HIGH FLYER

Journalism career takes off
THE GENOMIC ARCHITECTURE OF ANIMALS

Explore the most fundamental essence of what it means to be an animal through the science of genomics. Recent genome sequencing of one of the simplest of living animals, the marine sponge has allowed us to peer into our deep pre-Cambrian past, surprisingly revealing a large set of genes essential to all animals. Learn more about the genomic logic to which all animal diversity must adhere, regardless of whether they are exquisitely complex or remarkably simple.

SUPERBUGS & THE MACHINE THAT GOES ‘PING’

Bacteria are everywhere. Most are harmless or even beneficial to humans, but ‘superbugs’ are a force to be reckoned with. Sadly our inappropriate use of antibiotics over the past 50 years has led to the global spread of bacterial resistance. At UQ, we are developing new ways of detecting bacteria and new drugs to treat infections. We will show how we use physics, chemistry, and biology in our battle against the superbugs!

Professor Matthew Cooper
Institute of Molecular Bioscience
The University of Queensland

Professor Bernie Degnan
School of Biomedical Sciences
The University of Queensland

Monday
12 September 2011
6:00pm for 6:30pm
Long Room
Customs House
399 Queen Street, Brisbane

Limited places available
RSVP by Monday
5 September 2011
uq.edu.au/research-week/registration
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

An economic malaise in Washington DC and on Wall Street is a bitter reminder that when the United States of America catches a cold, Australia sneezes. It’s time for a pick-me-up, so let’s look at some of UQ’s ties with the USA, which show American relations in higher education can be good for Australia and for the global users of our learning and research.

For starters, institutions in the USA are number-one for collaboration with UQ researchers (based on the quantity of peer-reviewed publications). America is also home to vital philanthropic and business partners, some 6500 UQ alumni – more than any other nation – and about 500 current students. It is the most popular destination for UQ undergraduates wanting an international study experience, and the departure point for inbound “study abroad” students.

Quality counts for more than numbers, so the USA’s dominance in higher education and research is compelling for UQ. Harvard – one of the best, if not the best university in the world – is our fourth most important overseas discovery ally by publication volume, and the universities of Washington, California (Los Angeles, Berkeley and Davis), and Johns Hopkins are in the top 20. Another hallmark of superiority, the Fulbright scholarship, has been awarded to about 160 graduates or students of UQ, and almost 120 American Fulbright winners have come here to pursue their scholarships.

UQ’s most generous modern benefactor, The Atlantic Philanthropies, was founded by New Jersey-born Chuck Feeney, and we have had significant gains from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2010 the University received almost $10 million for research from United States organisations including NASA, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Despite the greenback’s decline against the Aussie dollar, USA-UQ discourse is at least as enthusiastic as ever. Mid-year, we established the University’s first offshore office dedicated to business development and philanthropy, a stone’s throw from the White House (more on page 11). Then Washington University in St Louis announced a joint degree arrangement with UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law, and a US venture capital firm was part of a consortium committing to invest $15 million in Nanopatch technology pioneered by UQ’s Professor Mark Kendall (feature on page 7).

August has brought us high-impact delegations from Washington State University and Purdue University (we launched an early career researcher exchange program with the latter), and on the 29th we will partner with The Atlantic Philanthropies in hosting an Australian-exclusive address by the Chancellor of the University of California, San Francisco, Dr Susan Desmond-Hellmann.

None of this says that the USA means more to UQ than our other international friends. Like them, America enriches a diverse portfolio of contacts that support UQ’s unrelenting pursuit of excellence. By combining our intellectual, creative and fundraising capital, we enhance the prospects of finding viable solutions to global afflictions – economic and otherwise.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
SPORT

“Sport” examines scandal outcomes upon the sport as well as sponsors.

“While some studies have examined the impact of crisis in sports on reactions from sponsors and media, there is virtually no empirical research on the influence imposed upon relationships among the sports consumers, sports properties, and sponsors,” Dr Chien said.

Factors including the growing use of social media and the rising number of popular sports sponsors means the negative publicity generated by a scandal spreads quickly and widely.

“This can potentially be devastating not only to those directly involved in the scandal, but also for the fan base, sports proprietors and sponsors who have often made sizeable financial investments and cultivated various commercial linkages through associated marketing communications efforts,” Dr Kelly said.

Dr Chien and Dr Kelly plan to complete the research within three years and hope it will guide further research, possibly extending the examination to all relevant sport stakeholders.

UQ DISCOVERED AT OPEN DAY

UQ welcomed almost 20,000 people to the St Lucia campus earlier this month for one of the most successful Open Days to date.

Marketing Manager Shannon Holborn said Open Days – held at St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton each year – were among the biggest events on the University calendar, and provided the perfect opportunity for potential students to discover UQ campuses, programs and facilities first-hand.

The UQ Centre was a hive of activity on August 7, with more than 10,000 people taking the opportunity to speak to current staff and students about the programs offered by each of the University’s six faculties. Information about scholarships, support services and exchange experiences was also available, with a dedicated parents’ lounge proving popular.

“The St Lucia event ran very smoothly with hundreds of different talks, demonstrations and tours taking place throughout the day,” Ms Holborn said.

“Staff and students were on hand to discuss any questions and to assist visitors to make the most of our beautiful campus.”

UQ’s museums and sporting facilities were also open on the day, with the Great Court taking on a carnival atmosphere hosting live music and entertainment, in addition to free rides and giveaways.

Potential students are encouraged to visit UQ’s Facebook page to go into the draw to win a $10,000 discovery tour. To enter, participants play an interactive game tracking the global careers of recent UQ graduates.

INFO ➔ www.facebook.com/uniofqld
(entries close midnight August 26)

RENTING MADE SIMPLE

UQ Accommodation Services has produced a new series of videos to help students navigate the rental process with ease.

Renting Made Easy aims to cover common issues including how to find somewhere to live, sharing a house with other tenants, legal issues associated with renting and what happens when it is time to move out.

Accommodation coordinator Andri van Zyl said the video was designed to answer everyday questions around renting in Queensland.

“We see students struggling with the same issues every semester, and this video is a straightforward way of explaining the basics of renting,” she said.

“Hopefully, this video will help students avoid some of the most common pitfalls around renting, so they will have more time and energy to enjoy uni life.

“While Accommodation Services staff will continue to be there to answer students’ questions, this video should be a great starting point.”

UQ Accommodation Services is a branch of Student Services and helps students find accommodation through official housing partners and the private rental market, as well as UQ’s residential colleges.

INFO ➔ www.accommodation.uq.edu.au

CREDIT CRUNCH

Research conducted by UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law was used to support new consumer credit protection legislation passed by the Senate recently.

The legislation will introduce practical measures to prevent consumers becoming overburdened by debt, including introducing simplified disclosure statements that clearly detail the real cost of debt repayments.

Law academic Paul O’Shea’s research into disclosure statements was incorporated into the National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Bill 2011 to assist consumers in making more informed choices about mortgage products and credit card contracts.

Mr O’Shea said he was delighted that his research was being used to support regulation.

“It’s exciting that the Government, in an effort to produce evidence-based regulation, is using research conducted by UQ’s law school as part of the process of reforming consumer credit in ways that will be relevant for many years to come,” he said.

Federal Member for Fraser, Dr Andrew Leigh, mentioned Mr O’Shea’s report in an address to Parliament as he spoke in support of proposed credit protection reforms designed to assist consumers in making more informed choices about mortgage products and credit card contracts.

Dr Leigh spoke of the importance of helping consumers to understand what it is they are signing up for to help them avoid financial stress caused by debt.

He said research by Mr O’Shea had taken an innovative approach to assess the impact of simplified disclosure statements.

“The research provides empirical support for what many of us would have intuitively thought—better disclosure improves customer knowledge,” Dr Leigh said.

Entitled “Simplification of Disclosure Regulation for the Consumer Credit Code”, the project was commissioned on behalf of the Standing Committee of Officials of Consumer Affairs and published in April 2010.

