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**UQnav** is a free mobile application that contains maps of UQ’s campuses.

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Comparing how UQ looked one year ago to the shape it is today, I am not alone in marvelling at the physical transformations as well as the expansion of opportunities and choices for students.

There are now few signs of the floods that scarred the St Lucia and Gatton campuses in early 2011. After a building and restoration program costing more than $50 million, almost all the damaged facilities have returned to pre-flood condition, and some are even in better shape.

In spite of the extra demand for capital works, the University completed major projects that were scheduled before flood waters threatened – such as the rooftop solar array at St Lucia, the Fitness and Aquatic Centre at Gatton, and The Auditorium at Ipswich.

Meanwhile, UQ achieved outstanding positions in the first nationwide assessment of university discovery, Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), in various prominent global university ratings, and in contests for research funding.

These attainments are tangible. More difficult to measure – but at least as important – are advances in the student experience that will lead to even greater improvements in 2012 and beyond.

While learning opportunities have been enhanced by new or refurbished facilities (the Hamon Centre at Gatton, refurbished science spaces at St Lucia, and the very new law learning space in the historic Forgan Smith building spring to mind), the fundamental purpose of these places is to give students better avenues to learn and shape their futures.

Success in this regard is long-term and will be judged subjectively. But these facts do not negate the imperative for us to continue and even deepen our investments of dollars and intellect in the experience of all students, from pre-enrolment to PhD.

Students will be the first to tell us what they think, and have generally responded enthusiastically to new initiatives. For instance, ever-increasing numbers of undergraduates are taking up UQ Advantage Grants, Summer Research Scholarships and Study Abroad opportunities.

Ahead, the University’s “to-do” list includes accentuating the benefits of existing initiatives such as the Associate Members program, a partnership with residential colleges that enables non-residents to taste some benefits of college life.

As well, doctoral candidates starting in 2012 will be the first to benefit from the UQ Advantage for PhDs. Believed to be a world first, it gives the option of specialising in research translation and commercialisation, global collaborations, or higher education practice and leadership.

For me, a highlight of the 2012 diary will be Orientation Week for more than 12,000 students from around Australia and over 100 other countries. Their arrival signals an optimistic new era for themselves and for UQ.

Many people and institutions had a tough time in 2011, and our own university was no exception. Apart from the floods, there was a series of events leading to the resignation of our two most senior executives.

That was the Year of the Rabbit. This is the Year of the Dragon, and according to the Chinese horoscope its characteristics will include innovation, creativity and passion. That augurs well, because these three words also describe UQ people – the ones who will power us along the global trajectory in 2012.

Professor Debbie Terry
O-Week is among the busiest times of the year on campus. The following feature is designed to help students and staff make the most of the experience.
UQ’s four campuses are preparing to welcome 12,000 new students to the University during this year’s Orientation Week, being held from February 20–24.

The week is a key event on the University’s calendar and is an opportunity for students to learn more about the academic programs and the campus, as well as make social connections.

Among the many highlights of the week is Market Day, where students can join a club, discover the many services and outlets at the University, and participate in a range of fun activities.

The Great Court at St Lucia will be buzzing, with representatives from 170 UQ Union (UQU) clubs and societies, a variety of stalls, a gladiator ring and rock-climbing wall, live music in the Chalk Hotel Stage area, fresher dances from the 10 UQ colleges, and mascot races.

UQ President Colin Finke said Market Day was a great chance to explore the social aspects of being a student at UQ.

“We know that O-Week can be overwhelming because there’s so much to do and figure out. We want to make sure that O-Week is also about discovering all the things that happen outside of the lecture rooms,” he said.

This year, UQU will be introducing two new retail outlets, Burger Urge and Bubble Tea, and the newly renovated Darwin’s cafe will reopen in time for the start of semester.

In addition, new initiatives for staff will include a range of staff deals for on-campus outlets and a monthly e-news from the UQU team.

UQ Student Centre Manager Ken Aberdeen said O-Week was also an opportunity for students to begin the transition to university.

“To ensure students settle in to university life and feel confident starting their academic programs, we have split the orientation and transition program into three phases,” he said.

“This involves pre O-Week preparation such as course selection, enrolment and getting ID cards; O-Week itself for cohort building and social activities; with phase three being the first semester, with a focus on support services available to students.”

2012 MARKET DAYS
Ipswich – Tuesday February 21
St Lucia – Wednesday February 22
Gatton – Thursday February 23

For more information, visit www.uqu.com.au and www.uq.edu.au/student-services
What are your hopes for 2012?
I will give 2012 a high mark if people all over the University continue their terrific work to enhance the student experience and to make a global impact through their research.

It’s vital that we give students of all backgrounds full access to opportunities to learn and succeed. Many of the first generation of UQ Young Achievers to graduate from high school are beginning their university studies this year, and their ongoing achievements will show how milestones can be reached when students have the right support.

