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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Drop in on an “average” undergraduate tutorial in a good (but not Ivy League) United States university and you are likely to find about 12–16 students. Try doing the same in an Australian university, and expect to see from 25 to 35.

The ratio of teachers to students is just one indicator of the quality of students’ experience, but it at least gives a reasonably objective measure that can be tracked over an extended period, and also permits international comparisons.

Bluntly, the picture is not good for Australia. A chart of student/staff ratios over almost two decades from 1990 shows a blow-out from about 13:1 to more than 20:1. Not coincidentally, this paralleled a decline in per-student government funding for universities, and a slump in public investment relative to many competitor nations.

Student/staff ratios are not statistical esoterica. They can impact on such student experience essentials as access to teachers, time lapses between assessment and feedback, and even academic results and award completion.

Increasingly, they also influence Australia’s global reputation. The high-profile QS World University rankings place considerable weight on student/staff ratios, and other measures. These include grants for researchers to extend their teaching contributions, more support for overseas student exchanges and better industry dialogue to boost internships. Various teaching positions funded by industry have also helped.

There are signs that this is paying dividends to students. More than 4600 UQ undergraduates responded to the AUSSE in 2010, when six of the criteria were the same as 2007. Encouragingly, the feedback on these was more positive in 2010 than four years earlier.

Further improvements are essential. The new UQ Advantage Award – to formally recognise student involvement in activities like summer research and volunteering – is UQ’s own initiative, and partnerships with employers, philanthropists and the broader community enable ongoing enrichment of student opportunities.

However there are limits to what is achievable without sustained funding that will give universities a fighting chance in the global arena.

In a welcome development, the Federal Government is reviewing base funding, with a view to feeding the results into its 2012 budget deliberations. It is axiomatic the budget will be tight, but universities’ competitive strength (or weakness) will help make or break the future Australia.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
**Shortcuts**

**Navigating Numbers**

For up to five percent of the population, checking the time, counting change at the cash register or practically anything else to do with numbers can be a nightmare.

However, leading research into the specific learning disability called developmental dyscalculia, dubbed “number blindness”, shows that being unable to put two and two together is down to biology – not poor education, low intelligence or lack of effort.

Dyscalculia was the topic of a free public lecture hosted by the Queensland Brain Institute and UQ’s School of Psychology last month. The lecture, “The Science of Failing to Learn Arithmetic”, was presented by one of the world’s great maths evangelists and author of *The Mathematical Brain* – Professor Brian Butterworth from the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London.

According to Professor Butterworth, dyscalculia is at least as prevalent as dyslexia, or “word blindness”, and possibly more disruptive to life outcomes.

However, the hidden nature of the disorder means it remains little-recognised and poorly understood.

“It affects approximately three to six percent of the school-aged population, so that means one child in each class is probably going to be dyscalculic on average,” Professor Butterworth said.

“Recent research has identified differences in the brains of dyscalculic learners, suggesting there is a core deficit in the ability to represent even very simple number concepts.”

Professor Butterworth has developed a program that offers an opportunity to help sufferers learn maths using structured teaching and adaptive software.

**Grape Liver Link**

A nutrient found in grape skin could hold the key to better managing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

UQ Diamantina Institute PhD student Veronique Chachay from France is currently recruiting people to participate in an eight-week clinical trial to assist her research in the area.

Resveratrol (RSV), an antioxidant nutrient found in about 300 plants including grape skin, peanuts and berries, has been found to benefit degenerative and ageing diseases.

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**Data Safe at UQ**

UQ has been appointed lead agent for the Australian Government’s $50 million Research Data Storage Infrastructure (RDSI) project.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu said the University was delighted to be overseeing such a significant project.

“This is an exciting initiative for research in Australia that complements several other programs,” Professor Lu said.

The RDSI project aims to develop a national network of a limited number of distributed data stores where research can be readily accessed, analysed and re-used, and to support the retention and integration of nationally significant data assets.

The project intends to:

- Identify, strengthen and develop research data centres, or nodes, that can hold and process high data volumes;
- Identify research data holdings of lasting value and importance and contribute funding to their development at the most appropriate nodes; and
- Provide the widest possible range of general data sharing and movement infrastructure suitable for data-intensive research activities.

Dr Nick Tate, who was previously Associate Director of the Australian Research Collaboration Service, has been appointed Project Director.

“The project’s goal is to develop a coherent and integrated national research data environment, building on the strengths of different providers,” Dr Tate said.

“It aims to ensure a co-ordinated and collaborative use of these resources that will support enhanced research outcomes through greater access to, and sharing of, research data.”

Dr Tate said consultations would continue during the first half of 2011.

**Healing Honey**

Honey sourced from an Australian native myrtle tree has been found to have the most powerful anti-bacterial properties of any honey in the world and could be used to treat antibiotic-resistant infections that commonly occur in hospitals and nursing homes.

A Brisbane-based research group found the honey has very high levels of the anti-bacterial compound Methylglyoxal (MGO), and outperforms all medicinal honeys currently available on the market.

Led by the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), which is a partnership between The University of Queensland and the Queensland Government’s Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), the research is being carried out in conjunction with The Australian Organic Honey Company & Medi Bioactive Australia.

The project has involved comprehensive trials with honey harvested from a native species of myrtle (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*), which is distributed along the Australian eastern seaboard from the south coast of NSW to Cape York.

CEO of The Australian Organic Honey Company & Medi Bioactive Australia, Carolyn MacGill, said the findings had shown anti-bacterial potency levels that could allow for the development of highly effective anti-bacterial treatments.

Chief researcher, QAAFI scientist Dr Yasmina Sultanbawa, said the potency of the honey’s meant only a small amount was required to fight infections such as Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

“The sheer strength, due to high levels of active compounds, has meant that we have been able to completely inhibit MRSA for example in in-vitro studies with a relatively small quantity of the honey,” Dr Sultanbawa said.

“This means potential products could maintain significant levels of anti-bacterial activity even in surface wounds where the honey is diluted in the bed of the infection.

“The presence of MRSA in a wound is a matter of concern and MRSA-colonised wounds are an increasingly urgent problem in hospitals and nursing homes.”
FUTURE FOCUSED ENERGY

Achieving a five percent cut in carbon emissions by 2020 is unlikely due to Australia’s lack of alternative energy sources, a UQ expert has warned.

Dr Colin Hunt will discuss his research on the issue at a public lecture this month.

Dr Hunt said even the modest 2020 carbon reduction targets would require all new energy, as well as over half of the energy now supplied by heavily polluting coal, to come from non-polluting renewable sources.