The two-year project was the most intensive and comprehensive experimental research of its kind carried out in Australia, and larger in scale and detail to any similar research into consumer credit disclosure conducted in Europe.

The project’s findings were incorporated into a Commonwealth Treasury white paper on consumer credit reform and used in a call for response on the issue to industry and consumer groups.
LEAVING THE NEST LATER

Is your child over 18 and still living at home? If so, then UQ invites you to complete a short online survey to assist with new research.

The project is being conducted by psychology honours student Emma Tarrant, who is investigating the attitudes and perceptions of the parents of adult children who still live at home.

Ms Tarrant hopes that by researching parents’ roles and perceptions of parenting, she will gain insight into how Australian parents are coping with this phenomenon, and whether additional support may be useful.

INFO → a.ralph@psy.uq.edu.au

HIDE AND SEEK STUDY

Hiding may play an important role in relaxing cats according to University of Queensland honours student Mark Owens.

Working in the Centre of Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE), Mr Owens’ project focuses on the behaviour and welfare of domestic cats in shelters.

“Welfare is a major issue in many countries for animals that are kept in cages, shelters and captive environments like zoos,” Mr Owens said.

The study looks at cats’ behaviours and emotions, which indicate if they are feeling stressed, anxious, frustrated or content and examines 37 cats over seven days.

Half of the cats Mr Owens is observing are provided with a hiding box, and the remaining cats are in open view.

“A big part of my research is whether hiding provides a certain type of enrichment for cats in stressful situations,” Mr Owens said.

“Unfortunately, I am not sitting in a room playing and watching cats, I have pre-recorded the cats for 24 hours over seven days, and have just finished coding their behaviours on the videos,” he said.

A cat’s position in the cage, its posture and certain escape behaviours are all observations that contribute to identifying their emotions, stress levels and ability to adapt to their environment.

“I chose to do this project because I am very interested in the behaviour of domestic animals,” Mr Owens said.

“I hope my research will benefit animal shelters, and will allow them to recognise stressful behaviours in cats and ways to decrease these kinds of behaviours,” he said.

The study continues on from preliminary research in Canada where over three days, 39 cats, which were housed in a shelter, showed significant behavioural and emotional changes.

INFO → www.uq.edu.au/cawe

“MAN FLU” NOT A MYTH

Researchers in the UQ School of Medicine have made an important discovery about how the immune system reacts to rhinoviruses, the viruses that usually cause the common cold.

The research team, led by Professor John Upham, found young women make a stronger immune response to rhinoviruses than young men. These differences disappear after menopause, so are probably regulated by sex hormones.

Professor Upham said the findings were crucially important for finding new ways of combating rhinoviruses.

“While these viruses are just a nuisance in healthy people, they can make people with asthma or other chronic lung diseases very unwell,” he said.

FACTS + FIGURES

15,457
- number of life sciences papers UQ researchers have published over the last 10 years

2300
- number of research projects UQ is involved in all over the world

130
- number of high school students from Queensland and the Northern Territory who participated in the QBII’s 2011 Australian Brain Bee Challenge State Finals

$2 million
- amount the State Government is investing in UQ’s Centre for Advanced Imaging

50
- number of nominations received for the 2011 UQ Social Change Award

1.5m
- height of a slingshot UQ students developed as part of an assignment to bring the popular Smartphone game Angry Birds to life

In our efforts to find new ways to prevent these infections, we need to take into account the effects of hormones, and how they affect the immune system.” Professor Upham said the researchers were studying how the immune system worked — or didn’t work — in people with asthma.

The researchers will further study the effects of hormones on the immune system, with long-term plans for development of a vaccine.

The research team was drawn from the Lung and Allergy Research Centre in the School of Medicine, and included Melanie Carroll, Dr Stephanie Yerkovich, Dr Antonia Pritchard and Dr Janet Davies.

The research was funded by the Asthma Foundation of Queensland and the National Health and Medical Research Council.
GLOBAL RANKINGS SUCCESS

The University of Queensland has cracked the top 100 for the first time in the prestigious 2011 Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) announced recently.

UQ was ranked one of the top three universities in the country, moving up to a world ranking of 86 from a previous ranking in the 101–150 band. UQ is the only Queensland university ranked in the top 100.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the latest results corroborated with other indices to clearly place UQ in the top 1 percent of global universities.

“I pay tribute to the researchers who have thrust UQ into the top 90 of a global ranking system that is widely viewed as the most research-focused,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Research excellence is increasingly a hallmark of global leadership, and this ranking will be regarded by many as a stamp of UQ’s distinction in a very competitive world industry.”

“Having four Australian universities in the ARWU top 100 reflects the quality of our research community and the determination of universities to succeed in a challenging global environment.”

UQ improved its international rankings by broad subject fields in the life and agriculture sciences from a 2010 ranking in the 51–75 band to be ranked in the top 50 internationally. It was also ranked in the 52–75 band in engineering/technology and computer engineering, and in the 51–75 band in clinical medicine and pharmacy.

The Academic Ranking of World Universities was first published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in 2003, then updated on an annual basis. Since 2009 it has been compiled by an independent organisation, the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy.

The ARWU uses a number of objective indicators to rank world universities including the number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, number of highly cited researchers selected by Thomson Scientific, and per capita performance with respect to the size of an institution.

UQ has also ranked in the top one percent of universities in the world in rankings including the QS World University Rankings 2010 (rank 43rd); Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2010–2011 (rank 81st); and in the QS Global rankings of universities by subjects released in July.

A pioneering engineer and visionary philanthropist have been recognised with The University of Queensland’s highest honour.

Wotif.com co-founder Graeme Wood and Chair of Powerlink Else Shepherd AM each received honorary doctorates during UQ’s mid-year graduations last month.

Mr Wood received his honorary doctorate at a Faculty of Business, Economics and Law ceremony on July 20, with Ms Shepherd presented with her award at a Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology ceremony on July 22.

Mr Wood, who received a Doctor of Economics honoris causa, is one of Queensland’s most successful entrepreneurs and a national leader in philanthropy for education, arts, the environment and youth.

His visionary philanthropy is having a major impact in higher education through his strategic resourcing of cutting-edge research into global-scale changes and his support for talented students.

He is co-founder and chair of The University of Queensland Endowment Fund (UQef), Director of The Graeme Wood Foundation and Chief Executive of WildMob.

Mr Wood, a UQ Bachelor of Economics and Master of Information Systems graduate, also gifted $15 million in March last year towards a sustainable building to house the Global Change Institute, which is targeting solutions for problems linked to global-scale change.

Ms Shepherd, who received a Doctor of Engineering honoris causa, was one of the first two women to graduate from electrical engineering at UQ in 1965, and at one time was one of only two female engineers working in Queensland.

After graduating, Ms Shepherd worked as an operation research engineer at the Sugar Research Institute in Mackay. She had recently married, and during this period it was unusual for married women to work in factories with men.

The Institution of Engineers, Australia, named Ms Shepherd the 2000 Queensland Professional Engineer of the Year, yet when she joined in the 1960s she could not attend their meetings, which were held at the local men’s club.

The institution moved venues and Ms Shepherd went on to become an influential member, paving the way for other women engineers in Australia.

In 1994, she was appointed to her current position as Chair of Powerlink, which maintains Queensland’s electricity transmission.

Ms Shepherd is also a trained musician with vast experience as a choral conductor and director of arts organisations. She received a Graduate Diploma in Music from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 1984.

Also receiving awards during the July graduation period were Dr Keith Greenland, who received a Doctor of Medicine in recognition of his contributions to the study of difficult airway management in Australia and internationally.

Professor Ross Thomas Barnard was also honoured with a Doctor of Science in recognition of his impressive record of achievement in developing diagnostic tools and assays for applications in both pure research and clinical settings, his continued research and key role in passing on his knowledge through the UQ biotechnology program.

