

CONTACT

summer 2018



FROM UQ TO WESTEROS:
HOW A DESIGN GRADUATE
HELPED GAME OF THRONES
RULE THE SMALL SCREEN

CREATOR *of dragons*

Anchors aweigh
SETTING SAIL WITH A
SHIPBUILDING PIONEER

100 YEARS OF ANZAC
*Remembering our
fallen soldiers*

Courage and justice
THE BRAVE LIFE OF A
HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

CONTACT is produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications and UQ Advancement, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia

Telephone: +61 7 3365 9723
Email: contactmagazine@uq.edu.au
Website: contact-magazine.uq.edu.au

Editor: Michael Jones

Editorial team: Camille Layt, Mark Schroder, Rachel Westbury, Melanie Williams

Design: Felicia Gibson, Michael Jones, Craig Oddy, Paul Thomas

Contributors: Phoebe Baldwin, Amanda Briggs, Robert Burgin, Caroline Enright, Clint Chapman, Marc Grimwade, Bruce Ibsen, Fiona Kennedy, Jamie Mitchell, Associate Professor Linda Selvey, Katrina Shimmin-Clarke, Anjanette Webb

Material in this publication does not necessarily reflect the policies of The University of Queensland.

Printing: PMP Limited



© The University of Queensland 2018

CRICOS Provider Number: 00025B

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Telephone: +61 7 3346 3900
Email: advancement@uq.edu.au

COVER IMAGE

Game of Thrones production designer and UQ graduate Deborah Riley.
Image: Studio Commercial/David Silva

GET MORE ONLINE

Connect with your UQ peers on the new-look *Contact* website.

With more online content than ever before – including news, features, polls, galleries, and quizzes – we encourage you to have your say on the stories that matter to you.

Visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au.

The *Contact* app can be read on your smartphone, iPad or other tablet device. To download the app, visit the iTunes™ App Store or Google Play™ store and search for **UQ Contact**.



MESSAGE from the Chancellery

When two teams from UQ and India shook hands to start a new match in New Delhi in September, cricket – although always a topic of interest – was not top of mind.

Instead, the delegations from UQ and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) signed into effect an academy that will collaboratively generate future game changers.

Called the UQ-IITD Academy of Research (UQIDAR), it will enrol PhD students whose targets will not simply be problems that can be solved today, but instead problems that must be solved – urgently.

UQ's visiting team in New Delhi included our Chancellor, Peter Varghese, a former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and former High Commissioner to India. Peter, a UQ alumnus, recently prepared the India Economic Strategy to 2035 for the Australian Government. He identified education as the flagship of Australia's relationship with the world's fastest-growing large economy, and noted that India's education and training market was big enough for all Australian providers.

In a similar vein, we hope the UQIDAR will prepare the ground

for further productive ties, not only between IITD and UQ, but more broadly between Indian and Australian education, research and innovation.

This is IITD's first international joint PhD program, and will be UQ's biggest. While Monash University and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay have an earlier model, our academy with IITD is distinctive. The differentiation is partly due to IITD gaining additional autonomy when the Indian Government declared it to be one of only six Institutions of Eminence, in July this year.

From the outset, UQIDAR will enrol students from both Australia and India. They will receive scholarships, split their time between India and Australia, and – should they succeed – graduate after four years with a co-badged PhD.

Students will have at least one supervisor from each university, and some will also have support from business, industry, government or the not-for-profit sector.

In these cases, we will jointly frame PhD projects before inviting applications, so students will be accepted on the basis that they are primed to conduct research with practical value and – very importantly – with high academic integrity.

The UQ-IITD Academy of Research will enrol PhD students whose targets will not simply be problems that can be solved today, but instead problems that must be solved – urgently.

To their advantage, partners from outside academia will gain assistance in problem-solving, as well as early sight of potential recruits moving along the study-to-career pipeline.

Student enrolments will start modestly, and build steadily to a sustainable scale. In January next year, we could welcome up to 25 students from both institutions, growing to an expected 300 in 2028.

People with PhDs are in big demand in India, to support innovation in industry and government, and to help build the academic infrastructure that will assist the education of the 400 million people the Indian government aspires to upskill.

As reflected in the Winter 2016 issue of *Contact*, and elsewhere, our bilateral ties are long-standing and various. Engagement is assisted by a burgeoning community of Indian students and alumni, an emerging generation of Australian students who experience India through the New Colombo Plan, plus staff (both Indian-origin and not) who have excellent collaborations with India.

In coming years, the sight of our new league of joint PhD students making progress, graduating, and hitting big problems for six, will be something to behold.

Professor Peter Høj
Vice-Chancellor and President

Features



MAKING FANTASY REALITY

Contact catches up with *Game of Thrones* production designer Deborah Riley.



JUSTICE FOR ALL

UQ alumnus Melinda Taylor tells of her courageous career as a human rights lawyer.



SMOOTH SAILING

On the water with 90-year-old shipbuilding pioneer and UQ alumnus Rick James.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Contact recognises 100 years since the end of World War I and pays tribute to UQ's fallen soldiers.

Regulars

4

THE BIG QUESTION

UQ researchers discuss whether data sharing systems improve society or threaten security.

20

TRAVEL DIARY

UQ law students share their experiences helping to protect the wonders of Borneo.

38

CULTURE

UQ pipe band, Emmanuel College Highlanders at The University of Queensland, celebrate a 20-year milestone.

39

SPORT

Women's rugby star Marioulla Belessis balances teaching commitments while trying to defend UQ's 7s title.



REUNITE WITH YOUR MATES

To organise a class reunion in 2019, or for information about upcoming reunions, please visit alumni.uq.edu.au, or contact Alumni Engagement Officer Prue Roche on +61 7 3346 3166 or email prue.roche@uq.edu.au.



SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

To provide feedback or send a letter to the editor, phone +61 7 3365 9723 or email contactmagazine@uq.edu.au.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

You can now have your say on the stories that matter to you on the new-look *Contact* website. Visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or follow us on social media.



uqalumni



@uqalumni



@uqalumni



The University of Queensland Alumni group

THE BIG QUESTION

Do data-sharing systems, like My Health Record, improve society or threaten security?

Dr Liam Pomfret
Associate Lecturer in Marketing
School of Business
Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

"Data-sharing systems can potentially help improve society, particularly in areas like public health, but only if carefully designed and implemented. This requires systems to be built with a proper understanding of potential risks, and governed by an effective legal framework and controls. Ultimately, poorly designed approaches like the proposed My Health Record satisfy none of these conditions, and only create worse problems than they were intended to address. My Health Record is a privacy and security nightmare. Our health records are some of the most sensitive information we have, yet this system offers minimal protection for the large amounts of data it will gather, data which can then be readily matched with other data sources. It's not a question of if this data will be misused, it's a question of when, and by whom."

Dr Guido Zuccon
Senior Lecturer
School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering
Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology

"The advantage of My Health Record initiative for primary healthcare delivery is through the sharing of critical information across siloed healthcare providers. Its use in secondary research is to better study health conditions and the effect of treatments, as well as healthcare processes and delivery at an unprecedented scale for Australia. For example, the analysis of the My Health Record data using recent advances in data science could deliver improved health outcomes and inform health services planning and delivery. From an ethical and security standpoint, some legitimate concerns do exist – such as the possible re-identification of data – and there is some way to go to reap the benefits while avoiding the risks."



Dr Dan Angus
Senior Lecturer
School of Communication and Arts
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

"General purpose data-sharing systems like My Health Record are dangerous, blunt instruments, and 'solutions in search of problems'. My Health Record is an example of a top-down approach to technology design, where one takes an existing (often hyped-up) technology and creates a problem for it to solve. This approach stands in contrast to co-design, which seeks to work with target groups to identify concerns and design the most appropriate solutions. Because of its homogeneous top-down approach, the architects of My Health Record have not considered or respected the inputs and perspectives of the diverse community of end-users. The rhetoric of the top-down approach is easy to spot, often of promised riches: efficiency, cost savings and simplicity. Experience shows that this 'one-size-fits-all' approach to technology design will almost always fail to achieve these promised riches. And, when employed in systems such as My Health Record, it also suggests that insufficient care has been taken to safeguard vulnerable users."



To have your say, visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

PLAYING FOR PEACE

Myanmar's Muslim minority, the Rohingya, are often referred to as the most persecuted people on Earth. With support from UQ's Dr Gerhard Hoffstaedter, a Queensland organisation called The Kick Project is now working with a refugee football team to better integrate Rohingya youths into Malaysian society, one goal at a time.

By Rachel Westbury

To many of the 59,000 Rohingya refugees living in Malaysia, the Rohingya Football Club is more than just a soccer team. The club, and its yellow jerseys, represent a brighter future.

The club was founded in 2015, and has become a vital part of the Rohingya refugee community in Kuala Lumpur. The Kick Project, a Brisbane-based non-government organisation, partnered with the football club to help Rohingya youth better integrate into Malaysian society.

UQ School of Social Science senior lecturer and anthropologist Dr Gerhard Hoffstaedter has spent more than nine years documenting the lives of urban



Image: Dr Gerhard Hoffstaedter

refugees in Malaysia. He is also an honorary adviser to The Kick Project.

"Almost 1 million Rohingya have fled their homeland of Myanmar since the 1970s," Dr Hoffstaedter said.

"Their citizenship rights were stripped by Myanmar's government in 1982, and hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have since been displaced due to widespread mass human rights violations.

"Displaced Rohingya often find themselves living in overcrowded flats without adequate shelter, food, water or sanitation."

Malaysia is known as a 'first protection space' for many refugees, as the nation recognises that the rights of refugees must be respected and their needs met, regardless of their means of arrival or status.

Despite this, Dr Hoffstaedter said that Rohingya refugees in Malaysia were routinely exploited, and many isolated themselves to avoid conflict.

His findings were crucial to the development of The Kick Project's evidence-based sports

and community project, which aims to empower the region's growing number of refugees.

He identified sport as a powerful community development tool that could connect Rohingya refugees to essential-service providers in Malaysia, and overcome social stigma.

"Anyone can play football. You can play barefoot with no kit, and it is still an uplifting experience," Dr Hoffstaedter said.

In 2016, The Kick Project was successful in securing a grant from the Australian High Commission to fund a pilot soccer program with Rohingya refugees living in Malaysia.

The weekly matches provide an opportunity for the Rohingya to come together and exchange information about life in Malaysia, such as job opportunities, refugee services, registration or a change in policy.

The Kick Project has also helped Rohingya become more firmly embedded within Malaysia and is starting a conversation about the human rights abuses in Myanmar.

RESEARCH IMPACT: highlighting some of the groundbreaking research being produced at UQ.

Breastfeeding barriers

Can education impact a mother's approach to breastfeeding her children?



Perception at the wheel

Find out how UQ researchers aim to save more lives on Australian roads through online hazard training.



