Bare Bones
New research links T. rex to birds
At UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute, you’ll find a team of big thinkers working with very smart little creatures.

Engineer turned biologist Srini, along with fellow researchers, are investigating the flight behaviour of bees to develop an aircraft guidance system using biology inspired robotics.

A recipient of the Prime Minister’s Prize for Science, Srini came to UQ for the opportunity to conduct groundbreaking research. He was also attracted to UQ’s unique, collaborative environment which encourages researchers working across many teams and institutes, to achieve their best.

If you’re considering a postgraduate coursework or research degree, attend the Postgraduate Advice Night or visit youruq.com/postgrad and discover why there’s more to uni at UQ.

**Postgraduate Advice Night**
4.30pm – 7.30pm, Wednesday 14 October
Customs House, 399 Queen St, Brisbane
Visit youruq.com/postgrad
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

UQ’s culture of research training is intrinsic to the University’s overall strength and character. As well as producing original research that augments the fund of knowledge and builds societal wellbeing and economic wealth, it generates graduates whose creativity and critical thinking skills equip them for leadership in their professions and communities.

Mentoring candidates for research higher degrees (including Masters of Philosophy and PhDs) is unique to universities. Until recently, growth was strong across the Australian sector, with the number of PhDs awarded increasing by 85 percent between 1996 and 2006. However the trajectory has flattened, and the latter years of this decade risk being judged in hindsight as the lost years of Australian research training.

No good will come from slow growth in research training, so UQ is renewing its instruments and strategies for building candidate numbers without compromising quality. The aim is to give excellent opportunities to high calibre students, be they Australian or international.

A number of initiatives under development concentrate on scholarships, professional development, international mobility and opportunities to commercialise research. We want to underscore the particular advantages of undertaking a UQ research higher degree, including highly motivated supervisors, excellent research infrastructure, commercialisation support, and an internationalised environment.

This last point is vital for many reasons, including the increasing likelihood that graduates will work in a global setting, even if they remain in Australia. One of the bright spots of UQ in recent years has been substantial growth in international research higher degree student numbers.

Some of these international candidates have support from the Australian Government’s International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS), a program that benefits Australia as well as the students’ countries of origin.

Two senior staff who now drive discovery policy at UQ came to Australia on these scholarships: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Max Lu and Graduate School Dean, Professor Zlatko Skrbis. UQ and its Group of Eight partners are urging the government to implement a proposal in the 2009–10 Federal Budget, to make the IPRS more attractive to international talent by giving its recipients a stipend equivalent to the award for Australian RHD candidates. UQ’s experience shows that this would be a good investment for Australian research.

Whilst there will be innovation in UQ’s research training, our tried and true methods for fostering excellence continue to succeed. These include the annual UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards, and the Award for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision.

One nifty recent addition to Research Week is the Three Minute Thesis competition, challenging PhD students to describe their projects in three minutes or less, without trivialising the underlying scholarship. UQ will host the first national and trans-Tasman Three Minute Thesis competition as part of our 2010 centenary celebrations. Young researchers showcasing learning, discovery and engagement by concisely explaining complex ideas for a diverse audience will be the perfect heralds of UQ’s second century.

The good news is that this battle of wits will go national in 2010 as part of a wider strategy to discover gems of UQ research.
SURFING THE DOWNTURN

Savvy tourism operators are using the economic downturn to rise above their competitors.

UQ School of Tourism academic and Director of Industry Partnerships Dr David Solnet said successful companies had found creative solutions to the decline in travel and leisure activities.

“They are looking ahead, not behind,” Dr Solnet said.

“When the upswing comes, they won’t be caught short.”

Dr Solnet helped organise “Economic Storm Riders – Turning Downturn into Opportunity”, an industry leaders forum hosted by the School of Tourism last month.

The panel included four tourism and hospitality experts including Tourism Queensland chief executive officer Anthony Hayes, whose organisation launched the successful “Best Job In the World” campaign earlier this year.

Dr Solnet said the event was a great opportunity for industry leaders to share their insights into current and future obstacles.

“The forum gave these leaders a rare chance to get together and share their knowledge to find new solutions to existing challenges,” he said.

EASY ON THE EARS

Hours of analysing snoring sounds have paid off for a group of researchers from UQ and Brisbane’s Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Led by Dr Udantha Abeyratne from the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, the team has developed a non-invasive way of diagnosing Obstructive Sleep Apnea.

Caused by the collapse of the upper air passage during sleep, OSA is Australia’s most common sleep disorder, affecting approximately 800,000 people.

Common symptoms include snoring, waking suddenly and daytime sleepiness and, if left untreated, can lead to stroke, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

“OSA has snoring as the earliest symptom; almost all patients snore,” Dr Abeyratne said.

“We have developed several techniques to diagnose OSA using snoring sounds alone,” Dr Abeyratne said his team were capable of screening OSA with 90 percent accuracy.

“These results are unmatched in the world in terms of the non-invasiveness and performance, and unequivocally illustrate the viability of a snore-based, non-contact OSA screening device,” he said.

OSA is currently diagnosed using Polysomnography (PSG), which requires a full-night laboratory stay in a specifically equipped sleep suite, connected to more than 15 channels of measurements.

Funded by an ARC Discovery Grant, the project was conducted in collaboration with the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the University of Tokushima, Japan.

THE FUTURE OF NEWS

Online media experts are offering their views on the direction of news, journalism and technology in a new series of lectures at UQ’s School of Journalism and Communication.

Beginning in September and continuing this month, the JAcTalk series aims to inform students and staff about how the media industry is dealing successfully with content online.

The presentations offer insight into how journalism is changing and give participants the opportunity to speak with people making editorial decisions in a digital context.

Online editor for the Courier-Mail John Grey began the series on September 14, and was followed by WotNews general manager Richard Slatter.

WotNews harvests and analyses news from 5,000 traditional and online Australian publishers for clients around the country.

Other speakers include brisbanetimes.com.au managing editor Coral Hanna and ABC lead developer Rae Allen.

The idea for the series evolved as part of the newly revised third-year Journalism Production course.

Course co-ordinator Skye Doherty said it was a way for students to see how the skills they were learning applied to the workplace and give them the chance to meet potential employers.

“Savvy tourism operators are using the economic downturn to rise above their competitors.

“Evidence in invitro and animal studies indicates that sulforaphane can reduce the complications of diabetes, with improved biochemical markers evident.”

Ms Houghton is currently trying to find out exactly how much sulforaphane is produced in 500mg of encapsulated broccoli sprout powder.

Using this product, in 2010 she hopes to start a clinical trial for patients with impaired glucose tolerance.

“Where previous human clinical trials have been undertaken, the product has not been fully characterised so it is difficult to ascertain what quantity of ingested sulforaphane produces a measured clinical outcome,” Ms Houghton said.