GRADUATIONS FEATURE

Learn more about UQ’s latest graduates in a special feature starting on page 14.
UQ project at the cutting edge of commercialisation.

One of Australia’s largest investments in a start-up biotechnology company – AUD15 million – has been made with the aim of developing a revolutionary needle-free vaccine delivery system.

New company Vaxxas Pty Ltd will enable Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) Professor Mark Kendall to continue his pioneering research and development of the Nanopatch.

The investment is led by OneVentures, with co-investors Brandon Capital, the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund and US-based HealthCare Ventures.

The Nanopatch has thousands of small projections designed to deliver the vaccine to abundant immune cells in the skin, whereas the traditional syringe hits the muscle where these are sparse.

Early stage testing in animals so far has shown a Nanopatch-delivered flu vaccine is effective with only 1/150th of the dose compared to a syringe.

In addition to improving the efficiency of delivery, the Nanopatch has the potential to dramatically improve patient convenience and reduce the complications associated with needle phobia, needle-stick injuries and cross contamination, which are key global health issues.

The Nanopatch is designed for thermostability and to not need refrigeration, making transport much cheaper and easier, particularly to developing nations around the world.

Professor Kendall said in the developed world about 14 percent of a vaccine’s costs were in maintaining the cold chain – while in the developing world the impact was even greater.

“In Africa about half of vaccines aren’t working properly because of a breakdown in the cold chain,” Professor Kendall said.

“The Nanopatch also offers a way to stop needle-stick injuries during vaccination – which again is a particularly important problem in Africa; with a third of vaccines affected by other complications brought about through cross contamination needle-stick injury.”

OneVentures General Partner Dr Paul Kelly said the significance of the investment was not just in its size.

“This investment syndicate includes both local and international investors, which is a real vote of confidence in the Nanopatch approach and an appreciation of the potential of the technology to revolutionise vaccine delivery worldwide,” Dr Kelly said.

Dr Kelly will join the Board of Directors of Vaxxas, along with Brandon Capital Partners Managing Director Dr Stephen Thompson, HealthCare Ventures Managing Director Douglas E. Onsi, and UniQuest General Manager of Life Sciences Dr Dean Moss.

The investment was negotiated by UniQuest Pty Limited, The University of Queensland’s main commercialisation company. UniQuest has led the commercialisation of the Nanopatch technology to date, and hands over the responsibility to Vaxxas following their investment.

Dr Thompson said launching Vaxxas as a company was a critical next step for developing the Nanopatch technology.

“In Australia, we invest heavily in our excellent research and development capability but have a relatively poor record of taking those technologies to world markets,” he said.

“We need to convert the promise of the technology into a reality.”

Mr Onsi said the Nanopatch had the potential to transform vaccine delivery for the pharmaceutical industry and for patients around the world.
Environmental management graduate helps businesses adapt.

The announcement of the Federal Government’s planned carbon tax has led to an immediate surge of interest in how to reduce carbon emissions, according to business sustainability analyst Kristine Dewar.

A UQ graduate and employee of Carbon House, Ms Dewar said the introduction of a carbon-pricing mechanism had sparked Australian businesses to think about ways to improve business sustainability and reduce their liabilities.

“I have already provided policy advice to one of my clients, and it’s likely that an increasing number of businesses will seek advice and analysis about the impacts of this policy development,” she said.

The 2010 environmental management (sustainable development) graduate returned to UQ last month to receive her University Medal at a graduation ceremony at St Lucia.

In her job at Carbon House, Ms Dewar designs and delivers innovative carbon management and sustainability services across a range of areas.

Currently, she is managing National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting and Smart Energy Savings Program reporting and compliance for clients.

UQ COMMUNITY URGED TO MAKE A SIMPLE CHANGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

The University of Queensland is asking staff and students to “take the pledge” to help achieve a more sustainable university.

UQ Sustainability Coordinator Suzanne Davis said the Sustainability Pledge was an initiative to inspire and motivate the UQ community to adopt more sustainable practices.

“It’s a simple change that could make a big difference to the environment,” she said.

“A number of leading universities around the world are asking their campus communities to take similar pledges to encourage a culture of environmental sustainability.

“The pledge on the UQ’s sustainability website encourages UQ staff and students to make positive changes.

“We hope it contributes to reducing the University’s ecological footprint and fosters a greater awareness of sustainability at UQ.”

The pledge contains a number of ideas under eight themes that people can implement.

These range from activities to minimise energy, waste and water consumption, to choosing more sustainable transport and energy efficient equipment, engaging in green purchasing practices, supporting campus natural ecosystems and native flora and fauna, and a sustainable estate at UQ, minimising UQ’s environmental risk, and participating actively in the University’s sustainability program.

Students and staff who make the pledge by the end of September will go into the draw to win an iPad and $1000 to donate to a UQ sustainability project of their choice.

The projects include UQ Solar, water bottle refill stations, cycling facilities, lakes precincts enhancement and development of a Green Labs program.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/sustainability

“We hope it contributes to reducing the University’s ecological footprint and fosters a greater awareness of sustainability at UQ”

UQ ADVANCES MRI RESEARCH

The University of Queensland has entered into a landmark agreement with technology specialist Siemens to install a powerful MRI system that is more than twice as strong as any other system currently available in the southern hemisphere.

Funded by the Federal Government, with matching funds from UQ, the Siemens MAGNETOM 7T MRI is set to propel Australia’s research and development capabilities to meet global benchmarks.

It will be housed in the Centre for Advanced Imaging complex under construction at UQ’s St Lucia campus.

NEW ANIMAL SCIENCE LEADER

The appointment of Professor Stephen Moore as Director of UQ’s Centre for Animal Science will inject enormous value into research conducted on behalf of Australian and international livestock industries.

The Centre for Animal Science was established in 2010 as one of three centres in the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI).

QAAFI Director Professor Robert Henry said Professor Moore is a highly regarded scientist and executive who, prior to his appointment with QAAFI, worked for the cattle industry in Alberta, Canada.

TOP HONOUR

UQ’s Professor John Quiggin has been named the 2011 Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia.

The award, announced at the Australian Conference of Economists last month, is the most prestigious offered by the society.

Professor Quiggin is an ARC Federation Fellow and prominent both as a research economist and a commentator on Australian public policy.

He has produced six books and more than 200 refereed journal articles on a diverse range of topics.
Construction has been completed on the nation’s largest flat-panel photovoltaic solar power system at The University of Queensland’s St Lucia campus, with the innovative project officially launched by Energy Minister Stephen Robertson last month.

The system generates 1.22 megawatts of power from the sun, harvested from more than 5000 panels on the rooftops of four of UQ’s biggest buildings.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the solar array would provide between five and six percent of peak electricity demand at the St Lucia campus.

“The University is focused on reducing carbon emissions and increasing its use of renewable energy,” Professor Greenfield said.

“As well as being part of the University’s functional energy infrastructure, the solar array will underpin research in diverse fields including physics, engineering, economics and sustainability.”

The asset would be shared with the community, by giving industry, researchers, school students, teachers and any other interested people access to a website showing live and historical data about the solar power generated from the UQ array.

Professor Paul Meredith, who is overseeing a number of research projects using the UQ solar array, said the system gave UQ research opportunities unparallelled in Australia and positioned Queensland at the global forefront of renewable energy research.

“A major objective of our array research program is to provide a clearer understanding of how to integrate megawatt-scale renewable energy sources into an urban grid,” he said.

“Currently, Australia’s power grid is designed for a very small number of massive power generating plants – mostly coal, gas or hydro.

“In future, it will need to accommodate many, many more, smaller input sources in diverse locations, from renewable resources such as solar, geothermal and wind.”

In addition to the rooftop panels, UQ has installed a ground-mounted, seven-metre-by-six metre 8.4 kilowatt concentrating photovoltaic array (CPV) that follows the sun each day as it moves across the sky.

