



GRADUATE

contact



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ST LUCIA IPSWICH GATTON



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND**
AUSTRALIA

+ FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Welcome to the Summer 2008 edition of *Graduate Contact*.

While there is always a rich variety of topics covered in these pages, I'm proud to say stories of UQ graduates helping those less fortunate is a recurring theme.

One such example is social worker Dr Deborah Setterlund, who is a tireless advocate for women and children in Nepal, and although retired, continues to complete research and supervise postgraduates at UQ.

Another worthy initiative is the inaugural UQ Alumni Equity and Diversity Award, presented earlier this year during Diversity Week 2008.

Dr Ben Mullen, an agricultural scientist, was named the winner for his continuing work with low-income farmers in the Asia-Pacific. We were fortunate to have ABC journalist Phillip Adams chair a panel discussion on diversity during the week.

I was also intrigued to read about author Kate Morton, whose love of literature was fostered at UQ, and whose books now occupy bestseller lists around the world. Kate's story reminded me of how our graduates make an impact on the international stage in many different fields – another recent example being the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games where our students, staff and alumni performed exceptionally.

This global perspective is something UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield is keen to tap into. Paul has recently established several significant changes to reach out to international partners and strengthen the student experience – for details of these important initiatives, please read *Strategic Moves* on pages 4-5.

This edition also carries articles about several long-standing staff members who I've worked closely with in my time as Chancellor. Among these is Douglas Porter, who retires at the end of the year after more than two decades as UQ's Secretary and Registrar. I thank Douglas for his many valuable contributions during this time and wish him all the best.

I would also like to thank the many readers who replied to the survey enclosed in the Winter edition. Your feedback will help us keep the magazine accessible and informative in the coming years.

From charting our rising research stars to profiling new art acquisitions and recent alumni celebrations with our friends in China and Hong Kong, this edition is sure to keep you up to date with what's happening at UQ.



Sir Llew Edwards, AC
Chancellor



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UQ alumnus and bestselling author Kate Morton. Photo courtesy Quest Newspapers

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INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ENRICHED

by Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield AO



The headlines during the second half of 2008 have highlighted the value of qualifications and connections that carry international weight. From triumphs at the Olympics and Paralympics through to catastrophes on Wall Street, the main events blurred what remained of the lines between the local and the global.

Enabling students, alumni and staff to compete and excel in this shrinking global village is intrinsic to UQ reforms that are either underway or planned. They are changes that will influence students' decisions even while they are at high school, enhance their experiences while they are enrolled at UQ, and flow on into their careers.

For example, we have created a new incentive for high school students to achieve in the areas of Languages Other Than English (LOTE) and advanced mathematics by offering bonus ranks to school-leavers applying to UQ who have succeeded in one or both of these areas. Proficiency in these disciplines is generally a forerunner to individual success and national advantage.

Once at UQ, students in all disciplines – not solely the humanities – will be able to learn a language, following introduction of concurrent LOTE diplomas in 2009. These diplomas will also be available in the universal language of music.

Substantial new scholarships will add to the attractiveness of UQ for bright, well-rounded secondary school students. These include more than 300 scholarships offered to 2008 school-leavers who combine academic excellence with demonstrated leadership qualities. These have proven to be extremely popular, with 2000 applications received, 13 percent being from outside Queensland. Additional sporting scholarships are also on offer to students who have demonstrated physical as well as intellectual prowess.

In a first for undergraduates, the

ONCE AT UQ, STUDENTS IN ALL DISCIPLINES – NOT SOLELY THE HUMANITIES – WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN A LANGUAGE, FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF CONCURRENT DIPLOMAS IN 2009. THESE DIPLOMAS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MUSIC.

University has provided \$1 million for scholarships to support research in the summer semester, between mid-November 2008 and mid-February 2009. Students, who will be supervised by established researchers, can use the experience to obtain credit towards their degrees. Because we are welcoming aspiring researchers from other institutions, the scholarships are not exclusive to our students. This represents early progress towards our 2015 target of seeing one in five undergraduates undertaking a semester of research discovery.

Pursuant to another related goal – promoting outbound and inbound student exchange – the University has signed on to the *Universitas 21* "Global Issues Programme". To gain a concurrent award through the scheme, University of Queensland undergraduates will complete at least two globally themed subjects (from a total of four) available through one of six partners: Lund University in Sweden, Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico, University of British Columbia, University of

Hong Kong, University of Melbourne or University of Nottingham.

These and other exchanges, as well as internships and industry placements, will be fostered by UQ's Office of Undergraduate Education, which will be unique in Australia, and will operate from 2009. Next year will also see a new senior executive structure that will guarantee high-level attention to external relationships, particularly as they benefit students, alumni and staff. While two new positions, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Relations) and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Linkages) respectively, have pointed external aims, I want everyone on the executive team to think and act globally.

Aspects of the structural reforms have been made necessary by the impending departure of a UQ stalwart – Secretary and Registrar Mr Douglas Porter.

Since assuming the position in November 1986, he has become an institution within an institution, demonstrating leadership and dispensing valuable advice across a spectrum of issues including university administration and governance, business relationships, information technology systems, residential colleges and the framework for commercialisation of research outcomes.

In international demand throughout his UQ career – as he was during his preceding 21 years as a university administrator in the UK – Douglas has used overseas experience to enrich his service to UQ. An accomplished cricketer and rugby union player, Douglas has many of the qualities that UQ strives to augment, being well-rounded, globally literate and outwardly focused. I thank Douglas for his service and wish him nothing but the best of retirements.

Research strengthened

The University of Queensland has promoted a researcher renowned for his work with minute matter in order to scale up its global research networks.

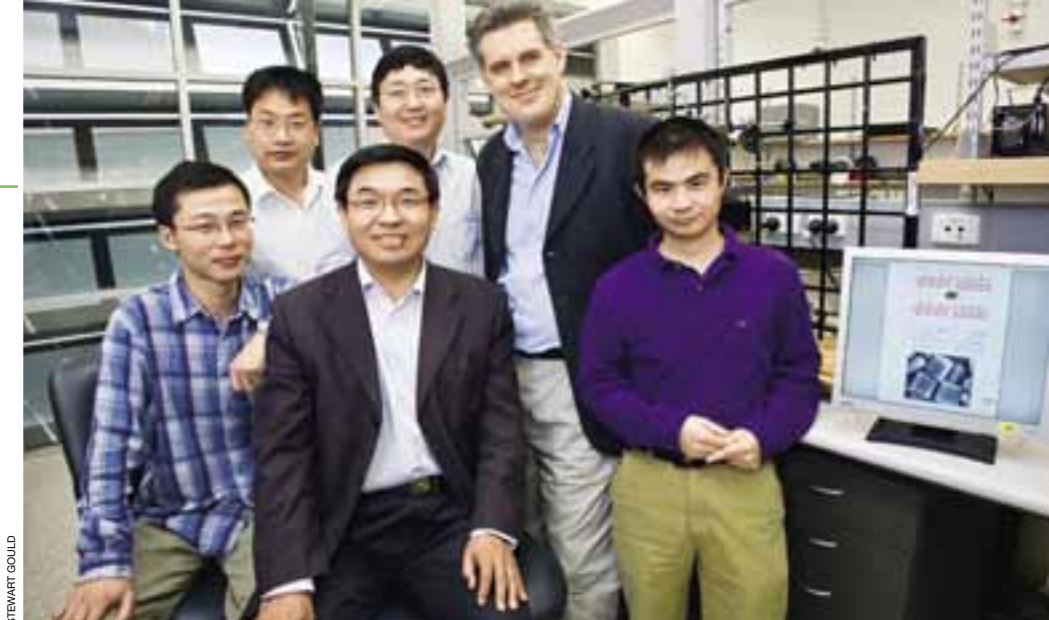
Professor Max Lu took up the new position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Linkages) on October 11, with the remit of reaching out to industry, governments and academic institutions to strengthen UQ's research alliances.

His appointment is the latest in a series of measures to extend and strengthen UQ's profile with key stakeholders, and complements the appointment of Professor Alan Lawson as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) announced in May.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said Professor Lu combined distinction as a researcher with success in research commercialisation and extensive networks with industry, governments and national and global research communities.

"As well as being offered two prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellowships, Professor Lu has served on many Australian government committees and developed extensive national and international connections," Professor Greenfield said.

Professor Lu was an instrumental adviser



STEWART GOULD

Professor Max Lu (centre) with members of his research team (from left): Gang Liu, Huagui Yang, Dr Shizhang Qiao, Professor Sean Smith and Chenghua Sun

in formulating Australia's first national policy on nanotechnology – a pioneering field which involves scientists and technologists applying materials discoveries at molecular and atomic scales to find solutions to energy, health and environmental issues.

"In the 14 years since he returned to UQ (where he did his doctoral thesis before working in Singapore) Professor Lu has attracted research and infrastructure funds totalling more than \$24 million from governments, industry and other sources external to UQ," Professor Greenfield said.

His recent grants include the \$3.4 million Queensland-China Alliance on Clean Energy Materials to collaborate with scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, funded through the Queensland Government's National and International Research Alliances Program.