Tackling truancy

Can early police intervention reduce more serious offences later in life?



Learn more about UQ's research impact online at research.uq.edu.au.

Making fantasy REALITY

As millions of fans eagerly anticipate *Game of Thrones*' final season hitting Australian screens in 2019, *Contact* caught up with star production designer and UQ graduate Deborah Riley to reflect on her success and what it takes to bring such an epic production to life.

By Michael Jones

For five years, Deborah Riley has watched over the seven kingdoms. She's travelled to ancient cities, shivered through icy winters, and stared down dragons.

Feeling dead on her feet, she's pushed through the long hours to create a world that has ruled the small screen for eight seasons.

It's been a dream come true for the UQ graduate (Bachelor of Design Studies '93), who has worked as the production designer on the hit HBO series *Game of Thrones* since 2013.

In that time, the acclaimed designer has won four Emmy Awards, the latest in September for outstanding production design for a narrative period or fantasy program, along with the show's art director Paul Ghirardani and set decorator Rob Cameron.

But to Riley and her colleagues, the world of Westeros is far from fantasy.

"In many ways, I treated the set designs on *Game of Thrones* with all the seriousness of a historical drama," Riley said.

"The more the audience believes in the world of the show, the more they believe in dragons.

"The art department and I tried to make all of the sets as realistic as possible by making sure that there was a heaviness and age to the

spaces. It takes a lot of layers of detail to make the spaces feel realistic, and this is reflected not just in the set design, but also in the set dressing and props.

"But this all means nothing if the costumes don't work, and seeing the characters walk onto a set is when it really comes alive.

"Great set design works cohesively with the work of the director and the cinematographer. It should support the scene, inspire the actors and enrich the story for the audience.

"When it works, it's enough to give me goosebumps."

Game of Thrones has received 47 Primetime Emmy Awards and attracted a record international viewership since it first aired in 2011. It is just as popular with critics for its acting, complex characters, story, and epic production values – an area for which Riley can take much of the credit.

It's an incredible achievement, considering she had never seen an episode before joining the show's art department ahead of season four.

"I had kept in contact with HBO's Senior Vice-President of Production Janet Graham Borba since I first moved to Los Angeles in 2008. She called my agent in early 2013 and said that I should interview for the

production designer position that had become available," Riley recalled.

"As I had not seen the show, HBO sent me the first two seasons to watch, as well as the third, which was due to air in the coming months.

"But nothing could have prepared me for the reality of how the team functioned in order to produce that amount of screen time."

Filmed across several locations, the show's production involved huge sets, attention to detail, and long, long hours.

"The schedule was punishing and it took every brain cell I had, as well as every ounce of energy I possessed, to keep going," Riley said.

"We were filming over a couple of locations at once, sometimes in different countries. In order for this to go smoothly, teamwork is the key. We had a fantastic team of art directors, set dressers, greenspeople, construction crew, plasterers and painters who would take care of our work abroad.

"I would fly out to see them as often as I could. There was one season that I finished with about 60 boarding passes.

"One crazy day I flew from Croatia to Belfast and back in a day to work on the Volantis paint finish and, on another occasion, from Belfast to Bilbao and back in a day as we were ▶

"The more the audience believes in the world of the show, the more they believe in dragons."



Image: Studio Commercial/David Silva



Deborah Riley sits on the Dragonstone throne during filming of season seven of *Game of Thrones*. Image courtesy of Deborah Riley

trying to find somewhere to fit our Dragonstone gates.

“Mostly I loved the travel, and it was fun to see the different teams working. It was an incredible machine.”

Riley has lived and breathed *Game of Thrones* for half a decade and has honed her craft with the best in the business. But her career could have taken a different path if not for her decision to pursue a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Design) at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) after completing a Bachelor of Design Studies at UQ in 1993.

“I had every intention of graduating from the full architecture course and one day being an architect,” Riley said.

“We were given a very solid grounding in the discipline at UQ. The most instrumental subject for me was a subject called Behaviour and Environment Studies. It boils down

to psychology of space and I have been fascinated by it ever since. I can honestly say that I use the basic principles of it at work every day.

“I remember having to design a bridge, connecting two existing buildings, and it was the first time I understood more clearly that buildings have personalities.

“Later, we worked on a prison design, and I recall it because I was more interested in the drama of the spaces than in the detail of how the building worked.

“But it was when I saw Tim Burton’s *Batman Returns* in 1992 that I first realised someone was responsible for designing the sets. It had not occurred to me before that it was an actual job.

“NIDA had a great reputation and was quite famous, and without any prior experience in the theatre at all and no right to assume I would

be accepted, I set my sights on studying there.”

Riley’s breakthrough into film came in the late 1990s, when she was hired as a set designer for *The Matrix*.

The film broke new ground in the world of visual effects and won four Academy Awards.

“I realise now how lucky I was to work on such a blockbuster and I am grateful, and still slightly amazed, that it was my gateway into the film industry,” Riley said.

Riley went on to work on a number of high-profile films, including *Anna and The King*, *21 Grams* and *Moulin Rouge!*. Her success saw her selected as an Art Director for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games closing ceremony.

“The scale of an event like that is enormous and I had not encountered protocol like it. The props were made in enormous numbers and the

“We always used to get the most enjoyment out of Hot Pie and hoped that he would open a franchise of bakeries throughout Westeros.”

production team had to plot where every prop and every performer would be at any given point in the show,” Riley said.

“Of course it has to be planned down to the second, but I had never given any thought to how it actually happens and who calculates that.

“Seeing the helicopters approach as they were following the lead marathon runner into the stadium, at which point the closing ceremony had to be ready to go, sent a wave of fear through my body. It was such a strange feeling knowing that the world was watching.

“Events like the Olympics tend to be about the identity of the place that they are held in.

There is a huge responsibility to get the tone correct and represent the history, thoughts and ideas of a nation fairly and creatively.”

Riley credits these previous experiences for helping her thrive in high-pressure environments, such as on the sets of *Game of Thrones*.

“I realised that my work on *Moulin Rouge!* prepared me for building on stage. My work on *21 Grams* taught me how to work on location and my time on the Olympics taught me not to be afraid of scale,” Riley said.

“With these three projects came three different ways of thinking and, somewhere inside of me, I knew I had the tools to cope.”

Given the enormity of the production, its ever-expanding list of locations and its complex storylines, Riley, like many of the show’s viewers, could be forgiven for losing track of which character holds the throne and who is still alive.

“It was hard to keep up at first, but the characters and the places soon



An iconic scene from season seven of *Game of Thrones*, showcasing how the sets complement the show’s special effects. Image courtesy of HBO

became as real to me as anyone and anywhere else,” Riley said.

“I loved to hate Joffrey and Ramsay, and wondered how the show would survive without them. I thought the same when Tywin died, but somehow the show kept going from strength to strength.

“I’ve always liked Brienne as she operated with honour in a world that often seemed to function without a moral code.

“That said, in the art department, we always used to get the most enjoyment out of Hot Pie and hoped that he would open a franchise of bakeries throughout Westeros.”

As for Riley’s favourite set and location on the show?

“I thoroughly enjoyed working on Dragonstone in season seven. We had to weave a large tapestry of locations and build sets into a cohesive whole,” Riley said.

“The Spanish locations in the Basque Country were staggering and it was a privilege to be able to work there. If I had to choose, the steps at San Juan de Gaztelugatxe were the most spectacular of them all.”

Riley’s work on the season-seven episode ‘Dragonstone’ earned her an Emmy Award in September this year.

The win follows previous ones in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

“I spent a long time watching my career go down in flames while I was out of work in the US, so being given the awards there means more to me than I care to admit,” Riley said.

“To be accepted and acknowledged by such a tough industry felt like a great relief.”

The final season of *Game of Thrones* airs in 2019, and now that her watch has ended, Riley has been enjoying a well-earned break, catching up with family and friends in Australia.

Reflecting on her career so far, Riley said she realises now that architecture is a degree that can launch graduates in many directions.

“Little did I know at the time, that it is where many production designers begin their careers,” she said.

“It’s important to remain open to different opportunities as they present themselves. That is a great lesson in life, not just in architecture.”



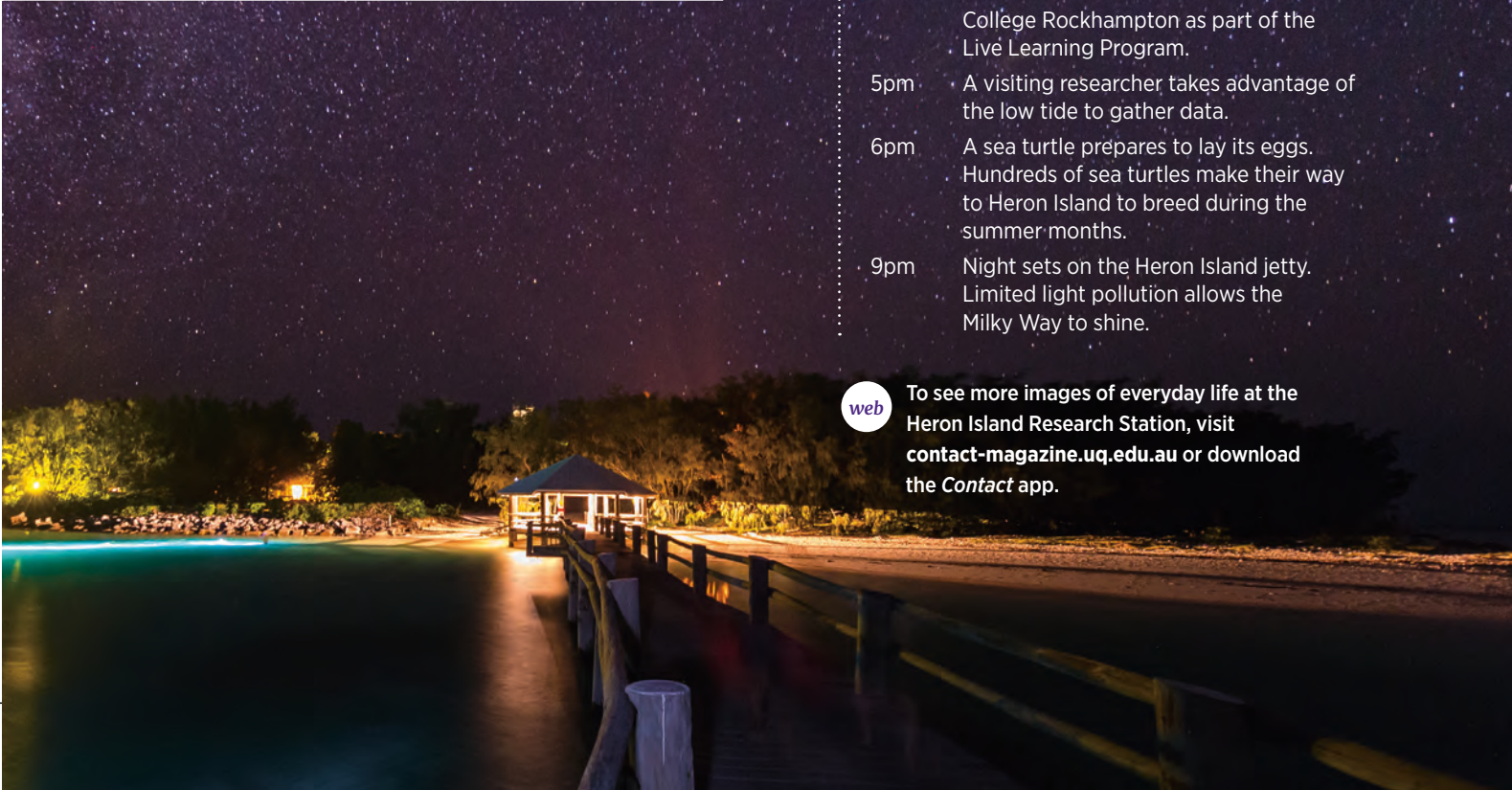
To watch a video about Deborah Riley’s work, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

24 hours on campus



DIVING DEEP *into marine research*

Located in the Great Barrier Reef, UQ's Heron Island Research Station is internationally renowned for coral and marine research. With crystal-clear water and near pristine conditions, the station provides students and staff direct access to the critical marine environment – at all hours of the day.



