GOLDEN GIRL
UQ gymnast shines at Commonwealth Games
Liam always wanted to study Physiotherapy at UQ, but didn’t receive the OP he was hoping for. Determined to achieve his career goals, Liam discussed his study options with UQ staff and discovered pathways he’d never considered that could make him eligible for the program of his choice.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF LIAM**

If you want to make the most of your OP, attend the UQ Options Evening where you can talk to staff and students about the best study options for you.

You’ll also learn about entry requirements, upgrading and scholarships. You can even take a campus tour and see why there really is more to uni at UQ.

If you’re about to receive your OP, attend UQ Options Evening to make UQ the university of you.

**UQ OPTIONS EVENING**

4.30pm-7.00pm,
Monday 20 December,
UQ Centre, St Lucia.
Visit youruq.com/options
For many years UQ students have made a success of activities that on the one hand give them an academic, personal and career edge, but on the other hand are not formally recognised when they graduate. I have in mind a vast range of endeavours, such as conference presentations, international study exchanges, workplace internships, summer research semesters, mentoring of younger students, volunteering for charities, organising large events, and serving on the executive of student clubs and societies.

These ventures – sometimes labelled “co-curricular” – aid the development of well-rounded graduates who will perform and lead in globalised career and cultural settings. Employers and recruitment agencies comment favourably on these graduates’ prospects, and they are also superb assets to their communities.

For these and other reasons, the University will introduce the UQ Advantage Award in 2011. While not affecting the academic transcript, the award will be received at graduation time and will signal that its holder has made an extra investment in the capacity to contribute via leadership, research, global engagement, or a combination of the three.

Some study exchanges, summer research semesters and internships already carry academic credit and may also garner UQ scholarships or grants. The new scheme will go further by counting the capacity to contribute via leadership, research, global engagement, or a combination of the three.

On top of that, it will note diverse initiatives that reflect strengths in areas such as entrepreneurship, communication and philanthropy.

A random sample of 2010 co-curricular engagement hints at the potential breadth. It includes: a medical event in Tunisia; a women in engineering summer school in France; a veterinary leadership program in the USA; a Students of Sustainability conference in Sydney; a debating championship in Turkey; the World University Games in Serbia; and a National Union of Students conference in Melbourne.

“Memorable” hardly does justice to many experiences – like the internship at the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, which involved two students in the war crimes prosecution of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Conscious that many students have multiple responsibilities that will seem to conspire against their participation, the University is trying to lighten the financial load. All of the 2010 projects listed above had support from the new UQ Advantage Grants, which had a $300,000 purse this year. We have an ongoing commitment to these, and to complementary funding pools such as the Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarships (which are worth $450,000 this season).

Students will pay no application fees for the new award, and will be notified when an online application page is finalised. It will include a scale of eligible activities, but students will also be able to seek points for things that are not listed. To uphold the award’s integrity, the University will be hard-nosed in its assessment of these petitions.

Although the formalities begin in 2011, people with proof of previous undertakings will be able to collect points retrospectively.

A small minority of other Australian universities have similar schemes, and few of UQ’s proposed features are offered in the USA or UK. So the UQ Advantage Award will be a hallmark of UQ graduates, and a distinctive bonus for career and personal transactions.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
EXTINCTION ALERT

A new article in the scientific journal Conservation Biology shows Australia’s most endangered species are poorly represented in the nation’s protected area system.

The UQ-led study is understood to be the most thorough investigation into the level of protection of Australia’s threatened species to date.

It examined the distributions of 1320 nationally listed species on Australia’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and assessed how well the nation’s 9000-plus protected areas did their job.

The study found that while a few species have a large level of protection, more than 80% of those analysed were inadequately protected, with 12% of all threatened species existing completely outside the national reserve system.

“The study shows that the current placement of the protected area is barely better than a completely random placement, which is a poor outcome,” lead author Dr James Watson said.

“We found that the one-fifth of species considered critically endangered had no formal protection, a somewhat incredible finding considering these are the most vulnerable to extinction,” he said.

The research ascertained how much additional land needed to be placed in the protected area estate to overcome its current shortcomings.

“The good news from this research is that if the protected area estate is planned efficiently from now, we would need to place 17.8% of Australia in well-managed protected areas to secure all threatened species,” co-author Dr Richard Fuller said.

“This is not a large increase when you consider countries like Israel have 20 percent of their country protected.”

BURN NOTICE

Graphic television commercials and newspaper ads have been used to reduce the incidence of young males being burned by throwing petrol on campfires, bonfires and outdoor BBQs.

Dr John Harrison and Bruce Redman, from the School of Journalism and Communication, worked with burns surgeon and chief investigator Dr Michael Muller and a team from the School of Medicine’s Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre to develop the campaign.

“Don’t be a flamin’ fool”, a two-week burns prevention campaign, has been trialled in regional Queensland as part of a study to evaluate the effectiveness of a targeted prevention message.

Supported by data from an 11-year study of patients admitted to the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital with new burn injuries, the project included interviews with doctors, burns victims and their families.

“People throw petrol on a fire to get it going, and they get burned. Our TV commercials were designed to show the risks associated with doing this. One of our commercials was so graphic it was restricted to PG viewing times,” Dr Harrison said.

The study observed that a media prevention message had a significant impact on burn safety knowledge. In follow-up telephone interviews, 83 percent of respondents who had seen the “flamin’ fool” campaign thought it was effective in getting its message across.

NATURAL REGULATION

A University of Queensland researcher will serve on Australia’s first regulatory board for naturopaths and herbalists, which from next year will make seeing a complementary medicine practitioner easier and safer.

The board for the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONAH) is expected to begin operation in mid-2011.

Leading complementary medicine scholar and Director of the Network of Researchers in the Public Health of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Associate Professor Jon Adams from the School of Population Health has been selected as a community member on the board.

Dr Adams’ role with ARONAH means the University will be actively involved in promoting higher standards for complementary medicine practitioners.

“This is an exciting development. Naturopaths and herbalists are one of the largest and fastest growing health professions in Australia,” Dr Adams said.

“Nearly 10 per cent of Australians see one of these practitioners. The establishment of this board is the first step to bringing standards and accountability up to the levels you’d expect with that use.”

The University of Queensland has long been involved in the promotion of public safety in complementary medicine. School of Population Health researcher Jon Wardle is a specialist in regulatory and policy developments in complementary medicine, and was part of the steering committee that established ARONAH.

“There has been broad support for the regulation of naturopaths and herbalists. Health insurers, government agencies, health practitioners and the public are all supportive of further regulation in these professions,” Mr Wardle said.

“Most professional associations representing naturopaths and herbalists are supportive of independent regulation,” he said.

“ARONAH is a great first step in introducing standards that just haven’t been there before.”

INFO → www.aronah.org

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Students from UQ Gatton’s Vocational Education Centre (G-VEC) showed off their winning skills earlier in the year when they dominated the farriery competition at the Royal Queensland Show.

Fourth-year apprentices Emma McKavanagh and Andrew McDonald were a standout at the Ekka, taking out places in four categories in the novice events in the farrier and blacksmith competition.

“It was great to attend and be a part of the competition. Farriery work can be very lonely so it is good to attend events with like-minded people and be able to talk about our passion and learn from others,” Ms McKavanagh said.

“After working on a horse stud and developing a passion for shoeing horses, it then became a challenge for me to complete an apprenticeship as there are not many females in this line of work.”

Mr McDonald was the standout competitor of the event, taking out first place in three categories and the overall award.

The G-VEC is the only Queensland training institution to offer a Certificate III in Farriery, which comprises 20 units and is completed at the University’s Gatton campus.

INFO → www.uq.edu.au/gatton/gvec
A WINNING NEW LOOK

UQ (formerly known as the UQ Union) has more reasons to smile after taking out a global branding award for its newly revamped visual identity.

UQ was named the winner of the Best Visual Experience: Identity category at the Landor Awards for its “Smiley” device, which has been used to great effect since its launch in August. The award is a timely accolade in advance of UQ’s centenary next year.

Marketing Manager Lisa Daley said the organisation employed more than 250 staff, including many students, to operate 18 outlets and retail shops across three campuses. UQ also provides valuable services to students including free legal, tax, counselling and employment support through Student Help on Campus (SHOC), and publishes its own magazine, Semper.

GROCERIES UNPACKED

UQ researchers are uncovering the strategies major supermarket chains use to convince customers to trust where their food comes from.

An article to be published in the international journal Food, Culture and Society in 2011 explores supermarket strategies to manufacture new trust relationships with consumers, in response to the documented decline in confidence in mass-produced food products.

Dr Carol Richards and colleagues from the School of Social Science are exploring a number of facets linked to the corporate control of the food supply chain and issues of consumer trust.