“Studies have found that sulforaphane influences about 200 genes of the cell’s defence system.

“Regular consumption of broccoli or broccoli sprouts is a simple way to activate your body’s own protective mechanisms which naturally decline as we age or are unwell.”

Ms Houghton’s research focuses on sulforaphane – a substance produced when broccoli sprouts are cut or chewed that has been found to protect against heart disease, some types of cancers and act as an anti-ageing agent.

“Sulforaphane essentially talks to the DNA within your cells and can help to optimise several of your body’s natural defence systems,” Ms Houghton said.

UQ PhD candidate and nutritionist Christine Houghton is set to investigate whether broccoli could help in the fight against diabetes.

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A series of science textbooks co-written by UQ Education lecturer Dr David Geelan and used widely in Queensland classrooms has won a prestigious publishing award.

The Science Ways series, co-written with former teacher Greg Rickard and published by Pearson Australia, won a 2009 Australian Educational Publishing Award in the Secondary Teaching and Learning category.

Science Ways is an exciting three-level series designed for the teaching of science for the new Queensland Essentials across grades 8, 9 and 10. The content covers five strands: science as a human endeavour, Earth and beyond, energy and change, life and living and natural and processed materials.

“We’ve designed the books to be as visually appealing as possible by using lots of effective images and diagrams interwoven with text,” Dr Geelan said.

UQ’s commercialisation company UniQuest along with AACR, Herbert Geer, and BDO Kendalls formed the Equator Alliance to offer a coordinated client service including identifying, managing and reducing carbon output, as well as developing new sustainability solutions and competitive advantages.

For UniQuest, which facilitates industry access to UQ’s extensive bank of expertise and resources, forming the alliance was a natural progression, according to Managing Director David Henderson.

“With the impacts of carbon emissions, trading and sustainability starting to take shape we were conscious that business required comprehensive expert, research-based guidance and practical support at every stage,” Mr Henderson said.

“Joining the alliance enables UniQuest to open up further opportunities for UQ researchers to not only provide services to major new clients but also to work closely with allied industry professionals.”

The network was launched on September 9, with the keynote speaker Bernadette Welch, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Australian Climate Change Regulatory Authority (ACCRA), Department of Climate Change.

Industry will have greater access to The University of Queensland’s climate change specialists, following the formation of a leading-edge climate change alliance.

Unique to Australia, four companies with access to leading climate change experts have come together to provide a significant, tailored and integrated service to assist businesses to come together to provide a significant, tailored access to leading climate change experts have followed the formation of a leading-edge climate change alliance.

Instead of going for an operation to have a rod inserted in his back, he decided to try acupuncture and naturopathy. When the pain disappeared he decided to become a naturopath.

Mr Wardle said one in six Australians used complementary medicine as their first treatment option, making further research important.

Mr Wardle said he became interested in complementary medicine when he hurt his back while working as a nursing student at the University of Washington.

Mr Wardle will talk to his Seattle counterparts about the role of complementary medicine in rural general practice during a 10-week stint in the US early next year.

“It is a very exciting opportunity,” Mr Wardle said.

“The North-West Pacific region is the complementary medicine research capital of the USA. The amount I can learn there is amazing.”

Mr Wardle said he became interested in complementary medicine when he hurt his back while working as a nursing student at the age of 21.

A journey that started with a bad back and the threat of a major operation is about to culminate in a study tour to a leading American medical facility for a researcher at The University of Queensland.

Researcher Jon Wardle has received a UQ Trans-Pacific Fellowship worth almost $10,000 to meet experts in the field of complementary medicine at the University of Washington.

The amount I can learn there is amazing,” Mr Wardle said.

“The North-West Pacific region is the complementary medicine research capital of the USA. The amount I can learn there is amazing.”

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FACTS + FIGURES

443 – number of delegates that attended the recent Asia-Pacific Model UN Conference (AMUNC), held for the first time in Queensland at UQ’s St Lucia campus.

$3.2 million – cost of renovations at UQ’s Zelman Cowen Building which includes new student-friendly facilities for the School of Architecture.

$685,000 – the amount awarded at the annual UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards last month which saw nine researchers honoured for their work.

1989 – the last premiership trophy won by a University soccer team before UQ’s Metro 1 outfit took out the 2009 Football Brisbane Metro Cup recently.

300 – number of competitors UQ School of Tourism student Nicquel Rhoden beat to win a New Zealand tourism "dream job" competition. Ms Rhoden will blog about her travels in New Zealand for the next three months as part of the prize.

2232 – number of participants in landmark UQ same-sex relationship research, which saw the majority choose marriage as their personal preference for relationship recognition.
Ever wanted to bottle the fresh “green” aroma of a forest? UQ researcher Dr Nick Lavidis has done just that, with a new “eau de grass” spray recently launched.

Serenascent, which smells like cut grass and claims to make the wearer happier and less stressed, was launched last month by the State Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development, Andrew Fraser.

Mr Fraser congratulated researchers Dr Lavidis and retired pharmacologist Associate Professor Rosemarie Einstein for their seven-year research project.

“Dr Lavidis and Associate Professor Einstein have developed a spray based on scientific proof that when grasses and green leaves are cut at least five chemicals containing stress-relieving properties are released,” he said.

“The new Serenascent combines three of these chemicals to help reduce the harmful impact of stress on the nervous system.”

Dr Lavidis said he first had the idea for Serenascent on a memorable trip to Yosemite National Park in America more than 20 years ago.

“Three days in the park felt like a three-month holiday,” he said.

“I didn’t realise at the time that it was the actual combination of feel good chemicals released by the pine trees, the lush vegetation and the cut grass that made me feel so relaxed.

“Years later my neighbour commented on the wonderful smell of cut grass after I had mowed the lawn and it all started to click into place.”

Dr Lavidis said the aroma of Serenascent worked directly on the brain, in particular the emotional and memory parts known as the amygdala and the hippocampus.

“These two areas form the limbic system that controls the sympathetic nervous system,” he said.

“They are responsible for the ‘flight or fight’ response and the endocrine system, which controls the releasing of stress hormones like corticosteroids. The new spray appears to regulate these areas.”

Dr Lavidis said people experienced two different types of stress.

“The first is when you are about to perform something or you know you are going to have to do something well. That’s acute stress and can be a good form of stress,” he said.

“Bad stress is chronic stress and is associated with an increase in blood pressure, forgetfulness and a weakening of the immune system.”

Chronic stress has been shown to damage the hippocampus by reducing the number of synaptic connections between communicating neurons.

Functionally, this loss leads to a reduction in communication between neurons and a resultant loss of memory. In old animals this damage is permanent.

