STORM SEASON

Research team tracks summer storms
UQ CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY IN 2010

Join in the celebrations as UQ recognises 100 years of academic excellence, breakthrough research, outstanding achievements and wonderful people who continue to shape the world.

Visit www.uq.edu.au/centenary
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

One hundred years ago, UQ came to life as “the people’s university”. The Queensland Premier of the day, William Kidston, told a crowd on December 10, 1909: “There is this difference between the youngest university in the Empire and the oldest: Oxford was established by a King; The University of Queensland is established by the people.”

Moving into the second century, “the people’s university” is more inclusive and expansive than perhaps ever before. Even those instigators who held that higher education should be open to rich and poor of both genders and all religions could hardly have dreamed that students would hail from more than 120 countries, that staff would collaborate with peers from all over the world, and that more than half of all students and staff would be women.

The modern UQ’s distance from its founders’ imaginations cannot be glibly attributed to the changed and changing world. In fact the University has had its own influence on the growth, prosperity, character and reputation of Queensland and Australia.

UQ was crafted by staff, students, alumni, senators and supporters. It draws much of its contemporary strength from the strategies of past leaders. They attracted outstanding students and staff, expanded and diversified the fields of study, deepened capacity in fundamental and applied research, developed a world’s-best-practice commercialisation model, and created a physical environment that is aesthetic as it is cutting edge.

Crucially, these leaders also fostered long-term relationships with people and organisations throughout the world. Staff, students and alumni continue in the same vein, so that UQ now has a global network of friends and partners. Amongst much else, the network facilitates exchanges and internships, research and teaching collaborations, scholarships, and opportunities for high-end research. Our partnerships also enable people all over the planet to benefit from UQ innovation, and they free up trade in the priceless currency of international and intercultural understanding.

The successes of late and living alumni and staff have established a pattern to be adopted and adapted for the future.

Internationalisation will go from strength to strength because this century will belong to the experiences of students and the work of staff will impact on international developments as much as they are informed by them.

The institution’s role in optimising human potential will be limited only by the resolve of its people, and the quality of partners who share the vision of a better world built on education and research. It will always be called The University of Queensland, but UQ in its second century will be a people’s university without borders.

Please accept and pass on my open invitation to alumni, friends and associates of UQ to join staff and students in 2010 celebrations, which will help set the tone for coming years.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
LEARNING TO LOVE IPSWICH

Romance and indulgence could be the triggers to entice Brisbane people to spend a night in Ipswich, a UQ study has found.

GROCERY GRAB

Limited competition in the grocery sector could be having a serious effect on public health, according to a University of Queensland study published recently in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health.

Lead researcher Jon Wardle, of UQ’s School of Population Health, said the study highlighted the health consequences of a lack of competition on the affordability, access and choice of healthy foods, as well as the need for regulation changes.

“Anything that negatively affects availability or access to healthy foods is going to have a serious impact on consumption of those foods,” Mr Wardle said.

SMART PLANES TAKE OFF

Australian researchers have made two important advances in the development of unmanned aircraft capable of seeing for themselves as they fly fast and low over dangerous terrain.

A team from the The Vision Centre and Queensland Brain Institute has developed highly effective new visual systems inspired by honey bees and how they navigate successfully around the landscape, despite their tiny brains.

The innovations, one of which provides stereo vision to enable aircraft to see their way around obstacles in very low-level flight, and the other which controls the aircraft’s attitude by watching the horizon, offer light, low-cost, highly-efficient technologies for use in unmanned aircraft (UAVs).

SHRIMPS SEE DVD FUTURE

The remarkable eyes of a marine crustacean could inspire the next generation of DVD players, according to new research published in Nature Photonics.

Professor Justin Marshall, from UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences and the Queensland Brain Institute, said mantis shrimps have the most complex vision systems known to science, far beyond human eyesight.

He said this discovery has revealed these animals see circular polarised light and the way in which this is done has exciting potential for man-made optical devices.

“They can see in 12 colours, while humans can only see in three, and the shrimps can also distinguish between different forms of polarised light,” Professor Marshall said.

“Artificial devices such as DVD players only tend to work well for one colour of light, while the natural mechanism in the mantis shrimp’s eyes works almost perfectly across the whole visible spectrum, from near-ultra violet to infra-red.

“Exactly why the mantis shrimp needs such exquisite sensitivity to circularly polarised light isn’t clear.

“However, polarisation vision is used by animals for sexual signalling or secret communication that avoids the attention of other marine animals, especially predators.

“It could also assist in the finding and catching of prey by improving the clarity of images underwater.”

Working with colleagues from UQ, the University of Bristol, and the University of Maryland, Professor Marshall said the work revealed for the first time the unique design and mechanism of the quarter-wave plate in the mantis shrimp’s eye.

He said this wouldn’t be the first time humans have looked to the natural world for new ideas, for example the lobster’s compound eye recently inspired the design of an X-ray detector for an astronomical telescope.

Both were unveiled for the first time at the International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, in St Louis, USA from October 11–15.

Unmanned aircraft have rapidly expanding roles ranging from mineral exploration, environmental monitoring and coastal surveillance to military applications. In future they are expected to play an important role in the exploration of Mars.

The research team has collaborated with NASA on the use of visual navigation for the tiny unmanned aircraft which are envisioned as the main explorers and mappers of the planet Mars, once exploration begins in earnest.

The Vision Centre is funded by the Australian Research Council as the ARC Centre of Excellence in Vision Science (ACEVS).
Dubbed the “bad boy” genre of video games, the FPSG has been blamed for desensitising youth to modern warfare and romanticising the hi-tech skill of digitised killing.

On October 5, academic Peter Mantello (pictured) examined the policy implications of FPSG’s, discussing whether the genre reinforces the notion of military force as a legitimate tool for foreign policy.

“First person shooter video games blur the line between actual war and synthetic entertainment,” Mr Mantello said.

“Players transform into cyborg soldiers and patriotic crusaders whose goal is to liberate failed nations, protect national security interests and vanquish pre-modern evil.”

A self-confessed gamer, Mr Mantello is a founder of the Center for Advanced Media Arts Studies at Ritsumeikan University in Japan.

Mr Mantello’s photographic work is currently on display in the United Nations Gallery and the Power House Gallery and also in Germany.

**FACTS + FIGURES**

**$125,000**
- awarded to cervical cancer vaccine pioneer Professor Ian Frazer after winning the 2009 Honda Prize.
- Professor Frazer will donate the money to fund UQ research projects

**60 years**
- anniversary to be marked by UQ’s Cromwell College in 2010

**18 months**
- time taken to complete UQ’s new, fast tracked Master of Nursing Studies, the only program of its kind in the Queensland

**81%**
- of Australian electricity generated by coal, according to a new UQ report

**7**
- number of top-ranking papers published by academics from UQ’s School of Tourism from January to June. The school was recently ranked among the top five globally

**12%**
- proportion of the Earth’s surface that has been protected by national parks or conservation reserves according to UQ expert Associate Professor Marc Hockings

Despite the number of adverse effects, the paper states that the public health burden of cannabis is “modest”, causing 0.2 percent of disease burden in Australia. This was 10 percent of the burden attributable to all illicit drugs.

Professor Hall said further research on the longer term health risks of cannabis was needed, given that cannabis use is common in developed countries.
BOUND

UQ tops state in ARC round

International law is where UQ graduate and 2010 Queensland Rhodes Scholar Jessica Howley’s academic interests lie.