“A problem is that the promising sources of base-load electricity such as solar thermal, hot rocks and capturing and storing carbon dioxide from coal-burning power stations are very unlikely to be ready for adoption on a meaningful scale by 2020. In fact, it is more likely to be 2040 before such new technologies are capable of widespread adoption,” Dr Hunt said.

TOP BRAIN BEES CROWNED

A Canberra high school student has been crowned this year’s Australian Brain Bee (ABBC) champion in a battle of neuroscience knowledge in Auckland.

Representing Canberra Grammar School and Narrabundah College, Ben Thompson outsmarted more than 4,400 competitors from across Australia to take out the title last month.

In the national final, he competed against seven other state winners in a brain-teasing anatomy exam, patient diagnosis and a neuroscience quiz in front of a live audience.

NSW finalist Wasiul Hoque of Baulkham Hills High School was the Australian runner-up.

Created by UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), the Australian Brain Bee Challenge is designed to test the best and brightest high school students, while also giving them unprecedented access to world-renowned neuroscience facilities and researchers.

However, the hard work does not stop here for Mr Thompson. He will now travel to Florence in Italy for the International Brain Bee Challenge in July.

ABBC national organiser and QBI Professor Linda Richards said Mr Thompson’s win demonstrated his talent and passion for neuroscience.

“We’re very proud of him to be representing Australia at the international level,” Professor Richards said.

INFO → www.qbi.uq.edu.au/brain-bee

MANAGING OUR MINES

UQ research is identifying ways Queensland mines can better respond to environmental challenges such as those posed by the recent floods.

The state’s coal mines were particularly hard hit during the disaster, with just 15 percent of sites fully operational following the flooding. Sixteen mines were forced to discharge floodwaters into the Fitzroy River catchment outside of their normal environmental agreements.

Dr Daniel Franks, a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining within UQ’s Sustainable Minerals Institute, said a coordinated effort was needed to minimise environmental impacts.

“Emptying flooded mines can present as big a challenge as having them filled,” Dr Franks said.

“The longer flood waters remain in the mine pit the more time they have to collect natural salts. Moreover as rivers subside they become more sensitive to the discharge as the discharge represents a greater proportion of the river’s volume.”

The SMI will host a three-day workshop, “Understanding and Managing Cumulative Impacts in Resource Regions”, from March 28–30. The event follows the recent publication of the SMI’s Good Practice Guide on Cumulative Impacts which was launched in November.
STAFF LEADERS RECOGNISED

UQ acknowledged the exceptional contributions of its professional staff at an annual awards ceremony at St Lucia in February.

Winners of the Chancellor’s Award for Individual Excellence were Joanne Hopper and Kay Ollet, while Heather Todd was honoured with the UQ Leadership Award.

Ms Hopper is the office manager of the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies, and successfully oversaw the implementation of the Brisbane Universities Languages Hub (a major collaboration with Griffith University and QUT).

A former long-serving staff member within the Property & Facilities Division, Ms Ollet’s achievements include the development of the new UQ sustainability website which was launched last year.

Ms Todd received her award for leading the University’s Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) submission, which involved 240 staff and the streaming of several complex systems.

As featured in the February edition of UQ News, the University was rated in the ERA exercise as one of Australia’s finest research institutions, with more fields of research “well above” or “above” world standard than any other university.

Fourteen teams from across UQ were also nominated for a new award, with two named joint winners.

The Faculty of Business, Economics and Law’s international relations unit were recognised for their impressive results during a tough time for international recruitment, and for fostering links with more than 70 overseas institutions.

Also in the spotlight were the achievements of UQ’s Outdoor Wireless team, whose planning had seen UQ become one of the nation’s best-performing universities in this regard, with 100 wireless Internet access points installed across the four campuses.

Chancellor Mr John Story and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield congratulated all the nominees, and thanked staff who took the time to nominate their colleagues.

The Chancellor’s Awards were presented for the first time last year in response to feedback from the 2008 Staff Engagement Survey.

Entries for the 2012 awards will open during the second half of the year.

Honouring high-achieving graduates

An outstanding group of UQ graduates have been recognised with the Dean’s Award for Research Higher Degree Excellence.

Introduced in 1998 by the UQ Graduate School, these awards formally acknowledge PhD and MPhil graduates who receive unanimous commendations from their external examiners and advisors for a substantial contribution to their field of research.

Dean of the Graduate School Professor Zlatko Skrbis said no more than 10 percent of research higher degree graduates were recognised in this way each year.

“These students represent some of UQ’s best, brightest and most promising RHD graduates,” Professor Skrbis said.

One of the 2010 recipients, Dr David Liu, said his research experience at UQ had been incredibly gratifying.

“My project concerned patient monitoring in anaesthesia and turned out to be fascinating, challenging and amazingly rewarding,” Dr Liu said.

“When I first started, I thought that the process would be relatively unexciting, but soon discovered that Australian programs are actually remarkably flexible. In fact, advisors and staff at UQ are always willing to help you enrich your education.

“This enrichment involves activities that provide complementary educational experiences to help you become a better scientist. This has definitely contributed to me having now received a Dean’s Award for Excellence.”

Fellow recipient and Three Minute Thesis competition runner-up Dr Ashley Wilkinson (pictured) said she was extremely flattered to be among the awardees.

“My RHD experience has been invaluable for my current research work at the Princess Alexandra Hospital,” Dr Wilkinson said.

“I’ve learned specific techniques that I can use for my research. I’ve also gained confidence and skills in giving presentations, multi-tasking, undertaking literature reviews and analysing research results.”

Dr Wilkinson works in the Centre for Kidney Disease Research at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, and Dr Liu is completing a Master of Science (Statistics) with plans to begin medical school and combine clinical practice with research.

For more information about research higher degree opportunities at The University of Queensland, contact the UQ Advantage team.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/grad-school, uqadvantage@gradschool.uq.edu.au
RESEARCH BOOST

The University of Queensland’s position as a world-leading research organisation has been boosted with $131 million in annual federal funding announced in February.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu said the funding would help UQ to sustain and advance its world-class research agenda.

“The allocation reflects UQ’s position as one of Australia’s top research institutions. The Federal Government’s 2010 Excellence in Research for Australia assessment, released in January, confirmed the quality and breadth of UQ’s research and places it amongst the top two universities in the nation,” Professor Lu said.

With more than 6300 staff and an annual budget of approximately $1.4 billion, UQ is one of Queensland’s largest employers and a significant economic force in the state. It attracts more than $300 million in research income each year. UQ received the third-largest allocation of the 2011 Research Block Grants awarded to 41 Australian universities.

The Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, announced the $1.5 billion package last month.