- 7am Students out for a snorkel at Heron Reef under the watchful eye of station boating and diving staff.
- 9am Students and Heron Island Research Station staff collect plankton.
- 11am A school of fish moves out of the way of a lemon shark.
- 1pm Heron Island Research Station Scientific Officer Abbie Taylor works with a student from The Cathedral College Rockhampton as part of the Live Learning Program.
- 5pm A visiting researcher takes advantage of the low tide to gather data.
- 6pm A sea turtle prepares to lay its eggs. Hundreds of sea turtles make their way to Heron Island to breed during the summer months.
- 9pm Night sets on the Heron Island jetty. Limited light pollution allows the Milky Way to shine.

[web](#) To see more images of everyday life at the Heron Island Research Station, visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

Taking the HEAT off our health

Increased temperatures and extreme weather events are impacting human health. Associate Professor Linda Selvey says we all have a responsibility to change our behaviours. UQ can facilitate this by changing our health curricula.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Linda Selvey is an Associate Professor at UQ's School of Public Health, infectious disease researcher, and public health physician. She has previously worked as the Executive Director of Population Health Queensland and prior to that was Director of the Communicable Diseases Branch in Queensland Health. She has held a number of voluntary positions, including being Chair of the Queensland Conservation Council for seven years. Selvey was trained by former US Vice President Al Gore as a climate change presenter in 2007, and was the CEO of Greenpeace Australia Pacific between 2009–11.

By Associate Professor Linda Selvey

I first wrote about the impact of climate change on health in 2002. I was a reluctant author. I had long been an environmentalist but I saw that aspect of my life as separate from my life as a public health physician.

To me, the health impacts of climate change seemed insignificant compared to the devastation of coral reefs, massive loss of species and rising sea levels.

As I wrote, I realised that human health and wellbeing are inextricably linked to the health of the natural world and to a stable climate. Writing the report was transformative for me, not just in terms of the realisation that people's health is negatively impacted by climate change, but also enabling me to see the direct link between my two passions: environmental protection and human health.

The last 10,000 years, the Holocene period, have been a time of unprecedented climate stability that enabled people around the world to establish agriculture, urbanise, and develop other systems from which we have, on the most part, flourished.

We are now, of our own making, experiencing a destabilisation of our climate, with global average temperatures 1°C higher than pre-industrial levels. This is accompanied by increased climate extremes – including extended heatwaves, floods, storms and droughts, and wildfires – while rising sea levels are already threatening the homelands of some Pacific Island nations and some Torres Strait Islanders.

We have already seen the effects of prolonged extreme heat leading to increased deaths and illness in almost every country on earth. Climate projections tell us that heatwaves will continue to increase in frequency, severity and duration.

A heatwave across Russia in 2010 led to extensive forest fires, with the combination of heat and smog leading to an estimated 56,000 deaths. It also led to the collapse of Russia's wheat crop. Russia, the world's largest exporter of wheat, banned wheat exports that year, resulting in an escalation of wheat prices and impacting countries that rely on imported wheat for food.

The millennium drought in Australia led to an increased cost of fruit and vegetables.

While Australians didn't starve as a result, some would have missed out on valuable micronutrients that are essential for good health.

Climate change is also leading to the spread of some infectious diseases from warmer to more temperate regions, while rising sea levels are causing salt incursions into groundwater, affecting the ability of low-lying nations to grow food. Ultimately, as temperatures rise, more and more human systems will come under stress.


This means that we have to adapt to climate change to reduce its impact on our health, while also taking immediate measures to limit our carbon emissions.

An important course of action is to incorporate climate change needs into health curricula to ensure health practitioners of the future are prepared.

“Human health and wellbeing are inextricably linked to the health of the natural world and to a stable climate.”

UQ's School of Public Health is reviewing all its programs – including its flagship Master of Public Health program – in order to increase the climate change and health content across both core and elective courses. We are also increasing climate change and health content in the Doctor of Medicine program. It is our hope that UQ will become a leader in this important field.

Reducing carbon emissions is good for our health. Reductions in air pollution, increased public and active transport, and decreasing meat and processed foods in our diet will make us healthier, while also reducing the risk of dangerous climate change. We can do this, but it is up to us to make it happen.

 To have your say, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

Courage in pursuit of JUSTICE

International lawyer Melinda Taylor talks to *Contact* about her duty to stand up for basic human rights – even when her own safety is at risk.

By **Melanie Williams**

Even in the face of danger and crushing public pressure, criminal law and human rights lawyer Melinda Taylor has ardently upheld the universal human right to a fair trial, representing polarising figures such as WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and assisting the defence team of convicted Congolese war criminal Thomas Lubanga Dyilo.

For almost 20 years, the UQ alumnus (Bachelor of Laws '98, Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) '98) has served across various international organisations; ensuring all people regardless of creed, ideation, or association have access to due process.

"The imperative that justice must be seen to be done is of even greater importance in connection with the most serious crimes known to humankind," Taylor said.

"The consequences of a wrongful conviction would not only mean an innocent defendant would face an extremely severe penalty, but that victims would also be deprived of the right to know the truth."

Taylor has forged an iron will while working on the justice process for some of the worst crimes known to humanity, but her courage was put to the test on 7 June 2012.

It was on this day that she found herself in the desert city of Zintan, in north-western Libya – surrounded by red dust and heavily-armed rebel

militia – representing Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of former Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

At the behest of the United Nations Security Council, the International Criminal Court (ICC) had issued a warrant calling for the prosecution of Gaddafi for two counts of crimes against humanity.

"When you are defending someone who is accused of atrocious crimes, it is not just an uphill battle; it is like climbing Mount Everest."

Taylor and her colleagues had been appointed by the ICC as Gaddafi's defence counsel to ensure the fair administration of justice.

Already, the case had been plagued with political tension as the ICC sought to extract Gaddafi to conduct his trial at The Hague, but Libyan officials were adamant that he be tried in the country.

"When you are defending someone who is accused of atrocious crimes, it is not just an uphill battle; it is like climbing Mount Everest," Taylor said.

"My clients are people who have fallen from political power, or who

have taken on established political powers. As a result, it sometimes feels as if I am facing not only the prosecution in the courtroom, but also the full political might of various State actors outside of the courtroom."

After they arrived in Zintan, Taylor set to work with her colleagues questioning Gaddafi and discussing the case, unaware that their meeting was under surveillance.

Tensions came to a head when, during this discussion, Taylor began to make notes in the margin of her legal papers. These innocent scribbles were misinterpreted by the Libyan militia surveying them as secret coded messages. They accused Taylor of spying and detained her.

The Zintan militia who seized Taylor were among the fiercest rebel fighters in the rebellion that ripped through Libya in 2011, during the country's civil war and ousting of Colonel Gaddafi.

As an ICC official with special diplomatic immunity, various international bodies including the United Nations (UN), NATO and the Australian government, condemned her detainment and called for her release.

It took 26 days before Taylor and her colleagues were safely extracted with the help of Australia's Ambassador to Libya, fellow UQ alumnus David Ritchie AO (Bachelor of Arts (Honours) '75, Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) '16), much to the relief of her parents, her husband and her two-year-old daughter.



Representatives of the Office of Public Counsel for the Defence, Xavier-Jean Keita and Melinda Taylor, talk in the International Criminal Court before a public hearing of the case against Saif al-Islam Gaddafi.

Taylor did not allow herself to be deterred by this harrowing experience, taking only one day of leave before returning to work.

"I have worked as an international lawyer for almost 20 years, whereas I was only detained for 26 days. I am doing my best to have the experience inform my life and work, but not define it," she said.

Since then, she has continued to fight for the right to a fair trial.

In 2014, she joined the Assange case to assist with the submission of a complaint to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which came to fruition in February 2016 when their arguments were accepted with the working group confirming Assange was a victim of arbitrary detention.

In the same year, she also joined the defence team for Jean-Pierre Bemba,

who was successfully acquitted of charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity on 8 June 2018.

"As a lawyer dealing with highly politicised cases, such as the Assange case, it is not enough to simply be right about the law and facts," Taylor said.

"It is also necessary to engage with various actors on various levels in order to convince them of the danger bred by the selective implementation of international legal obligations and human rights commitments.

"Unfair trials undermine both the credibility of the court and respect for the rule of law. For these reasons, an effective and independent defence is the cornerstone of international justice."

Despite her success in international law, Taylor admits her life could have been very different had it not been for her mentor,

Professor Anthony Cassimatis from UQ's School of Law.

"I would never have ended up where I am without Professor Cassimatis's willingness to sacrifice his summer holidays to coach someone, who didn't know The Hague from Prague, in the intricacies of international law and advocacy," Taylor said.

"Success isn't a zero-sum game: if you help others in their careers or lives, you create a network – a virtuous circle of advice, inspiration and support, which will be there throughout your life and career."

To connect with UQ's School of Law, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

Then & now

The shipbuilder's LEGACY

Richard 'Rick' James has designed more than 150 of Australia's most iconic vessels and is the last surviving graduate of UQ's Bachelor of Naval Architecture program, from which he graduated in 1951. *Contact* set sail with Rick to reflect on his role in shaping Australia's shipbuilding industry.

By Rachel Westbury

It's a bright morning by the docks at Wynnum Manly Yacht Club, and Rick James is preparing his boat Thanet to go sailing on Moreton Bay. He looks at ease as he tightens ropes and hoists sails – a skillset he has honed over a lifetime of sailing.

