LIVE WIRE
Ben Quilty exhibition takes off at UQ
BRIGHT FUTURES

You’re invited to the UQ Information Evening for Parents and Prospective Students

UQ Centre
St Lucia campus
Wednesday 10 June 2009
from 4.30pm – 7.30pm

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

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

To register your interest or for more information:
P: (07) 3346 9649
www.uq.edu.au
Amid global economic gloom and warnings of grim times ahead for Australians, the recent Federal Budget held an unexpected dose of positive news for some universities, including UQ. The investments in research and higher education endorse the sector’s ability to deliver economic and social returns in the short, medium and long term.

The UQ-related “shovel ready” projects receiving Budget support are excellent cases in point. The Budget papers promise $194 million for three major infrastructure works: the Oral Health Centre, the Translational Research Institute (being built by a consortium including UQ), and the Advanced Engineering Building.

Construction of these projects will collectively employ about 3,400 people in building, planning, property and manufacturing. Two major construction projects that are underway – the Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence at Dutton Park and the new School of Veterinary Sciences facilities at the Gatton Campus – bring the number of jobs to close to 5000.

The medium and long-term magnitude of the newly funded projects is no less emphatic. Once it is completed near the Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital, the Oral Health Centre will bring more of the Faculty of Health Sciences together at the Herston Campus. This long-overdue new home for staff and students of the UQ School of Dentistry will employ up to 160 full-time equivalent staff and will go some way to addressing the shortage of oral health professionals.

Crucially, the Government’s $104 million investment in the OHC will lead to treatment for approximately 17,000 dental and cancer patients each year (about 73 per cent more than are treated at the existing site in Brisbane’s CBD) and lubricate the pipeline between the laboratory and better outcomes for patients.

The Translational Research Institute (TRI), to be built at the Princess Alexandra Hospital (a UQ teaching site), will be a workplace for about 900 people involved in medical discovery, teaching, or bio-pharmaceutical production. It will fill a gap in Australia’s medical research spectrum, providing new capacity in areas including cancers, diabetes, inflammatory diseases, obesity and bone and joint diseases.

The Advanced Engineering Building will be a feature of a rejuvenated engineering precinct at the St Lucia Campus, and will, with support from the Queensland Government, include the Queensland Centre for Advanced Materials Processing and Manufacturing. About 300 people will work in the building, which will incorporate five national research centres, new and innovative teaching spaces and technology-rich, blended learning laboratories for 3600 students of engineering – a discipline which continues to grow in popularity amongst young people. It will also facilitate deeper interaction with industry.

In summary, the $194 million for infrastructure is a mark of faith in UQ’s ability to address national priorities. Our guarantee is to deliver outstanding returns on this substantial public investment.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
SHORT CUTS

SMART SCIENCE

A new partnership between the Queensland Government and The University of Queensland is set to deliver more powerful research outcomes for Queensland agriculture.

The partnership was signed in April and brings together the research expertise of Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries and UQ.

Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries, Rural and Regional Queensland Tim Mulherin said the partnership would significantly boost Queensland’s agricultural research capability.

“This partnership is based on a Statement of Intent I have signed with UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield,” Mr Mulherin said.

“It presents exciting opportunities to improve the productivity and profitability of Queensland agriculture by linking cutting-edge and applied science to ensure that the state’s industries remain internationally competitive.”

The Minister said the alliance would significantly increase the efficiency of the Queensland beef industry.

“It will also provide a sharper focus for research in advanced plant science to assist the future development and international competitiveness of Queensland’s field crop and horticulture industries,” he said.

UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Linkages) Professor Max Lu said the partnership would enhance the long-standing relationship with Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries.

“For the first time, expertise throughout the whole of UQ will be harnessed for agriculture in Queensland,” Professor Lu said.

CRACKING THE GENE CODE

An international consortium of scientists, including researchers from UQ, have probed further into the human genome than ever before.

They have discovered the tiniest genetic element ever found, as well as how genes are controlled in mammals.

Their discoveries have been published in three milestone papers in leading journal Nature Genetics.

The research was coordinated by the RIKEN Yokohama Omics Science Center in Japan as part of the FANTOM4 consortium, with researchers from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience playing major roles in two of the papers.

PhD student Ryan Taft (pictured right) led one paper, of which Professor John Mattick was the senior author, while Associate Professor Sean Grimmond was a senior author on another paper led by Dr Geoff Faulkner (pictured left).

“FANTOM4 has shown that instead of having one or a few ‘master regulator’ genes that control growth and development, there is a sophisticated network of regulatory elements that subtly influence the ways in which genes are expressed in different cells in the body,” Professor Mattick said.

One of the papers describes the discovery of tiny RNAs, the smallest genetic elements yet known, which are linked to the expression of individual genes. Tiny RNAs are 18 nucleotides long, 100 times smaller than an average gene.

UNI COMP KICKS OFF

More than 200 players helped kick start the inaugural UQ and QUT soccer tournament in April.

In a show of community spirit, teams from both Brisbane universities took to the field to vie for a chance to don the winning jersey.

UQ team co-ordinator Shereen Ghobrial said the tournament was a collaborative effort between international student advisers from both UQ and QUT, as part of a proactive approach to help connect international and domestic students.

“Throughout my 10 years of working in student services across three Australian universities there have always been recurring cases of students facing social isolation,” Ms Ghobrial said.

“The university environment can be very overwhelming and given its size, it is easy for students to feel lost.”

“The soccer tournament played an important element in connecting both international and domestic students in a healthy pursuit of promoting friendships and a sense of community belonging, with the aim to reduce social isolation that may be experienced among some students.”

The grand final saw QUT’s Brissie Strikers take first prize ($400) against UQ’s Wombats ($200), with UQ’s Union College in third ($100).

“This is the first time that UQ and QUT have co-hosted such an event and given the huge success, we are hoping to continue to host this on a regular basis,” Ms Ghobrial said.
THE RIGHT DIRECTION

If you want to get your career moving or simply change your direction, now is the time to apply for mid-year entry to UQ.

With a range of programs and courses available, the University has experienced increased demand across many disciplines.

Applications for mid-year entry are now open.

Studying at UQ will assist to enhance your career options and ensure that you are in higher demand as a graduate in a difficult employment market.

Prospective students attended a Mid-Year Advice Night held at the UQ Centre in May for both Australian and international applicants.

Applications for the late offer round will be accepted until June 9, with late applications accepted until July 18.

For those unsure about their eligibility for entry to a UQ program, admissions staff are happy to help. Simply call the enquiry line on (07) 3365 2203 between 8.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information about mid-year entry, visit www.uq.edu.au/midyearentry.

FACTS + FIGURES

$194 million – amount of funding from the recent Federal Budget to facilitate three key infrastructure projects at UQ

150,000 – number of books for sale at the 2009 UQ Alumni Book Fair

10,000 – the number of visitors to the Margaret Olley: Life’s journey exhibition, which ran at the UQ Art Museum from February to April

$40,000 – first prize of the UQ Trailblazer Competition, which is funded through UniQuest and supports new and innovative research projects

63 – days that the Q150 train, co-sponsored by UQ, will travel the state as part of Queensland’s 150-year anniversary celebrations

THE ART OF SELLING QLD

What do tea towels, frosted glasses and travel posters have in common?