UQ’s partners on the solar array project include:

- Brisbane firm Ingenero
- Trina Solar (supplier of the array’s solar panels)
- RedFlow (who designed the battery system)
- Electricity wholesaler and retailer Energex
- The Queensland Government’s Office of Clean Energy

Also closely involved with the project are UQ’s Global Change Institute, the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, the School of Economics, the UQ Centre for Organic Photonics and Electronics, the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, the School of Mechanical & Mining Engineering and the School of Chemical Engineering.

INFO ➔ To view live research data, visit www.uq.edu.au/solarenergy

To watch a video story use your smart phone to take a photo of this code or visit www.uq.edu.au/news
INDONESIAN CONNECTIONS

Visit strengthens UQ’s South-East Asian links.

The University of Queensland has extended its academic, government and alumni partnerships during a recent tour of Indonesia. Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Debbie Terry led a successful delegation from May 16–23.

The program included visits to partner institutions, high-level meetings with senior Indonesian ministers, a suite of seminars, alumni functions, and briefings from Australian Government agencies.

Among the highlights was the signing of a new UQ partnership with one of Indonesia’s leading research institutes – the Eijkman Institute of Molecular Biology. The visit to the institute included the inaugural joint UQ-Eijkman seminar, which featured a presentation about UQ’s dengue fever research by Professor Paul Young.

A new agreement was also signed between UQ’s Faculty of Business, Economics and Law and Indonesia’s largest and oldest national university, Universitas Gadjah Mada, complementing an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. Dean of the UQ Graduate School, Professor Zlatko Skrbis, delivered the first Indonesian UQ Research Higher Degree seminar in Jakarta, followed by a talk from Indonesian UQ PhD graduate Dr Siti Zulaika.

Professor Greenfield capped off the visit with a presentation entitled “Universities in the 21st century: their role in solving global challenges” to enthusiastic audiences in Jakarta and Yogyakarta.

The presentations were part of the UQ Global Challenges Leadership Series, which sees experts discuss major international challenges with alumni and partners around the world.

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Greg Moriarty endorsed the UQ visit at an official reception hosted at his residence.

The tour coincided with the launch of the translated version of UQ publication Coral Reefs and Climate Change: A Guide for Education and Awareness by Mr Moriarty and Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad.

Mr Moriarty was also on hand to present UQ graduate Professor Endang Sukara, Vice Chairman of the Indonesian Institute of Science, with the Australian Alumni Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation.

UQ alumnus Dr Sunit Hendrana asks a question during the Global Challenges event in Jakarta.

Visiting Hong Kong
Australian and New Zealand citizens can enjoy 90-day visa-free access to Hong Kong.

Working Holiday Scheme
Young people from Australia and New Zealand may apply for a Working Holiday Visa which allows them to stay in Hong Kong for up to a year.

Studying in Hong Kong
Non-local graduates who have obtained a degree or higher qualification in Hong Kong may apply to stay/return and work in Hong Kong.

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers
Applications are open to Hong Kong students as well as students from places outside Hong Kong.

For more information, please visit our website www.hketo.sydney.gov.hk or www.immd.gov.hk.
The University of Queensland has officially launched its new American strategy at a gala event at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC.

The June 22 function, which also formed part of the Global Challenges Lecture Series, coincided with the opening of a new University office on 15th Street, with dedicated staff to facilitate and support the University’s engagement initiatives in the USA.

The move comes as UQ advances its international agenda to expand linkages and partnerships with American businesses, government bodies, universities and alumni with the creation of The University of Queensland in America Foundation.

The University’s strategy in the USA will encourage and support research collaboration and commercialisation; foster student exchange, and rally the support of UQ’s USA-based community of alumni and friends.

The University of Queensland is currently involved in more than 2300 research projects with collaborators in more than 50 countries, $43 million of which involve a USA-based partner.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the strategy signalled the serious commitment of the University to deepening its collaboration with its USA partners.

“The new office in Washington DC will support us to build strategic research and educational collaborations and increase student and staff exchange with our American partners,” Professor Greenfield said.

“We want to continue to be a university that is connected with the global community and one that addresses the issues that are impacting on today’s world.

“To do this we are strengthening our connections in America and establishing The University of Queensland in America Foundation as a separate entity, which will be dedicated to supporting the University in delivering excellence in teaching and the perpetuation of cutting-edge research and discovery.”

The mission of The University of Queensland in America Foundation is to encourage sustained philanthropic support from alumni and friends, with the Foundation established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation.

“Strategic philanthropy has enabled The University of Queensland to dramatically increase its capacity to contribute to global problem-solving through support of the University’s eight research institutes and to offer life-changing education to the best and brightest students regardless of their background,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Truly great global universities have significant philanthropic engagement from their alumni and friends. A key factor leading to The University of Queensland’s success is due to our philanthropic supporters who have engaged their networks across the globe.”

The inaugural Chair of the Foundation is the Chairman and CEO of Dow Dr Andrew Liveris.

Dr Liveris graduated from UQ with first-class honours in Chemical Engineering in 1975, and joined The Dow Chemical Company’s Australian offices in 1976. Throughout his career, Dr Liveris has maintained strong links with the University and was its 2005 Alumnus of the Year.

The Global Challenges Leadership event featured Director of UQ’s Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, Professor Robert Henry, who spoke about food security and biofuels.

In attendance were members of the UQ senior executive, American alumni and partners, and guests including former Premier Peter Beattie, who is an advisor and guest lecturer at Clemson University in South Carolina.
Camp inspires young leaders

The UQ Business School recently hosted 26 Indigenous high school students from across the country at the first Yalari Horizons leadership camp aimed at inspiring and supporting young achievers. The event was held during NAIDOC Week at the St Lucia and UQ Business School downtown campuses where executives and celebrities, including many of Aboriginal descent, shared their success stories.

The camp aimed to inform students about the challenges they may face when entering the business world and to inspire them to aim high so that they can overcome challenges.

Four UQ MBA students hosted the camp as part of the Business School’s Social Economic Engagement program, which encourages students to volunteer for community projects.

Seven Australian leaders spoke about their own backgrounds, struggles and achievements on their way to becoming successful in each of their fields.

Students were left inspired and moved by the speakers, particularly by a special performance and talk by 2006 Australian Idol runner up and chart-topping singer Jessica Mauboy.

Ms Mauboy described her transformation from a shy aspiring singer in Darwin to an award-winning artist who spent the early part of 2010 working with leading producers and singers such as Snoop Dogg and Ludacris on her new album.

Another highlight of the event was a dinner hosted at Southbank Parklands where the students were addressed by Paralympic swimmer and former world record holder Karni Liddell.

Other speakers included Jack Manning Bancroft, the founder and CEO of Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), Michael Combs, founder and CEO of CareerTrackers Indigenous Internship Program, and Neil Willmett, founder and Managing Director of Willmett Consultants.

“Each of the speakers were very honest and approachable and managed to connect on a deep level with the students,” Head of the Business School Professor Iain Watson said.

“I believe this camp was not only a great success but will have a lasting impact on the students’ lives and future career choices.”

INFO ➔ www.yalari.org

James Uta jams with award-winning singer Jessica Mauboy during the inaugural Yalari Horizons leadership camp held at UQ

UQ’s evolving collection of Indigenous art is on show to the public until September 18.

Painting Country, a new exhibition that opened during NAIDOC Week, explores an array of Indigenous approaches and styles, and features recent acquisitions including artworks donated to the University by Christopher Thomas, Mark Alexander and Patrick Corrigan AM.

Works by Donald Moko, Margaret Baragurra and Rusty Peters from Western Australia sit alongside those of Queensland artist Dennis Nona from the Torres Strait, and paintings by Desert artists Kathleen Petjarre, Lorna Napanangka and Elizabeth Marks Nakamarra.

“Regional differences are determined in part by the stories and iconographies specific to each place, passed down through generations,” Associate Curator Samantha Littley said.

Ms Littley said several of the artists had moved away from their place of birth either by choice or as the result of intervention.

