ECO ART
HUMVEE TURNS HEADS
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Work is under way on a major project that will consolidate UQ’s place as Australia’s leader in research and teaching involving the health, welfare and science of animals.

The construction and renewal of School of Veterinary Science facilities at UQ Gatton will complete the transformation of the campus by 2010. It will have been enabled by investments of more than $130 million and a strategic vision to establish the best precinct of its type in the Southern Hemisphere.

A little over a year from now, veterinary science students and staff will have new and refurbished facilities including:

• A new UQ veterinary hospital: a first opinion teaching hospital for small animals, and a referral and first opinion horse clinic and hospital.
• A veterinary science building with applied research labs for areas including biosecurity, sustainable beef cattle enterprises and genetics;
• A refurbished John Mahon Building with pre-clinical teaching facilities;
• The Veterinary Teaching and Research Facility, and
• The Gatton e-Learning Laboratory. Crucially, relocating Veterinary Science from St Lucia – where there are negligible opportunities for expansion – to state-of-the art facilities at Gatton enables UQ to apply for American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation for the first time, and to ensure ongoing accreditations covering Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

Built with a budget exceeding $100 million, the new complex will complement Gatton’s existing Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS), custom-designed equine centre, commercial dairy, piggy, poultry unit and wildlife centre. The $33 million CAAS, partly funded by the Queensland Government and opened last month by the State Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, Tim Mfailho, is a model for future developments at UQ – a joint venture creating a modern centre geared for teamwork with industry, government and research organisations.

The School of Veterinary Science project will also be based on partnerships. UQ has earmarked $20 million towards it from the Australian Government’s Better Universities Renewal Fund, and is seeking $47.5 million from the national Commonwealth Capital Development Pool to complete the transformation of the campus by 2010. It will have been enabled by investments of more than $130 million and a strategic vision to establish the best precinct of its type in the Southern Hemisphere.

The benefits derived from the relocation will be significant. It will enable UQ to remain in the vanguard of veterinary science education, maintaining a tradition which has produced the only Nobel Laureate with a veterinary science degree (Professor Peter Doherty). Importantly, the move will continue the school’s commitment to improving animal health, production and welfare.

I thank the school’s staff and students, who are central to this endeavour, and look forward to them enjoying and optimising the advantages of their new facilities.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO

UQ POSTGRADUATE ADVICE NIGHT

Get quality information fast by talking with experts from all UQ faculties and research institutes about postgraduate coursework and research programs. Learn how you can advance your career and start postgraduate study with Australia’s best teachers.

UQ offers $20 million worth of Research Higher Degree scholarships for 2009. Plus, the simplest RHD application process in Australia, so you can apply and start any day of the year.

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WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2008
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To find out more, visit uq.edu.au/postgraduate

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PHOTO: STEWART GOULD


Prescribing medicine the right way

UQ News is delivered off-campus to our neighbours at St Lucia and across the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. We hope you enjoy catching up with news and events at the University. If you would like to comment on the magazine, telephone (07) 3365 3367 or email communications@uq.edu.au

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ORGAN DRIVE GOES ONLINE

Queensland’s organ and tissue donation agency has moved into the 21st century by appealing to Generation Y through popular social networking site Facebook.

UQ Journalism and Communication students are reaching the hard-to-reach demographic via an online awareness campaign, “Get Someone Who Cares,” for Queenslanders Donate, the division of Queensland Health that co-ordinates deceased organ and tissue donation across the state.

Participating UQ student Evan Shay said the aim was to allow young people to access information about organ and tissue donation in an interactive environment.

The students have created a campaign that allows Facebook users to upload photos with a person close to them, which then registers them into a database for a variety of prizes.

“The younger demographic is notoriously difficult to reach through traditional media, so Facebook provides a contemporary way to approach this audience,” Mr Shay said.

Queenslanders Donate Communication Manager Kate Stodart said she was happy to have the students on board to help spread the important message of organ and tissue donation.

“It may seem to be playing catch-up in the way we communicate so this is a real opportunity to target Generation Y with 21st century technology,” she said.

NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Communities throughout Queensland will breathe life into an online archive featuring more than 900 towns, cities and ghost towns.

The Queensland Places project, one of the key projects for the new Centre for Governance, Queensland, will be an interactive community website devoted to settlements with present or past populations of 500 or more people.

Announcing the project in the lead-up to Queensland’s 150th anniversary in 2009, Premier Anna Bligh invited contributions from images collections depicting community or family life.

“Ghost towns, old flour mills, shearing sheds and even the humble vegetable garden can tell the stories that will enliven Queensland’s 150th birthday celebrations,” Ms Bligh said.

The centre’s interim director, UQ’s Professor Peter Spearritt, said the project would be enhanced by illustrations of towns and workplaces over the past 80 years, complementing the extensive photographic collections of the State Library and the Queensland State Archives.

“The pictures will be scanned and returned to their owners, as long as the owners are happy for their pictures to be accessible on the website,” Professor Spearritt said.

BUZZ FOR NEW FACILITY

Queensland Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry Desley Boyle has officially opened U2’s new $6.5 million “All Weather Bee Facility” at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI).

With nearly 200 square metres of flight space, it is the world’s largest indoor, climate-controlled insect flight-testing facility and will play a key role in helping scientists better understand how complex brains function.

Built as part of QBI’s ongoing investigations into the mechanisms that drive brain function, the facility is a high-tech, rooftop structure with climate-control and abundant natural light, specifically designed for studying bees and their behaviour.

QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said the humbly domiciled honeybees offered neuroscientists many unique insights into the mechanisms of brain function and brain development.

“Bees have an extremely specialized brain that has been instrumental in the understanding of many brain functions,” Professor Bartlett said.

“By studying bees, we can learn about vision, olfaction, memory and learning and even aggression – all human traits,” Professor Bartlett said.

“Many of the research models used for human brain function are also relevant for bees. This research has the potential to revolutionize the understanding of the brain and how it functions.”

The higher brain centres of bees can expand five to six times in volume over the course of their life. In addition, because bees live only for about one month, researchers can study several generations a year.

This so-called “plasticity” is now understood to work the same way as it does in a vertebrate brain, involving processes such as the production of new nerve fibres, synapses and even new nerve cells. QBI head of Visual Neuroscience Professor Mandyp Ramannie said the facility would play an important part in his future research.

“By studying how bees control the flight speed, avoid collisions, and orchestrate smooth landings, we can gain valuable insights into the design of biologically inspired vision systems for unmanned aerial vehicles,” Professor Ramannie said.

“We are particularly keen to hear from people who have coloured slides from the 1950s to the 1970s that include photographs which show both people and the landscape, including images of changes in land use, climate, social and economic conditions.”

Professor Spearritt said each entry would have between 150 and 1000 words explaining a settlement’s growth and decline, and would include facts about the economic basis of settlement, features of the place and the latest population statistics.

INFO To contact Queensland Places, call Emma Shedden on 07 3365 1399 or email p.spearritt@uq.edu.au.

SHORTCUTS

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SEA SQUIRTS’ SEX LIVES

It may not be pretty, but the humble sea squirt could be the envy of many: the marine organism never has to worry about contraceptive failure.

A UQ study, which was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, has revealed that sea squirts have a natural ability to control their reproductive cycle, becoming more or less fertile as required.

Lead researcher and PRO student Angela Crean said the marine organisms could tailor their reproductive calls depending on the level of competition in the sea.

“When there are lots of competing males trying to fertilise the eggs of females, males produce larger, more competitive sperm that live for longer,” Ms Crean said.

“Similarly, when females detect there are too many males competing for their eggs, the females ‘play hard to get’ producing smaller eggs that are harder for searching sperm to find.”

The investigation was conducted in the Moreton Bay field environment, with several of the creatures placed in a confined space for an extended period.

“This research tells us a little as to how sex evolved in the first place,” Ms Crean said.

“Specifically, it gives us some insight about organ and tissue donation in an interactive environment.”

TAKING CARE OF MUM

Improving the health of pregnant women and newborn mothers is a priority for UQ researcher Dr Yvetta Miller.

