WARM WELCOME

UQ awaits OWeek

FEBRUARY 2009
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Some things are certain about 2009: it will be a year of challenges; and a time for UQ to give more attention to its responsibility to equip students, graduates and staff to meet personal and shared challenges.

Climate change is a test that none of us can avoid. It’s an issue for which UQ accepts many obligations, including: developing technologies that will help humanity mitigate and cope with the impacts, offering an excellent education to people who want to create and guide strategies to address climate change, sharing the knowledge gained from research, being ethical managers of our own inputs to climate change, and showing leadership.

The latter two points require the University to both understand and mitigate its own environmental impacts, and to be an agent for positive change. A substantial element of this is being covered by a strategy, now in development, that will scope and manage our carbon emissions, including those from on-campus oil and gas consumption, from electricity, and from “Indirect” outputs such as transport and waste dumped in landfills.

The strategy’s four key objectives are to:

• Align UQ’s carbon mitigation program with our core business of learning, discovery and engagement, so that good environmental outcomes flow naturally from UQ’s everyday work
• Sharpen UQ’s position as a leader in teaching, research and technology transfer regarding energy, carbon and sustainability
• Minimise our greenhouse emissions and our energy and carbon bills
• Comply with government requirements.

There is a will for action across the University. Particular credit for contributing to this strategy goes to a coalition of students and researchers from many disciplines, known as “UQ Climate for Change”, and to staff of the Property and Facilities Division.

UQ students and prospective students demand action also, and young people’s interest in sustainability-related courses was one factor behind the recent reconfiguration of UQ’s science and engineering disciplines.

At the start of the academic year, it is very gratifying to welcome more new undergraduate students than UQ has hosted for some years. This group includes the first generation of UQ Academic Scholarship winners: young people who are both excellent scholars as well as accomplished leaders.

From this year, all undergraduates have the advantage of a new service known as the Office of Undergraduate Education. Staff of this unit (the first of its kind in an Australian university) will be focused on improving access to options that can add value to a degree – such as international exchanges, workforce internships, and immersions in research.

These experiences expand students’ horizons and enhance their confidence to deal with the demands of their careers, as well as their personal and community lives.

I am yet to meet a UQ person who balks at a challenge, so I look forward to working throughout 2009 with students, staff, and alumni whose collective energy and inventiveness will improve their own prospects for success, and the prospects of UQ as a whole.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
**LESSONS FOR LEARNERS**

Evaluating the skills of Queensland’s P1 drivers has become a whole lot easier, thanks to an innovative computer-based test developed by a UQ researcher.

Dr Mark Horswill, from the School of Psychology, has created a video-based hazard perception test that measures a driver’s ability to recognise and appropriately respond to potentially dangerous situations while driving.

Dr Horswill said the test, which Queensland Transport introduced last year, would help lower the road toll.

“Given that every road fatality costs Australia $1.8 million, even marginal improvements will have major economic benefits, in addition to the obvious personal and social impact,” he said.

Approximately 7000 drivers per month take the test and must pass it in order to proceed from a P1 to a P2 licence.

The test consists of a series of video clips that present various traffic scenes containing potential traffic conflicts that require the user to take action, such as braking, overtaking or changing course.

The user’s skills are assessed by clicking the mouse on one of the potential traffic conflicts displayed in each video clip.

Dr Horswill is developing a video-based hazard perception training package, which will be sent to all new drivers in Queensland with the aim of improving their hazard perception skills.

**EAT SMART TARGETS TEENS**

Overweight and obese adolescents aged between 10 and 17 years can take part in a new innovative weight management program being conducted in Brisbane and Ipswich.

The Eat Smart Program is a joint project of the Children’s Nutrition Research Centre (CNRC), The University of Queensland and the Royal Children’s Hospital.

The study recognises the complex health, social and psychological issues associated with childhood obesity. It offers an eight-month program that provides psychological and nutritional information as well as physical activity to educate and support young people and their families to make long term lifestyle changes.

The study includes a novel and important preparatory step called “FRIENDS for Life” – a life skills and resilience building course which helps prepare adolescents for lifestyle change and build their self-esteem and self-confidence.

After completing FRIENDS for Life, participants will begin a six-month lifestyle program supported by the Eat Smart team.

Dr Helen Truby from the CNRC said 60 percent of the young people referred to Eat Smart already had one or more problems associated with their obesity such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high insulin levels.

INFO → (07) 3365 5476 or email cnrc@uq.edu.au

**SHORT CUTS**

**BEATING BANKRUPTCY**

Rising rates of consumer bankruptcy will come under the spotlight in a new University of Queensland study.

Dr David Morrison, from UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law, has secured an Australian Research Council Grant for his project: “A Consumer Bankruptcy Project – an interdisciplinary empiric inquiry into determinants and impacts of bankruptcy upon Australian debtors”.

Dr Morrison is the only law academic in Australia to be awarded a 2009 ARC Linkage International Fellowship.

He will collaborate with bankruptcy scholars in the US, working with colleagues from universities including Illinois, Texas at Austin and Harvard.

The collaboration is gathering important data from US personal bankruptcies and conducts research around topics including debt and health, reckless consumer lending, labour force demographics, small business impact and the financial well-being of families.

“There is a real need both in the current economic uncertainty and looking forward to the future to understand reasons for financial distress and the consequential rising rates of bankruptcy in Australia,” Dr Morrison said.

“The project will look at the well-being of Australian society by obtaining a better understanding of the profile of bankrupt debtors, the reasons for personal default and the impact of the regulatory framework upon all stakeholders.”

**ELECTRIC WICKETS**

The electric pace of Twenty20 cricket has been all about innovation and at Allan Border Field in Brisbane, the Indian IPL cricket stars, the Kolkata Knightriders, recently discovered just how fast it really is.

The Knightriders had the opportunity to use a tiny wireless accelerometer developed by UQ researchers to accurately measure the speed of the skills that are becoming so crucial in Twenty20 cricket.

The device was used recently in the Queensland Cricket practice facilities during the Twenty20 cricket.

It was developed by Dr Craig Engstrom from UQ’s School of Human Movement Studies and the School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering (ITEE), together with Associate Professor Stephen Wilson and Miguel Fuentes of ITEE.

Former Australian and now Knightriders cricket coach, Dr John Buchanan, is a renowned leader in adopting technology in coaching his teams.

In Brisbane the Indian cricketers found an edge, thanks to this ground-breaking device.

“I am really pleased that we have been able to access this technology before anyone else,” Dr Buchanan said.

“I believe that this can provide our players with a clear advantage leading into the next IPL series.”

Dr Buchanan, who is an Adjunct Associate Professor in Sports Coaching in UQ’s School of Human Movement Studies, and a UQ graduate, is a former UQ Club cricket coach and was awarded an honorary Doctor of the University degree in 2006.

“The University of Queensland has always been a leader in researching new technologies and this will ultimately provide an opportunity to improve these players’ skills,” he said.
STUDENT SHORTCUT

UQ students need no longer wonder whether a computer will be free at the library – they can simply check a monitor or head online in advance.