Professor Lu was this year offered his

second Federation Fellowship (valued at \$1.6 million over five years) and the centre that he founded and directs at UQ, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Functional Nanomaterials, gained \$4.8 million in extension funds in 2007.

His current roles include Deputy Chair and Chair-elect (2009) of the Institution of Chemical Engineers in Australia board, Board Director of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and membership of the Queensland-China Council.

Professor Lu holds the position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Linkages) on a 50 percent basis, enabling him to continue his joint appointments in UQ's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, and the School of Engineering where he holds the Chair of Chemical Engineering in Nanotechnology.

New scope for Science

The University will create a new Faculty of Science to give a higher profile to learning and research on climate change, sustainability and other vital scientific areas.

The faculty will begin on January 1, 2009, with aims including broader student career options and better links between enabling and applied sciences.

It will be led by Professor Stephen Walker (pictured), who is currently Executive Dean of UQ's Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture (EPSA).

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the Faculty of Science would bring together areas including the Centre for Marine Studies, the School of Integrative Biology, the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental



CHRIS STACEY

Management, the School of Earth Sciences and the School of Mathematics and Physics.

These and other components of the new faculty are currently grouped into two faculties – Biological and Chemical Sciences and EPSA.

The University committed to reorganise science after Professor Greenfield set the challenge for UQ's science program to be recognised as Australia's best and of international significance.

"The faculty's structure is based on

recommendations of a working group which received almost 100 submissions, most of which supported change," Professor Greenfield said.

Professor Greenfield paid tribute to Professor Mick McManus, who stepped down as Executive Dean of BACS on August 1 after 10 years in the post.

Professor Walker said he was excited to be part of an endeavour of tremendous value to UQ students and staff, and to the advancement of science in general.

Novel SUCCESS

Kate Morton is a household name thanks to two popular novels, which have sold more than a million copies worldwide. In this special feature, fellow award-winning author, UQ alumnus and close friend **Kim Wilkins** details her meteoric rise.

When Kate Morton was researching her masters degree in Victorian literature in 2002, she never imagined that she might one day write something that would be studied at university level. In August this year, Kate returned to The University of Queensland to lecture students of the Writing, Editing and Publishing program on the research and development of her latest bestseller *The Forgotten Garden*. It was a welcome return for Kate, who had to put on hold her doctoral studies at the School of English, Media Studies and Art History – her thesis involved modern crime and the gothic – to meet the demands of a young family and a growing international profile.

So how did Kate Morton go from being a humble student to a big name in literature?

Kate was born in Berri, a small town in South Australia, but grew up on Tamborine Mountain where she is now something of a local hero. A small function at the Marks and Gardener gallery at North Tamborine earlier this year attracted more than 100 people, who jostled for room to hear their local-girl-made-good speak about her new novel, which has now been to number one in Australia and the UK, knocking off John Grisham, Lynda La Plante and James Patterson in the process. In fact, *The Forgotten Garden* sold 50,000 copies in its first two weeks of UK release alone.

Kate confesses she didn't always want to be a writer: drama was originally her passion. She studied and performed in numerous plays, and spent a summer studying with the Royal Shakespeare Company. I saw her perform the lead in *Antigone* many years ago on the Gold Coast, and it was clear that she had the ability and intelligence to follow a path in theatre. But it wasn't performing words that Kate was passionate about; it was words themselves.



COURTESY QUEST NEWSPAPERS



COURTESY MARKS AND GARDNER GALLERY

Above: Kate Morton at home in Brisbane and right, with best friend and fellow author Kim Wilkins

"There are many similarities between performance and writing fiction," she says. "In both, you use words to access a character's interior. To go on personal journeys that you might never – or never want to – experience yourself."

Once Kate decided that writing a novel was what she wanted to do, she set about the task with characteristic determination. Her first two manuscripts, which included some of the ideas that would later be developed fully in her published novels – mysteries, secrets, children of uncertain heritage, the ever-present past – managed to attract the attention of literary agent Selwa Anthony, who loved her work from the start. "She's a dream author," the agent says. "She proves that Australian literature can compete with the best of the best on an international stage." But publishers at the time were less certain, and both of the manuscripts were passed over.

"It is difficult not to be disheartened," Kate says. "You've poured your heart into something, and nobody wants it. But I knew enough about the business, from friends of mine who were in publishing, to know that 'no' this time didn't mean 'no' forever. Especially as one major publisher had taken the time to write a lengthy report on the second manuscript. I knew that I had to keep trying."

Kate then found herself a full-time mother, when her first son Oliver was born in 2003 and her husband Davin – an AFI-nominated soundtrack composer – was working brutally long hours away from home. Instead of giving up her dreams of writing, Kate decided a great

way to take her mind off the mountains of laundry was to escape into the fictional world of Riverton manor in England, its beautiful but doomed heroines and the grit and texture of World War I.


"Having a small person likely to wake up any moment is a great motivator," she says. "I had small windows of time to work in. There was no time for artistic crisis: he was asleep, I had to write."

Still, the book wasn't quite finished when Selwa Anthony called to say a publisher was interested and wanted to see the whole manuscript. "She said how soon can you finish, and I said two months. She told me I only had one. I didn't want to lose the opportunity so I called in babysitting favours from everyone; I wrote it in a white heat." And then came the call that all aspiring writers dream of: Allen & Unwin had bought the book.

Perhaps, in the case of most other writers, this would be the extent of the story. But within months Kate's story had taken a stellar trajectory. At the 2005 Frankfurt Book Fair, where Allen & Unwin had taken Kate's manuscript to shop to international publishers, a buzz began. Germany and France were first to buy *The Shifting Fog*, with publishers vying to outbid each other. Then Italian publisher Mondolibre offered Allen & Unwin a staggering six-figure deal ("I faced the wall and couldn't speak for two minutes") that sent foreign publishers all over the world into a frenzy. All of a sudden, Kate's book was very, very hot. As the international deals stacked up, advance publicity for the Australian publication of *The Shifting Fog* made much of her success.



COURTESY ALLEN & UNWIN



Still more was to come. In 2007, *The Shifting Fog* (now renamed *The House at Riverton* because “the English just don’t like fog”) was selected for the Richard and Judy Book Club, the UK equivalent of Oprah’s Book Club. In its first week of release, the only thing that held Kate out of the number one spot on the bestseller charts was J. K. Rowling. At one stage, there were 100,000 copies on back order. The book was a huge bestseller in the UK, going on to sell more than 750,000 copies. It was nominated for a Nibby (a British Book Award), and Kate was invited to the UK to tread the red carpet and attend the televised ceremony, and bump shoulders with the likes of Rowling and Ginger Spice.

You could be forgiven for thinking that all of this might have given Kate a skewed perspective on life, but nothing could be further from the truth. She is – as she always has been – a warm, funny, down-to-earth woman, who is far too busy being a mother to two young boys (her second son, Louis, was born in January this year) to entertain diva-like tendencies. “At the end of the day, what’s most important is family and friends,” she says. “I don’t deny that it’s lovely to get great international reviews, or emails from readers passionate about my books; but the texture of daily life is that there are children to attend to, friends to catch up with, family to keep you grounded.”

Kate is now living in the UK, where she will be based until early 2009. She intends to set up in London to research and write her next novel. But she does not rule out coming back to finish her studies at The University of Queensland at a later date. “Writers are readers, and writers thinkers,” she says. “The wonderful thing about the scholarships I had to study English were that they allowed me time to read and to think, and that is a writer’s life’s work. I feel very blessed.”

Dr Kim Wilkins is the author of 20 novels for adults, young adults, and children. She has published in a variety of genres, and her books are available all over the world. She teaches writing at The University of Queensland.

promise and progress

After more than two decades at the helm of the University's finances, retiring Secretary and Registrar **Douglas Porter** reflects on the highlights, challenges and colourful moments of his time at UQ.

On the day I arrived in Brisbane from England, the evening news was dominated by the acceptance speech of the freshly re-elected Queensland Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. The following day, the only cars on the roads seemed to be queuing at a handful of petrol stations, which were virtually the only businesses opened on Sundays in Brisbane in 1986. My family and I wondered what we had let ourselves in for.

After spending Monday moving into a rented house, I arrived at the office on Tuesday, November 4, to be surprised by a sacred ritual. At noon everyone decamped for sports or recreation venues. I performed my first official duty during that Melbourne Cup afternoon Administration Sports Day, by presenting the Tennis Cup named after my predecessor, a very large mug with even larger ears (the prize, that is).

First impressions aside, the job has met all my expectations. Few things can be more satisfying than working on a beautiful campus with very able and friendly colleagues for an organisation which has been as consistently successful as UQ. Three gifted and entrepreneurial Vice-Chancellors have applied very different styles and experience to that success and the University has been particularly blessed by two Chancellors, Sir James Foots and Sir Llew Edwards, who have used their commercial expertise and corporate governance savvy to open doors and prompt and guide the University to wonderful effect.

Along with the highs there have been a few lows.