Other members of the yacht club greet Rick by name and proudly share that he is the oldest solo sailor in their club. The 90-year-old still sails three times a week, indulging in a passion that began in childhood.

"My father gave me a sailing boat when I was young, and that had quite an influence on me. I always seemed

to be drawn to sailing, to the ocean," he said.

Rick enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering, specialising in Naval Architecture, at UQ in 1946. The four-year degree was sponsored by Brisbane shipbuilder Evans Deakin in an attempt to train more highly skilled engineers after World War II. ►



According to Rick, when the degree was first offered, a handful of World War II returning servicemen enrolled in the course. When they discovered that after graduation they would need to work their way through all the shipbuilding industry trades before being suitably qualified, they transferred to other faculties.

Rick, however, was not deterred. "Naval Architecture seemed like it would be fun, rather than the hard work of traditional engineering," he said.

"It was interesting, but I wasn't much of a student, really. I'd often rather be out on the water.

"I used to go sailing with a friend when I was a student. We used to sail in 16-foot skiffs, which was great fun. We would go cruising in them over to the islands nearby."

Following graduation in 1951, Rick moved to Sydney and was employed by various shipbuilding companies where he learnt the industry at all levels. After his employer went into liquidation in 1965, he returned to Brisbane with his wife and five children to establish himself as a consulting naval architect under the name R.A. James Shipbuilding Pty Ltd.

In the 45 years that Rick worked as a consulting naval architect in Queensland, he designed more than 150 vessels, including Quicksilver's legendary *MV Indies Trader* – a diving and survey vessel – state government ships, the Stradbroke Island ferry, and many small tugs and barges operating in Queensland, the Northern Territory, and the South Pacific.

It was in the South Pacific that his designs became legendary.

His island-trading vessels were so successful that owners were able to pay for them within six months. He also designed 12 vessels for the Lutheran Mission that operated throughout New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. These vessels, some measuring up to 40 metres long, carried produce and passengers between the islands and the mainland.

Closer to home, Rick created the aluminium catamaran ferries for the Brisbane River used during World Expo '88. These ferries were



"That's the beauty of the sea, there's no rush."

unique in their sustainable design – they were remarkably fuel efficient and produced almost no wake to avoid damaging the riverbanks – and influenced the design of ferries Australia wide.

"I was doing some work for a small builder in Brisbane, and he showed me a picture out of a magazine of something that looked like a ferry, and he asked 'Can you build one of these?'" Rick said.

"I said, 'That will take a lot of research'. He asked 'Can you do it by Monday?', and I said 'Oh, I don't know about that'. And another guy in the firm came over and told me 'If you don't tell

him yes, you won't get the job'. So I said 'Yes, we can do it by Monday'."

He also designed the 'yellow submarine' glass-bottom vessels used for reef sightseeing, and the renowned *South Passage* sail training schooner, which has trained thousands of young sailors.

Rick's expertise in the field led to an invitation to assist as one of three members in the Royal Commission that was established to investigate the August 2009 sinking of the *Princess Ashika* ferry in Tonga, in which 74 people were killed. The findings were published in 2010.

Despite Rick's humble demeanour, his son, Peter James, said that his father played a huge part in the history of Queensland and further afield.

"The unique quality with all of my father's vessels was their practical

functionality and an outstanding efficiency to operate," Peter said.

"I suspect that no one alive knows more about large sailing vessel rigging."

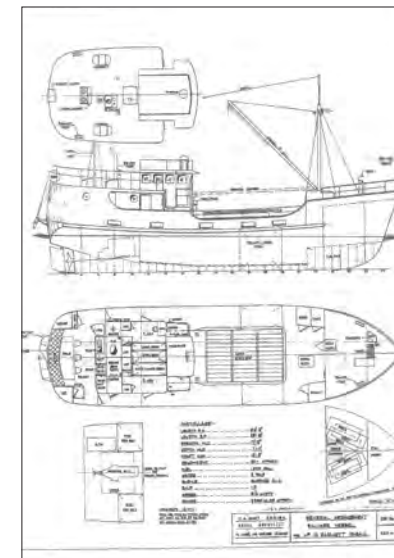
A lot has changed since Rick first fell in love with boats as a child. The industry has ushered in digital ship design, mechanised ship production, and electronic GPS and radar systems – all in an attempt to increase efficiency.

But as he sailed the bayside, confidently steering *Thanet* through clear blue waters, Rick said that despite new technologies, some things never change.

"That's the beauty of the sea, there's no rush."

web To watch a video about Rick, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

Rick James gets ready to launch his sailing boat *Thanet* at Wynnum Manly Yacht Club and (below) one of Rick's designs for a salvage vessel, drawn in 1971.



SETTING SAIL ON A FAMILY TRADITION

1916: Rick's father, Frederick William James, is awarded a Bachelor of Science (Second Class Honours) from UQ. At that time, UQ was located on George Street. He went on to become the head of UQ's Surveying Faculty.

1949: Rick's brother, Robert James, is awarded a Bachelor of Engineering from UQ. In the years following, his construction business built a number of UQ buildings.

1951: Rick graduates with a Bachelor of Engineering specialising in Naval Architecture from UQ.

1958: Another of Rick's brothers, Dr Peter James, is awarded a Bachelor of Geology from UQ, and later a PhD in Geology at the Imperial College London. Peter goes on to lecture in geology at UQ.

1980: Rick's son, David James, is awarded a Bachelor of Human Movement Studies at UQ.

1984: Another of Rick's children, Alexander James, is awarded a Bachelor of Surveying at UQ.

1985: Rick's sister, Brenda Lewis, is awarded a Bachelor of Arts from UQ. Brenda's son, Professor Richard Lewis, is currently a Professorial Research Fellow at UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

1988: Peter James, another of Rick's children, is awarded a Bachelor of Laws at UQ.

1994: Rick's daughter, Judy James, receives a Bachelor of Arts (Chinese Language and Literature)/Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from UQ, and goes on to receive a Master of Public Health in 2008.



(Clockwise from left) UQ students Libby Masters, Ruth Cobbold, Jane Hall and Karen Le during a trek near Kiau village in Sabah; Hall at the Tip of Borneo; a roadside fruit store on the road to the town of Kudat; the students planting trees at a community conservation project in the Kinabatangan district; and Hall and Masters explore the forest with guides in the Kinabatangan district.

Images: Jane Hall and Ruth Cobbold



SPOTLIGHT ON BORNEO

Active research projects

Marrying community land-rights with stakeholder aspirations in Borneo (2016–19) – led at UQ by Professor Kerrie Wilson.

Benchmarking reef health for spatial conservation in Borneo (2014–18) – led at UQ by Professor Hugh Possingham.

The capacity of forests to protect regional climate under global warming (2016–20) – led at UQ by the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

UQ has been involved in the Borneo Futures Research Initiative – a collaboration of 250 researchers from 70 international institutions – since 2010.

PROTECTING THE wonders of Borneo

An international internship has offered UQ law students a hands-on opportunity to make a real contribution to environmental justice, while gaining a remarkable experience of living and working in Asia.

While it was once known for its pristine rainforests, spectacular coastlines and unique fauna, Malaysian Borneo is being devastated by widespread urbanisation and pollution.

The conversion of natural forests into palm oil and timber plantations is particularly concerning.

According to the United Nations, Malaysian Borneo's deforestation rate is the highest among tropical nations, and hundreds of species – including orangutans and elephants – are on the verge of extinction.

Protection laws are in effect throughout the region; however, they are often ignored or violated.

But UQ School of Law students have joined the fight against these environmental injustices, with four students embarking on a six-week international placement at Forever Sabah, a non-profit international law clinic in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Malaysian Borneo's state of Sabah.

Karen Le, Jane Hall, Ruth Cobbold and Libby Masters took part in the placement as part of the school's participation in the New Colombo Plan, an Australian Government initiative that aims to boost knowledge of the Indo Pacific by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake internships in the region.

Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws student Karen Le said the internship was a humbling experience and a reminder of what is important in life.

"I had chosen to study law because I wanted to help further social justice, and I hoped that I could harness what a legal education could offer me to work towards empowering the marginalised," Le said.

"My research during the clinic involved producing a written piece that identified advocacy strategies that had proven successful in bringing about changes to environmentally and socially costly infrastructure development plans. This required a consideration of how laws operated in

practice to either promote or curtail advocacy efforts by civil society."

Le said she was also lucky to tag along to a community legal education workshop, where representatives of five different groups of Indigenous Sabahans had a chance to share their thoughts about the questions and topics raised.

"Although most of it had to be translated for me, it was an experience that struck a chord and caused me to lament the onslaught of development for its effect on the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples."

Fellow Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws student Jane Hall said the internship gave her an insight into

a professional world she had never experienced.

"The clinic introduced me to new concepts and ideas, exposed me to completely new world views and, most importantly, connected me with like-minded people," Hall said.

"Our weeks consisted of researching the laws related to infrastructure development in Sabah.

"This involved reading a lot of legislation, regulations, government policies and other related sources followed by drafting a legal brief for peer review. I also had the opportunity to present my work to representatives at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)–Malaysia."

Ruth Cobbold, also a Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws student, said Forever Sabah had a strong focus on the sustainable long-term future of the country.

"We realised that reality was crashing down on each of the communities we'd visited. No longer is Borneo the same wild island of dense tropical rainforest, rare endemic species, and mysterious nomadic peoples that once struck wonder into the hearts of intrepid explorers."

To read more about the students' experience at Forever Sabah, visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

WE WILL *remember them*

This November marks 100 years since the end of World War I. To commemorate, *Contact* reflects on the war's impact on members of the UQ community and pays tribute to the sacrifices made by so many brave students and staff.



Mates connected to tragic end

By Michael Jones

Take a look at this photo of UQ graduates in 1916.

It may seem unremarkable on its own, but it helps to tell one of UQ's most remarkable stories of coincidence and loss from World War I.

Look closer. See the men circled in the back row? They're Charles Wonderley and Walde Fisher, standing side-by-side on what was then just another day in the parallel lives of two young mates.

Fisher was born on 24 August 1894 in Horsham, Victoria. Wonderley was born a few weeks later on 5 October 1894 in Toowoomba, Queensland.

Fisher moved to Queensland with a scholarship to Ipswich Grammar in 1908. Wonderley attended Toowoomba Grammar, less than 100 kilometres away, and like Fisher, was the dux of his school.

As members of their respective First XV rugby teams, they would occasionally meet head-to-head on the football field during their schooldays.

They got to know each other better when they matriculated to UQ in 1913. In 1916, they both graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in Classics.

Just weeks after this photo was taken, with the war in full swing on the Western Front, both answered the call to take up arms. After embarking for active service, Fisher rose through the ranks to Lieutenant, while Wonderley was awarded the Military Medal for his actions in battle in October 1917.

