night, we’ll be hosting information sessions covering the application process, study options, student services and campus life. You’ll also have an opportunity to speak with representatives from admissions, scholarships, UQ faculties, residential colleges and our Ipswich and Gatton campuses.

To register your interest or for more information visit www.uq.edu.au or phone (07) 3346 9649
Who would have thought that the best place to find out when people first came to Australia would be in India, but to UQ archaeologist Dr Chris Clarkson, it makes perfect sense.

“India is the crossroads between Africa and Australia for modern humans,” Dr Clarkson said.

“It really is the stepping stone for modern humans coming to Australia 50 to 60 thousand years ago.”

But rather than using genetics to map the early settlement of Australia, the UQ social scientist is taking a unique angle – he is looking at stone tools.

“By looking at stone tools from early sites between Africa and Australia, like those we have found in India, I am trying to understand when and how people came to our part of the world,” Dr Clarkson said.

“Just like we can trace human lineages through our genes, stone tools might also help trace migrations as people carry the technology with them.

“This is because people pass on the knowledge of how to make stone tools from generation to generation, creating cultural lineages like those we see in genes.

“So if we can find similar technology in Africa, India and Australia at this early time, we may be able to trace the movement of people through these areas, and understand more about their early lifestyles.”

Dr Clarkson said this approach was also redefining how people analysed stone tools.

“Previous stone tool research has relied on typology, an old method that simply classifies tools according to what they look like, rather than how they were made,” he said.

“I have developed a new system based on 3D computer analysis that examines both the way they look and the ways they were made. This gives us a much more accurate way of comparing tools from different sites, regions and time periods.”

He said his research in India focused on the Kuronool district in Andra Pradhesh, where the archaeological dig is unearthing stone tools found around a former freshwater lake that had been quickly filled up with volcanic ash.

“This ash comes from a massive volcanic eruption in Sumatra, about 74,000 years ago,” he said.

“The ash is found all over India and even turns up in the Greenland Ice Cores. It was the biggest eruption in over 2 million years. Our excavation will help work out what impact the eruption had on human evolution, and whether it might have caused a population collapse or a human migration event out of Africa to India and Australia.”

Dr Clarkson’s work was part of a study published in the journal Science last year, and he said the research was continuing with further trips to the Indian sites planned for 2009, looking for places where human bones occurred alongside stone tools.

– ANDREW DUNNE

IN BRIEF

STONES TOOLS ARE REVEALING THE PATH OF EARLY HUMANS’ MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.
ONE OF AUSTRALIA’S MOST INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS, SHAUN GLADWELL, IS CURRENTLY BEING SHOWCASED AT THE UQ ART MUSEUM.

Recently selected as an Australian representative for the prestigious 2009 Venice Biennale, Gladwell’s work was also shown in Venice last year and will be included in the forthcoming Biennale of Sydney.

“This is a tremendously exciting young artist, whose work in moving and still images mesmerises with its capacity to engage with urban street life at one moment and, at the next, the Australian landscape and pop-culture figures like Mad Max,” UQ Art Museum Director Nick Mitzevich said.

“BMX bikers, skateboarders, capoeiristas and breakdancers break through our expectations of visual poetry – they are contemporary works that can engineer beauty even in a fast-food restaurant, train or petrol station.

“Extraordinarily difficult manoeuvres are made to look effortless, movement is slowed down, and sound is subdued, even abstracted.”

Included in the exhibition are the video works Maximus as Narcissus: Broken Fields of Reflection (2007), Busan Triptych (2006);

Pataphysical Man (2005); and Woolloomooloo Night (2004).

Among the still images are pieces from his photographic series of 2007, Apology to roadkill, in which a leather-clad and helmeted bike rider cradles a dead kangaroo on a lonely outback highway.

“We don’t expect to see a motorbike rider carrying a dead kangaroo, a BMX trick rider balancing upside down in front of calligraphic scrolls, or a girl performing capoeira movements between petrol bowsers – but that’s part of what make the work compelling,” Mr Mitzevich said.

The exhibition opening on May 24 featured a discussion with the artist and formed part of Museums Alight!, a state-wide celebration of International Museum Day from 17 to 25.

The University of Queensland Art Museum joined more than 50 other museums and galleries across Queensland for this year’s event.