They have all been used to advertise Queensland over the years, as visitors can discover at a new UQ Art Museum exhibition.

In 2009, many exhibitions and books are celebrating the 150 years since the British Parliament allowed Queensland to separate from New South Wales.

“What sets Triumph in the Tropics: Selling Queensland apart is that it takes a critical, if not irreverent look at how Queensland has sold itself to the rest of Australia and the world,” museum director Nick Mitzevich said.

He said the exhibition drew much of its imagery from the work of graphic designers and photographers in the form of book and magazine covers, advertising images, travel posters and posters with political bite.

“Queensland has a long history of selling itself to investors, migrants, tourists and even its own citizens,” co-curator Professor Peter Spearritt said.

CROCS HOLD THE KEY

The secrets to how animals and humans will cope with global warming may be locked in a remote reserve in Cape York, according to UQ scientist Professor Craig Franklin.

Professor Franklin is conducting research in the 135,000-hectare Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, which he discussed at the Inaugural UQ Steve Irwin Wildlife Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Brisbane Institute and sponsored by the Faculty of Science on April 28.

A friend and colleague of the late Crocodile Hunter, Professor Franklin told the audience about his leadership of the world’s longest and largest study of crocodile behaviour, which involves tracking the movements of more than 100 animals over the next 10 years.

He said studying animals’ reactions to changes in their environment could indicate their chances of surviving the full effects of global warming, and may also give humans insight into how they might cope with climate change.

“We hope to learn more about the animals so we can utilise the information to better manage them and protect them,” Professor Franklin said.
VIETNAMESE PARTNERSHIP

UQ is gaining five talented Vietnamese researchers through a scholarship program that expands a relationship anchored in philanthropy.

The winners of UQ’s Vietnam-Australia 35 Year Commemorative Research Higher Degree Scholarships will conduct PhD projects in areas including cervical cancer, human brain activity and the development of safer pesticides.

Each scholarship is worth approximately $200,000 for four years of study, with each student based in a UQ institute.

Announcing the winners during a visit to Vietnam in April, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the program was launched in 2008 to mark 35 years of resumed diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam.

“The scholarships advance the spirit of a scheme that was founded on the generosity of The Atlantic Philanthropies, a global organisation that has been enormously supportive of initiatives in Vietnam and at UQ,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Atlantic funded almost 300 Vietnamese students who completed coursework Masters and Doctoral Development programs at UQ between 2000 and 2007.”

It also provided essential funding for some institutes in which the scholars will study.

“The recipients of these scholarships will enhance links between Australia and Vietnam, build the global knowledge base in vital areas of human health and sustainability, and gain critical skills that they may share with their communities and their nation,” Professor Greenfield said.

The scholars are:
- Duong Minh Tam, who will be supervised by Professor Peter Koopman in the Institute for Molecular Bioscience
- Nguyen Thai Vinh, who will be based in the Queensland Brain Institute with supervision by Dr Ross Cunningham
- Nguyen Thi Mai Thanh, who will study at the Sustainable Minerals Institute under the supervision of Dr Claire Cote
- Truong Phuoc Nghia, who will work alongside Professor Michael Monteiro in the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, and
- Tran Thi Bich Trinh, whose supervisors in the AIBN will be Dr Steven Reid and Professor Lars Nielsen.

A new $54 million UQ landmark has become the Sir Llew Edwards Building in honour of UQ’s recently retired Chancellor.

UQ’s governing Senate rebadged “General Purpose North 4” in recognition of Sir Llew’s highly distinguished service as a member of Senate for almost 25 years, including nearly 16 years as Chancellor.

The building, officially opened in July 2008, includes a world-first Advanced Concept Teaching Space, a collaborative teaching and learning space, and the Institute for Continuing and TESOL Education.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the building had become one of the most recognisable structures on the St Lucia Campus within a matter of months.

“The Sir Llew Edwards Building makes a statement about at least two of Sir Llew’s great passions: international education and teaching and learning,” he said.

“Sir Llew made enduring friendships with international students when he was a medical student here in the 1960s, and during his term as Chancellor he has continued to make and renew friendships with alumni living all over the world.”

Sir Llew paid tribute to the people responsible for maintaining UQ’s buildings and grounds “with beauty, charm and absolute elegance”.

Sir Llew has been an electrician, medical practitioner and Queensland Parliamentarian (including Health Minister, and Deputy Premier and Treasurer). He was also Executive Chair of World Expo 88 in Brisbane.

His terms as UQ Senator and Chancellor were voluntary, and ended with his retirement in February.

As UQ’s 12th Chancellor, he chaired more than 100 Senate meetings, presided at almost 300 graduation ceremonies, and shook hands with about 80,000 graduates – almost half of the University’s living graduates.

The V-shaped Sir Llew Edwards Building is at the junction of Campbell Road and University Drive. It has strong environmental features including water harvesting, solar panels and strategic shading.
ADVANCED ENGINEERING BUILDING

The University has also secured $50 million from the Australian Government’s Education Investment Fund to help build an Advanced Engineering Building.

Work on the Advanced Engineering Building, whose total build cost will be $100 million, will begin this year, supporting an estimated 680 jobs in construction and related industries. The facility is scheduled to be ready in 2011.

Professor Greenfield said the project would allow UQ to embed a research experience in undergraduate engineering studies, maximise global opportunities for students, and provide innovative spaces and blended learning laboratories for 3600 students.

The Advanced Engineering Building will be a feature of a new engineering precinct at UQ’s St Lucia campus. The new building will include the $40 million Queensland Centre for Advanced Materials Processing and Manufacturing, which has also received $15 million from the Queensland Government.

ORAL HEALTH CENTRE

The new $104 million Oral Health Centre will treat about 17,000 dental and cancer patients each year and help alleviate a national dentist shortage.

The OHC will be located at UQ’s Herston Campus next to the Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital, and will bring together UQ’s School of Dentistry and parts of Queensland Health’s Oral Health Services.

The facility will be Australia’s largest and most advanced specialist oral health service, with a best-practice centre for education, training and research.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the announcement was the start of a new era in dental care and education for Queensland.

“The OHC will substantially expand and improve oral health facilities and services for patients, particularly cancer patients and others with complex dental care needs,” he said.

“It will treat approximately 17,000 people per year – 73 percent more than are treated at UQ’s current site in the old Brisbane Dental Hospital on Turbot Street in the CBD.

The University has applauded the recent Federal Budget, which includes $194 million in funding for three major UQ infrastructure projects that will contribute to national research capacity, health and a sustainable economy.

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

UQ and Professor Ian Frazer have applauded a Budget pledge of $40 million towards a “missing link” medical research and development facility.

Professor Frazer, who was made Australian of the Year in 2006 for co-inventing the first cervical cancer vaccine, said the contribution to the Translational Research Institute (TRI) would help fill a gap in the nation’s medical research capacity.

“This is an investment in the future of Australian medical science, giving the nation a new capacity to address major health issues including cancers, diabetes, inflammatory diseases, bone and joint diseases, and obesity,” said Professor Frazer, who heads UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine.

A first for Australia, the $340 million TRI is a joint venture between UQ, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Mater Medical Research Institute and the Queensland Government.

Construction is due to start this year and finish in 2012.