And on 5 April 1918, their lives again mirrored each other's to a tragic end, when they were both killed on the same battlefield. Their bodies are buried less than 10 kilometres apart, near Amiens in France.

In a final heartbreaking coincidence, the pair's personal effects now rest on the bottom of the ocean after the ship carrying their belongings home to Queensland was torpedoed and sunk off the Scilly Isles near England.

On 5 April 1918, their lives again mirrored each other's to a tragic end, when they were both killed on the same battlefield.

Fisher and Wonderley are two of the 84 UQ students and staff (including Queensland Agricultural College) who lost their lives in service during World War I.

Fourteen died at Gallipoli, including two on the first day of battle on 25 April 1915, while 11 were killed during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

More UQ students and staff died in 1917 than in any other year of the war, most notably in Belgium in what was known as the Third Battle of Ypres.

During the final year of the war, in 1918, three more students died on the same battlefield as Fisher and Wonderley.

More would die from illness and misfortune in the five years after the war ended, including John Fryer (for whom the Fryer Library is named) who passed away from the aftermath of exposure to poison gas.

UQ's Associate Director of Workplace Diversity and Inclusion, and Royal Australian Air Force Group Captain, Dr Dee Gibbon OAM CSC, said the rich personal stories of UQ's involvement during wartime demonstrated the degree to which the University was, and remains, an integral part of Australia's initial and ongoing identity as a nation.



Charles Wonderley (left) and Walde Fisher (right), Wonderley and Fisher's UQ graduation photo in 1916 (top), and a map of the battlefield near Amiens, France (bottom left). Images: Fryer Library, The University of Queensland and Getty Images/duncan1890



"As UQ reflects on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and the war's impact on members of the UQ community, it is important to acknowledge that UQ remains a place of study and employment for future, past and current veterans, from Australia and other countries," said Gibbon, who recently served as NATO's Senior Gender Adviser to the Resolute Support Mission in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"UQ scholars continue to contribute to global dialogues and research addressing security, peace and conflict, as well as methods of building sustainable peace in regions affected by ongoing conflict and terrorism."

Gibbon said it was also important to acknowledge the important role UQ women played during WWI, both at home and overseas.

"While the contribution of women tends to be neglected in historical accounts of war, women from UQ and

the broader Queensland community actively contributed to Australia's war efforts, especially in the areas of nursing, communications and administration," she said.

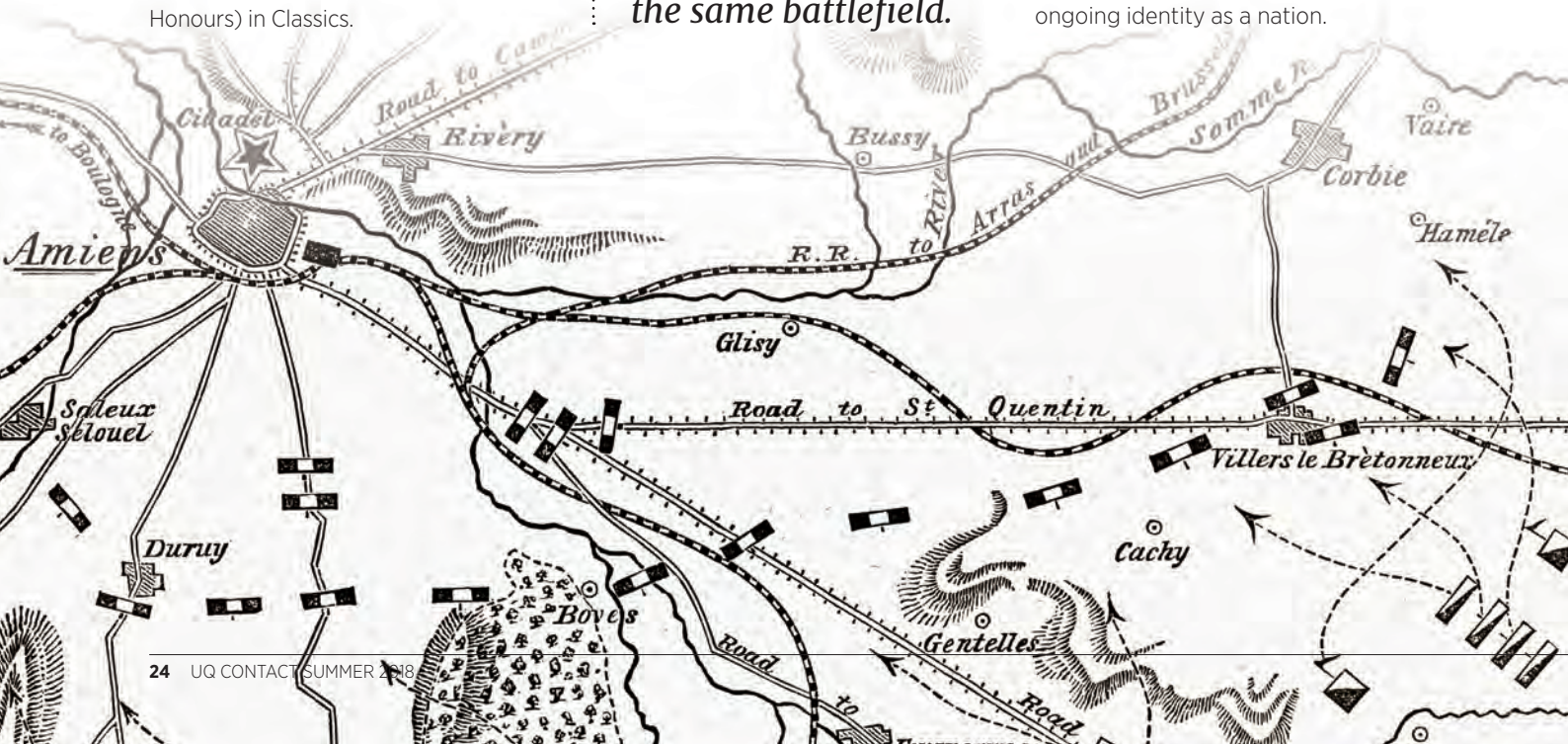
Jane Darvall, also known as Jean, earned a Bachelor of Arts at UQ before joining the Volunteer Aid Detachment (VAD) with the British Expeditionary Forces in 1916. She served in Manchester and in field hospitals in France, where she was mentioned in dispatches in May 1918. Upon her return, she worked in UQ's Department of External Studies for a number of years.

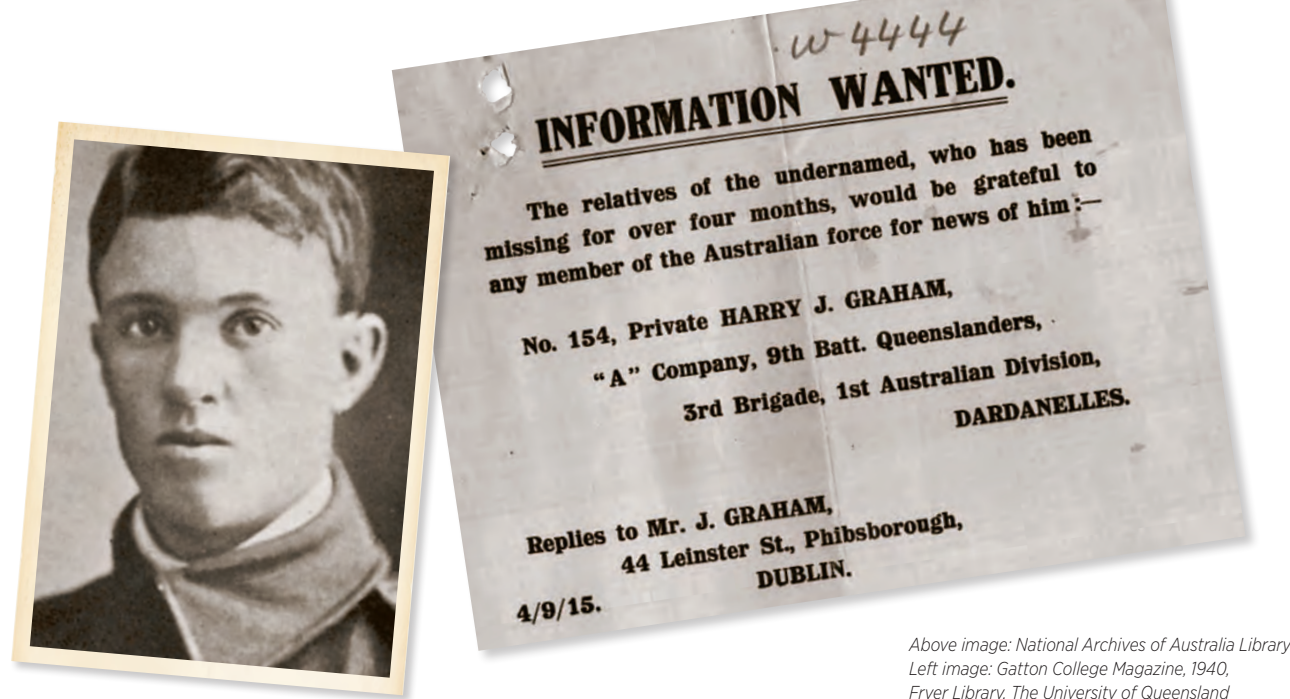
Another VAD member was fellow UQ graduate Annie May Parr.

According to the book *The University of Queensland 1910-1935*, she worked with the VAD in Bucharest, Romania during the German occupation from 1916 to 1918, and was awarded the Queen's Cross.

"While Defence women have now moved far beyond the more traditional supporting roles, women's contribution to World War I laid the groundwork for women's increased participation in Australia's military, including combat roles from which women were once banned," Gibbon said.

Special thanks to UQ archivist Bruce Ibsen for his research and assistance in the development of this article.





Above image: National Archives of Australia Library
Left image: Gatton College Magazine, 1940, Fryer Library, The University of Queensland

Desperate search for lost Anzac

By Michael Jones

Private Harry Graham was a long way from the sheep-farming life he left behind in Barcaldine, central Queensland.

From Australia to Egypt and onto Turkey, he was seeing the world – camping next to the pyramids and exploring the bustling streets of Cairo.

Harry (pictured) had spent most of his life in Barcaldine, a small farming town famous for the great shearers strike in the 1890s and renowned for its role in the birth of the Australian Labor Party.

His father Thomas Graham was the resident pharmacist and he made sure Harry completed his high school education, unusual for many rural Australian children at the time.

Harry left Barcaldine in 1911 and attended Queensland Agricultural College (now UQ Gatton) until 1914 – when the world went to war, his sense of adventure got the better of him. Harry put his agricultural career on hold and set sail with the Army for active service.

After months of intensive combat training in the harsh North African desert, he was finally ready.