With the use of real-time technology, UQ library users can now see the total number and location of computers in each branch and find out which ones are free at that moment.

University Librarian and Director of Learning Services Keith Webster said the initiative was a time saver for the thousands of students who use the library network each day.

The system includes plasma screens located across the library locations, and was developed by staff based on work originally undertaken by the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering.

The innovation is already proving popular with students who need to locate an available computer quickly.

“Students are busy and the more we can do to provide convenience, the better their experience is likely to be,” Mr Webster said.

The library has launched a new Innovation Lab to work on projects that will provide opportunities for collaboration with research groups from all over the University.

“The aim of the Innovation Lab is to give library staff time and space away from their usual jobs to work on great ideas and make them a reality,” Executive Manager Andrew Bennett said.

INFO ➔ www.library.uq.edu.au

WIRELESS RAINFORESTS

An innovative wireless network that could hold the key to preserving Australia’s rainforests was the subject of a recent UQ seminar.

Adjunct Professor Dr Aila Keto, President of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society spoke at a Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science event about an innovative project being conducted next to rainforest national parks at Springbrook in the Gold Coast hinterland.

Dr Keto said the research used a wireless sensor network (WSN), and was essential to providing innovative solutions to ensure ecosystem health and resilience and protection of at-risk Australian flora and fauna.

“Rainforests cover barely 0.3 percent of the Australian continent, yet more than half of our plant and animal species rely upon these complex forests,” Dr Keto said.

“Our research explores innovative and potentially more cost-effective approaches to protecting and restoring the Australian landscape starting with World Heritage rainforests on the Springbrook Plateau.”

The state-of-the-art WSN at Springbrook senses temperature, humidity, light, soil moisture and other environmental and biological parameters and relays data to high capacity storage and analysis facilities.

The networked system will stimulate further research into improving the technology and understanding the changes occurring in the revegetation projects areas.

FACTS + FIGURES

1800kg

the weight of books collected by UQ students to donate to Indonesian libraries as part of a recent appeal

7 million

the cost of UQ’s Minerals Characterisation Research Facility, to be completed later this year, which aims to boost Queensland’s mineral production while cutting the state’s power use

368

number of pages in the first definitive Great Barrier Reef field guide, co-edited by 2008 Smart State Premier’s Fellow Professor Ove-Hoegh-Guldberg

2000

first prize in US dollars for the Coupland Competition for bioweapons prevention, which was won this year by UQ graduate Andrew Nguyen

300

number of works included in the inaugural NEW exhibition held at the UQ Art Museum over Summer

1.8 billion

the age of deep sea fossil tracks recently found off the Bahamas by QBI scientist Professor Justin Marshall
Mothers and babies will find a new resource at UQ in 2009, after the Queensland Government chose the University’s researchers to lead an important new centre of excellence.

Queensland Health Minister Stephen Robertson announced in December UQ as the winner of a tender for the Queensland Centre for Mothers and Babies, a significant component of Queensland’s maternity reform agenda.

“The Queensland Centre for mothers and babies will provide up-to-date information and resources for mothers, babies and their care givers,” Mr Robertson said.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the announcement recognised the great power of social science research to assist families and communities in very practical ways.

Professor Greenfield congratulated the research team led by Head of School of Psychology, Professor Christina Lee.

Professor Lee said the centre would improve maternity care through a consumer-focused emphasis on optimal choices, sharing of information and continuity of care.

“It is critical to promote mutual understanding, respect and trust between and among care providers, consumers and other stakeholders in maternity care,” she said.

The Queensland Government has allocated $7 million over four years for the centre.

The UQ team includes Professor Lee, Dr Yvette Miller, Rachel Thompson, Professor Cindy Gallois and Dr Bernadette Watson.

DEFENCE CHIEF JOINS UQ

The chief of Australia’s Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO) will be UQ’s new Executive Director (Operations).

Maurie McNam, AO, Director DIO and Head of Joint Operational Intelligence, will take up the new position on March 16, created to cover some of the duties of retired Secretary and Registrar Dr Douglas Porter.

In his current role, since January 2005, Mr McNam completed implementation of the recommendations of the Flood Inquiry into Australia’s intelligence services.

Before heading DIO he was Commander of Training Command, Australia’s largest registered training organisation.

As National Commander of Australian Forces in the Middle East Area of Operations from July 2002 to June 2003, he led 2300 personnel in air, maritime and land forces across Iraq, the Gulf and Afghanistan.

His academic qualifications include a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Defence (Strategic) Studies, a Graduate Diploma of Telecommunications Systems Management and a Bachelor of Arts with honours.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said he was delighted Mr McNam had accepted the appointment.

“I look forward to welcoming Maurie to the executive team, where he will co-ordinate the management of UQ’s financial, physical, human, management information and information technology services,” Professor Greenfield said.

FUNDING WELCOMED

New national funding of $69.9 million will be invested in better facilities for UQ students and staff, in areas ranging from innovations in animal health to modern learning spaces.

The funds are split between a $47.2 million contribution towards the completion of new UQ School of Veterinary Science facilities at Gatton (the total project is worth more than $100 million), and $22.7 million to create or renew teaching and learning infrastructure.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the funds would enhance the experience of students and staff and lead to better outcomes for partners in industry, research, government, the non-government sector and the community.

“The $22.7 million for teaching and learning infrastructure is a welcome surprise for UQ. We had asked the government to fund the veterinary project but had not sought the $22.7 million,” Professor Greenfield said.

The government has advised UQ and other universities of one-off funding for teaching and learning spaces in 2009, from the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Higher Education.

“I congratulate the government for making university infrastructure a feature of its efforts to stimulate the economy,” Professor Greenfield said.

New bub centre unveiled

An impression of the new School of Veterinary Science
“Many of the buildings completed in these times have been recognised by the Institute through awards”

State-of-the-art: clockwise from right, Biological Sciences Library, UQ Art Museum, General Purpose North 4 Building and the UQ Centre for Clinical Research

ARCHITECTURE PRIZE

UQ HAS RECENTLY BEEN RECOGNISED FOR ITS CUTTING EDGE CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES.

T he University’s creation of a high-quality built environment at all of its campuses and research sites has earned the 2008 Australian Institute of Architects President’s Prize. Queensland Chapter President Mr Bruce Medek presented the award to UQ’s Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield and its outgoing Property and Facilities Director, Mr Alasdair McClintock, during the President’s Dinner held at the Southbank Parklands in November.

Professor Greenfield thanked Mr Medek and the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects.

“This has special meaning for UQ, because it recognises the priority attention paid to the built environment at all our campuses and facilities,” Professor Greenfield said.

“No institution can make people learn, but learning becomes a more attractive proposition when you give students, teachers, researchers and visitors the right environment.

“Hundreds of people – UQ staff as well as consultants and contractors – have earned this prize, and I congratulate them all.”