Inseparable from this are my expectations for discovery. It will be satisfying to see UQ strengthen partnerships, extend global collaborations, and continue research that contributes to the fund of knowledge and enhances lives globally, nationally and locally.

Overarching all of UQ’s ambitions is a need to align with the hopes that alumni and partners hold for our university.

Do you have any exciting Learning initiatives planned around the University campuses over the next few months?
Many. Physically, we will have new or refurbished learning spaces for law, science and engineering. In fact, on all our campuses, there are new teaching spaces either just completed or in progress, like the new Ipswich campus Lecture Theatre.

For staff, the new Learning Innovation Building at St Lucia will house the centres that support our academics to achieve excellence in their teaching.

Culturally, the rejuvenated Anthropology and Antiquities Museums will open, and the new UQ Art Collection Online will be launched.

Other initiatives include new symposiums to help maximise co-curricular experiences and fast-track career development, and the introduction of the UQ Advantage Award for undergraduates.

What’s your favourite spot on campus?
I feel happy when I approach an entry point to any UQ campus but I have a special fondness for the Great Court because it is so iconic of UQ.

What was the last book you couldn’t put down?
I tend to have more than one book on-the-go at once. I am currently enjoying The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes, but I also read my share of new release detective novels over the break.

What do you see as some of the challenges facing Australian universities over the next five years?
They are numerous, and there will be some challenges that we cannot even anticipate today.

An overriding imperative for Australian universities is to maintain quality while meeting the needs of a growing number of students.

This goes hand-in-hand with sustaining Australia’s status as a destination of choice for globally mobile students and staff, who are increasingly knowledgeable about the world’s universities. Remaining competitive as a nation will not be easy, because some other countries are outstripping Australia’s investments in education and innovation.

We must employ new technologies to the advantage of students and staff, and part of this will be cleverly approaching the burgeoning trend towards open coursework.

Australian universities must demonstrate to communities, corporations and (through them) to political leaders, that priority investments in higher learning and research are incontrovertibly in the national interest.
The new independence and responsibilities that come with university life can sometimes present students with complex problems.

The UQ Union's (UQU) Student Help On Campus (SHOC) centre provides students with a range of legal, advocacy and welfare services to assist with matters in the areas of:

- Administrative procedures, appeals and grievances that relate to a student’s admission, enrolment, assessment, fees, individual rights or their conduct;
- The rights of students as tenants, employees, or as recipients of social security and scholarship payments;
- Criminal matters, tort law, family law, intellectual property, debts, or motor vehicle accidents; and
- Discrimination, harassment, vilification, sexual assault and violence.

It also provides counselling and support for:

- LGBTI students;
- Students in immediate crisis situations; and
- Students in severe financial hardship.

SHOC Manager Jason Curtis said the centre worked collaboratively with on-campus and external organisations towards meeting the unique needs of students.

"The students have worked extremely hard towards the goal of transitioning to tertiary education," she said.

"We believe the program has helped equip them with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to make a smooth and successful transition, and to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead."

Students in the Young Achievers Program come from a wide variety of backgrounds and regions including Ipswich, the Darling Downs and south-west Queensland. In addition, most of the students will be the first in their immediate family to study at university.

Young Achievers receive financial and practical support in Years 11 and 12, and throughout their studies at UQ. The program has been made possible through the generosity of donors.

The SHOC centre is located on Level 1 of the Student Union Complex at St Lucia and is active every Tuesday at Ipswich and on Wednesday and Thursday at Gatton.

For more information, visit www.uqushoc.com.au or call (07) 3346 3400.
Great news for UQ St Lucia staff and students, from **Monday 20 February** improved bus services will be introduced at UQ Lakes.

**Turn up and go on the high frequency route 29!**

Get on board the upgraded **route 29** – with rapid connections to Boggo Road busway station (for train connections at Park Road) and Woolloongabba busway station (for Eastern bus services).

During university semesters route 29 will run every five minutes during peak and every 10 minutes off-peak, Monday to Friday.

During summer semester and university holidays, route 29 will run every 10 minutes, Monday to Friday only.

Staff and visitors to the Ecosciences Precinct will also enjoy improved peak hour services.

No need to check the timetable, with a bus every five minutes during peak, you can just turn up and go!

**UQ Lakes bus station is getting a facelift**

During the first half of 2012 work will be underway to upgrade the UQ Lakes bus station.

The upgraded station will provide improved facilities for customers with an upgrade of the existing southern platform, a new northern platform, central bus layover for up to four buses and improved passenger waiting facilities.

We are working hard to deliver this critical piece of public transport infrastructure with as minimal disruption to you as possible. Please observe the signage during the construction and we thank you for your patience during this project.