UQ PhD students Liz Butt and Ei Leen Leong have shown that animals exposed to Serenascent during stress avoid the stress-induced damage of the hippocampus.

INFO ➔ www.serenascent.com
The University has paid tribute to its emerging research leaders, awarding $685,000 at the annual UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards held on September 22 at Customs House.

Nine researchers were honoured for their work, which covered projects as diverse as understanding and preventing obesity, bankruptcy laws, and disease-resistant genes in canola production.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu said the awards recognised and nurtured outstanding early career researchers who were set to become leaders in their fields.

“This congratulate each of these winners, and am confident that with their enthusiasm and capability that they will produce great research for the future,” Professor Lu said.

This year marked the 11th anniversary of the UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards, which were launched in 1999 and were the first of their kind in Australia.

The 2009 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award winners, pictured above from top left are:
- Dr David Morrison from the TC Beirne School of Law ($70,000).
- Dr Timothy Carroll from the School of Human Movement Studies ($80,000).
- Dr Joshua Mylne from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience ($80,000).
- Dr Jacqueline Batley from the School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences ($70,000).
- Dr Zhi Ping Xu from the Australian Institute for Bioengineering & Nanotechnology ($75,000).
- Dr Korneel Rabaey from the Advanced Water Management Centre ($80,000).
- Dr Karen Moritz from the School of Biomedical Sciences ($80,000).
- Dr Abdullah Mamun from the School of Population Health ($80,000), and
- Dr Craig White from the School of Biological Sciences ($70,000).

In addition, Professor Paul Hodges (second row, left) was honoured with an Award for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision, worth $10,000. Professor Zlatko Skrbis, Dean of the UQ Graduate School, praised Professor Hodges for “his sustained and innovative contribution to excellence in research supervision at UQ.”

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/research-week

UNIQUEST CELEBRATES

UniQuest Pty Limited celebrated 25 years of taking Australian research innovations and expertise to the world with a gala cocktail event on August 26.

Incorporated as a UQ company in 1984, UniQuest is widely recognised as one of Australia’s largest and most successful university commercialisation groups. UniQuest now also provides commercialisation services to other Australian universities, two ARC Centres of Excellence and the Mater Medical Research Institute. With more than 80 staff and group revenues over $100M in 2008, UniQuest’s capabilities benchmark it in the top 10 percent globally for university-based technology transfer.

UQ projects as diverse as the world’s first cervical cancer vaccine (Gardasil), the Triple P parenting program, a surge protector for communications systems, and MRI optimisation are among the innovations fostered by UniQuest investment.

Many of the inventors attended the celebration, along with Professor Brian Wilson, the UQ Vice-Chancellor whose vision in the 1980s was to see a critical mass of entrepreneurial academic brainpower stimulating the engines of industry, equal to university technology transfer organisations emerging from Silicon Valley and Cambridge.

Sales of products using UQ technology and licensed by UniQuest are now running at $5.2 billion per year, and have impacted positively on communities on every continent including more than 70 developing nations.

INFO ➔ www.uniquest.com.au
For linguist Ghil'ad Zuckermann, languages are much more than a means of communication – they are a passion.

Associate Professor Zuckermann – who came to UQ on an Australian Research Council Discovery Fellowship – was instrumental in organising Australia’s inaugural conference on Afro-Asiatic languages, held over three days last month.

Coinciding with the Brisbane Writers Festival, the first Australian Workshop on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics (AWAAL) was a celebration of scholarship and multiculturalism, bringing together outstanding scholars and graduates from 18 countries, and featuring singers and dancers from all over the world.

"Despite having hundreds of thousands of Australians of Afro-Asiatic heritage – and although there are hundreds of millions of Afro-Asiatic speakers all over the globe – the ‘Lucky Country’ has not had a tradition of research activities on these languages and societies," Dr Zuckermann said.

"So I decided to establish the Australian Afro-Asiatic Association and to organise the first AWAAL with the hope that it becomes a tradition."

Formerly known as Hamito-Semitic, the Afro-Asiatic family comprises languages spoken in northern Africa and southwest Asia, including the Semitic, Chadic, Cushitic, Berber, Omotic and ancient Egyptian languages.

In one panel, Dr Zuckermann, who was born in Israel, explored how lessons from the Middle East were applicable to the revival, maintenance and empowerment of Aboriginal languages.

"I hear again and again ‘Native Title’ but where is the ‘native tongue title’? Is land more important than language? That said, we should be realistic: any revival of a ‘sleeping beauty’ – or ‘walking dead’ – is unlikely without cross-fertilisation from the revivalists’ mother tongue(s)," Dr Zuckermann said.

One of the AWAAL presenters, Professor Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Al al-Bayt University, Jordan, described AWAAL as an "unprecedented milestone conference".

"I left my heart in Brisbane," Professor Al-Abed Al-Haq said upon returning to Jordan.

UQ PhD candidate Abdel El-Hankari said the event was praised as “highly successful”.

**Scholars unite**

From left: Eritrean musicians Senay Mebrahtu, Nardos Zerihun, Awet Miass and Ermias Gebremariam perform at AWAAL.
Malaria, landmines, elephants and a diet of frogs has not kept PhD student Carly Starr from becoming an expert on a Cambodian animal not unlike a possum.

Ms Starr (pictured) has become the first western researcher to study the wild pygmy lorises, a small nocturnal primate found only in parts of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and China.

The 27-year-old has recently returned from field studies in Cambodia, where she first began her search for the pygmy lorises in mid-2006. She hopes to complete her thesis on the creatures in January as part of her studies at UQ’s School of Animal Studies.

Former Khmer Rouge soldiers and Indigenous people joined Ms Starr in her search, keeping an eye out for elephants and landmines in the dense forests where the nocturnal animals with the big eyes live.

Covering the ground was often done on domesticated elephants and sleeping tended to be in hammocks strung up in trees.

The party kept close to river systems for water and fish, while rain brought out frogs to supplement a diet otherwise consisting of rice and tinned foods.

Ms Starr said her early days in Cambodia were among the hardest because she did not speak the language.

“At first it was very hard and it was very isolating. But that didn’t last long. People were very warm and inclusive. They would string their hammocks next to you and keep you company when we weren’t out following the animals in the forest,” she said.

Ms Starr said life in the field initially seemed daunting, but she quickly adjusted.

“When you are there, it seems normal. You go through the motions. It’s when you come back here that it seems more adventurous,” she said.

But the most difficult thing for Ms Starr was contracting malaria, forcing her to be evacuated to a hospital in Thailand.

During recuperation in Brisbane, Ms Starr realised she had come too far to give up on her studies.

Ms Starr said she had become very fond of the pygmy lorises, saying it was “cute and cuddly”, even though it could secrete a toxin known to cause anaphylactic shock from its upper arms, rub it on its teeth and bite potential threats.