Her Excellency Dr Penelope Wensley, AO, Governor of Queensland, made the announcement at Government House last month, following interviews with six shortlisted candidates.

“I hope to be able to promote the substantive development of international law, whether that be through academia, through representing Australia in international bodies or through international practice,” Ms Howley said.

After graduating with first-class Honours in 2008, Ms Howley undertook a 12-month association with Justice Susan Kiefel in the High Court of Australia.

The 24-year-old from Paddington plans to further develop her expertise in international law by studying a Bachelor of Civil Law and Master of Philosophy at the University of Oxford.

“I’m interested in studying international law with a focus on jurisprudence, so how the international legal system can be developed to become more effective,” Ms Howley said.

“I think Oxford is the ideal institution to study what I want to study.

“In addition to that it offers an extracurricular program which I think is exceptional so I’m hoping to become involved in that.”

Ms Howley said completing a double major in international relations, as well as being part of UQ’s 2007 Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition team, prompted her passion for international law.

Having previously been President of the United Nations Youth Association in Queensland and currently working with UNIFEM Australia (the United Nations Development Fund for Women), she is no stranger to helping others.

Ms Howley was awarded the 2008 University Medal for law and, beyond academia, her interests include debating and netball, which she hopes to continue at Oxford.

This year the selection committee received 27 applications for the scholarship. Ms Howley is the ninth consecutive Queensland Rhodes Scholar from UQ, and will join five state-based winners and another three from Australia-at-large.

Eight of the past nine Queensland Rhodes Scholars are graduates of UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law.

Before heading to Oxford in September, Ms Howley will take up a graduate position at the Brisbane office of Mallesons Stephen Jaques, a leading international commercial law firm.

UQ has topped the state and placed third nationally in the latest Australian Research Council funding allocation, with a $44 million boost to the University’s research.

Almost $37 million was awarded for 91 projects under the Discovery Projects scheme, with a further $7 million awarded for 19 projects under the Linkage Projects scheme – aimed at encouraging collaborative research between universities, industry and other organisations.

A further $15 million will come from industry partners.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu congratulated UQ’s ARC funding recipients, whose achievements have confirmed the University’s position as one of Australia’s leading research-intensive universities.

“UQ research is not only of the highest academic quality, but also carries significant commercial relevance, as highlighted by our third-place result in both the Discovery Projects and Linkage Projects schemes,” Professor Lu said.

Professor Kirill Alexandrov (pictured right) from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience received UQ’s largest Discovery Projects grant – $1.5 million to study posttranslational modifications of proteins.

He also received a $435,000 ARC Linkage Projects grant.

Funded UQ Discovery projects also included:

• Associate Professor Rick Sturm (pictured left) from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience will lead a $429,000 project to investigate variations in the genes that determine human skin pigmentation and are likely to be associated with skin cancer risk.

• Professor Suresh Bhatia and colleagues from UQ’s School of Chemical Engineering and the University of Leipzig, Germany, have received $1 million to advance and validate a novel theory for transport of fluid mixtures in nanoconfined spaces, being developed by Professor Bhatia.

• Professor Gillian Whitlock, of UQ’s School of English, Media Studies and Art History, received $518,000 to study letters exchanged between asylum seekers and activists between 2001–2005.

Funded UQ Linkage projects also included:

• Professor Craig Franklin, from the School of Biological Sciences, will use his $245,000 grant to investigate the movement patterns and behavioural strategies of estuarine crocodiles.

• The impact of reforestation on the mitigation of climate extremes in eastern Australia resulting from global warming will be the focus of a project led by Dr Clive McAlpine, which received $385,000.
The University of Queensland has established the nation’s first Confucius Institute focusing on China’s contributions to the advancement of science, engineering and technology.

UQ formalised the partnership with Tianjin University on October 2 – one day after the 60th Anniversary of the People’s Republic of China. UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield and Chairman of the Tianjin University Administrative Council Professor Liu Jianping signed the Confucius Institute Agreement on behalf of their respective universities at UQ’s St Lucia campus.

Inaugural Director, Professor Ping Chen, said the UQ Confucius Institute would strengthen education and research cooperation between Australia and China, particularly in the fields of Chinese language and culture, science, engineering and technology.

“It will be a gateway to Chinese language and culture, and a gateway to China for UQ students and staff, and for the broader community,” Professor Chen said.

Professor Chen, who has worked at UQ for the past 18 years, has academic interests in the areas of Chinese language and linguistics.

The UQ Confucius Institute will aim to generate increased interest in Chinese studies by Australian students, and strengthen science, engineering and technology linkages.

Activities will include promoting exchange between UQ staff and students with Chinese universities, hosting visiting researchers and scholars, and arranging high-level delegations and connections with Chinese universities, research institutions, government and corporations.

Tianjin University is well-known for its engineering school and already has established links with UQ’s School of Engineering, and UQ’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology.

The UQ Confucius Institute will be situated within the Faculty of Arts at UQ’s St Lucia Campus.

It will involve the Faculties of Science and Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology.

Each year, more than 1800 Chinese students study at UQ and approximately 800 Australian and international students study Chinese language and culture.

LATIN FLAIR AT FILM FESTIVAL

Brisbane embraced its international friends as the curtain was raised on UQ’s 2009 Latin American Film Festival.

UQ’s 2009 Latin American Film Festival proved a blockbuster success, with both opening and closing nights reaching capacity.

Festivities included Latin American culture, food, language, music and dance with 200 film fans joining the celebrations.

The third annual event ran for five nights and screened nine films, starting on October 8 and closing on October 16.

The free screenings included The Bodyguard (Argentina) and A House with a View to the Sea (Venezuela).

Films covered a range of genres from a comedy about land ownership in Colombia, to a professional bodyguard’s life crisis and the magic and cinematographic brilliance of the award-winning 2006 movie Pan’s Labyrinth.

This year’s festival was opened by the Peruvian Consul in Brisbane, Stefano Marrama.

Head of the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies (SLCCS) Professor Alfredo Martínez-Expósito said a number of Latin American ambassadors visiting Brisbane at the time were able to attend the event, and the festival was a success on many levels.

“The school is keen to further enhance offerings in Latin American languages and cultures, as well as courses in film studies, and also hosted a Catalan film festival on November 1,” Professor Martínez-Expósito said.

Performances included music by Latin American folk band Jumping Fences, Andean cultural group Walisuma and Argentinean music was performed by Tango Q.

SLCCS hosted the event with the support of the Latinoamerican Embassies, the Program for Cultural Cooperation (Ministry of Culture in Spain and Australian National University) and UQ’s International Education Directorate.

INFO → www.arts.uq.edu.au/slccs/
The University of Queensland has honoured its outstanding teachers and education programs at its 9th UQ Excellence in Teaching & Learning Awards at Customs House.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Debbie Terry, said the awards recognised an inspirational group of academics who were dedicated to their students.

“We are fortunate at UQ to have such people and these awards are just one small way to show our thanks for all their hard work day in and day out,” Professor Terry said.

The awards are split into three categories: Awards for Teaching Excellence worth $10,000 for each individual; Awards for Programs that Enhance Student Learning worth $10,000 for each team; and Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning worth $4000 each for individuals or teams.