The completed TRI will accommodate about 900 people, including about 650 scientists.
A Brisbane team is working with the Vanuatu Government to trial a program for effective delivery of cervical cancer vaccines to schoolgirls in resource-poor settings.

Headed by cervical cancer vaccine pioneer Professor Ian Frazer, from UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, the team this year aims to vaccinate and educate 1000 Vanuatuan girls aged 10 to 12 years.

“Having helped to develop the vaccine technology, I now feel a responsibility to help ensure that the vaccine gets where it’s most needed,” Professor Frazer said.

Cervical cancer, caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), kills about 270,000 women worldwide each year, and more than 80 percent of those are from developing countries such as Vanuatu.

Cervical cancer is anecdotally common in Vanuatu, with most patients presenting with a late-stage, untreatable disease.

Treatment options are limited to simple surgery in the capital Port Vila, and the country’s health ministry wants to develop cervical cancer prevention programs in the longer term.

The cervical cancer vaccines currently available protect women against about 70 percent of infections that cause cervical cancers.

The cervical cancer vaccine, generously donated by GlaxoSmithKline, is being administered in Vanuatu by a district nurse through school and community groups in rural villages and urban centres, with cervical cancer screening also being offered to their mothers, if they are over 30 years of age.

The vaccination program is being promoted in local newspapers and through radio programs. The study will help determine the efficacy of different strategies for reminding young girls to come back for their second and third doses, and will help the Vanuatu Health Ministry develop an effective program for cervical cancer control for Vanuatu. The results may also guide HPV vaccine introduction in other similar settings.

This study is assisted by donations from the Zonta Club of Brisbane and GlaxoSmithKline Australia, and supported by the Vanuatu Ministry of Health.

A documentary, Catching Cancer, highlighting the work of Professor Frazer, will be shown on the ABC and National Geographic International later this year.

Kava the key to anxiety treatment

UQ research has found a traditional extract of kava, a medicinal plant from the South Pacific, to be safe and effective in reducing anxiety.

“We also found that kava had a positive impact on reducing depression levels, something which had not been tested before,” Mr Sarris said.

In 2002, kava was banned in Europe, the UK and Canada due to concerns over liver toxicity. While the three-week trial raised no major health concerns regarding the kava extract used, the researchers said larger studies were required to confirm the drug’s safety.

“When extracted in the appropriate way, kava may pose fewer or no potential liver problems. I hope the results will encourage governments to reconsider the ban,” Mr Sarris said.

“Ethanol and acetone extracts, which sometimes use the incorrect parts of the kava, were being sold in Europe.

“Our study used a water-soluble extract from the peeled rootstock of a medicinal cultivar of the plant, which is approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia and is currently legal in Australia for medicinal use.

“In addition to benefiting sufferers of anxiety, allowing the sale of kava in Europe, the UK and Canada would significantly enhance Pacific Island economies, which have lost hundreds of millions of dollars by not being able to export the plant over the past several years.”
Scrub up for charity

UQ’s medical students have used their creative prowess to transform old scrubs into striking designs as part of the third annual TIME Charity Fashion Parade.

Evening dresses and other quirky designs featured in the scrubs collection as the students-turned-models took to the runway on April 24.

Towards International Medical Equality (TIME) is a UQ School of Medicine group whose goal is to work towards equitable provision of healthcare worldwide.

Event organiser and second-year medical student Tiffany Zigras said money raised at the event would go towards the group’s Medical Aid Project (MAP), which last year sent resources to more than 20 medical centres in countries including India and Zambia.

Ms Zigras, who last year took medical supplies to Peru, said students who participated in the project went for the privilege of a clinical experience.

“If the centres have a particular need such as stethoscopes, bandages or baby warmers we do try and address it,” she said.

“So to be able to give something back to the medical centres is very gratifying.

“This project helps to make medical students more globally aware and with this enriching experience students will be better practitioners.”

TIME president Tara Douglas said many of the medical centres students travelled to functioned on minimal funding and limited resources, so the supplies funded through MAP were appreciated.

“The project has established long-standing partnerships with hospitals in PNG, Solomon Islands and India, which allows for a more sustainable impact,” Ms Douglas said.

Along with the scrubs collection, the parade also featured designs from three QUT fashion graduates and an interactive “walk-off”, where members of the public strutted their stuff to win prizes.

Ms Zigras said the graduates’ bright collections fitted in well with the “Chromotopia” theme.

She said many local businesses had donated prizes, with the Herston Bookstore donating more than $800 worth of books for raffle.

INFO ➔ www.timeuq.org

WORK IT OUT

A UQ PhD project prompted by the Bundaberg Base Hospital experience and wrongdoing in the workplace is seeking survey participants.

“My definition of wrongdoing is fairly wide – I’m interested in the reactions of people to such things as bullying, fraud, discrimination, theft, sabotage and sexual harassment,” PhD candidate Marissa Edwards said.

“The final part of the study is an online questionnaire. I need at least 500 responses so I can draw conclusions with a degree of confidence.”

INFO ➔ www.business.uq.edu.au/display/~medwards

ADHD PROBED

A group of UQ neuroscientists is about to embark on one of Australia’s biggest studies into the relationship between genes and children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

In a national study of more than 800 families, led by Associate Professor Mark Bellgrove at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), scientists are aiming to better understand what causes ADHD – a common behavioural condition that affects thousands of children and families in Australia.

INFO ➔ www.adhdstudy.com.au

PARASITE PROBE

A new international study has shown that rates of the parasitic disease schistosomiasis have rebounded to pre-intervention levels in the north-western African republic of Mali.

The study was led by UQ’s Dr Archie Clements and published in the Public Library of Sciences Journal (PLoS) Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Although it has a low mortality rate, schistosomiasis often is a chronic illness that can damage internal organs and, in children, impair growth and cognitive development.

The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. Fellow researcher Simon Brooker was supported by a Career Development Fellowship from the Wellcome Trust.
Tourists eye reefs

Scientists from UQ are asking tourists to help monitor the health of reefs worldwide.

Developed by UQ’s Professor Justin Marshall, CoralWatch is a program based around a cheap, simple and non-invasive method for the monitoring of coral bleaching, and assessment of coral health.

CoralWatch’s development of the Coral Health Chart – a colour matching scheme – has provided a practical way for the public to gather data.

Professor Marshall said the program worked particularly well on Heron Island, where the charts were used by tourists staying at the Voyages Heron Island Resort as well as scientists working at UQ’s recently rebuilt research station.

Located approximately 80km east of Gladstone, the Heron Reef is home to about 60 percent of the 1500 species of fish and about 72 percent of the coral species found on the Great Barrier Reef.

“Tourists interact with researchers at the research station and learn more and go home and tell their folks at home about how wonderful reefs are,” Professor Marshall said.

“The combination of the research station and the resort is a tremendous bonus for understanding reefs worldwide.”

As well as a data gathering tool for scientists, the CoralWatch program aims to raise awareness about the health of reefs in the wider community.

“Engaging the community in terms of coral health is vital for their future. It really is the key to ensuring that reefs worldwide survive,” Professor Marshall said.

“While we as scientists know they’re declining and they may not be with us in 50 to 70 years’ time, that sad fact is still seeping through to members of the community.