“In every instance, the artists included in Painting Country create work that connects to their Country, and keeps their culture strong.”

INFO ➔ www.yalari.org

Aussie Native Art is on show to the public until September 18.

Art Connects to Country

Birmuyingathi Maali Netta Loogatha’s Birmuyi Dog Story, part of the Painting Country exhibition
A surprise discovery made by UQ researchers came full circle during NAIDOC Week 2011 celebrations.

Postgraduate students Kim de Rijke and Tony Jefferies presented findings of their native title research in Cherbourg on July 4 to coincide with a new exhibition honouring the life of prominent anthropologist Caroline Tennant-Kelly.

A large collection of Ms Tennant-Kelly’s papers were hidden for 20 years before Mr de Rijke and Mr Jefferies discovered them in a cattleman’s shed in northern New South Wales in late 2009.

Since then, funding from the Social Inclusion Division of the Attorney General’s Department has allowed the team to analyse and index the collection – almost 2000 items in all – and compile the research on DVD to hand back to local communities.

Mr de Rijke said Ms Tennant-Kelly’s documents shed light on the social and cultural practices of the Indigenous people she lived and worked with, particularly in Cherbourg.

“The ethnographic record from those years is scant and very little first-hand information was available regarding the conditions of cultural life at Cherbourg during the 1930s,” he said.

“_These materials demonstrate both the maintenance and adaptation of Aboriginal cultural practices in a situation where the odds were stacked against them._ Further, her vivid descriptions of the ways in which the settlement was administered by the officials provide a ‘warts and all’ picture of government policies as they affected Aboriginal people in 1930s Queensland._”

The research project harnesses this information to assist those involved in native title research to find relevant information quickly.

“The ethnographic research materials have been put into a form such that researchers and laypersons alike can locate the information they wish to find,” Mr de Rijke said.

“We have categorised the documents and provided an index that allows a search of the material through place names, personal names, Aboriginal language names and certain key topics in native title such as ‘change and continuity’, ‘kinship’ and so on.”

Mr de Rijke said progress in native title work remained “painfully slow”, with only a fraction of the claims lodged in the last 15 years resolved.

A key goal of the research was to facilitate Indigenous inclusion and access to research materials relevant to them.

“We always considered it important to return the ethnographic materials to the Aboriginal communities involved,” Mr de Rijke said.

“We know how little material is available and how such records are often treasured by members of the communities. This project provided a unique opportunity to do that.”

Mr de Rijke said the value of the Tennant-Kelly collection had become clear following its discovery, with scholars working in fields as diverse as theatre history, urban planning and immigration studies seeking out its contents.

Ms Tennant-Kelly started her career in the 1920s as a playwright, before researching Aboriginal culture in the 1930s, and then becoming involved in post-war immigration issues. In the 1950s and 60s she focused on the social aspects of Sydney’s early urban planning.

“The collection is valuable for historians and contemporary commentators, containing as it does first-hand accounts of major issues in Australian history that continue to today, including Aboriginal living conditions, social issues associated with urban sprawl and the experiences of refugees and other immigrants in numerous places across Australia,” Mr de Rijke said.
A mother and son had the rare honour of graduating at the same University of Queensland ceremony recently.

Stephanie Golding graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours in classical languages and her son Philip Helliwell received his Bachelor of Arts.

They both completed most of their study through the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics.

Ms Golding studied part-time for the past 11 years while working full-time as a professional staff member at UQ, most recently in the School of Mathematics and Physics. It was the reverse situation for Mr Helliwell, who studied full-time while working part-time in UQ’s Walter Harrison Law Library.

Ms Golding said her motivation to undertake a Classics degree stemmed from her passion for all things ancient Roman. However, she enrolled in the first semester of the Latin course on an impulse, igniting another passion.

“At one level, the study of Latin has enhanced my self-knowledge,” she said.

“At another level, the study of Latin is providing the means with which to understand what I love most.

“Added to the list of the benefits of learning Latin is my increased understanding of English grammar and an overall improvement of my communication skills.”

Ms Golding overcame the difficulties of juggling work and study commitments, becoming a single parent and losing a parent in the final semester of study in 2007.

Mr Helliwell chose an extended major in studies in religion and a minor in philosophy, simply because “he wanted to know”, although he was not initially prepared to have his world view challenged so fundamentally.

“The subject matter was always challenging, but the benefits of this learning, without doubt, lead to a deeper understanding of the world and where it’s going,” he said.

“Controversy exploded within the media. I was there to capture the entire thing and I knew at that moment that I had a worthwhile project.”

Dr Redman said the story was a “potent mix of religion and politics” and captured the controversial Family First party’s attempt to secure Senate seats during the 2004 Federal Election.

“I made the film in classic ‘guerrilla doc’ style with just myself, a camera and the participants,” Dr Redman said.

Bruce Redman (centre) films Family First candidate John Lewis during the 2004 Federal Election campaign.

“Although guerrilla documentary is a commonly used film industry term, it does not appear extensively within media studies literature. The main idea of the thesis was to track the history of the emergence of guerrilla documentaries, and show that they have been determined by both technology and also markets,” he said.

Dr Redman, who has travelled the world as a journalist, filmmaker and advertising creative, is currently writing a memoir about his experiences in addition to teaching within UQ’s School of Journalism and Communication.

Two new documentaries are currently in the works, although the details remain under wraps for now.

“Life is often stranger than fiction, just ask Dr Bruce Redman.

The film and television industry veteran received his PhD at a recent UQ graduation ceremony for research exploring the mechanics of “guerrilla” documentaries.

Dr Redman wrote, directed, shot and produced the one-hour feature Family First – A Federal Crusade for ABC’s Compass program in 2005.

Dr Redman said the story was a “potent mix of religion and politics” and captured the controversial Family First party’s attempt to secure Senate seats during the 2004 Federal Election.

“I made the film in classic ‘guerrilla doc’ style with just myself, a camera and the participants,” Dr Redman said.

Bruce Redman (centre) films Family First candidate John Lewis during the 2004 Federal Election campaign.
High-Flying Grad

Earlier this year when most of Brisbane was either tucked up in bed or just starting their day, Sarah Greenhalgh was flying high above the city surveying the roads to keep commuters informed on the best routes to work.

Ms Greenhalgh, who graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism in July, spent four months working as the traffic reporter for Channel 9’s Today Show, and has recently secured a job at WIN TV Mackay and Whitsundays.

Her 4am wake-up call as a traffic reporter was tough at times, but Ms Greenhalgh said it was all worth it once she was cruising the skies above Brisbane.

“it was an incredible way to start the day,” she said.

“But it was a job that had its highs and lows. In my first two weeks I had to report on a fatal accident and it was difficult to keep the emotion out of my voice.

“Then there were times when I reported on incidents that were quite funny, like when there was a cow strolling down the east-east arterial road the night of the Katy Perry concert – we thought she might have been a big fan who had got a little lost.”

Ms Greenhalgh started work at The Australian Traffic Network at the start of the year, while also completing her final semester of her degree. In addition to reporting for the Today Show and 97.3FM each morning, she was also traffic reporter for Nova, 4KQ and Hot 91 on the Sunshine Coast in the afternoons.

Working while also studying kept Ms Greenhalgh busy during the first half of the year. The busiest times for a traffic reporter are peak morning and peak afternoon, which meant she completed a split shift and drove from her Paddington home to the aerodrome at Redcliffe twice a day.

Never picturing that she would be reporting on traffic from a helicopter, Ms Greenhalgh said not knowing the difference between the Ipswich Motorway and the Pacific Motorway soon changed.

“I have learnt in this industry that you need to take any job that becomes available and just run with it,” she said.

“In journalism, and the media industry as a whole, contacts are crucial. It’s not so much what you know, but certainly a case of who you know.

“This job enabled me to be in regular contact with so many diverse media contacts. For example, it was amazing getting to know some of the radio presenters – I often engaged in on-air banter with Robin, Terry and Bob in the mornings on 97.3 FM and Ian Keenan who announces on 4KQ of an afternoon was always so lovely to talk to.