UQ had three Australian Learning & Teaching Council (ALTC) winners for 2009 (see facing page), all of whom had won University-based teaching awards in previous years, including Dr Victor Galea, who was honoured for teaching excellence, a team from the School of Political Science and International Studies and Professor Paul Memmott received the prestigious Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education.

The result for the 2009 ALTC awards continued UQ’s record of winning more national awards for teaching than any other Australian university.

Guest speaker for the evening was Professor Randall Bass, Executive Director of the Center for New Designs in Learning & Scholarship at Georgetown University.

The 2009 Winners are:

**Awards for Teaching Excellence**
- Dr Shelley Dole, School of Education
- Associate Professor Lawrence Gahan, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences
- Dr Mark Horswill, School of Psychology
- Dr Helen Keates, School of Veterinary Science
- Dr Greg Marston, School of Social Work and Human Services

**Commendations for Teaching Excellence**
- Dr Jean-Louis Durand, School of Political Science and International Studies
- Associate Professor Matthew Hornsey, School of Psychology
- Dr Daniel Schull, School of Veterinary Science
- Dr Robbie Wilson, School of Biological Sciences
- Dr Wayne Wilson, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

**Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning**
- Mining Education Australia (School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering)
  Project team: Dr Mehmet Kizil, Professor Peter Knights, Dr Basil Beanish, Professor Paul Lever, Dr Saied Aminossadati, Dr Erkan Topal, Dr Patricia Andrews and Adjunct Professor Andrew Scott.
- UQ Engineering and Engineers without Borders (EWB) Design Challenge in First Year Engineering (Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology)

**Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning**
- Dr Awais Babri, School of Medicine
- Emma Bennett, Trisha Farry and Phillip Gerd, School of Veterinary Science
- Dr James Cuskey and Reka Cserynyik, School of Music
- Michael Jennings, School of Mathematics and Physics
- Dr James Laurenceson, School of Economics
- Associate Professor Malcolm Parker, School of Medicine
- Professor John Simmons, School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering
- Margaret Stephenson, School of Law
- Dr Annetta Tsang, School of Dentistry
- Dr Terry Tunny, School of Biomedical Sciences
- Dr Marcie-Louise Verreyne, Clinton Ramsay and Stewart Gow, School of Business.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/teaching-learning

— ANDREW DUNNE
Indigenous knowledge

In the spirit of Kevin Rudd’s apology to the Stolen Generations, a team of UQ academics is set to evaluate how problem-based learning (PBL) is used in the teaching of Indigenous Australian studies.

Based at UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and led by Dr Liz Mackinlay, the team has received a $220,000 grant from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council.

Project manager Dr Katelyn Barney (pictured) said there were similarities between problem-based learning and Aboriginal methods of knowledge transfer.

“The autonomous, embodied and experiential nature of teaching and learning is a striking attribute of Indigenous cultures,” Dr Barney said.

“Our contention is that PBL is transformative – it provides a reflective and critical approach for students to come to an understanding of the history and contemporary reality of Indigenous people’s lives, the impact of colonialism, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships.

“Although there has been much research on the effectiveness of PBL in other areas such as health science and medical education, natural sciences and professional degrees, there has been very little study of the effectiveness of this approach in relation to Indigenous education.”

PBL – which often involves working in small groups with a lecturer or a tutor who facilitates discussions and learning – assists students to “learn how to learn”.

A pilot study investigating the use of PBL in UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives course will be conducted during Semester 1, 2010.

Observational classroom data, focus group interviews with students, lecturer reflections and assessed student work will be used to ascertain the effectiveness of the teaching method.

Dr Mackinlay, who has been developing and refining the PBL method over the past 10 years, said outcomes of the project had the potential to improve understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

“In his 2008 national apology to the Stolen Generations, the Prime Minister promised that the apology would open up new possibilities for the future, and importantly, allow non-Indigenous Australians to ‘see our indigenous brothers and sisters with fresh eyes, new eyes and minds wide open’,” Dr Mackinlay said.

“By exploring PBL as a method to transform beliefs, actions and lives, the study can help build a better future between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.”

Sustained success

UQ academics have maintained their position as Australia’s best teachers, receiving three more national teaching awards in October.

UQ received one Award for Programs that Enhance Learning and two Awards for Teaching Excellence from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC).

UQ came joint second overall in numbers of awards out of the winning 12 teams and 24 individuals from 18 universities in this latest round.

The result brings the University’s national teaching awards and citations to 62, and maintains its record of winning more national awards for teaching than any other Australian university since the national awards system began in 1997.

The 2009 winners are recipients of previous UQ-wide teaching excellence awards. The prizes to UQ total $75,000 ($25,000 each).

THE 2009 WINNERS ARE:

2009 Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning

- The Internship Program (Educational Partnerships and Collaborations with Other Organisations category)
  - Project team: Professor Stephen Bell, Dr Richard Devetak, Dr Marianne Hanson, Dr Andrew Hindmoor, Claire Pormery, Professor Emeritus Roger Scott and Dr Rae Wear.

2009 Awards for Teaching Excellence

- Dr Victor Galea (Biological Sciences, Health and Related Studies category)
  - A senior lecturer with the School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences based at UQ’s Gatton campus, Dr Galea (pictured) has developed a highly interactive CD learning resource called “The Virtual Plant Pathology Lab” to help students understand and apply clinical processes to the diagnosis and management of plant diseases.
  - Dr Galea combines class and fieldwork with this technology to better prepare his students so that they not only enjoy their studies but develop appropriate professional skills.
  - Professor Paul Memmott (Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education) Director of the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC) within UQ’s School of Architecture, Professor Paul Memmott has inspired an independent field of study into Aboriginal built environments against a wider social reform context.
  - In 1998, he initiated Australia’s first curriculum on Aboriginal people-environments in an architecture course. The AERC is a national and international point of reference for resources on Indigenous housing, architecture and a related set of socio-cultural problems. Where possible, his teaching is also informed by field experience – a recent initiative has been the establishment of the Arid Zone research station at Camooweal in western Queensland.

  - His book, Gunyah, Goondie + Wurley, published by University of Queensland Press in 2007, turns on its head a widely held belief that Indigenous people were devoid of houses or towns when Europeans first reached Australian shores.

- Executive Director of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council, Professor Richard Johnstone said the awards celebrated the exceptional effort made by university teachers and general staff to improve the student experience of Australian higher education.
A new $7.5 million GP Super Clinic, servicing Logan and Brisbane's south side, will help fill health service gaps, particularly for high-need groups.

The facility will be operated by The University of Queensland in collaboration with Mater Health Services, Medishead Meadowbrook and APHS Pharmacy.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon announced the funding this month at Brisbane's Mater Hospital, as part of the Federal Government's GP Super Clinic Funding Program.

It is the largest grant awarded to date for a Super Clinic in South-East Queensland.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the Government's investment would ensure a more sustainable health workforce for these areas, as well as vital patient care.

"UQ and Mater Health Services have been partners for more than 60 years, and have shown that we deliver high-quality healthcare and excellent education, training and research," Professor Greenfield said.

The Super Clinic will operate from two facilities – Annerley, expected to open in 2010, and Logan, in the suburb of Meadowbrook, to begin operation in 2011. It is intended that the majority of services will be bulk-billed.
Tai Chi taps into the mind

A UQ pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of an innovative traditional Chinese exercise program on depression and obesity has produced very promising results.

The proportion of participants with clinical levels of depression decreased from 60 percent to 20 percent. BMI and waist circumference also significantly decreased by four percent and three percent respectively.

