SUSTAINABLE SOLOMONS

UQ research has international impact
UQ research students are discovering innovative solutions to some of the world’s most challenging questions. Supported by over 2000 experts across a wide range of disciplines, UQ offers a focused environment for its students to excel.

Every research student benefits from UQ’s acclaimed culture of research excellence, which includes world-renowned advisors, extensive international networks and ongoing professional development opportunities.

Consistently ranked in the top 1% of all universities in the world, UQ plays a leading role in research collaboration and innovation. The 2010 Excellence in Research for Australia assessment confirmed UQ as having more researchers working in fields assessed above world standard than at any other Australian university.

Whatever you want to achieve, however you want to succeed, you will enjoy every advantage at The University of Queensland. The University of You.
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Forum of European-Australian Science, Engineering and Technology has shown that, when Australian researchers collaborate internationally, their “citation impact” increases significantly. This metric refers to the number of times a paper is cited in other publications, so it usually gives some insight into whether other researchers regard a project as useful.

Although this is but one measure of university output, the correlation between collaboration and impact makes perfect sense when I consider other benefits of well-crafted partnerships.

Whether their objective is learning, discovery, or an outcome such as technology transfer or community service, strong teams enhance the gains for students, staff and society.

We see empirical evidence of this when UQ people with diverse expertise join forces for a common goal; when staff and students work with people from other education or discovery entities; and when we link with businesses, industry groups, not-for-profits, governments and philanthropists.

Overseas, UQ is not busily building campuses (as some Australian universities are doing), but is using partnerships to improve global opportunities for our students and staff.

International engagement is nothing new at UQ, but our network is becoming increasingly diverse. Our more-than 600 signed agreements with 370-plus partners in 50 countries are only the tip of the iceberg, because many collaborations flourish without the trappings of officialdom.

The 10 organisations with which we engage most energetically (according to factors such as research projects, publications, student exchanges, higher degree research programs and employment of partners’ alumni) are in the USA, Singapore, Canada, the UK and China.

With all but one of these excellent partners being in an Anglophone country and most of the shared endeavours involving science and/or technology, there is scope for equally valuable linkages across a larger map of locations and disciplines. Quality and critical mass will remain targets.

On a recent UQ mission to Indonesia I forged new compacts with both the Eijkman Institute of Molecular Biology and Universitas Gadjah Mada, reaffirmed our goodwill towards Universitas Indonesia and the Bogor Agricultural Institute, and held discussions with three national ministers.

In the USA I renewed acquaintance with UQ’s friends from Ochsner Health System – who co-run the only American clinical school involving an Australian university – and joined influential alumni in Washington DC for the launch of the UQ in America Foundation.

I also signed a biofuels-related agreement with South Carolina’s Clemson University, in which the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAF) is UQ’s workhorse. This deal expands UQ’s portfolio of global partnerships on biofuels. Two other UQ institutes already have key roles in major consortia that are progressing development of biofuels suitable for the US Navy’s “Green Fleet” and commercial airlines.

UQ has a wide choice of models for effective collaboration. When they are strategically designed and resourced with the right people, they exponentially grow the benefits of learning and discovery – for students and staff of UQ and our collaborators, and for communities in Australia and globally.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO

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UQ News is delivered off-campus to our neighbours in St Lucia and across the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. We hope you enjoy catching up with news and events at the University. If you would like to comment on the magazine, telephone (07) 3365 3367 or email communications@uq.edu.au
UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

People who handle snakes or spiders regularly are needed for a University of Queensland study.

UQ researcher Helena Purkis is investigating whether fear of these creatures is the result of evolution or is a learned behaviour.

“Some say this phobia stems from our ancient ancestors for whom snakes and spiders were daily threats,” Dr Purkis said.

“However, people also learn about snakes and spiders from an early age from parents and friends, the media and many other sources.

“So irrational fears may reflect the accumulation of a person’s learning across their own lifetime rather than a genetically transmitted preparedness.”

“Researching people who handle snakes or spiders frequently can hold the key to uncovering how and why these creatures seem special.

“In our previous work we showed that people who work with snakes and spiders do not have an automatic, negative reaction to snakes and spiders, unless they are particularly dangerous (for example, taipan snakes and funnel web spiders).

“If we find support for our learning explanation then we will be able to design more effective interventions for people who suffer from irrational anxieties as well as design prevention programs.

“Participants will be required to complete a set of computer tasks involving pictures of snakes and spiders. The tasks take approximately two hours and compensation for time and travel costs is available.

INFO ➔ (07) 3346 7282, fear@uq.edu.au

FUELS OF THE FUTURE

Leading researchers pursuing clean fuel technologies, allied scientific experts and industry representatives will attend Queensland’s first future fuels conference in Brisbane later this month.

The Future Fuels for Australia 2011 Workshop is jointly hosted by The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, and mining and technology company Ambre Energy.

It will be held on July 19 and 20 at Customs House in Brisbane’s CBD and officially opened by the Queensland Minister for Energy and Water Utilities Stephen Robertson.

The workshop will bring together more than 150 interested stakeholders to discuss the best options for developing and supporting future fuels research projects and production in Australia.

Topics will include government policies on the development of alternative and cleaner fuels, research and development status in Australia and overseas, and also the environmental considerations of future fuels.

Organising committee spokesperson Dr Bo Feng said the development of sustainable alternative fuels was important for Australia’s energy security and national environmental goals.

“The workshop will look at what is happening in Australia and the world such as the development of syngas generation technologies from coal, natural gas and biomass, and syngas conversion technologies,” Dr Feng said.

“There are financially attractive options to oil available and the national imperative is clearly to progress suitable future fuels as soon as possible.”

INFO ➔ www.mechmining.uq.edu.au/futurefuels

ANZAC SPIRIT REVISITED

In 2015, Australia and New Zealand will commemorate the centenary of the historic event, with up to 50,000 people expected to travel to Turkey to participate.

Dr Packer said the research would explore how visits to battlefield sites and museums such as the Australian War Memorial might impact on visitors’ sense of national identity.

“This work will help museums and tourism operators understand how to deliver the kind of visitor experience that suits today’s traveller,” she said.

INFO ➔ j.packer@uq.edu.au

BLOOMING SCIENCE

Yellow was the colour of the day as high school students presented their entries for the official “weigh in” as part of UQ’s School of Agriculture and Food Sciences Sunflower Competition recently.

A last minute decision to compete paid off handsomely for Nambour State High School, which was crowned grand champion with a 2.063kg specimen.

Agricultural Science teacher Courtney Hinds and her class were stunned to be named the 2011 winners.

“We only decided to attend at the last minute and the students had no idea what to expect, so to win first and third place in the year eight, nine and ten categories was amazing,” Ms Hinds said.

“This competition is part of the students’ assessment and the curriculum, so the students had put a lot of time and effort into growing them.”

More than 220 students attended the Weigh In Day at UQ’s Gatton campus on May 24 and were inspired by agricultural experts, industry representatives and a current student who discussed careers in agronomy and horticulture.