Dr Miller, from the School of Psychology, has been instrumental in the establishment of Caboolture Mums and Little Ones, a community-based health promotion project, funded through Queensland Health.

“We wanted to develop and test some new and innovative strategies to improve pregnancy and postnatal health in disadvantaged communities,” Dr Miller said.

“Caboolture was chosen to represent disadvantaged communities more broadly because of its relative socio-economic disadvantage.

“Caboolture is also characterised by poor maternal and infant health outcomes relative to the rest of Australia and Queensland.”

In June 2007, Dr Miller and the team have used the program to promote healthy eating habits, breastfeeding, physical activity and antenatal care.

INFO ➔ www.mumsandlittones.com

NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Communities throughout Queensland will breathe life into an online archive featuring more than 900 towns, cities and ghost towns.

“This project is part of Queensland Places project, one of the key projects for the new Centre for the Government of Queensland, will be an interactive community website devoted to settlements with present or past populations of 500 or more people.

Announcing the project in the lead-up to Queensland’s 150th anniversary in 2009, Premier Anna Bligh invited contributions from image collections depicting community or family life.

“Ghost towns, old flour mills, shearing sheds and even the humble vegetable garden can tell the stories that will enliven Queensland’s 150th birthday celebrations,” Ms Bligh said.

The centre’s interim director, UQ’s Professor Peter Sparrert said the project would be enhanced by illustrations of towns and workplaces over the past 80 years, complementing the extensive photographic collections of the State Library and the Queensland State Archives.

“The pictures will be scanned and returned to their owners, as long as the owners are happy for their pictures to be accessible on the website,” Professor Sparrert said.

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Queenslanders Donate Communications Manager Kate Stoddart said she was happy to have the students on board to help spread the important message of organ and tissue donation.

“Their success is due to their popular and interactive style of communication.”

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“I challenge you to think about how we can tailor our research to the needs of the younger generation, so that their voices are heard,” Ms Bligh said.

“We are particularly keen to hear from people who have coloured slides from the 1950s to the 1970s that include photographs which show both people and the landscape, including images of changes in land use, climate, social and economic conditions.”

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QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said the human and non-human scientists many unique insights into the mechanisms of brain function and brain development.

“Bees have an extensive behavioural repertoire, allowing scientists studying them to learn about learning, olfaction, memory and learning and even aggression – all human traits,” Professor Bartlett said.

“Bees offer a good research model – because they are studied in a natural setting that is easily accessible to scientists.”

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The 2008 Smart Women Awards
Eve McDonald Madden at Carissa Klein (left) and UQNEWS, OCTOBER 2008

The University has recently completed a $1.7 million renovation of the Alumni Court.

As part of its campus enhancement program, the University has recently completed a $1.7 million renovation of the Alumni Court. The Alumni Court upgrade involved providing disabled access into the Great Court and adapting an old physics laboratory.

UQ Property and Facilities Maintenance Manager Kevin O’Sullivan said the University arranged for Queensland Health to safely remove all hazardous waste from the former Radon Lab. "By safely integrating the old lab into the landscape, it has provided a use for a building that had remained dormant for a long time." Improved visual connectivity between the Alumni Court, the cloisters and the Great Court beyond, Mr O’Sullivan said. "Students and staff can remain on task via the open-plan grassed area, specially-designed seating and undercover facilities."
Smart women

Five UQ students have been highly commended in the Smart Women – Smart State Awards.

Their research involved using economic and mathematical methods to overcome challenges in conservation and natural resource management.

UQ’s Emily Rankah and Erin Ahern were also successful in the Postgraduate Students (Science) category for their research into biohydrogen production in green algae.

Following her achievements in the Australian Brain Bee Challenge Queensland State Final 2007, Sophie Hill from Kelvin Grove State College, was invited to undertake a research project within the Queensland Brain Institute.

Her research, which looked at the neural regenerative capacity in mice, won Ms Hill the Secondary School Students Award.

Graduates Dr Ali Lee-Tabor and Melanie Gordon were also awarded the Women in the Community/Public Sector (Science) and Women in Industry/Business (Engineering) categories respectively.

The Queensland Government’s Office for Women holds the awards each year to acknowledge those who have made significant advances in the areas of science, engineering and information and communications technology (ICT).

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Stiddle said the University had experienced long-standing success at the Smart Women – Smart State Awards and would continue to nurture the careers of some of Queensland’s brightest women.

ALUMNI COURT UNVEILED

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“By safely integrating the old lab into the landscape, it has provided a use for a building that had remained dormant for a long time. Improved visual connectivity between the Alumni Court, the cloisters and the Great Court beyond,” Mr O’Sullivan said.

“Students and staff can remain on task via the area’s wireless network while utilising the court’s open-plan grassed area, specially-designed seating and undercover facilities.”

Top award for Frazer

UQ’s cervical cancer vaccine co-creator Professor Ian Frazer has won a major international prize worth more than $1 million.

Professor Frazer, Director of UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer Immuno- and Metabolic Medicine and 2006 Australian of the Year, was announced the winner of the Baban Prize for Preventive Medicine in Milan on September 8.

It is one of up to four Baban awards presented each year to people or organisations making outstanding contributions in the fields of humanities, natural sciences, culture, and peace efforts. Previous winners include Mother Teresa and Pope John XXIII.

The award stipulates that each winner dedicate half of the prize money to projects conducted by young researchers.

“I’m delighted that award funds will be used to further the career of a young scientist in the area of cancer immunology,” Professor Frazer said.

“I’m honoured to be selected for recognition on behalf of those who worked on the papillomavirus vaccine technology, particularly my late colleague Dr Jian Zhou.”

Since the vaccine’s global application in 2006, more than 29 million doses have been administrated to women and girls in more than 90 countries.

Professor Frazer will receive his Baban Award at a special ceremony in Rome next month.

Protecting Queensland’s profitable beef industry while reducing food poisoning outbreaks in humans is just one proposed project to be conducted within the Centre for Advanced Animal Science.

Located at UQ’s Gatton Campus, the $33 million facility was officially opened last month by Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries the Honourable Tim Mummery.

CAAS, a joint initiative between UQ and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), is equipped with biosecurity containment facilities, allowing scientists to collaborate on projects that aim to safeguard the Australian agricultural industry and improve human health.

Dr Rowland Cobbold, from UQ’s School of Veterinary Science, hopes to utilise CAAS resources to test an E. coli vaccine for cattle.

“In collaboration with researchers from DPI&F, CSIRO Food Science Australia, Washington State University and the University of Idaho, we’re proposing to develop a vaccine to be used in cattle which helps prevent foodborne diseases,” Dr Cobbold said.

“Quite frankly, without CAAS we couldn’t conduct this type of research.”

“CAAS will allow us to test this particular strain of E. coli under much more controlled experimental conditions.”

E. coli is a bacterium commonly found in the gut of most animals, including cattle.

Some strains of E. coli can cause severe food poisoning in humans.

Dr Cobbold said that while Australian cattle were largely free of food poisoning organisms, the proposed vaccine would future-proof the beef industry.

“Australian beef is already considered better and safer than many other countries,” he said.

“Australia is the largest beef exporter in the world so there are direct economic benefits in maintaining its clean and green image.”

“Keeping our beef marketable and free of E. coli will ensure consumer confidence.”

– PENNY ROBINSON

“Australia is the largest beef exporter in the world so there are direct economic benefits in maintaining its clean and green image”
Managing malaria

The University of Queensland will be at the forefront of global efforts to eliminate malaria, thanks to a new AusAID-funded support centre at its School of Population Health.

The Pacific Malaria Initiative Support Centre (PacMISC) is part of a $25 million AusAID commitment to intensified malaria control and progressive elimination in the South-West Pacific.

PacMISC Director Dr Andrew Vallely said the centre would initially focus on Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands but may be extended to Papua New Guinea within the next two to three years.

Dr Vallely said while countries in the developed world largely conquered malaria in the 1950s and 1960s, the disease was still a major public health threat and responsible for an estimated two to three million deaths every year in many low and middle-income countries.