Following extensive interviews with food industry personnel in Australia and Europe, the authors had highlighted how trust in food was increasingly commoditised.

In relation to the symbolism displayed on food packaging and supermarket advertising materials, Dr Richards said foods, which were often industrially produced by distant actors in factory settings, were regularly marketed using “trustworthy” symbols – such as those of a rural idyll.

“So when Dr Smyth describes the flavour of food, prepare yourself, because she truly loves her work and her passion for flavours says it all.

“Whilst these standards can help consumers build trust in the mass-produced and processed foods, farmers also report on the cost burden of multiple audits from the private sector which results in good quality food being rejected by supermarket chains on the basis of its ‘look’ – with farmers and the environment essentially paying for this,” Dr Richards said.

She said farmers tended to have little option to sell their produce elsewhere due to the concentration of food retail outlets into fewer and fewer chains. In Australia, two major supermarket chains control more than 70 percent of the market.

“Some supermarkets also maintain contracts with farmers who are only paid if their food meet desired standards,” she said.

Dr Smyth also manages projects working closely with tasting panels of about 12 people to articulate and rate food quality through sensory appraisal.

“This information helps the industry market particular products to particular groups of consumers, or work towards developing the flavours and products to match the taste and product preferences of certain consumer groups,” she said.

FINDING THE RIGHT FLAVOUR

If you invite UQ’s Dr Heather Smyth to dinner and ask her for an opinion on the meal, prepare yourself for a lengthy and technical answer.

Dr Smyth spends her day analysing the flavour and texture of food to determine what causes people to enjoy it, and subsequently continue to buy it. Her job also uses science to improve the quality and taste of food.

Dr Smyth is joining the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFi) to expand upon her work in flavour and sensory science, a career she chose after entering the science world as a synthetic organic chemist.

“I fell into the flavour area when I undertook a PhD in wine flavour chemistry – who would have thought chemistry could be so delicious?” she said.

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UQ has unveiled a new artwork to commemorate one of its first and most significant donors, Dr James O’Neil Mayne.

Dr Mayne and his younger sister, Mary Emelia Mayne, made the University’s move to its current St Lucia site possible with an 80,000 pound donation in 1926.

The money paved the way for the Brisbane City Council to resume 110 hectares of sugar cane, arrowroot and pineapple farming land.

Situated above the University’s Foundation Stone on a Helidon freestone panel in the foyer of the Forgan Smith Building Tower, the artwork consists of a life-sized bronze portrait medallion relief of Dr Mayne, accompanied by a bronze dedication plaque.

The medallion is the latest creation of alumnus and University sculptor Dr Rhyl Hinwood AM, whose grotesques, coats of arms and flora and fauna carvings adorn the Great Court of the St Lucia campus.

The medallion came about after an approach to Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield by UQ benefactor Dr Rosamond Siemon – an expert on the Mayne family and author of the popular book The Mayne Inheritance – and Jean Tremayne from the Mayne Medical School at Herston.

Sir James received many industry accolades including the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Medal and the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy (UK) Gold Medal in 1987.

UQ has paid tribute to a mining industry leader, renowned businessman and philanthropist.

HISTORY SET IN STONE

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Sir James Foots (left), and below, with artist John Rigby at the unveiling of his official portrait

Sir James Foots, who served as UQ Chancellor from 1985-1992, died in August, aged 94.

In this role and as Chief Executive and Chair of Mount Isa Mines (MIM) Holdings Ltd for three decades, he steered the MIM Group through a major expansion in metal production and into a period of product and geographic diversification.

Sir James had a far-reaching and enduring impact during his long association with the University.

He was appointed to the Senate in 1970 and was the inaugural Chair of The University of Queensland Foundation from 1982-1985 and a Foundation Governor until 1992.

He helped establish the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre in 1970.


He established and generously supported the Sir James Foots Scholarships for undergraduates in mining engineering and chemical and metallurgical engineering, and the Sir James Foots Building is a perpetual reminder of his contributions to both UQ and the minerals industry.

He was a Director of the University’s main technology transfer company, Uniqest Ltd from 1993 to 1997 and Chair from 1994-1997.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said Sir James’ widespread contributions to the University included forging relations between research and industry, many of which continue to this day.

“Sir James marshalled industry support for University activities, and was a pioneering supporter of the translation of research breakthroughs into services and products for the community and industry,” he said.

“He epitomised the successful person who ‘gives back’, and many UQ students and graduates continue to benefit from his quiet but generous philanthropy.”

Sir James received many industry accolades including the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Medal and the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy (UK) Gold Medal in 1987.

He was knighted in recognition of his services to the mining industry in 1975 and received an AO in 1992 and a Centenary Medal in 2001.

The late Sir James Foots (left), and below, with artist John Rigby at the unveiling of his official portrait
Construction on the $354 million Translational Research Institute in Brisbane began in October. Professor Ian Frazer, director of The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute — one of four research partners collaborating on the project — said the TRI would be home to world-leading researchers focused on translating scientific knowledge into practical benefits for the community. “The goal is better health for all, through collaboration between healthcare professionals and research scientists,” he said.

“For me personally, this project is the practical realisation of a dream for a building dedicated to clinical and translational research on this site; a dream that has been with me since I came to Queensland 25 years ago.”

Professor Frazer said dedicated medical researchers, rather than a building, would solve the problems of chronic disease. “However, this new building will greatly facilitate the work of those dedicated researchers,” he said.

“It will provide two components critical to the researchers’ work. The first is the latest and best in research technology – the wherewithal, if you like, to explore more deeply into the science of health and disease.

“The second is an environment that encourages team effort across disciplines. This will not merely allow, but will positively encourage, a focus on applying basic knowledge to achieve the practical outcomes of disease prevention and control.

“To these ends, this building will be equipped with state-of-the-art research facilities. “Critically, and uniquely within the southern hemisphere, it will also include the necessary facilities to manufacture and to evaluate the clinical benefit of the products of our medical research.”

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh said the TRI would be the largest institute of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and one of just a handful of similar institutes in the world. It will cover five floors and provide 32,000sq m of research space.

TRI Chair Dr David Watson said the world-class facility — due for completion in May 2012 — would place Queensland at the forefront of medical research developments worth billions of dollars.

The TRI would be a key platform in assisting Australian medical scientists to keep greater control of breakthrough drugs such as Professor Frazer’s cervical cancer vaccine, instead of it being necessary for them to sign away the rights to global pharmaceutical companies early in the development process.

The research for Professor Frazer’s vaccine — sold worldwide under the brand names Gardasil and Cervarix — all took place in Queensland. If the TRI and its manufacturing capabilities had been established at that time, much more of the economic benefits from its $5 billion-plus in worldwide sales would have returned to the state.

The TRI will accommodate up to 600 researchers from the four partners: The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Mater Medical Research Institute and the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The institute will combine academic medicine and translational research with the goal of minimising time between a laboratory discovery and its effective application in the clinic and the community.

Funding for the TRI includes significant contributions from the Australian Government ($140 million), the Queensland Government ($107 million), Atlantic Philanthropies ($50 million), QUT ($25 million) and UQ ($10 million).

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh and TRI Chair Dr David Watson at the sod-turning ceremony

THE VISION TO CREATE AN AUSTRALIAN-FIRST HOME FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, CLINICAL TRIALS AND TREATMENT COMMERCIALISATION HAS REACHED A HISTORIC MILESTONE.

Oration charts the cancer genome

A scientist who is leading an international search for cancer-causing genes is the final speaker for the UQ Centenary Oration Series. UK-based researcher Professor Michael Stratton (pictured), will deliver his oration on the evolution of the cancer genome at Customs House on December 7.

Joint head of the Cancer Genome Project and Director of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Professor Stratton studies the genetics of cancer and hit the headlines in 1994 when he and colleague Dr Richard Wooster discovered the first of a series of genes, which, when mutated, were responsible for causing breast cancer.

“All cancers arise from genetic mutations within cells. These mutations happen when cells divide and can be stimulated from external influences such as viruses and tobacco smoke,” Professor Stratton said.

“These mutations are not bad for the individual cell. In fact they are advantageous mutations that allow the cell to proliferate and invade tissues and spread within the body – resulting in cancer. “Understanding the origins of human cancer has enormous implications for developing novel therapies and preventive strategies.”

UQ alumnus and current CEO of the $45 billion Dow Chemical Company, Dr Andrew Liveris, spoke about Australia’s global future at last month’s UQ Centenary Oration.

His talk provided an overview of Australia’s past global contributions and considered its future role in this area.

“As someone who has dedicated his life to innovation, I would venture to say that we have never needed it more than today,” Dr Liveris said.

“The world’s most pressing needs will be met – and mastered – by innovation through science and innovation of the sort that happens at The University of Queensland and, if I may say, at Dow.