In 1986 Australian universities were regulated similarly to the UK, with a buffer between the national government and the institutions. This buffer disappeared after the Dawkins Review in 1988-89 and the ensuing decades have been characterised by increasing Australian government intervention into university affairs, falling federal funding per student, rising student numbers, and a lack of clear policy to frame what has become a highly diversified system.

The regulatory headache has been compounded by a proliferation of compulsory legislative and other regulatory instruments applied by the three layers of government. Many of them overlap or duplicate each other, creating a distraction from university core business that is little appreciated by the wider university or the community.

A multitude of laws empowering individuals to question and challenge administrative processes has enabled costly and vexatious pursuits of the University by some individuals, and dealing with such cases has become the least attractive feature of my responsibilities in recent years.

The attempt to create a blended public and private university by acquiring Bond University was both sweet and sour. The take-over bid failed, but a series of events and processes culminated in UQ gaining all of the land surrounding Bond and guaranteeing Bond's purchase of its land and buildings for an initial three-year period. Serving alongside Bill Palmer as a Director of Bond University Limited, as Bond established itself as a successful private university, was an interesting experience.

From the rich highlights of the past 22 years, I would like to underscore just three.

By acquiring and refurbishing the Brisbane Customs House, UQ re-engaged with Brisbane. It began the reversal of years of aloofness which had created a perception that UQ was an ivory tower somewhere along the Brisbane River. The capital campaign spearheaded by Dr Nick Girdis and the refurbishment program led by Professor Ted

Brown produced a downtown facility which has enhanced significantly the University's visibility and reputation within the city. Purchasing the freehold of the building for less than two years' rent ensured the financial as well as the operational success of what is now the University's city base.

Perhaps the most personally satisfying aspect of the past 22 years has been my involvement with UQ's commercialisation framework and activities. Persuading the University to capitalise UniQuest and IMBcom provided a solid foundation for the success of these companies in not only commercialising the intellectual property generated by staff, but also in furthering both fundamental research and the University's reputation. It is gratifying now to hear UniQuest widely acknowledged as Australia's most successful commercialisation company, and benchmarking within the top 10 percent among university competitors globally.

The third highlight is the modernisation of the University's administrative computer systems. Over the past decade we have successfully replaced out-dated legacy systems with packages that give staff, students and visitors extensive on-line services. Rigorous project governance, change management and budgetary control have avoided the financial and operational crises experienced elsewhere.

My one miserable failure, and a disaster waiting to happen, is my continuing inability to regulate the riding of bicycles on the St Lucia campus. The large pelotons of lycra-clad, head-down cyclists that invade the campus most early mornings and at weekends (with the UQ Cycle Club being a notable exception), continue to display a flagrant disrespect of speed limits, road rules and other campus users, whether they are drivers or pedestrians.

Despite cars moving more slowly and bikes more quickly, the Brisbane of today remains a very pleasant place to live, work and relax. After 43 years in three universities I look forward to spending more time with family, travelling for pleasure and perhaps a little work!

Douglas Porter speaks at an alumni function in Singapore last year, and below, with wife Dr Janet Porter



IMAGES WENZ PHOTOGRAPHY

smart money ON GPN4

Water harvesting, solar panels and a strategic shading system are among the environmentally sustainable features of a new UQ smart building.

By Eliza Plant

The V-shaped, General Purpose North 4 (GPN4), built at an estimated cost of \$54 million, includes an Australian-first Advanced Concepts Teaching Space (UQ ACTS), a Collaborative Teaching and Learning Space, and will also be the new home of the Institute for Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ).

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the building, which opened on July 14, set the pace for Australian university learning space design.

"It includes an interactive lecture theatre and a 'third generation' collaborative teaching and learning centre focused on postgraduate students with busy work schedules," Professor Greenfield said.

"Together these spaces will encourage levels of student-teacher interaction seen nowhere else in Australia.

"For example, the 100-seat lecture theatre (ACTS) will enable students to give instantaneous feedback via individual screens, so a teacher can know immediately if a student is struggling to grasp a concept or is losing interest.

"Used to full effect, this technology can give a large class the personalised quality of a small tutorial."

The building's environmental features match its student-friendly innovations.

The building maximises natural light and has 10 kilowatt rooftop solar cells, automatic controls and sensors for internal lighting and air-conditioning and efficient light fittings.

Underground tanks (up to 220,000 litres) will hold enough rainwater and run-off for the building's landscaping and non-potable water needs.

Professor Greenfield said UQ's capacity to build GPN4 was significantly due to the strength of ICTE-UQ and the success of its director, Ms Christine Bundesen, and her team.

The self-funding ICTE-UQ is the building's main resident, with almost 4200 square metres of floorspace.

ICTE-UQ is this year estimated to generate \$20 million in revenue,

largely from provision of international English language and English teacher training, English language testing, and continuing and professional education.

Ms Bundesen said the new headquarters featured stand-up email terminals in teaching floor lobbies, a dedicated learning centre with three multi-media laboratories, and IT facilities integrated in all teaching rooms and shared learning spaces.

A 200-seat auditorium and multi-function Terrace Room will accommodate orientations, lectures, workshops, events and functions.

Additional student advantages from GPN4 include:

- Access to individual touch-screens to capture classroom interactions on to iPods, laptops, organisers and mobile phones
- Two types of electronic whiteboard technology, including the use of plasma monitors with touch-sensitive facilities
- Pods for up to 10 students with metre-wide screens that pop-up and retract depending on the teaching mode.





ONLINE ARCHIVE FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Communities throughout Queensland will breathe life into an online archive featuring more than 900 cities and ghost towns.

The UQ-based Queensland Places project, one of the key projects for the new Centre for the Government of Queensland, will be an interactive community website devoted to settlements with present or past populations of 500 or more people.

Announcing the project in the lead-up to Queensland's 150th anniversary in 2009, Premier Anna Bligh invited contributions from image collections depicting community and family life.

"Ghost towns, old flour mills, shearing sheds and even the humble vegetable garden can tell the stories that will enliven Queensland's 150th birthday celebrations," Ms Bligh said.

The centre's interim director, UQ's Professor Peter Spearritt, said the project would be enhanced by illustrations of towns and workplaces over the past 60 years, complementing the extensive photographic collections of the State Library and the Queensland State Archives.

"We are particularly keen to hear from people who have coloured slides from the 1950s to the 1970s that include photographs which show both people and the landscape, including images of changes in land use, climate, social and economic conditions," he said.

"Other images might depict the ravages of a flood or cyclone, or a mine closure or other industrial episode that reduced a bustling settlement to a ghost town."

Professor Spearritt said each entry would have between 150 and 1000 words explaining the settlement's history and would include the latest population statistics.

INFO // People who believe they have an item of interest for Queensland Places can contact 07 3365 1399 or email p.spearritt@uq.edu.au

PLATE COLLISION REWRITES HISTORY

New UQ volcano research is helping to unlock the mystery surrounding one of the world's most important tectonic events.

The study, which forms part of an ongoing research project in the University's Argon Geochronology in Earth Sciences (UQ-AGES), has found a major collision between the Australia plate and Earth's largest oceanic plateau, the Ontong Java Plateau (OJP), in the South Pacific, happened about 26 million years ago.

Earth Sciences senior lecturer Dr Kurt Knesel said geologists had long theorised about the collision, however it was not clear how or when the event occurred because the deep oceanic evidence was inaccessible.

The UQ researchers used land-based evidence for volcanoes in eastern Australia to yield information about plate migration and uplift histories, not retrievable from already available data.

Dr Knesel said team member and former UQ PhD student Dr Ben Cohen also looked for volcanic remains on the seafloor that corresponded in time and space to their estimate of the plateau's arrival.

"Ben noticed bends in the middle of two different seamount chains – tracks of volcanoes on the ocean floor – off eastern Australia," he said.

"The chains were offset at the same time that the volcano migration slowed on land, giving further evidence that the plateau arrived



then and caused an abrupt westward plate excursion."

Dr Knesel said the research helped discover notable patterns in the northward drift of Australia, with more than 100 volcanic samples used as a kind of speedometer for the drift of the Australian plate.

"We think the immense plateau, which is roughly the size of Greenland, blocked Australia's northerly movement – rapidly altering the pattern of volcanic activity between 26 and 23 Ma (million years)," he said.

"The arrival of the plateau jammed and reversed this system, such that the Australian plate now sinks below the Pacific."

The team's research formed part of the article "Rapid change in drift of the Australian plate records collision with Ontong Java Plateau", published earlier this year in *Nature*.

ECO ENERGY SAVERS

UQ researcher Dr David Merritt has discovered Tasmanian cave glow-worms are energy conservationists: they switch their lights off at night-time.

The discovery was made during a partially funded UQ Firstlink study, which revealed the glow-worm's prey-luring light output was governed by circadian rhythms, regardless of ambient light levels.

The study aimed to investigate the physiology and behaviours of cave dwelling glow-worms, which are actually the immature or larval stage of a mosquito-like fly found in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Dr Merritt said unlike their rainforest counterparts, the cave-dwelling Tasmanian glow-worm could detect the time of day, even from the deepest reaches of their caves.