Based at the School of Population Health (SPH), the support centre is a consortium between three Brisbane-based institutions.

“The centre is a partnership between SPH UQ, the Australian Army Malaria Institute (AMI) and the Queensland Institute for Medical Research,” Dr Vallely said.

“Together, members of this consortium are providing highly-flexible, focused and demand-driven assistance to the national malaria control programs in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

“For example, we were asked by the Ministry of Health to investigate the acceptability of different types of insecticide-treated bednets in Solomon Islands and will soon complete a randomised controlled trial that will inform national policy.”

The Vanuatu Ministry of Health, supported by a field team from AMI, recently completed one of the largest malaria assessment surveys ever conducted in Melanesia in preparation for the malaria elimination program in Tafea Province.

A similar survey will be completed in Temotu Province, Solomon Islands, next month.

The consortium will also actively work with other research and academic centres outside of Brisbane, according to partner country needs.

“We certainly recognise the importance of bringing in additional expertise where required and have already started consulting colleagues at other institutions within Australia and worldwide to try and identify how best to meet future country priorities, particularly operational research needs,” Dr Vallely said.

He said malaria elimination in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu was achievable, but the use of new tools such as rapid diagnostic tests, artemisinin-based drug therapy and long-lasting insecticide treated bednets was only part of the answer.

“Our priority is to assist countries to build their human resource base and health system infrastructure,” he said.

“We will help our partners to engage with a variety of community-based organisations, women’s groups, churches and other civil society groups to ensure that key components of the expanded malaria program in each country are implemented in ways which are locally-appropriate and acceptable to communities.”

– TEGAN TAYLOR

AN ONGOING LEGACY

The legacy of Steve Irwin lives on at UQ, two years after the Crocodile Hunter’s tragic death on September 4.

The University last year honoured Mr Irwin’s tireless work with a posthumous Steve Irwin Adjunct Professorship in UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, accepted by his widow Terri. UQ continues to work with Australia Zoo, the Queensland Park and Wildlife Service and the Australian Research Council (ARC) to monitor the behaviour of the threatened species.

Friend and colleague Professor Craig Franklin, from UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, recently travelled to the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in far north Queensland to help capture and tag 15 large estuarine crocodiles.

“Steve Irwin made a significant contribution to crocodile research in Australia and, in particular, helping to develop new methods to track these often wary animals through remote sensing technology,” he said.

“I am extremely pleased that we are able to continue his legacy, which would not be possible without the large commitment of resources provided by Terri Irwin and Australia Zoo.”

Professor Franklin worked with a team of 20 experts from Australia Zoo on the 135,000-hectare Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, 68km north-east of Weipa on Queensland’s Cape York Peninsula.

He said small transmitters were surgically inserted beneath the crocodile’s skin to allow for data collection and tracking of the animals, which continue to be threatened by illegal hunting.

“This long term study will provide us with detailed knowledge of the behaviour and habitat use of these enigmatic animals that is presently not known,” he said.

Professor Franklin said he was pleased to be able to continue the work begun six years ago with Steve Irwin funded by Australia Zoo and an ARC-linkage grant, and will travel to the reserve again in November.
Forget trying to move mountains – one UQ researcher wants to move asteroids. And for her efforts Mary D’Souza (pictured), a PhD student with UQ’s School of Engineering, has taken out the top prize in an international competition that looks at finding innovative ways to stop asteroids from hitting the Earth.

Ms D’Souza was recently awarded first prize in the Space Generation Advisory Council’s “Move An Asteroid 2008” competition, beating entries from around the world with her idea of using enhanced solar radiation pressure to move an asteroid.

The asteroid in question is one that actually exists and could potentially collide with our planet in 2036.

“What I proposed was winding what amounts to Mylar film around the 330m diameter of the asteroid,” Ms D’Souza said.

“By covering around 50 percent of it in reflecting ribbon, the enhanced radiation pressure from the sun could push the asteroid enough to miss the Earth easily.”

The St Lucia-based researcher said the unusual idea was the result of unusual circumstances.

“The idea came from sleep deprivation, I think,” Ms D’Souza said.

“I was a bit delirious staying up trying to come up with an idea, but it was such an interesting challenge it was worth it.

“I’m very excited to win.”

She said the competition was almost like a mental holiday from her doctoral studies, where she is working on super-orbital radiating flows, or how objects enter the atmosphere of Earth and other planets.

“My supervisor (Professor Richard Morgan from Mechanical Engineering) was really supportive and it was good to apply myself to a different area,” she said.

For winning the competition, Ms D’Souza travelled to Glasgow in Scotland last month for the Space Generation Congress, where she presented her idea to fellow researchers, and also attended the world’s largest space conference, the International Astronautical Congress.

– ANDREW DUNNE

“What I proposed was winding what amounts to Mylar film around the 330m diameter of the asteroid”
A new Phase Doppler laser has been added to a suite of high-tech measurement systems that UQ researchers are using to help industry clients achieve cost, energy and efficiency savings.

C-START, the Centre for Spray Technology, Application, Research and Training, based at UQ’s Gatton campus, is making the Phase Doppler Particle Analyser (PDPA) available to industry clients through the Consulting and Research division of UniQuest, UQ’s main commercialisation company.

“C-START’s lasers are being used to measure particle size and velocity as well as access flow-Addls for various applications including agriculture, forestry, mosquito control, stack emissions, mining, fuel combustion, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.”

“Any industry that needs to measure flow fields, droplet and solid particle size and velocity will find the more accurate data we can now produce extremely helpful for understanding and improving product performance,” C-START Director Dr Andrew Heerdt said.

“The PDPA is unique in Australia and uses dual laser beams and optics to determine the size and velocity of spherical particles, unlike traditional measurement techniques with intrusive probes that interfere with flow.”

“The new equipment compliants C-START’s wind tunnel, which is also unique within Australia. This facility includes leading photo analysis equipment for analysing spray droplet size and spread.

“Achieving strong product performance while minimising environmental impact is a major priority for most businesses these days,” Dr Heerdt said.

“The range of testing services we can offer has now expanded.

“Each laser system uses a different approach to measurement and measures different things. The equipment we have makes it possible for our research to help industry clients meet their regulatory obligations as well as their business objectives.”

UniQuest Managing Director David Henderson said facilitating access to C-START’s exceptional research expertise and resources meant more Australian-based businesses could benefit from UQ research.

“The researchers are helping to address real-world problems faced by today’s industries while generating an additional revenue stream to fund their vital basic research,” Mr Henderson said.

“C-START researchers are using the lasers to identify and collate procedures that establish pesticide application best practices for crop spraying and the nursery industry.

“Established by UQ’s School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences, the centre is a national scientific research and training group funded by Australian and international government research corporations and development councils, confidential industry research and student research grants.”

“Achieving strong product performance while minimising environmental impact is a major priority for most businesses these days”

– LEANNE WYVILL

Almost one-third of all Australian Research Foundation (ARC) Federation Fellows at UQ have previously been recognised with UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards.

The awards, introduced in 1999 and designed to nurture early-career researchers, are this year worth a total of $815,000.

PHOTOS BY JEREMY PATTEN AND STEWART GOULD

DR BRETT COLLINS

A UQ structural biologist has received $85,000 to investigate how material coming into and out of a cell is sorted, information that will improve our understanding of diseases such as cancer.

Dr Brett Collins, from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, was given a UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to establish the molecular details of important endosomal sorting pathways.

“Endosomes are organelles within the cell that play a pivotal role in the regulated cellular exit (exocytosis) and uptake (endocytosis) of proteins,” he said.

These cargo molecules include receptors for cellular nutrients, signalling complexes and molecules involved in cell-cell adhesion.

“Defects in endosomal protein sorting are linked to many diseases including cancer and high cholesterol, and the system is also subverted by viral and bacterial pathogens as HIV and salmonellosis,” Dr Collins said.

“As well as providing a basic understanding of fundamental cellular processes, this work will lay the foundation for future efforts to design drugs that target specific intracellular transport pathways.”

DR ANDREAS SCHLOENHARDT

Australia and Canada’s records of combating human trafficking are among the worst in the developed world, according to UQ researcher Dr Andreas Schloenhardt.