The $131 million awarded to UQ was distributed across seven schemes including $65 million to support research training for students and $17.5 million for 296 new Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) places – an increase of 29 places from the 2010 allocation.

UQ’s funding was third only to the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney. Overall, UQ received almost 60 percent of the $227 million allocated to Queensland universities.

“This new funding will help to further UQ’s research in vital areas such as health, humanities, economics, agriculture, water and food security, climate, biofuels and space exploration technology,” Professor Lu said.

The Dean of UQ’s Graduate School, Professor Zlatko Skrbis, said the increased allocation of APA places aligned with the University’s strategic goal of further building and strengthening its research higher degree activities and reflected UQ’s dedication to excellence in research training.

INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE

UQ has confirmed its place among the best institutions globally by being ranked as one of the world’s top 100 most reputable universities.

The Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2011, which were published this month, lists four Australian universities – UQ, the University of Melbourne, University of Sydney and the Australian National University – in its top 100. The top ranked university for reputation was Harvard University.

The rankings were sourced from a survey of more than 13,000 academics from 131 countries who nominated universities as being the best in their field in teaching and research.

This is the first time the reputation ranking has been published separately, using data extracted from the annual Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

UQ was listed between 81–90 for reputation. This correlates with the 81st ranking awarded to UQ in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2010–2011 released last September – putting UQ among the top one percent of more than 8000 international universities.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the latest ranking was a credit to UQ staff, students and alumni.

“Present and past staff and students have built this reputation by excelling in scholarship, research, and contributions to their national communities and to global society,” he said.

“It indicates broad international recognition of UQ – and that is a gift-edged asset for graduates, and for current and future students.

“Being one of the world’s 90 most reputable universities gives UQ a solid foundation for continuing improvement.”

UQ ranked among the top 18 universities in the Asia-Pacific region and 108th worldwide in the 2010 Academic Rankings of World Universities study conducted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University. UQ was also ranked 43rd in the top 200 QS World University Rankings in 2010.

INFO ➔ www.timeshighereducation.co.uk

A TOP POST-DOC DESTINATION

Readers of The Scientist magazine have rated UQ among the top five places in the world for post-doctoral work in life sciences, outside the USA.

The University was the only institution from the southern hemisphere to make it into the top 10 international institutions list.

University College London ranked at number one, followed by Novartis International (multinational), the Biotechnology Centre at the Technische Universität Dresden, the Max Planck Institute (both in Germany) and UQ.

UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), Professor Alan Lawson, said the survey reflected the increased recognition of UQ as a leading global research institution.

“UQ’s focus on building interdisciplinary research capability and strong partnerships with top global research organisations is reflected in The Scientist’s survey results,” Professor Lawson said.

“UQ is already playing a leading role in research on the world stage, and it continues to make significant progress in its 20-year goal of shifting the University’s focus even more strongly towards discovery.”

A separate study published in The Scientist last July – the Best Places to Work in Academia 2010 survey – named UQ as the number one international academic institution outside the USA.

Jef Akst, associate editor of The Scientist, said the post-doc survey drew 2881 responses from readers who identified themselves as non-tenured life scientists working in academia, industry, or non-commercial research institutions.

“The post-doctoral years are critical in any budding scientist’s career, and this year’s survey showed that striking the fine balance between independence and guidance is important to a successful post-doc experience,” Ms Akst said.

Later this year, UQ will launch a unique PhD program which will allow for a more multi-faceted experience. Underpinned by the principles of opportunity and choice, the new RHD Advantage model will harness UQ’s reputation and strengths to provide innovative training modules.
FRAZER TO LEAD NEW INSTITUTE

The world-renowned co-inventor of the cervical cancer vaccine, Professor Ian Frazer, has been appointed Chief Executive of the new $345 million Translational Research Institute (TRI).

Professor Frazer (pictured) has been a researcher and academic at The University of Queensland since 1985, and Director of UQ’s Diamantina Institute (UQDI) since 1997. He was Australian of the Year in 2006 and has won numerous national and international awards.

Alongside his new role, Professor Frazer will continue to lead a large and important UQDI research group.

Professor Matt Brown, an internationally recognised researcher into auto-immune diseases, has been appointed interim Director of the UQDI, and will move into the role in April.

When the TRI opens in Brisbane next year, it will be the largest institute of its type in the southern hemisphere — and one of only a handful worldwide that can research, trial treatments and manufacture breakthrough drugs in one location.

The TRI will accommodate up to 650 researchers from its four partners: The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Mater Medical Research Institute and the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

“There are a number of pressing human health issues in the world such as diabetes, cervical and prostate cancer, melanoma and obesity, and I am proud to be leading TRI in researching and developing treatments for these diseases,” Professor Frazer said.

“Importantly, patients, the Australian economy and our medical industry will all benefit from TRI’s ability to manufacture and commercialise these treatments.

“Too often, Australia loses promising medical scientists to overseas institutions as we are currently not able to support the development of new medical treatments and their translation from research to clinical practice.

“If the TRI and its manufacturing capabilities had been established at the time of the development of the cervical cancer vaccine, much more of the economic benefit from its $5 billion-plus of worldwide sales would have returned to Australia.”

THE WORK OF A UQ NEUROSCIENTIST HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE NATION’S PEAK MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING BODY.

Queensland Brain Institute Director Professor Perry Bartlett has been honoured in a new publication highlighting the life-saving work conducted by Australia’s top researchers.

Professor Bartlett (pictured), has been profiled by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for his research into the regulation of neural cell production in the normal and diseased brain.

The NHMRC’s 10 of the Best Research Projects 2010 was launched last month by the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

The publication profiles diverse areas of internationally recognised medical research that have led to changes in treatment and practice to improve health outcomes and save lives.

Almost 20 years ago, Professor Bartlett helped uncover the fact that even ageing adult brains continue to grow new nerve cells.

Since then, he has focused on exploring the ways in which the brain remodels itself through the production of new nerve cells, and the formation of new connections between these cells.

Such processes are crucial not only to normal brain function, but to repair the damage caused by stroke and dementia.

The NHMRC invests $700 million annually in health and medical research and the publication demonstrates the benefits resulting from this critical public investment.

In the latest round of NHMRC Development Grants, Professor Bartlett’s research into the development of therapeutic treatments for spinal cord injuries also received $663,390 – the single largest grant in Australia.

Mr Butler said the project was among 18 that would allow successful researchers to take the next steps in translating their findings into products of benefit to the international community.