For more information on any of the above please visit [translink.com.au](http://translink.com.au) or call 13 12 30 anytime.
Some Must Dos at UQ:

- Try a coffee made from Merlo Café’s exotic “bean of the day” or grab a flavoured hot chocolate at Mr Bean’s coffee cart near the Student Centre
- Choose from more than 30 types of bulk candy and confectionary from all over the world at the Lolly Shop
- Check out the latest blockbuster and independent films at the Schonell Theatre. Special deals are available at the Pizza Caffe when you purchase movie tickets
- Check out UQ Sport’s social sport groups, which offer everything from volleyball to sailing
- Join a club or society. Options include the Wine and Cheese Club or UQ Dance
- Let your hair down at The Red Room, where you can experience anything from DJ’s to trivia, karaoke or a game of pool
- Support the local community through volunteer organisations such as the Red Cross at UQ, UQ Oxfam and The Bridge
AROUND CAMPUS

AS SEMESTER ONE APPROACHES, UQ STAFF SHARE THEIR FAVOURITE SPOTS ON CAMPUS

ST LUCIA

ROOFTOP CAFÉ, COLIN CLARK BUILDING
The rooftop café sits atop the unassuming Building 39. It lays claim to the best coffee on campus and certainly has the shortest lines. The benefits of being a hidden gem I guess! If you are anything like me, this will have you visiting far too often. Definitely the most relaxed place on campus, if you can find it.

Kate Swanson, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management

GATTON

SECRET SEAT
This quiet getaway is located behind the library and hidden in the greenery, nestled under a frangipani tree. It is the perfect spot for a coffee catch up or a safe lunch haven.

Erin Pearl, Office of the Director

ENVIRONMENTAL PARK
The Environmental Park is a flurry of activity with a large variety of birds calling the lake home. Complete with bird-watching houses this is the perfect spot to get back to nature while learning a thing or two about our native fauna.

For the very patient you may catch a glimpse of turtles as they move around the lake.

Ho Vu, Faculty of Science
This campus has a few hidden spots, but our favourite at the moment is the Walking Trail, which was established by Health Services and the Property and Facilities division six years ago. The circuit is open to everyone and is used by a variety of people for walking and running throughout the day. As a group we are currently training for our first 10km run later this year, and the trail provides a number of hills and sprint opportunities, as well as getting us out of the office and into the fresh air. The track is 1.8km long and showcases the campus, not to mention the views to the west and out towards Mount Flinders.

Stacey Murrin and Jess Freiberg,
Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Almost 450 students have spent their end-of-year break getting their feet wet with higher-level discovery projects as part of UQ’s Summer Research Scholarship Program.

Introduced in 2009, the program gives undergraduates a taste of what they could expect to experience if they were to complete a PhD at UQ or wanted to pursue a research career.

All students receive a weekly stipend of $300 over a six-to-10-week period, co-funded by UQ’s Office of Undergraduate Education and the various faculties, institutes and centres taking part.

Previous recipients have reported the program helped them develop links with industry and academia, and understand the importance of background research before starting higher degree projects.

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An annual package fee applies to all packages.
The program has experienced a significant increase in participation in recent years, with 35 percent more students taking part in 2011–2012 from the previous summer of 2010–2011.

Acting Director of UQ’s Office of Undergraduate Education Dr Jessica Gallagher said the initiative provided students with an opportunity to develop and enhance their research skills as well as their communication and presentation abilities.

“Participation in the Summer Research program enables students to work with a researcher in a formal research environment so that they may experience the research process and discover what research is being undertaken in their fields of interest at UQ,” she said.

“This summer’s cohort was the largest since the program began and interest in the program from both UQ and non-UQ students continues to grow each year.”

Not all of the students taking part over the 2011–2012 break were UQ undergraduates, with 33 hailing from overseas universities and a further 36 from other universities throughout Australia, Dr Gallagher said.

Some of the participants also have an opportunity to obtain credit (or milestone requirements) towards their undergraduate degrees.

For Adam Hand, crossing the country to work on a groundbreaking UQ research project was the perfect way to spend his university holidays.

Mr Hand, from Edith Cowan University in Perth, is nearing the end of a 12-week Summer Research Scholarship Program placement at the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), working with Professor Mark Kendall’s Nanopatch group.

The Nanopatch is a revolutionary needle-free vaccine-delivery system. In August last year, one of Australia’s largest investments in a start-up biotechnology company – AUD$15 million – was made to further develop the Nanopatch.

“My summer program experience has fluctuated from being completely overwhelmed from being in a new environment to absolute fascination by all the new concepts and interesting things I have been learning, as well as everything else in between,” Mr Hand said.

“You may ask: ‘Why did you throw away a summer holiday to work at AIBN?’ That wasn’t the case however. Travelling from Perth and experiencing a new life was an adventure in itself and working at the AIBN was an opportunity that I could not have missed.

“The experience I gained here is priceless. I have enjoyed my work here immensely and I hope I can continue to work at the AIBN down the line.”
Q&A

UQ students and graduates will be involved in a new study conducted by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit (ATISU). Team co-leader Dr Katelyn Barney explains how the research will help UQ better support the next generation of Indigenous students.