“Because the Coral Health Chart is a simple colour matching scheme, anyone can use it – it’s just like matching paint to your wall at home.”

Established in 2003, the CoralWatch program is now used in more than 50 countries.

Professor Marshall said despite the large number of people using the charts, more feedback was required for the program to be used to its full potential.

“The CoralWatch system has a centralised website so anyone can give us back data from their forays on the reef,” he said.

“Several hundred groups have given us back data so we’re beginning to build up a worldwide picture. Certainly what we do need is a lot more data but, because this has only been running for a few years, we’re hoping our army of volunteers will give us more data in the future.

“Although the CoralWatch scheme is, at its heart, purely a monitoring system, what we hope is that this will turn into a way of understanding the problems in more depth and, importantly, it will give people a focus on what is happening worldwide.”

INFO ➔ Interested volunteers can obtain charts online at www.coralwatch.org
IN THE KINGDOM OF THE spookfish

A UQ SCIENTIST HAS RETURNED FROM WHERE NO ONE HAS BEEN BEFORE – 1500 METRES DEEP IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN.

PhD student Adrian Flynn, from the School of Biomedical Sciences, has been part of an international team investigating previously unexplored areas of the Pacific Ocean – and he may have discovered a new species of fish in the process.

“We are in the process of confirming if a spookfish we collected on this trip is in fact a species new to science, which would be a most exciting discovery,” Mr Flynn said.

“Spookfishes are beautiful deep-sea fishes characterised by the presence of ‘tubular’ eyes that see through its transparent head."

Aboard the research vessel the Seward Johnson (pictured), Mr Flynn explored depths of up to 1500 metres, discovering a live specimen of the tiny but fierce-looking anglerfish, a barrel-eye fish and several species of dragonfish and loosejaws.

He is using his data as part of a study of mesopelagic fishes, which inhabit ocean depths between 100 and 1000 metres.

“I’m focusing on lanternfishes that are typically the most abundant mesopelagic fishes and they take part in daily vertical migration from deep waters into surface layers, believed to be the largest migration of animals on the planet,” he said.

“Lanternfishes possess light-emitting organs on the ventral surface of their bodies, which disturb their silhouette seen by predators looking up from below.

“In addition to this camouflage technique – known as counter-illumination – lanternfishes also possess headlamp-like photophores that point forwards, which are believed to be involved in species-recognition and other signalling behaviours.”

He said the other discovery which caused great excitement among his colleagues back in Brisbane was a whalefish.

“Whalefishes are rarely caught and their taxonomy is currently under review,” he said.

“My supervisor, Professor Justin Marshall, and his team are undertaking a study of the animal’s unusual lateral line system, which are organs used for ‘distant touch’, sensing water movement and hydrostatic disturbance.”

Professor Marshall said the expedition was part of a project involving American researchers from the Watt Institute for Discovery, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and UQ.

“The results from these voyages provide an exciting prelude to the Deep Ocean Australia expeditions planned for Australian waters later this year, where Australia’s deep waters will be extensively explored for the first time,” he said.

“The Deep Ocean Australia team currently has two researchers aboard the second leg of the voyage of the Seward Johnson, where no doubt there will be more intriguing discoveries made.”

— ANDREW DUNNE

“The results from these voyages provide an exciting prelude to the Deep Ocean Australia expeditions planned for Australian waters later this year”

Dolphins to star in doco

A UQ Science student’s research on the bottlenose dolphin population of Moreton Bay has attracted the interest of a German documentary crew.

PhD Student Ina Ansmann will feature in the nature documentary series Exploring with Dirk Stoeffens, discussing her research on the social and genetic population structure of the dolphins and how they should be managed.

“Near-shore populations of dolphins are particularly vulnerable due to their proximity to human habitation,” said Ms Ansmann, from the Marine Vertebrate Ecology Research Group in UQ’s School of Biological Sciences.

“Effective management is crucial to preserving Moreton Bay as a significant wildlife habitat as well as an area used commercially and recreationally by an increasing human population.”

Ms Ansmann is currently conducting boat-based surveys of Moreton Bay, recording sighting locations, group composition and behavioural data, and taking individual photographs of the dolphins she encounters.

Individual dolphins can be identified based on the unique shape of their dorsal fin.

She is also collecting small skin and blubber samples from the dolphins for genetic testing.

So far, Ms Ansmann has collected biopsy samples from 51 dolphins in Moreton Bay and photographically identified 227, sighting more than half of the dolphins more than once and some up to six times.

“I’ve given them all names to help me remember and recognise them when I see them out in the field, although I’ve had to enlist the help of my friends to come up with so many names,” she said.

“I’m starting to see some social and distribution patterns – some dolphins seem to regularly hang out with each other, and hang out in certain areas of the bay.”

The crux of the research is to discover how the Moreton Bay dolphin population can be sustainably managed. Ms Ansmann encouraged those interested in volunteering to contact her.

“I need people who can commit to one to two months at a time for my last two field sessions, July-September 09 and January-March 2010,” she said.

“So if anyone is interested in helping out and getting amongst the dolphins in Moreton Bay, they should contact me.”

INFO → (07) 3365 7523 or Lansmann@uq.edu.au
BEN QUILTY LIVE!
ART LOVERS AND NOVICES ALIKE HAVE BEEN THUNDERSTRUCK BY A NEW EXHIBITION ON SHOW AT THE UQ ART MUSEUM.

BEN QUILTY LIVE! is the first survey of one of Australia’s most outstanding young artists, and opened at St Lucia on May 8.

“The exhibition and accompanying publication demonstrate the extraordinary breadth of Quilty’s practice over a period of just seven years,” UQ Art Museum Director Nick Mitzevich said.

“This exhibition provides a welcome opportunity to assess the work of this precociously talented young artist.”

BEN QUILTY LIVE! brings together more than 50 of the artist’s works, ranging from portraits of a beloved LJ Torana, his son Joe and, more recently, himself.

“The high-energy bravura that Ben Quilty brings to his paintings – often using a cake-making trowel rather than a brush to execute his abstract slabs of colour – has helped propel him to be one of the country’s favourite artists in less than a decade,” exhibition curator Lisa Slade said.

“Add to that the keen insight he offers into the heartland of suburban masculinity, and you have an artist who relates to people who have never ventured near Sydney’s art scene.”

Ms Slade said Quilty’s art not only targeted the slightly seedy side of Australian life, but also sought to establish links to Australian history and landscape – be it through images of fast cars or even Captain Cook.

In his technique, Ben Quilty enjoys the danger of flirting with failure, both in his rapid-fire application of paint and in his use of the Rorschach method to “annihilate” the image.

His Self portrait dead (over the hills and far away) won the inaugural University of Queensland National Artists’ Self Portrait Prize in 2007, and he was recently awarded the $150,000 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and named runner-up in the 2009 Archibald Prize – both with Rorschach portraits of singer Jimmy Barnes.

BEN QUILTY LIVE! includes works from private and public collections, and is open until July 19. A comprehensive publication also accompanies the exhibition.

INFO → The UQ Art Museum is open from 10am to 4pm daily, with parking free on weekends.
Train evokes state’s history

The UQ-sponsored Q150 Steam Train is making its way through the state on a five-month journey celebrating Queensland’s history.