This may be the first exercise program that has scientifically shown significant effects of exercise alone on both depression and diabesity (diabetes and obesity).

Dr Liu Xin (pictured), a UQ scientist who is also a TaiChi and Qigong expert, developed this unique program based on KaiMai style TaiChi for the control of depression and diabesity.

The three-month pilot study, funded by the Diabetes Australia Research Trust, was conducted at UQ.

Dr Liu said it was very encouraging to see such impressive results over a short period of time, especially as this study did not involve any dietary intervention or high-intensity training.

“In addition to the improvements in depression and obesity, the results of the study also show that this specific program has a beneficial effect on indicators of blood glucose control (decreased by six percent), hypertension (decreased by nine percent and 12 percent in systolic and diastolic blood pressure respectively) and insulin resistance (decreased by 20 percent),” he said.

“The majority of the promising findings were replicated in a following randomised controlled trial.”

An extended large controlled study focusing on depression and obesity has recently been funded by the National Heart Foundation and beyondblue.

The funding is the second largest grant ever provided under the National Heart Foundation and beyondblue Cardiovascular Disease and Depression Strategic Research Program.

Depression and obesity are two of the most common health problems in the western world. In Australia, one in five people experience depression at some stage of their lives, and more than half of Australian adults are either overweight or obese.

“If this program can be further confirmed to have beneficial effects on indicators of depression, obesity and other risk factors for developing cardiovascular diseases in the large trial, the findings can be translated into great social and economic benefit for public health,” Dr Liu said.

Volunteers aged between 18 and 80 are needed to take part in this study – people with both depression and central obesity, waist of more than 94 cm (men), or more than 80 cm (women) or Body Mass Index of more than 30, can contact the hotline below.

INFO ➔ (07) 3240 6426, 3240 2051 or smileprogram@uq.edu.au

Nursing degree a first

With a health system under pressure and nurses in continued demand, The University of Queensland will offer the state’s first fast-tracked Master of Nursing Studies for graduates in 2010.

School of Nursing and Midwifery Coordinator of Teaching and Learning Associate Professor Stephanie Fox-Young said the program had been specifically designed to prepare graduates to apply to work as registered nurses and could be completed in as little as 18 months.

“The program offers students the option of completing a summer semester after the first year, cutting six months from the standard two-year graduate entry Master’s program and helping to deliver more nurses to the health system faster,” Dr Fox-Young said.

The UQ Bachelor of Nursing degree for undergraduates can be completed in three years or fast-tracked with a summer semester to two-and-a-half years.

According to Head of School Professor Catherine Turner, nursing, with its possibilities for role diversity, flexible working hours, travel and research, is sure to be an attractive career path for many people, particularly those seeking to make a social contribution and help others.

Director of Nursing at The Wesley Hospital Anne Copeland praised the initiative for its innovative approach.

“I believe this pathway will be attractive to a diverse range of people who wish to study, which can only benefit nursing by increasing its numbers and adding a depth of knowledge and skills,” Ms Copeland said.

According to Dr Fox-Young, the program will be offered to graduates of any discipline other than nursing, dependent on grade point average and date of completion of their initial degrees.

“The Master’s degree, subject to approval by the Queensland Nursing Council, will follow a problem-based learning model successfully used as part of UQ’s Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery programs,” she said.

“Graduate students will complete more than 1000 hours of clinical experience, in addition to clinical laboratory learning at the school’s partner hospitals, including The Wesley Hospital and St Andrew’s War Memorial Hospital in Brisbane.”

INFO ➔ www.nursing-midwifery.uq.edu.au
As Mother Nature unleashes her fury this storm season, a group of UQ researchers will brave the elements to collect crucial data for more accurate warnings in South-east Queensland.

UQ Associate Professor Hamish McGowan and his team, including Bachelor of Science Honours student Joshua Soderholm, plan to position themselves near Beaudesert to collect real-time data.

The new project marks the first time the researchers, from the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, will be out in the field before, during and after a storm hits.

Last year the team analysed the super-cell thunderstorms that caused havoc in the Brisbane suburb of The Gap from UQ’s St Lucia and Gatton campuses.

The UQ research is being collated onsite for the Bureau of Meteorology to immediately access.

“The data will allow a greater understanding of the relationship between the pre-storm atmosphere and a storm’s evolution, direct impact areas and the weather it will produce,” Mr Soderholm said.

“We’re collecting a very wide data set across as many storm days as possible, thereby allowing us to develop a climatology of thunderstorm events. We will then be able to better understand the relationship between pre-storm conditions and the ensuing thunderstorm weather.

“We will be down in an area we know has a high density of storms in South-East Queensland from a thunderstorm climatology perspective.”

On a day a storm is forecast, the team will travel to the research location and release radiosondes – small instrument packages attached to large helium-filled balloons – every two hours.

The technology will provide information on the ambient atmosphere in terms of temperature, humidity and wind speed and direction.

“The thrust of all this work is to try to better develop our predictive capability in terms of identifying what precursor conditions allow us to predict more accurately the kind of storms that are going to develop,” Dr McGowan said.

“For example, whether or not you are going to have a big super-cell thunderstorm or whether you are going to have a squall come through, a line of storms, that often passes through South-east Queensland in the spring.”

Dr McGowan said current storm warnings were typically broadcast 60-90 minutes before a storm hit.

“There are the sort of time scales we’re working at rather than days ahead. We have got intentions to actually stay there and work through several storm events,” he said.

“The more and more people that decide to reside in South-east Queensland, then the greater the potential for severe impact on those urban environments in those communities.”

– ELIZA PLANT

UQ NEWS, NOVEMBER 2009

WARNING

The sound of thunder or a sharp crack of lightning would have most people running for cover, but a group of UQ researchers is reveling in South-east Queensland’s stormy weather.
“We’re collecting a very wide data set across as many storm days as possible, thereby allowing us to develop a climatology of thunderstorm events”
IN BRIEF

MALARIA DEVICE

Developing a portable screening device for malaria and using mobile phones to diagnose pneumonia are two UQ research projects which have received support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The projects are among 76 Grand Challenges Explorations grants awarded worldwide, each worth US$100,000.

A team led by Dr Viktor Vegh, from UQ’s Centre for Advanced Imaging, said the device would allow testing in the field and provide an instant result, unlike existing detection methods.

UQ’s other successful project will investigate whether low-cost electrical devices – such as mobile phones and mp3 players – could be used to diagnose pneumonia and sleep-disturbed breathing diseases.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

UQ has announced the inaugural winners of the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Internationalisation.

The School of Medicine won the Organisational Unit Award for its commitment to international student exchange. The Staff Award was presented to Margaret Stephenson of the TC Beirne School of Law for the development of the Law and Indigenous Peoples elective.

The Exchange Partner of the Year has been presented to Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico for its extraordinary commitment to the support of UQ students on exchange during the H1N1 influenza outbreak.

NEW FOOD PRECINCT

Students and staff alike are making the most of the UQ Union’s new Main Course Food Precinct at St Lucia.

The new options include Tackle Box (Fish ‘n’ Chips), Souvlaki Hut and dessert bar Dolce & Banana. Drunken Noodle and U Sushi will also be opening in the near future.

“The feedback from students and staff about eating on campus was that they wanted quick, fresh, affordable, top quality food and big variety. So, we set out to develop a food precinct which not only ticked their hunger boxes but also satisfied their desire to socialise,” UQ Union President Brandon Carter said.