“Paul Reed who is the chief of staff at Channel Nine here in Brisbane often called me in the chopper, asking for footage of things they wanted to show on the evening news: examples include a protest on the M1, fog covering the city skyline, or a nasty accident that has made headlines.”

Ms Greenhalgh said she had developed a particular interest in broadcast television.

“I love the way that images married with words can be used so effectively to communicate to audiences,” she said.

“It wasn’t until 2010 that I decided I wanted to do something in television, and when the opportunity arose to do a 10-day internship with Channel Nine at the Ekka, I jumped at the opportunity and applied.

“Luckily, I got selected as one of the two students, and spent 10 jam-packed days producing video reports for the web.”

Donor Makes A Difference

When PhD student Caroline Hendry graduated from The University of Queensland last month after spending three years researching kidney disease, it was thanks to a generous donation from a historian with an eye on the future.

Dr Rosamond Siemon, an author and UQ alumnus with a PhD in history, endowed a $30,000 per annum PhD scholarship for kidney research to Professor Melissa Little’s laboratory at UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

Dr Hendry’s project involved forcing adult kidney cells to turn back into kidney stem cells, which might be used to repair the kidney without the need for dialysis or a transplant.

“The project was a huge risk, it was never going to attract formal government funding until I could provide preliminary data proving it was theoretically possible,” Dr Hendry said.

“Having the scholarship allowed me to pursue that data, and Professor Little won a $600,000 government grant purely based on results from the first year of my PhD, as well as honours.

The success of the project is partly due to the travel funding that came with the scholarship, which allowed Dr Hendry to attend international meetings with others in the field who were attempting similar feats.

“Absolutely no one else in Australia was working in that space and to be able to talk with people about what was happening in their labs right that minute and how they dealt with roadblocks was priceless. Once I got back, having spoken to all of those people and soaked up their ideas, the project just went into overdrive and everything was happening.”

Dr Hendry has accepted a research job in New York, in the laboratory of world-renowned stem cell experts Professor Ihor Lemischka and Associate Professor Kateri Moore at the Mt Sinai Medical Center.

Dr Siemon decided to endow the scholarship, as well as a bequest to Professor Little, after her son-in-law died from polycystic kidney disease.

INFO » To support future research projects at the IMB, contact Amanda Whelan on (07) 3346 2188 or a.whelan@imb.uq.edu.au

A shared vision: Dr Caroline Hendry and Dr Rosamond Siemon
STUDENTS EMBRACE EXCHANGE

A prestigious international exchange program has allowed four UQ engineering students to spend two years studying in France.

Chemical engineering students (pictured from left) Edward Barry, Rebekah Johnston, Maddalena Gabrielli and Hannah Shaw recently travelled to France for the start of the university semester, beginning earlier this month. The exchange program will enable them to gain qualifications that will expand their international career prospects.

All four students will graduate with both Australian and French undergraduate engineering degrees, as well as a Masters degree from UQ.

The students said they were excited to begin their French education and were extremely grateful to UQ’s Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology (EAIT) for providing them with this opportunity.

“I believe the French degree will complement my UQ education really well, and I look forward to being able to come back to Brisbane to showcase what I have achieved,” Mr Barry said.

The agreement between EAIT and Ecoles Centrales in France allows outstanding engineering students from both countries to participate in a unique double degree program.

Under the agreement, UQ’s engineering students spend the first two-and-a-half years of their undergraduate program at UQ, before completing two years studying in France.

At the completion of their program, the students will be awarded a Bachelor of Engineering and a Master of Engineering from UQ, as well as a Diplôme d’ingénieur from the Ecoles Centrales.

INFO → www.engineering.uq.edu.au/ecoles-centrales

A school oval in Vanuatu was transformed into a makeshift dental clinic during a recent visit by a volunteer team from The University of Queensland.

UQ staff Leah Hobbs and Gloria Silcock were joined by final year Bachelor of Oral Health students Ariel (Chieh-Ju) Shih and Megan Cable and Queensland Health dental therapist Christine Southall on the island of Malekula from June 26–July 2.

More than 80 percent of people in Vanuatu live in rural villages and access to healthcare is limited. Vanuatu recorded just six dentists, six therapists and zero hygienists in a study published in the International Dental Journal last year. The dentist/population ratio sits at a staggering 1:34,812, while the comparable figure for Australia is 1:1910.

“It was daunting, but very exciting at the same time,” Ms Hobbs said.

“We knew there were very long waiting lists of patients in desperate need of dental care.”

The volunteers were met in Malekula by Dr Julie Tevi, a dentist from Vanuatu Health, based in Espiritu Santo. Dr Tevi accompanied the group to school and hospital visits, providing translation where necessary.

The team brought 80kgs of donated equipment from Brisbane, including 6kgs of toothbrushes.

“The doctors were so grateful as oral health has a very limited budget in Vanuatu and they do have to work with very basic materials,” Ms Hobbs said.

“They are also, unfortunately, very understaffed. Training of health care workers is needed desperately in Vanuatu.”

Ms Hobbs educated nursing staff on early childhood decay and implemented a preventive program in an attempt to reduce disease.

Children in the area will now receive a highly concentrated fluoride varnish when treated at Norsup Hospital.

The team also visited remote schools to screen students and educate on preventative care.

“We had 128 children brushing their teeth on the oval at Tautu School. The kids loved it!” Ms Hobbs said.

The team extended the offer of treatment to teachers and parents, and even found themselves treating staff at Norsup Hospital who had periodontal disease.

Teachers were encouraged to share the message of eating more “island food” instead of western foods – out of the 388 children screened during the week-long visit, more than 35 percent required treatment.

Ms Hobbs said the team had built some great relationships during their time in Vanuatu.

“The doctors were so grateful as oral health care is so limited in Vanuatu. We knew there were very long waiting lists of patients in desperate need of dental care.”

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INFO → www.dentistry.uq.edu.au

Top and below: UQ Lecturer in Oral Health Leah Hobbs completes dental check ups at Tautu School on the island of Malekula in Vanuatu.
Students from The University of Queensland recently swapped the classroom for the canals of Venice to receive practical lessons in tourism, sustainability and art history.

Two separate tours, led by the School of Tourism and School of English, Media Studies and Art History respectively, enabled a total of 47 students to experience Italy up close while gaining academic credit.

The tourism group, under the leadership of Dr Charles Arcodia and assisted by staff members Chantal Dickson and Professor Roy Ballantyne, started in Rome before visiting Florence, Verona, Siena and Venice. Dr Andrea Bubenik meanwhile led her students on an extended study of the water city’s incomparable art and architecture.

Dr Arcodia said the 12-day tourism itinerary provided a direct and impactful learning experience not possible in a traditional setting. “The teacher becomes the facilitator, allowing the student to reflect, explore, question, challenge and interpret for themselves, albeit within a predetermined theoretical framework. It is for this reason that experiential learning has such impact as a learning approach,” he said.

As part of their assessment, students identified and explored environmental challenges faced in Venice, which comprises 117 small islands connected by more than 400 bridges over 150 canals.

There was plenty of time to participate in cultural experiences including site visits to the historic Colosseum and The Vatican in Rome, exploring artisan markets in Florence and attending a medieval festival in Siena.

Student Emily Parker said the tour provided the opportunity to experience and explore a different culture with something exciting around every corner, while providing a valuable component to her studies.

Dr Bubenik said the art history trip had been a resounding success as evidenced by the quality of assignments completed during the three-week tour. The timing was also fortuitous, coinciding with the 2011 Venice Biennale. “Part of what makes the city’s art and architecture unique is the variety of international influences that can be discerned – from Middle Eastern motifs in architecture to the use of oil paints from Northern Europe,” Dr Bubenik said. “During the Renaissance a distinct school of painting developed, and Venice was home to some of the most exciting and innovative artists such as Bellini, Titian, and Tintoretto, artists who continue to be admired for their brilliant paintings.