“So when people gather 100 years from now for the University’s bicentenary, let them say that it was here that Australia’s new transformation got started.”

INFO ➔ For details of the oration series, visit www.uq.edu.au/centenary/oration
Cities of the future

Senior Obama Administration officials, US business leaders and Australian experts discussed the future of cities in a landmark urban planning conference in Brisbane.

Co-hosted by UQ’s Global Change Institute and the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, the event was held at Parliament House over November 15–16.

Speakers included US Assistant Secretary of Transport, Polly Trottenberg, and US Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Raphael Bostic.

They were joined by US business executives including Dow Chemical Executive Vice-President David Kepler and the President of Growth Initiatives for Alcoa Kevin Kramer.

Australian experts also discussed public policy and private sector solutions to the urban challenges facing both countries.

The event focused on water management, the built environment, waste and recycling, energy efficiency, and transportation.

US Studies Centre Chief Executive, Professor Geoffrey Garrett said the gathering provided cutting-edge thinking and action plans for urban centres in both the USA and Australia.

“This was a great opportunity to bring together high-level government officials, business leaders and experts from both countries to explore ways to create the best cities for the future and modernise existing infrastructure,” Professor Garrett said.

“South-east Queensland is among the fastest growing population regions in Australia so is an ideal location to discuss such global ‘future city’ planning issues.”

INFO ➔ www.gci.uq.edu.au

UQ Abroad travels across campus

University of Queensland students wanting to broaden their horizons need look no further than the UQ Union complex at St Lucia.

Here they will find the new home of UQ Abroad – the office that coordinates hundreds of exchange placements each year.

UQ Abroad Manager Jan McCreary said with a record 445 students having already jetted off in 2010, the new facilities were welcome.

“Demand for exchanges is always increasing, with UQ students able to study at 150 partner institutions in 35 different countries,” Ms McCreary said.

UQ students can now earn credit towards their degrees on five continents, with the UK, the US and Canada the most popular destinations. Studying at a fellow Universitas 21 institution has also proved appealing.

Ms McCreary said the team was committed to increasing the number of students on exchange and exploring new opportunities.

“We have been mainly focused on the traditional semester-long (or two-semester) exchange but many students are looking for shorter options,” she said.

“We recently signed an agreement with Universidad La Sabana in Colombia that offers a short-term program for four weeks in January–February.”

Bachelor of Engineering student Adam Head said he would highly recommend others take the plunge after recently completing a year-long exchange at the Technical University of Delft in The Netherlands.

“The culture and the travel have really changed my view of people and taught me many valuable lessons which I could not have learnt otherwise,” he said.

The annual UQ Abroad Student Exchange Fair offers comprehensive information about partner universities, application procedures and scholarships.

The office also runs regular information sessions, and assists students before, during and after their placements.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield has set an ambitious target of having 50 percent of UQ students complete an overseas study experience by 2025.

Those interested in an exchange should visit UQ Abroad on Level 2 of the Student Union Complex (next to the Red Room).

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/uqabroad

UQ exchange student Marcella Stokell (second from left) with friends in Moscow
A student project exploring emotional links between humans and computers has turned into a major Facebook hit.

UQ Interaction Design student Bashkim Isai's project links Facebook users to a real garden called “Meet Eater” (pictured) located at The Edge, a digital culture centre at the State Library of Queensland.

Mr Isai said the project was based on the idea that by introducing both physical and virtual levels of interaction, the Meet Eater garden would be able to make the transition from being an object to a creature.

“Meet Eater relies on its Facebook fans to keep it alive – the better the quality of conversations and posts left for Meet Eater, the more likely the garden is to respond,” Mr Isai said.

Meet Eater also reacts to physical interaction that it receives.

When people stroke the garden, it “purs” and croons with affection.

When left idle for too long, it weeps to gain the attention of passers-by.

Mr Isai’s project has been going for more than two months and received a huge spike in fans when media interest in the project increased.

“My fan base rose from 900 to 4500 within five days and since then, I have been contacted by news agencies in 15 different countries such as the United States, Spain and Israel – all keen to know about Meet Eater,” Mr Isai said.

“I am very pleased with the increased number of posts, but it is interesting that since Meet Eater became "famous" the quality of posts and conversations has decreased.

“People used to ask meaningful questions and had great conversations with Meet Eater, but now it seems there are many more generic posts.”

The project is exploring the notion of “affectionate computing”, a topic in interaction design where artefacts are augmented with moods, and respond to our own feelings.

“I envisage a future where computing has more meaning in our lives, where we do not hunch over a PC in order to realise the power of the Internet,” Mr Isai said.

“Instead knowledge is afforded through interaction with tangible media providing a more satisfying result.

“The Meet Eater aims to be step forward towards this interaction paradigm – let’s see if we get there!”

To become a fan and keep up to date with its progress, add “Meet Eater” as a Facebook friend and watch the garden grow.

INFO ➔ www.facebook.com/meeteater

Apple’s iTunes U is the final destination for a collaborative project between first-year UQ physiology and communication students.

The students in each cohort have teamed up to produce short health literacy videos which explain the underlying physiological basis of common medical conditions such as diabetes, emphysema, strokes, and hypertension.

As part of their assessment, the physiology students were asked to write a video production brief setting out the science involved in these conditions.

The brief was assessed for scientific accuracy and rigour. From here, PR writing students converted the brief into a script and storyboard, which, after assessment for veracity and creativity, was produced as a video of no more than four minutes in length.

The final cut was then vetted by the physiology students for accuracy and scientific integrity.

The project, designed by Dr John Harrison from the School of Journalism and Communication and Dr Hardy Ernst from the School of Biomedical Sciences, is funded by a UQ Strategic Teaching and Learning Grant from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

The cross-campus collaboration has been facilitated through an online platform constructed by Matthew Taylor and his team from UQ’s Centre for Biological Information Technology.

The platform enabled student teams in both locations (Ipswich and St Lucia) to upload their outputs into shared spaces, and converse about those outputs.

Twenty-nine separate videos have been produced through the collaboration.

The process embedded in the project serves several purposes, according to Dr Harrison.

“Science has an emerging credibility crisis, evidenced by public scepticism about the science of global warming, and questioning of the authenticity of peer review,” Dr Harrison said.

“In response, some have called for better public relations by scientists.

“This project is both timely and strategic because it engages both current national interest priorities, and the broader international agenda of science and health communication.

“It not only equips future health science professionals to use new media to communicate the science to non-professional audiences, but also equips future communication professionals to interpret a technically complex brief, and render it accurately for non-scientific audiences.”

The project is set to continue, with the intention of developing new materials for “anywhere, any time learning”.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/itunes
VITAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH WILL COMMENCE AT UQ IN 2011 THANKS TO FUNDING WORTH ALMOST $29 MILLION.

The University of Queensland received the fourth-largest share of the $447.5 million awarded to Australian institutions from the National Health and Medical Research Council in November.

UQ also benefitted with an additional $792,983 in funding for the purchase of medical research equipment.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu congratulated the recipients and thanked the NHMRC for its continued support of Australian medical research.

“How best to prevent, cure and manage diseases and disabilities can only be found through rigorous research, and that process comes at a significant cost,” Professor Lu said.

“UQ projects will focus on a diverse range of health issues, from establishing what causes mental health disorders to developing antibiotics for drug-resistant bugs.”

“I thank our researchers for dedicating their careers to addressing the health and medical problems that currently reduce Australians’ quality of life and life expectancy.”

Also thank the NHMRC, which supports the quest to find practical solutions to complex health issues.”

UQ’s largest grant – almost $1.5 million – went to a team at the School of Population Health, which is studying the causes of common mental disorders such as anxiety, depression and substance use.

Led by Professor Jake Najman, the study follows a sample of 4000 persons from birth to 30 years of age to determine the environmental and genetic factors that lead to the onset and recurrence of the common mental disorders.

Other UQ recipients included:

• Professor Melissa Little, from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, who received $691,310 to study chronic kidney disease.

Chronic kidney disease is a growing burden to the health system.

The long-term health of kidneys is influenced by the number of functional units called nephrons, which are present in each kidney and determined before birth.

If this number could be influenced, it may be possible to reduce the risk of kidney disease in later life for at-risk populations, including the Aboriginal community.

The study will investigate the stem cells that form the nephrons, how the process occurs and how it can be influenced.

• Also studying kidneys is Dr Karen Moritz from the School of Biomedical Sciences, who received $691,310 to study chronic kidney disease.

The bacterium, *Clostridium difficile*, causes inflammation of the large bowel that can lead to surgical removal of the bowel or death.

*Clostridium difficile* occurs in North America and Europe and an international epidemic strain has caused large outbreaks of severe and fatal cases in these continents.

This strain was identified for the first time in Perth in 2009.