International medical role

UQ alumnus Dr Sam Hawgood has been chosen to lead a prestigious US medical school.

UQ has produced a multitude of talented leaders – but only one of them has a team that includes an Australian female Nobel laureate.

Medical graduate Dr Sam Hawgood (pictured) was appointed to the prestigious office of Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice-Chancellor for Medical Affairs at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in September.

Within three weeks, his school – already one of the USA’s top rated medical schools – gained even greater stature, when faculty member Dr Elizabeth Blackburn won the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Both Dr Hawgood and Dr Blackburn are Australian-born, but while Dr Blackburn (the first Australian woman to win a Nobel) hails from the Apple Isle, Dr Hawgood is a Smart State product. The son of pharmacists, he grew up on the Redcliffe Peninsula and attended Church of England Grammar School (“Churchie”) in Brisbane. Later he graduated from UQ with first-class honours before specialising in paediatrics and neonatology.

“My years at the University were critically important in cementing a desire to not only practise medicine of the highest quality but also to actively participate in research and education to move the field forward,” Dr Hawgood said.

Dr Hawgood completed paediatric training at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Brisbane and neonatal fellowships at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Melbourne and UCSF. Since 1984 he has worked at UCSF, including in its children’s hospital.

UQ’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, congratulated Dr Hawgood and UCSF.

“Dr Hawgood’s achievements bring honour to his first university, and his contributions to infant health are a particularly valuable application of his grounding at UQ,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Importantly, his appointment reinforces links between UQ and UCSF, which are connected via The Atlantic Philanthropies. Atlantic, founded by Chuck Feeney, is a generous donor to both of our institutions, and its massive gifts to research open opportunities for radical improvements in human health and wellbeing.”

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Destination of choice

The University of Queensland’s School of Tourism has become a sought-after destination in its own right.

Papers and articles prepared by academics at the school are frequently among the Top 25 Hottest Articles downloaded from leading A* journals such as the Annals of Tourism Research and Tourism Management, according to ScienceDirect.

Dr Noel Scott’s “Power in Destination Branding” was listed at number one in an analysis of Annals of Tourism Research between April and June, while Head of School Professor Roy Ballantyne and colleagues Dr Jan Packer and Meagan Axelsen’s “Trends in Tourism Research” was listed at number two in January–March and 11 in April–June.

In total, seven articles prepared by School of Tourism academics were listed in ScienceDirect’s Top 25 published in Tourism Management between January and June 2009.

Among them was “Event Tourism: Definition, Evolution and Research” by Professor Don Getz at number two in the January–March and April–June analysis. Dr Brent Ritchie’s “Chaos, Crises and Disasters: a Strategic Approach to Crisis Management in the Tourism Industry” and Aaron Tkaczynski’s “Segmentation: a Tourism Stakeholder View” also made the Top 25 Tourism Management list.

Other articles included in the top 25 were by Professor Ballantyne, Dr Packer, Dr Karen Hughes and Dr Scott.

The ScienceDirect rankings were backed by Google Scholar, which also found the school’s work was among the most frequently downloaded from these top journals. Academics from the school have five of the most frequently cited articles about tourism management in business management and accounting journals in the top 100 of Google Scholar, according to Harzing’s Publish or Perish software.

Articles produced by Professor Getz came in at numbers 19, 28, 53 and 81 out of 100, while Dr Ritchie’s article about crisis management made 92nd place, with 73 citations. In addition, four of the 20 most frequently downloaded papers from Tourism Management in the first three months of this year were prepared by School of Tourism staff, Google Scholar found.

Other high-ranking papers written by UQ School of Tourism staff that rated in the top 20 most frequently downloaded according to Google Scholar included “Destination and Enterprise Management for a Tourism Future” by co-contributor Dr Scott.

Professor Ballantyne said the results showed the school was producing highly credible and usable material.

“What we are doing has practical value as well as academic value - our work is highly relevant and the fact that our papers are frequently cited shows that we are at the forefront of research issues.”

Professor Ballantyne said the school generated publications on topics ranging from tourism behaviour and destination management to environmental awareness among visitors to botanic gardens.

INFO ➔ www.tourism.uq.edu.au

Nostalgia and imagination are attracting people to a new niche market in tourism, but cold hard facts and plenty of analysis is what has helped two researchers from UQ write about the phenomenon with considerable success.

Bronwyn Jewell (pictured) and Susan McKinnon from UQ’s School of Tourism have written about movie tourism in the Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing, earning them one of five nominations for a prestigious Martin Oppermann Memorial Award.

The Best Article of the Year Award is judged on originality of concepts, sophistication of methodology, clarity of writing and overall contribution to the field of travel.

Ms McKinnon has recently put her research into practice, visiting the locations of two blockbuster films.

“Since writing the article, I have visited set sites for Lord of the Rings and X-Men Origins: Wolverine, including Mt Doom at Tongariro National Park in New Zealand,” she said.

“I now watch at the end of each movie to identify where the movie was shot as opposed to where it was set.”

The two researchers found tourists were increasingly visiting the sites used for movies, much like they used to visit settings from books.

“While The Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter movies have shown to be global major box office successes, the same can be said for New Zealand and United Kingdom tourist visitor numbers,” their article said.

Tourist visits to Harry Potter movie locations had increased since the release of the first movie, with most recording an increase in numbers of 50 percent, the research found.

“Over time the appeal of destinations has grown and altered from the preconception that movies portray to audiences,” the article said.

The nominated paper mentioned the popularity among tourists of buildings, landscapes and scenery used in the blockbuster movies The Da Vinci Code, Captain Corell’s Mandolin, Amelie, Moulin Rouge and The Bridges of Madison County.

“The number of movie-going patrons generating the substantial box office receipts in the top 10 films accounts for the substantial increases in visitors to movies’ film locations.”

The two researchers said they came up with the topic when they heard Jackie Chan was going to be the guest speaker at the International Conference on Impact of Movies and Television on Tourism in Hong Kong.

Ms Jewell said being nominated for the Martin Oppermann Memorial Award was an honour.
Earthquake experts look for links

UQ research shows recent earthquake activity in the Asia-Pacific may be related.

The recent earthquakes in the Pacific and Indonesia have one UQ researcher questioning whether the two are linked.

Dr Huilin Xing from UQ’s Earth Systems Science Computational Centre (ESSCC) said the motion of the Australian tectonic plate probably caused one of the quakes, then the other.

The two quakes, measuring 8.0 and 7.6 on the Richter scale, occurred off the coasts of Samoa and Sumatra on September 29 and 30.

“From the observations, there were similar correlations of the quakes in the different places,” Dr Xing said.

“For two great earthquakes to occur within hours in such a way, it is abnormal.”

Dr Xing said since the start of 2004 there had been about 40 earthquakes measuring greater or equal to 7.0 on the Richter scale, along the boundary of the Australian plate.

These earthquakes have resulted in almost 240,000 fatalities, with the most devastating accounting for 228,000 after the resulting tsunami on Boxing Day 2004.

“From research, we can expect that if an earthquake is larger than magnitude 6.5 there may be a tsunami,” Dr Xing said.

In the wake of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, Dr Xing’s team started to study the Sumatra region as a high-risk zone for seismic and tsunami activity.

Using advanced computer simulation software (pictured), which had been developed by Dr Xing’s team over the past seven years, they predicted three large Sumatran earthquakes.