"In the rainforest, exposure to light during the day causes them to switch off, but in caves there is no light to cause that to happen, however they switch off of their own accord and they do it in synchrony."



ASTEROID ALERT

Forget trying to move mountains, one University of Queensland researcher wants to move asteroids.

And for her efforts Mary D'Souza, a PhD student within UQ's School of Engineering, has taken out the top prize in an international competition that looks at finding new and innovative ways to stop asteroids hitting the Earth.

Ms D'Souza (pictured) was awarded first prize in the Space Generation Advisory Council's "Move An Asteroid 2008" competition for her idea of using enhanced solar radiation pressure to move the object.

The asteroid in question is one that actually exists and could potentially collide with our planet in 2036.

"What I proposed was winding what amounts to Mylar film around the 330m diameter the asteroid," Ms D'Souza said.

"By covering around 50 percent of it in reflecting ribbon, the enhanced radiation pressure from the sun could push the asteroid enough to miss the Earth easily."

She said the competition was almost like a mental holiday from her PhD studies, where she is working on super-orbital radiating flows, or how objects enter the atmosphere of other planets or re-enter Earth.

For winning the competition, Ms D'Souza travelled to Scotland in September for the Space Generation Congress, and also attended the world's largest space conference, the International Astronautical Congress.



STEWART GOULD

REGAINING CONTROL

For sufferers of neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease, daily trembling and shaking can be unbearable, however new UQ research could assist in helping patients regain control.

A team of UQ researchers is using their skills from a number of disciplines to help improve the success rate of Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery.

DBS surgery has been used in patients with neurological and movement disorders including Parkinson's disease, depression, dystonia, epilepsy, Tourette syndrome and recently Alzheimer's disease on an experimental basis.

It involves the placement of microelectrodes in problem brain cells, which transmit electrical impulses to correct the troubled area.

The electrodes are connected to a pacemaker-like device and, for the surgery to be successful, doctors have to pinpoint the problem area, guided by the conscious patient.

Through nonlinear signal processing techniques, UQ researchers have been able to interpret brain signals from the



CHRIS STACEY

microelectrodes, directly implanted into the brain of Parkinson's disease patients during the surgery.

Team member and mechanical engineer Dr Paul Meehan said simple linguistic tasks were given to the patient while awake during the surgery to directly monitor the human brain cells working in real time.

"We then look for differences and correlations in their brain activity depending on the outcome," Dr Meehan said.

He said at present, the surgery's progress was very much dependent upon experimental research with no concrete indications as to why certain stimulations such as amplitude, frequency and waveform worked and others failed in certain patients.



CHRIS STACEY

Professor Gordon Grigg, Steve Irwin and Professor Craig Franklin with a satellite device

CROC WORK CONTINUES

The legacy of Steve Irwin lives on at The University of Queensland, two years after the Crocodile Hunter's tragic death.

The University last year honoured Steve's tireless work with a posthumous Steve Irwin Adjunct Professorship in UQ's School of Integrative Biology, accepted by his wife Terri Irwin.

UQ continues to work with Australia Zoo, the Queensland Park and Wildlife Service and the Australian Research Council to monitor the behaviour of the threatened species.

Earlier this year, friend and colleague UQ Professor Craig Franklin travelled to the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Far North Queensland to help capture and tag 15 large estuarine crocodiles, and returned to the site again in November.

"Steve Irwin made a significant contribution to crocodile research in Australia and in particular helping to develop new methods to track these often wary animals through remote sensing technology," he said.

"I am extremely pleased that we are able to continue his legacy, which would not be possible without the large commitment of resources provided by Terri Irwin and Australia Zoo."

Professor Franklin worked with a team of 20 experts from Australia Zoo on the 135,000-hectare Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, 60km north-east of Weipa on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula.

He said small transmitters were surgically inserted beneath the crocodile's skin to allow for data collection and tracking of the animals, which continue to be threatened by illegal hunting.

"This long term study will provide us with detailed knowledge of the behaviour and habitat use of these enigmatic animals that is presently not known," he said.

Professor Franklin said the reserve had no less than 35 distinct ecosystems, providing habitats for flora and fauna that had possibly not been previously identified.



UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield, The Honourable Tim Mulherin and Geoffrey Dawson at the official opening of CAAS

Advanced science

Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, the Honourable Tim Mulherin, officially opened the \$33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science at The University of Queensland's Gatton Campus on September 2.

The collaborative venture between UQ and the Queensland Government has seen the design and construction of a unique range of animal research facilities, which will help attract some of the world's leading scientists to UQ.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and Smart State Research Facilities Fund's support for CAAS highlighted a commitment to scientific research as the basis for sound, forward-focused policy and practice.

"CAAS is the way of the future – cutting edge infrastructure created by a joint venture between government and UQ, with a strong industry focus," Professor Greenfield said.

Facilities at CAAS include biosecurity containment rooms for disease and vaccine research, grouped and individual animal pens for nutrition trials, a feed processing shed and cattle handling yards.

CAAS researchers will investigate ways to reduce greenhouse emissions in livestock, ensure greater beef supply through a tick vaccine and improve biosecurity.

"With the issue of global food shortages now becoming a key topic, CAAS will allow researchers to look into ways of increasing the quantity and quality of food using sustainable practices, particularly in tropical environments," Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science Professor Roger Swift said.

"I'm pleased that this new centre will encourage university and government researchers to collaborate on high profile projects which will be of direct benefit to our primary producers, and will ensure Queensland's continued economic development and growth.

"I would particularly like to acknowledge S2F, the CAAS architects, as well as McNab Constructions and local sub-contractors, who did an excellent job on such a complex and highly technical project."

Beef industry bolstered

Protecting Queensland's profitable beef industry whilst reducing food poisoning outbreaks in humans is just one proposed project to be conducted within the newly completed Centre for Advanced Animal Science.

Although it has only been operational for a few months, the Centre for Advanced Animal Science is already future-proofing the Australian cattle industry.

CAAS, a joint initiative between UQ and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), is equipped with biosecurity containment facilities, allowing scientists to collaborate on projects that aim to safeguard the Australian agricultural industry and improve human health.

Dr Rowland Cobbold, from UQ's School of Veterinary Science, hopes to utilise CAAS resources to test an E. coli vaccine for cattle.

"In collaboration with researchers from DPI&F, CSIRO Food Science Australia, Washington State University and the University of Idaho, we're proposing to develop a vaccine to be used in cattle which helps prevent food-borne diseases," Dr Cobbold said.

"If that project goes ahead then the final stage would involve testing the vaccine in a level 2 biosecurity containment facility.

"Quite frankly, without CAAS we couldn't conduct this type of research.

"CAAS will allow us to trial this particular strain of E. coli under much more controlled experimental conditions."

E. coli is a bacterium commonly found in the guts of most animals, including cattle.

Some strains of E. coli can cause severe food poisoning in humans.

Dr Cobbold said that while Australian cattle were largely free of food poisoning organisms, the proposed vaccine would future proof the beef industry.

"Australian beef is already considered better and safer than many other countries," he said.

"Australia is the largest beef exporter in the world so there are direct economic benefits in maintaining its clean and green image.

"Keeping our beef marketable and free of E. coli will ensure consumer confidence."

Dr Cobbold said disease due to this particular E. coli strain wasn't common in humans, but was severe when it did occur.





IMAGES STEWART GOULD

Clockwise from top left: Dr Mark Flint with honours student Megan Brine, Marine Studies student Tyffen Read and Seaworld staff transferring a turtle to a landing craft

TURTLE tales

Marine experts from The University of Queensland are unlocking the secrets of our coastline's health through the humble turtle.

By Andrew Dunne

The frog may be the environmental indicator of the land, but University of Queensland researchers believe when it comes to the sea, we should look to the turtle.

Dr Mark Flint, from the School of Veterinary Science, said turtles may be a surprisingly accurate indicator of the health of our coastline.

"Their declining numbers in Moreton Bay and other key areas around the world are really telling us something is wrong," Dr Flint said.

He said part of the problem also stemmed from not knowing enough about what made turtles tick and his research aimed to establish health measurements for marine turtles for the first time in Australia.

"Most of the current research centres around surveillance of turtle numbers and declining population," he said.

"What we are trying to do for the first time is establish what is clinically 'normal' for the health of a turtle.

"By getting that basis for a health assessment, we may then be able to determine the diseases affecting turtles and provide better ways of treating the sick and injured ones."

He said current health treatments for turtles were hit and miss, despite the dedicated work of many rescue operations such as Sea World, Australia Zoo and Underwater World.

"We find many turtles that are successfully rehabilitated by vets often die when released back into the wild and we have very little idea why," he said.

"Hopefully our research will open up

"WITHOUT SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE HEALTH OF TURTLES, WE CAN HAVE DIFFICULTY IN CORRECTLY IDENTIFYING CAUSES OF THEIR DECLINE"

new insights and help us to help the turtles more."

Dr Flint said he was working closely with the man widely credited as one of the world's leading turtle researchers, Dr Col Limpus.