INFO ➔ www.nhmrc.gov.au

NEW DEAN FOR ARTS FACULTY

A leading Australian humanities researcher with North American experience has been appointed the new Faculty of Arts Executive Dean, Professor Nancy Wright (pictured), who joined UQ in January, has managerial responsibilities for the faculty’s four schools, three research centres, and various other research and teaching units.

Professor Wright will manage the Bachelor of Arts degree, which offers nearly 50 majors across all six faculties of the University.

Professor Wright joins UQ from the the University of Western Sydney (UWS) where she was Deputy Dean of the College of Arts and Head of the School of Humanities and Languages. Prior to her appointment at UWS, Professor Wright held positions at the University of Newcastle and at Yale University.

She has been Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Western Ontario (Canada) and the University of Florida-Gainesville.

She has held fellowships at international research centres including the Humanities Research Centre (ANU), the Huntington Library (USA), the John Carter Brown Library (USA) and the Centre for the Study of Religion and Society (Canada).

Professor Wright recently completed a major project funded by the Australian Research Council about ideas of ownership and authorship held by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, collaborating on film and literature from 1980 to 2005.
INDIGENOUS PRIDE FLYING HIGH

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are flying permanently at UQ, representing the University’s support of Indigenous cultures. The flag ceremony was a highlight of Orientation Week in February, and included a Welcome to Country and performances by Indigenous dancers. Acting Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit Dr Col Dillon said although the flags had been flown before, this was the first time they would be permanently displayed at St Lucia.

“This is a historic event and provides very powerful symbolism to staff, students and visitors about the University’s commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and that the University is doing its part in closing the gap,” Dr Dillon said.

“It provides our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students now and in the future with a sense of belonging which these flags represent. More particularly, it is a formal recognition by the University that the land on which the University sits is land for which the nation’s first people provided custodianship.”

Dr Dillon said international students would have no doubts about the important role that the first peoples played in Australian society after noting the pride of place allocated to the flags.

UQ has erected additional staffs on the Forgan Smith Tower to simultaneously accommodate the Australian National Flag, the Queensland Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag, the Torres Strait Islander Flag and the UQ banner.

Respecting our first peoples: guests watch as the flags are raised, and Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers perform as part of the ceremony

The flag raising ceremony was arranged by UQ’s Office of Protocol. For more information about the office and their involvement with high-profile UQ events, please visit their new website – www.uq.edu.au/protocol

Employment commitment

UQ has signaled its continuing commitment to recruit and retain Indigenous staff by signing the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC). Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Keniger, who is also the Chair of the University’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Steering Committee (ATSIESC), signed the agreement on December 15.

The AEC is a national program which promotes the development of 50,000 new jobs for Indigenous Australians.

“I think the covenant will put us on the map and display the commitment from the top in terms of the University reaching their target,” UQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment Coordinator Tracey Pickwick said.

Since 2008, Ms Pickwick and the ATSIESC team have successfully increased the number of casual Indigenous employees by 600 percent (from eight to 48) and more than doubled the number of continuing and fixed term contract Indigenous staff to 48.

Ms Pickwick said part of the process involved implementing culturally appropriate training programs and professional advancement opportunities.

Russell Lingwoodock was hired as a casual employee three years ago and has since completed a business certificate and secured a permanent role with UQ’s Advancement Office.

The Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences is another early success story, having recently employed five Indigenous business administration trainees and additional academic and professional staff members.

Ms Pickwick encouraged those interested in finding out more to contact her at t.pickwick@uq.edu.au
A UQ postgraduate has swapped St Lucia for New York after starting a coveted internship with the United Nations.

Final semester Master of Environmental Management student Cole Gainer is finishing his studies while working in the UN’s Department of Economic and Social Development.

Mr Gainer, originally from New Orleans, said his time at UQ had been a great preparation for the internship.

“My environmental problem solving course did a fantastic job because the reports I am working on mirror the assignments we completed in class,” he said.

Mr Gainer is currently working on projects which look at climate change and managing water scarcity and drought in post-conflict countries. One event he is particularly excited about is the upcoming UN conference on sustainable development, Rio+20, to be held next year in Brazil.

“I’ve started helping with the identification of potential donors and I’m really looking forward to following the whole process of a project of this scale,” he said.

Mr Cole’s journey to the headquarters of international diplomacy began after taking an elective course in environmental studies as an undergraduate, in addition to personal experiences with climate change.

“That class made me realise that the future of the planet was ultimately going to be way more important than most other professions I had been preparing for,” he said.

After mastering evacuation tactics through five seasons of New Orleans hurricanes, Mr Gainer sought refuge in Seattle to work for an environmental consulting firm, only to encounter more rain. On a 2010 trip through South America he was one of hundreds of tourists stranded at Machu Picchu by mudslides and made headlines by being the first person to make the 10-hour hike out of the jungle.

Deciding he needed a change of scenery and weather, Mr Gainer thought the environmental management program at UQ seemed the perfect fit. It proved to be a wise move, with his studies in Brisbane preparing him well for life in New York.

“My international regulatory frameworks class was like a UN internship crash course. It introduced me to a majority of the treaties, conventions, and concepts that every environmental management graduate should know,” Mr Gainer said.

The internship will also provide valuable opportunities to travel.

“I will hopefully be going to Liberia in the next couple of months for a training workshop that I am helping develop within a sustainable development principles project,” he said.

Following the internship Mr Gainer would like to stay in New York and seek a permanent position in the field.

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“That class made me realise that the future of the planet was ultimately going to be way more important than most other professions I had been preparing for,” he said.

After mastering evacuation tactics through five seasons of New Orleans hurricanes, Mr Gainer sought refuge in Seattle to work for an environmental consulting firm, only to encounter more rain. On a 2010 trip through South America he was one of hundreds of tourists stranded at Machu Picchu by mudslides and made headlines by being the first person to make the 10-hour hike out of the jungle.

Deciding he needed a change of scenery and weather, Mr Gainer thought the environmental management program at UQ seemed the perfect fit. It proved to be a wise move, with his studies in Brisbane preparing him well for life in New York.

“My international regulatory frameworks class was like a UN internship crash course. It introduced me to a majority of the treaties, conventions, and concepts that every environmental management graduate should know,” Mr Gainer said.

The internship will also provide valuable opportunities to travel.

“I will hopefully be going to Liberia in the next couple of months for a training workshop that I am helping develop within a sustainable development principles project,” he said.

Following the internship Mr Gainer would like to stay in New York and seek a permanent position in the field.

Mr Gainer, originally from New Orleans, said his time at UQ had been a great preparation for the internship.

“My environmental problem solving course did a fantastic job because the reports I am working on mirror the assignments we completed in class,” he said.