The locomotive departed Brisbane on April 14, embarking on a journey that will end on August 30 and include visits to more than 30 Queensland communities.

The heritage-listed steam train’s trip is part of a year-long celebration of Queensland’s 150th anniversary of becoming a state.

Staff and students will travel on the train collecting information for the Queensland Places Project, an initiative that aims to construct an interactive community website devoted to settlements with present or past populations of 500 or more people.

UQ Master of Philosophy student Janet Spillman, who took the steam train’s first leg from Brisbane to Rockhampton, said she looked forward to chronicling Queensland’s past through her role in the project.

“We expect that Queenslanders who took their cameras on holidays between the 1950s and 1980s will have a treasure trove of images from all over Queensland,” Ms Spillman said.

The Queensland Places Project is seeking contributions of colour slides and captions of Queensland towns to include on the website.

Professor Peter Spearritt, who is in charge of the project, said staff were looking for slides of distinctive landscapes, buildings and events.

The Q150 Train journey is open to members of the public and will correspond with community events in the towns it visits.

Ms Spillman, who travelled to collect images on the first leg of the train’s journey, said she had a special connection to regional Queensland and steam train travel.

She grew up west of Hughenden and relied on trains for transport.

“On one occasion, I bought the wrong ticket and found myself on the milk train – it took nearly two days to get to Townsville, and when I arrived, my hair was very sooty!”

INFO ➔ p.spearritt@uq.edu.au or www.q150.qld.gov.au

ANTARCTIC ADVENTURER TURNS 103

An award-winning scientist who worked for The University of Queensland for more than 20 years without pay turned 103 last month.

Dr Alf Howard AM, who is best known for being the last survivor of Sir Douglas Mawson’s Australasian expeditions to Antarctica, celebrated his birthday on April 30 with former UQ colleagues.

In 2000 Dr Howard was awarded the title of Senior Australian of the Year for his service to science through the Antarctic exploration.

The educator and adventurer worked as a research fellow in UQ’s School of Human Movement Studies, where he designed computer programs and provided statistical advice to assist students with their research.

On his 99th birthday in 2005, he donated $80,000 to fund the Alf Howard Computer Laboratory.

Dr Howard said he got a kick out of helping students with their projects.

“I’ve always thought that the University needed support from the public,” he said.

Although Dr Howard retired from UQ in late 2003, the University is yet to find a replacement able to fulfil his duties.

Head of the School of Human Movement Studies Professor Doune Macdonald said Dr Howard was irreplaceable, and described him as a living treasure.

“We are indebted to Alf for his patient and committed service to the school as a computer programmer and statistics consultant from the late 1970s until recently,” she said.

“Alf worked with us full-time without pay for over 20 years as an honorary research fellow – a perfect staff member whose position is still vacant.”

Dr Howard was part of the Antarctic expedition from 1929 to 1931 when Sir Douglas Mawson claimed 42 percent of Antarctica as Australian territory.

“Our expedition accomplished a lot. We collected an enormous amount of data considering the limited means at our disposal and we opened a lot of doors,” he said.

“But I think our greatest achievement lay in pointing to areas where research was inadequate or non-existent, such as determining exact Antarctic currents. We showed what still needed to be done.”

Dr Alf Howard (front) and members of the 1929-31 Mawson expedition to Antarctica. Sir Douglas Mawson is pictured front right in a light-coloured cap
The R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum at UQ has recently welcomed an ancient carved funerary column or “stele” to their collection, which originally stood at Palmyra in present-day Syria. Museum Director Dr Sonia Puttock said the $18,000 purchase was “very significant”. “I thought it would be very good for the collection, and the stele will be used by students in subjects such as art, archaeology and museum studies,” Dr Puttock said. The museum previously purchased a fragment of a similar stele about 20 years ago, but the latest acquisition is of a whole male bust that is from the late second to third century AD. Dr Puttock said the style of the stele was “in essence Roman, but very Eastern” and was “still unique to their own culture”. “The style is very typical of Roman Palmyra,” Dr Puttock said. “The stele is of a man wearing a toga, but it is very much in the local style, so it is likely a native man aspiring to a Roman lifestyle. “He has also got a funerary garland in his hand, similar to Egyptian mummy paintings.” The limestone stele also contains an Aramaic inscription that has not yet been translated. “One of our previous trainee workers, a woman from northern Italy who received a scholarship from her university to come and work at the museum for nine months, will be translating it.” Dr Puttock said. The stele, originally from what is now central Syria, was purchased from London dealer Charles Ede. Dr Puttock said the museum was the only dedicated antiquities museum in Queensland, and had one of the largest classical collections in Australia. Additions such as the stele were a boost to teaching and learning within the museum, she said. “When you think of classical Roman art, you think of the beautiful sculptures in Italy. With items such as this stele, students come to appreciate art from other areas,” Dr Puttock said. – AMANDA SPROULE

INFO → s.puttock@uq.edu.au or www.uq.edu.au/antiquities
A FEAST of career opportunities

Grade 11 and 12 students are now able to apply online for the Future Experiences in Agriculture, Science and Technology (FEAST) program, to be run at UQ Gatton from July 5-9.

An annual five-day residential school, FEAST offers high school students from across Queensland and New South Wales the chance to sample university life and career options in the agricultural, animal, environment and food industries.

“FEAST provides high school students with the opportunity to experience what university is like and explore the huge range of career opportunities available before they leave high school,” program coordinator Erin Pearl said.

“The camp involves course and career information sessions, tours and practical activities at UQ’s Gatton and St Lucia campuses.

“It assists the students to form a much clearer idea of what career path they want to embark on when it comes time to sit down and fill out their QTAC application forms later in the year.”

For students unsure of what they would like to do after high school or who are considering careers in agriculture, animal science, veterinary science, food or the environment, the camp provides a taste of life as a young professional – be it in a science, business or marketing field.

FEAST is hosted by UQ’s Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science and was developed in conjunction with the Queensland Agricultural Teachers Association.

INFO → Apply online now for FEAST 2009 at www.uq.edu.au/nravs/feast

Veterinary fundraiser launched

UQ’s School of Veterinary Science partnered with the recent Beef Australia 2009 event in Rockhampton to help boost training for future generations of veterinary scientists.

The “Donate A Beast For Sale” program invites the livestock industry to donate the proceeds of the sale of a beast at meatworks or saleyard.

All sale proceeds will go towards funding equipment for the new School of Veterinary Science, which will welcome its first intake of students at UQ Gatton next year.

School of Veterinary Science Capital Campaign Vice President Don Mackay said sales agents were already supporting the fundraising effort.

“The support shown by the ‘Donate A Beast For Sale’ program’s primary participating agents Elders, Landmark and Ruralco is greatly appreciated and I encourage other members of the livestock industry to offer their support,” Mr Mackay said.

“The School of Veterinary Science has a proud record of significant contributions to the livestock industry in the areas of research and biosecurity.

“The school’s new facilities, combined with the Centre for Advanced Animal Science will present many benefits and opportunities for the livestock industry and will play an integral role in developing our skill base and undertaking research that will secure future biosecurity and market access.”

He said the relocation of the school would provide staff, students and scientists with the best possible facilities to promote science and education that will directly support the health and welfare of the livestock industry.