What inspired the project? The project aims to improve enrolments of Indigenous Australians so that participation rates are equitable and key national social-justice goals can be achieved.

The long-term goal is to further support Indigenous students and improve graduation outcomes for UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate and postgraduate students.

How will the research be carried out? Interviews with participants will uncover the key issues and explore ways in which universities can encourage greater numbers of Indigenous students to embark on university study.

What difficulties do Indigenous students face in transitioning to higher education? Indigenous students experience different barriers from non-Indigenous students in the transition into higher education. Contributing factors include lower incomes and a lack of family and other networks that support engagement with tertiary study.

What are your goals with the project? There are several key objectives. These include creating a website for potential and current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students, establishing a mentoring program, creating a postgraduate student research network and seminar series, and organising a symposium on research capacity-building among Indigenous staff and students.

How can universities better support their Indigenous students? The project will identify factors contributing to successful transitions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, identify best practice models based upon these factors and investigate how current support initiatives can be improved.

Program staff and partners Project team – Dr Katelyn Barney, Lauren Sheiwe, Bronwyn Tudehope Cervantes, Professor Cindy Shannon and Professor Ian Lilley (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit). The project is funded by Higher Education Equity Support Program (HEESP).

The University of Queensland recently celebrated its first cohort of Indigenous trainee graduates. Their graduation on December 14 came almost a year to the day of the University signing the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC). The AEC is a national program which promotes the development of 50,000 new jobs for Indigenous Australians.

The University launched the Indigenous Traineeship Scheme as part of its commitment to the AEC. It is one of many initiatives designed to recruit and retain more Indigenous staff at UQ. This program was championed by Executive Director (Operations) Mr Maurie McNarn AO, with the majority of positions located within Mr McNarn’s portfolio. The program is led by UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment Coordinator Tracey Pickwick.

Ms Pickwick said since 2008, the number of Indigenous employees at UQ had increased by 600 percent (from eight to 48) while the number of continuing and fixed-term contract of Indigenous staff had more than doubled to 48.

Based in the University’s Human Resources team, Ms Pickwick said her role enjoyed a strong relationship with the HR organisational development team in creating a program that helped strengthen and support trainees and their supervisors.

One of the 10 Indigenous trainee graduates Aaron Blucher (pictured centre) said he had found the scheme very valuable. “The scheme helps Indigenous people build on their workplace confidence, professional skills and communication,” he said.

Mr Blucher has worked within UQ’s Office of Records and Archive Management Services for the past 12 months. All trainees are working towards Certificate IIIs in a variety of areas including business administration, information technology and horticulture.

Mr Blucher said the group was very close and maintained regular contact through their learning modules as well as informally over lunch or coffee once a month.

“I first heard about the traineeship at UQ through my job network provider,” he said. “My work at UQ involves processing emails, scanning documents and assisting with daily mail runs. The past year has been a real eye-opener and I have really enjoyed working within the university sector.”

With the AEC signed and the first cohort of Indigenous trainee graduates having completed their studies, Ms Pickwick said she would continue to raise awareness of employment opportunities at UQ among the Indigenous community.

She said a further goal was to see Indigenous academic and professional staff employed across the breadth of UQ’s operations.
More than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people kick-started their higher education journeys at UQ recently.

The students, aged between 10–16, were based at St Lucia for five days in January for the Indigenous Youth Sports Program, which is modelled on a successful initiative in the United States.

UQ partnered with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), Inala Indigenous Health Service and Education Queensland to coordinate the event, which was cut short last year due to the Brisbane floods.

UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Education) Professor Cindy Shannon said it was important to create educational experiences tailored to the needs of Indigenous Australian youth.

“Indigenous young people have often been under-represented at university courses at a national level, and UQ is taking positive steps to improve outcomes in this regard. This program provides an excellent example of a collaborative approach to culturally sensitive exposure to university at a young age,” Professor Shannon said.

Program director and UQ Master of Philosophy student John Brady said he was delighted with the way the event unfolded during the week.

“This program aims to give Indigenous young people and their mentors an opportunity to experience life at university including participation in sports, academic, health and cultural well-being activities,” he said.

“Capturing their vision from an early age is important so that they can grow up thinking ‘university is possible for me’.

Indigenous community workers including teacher aides and youth workers partnered with UQ students to act as mentors during the week.

IUIH CEO Adrian Carson said the initiative had the potential to “close the gap” between Indigenous and non-Indigenous higher education participation in south-east Queensland.

The week culminated with a graduation ceremony which was attended by Indigenous elders, in addition to many parents who had not visited UQ before.