Dr Limpus, an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Veterinary Science, President of the International Sea Turtle Society and Chief Scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has been researching turtles for more than 40 years and said this new research would be a boon to his work.

"Without some understanding of the health of turtles, we can have difficulty in correctly identifying causes of their decline," he said.

"We know a lot about cattle and sheep because humans have been working with them for thousands of years, but with sea turtles it really has only been the last 50 years that we have been serious about understanding their function."

Dr Flint's studies saw him take part in the annual turtle "rodeo" earlier this year, where he worked alongside researchers from Sea World and the EPA to tag and measure turtles in Moreton Bay.



COURTESY GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Dr Penelope Wensley at Government House

ALUMNA APPOINTED

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield has warmly congratulated the new Governor of Queensland, Dr Penelope Wensley, AO, who is part of a distinguished UQ family.

"Dr Wensley is an exceptional choice as Governor of Queensland, and this would be the case irrespective of where she attended university," Professor Greenfield said.

"It is icing on the cake for UQ that Dr Wensley is also a graduate, and is the second consecutive Queensland Governor to be a distinguished UQ alumna."

Premier Anna Bligh announced Dr Wensley, the former Australian Ambassador to France, as the 25th Governor of Queensland, succeeding Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, who in turn is Australia's new Governor-General.

Dr Wensley was made UQ's first female Alumnus of the Year and was awarded an honorary doctorate for distinguished contributions to international affairs in 1994. Her first UQ award was a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours.

TOP EDUCATOR JOINS UQ TEAM

A leader of new media who helped build global e-learning will father Australia's first centre of leadership in educational innovation at The University of Queensland.

Dr Phil Long, who has come to UQ from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is the first chair and director of UQ's Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (CEIT), where he will make the latest research on technology-assisted teaching and learning freely available.

Dr Long was Director of Learning Outreach for MIT's iCampus, which received USD \$25 million from Microsoft Research Laboratories and was Associate Director of MIT's Office of Education Innovation and Technology. He still holds a visiting researcher position at the university.

Dr Long brings deep connections to technology and innovation through engagements with many professional communities, such as the New Media Consortium, where he is both a member of the advisory board and past chair.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Deborah Terry said Dr Long brought new awareness of the benefits of innovative information and communications technology, particularly in teaching and learning.

"Dr Long's approach is anchored in one of the first principles of the web, that access to knowledge should be open and free," Professor Terry said.

"He has a passion for distributing scholarly knowledge with no strings attached."



JEREMY PATTER

Dr Phil Long in UQ's new Science Learning Centre

"Schools, tertiary institutions, community groups, industry, government and anyone with an interest in applying research to raise standards of teaching and learning will have free access to the work that comes out of the CEIT."

Dr Long said he looked forward to collaborating with students and staff throughout UQ, nationally and globally.

"Australia has been a creative source of ideas applying new media to learning," he said.

"I'm looking forward to being a part of this community and mixing emerging technologies with insightful ideas to extend scholarship and learning opportunities."

"Digital tools give people enormously powerful ways of problem solving. One project that CEIT will continue through ongoing collaboration with MIT is iLabs, which brings access to research equipment to students via the web."

"If you can't get to the experiment, the experiment can come to you', is the way my colleague, MIT's Professor Jesus del Alamo, likes to describe the iLabs project."

"But it's more than just access, important as that can be. It's extending our ability to ask questions and interpret what nature tells creative minds in high school and university."

"I'm fortunate to have had good colleagues here and in the US who lifted me up and helped me see where exciting opportunities for innovation and learning were happening."

COURTLY ADDITION

As part of its campus enhancement program, The University of Queensland has recently completed a \$1.7 million renovation of the Alumni Court.

The Alumni Court upgrade, near the Parnell Building, involved providing access for people with disabilities into the Great Court and the adaptive re-use of an old physics laboratory.

UQ Property and Facilities maintenance manager Kevin O'Sullivan said the University arranged for Queensland Health to safely remove all hazardous waste from the former Radon Lab prior to construction.

"By safely integrating the old lab into the landscape it has provided a use for a building that has remained dormant for a



STEWART GOULD

long time and had improved visual connectivity between the Alumni Court, the Cloister and the Great Court and beyond," he said.

"Students and staff can remain on task via the area's wireless network while utilising the court's open-planned grassed area, specially designed seating and undercover facilities."

The Alumni Court was originally built in 1970 with the help of The Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. (formerly

The Alumni Association of The University of Queensland Inc.), which donated \$12,000 for the site's initial landscaping.

Executive Officer Lynne Norris said the money raised by the association was achieved through sheer hard work.

"It is so satisfying to see how these renovations have changed a somewhat tired space into a beautiful, yet functional area for the enjoyment of everyone," Ms Norris said.

SPIRITUAL SERVICE

The University of Queensland celebrated 40 years of chaplaincy services at a special Ecumenical Service earlier this year.

Held at King's College in May, the service highlighted the important role chaplaincy has played at UQ since 1968.

Current Chaplaincy administrator the Reverend Peter Rama Rau said it had been quite a journey from when the University appointed its first chaplain in 1968.

"From an initial Christian chaplain, this has now grown to become the UQ Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Service, representing the Buddhist, Christian, Islamic and Jewish faiths," Mr Rama Rau said.

The possibility of the University giving official recognition to chaplains was considered when a letter from the Reverend Professor Roland Busch was tabled in Senate on 14 March 1968, requesting the appointment of a Protestant chaplain.

After investigations by the University's legal officer and further discussions by the Senate, the Senate approved the appointment of church-nominated chaplains.

Initially three chaplains were approved, nominated by the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, and one person appointed by the Queensland Council of Churches, representing other Protestant churches.

Chaplains representing other Christian churches were later recognised, including a Lutheran chaplain in 1972.



Reverend Father Anastasios Bozikis and Anglican Archbishop Phillip Aspinall mark the celebrations

The Senate approved the nomination of the first non-Christian, Rabbi Skolnick, who served as a Jewish chaplain from 1973 to 1976. This position then remained vacant until 1993, when Rabbi Cohen joined the team, and Jewish representatives have been part of the team since that time.

The formation of the Uniting Church in 1977 led to an additional part-time chaplain.

Subsequently the Senate wished to include chaplains from non-Christian groups, and requested the chaplaincy committee extend invitations to these.

By 1996, the chaplaincy's work had extended to the Gatton campus and then Ipswich in 1999.

At around the same time, a Muslim Imam, though not part of the chaplaincy team, took part in the annual Anatomy Thanksgiving Service.

Major additions to the chaplaincy team took place in 2005, when a representative of the Greek Orthodox Church was recognised, along with representatives of the Buddhist and Islamic faiths.

IMAGES: JEREMY PATTEN

ONE IN A MILLION

If you're young, female and passionate about life, UQ student and 2008 RSL Girl in a Million Maia Keerie is looking for you.

The 21-year-old (pictured) was awarded the prestigious title in July and, as a youth ambassador for the Queensland RSL and the Quest, Miss Keerie hopes to attract more young women to get involved.

"One of my aims is to increase awareness of the Quest and raise the number of entrants taking part," she said.

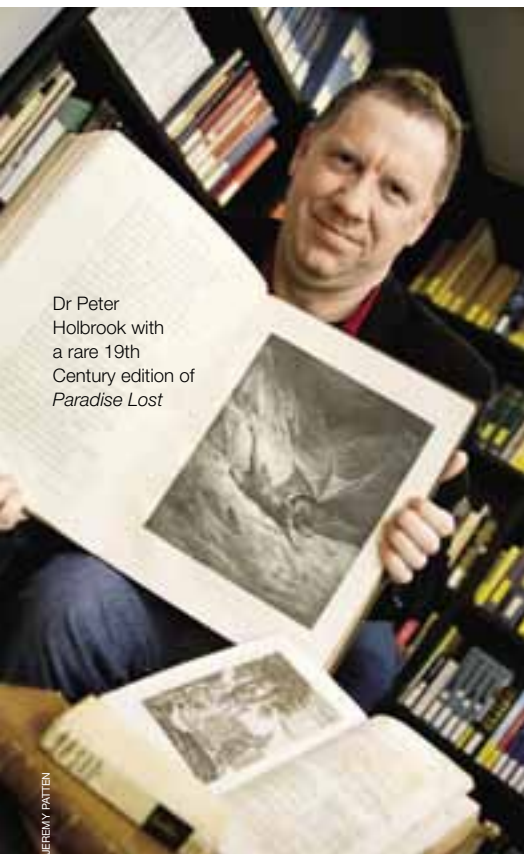
"Young women need to know that it's far from a beauty pageant, there's certainly no bikinis coming out there.

"It's about young women challenging themselves to make a difference in the community and developing themselves into the best possible people they can be."

The RSL is the largest ex-service organisation in Queensland and provides its members (both current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel) with much needed mateship, a strong support network, welfare and advocacy services, and youth and community programs.

Miss Keerie is about to complete her final semester of a Masters of Journalism after pursuing undergraduate studies in performing arts.