Professor Greenfield said the University appreciated the Australian Institute of Architects’ recognition of UQ’s respect for the architecture profession.

“It is the University’s honour to work with exceptional architects – including many UQ alumni – who consistently deliver designs that are innovative, practical and sympathetic to our ethos,” he said.

The President’s Prize recognises individuals or organisations for their contribution to or support of the architectural profession.

Mr Medek congratulated UQ on recognising and appreciating the benefits of exceptional architecture.

“Over the past decade-and-a-half, The University of Queensland has overseen an extensive capital works program at its St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton campuses, Customs House, Heron Island, and the University Mine at Indooroopilly,” he said.

“Many of the buildings completed in these times have been recognised by the Institute through awards, in fact an award for every two-and-a-half buildings completed.”

Recent architecturally designed projects at UQ include the $33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science at the Gatton Campus and the $54 million environmentally friendly General Purpose North 4 Building and $63 million Queensland Brain Institute, both located at UQ St Lucia.
Deadline for dengue

A mosquito-borne virus that each year harms up to 100 million people and kills more than 20,000 is a step closer to being controlled after a breakthrough by UQ scientists.

In a paper published in the prestigious international journal Science in January, the researchers have proven the effectiveness of a new way of limiting the lifespan of the type of mosquito that spreads dengue fever. They have done it by infecting the dengue mosquito, Aedes aegypti, with a bacterium that is harmless to humans and other animals but halves Aedes’ lifespan. This has the potential to greatly reduce dengue because only old mosquitoes are effective at transmitting the virus to humans.

Carried out in the lab of Professor Scott O’Neill (pictured), the experiment’s involved painstaking work with the Aedes mosquito and Wolbachia, a bacterium that occurs in fruit flies. PhD student Conor McMeniman used super-fine needles to manually inject 10,000 mosquito embryos with Wolbachia, and encouraged the surviving mosquitoes to feed on his own blood.

“We ended up having to inject thousands of embryos to achieve success, but it was well and truly worth it in the end,” Mr McMeniman said.

Professor O’Neill said the project’s next stage would be a contained field cage setting in northern Queensland.

The scientists’ success is critical to the progress of a $10 million project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and may lead to a new, safe and cheap way of curtailing the virus.

Exhibition opens

A new exhibit featuring more fossils of the world’s first modern crocodilian has opened in Isisford, central-western Queensland.

UQ palaeontologist Dr Steve Salisbury, who with his team have been spearheading the research in Isisford since 2001, said the exhibit was an extension of the existing display that was first unveiled in 2006, at the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre.

“Our goal with this display was to share with the public the processes behind the science of palaeontology,” Dr Salisbury said.

“Everything from how we find fossils in the field, gradually expose the bones in the lab, and then interpret their scientific significance is shown in the new display.”

He said the centrepiece is the complete skull of Isisfordia duncani, which was uncovered after more than 1200 hours of drilling work by research assistant Kerry Geddes (pictured).

“The end result is spectacular as it’s easily the most complete and best-preserved fossil crocodilian skull ever discovered in Australia. It’s hard to believe that the animal to which it belonged has been dead for almost 100 million years,” Dr Salisbury said.

INFO ➔ www.isisford.qld.gov.au

Orphaned koala becomes mother

An orphaned baby koala that was flown 1200km to be raised in captivity has recently become a first-time mum, following her successful return to the wild.

In August 2005, the tiny five-month old koala named Shirley was found on a property near the Blair Athol Coal Mine in Central Queensland and was rushed to the Moggill Koala Hospital in Brisbane.

A year later Shirley was returned to the wild, but not before Dr Sean FitzGibbon, from UQ’s Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation, fitted her with a radio-transmitting collar so he could monitor the success of her release.

On a field visit last year, Dr FitzGibbon spotted Shirley curled up in a gum tree, and found an extra surprise.

“There was another pair of eyes looking down on me. Shirley has had a baby,” he said.

“The fact that Shirley has come full circle and now has young indicates that her rehabilitation to the wild has been extremely successful.

“So many people worked as a team to keep Shirley alive and now that she is a first-time mother we know it has all been worthwhile.”

Fortunately for Shirley, her rescuer, an employee at the Blair Athol Coal Mine, had spent years working alongside scientists from Koala Venture, a collaboration between UQ and Rio Tinto.

Established in the early 1990s, Koala Venture is the longest running koala monitoring program in Australia and has uncovered information about the life cycle of koalas, their dietary preferences and breeding behaviours.

Researchers work with Rio Tinto to ensure mining activities are performed in a way which reduces negative impacts upon koalas and facilitates the restoration of suitable habitats.

Shirley, who is now living happily in Central Queensland with her joey, Pepper, is just one Koala Venture success story.

INFO ➔ To learn more about the project, visit www.koalaventure.com

INFO ➔ 38
UQ research is uncovering the true cost of how baby turtles make their dash from hatching in the dunes to the relative safety of the ocean.

Zoologist Dr David Booth, from UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, said his research was aimed at discovering how much energy the hatchlings needed to reach safe deep water.

“The first few hundred metres that a newly hatched turtle swims are the most dangerous of its life,” Dr Booth said.

“Having run the gauntlet of air and land predators to make it to the sea, the tiny voyager must also evade hungry fish patrolling the beaches in its bid for freedom.

“Frantically swimming and surrounded by predators, as many as 30 percent die on their maiden voyage.”

Curious to know how much energy the youngsters needed to reach safe deep water, Dr Booth measured the hatchling’s oxygen consumption and found they have enough energy reserves to survive 10 days at sea without feeding.

Basing his research at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef at UQ’s Heron Island Research Station, Dr Booth took advantage of the unique laboratory facilities that are within metres of a green turtle nesting beach.

“At hatching time, I corralled nests in order to catch several youngsters as they reached the sand’s surface about 100 metres away from the lab before they could reach the sea,” he said.

“I then fitted each hatching with a lycra swim suit with a chord attached to a force transducer, before setting the youngster free in a seawater aquarium.

“As soon as they entered the water, the youngsters began swimming quickly with their large front flippers, pulling against the force transducer as if they were swimming out to sea.”

Dr Booth said initially the animals swam very hard using their front flippers with their heads down, only switching to a “doggy paddle” as they came up for air before returning to fast front-flipper swimming.

“But as time drew on, the youngsters’ activity slowed,” he said.

“They spent more time doggy paddling and less time pulling with their front flippers until they eventually began taking the odd break after about 12 hours.”

Calculating the amount of energy the hatchlings consumed during their 18-hour swim, Dr Booth said the turtles carried almost 10 times as much energy in their yolk remnants as they needed to reach safety.

“They can probably survive 14 days in the open ocean before finding food,” he said.

The baby turtles were released into the ocean following the experiment, with the research conducted with the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as UQ’s ethical research guidelines.

The resulting research was published in a recent edition of The Journal of Experimental Biology.