“The program exposes Indigenous young people to the university environment, builds aspirations for them to participate, and connects with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through this process,” Professor Shannon said.
When did you start blogging?
I started the Innovation Leadership Network blog (http://timkastelle.org/blog/) in early 2009. I have been active online in various ways dating back to the 1980s, and I have had a couple of blogs previously that were more leisure-oriented. Once I started on staff here at the UQ Business School, I started to wonder what would happen if I focused my online attention onto something a bit more tangible than movie reviews or playing online sports with my friends, and my current blog is what came out of that.

What do you blog about?
I primarily write about innovation management. I define innovation as executing new ideas to create value, so this gives me scope to discuss a relatively broad range of topics. The people who I am trying to reach are primarily managers in organisations that are trying to improve innovation management. This is also the group that attends my executive education and MBA courses on innovation – so I try to picture those people as my audience when I write.

How many followers do you have?
I have just over 3300 followers on Twitter, there are about 900 people who read the blog daily via RSS feeds, and about 300 people per day visit the blog directly.

When did you realise your blog was becoming popular?
For the first nine months of the blog, the vast majority of people reading it knew me personally. At the end of 2009, it started to take off with a wider audience once I figured out how to use Twitter effectively. As I scan the information sources that I keep track of daily, I run across a number of items that would be interesting to people in innovation management, so I share those through Twitter. That in turn has helped to build an audience for the blog.

Why do you think your blog is so successful?
It's hard to say what has made the blog click with people. The feedback that I get suggests that people appreciate both the practical approach that we take on the blog, and also the fact that we are usually talking about things that have a strong evidence base.

There are only two full-time academics on this year's list of top innovation bloggers at Innovation Excellence, but that's mainly because there aren't that many academics blogging about innovation. My discussions with readers suggest that they very much want to hear from academia on these topics.

How can other academics engage with their audiences through blogging?
The most important point is to discuss our areas of research with clarity. I've always tried to build my skills at explaining technical topics in plain language. For me, it's the best way to ensure that I genuinely know my topic well. So blogging is good both for engaging with a non-academic audience but also for clarifying what I really think about things.

**TIM KASTELLE’S TOP FIVE BLOGGING TIPS**

1. Figure out who your ideal audience is and write as though you’re in conversation with them
2. Write regularly (it’s good practice for your academic writing!)
3. Be yourself – blogging is a great way to develop your personal voice
4. Think about what you’re trying to achieve with a blog – it can help with profile raising, idea testing, thought development and many other things. Your objective will determine the best way to promote the blog
5. Have fun. Blogging is much better if you enjoy doing it
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Yassmin Abdel-Magied doesn’t have to think twice about her most memorable learning experiences at UQ.

The 2011 Bachelor of Engineering graduate capped off her studies in style, leading the UQ Racing team to compete in the Formula SAE Australasia event in Melbourne in December.

The competition sees students from around the world design, build and drive their own racecars.

Although the UQ outfit was out-muscled by more experienced teams in the overall standings, there was plenty to celebrate following a three-year absence from the competition.

“We placed fourth in the presentation event, only 1.5 points off the top position, and we were first in line to compete at almost every event as the team was well organised, well prepared and enthusiastic,” Ms Abdel-Magied said.

“We also definitely got a reputation as the loudest (cheering) team on the grid, and it was so great to see the team members feeling proud and getting amongst it.”

Ms Abdel-Magied said the experience of seeing a major project from start to finish had been invaluable.

“The team had to control, design and manage every aspect of the project which gave me a real appreciation for the so-called ‘soft skills’ like time management and scheduling,” she said.

“You also get a real appreciation for the finer things, like turning ‘art to part’ – taking our designs and making sure they are actually able to be manufactured. These are all real world skills that SAE has taught me that I wouldn’t have learnt any other way. It truly was a game changer for my university experience.”

Ms Abdel-Magied encouraged any interested students to get involved in UQ Racing as the team rebuilt in the coming years, and said it was certainly a case of the more the merrier.

“2012 is going to be a big year as the team is manufacturing a brand new chassis, suspension system, bodywork and much more,” she said.

“Look out for the team at Market Day and come and say hi, and don’t be hesitant to ask questions. UQ Racing is all about learning and helping people see the beauty in motorsport.”

Above and top: Yassmin Abdel-Magied assists her teammates during testing at Willowbank Raceway in December, and detail of the the student-designed UQ racecar
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University of Queensland alumnus, actor and film producer Dr Geoffrey Rush has been named the 2012 Australian of the Year. Dr Rush, who has earned acting’s coveted “Triple Crown” (Academy, Emmy and Tony Awards), was the 1998 UQ Alumnus of the Year and was awarded a UQ honorary doctorate in 1997. His many distinctions include four Screen Actors Guild awards, three British Academy Film Awards and two Golden Globes.

Dr Rush’s acting credits range from Shakespearean plays to his Oscar-winning 1996 performance as pianist David Helfgott in Shine; the voice of a pelican in Finding Nemo; Captain Barbarossa in the wildly successful Pirates of the Caribbean franchise; to playing speech therapist Lionel Logue in The King’s Speech. The Geoffrey Rush Drama Studio at the University’s St Lucia campus honours his contributions and is a training space for UQ drama students.