Dr Schloenhardt said trafficking in persons remained a phenomenon that was not well understood.

“This is despite greater public awareness and acknowledgement of the problem by government agencies,” he said.

“Strategic policies, coordinated government action, along with prosecutions and convictions of traffickers are only slowly forthcoming and the support available to victims of trafficking is only marginally developed.”

Dr Schloenhardt has received $50,000 to conduct the first comprehensive and comparative analysis of the exploitation of foreign sex workers and trafficking in persons – especially women and children – in Australia and Canada.
SMART SELECTION
The University of Queensland has promoted a researcher renowned for his work with minute matter in order to scale up its global research networks.

Professor Max Lu will take the new position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Linkages) on October 11, with the task of reaching out to industry, governments and academic institutions to strengthen UQ’s research alliances.

His appointment is the latest in a series of measures to extend and strengthen UQ’s profile with key stakeholders including businesses, governments, community organisations and other research institutions.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said Professor Lu combined distinction as a researcher with success in research commercialisation and extensive networks with industry, governments and national and global research communities.

“As well as being offered two prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellowships, Professor Lu has served on many Australian Government committees and developed extensive national and international connections with researchers and industry, particularly throughout the Asia-Pacific,” Professor Greenfield said.

Professor Lu was an instrumental adviser in formulating Australia’s first national policy on nanotechnology – a policy that involves scientists and technologists applying materials discoveries of molecular and atomic scales to find solutions to energy, health and environmental problems.

“In the 14 years since he returned to UQ (where he did his doctoral thesis before working in Singapore) Professor Lu has attracted research and infrastructure funds totalling more than $24 million from governments, industry and other sources external to UQ,” Professor Greenfield said.

His recent grants include the $3.4 million Queensland-China Alliance on Energy Materials funded through the Queensland Government’s National and International Relations Alliances Program.

This year, Professor Lu was also offered his second Federation fellowship award of $1.6 million over five years and the centre that he founded and directs at UQ, the Centre for Formulation Science, has been added to a suite of facilities available to industry clients through the Centre for Research and Training division of UniQuest, UQ’s main commercialisation company. C-START’s lasers are being used to measure particle size and velocity as well as access flow-Addis for various applications including agriculture, forestry, mosquito control, stack emissions, mining, fuel combustion, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

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“The new equipment complements C-START’s wind tunnel, which is also unique within Australia. This facility includes leading photo analysis equipment for analysing spray droplet size and spread.”

“Reaching out to industry, governments and other research institutions is set to investigate how new materials are coming into, and out of a cell is sorted, information that will improve our understanding of diseases such as cancer.”

“Defects in endosomal protein sorting are linked to many diseases (endocytosis) of proteins,” he said.

“Endosomes are organelles within the cell that play a pivotal role in the regulated cellular exit (exocytosis) and uptake (endocytosis) of proteins,” he said.

“He has been active in assisting foreign government and non-government organizations to understand the problem by government agencies.”

“Strategic policies, conducted government action, along with prosecutions and convictions of traffickers are only slowly forthcoming and the support available to victims of trafficking is only marginally developed.”

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UQ FOUNDATION research excellence awards 2008

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DR ANDREAS SCHLOENHARDT

- LEANNE WYLL

UQ NEWS, OCTOBER 2008
**UQ NEWS, OCTOBER 2008**

**Dr Shizhang Qiao**

UQ researcher Dr Shizhang Qiao is working on developing a new self-assembly technology to synthesise novel nanoparticles for selective separation of biomolecules.

Working at the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Dr Qiao has been awarded $80,000 to study the unique properties of mesoporous core-shell structured silica nanoparticles and their magnetic properties.

“Hamasing these properties has significant implications in drug manufacture and drug delivery,” Dr Qiao said.

“By using the magnetic properties of these nanoparticles separation of biomolecules will be more efficient and less costly thereby reducing the production cost of drugs.”

“We also hope to use these nanoparticles to improve the specificity of drug delivery.”

According to Dr Qiao, the technology is not restricted to these examples and would also be useful in the chemical and food industries.

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**Dr Elizabeth Coulson**

A QBI neuroscientist is working on ways to reduce neuronal loss in the brain of a person with Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr Elizabeth Coulson and her Cellular Neurology Laboratory have been awarded $90,000 to study what causes healthy nerve cells to “switch off” and die – a characteristic associated with many neurodegenerative conditions including Alzheimer’s disease.

As one of the most common forms of dementia, Alzheimer’s disease affects about 10 percent of the population aged over 65, and an estimated 40 percent of people aged 80 or above.

Dr Coulson said memory loss in people with Alzheimer’s disease could be attributed to several factors, researchers were starting to pinpoint some of the specific mechanisms thought to be responsible.

“These include a build-up of the neurotransmitter amyloid and a corresponding degeneration of a specific population of nerve cells in the basal forebrain,” she said.

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**Dr David Copland**

University of Queensland research is set to unlock the regions of the brain that are central to successful language treatment following a stroke.

Speech pathologist Dr David Copland has been awarded $80,000 to further his work in the area and launch the first large-scale study of its type in the world.

“This knowledge can improve treatment by increasing understanding of which treatment works best for particular individuals and so maximising recovery for patients,” Dr Copland said.

“Usually speech-language therapy is conducted by treating the brain like a ‘black box’ – we conduct the therapy, but we don’t consider the brain function in the patient or the parts of the brain typically involved in the therapy.

“This is because we don’t really know the brain mechanisms underlying successful treatment and recovery.”

Australians suffer from around 50,000 strokes each year, with language impairment (aphasia), common in those who require rehabilitation.

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**Dr Felicity Baker**

Dementia often robs spouses of quality time together, but an innovative UQ project hopes to find ways to reclaim it.

Dr Felicity Baker has received $70,000 to investigate how music therapy techniques might improve partner satisfaction by providing new opportunities for the sharing of memories associated with certain songs.

“One of the biggest problems of couples living together where one person has dementia is that there’s a breakdown in the relationship as one partner begins to lose their ability to communicate and interact with their spouse,” Dr Baker said.

“The project will involve a music therapist going into the home and knowing the spouse how they can use music as a way of creating meaningful experiences with their partner.”

Dr Baker said the music therapy intervention could potentially be developed into an instructional DVD, and was the first large-scale dementia study of its kind.

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**Dr Brad Lalukonis**

Treatments for debilitating conditions such as muscular dystrophy could be found in the foreseeable future, thanks to a UQ study.

Dr Brad Lalukonis, who was awarded $90,000, is researching the way calcium moves in muscle fibres to regulate function.

The School of Biomedical Science researcher said his team would examine specific aspects of calcium regulation in the muscle cell, both in the short and long term.

“We need to understand this in as much detail as possible to determine what is failing in disease or in the progression of age,” he said.

“We hope that our study of muscle will benefit diverse groups in society, from athletes wishing to understand how muscles fatigue, to groups working with dystrophy patients or other muscle degenerative states.”

The award money will allow Dr Lalukonis and his team to buy a fluorescence microscope that will be used to image calcium in single, isolated muscle fibres using calcium-sensitive fluorescent dyes.

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**Dr Greg Marston**

UQ researcher Dr Greg Marston will use his 2008 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to help put more cash in the kitty for Australia’s fringe economy earners.

Dr Marston, senior lecturer and convenor of the Social Policy Unit within the School of Social Work and Human Services, will use the $60,000 award to investigate the financial lending practices of Australia’s fringe economy and consumer experiences of accessing these services.

He defines the fringe economy as financial services that target low-income people – businesses such as payday lenders, pawn shops and sub-prime mortgage services.

He said the researcher would identify the profiles of users fringe financial services, including socio-demographic characteristics and patterns of use. Dr Marston will also use the study’s outcomes to seek funding for a comparative investigation in Australia, the US, New Zealand and Canada.
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**UQ FOUNDATION research excellence awards 2008**

**DR BEN POWELL**

UQ physicist Dr Ben Powell has been awarded $75,000 for his project, which aims to provide a greater understanding of the behaviour of electrons in organic superconductors.