Dr Clements’ second grant, worth $346,273, will help plan more efficient parasitic worm control in the Philippines.

• Professor Pankaj Sah and colleagues from the Queensland Brain Institute received $855,650 to investigate possible ways to forget or extinguish traumatic memories.

Professor Sah and Dr Francois Windels will work on the project over five years, with the aim of reducing anxiety and depression.

“There are two types of memories: the memories you create by learning, such as how to drive or car or speak a foreign language, and pathological memories which can result from a car accident, witnessing something on the battlefield, violence or abuse,” Dr Windels said.

“The question we are trying to answer is: how do you forget traumatic memories?”

“One possible treatment option is pharmacology, so looking at how drugs can help to reduce anxiety and depression.

“Another option is exposure therapy, which involves making the environment as safe as possible as the memory is recalled. In a sense you create a memory that tells you the particular situation is not dangerous.”

The team hopes the research may help babies get the best start to life.

• Dr Archie Clements, from the School of Population Health, has been awarded two grants to study two deadly human pathogenic diseases.

His first award, of $936,321, will be used to analyse the risk of outbreak in Brisbane and Perth of a killer bacterium.

The bacterium, *Clostridium difficile*, causes inflammation of the large bowel that can lead to surgical removal of the bowel or death.

*Clostridium difficile* occurs in North America and Europe and an international epidemic strain has caused large outbreaks of severe and fatal cases in these continents.

This strain was identified for the first time in Perth in 2009.

Dr Clements’ second grant, worth $346,273, will help plan more efficient parasitic worm control in the Philippines.

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Professor Sah and Dr Francois Windels will work on the project over five years, with the aim of reducing anxiety and depression.

“There are two types of memories: the memories you create by learning, such as how to drive or car or speak a foreign language, and pathological memories which can result from a car accident, witnessing something on the battlefield, violence or abuse,” Dr Windels said.

“The question we are trying to answer is: how do you forget traumatic memories?”

“One possible treatment option is pharmacology, so looking at how drugs can help to reduce anxiety and depression.

“Another option is exposure therapy, which involves making the environment as safe as possible as the memory is recalled. In a sense you create a memory that tells you the particular situation is not dangerous.”

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The ceremony was a highlight of UQ Research Week 2010, and recognised outstanding performance and leadership potential among early-to-mid-career researchers.

This year’s UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards were worth a record $910,000, and were announced on September 22.

The 2010 winners were:

- Dr Warwick Bowen from the School of Mathematics and Physics, who received $100,000 for his project that aims to achieve quantum control of a mechanical oscillator for the first time.
- Dr Kristofer Thurecht, of the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) and the Centre for Advanced Imaging, who received $90,000 to develop new polymer molecules for improved cancer diagnosis and therapy.
- Dr Michael Piper, of the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), who received $90,000 for his study into the genes that control neural progenitor cell development in the embryonic and adult brain.
- Dr Yong Wang, of the School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering, who received $85,000 for his research into the photocatalytic and mechanical properties of titanium nanosheets.
- Dr Massimo Hilliard of the QBI, who received $80,000 to study the powerful neural regenerative abilities of a common nematode worm.
- Dr Chamindie Punyadeera, of the School of Chemical Engineering, who received $80,000 for her project that is developing a simple saliva test for rapid heart disease diagnosis and heart failure detection.
- Dr Elizabeth Stephens, of the Centre for the History of European Discourses, who received $80,000 for her multi-disciplinary project that aims to assess the cultural impact of medical imaging technologies.
- Dr Greig de Zubicaray, of the School of Psychology, who received $75,000 to study the mental processes and mechanisms underlying why we are able to produce language fluently, and why in the case of aphasia, we cannot.
- Dr Ben Hogan, of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, who received $70,000 for his research into the human lymphatic system, which plays a key role in immune function, cancer and obesity.
- Dr Chenghua Sun of the AIBN, who received $70,000 for his research into metal-free photocatalysts for solar hydrogen production, aiming to facilitate the application of nanomaterials in clean energy.
- Dr Mohammad Mansour, of the School of Civil Engineering, who received $70,000 for his project that is developing a simple saliva test for rapid heart disease diagnosis and heart failure detection.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu congratulated the winners and commented on the diversity of the projects represented.

He said UQ had grown into one of the top research hubs in Australia – and the world.

“The UQ researchers were awarded more than $303 million in research funding for 2300 projects in 2009,” Professor Lu said.

“On research funding to universities, this placed UQ second nationally, just after the University of Melbourne.

“It is not by accident that UQ has reached such a level of prominence. It is all part of the equation in the virtuous cycle in research. That is – success breeds success.”

Also announced at the ceremony were the UQ Foundation Research Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervisor Awards. The winners were:

- Associate Professor Melissa Brown, a molecular biologist, Deputy Head of the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, and Deputy Director (Research) at the UQ Diamantina Institute.
- Professor Ian Godwin, a plant geneticist in the School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences.
- Professor Ottmar Lipp, a psychologist and ARC Fellow whose research bridges the areas of biological, clinical and social psychology.
- Professor Zhiguo Yuan, a control engineer who received $70,000 for his research into the human lymphatic system, which plays a key role in immune function, cancer and obesity.

Two commendations were given for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision 2010: Professor Louise Hickson and Associate Professor Andrew Bradley, Dr Noel Scott, a senior lecturer in the School of Tourism, won an early career advisor commendation.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/research
Learning to listen

A LEADING EDUCATOR HAS INVITED THE UQ COMMUNITY TO PLAY THEIR PART IN HELPING DEAF CHILDREN TO HEAR AND SPEAK.

Founder of the Hear and Say Centre and 2010 Queenslander of the Year Dimity Dornan wants others to share her passion for helping deaf children to communicate, and is happy to speak to anyone who will listen about the issue.

Mrs Dornan (pictured) shared her inspirational story at the Hearing is Believing networking event on October 13 at the St Lucia campus.

Sponsored by the UQ Student Alumni Program, the presentation saw Mrs Dornan urge staff, students and graduates to volunteer at one of the Hear and Say Centre’s six locations.

A UQ speech pathology graduate and current PhD candidate, Mrs Dornan founded the Hear and Say Centre in 1992 and Hear and Say Worldwide in 2007.

The centre teaches deaf and hearing-impaired children to listen and speak, aiming for children to be in the normal range for speech and language by the age of six.

"Deaf is not deaf anymore," she said.

"When you consider that hearing loss is the most common disability in newborns worldwide, and that we know how to treat it, we really are standing at the point where the treatment of polio was 20 years ago." Mrs Dornan’s concept has come a long way over the past 18 years: the centre began with six children working around a card table.

It now has services for 400 children in six centres across Queensland, as well as a telemedicine program for families living in regional and remote locations.

"Hear and Say has and will continue to be driven by child need," Mrs Dornan said.

The event was organised by a group of UQ postgraduate students completing the subject Communication Campaigns within the School of Journalism and Communication.

Course coordinator Dr John Harrison said it was taught using a service-learning approach.

"Integral to service-learning is the principle of civic engagement: of making a contribution to the community; of understanding more fully the needs and interests of the community; and reflecting on the learning achieved through that understanding and contribution," he said.

INFO ➔ www.hearandsaycentre.com.au

Understanding and respect: (from left) UQ Allies Beverley Podhajsky, Michael McNally and Marnie King

The University of Queensland has received a national award for fostering an environment where people of all sexualities and gender identities can safely study and work free of harassment or discrimination.

UQ won the Employment and Inclusion of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex category at the 2010 Diversity@Work Awards.

The award was in recognition of the UQ Ally Program, which is a joint initiative of UQ and the UQ Union to create a visible network of people who are allies of students and staff identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBT/I).

UQ Allies provide a “safe zone” and confidential environment for LGBT/I staff and students and can provide information about accessing community resources.

Director of the UQ Equity Office Dr Ann Stewart said the program has trained over 200 allies since its inception in 2004.

"We currently have 173 registered UQ Allies across campuses and they include heads of schools, senior executive staff and academic and professional staff at every level," Dr Stewart said.

Executive Officer of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Shaughn Forbes, was one of the first registered UQ Allies and said she has seen first-hand how the program helped educate and build tolerance within the UQ community.

"We had a staff member join our unit who had never shared their personal life with their colleagues before. It was the visible welcome and acceptance that the UQ Ally badge provided that made them feel comfortable about sharing their personal life with colleagues for the first time in 11 years," she said.

Dr Stewart said there was still a great deal of ignorance in the wider community about the issues that LGBT/I people faced.

"Data tells us that LGBT/I people are almost inevitably going to experience discrimination and/or harassment during their studies and work.

Youth suicide among young gay people is also a significant issue, as is homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse," she said.