Dr Rush is the foundation president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts and is known for his support of young actors and arts companies.

Born in Toowoomba in 1951, Dr Rush moved to Brisbane in 1968 and performed with the College Players, a theatrical group formed by Bryan Nason at The University of Queensland. While studying at UQ between 1969 and 1971, Dr Rush was also active in the drama society with fellow alumnus and acclaimed actor Billie Brown.

Dr Rush graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1972. In a letter to the University, Dr Rush said he “fondly recalled the heady days of 69-71, a key period in theatrical activity on campus.”

Dr Rush follows in the footsteps of previous UQ-associated Australians of the Year, including Professor Ian Frazer (2006), Professor Peter Doherty AC (1997) and the late Dame Joan Sutherland OM AC DBE (1961).

Professor Frazer, former Director of the UQ Diamantina Institute and foundation Director of the Translational Research Institute, is the co-inventor with the late Dr Jian Zhou of the world’s first cervical cancer vaccine.

Professor Doherty, a UQ veterinary science graduate and 1993 UQ Alumnus of the Year, was awarded the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine with Rolf Zinkernagel for their discovery on how the human immune system recognises virus-infected cells. Dame Joan, Australia’s most famous opera singer, was awarded a UQ honorary doctorate in music in 1991. Then Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Wilson said she was a model of all that was best in the Australian character.

LEADERS RECOGNISED

One of the country’s most respected journalists was among the recipients of a University of Queensland honorary doctorate in December.

As the compere and interviewer for Lateline (1989–95) and chair and editor of The 7.30 Report (1995–2010), Kerry O’Brien has had an unrivalled career in daily television current affairs. He continues his hosting role as presenter for the revamped Four Corners program where he also worked as a reporter in the 70s and 80s.

He has interviewed many top political figures including Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev and Barack Obama. His near 50-year career has been recognised with six Walkley Awards, including the Gold Walkley.

Mr O’Brien also served as an Adjunct Professor in UQ’s School of Journalism and Communication (2004–2007), during which time he contributed to the school’s anniversary celebrations. He received a Doctor of Letters honoris causa at a ceremony on December 8.

Fellow awardees were The Honourable Patrick Keane (Doctor of Laws honoris causa), Andrew Brice (Doctor of Economics honoris causa), Alan Millhouse (Doctor of Laws honoris causa), Professor Robin Batterham AO (Doctor of Engineering honoris causa), and Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman (Doctor of Medicine honoris causa).

ALUMNUS TAKES TOP HONOUR

Respected journalist Kerry O’Brien was among community and industry leaders to receive a UQ honorary doctorate in December.

All smiles: Geoffrey Rush receives the 2012 Australian of the Year Award from Prime Minister Julia Gillard in Canberra.

Australia Day Honour Recipients include:

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)
Dr Ian Darnton-Hill, an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Australian Centre for International and Tropical Health.

Member (AM) in the General Division
Philanthropists, Dr Robert Andrew Brice and Dr Graeme Thomas Wood, for service to business, particularly to the tourism industry, and through philanthropic support for tertiary education institutions including UQ.

Medal (OAM) in the General Division
Former Faculty of Engineering board member Mr Thomas Baxter, for service to engineering through executive roles, and to the community.

Australia Day Ambassadors
A number of current or former University of Queensland staff were among 38 Queenslanders appointed Australia Day Ambassadors.

They gave Australia Day speeches and handed out citizenship certificates and awards for community service.

UQ Australia Day Ambassadors included:
• 2010 Suncorp Queensland of the Year, speech pathology and PhD graduate, 2011 Alumnus of the Year and Founder of the Hear and Say Centre Associate Professor Dimitry Dornan AM;
• 2010 Suncorp Young Queenslandler of the Year, Founder of Youth Without Borders, and engineering graduate Ms Yassmin Abdel-Salem; and
• Emeritus Professor of Applied Language Studies and Chairman of the State Library of Queensland Roly Sussex.
AT THE MOVIES

NOW SHOWING AT THE SCHONELL THEATRE

WOMEN ON THE 6TH FLOOR
(screening until Feb 28)
Directed with verve and charm by the talented Le Guay (The Cost Of Living), The Women on the 6th Floor is a warm-hearted delight, in any language. Fabrice Luchini and Sanchine Kiberlain are terrific as the austere couple Jean-Louis and Suzanne, who are brought to breaking point when Jean-Louis literally discovers a room of his own.

A SEPARATION
A compelling and profound film that focuses on a contemporary Iranian middle-class couple who separate, and the intrigues which follow when the husband hires a lower-class caretaker for his elderly father. The film received the Golden Bear for Best Film and the Silver Bears for Best Actress and Best Actor at the 61st Berlin International Film Festival, becoming the first Iranian film to do so.