Meanwhile architects such as Codussi and Palladio were faced with unusual challenges when designing buildings for the lagoon city, with facades and entrances situated right on the waterways. Venice is a city that is best experienced by boat, and that’s certainly a unique aspect of studying its architecture.”

Future UQ tourism and art history Italian field schools are planned.

ITALIAN ODYSSEY
Biologic bullets that target bacterial infections and an innovative method for sustainable ammonia production have won the Open and Student first prizes respectively in the UQ Final of UniQuest’s annual Trailblazer innovative ideas competition.

Runner Up prizes were awarded to a therapeutic approach to turning ‘angry fat cells’ in to ‘fit fat cells’ in the Open category, and to a new method for extracting gold in the Student category.

Run by UQ’s main research commercialisation company, the UniQuest Trailblazer competition rewards students and career academics who can demonstrate that their early-stage research ideas have commercial potential.

Staff and students from a wide range of UQ faculties, institutes and research centres submitted their innovative ideas and inventions to compete for a share of $10,000 in cash prizes. Winners were selected from a short-list of 20 finalists, who pitched their ideas to a panel of judges made up of commercialisation industry experts.

The Winners, Runners Up and Pitching Excellence awardee were selected to compete against four other universities for $50,000 in prizes at the Trailblazer Grand Final at UQ on 15 August.

UniQuest’s Managing Director, David Henderson, said the judges were extremely impressed with the calibre of projects and pitches this year.

“The margin between the highest and lowest scores was narrow, so making the final decisions about who would be awarded the prizes was quite a challenge for the judges,” Mr Henderson said.

“We were very pleased with the range and quality of all the entries in this year’s competition, and we are already working with some of the entrants to investigate potential commercial pathways for their ideas.

“Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to all the students and staff who supported Trailblazer this year.”
Fancy trying to condense an 80,000 word thesis into a 180 second speech?
Research students from across the globe are doing just that in preparation for the Three Minute Thesis competition (3MT™). Established by UQ in 2008, the initiative has quickly gained momentum, with the first Australia and New Zealand 3MT competition held in September last year. In 2011 students from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong and Vietnam will also take part in their own regional events.

Dean of the UQ Graduate School Professor Zlatko Skrbis said 3MT provided a unique opportunity to profile and celebrate the innovative research conducted by postgraduates from around the world.

“We are thrilled that this competition has grown so rapidly over the past few years,” Professor Skrbis said.

“Last year we held the inaugural Australia and New Zealand competition, which saw more than 30 universities participate in the event.

“3MT is not only a stand-alone academic communication competition, but part of a greater collection of skills training and professional development activities that UQ offers to all research students.”

Last year’s UQ 3MT winner, Tina Wu, said participating in the competition had allowed her to focus on the key messages in her project.

“3MT ultimately helped with writing my PhD thesis. It also felt great to know that others are interested in my research,” Ms Wu said.

“Now I can tell my family and friends or anyone who is interested what my PhD is about in three minutes, and the public speaking skills I gained will be useful for my future career development.”

Almost 100 students participated in the University of British Columbia’s inaugural 3MT competition in May this year. Dr Elizabeth Wallace from UBC’s Faculty of Graduate Studies said she was delighted with student participation and enthusiasm for the concept.

“The competition will become an annual event at UBC and I hope that other universities across Canada will join in the fun,” Dr Wallace said.

3MT contestants must condense their research into a brief, engaging oration for a non-specialist audience, using a single presentation slide. Competitors are judged by a panel of five academics and industry representatives from a range of fields.

The 3MT winner is awarded $5000, with the runner up and People’s Choice, as voted by the audience, receiving $2000 and $1000 respectively.

The UQ 3MT Final will take place on Tuesday, September 13 at the St Lucia campus. All are welcome and can register their attendance at the Graduate School website.

INFO ➔ www.gradschool.uq.edu.au

Get from the Gabba to UQ in less than 10 minutes

From Monday 29 August, UQ students can enjoy a new inner city service that’ll get you from Woolloongabba to UQ Lakes in less than 10 minutes.

Route 29 will operate every 15 minutes between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday during UQ uni semesters, servicing Woolloongabba, PA Hospital, Boggo Road and Dutton Park before continuing through to UQ Lakes.

More frequent services means less time waiting – just turn up and go!

Route 209 to travel through the new Eastern Busway
For a quicker journey to and from UQ, from Monday 29 August route 209 (Carindale to UQ Lakes) will no longer service Woolloongabba busway station.

If you need to get to Woolloongabba from UQ or the other way around, catch the new route 29!

For more information, visit translink.com.au or call 13 12 30 anytime.

BEE STUDY EXPANDS
UQ PhD student Tobias Smith has been awarded a Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship to further his research on bees and flies in the tropics.

The award, which was announced by Queensland Premier Anna Bligh in Washington in June, will allow Mr Smith to further pursue his research at Smithsonian research centres in North and Central America.

Mr Smith is researching pollinator communities in far north Queensland and exploring the impacts of habitat fragmentation and other landscape change. The fellowship will enable Mr Smith to travel to Panama later this year to work at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute with Dr David Roubik, a world expert on tropical bees.

“There are about 2000 bee species native to Australia and an estimated 30,000 different species of flies. Pollinators, such as bees and flies, play an integral role in the functioning of our ecosystems and yet we know little about their communities in the Australian tropics,” he said.

“Society derives a number of economic benefits from healthy, functioning ecosystems. We need to better understand how human practices are affecting communities that are directly involved in vital ecosystem processes, such as pollinator communities, so that we can ensure that these ecosystems continue to function into the future.”
I had been intrigued and mystified about Aboriginal culture since childhood.

With access to acres of wild scrub and heavily treed range country in the eastern foothills of Melbourne, I spent countless hours with my buddies pretending to be bush natives, whooping in war paint and feathers. Stone axes, boomerangs and spears were lovingly improvised.

Charles Chauvel’s movies fuelled our imaginations. As a nine-year-old, I took it upon myself to write a fictional piece about myself on holiday in the outback on a cattle ranch. The tension in the story was between pastoralists and indigenous people on whose land the cattle grazed. My father rewarded my effort by having it typed up and submitted to the Sun News Pictorial.

I was in my mid-thirties when I summoned the courage to leave the pleasant green suburbs and strike into a place and a culture I knew next to nothing about.

In 1980 I visited an old school friend, Dave Morgan, who was working in an Aboriginal community called Strelley, situated in the Pilbara of Western Australia. He had been recruited to operate Strelley’s bi-lingual book production centre. Then in 1984, I stayed in Batchelor, 100 kilometres south of Darwin, with Dave who by now was working in the printery of the Aboriginal Teachers’ College. We collaborated with students to produce bi-lingual books and a newspaper. This voluntary arrangement lasted three months before I sought paid employment and responded to an advertised position at Centralian College, Alice Springs.

As I winged in low over the MacDonnell Ranges for the interview Alice looked alluring from the air. I hadn’t anticipated that a desert zone might be a natural spectacle. When I originally left Melbourne, I fully believed I was gearing myself for work in a Top End community. Perhaps I would find myself on a lush, semi-tropical island such as Elcho or Millingimbi as an art adviser or school teacher. I never thought of living in the centre of the continent.

I soon began work at Centralian College as an art lecturer. After spending the first six weeks in a motel, I was allocated a little, two-storey flat in a complex leased by the Northern Territory government for their teaching staff. The blocks abutted the eastern boundary of town.

St Leo’s new look

The Director of Brisbane’s Gallery of Modern Art was on hand to officiate an opening of a different kind at St Leo’s College recently.

Tony Ellwood joined UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield and college council Chair Joan Sheldon on June 2 to reveal a new public artwork entitled Correlate.

Artist Lincoln Austin won the commission to create a work celebrating the college’s 94-year relationship with the University and UQ’s recent Centenary. Crafted from glass, metal and mirrors, Correlate replaces the entrance doors and panels and produces different optical effects depending on the time of day.