“*When you shine a light on them they freeze so it is easy to catch them,*” she said.

Ms Starr began studying the pygmy lorises after hearing how little known the animals were while doing a rodent survey in Cambodia. Pygmy lorises are threatened because of the demand for their use in traditional medicines.

The research showed pygmy loris numbers were rapidly declining in Cambodia. With this in mind, Ms Starr said she hoped to work for organisations dedicated to conservation.

— ERIK DE WIT

BIG-EYED ADVENTURE

THE WONDER OF NATURE’S SMALL CREATURES KEPT UQ PHD STUDENT CARLY STARR ON TASK AS SHE BATTLED TOUGH TERRAIN AND CHALLENGING CONDITIONS IN CAMBODIA FOR HER RESEARCH.
CULTURE VULTURES LAND AT LAW SCHOOL

Popular culture went under the microscope at UQ recently, with law students staging their annual revue at the Schonell Theatre.

A tongue-in-cheek tribute to Michael Jackson’s monster album Thriller, gang wars and film trailer rip-offs were all included, ensuring plenty of pop references in the production.

TC Beirne After Reading was staged at the Schonell Theatre from August 26–29.

Director Georgina Horsburgh said while there were plenty of law jokes, with students poking fun at their future profession, there was also plenty for the average punter to enjoy.

“There was a Snuggie number, for example. It was Snuggies as you have never seen them before. It was something people could identify with,” Ms Horsburgh said.

“There were zombie lawyers, boys singing a cappella and comic cabaret. There was a strong sense of professionalism but a lot of self-deprecation as well.”

Ms Horsburgh said the revue showcased the talents of UQ’s law students, with dance, song and acting.

“On another level, it is a great tribute to the sense of community in the law school,” she said.

Musical director Arthur Abal and stage manager Tim Warwick were among the students involved backstage.

Visitors assure all is in order

UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law students were treated to a formidable double act when both the Speaker and the Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives presented guest lectures at the University last month.

The Speaker, Mr Harry Jenkins (pictured left), and the Deputy Clerk, Mr Bernard Wright made their presentation on September 1 as part of a new School of Law elective course, the Law of Political Institutions.

The visit was organised under the Federal Parliament’s “House Calls” scheme by School of Law Associate Professor Nicholas Aroney and course convenor Associate Professor Graeme Orr.

Dr Aroney said the guests shared decades of practical parliamentary experience with UQ’s law students.

“The lower houses of parliament are where governments are formed and crucial debates about our future are held. Mr Jenkins, as Speaker, spoke about what it is like to have the responsibility to oversee and regulate parliamentary debate, while Deputy Clerk Mr Wright spoke about the rules and procedures which facilitate and enhance the quality of parliamentary debate,” he said.

The new Law of Political Institutions elective course was introduced in January and has attracted more than 120 students in its first year.

“Course convenor Dr Orr said the course gave students an advanced understanding of how institutional and electoral politics were governed.

“This course is unique in Australia. During my 16 years in academia, there has been no course which draws together parliamentary and electoral law for undergraduates,” he said.
MARRIAGE EQUALITY

A national survey conducted by UQ researchers has found that the majority of same-sex attracted Australians reported marriage to be their personal preference for relationship recognition.

The findings dispel the myth that most same-sex couples do not wish to marry or are content with de facto status.

The results of the Not So Private Lives survey have been submitted to the Federal Senate inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 which seeks to amend the Federal Marriage Act so that same-sex partners are able to marry in Australia, and to recognise same-sex marriages legally entered into overseas.

Not So Private Lives is the first national survey to investigate same-sex attracted Australians’ preferences for various forms of relationship recognition since the introduction of de facto status for same-sex couples at a federal level.

The survey attracted 2232 participants across all states and territories from both urban and rural areas. Participants were aged 18–82 years of age and two thirds reported to be in some form of a same-sex relationship.

Findings from the relationship recognition part of the survey showed that the majority (54.1 percent) of same-sex attracted participants selected marriage as their personal choice and close to 80 percent felt marriage should be an option for same-sex couples in Australia.

Researcher Sharon Dane, from UQ’s School of Psychology, said what was most interesting to find was that marriage was still the personal choice of the majority irrespective of the current legal status of participants’ same-sex relationships.

“For example, of those currently in a de facto relationship, 55.4 percent stated they preferred marriage for their own relationship, 25.6 percent stated they preferred a federally recognised relationship other than marriage, 17.7 percent preferred de facto and 1.3 percent preferred no legal status,” Ms Dane said.

Importantly, the majority showing a personal preference for marriage was even more substantial among those currently in a state or municipal civil partnership or an overseas civil union.

“This suggests that alternatives to marriage, such as civil unions, can be important for those who do not wish to marry but are clearly not a substitute for the many who do,” Ms Dane said.

Results from the survey showed the numbers in favour of marriage were even higher for younger participants. More than 65 percent of those under 20, and more than 62 percent of those under 30, selected marriage as their personal choice.

This upward trend in the personal preference for marriage among same-sex attracted Australians coincides with the growing number of countries overseas allowing for marriage equality and the majority of Australians who are now in favour of extending the right to marry to same-sex couples.

“The findings work to dispel the myth that most same-sex attracted people do not wish to marry or are content with de facto status,” Ms Dane said.

“This majority preference for marriage may be a reflection of the fact that fewer same-sex couples feel the need to live their lives in secret.

“Although same-sex sexuality is still stigmatised at some level, a generally less hostile environment means same-sex couples can live their lives more openly and honestly and in doing so wish to be treated like everyone else.”

The findings are part of a larger anonymous survey, with full results expected to be available in late November.

INFO → www.notsoprivatelives.com

“Alternatives to marriage, such as civil unions, can be important for those who do not wish to marry but are clearly not a substitute for the many who do”

DECLARATION SIGNED
As part of UQ’s commitment to environmental sustainability, the University has become a signatory to the international Talloires Declaration.

The Talloires Declaration includes a 10-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said adoption of the declaration underscored UQ’s commitment to integrating sustainability throughout discovery, learning and engagement.

WORTHY WINNERS
A pioneering community radio station in Papua New Guinea’s Autonomous Region of Bougainville, New Dawn FM 95.3, has won the UQ School of Journalism and Communication’s 2009 Communication and Social Change Award.

Based in the town of Buka, the station was founded to help rebuild Bougainville’s civil society in the wake of a devastating 10-year internal conflict which killed 20,000 people, and displaced 40,000 others.

The award was launched in 2006 to honour outstanding contributions by individuals or organisations around the world to the theory and practice of communication for social change.
University of Queensland research is opening up a new insight into the lives of the mightiest of all dinosaurs, and it isn’t pretty.