The event marked the conclusion of the 12-week competition where students plant sunflower seeds with the aim of growing the heaviest sunflower.

“The students loved attending the event, and taking part in the activities was the perfect follow on from what they have been learning in class.” Ms Hinds said.

“The presentations got them thinking about their future and enabled them to link this assignment with the outside world and the possible programs and careers available.

“The students are now very keen to put the prize money back into improving some of the agricultural science department resources.”

The UQ Sunflower Competition is sponsored by Pacific Seeds, Australian Sunflower Association, Grains Research Foundation, Ag Force and the Queensland Agriculture Teachers Association.
Facts + Figures

$180,000 – funding UQ has received to continue the local production of an antibody for Hendra virus in humans

10 – number of computers that UQ’s School of Psychology recently donated to The Pyjama Foundation, a charity that supports foster children

21 – number of scholarships UQ Ipswich awarded its students at a recent prizes night

$100,000 – prize money on offer for the winner of the UQ Business School’s enterprize 2011 competition

1800 – number of UQ health students who are assisting charities as part of the Teamwork In Action (TIA) program

8600km/h – speed of a hypersonic scramjet being built by UQ scientists and engineers as the first phase of the SCRAMSPACE project, which aims to revolutionise the way the world launches satellites into space

Legal Water Learnings

An upcoming UQ law course will use lessons learned from Queensland’s floods as part of an intensive introduction to Australian water resources law and policy.

The four-day seminar will be coordinated by resource law specialist Dr Alex Gardner, an Associate Professor of The University of Western Australia, Adjunct Professor of the Australian National University and a Chief Investigator of the National Centre for Groundwater Research.

In Queensland, the enactment of the Water Act 2000, the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, and the South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007 has provided a new legal and regulatory framework for the governance of the water industry and management of water resources.

However, this framework continues to be challenged by the development of new industries and the impacts of climate change.

As water becomes an increasingly contested resource, there is an even greater need for those involved to understand the legal provisions being established for its management and protection.

Dr Gardner said water resources regulation impacted on all sectors of our economy – especially primary industry, resource projects and land development.

“This course provides foundational understanding, practical insights and the latest legal news on flood control and coal seam gas regulation,” he said.

INFO ➔ www.law.uq.edu.au

Family Friendly Design

University of Queensland Master of Architecture students intend to improve the state’s housing crisis through compact house designs which accommodate intergenerational families on suburban sites.

Lecturer in Architecture Michael Dickson said the Space Intensive Contemporary Environment (SpICE) houses have been designed to combat the housing crisis by allowing multiple generations of one family to live together.

The SpICE houses are designed to be ecologically friendly and self-contained to prevent any increased pressure on the local service infrastructure,” Mr Dickson said.

The students created 1:5 scaled prototypes of their designs on the new Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) router located in the School of Architecture, providing an authentic insight into design and manufacture process limitations and opportunities.

“The aim now is to further develop the overall design concept as a research project through the assistance of industry, before introducing the project into a future master’s course,” Mr Dickson said.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/architecture

UQNav for Android

More people now have access to UQNav, the University’s mobile maps application, with the Android version now available.

Released for iPhones in February, UQNav contains searchable maps of UQ’s St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton campuses.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Deborah Terry said the O-Week launch of UQNav for iPhone had been a huge success, with more than 15,000 downloads recorded to date.

“It’s clear that a mobile maps application is something that students, staff and visitors to UQ have found to be a practical, user-friendly tool,” Professor Terry said.

“The Android version will make UQNav more accessible to a wider group of smartphone users, meaning more people can navigate UQ’s campuses with ease.”

More than 1000 Android downloads took place within a week of the latest launch.

Designed by UQ students Aaron McDowall and Kim Hunter, UQNav can be used to find lecture theatres, in addition to cafes, the closest bank and nearest public transport stop.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/uqnav

Get UQ News & More
UQ PROVIDES NEW LEARNING PATHWAY

UQ College, an initiative to improve access to higher education for people from diverse backgrounds, opened last month at the Ipswich campus.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the University wanted to provide alternative pathways and opportunities for study that may not have been available before.

“We are committed to actively promoting access, equity and diversity at UQ and wanted to establish an institution that is backed by a university and widens access to education,” Professor Greenfield said.

“UQ College will provide an array of flexible opportunities offering short-term, intensive programs of study in tertiary preparation and community education as well as a link to the University through the delivery of associate degree programs.

“It is already offering a pre-tertiary program, which focuses on building the skills that are vital for successful university study.

“Equally, UQ College is about providing a pathway back into learning for those who may have gone straight into the workforce from school and are now looking for new skills.”

Chairman of the UQ College board Dr David Hamill said the opening was “a landmark occasion for Ipswich and surrounding communities”.

He congratulated the University for enabling this milestone to be reached through critical investment.

“This enables UQ College to reach out to groups new to higher education, as well as those seeking continuing education and vocational outcomes, or pathways and direct entry into tertiary studies and degrees,” Dr Hamill said.

UQ College caters for students who wish to upgrade or re-engage with the education process, offering an alternate method of entry into degree programs or other tertiary studies of their choice.

“The first cohort of students commenced a 28-week tertiary preparation program in January, gaining the skills and attributes needed to successfully engage in tertiary study.

Approximately 300 students are expected to enrol in UQ College courses in 2012. INF0 www.uqcollege.edu.au

PROMINENT ALUMNI HONOURED

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) has honoured two former Queensland premiers for their contribution to building the state’s thriving research culture.

The academy recently presented ATSE Medals to UQ alumni Peter Beattie and Mike Ahern in recognition of leadership for the growth of science, technology and innovative research, which has been a catalyst for technological advancement throughout Australia.

Mr Beattie and Mr Ahern have retained strong connections with their alma mater since graduating.

Mr Beattie was recognised for his commitment to science and notably for his work in founding the Smart State program. Smart State’s flagship research centres — the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, the Queensland Brain Institute and the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology — are based at UQ.

Smart State paved the way for the critical mass of research centres and institutes that have emerged in Queensland in the decade following the program’s launch. Smart State was instrumental in building Queensland and UQ’s reputation as a world leader in biotechnology discovery.

Mr Beattie is also a UQ adjunct professor, and continues to play a strong advocacy role in promoting the economic and social imperative for governments, industry and philanthropists to keep a strong focus on research.

Mr Ahern was Queensland Premier from 1987 to 1989, and earlier served as Treasurer and Health Minister. He was also the state’s first Minister for Technology.

As Treasurer, Mr Ahern introduced tobacco tax to Queensland, and diverted proceeds from the tax to funding a new building for the Queensland Institute for Medical Research.

He currently chairs the Consultative Committee of the Queensland Centre for Advanced Technology, a joint venture between CSIRO and the Queensland Government.

Governor-General Quentin Bryce and State Treasurer Andrew Fraser attended the ATSE awards in Brisbane on May 19.