Recent experiments suggest electrons within organic superconductors interact much more strongly. Dr Powell will combine knowledge from physics and chemistry in an attempt to test his theories using a technique called neutron scattering. "Neutron scattering is a powerful experiment used to understand condensed matter," Dr Powell said. "We hope to be able to test our theories using organic superconducting materials created in the UQ Centre for Organic Photonics and Electronics (COPE) Laboratory, which will have a significant impact on our understanding of the way electrons behave when the interactions between them dominate their behaviour."

**DR ELIZABETH COULSON**

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"Harnessing these properties has significant implications in drug manufacture and drug delivery," Dr Qiao said. "By using the magnetic properties of these nanoparticles separation of biomolecules will be more efficient and less costly thereby reducing the production cost of drugs. We also hope to use these nanoparticles to improve the specificity of drug delivery. According to Dr Qiao, the technology is not restricted to these examples and would also be useful in the chemical and food industries.

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Dr Baker said the music therapy intervention could potentially be developed into an instructional DVD, and was the first large-scale dementia study of its kind.

**DR LIANZHOU WANG**

UQ research is developing a new class of efficient photocatalysts that can drive wastewater purification using the power of the sun.

Dr Lianzhou Wang, from UQ’s School of Engineering, has been awarded $75,000 and said with increasing water shortages predicted due to climate change and population growth, better use of our limited supplies was crucial. "Many industries consume large amounts of clean water and end up with wastewater streams that are relatively small,” Dr Wang said. "This type of water has huge potential to be reused after proper purification and so maximising recovery of water. Conventional treatment has high energy and operating costs, but our process is driven by the sun.”

He said by using nanotechnology, he and his colleagues had been able to produce titanium dioxide-based nanomaterials that could be used as sunlight driven purifiers. "With appropriate modifications, the same materials can be used to degrade organic pollutants and remove them from water,” he said.

**DR GREG MARSTON**

UQ researcher Dr Greg Marston will use his 2008 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to help put more cash in the kitty for Australia’s low-income earners.

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**Sustainable BUSINESS**

A leading group of experts from the UQ Business School is focusing on commercial and consulting projects in sustainable business for partner organisations.

The Sustainable Business Unit is part of the commercial activities of UQ Business School, headed by internationally renowned sustainability expert Professor Andrew Griffiths. "A core part of our partnerships with industry is analysis and research which forms the basis for a company’s strategy and change in sustainable business," Professor Griffiths said.

"Sustainable business is a developing frontier and our Sustainable Business Unit works with partner organisations to supplement and complement their in-house capacity."

"We have whole-of-company partnerships with the likes of Lining O’Reoufe and have presented to, or worked with, senior executive teams and boards of international and local companies such as Queensland Rail, Connell Wagner, Energie, and ARUP Sustainability."

UQ Business School head Professor Tim Brailsford said the school had a distinct national and international reputation for promoting business sustainability.

"The school has developed significant capacity in the sustainable business field, building on 12 years of staff research and expertise," Professor Brailsford said.

"We created Australia’s first executive program in corporate sustainability, we offer a Master of Business (Business Sustainability) coursework program, along with numerous commercial research and executive education partnerships in sustainable business."

"We have also established a Professorial Chair in Business Sustainability and Responsibility, which is held by Andrew Griffiths, and have built a strong doctoral research program in the area."

"The Sustainable Business Unit is the next logical step to harness the school’s expertise and make it accessible to industry."

The unit is one of several activities of UQ Business School Commercial, an arm of the school and a trading name of UniQuest Pty Ltd.

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**Australia’s most eminent marine scientists have backed calls to secure marine reserves at key locations around the world.**

They called for the Coral Sea, a large area to the east of tropical Australia, to be made the world’s largest marine protected area.

The researchers said the whole Coral Sea should become a no-fishing area to protect its environmental and heritage values from the escalating threats of overfishing and climate change.

"The rich coral fauna of the Coral Sea has already been damaged by coral bleaching, which is set to increase in frequency and scale due to global warming," Centre for Marine Studies Director Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg said.

"Reefs in the Coral Sea are small and relatively isolated from each other, making them more reliant on large-scale dispersal of larvae than the highly interconnected Great Barrier Reef."

"A single large no-take area would ensure that the scale of management appropriately matches the biological scale of important ecosystem processes such as dispersal and migration."

UQ’s Ecology Centre Director Professor Hugh Possingham said the Coral Sea contributed to significant declines of sharks and seabirds on the adjoining Great Barrier Reef.

"Fishing activities in the Coral Sea contribute to significant declines of sharks, turtles and seabirds on the adjoining Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"A single large no-take zone is the best approach for protecting these populations, and migratory species because they cannot be protected inside small reserves."

The researchers said the Coral Sea has acted as a vital reservoir for reef biodiversity during past periods of rapid change in climate and sea level. It is relatively free from the land-based pollution that affects parts of the Great Barrier Reef and currently has much lower levels of fishing.

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**Marine park mooted**

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**Fuel for thought**

"Attention-grabbing art comes in all shapes and sizes, as My Humvee (inversion therapy) by Melbourne artist Peter Henriessy attests. Carved out of black painted plywood and standing permanently in the UQ Art Museum foyer, the piece resembles a tower but on closer inspection becomes a model of the gas-guzzling car tipped on its nose. Commissioned for the 2008 Melbourne Art Fair, the work was donated to the University by the Melbourne Art Fair Foundation and was officially launched in September."

"The Humvee is the Workhorse of the US military; tons of thousands of these vehicles are deployed wherever American forces are sent," museum Director Nick Mczevich said.

"It’s a mind-bogglingly functional vehicle but it’s also legendarily fuel inefficient, with the Hummer, a consumer version, rated the most environmentally unfriendly vehicle of 2004."

Although the Humvee burns five litres of fuel per kilometre, Mr Mczevich said the vehicle enjoyed a cult status among celebrities and consumers, with Arnold Schwarzenegger credited as the first US civilian to own one.

"As such, the Humvee is a potent symbol of the excesses of both western military power as well as consumer culture," he said.

Mr Henriessy travelled to UQ to install the artwork, which is made of up of 2000 individual pieces and took four people three days to erect.

He said the museum was the perfect place to house the sculpture due to its spaciousness and natural lighting, which allow the work to be appreciated from different angles at different times.

"My Humvee is a powerful work that demonstrates the possibility of art in the 21st century," Mr Mczevich said.

"Its size and scale are impressive but as equally compelling are the ideas which the work explores."

The UQ Art Museum is open free to the public between 10am-4pm daily with parking free on weekends.

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**STEWART GOULD**

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**HUMDINGER: ARTIST PETER HENRIESSY WITH MY HUMVEE**

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**COVER STORY**

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**FUEL for thought**
Marine park mooted

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“My Humvee is a workhorse of the US military; tons of thousands of these vehicles are deployed wherever American forces are sent,” museum Director Nick Mitzevich said.

“If it’s a mind-bogglingly functional vehicle but it’s also legendarily fuel inefficient, with the Hummer, a consumer version, rivalled the most environmentally unfriendly vehicle of 2004.”

Although the Humvee burns five litres of fuel per kilometre, Mr Mitzevich said the vehicle enjoyed a cult status among celebrities and consumers, with Arnold Schwarzenegger credited as the first US civilian to own one.

“As such, the Humvee is a potent symbol of the excesses of both western military power as well as consumer culture,” he said.

Mr Hennessy travelled to UQ to install the artwork, which is made up of 3000 individual pieces and took four people three days to erect.

He said the museum was the perfect place to house the sculpture due to its spaciousness and natural lighting, which allow the work to be appreciated from different angles at different times.

“My Humvee is a powerful work that demonstrates the possibility of art in the 21st century,” Mr Mitzevich said.

“Its size and scale are impressive but as equally compelling are the ideas which the work explores.”

The UQ Art Museum is open free to the public between 10am-4pm daily with parking free on weekends.

-CAMERON PEGG
Second year architecture students from the University’s School of Geography, Planning and Architecture played a major part in Brisbane PARK(ing) Day on September 19.