Dr Xing said in the light of so much activity occurring at the edge of Australian plate, Australia was also under threat from earthquakes and tsunamis.

“Australia is mostly surrounded by subduction zones,” he said.

These zones are notorious for subduction earthquakes where one plate moves under another, pushing it and all of the water above it up. Such an earthquake was responsible for the 2004 tsunami.

“If a large subduction earthquake occurred in the deep water regions such as south of New Zealand or west of the Solomon Islands, it would impact the eastern coast of Australia,” Dr Xing said.

The ESSCC conducts research on the mechanics and physics of solid Earth processes on all scales using supercomputer simulation and by applying the methodologies of geophysical fluid and solid mechanics.

INFO » www.uq.edu.au/esscc

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Clean coal the way of the future

Continued robust use of coal and broad deployment of clean coal technologies is crucial for Australia’s energy and economic future, according to a multi-disciplinary study recently released by UQ titled “Coal and the Commonwealth”.

Coal has shaped Australia’s history and is essential to its prosperity, creating 20 percent of the nation’s mineral wealth, 81 percent of its electricity and is essential to its prosperity, creating 20 percent of the nation’s mineral wealth, 81 percent of its electricity and 20 percent of its gross domestic product.

The study is edited by UQ Professors Peter Knights and Michael Hood and presents expert findings from a number of disciplines including mechanical and mining engineering, chemical engineering, history and economics.

Commissioned by Peabody Energy, the study analyses the historical, social and economic contribution of Australia’s coal and outlines the importance of Australia’s leadership in advancing carbon technologies.

“It is important to recognise coal’s important relationship with Australia,” Professor Knights said.

“By providing information on coal from the history of Captain Cook’s Endeavour to the progress toward carbon capture and storage, the study promotes informed and balanced discussion at a critical time of public debate.”

Gregory H. Boyce said Australia’s coal will drive the next generation of improved lifestyles, economic stimulus and technology advancement toward near-zero emission targets.

Key findings of the study include:

- Coal is the world’s most abundant fuel, with trillions of tons of reserves worldwide. Australia has more than 260 years of high quality reserves, a resource that will outlast oil and natural gas by centuries.

- The world will continue to rely on coal for electricity generation, with coal forecast to continue to fuel a significant portion of the world’s power generation (up to 38 percent) by 2015. China and India will lead this growth, which is expected to account for more than 50 percent of world coal growth. Australia is advantaged by its ability to fuel these needs using its enormous reserves and strong infrastructure.

- Coal was the first fuel discovered and produced in Australia and is the nation’s most important commodity for domestic use and international trade. In 2008–2009, coal delivered A$55 billion in export revenues and an estimated A$4 billion in state royalties and taxes, Australia has exported coal since 1798.

- The Australian coal industry employs more than 52,000 people and creates an additional 126,000 jobs in Queensland and New South Wales. As a result of coal production in 2008–2009, household disposable income grew by nearly 7 percent in Queensland and 6 percent in New South Wales.

- Australia is a global leader in creating clean coal technologies. Investments in research have surpassed A$250 million, while demonstration programs in the country are valued in excess of A$1 billion.
Queenslanders now have unprecedented access to detailed data showing the health of their waterways, following the recent launch of the 2009 Ecosystem Health Report Card.

Thanks to a new state-of-the-art data integration system known as Health-e-Waterways, current and historical Ecosystem Health Report Card grades for catchments, estuaries and bay zones are just a few key strokes away.

Health-e-Waterways, a Queensland Government-funded research project involving UQ, Microsoft Research and the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership, has been applied for the first time to the report card.

Health-e-Waterways gathers together information from water databases held by a variety of government agencies and research organisations and makes it readily accessible through a single online portal.

The new system enables next-generation water management by harnessing the power of the Internet to search, analyse, interpret and communicate waterways information. In particular, scientists, policy makers and natural resource managers will be able to obtain a more accurate and timely understanding of problem sites and causes. Data analysis tools will also enable water resource managers to quickly adapt management strategies in response to changes observed in the catchment areas and waterways.

Healthy-e-Waterways also provides an interactive map interface which enables users to access visualisations of data showing changes in waterway health across regions and time.

“Health-e-Waterways shows how teamwork between UQ, industry – in this case Microsoft Research – grassroots organisations and government can empower communities with access to new levels of knowledge,” said UQ Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Healthy Waterways Scientific Expert Panel Professor Paul Greenfield.

Professor Jane Hunter, Director of UQ’s e-Research Lab and project leader, said the report card is only the first application of the underlying software.

“Down the track the project will provide customised water information management and reporting services to other regions in Australia and internationally,” Professor Hunter said.

Due to climate change, urban development and population growth, recent years have seen large investments in Queensland’s water infrastructure. This has created a need for sophisticated technological solutions to allow scientists, urban planners and policy makers to track water movement, consumption and quality across the entire cycle.

The Health-e-Waterways project will develop the infrastructure required to address new management and decision-making challenges concerning Queensland’s waterways. In particular, it will enable and promote the sharing, integration and analysis of high quality water information across stakeholders including government, local councils, scientists, community groups and the general public.

INFO ➔ www.health-e-waterways.org
How could picture-perfect Heron Island – a remote coral cay on the Tropic of Capricorn north east of Gladstone – possibly be the subject of an artist's ecological scrutiny?

In her latest exhibition – on display at the UQ Art Museum recently – Brisbane-based Indigenous artist Judy Watson explored findings made by researchers at UQ’s Heron Island Research Station.

The artworks, which respond to Ms Watson’s Heron Island residency, examine worrying signs of the impact of human activity and the onset of global warming on the Great Barrier Reef.

“For over two decades, Judy Watson has found the most sublime way of asking questions about the Indigenous history of this country – you are gently seduced by...”

AWARD-WINNING ARTIST JUDY WATSON’S LATEST EXHIBITION FUSED CREATIVE PRACTICE AND CONSERVATION TO SHOW VISITORS THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.
shimmering layers of pigment, pulsing colour and simple forms before you realise that you are being confronted by uncomfortable facts about the past," Director of the UQ Art Museum Nick Mitzevich said.

"But this residency was different in that there is no known history of Indigenous occupation on Heron Island.

Instead, Watson has turned her attention to what scientists are saying is happening in the marine environment, with works ranging from an extraordinary ‘freshwater lens’ – a large blue-green brass sculpture suspended in the gallery space – to a series of brilliantly coloured etchings, paintings, works on paper, video and a sound work."

Ms Watson was artist-in-residence at the Heron Island Research Station in February 2009, her visit coinciding with the official reopening of the facility, which was destroyed by fire in 2007.

Her new work builds on previous projects where her images responded to the natural environment, particularly the Indigenous use of native plants, but also to the idea of a subterranean water source.

"I was fascinated by the idea of a lens-shaped body of fresh water that lies beneath the coral cay above the salt water, the fresh water helping to sustain the plant life and the island ecology – for instance, the pisonia trees provide a home to thousands of Noddy Terns," Ms Watson said.

"The freshwater lens reminded me of the subterranean water in my grandmother’s country in the Lawn Hill Gorge area of far-north-western Queensland, feeding the land from a source underground."

"The freshwater lens is an amazing resource, whose purity is threatened by rising sea levels and storm surges, so even though it’s something you can’t actually see, I decided it would be the perfect floating sculptural form."