Dr Stewart said UQ Allies had been told by students about being forced to leave home because of their sexuality and experiencing homophobic behaviour on campus. She said some international students were worried about their sexuality being revealed and reported back to their home country.

"The Ally Program is not just a one-off training session. It continues to give all participants the opportunity to attend regular sessions to reaffirm their commitment to equality for all regardless of their sexual orientation," she said.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/equity
UQ ATHLETES HAD A GOLDEN RUN AT THE 2010 COMMONWEALTH GAMES.

Balancing study and training commitments is a trick many elite athletes learn to perfect, but Danielle Prince has it down to a fine art.

The first-year Bachelor of International Hotel and Tourism Management student is one of the country’s top rhythmic gymnasts – using her impressive flexibility, strength and coordination to help Australia win its first Commonwealth Games team gold in the event last month.

The competition venues presented some unique challenges for athletes in Delhi – bats flew overhead in the training gym while grasshoppers and moths competed for the attention of the appreciative local crowds.

“The crowd was amazing and the stadium practically full so it made for a fantastic atmosphere and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience,” Ms Prince said.

“I walked on to the floor and I was like: ‘I want this, I know how badly I want this, and I’m going to do it’. And I did it, I did the best ball routine I’ve ever done.

It was definitely very exciting and very fulfilling to walk off that floor knowing that I had done my best.”

In a sport where scores are measured to a thousandth of a point, the Australian team won by a commanding margin over minor medallists Canada and England.

Ms Prince said the result came on the back of success at the world championships in Moscow a fortnight earlier, where Australia had achieved the highest placing of any Commonwealth country.

And there’s a clear incentive to keep pleasing the judges – the top-ranked gymnast from Oceania will automatically qualify for the 2012 Olympics in London.

Training six days a week to achieve her goals, Ms Prince said there was a nice link between her studies in event management and participating in international competitions which required immense organisation and planning.

“I came back from Delhi really motivated and inspired and I’m aiming for 2012 as well as 2014 for another Commonwealth Games,” she said.

Fellow UQ students and alumni also put in stellar performances in Delhi, with business management graduate Alana Boyd claiming gold in the pole vault.

Ms Boyd completed a unique trifecta to stand on top of the medal dais, joining her mother Denise (the 200m Commonwealth champion from 1978) and her father Ray (the 1982 pole vault gold medallist) to add to the family’s medal tally.

Swimmer Leith Brodie grabbed the bronze in the 200m individual medley, with Beijing Paralympian Blake Cochrane placing third in the 100m freestyle and 5th in the 50m event.

Graduate and Paralympic veteran Hamish MacDonald launched himself to bronze in the shot put, with alumnus and three-time Great Court Race winner Mitch Kealey making the final of the 1500m on the track.
Researchers from the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences are set to highlight the factors behind attrition of university students after winning a $25,000 UQ Teaching and Learning Strategic Grant.

The research team, headed by Dr Blake McKimmie from the School of Psychology, will examine the extent to which identity, attitudes, norms, and perceptions of control contribute to students’ intention to remain enrolled at university.

The group will also investigate whether high impact learning practices, such as one-on-one personal interviews or round table sessions with academics, reduce the likelihood of a student withdrawing from a course or program, or from university altogether.

Dr McKimmie said it was crucial to understand why students withdrew from university to be able to put in place mechanisms to tackle the problem.

“Our aim here is to learn more about ‘what works’,” he said.

“Through focus groups with first-year students, online surveys, and evaluations of high impact learning practices we hope to provide practical methods of reducing attrition with the aim of encouraging the disseminating of best practice.”

The project will be conducted over a number of phases. The first will involve a number of focus groups with first-year students to measure students’ beliefs about staying enrolled past the first year, as well as the facilitators and inhibitors to staying enrolled.

The second phase includes an online survey to be administered to a cohort of first-year students, based on the findings of the focus groups.

This survey aims to track students over the course of a year and identify the extent to which high-impact learning activities and other attitudinal and identity-related factors shape students’ intentions to stay enrolled.

In the final phase, students will be contacted by telephone to allow the project team to match student behaviours to their anticipated behaviours.

“By identifying those aspects of students’ attitudes, norms, perceptions of control, and identity that are most strongly related to enrolment intention and behaviour, this project will provide information about the best way to enhance student engagement through teaching and learning strategies,” Dr McKimmie said.

“From here we can selectively embed these types of learning activities into our programs to ensure students’ expectations are met.”

The results of the project will be disseminated through presentations at UQ’s Teaching and Learning Week.

The research team includes Dr McKimmie, Dr Barbara Masser (School of Psychology), Associate Professor Andrew Hindmoor (School of Political Science and International Relations), Associate Professor Julie Duck (SBS Faculty), Dr Greg Marston (School of Social Work and Human Services) and Dr Patricia Short (School of Social Science).

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/sbs

LECTURER ADDS A TOUCH OF DRAMA

Analysing techniques used in the theatre to keep audiences spellbound has led a University of Queensland psychology lecturer to change his own teaching style, with amazing results.

So strong has the interest been in Professor Matthew Hornsey’s new “dramatic” teaching technique that his lectures now attract students not enrolled in his course – and others who are not even current university students.

“For me this is the ultimate compliment — when people choose to spend their free time in my lectures,” Professor Hornsey said.

Professor Hornsey said engaging, motivating and inspiring students in large classes was a perpetual challenge.

In wrestling with these issues, he decided to take inspiration from the theatre, where the experience of an audience member is similar to being a student in a large class.

“At the theatre you find yourself sitting in a chair, in the semi-darkness, surrounded by hundreds of strangers, peering at a tiny actor on a distant stage,” he said.

“But when it’s done well, the experience can be very intimate. You forget that you’re just one person in a big crowd, and start to believe this story is being told to you and you alone. You are spellbound.”

Professor Hornsey thought if he could identify the factors behind this process, then it shouldn’t matter how large the class was – just as it doesn’t matter how many people are in a theatre.

Studying orators within and outside academia, Dr Hornsey said it became apparent that charismatic and enthralling presenters obeyed quite specific and achievable principles of public speaking.

“What united them was that they used narrative to communicate their ideas, they connected their ideas to the life experiences of their audience members, they were passionate, and they were empathic and clear with their communication,” he said.

The initiative earned Dr Hornsey a $10,000 Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning Award from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) this year.

Professor Hornsey’s award was in recognition of his work “inspiring and motivating psychology students in large classes through the use of narrative and connectedness”.

UQ had a perfect success rate in the 2010 ALTC awards, winning the maximum 10 citations, equalled only by the University of Western Sydney.

Citations are awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to the quality of student learning over a sustained period, whether they are academic staff, general staff, sessional staff or institutional associates.
LEARNING LEADERS HONOURED

UQ recognised the importance of skilled and enthusiastic teachers at a ceremony held at Customs House on November 1.

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

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Deborah Terry said UQ’s award winners often went on to win national teaching honours.

UQ has won more Australian Learning and Teaching Council awards than any other university — a total of 75 since the ALTC awards were established in 1997.

Professor Andrea Nolan, Glasgow University’s Senior Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, visited UQ for Teaching & Learning Week and highlighted the tensions that have arisen between research and teaching in recent years.

THE 2010 WINNERS ARE:

Awards for Teaching Excellence

– Dr Jean-Louis Durand, School of Political Science and International Studies
  – Dr Andrew Fairbairn, School of Social Science
  – Associate Professor Lesley Luka, School of Biomedical Sciences
  – Dr Liza O’Moore, School of Civil Engineering
  – Dr Robbie Wilson, School of Biological Sciences

  Commendations:
  – Dr Winnifred Louie, School of Psychology
  – Associate Professor Julie Walker, UQ Business School
  – Dr Margaret Wegener, School of Mathematics and Physics

Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning

– The BA First Year Community
  Team members: Professor Fred D’Agostino, Ms Inge Matt, Mr Michael Whiteway, Ms Jane Saunders, Mr Justin Nicholls
  – Rangeland Management Postgraduate Coursework Program
  Team members: Professor John Taylor, Ms Patricia Andrews

  Commendation:
  – UQ Law Mentor Program. Team members: Associate Professor Nickolas James, Mr Vu Ngo, Mrs Helen Braathedt, Ms Teola Marsh

Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

– Professor Nicholas Aroney, School of Law
  – Associate Professor Philip Bodman, School of Economics
  – Dr Noreen Breakey, School of Tourism
  – Dr Rhonda Breit, School of Journalism and Communication
  – Dr Denis Collins, School of Music
  – Associate Professor Matthew Davis, School of Mathematics and Physics
  – Mr Alan Duh, School of Economics
  – Dr Barbara Masser, School of Psychology
  – Dr Donovan Storey, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management
  – Dr Anthony Wright, School of Education

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

From front left: Chancellor John Story, Professor Deborah Terry, Professor Andrea Nolan and Professor Michael Keniger with the 2010 award winners at Customs House

NEW UQ PROGRAMS

A host of new degrees being offered in 2011 will give UQ students a competitive edge.