During the early hours of 25 April 1915, under the cover of darkness, 18-year-old Harry and his

comrades from the 9th Battalion stormed the beaches of Gallipoli.

He was never seen again.

Life carried on as normal in Barcaldine. It would take almost a month for news of Australia's first casualties at Gallipoli to reach home.

Lost Boys of Anzac, written by Peter Stanley and published in 2014, traces the steps that Harry and his fellow first wave of soldiers took to land at Gallipoli, where so many died on the first day of battle.

The book describes how the casualty lists published in Australian newspapers carried grief and anxiety with them across the country; however, few of the first casualties were listed as killed in action. Many were reported as wounded or missing.

"The word 'killed' at least signalled a definite fate," Stanley writes. "The word 'missing' was to become the most dreaded of the war."

Harry was among the missing and, after months of correspondence and no firm report of his death, Thomas embarked on a long and unsuccessful quest to find his son. The Grahams, like other families looking for missing relatives at the time, also engaged the Red Cross to investigate Harry's fate.

They had a moment of hope when one of Harry's fellow soldiers, Private Potts, reported seeing him wounded.

"It was only a flesh wound", the report said, "and [Harry] was taken off to the doctor."

Thomas wrote to hospitals across Europe and, with the help of Irish relatives, circulated printed notices around military camps.

The notices read: "INFORMATION WANTED: The relatives of the undernamed, who has been missing for over four months, would be grateful to any member of the Australian force for news of him."

On 8 November 1915, the Australian Red Cross Society reported that Harry was "said to have fallen in a bayonet charge after the landing at [Gallipoli] on 25th April. He did not answer the first roll call. Perhaps he is a prisoner".

Harry's remains were never found and, after several years of searching, the Grahams eventually accepted that Harry had been killed in action.

Sadly, he was just one of thousands of missing Australian soldiers with no known graves, buried beneath battlefields around the world.

Efforts were made after the war to identify the remains of fallen soldiers, and the Australian Army's Officer in Charge of Base Records wrote to Thomas in 1921 seeking information that might help in the identification process.

"We have so far been unable to obtain any trace of the last resting

place of your son, the late No.154 Private H.J. Graham, 9th Battalion," the letter read.

"I shall be much obliged if you will let me have on loan any letters or communications that contain any reference to the circumstances surrounding his death.

"The reason these steps are being taken is to identify... those bodies that are being recovered but which have nothing on them to definitely establish identification, and thus obviate the necessity of interring them in the new Military Cemeteries under the heading 'An Unknown Australian Soldier'."

One hundred years on, Unrecovered War Casualties – Army (UWC-A) is responsible for finding, recovering, and identifying fallen Australian soldiers like Harry.

UQ graduate Donna MacGregor (Bachelor of Science (Honours) '94) is an Army reservist and the only forensic anthropologist in the Australian Army.

"A forensic anthropologist's job is to study the skeletal remains to provide biological profiles, which then starts a shortlist of those who are missing," MacGregor said.

"Genealogists, biologists and investigators will then try to match family reference samples. It's difficult because these soldiers have been buried for 100 years, and some family lines no longer exist."

Soldiers were required to provide a description of themselves when they enlisted for duty in World War I. This included information such as age, height, chest measurements, hair and eye colour, as well as distinctive marks – in Harry's case, a scar on the lip and a scar below the left kneecap.

"We have so far been unable to obtain any trace of the last resting place of your son, the late No.154 Private H.J. Graham."

MacGregor said it was these details that could help determine a soldier's identity.

"By studying the bones of these soldiers, we might be able to assess whether the deceased had any metabolic diseases, or whether they had a healed injury. We can also look at traumas and any anomalies.

"It can all depend on the quantity of remains. Sometimes we might only get a few fragments of bones; other times we might get a complete skeleton.

"It's now 100 years since these soldiers gave their lives for their country and they deserve to be honoured and laid to rest. And their families deserve that closure."

The grief and anxiety associated with Harry's unknown fate took its toll on the Graham family. Thomas died less than three years after the war, having finally accepted that his son wasn't coming home.

UQ Lecturer in Clinical Psychology Dr Fiona Maccallum specialises in grief, loss, trauma and anxiety research. She thinks there is still much to learn about how individuals and families cope when a loved one goes missing.

"In such circumstances, it can be very difficult for people to keep going with daily activities or plan for their future in any meaningful way.

Stopping the search or giving up hope can feel akin to a betrayal of their loved one and the importance of that relationship," Maccallum said.

"Some people do find ways of living with the uncertainty. Others experience intense and disabling distress that can continue for years. The field is working hard to try to understand these differences."

Sunday 11 November 2018 marks a century since World War I ended – a sombre anniversary for our nation and the UQ community. To commemorate the staff and students who served and sacrificed, UQ has unveiled a new Roll of Honour plaque that now recognises all 51 Queensland Agricultural College (UQ Gatton) staff and students – 15 of whom were omitted from previous memorials.

The new plaque is a result of years of research by UQ archivist Bruce Ibsen, who produced *Faces of the Fallen* – a publication honouring the UQ staff and students who died during World War I. Initially focused on UQ staff and students during 1914 and 1918, the project later expanded to include the Queensland Agricultural College community.

"The deeper I delved into the project, the more the plaques evolved from being a list of names etched on stone or metal, to a revelation of unique personalities; some who had achieved much in their short lives, others with untapped potential never fully realised," Ibsen said.

web To read *Faces of the Fallen*, view this story online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the *Contact* app.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

UQ Alumni Awards 2018

From inspirational young achievers to leaders in their chosen fields, meet the outstanding recipients of The University of Queensland Alumni Awards 2018.

The University of Queensland Alumni Awards 2018 have recognised a broad range of leaders who have made exemplary contributions in fields ranging from science to social enterprise.

UQ Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj said the awards acknowledged outstanding alumni who had created change.

"The exceptional alumni honoured this year have driven social change through advocacy and journalism, pioneered new medical treatments, and steered game-changing companies and initiatives," Professor Høj said.

"The work of the award recipients has had a profound impact both here in Queensland and around the world."

The awards were presented at the annual Courting the Greats ceremony on 17 October, where the

"This year's recipients have contributed to the community not just through their work, but also through their generosity of spirit."

UQ Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year were also acknowledged. The award recipients were nominated by

their peers and selected by a committee led by Professor Høj.

"This year's recipients have contributed to the community not just through their work, but also through their generosity of spirit," Professor Høj said.

"They have committed extensive resources to help society's most vulnerable and to cultivate the next generation of students, researchers and advocates.

"Many of the alumni honoured this year have pivoted in their careers to take advantage of emerging opportunities and trends.

"At UQ we equip our graduates with critical-thinking skills that allow them to take on new challenges and tackle some of the world's big problems."

Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Awards



SANDEEP BISWAS
Bachelor of Engineering '83

Biswas is a global business leader who has championed diversity and empowered the communities in which Newcrest Mining operates.

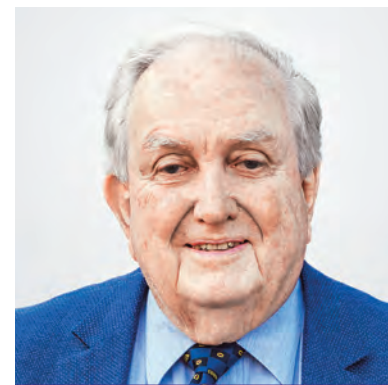
"As leaders we can make far better decisions and deliver superior results by bringing together different perspectives to drive our thinking and approach – whether that difference comes from our cultural backgrounds, gender diversity, our experience, or which generation we are from."



EMERITUS PROFESSOR BARRY MCGAW AO
Bachelor of Science '62, Graduate Diploma in Education '63, Bachelor of Education '67, Bachelor of Education (Honours) '69

McGaw is recognised as one of the 21st century's most influential forces in education, both within Australia and around the world.

"I was always interested in pursuing more equitable outcomes for Australian students and the international data now show that we could achieve excellence and equity in outcomes simultaneously, while providing opportunities for all children."



EMERITUS PROFESSOR STUART PEGG
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery '56, Doctor of Medicine '06
King's College '51-'56

Pegg is a pioneer of burns management and has been recognised nationally and internationally for his achievements.

"What matters most is securing the best outcome for your patients, and you do this by building and passing on knowledge to the next generation. You want them to be better than you were so that more lives can be saved."



RAYNUHA SINNATHAMBY
Bachelor of Arts '92, Bachelor of Laws '95, Master of Business Administration '99

Sinnathamby is Managing Director of Springfield City Group, the development group behind award-winning satellite city, Greater Springfield.

"Never say no to an opportunity, even though it might seem out of your reach. You never know what you're capable of."



DR BARBARA WOODHOUSE
Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) '78, Master of Dental Science '86, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery '92

Woodhouse is a distinguished oral and maxillofacial surgeon who has made significant contributions to the professions of dentistry and medicine, both in Australia and internationally.

"I enjoy mentoring young surgeons and even those who just think they might be interested in surgery. The thing that brings me the most pleasure is helping young women find a way to reach their potential."

To read the full profiles of all award recipients, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the **Contact** app.

Distinguished Young Alumni Awards



CAMERON BELLAMY

Master of International Economics and Finance '06

King's College '06-'07

Bellamy is an endurance athlete and entrepreneur, who has succeeded in social enterprise and commercial ventures.

"Access to education is a basic human right, but it is not available to everyone. If we can support a child's education, there is no limit to what they can achieve for themselves and for the community."



ZOE BLACK

Bachelor of Communication '05, Master of Business Administration '11

International House '03

Black is a social enterprise leader with a passion for mental health and empowering vulnerable people as the co-founder and CEO of the Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation.

"There are growing numbers of people disconnecting from society. For many, social interactions can become few and far between and getting out of a home, facility or hostel can be daunting."



ALISON (ALI) RAE

Bachelor of Arts (Peace and Conflict Analysis) '10, Bachelor of Journalism '10, Master of Communication (Communication for Social Change) '13

Rae is an award-winning international journalist and news producer with Al Jazeera Media Network.

"I've always had an interest in education and explaining issues and concepts to people in a way that they would understand. I feel lucky to be with Al Jazeera English because it's a space to tell stories that aren't necessarily driven by a commercial angle."



ALBORZ FALLAH

Bachelor of Arts '06, Bachelor of Information Technology '06

Fallah is a successful entrepreneur with a passion for mentoring. He is the founder of CarAdvice.com and is the inaugural UQ Idea Hub entrepreneur in residence.

"I am thankful to my parents for sparking my curiosity and providing the safety and support to try new things. I am thankful for the perseverance I learnt at UQ. And I am thankful for my wife, who ignited my passion for life."

International Alumnus of the Year



PROFESSOR OPHA PAULINE DUBE

Doctor of Philosophy (Geographical Sciences and Planning) '00

Dube is an environmental change scientist and is recognised as a leader in climate change research.