Prominent UQ alumnus Dr Andrew Liveris — the US-based President, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Dow Chemical Co — spoke at the event by live video link from New York. He urged Australia to increase its investment in research and development.

The awards honour the visionary Sir Ian Clunies Ross (1899–1959), the foundation Head of CSIRO’s Division of Animal Health and later CSIRO Chairman.

UQ is a sponsor of the ATSE Clunies Ross Awards, now in their 20th year.

Following the ceremony, the Clunies Ross Award winners joined more than 250 Year 10 students and teachers from across Queensland in the Extreme Science Experience, taking part in hands-on science and technology activities.
The University of Queensland has awarded the construction contract for Australia’s most advanced oral health facility to be located at the Herston campus.

Lend Lease will manage the $120 million Oral Health Centre (OHC) project, which will incorporate dental clinics and research laboratories, state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces and office space across seven levels.

The OHC will feature general and specialist dentistry clinics, advanced medical imaging facilities and operating theatres. It will also include a special needs unit operated by Queensland Health for dental treatment of medically compromised patients.

Managing Director of Lend Lease’s project management and construction business in Australia, Murray Coleman, said the OHC would set a new benchmark for oral health facilities in Australia.

“We are excited to be involved in this project and look forward to working with The University of Queensland to improve its health care precinct and the oral health services available to the community,” Mr Coleman said.

“This facility will set new standards in modern building design, creating a positive legacy for future generations.”

Head of The University of Queensland’s School of Dentistry, Professor Laurence Walsh, said UQ was delighted to have a highly experienced team of architects and contractors overseeing the project.

“We are now bringing to reality ideas which have been formulating for two decades. This world-class facility will allow the school to grow its teaching and research programs and clinical patient care activities over the coming years.” Professor Walsh said.

The OHC will be located on Bramston Terrace at Herston, adjacent to the Mayne Medical School building.

Construction will commence on the facility later this month with completion scheduled for late 2012.

Approximately 375 new jobs are expected to be generated during the construction phase alone.

INFO ➔ www.dentistry.uq.edu.au
Buzz over brain research

Bee research yields clues to unlocking brain disorders.

Queensland Brain Institute researchers are one step closer to unlocking the mysteries of disorders like schizophrenia and autism by peering into the brains of bees.

“Honeybees are a great model system for understanding the functioning of both healthy brains and brain disorders, because many of the underlying processes are similar in insects and humans,” she said.

Dr Reinhard and colleague Dr Charles Claudianos have been observing how bees process scents and learn to associate particular odours with sugar rewards.

They have then used cutting-edge molecular techniques to explore the changes that occur within the bees’ brains after odour memories are formed.

“When sensory information is processed, particular changes occur in the expression of the molecules that facilitate communication between neurons,” Dr Reinhard said.

“We’re now interested in what happens when this molecular communication goes awry, as we suspect is the case with mental disorders such as schizophrenia and autism.

“If we can understand how molecular mis-communication in neurons is linked to mental disorder, it may help us find cures for these conditions.”

Dr Reinhard’s work with honeybees is just one aspect of her research in the field of neuroethology – a multidisciplinary branch of neuroscience that explores how the brain translates sensory information into behaviour.

A particular focus within her laboratory is the sense of smell and its role in memory formation and cognitive processes.

INFO ➔ www.qbi.uq.edu.au

UQ experts lead koala preservation efforts

The long-term outlook for one of Australia’s most iconic creatures is grim according to University of Queensland researchers involved in the Koala Research Network (KRN).

A KRN delegation presented sombre evidence recently on the fate of the koala to a Senate inquiry in Brisbane, which is set to determine whether the animal will be listed under The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

KRN spokesperson and University of Queensland academic Associate Professor Clive McAlpine said UQ experts played a key role in the Senate submission.

“The Koala Research Network is a group of more than 60 researchers from universities and government departments and private groups working with koalas,” Dr McAlpine said.

“Collectively we have published over 200 scientific papers and reports on koala biology, ecology, health and disease and conservation.”

From this body of evidence, the researchers suggest that the long-term outlook for Australia’s koala populations is worrying.

“There are a number of statistics that indicate the serious decline in koala population numbers will continue,” Dr McAlpine said.

“Habitat loss, disease, urbanisation, dog attacks and climatic extremes are all impacting upon population numbers.”

The KRN believes a critical priority is establishing a national koala monitoring strategy to prioritise conservation actions and ensure valuable resources are not squandered.

“The Commonwealth needs to be proactive on this issue. It is important to act now before the cost of recovery becomes too high,” Dr McAlpine said.

“The KRN is keen to cooperate with the Government in implementing this initiative.”

Latest koala population statistics include:

- There has been a 51 percent decline in less than three years and a 64 percent decline in the 10 years since monitoring began of the “Koala Coast” (a 375 square kilometre area located 20km south-east of Brisbane)
- Koala populations are likely to contract eastwards and southwards to coastal regions under a projected hotter and drier climate under future climate change, with populations in arid and semi-arid areas of Queensland already showing signs of contraction
- Koala populations in the mulgalands centred on Charleville are estimated to have declined from 50–60,000 in 1996 to 10–12,000 in 2009 due to drought and drought-induced tree dieback.

INFO ➔ www.gpem.uq.edu.au/krn
COMMUNITY BACK TURTLE RESEARCH

A UQ PhD student with a passion for protecting Queensland’s biodiversity is helping to secure the future of the Mary River turtle.

Thanks to a local community group in Tiaro, north Queensland, Mariana Campbell is using the latest technology to track the endangered species and has recently released more than 20 juvenile turtles into the wild as part of ongoing research.

Miniature acoustic tags have been attached to the shells of 24 turtle hatchlings to monitor their location and behaviour once they enter the Mary River.

Mrs Campbell said the research was an important step to gaining knowledge about the ecology of the species.

“Every year hundreds of young turtles enter the river from the nesting banks, but no hatching or juvenile turtles are captured or seen in this part of the river,” she said.

“There are existing programs aimed at protecting the nests, but we don’t know what’s happening to the turtles when they get to the river – where do they go, how long do they survive, what are their main predators and how far do they move – so we are trying to answer some of these questions.

“The tags we’ve used will last for one year and will inform us where the turtles go, if and when they die, and will give some clues about possible reasons for the mortality.”

The Tiaro and District Landcare Group (TDLG) has strongly supported Mrs Campbell’s research by raising $5,000 a year through the sale of chocolate turtles.

Project Leader of TDLG Marilyn Connell said the community was determined to help prevent the extinction of the Mary River turtles.

“The TDLG has been protecting nests for many years and we decided we needed to learn more about the species, so we established a Mary River turtle support scholarship,” she said.

“Through our chocolate turtle fundraiser we’ve been able to accumulate enough money to pay for Mariana’s support scholarship and the acoustic tags.”

Mrs Campbell said the partnership with TDLG has greatly enhanced the primary goal of turtle conservation.

“This group is so passionate about these animals and having this partnership has not only funded a great deal of my research, but has enabled us to apply for a government grant.”