As part of their Architectural Design studies, 76 UQ students temporarily converted 19 parking bays on the St Lucia campus into parks, complete with grass, seating and interactive features.

Event coordinator, architecture lecturer Dr Nicole Sully, said students enjoyed showcasing their creativity on the day.

“The University has been incredibly supportive of the project, particularly Property and Facilities, Traffic and Parking, and Security,” Dr Sully said.

“The students worked really hard on the projects and they have generated a lot of community interest.”

The project encouraged the students to consider the nature of public space in addition to the impact of the private automobile in the city.

“I also offered a rare opportunity for students to test their design ideas on a real scale.”

Brisbane was among the largest PARK(ing) Day ventures internationally, with UQ hosting about half of the city’s spaces.

The UQ architecture students also had the largest cluster of PARKS in Brisbane.

The event started in San Francisco in 2005 when a group of artists and activists known as REBAR converted a single parking space into a simple park for two hours in protest about the lack of public space in their city.

In the following years, cities such as London, New York and Rio de Janeiro have also taken part.

Last year over 200 PARKs were constructed and more than 50 PARKs were created this year in New York.

Over 40 spaces were registered within Brisbane, with PARKs surfacing in Fortitude Valley, South Bank and West End.

To help navigate the 58 St Lucia installations, a special “four de Parks” map was distributed to the public on the day.

— KATHERINE HILL
MAC PACK WINNERS
UQ is pleased to announce the winners of its “Mac Pack” competition.
The major prize winners are Luke Reynolds of Shailer Park and Tommy Copley of Keperra, who each won a pack valued at $3841, consisting of an Apple MacBook Air, iPod touch, 50 iTunes cards, Bose SoundDock Digital Music System, Canon printer and laptop bag.
The competition also saw four entrants win an iPod touch, valued at $362.

WORKPLACE SAFETY BOOST
UQ has teamed up with industry to make hazardous work places safer.
Dr Jennifer Tichon, from the School of Human Movement Studies, is working on a simulator training facility for the construction and mining industries.
The project is run in conjunction with the Construction Training Centre and Mining Industry Skills Centre and was recently awarded an Australian Research Council Linkage grant.

HEARING HELP
Audiology researchers are seeking volunteers for a study on hearing rehabilitation decision making.
Participants will receive a free hearing screening and discussion of their hearing needs with a qualified UQ audiologist.
Participants must be 50 years of age or older and willing to discuss something about their hearing for the first time.
INFO ➔ Ariane Laplante-Levesque: 07 3346 7463 or ariane@uq.edu.au

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PARKWORKS

Almost every building I worked on called for a change in Constitution Avenue.
I was given the task of designing a large residential building to fit the site.
I used computer-aided design software to create 3D models of the building.
I also had to consider the impact of the building on the surrounding environment.

The project was completed on time and to budget, and I received positive feedback from the client.

— NICK EARLS

Do you have a story about Brisbane you’d like to share with the city? It could be a mystery, romance, memoir or even speculative fiction.

ENTRIES CLOSE MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2008
Free winning authors will receive $6000 each and be published in the 2009 One Book Many Brissieans anthology alongside stories from free invited authors including Jessica Turner, Hospital, Nick Earls and Tara June Winch.
For more information and entry forms visit your local library, visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/arts or phone Council on 07 3403 8888.
One Book Many Brisbane is another way Council is achieving our vision for the City’s future.
UQ research into how hospital doctors prescribe medication is leading to safer patient outcomes.

Dr Ian Coombes, a trained pharmacist, undertook research into safe prescribing practices for junior doctors as part of his PhD with UQ’s schools of pharmacy and medicine.

“Junior doctors are the people in hospitals most likely to prescribe medication and they are also the most likely to make errors in prescribing,” Dr Coombes said.

“We found that, in all their training, junior doctors learn about diseases and symptoms and what drugs to prescribe, but they weren’t really taught about how to tailor those to individual patients such as dosage and frequency and this is where most errors occur.”

He said these problems were then compounded when junior doctors worked in different hospitals where medication charts varied from site to site and sometimes even from ward to ward within the same hospital.

“It really was a case of the pen being mightier than the scalpel,” he said.

“We don’t let junior doctors operate on patients by themselves, but we were letting them prescribe medication without proper training.”

Dr Coombes, who works at Queensland Health’s Safe Medication Practice Unit, part of Medicine Services Queensland, said his research had led to two important developments for doctor training as well as hospital practices.

“We developed a safe prescribing training program that has been part of the training for all final year medical students at UQ since 2006,” he said.

GLOBAL MEDICINE

The University’s School of Medicine has been recognised for its provision of innovative international exchange programs.

The School of Medicine won the Excellence in Outward Mobility award in the 2008 Queensland Education and Training International (QETI) awards last month. It was one of several UQ-associated programs and people presented with awards by the Minister for Transport, Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations, John Mickel, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg said the School of Medicine had entered into a number of international partnerships over the past few years throughout Asia, North and South America, Europe and Africa.

Head of the School of Medicine Professor David Wilkinson said the school had been committed to providing global opportunities for all students in the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery program.

“Over the past three years, between 30 and 50 percent of preclinical students in years one and two had an international experience in their elective periods,” Professor Wilkinson said.

Since 2008, 705 UQ medical students (approximately 46 percent of the total student body) visited overseas hospitals and universities, staying for a minimum of four weeks.

Just what the doctor ordered

STUDY HITS A NERVE

UQ researchers have traced the origins of one of the most important steps in animal evolution – the development of nerves.

Professor Bernie Degnan, from UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, together with PhD student Gamma Richards and colleagues from France, have traced the evolution of the nerve cell by looking for pre-cursors in the marine sponge. “Sponges have one of the most ancient and stems from work done by Professor Degnan said.

“So we are pretty confident it was after the sponge split from the trunk of the tree of life and sponges went one way and animals developed from the other, that nerves started to form,” Professor Degnan said.

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Head of the School of Medicine Professor David Wilkinson said the school had been committed to providing global opportunities for all students in the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery program.

“One of the past three years, between 35 and 50 percent of preclinical students in years one and two had an international experience in their elective periods,” Professor Wilkinson said.

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UQ researchers have traced the origins of one of the most important steps in animal evolution – the development of nerves.

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“So we are pretty confident it was after the sponges split from the trunk of the tree of life and sponges went one way and animals developed from the other that nerves started to form.”

Professor Degnan said the science involved came from the relatively new area of paleogenomics, which is the study of ancestral genomes.

The research was published recently in Current Biology and stems from work done by Professor Degnan’s lab in mapping the entire genome of the sea sponge Amphimedon queenslandica.

Teaching & Learning Week
27 – 31 October

The 2008 University of Queensland Teaching and Learning Week will provide opportunities for the UQ community to engage in discussion of topical teaching and learning issues.

Program highlights:
Special Guest: Dr Mary Taylor Huber – Senior Scholer, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, USA. An outstanding author on the topic of changing cultures of teaching in higher education, Dr Mary Taylor Huber will give a keynote address on the morning of Tuesday 28 October, where she will share her insights on the scholarship of teaching and learning with the UQ community.

Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards
The achievements of UQ’s outstanding teachers, and their significant contribution to enhancing the quality of learning and teaching in higher education, are celebrated at the teaching excellence awards presentation ceremony held at Customs House on Monday 27 October.

Other highlights:
A full program of events is planned for the week including:
• Sessions examining the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning and how this is interpreted by various disciplines.
• Launch of the UQ Teaching & Learning Network.
• Launch of teaching focussed UQ Staff Start-Up Grants and Early Career Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Grants.
• eLearning highlights at UQ.

For the full program visit www.uq.edu.au/teaching-learning
Providing food for thought at this year’s Brisbane Writers Festival was Canadian journalist Carol Off, whose new book ‘Bitter Chocolate’ delves into the dark side of the confectionary trade.

Recently published by The University of Queensland Press, the book offers a stinging sceptical point of view so I took everything I had between the people who produce cocoa and those who consume it.”