The new programs are designed to meet the needs of the changing work environment and to provide graduates greater career options, and include options in arts, management, energy studies, law, health, social science and computing.

The Faculty of Arts is offering two new programs – a Graduate Diploma in Arts (Executive) and a Diploma in Arts – that are both open to entry to graduates from any discipline.

The Graduate Diploma in Arts (Executive) provides skills and knowledge related to working in management and administration in the public, not-for-profit and the private sectors. The Diploma in Arts enables graduates to acquire greater specialisation in a chosen field, update their skills or follow a study area they are passionate about.

The Faculty of Business, Economics and Law has introduced a Master of Global Management to meet the demands of the current global job market for graduates with global awareness and expertise. The program will be offered in collaboration with three overseas institutions: the WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management, the ESSEC Business School, and Fudan University. The arrangement offers students an opportunity to complete two degrees – one at UQ and another overseas.

The faculty is also offering a Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry), which is expected to generate substantial interest both in Australia and abroad.

The program has been designed for non-law graduates and can be completed in three years, compared to the four-year undergraduate option.

The Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology will introduce the Master of Energy Studies from Semester 1. The program will be offered in the fields of carbon capture and storage and carbon management.

The Faculty of Health Sciences is introducing the Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Echocardiography. An echocardiography machine uses sound waves to provide a moving picture of the heart.

The new degree is being offered in response to the practice’s increased role in critical care medicine, and to provide training in the theoretical and practical aspects of echocardiography.

Other new programs being offered in 2011 span disciplines as diverse as human services, computer science and social policy.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/study
TARGETING CANCER

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND RESEARCHERS ARE EXPLORING NEW OPTIONS FOR TREATING BREAST CANCER.

Researchers from the Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence (PACE) – home to UQ’s School of Pharmacy – have identified a potential new target for breast cancer therapy.

Published in prestigious scientific journal *Cell* are the results of research conducted by Associate Professor Greg Monteith and Associate Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson (pictured), and their PhD students Helen Faddy and Desma Grice.

“The team, which includes colleagues from Johns Hopkins University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the United States, found the presence of a protein that moves calcium into a specific area of the cell was higher in many breast cancers.

“When people hear about calcium, they think milk, teeth and bones, but calcium is also an important signal that is tightly controlled by specific transporters,” Dr Monteith said.

“We now realise that these transporters can be altered in some cancer types.

“Hopefully these results and our current work will help us exploit these changes and target breast cancer more effectively.”

Characterising the new drug target was a six-year process involving collaboration with international researchers.

“We recognised very early on that this protein was a new kind of calcium transporter and it had particular significance in breast cancer; this was even before it was properly identified,” Dr Roberts-Thomson said.

“We then began working with the Johns Hopkins team to define how it could contribute to cancer pathways.

“The pathway by which this calcium pump contributes to breast cancer is unique, complex and unexpected, and may shed light on other important processes in cells.”

The team has also identified other calcium transporters that may be important in breast cancer.

“We are focusing on those breast cancer types that have the poorest prognosis,” Dr Monteith said.

“Patients with these cancers have the greatest need for new therapies.”

Dr Roberts-Thomson said the research outcome would not have been possible without the assistance of their international partners and the hard work of their PhD students.

“Progress in breast cancer research often requires an international effort, and this is one such example,” she said.
A SEARCH AND RESCUE DOCTOR GAVE AN INSPIRING ADDRESS AT UQ RECENTLY.

Since 1957, the Annual E.S Meyers Memorial Lecture has seen distinguished medical professionals speak about their experiences to students, colleagues and the general public.

The event honours the life and work of Dr Errol Solomon Meyers, a founder of the UQ School of Medicine and a pioneer teacher of both general and surgical anatomy in Queensland.

In September, special guest Commander Paul Luckin delivered the 2010 address, drawing on a remarkable 30-year career serving in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

Commander Luckin’s oration, entitled “Disasters, Rescue and Retrieval”, touched on several career highlights including leading the first western medical team into Banda Aceh following the 2004 tsunami.

UQ Medical Society Academic Vice-President Bav Manoharan said the oration had inspired many in the audience to re-think their career paths.

“He captivated the audience with his accounts of rescue and retrieval in the mountains of South Africa, early management of survivors of the Bali Bombings and provision of medical aid in Banda Aceh following the disastrous effects of the tsunami,” Mr Manoharan said.

“All who attended the lecture were left overwhelmed by the extent of the devastation Commander Luckin described, yet inspired by his passion and tenacity. Indeed, many students walked away from the lecture with aspirations of contributing to the Australian Defence Force during their future careers.”

Commander Luckin currently works in private practice in Brisbane in addition to advising search and rescue teams around the nation.

In 2006, he received the Australian National Search and Rescue Award for his work.

For eight years Commander Luckin served on the mountain rescue team of the KwaZulu-Natal section of the Mountain Club of South Africa, and he has also served as the Director of Red Cross Air Mercy Service.

The E.S Meyers Memorial Lecture has grown to become a highlight of the School of Medicine calendar, and has featured renowned medical professionals including Sir Edmund Hillary, Imran Khan and Lord Jeffery Archer.

Donations from the evening assist a range of charities including the Ashintosh Trust, run by the UQ Medical Society. One of the trust’s major projects is the Teddy Bear Hospital, which aims to educate children about medical care in a safe and non-threatening environment.

INFO ➔ www.uqms.org

KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY

UQ MEDICAL STUDENTS ARE USING TEDDY BEARS TO HELP PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH HABITS AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN.

Medical student volunteers from The University of Queensland have created a free, kids-friendly mobile clinic to foster positive relations between the community and health professionals and ultimately reduce morbidity from preventable diseases.

“Our team visits Queensland primary schools and use the children’s own teddy bears to teach them important messages regarding diet, exercise, dental hygiene, being sunsmart and why we visit the doctor,” medical student Meg O’Connell said.

Through a series of fun and interactive activities (arts and craft, sports, teddy-bear picnics and role-playing), the team aims to encourage children to make healthy choices early in life.

The Teddy Bear Hospital was established in 2006 and set up by The Ashintosh Foundation, a charity initiative of The University of Queensland Medical Society.

The foundation is run entirely by student volunteers and has particular interests in health, education and the arts.

The foundation gains its funding from fund raising, public donations and contributions from The Queensland Medical Orchestra.

The Teddy Bear Hospital has visited more than 10 schools in 2010, and reached approximately 452 prep students.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/news
UniQuest enhances experiential education in 2011

UQ’s main commercialisation company, UniQuest, has planned a busy calendar of activities to boost entrepreneurial engagement with academics and students next year.

UniQuest’s experiential education program supports the University’s engagement objectives.

“This year we reviewed the professional development opportunities we offer in addition to our commercialisation services, taking into account feedback on previous events and the University’s promotion of commercialisation as part of the ‘UQ advantage’,” said UniQuest Managing Director, David Henderson.

“Out of this process, we identified a number of key activities for encouraging academics and students to expand their range of experiences and networks while working or studying at UQ.”

UniQuest’s flagship educational programs will reflect the most change.

**Commercialisation workshops**
Registrations will open in January for UniQuest’s free, annual two-day, off-campus intensive workshops covering commercialisation and IP management. Both workshops will be open to staff researchers and postgraduate students. The first workshop will be held in April as usual, with the second workshop now scheduled for July. This means researchers with teaching commitments can also plan to attend a workshop.

**Go8 Future Research Leaders Program**
UniQuest will continue to run the Group of Eight’s Future Research Leaders Program IP and Commercialisation module.

**Trailblazer**
In 2011, UniQuest’s annual innovative and entrepreneurial ideas competition will assume a national identity - winners from the UQ final will compete against representatives from other universities in a Grand Final for $50,000 in prizes. Finalists will also be offered formal training to boost their pitch presentation skills. Trailblazer is open to all staff and students at UQ, and entries will be accepted online from March. The UQ final will be held in May and the Grand Final in June.

**Techcom internships**
Following the success of this year’s inaugural internship program offered in partnership with UQ Business School, UniQuest is looking forward to hosting two more groups of postgraduate students in 2011.

The interns will help investigate the commercial potential of various early-stage research ideas and inventions.

**International Development internships**
Internships will also be offered again in UniQuest’s International Development division for students enrolled in UQ’s Masters of Development Practice Program.

**Experts Exchange**
Held as a prelude to Research Week in September, this annual forum helps academics and their research teams understand industry engagement, and how to optimise their expertise and skills through consulting and contract research. Next year’s event will respond to feedback from previous attendees with a focus on popular topics, new and encore speakers, and more interactivity with the panel.