"I am always looking for opportunities to push and better myself and know it's usually pursuing the things we fear that inspire the greatest change and growth," she said.



Dr Peter Holbrook with a rare 19th Century edition of *Paradise Lost*

PARADISE REDISCOVERED

Fans of the poet John Milton gathered at The University of Queensland in August to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his birth.

Excerpts from his works – including passages from his epic poem *Paradise Lost* – were read aloud at "A Life Beyond Life", a free public event at Dukesne College.

Event organiser Dr Peter Holbrook said the celebrations commemorated Milton's extraordinary poetic achievement.

"Milton is one of the most ambitious and prodigiously talented literary geniuses ever to have lived; among English writers only Shakespeare matches him for sheer imaginative splendour and dazzling command of the language," Dr Holbrook said.

"He was also a courageous and militant champion of the causes of liberty and equality. His passionate love of freedom, and hatred of tyranny, is a message we still need to hear."

Readers included well-known author and UQ alumnus David Malouf, award-winning poets Anthony Lawrence and Jaya Savige, actor Eugene Gilfedder and members of the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble.



JEREMY PATTEN

STEWART GOULD



STEWART GOULD

Cultural ambassador

UQ runs several successful student exchange programs, but the work of a dedicated Japanese lecturer has ensured one will pass a special anniversary this year.

Kayoko Uchiyama is the coordinator of the KOMSTUDY program, which for 20 years has allowed UQ students to spend a four-week block at Komazawa University in Tokyo before Christmas.

Mrs Uchiyama started the initiative in 1988 after several years of organising one-way student exchanges from Japan, and in 1998 was honoured by Komazawa University for a decade's work with the program.

"Each year I take about 20 students to Tokyo, so that means about 500 students have participated in this program," Mrs Uchiyama said.

Established in 1592, Komazawa is a renowned Buddhist university with about 16,000 students, and is one of about 20 exchange partners UQ has in Japan.

The KOMSTUDY experience is aimed at beginner students, who spend the month immersed in local culture.

"They attend in the morning Japanese language classes, and in the afternoon it's all culture classes, such as Japanese history, tea ceremonies or karate," Mrs Uchiyama said.

As another bonus, half of their time in Tokyo is spent with homestay families, with the remaining fortnight based at the 1960 Olympic Village.

Mrs Uchiyama said students built important networks during the trip, with many graduates now working in Japan and several having married Komazawa students they met while on exchange.

Reflecting on 35 years of teaching at UQ, Mrs Uchiyama said she was buoyed by the enthusiasm and commitment of her pupils, and has introduced a popular weekly conversation class, where students can practise their skills in an informal setting.

A GLOBAL PASSPORT

As Australia's international trade portfolio continues to grow, UQ language expert Alfredo Martinez-Exposito believes the nation's multilingual capabilities need to improve if its regional and global engagement is to grow. **By Eliza Plant**

UQ has experienced a growing student interest in foreign languages, which not only benefits individual career prospects but the future of Australia's economy, according to Associate Professor Martinez-Exposito, Head of the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies and Reader in Spanish.

He said Chinese was performing above all expectations and Russian was making a strong comeback, with a 55 percent increase in enrolments since 2007.

"The Queensland Government and UQ established in 2007 a joint scholarship to foster the study of the Russian language with excellent results," he said.

Dr Martinez-Exposito said Australia had failed to seriously invest in foreign languages for more than a decade and the country's teaching and learning cycle had profoundly deteriorated, including the quality of teacher training programs, basic research funding mechanisms, academic relevance, exchange programs, infrastructure and social visibility.

"Queensland has a lot of catch up to do – teaching structures need to be changed if we are to lift our educational standards to meet the minimum international quality benchmarks," he said.

"Monolingualism will be increasingly less tolerated by the economy – and our international universities now realise that proficiency in more than one world language is one of the keys to successful regional and global engagement."

Dr Martinez-Exposito said university language programs spent a large proportion of their resources focusing on introductory and elementary language teaching, which inhibited a student's capabilities for postgraduate study.

"Students who start studying a language at this late stage have less time to acquire the proficiency level required to do any serious postgraduate study by the time they complete their bachelor degree," he said.

"Pressure on the tertiary sector to provide introductory language teaching makes it difficult for language departments to focus on the technical and expert levels they should be engaging with, for example, training of translators and interpreters, advanced cultural studies and applied linguistics."

Dr Martinez-Exposito said UQ's new LOTE (Language Other Than English) bonus scheme, where school-leavers improved their entry rank by successfully studying year 12 advanced maths and/or a language other than English, sent a strong message to students that adopting a second language would equip them with an essential skill for life.

In addition to Russian, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese and French, the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies offers programs in German, Indonesian and Korean.

The University of Queensland also recently received an award for the Enhancement of Student Learning for flexible learning, for the Master of Arts in Japanese Interpreting and Translation's (MAJIT) remote translation classes.

UQ's teachers in legal and medical translation courses are positioned interstate, with medical instructors based in Perth and a legal translation team situated between Melbourne, Tokyo and California.

The MAJIT project was also nominated as the University's entry in the flexible learning category of this year's Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching.

Looking forward: Associate Professor Alfredo Martinez-Exposito in the UQ Art Museum



JEREMY PATTEN

Professor Emeritus Boris Christa (1925 – 2008)

Boris Christa, Professor of Russian at The University of Queensland from 1965 until his retirement in 1990, died at his home in Brisbane on August 19.

Born in Sofia of Anglo-Bulgarian parentage in 1925, he grew up in Germany and was educated in England, completing an honours degree in Slavonic Studies at Cambridge in 1949.

The following year, he took up a lectureship in Russian at the University of Melbourne, moving to Auckland as Associate Professor in charge of Russian in 1963.

During periods of study leave at Cambridge and in Europe he had completed a doctoral thesis on the Russian symbolist movement, which became the basis of his first book.

In 1966 he was appointed to the newly created chair of Russian at UQ, where he spent the rest of his working life.

Inheriting a small and hard-pressed language-teaching unit, he presided over its growth into a fully fledged university department, complete with honours and postgraduate programs, and with a full-time staffing establishment of five.

Throughout his tenure of the chair and headship, he was a respected member of the University's Academic Board and served on a number of its committees, as well as representing it as a governor of Cromwell College for many years.

In the late 1960s, he organised the first of many field trips on Soviet cruise vessels, providing students with a rare opportunity to practise their language skills in a Russian-speaking environment.



COURTESY NARASHA CHRISTA

Outside the classroom, Professor Christa's home was the venue for many departmental activities, including the memorable Russian Easter parties at which he and his wife entertained the entire student body.

His monograph *The Poetic World of Andrey Bely* (1977) was one of the first substantial studies of the author in English and more than 30 years later is still regularly cited; it was followed by an edited volume *Andrey Bely Centenary Papers* (1980).

One of the founding members of the Australia and New Zealand Slavists' Association, Professor Christa served as its president from 1982 to 1988, and also (from 1983) as its representative on the International Committee of Slavists.

After retirement, as Professor Emeritus and an Honorary Research Consultant, Professor Christa continued to publish regularly and present papers at international conferences.

He is survived by his wife Tanya, his three daughters and his three grandchildren.

– DR JOHN MCNAIR

Mood music

A UQ academic is overseeing a unique art project that will bridge the environmental and cultural history of Brisbane and Japan.

Dr Kumi Kato has received \$50,000 in funding from Arts Queensland for the installation of a "sound garden" in the Roma Street Parklands, which should be completed early next year.

Dr Kato said the site would provide a meditative public space whose central feature will be a purpose-built Japanese water harp, known as a *suikinkutsu*.

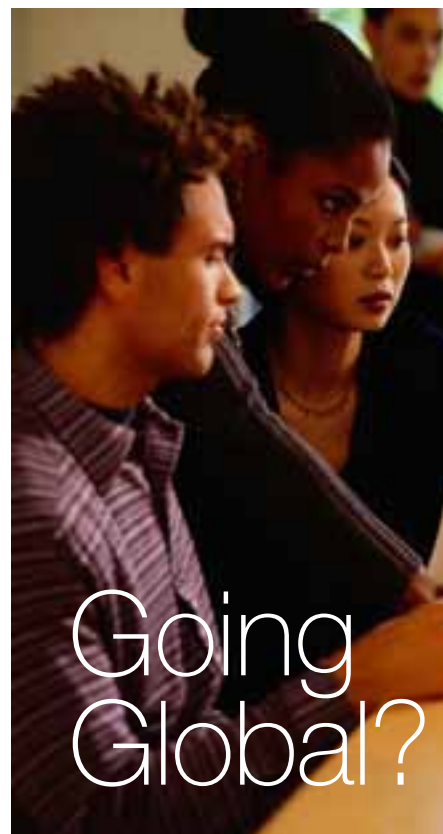
The harp will be installed by sinking an inverted earthenware pot in to the ground, with drops of water falling through onto a permanent layer of water at the base, creating a pleasant musical effect.

This will be accompanied by surrounding natural sounds such as the calls of birds and frogs, and those generated by trees, wind, water and human interaction.