To research the book, Ms Off travelled to Côte d’Ivoire in West Africa, where the majority of the world’s cocoa is grown.

“I always start an investigation from a sceptical point of view so I took everything I had been told with a grain of salt,” Ms Off said.

“I was surprised to find the deep cleavage between the people who produce cocoa and those who consume it.”

Ms Off said the Spanish stoke the secret of chocolate from the Mesoamericans, whose use of cocoa concoctions dates back thousands of years. From there, it was only a matter of time before the chocolate craze spread throughout Europe and then America.

“I found a long history of cocoa as a product that was consumed by the elites while it was produced by slaves,” Ms Off said.

“That history goes back to ancient Olmecs and the Aztecs ruled by Montezuma who was the world’s first choco-tourist.”

The book discusses topics including the famous “chocolate strike” by children in Canada in the 1940s and the growth in fair trade and organic cocoa farms.

Bitter Chocolate also details some of the biggest names in the business were complicit in the slavery trade during the 18th and 19th centuries, despite their public opposition at the time.

“What fascinated me most was the history of the world’s first cocoa barons and chocolate industrialists,” Ms Off said.

“Milton Hershey and the Cadbury brothers were deeply religious – zealots really – who made social utopias for their workers in the US and Great Britain. But their ugly secret was that their cocoa beans were produced by slaves even as they were dedicated abolitionists.”

She also discovered disturbing reports that African child labour continues to be used in cocoa farms, and her subsequent investigation into the practices forms an important part of the book.

“I was surprised that the farmers and their labourers – mostly conscripted and forced labour of children – didn’t know everything about chocolate,” Ms Off said.

“They told me they had no idea what westerners did with the beans or how they were consumed. They had never tasted chocolate and probably never will.”

(Bitter Chocolate is available nationally.

— CAMERON PEGG

The University welcomed some of the world’s best-known authors to St Lucia recently as part of the 2008 Brisbane Writers Festival (BWF).

As one of the major sponsors of the BWF, UQ supported and hosted a number of events, including the opening night address by human rights activist and author Chris Abani, and free public sessions with York Mark, Simon Winchester and James Frey (pictured) at the UQ Art Museum.

Mark is the Bookers Prize winning author of ‘Life of Pi’, while Frey’s new book ‘Bright Shiny Morning follows the controversial bestselling memoir ‘Liar’s Poker’.

A wide range of UQ academics led sessions at this year’s festival, including the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, Professor Greenfield chaired The Ultimate Sea Change: The Future of the Reef with leading environmental reporter Alanna Mitchell.

In another highlight, UQ postgraduate creative writing students had the opportunity to discuss their work with international award winning poet Michael Hoffman.

Beijing’s eye-catching Bird’s Nest Stadium made a notable impression on many Olympic spectators, yet China’s strict security may have detracted from the event, according to new UQ research.

PhD graduate Dr Sandy Ng derived in the consumer behaviour of the service industry to identify how a customer’s experience at sporting and entertainment events affects their satisfaction, value impressions and, most importantly, their intentions to re-attend.

Dr Ng’s research into a range of stadium events, concerts and theatre found excessive security, substandard entertainers, unsafe parking facilities and bad social surroundings detracted crowds and undermined the experience.

Factors that lured ticket holders included the exterior appearance of the venue, positive social surroundings, engaging performers and affordable souvenirs and merchandise.

“The selection of venue is an important factor as consumers will consider it if it is worth the time and effort to physically go to attend the event,” Dr Ng said.

“Whilst not being physically present to see the Bird’s Nest Stadium and the Water Cube in Beijing, the uniqueness and size of these venues were simply breathtaking even on TV.”

Managers of such large scale events must shrewdly select performers that are able to draw crowds based on their performance excellence.

“In addition, not only must there be a sufficient number of staff to help customers, these staff must also be knowledgeable.”

— ELIZA PLANT

The University’s Experimental Mine site at Indooroopilly has joined the REVEGETATION MISSION.

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Dr Ng said visitors had complained that this Olympics lacked the joyful party atmosphere that was a hallmark of previous events.

“Others have commented that the Olympics in Beijing may have been somewhat over-managed,” she said.

Her four-year study found proper management of such events was crucial and failure to deliver good experiences could have dire consequences such as crowd violence or boycotts.

Dr Ng observed that entertainment venues, held focus groups and purchased a national database to reach recent attenders of sporting, theatre and concert events.

“In total, more than 4500 respondents completed the study’s questionnaire. “I am keen to make a difference in this important area of the service economy. The measurements I have developed will allow managers to benchmark, and better manage their customers’ experiences so that they can consistently provide high quality and memorable entertainment services,” she said.

— ELIZA PLANT
The Australian Olympic team returned home from Beijing with its second highest medal haul in history, with UQ athletes playing a key part in the success.

Sixteen athletes amassed one gold and six bronze medals between them, one of the best ever efforts from a UQ contingent. Science student Melanie Schlanger scored the first UQ medal of the Games when she picked up a bronze in the 4 x 100m relay, backing up in the heats of the 4 x 200m to help Australia claim a historic gold medal in the event.

Ms Schlanger took part in the Brisbane Olympics parade on September 19 and said the historic gold medal in the event.

Human movement studies student Emma Moffatt placed third in the triathlon behind teammate Emma Snowall, with UQ staff member Shawn Stephens serving as a team coach.

The Games were also memorable for business management student Sam Consul, who made the final of the men’s rowing eight, and medical student Robert Newbery, who narrowly missed out on a medal in the 10m synchronised diving event in his third and final Olympics. Meanwhile, UQ alumni Lauren Lawrence and John Eales played their part behind the scenes as team motivators.

And in another special achievement, Dr Ian Jodling, Director of UQ’s Centre for Olympic Studies, has been appointed to the Executive Board of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

A UQ SPORT function officially honouring the athletes will take place on October 25.

Cameron Pegg

2008 UQ Olympic Medallists

Leith Brodie – Swimming

4 x 100m relay (bronze)

Amy Hetzel – Water Polo (bronze)

Tanya Harding – Softball (bronze)

Emma Moffatt – Triathlon (bronze)

Melanie Schlanger – Swimming

4 x 100m relay (bronze)

4 x 200m relay (gold)

Workers/Medallists

Olympic

“incredible experience. Games and the reception at home had been an Olympians parade on September 19 and said the historic gold medal in the event. Heinheats of the 4 x 200m to help Australia claim a first UQ medal of the Games when she picked up bronze medals between them, one of the best medal haul in history, with UQ returned home from Beijing.

Fellow swimmer Leith Brodie scored relay bronze in the 4 x 100m, and narrowly missed the final of the 200m individual.

Medallists:

Olympic

4 x 100m relay (gold)

4 x 100m relay (bronze)

Leith Brodie – Swimming

Amy Hetzel – Water Polo (bronze)

Tanya Harding – Softball (bronze)

Emma Moffatt – Triathlon (bronze)

Melanie Schlanger – Swimming

Members of the bronze medal-winning 4 x 100m freestyle relay team (from left: Alice Mills, Cate Campbell, Melanie Schlanger and Libby Trickett)

WORKING MIRACLES

Quiet achievers had no chance of slipping under the radar at UQ’s annual Miracle Workers Awards luncheon, held on September 10 at St Lucia.

Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards acknowledged the outstanding work and dedication of 11 UQ staff members who were nominated by their colleagues or superiors.

President of the UQ Secretaries and Office Professionals Association (UQSOPA), Karen Hendrickson, said this annual event provided an opportunity for the University to recognise its many high achievers.

“Tis a wonderful way to publicly recognise staff that continually go above and beyond expectations, irrespective of whether they are outstanding work and dedication of 18 UQ staff who were nominated by their colleagues or superiors.

As president of the UQSOPA, I lead the Executive Committee in making these awards happen. "We have done everything from developing the nomination form, the call for nominations out there, asking Sir Llew to present the awards, organising the venue, designing the certificate and taking payment for non-miracle workers attendance at the ceremony. "It’s been a monumental group effort but well worth it – we had 83 attendees at the lunch. "Special thanks to Robin Smith (ESS), Claire McCafferty (BAGS Faculty), Anne Webber (School of Land, Crop and Food Science) and Lyrilann Cumming (Keas) for their assistance."