– ANDREW DUNNE
Tradition maintained

Success is in 2009 Queensland Rhodes Scholar Caitlin Goss’s genes.

The UQ graduate was announced the winner of the prestigious scholarship to Oxford University at Queensland Government House in November, edging out a field of highly-qualified candidates from across the state.

While Ms Goss is the daughter of former Queensland Premier Wayne Goss and UQ PhD candidate Roisin Goss, sister of 2007 Queensland Rhodes Scholar Ryan Goss and granddaughter of 1927 scholar Konrad Hirschfeld, it is her strong academic achievement and personal qualities that made her stand out from the other 21 applicants.

Ms Goss graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Arts (first-class honours)/Bachelor of Laws, and was awarded a University Medal in 2006.

In September she will travel to Oxford University to study a Bachelor of Civil Laws, allowing her to expand her knowledge of post-conflict law reform.

Ms Goss hoped her studies would allow her to help set up new legal systems in countries recovering from war.

“I’m interested in law reform in general and in the immediate term see myself practicing this overseas in post-conflict situations,” she said.

“In the longer term I’d love to come back to Australia and apply what I’ve learned.”

Ms Goss is UQ’s eighth Queensland Rhodes Scholar in a row.

$2.3 MILLION FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

An Australian-first alliance between Queensland’s three largest universities will expand higher learning in a range of Asian and European languages.

With $2.27 million in Australian Government funding, UQ, Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) will pool teaching of at least nine languages so that their students may learn them as part of formal studies.

Students at all three institutions – which together have about 110,000 enrolments so that their students may learn them as part of formal studies.

Students at all three institutions – which together have about 110,000 enrolments so that their students may learn them as part of formal studies.

The system will begin to roll out this year following the government’s funding announcement in December.

The alliance is the first of its kind involving multiple languages and three Australian universities. It arises from a determination by the three Vice-Chancellors that major world languages must continue to be offered at university level in Brisbane, despite difficulties with enrolments.

“If we applied accounting principles alone some of these languages would disappear from university curricula,” UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said.

“However the three universities’ bottom line is that we can’t afford to see language scholarship atrophy in Australia’s third biggest capital city.”

2009 will also see another landmark language event when the Institute of Modern Languages (IML) celebrates its 75th anniversary later this year.

Established in 1934 at UQ, IML has grown to become one of the country’s largest providers of comprehensive language instruction and translation and interpreting services.

In 2009, 83 courses will be offered in 26 different languages, with approximately 3000 enrolments drawn from UQ staff, students and the general public.

IML director Georgiana Poulter welcomed all past and present students to contribute to anniversary celebrations, which will culminate in a gala event in June.

INFO ➔ www.iml.uq.edu.au
Student numbers are growing at UQ’s campuses as the 2009 academic year beckons.

New students are encouraged to take part in Orientation Week (OWeek), February 23-27, to attend important information sessions, familiarise themselves with their campuses and participate in social activities.

A big attraction of the annual event is the free Market Day at the St Lucia Campus on February 25, where students can enjoy live entertainment, giveaways, numerous stalls and other fun festivities, as well as have the opportunity to join one of the many UQ Union affiliated clubs or societies.

Students can receive their free UQ Union 2009 Student Diary from the UQ Union Side Show Alley of Fun, while UQconnect will have information on available IT services, and students can visit UQ SPORT for information on the University’s many recreational clubs and sports programs.

Centrelink, RACQ, BCC Active Transport and Translink will also be on-site.

The week culminates in the Big O on tour at UQ, with acts including The Music, The Fratellis, Ben Lee, Bluejuice, Yves Klein Blue and Cassette Kids, held at the The University of Queensland Amphitheatre, St Lucia, on Saturday, February 28.

UQ Student Services learning hub senior manager Janey Saunders said orientation was not just about OWeek but was part of the overall transition into university, from enrolment and beyond.

“Workshops presented by Student Services throughout OWeek address writing, reading, studying, exam prep, time management and many other areas,” Ms Saunders said.

“Whilst these workshops take place throughout OWeek they are also continued into the semester, where they are integrated into academic courses.”

Market Days at Ipswich and Gatton will take place on February 24 from 10am-2pm and February 26 from 12pm-3pm respectively.

INFO ➔ Download the 2009 orientation planner at www.uq.edu.au/orientation/
The University’s first graduate from the Bachelor of Business (Sustainable Enterprise Management), Adrian Ward, is paving the path to a sustainable future.

The study program began last year, and was developed by UQ’s Paul Dargusch in collaboration with more than 23 industry representatives with the objective of producing graduates that could implement processes to operate with environmental and social responsibility.

Mr Ward (pictured) joined 120 other graduates from the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science to receive their degrees at a graduation ceremony at UQ Gatton on December 5.

Mr Ward said it was an easy decision to major in sustainable enterprise management when the opportunity was presented to him, given his passion for the environment and his desire to make a difference in the corporate world.

“The business world is changing for the better. There are new and exciting opportunities that don’t cost the earth,” Mr Ward said.

“Being smarter about the way we engage in business makes sense and is leading to a massive growth in jobs and investment in the green sector, even in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis. We have only one earth, and we have almost 7 billion people living on it. Business is gaining the will to use its capacity to drive us towards greater sustainability, so our kids enjoy the future.”

Students enrolled in the sustainable enterprise management program develop knowledge and skills in issues such as carbon trading, carbon footprinting, climate change strategy and renewable energy.
He’s had students high five him, take pictures on stage and offer bear hugs, but retiring UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, was lost for words when one graduate took to the podium recently.

Sir Llew’s son David was a surprise addition to a Faculty of Arts and SBS ceremony on December 3, fulfilling a journey which had been 20 years in the making.

Now the Queensland Director of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, Mr Edwards completed a dual Bachelor of Economics / Bachelor of Arts in 1989, but was more interested in seeing the world than donning a cap and gown.

“I always promised my parents that I would complete my university studies prior to travelling abroad so as soon as my final exams were over, I was off – attending a ceremony in 1989 was certainly not a high priority,” Mr Edwards said.

“With Dad’s retirement as Chancellor, I thought it would be a nice surprise for him to present one of his children with their degree at one of his final graduation ceremonies.”

Mr Edwards thanked staff from the Vice-Chancellor’s office who made the surprise possible and ensured it went off without a hitch.

“We managed to keep it a secret and it was not until Professor Richard Fotheringham introduced me that Dad realised what was happening,” he said.

Sir Llew presided over his last graduation as Chancellor on December 15, having shaken the hands of approximately 80,000 graduates as part of his formal duties spanning 16 years. He announced in November that he would not seek reappointment when his fifth consecutive term as Chancellor expired this month.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said no accolades could do justice to his contributions, which included chairing UQ’s governing Senate, presiding at graduations and representing UQ at community, corporate and government events at home and abroad.

“In an era when the relevance of many time-honoured institutions has been questioned, Sir Llew has single-handedly magnified the relevance of the office of UQ Chancellor,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Without taking a day’s pay in almost 16 years as Chancellor, he has built enormous goodwill not only for UQ but also for Australian higher education at home and internationally.”