**TEDI seminars**
Introduction to Research Commercialisation seminars will be offered as part of the Staff Development Program.

**Graduate School presentations**
UniQuest will continue to support activities coordinated by the Graduate School relating to research commercialisation.

Information on all the events comprising UniQuest’s experiential education program is available on the company’s website, which has also been renovated to make it easier for researchers and industry clients to connect with the best UniQuest person to help with their particular needs or interests.
Knowledge harvested

UQ HAS LAUNCHED ITS LATEST INSTITUTE TO POWER THE FUTURE OF QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURE.

Queensland is set to become a world leader in tropical and subtropical agriculture and food research with UQ and the State Government joining forces to establish a new institute.

The Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), which was officially launched in September by Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland, Tim Mulherin, brings together staff from both parties across the disciplines of plant, animal and food science.

QAAFI Director Professor Robert Henry said the institute would focus on research that would not only benefit Queensland, but would also put it on the map as a world leader in tropical and subtropical agriculture and food research.

“We are uniquely placed in terms of our environment to develop technologies that not only work for Queensland, but work worldwide in similar environments,” Professor Henry said.

“QAAFI is taking the leading role in research into summer grain crops, particularly sorghum, and beef, bringing together research strengths from UQ and the Queensland Government.”

QAAFI will incorporate three centres – the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences, the Centre for Plant Science and the Centre for Animal Science. Centre directors are currently working closely with industry, government and other stakeholders to develop strategic plans which will articulate their future research and development directions.

A major goal of QAAFI is to accelerate the transfer of research discoveries made in the laboratory to the farm and supermarket.

“We will be making our scientists more accessible to primary industries and providing more effective links between discovery research at the institute and application in industry. These links need to be made in both directions so that farmers and food producers are providing feedback and advice to our scientists on areas in which they need solutions.

“Working on both sides of the farm gate – in agricultural and food production research – puts QAAFI in a unique position to integrate research so that it has a positive effect on the food sold from the supermarket shelf.”

Agriculture is now facing one its most serious challenges in history – having to double world food production by 2050 to feed the world’s growing population.

“This is an exciting time to be working in agricultural and food research with the biological sciences recording breakthrough discoveries at record rates,” Professor Henry said.

“The range of research being undertaken at QAAFI is extensive, and the institute is already attracting major research funding.”

Thirty-four senior DEEDI scientists have transitioned to QAAFI and by the end of 2010 a total of 100 linked research teams will be in place.

Mr Mulherin said the $6.5 million partnership would further build on current agricultural and food research.

“The Queensland Government’s goal to grow the food and agribusiness sector significantly over the next 10 years will be strengthened by QAAFI’s collective capacity to deliver high-impact research and development outcomes,” Mr Mulherin said.

UQ NEWS

Watch a video of Professor Robert Henry explaining QAAFI's research goals at www.uq.edu.au/news

IN BRIEF

TOP AWARD
The Director of UQ’s Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ) has been honoured by the peak industry body for English language training.

Christine Bundesen received the inaugural English Australia (EA) Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Service to the ELICOS Industry in September.

The award recognises the contribution made by Ms Bundesen to the professionalism and reputation of the ELICOS industry in Australia across three decades.

She established the organisation in 1982, and oversaw its incorporation in 1990 and continued growth to become the industry’s peak body.

CONTINUING CARE
A new multi-million dollar UQ research project aims to improve the quality of care for patients moving between hospitals and community-based care.

The Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Improving Quality and Safety at the Interface between Primary and Secondary Level Care will be established with more than $2.4m from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

UQ Professor of General Practice, Claire Jackson said high-quality care as patients transferred from the primary to secondary sector and back again, was an ongoing concern.

ENTERPRISE 2010
Innovative by name and by nature, Southern Innovation was named winner of Enterprise 2010, UQ Business School’s $100,000 national business planning competition.

The team at Southern Innovation, led by Managing Director David Scoullar and his brother Paul, are commercialising a breakthrough that will dramatically improve the performance of radiation detectors.

The technology involved is a digital pulse processing technique that accelerates the accurate detection and measurement of radiation in numerous industries.

MAKING FOOD HEALTHY

A scientist on a mission to make Queensland food crops the healthiest in the world has joined the team at the newly formed Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI).

An expert in the nutritional benefits of plant-based foods, Professor Mike Gidley, Director of the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences, is leading the assignment to investigate what makes food healthy.

“We know that many fruits, vegetables and grains provide health benefits because of the improvement in health people experience from eating diets rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, but in many cases we do not know what it is about these foods that makes them healthy,” Professor Gidley said.

“We will also be investigating what is the best form in which to eat particular fruit and vegetables.”

IN BRIEF

➔

UQNEWS, DECEMBER 2010  •  19
Found in Fryer

DISCOVER 100 YEARS OF LIBRARY TREASURES IN A NEW PUBLICATION.

Some of Australia’s most prominent authors have contributed to a new book which reveals the literary and historical treasures of UQ’s Fryer Library.

Thomas Keneally, Frank Moorhouse and Janet Turner Hospital are among those whose words appear in Found in Fryer, which details the rare and valuable holdings of the library and the stories behind the items.

“The Centenary created the perfect opportunity to reveal some of UQ’s diverse holdings of rare and artists’ books, manuscripts and literature, art and architecture, history and politics, and theatre,” Executive Manager of the Social Sciences and Humanities Library Roslyn Follett said.

A team of librarians and academics assembled 100 items that best represented Fryer’s most prized collections, the main selection criteria being that they had to be unique, rare, or have an interesting story attached.

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Some authors, whose papers are held in Fryer, have explained how they write,” Ms Follett said.

“Others have told the ‘stories behind the stories’ of UQ’s and Queensland’s history, from palm trees to politics, and music to murder.”

Found in Fryer is available for purchase at the UQ Library and Co-op Bookshop.

INFO ➔ www.library.uq.edu.au/ryer
A gifted UQ music student who commenced piano lessons at four years of age has taken out Australia’s top classical music prize.

Oliver She won the coveted title at the 2010 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards grand final in July after navigating Rachmaninov’s notoriously difficult Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor, Op 30.

The “Rach Three”, as it is colloquially known, featured in the film Shine and has been performed to acclaim by piano virtuosos including Vladimir Horowitz and Van Cliburn.

Mr She competed against fellow UQ student Richard Pollett and Melbourne clarinetist Ashley Smith to follow in the footsteps of previous winners Simon Tedeschi, Diana Doherty and Roger Woodward.

He received a $20,000 cash prize in addition to securing a recital program and concert engagement with a major Australian symphony orchestra.

A third-year piano performance student, Mr She had played the infamous concerto in last year’s Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition final where he drew high praise from Yale University’s Professor Boris Berman.

For this performance, Mr She was accompanied by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra under conductor Marko Letonja.

“My rehearsals meant that I felt well-prepared for my grand final performance,” Mr She said.

“The conductor, Marko Letonja, was very supportive.”

Mr She now shares the honour with his teacher, Max Olding, who took out the award himself almost 60 years ago in 1952.

“Oliver is an extraordinary student with a capacity for focus and concentration that enables him to perform with absolute reliability and conviction,” Mr Olding said.

Head of the School of Music Professor Margaret Barrett congratulated Mr She on his achievements and thanked staff and students for their support.

Now in its 66th year, the Young Performer of the Year Award is the oldest and most prestigious classical music prize in Australia.

The grand final was broadcast on ABC on October 31.

INFO ➔ www. www.abc.net.au/classic/ypa/

PHOTOS show another side to Ipswich

The buildings and grounds of the University’s Ipswich campus are the subject of a new photographic exhibition on show until February.

The Presence of Absence: Images of an Institution by Peter Liddy features 20 black and white gold-toned photographs and is on display at the Ipswich Art Gallery.

UQ commissioned the Brisbane photographer to document the heritage and contemporary buildings and grounds of the campus as part of its Centenary celebrations. The works will also be acquired by The UQ Art Museum.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Ipswich campus Professor Alan Rix said although the campus was just over 10 years old, the site’s fascinating history originated in the 1870s.

“From a place for society’s less fortunate – the mentally ill, the criminally insane, the intellectually handicapped – the site is now a place for those fortunate enough to receive a university education,” Professor Rix said.

“With 17 heritage-listed buildings, several contemporary buildings, many heritage-listed trees and gardens, it was the ideal subject for a photographic essay.”

Ipswich Art Gallery Director Michael Beckmann said Mr Liddy had a keen eye for the form and patterns in buildings and their intervening spaces.

“His images highlight many of the hidden architectural features and give a powerful sense of the buildings and the garden setting of the campus,” he said.

The images include vistas across the campus, close ups of trees and sectional views of red brick work buildings.