Mrs Campbell said the collaboration was a great example of academia and the community working together to learn more about a threatened local species.

Mrs Campbell’s research project is led by Professor Craig Franklin at the School of Biological Sciences, and is also supported by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant.

A decade ago, TDLG initiated a nest-protection scheme to increase the number of hatching turtles entering the river. Since then, their work has helped more than 2,000 eggs develop into hatchlings.
UQ leads nation in forging research links with industry.
University of Queensland academics have attracted $11.2 million in funding for 22 projects under the Australian Research Council’s Linkage Projects scheme, which supports joint research with industry and business partners.

The ARC and Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr announced in June that a total of $67.4 million was awarded to 31 institutions for 219 projects.

UQ was successful in drawing more funding than any other institution, in relation to both ARC and partner contributions.

Two UQ research projects each attracted more than $2 million.

A team led by Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg of UQ’s Global Change Institute will use its $2.657 million, five-year grant to study a range of issues relating to significant changes in coral reef ecosystems, including sea temperature and acidity. These changes are putting at risk billions of dollars per annum in tourist and fishing earnings.

The project will improve the next-generation satellite toolkit that the industry partners — the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the US-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — have at their disposal for responding to these serious threats.

A team from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, led by Professors David Craik and David Fairlie, was awarded $2.45 million over three years for a project to be conducted jointly with pharmaceutical company Pfizer Australia.

The researchers will attempt to bridge the gap between expensive drugs that must be injected and cheaper oral treatments that create adverse side effects.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu congratulated all of the University’s grant recipients.

“This result reflects UQ’s leadership in research engagement with industry and other end-users,” Professor Lu said.

“The award of two large Linkage projects is an excellent example of UQ’s capacity to work with industry and business on significant, large-scale projects.”

He thanked all researchers who had contributed to the University’s outstanding application success rate of 57.9 per cent (national average 40.9 per cent).

Seven other UQ projects also attracted substantial funding through the scheme.

REWARDING TOP RESEARCH

Fifty-two leading UQ researchers have been honoured as leaders in their fields at the inaugural Q-Index Awards.

The awards ceremony, held in May, followed the Federal Government’s release of the first Excellence in Research for Australia assessment (ERA), which confirmed UQ is above world standard in more broad fields of discovery than any other Australian university.

Guests at the Customs House ceremony included State Treasurer Andrew Fraser, Queensland Chief Scientist Dr Geof Garrett, and Professor Robin Batterham, President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

Australian Research Council Federation Fellows, ARC Laureate Fellows, Queensland Smart State Premier’s Fellows and National Health and Medical Research Council Australia Fellows were also in attendance.

The Q-Index, launched last year, provides UQ staff member to see details of how their individual rating has been calculated, as well as a comparison against an average of their peers.

The researchers with the top 25 composite Q-Index scores were:

- Professor Paul Aitwood, Professor Bhesh Bhandari, Professor Suresh Bhatia, Professor Wendy Brown, Professor Matthew Brown, Professor Justin Cooper-White, Professor David Craik, Professor Stuart Crozier, Professor Bernard Degnan, Professor Joe Diniz Da Costa, Professor David Fairlie, Professor Paul Hodges, Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Professor Jurg Keller, Professor Peter Koopman, Professor John Mattick, Professor Bernard Degnan, Professor Gail Williams, Professor Hugh Possingham, Professor Gal Williams, Professor Alpha Yap and Professor Zhiguo Yuan.

The top five researchers in the humanities and social sciences were: Professor Robyn Gilles, Professor Robert Lingard, Professor Jake Najman, Professor Matthew Sanders and Professor Graeme Turner.

Additional honours were presented in the following categories:

**Top 10 research income (research input points)**

- Professor Paul Colditz, Professor David Craik, Professor David Fairlie, Professor Sean Grimmond, Professor Jurg Keller, Professor Jochen Mueller, Professor David Mulligan, Professor Lars Nielsen, Professor Hugh Possingham and Professor Jennifer Stow.

**Top 10 research publications (research output points)**

- Professor Roland Bleker, Associate Professor Rex Butler, Professor Hubert Chanson, Professor David Craik, Professor Duong Dang Do, Professor Wayne Hall, Professor Paul Hodges, Professor John Mattick, Professor Hugh Possingham and Professor John Quiggin.

**Top 10 higher degree research completions**

- Dr Verin Armano, Professor Michael Bennett, Professor David Craik, Professor James De Voss, Professor Bernie Degnan, Professor Jurg Keller, Professor Martin Mills, Professor Stuart Phinn, Professor Hugh Possingham and Professor Zhiguo Yuan.

**Top 10 higher degree research load**

- Professor Paul Burn, Dr Stuart Glover, Professor Bostjan Kobe, Dr Bronwyn Lea, Associate Professor Xue Li, Professor Lars Nielsen, Professor Hugh Possingham, Dr Adam Postula, Professor Tapan Saha and Associate Professor Peer Schenk.

Recipients of the first two categories each received $2000 and the four sub-categories $1000.
**MATURENITY MATTERS**

**UQ CENTRE INVITES COMMUNITY TO HELP SHAPE NEW MATERNITY SERVICES.**

The Queensland Centre for Mothers and Babies (QCMB) is offering free training and support to women who would like to represent their local communities in the development of new maternity services.

QCMB Director Professor Debra Creedy said with the Queensland Government’s commitment to developing and expanding new midwifery maternity services, local consumer representatives would play an important role in championing the needs of local women and families.

“The role of consumers in the development of new maternity services is vital,” Professor Creedy said.

“It helps to ensure that the needs of women remain central to the way maternity services are delivered.

“We would like to make contact with Queensland women who would like to be involved in this project.

“The needs of each community are quite unique whether they are city, country or remote, and we think it is important that all women be included in this project.”

President of Maternity Coalition Queensland Rebecca Jenkinson said her organisation and Health Consumers Queensland were partnering with QCMB to offer a training program to women who would like to become consumer representatives.

“This is a very special project because the training is being developed by consumers, for consumers,” Ms Jenkinson said.

“It is very focused on the importance of consumer representation and the ongoing support needs of consumer advocates.”

The first workshop was held in Brisbane on June 30, with future events planned. Funding is available to assist participants to attend workshops, including reimbursement for travel and accommodation costs.

The QCMB is an independent research centre based at The University of Queensland’s St Lucia campus and funded by Queensland Health.

INFO ➔ (07) 3346 3069, www.havingababy.org.au

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**New nurses a UQ first**

Professional journey comes full circle.

UQ student Samantha Zurvas is fast on her way to a rewarding career as a nurse after swapping a successful job as a marketing analyst.

After graduating this month, the 24-year-old will fulfill a lifelong ambition of becoming a nurse, and will also be the first to complete the University’s Master of Nursing Studies (Graduate Entry) program.

Ms Zurvas’ passion for nursing began as a high school student when she volunteered in the special care nursery and maternity ward at the Wesley Hospital.