UQ palaeontologist Dr Steve Salisbury, together with American colleagues, has found Tyrannosaurus rex and its close relatives suffered from a deadly infectious disease similar to one that occurs in birds today.

Dr Salisbury said the evidence came from unnatural holes in the back of their lower jaws.

“Some of the world’s most famous T. rex specimens have these holes in their jaws, including ‘Sue’ at the Field Museum in Chicago,” he said.

Dr Salisbury said tyrannosaurs were known to have marks on their heads from biting each other, presumably during territorial disputes or mating, but the holes he and his colleagues were interested in were at the back of the jaws, too far back to be bite marks.

“These holes don’t show any of the normal characteristics of bite marks,” he said.

“It’s as if someone took to the jaws with a hot poker. Some specimens look like Swiss cheese. We now believe that these holes are caused by an infectious disease called trichomonosis.”

He said trichomonosis was a modern avian disease caused by a parasite and is most prevalent in pigeons, which are generally immune.

“Birds of prey are particularly susceptible to trichomonosis if they eat infected pigeons,” he said.

“Adult birds can then pass the disease to their nestlings through beak-to-beak contact.”

Dr Salisbury and fellow researchers Ewan Wolff, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Jack Horner and David Varricchio from Montana State University, examined many T. rex fossils as part of their study including ‘Sue’, the most famous and complete T. rex of all.

“It’s ironic to think that an animal as mighty as ‘Sue’ probably died as a result of a parasitic infection,” he said.

“I’ll never look at a feral pigeon the same way again.”

Dr Salisbury said the link in disease was not surprising given the evolutionary relationship of dinosaurs to birds, but the discovery represented a major step forward in our understanding of disease history in birds and their dinosaurian precursors.

“The discovery provides an insight into the dinosaur immune system,” he said.

“The symptoms seen in tyrannosaurs indicate that their immune response to the disease is almost identical to that found in living birds.”

Dr Salisbury said the disease appeared to be quite common in tyrannosaurs and would have been deadly to those that were infected.

“As the parasite takes hold, lesions form around the jaw and inside the throat, eventually eating away the bone,” he said.

“As the lesions grow, the animal has trouble swallowing food and eventually starves to death.”

He said tyrannosaurs were the only dinosaurs that appeared to have had this disease, so one of the challenges the researchers faced was explaining how it spread.

“We don’t think it is a coincidence that a significant number of adult tyrannosaur specimens show both face-biting marks and evidence of a trichomonosis-like disease,” Dr Salisbury said.

“Fighting and specifically head-biting would have been an ideal mechanism for spreading the disease among tyrannosaurs. We can see similarities with what has been happening to Tasmanian devils recently, where a malignant and debilitating oral cancer is being spread by animals fighting and biting each other’s faces.”

– ANDREW DUNNE

“This is the first time that we have found evidence for an avian infectious disease in dinosaurs”
A hypothesised reconstruction showing the jaw of a Tyrannosaurus rex with the avian infection. Holes in the back of the lower jaw are visible on the skull in the lower diagram. In life (upper diagram), these holes would have contained large lesions. Illustration created by Chris Glen.
Waiting in the wings

Up and coming local playwrights will keep the tradition of BUGFest alive when the annual performance festival hits the Cement Box theatre from October 21.

Featuring six original plays by young Brisbane artists, BUGFest is designed as an opportunity for students to get involved in theatre regardless of their levels of experience.

Festival coordinator Amy Randall said this year’s BUGFest would be a celebration of local talent.

“We aren’t seeing nearly enough from Brisbane at the moment,” Ms Randall said. “This year’s festival is really about showcasing the best work students in the Brisbane arts community have to offer. We want to strike a balance between serious and more light-hearted pieces.”

There will be something for everybody at the festival, including a tongue-in-cheek take on the popular Twilight series.

Other entries will address more serious issues of political significance, personal identity and love, all with a sense of humour however.

As an added incentive to create their best work, BUGFest writers will be vying for a chance to work with the Queensland Theatre Company.

The best script winner from last year’s festival was given an opportunity to participate in QTC’s Young Playwright’s Program.

“We’re really lucky to have cultivated a relationship with Queensland Theatre Company,” Ms Randall said. “The support they have given us, particularly regarding the festival, encouraged a lot of the new work we received.”

Since 1975, Underground Productions has allowed students from all backgrounds to engage in all aspects of theatre including publicity, marketing and production roles.

BUGFest will run Wednesday to Saturday nights from October 21–31 in the Cement Box theatre, St Lucia.

INFO ➔ www.undergroundproductions.org.au

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Queensland Theatre Company
A REMARKABLE PHOTOGRAPHIC SERIES HAS BEEN GIVEN ITS FIRST COMPLETE SHOWING IN AUSTRALIA AS PART OF A NEW UQ EXHIBITION.

The acclaimed work of Brisbane-born artist Rosemary Laing is the focus of *prostrate your horses: weather and then some*, the latest show to open at the UQ Art Museum.

Laing’s evocative colour photographs have been exhibited extensively in the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia, with a major survey of her work held in Sydney at the Museum of Contemporary Art in 2005.

“This exhibition is unique, in that it not only brings together Laing’s weather series for the first time in Australia, but also places it in context with a number of her thematically related works,” UQ Art Museum Director Nick Mitzevich said.

“These range from her most recent series a dozen useless actions for grieving blondes (2009) to her Natural Disasters series (1988), which was last exhibited in Brisbane 20 years ago.”

Laing’s arresting, panoramic photographs combine aspects of photography and cinema, have often featured a performer, and are frequently located within the Australian landscape.

“With this exhibition, we wanted to explore the themes of natural and unnatural disasters that have underpinned a number of her works – and to see weather within this context,” exhibition curator Michele Helmrich said.

“The weather series, with its protagonist at the mercy of cyclonic forces and buffeted by a multitude of paper fragments, is at first glance suggestive of extreme weather events and the onset of climate change.

“But if you take into account the spray of paper fragments, then the storm that had overtones of Hurricane Katrina or Cyclone Larry becomes a more ambiguous metaphorical storm driven by contemporary political debates and issues; what we might describe as ‘cultural turbulence’.”

Other thought-provoking works include welcome to Australia (2004), which depicts the perimeter fence of the former Woomera Immigration Reception and Processing Centre, and images from the recently completed a dozen useless actions for grieving blondes series.

These feature close-shot female faces in the throes of melodramatic anguish, and were produced in response to Kevin Rudd’s apology to Australia’s Indigenous people in February last year.

A sense of disturbance is also at play in eerie scenes of windswept coastal melaleuca forest near Eden in New South Wales and a car wreck set alight beside a road in the Tanami Desert, while the interior of a fire-gutted shed offers evidence of a bushfire’s destructive force.