Established in 1995 by the Student General Staff Communications Group, the Miracle Workers Awards are consistently identified by UQ’s most outstanding work and dedication of 18 UQ staff who were nominated by their colleagues or superiors.

“I am very clear that what we repeated again and again: willingness to go the extra mile, professionalism, great communication and willingness to share their knowledge and best practices,” Mrs Hendrickson said.

She advised staff to keep an eye out for potential 2009 Miracle Workers.

Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards (centre) with the 2008 Miracle Workers awardees.

General Classifieds

WANTED TO BUY: 3-4 bedroom child-friendly house, close to UQ St Lucia. Family currently transferred to UQ – price approved, ready to buy around $1 million. Can settle immediately. Replies treated in strictest confidence. Contact: PO Box 6516, St Lucia, 4067.

HOLIDAY HOUSE FOR RENT: Southbrook. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, sleeps up to 8 people. Located at the rear of the Campus along the University Drive – very quiet and peaceful. Cost: $25 general admission, $15 concessions, free to members and sponsors of The Brisbane Institute. Information: The Brisbane Institute 07 3320 2091 or wsmiller@bigpond.com.

Alumni Friends Postgraduate Scholarships (2008)

Five bursaries will be awarded to UQ graduates who are members of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc, and who have commenced the first year of a PhD program at UQ in 2008. Awarded on the basis of previous academic merit. Worth: $2000. Closing: October 17. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or 07 3365 1984.

Ford Memorial Prize 2008

Awarded to the undergraduate who submits the best essay in English, who has not been twice awarded the prize. All entries are to include name, student number, current postal address, phone contact and the program in which enrolled. Email applications will not be accepted. Worth: $225 designated as bookies. Closing: November 14. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or 07 3365 1984.

Thomas Morrow Prize 2008

Awarded to an undergraduate who writes the best essay in the field of Australian literature. Essays written as part of a course within the School of English will automatically be considered. Well-presented honours theses may also be submitted. Worth: $500 cash prize. Closing: November 14. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or 07 3365 1984.
The Australian Olympic team returned home from Beijing with its second highest medal haul in history, with UQ athletes playing a key part in the success.

Sixteen athletes amassed one gold and six bronze medals between them, one of the best over efforts from a UQ contingent. Science student Melanie Schlanger scored the first UQ medal of the Games when she picked up a bronze in the 4 x 100m relay, backing up in the heats of the 4 x 200m to help Australia claim a historic gold medal in the event.

Miss Schlanger took part in the Brisbane Olympics parade on September 19 and said the Games and the reception at home had been an incredible experience.

“It just walk down the street with teammates and have so many supporters out there, it was just excellent,” she said.

“A kind of hi home about how amazing an Olympics are.”

 Fellow swimmer Latih Brodie scored relay bronze twice (4 x 100m and 4 x 200m) and narrowly missed the final of the 200m individual medley, which was won by American Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps.

It was also a successful campaign for softballer Tanya Harding, who added a bronze to her Olympic tally, and for Suzie Fraser and Amy Hetzel in the women’s water polo, triumphing over Hungary in a penalty shoot-out for the bronze.

Human movement studies student Emma Moffatt placed third in the triathlon behind teammate Emma Snowall, with UQ staff member Shaun Stephens serving as a team coach.

The Games were also memorable for business management student Sam Conrad, who made the final of the men’s rowing eight, and medical student Robert Newbery, who narrowly missed out on a medal in the 10km synchronised diving event in his third and final Olympics.

Meanwhile, UQ alumni Lavene Lawrence and John Eales played their part behind the scenes as team motivators.

And in another special achievement, Dr Ian Jodling, Director of UQ’s Centre for Olympic Studies, has been appointed to the Executive Board of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

A UQ SPORT function officially honouring the athletes will take place on October 25.

**2008 UQ Olympic Medallists**

- **Latih Brodie** – Swimming
- **Suzie Fraser** – Water Polo (bronze)
- **Amy Hetzel** – Water Polo (bronze)
- **Emma Moffatt** – Triathlon (bronze)
- **Melanie Schlanger** – Swimming
- **Tanya Harding** – Softball (bronze)

Members of the bronze medal-winning 4 x 100m freestyle relay team (from left) Alice Mills, Cate Campbell, Melanie Schlanger and Libby Trickett.

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**SPORT**

**Olympic Achievers**

Queen of the presentations was UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards (centre) with the 2008 Miracle Workers awardees.

“Quiet achievers had no chance of slipping under the radar at UQ’s annual Miracle Workers Awards luncheon, held on September 10 at St Lucia.

Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards acknowledged the outstanding work and dedication of 11 UQ staff members who were nominated by their colleagues or superiors.

President of the UQ Secretaries and Office Professionals Association (UQSOPA), Karen Hendrickson, said this annual event provided an opportunity for the University to recognise its many high achievers.

“It is a wonderful way to publicly recognise staff that continually go above and beyond expectations, inspire, deliver and are generally outstanding but are rarely acknowledged,” Mrs Hendrickson said.

“As president of the UQSOPA, I lead the Executive Committee in making these awards happen.

“We have done everything from develop the nomination form, get the call for nominations out there, ask Sir Llew to present the awards, organise the venue, design the certificate and take payment for non-miracle workers attendance at the ceremony.

“It’s been a monumental group effort but well worth it – we had 83 attendances at the lunch.”

“Special thanks to Robin Smith (ISSR), Claire McCafferty (BACS Faculty), Anne Webber (School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences) and Lynal Cunliffe (Medical) for their assistance.”

Established in 1995 by the Scitech General Staff Communications Group, the Miracle Workers Awards consistently identify UQ’s most dedicated, and quirky, characters.

“There are some very clear themes repeatedly again and again: willingness to go the extra mile, professionalism, great communication and willingness to share their knowledge and best practices,” Mrs Hendrickson said.

She advised staff to keep an eye out for potential 2009 Miracle Workers.

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**Ipswich Icon**

An iconic landmark at The University of Queensland’s Ipswich Campus is undergoing a facelift to ensure its preservation and historic relevance.

The Blair Pavilion, the two-storey building located at the rear of the campus along the perimeter of the Sandy Galley Golf Club, is being restored to secure its exterior and protection for the future.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Alan Rex said UQ’s Property and Facilities Division had commissioned a maintenance plan for the exterior future of the Blair Pavilion to ensure its preservation for future plans and development of the building.

He said architect Richard Linn had completed a five-year plan in 2007, which recommended a staged approach to the works.

“This involved the cleaning, repair and painting of the roof and the building’s distinctive ventilation, as well as cleaning, repair and painting of the upper storey stucco façade, windows and grills,” Professor Rex said.

Professor Rex said subsequent stages to the project would include the replacement of the lower roof, repair to timber work, and cleaning and repainting of the brickwork.

Built in 1908, the Blair Pavilion is the grand structure that overlooks the southern suburbs of Ipswich and is most visible along Warwick Road, Chinchilla.

Ipswich-based J Whitehead was awarded the contract to build the impressive Federation-style building in 1907 for the sum of £5,545.

The Blair Pavilion housed patients of the Chalfont Centre, formerly known as the Sandy Galley Lunatic Asylum.

The cost of the current restoration project is valued at $200,000.

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**UQNEWS DEADLINES 08**

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Semester 2 ends Nov 15

Library hours are available at www.library.uq.edu.au
Experience UQ

Still exploring your study options for 2009? You’re invited to experience what The University of Queensland can offer you with tours of our St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton campuses available all year round for individuals, families and larger groups.

A guided on-campus tour is your personal opportunity to get a closer look at university life, ask questions, talk to current students and see the facilities first-hand. UQ information packs are provided for all visitors.

Contacting the campus prior to your visit will allow us to organise an experienced tour guide for you. Tours generally take about an hour and can be arranged during business hours either during the university semester or during the school or university holidays.

For more information, contact the Student Recruitment Team on (07) 3346 7752 or email campustours@uq.edu.au.