Mr Gainer is currently working on projects which look at climate change and managing water scarcity and drought in post-conflict countries. One event he is particularly excited about is the upcoming UN conference on sustainable development, Rio+20, to be held next year in Brazil.

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SUPPORTING YOUNG ACHIEVERS

Generous donations will help more than 80 deserving secondary students from schools across Queensland and northern New South Wales to pursue a tertiary education.

The group of Year 11 students, all of whom have experienced educational disadvantage, are part of the UQ Young Achievers Program and recently attended a two-day welcome camp at St Lucia (pictured).

They will receive financial and mentoring support throughout their senior schooling and have been guaranteed a place and scholarship at UQ when they complete their Year 12 studies.

Now in its second year, the Young Achievers Program aims to build the tertiary aspirations of students who may not, without this assistance, have considered university.

The students come from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and many are from rural areas. Also, the majority of students will be the first in their immediate family to study at university.

One hundred and seventy educationally disadvantaged students in years 11 and 12 are now participating in the program.

Director of UQ’s Office of Prospective Students, Scholarships and Student Equity Margaret Fairman said the program focused on building the students’ educational ambitions by providing opportunities for social development, academic enrichment and personal growth.

The Young Achievers will receive $1000 annually to support them through Years 11 and 12, and those who transition to UQ will receive $6000 per year for up to four years.

An integral and unique part of the program is a community project that every student undertakes,” Ms Fairman said.

“This is designed to encourage a sense of civic responsibility in the UQ Young Achievers and we hope that as a result they will become role models who can inspire others.”

This year’s 88-strong Year 11 cohort represents 28 schools from as far north as Weipa to as far south as Woodenbong in northern NSW.

The Young Achievers Program was established in 2009 with the financial support of UQ alumnus Andrew Brice, co-founder of Wotif.com. It is co-funded by UQ, with assistance from generous University donors.

“We hope the positive educational outcomes for these students will inspire many other organisations and philanthropic individuals to support the Young Achievers Program,” Ms Fairman said.

INFO → To find out how you can support the program, contact (07) 3346 7704 or m.fairman@uq.edu.au

LEGAL AMBITIONS

Miles State High School student Liqa Dejport has a strong track record of winning family disputes, which she feels should help her succeed in her dream job.

“I’d like to do a Bachelor of Laws because I’m interested in how the law works, and I’m quite good at winning arguments with my brother and sister,” she said.

Ms Dejport (pictured) is now one step closer to studying a law degree, having been selected for the UQ Young Achievers Program.

Born in South Africa, Ms Dejport moved to Australia in 2008 as her parents wanted to provide more educational opportunities for their three children.

Ms Dejport said being a Young Achiever was a significant personal and family achievement.

“I was absolutely ecstatic when I found out I had been selected for the program. It takes a big load off my parents’ shoulders,” she said.

“With the help of the student mentors and the experience of the camp, I am starting to get an understanding of what to expect at university and how to apply for my degree.”

As a keen hockey player, Ms Dejport is looking forward to representing UQ in her favourite sport when she begins studies in 2013.

INFO → www.uq.edu.au/youngachievers

VC’S SCHOLARSHIPS HELP STUDENTS PLAN THEIR DREAMS

Despite the floods delaying his move to Brisbane, former Lockyer District State High School student Callum Mason is excited about beginning his studies after receiving a prestigious UQ Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship.

Around 200 high school graduates joined Mr Mason at a formal ceremony at UQ’s St Lucia campus last month to accept their scholarships for academic excellence.

Of this group, 24 students were awarded UQ Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships, which are valued at $12,000 a year for up to five years, and awarded to applicants who achieved a result that places them at the very top of the OP1/ equivalent band.

Mr Mason, who is studying a dual degree in economics and science, had plans to move from Gatton in late 2010.

However, the January floods meant Mr Mason was only able to move into his St Lucia accommodation shortly before classes started.

He said being awarded the scholarship was a major personal achievement.

“I was elated when I found out I got the scholarship. I called all my family and friends to let them know,” Mr Mason said.

“It’s a challenge to move out of home, but I’ve always wanted to get my degree straight after leaving school and the scholarship from UQ has made this possible.”

Rebecca Seckington, who attended high school at Somerville House, shared Mr Mason’s excitement and said her Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship would help realise her dream of becoming a doctor.

“As a child I would sometimes spend time at the pharmacy where Mum worked and I believe this sparked my interest in health and medicine,” Ms Seckington said.

“I’m still unsure of what area of medicine I’d like to specialise in, but for now I’m looking forward to starting my studies and seeing what the University has to offer.”

An elite table tennis player who has represented Queensland and Australia, Ms Seckington said she was excited about playing at UQ, with the aim of representing the University at the Australian and World University Games.
UQ started the 2011 academic year with a bang, with more than 11,000 new students – including 3000 international students – welcomed during Orientation Week in February.

Market days at St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton were event highlights, with thousands turning up to enjoy the free entertainment and join a range of clubs and societies.

Student Centre Manager Ken Aberdeen said Market Day had allowed students to get a feel for the cultural and social aspects of student life.

“There are approximately 200 clubs for students to join,” Mr Aberdeen said.

“One-hundred-and-twenty of those are from the Student Union and the remainder are from UQ Sport, so there’s a wide variety of interests catered for and healthy lifestyle options thrown into the mix.”

Orientation is aimed at easing the transition to university, and enables students to explore the sporting, cultural and support services on offer.

“It’s about orienting students to the UQ community and the life of the University,” Mr Aberdeen said.

Students who were unable to attend O-Week can still take advantage of the support services and social opportunities UQ offers.

“The University focuses on orientation and transition, so if students have missed anything that happened during O-Week, these services are repeated throughout semester,” he said.
UQ launches mobile maps app

TWO STUDENTS HAVE PUT THEIR IT SKILLS TO GOOD USE, DEVELOPING AN APPLICATION THAT EASES THE STRESS OF NAVIGATING UQ’S CAMPUSES.

Finding your way around The University of Queensland has never been easier, thanks to a new, student-developed iPhone application.

During Orientation Week, the University launched UQnav – a free application that contains searchable maps of UQ’s campuses.

UQnav is the first in a series of easy-to-use mobile phone applications which will be rolled out by the University over the coming months.

Students, staff and visitors can use UQnav to find lecture theatres and laboratories, as well as where to grab a coffee, the closest bank and nearest public transport stop.

The built-in favourites functionality allows users to bookmark the locations they visit most frequently, and they can also email a Google Maps link to people who don’t have an iPhone.

An android version of UQnav is currently in development and will be available in April.