Ms Watson produced a maquette of the freshwater lens with Urban Art Projects, which fabricated the brass sculpture in China, with the final touches made in Brisbane.

In a number of works, Ms Watson obtained permission from scientists she met on Heron Island to include their graphs about how ocean acidification, changes to sea-surface temperature, El Niño and global warming is impacting on coral bleaching and the breeding success of seabirds such as the wedge-tailed shearwater.

A video work focuses on a turtle hatching’s perilous struggle through sand to reach the sea, with its chances of survival slim when the threat posed by predators and plastic is taken into account.

On March 11, 2009, shortly after her residency on Heron Island, the Moreton Bay oil spill occurred, with 250 tonnes of oil from the container ship Pacific Adventurer washed up on Moreton and Bribie Islands, and the Sunshine Coast.

Ms Watson responded to this event in a number of paintings, her works warning of how such events can devastate the marine environment.

Judy Watson; Heron Island was launched on October 9 by Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Smart State Premier’s Fellow and newly appointed Director of The University of Queensland’s Global Change Institute.

INFO to watch a behind the scenes video, visit www.uq.edu.au/artmuseum

– MICHELE HELMRICH
ON TOP OF A SUCCESSFUL ACTING CAREER, TASMA WALTON HAS PUT PEN TO PAPER TO PUBLISH HER DEBUT NOVEL HEARTLESS.

For actor-turned-author Tasma Walton, penning her debut novel took six months of discipline and a strict ban on Sudoku.

Published by University of Queensland Press, Heartless – a project which had been more than 10 years in the making – follows the main character’s battles of the heart, meeting her at seven-year intervals.

“It’s a fable about believing in the worth of your heart and those desires it has, and believing that you’re worthy enough to have them,” Ms Walton said.

In a genre described by Ms Walton as “magic realism”, the novel is a result of the author’s long-time fascination with the powers of the human heart, in both a medical and emotional sense.

“I can’t remember how old I was, but I read a short novella, it was non-fiction, and it was describing the process of a heart transplant,” she said.

“It was a page-turner, it was a really thrilling read and I got really involved with the way that the donor heart kind of became its own person. It had this mystical element about it.

“You’re waiting to see whether or not this would be a happy marriage, and that sowed the seed for me of looking at the heart as its own entity and having powers, not just over the body physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well.”

Ms Walton had always entertained the idea of writing her own book, an ambition which was temporarily put on hold while she pursued an acting career.

Despite coming up with the idea for Heartless in 1998, it took 10 years for her to allocate the time to bring the story into existence.

While Ms Walton said writing was a passion, she found the structured process of producing a book somewhat challenging.

“I don’t feel like I’m a naturally disciplined person so it just had to be that thing of, ‘there’s no question to it, I just have to do it, so from 10 o’clock, I can play three games of Sudoku and then I have to start writing until four’,” she said.

After studying at the National Institute of Dramatic Art for two years, Ms Walton secured roles on several Australian TV series including Blue Heelers, The Secret Life of Us and City Homicide.

She said while writing and acting were complementary talents, she craved the creative outlets offered by both.

“That process of creating a character and fleshing out a world is similar for both acting and writing for me,” she said.
Smart State scholarship

UQ HAS WELCOMED STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR A UNIQUE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

Premier Anna Bligh has announced that the Queensland Government and The University of Queensland will renew the state’s first scholarship program for university-level Russian language study.

The announcement was made during a lecture at Moscow State University in October, which was video-linked to UQ.

In Moscow on a trade mission, Ms Bligh said students would be eligible for the renewed scholarship program, valued at $10,000 over five years, from 2010.

“In 2006 the Queensland Government and UQ established the Russian Language Scholarship as a means of encouraging and strengthening interest in Russian language and culture at The University of Queensland,” Ms Bligh said.

“This scholarship has contributed to enrolments in Russian rising from 55 in 2006 to 99 in 2009.

“The scholarship program emerged from a similar Queensland Government trade mission to Russia four years ago.

“Since that time, trade and cultural ties between Queensland and Russia have grown and developed significantly.

“My visit here has confirmed that Russia is on the way to becoming a key economic partner for Queensland, and to most effectively participate in this relationship we need more graduates who not only speak Russian, but have an understanding of Russian culture and society.”

The Premier said learning additional languages fostered internationalisation in Queensland’s education institutions and improves employment outcomes for graduates.

“Research shows that employers value language ability and international study experience in graduates. In addition, the contribution to Queensland’s cultural, social and economic life is immeasurable,” Ms Bligh said.

“As the global community becomes closer and more interdependent, language and cultural expertise also serve as valuable currency in diplomatic and trade relations.

“Initiatives such as this scholarship for Russian language studies at university level will increase the profile of language study for all students from school age onwards.”

Professor Richard Fotheringham, Executive Dean of the UQ Faculty of Arts, said the University strongly promoted learning languages other than English among its students which also strengthened these ties.

“The University of Queensland is committed to teaching Russian language and literature and sees this as the essential element in building and expanding our engagement with Russia,” Professor Fotheringham said.

“Learning a second language is an essential element that enables our graduates to operate effectively on the world stage.

UQ has recently formed the Brisbane Universities Language Hub with Griffith, University and QUT, allowing students from all three institutions to take degree-level programs in Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish.

In addition, from 2010, UQ is introducing a Diploma in Languages for its students who will study the program concurrently with another degree.

Students can also enrol in a Bachelor of International Studies which includes a language major and a semester of overseas study.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/slccs

Topology – musicians cross boundaries

Brisbane band Topology has been awarded for a recent season at the Powerhouse, with UQ music staff playing their part behind the scenes.

A UQ lecturer has guided a Brisbane-based band to glory at the 2009 Classical Music Awards.

Topology was awarded the Outstanding Contribution by an Organisation prize at the awards on September 21.

The band won the award for crossing musical boundaries, which was presented by the Australasian Performing Right Association and the Australian Music Centre.

The judges were unanimous on the exceptional nature of Topology’s 2008 Brisbane Powerhouse series and applauded UQ School of Music staff Dr Robert Davidson and John Babbage for their work.

“All nominated musicians worked intensively producing and preparing to perform for their special performance. Seeing their compositions come to life on stage fulfills their creative ambitions and demonstrates their high calibre,” the judging panel noted.

“Topology’s series stood out with its impressive and innovative array of performances and collaborations that showcased and built new Australian music audiences.”

Artistic director of Topology and UQ lecturer Dr Davidson said the series ranged from collaboration with comedians the Kransky Sisters to a moving piece called Taken, which saw the orchestra work with Aboriginal actors to tell the stories of forced break-ups of Indigenous families.

“When collaborating, each musician moves out of their comfort zone and develops new skills and perspectives. In this process, new musical areas are opened up and audiences are encouraged to broaden their outlook and enter new scenes,” Dr Davidson said.

Under a Churchill Fellowship, Dr Davidson studied composition with Terry Riley in California and then completed a PhD in composition at UQ. Dr Davidson performed as a bassist for the Australian Opera, Sydney Symphony and Queensland Symphony Orchestras.

His compositions are performed, recorded and broadcast around the world. He was appointed to the School of Music in June this year.
UQ SPIRIT SOARS
at 2009 Uni Games

More than 7000 students from across the country soaked up the sun, sand and competitive atmosphere of the Gold Coast in October as the Australian University Games attracted record numbers.