"It's something I do out of passion and out of my own drive, and I realise when you do these things you create an environment that leads to the growth of education and hence contributing towards a knowledge economy."

Indigenous Community Impact Award



DR NORITTA MORSEU-DIOP

Bachelor of Social Work '92, Doctor of Philosophy (Social Work) '10

Morseu-Diop is an advocate for social justice and reform with extensive experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland, and the first Torres Strait Islander awarded a PhD from UQ.

"Education is the key. Education pulled me out of poverty, education gave me the drive to carry on. It gave me the wings to fly."

Colleges' UQ Alumni Award



DAVID CROMBIE AM

Bachelor of Economics '66
Emmanuel College '62-'65

Crombie is a leader in Australian agricultural innovation and industry.

"Australia is well positioned to play a leadership role in addressing one of the great challenges for humanity – that of food security."

UQ Sport Clubs and Sports Awards

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR



GABRIELLE SIMPSON

Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) student

Simpson is the current captain of the Queensland Firebirds netball team and co-vice-captain of the Australian Diamonds.

"It's so fantastic to be part of a university that allows me to have a balance between my athletic life and my academic life."

Awards created and supported by the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc.

UQ GRADUATE OF THE YEAR



DR BETHANY HOLT

Bachelor of Arts '12, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (First Class Honours) '17

Holt is a Faculty of Medicine Valedictorian, University medallist, and an international medical volunteer.

"It is incredibly important that doctors advocate for vulnerable populations and promote public and planetary health."

UQ ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



EMERITUS PROFESSOR HELENE MARSH

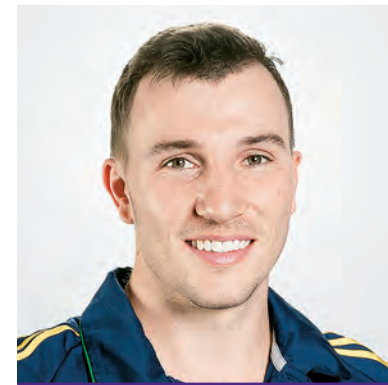
Bachelor of Science '66, Bachelor of Science (Honours) '68

The Women's College within The University of Queensland '64

Marsh is a conservation biologist who supports the advancement of young research scientists.

"I think it's wonderful to see how your former students are making a difference all over the world."

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



MICHAEL MERECIECA

Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Materials) student

Mercieca is a gymnast who has represented Australia at the Commonwealth Games, World Championships, World University Games, and Pacific Rim Championships.

"If you love what you do, then you will be able to set your own goals and achieve everything that you hoped for."



Investing in **SMART** innovations

After attracting \$4.8 million from backers in 2018, Brisbane company MOVUS is highlighting the success of UQ's investment in entrepreneurship and innovation opportunities.

By Robert Burgin

Imagine never again having to worry about – or even consider – a mechanical breakdown in your car, or a kitchen appliance that's on the verge of packing it in.

Humans have become accustomed to expecting the unexpected; saving for those rainy days and being prepared for the worst. Not knowing when key equipment in your household is about to go kaput is something we just accept.

But it is not acceptable when you're running a business. Not knowing how long a vital piece of equipment will last throws uncertainty into production and budgeting, and undermines a commitment to satisfying customer needs.

The flip side is regular and costly maintenance, which can lead to poor allocation of finances and time. And for some industries, unnecessary maintenance can mean putting employees or contractors in a physically dangerous position.

With the backing of UQ's ilab – a business accelerator hub for startup businesses based at UQ's St Lucia campus – Australian company MOVUS is looking to alleviate this conundrum.

"We attach sensors to machines, which have fairly rudimentary functioning, to identify and alert when components start to malfunction," MOVUS chief executive officer Brad Parsons said.

"The sensors monitor for any changes in the movement of mechanical components that should spark concern.

"We're essentially applying artificial intelligence, digitised data feedback, and 'smart' technology to 'dumb' machines. Our products reduce the need for regular machinery inspections and enable massive productivity benefits for people who are usually extremely time-poor."

The businesses and organisations that MOVUS service typically include those in the "unsexy" manufacturing, mining and heavy-machinery industries, but the company's core business is clearly not lacking attractive qualities – as recent investment from backers has shown. In 2018 alone, MOVUS has benefited from \$4.8 million of external investment.

Parsons believes that being accepted into ilab in 2015 was a key juncture in the development of his company's business model – and of himself.

MOVUS began as part of ilab's Germinate accelerator program – which moved the company from the idea stage to an initial product – and UQ's incubation facilities continued to support MOVUS by allowing time to hone their model and secure major investments.

The relationship brought a new perspective and know-how to the operation, and UniQuest, UQ's commercialisation company, became MOVUS's first investor.

MOVUS and UQ have recently signed a five-year agreement for the continuous monitoring of heating, ventilating and air-conditioning equipment.

ilab director Bernie Woodcroft said the deal between UQ and



MOVUS Chief Executive Officer and founder Brad Parsons with Chief Operating Officer and co-founder Michel Lamarre.

MOVUS has delivered many mutual rewards.

"At UQ, we ensure that our graduates are at the forefront of entrepreneurial experience and attitude, and MOVUS has benefited from that," Woodcroft said.

"We offer support at every stage of the entrepreneurial journey: from UQ Idea Hub, UQ Business School's Startup Academy, ilab, and UniQuest.

"Graduates who have participated in UQ's entrepreneurship programs have now become key staff within MOVUS, while numerous UQ interns have been able to gain experience in a real, cutting-edge startup."

UQ Idea Hub is a hands-on program that gives budding entrepreneurs the skills and knowledge to create a startup. The program offers workshops, advice from experienced mentors, and access to a network of local and global innovators to help grow ideas into solutions.

The Startup Academy then helps entrepreneurs increase their chances of success by testing the market to validate their ideas and find the right business model, while ilab turns early-stage businesses into investment-ready companies.

These programs allow UQ to expand entrepreneurial teaching into the classroom, actively engage with the startup ecosystem, and attract global industry partners and investors.

According to Woodcroft, high-growth startups like MOVUS can also create partnerships and environments for UQ research to reach the market.

"The MOVUS founders have an entrepreneurial, passionate and resilient mindset, which is important for recognising the value and impact of key research projects at UQ," he said.

"We are delighted to see them join a stable of ilab startups that have secured more than \$57 million in investments and grants since 2014.

"We all learn and benefit from working alongside passionate entrepreneurs like Brad and his team, and we are proud to have been a foundation partner in their success."



To learn about UQ startup opportunities, visit entrepreneurship.uq.edu.au.

BITING BACK

in race against time

For the tens of thousands of Australians that will experience a stroke this year, the first few hours are critical to their survival. A UQ researcher has developed a drug candidate from funnel web spider venom that could save crucial time during stroke treatment, and save the lives of remote Australians. By supporting *Not If, When* – the Campaign to Create Change, you can help make this breakthrough a reality.

By *Melanie Williams*

Imagine watching every second, of every minute, of every hour tick by in the back of an ambulance on a dusty outback road to the nearest major hospital.

Imagine knowing that your loved one's brain function – their memories of you, your family, your life – and their ability to breathe and move is slipping away.

With every moment that passes after a stroke, brain cells deteriorate, and so does a patient's chance of survival and recovery.

According to world-leading biochemist Professor Glenn King (pictured), from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), time is crucial and the only available treatment must be administered in a hospital within a short period after a stroke.

"Four-and-a-half hours. That's the window we currently have to administer the only available stroke drug," King said.

"Four-and-a-half hours, in which time you must already be within a hospital, be scanned and be with a specialist ready to administer the drug.

"Most Australians living in remote locations have slim chances of making this window."

But a new drug candidate has emerged that could provide more time and better recovery options to

survivors. And, critically, it can be administered immediately by a first responder, such as a paramedic.

King and a team of researchers have developed the drug candidate from the venom of the Fraser Island funnel-web spider, and they have found that it can stop brain death after a stroke.

"Venoms are extremely complicated mixtures of ion-channel modulators, so we use them to try to

"Four-and-a-half hours. That's the window we currently have to administer the only available stroke drug."

find molecules that hit our target ion channel," King said.

"In this case, the spider venom shuts off a specific ion pathway in the brain that is responsible for triggering massive cell death after stroke.

"It can protect the brain even when delivered up to eight hours after a stroke, and patients wouldn't have to wait to get to hospital before receiving it.

"So many Australian families have been impacted by stroke, including

my own. Having a drug that could be administered in rural locations and protect the brain would be life-changing."

The drug candidate has been successful in early animal trials, but King said further funding was needed to push it through to clinical trials.

"Not only have we seen that this drug protects the brain in our early trials, but we have seen a range of additional benefits that could prevent damage in the heart and other organs during various procedures.

"We do not have the capacity to produce enough of the drug needed to conduct the next clinical trial in our own labs. We need donations and support to help us engage a company to make a quantity large enough for us to run the next stage of trials."

Stroke is the third biggest killer in Australia. In 2017, more than 56,000 people experienced new or recurrent strokes, and more than 475,000 Australians continue to live with effects of stroke.



To help get this drug through clinical trials, visit giving.uq.edu.au.



Scholarship brings gift of a SMILE

From a young age, UQ dentistry student An Tran was taught about the importance of giving back – a lesson her parents gleaned from the violence and sorrow they experienced during the Vietnam War. Now, thanks to an Aspire Scholarship, Tran is able to pursue her career goals, while supporting her community.

NOT IF, WHEN.

The Vietnam War has been recounted by many as one of the bloodiest, protracted, and futile conflicts in recent history.

Yet, from this conflict emerged remarkable people who brought with them better insight, compassion, and hope that they sought to spread through their new communities.

This was the case for Tran's parents, two refugees who made separate voyages to Australia to find new homes after theirs were destroyed during the war.

After meeting in Australia, they built a modest and respectable life together in Victoria.

"My parents were some of the lucky few who made it to Australia to start a new life with their families," Tran said.

"While I haven't experienced even a fraction of their pain, my parents always encouraged me to work hard in order to give back to the Australian community and thank them for welcoming us with open arms."

For Tran, this meant volunteering with organisations such as the Starlight Children's Foundation, the Red Cross, and Australian Health and Humanitarian Aid during high school.

"The volunteering experiences I was encouraged to pursue have helped me become a better healthcare student and, I believe, a better person. They showed me how lucky I am, and inspired compassion and understanding for people of all backgrounds," she said.

After graduating high school with outstanding marks, Tran chose to pursue a career in dentistry so that she could help others.

But the thought of moving across the country to study at UQ, away from all of her support networks in Melbourne, seemed not only emotionally daunting, but financially unattainable.

"I was scared to leave my family, but we also weren't sure how we could make it work," Tran said.