UQ’s School of Veterinary Science has produced more than 3000 graduates who practise in 53 countries around the world, and 70 percent of all practising veterinarians in Queensland are UQ graduates.

The school’s key contributions to the livestock industry include:

• Research projects worth $7 million conducted by School of Veterinary Science researchers on behalf of the beef industry
• A leading producer of veterinary pathologists in Australia, who are at the forefront of the diagnosis of endemic, emerging and exotic diseases
• Operation of the Animal Genetics Laboratory, which provides the livestock industries with a world-class parentage analysis and gene marker service
• Australia’s only Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics.

Come Chew The Fat

A COMMUNITY CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

“SHOULD THERE BE A TAX ON FATTY FOODS?”

UQ, St Lucia, Room 219, General Purpose North 4
Saturday June 13, 10am-2pm

WE’RE LOOKING FOR 16 JURY MEMBERS. ALL WELCOME.

www.chew-the-fat.info
Understanding PLANT STRESS

A UQ researcher has co-authored a new theory that can help predict how different plants might respond to climate change, and may enable the production of better stress-resistant crops in the future.

Dr Claudia Vickers from UQ's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) is first author on a new paper in the prestigious international journal Nature Chemical Biology, collaborating with international partners.

Working with Professor Jonathan Gershenson from the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology (Germany), Professor Francesco Loreto from the National Research Council Institute of Agro-environmental and Forest Biology (Italy) and Professor Manuel Lerdau from the University of Virginia (USA), Dr Vickers proposed a new mechanism of action for volatile isoprenoids in plant stress responses.

"Plants produce many different volatile compounds such as limonene, which gives lemons their distinctive smell and isoprene, which can be emitted in very large amounts," Dr Vickers said.

"We believe that they use some of these volatiles to help protect themselves against damage from adverse environmental conditions, like too much light, high temperature and air pollution.

"It is reasonable to assume that various species of plants will respond differently to climate change depending on whether or not they produce these volatiles.

"This knowledge can then be used to help develop crop plants which will perform better in stressful environments."

This theory is based on research previously conducted while Dr Vickers worked at Essex University in England.

Wanting to move into more applied research, Dr Vickers joined the laboratory of AIBN's Professor Lars Nielsen who recognised the applicability of her molecular biology expertise to understanding metabolic pathways in bacteria.

Dr Vickers is currently using sucrose as a carbon source to develop novel ways of producing chemicals in bacteria. This approach could replace fossil fuels as chemical sources and could eventually transform chemical production into an environmentally sustainable process.

The AIBN is a multi-disciplinary institute that brings together researchers in the areas of bioengineering and nanotechnology to produce positive health and environmental outcomes.

AIBN Director Professor Peter Gray congratulated Dr Vickers on the publication of her paper and highlighted the collaborative nature of AIBN research.

"AIBN requires the skills of biologists, chemists and engineers to solve environmental and human health problems and deliver these solutions to market," Professor Gray said.

"The recruitment of Claudia demonstrates AIBN's ability to reverse the Australian brain drain and build multi-disciplinary teams of talented people."

In a first for Australian tertiary education, UQ engineering students will now have an opportunity to complete two internationally recognised degrees simultaneously during the course of their studies.

An agreement between the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology (EAIT) and the Écoles Centrales in France will see outstanding engineering students from both countries participating in a unique double degree program.

Representing five of France's elite Grandes Écoles, the engineering schools offer world-class facilities with campuses in Lille, Lyon, Nantes, Marseille and Paris.

EAIT Associate Dean (Academic) Professor Caroline Crosthwaite said the opportunity to attend one of these prestigious engineering schools would enable students to build on the skills they developed at UQ.

"The Écoles Centrales have a strong industry focus and participate in partnerships with international companies such as Airbus and Renault," Professor Crosthwaite said.

"In addition, the Écoles Centrales take a multi-disciplinary approach to their engineering education, producing engineers of a high scientific and technical level with strong cultural backgrounds."

UQ students will spend the first two years of their undergraduate program at UQ before studying for two years in France and then returning to Queensland for a further two years to complete their Masters studies.

At the end of the program, the Australian students will be awarded a Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Engineering from UQ and a Diplôme d'Ingénieur from the French institution.

Professor Crosthwaite said the double degree program would broaden participants' career opportunities.

"The degrees which will be awarded to our students are of the highest international standards and will enable them to work anywhere in the world," she said.

"As well as having a solid academic grounding, these students will experience life in a different country and have an excellent working knowledge of another language and culture."

UQ is the first Australian university to develop a double degree program with the Écoles Centrales, having participated in reciprocal exchanges with the group since the 1990s.
UQ students have taken on stiff competition to deliver one of their most successful results to date at the recent Australian National Mining Games.

In a tough field featuring 31 teams from around the country, UQ finished strongly with teams placing second overall in the men’s division and third overall in the co-ed division.

Held over two days at the UQ CRC Mining Research Facility in Pinjarra Hills, the event saw more than 200 university students compete in events such as gold panning, laying railway tracks, rock drilling and mucking (filling a two-tonne mining cart with gravel).

UQ teams took out seven individual event awards with a UQ team placing in the top three of every event in both divisions.

UQ Bachelor of Engineering student and 2009 Australian National Mining Games chairman Michael Zivcic said the games offered a unique networking opportunity for students.

“The games are an offshoot of an international competition established in the USA to commemorate the Sunshine Mine Disaster of 1972 in which 91 miners lost their lives, and aims to keep the spirit of traditional mining techniques alive,” Mr Zivcic said.

“It’s a great chance for students to meet and form relationships with future work colleagues, especially since many of us will be working together on-site in small mining communities.”

Prior to the event, participants also attended the two-day New Leaders Conference, which explored current and future issues facing mining industry professionals.

Professor Peter Knights from UQ’s School of Engineering said the two events offered an invaluable insight into the mining industry.

“These events are a fun way for students to strengthen their teamwork skills and increase occupational health and safety awareness prior to entering the workforce,” Professor Knights said.

The events were coordinated by the student chapter of the southern Queensland branch of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM), the peak body representing professionals in the mining sector.
A team from UQ has made it to the final round of the Airbus Fly Your Ideas competition for students of higher education.

The UQ outfit will be competing against teams from Singapore, the Czech Republic, Spain and the US, with a prize of 30,000 euros awarded to the winners.

The goal of the competition is to challenge students to come up with innovative ideas to shape the future of aviation. Of the original 225 teams from 82 different countries, 86 made it into the second round which began in January.

The three-person UQ team, named “COz”, comprises team leader Michael Heitzmann and Alex Ng, both PhD students in mechanical engineering, together with Benjamin Linderberger, who is undertaking his University of Stuttgart diploma thesis at UQ.

The team was chosen for its project to use bio-composite materials made from castor plant fibres in aircraft passenger cabins.

At present the five finalists are putting the finishing touches to their projects with the help of an Airbus coach. The teams will then be flown to Paris, courtesy of Airbus, to make their final presentations before a jury of industry experts at the Paris Air Show on June 19.

In addition to the first prize, 15,000 euros will go to the runner-up, and an additional 5000 euros to the team chosen by Airbus staff to receive the “Employees’ Choice” prize.