Mr Austin said his work engaged metaphorically with the student journey each college resident takes.

“St Leo’s exists primarily to provide residence and support for young men often leaving the family home for the first time to pursue their studies in a myriad of subjects. For the time of their stay at St Leo’s college it is home for these young men,” Mr Austin said.

“Correlate is something to be passed through and is a daily reminder to the students especially that they are leaving the University and arriving home.”

Rector of St Leo’s Brother Vince Skelly said a growing number of artworks within the college grounds and buildings helped enrich the creativity and imagination of residents and visitors.

“Correlate embraces the visitor. As a person walks into the college foyer, it takes the colours, shapes and movements and reflects these and other realities; it really is quite exciting.” Br Skelly said.

Professor Greenfield said he welcomed the latest addition to UQ’s impressive and diverse art collection.

The project received financial assistance through Arts Queensland from the Art + Place Queensland Government Public Art fund.

Interactive art: the new facade of St Leo’s College, and right, detail of the Correlate artwork.
The University of Queensland community is mourning the passing last month of one of Australia’s most admired and respected artists and philanthropists – Margaret Olley, AC.

Ms Olley was awarded a UQ honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 1999, in recognition of her 50 years of service to the arts and philanthropic endeavours.

Lismore-born and Somerville House educated, Ms Olley was best known for painting still lifes and interiors of her own house and landscapes.

She was also the subject of two Archibald Prize-winning portraits (by William Dobell in 1949 and Ben Quilty in 2011) and was also a popular portrait subject for artists including Margaret Cilento, Russell Drysdale and Donald Friend.

Her many honours included being awarded Australia’s highest civilian honour in 2006, the Companion of the Order of Australia, for service as one of Australia’s most distinguished artists, for philanthropy to the arts, and for encouragement of young and emerging artists.

University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said that there “will never be another Margaret Olley”.

“Although tiny in physical stature, she was a towering figure in Australian art, philanthropy, and cultural and public life,” he said.

“The UQ Art Museum is one of the many institutions that she enriched with her generosity, her vision, her daring. Among other things, Margaret sponsored the inaugural UQ National Artists’ Self-Portrait Prize in 2007, and gifted the winning painting, by Ben Quilty, to the University.

“Poetically, she became Ben’s subject for the portrait that won him the 2011 Archibald Prize.

“Visitors to our Art Museum adored Margaret and her art. The exhibition Margaret Olley: Life’s journey, set new attendance records here in 2009.

“Generations of artists and art lovers will be saddened by her death. However we will never really lose her, because Margaret Olley lives on in her art, through the younger artists she mentored, and in her extraordinary portfolio of gifts to galleries and museums all over the country.”

Margaret Olley photographed in the UQ Art Museum in 2007, and two works that featured in the 2009 exhibition Life’s journey: Brisbane River 1956 (detail) and Kuku Aukus, Goroka, NG (Papua New Guinea)
The University of Queensland and UQ Sport, with the support of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc and The Clem Jones Group, are pleased to offer sporting scholarships to outstanding sportspeople each year.

Scholarship recipients enjoy a wide range of benefits including financial assistance, academic support, free access to UQ Sport training and recovery facilities, free athlete education workshops, and access to high-performance services including strength and conditioning, sports performance testing and sport psychology services.

2011 scholarship holder and recipient of a University Blue in hockey, David Watts (pictured), said the support had made all the difference.

“I have been studying at UQ for a number of years and have only recently had the honour of receiving a scholarship,” he said.

“The scholarship has allowed me to reduce the amount of time I have to spend in part-time work so that I can achieve to a higher level in hockey and in my studies. This scholarship has definitely enabled me to strive towards my potential as an athlete and as a student and I’m incredibly thankful to receive it.”

In 2012 the following scholarships and support programs are available:

- UQ Sports Achievement Scholarships
- Clem Jones Sporting Scholarships
- Scholarship Ambassador Program
- Postgraduate Coach Scholarship
- Athlete Funding Program

Applications close at 5pm on October 31. King’s College also offers two additional sporting scholarships for first-time residents, with applications to be received by December 1.

INFO → (07) 3346 6243, sportscholarship@uqs.com.au

Univ Games gold

In mid-July The University of Queensland sent 70 athletes to the 2011 Northern University Games in Armidale.

After four days of competition, team UQ finished a commendable fourth on the medal tally, with three gold, three silver and one bronze. UQ Sports Achievement Scholarship holder Christina Mew (pictured), not only took out the women’s golf title, but beat her nearest competitor by an impressive eight shots.

The men’s basketball team remained undefeated throughout the tournament, with the men’s touch, women’s and men’s basketball, and women’s netball all qualifying for the 2011 Australian University Games.

The event will be held on the Gold Coast from September 25–30, with UQ fielding a 200-strong squad competing in more than two dozen sports.

Leaping ahead

UQ Sport Scholarship Holder
Mitchell Watt has broken the national long jump record at a recent Diamond League meeting in Stockholm.

On July 29, the Queensland athlete beat the old record by 5cm with a huge jump of 8.54m, following it up with a commanding win a week later in London to firm as one of the favourites for next year’s Olympics.

Mr Watt now joins an elite group of 13 athletes to have broken the 8.50m mark. The latest record tops a remarkable 12 months for the law student, who will be eyeing gold at the 2011 World Athletics Championships in Daegu, Korea, starting August 27.
EVENTS / NOTICES

• Wednesday, August 24
Come along to the Volunteer Expo where you can find out about volunteer opportunities and talk directly to organisations about what sort of commitment is involved. 10am–2pm. Information: (07) 3365 1705, r.mcintosh@uq.edu.au

• Tuesday, September 13
The final of the Three Minute Thesis Competition 2011 will take place in the QBP Building Auditorium at UQ St Lucia. 2pm–4pm. Information: (07) 3365 0510, g.poulton@uq.edu.au

• Saturday, September 17
Support local flood relief and the UQ Big Band by attending a jazz afternoon at Fig Tree Pocket State School. The event will feature international jazz vocalist Amanda Carr, supported by Willy Qua and Friends. All profits from door sales will be donated to flood relief in the Walter Taylor electorate. 4pm–7pm. Information: Joanne 0413 582 956

• Wednesday, September 28
Interested in postgraduate studies? UQ is holding a Postgraduate Advice Night where you can talk with experts from UQ faculties and research institutes about postgraduate coursework. 4:30pm–7:30pm. Information: (07) 3365 2846 or k.cuddihy@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

• Accommodation wanted
Looking for a fully-furnished three bedroom, two bathroom home from August for one year, close to Toowong State School and UQ. $2000–$3000 per month range. Contact j.edkins@uq.edu.au

• Accommodation available
The UQ Accommodation Service maintains a free database of rental properties to assist students and staff. Contact (07) 3365 3419, www.accommodation.uq.edu.au/

SCHOLARSHIPS

• Ford Memorial Prize 2011
Awarded to the undergraduate student who submits the best poem in English (published or unpublished), who has not been awarded the prize twice. Email entries will not be accepted. Value: $250 designated as books. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au. Applications: Ford Memorial Prize, Undergraduate Scholarships and Prizes Office JD Story Building, The University of Queensland QLD 4072. Closing: November 11

• Thomas Morrow Prize 2011
Awarded to the undergraduate student who submits the best essay on a topic in the field of Australian literature. Essays submitted as part of a course relating to Australian literature within the School of EMSAH will automatically be considered. Value: approx $470. Information: (07) 3365 1412. Applications: School of EMSAH, Level 4, Michie Building, The University of Queensland QLD 4072. Closing: November 18

UQ NEWS DEADLINES

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

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AIM HIGHER

POSTGRADUATE ADVICE NIGHT

Have your coursework and research questions answered

Wednesday 28 September
4.30 – 7.30pm
UQ Centre, St Lucia

your.uq.com/postgrad

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