“I’ve always been interested in the healthcare field,” Ms Zurvas said.

“I even started a nursing degree in 2004 but decided to take a year off.”

After graduating with a Bachelor of Social Science in 2007, Ms Zurvas went to work for a newspaper on the Gold Coast for two years.

“Although I enjoyed working as a marketing analyst, I have never been able to get nursing out of my head,” she said.

“For two years I searched for the courage to start again.”

Still keen to pursue a career in nursing, Ms Zurvas started searching for the right degree when she found the UQ Master of Nursing Studies (Graduate Entry) program.

“I had been looking for a long time for a program that could give me the amount of clinical learning I felt I needed to work confidently as a nurse,” she said.

“I chose UQ because it looked like a fantastic opportunity to combine my previous qualifications and get a masters in as little at 18 months, and when I learnt that the base hospital was to be the Wesley I knew it was meant to be.”

Ms Zurvas said it was exciting to be part of a new and unique program and to be surrounded by fellow students who had chosen to be nurses after experiencing other careers and professional lives.

“The academic learning, combined with regular clinical practice, means I will be completely ready from day one,” she said.

“I have well and truly become part of the Wesley community through the UQ Wesley Hospital Clinical School, and have completed some 700 hours of placements on its wards.”

Ms Zurvas’s hard work has already paid off – she has secured two job offers in her specialty areas of interest prior to graduating.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/nursing-midwifery
new research shows Infants able to distinguish between other-race groups.

Infants eye difference

Exposing infants to facial pictures of different races can reduce difficulty in recognising and discriminating between other-race groups later in life, according to new University of Queensland research.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Medicine Dr Michelle Heron-Delaney said this difficulty was commonly known as Other Race Effect.

Other Race Effect is a well-established phenomenon in adults and is assumed to be a consequence of experience with faces from races that are typically found in their environment.

“We found that at six months of age infants can discriminate individual faces from their own and other races, but by nine months this ability is typically lost due to minimal exposure with other-race faces,” Dr Heron-Delaney said.

The study, which was published in the Public Library of Science, investigated whether infants could maintain the ability to process other-race faces via book training in their own homes between six and nine months.

The team exposed 32 six-month-old Caucasian infants to six colour pictures of faces, and eight different sets of faces in total. Half the group was exposed to Chinese faces and the other to Caucasian faces. The team then retested the infants at nine months.

The results concluded that those infants exposed to Chinese faces were able to maintain the ability to discriminate faces from other-race groups while those infants who did not receive the exposure lost this ability.

“This outcome is unique and exciting – it demonstrates that training on other-race faces at this early stage of an infant’s life can prevent the Other Race Effect from developing in the first place,” Dr Heron-Delaney said.

“It also confirms that even infants as young as six months of age can learn and remember content from a picture book interaction with their parents.”
ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS HIGHLIGHT THE RICHNESS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY.

A multicultural fair and a spirited public forum on how universities can help those less fortunate were among the highlights of Diversity Week 2011.

The annual event celebrates the increasing diversity of the UQ community and aims to raise awareness of issues that are impacting on the world’s diverse people, groups and communities.

The centerpiece of the week was the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards, with the main honour going to a UQ Law School initiative which helps year 12 students develop a better understanding of Australia’s asylum and refugee policies. The award – valued at $10,000 – was presented to members of the Asylum and Refugee Law Project (ARLP).

Created by a small group of students last year, ARLP aims to encourage school students and the wider public to explore and critically analyse Australian refugee law and policy and consider its human effects.

Project supervisor and Senior Lecturer in Law Dr Peter Billings said following completion of an immigration and refugee law subject, students wanted to contribute to debates around forced migration in the Asia-Pacific region and the processing of asylum seekers in Australia.

“The students had a desire to deepen their understanding of immigration and refugee policy, not for academic credit, but so that they could contribute to public debate in an informed way,” Dr Billings said.

In September 2010, the students facilitated a pilot lesson on asylum and refugee law at Mansfield State High School and have since broadened the program to involve other schools in addition to maintaining a blog on the issue.

Prominent UQ medical graduate and multiple Olympic speed skating gold medallist Dr Johann Koss was awarded the Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Equity and Diversity Award in absentia.

Dr Koss currently holds the position of President and CEO of Right to Play, an international NGO dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children.

Fellow alumni Melanie Gordon and Dale Young were highly commended. Ms Gordon is committed to improving gender diversity in the resources sector, and was named the 2010 Queensland Telstra Young Business Woman of the Year. Mr Young was recognised for establishing the Safe Water for Better Health Project, which has helped provide safe water to 30,000 disadvantaged people in Tanzania.

The University of Queensland was named as one of Australia’s 10 most gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT)-friendly employers of 2010 at the recent Pride in Diversity Awards and Luncheon.

UQ was recognised by Pride in Diversity, Australia’s first employer support program for the inclusion of GLBT people in the workplace.

Winners were determined using the group’s Australian Workplace Equality Index, a free service provided annually that evaluates and benchmarks GLBT inclusiveness in Australian workplaces.

UQ Equity Office Director Dr Ann Stewart said the new honour followed last year’s Diversity at Work Award for its UQ Ally program.

The program is a visible network of staff who are allies of students and staff identifying as lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual or intersex, and who strongly support the University’s stance on fostering an environment where people of all sexualities and gender identities can safely study and work.

Speakers at the awards luncheon included the Hon. Michael Kirby and Olympic gold medallist Matthew Mitcham.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week
UQ’s Greenest Offices Awarded

UQ celebrated World Environment Day last month by recognising the contribution of the University’s 100 Green Office representatives across all four campuses.

UQ Executive Director (Operations) and University Secretary Maurie McNarn presented awards to representatives from UQ’s “greenest” areas, including Justine Greig (pictured) from the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Mr McNarn, who chairs the University’s Sustainability Steering Committee, said the University was providing leadership in the face of national and global challenges linked to sustainability.

The Green Office program, established in 2006, is an initiative whereby UQ staff promote good environmental practices in their work area.

Ms Greig was this year’s winner of the Best Green Office Initiative Award, with Suzanne Manning from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience highly commended.

Ms Greig, who is the OMC Events and Sponsorship Manager said it was often the small things that made a difference in planning sustainable events.

The winner of the Best New Green Office Award was UQ’s Assurance & Risk Management Service (representative Edla Ward).

The runner-up was the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences, represented by Ann Dunn and Purnima Gunness.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/sustainability

UQ News, July 2011

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A multidisciplinary UQ team are working with traditional owners in the Solomon Islands to preserve the Marovo Lagoon and other sites.
ASTROPHYSICS PROJECT PROVES EINSTEIN WAS RIGHT.

An Australian-based astronomy team, co-led by Professor Michael Drinkwater from UQ’s School of Mathematics and Physics, has shown that mysterious “dark energy” is indeed real and not a mistake in Einstein’s theory of gravity.