ARRIETTY
(screening from February 16)
This is a story of a family of “little” people. Beneath the floorboards of a sprawling mansion set in a magical, overgrown garden in the suburbs of Tokyo, tiny 14-year-old Arrietty lives with her equally tiny parents. Yonebayashi makes his debut as the director of Studio Ghibli’s latest animated feature film.
Survivors and rescuers involved in last year’s devastating flash flooding in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley have told their stories in a new book published by University of Queensland Press.

After reporting the disaster on the ground in her home city of Toowoomba, author and award-winning journalist Amanda Gearing spent the following six months listening to survival stories told by people who narrowly escaped with their lives.

Her book, *The Torrent: Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley, January 2011* captures the inspiring and courageous rescues and attempted rescues by local people to save other people and themselves.

The book, which is dedicated to the 21 adults and children who died in the disaster, was initiated by Mrs Gearing’s desire to gather the stories to preserve them for personal and historical record. Mrs Gearing said she was surprised at the willingness of people to relate their traumatic stories.

“Most people were driven by the desire to do everything possible to improve disaster warnings and emergency responses, to ensure that individuals and authorities learn from the disaster and to talk about their experiences as part of their own recovery,” she said.

Helidon flood survivor Jean Warr explained why she and others participated.

“If people don’t tell people what happened, the next time it happens there will be just the same awful consequences. We will be in the position again where too many people will die for stupid reasons,” she said.

The Torrent includes an appendix providing information from the flood survivors and rescuers, to improve community awareness of flash-flooding and what people can do to protect themselves and their families if they are at risk.
The University of Queensland Art Museum has invited visitors to explore some of its newest treasures for its first exhibition of the year.

Curator Michele Helmrich said NEW 2011 featured selected artworks that had recently been acquired by the University, including major gifts and pieces on public display for the first time.

“The exhibition continues a tradition of acquiring innovative artworks that respond to the contemporary moment,” Ms Helmrich said.

“Featured works span a range of media and address subjects such as the environment, cultural histories, abstraction, and the self.”

Among the pieces on display are colourful “ghost net” baskets, which have been fashioned from recycled fishing line by Indigenous artists in western Cape York. Nearby in the provocative Blood Money series, young Brisbane-based artist Ryan Presley has created large Australian bank notes with Indigenous faces and designs.

NEW 2011 also includes thought-provoking photographs and videos that offer contemporary interpretations of the self-portrait, including works by Richard Bell, Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano, Ricky Maynard, Stuart Ringholt and Tim Silver.

Samantha Littley, who co-curated the exhibition, said UQ’s recent acquisitions included a large-scale photograph by renowned artist Rosemary Laing.

“Shot as part of a series and several months in the making, the image depicts the upside-down frame of a house built on the artist’s instructions into a hillside in country New South Wales, and photographed in contrast with a farmer and his flock of sheep,” Ms Littley said.

In the same section of the exhibition, a multi-layered work by Janet Laurence sees polished aluminium, mirrors, pigment on acrylic and burnt wood combine to comment on the logging of the iconic Styx Forest in Tasmania.

Recent gifts to the museum also feature prominently, including Gordon Shephardson’s The Stoning of St Stephen – After the last stone, donated by the artist, and Norman Lindsay’s Apollo’s earth, donated by Mrs Jessie Yeowart.

Ms Helmrich said the University was grateful to those who had supported the University’s growing Art Collection through gifts and bequests.

The museum is open free to the public from 10am–4pm, seven days a week. The exhibition is accompanied by a major publication that features artworks acquired by the University in the past three years. NEW 2011 continues until March 25.
Art history scholars and students from around the world now have unprecedented access to the UQ Art Collection thanks to a new online catalogue. Launched in mid-February, the resource contains information on more than 2800 works in the collection and includes hundreds of images.

[Information www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au]
Classifieds

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

House for rent
Fully equipped, three-bedroom house for rent from March–July 2012. Study, air conditioning, large deck, garage, close to busway (10 mins to St Lucia campus). $720 per week including electricity, gas and broadband. Contact: c.richards@uq.edu.au or 0449 686 736

Scholarships

Alfred & Olivea Wynne Memorial Scholarships
To assist Maryborough and district students who can demonstrate financial need. Both new and continuing students may apply. Academic merit also considered. Information: (07) 3365 1984. Closing: 9 March 2012

EOH Handy Memorial Scholarship
Two scholarships available for Indigenous students. Based on academic merit or technical excellence, and social and economic need. Value: $500 for one year. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or (07) 3365 1984. Closing: 16 March 2012

RN Hammon Scholarships
To assist Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have successfully completed at least one year of a program at a participating institution. Value: $3500 for one year. Information: (07) 3365 1984. Closing 16 March 2012