“With Dad’s retirement as Chancellor, I thought it would be a nice surprise for him to present one of his children with their degree at one of his final graduation ceremonies”
The retirement of UQ Secretary and Registrar Dr Douglas Porter marks the “end of an epoch” for the University and Queensland, according to outgoing Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards, AC.

Dr Porter retired on January 28, after more than 22 years at the helm of the University’s finances and administration.

In that time he has signed testamurs as proof of graduation for 150,300 UQ alumni – about 90 per cent of all living UQ graduates.

On December 15 he received his own UQ degree, an Honorary Doctorate in Economics, and was officially farewelled by 150 guests at Customs House – a heritage building that UQ bought and refurbished on his watch.

Sir Llew said Dr Porter had made “immeasurable contributions” to UQ since he began as Secretary and Registrar in 1986.

“A great many of these are linked to his indispensable role as Secretary to the University’s governing body, the Senate,” Sir Llew said.

“His experience, knowledge, and insight have been a very special and great honour that I will treasure for the remainder of my life,” Dr Dowsett said.

“Dr Porter has made immeasurable contributions to UQ since he began as Secretary and Registrar in 1986. A great many of these are linked to his indispensable role as Secretary to the University’s governing body, the Senate,” Sir Llew said.

Dr Porter said after 43 years working in three universities he particularly wished to thank and recognise his wife, Dr Janet Porter (pictured), a UQ PhD graduate, who has made valuable and sustained contributions to the University’s social and cultural networks.

Fellow recipients of honorary doctorates in December were Sir Peter Kenilorea, KBE, PC, Donald Argus, AO, Dr Frank Gannon, Graham Bligh, Dr Susan Pond, AM, Michael Bryce, AM, AE, John Simpson, Sir Frank Moore, AO, and Dr Russell Howard.

A veterinarian and mentor recognised for his outstanding contributions to the profession has been recognised with UQ Gatton’s highest honour.

Dr Kerry Dowsett (pictured centre) received the prestigious UQ Gatton Gold Medal and addressed graduates at the December 5 ceremony at the Campus Gymnasium.

The UQ Gatton Gold Medal is awarded each year to a past student who has made an outstanding contribution in their field.

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He has Honorary Life Membership and a Special Award from the University of Queensland Veterinary Student Association, and in 1999 won the Peter Irwin Literary Award from the Australian Equine Veterinary Association.

Golden contribution

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To be recognised in such a way by the place where my career began is a very special and great honour that I will treasure for the remainder of my life,” Dr Dowsett said.

After graduating from the Queensland Agricultural College (which became the UQ Gatton Campus) with a Diploma in Animal Husbandry in 1963, Dr Dowsett went on to complete his Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 1970 and PhD in 1983 at UQ.

Before joining UQ as a lecturer in veterinary medicine in 1975, he worked as a husbandry officer within the Beef Cattle Husbandry Branch of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

He is deeply committed to the training of the next generation of Queensland veterinarians, particularly in the area of equine medicine, continuing to teach and train students long into his retirement from UQ in 1997.

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CAPPING HONOUR for Registrar

The retirement of UQ Secretary and Registrar Dr Douglas Porter marks the “end of an epoch” for the University and Queensland, according to outgoing Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards, AC.

Dr Porter retired on January 28, after more than 22 years at the helm of the University’s finances and administration.

In that time he has signed testamurs as proof of graduation for 150,300 UQ alumni – about 90 per cent of all living UQ graduates.

On December 15 he received his own UQ degree, an Honorary Doctorate in Economics, and was officially farewelled by 150 guests at Customs House – a heritage building that UQ bought and refurbished on his watch.

Sir Llew said Dr Porter had made “immeasurable contributions” to UQ since he began as Secretary and Registrar in 1986.

“A great many of these are linked to his indispensable role as Secretary to the University’s governing body, the Senate,” Sir Llew said.

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SHARED CELEBRATION

Graduations are a special time for all involved, but for the Stephenson family, UQ’s recent ceremonies were especially memorable.

Mother and daughter duo Birgitta and Laura Stephenson (pictured) joined more than 900 others recently in receiving their degrees for studies in the faculties of Arts and Social and Behavioural Sciences.

Birgitta graduated with a double major in archaeology while Laura earned a Bachelor of Psychology with honours.

“There is something reassuring about a UQ degree. It is an esteemed achievement at any age,” Birgitta said.

Birgitta and Laura join a growing family tradition, with Dad graduating from design studies in 1982 and architecture in 1985, Grandad from medicine in 1959 and second eldest daughter Eloise currently studying towards a science degree.

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UQ joined the international campaign to raise diabetes awareness when it turned one of its most prominent buildings blue on November 13.

To mark the eve of World Diabetes Day, the northern side of the Forgan Smith building at the St Lucia Campus was illuminated between 7pm and 11pm.

Director of UQ’s Centre for Burden of Disease and Cost-Effectiveness, Professor Theo Vos, congratulated the University on drawing attention to the condition expected to cost Australians $5.6 billion in health care expenditure in 2032 – an increase of 400 percent on current figures.

“This is the ninth year the event will be held illustrating its immense success within and beyond the University.” Professor Vos said.

“Raising awareness is important because there is considerable under-diagnosis and there are effective interventions with diet, exercise or drugs in early disease or pre-stages of disease that slow progression to worse outcomes,” Professor Vos said.

“More than two-thirds of diabetes can be attributed to increased body mass and physical inactivity and hence awareness of type 2 diabetes and its close link to obesity and sedentary lifestyle is important knowledge to convey to the public.”

Established in 1991 and supported by the United Nations since 2006, World Diabetes Day aims to raise awareness, to urge governments to implement national policies for the care and treatment of diabetes, and to encourage individuals to get involved.

“Almost 1 million Australians are currently diagnosed with diabetes. However, for every person diagnosed, it is estimated that there is another who is not aware they are living with this chronic disease,” Diabetes Australia – Queensland CEO, Michelle Trute, said.

Diabetes is a chronic condition that arises when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin, or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

In 2007 the World Diabetes Day Monument Challenge saw 279 iconic monuments, including the Empire State Building, the Tokyo Tower, the London Eye and Sydney Opera House all turn blue for a few hours. Other local landmarks to show their colours recently included the Treasury Casino and the Brisbane City Hall.

INFO ➔ Those interested in attending the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards can register at www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week or contact k.gan@uq.edu.au

IN OTHERS’ SHOES

CONSIDERING THE VIEWS AND LIFESTYLES OF OTHERS WILL BE THE FOCUS OF DIVERSITY WEEK 2009

Australia’s first female State Premier and former Federal Health Minister Professor Carmen Lawrence will participate in a lively discussion on different worldviews as part of this year’s Diversity Week program.

The theme of UQ Diversity Week 2009 (May 25-29), In Others’ Shoes, challenges the wider community to consider the world through multiple lenses – to reflect upon how a person’s worldviews are shaped by the people and societal beliefs around them.