New results from NASA’s Galaxy Evolution Explorer and the Anglo-Australian Telescope atop Siding Spring Mountain in Australia, confirm that dark energy is a smooth, uniform force that now dominates over the effects of gravity.

Using the Anglo-Australian Telescope, 26 astronomers (from 14 different institutions) contributed to the WiggleZ Dark Energy Survey, which mapped the distribution of galaxies over an unprecedented volume of the Universe.

Because light takes so long to reach Earth, it was the equivalent of looking seven billion years back in time – more than half way back to the Big Bang.

“This is the first individual galaxy survey to span such a long stretch of cosmic time. It was only possible thanks to new Australian technology,” Professor Drinkwater said.

The survey, which covered more than 200,000 galaxies, took four years to complete and aimed to measure the properties of “dark energy” - a concept first cast by Einstein in his Theory of General Relativity.

The scientist adapted his original equations to include the idea and later admitted that it was “his greatest blunder”.

Dark energy is the name astronomers gave in the late 1990s to an unknown cause of the Universe’s accelerating expansion.

This mysterious energy, that defies gravity, makes up about 72 percent of the Universe, while 24 percent constitutes dark matter, and 4 percent makes up the planets, stars and galaxies that we normally hear about.

“The discovery of acceleration was an enormous shock, because it went against everything we thought we knew about gravity,” co-researcher Dr Tamara Davis from UQ said.

“The problem was, that supernova data couldn’t tell us whether dark energy was genuinely there, or whether Einstein’s theory of gravity itself was failing.”

WiggleZ used two other kinds of observations to provide an independent check on the supernova results.

One measured the pattern of how galaxies are distributed in space and the other measured how quickly clusters of galaxies formed over time.

“WiggleZ says dark energy is real. Einstein remains untoppled,” said Dr Chris Blake, of Swinburne University, lead author of the recent findings, which will be published in two papers in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

The WiggleZ project was led by Dr Blake, Professor Warwick Couch, Professor Karl Glazebrock and Professor Drinkwater.

INFO ➔ http://wigglez.swin.edu.au
Science at your fingertips

UQ STUDENTS PROMOTE CITIZEN SCIENCE.

Research isn’t just for scientists—anyone can play their part by spotting and recording wildlife, deciphering pictures of distant galaxies, or monitoring the colour of our coral reefs.

The University of Queensland hosted a “You Be the Scientist” information night at the Indooroopilly Library recently, with current students explaining how citizen science works, why it is important, and pinpointing some scientific opportunities for interested parties.

Dr Kathy Townsend from UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station discussed how her research on turtles and manta rays benefits from community input.

“Volunteers are an invaluable resource for my research,” Dr Townsend said.

As part of the Turtles in Trouble project, Dr Townsend is studying the effect of marine debris on sea turtles.

This requires surveying large areas of beach for debris, which is then placed into categories.

“With volunteer input, this task, which would take my small research team days to complete, is reduced to a matter of hours,” Dr Townsend said.

Event organiser Simon Nickerson said citizen science was a hot trend in scientific research internationally.

“Citizen science is an exciting new development – it’s a way for the public to take an active role in scientific research,” he said.

“Our event showed people some of the projects they can get involved with, including astronomy, climate research and ecology.”

ROBOT RESEARCH GENERATES BUZZ

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Ruth Schulz and her colleagues have created a pair of robots that use their own language.

Called “Lingodroids”, the robots communicate by developing their own words for places, and relationships between places based on distance and direction.

The language sounds like a sequence of phone tones, which are easy for the robots to produce and hear, before being translated into syllables for humans to recognise them.

The robots start exploring by playing where-are-we games. “If they encounter an area that has not yet been named, one will invent a word, such as “kuzo”, choosing a random combination of syllables, which it is then able to communicate to other robots it meets, thus defining the name of the place,” Dr Schulz (pictured) said.

These words are known as “toponyms” (“topo” meaning place and “nym” meaning name).

The robots then start to play how-far and which-direction games, which enable them to develop relationship words such as English prepositions.

The resulting language consists of location, distance and direction words, enabling the robots to refer to new places based on their relationship to known locations.

“These languages are very powerful – they are known as ‘generative’ languages because they enable the robots to refer to places they haven’t been to or even places they imagine beyond the edges of their explored world,” Dr Schulz said.

An essential aspect of these games is that the robots develop robust ideas of where a word should be used.

Their understanding of the new language was tested using games in which two robots attempted to meet at a particular toponym, or place name.

If one robot told the other “jaya”, they would independently navigate to where they thought “jaya” was.

When both robots arrived at the same location, the concept “jaya” was consistent between the robots.

After having played hundreds of games to develop their language, the robots agreed upon concepts for toponyms within 0.65 metres, directions within 10 degrees and distances within 0.375 metres.

The robots consist of a mobile platform, which is fitted with a camera, laser range finder, sonar for mapping and obstacle avoidance, and a microphone and speakers for audible communication with each other.

Dr Schulz and her colleagues presented their research at the International Conference on Robotics and Automation in Shanghai in May, and have since received international coverage for their work.

“We believe that the natural way to communicate with robots will be through human language,” Dr Schulz said.

INFO → http://itee.uq.edu.au/~ruth/
Keep in step with industry engagement

Attend this year's Experts Exchange forum, run by UQ's main commercialisation company, UniQuest, to hear what the experts say about industry engagement.

There are many benefits of industry engagement, including career advancement, and what you learn from Experts Exchange may help you to step up.

Experts Exchange aims to help academics and their research teams understand more about industry engagement, and illustrate ways to maximise their expertise and skills, through consulting and contract research.

• Determine the pros and cons of commercial research
• Consider the value of engagement to your academic career
• Discover how other UQ academics are transferring knowledge via consulting and contract research
• Learn how secondary gains are recorded from UniQuest research contracts
• Hear how commercial grants can help you engage with industry

Some 300 UQ researchers and academics have attended Experts Exchange since it was introduced to UniQuest's professional development program for researchers in 2007. A panel of UQ academics outline their experiences of engaging with external partners, including the risks, rewards and reasons why they have added this dimension to their careers.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) confirms UQ's commitment to industry engagement

During Experts Exchange 2010, Professor Max Lu announced that UQ aimed to be positioned as the preferred source of advice and consultancy for government, industry and the community by 2020. Professor Lu referred to the latest revisions to the HUPP policies recognising services in engagement to the profession – ‘profession’ broadly meaning industry, business and the general community.

“If you do a lot of engagement and solving problems for industry, whether a large or small project, your ability to innovate will ultimately be recognised,” said Professor Lu.

Professor Lu also cited career advancement as just one tangible benefit of engagement and strongly encouraged researchers to become more involved with industry.

Experts Exchange 2011 program will include a presentation from Professor Stephen Walker, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, who will bring perspective to industry engagement in a changing landscape.

"Engagement with university and research organisations can have a ripple effect, especially when there’s synergy between the client’s needs, the researcher’s expertise, and the university’s support for sharing resources," says UniQuest’s Managing Director, David Henderson. “When university expertise and industry comes together in a commercial context it’s more than a service transaction. It’s the catalyst for pushing the boundaries of knowledge & breaking new ground.”