Ms Helmrich said the exhibition’s title referred to a quote by leading environmentalist Tim Flannery in his book *The Explorers*, when he refers to Charles Sturt’s fateful journey into the Simpson Desert.

Sturt reported that the intense heat “shrivelled his supplies, prostrated his horses and burst his thermometer”.

*prostrate your horses: weather and then some* is open free to the public until November 15.

As part of the exhibition, the curator gave a guided tour prior to the official opening, with the artist also presenting a public lecture at the Queensland College of Art.

Works for the exhibition have been generously loaned by the National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Art Gallery, Art Gallery of South Australia and private collectors.

INFO ➔ www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au
When: Wednesday 28th October 2009, 5:30pm
Where: University of Queensland, St Lucia campus, Abel Smith Building 23, Room 1
Entry: Free – donations welcome to support partner charity organisation Carpets for Communities
Agenda: 5:30pm to 8:30pm seminar followed by networking event
RSVP: Required by 25th October online www.aiesecuq.com or by email aiesecuq@gmail.com
Canapés & refreshments provided.

AIESEC UQ is holding a seminar on the 28th of October to discuss environmental sustainability as well as social sustainability.

Focusing on these two areas, speakers from industry and government will present their views and solutions at the forum.

The event is open to anyone who wants to find out more about such issues, and more importantly, for those who want to make a difference in the world.

GUEST SPEAKERS -
Vice-Chancellor Paul Greenfield
The University of Queensland (Keynote address)
Dr Doone Wyborn
Geodynamics
Ms Beata Majewska
Carpets for Communities
UQ Architecture students have lent their skills to assist community rebuilding efforts in tsunami-ravaged areas of the Solomon Islands.

Fifteen UQ students and two students from the University of Lae in Papua New Guinea travelled to the Solomon Islands Western Province to participate in a two-week reconstruction program developed by Emergency Architects Australia (EAA) during the mid-semester break.

Following a crash-course language lesson in Solomon Pijin, a bumpy five-hour canoe ride and a mountain trek, the group arrived in the remote village of Keigold, their home for the next fortnight. Keigold was established after an earthquake and subsequent tsunamis and landslides devastated the seaside village of Mondo in 2007, rendering it unsafe and forcing the community to relocate to higher ground.

Over the two weeks, the students lived and worked with the Keigold community to deliver 14 much-needed ventilated pit latrines.

EAA Brisbane Director and UQ architecture PhD student James Davidson said the experience was an invaluable addition to the students’ education and offered a greater understanding of the relevance of architecture in aid relief work.

All of the timber for the toilet project was milled locally, with both students and villagers carrying more than 500 pieces of timber from the mill to the project sites.

UQ architecture lecturer Michael Dickson, who visited the students on-site, said the project allowed them to gain hands-on experience of architectural field work in remote areas.

“The process introduced the students to the flexibility required when working in the field and the importance of building strong relationships with the community to help overcome obstacles,” Mr Dickson said.

Master of Architecture student Louisa Gee said she saw the trip as an interesting opportunity to start using the skills she had developed at university in a real-life setting.

“As soon as we arrived and started the project it was obvious that we were not there to help primarily from a construction point of view,” she said.

“The men in the village were incredibly capable and much stronger than us.”

The trip was developed and run by EAA with the assistance of UQ.

– ALICE WALKER
IN BRIEF

Get your dream home with our dream rate.

First-year pharmacy student Ryan Bayldon-Lumsden has been awarded a 2009 Queensland Young Volunteer Award in the Community Volunteers, 12–17 years division.

The awards recognise outstanding contributions made by young people, aged 12 to 25, who have been nominated by community leaders and organisations.

The awards were announced last month by the Minister for Community Services and Housing, the Honourable Karen Struthers, after a panel of judges selected the winners based on their achievements and the benefits their communities received as a result of their volunteering activities.

Ryan supports young people with disabilities aged 7 to 18 years in an integrated community access program run through Family Support Group Australia (FSG), which nominated him for this year’s awards. Through the “Just for Kids” program, Ryan mentors young people as they take part in activities to assist their social, emotional, cognitive and physical development.

Every Saturday, Ryan takes his “buddies” to have fun with swimming or hydrotherapy, bowling or movies, workshops, events and a range of other activities.

An FSG spokesperson said Ryan had inspired the extension of their volunteer program into local schools, TAFEs and universities, looking for other young adults who can make a difference in their community.

Since being awarded, Ryan has had the honour of being invited on a young volunteers speaking tour with Ms Struthers. The tour will travel Queensland and speak to school-age children about volunteering.

Ryan’s family are all active members of the UQ community, with both his parents also currently undertaking studies within the University.

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in brief

IN BRIEF

MIND MATTERS
Research conducted by UQ’s Associate Professor Thomas Sudendorf has received recognition as one of the most highly cited articles in the field of neuroscience and behaviour over the past two years.

The September issue of Essential Science Indicators identifies the article, “The evolution of foresight: What is mental time travel, and is it unique to humans?”, as that month’s “new hot paper”.

The article, which appeared in The Behavioral and Brain Sciences journal and was co-written with Professor Michael Corballis (University of Auckland), outlines a new perspective on human memory and puts forward a theory on the nature of foresight.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
An upcoming seminar “Ignorance 2 Impact: Creating Sustainable Futures”, held by the student-run organisation AIESEC, will provide discussion on pressing environmental and social issues.

Participants will also hear from Carpets for Communities, a not-for-profit organisation which has recently partnered with AIESEC, and seeks to reduce poverty in Cambodia by empowering women with long-term incomes.

The seminar will be held on October 28 at the Abel Smith Building, room one, St Lucia campus (5.30pm–8.30pm). Entry is free and donations on the night will go to Carpets for Communities.

WHIRLWIND EXPERIENCE
A US hospital chief who was stranded with 2000 patients and staff awaiting evacuation after Hurricane Katrina has shared his experiences with local health professionals.

UQ’s School of Medicine invited Dr Richard Deichmann to present the lecture. Dr Diechmann is a physician, teacher, clinical researcher and Associate Medical Director for Adult Primary Care at Ochsner Medical Centre in New Orleans.

A staff member of UQ’s Ochsner Clinical School, Dr Deichmann will from 2010 be coordinating the clinical teaching of UQ’s third-year medical students undertaking their general practice rotation in New Orleans.
The University of Queensland has won the bid to host the 2013 International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), an event for high school students sanctioned by UNESCO.

The 2013 IOI will be held at St Lucia under an arrangement between The University of Queensland and the Australian Mathematics Trust. This will be the first time the IOI has been hosted in Australia.

“There was quite a buzz after the announcement — people are already looking forward to it, four years ahead of time,” said Dr Ben Burton, a new lecturer in the School of Mathematics and Physics and team leader of the successful bid.