Ted Porter, spokesman for Airbus in Australia, said the quality of the entries received in Australia was impressive and showed the high level of talent being nurtured in aerospace-related subjects.

UQ Professor of Mechanical Engineering Martin Veidt said the team had shown tremendous creativity and high quality science to develop a pioneering natural fibre composite from a single plant.

“The product has great potential for applications in the aeronautical industry to substantially reduce the carbon footprint by enabling the manufacturing of fully recyclable polymer components,” Professor Veidt said.

“The team has to be congratulated for executing the project from conceptual idea all the way through to the finished product.”

The other finalists are representing Stanford University in the United States, the National University of Singapore, Valencia Polytechnic in Spain and Brno University in the Czech Republic.

— TRENT LEGGATT
With more than 200,000 books on offer, visitors to the 2009 UQ Alumni Book Fair didn’t walk away empty handed.

Held at the UQ Centre from April 25-29, the biennial event attracted thousands of book lovers from across south-east Queensland.

As is tradition, a rare book auction started proceedings on April 24 at 6.30pm at Women’s College.

Alumni Friends President Feona Walker said about 150 books were up for sale at the auction, with bidders from all over Australia.

“At the auction itself we do get friendly competition which gives us some very good prices at times,” Ms Walker said.

In 2007, the two events raised more than $140,000 for the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc.

Over the years, the organisation has given more than $6 million to community projects ranging from providing electric scooters for the disabled, to supporting the Fryer Library, the UQ Art Museum and student scholarships.

About 110 volunteers helped out at the fair, with books ranging in price from 50 cents to about $50.

Ms Walker said the event was Brisbane’s original book fair, with all books sorted into categories and then priced and packed by experts.

“We have books on subjects not usually found at other book sales,” she said.

“On the last day we always have a box day when buyers can get a box of books for between $12 and $15.

“People continue to go to book sales because a computer cannot compete with the feel, the look or the portability of a book.”

Organisation for the 2011 UQ Alumni Book Fair has already begun.

Those wanting to volunteer time or donate books for the 2011 event are welcome to contact Ms Walker on (07) 3365 2263.

INFO → www.uq.edu.au/alumni

UQ STUDENT LAUNCHES BOOK ON CZECH TRAVELS

His castle was a Soviet-era student dormitory block, and from there UQ exchange student Matt Ogg set out to discover Prague and Europe.

With a trusty backpack, a camera in hand and a diary full of self-confessed illegible handwriting, he captured his experiences to create his photojournalistic work, Czech Mates: reflections of an Aussie student on exchange.

Mr Ogg (pictured left) said the book not only reflected a unique variety of locations, interactions and histories, but looked at what it meant to travel and the ways living abroad could inspire you.

“This book is for anyone who’s travelled or even thought about it,” he said.

“For those who have, I hope to switch on some memories and for those who haven’t, I want to show them the possibilities out there – their world is just one of many realities and there are other options.”

He said the book was written out of gratitude for all who made his experience possible and encouraged people to grasp the travel opportunities that came their way.

“I’d also like to show people how wonderful and complex Europe really is, and to challenge the iron curtain that still exists in people’s minds that somehow makes a nation at its geographic centre become eastern.

“But to truly understand those complexities would take a lifetime – my book is just a bad pun, but a visual feast and an interesting read.

The book was launched last month at the School of Journalism and Communication and self-published through 3E Publishing.

THE CO-OP BOOKSHOP
CURRENT BESTSELLERS

1. Pleasures & Sorrows of Work – Alain de Botton, Hamish Hamilton (HB) $45.00 PHILOSOPHY
2. Ransom – David Malouf, Random House (HB) $29.95 FICTION
3. Reunion – Andrea Goldsmith, Harper Collins (PB) $32.99 FICTION
5. Handle with Care – Jodi Picoult, Allen & Unwin (PB) $32.99 FICTION
7. The Slap – Christos Tsiolkas, Allen & Unwin (PB) $32.95 FICTION
8. The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society – Mary Ann Shaffer, Allen & Unwin (HB) $29.95 FICTION
9. Dreams from my Father – Barack Obama, Penguin (PB) $24.95 BIOGRAPHY
10. Girl with the Dragon Tattoo – Steig Larsson, Quercus (PB) $22.95 FICTION
When Oscar-winning music composer A R Rahman, of Slumdog Millionaire fame, invited UQ PhD student Hana Alhadad to work alongside him in India’s impoverished slums, she accepted instantly.

Ms Alhadad, who dons the hat of artist, mentor, writer and producer, and who was recently awarded a UQ Endowment Fund (UQef) scholarship, was earlier this year chosen to work as a consultant in the A R Rahman Arts Foundation in Chennai to help kick start its music and dance educational program.

“It was a surreal experience working with a musical genius, especially watching him patiently mentor a group of children from the slums who have never before had any form of education in music or the arts,” she said.

“The opportunity that he has opened up to the disadvantaged children of Chennai is immense and has certainly and quite literally brought smiles, song and dance to the streets.”

Over the past eight years, Ms Alhadad has gathered many stamps on her passport, travelling the world promoting youth theatre and the use of performance in building peace.

Her artistic prowess and love for humanity has seen her work with youths in Thailand, Cambodia, Mali and Peru, as well as on the award-winning Children of the Sea and Finding Marina projects in Sri Lanka, which concentrated on the issues of the Boxing Day Tsunami and civil and ethnic conflict.

Ms Alhadad’s interest in the arts also recently took her to Brazil to work on the UNESCO-supported Capoeira Knights — based on a Brazilian martial art — that dealt with the issues of violence, drugs and gangs.

Capoeira Knights received critical acclaim at the 2008 Edinburgh Festival while Children of the Sea (pictured bottom left), received the Spirit of the Fringe first prize at the 2005 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Finding Marina – a production that tackles the civil conflict in Sri Lanka – won the Amnesty International Award for theatre that changes people’s lives in 2006.

“Traditionally, education in arts and performance has ironically been a closed group available to those who can afford it,” Ms Alhadad said.

“Since 2004, I have endeavoured to open this group, take performance training to the streets and provide free education in refugee camps.

As Ms Alhadad embarks on a PhD in UQ’s School of Social Work and Human Services and the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, her interests move closer to home.

With the help of a UQef scholarship, Ms Alhadad aims to examine the process of performance in the transformation of conflict.

One of Ms Alhadad’s research goals is to build a creative art for peace project where professionals train youths in the performing arts, culminating in a multicultural Indigenous-themed theatrical production.

Founded in 2007, UQef is a means for donors to support academic initiatives in areas of social need.

“...especially watching him patiently mentor a group of children from the slums.”

— ELIZA PLANT
Commonwealth Minister for Youth and Sport The Honourable Kate Ellis visited UQ SPORT at St Lucia last month to hear about new university funding initiatives.

UQ SPORT Executive Director Kim Guerin said the introduction of voluntary student unionism (VSU) in 2006 had had an enormous impact on funding for sporting clubs and had meant a significant reduction in participation rates.

“At The University of Queensland we experienced a 50 percent cut in direct funding for our university sporting clubs, leading to a 20 percent reduction in the number of students participating in club sports. Quite simply it just became too expensive for students to participate in sport,” Ms Guerin said.