The week culminates with the presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards (May 28), with a panel discussion an important part of the festivities.

Professor Lawrence and Professor Kevin Clements, Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at The University of Otago, New Zealand, are guest panellists.

Professor Lawrence served as the Premier of Western Australian from 1990-1993 and was also elected the Federal President of the Australian Labor Party in 2003. Professor Clements has worked with several leading organisations including International Alert, based in London, and the Peace Research Centre at the Australian National University.

The Vice Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards is a free event for UQ staff, students and their guests.

UQ Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Keniger said Diversity Week allowed the University to connect with the community and celebrate its many different religious, cultural, sexual and ethnic backgrounds.

“This is the ninth year the event will be held illustrating its immense success within and beyond the University.” Professor Keniger said.

“Diversity Week enables the University to focus the attention of students and staff on fundamental issues to do with the core values that sustain and inform the many elements and groups that together constitute society.”

INFO ➔ Those interested in attending the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards can register at www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week or contact k.gan@uq.edu.au
WATER SOLUTIONS FORUM
SATURDAY 7 MARCH
ABEL SMITH BUILDING 23
ROOM 1
12.30-5.30PM
aiesecuq.com.au

YOUTH SOLUTIONS
WITH IMPACT

The future of Australia’s economic, social and environmental progress lies in the hands of today’s young people. The Water Solutions Forum provides a platform for Queensland’s youth, as well as members of the corporate community to learn about and discuss the current state of water sustainability in Queensland. The forum allows delegates to learn how to be effective leaders in sustainability. The day provides an opportunity for young people to socialise and network with current AIESEC members and to learn from potential employers who are paving the way in the field of water sustainability.

AIESEC

The international platform for young people to discover and develop their potential

Water Solutions Forum brought to you by AIESEC UQ
The event is supported by the Master of Integrated Water Management Program.
To find out more about the program, please visit www.watercentre.org
Teaching success a virtual reality

Virtual learning environments and science experiments conducted through web browsers are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Australia’s first centre of leadership in educational innovation at UQ.

The University’s new Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (CEIT) opened in November, and positions UQ at the forefront of research into teaching and learning technologies to be disseminated to universities around the world.

From remote online laboratories where students and educators are provided with unlimited access to iLab experiments, to lecture browsers that allow students to pinpoint and tag words or phrases from within the audio track of a lecture stream, eliminating hours of searching, the research potential of CEIT is endless.

CEIT’s digital innovations are continuations of projects started with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) iCampus Project, a Microsoft/MIT Research and Development (R&D) partnership.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Deborah Terry said UQ was proud to be leading Australia when it came to educational innovation.

“The potential impact of CEIT on teaching and learning worldwide is enormous and at the centre is the intellectual synergy of The University of Queensland’s researchers and academics, powering a new digital education age,” Professor Terry said.

“The University is already the iLabs Australasian distribution hub. This will be complemented by focused attention on active learning supported by electronic student portfolios and online tutoring systems, which will be among the other key projects to be undertaken at CEIT.”

The centre’s research is not limited to schools and tertiary institutions, with community groups, industry and government also having access to the technology, while students will work on projects.

CEIT founding director UQ Professor Phil Long, who comes to the University from MIT, will be instrumental in creating access to the latest research on technology-assisted teaching and learning, assisted by UQ iCampus co-ordinator Dr Mark Schulz as the centre’s Associate Director.

Professor Long said he aimed to develop a cohort of CEIT Fellows – UQ staff in different disciplines seconded to the centre to explore opportunities to develop and integrate digital technologies in their areas of interest.

“For example, we are looking at working collaboratively with the Queensland Brain Institute to study the brain functions that go on in a student’s mind while they learn,” he said.

Professor Long said the new outlook did not mean the death of the lecture, rather CEIT would re-examine what was most effectively expressed face-to-face versus what could be done through other means.

“This includes studying how to make research tools more widely available to students so they can practise being a part of the disciplinary communities they are studying, working with comparable resources that are a part of the laboratories or other academic workplaces of their academic staff,” he said.

“The potential impact of CEIT on teaching and learning worldwide is enormous”

– ELIZA PLANT

UQ LAUNCHES iCOURSE

To sample the innovative teaching practices at The University of Queensland, look no further than your iPhone.

Offered for the first time in March, COMP 3000 (Designing Mobile Applications) will challenge students to create programs for mobile devices such as phones, organisers and PDAs, and is believed to be the first university course of its type in the country.

Teaching Coordinator Aaron Tan, from the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE) and Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (CEIT), said the subject tapped into the enormous demand for mobile applications and linked with new products about to hit the market.

“Courses like this have been very popular in the US, so I think that there is interest on campus, students just haven’t been given an outlet to express it,” Mr Tan said.

Mr Tan said COMP 3000 students would create applications on the iPhone and Android operating systems, and required a working knowledge of programming to successfully complete the course. Interested students from fields other than IT and engineering were also encouraged to apply.

The teaching team will include Mr Tan, Dr Mark Schult and teaching guru and head of CEIT Professor Phil Long. Guest speakers from the IT and mobile industries will also take part.

COMP 3000, offered as an elective to the first 20 students to apply, culminates in a group project where students have to produce and present a new application for assessment. The students with the best pitch will each receive a $500 prize.

Mr Tan said the most popular mobile applications (known as “apps”) were games, but there were also many practical options including yoga trainers, weather forecasters and tools to help people quit smoking.

“We want to bring in (UQ technology transfer company) UniQuest and (copyright advice group) Creative Commons to let students know what opportunities exist outside the University,” he said.

INFO → www.itee.uq.edu.au/~comp3000/
The devastation of the severe thunderstorms that swept across Brisbane’s north-west in December highlight the importance of reliable, real-time weather forecasting, known as “now-casting”.

In a seminar given at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. Queensland Section’s recent Annual General Meeting, UQ Emeritus Professor Mat Darveniza described recent major advances in now-casting techniques.

Emeritus Professor Daveniza said that combining digital weather radar with the location of lightning ground flashes could provide real-time information about the severity and likely progress of thunderstorms.

“Now-casting techniques used by the Bureau of Meteorology are improving our ability to accurately predict the weather in short time-frames, especially severe thunderstorms,” he said.

Emeritus Professor Darveniza has had a distinguished career at UQ and is internationally recognised for his research on thunderstorms and lightning protection.

After many years of university work on electrical engineering education, high voltage technology and lightning protection, his present research interests are the reliability of power systems, particularly to distribution network outages caused by storms.

He is also a Life Fellow of the IEEE, the world’s largest technical professional society.

DNA can spell danger, and may even drive a cell to suicide, according to new research from Queensland scientists.

A team led by Dr Kate Stacey from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience has discovered how cells sacrifice themselves for the greater good if they are infected with a virus, with viral DNA being the key to responding to infection.