“The Olympiad will be a great opportunity for Olympians from around the world to visit and experience everything that The University of Queensland and Brisbane have to offer.”

The IOI brings together outstanding students to compete in a range of computer science challenges.

The competition tasks are of algorithmic nature; however, contestants have to show basic IT skills as problem analysis, design of algorithms and data structures, programming and testing.

Students compete on an individual basis, with up to four students competing from between 80 to 90 countries.

It is estimated 700 people will attend the event, including competitors, team supervisors, guests and keen computer scientists.

The Olympiad will run over eight days and most of the activity will occur on the St Lucia campus.

Olympic challenge

The IOI is one of the International Science Olympiads, with the primary goal of the event is to stimulate interest in informatics (computing science) and information technology. The Olympiad also aims to bring together exceptionally talented students from various countries and to have them share scientific and cultural experiences.

The first IOI was held in Bulgaria in 1989. It was proposed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is one of five academic Olympiads for high school students throughout the world.

Talented teenager packs a punch

In just one and a half years, one University of Queensland physics student has completed her Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree — and that’s only half the time it usually takes.

But 18-year-old Kathryn Zealand (pictured) isn’t your usual student.

With a BSc under her wing, and her honours degree and a Masters in Law underway, Ms Zealand has the humanitarian role of a lifetime in Uganda firmly in her sights.

“I’m looking at humanitarian law and human rights advocacy because I’ve had experience working with a NGO in that field, which I really enjoyed and feel passionately about,” she said.

Ms Zealand said the support of her friends, and a little bit of martial arts helped get her through the strain of such a busy study regime.

“Taekwondo is my main sport. I think it’s really good to do lots of exercise when you’re studying like crazy because I find it’s a good stress release,” she said.

And she’s coped remarkably well finishing high school with an OP 1 and completing her science degree with a high grade point average.

“The Uni has been so flexible in accommodating me and some of my more ambitious plans,” she said.

Ms Zealand said graduating from the Bachelor of Science almost snuck up on her because she’d been so busy with her honours project — investigating the gravitational entropy of black holes.
Christian art brought to life

While not an avid churchgoer himself, 81-year-old artist Leonard French has drawn upon Christian symbolism to inspire a new painting for St John’s residential college at UQ.

Commissioned by the St John’s College Council, Earth Creations (pictured), is a commemorative piece marking the jubilee celebration of the college’s relocation from its original site at Kangaroo Point to the St Lucia campus in 1956.

“I think the Christian imagery – the fish, the birds – for an artist, it’s fantastic. You’ve got a ready made story,” Mr French said.

The work, which has been installed in the St John’s chapel, is comprised of three sections – the base features three turtles coming out of the earth, the middle panel depicts salmon swimming up and downstream, and the top portrays three doves.

“It’s really the creation of life – from the turtles to the fish to the birds; from the land through the water to the sky. The trinity, three things,” Mr French said.

Member of the St John’s College Council and renowned Christian artist Kerry Holland describes Earth Creations as “a happy, reflective piece”.

“The turtles, not unlike Leonard’s sun crosses in other works are full of energy and hope,” Mr Holland said.

“Rising from burial underground they are a sign of new life and resurrection.”

Swimming upstream the salmon, symbolic of wisdom and a heroic, sacrificial journey bear the cross. Swimming the other way in the same horizontal panel we see the new generation to come.

“Ruminicent of God’s Spirit at Jesus’ baptism and Noah’s flood, the doves hover above in the clouds, circular and angel-like, watching, each with one large eye, and fanning with their wings.”

Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield and “Reporting Islam: Representation and Reality”, hosted by the School of Journalism and Communication.

Linguists attended the opening ceremony of the first Australian Workshop on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics (AWAAL). Conference organiser Associate Professor Ghil’ad Zuckermann also chaired “Let My People Know! The Use, Misuse and Abuse of the Hebrew Bible”.

The School of English, Media Studies and Art History presented public talks with cult authors M J Hyland (Carry Me Down) and Marina Lewycka (A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian), while UQP authors Amy Barker, Bronwyn Lea and the winner of the 2008 David Unaipon Award, Marie Munkara, also took part.

More than 230 people attended a free public lecture by Australian literary legend Thomas Keneally as part of a page-turning program of UQ events at this year’s Brisbane Writers Festival.

The University was again a major sponsor of the festival, and presented a range of sessions exploring issues ranging from the global financial meltdown, to saving the world’s rainforests and reviving dying languages. UQ’s Fryer Library contains a significant body of Mr Keneally’s work including several of his early manuscripts.

Canadian author Andrew Westoll joined UQ ecologists Professor Hugh Possingham and Dr James Watson at the State Library for “Tropical forests on the brink: can we save them?”.

Mr Westoll’s travel memoir The Riverbones has recently been published by UQP, and documents the majestic, shrinking forests of Suriname, a tiny country in South America.

Dr Watson has worked on carbon capture strategies in Suriname, while Professor Possingham is a co-inventor of Marxan, the world’s most widely used conservation planning software.

Those interested in the global credit crunch attended a session featuring John Talbott, author of The 86 Biggest Lies on Wall Street, in conversation with Dr Jason Hall. A former investment banker, Mr Talbott has successfully predicted major economic and cultural shifts in books including The Coming Crash in the Housing Market, Sell Now and Obamanomics.

Meanwhile, fans of the Mona Lisa were treated to a public lecture at the UQ Art Museum installation team.

INPRINT KENEALLY HEADLINES BWF EVENTS

THE CO-OP BOOKSHOP CURRENT BESTSELLERS

1) Greatest Show On Earth: The Evidence for Evolution – Richard Dawkins, Random House (PB) $35.00 SCIENCE
2) The Slap – Christos Tsiolkas, Allen & Unwin (PB) $32.95 FICTION
5) Breath – Tim Winton, Penguin (PB) $24.95 FICTION
6) D-Day: The Battle for Normandy – Antony Beevor, Viking (PB) $59.95 HISTORY
7) Remarkable Creatures – Tracy Chevalier, Harper Collins (PB) $27.99 FICTION
8) Blood Promise: Vampire Academy Vol. 4 – Richelle Mead, Penguin (PB) $19.95 YOUNG ADULT
9) The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo – Steig Larsson, Quercus (PB) $24.95 CRIME
10) 206 Bones – Kathy Reichs, Heinemann Trade (PB) $32.95 CRIME
Dr Liam Viney has a truly international view of music, studying with a famous Russian teacher at Yale, teaching in California and performing in Europe. Now he is back in Australia, ready to share his skill and experience with UQ students.