“It was good to find out the value that the university places on consulting.”

Researcher comment, Experts Exchange 2010
UQ CARES FOR ANIMALS

UQ AND LOGAN CITY COUNCIL REVISE THEIR PARTNERSHIP ON ANIMALS IN TEACHING.

The University of Queensland has entered into a new partnership with Logan City Council, which means the use of Logan animals for terminal teaching classes has come to an end, effective from April 2011.

However, the Logan City Council and the University will continue to work closely to help find new homes for suitable unwanted and abandoned animals.

UQ School of Veterinary Sciences Director of Teaching and Learning Associate Professor Paul Mills said the school was committed to continuous review and refinement of teaching practices.

“Over the last few years, we have introduced many innovative surgical training approaches to prepare our students for veterinary clinical practice,” Dr Mills said.

“The School of Veterinary Science continues to provide the highest level of veterinary education.

“Under the new agreement, Logan City Council will continue to transfer animals to UQ that are potential candidates for the school’s Pets-for-Life adoption program, which has a very high success rate of re-homing animals into permanent homes (see story below).

“The students are able to assess and correct some bad behaviour traits under the supervision of highly trained staff, which enables these animals to have a second chance at life.”

Dr Mills said the University remained well placed to continue to provide the best possible curriculum to train future veterinarians.

Logan City Council Animals and City Standards Committee Chairperson, Councillor Graham Able (Division 5), said an agreement between council and UQ’s School of Veterinary Science, which was due to expire in 2013, had been revised.

The Council and the University had negotiated a five-year agreement that would end the already suspended transfer of animals for terminal teaching classes.

Cr Able said unwanted animals unable to be re-homed – that would have previously been euthanased at the University – would instead be euthanased at Council’s Animal Management Centre.

“Council has partnered with the University for over 20 years and we hope to successfully continue this relationship with the revised agreement,” he said.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/vetschool

VET SCHOOL FAVOURITE FINDS A NEW HOME

Dogs and designer furniture might not sound like the perfect match, but Brian is doing his best to challenge the stereotype.

The two-year-old Boxer cross was recently adopted from the UQ School of Veterinary Science Clinical Studies Centre, where he had undergone eight months of rehabilitation under the watchful eye of veterinary students.

Centre Manager Rebekah Scotney said Brian’s success story is a result of the school’s close collaboration with Logan City Council.

Mrs Scotney said veterinary science and veterinary technology students spend a great deal of time learning from these animals and also contribute to their retraining.

Each animal’s behaviour is modified in a positive environment to successfully promote the “pets-for-life” message.

Brian’s experiences prior to being rescued by Logan City Council and UQ did not damage his spirit, with his playful and loving personality catching the attention of local designer Cath Venardos.

Brian now spends his days at her furniture studio Charcoal Interiors in Newstead, where he has developed good relationships with both the staff and high-end clientele.

“Brian is beautiful and has settled in perfectly,” Ms Venardos said.

“He’s in seventh heaven: the mechanics across the road bring him a fishcake every morning and our customers ask where he is when they come in.

“One of our clients has actually asked if he can start walking him on Saturday mornings.”

INFO ➔ View rehabilitated pets at www.uq.edu.au/vetschool/adopt-a-pet
Did you scribble on a desk in the Physiology Lecture Theatres at The University of Queensland’s St Lucia campus sometime in the past 48 years? Chances are your graffiti might have been saved for posterity in a new foyer art installation in the newly refurbished building.

UQ Property and Facilities Project Manager Iranthi Cabraal said the installation was among the sustainability features incorporated in the $6.94 million dollar project.

The project includes state-of-the-art learning resources to give the lecture theatres a new lease on life after almost half a century of continuous use.

Senior designer from Cottee Parker Architects Scott Bagnell said the art installation was entitled “Tree of Life” and incorporated salvaged 1960s lecture theatre desk tablets and chair frames.

“The artwork forged on the original tablets reflects the history, thoughts and repartee of students that studied in these spaces,” he said.

“This was an important element to maintain as part of the ongoing story telling of the building’s history and engagement of university students into the future.”

Mr Bagnell said a range of recycled materials were incorporated into the refurbishment.

They included two spectacular light fittings re worked from old lecture theatre chair frames, and foyer furniture from floorboards and laminated veneer lumbar beams salvaged from the roof demolition.

The Physiology Lecture Theatres — famous for their craftsmen timber walls, which have been retained by the University, with the addition of modern acoustic materials — were built in 1963 and adjoin the John Hines and William MacGregor buildings.

The undercroft of the lecture theatres (now the Physiology Refectory) was once used to host University graduations before the construction of Mayne Hall (now the Mayne Centre) and subsequently the UQ Centre.

The three lecture theatres, which house 800 students, include new digitally printed acoustic ceilings produced from recyclable and recycled plastics, using approximately 60 per cent post consumer waste such as drink bottles. Graphics and recycled products that reference elements of physiology – cells, chromosomes and platelets – are used in each of the spaces.

The refurbishment includes disability lift access, a new roof, student study and meeting areas and a new verandah forecourt area.

Funding for the refurbishment was provided by the Federal Government and the University’s Teaching and Learning Higher Education Fund.

I caught the bus to near Gísli’s apartment and walked the last bit down a long hill. Inside the apartment block stood a large pot, presumably to be used for plants one day, but now it was filled with odd bits of decorator’s rubbish and quite a few letters, the strays of a new apartment block. None were addressed to Gísli and for a moment I wondered whether I was in the right place. But I didn’t want to linger and look. I couldn’t shake the unpleasant vision of the door opening, and of finding myself delivering the letter in person. I slipped it under his door, and almost ran down the stairs and out of the block.

It was a beautiful Icelandic afternoon, raining quite heavily and very windy—classic early autumn weather. I could barely hear myself yelling above the sound of the wind and the traffic coming down the hill. But I was yelling, euphorically in fact, and it was because I had finally done what I had been rehearsing for since I was seventeen. I was at last free of that drive to the president’s lodge, when I had last been this close to my father.

That night, I wrote to my siblings. I had decided that I would post these letters the following day, so that they would reach my siblings two days after I had hand delivered the letter to Gísli. I feared that he might spoil things for me in the meantime if I didn’t act quickly, but I was still glad I had at least allowed him some time. He had never told me to keep his secret—he had only ever asked—and giving him these two days was, I reasoned, my acknowledgment of the choice he had given me; now it was his chance to choose. I wrote a longer letter to my half-sister, Fríða, and similar ones to my other brother and sisters.

Reading these letters today brings back all of the excitement and apprehension of those three days, now more than ten years ago, when I waited to receive a reply. Today, I am embarrassed by the melodrama of my letter. But it reminds me that I was still very angry, and that my letter to him was more than just a hint for him to talk to his family. I judged him, and in retrospect I think I judged him too harshly.