WH & HW Harris Bursary
2012
Open to female students who are of lineal descendant to a person eligible to be accepted as a member of the War Widows Guild, Australia, QLD Branch, and who attended a Queensland secondary school in 2010. Based on academic results in 2011. Value: approximately $970 for three years. Information: (07) 3365 1984. Closing: 30 March 2012

Events/Notices

Rugby Breakfast

Friday March 2
Join the UQ Rugby Football Club for their corporate breakfast at the Tattersall’s Club. Former Wallaby and ACT Brumbies James Holbeck will be MC and guest speaker is Ewan McKenzie, former Wallaby great, current Queensland Reds and Super Rugby Championship-winning coach. Venue: The Tattersall’s Club, 215 Queens Street Brisbane. Time: 6.45am for 7.00am start. Cost: $65 per person or table of 10 for $650.

RSVP: Friday 24 February to admin@uqrugby.com or (07) 3870 2152.

Diversity Week

Help us celebrate UQ’s 10th annual Diversity Week by getting involved. Apply for a Diversity Week Activity Grant and organise an activity. Nominate an outstanding colleague, student or alumnus for the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Award and bring your friends, family and other guests to the awards presentation on the evening of 24 May 2012 – the highlight of the week. All staff, students, alumni and guests are welcome to attend.

Information www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week
If the first month of 2012 is anything to go by, then the rest of the year is going to be a successful one for UQ Sport.

A highly anticipated event was the re-opening of the UQ Sport Aquatic Centre on February 3.

A little over 12 months ago, the David Theile Olympic Pool was swamped by the Brisbane flood, providing some of the more iconic campus images from the devastation.

UQ Sport Executive Director Bryan Pryde said the final piece of the puzzle had been put back into place just in time for the beginning of Semester 1 in March.

“Judging by the number of enquiries, we know that a lot of people will be pleased to hear this news,” Mr Pryde said.

“The new facility looks amazing and it will no doubt be a hub of activity in the early months of 2012.

“Now that we have all of our facilities back up and running, we are able to offer the UQ community the opportunity to utilise the facilities at a great rate.

Mr Pryde said a new “UQ Sport Gold” membership would also be introduced this year to allow staff and students to make the most of the available facilities.

“We are looking forward to providing a platform for everyone to achieve a healthy work, study and life balance,” he said.

January saw a large influx of people using UQ Sport’s facilities, in particular the UQ Sport Tennis Centre which soaked up the buzz generated by the 2012 Brisbane International and the Australian Open tournaments.

The centre expects action to continue throughout the year with the introduction of exciting new programs and ever popular group coaching options.

After a successful opening at the end of 2011, the UQ Sport Athletics Centre will once again provide the best facilities for students and staff wanting to train at any time of the day.

At the elite level, the newly branded UQ Sport Academy will provide guidance and opportunity to the new intake of sports scholarship holders, who were well represented in 2011 by the likes of Olympic gold medal hopeful long jumper Mitchell Watt.

UQ Sport is determined to bring health and happiness to the lives of everyone involved with UQ and their presence on campus in 2012 aims to be greater than ever.
In December, I got to be a groupie at the Nobel Prize ceremonies in Stockholm. It’s not every day that your friends win a Nobel Prize, but December 10th last year was one of those very unusual days.

Little did I know when I first started out in physics where it would take me, what I would do, and who I would end up working with. All I knew was that physics was the most interesting subject I’d found, and figured that if I studied something fascinating I’d end up qualified to do something I found inspiring.

The story of how I ended up working with all three of the Nobel Prize winners would be too long to include here. Suffice to say it included a healthy dose of luck and an ample supply of unabashed enthusiasm.

When it was announced that Brian Schmidt, Saul Perlmutter, and Adam Riess would share the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics for their discovery that the expansion of the universe was accelerating, I was in my pyjamas in my apartment near UQ. A quick phone call to Brian confirmed the news, a quick dance around the living room, and a couple of emails later I had my tickets to the parties.

The formal Nobel ceremonies were exclusive to the teams that did the original measurements in the 1990s. So, we had to watch them on TV with champagne in my Swedish friend’s lounge room. Although the Nobel Prizes can be awarded to no more than three people, this masks the fact that science these days is not a solo profession. The Nobel winners were constantly acknowledging the contributions by their teams – there were 51 authors in total on the two discovery papers.

There were so many in fact, that they couldn’t all be invited to the formal banquet.

My favourite experience during Nobel Week was an event where each team member spoke for three minutes about their memories and contributions. It had been a race between the two teams to get the result out first, so the spirit of friendly but ferocious competition was in the air.

Afterwards, we all went back for one more banquet, this time at Pippi Longstocking’s house. Yes, the Nobel winners entered the room on little trains via dioramas with puppets acting out the Swedish author Astrid Lingren’s famous children’s stories. It was a fitting end to the week, as one thing that all the Nobel winners clearly share, is their child-like wonder about the universe. That is something I hope I never lose.