COURTESY KUMI KATO

The building of the sound garden will involve local architect Will Marcus working alongside Mr Kubo Yoshinobu, a master *suikinkutsu* builder from Kyoto who has previously collaborated with Dr Kato for an installation in a Tasmanian forest (pictured).



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Above: Dr Ben Mullen working in Papua New Guinea and below, author and broadcaster Phillip Adams takes part in Diversity Week 2008

Growing diversity

An agricultural manager who oversees international aid and development projects has won UQ's inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Equity and Diversity Award.

Dr Ben Mullen, Agriculture and Natural Resources Manager at UQ's main commercialisation arm, UniQuest, was presented with the award on May 14.

The honour recognises graduates who have championed the equitable and inclusive treatment of under-represented groups.

UQ-trained environmental engineer Lizzie Brown was highly commended for her work with Engineers Without Borders Australia, which helps disadvantaged communities through education and sustainable engineering.

Dr Mullen manages international aid and rural development work for UniQuest, covering agricultural production, training and micro-finance projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

His team spent 18 months working on a trade-focused plant project in the Mekong region, which included work in Burma (Myanmar), to access high-value export markets for mung beans and pigeon peas.

Since graduating as an agronomist from UQ Gatton in 1984, Dr Mullen has spent the past two decades working on team projects that improve the lives of poor farming families.

He said he had overcome challenges such as cultural and gender issues in his work by being inclusive of men and women.

"You work the angles that are going to fit the culture. In Vanuatu we generally took a family-oriented approach, whereas in Vietnam,

groups were often split by gender to encourage women's participation," Dr Mullen said.

"It's often really simple things. Ensuring that you conduct field days or training so that women can get home each evening or having women as trainers.

"Institutionalising support programs to ensure equitable access to information and services is much more complex and requires arguments based on economic, as well as equity grounds."

Dr Mullen said he was a proud UQ alumnus who still kept in contact with his Gatton and St Lucia colleagues.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger said Dr Mullen and Mrs Brown were excellent examples of graduates who had made impressive international contributions and enhanced diversity issues.

"I'm pleased that both winners really show the quality of UQ's alumni and how our graduates are forging a better future for many developing communities," Professor Keniger said.

The awards were presented after a special panel discussion, which tied into this year's theme – "The Spirit of Diversity".

The event was chaired by popular broadcaster and author Phillip Adams, with Gold Coast Aboriginal elder Aunty Mary Graham, Professor of Social and Cultural Development at Victoria University Hurriyet Babaçan, and co-Conference Program Chair of the Asia-Pacific Interfaith Symposium, Dr Virginia Cawagas, also taking part.

INFO // To access a media gallery of the event, visit www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week



UQ FOUNDATION

research excellence awards 2008

Almost one-third of all Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellows at UQ have previously been recognised with UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards. The awards, introduced in 1999 and designed to nurture early-career researchers, were this year worth a total of \$815,000.

Photos: Stewart Gould and Jeremy Patten

DR BRETT COLLINS

A UQ structural biologist has received \$85,000 to investigate how material coming into and out of a cell is sorted, information that will improve our understanding of diseases such as cancer.

Dr Brett Collins, from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience, was given a UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to establish the molecular details of important endosomal sorting pathways. "Endosomes are organelles within the cell that play a pivotal role in the regulated cellular exit (exocytosis) and uptake (endocytosis) of proteins," he said.

These cargo molecules include receptors for cellular nutrients, signalling complexes and molecules involved in cell-cell adhesion. "Defects in endosomal protein sorting are linked to many diseases, including cancer and high cholesterol, and the system is also subverted by viral and bacterial pathogens such as HIV and salmonella," Dr Collins said.

"As well as providing a basic understanding of fundamental cellular processes, this work will lay the foundation for future efforts to design drugs that target specific intracellular transport pathways."



DR DUSTIN MARSHALL

A UQ researcher is set to investigate how organisms living in the marine environment adapt to pollution.

Dr Dustin Marshall, from the School of Integrative Biology, has received \$70,000 which will be used to help uncover the evolutionary consequences of pollution in the sea.

"Essentially I am asking, 'over many generations, what genetic change is pollution likely to cause?'" Dr Marshall said.

"Also, will pollution make organisms more susceptible to extinction?"

He will focus his research – believed to be an Australian first – on the sea squirt, or *Microcosmus squamiger*, which has a two-month lifespan, is easy to catch and is found in Moreton Bay.

"It's not very charismatic, but very easy to work on – a good lab rat for the sea," he said. "We'll be looking at how things like freshwater runoff affect the evolution of these organisms under field conditions – a first for marine research."



DR ANDREAS SCHLOENHARDT

Australia and Canada's records in combating human trafficking are among the worst in the developed world, according to UQ researcher Dr Andreas Schloenhardt.

Dr Schloenhardt said trafficking in persons remained a phenomenon not well understood and poorly researched.

"This is despite greater public awareness and acknowledgement of the problem by government agencies," he said.

"Strategic policies, concerted government action, along with prosecutions and convictions of traffickers are only slowly forthcoming and the support available to victims of trafficking is only marginally developed."

Dr Schloenhardt has received \$50,000 to conduct the first comprehensive and comparative analysis of the exploitation of foreign sex workers and trafficking in persons – especially women and children – in Australia and Canada.



research excellence awards 2008

DR BEN POWELL

UQ physicist Dr Ben Powell has been awarded \$75,000 for his project, which aims to provide a greater understanding of the behaviour of electrons in organic superconductors.

In the materials currently found in electronic devices, the interactions between electrons are relatively small.

Recent experiments suggest electrons within organic superconductors interact much more strongly.

Dr Powell will combine knowledge from physics and chemistry in an attempt to test his theories using a technique called neutron scattering.

"Neutron scattering is a powerful experiment used to understand condensed matter," Dr Powell said.

"We hope to be able to test our theories using organic superconducting materials created in the UQ Centre for Organic Photonics and Electronics (COPE) Laboratory, which will have a significant impact on our understanding of the way electrons behave when the interactions between them dominate their behaviour."



DR ELIZABETH COULSON

A QBI neuroscientist is working on ways to reduce neuronal loss in the brain of a person with Alzheimer's disease.

Dr Elizabeth Coulson and her Cell Survival Laboratory have been awarded \$80,000 to study what causes healthy nerve cells to "switch off" and die – a characteristic associated with many neurodegenerative conditions including Alzheimer's disease.

As one of the most common forms of dementia, Alzheimer's disease affects about 10 percent of the population aged over 65, and an estimated 40 percent of people aged 80 or above.

Dr Coulson said while memory loss in people with Alzheimer's disease could be attributed to several factors, researchers were starting to pinpoint some of the specific mechanisms thought to be responsible.

"These include a build-up of the neurotoxin beta-amyloid and corresponding degeneration of a specific population of nerve cells in the basal forebrain," she said.



DR SHIZHANG QIAO

UQ researcher Dr Shizhang Qiao is working on developing a new self-assembly technology to synthesise novel nanoparticles for selective separation of biomolecules.

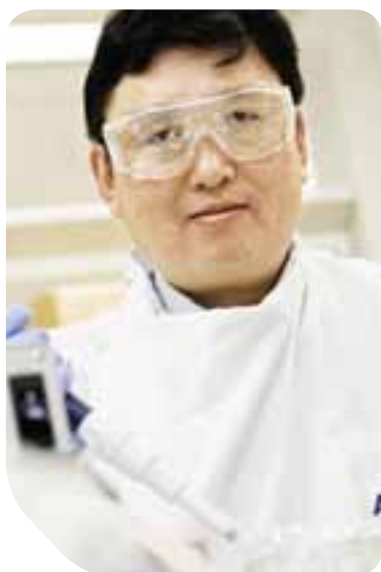
Working at the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Dr Qiao has been awarded \$80,000 to study the unique properties of mesoporous core-shell structured silica nanoparticles and their magnetic properties.

"Harnessing these properties has significant implications in drug manufacture and drug delivery," Dr Qiao said.

"By using the magnetic properties of these nanoparticles, separation of biomolecules will be more efficient and less costly, thereby reducing the production cost of drugs.

"We also hope to use these nanoparticles to improve the specificity of drug delivery."

According to Dr Qiao, the technology is not restricted to these examples and would also be useful in the chemical and food industries.



DR DAVID COPLAND

University of Queensland research is set to unlock the regions of the brain that are central to successful language treatment following a stroke.

Speech pathologist Dr David Copland has received \$80,000 to further his work in the area and launch the first large-scale study of its type in the world.

"This knowledge can improve treatment by increasing understanding of which treatment types work best for particular individuals and so maximising recovery for patients," Dr Copland said. "Usually, speech-language therapy is conducted by treating the brain like a 'black box' – we conduct the therapy, but we don't consider the brain function in the patient or the parts of the brain typically involved in the therapy.

"This is because we don't really know the brain mechanisms underlying successful treatment and recovery."

Australians suffer from around 50,000 strokes each year, with language impairment (aphasia), common in those who require rehabilitation.