“Viruses evolve quickly and detecting viral infection is a challenge for the cell,” Dr Stacey said.

The cell is able to recognise foreign DNA because DNA in mammalian cells is contained within a structure known as the nucleus. The presence of DNA outside the nucleus is a sure sign that something is wrong, and may indicate the presence of a viral invader.

By killing itself, the cell can ensure that the virus does not spread throughout the body.

In research published in leading journal Science, Dr Stacey and fellow scientists Dr Tara Roberts, Professor David Hume and PhD student Adi Idris discovered two proteins in mouse cells, one of which induced cell suicide in response to foreign DNA, and one that prevented it.

The discovery will improve understanding of how cells normally combat viral infection, and may also be relevant for the disease lupus, where the immune system attacks normal cellular proteins.

“Lupus is a disease with abnormal responses to DNA, and we believe the high levels of p202 found in mouse strains which develop lupus prevent an appropriate response to DNA in the cytoplasm,” Dr Stacey said.

The research was funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

A new study by UQ and the University of Newcastle has revealed the most commonly prescribed medication for Australian women is antidepressants.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and Medicare data were linked to survey data to examine claims and costs of medications and other health care resources.

University of Newcastle study co-director Professor Julie Byles said eight percent of younger women and 14 percent of mid-age women used antidepressants during the surveyed period.

UQ neuroscientist Dr Michael Piper, from the Queensland Brain Institute, has been named Australia’s top postdoctoral researcher in the field at a recent conference.

Dr Piper was presented with the A.W Campbell Award at this year’s Australian Neuroscience Society.

Dr Piper has also received a much sought-after National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Career Development Award – a program which helps early career scientists find their niche in the competitive world of research.
Gene expression hits US

A new gene expression analysis platform developed in collaboration between Australian scientists and Invitrogen Corporation have partnered to commercialise the proprietary non-coding RNA content developed by researchers at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) at UQ.

Professor John Mattick and Dr Marcel Dinger, from the IMB, developed content that was exclusively licensed to Invitrogen for the first commercially available high-density microarray chip, the NCodeTM Human and Mouse non-coding RNA microarray, which can be used by researchers to profile both messenger and non-coding RNAs.

Standard microarray chips interrogate messenger RNAs to determine which genes are active in a cell at any particular moment in time. Non-coding RNAs are not traditional genes, as they do not produce proteins, but they appear to comprise a vast hidden layer of genetic programming implicated in development and disease pathways in mammals.

"Non-coding RNA transcripts play a variety of roles in a cell, ranging from simple housekeeping to complex regulatory functions, and evidence is mounting that their expression is perturbed in many cancers," Professor Mattick said.

IMBcom, UQ’s company for the commercialisation of intellectual property arising from research conducted at the IMB, licensed the non-coding RNA content to Invitrogen, which will market and sell the arrays built using this content.
**Artistic growth**

UQ sculptor Dr Rhyl Hinwood is at it again, putting the final touches to her most recent university sculpture for St Leo’s College.

The impressive “Tree of Life” artwork has occupied Dr Hinwood’s time for several months and will be placed in the courtyard at the residential college in early 2009. The sculpture is traditionally symbolic of the life process of growth, development and regeneration and is an appropriate inspiration for students at this formative stage of their lives. The tree is based on the non-deciduous Moreton Bay fig Ficus macrophylla – a symbol of everlasting life, reflecting the religious experience at St Leo’s College.

“Rector Brother Vince Skelly has a goal to make St Leo’s a place of beauty where the imagination can be inspired,” Dr Hinwood said.

“The trunk symbolises earth and the world axis, the link between heaven and hell and the attainment of knowledge.”

This is Dr Hinwood’s third artwork for St Leo’s College with a former piece including the entry marker of a carved Helidon freestone mounted on a Harcourt granite base, the same granite used in the foundations of UQ’s Great Court.

“Each new project has its own challenges and leads me into research that is relevant to the site and the commission brief,” she said.

Dr Hinwood was commissioned as UQ sculptor in 1976 and, since then, has created more than 300 artworks for The University of Queensland.

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**THE CO-OP BOOKSHOP CURRENT BESTSELLERS**

1. **BREAKING DAWN** – Stephanie Meyer  
   LITTLE BROWN (PB) $29.95  
   Young Adult

2. **THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO** – Stieg Larsson  
   MURDOCH (PB) $22.95  
   Crime

3. **THE TALES OF BEEDLE THE BARD**  
   J.K. Rowling  
   BLOOMSBURY (PB) $16.95  
   Young Adult

4. **THE GREAT FLETCH** – Hugh Lunn  
   ABC BOOKS (PB) $32.95  
   Sport

5. **THE HOUSE AT SALVATION CREEK**  
   Susan Duncan  
   RANDOM HOUSE (HB) $34.95  
   Fiction

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**GIVEAWAY**

UQP has one copy of Robert Helpmann: A Servant of Art to give away to a UQ News reader. Simply email your details to communications@uq.edu.au with “UQP giveaway” in the subject line.

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**REMEMBERING ROBERT HELPMANN**

To celebrate the 2009 centenary of Robert Helpmann’s birth, The University of Queensland Press has recently published Robert Helpmann: A Servant of Art by Anna Bemrose.

Dr Bemrose, an honorary research adviser in the UQ School of English, Media Studies and Art History, has brought to life the enduring and charismatic story of one of Australia’s most notable international performers.

She felt compelled to write the book after completing her PhD on Helpmann (pictured above with Carolyn Rappel), as very little had been written about him.

Dr Bemrose’s research took her on a whirlwind journey through the National Library, public collections and personal interviews with many of Helpmann’s professional collaborators including Peter Sculthorpe, Richard Bonyng and Dame Ninette de Valois, founder of the Royal Ballet.

The book, which contains more than 100 images of the artist with stars such as Katharine Hepburn and Margot Fonteyn, coincides with a travelling exhibition – “Bobby Dazzler!” – which appears at the Tony Gould Gallery, South Bank, until March 8.

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**Summer songs**

Leading music teachers and educators from Australia and South East Asia honed their skills at UQ’s internationally renowned Summer Music Program last month.

Now in its ninth year, the Summer Music Program is an initiative of the music education staff within the School of Music and is directed by Dr James Cuskelly.

Dr Cuskelly said the program provided intensive in-service training for more than 150 music educators in the areas of early childhood, primary and secondary classroom music education.

“The 2009 program featured a special jazz section for secondary students led by Hungarian music educator Mónika Benedek, and a vocal program led by Joseph Ward O.B.E, including sessions in operatic excerpts, aria and lieder singing, and ensemble work,” he said.

“Ms Benedek and Hungarian guest lecturer Balázs Cséryik, along with School of Music lecturer Réka Cséryik, bring their particular skills gained within the Hungarian music education system to the summer program.”

Dr Cuskelly said all three are graduates of the prestigious Hungarian Music Conservatorium, the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, having gained their Masters in Music Education and Choral Conducting. Another guest lecturer was acclaimed tenor Rosario La Spina, who is quickly establishing a distinguished career as an international opera performer.