“Peter Liddy’s photographic record of the campus will be a lasting tribute to the University of Queensland’s first 100 years and to its commitment to the preservation of a remarkable campus environment,” Professor Rix said.

An accompanying publication is available from the Ipswich Art Gallery and the Co-op Bookshop, with Government Architect Phillip Follent officially opening the exhibition on November 14.
Two UQ students are hoping to script their very own Cool Runnings story – working against the odds (and the weather) to represent Australia at the 2011 World Junior Bobsleigh Championships.

Aaron Simson-Woods and Rob Stewart are training through the Australian summer to wear the green and gold after watching the bobsleigh events at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Mr Simson-Woods remembers first being inspired after watching the four-man event at the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

“It was the speed and the danger of the sport that really appealed to me,” he said.

“I reached a point when watching the Australian bobsleigh team at the 2006 Winter Olympics where I decided that I could do that.”

Both students have been selected in the Australian men's bobsleigh team, and are now training at an industrial estate in Yeronga in the lead up to their departure to North America.

An important piece of the puzzle is missing though – the much-needed sponsorship that would help them achieve their dream to represent Australia at the highest level.

“Bobsleigh is an expensive sport. I am looking at $20,000 for a secondhand two-man sled – that’s something a university student cannot afford,” Mr Simson-Woods said.

There is no federal funding allocated to bobsleigh, which means athletes have to cover all travel, equipment and training costs.

Mr Simson-Woods has already represented Australia, winning second place at the 2010 FIBT bobsleigh driving school in Lake Placid in April.

While there, he was coached by ex-Olympians and was able to slide with some of the best in the sport, including 2010 Vancouver bronze medallist Elena Myers.

Mr Simson-Woods and Mr Stewart are currently in their second years of studying a Bachelor of Human Movements (Exercise and Sports Science).

INFO ➔ 0417 733 106 or aaronsimson@hotmail.com

Winter Olympic dreaming

“The University of Queensland Football Club stole the show at the 2010 Football Brisbane Gala Awards on September 20.

The club won three major awards to cap off one of its most successful seasons to date.

The most prestigious of these awards was Senior Club of the Year, awarded for outstanding performance across all 14 of UQ’s Football Brisbane teams.

UQ also won the Club Champion Award for their dominance of Premier Division 1, while club captain Peter Moore took out the Men’s Division 1 Player of the Year award.

These awards were the latest in a string of successes for UQFC, having recently gained promotion to the Brisbane Premier League for 2011.

UQ’s top side capped off a remarkable season with a 3-1 victory over North Pine in the Premier Division 1 grand final.

Meanwhile the Division 1 Reserves beat Toowoomba 1-0 in their match up.

A further seven UQ teams contested grand final matches, with the Women’s Division 3, Men’s Metro Division 3, Metro Division 6 and Under-21 teams all coming out victorious.

An outstanding 11 of UQ’s 14 Football Brisbane teams reached the finals of their respective divisions this season.

In yet another milestone, the club officially became “The University of Queensland Football Club” in July of this year, finally matching the transition from “soccer” to “football” among national and local bodies.

UQ Sport would like to congratulate UQFC on their achievements this season and wishes all teams the best for the year ahead.

INFO ➔ www.uqsoccer.org.au

PREMIER LEAGUE MATERIAL
EVENTS / NOTICES

• Tuesday, December 14
Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies seminar (What’s Identity Got to Do With it? Cultural Studies of Identity and Media Production in the New Television Economy), Associate Professor Vicki Mayer. 2pm–3pm CCCS seminar room, level 4 Forgan Smith Building, St Lucia. Information: (07) 3346 7407, r.ralph@uq.edu.au

• Monday, December 20
UQ Options Evening. This session will provide you with information about the choices your OP gives you. 4.30pm–7pm UQ Centre, St Lucia. Information: www.youruq.com/options/

• Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Learn about teaching English in Australia and overseas with an internationally recognised CELTA English language teaching certification. 5.30pm–6.30pm, room 212, Sir Llew Edwards Building, St Lucia. Information: (07) 3346 6770, reception.manager@icte.uq.edu.au

• Wednesday, January 12, 2011
Want to make the move from study to a successful accounting career in Australia? Learn more about the ICTE-UQ Skilled Migration Internship Program Accounting (SMIPA). 4pm–5pm, room 212, Sir Llew Edwards Building, St Lucia. Information: (07) 3346 6756, m.best@uq.edu.au

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS*
* Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics. Please send listings to: penny.robinson@uq.edu.au

• Accommodation wanted: Academic couple visiting UQ on study leave seeking furnished rental from Jan–June. Contact: jonell@umces.edu

SCHOLARSHIPS

• Constantine Aspromourgos Scholarship
Open to students undertaking a postgraduate program involving Greek studies. Closing: March 25, 2011. Worth: $3950. Information: arts@uq.edu.au or (07) 3365 1333

• Queensland Freemasons’ Scholarship
Awarded on basis of highest cumulative GPA in the current program. Preference given to Freemasons, and sons and daughters of Freemasons. Closing: March 2, 2011. Worth: $1000. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or 3365 1984

• George Essex Evans Scholarship
Open to students undertaking an honours program in English literature or drama. Closing: March 11, 2011. Worth: approximately $1600. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or 3365 1984

• Clem Jones and E.W. (Ted) Jones Scholarship in Mathematics
Open to domestic students who graduated from Ipswich Grammar School in the year prior and are pursuing studies relating to mathematics. Closing: April, 2011. Worth: approximately $2500. Information: (07) 3381 1068

UQ NEWS DEADLINES

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

100 YEARS OF UQ RUGBY

The 2010 Premier Grade grand final scoreline of 19-11 resonated strongly among the UQ Rugby Club’s historians.

1911 was in fact the year the club was established – an event that will be honoured through a series of centenary celebrations next year.

UQ Rugby Club General Manager David Enfantie said the grand final win would make next year even more special for the club.

“I think the fact that we’ve had a really successful year will really cause a swell of old boys to come back and reengage with the club,” Mr Enfantie said.

“Obviously the Centenary year is very significant, and we’re hoping that having a team that’s so successful and so exciting to watch will add to that significance,” he said.

Mr Enfantie said the club hoped to continue its dominance of Queensland rugby throughout 2011.

“We’re looking to make it back-to-back wins for Premier Grade, and also to go back-to-back with the Doughty Shield,” he said.

The Doughty Shield is awarded each season to the most successful club across all grades. UQ was the obvious choice in 2010, with eight of its 12 teams making the finals. Mr Enfantie said despite the great season, there was room for improvement next year.

“After getting so many teams through to the finals, only two walked away with premierships,” he said.

“But the experience will do us well and we obviously want to learn from that and get a few more teams to premiership status next year.”

The UQ Rugby Club will not be alone in honouring its Centenary next year. UQ Sport, the UQ Cricket Club, UQ Boat Club and UQ Tennis Club will also celebrate such anniversaries in 2011.

INFO ➔ www.uqrugby.com
The University of Queensland Art Museum has played host to a remarkable touring exhibition of Sidney Nolan’s Gallipoli paintings.

On show until November 14, the exhibition showcased 80 Nolan pieces drawn from the Australian War Memorial’s collection, which were 20 years in the making and underpinned by personal tragedy.

“Sidney Nolan: the Gallipoli series constitutes a personal and public interpretation of a campaign that cost so many Australian lives,” Acting Director of the UQ Art Museum Michele Helmrich said.

“Nolan donated this collection to the Memorial in 1978 in memory of his soldier brother, who died in a tragic accident just before the end of World War II.

“This exhibition offers visitors the opportunity to view these striking works, which are on display together for the first time in 30 years.”

One of Australia’s most innovative and prolific artists, Nolan was born two years after the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915, and said the events of World War I permeated his life as he grew up in the suburbs of Melbourne.

It was not until he was living on the Greek island of Hydra in the mid-1950s however, that he started to explore the idea of a series of works with a military and heroic theme.

He made a one-day visit to Gallipoli and was profoundly moved by the place that had seen so much bloodshed.

Included in the exhibition are iconic works Kenneth (1958) and Soldier, Arthur Boyd (1959), in addition to a group of large, vibrantly coloured portrait heads painted in the late 1970s.

In conjunction with the UQ showing, Dr Nancy Underhill, Foundation Head of UQ’s Department of Art History and a prominent Nolan scholar, delivered a public lecture on November 11.

The event explored the personal references in Nolan’s work, as well as the sources and travel experiences on which he drew when making the Gallipoli paintings.

Sidney Nolan: the Gallipoli series will next be on display at the Cairns Regional Gallery.

INFO ➔ www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions

Clockwise from main image: Kenneth (1958), Head of a Gallipoli soldier (1977) and Head of Gallipoli soldier in pink and gold (1977). Images courtesy of the Australian War Memorial