The International Council of Museums has celebrated International Museum Day since 1977, with approximately 20,000 museums and galleries in more than 70 countries involved in 2008.

The Shaun Gladwell exhibition will continue at The UQ Art Museum until July 13.

INFO ➔ www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au
UQ researchers, in partnership with The Queensland Museum, are generating a new snapshot of the state’s cultural and environmental history. The Queensland Historical Atlas will be the first of its kind produced in any state, drawing on cross-disciplinary approaches in history, environmental studies, archaeology, anthropology and cultural geography.

Professor Peter Spearritt said the project would provide a timely opportunity to reflect on the state’s recent history, with Queensland set to celebrate 150 years of self-government in 2009.

“Queensland as a state has been so entranced by its own growth in the past 50 years, especially in mining and holiday accommodation, that there’s been very little scholarly analysis of what’s happening in Queensland, either historically or in the present,” Professor Spearritt said.

“The idea of a historical atlas was an opportunity to reflect on how the colony and then the state has developed.”

The project will exploit the University’s expertise across a range of key areas, occupying researchers including Professor Spearritt, Dr Geoff Ginn and Dr Marion Stell from the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, Dr Sean Ulm from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and Professor David Carter from the School of English, Media Studies and Art History.

The result will be published in both print and electronic forms, with the “e-atlas” to function as a piece of living history, open to revisions and commentary.

A secret hideout, a giant bat and a gang of mischievous children are the key ingredients in the latest children’s release from The University of Queensland Press.

Written by UQ academic Toni Risson, Batty Business sees young Luke and his friends discover the secret behind the enigmatic, shrieking creature that has been terrorising their town.

The boys are faced with both environmental and moral dilemmas as they decide whether to reveal the bat’s identity or save it from local authorities.

Ms Risson said the book was inspired by the antics of her son and his friends, who play on the land around the Bremer River near her home, and by the nearby colony of flying foxes.

“The local bat colony is close to our house and it’s a source of contention in the community because, when the bats move into people’s yards, they spatter chewed berries over their houses, clotheslines and even visitors,” she said.

Batty Business follows on from Ms Risson’s first children’s book Licking Lizards. The third in the series, about a sea monster in the Bremer River, is now with the publishers.

Book puts Queensland on the map

THE UNIVERSITY OF
QUEENSLAND BOOKSHOP
CURRENT BESTSELLERS

1  FROM BUDDHA TO BONO: SEEKING SUSTAINABILITY – Hundloe, T
MACMILLAN (PB)  $34.95  Earth Science
2  THE HOST – Meyer, S SPHERE (PB)  $32.99  Fantasy/Sci-Fi
3  BREATH – Winton, T PENGUIN (HB)  $45.00  Australian Fiction
4  THE YOUNG WIDOW’S BOOK OF HOME IMPROVEMENT – Lloyd, V
UQP (HB)  $32.95  Biography
5  MY MISTRESS’S SPARROW IS DEAD – Eugenides, J HARPER COLLINS
(HB)  $29.99  Fiction
6  THE LAST LECTURE – Pausch, R
HODDER (HB)  $29.99  Inspirational
7  THE LUCY FAMILY ALPHABET – Lucy, J PENGUIN (PB)  $29.95
Biography
8  THE COMFORT OF FIGS – Cleary, S
UQP (PB)  $32.95  Australian Fiction
9  POSSUM MAGIC – SILVER
ANNIVERSARY EDITION – Fox, M SCHOLASTIC (HB)  $16.99  Children’s
10  BRISBANE THEN & NOW – Gregory, H BOOKWISE (HB)  $29.95  Australian
Studies
A special friendship has pushed an ordinary man to extraordinary lengths.

St Lucia’s John Jameson was moved when he met 10-year-old Coen Ashton in January at the Brisbane Royal Children’s Hospital, so much so that their friendship will see Mr Jameson attempt a feat that so many before him have failed.

In August Mr Jameson, who trains at UQ SPORT, will head to the other side of the world in an attempt to swim the English Channel, considered the greatest swimming test in the world.

He completed the 25km English Channel qualifying swim at Black Rock in Melbourne on Anzac Day.

Swimming in 14 to 16-degree water, Mr Jameson completed the eight-hour journey without any problems.

He is hoping to raise $250,000 for the Royal Children’s Hospital to be invested in respiratory research, a feat he is very modest about.