“Sport and recreation at university is more than just elite athletes or keeping fit, or learning a new sport, it’s part of how we forge an adult identity, manage stress and build the friendships and relationships that will support us throughout our life,”

Ms Guerin was joined by Olympic rower Sam Conrad, UQ Rugby Academy staff member James Holbeck and Paralympic silver medalist Blake Cochrane to discuss the impacts of VSU with Ms Ellis.

Ms Guerin said university sporting clubs also played an important part in helping new students from regional Queensland adapt to university life.

“University sport and recreation programs also have an important part to play in keeping students fit and healthy throughout their life,” Ms Guerin said.

“We know that those people who keep playing sport after school have a better chance of maintaining their participation in sport throughout their life and the effect of exercise in combating depression is well established.

“For amateurs and professional athletes alike, the restored funding will mean better facilities, more opportunities to participate in inter-university sport and most importantly more opportunities to get out and have a go and have fun,”

INFO ➔ www.uqsport.uq.edu.au

Top honours for UQ athletes

The 2009 UQ Annual Sports Awards Dinner was recently held at Hillstone St Lucia to celebrate the sporting and academic achievements of University students in the past year.

It has been a long-standing tradition to present various sporting awards at the event each year, and since 1912 the UQ Blues Committee has presented Blues Awards for outstanding achievement in university sport.

In 2008 UQ SPORT clubs enjoyed a particularly successful year with 17 current and former University of Queensland students competing in the Beijing Olympic Games.

UQ SPORT President Richard Powell commenced proceedings for the gala event, which was attended by guests including current students and athletes as well as past UQ Blues recipients.

It was a particularly successful year in 2008 for the UQ Cricket Club, taking out the Huibert Bursary Award for Club of the Year.

UQ Cricket Club coach David Biggs also took out the 2008 Club Volunteer of the Year.

The night also showcased the University’s next generation of sportsmen and women, with the announcement of 22 scholarship holders for 2009 covering a wide range of sports from rugby union to orienteering.

But it wasn’t just present athletes being honored at the event. It was also a celebration of a lifetime of achievement by the late John Percy. In a touching tribute, Mr Percy’s daughters Jennifer Wright and Devon Barnes presented his 1934 Blues Jacket to UQ SPORT.

Five UQ athletes achieved the honour of a Half Blue Award in 2008: Christopher Anderson (rowing), Henry Bryan (rowing), Jade Sarah (fencing), Amy Smith (swimming) and Jonathon Trovas (rowing).

The 2008 Sportswoman of the Year was a close finish with Melanie Schlanger (pictured) edging out fellow Beijing Olympic medallist Emma Moffat, while rower Sam Conrad was named Sportsman of the Year.

Next year’s ceremony is scheduled to take place in March.
AROUND CAMPUS

EVENTS/NOTICES

• Thursday June 16
  Visitors welcome. Information p.gunn@uq.edu.au

• UQ Toastmasters Club
  A new Toastmasters Club for UQ staff and students has recently been established. Information: John Wells (07) 3374 1452 or johnnewells@bigpond.com

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

• ACCOMMODATION WANTED: Lecturer finalising PhD seeks home by July 25. Mature and responsible woman with obedient, clean dog. Also open to house share and house sit options. Contact: Sama 0407 925 176.

• WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT: New lecturer starting in July seeking house to rent or house-sit. Happy to look after pets and garden. Prefer suburb close to UQ. Contact: Maxine mdarnell@une.edu.au or (02) 6773 3595.

• TO RENT: Toowong, ideal location, spacious two-bedroom f/f unit on 10th floor overlooking river. Available June-December 2009. $500/wk. Contact: m.kancachian@admin.uq.edu.au or (07) 3365 1321 or telephoning (07) 3365 3360.

• TO RENT: House sitting starting in July seeking house to rent or house-sit. Happy to look after pets and garden. Contact: e.powell@uq.edu.au or (07) 3374 2042.

• HOUSECARER: Available for medium-to long-term house sitting. Responsible and caring professional woman. Excellent references. Contact: 0411 826 343 or (07) 3374 2042.

• TO RENT: Lovely family home in Taringa available from August 25-December 31. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, study, pool, airconditioning. Furnished, rent negotiable. Contact: e.powell@uq.edu.au or (07) 3878 9684 after 7pm.

UQ NEWS DEADLINES

NEXT ISSUE

584 June 18 July 7
Semester 1 ends June 26

SCHOOL REVIEWS 2009

Details for the three school reviews being undertaken by the Academic Board in Semester 2, 2009 are:

School of Nursing and Midwifery – Review date: July 27-31. Submissions due: June 15.
School of English, Media Studies and Art History – Review date: August 3-7. Submissions due: June 22.

Submissions are invited from all interested persons. Terms of reference can be obtained from the Review Coordinator in Secretariat Services on (07) 3365 1321 or m.kancachian@admin.uq.edu.au

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

• Bashford/Sinnott Family MBBS Scholarship
  Open to students enrolled full-time in first semester of the MBBS. Awarded on the basis of financial need, academic achievement and other relevant criteria. Worth: $5000 per year for up to 2 years. Closing: June 26, 2009. Information: (07) 3365 5481 or f.matthewman@uq.edu.au

• The General Staff Self Development Prize 2009
  Open to general staff who have been employed at the University for at least three years. Closing: June 30. Worth: $150 Information: (07) 3365 1984 or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au

ELECTION TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD

Professors and non-professors

Elections will be held to appoint members to the Academic Board as follows:

By and from the Professors of the University – 7 for 2010-2012

NOMINATION DATE: 4pm Thursday, 30 July 2009
ELECTION DATE: 9am Wednesday, 7 October 2009

By and from the non-professorial teaching and research staff of the University – 7 for 2010-2012

NOMINATION DATE: 4 pm Thursday, 30 July 2009
ELECTION DATE: 9 am Monday, 5 October 2009

Any person entitled to vote for any of the classes of elected members to be appointed to the Academic Board is entitled to nominate a professorial or a non-professorial candidate. Nomination forms are available from Mrs Tina Ferguson, Academic Administration (ext. 53380).

Voting will be by postal ballot.

Nomination forms and ballot papers must be received in Academic Administration, Room 503, JD Story Building, by the nomination and election dates shown above.

Ms Dorothy Collins, University Secretary and General Counsel

Student members

Elections will be held to appoint student members of the Academic Board for 2010 as follows:

3 Undergraduate Students
1 Postgraduate Research Student
1 Postgraduate Non-Research Student

NOMINATION WEEK:
Monday 17 August – 4pm, Friday 21 August 2009
VOTING WEEK:
Monday 5 October – 4pm Friday, 9 October 2009

Any person entitled to vote in an election for any of the categories of elected student members to be appointed to the Academic Board is entitled to nominate a student candidate.

Nominations forms will be available from Monday, 17 August and can be downloaded from the Academic Board website at www.uq.edu.au/academic-board/

Further information regarding arrangements for voting week will be made available to students closer to the time.

www.uq.edu.au/academic-board/
Academic Administration
EMERGING NEEDS
Seizing Opportunities

Through swift and systematic responses to emerging needs, The University of Queensland can achieve outstanding successes.

Your gift to the Emerging Needs fund will support The University to develop cutting edge initiatives to take advantage of new opportunities and meet evolving demands.

Thank you for your support.