Aaron McDowall and Kim Hunter – both UQ Bachelor of Information Technology students – developed the application as part of assessment for the subject Special Topics in Computer Science (COMP3000) in 2010.

“I actually came up with the idea after downloading the UQ maps in PDF form on to my phone,” Mr Hunter said.

Both said that COMP3000 had been one of their favourite subjects, and that the opportunity to work on a project from pitch to launch had been invaluable.

“The subject really gives you that practical experience and a taste of what professional developers do,” Mr McDowall said.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Deborah Terry said she was pleased UQ had been able to harness the expertise of its students to deliver a useful, well-designed iPhone application.

“Developing a maps application was something we had been considering, so we were very interested to find out that one was being created by students in the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering,” Professor Terry said.

“It’s fantastic that two of our students have used their newly acquired skills in mobile application development to create a product of benefit to the wider University community.

“We were able to purchase the application from the students, and also employ them for several months to tweak the product in time for the Orientation Week launch.”

And the experience hasn’t only been a positive one for the University; Mr Hunter is currently deciding between job offers.

INFO ➔ Download at www.uq.edu.au/uqnav or at the iPhone App Store
Present this coupon along with your student ID when you first visit Centenary Mazda. Then, when you’ve purchased your car from us, we’ll give you a $500* Fuel voucher.

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Centenary Mazda
135 Moggill Road, Taringa

Offer ends June 30, 2011.
When activist and former University of Queensland academic Merle Thornton chained herself to the bar at the Regatta Hotel in the mid-60s, it was a landmark moment for women’s rights in Australia. Four decades later, a UQ researcher is working to ensure the achievements of the era aren’t forgotten.

Dr Margaret Henderson from the School of English, Media Studies and Art History recently interviewed Ms Thornton as part of an oral history project for the National Library of Australia.

“Merle was ahead of her time in her fight for women’s rights,” Dr Henderson said. “She formed the Equal Opportunities Association for Women, which campaigned for a number of reforms across a wealth of areas that women may take for granted today.”

Dr Henderson and Associate Professor Maryanne Dever from the University of Newcastle started the project after identifying significant gaps in the formal records of women’s grass-roots activism.

The interview will be presented to the National Library as part of the Archiving Australian Feminism: The Personal Papers of Merle Thornton project. Supported by the Sidney Myer Foundation and the Queensland Government, a range of Ms Thornton’s documents and records will also be deposited including letters, manuscripts and petitions for action.

UQ has welcomed a community group which provides tailor-made Internet courses for seniors. SeniorNet re-launched its training sessions with an event last month at the Ipswich campus.

UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Rix welcomed SeniorNet to the University. “We are pleased to be able to provide these facilities to SeniorNet and enable them to bring this valuable education to the community,” Professor Rix said.

SeniorNet enables participants to gain the necessary skills to empower them to communicate worldwide, keep up with current events and expand their interests.

SeniorNet patron Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale, who has been closely associated with the group since its inception in 1996, said SeniorNet had made a huge contribution to the local community. “This teaching facility enables seniors to gain hands-on experience across a wide range of technological skills,” Dr Pisasale said.

Former electrical engineering lecturer Ken Curwen, 69, is SeniorNet’s principal trainer. Others are Gordon Timbs, 78, a former dentist, and nuclear physicist Ken Koschel, 75.

The move to the UQ Ipswich campus puts SeniorNet in a valuable location, central to the Ipswich region with on-campus access to health care, fitness facilities and public transport.

SeniorNet members outside the Boilerhouse at UQ’s Ipswich campus in February
“He made sure I was involved in and was able to learn as much as possible.

“To top it all off the facilities are top notch; I would walk around with my mouth open in amazement because everything was so new and sophisticated.”

Bachelor of Veterinary Science students spend nine weeks in a practical placement between the end of their fourth year and the beginning of their fifth and final year of study. Their experience includes a combination of large and small animals, from treating wounds through to assisting with the birth of farm animals.

While Mr Kowalski will graduate at the end of 2011 as a veterinarian, he won’t be leaving UQ with the same career plan as the day he started. “When I started veterinary science I wanted to be a horse vet, but now having experienced so much during the four years of my program, my ideas have changed,” Mr Kowalski said.

“I’d like to enter a mixed practice so I can work with a range of animals.”

Students are also encouraged to join the UQ Veterinary Science Student Association. With a vibrant social program, the association gives members the opportunity to meet other vet students at varying stages of their degrees.

The University of Queensland Veterinary Medical Centre is proving to be a hub for both superior animal health care and training for the next generation of veterinary professionals.

Fifth-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science student Philip Kowalski discovered the centre was perfectly geared towards teaching students based on its unequalled facilities and focus on animal health standards.

“The Veterinary Medical Centre staff had a very positive attitude towards teaching vet students, and access to the student library when we weren’t busy meant I could research the current cases,” Mr Kowalski said.

“I have a particular interest in exotics and birds, so it was great to work with UQ’s bird specialist Dr Bob Doneley.

Students Kim Albrecht, Bianca Wilheim and Nicole Richards make the most of the facilities at UQ Gatton

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/cawe
Two Queensland icons combined last month to stage a special community flood benefit concert.

The Queensland Symphony Orchestra joined with The University of Queensland to hold the free “Healing Harmonies” event at the UQ Centre during Orientation Week on February 25.

UQ and the QSO – which were both affected by the floods — collaborated on the event in the hope that the uplifting power of music would benefit the community.

An audience of approximately 500, including flood-affected members of the community, as well as UQ students, staff and alumni, were treated to an inspiring program of classics performed by Queensland’s premier symphony orchestra.

The State Minister for Finance and the Arts and former UQ Young Alumnus of the Year, The Hon Rachel Nolan, welcomed and thanked everyone for their support of the initiative.

ABC identity and narrator Guy Noble was guest conductor for the event. Celebrity guests Lucy Durack, currently performing in Wicked, and hometown star Jason Barry-Smith were also concert highlights.

Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra Patrick Pickett CSM said it had been shown in Australian research studies that the arts and cultural activities played an important role in community pride and identity, self-esteem, social cohesion and health.

“The thoughts of QSO’s staff and musicians are with those most affected by the floods,” he said.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield thanked the QSO executive, musicians, staff and Mr Noble and guests for generously donating their talent and services.

“Our spirit has been a key to UQ’s rapid flood recovery, and this was a wonderful opportunity to give something back in collaboration with the QSO,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Many students have been affected by the floods or Cyclone Yasi. They can be assured that they have the full support of their university and of fantastic partner organisations like the QSO.”