“I’m just an ordinary guy really, trying to do my best to help out,” Mr Jameson said.

“Everything is worthwhile when you think about the kids we’re trying to help.

“Although the training is hard work, I take my hat off to those kids at the Royal Children’s Hospital.

“None of us would like to think that our children will end up in hospital but unfortunately some do.”

Coen was born with cystic fibrosis, a common genetic disorder affecting the lungs and digestive system, for which there is no cure.

He has been in and out of hospital for much of his life and doctors say it is an achievement for Coen to even have celebrated his 10th birthday.

“The least I can do is to raise as much money as possible to give children like Coen every chance possible in life,” Mr Jameson said.

He has the backing of the Royal Children’s Hospital, who are helping him raise the funds and will have a representative accompany him to England.

When asked why he was attempting the English Channel, Mr Jameson said he wanted to challenge himself the way sick children are challenged each day of their lives.

“Why not? I was after the ultimate challenge and the English Channel is considered the hardest swim in the world,” he said.

“Even though most people who attempt the feat are hardened veterans, swimming the English Channel has a 90 percent failure rate.

“There are many factors against the swimmer, including a high risk of hyperthermia, sharks, weather conditions and then there’s self-doubt,” Mr Jameson said.

“But I have no doubt that I will make it across, the brave children that I have got to know are more than enough inspiration to keep my arms and legs pumping until I reach my goal.”

Mr Jameson had never been much of a swimmer but with the help of UQ Aquatic Centre Manager, Jae Marr, he has made excellent progress.

“Before I came to Jae I’d never swam more than 1.5km and the Channel swim is around 35km,” Mr Jameson said.

“The challenge is a huge commitment but I wouldn’t have it any other way.

“The way I see it, my efforts are nothing compared to the help that the Royal Children’s Hospital provides to so many people and their families every single day.”

INFO ➔ www.workingwonders.com.au

– STEPHEN DANCKERT
**RUGBY EXPERTS TACKLE NORTH AMERICAN WINTER**

The UQ Rugby Academy (UQRA) braved bitter weather and blizzards to promote rugby education during a recent coaching tour of the United States and Canada.

UQRA Head Coach Zane Hilton and former Wallaby James Holbeck visited West Point Military Academy to assist the college rugby side as they took on three Super League teams from the country’s top men’s division.

Taking a holistic approach to rugby education by running both coach and player sessions, Hilton said it was rewarding to see the progression made by the team. “The hospitality offered by Rich Pohlidal and the team at West Point was fabulous and it was really pleasing to see a definite improvement in the standard of rugby there,” Hilton said.

The UQRA duo then moved on to Boston for a coach and player development camp which attracted more than 40 players and coaches from all levels including Harvard University, South Shore Rugby Club and high schools.

Despite being snowed in on the first day, the academy battled freezing conditions on the second day to focus on core skills training. “On the second day to focus on core skills training, we were rewarded with the weather were rewarded with

The mongodb in the http://www.uq.edu.au/rugby/ was held at the Moorooka State School Fete in July to raise funds for a new hall and other resources after the arson fire of 2007. Books, CDs, and videos in good condition welcome (please no encyclopaedia sets). Information: r.esposto@uq.edu.au

**TO RENT:** Furnished house in Auchenflower available from mid-July. Quiet street, close to city/public transport and within cycling distance of UQ. Three bedrooms, a/c, polished floors, front and rear verandahs, leafy garden. High-speed Internet installed. Non-smokers. $450/wk with references. Contact: j.seaboyer@uq.edu.au

**CIVIL CELEBRANT:** UQ alumna celebrant available for weddings and christenings/naming of children, Contact: Lynda Flower 0488 101 266.

**UQNEWS DEADLINES 08**

**ISSUE NO** | **COPY DEADLINE** | **PUBLICATION DATE**
---|---|---
575 | June 13 | July 2
576 | July 11 | July 30
577 | August 15 | September 3
578 | September 19 | October 8
579 | October 31 | November 19
Semester 2 ends Nov 15

*Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics. Please send listings to t.taylor@uq.edu.au

**EVENTS**

- **Thursday, June 26**
  UQ Secretaries’ and Office Professionals’ Association lunch with speaker to be announced (12:15pm-1:15pm, Pizza Caffe, St Lucia campus). Cost: $15 for members, $20 for non members. Information: k.hendrickson@uq.edu.au