Refurbished UQ lecture theatres feature recycled art.

Every desk tells a story
A powerful series of UQ art exhibitions is providing a rare opportunity to discover the human face behind the asylum seeker debate.

Waiting for Asylum: Figures from an archive, Collaborative Witness: Artists’ responses to the plight of the asylum seeker and refugee, and John Young: Safety Zone are the result of a collaboration between the UQ Art Museum, the UQ Library and researchers in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History (EMSAH).

The exhibitions were officially opened last month and are on show free to the public, seven days a week, until August 7.

“The exhibitions are partly inspired by research Professor Gillian Whitlock is undertaking with asylum-seeker archives held within UQ’s Fryer Library,” Art Museum Director Dr Campbell Gray said.

Using photographs sourced from Fryer Library, artists Ross Gibson and Carl Warner produced a specially commissioned work entitled ‘protection’, which comprises a grid of 60 enlarged colour photographs. Bands of blackboard paint have been dragged across the images to eliminate the possibility of facial recognition, and to represent the loss of identity experienced by asylum seekers at the Australian detention centre in Nauru.

“Many of these photographs are anonymous and yet they provide extraordinary insights into the Nauru detention centre as they were photographed by the asylum seekers themselves,” co-curator and UQ Lecturer in Art History Dr Prue Ahrens said.

Collaborative Witness includes works produced in the past decade by prominent artists including Rosamund Laing, Judy Watson and Guan Wei.

Asylum art: (clockwise from main image) Rosamund Laing’s and you can even pay later (2004), Benjamin Armstrong’s Witness (2010), and surveillance (2009) by Judy Watson from the Collaborative Witness exhibition. Images reproduced courtesy of the artists and Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne.
GREAT TRADITION CONTINUES

Athletic prowess and exceptional team spirit were on display at this year’s Great Court Race as the University’s top runners battled it out in one of the most anticipated sporting events of the year.

Based on the famous Cambridge University Race depicted in Chariots of Fire, the 636m lap of the Great Court is one of UQ’s most prestigious and popular traditions.

Taking out the women’s title was physiotherapy student Caitlin Sargent, who won with a time of 1:43:40; just short of Sandra Dawson’s 1993 record of 1:41:68.

St Leo’s defended its title and beat Cromwell and King’s colleges in a nail-biting relay race that saw only .24 of second between second and third place.

Women’s College took out first place in the women’s relay, beating Grace College and last year’s winners Duchesne College.

Caitlin Sargent crosses the line in near-record time at this year’s Great Court Race, and below, with men’s winner Jordan Pearce

Ms Sargent was the early favourite following her selection in the Australian women’s 4 x 400m relay team for the IAAF World Championships in August.

Coming in second place was Brittany McGowan, followed by the 2009 and 2010 Great Court Race winner, Kristyn Mackrell.

Defending champion Jordan Pearce proved he still has what it takes to win the men’s title by finishing first with a time of 1:32:48.

Agricultural science student Schalk Botma came in second and Patrick Crompton finished third.

(Closing date – 1 September 2011)

Applications are invited from women and men aged between 18 and 25 for the Queensland Rhodes Scholarship for 2012. Information seminars are scheduled at various Queensland Universities in late July/early August.

Details of dates and venues are available on the website: www.uq.edu.au/rhodesscholarship

Information about the Scholarship and access to the on-line application system must be obtained from Ms Linda Bird, Honorary Secretary, Queensland Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, email: qldrhodesscholarship@uq.edu.au
**EVENTS / NOTICES**

- **Saturday, July 23**
  The School of Medicine Gala Ball will be held at the Presidential Ballroom of Brisbane’s Sebel & Citigate Hotel, with a “Winter Wonderland” theme and performance by comedian Wil Anderson. 6:30pm–11:30pm. Tickets $170 per person, $1500 for a table of 10, $110 per student. Information: (07) 3365 5515

- **Wednesday, July 27**
  Get ready for the Mid Year Market Day. The action-packed day features stalls, barbecues, entertainment, giveaways and demonstrations. Information: (07) 3365 2600, orientation@uq.edu.au

- **Sunday, August 7**
  Come along to the UQ Open Day, where you can take a peak inside one of Australia’s premier universities. The St Lucia event covers programs available across all four campuses. Attend a range of presentations and enjoy various activities and displays throughout the day. Information: (07) 3365 2846, k.cuddihy@uq.edu.au

- **Friday, August 12**
  POLSIS research seminar “Immigration, Terrorism and Civil Liberties”. 3–4.30pm, room S37, General Purpose North (building 39A). Information: (07) 3365 2655, m.mcdonald@uq.edu.au

**GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS**

- Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics. Please send listings to: c.bird1@uq.edu.au

- **For rent:**
  Flat in Highgate Hill for three months from September 2011. Overlooks the river and close to public transport. Cost $200/week. Contact 0413 838 417.

- **House sitter available:**
  House sitter with references available. Contact: r.lang@uq.edu.au or 0407 157 108.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **RD Arida Scholarship**
  Open to students who, as at Semester 1 2011, have undertaken no previous study at tertiary level; whose home residence is in north Queensland; and who can demonstrate financial need. Value: approx $470. Closing: November 18. Information: (07) 3365 1412

- **Indigenous staff scholarships**
  Applications are open for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees at an Australian university who actively encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete their higher education studies. Value: 12 months leave to study full-time, up to $23,600 for living allowances and up to $11,800 for tuition fees and student contribution amounts for the year. Closing: July 31. Information: IndigenousStaffScholarships@deewr.gov.au

**UQ NEWS DEADLINES**

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**FIRST PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATES RETURN TO UQ.**

More than 70 UQ alumni returned to where it all began at the St Lucia campus recently to celebrate being the inaugural graduates of the state’s first dedicated physical education program.

UQ’s School of Human Movement Studies provided the setting for the reunion, where guests were treated to high tea while reminiscing about their university days.

Set up in 1941 with £1000 from the Federal Government, the initial certificate and then Diploma of Physical Education courses were designed to meet the emerging demand for professionally qualified physical education teachers.

Professor Doune Macdonald, Head of the School of Human Movement Studies, said many of the graduates had gone on to make a major contribution to health, physical education and recreation in Queensland and throughout Australia.

“We had gathered retired heads of school departments, principals, teachers, academics, coaches, and policy advisors who paved the way for the multidisciplinary field of human movement studies to emerge in the early 1970s,” she said.

“The reunion was also a great opportunity to reflect on the birth and establishment of the physical education field of study and acknowledge the significant role the school plays in meeting the physical activity needs of individuals and communities.

“Seventy years on, physical education is now an established area of tertiary education and of growing importance to the wider community.”

To mark the school’s 70th anniversary, a gala dinner is being held on October 1.

INFO ➔ www.hms.uq.edu.au

UQ physical education graduates Margaret Martin, Clive Dixon and Sue Dixon at the reunion, and below, the physical education gym in the 1950s.
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