Although the concert was free, donations were accepted at the event to support the Premier’s Disaster Relief Appeal and the UQ Vice-Chancellor’s Emergency Student Welfare Fund. Approximately $2,500 was raised during the event.

INFO ➔ www.thequeenslandorchestra.com.au

International support

Friends from far and wide have helped a UQ partner university in Japan raise more than $2000 for those affected by the Queensland floods.

Fukushima University student So Sato said those in his local community, including exchange students from other countries, had shown strong support for the cause.

“When we campaigned on campus many students offered up donations and we hope this money will be able to assist those UQ staff and students who were victims of the floods,” Mr Sato said.

Heads of the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies (SLCCS) Associate Professor Greg Hainge said the strong relationship built between the two universities since 2001 would grow as a result of the appeal.

“This wonderfully generous act shows that the exchange relationships between UQ and its partner universities around the world are much more than simply administrative arrangements. These are relationships that go far deeper and that build real links between people across institutions all over the globe,” Dr Hainge said.

Student organisation representatives and exchange students gave their time generously to the campaign, raising more than $2000.

A visiting group from Fukushima University presented the funds to UQ on February 17, and these have been added to the Vice-Chancellor’s Emergency Student Welfare Fund Appeal – accessible to all affected UQ staff and students.

The University has expressed its condolences to Fukushima University following the tragic earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

A charity anime screening will take place at 7pm on Friday, March 25 at the Schonell Theatre St Lucia, with all proceeds donated to Fukushima University. All are welcome.

INFO ➔ www.schonell.com

CLIMATE FORUM

Floods, cyclones and severe storms have devastated much of Queensland in the space of a few short months and many people are now questioning whether this is a result of climate change.

Associate Professor Hamish McGowan from the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management has brought together experts from around Australia to answer this question next month.

Hosted by the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, the one-day forum is open to anyone in South-east Queensland working with or concerned about the impact of weather. The conference will bring together experts in climate change and variability, severe weather, air pollution and coastal processes to present talks on a wide range of issues.

Queensland Environment and Resource Management Minister Kate Jones will open the forum at the Queensland Museum Theatre, South Bank on April 12. Admission is $50 for the general public, $40 for UQ alumni and $30 for students. Registrations close March 31.

INFO ➔ www.gpem.uq.edu.au/amos-conference/
The University's new web-based recruitment system, UQ Jobs, will be launched on March 23. UQ Jobs is designed to provide job applicants and UQ staff with a user friendly and standardised approach to all recruitment activities. Representatives from a number of UQ organisational units have contributed to the design of UQ Jobs and their input has allowed the project team to implement:

- An environmentally friendly recruitment system that is cost effective, flexible and efficient while meeting all recruitment requirements, including legal, records management, policy and reporting aspects;
- A system that encompasses the entire recruitment process from the creation of the vacancy to the electronic transfer of successful applicants into Aurion, UQ's human resources information system. UQ Jobs automates administrative tasks, which will lead to significant time savings for users; and
- A simple and consistent process for applicants.

UQ Jobs training for staff will commence in March. These sessions will incorporate raising a job card, advertising, short-listing candidates, coordinating interviews, reference checks and how to make a formal offer.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/uqjobsproject

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UniQuest is one of Australia’s leading university commercialisation companies, collaborating to generate benefits for UQ researchers, UQ and the wider community.

Postgraduate students and research staff from all UQ faculties and academic disciplines are welcome.

Places are limited. To register and find out more, visit un quest.com.au/workshop

Dates: Thursday & Friday 7 – 8 April 2011 or 21 – 22 July 2011
Venue: Radisson Resort Gold Coast
Cost: Free (conditions apply – see UniQuest website for details).
A delicate removal operation has seen hundreds of ancient treasures held by The University of Queensland shifted to a new home on the St Lucia campus.

Seven-hundred-and-fifty items were carefully transported from the R.D Milns Antiquities Museum last month to the ground floor of the UQ Art Museum while the iconic Michie Building undergoes extensive renovations.

The move coincides with the launch of a new online database which will catalogue UQ’s impressive collection of antiquities for students and scholars alike.

Museum Director Dr Sonia Puttock said the collection comprised 5000 items including “sherds” (fragments), making it the second largest of its kind in Australia. The museum’s focus is on Greek and Roman artefacts, with a particularly impressive assortment of ancient coins.

Thousands of people visit the museum each year for tours and hands on workshops, with scholars from around the world also relying on the items for their research.

“All museums and collections should have an educational component in their mission statements and knowledge about the artefacts must be available to all interested parties,” Dr Puttock said.

Almost 100 of the artefacts are now described on the new website, which is a work-in-progress and includes detailed information about each item’s measurements, source material, date, origin and design.

The museum is named in honour of Emeritus Professor Bob Milns, who was Professor of Classics and Ancient History for more than three decades and built up the collection considerably during his tenure.

The museum’s most valuable item in monetary terms is a Roman marble copy of a Greek statue of Aphrodite which is said to have been owned at one time by Clive of India. Another popular item is a striking 2400-year-old Egyptian mummy mask, which was named UQ’s “favourite treasure” during last year’s Centenary celebrations.

The renovations are expected to be completed in early-2012 and will transform the 10-storey Michie Building into a teaching and learning hub incorporating entirely new spaces for both the Antiquities Museum and the UQ Anthropology Museum.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the museum’s temporary home between 10am to 4pm seven days a week (no bookings required), with school and interest groups able to organise guided tours in advance.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/antiquities
Our brains do well to help us survive on this tiny island of a planet. What is more, the cognitive tools weren’t shaped by a need to describe our universe in perfect detail, to count neutrinos or see the radio waves emitted by distant stars, but rather by a need to negotiate our way through family squabbles and work within our tribal relationships to collectively deal with the unpredictable elements of nature. We’re primed to quickly recognize a face, to pick words from a cacophony of sounds, to attribute emotions and thoughts to other objects. On occasions where these talents malfunction, whether through an agnosia or a disorder such as autism, individuals find themselves alienated from the community, handicapped in their attempt to connect and engage with others often to the point of isolation.

Yet a combination of factors in our social brains make it possible to invent stories that go far beyond the personal nuances of fairy tales. Hungry for answers, we’re driven to reconcile the things we observe with the beliefs we inherit. In recent centuries, the stories we tell that describe our universe have become more detailed, more permanent, recorded in stone and then on paper and now in electrons. The beliefs themselves continue to evolve under the pressure of logic, passion, desire, hope and reason in a system we call “science”.

Yet for most of human existence, our beliefs weren’t formed under the influence of reason and consistency. The stories we told weren’t open for criticism or comparison. Something changed that led to a new form of story-telling, with new rules and new values.