- **Thursday, July 3**
  UQ Secretaries’ and Office Professionals’ Association AGM followed by dinner with senior women (6:30pm, Staff and Graduates Club). Information: k.hendrickson@uq.edu.au

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **General Staff Self Development Prize 2008**
  Awarded to a member of the general staff who has been employed at UQ for at least three years who, in the opinion of the President of the UQ Secretaries’ and Office Professionals’ Association, demonstrates the most outstanding achievements in self-development, whether of an academic or non-academic nature. Worth: $150. Closing: June 30. Information: 07 3365 1984 or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au

- **John Fox Memorial Bursary 2008**
  Awarded to an orphan, or a fatherless Australian born male, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical). Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in their third semester. Based on proficiency during the program and other circumstances deemed relevant. Worth: approx $645. Closing: June 27. Information: 07 3365 1984 or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au

**CALLING HIGH ACHIEVERS**

Nominations are now open for The University of Queensland Alumni Association Inc’s Alumnus of the Year, Young Alumnus and International Alumnus of the Year Awards. These awards recognise the outstanding achievements of UQ graduates.

Nominations for the UQ Alumni Association Inc Alumnus of the Year award close on June 30.

Library hours are available at [www.library.uq.edu.au](http://www.library.uq.edu.au)
Since 1910, The University of Queensland has educated more than 170,000 students and has also become an international centre for research, attracting staff and students from across the world. Private philanthropy has helped transform UQ in recent decades and, with your support, we will continue to achieve our international teaching and research aspirations.

The Power of Discovery
Natural Wonders – UQ academics have made valuable contributions to the latest global greenhouse study, providing advice to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). UQ Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg underscored that the Great Barrier Reef is one of the world’s great assets most at risk from climate change.

✓ Your gift to Research funds investigations with the potential to impact locally, nationally and internationally.

The Power of Learning
Investing in the future – Mr James Broadhurst created a scholarship for visually impaired students in memory of his daughter Kym, a UQ graduate. The current Kym Broadhurst scholarship holder, Amanda Acutt, is achieving impressive results in her Arts/Law program. “I am encouraged by the fact that there are people out here who believe I can succeed,” Amanda said. Mr Broadhurst said he was thrilled the scholarship he created in his daughter’s memory was helping students like Amanda.

✓ Your gift to Scholarships will transform lives by providing education, opportunity and confidence.

The Power of Engagement
Building your legacy – UQ’s Professor Fred D’Agostino believes passionately in the contribution that the humanities can make to a civilised society. Professor D’Agostino and others have supported an annual public lecture fund named in honour of the late Professor Lloyd Davis, a gifted scholar who taught at UQ from 1989 until his death in 2005. Professor D’Agostino said he gave to the fund to ensure UQ’s future excellence.

✓ Your gift to a School or Faculty will support and perpetuate the joy of learning across many disciplines.

Gift Form
A receipt will be issued for all gifts. Gifts of $2 or more are tax-deductible.

Yes, I want to support The University of Queensland.

I would like to support:
☐ The University Capital Campaign for the School of Veterinary Science
☐ Emerging Needs ☐ Scholarships ☐ Library Resources
☐ Research ☐ Teaching Excellence Initiatives
☐ The School/Faculty/Institute of ____________________________
☐ Other ____________________________

☐ I am a graduate of UQ.
☐ Please do not publicly acknowledge this gift.
☐ I would like to receive information about including the University in my will.
☐ I have already included the University in my will.

Thank you for your support.

Advancement Office
The University of Queensland
Telephone +61 7 3346 3900
Fax +61 7 3346 3901
Email advancement.office@uq.edu.au
Web www.advancement.uq.edu.au

GIFT FORM

Title and Name ____________________________
Mailing address __________________________
__________________________________________ Postcode _________
Telephone (BH) ____________ Telephone (AH) ____________
Email __________________________

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500
☐ $1,000 ☐ $2,500 ☐ $5,000 ☐ $10,000 ☐ Other $ __________

☐ Enclosed is my cheque or money order
(payable to The University of Queensland)
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners ☐ Amex
Card no. __________________________
Expire Date __________________________
Card Holder’s Signature __________________________

The University of Queensland respects your privacy and has developed clear policies on how your personal details are safeguarded. Please visit www.uq.edu.au for further information.