Dr Viney is the new Piano Performance Fellow at UQ’s School of Music and has joined the school’s ensemble in residence. An appreciation of the whole spectrum of musical genres and a wide range of skills are what Dr Viney hopes to instill in his new students.

Dr Viney hoped his teaching would give students “a lifelong relationship with music that grows deeper over time” while arming them with the skills and versatility to make it in a musical career.

“I would like to attract creative young people to UQ who want to learn to be versatile musicians and truly be prepared for careers in this very competitive field,” he said. “This can include re-imagining a broader concept of being a pianist than the typical dream of being soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic playing Tchaikovsky.

“While we do train pianists in that mould as well, I like to remind students that the piano can be used in so many different settings. At UQ I hope to encourage serious chamber pianists to explore their craft, as well as pianists who love new music by living composers.

“Participating in the creation of new musical work by helping composers create new sounds for your instrument is a phenomenally exciting part of being a musician.”

After studying at Yale under renowned teacher Boris Berman, Dr Viney taught at Yale as well as the California Institute of the Arts, and performed in the US, Europe, Israel and Australia. He also won the 2001 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition and recorded solo work for Australian radio programs.

His return to Australia has allowed him to share his knowledge and experience with local up-and-coming musicians. “As an Australian musician, I feel a desire to give something back to the musical culture that fundamentally shaped me,” he said. “The idea is to create artistic or performance music which can constitute new knowledge. It can be an important contribution to the humanities.”

Dr Viney’s two-year-old son Alex had grown up around music and could now sit through a Beethoven concerto without growing restless. But Dr Viney and his wife, pianist Anna Grinberg, have no wish to push Alex and six-month-old daughter Tema into a life of music. “We would like them to love music in the same way they will hopefully love literature, nature, or art. But in terms of career, it’s up to them to find out what will make them fulfilled,” he said.

– ERIK DE WIT
While some parts of the University may wind down over summer, there will be plenty of fun and diverse activities happening around campus courtesy of UQ Sport’s Summer Lifestyle Program.

The program offers more than 20 of the most popular sport and lifestyle courses ranging from dance, holistic health and a wide selection of sports coaching and fitness courses for everyone to enjoy.

This year, the Summer Lifestyle Program is not only bringing back favourites activities, including pilates, tango classes and boot camp sessions, but also includes exciting new courses including mixed martial arts and music theatre.

“The program is not only popular with staff and students on campus, but also with the local Brisbane community, attracting more than 1500 participants annually,” UQ Sport Marketing Manager Penny Turland said.

“The Lifestyle Program here at UQ is fast becoming the largest and most diverse short-course program in Brisbane.”

Enrolments open November 2, with courses commencing November 30 and most running for eight weeks. All courses are professionally run by fully qualified instructors and located across sporting venues at the University’s St Lucia campus.


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MIRACLE WORKERS RECOGNISED

UQ’s quiet achievers took centre stage at the annual Miracle Worker Awards function held on September 7.

Chancellor Mr John Story presented a record 32 Miracle Worker awards to UQ staff members, who were nominated by their colleagues or supervisors in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

This year’s winners included two group nominations, a first in the awards’ 14-year history.

President of the UQ Secretaries and Office Professionals Association (UQSOPA) Tara Kitch said the event provided an opportunity for the University to publicly recognise staff members who continually went above and beyond expectations.

“The Miracle Worker Awards are a great way of recognising the valuable contribution staff make to the University so it is pleasing to see so many people nominated,” Ms Kitch said.

“It is also a chance for the Miracle Workers to be publicly thanked and acknowledged for the wonderful job they do.

“There were over 150 guests who attended the function – it was wonderful to see so many people come to support the awards and the nominees.”

Established in 1995 and now run by the UQSOPA, the Miracle Worker Awards consistently identify UQ’s most dedicated characters.

A Miracle Worker is defined as someone who constantly goes above and beyond their normal duties; is greatly appreciated by their colleagues for providing assistance; displays a positive influence in their work environment; shows outstanding professionalism; and possesses great organisational skills.

Individual winners were:


The two groups recognised were the Biosafety and Radiation Health Unit, and the Social and Behavioural Sciences Faculty IT team.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Renatus Ebersohn Scholarship 2009**
  Up to three scholarships awarded to domestic students enrolled full-time in either their first or second semester of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science or the Bachelor of Applied Science (Plants). Closing: October 16. Worth: approx $5800 each (tenable for the normal minimum duration of the program, subject to continuing eligibility). Information: (07) 3400 1143.

- **Thomas Riha Bursary 2010**
  The object of the bursary is to offset living expenses for a student who completes one semester as an exchange student at either the University of Economics, Prague, Universitas Carolina Pragensis, Prague, or University of Bocconi, Italy. Open to domestic students enrolled in the Bachelor of Economics. Closing: October 30. Worth: $3000 for one year. Information: (07) 3365 4482.

- **Music Achievement Scholarships 2010**
  Up to six scholarships awarded to domestic students who are residents of either St Leo's College or Duchesne College and are enrolled in either the Bachelor of Music, the Diploma of Music, or a program that includes music studies. Closing: October 30. Worth: $6000 (reduction in residential fees, payable directly to relevant college). Information: (07) 3365 4949.

- **Ford Memorial Prize 2009**
  Awarded to the undergraduate student who submits the best poem in English (published or unpublished), who has not been twice awarded the prize. Closing: November 13. Worth: approx $235 (designated as books). Information: (07) 3365 1984.

- **Thomas Morrow Prize 2009**
  Awarded to the undergraduate student who writes the best essay on a topic in the field of Australian exploration and history. Closing: November 20. Worth: approx $475 (at least $100 is to be used for the purchase of books). Information: (07) 3365 6320.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

- **New UQ staff member seeks to rent a house convenient to the Herston Medical School and suitable for family with two young children from December 2009.**
  Contact: a.whittaker@unimelb.edu.au

- **Rental accommodation to suit family of four in St Lucia or southside areas. Visiting academic from United States from January–July 2010.**
  Contact: s.kelly@business.uq.edu.au

- **Rental accommodation wanted in suburbs within cycling distance from UQ from December 1 onwards for two months or longer. Might suit academic taking their sabbatical at another university.**
  Contact: felicity.meakins@manchester.ac.uk

- **Fig Tree Pocket, ideal family location, fully furnished four bedroom, two bathroom house, a/c, swimming pool. Available from October 19–April 4.**
  Contact: gz@uq.edu.au

- **Small partly furnished (or unfurnished) room in house at Yeronga. Available from October 21 for $100 week (plus share of bills). House located close to shops, public transport and University campus.**
  Contact: 0415 095 444 (after 7pm).

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS*

*Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics. Please send listings to e.plant@uq.edu.au
Visit www.uqunion.com.au to register your answer and go into the draw for some satisfyingly good prizes.