"Moving and living so far away from home would be extremely expensive, not to mention the cost of dentistry equipment and textbooks each semester.

"But my father has always emphasised that education is the most important thing; it lifts us up and allows us to develop skills that help us contribute to the community," she said.

"We were determined to try to make it work."

Through the donor-funded Aspire Scholarship, Tran received enough support to buy her dental equipment and was able to budget for purchasing textbooks each semester, while also easing the need to work so many hours while studying.

"I couldn't have done it without the scholarship," she said.

"My father has always emphasised that education is the most important thing; it lifts us up and allows us to develop skills that help us contribute to the community."

"It helps me juggle the demands of dental school and the cost of living. It also allows me to honour my commitment to getting a university education.

"I would like to thank all the donors to this scholarship. Scholarships like these support dreams and they help build futures."

Tran said this scholarship had also helped her embrace campus life and take on further opportunities at UQ.

"Thanks to this scholarship, I've had the time to volunteer for other initiatives. I've been working with the School of Dentistry to strengthen the student-staff partnership, and this year I was elected to the UQ Dental Student's Association."



You can help more students aspire to great things. To support a UQ scholarship program, visit giving.uq.edu.au.

UQ PIPES FLOURISH AFTER 20 YEARS

The Emmanuel College Highlanders at The University of Queensland reflect on 20 years of keeping an ancient Scottish tradition alive at UQ.

By Camille Layt

A pipe band creates a deeply emotional sound – the booming bass, cracking taps of snare drums, and melodic wail of bagpipes ringing out in unison – that you might associate more with the craggy lochs of Scotland than UQ’s sandstone and sunny skies.

But since their first performance for the 1998 UQ Market Day, the Emmanuel College Highlanders at The University of Queensland have brought the unique sound of pipes and drums to UQ.

“Emmanuel’s ‘founding fathers’ were Scots, so we were eager to start a pipe band to keep that heritage alive at UQ,” the band’s original pipe major, Andrew McCabe (Bachelor of Laws ’02, Graduate Diploma in Professional Legal Education and Training ’03), recalled.

From just a handful of student players in 1998, the band now comprises around 30 members, including current students, staff, alumni, and community members.

All seem to agree that a sense of community and camaraderie is what brings them together.

“If you move anywhere in the world, you should join a pipe band – you’ll gain an instant group of friends who all enjoy the same hobby,” side drummer Chris Lilburne (Bachelor of Engineering / Science ’09) said.

Drum Sergeant Kat Lavercombe (Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of



The Emmanuel College Highlanders at The University of Queensland founding pipe major Andrew McCabe (right). Image: © Ray Cash, courtesy of St Andrew’s War Memorial Hospital

Business Management ’09, Master of Environmental Management ’16) agreed.

“The people make it great. Even if you have no Celtic heritage, pipe band culture gives you a strong community and a group of friends – everyone is encouraging, and making music together is a great feeling,” she said.

In addition to campus-based performances, the band has played at many local and international festivals and competitions.

“Taking the band to the 2013 World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland was a real highlight – I was so proud of how hard the band worked and what we achieved,” McCabe said.

After 18 years leading the band, in 2016 McCabe passed the reins to current pipe major Jason Palfrey. They have since won two consecutive Queensland Pipe Band Championships and came second in the 2018 Australian Pipe Band Championships.

In 2018, they were also upgraded to Grade 2, the highest competition grade in Queensland.

On the cusp of the band’s 20th anniversary, McCabe reflected on how it has made its mark on UQ’s history over the last two decades.

“From where we started just ‘giving it a go’, I’m so proud of what we’ve achieved and how far we’ve come,” he said.

“UQ has so many amazing offerings, and a pipe band is just another part of that – but quite a unique one among Australian universities.”

web For more information or to book the band, visit emmanuelhighlanders.com.

What’s on

Dionysos: Portrait of a God (RD Milns Antiquities Museum, until May 2019)

This exhibition explores the many faces of Dionysos in the Classical Greek world through artefacts from the Antiquities Museum and Australian partner institutions. For more information, visit antiquities-museum.uq.edu.au.

Play On: The Art of Sport (UQ Art Museum, until 9 February 2019)

This exhibition presents a selection of key works from 10 years of the Basil Sellers Art Prize, a biennial exhibition of commissioned artworks that reflect upon sport and sporting culture. For more information, visit artmuseum.uq.edu.au.

TACKLING THE TEACHING WORLD

After helping UQ win a silver medal in the 2018 Aon Uni 7s rugby series, UQ student Marioulla Belessis is focused on sidestepping into a new career.

By Michael Jones

Think playing rugby is tough? Try being a primary school teacher. Better yet, try doing both.

UQ Bachelor of Education student Marioulla Belessis did just that earlier this year, juggling a nine-week teaching placement at Marsden State School while helping UQ win a silver medal in the Aon Uni 7s rugby series.

“I didn’t realise how exhausted I was until I really stopped to think about it,” Belessis said.

“Every week went by so quickly because I was so busy. I tried to prepare ahead as much as possible and use any spare time – even as little as 10 minutes – to pull out my laptop and get some work done.

“I even did a bit of class planning on flights home from tournaments.”

UQ finished second behind Griffith University in the 2018 instalment of the Aon Uni 7s series, which saw 10 women’s university teams competing over five rounds.

Belessis was one of six UQ students in the new-look UQ squad, and one of 15 new players to join the side since it claimed the competition’s inaugural title last year.

“The UQ girls did well last year and won every round,” Belessis said.

“We lost a few players this year, but our coaches Reg Tayler and Cassidy Holland have done an awesome job in developing players throughout the off-season.”

UQ hosted round three of the series at the UQ Sport Athletics Centre and Belessis said it was exciting to play in front of a home crowd, with her family and friends in the grandstand.

“There’s nothing like playing a tournament like this on the same field you train so hard on during the week,” she said.

Belessis started playing rugby as a teenager, while attending Brisbane

State High School. She represented Queensland at the National Schoolgirls Championships in 2013 and at the Open Women’s National Championships in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

She has worn the green and gold as part of Australia’s Youth Olympics team in 2014 and the Australian University team at the World Uni Games in 2016, and was invited to play for the Tribe team in the Dubai 7s competition in 2014 and 2016, and the Amsterdam 7s in 2015.

“The highlight was representing the Tribe team in Dubai in 2014,” Belessis said.

“We got to play the final against the Irish National side in front of a huge crowd and, although we didn’t win, the atmosphere was insane.”

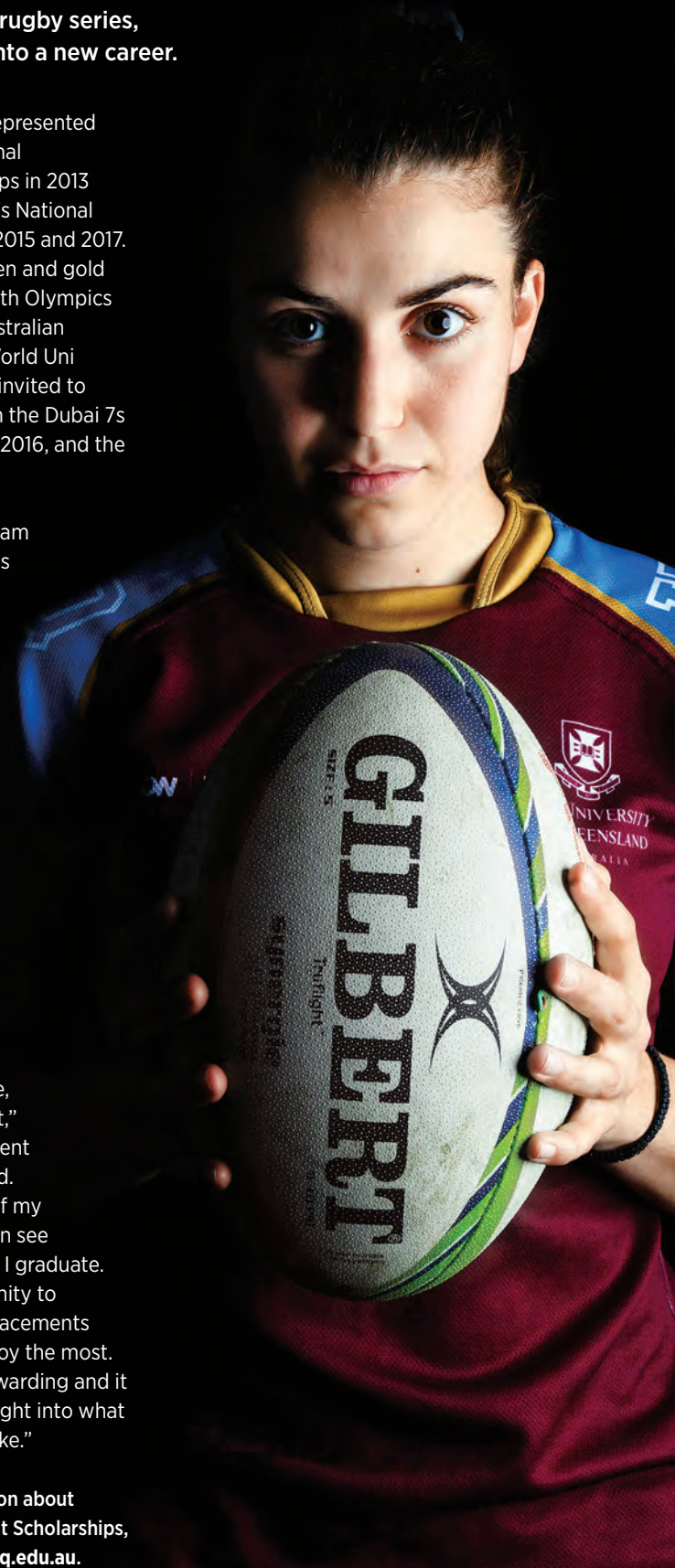
While a professional rugby career was a goal for Belessis, serious injuries have meant the 22-year-old has had to reassess her career plans.

“I now realise I want to play rugby for the enjoyment and challenge, rather than for a contract,” the UQ Sports Achievement Scholarship recipient said.

“I’m in the final year of my teaching degree and I can see myself as a teacher once I graduate.

“I’ve had the opportunity to complete a number of placements and this is the thing I enjoy the most. It’s hard work, but it’s rewarding and it has given me a good insight into what teaching is going to be like.”

web For more information about Sports Achievement Scholarships, visit scholarships.uq.edu.au.





THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

UQ Change Makers

**Want to hear more
great stories?**

The UQ ChangeMakers podcast series tells the stories of some of the most influential members of the UQ community.

From incredible discoveries and groundbreaking research to inspiring leadership and innovation, listen as we get to know our amazing change makers and find out what makes them tick.

Listen, subscribe, rate and review.

uq.edu.au/changemakers/podcast



Listen on
Apple Podcasts



Get it on
iTunes Store