Team UQ were out in full force, with more than 300 athletes competing across 25 team and individual sports.

Of the 45 competing universities, The University of Queensland placed an impressive 9th overall, an excellent result given the size of the team against some of the larger university outfits.

Team UQ won division 1 gold medals in men's basketball, women's beach volleyball pairs, ultimate frisbee and rugby 7s, while men's volleyball took gold in division 2.

In individual sports, the athletics team once again excelled to claim their 11th straight overall championship title, while women's fencing was also victorious with gold.

The UQ men's athletics team claimed the silver medal overall, as did women's water polo, mixed touch football, ten pin bowling and women's hockey.

Division 1 teams in women's volleyball, men's water polo and men's hockey all took home bronze medals.

Wade Hurst, UQ Sport's Sport and Recreation Manager said the week was a huge success for UQ. The University was also awarded the John White – Spirit of the Games Award for showing outstanding organisation, fair play and good sportsmanship on and off the field.

UQ’s medal tally:

**GOLD**
- Men's basketball – division 1
- Ultimate frisbee – division 1
- Rugby 7s – division 1
- Women's beach volleyball pairs – division 1
- Women's fencing overall
- Women's athletics overall
- Men's volleyball – division 2

**SILVER**
- Women's water polo – division 1
- Mixed touch – division 1
- Men's athletics overall
- Ten pin bowling – division 2
- Women's hockey – division 2

**BRONZE**
- Women's volleyball – division 1
- Men's water polo – division 1
- Men's hockey – division 1

Monash University won the 2009 overall champion title.

INFO ➔ www.unisport.com.au

Coaching conference empowers leaders

Queensland’s Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport, the Honourable Phil Reeves MP launched the 3rd Annual Evolution of the Athlete Conference in Brisbane last month.

The event is a joint initiative of UQ Sport and The University of Queensland’s School of Human Movement Studies.

With a focus on mental toughness, leadership and coaching behaviours, more than 200 coaches, teachers, trainers, sports administrators and sports scientists from across Australia took part.

Coach of the 2009 NRL Premiers The Melbourne Storm, Craig Bellamy, shared the secrets to his success just one month after leading his team to consecutive trophies from four grand final appearances.

Mr Bellamy’s presentation focused on leadership in elite sport and drew on his extensive knowledge and experience operating at the highest levels of rugby league.

Other keynote speakers included Tennis Australia’s Optus Davis Cup Australian Captain John Fitzgerald, former Wallaby Pat Howard and West Coast Eagles High Performance Manager Glenn Stewert (pictured).

UQ Sport Sport Development Manager and event coordinator Vince Kelly said the EOA Conference was unique due to its focus on helping attendees get the most out of athletes’ “hearts and minds”.

“At the conference some of Australia’s sporting icons shared their experiences, knowledge and philosophies on coaching by focusing on mental toughness, leadership and coaching behaviours,” Mr Kelly said.

“The EOA Conference is really the only multi-sport conference in the Australia Pacific region that focuses on the ‘soft skills of coaching.’” Mr Reeves said the event supported the objectives and targets set by the Queensland Government “Towards 2020” campaign, and in particular, making Queenslanders Australia’s healthiest people.

“Obesity is a major problem within society; through the delivery of the Evolution of the Athlete Conference, coaches and administrators who encourage, promote and deliver various sporting activities to the community, are provided with the platform to assist with delivery,” he said.

Mr Reeves also acknowledged the delegates attending who contributed to sport on a voluntary basis.

“Such volunteers create and build upon sporting communities, encompassing all of the healthy aspects of involvement in sport, while also promoting the social and fun side of participation,” he said.

INFO ➔ To register your interest for the 2010 Annual Evolution of the Athlete Conference, visit www.sport.uq.edu.au
**EVENTS/NOTICES**

- **Friday afternoons**
  The Asperger’s Syndrome Network @ UQ offers support for students, staff members and members of the community who are affected by Asperger’s Syndrome. The group meets once a week at UQ’s St Lucia campus, Student Services, from 1.30pm. All welcome. Contact: (07) 3365 1723.

- **Thursday December 3**
  Friends of Fryer Christmas Party at the James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre. Director of the UQ Art Museum, Nick Mitzevich, will conduct a guided tour of the 2009 National Artists’ Self-Portrait Prize exhibition. Refreshments provided. Cost: $20. Contact: (07) 3346 4328, r.daniels@library.uq.edu.au

- **To rent:** Two-bedroom unit fully furnished, convenient to UQ, bus stop and Coles supermarket. Available from December 4 – February 20. Contact: qingfen198@hotmail.com
- **For sale:** Silver 2005 Hyundai Elantra XD MY05 Sedan 4DR Auto Auto 2.0, 90,000km. Price: $10,000. Owner moving overseas. Contact: 0449 110 658 or Marta.Solera-Delgado@nicta.com.au

**UQ NEWS DEADLINES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEXT ISSUE</th>
<th>COPY DEADLINE</th>
<th>PUBLICATION DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>589</td>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>February 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester 1 begins March 1

Vacation library hours available at www.library.uq.edu.au

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **Thomas Morrow Prize 2009**
  Awarded to the undergraduate student who writes the best essay in the field of Australian exploration and history. Worth: approx $475. Information: (07) 3365 6320.

- **Queensland Freemasons’ Scholarships**
  Three scholarships are available to students enrolled in the fourth or subsequent year of their current undergraduate program. Awarded on basis of highest cumulative GPA. Closing: March 3, 2010. Worth: $1000. Information: (07) 3365 1984.

- **Scholarships for Greek Studies**
  Open to persons who are undertaking a postgraduate study program involving studies that relate to at least one area of Greek studies. Awarded on the basis of academic merit and suitability of the program. Closing: March 31, 2010. Worth: approx $5950. Information: (07) 3365 1984.

**CROMMIES COME TOGETHER**

UQ’s Cromwell College will mark its own milestone next year to coincide with the University’s Centenary.

In July 2010, Cromwell will celebrate 60 years of operation as both the first college established at St Lucia, and the first to welcome student residents on campus.

The idea for the college was born out of a discussion in 1949 between two Congregationalist ministers who dreamt of establishing a university residential college which included theological training facilities.

Within a year the funds, land and relationship with UQ had been secured and the college became a reality.

The first 15 male students were welcomed into residence in June 1954 and in 1973 the college became co-educational.

Since those early years, more than 4000 alumni have called Cromwell College their “home-away-from-home” while undertaking their university studies and “Crommies” now live throughout Australia and in many other countries.

“The 60th anniversary will herald another major milestone in the life of Cromwell as I hand over the reins to my successor after fourteen and a half years,” said college Principal Rev. Dr. Hugh Begbie, who will be retiring in June next year.

“The celebrations will also provide an opportunity for the college’s board of governors to report on the progress of our master plan – translating more dreams into reality.”

Events will begin on Saturday, July 3, with an anniversary dinner followed on Sunday with a thanksgiving service, lunch and tour of the college.

During this time, the University will also be welcoming back graduates for the Centenary Alumni Reunion Weekend.

Alumni and friends of the college who wish to attend Cromwell’s celebrations are asked to make contact with Development Manager, Mrs Rebecca McEwen Smith, to ensure that their contact details are up to date.

INFO (07) 3377 1232 or r.mcewen@cromwell.uq.edu.au

Then and now: (left) a photograph of the first Cromwell College residents in 1964, and below, the college today
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