Those tribal forces that shaped our brains over the countless millennia changed just enough a little over 2500 years ago to create a spark that would revolutionise how humans saw the world. Our social landscape might have changed immensely since then, but our brains haven’t changed much at all. We continue to see the world using a brain that evolved to tell tales of sad mountains and see faces in the passing clouds.

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THE UQ ART MUSEUM HAS PAIRED TWO REMARKABLE EXHIBITIONS FOR AN AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE.

Famous artists including Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin are among the players in two chess-themed exhibitions on show at St Lucia.

The Art of Chess, which features works by 15 of some of the most acclaimed international contemporary artists, was secured by the UQ Art Museum in collaboration with Bendigo Art Gallery for an exclusive Australian tour.

"The game of chess is traditionally perceived as a subdued, cerebral and introspective activity," curator Tansy Curtin said.

"However, the creation of new artworks informed by the notion of the game of chess adds a new dimension to the game itself: chess acquires a new visual persona; beauty and drama alongside intrigue and threat become implicit aspects of the game."

The exhibition incorporates innovative chess sets commissioned from artists including Maurizio Cattelan (Italy), Jake and Dinos Chapman, Rachel Whiteread, Oliver Clegg, Paul Fryer, Alastair Mackie, Gavin Turk (UK), Tom Friedman, Barbara Kruger, Paul McCarthy, Matthew Ronay (USA), Yayoi Kusama (Japan) and Tunga (Brazil).

Facing off against this stellar line-up is Your Move: Australian artists play chess.

Thirteen artists were invited to produce 12 works, commissioned as part of the largest grant ever awarded by Visions of Australia. Artists featured in Your Move include Benjamin Armstrong, Lionel Bawden, Sebastian Di Mauro, Michael Doolan, Emily Floyd, Claire Healy and Sean Cordonero, Robert Jacks, Danie Mellor, Kate Rohde, Caroline Rothwell, Sally Smart and Ken Yonetani.

Players in the away team include a finely crafted set of glass and silver pill bottles with surgical trolley chessboard by Damien Hirst, and a good versus evil set by Maurizio Cattelan that pits Hitler, Rasputin and Al Capone against Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa and Superman.

Players in Your Move include human-animal hybrids, literary characters and beer bottles and coasters set up to play on a rickety Australian picnic table.

"You don’t have to play chess or know its history to enjoy the strategies played out by the artists in these exhibitions – and, indeed, not all the commissioned artists themselves are chess players," UQ Art Museum curator Michele Helmrich said.

"But, as the legendary artist and chess player Marcel Duchamp said: ‘while all artists are not chess players, all chess players are artists’.

During the exhibitions’ opening week, visitors were able to watch members of the UQ Chess Club do battle in the museum and even participate in a game.

The Art of Chess and Your Move: Australian artists play chess appear until April 24.

The UQ Art Museum is open free to the public from 10am–4pm seven days a week.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/artmuseum

UQ’s top rugby team will play Sydney University in the Buildcorp Australian Club Championships later this month to determine which of the two clubs is the country’s best.

The free event, which is held annually between the champion premier grade clubs from Queensland and New South Wales, will kick off at Ballymore Stadium on Sunday, March 27.

UQ Head Coach Mick Heenan said that even without their Super 15 stars, both clubs would be fielding extremely strong sides.

“We’ve had a disrupted training schedule so far this year because of the floods, but the number of talented players available to be selected for this match is phenomenal,” Mr Heenan said.

“The strength and quality of players we have throughout the ranks will hold us in good stead not only for the club championships, but also for our centenary season this year.”

Sydney University has contested the last four club championships, winning the last two, while UQ took out the trophy once in 1990 and were beaten in 1989.

UQ Rugby Club General Manager David Enfantie said he hoped the match would attract rugby supporters from far and wide.

“With the calibre of players involved and the status that’s up for grabs we’re hoping to see plenty of rugby fans from the wider community coming along to watch the game,” Mr Enfantie said.

Mr Enfantie said the club’s principal sponsor, Buildcorp, also sponsored the Sydney Uni Rugby Club.

“I’m sure they’ll be watching the match with a keen eye, eager to find out which one of their teams will reign supreme,” he said.

To add to the excitement of the day, UQ sponsors RBS Morgans, Campus Travel and the UQ Business School have thrown their support behind the club to ensure the event is a success.

The gates at Ballymore will open at 1pm on March 27 for a 2pm kick off, and admission is free.

Supporters will also have the opportunity to give a gold coin donation to help the UQ Rugby Club get back on its feet after it was devastated by the floods earlier this year.

INFO ➔ www.uqrugby.com.au
The next time you are treated by a surgeon, an anaesthetist or an ambulance officer, spare a thought for the unsung heroes who helped their training.

They are the generous people who have donated their bodies to advance education and anatomical and biomedical research.

This year, UQ will hold the 20th annual Thanksgiving Service for Body Donors at 5.30pm on April 20.

The service will honour 77 donors whose bodies were placed in the University’s care in 2009 and who have contributed enormously to teaching and research at Bond University, Australian Catholic University, Griffith University, Southern Cross University, the QUT Medical Engineering Research Facility and James Cook University.

Cross University, the QUT Medical Engineering Research Facility and James Cook University.

The altruistic donations to UQ have also assisted teaching and research at Bond University, Australian Catholic University, Griffith University, Southern Cross University, the QUT Medical Engineering Research Facility and James Cook University.

More than 14 research projects in the School of Biomedical Sciences are benefiting from the donations.

UQ has been holding the Thanksgiving Service since 1992, when it acknowledged all donors to the bequest program since 1927. The event was the first of its kind in Australia and New Zealand.

The keynote speaker at this year’s Thanksgiving Service will be 85-year-old Dr Gareth Davies light candles at the 2010 Thanksgiving Service

Almost 5000 UQ students and 750 medical and professional visitors have benefited from the donors honoured at this year’s service.

Students taught in UQ’s anatomy laboratories include those studying medicine, human movement studies, dentistry, pharmacy, science, speech pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychology.
What’s hot right now at UQ Sport...

- Reduced concession prices in 2011 for UQ Students, Staff & Alumni!
- Brand new ‘UQ Sport Activity Hub’ (Located next to the Lolly Shop)
- More gym & cardio space with a new UQ Fitness Studio
- 33 sporting clubs, 5 Social Sports & 50+ Lifestyle short courses
- CPR & First Aid training right on campus at St Lucia
- Exclusive offers when you ‘like’ us on Facebook

UQ Sport has an activity for everyone. Visit www.uqsport.com.au to discover yours!