The program culminated with the free Summer Music School concert held on January 16 at the All Hallows’ School Chapel.

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**CURRENT BESTSELLERS**

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Margaret Olley: Life's journey is the latest exhibition to open at UQ, and traces the many places the artist has lived and worked over the years, from romantic Paris to the remote and exotic New Guinea Highlands.

The exhibition includes more than 70 pieces on paper drawn from national, state and private collections, as well as the artist’s own, and provides a unique look at Olley’s celebrated career. “Travel abroad has been an important aspect of professional development for many Australian artists, and this exhibition documents the fascinating story of Margaret Olley’s journeys to Europe in the late 1940s and early ’50s, New Guinea in the 1950s, followed by extensive travel through East Asia and Europe in the 1960s and early ’70s,” curator Michele Helmrich said.

“Travel abroad has been an important aspect of professional development for many Australian artists, and this exhibition documents the fascinating story of Margaret Olley’s journeys to Europe in the late 1940s and early ’50s, New Guinea in the 1950s, followed by extensive travel through East Asia and Europe in the 1960s and early ’70s,” curator Michele Helmrich said.

“It provides a unique insight into the world around Margaret Olley from the early 1950s to the 1970s, years which help define an important era in Australia’s cultural life.”

While France, Italy and South East Asia feature prominently in the show, the depictions of local landmarks are also highlights. “Brisbane audiences will be intrigued by Olley’s watercolours of a Brisbane that has since been transformed, particularly her portrayal of the Old Victoria Bridge, and a streetscape more recently occupied by the Queensland Art Gallery and Performing Arts Centre,” Ms Helmrich said.

The University of Queensland awarded Margaret Olley an honorary Doctor of Letters in 1999, in recognition of her 50 years service to the arts and her philanthropic endeavours.

FANS OF MARGARET OLLEY MAY BE SURPRISED BY WHAT THEY DISCOVER IF THEY VISIT THE UQ ART MUSEUM IN COMING MONTHS.

Margaret Olley: Life’s journey is open free to the public until April 19, before touring Sydney and Newcastle.

A fully illustrated catalogue, featuring an extended interview with the artist, also accompanies the exhibition.

INFO → The UQ Art Museum is open from 10am-4pm daily with parking free on weekends

— CAMERON PEGG
UQ journalism graduate and netballer Jacqueline Russell is paving her way to a career in sports journalism after being accepted into the Australian Institute of Sport.

Miss Russell graduated last year from a Bachelor of Journalism and joined the AIS last month, after being introduced to netball at age eight. Her goal is to become a sports journalist and help increase the popularity of women’s sport in the media.

“Through being involved in sport for a number of years, I have realised that every athlete has a special or unique story, whether it be why they became involved in their sport, the challenges they have faced and overcome or the people who have influenced them,” Miss Russell said.

“I think exploring these stories as a sports journalist would make an extremely interesting and satisfying career.

“Being at the AIS will help me achieve my career goals as it means I will constantly be around athletes and not just netballers, but people from a wide range of sports.

“I will hopefully be doing an internship with the AIS media department while I’m in Canberra. The internship would be very valuable for my career.”

Ms Mohamed, who moved to Australia from her Malaysian home state of Johor last July, said the victory came after only six weeks of official training with the club.

“When I moved to Australia I was determined to join a bowls club, as Australia is one of the leading countries in the game and I wanted to learn from the experts,” she said.

Ms Mohamed’s humble training history, which involved bowling along a roll of carpet laid out in a hallway, and her suspected standing as the only traditional Muslim player in Queensland, makes her victory all the more exceptional.

“In Johor, the closest green was an hour away, so even though lawn bowls is popular in Malaysia, the opportunity to practise is very limited,” Ms Mohamed said.

“I was chosen to play in the championship when they saw me practising during a ‘Get on the Green’ session.”

Bowls Queensland representative Mr Bill Corneths said Ms Mohamed’s win represented a victory for the multicultural aspect of the game and the Get on the Green program.

“Lawn bowls is a sport that doesn’t discriminate against culture, gender, age, religion, disability or any other beliefs and Mimi’s win shows that it is an equal opportunity sport,” Mr Corneths said.

“Get on the Green is a Bowls Australia initiative designed to invite beginners onto the green and challenge the idea that the game is only for older people.”

INFO To find out more contact (07) 3870 1616

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CHAMPION BOWLS OVER OPPOSITION

One thing Malaysian UQ student Mimi Mohamed didn’t expect when moving to Australia was to become a lawn bowls champion, but she has done just that after a crackerjack club fours win with the Toowong Bowls Club.
As eyes were glued to the Australian Open, many avid tennis fans may have been sitting on the ticking time bomb known as tennis elbow.

UQ researchers are currently recruiting subjects to help investigate the effect of different combinations of injections and physiotherapy treatments for the condition. Chair in Sports Physiotherapy and Head of the Division of Physiotherapy at UQ, Professor Bill Vicenzino, said tennis elbow was usually brought about by overusing the arm and hand, but could occur in people of all fitness levels. “For example, it can occur in people who usually do office work and then either do a bout of gardening or renovations at home after hours,” Professor Vicenzino said.

“Clinical practitioners – physiotherapists and medical practitioners – feel that combining the two treatments gives the best results, as they not only will speed up recovery but prevent injury re-occurring." The common musculoskeletal condition presents as pain over the thumb side (outside) of the elbow. Professor Vicenzino previously led studies which compared common treatments including steroid injections, physiotherapy and a wait-and-see approach. The results were published in the British Medical Journal and have helped to provide clinical recommendations for patients and health professionals.

People who have experienced pain on the outside of their elbow for more than six weeks may be eligible for a free assessment and treatment. Subjects will need to attend a one-hour session at UQ’s St Lucia campus to determine their suitability for the study. People with no history of tennis elbow or other current neck or arm pain are also needed for a single assessment.

info → (07) 3365 4692 or tenniselbow@uq.edu.au

UQ NEWS DEADLINES

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Semester 1 begins March 2

SCHOOL REVIEWS 2009

Details for school reviews being undertaken by the Academic Board in 2009 are listed below:

School | Review date | Submissions |
-------|-------------|-------------|
Tourism | 20 – 24 April | 9 March |
Education | 18 – 22 May | 6 April |

Terms of reference for each review can be obtained from the Review Coordinator in Secretariat Services by telephoning extension 51321, or emailing m.kancachian@admin.uq.edu.au

Please note that submissions must be received by the due date.

Library hours are available at www.library.uq.edu.au
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  Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Sunshine Coast.

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- **Application/Registration:**

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**Higher Degree Research Students: 5-6 March 2009**
Includes a special session on career development. HDR students from all UQ faculties are welcome to apply. Applications close Friday 13 February 2009.

**Academic Researchers: 2-3 April 2009**
All UQ academic staff active in research are welcome to apply. Applications close Friday 13 March 2009.