DR BRAD LAUNIKONIS

Treatments for debilitating conditions such as muscular dystrophy could be found in the foreseeable future, thanks to a UQ study.

Dr Brad Launikonis, who was awarded \$90,000, is researching the way calcium moves in muscle fibres to regulate function.

The School of Biomedical Sciences researcher said his team would examine specific aspects of calcium regulation in the muscle cell, both in the short and long term.

"We need to understand this in as much detail as possible to determine what is failing in disease or in the progression of age," he said.

"We hope that our study of muscle will benefit diverse groups in society, from athletes wishing to understand how muscles fatigue, to groups working with dystrophy patients or other muscle degenerative states."

The award money will allow Dr Launikonis and his team to buy a fluorescence microscope that will be used to image calcium in single, isolated muscle fibres using calcium-sensitive fluorescent dyes.



DR LIANZHOU WANG

UQ research is developing a new class of efficient photocatalysts that can drive wastewater purification using the power of the sun.

Dr Lianzhou Wang, from UQ's School of Engineering, has been awarded \$75,000 and said with increasing water shortages predicted due to climate change and population growth, better use of our limited supplies was crucial.

"Many industries consume large amounts of clean water and end up with wastewater streams that are only slightly contaminated," Dr Wang said.

"This type of water has huge potential to be reused after proper and simple retreatment. Conventional treatment has high energy and operating costs, but our process is driven by the sun."

He said by using nanotechnology, he and his colleagues had been able to produce titanium dioxide-based nanomaterials that could be used as sunlight-driven purifiers.

"With appropriate modifications, the same materials can be used to degrade organic pollutants and remove them from water," he said.



DR FELICITY BAKER

Dementia often robs spouses of quality time together but an innovative UQ project hopes to find ways to reclaim it.

Dr Felicity Baker has received \$70,000 to investigate how music therapy techniques might improve partner satisfaction by providing opportunities for the sharing of memories associated with certain songs.

"One of the biggest problems of couples living together where one person has dementia is that there's a breakdown in the relationship as one partner begins to lose their ability to communicate and interact with their spouse," Dr Baker said.

"The project will involve a music therapist going into the home and showing the spouse how they can use music as a way of creating meaningful experiences with their partner."

Dr Baker said the music therapy intervention could potentially be developed into an instructional DVD, and was the first large-scale dementia study of its kind.



DR GREG MARSTON

UQ researcher Dr Greg Marston will use his 2008 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to help put more cash in the kitty for Australia's low-income earners.

Dr Marston, senior lecturer and convenor of the Social Policy Unit within the School of Social Work and Human Services, will use the \$60,000 award to investigate the financial lending practices of Australia's fringe economy and consumer experiences of accessing these services.

He defines the fringe economy as financial services that target low-income people – businesses such as pay-day lenders, pawn shops and sub-prime mortgage services.

He said the research project would identify the profiles of users of fringe financial services, including socio-demographic characteristics and patterns of use. Dr Marston will also use the study's outcomes to seek funding for a comparative investigation between Australia, the US, New Zealand and Canada.



A HELPING HAND

Nepal and Australia may be on opposite sides of the world, but that hasn't stopped a UQ graduate and long-serving staff member from helping out women and children in need.

By Penny Robinson



Dedicated is a word that aptly describes Dr Deborah Setterlund.

The 60-year-old social worker has spent the past 25 years training students in social work practice within UQ's Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences.

Now her focus is community development, and the Honorary Senior Lecturer spends at least three months each year in Nepal, the mountainous Third World nation sandwiched between China and India.

"I retired last year so that I could do this work more or less full-time," she says.

"But I still come in one day a week to supervise PhD students and do some writing from research."

Dr Setterlund and her husband Rod are active members of the Nepal Australia Friendship Association (NAFA) – an organisation of around 150 Brisbane-based volunteers, established in 1989.

NAFA-supported projects include a remote cataract eye surgery clinic, a health clinic and school in Tawal (a village in the hilly region northwest of Kathmandu), and two childcare centres in Pokhara that enable low-caste parents to seek employment.

One of NAFA's top priorities is helping imprisoned Nepali women and their children, which it does through supporting local organisation Prisoners Assistance Nepal (PA Nepal).

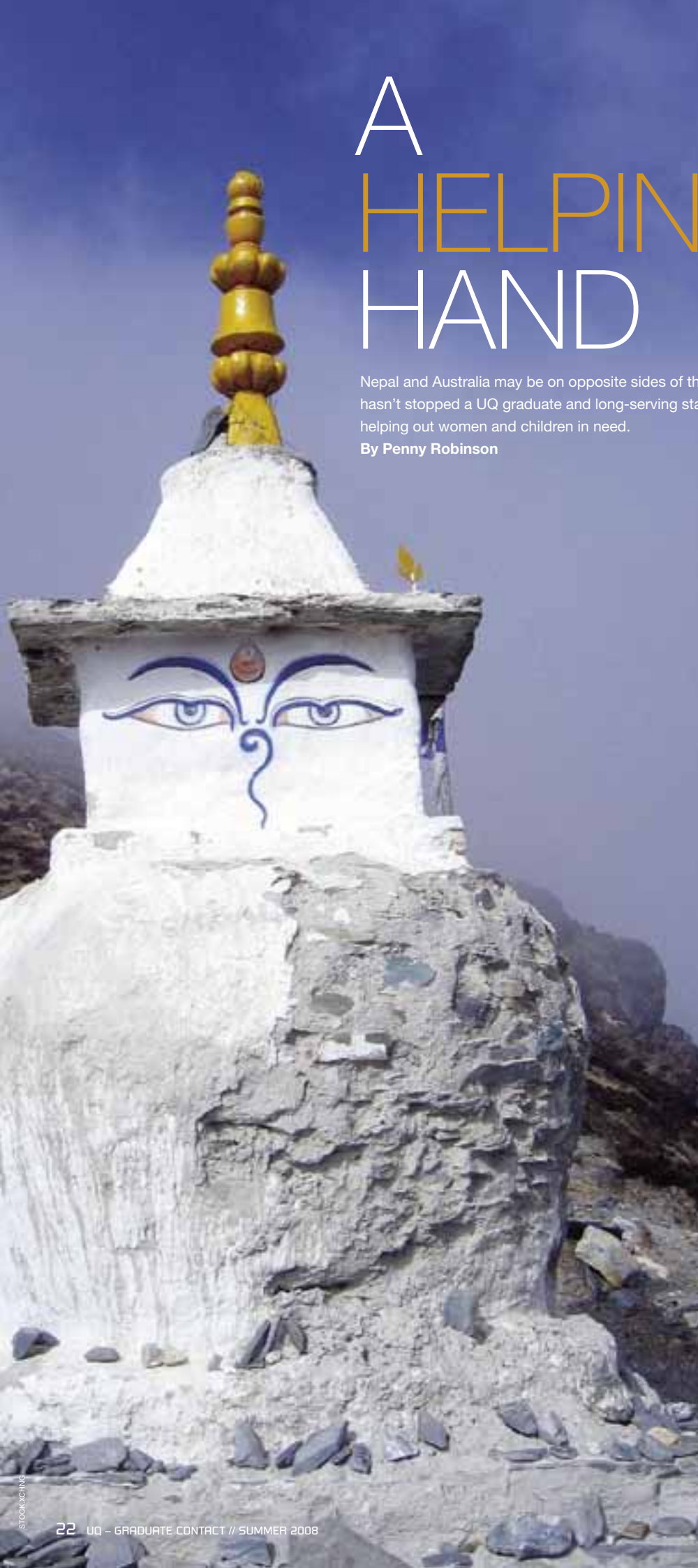
Dr Setterlund left Brisbane for Kathmandu for the 9th time in September and said one of the people she always looked forward to seeing was Indira Ranamagar, a social worker and human rights advocate who runs PA Nepal.

"We first started helping PA Nepal about five years ago," Dr Setterlund says.

"Indira has a wonderful rapport with the prison authorities – they trust her.

"The prison will ring her and say 'we've got a new prisoner here, she's got three children, she's very sick, she can't manage, the children need care, can you help her?'"

Women who end up in Nepal's overcrowded jails are often poor, sick and serving lengthy sentences for crimes which, in Australia, would be considered unworthy of prosecution.





Social conscience: (clockwise from left) Nepalese children in a new classroom in Tawal, Indira Ranamagar and her daughter Subani, Dr Setterlund conducting a workshop and a Nepalese girl and her younger brother

"One of the quite disturbing things we discovered was that women were in there for infanticide – they'd had abortions," Dr Setterlund says.

"While the law has changed around that now, the cultural view is still very negative.

"Indira did a lot of advocacy work with a girl who was only about 16 who had been given a 12-year sentence for infanticide.

"She'd been raped by a relative and, to avoid the relative being prosecuted, a family member gave her some poison to cause a miscarriage, and she was then prosecuted and landed in jail.

"Indira protested about that and got the then-King to pardon this young woman.

"Some of the women have been involved in fraud, some in smuggling and some have been helping their husbands with human trafficking, which sounds horrendous but often the women don't have a lot of choice.

"Their husbands are saying 'you either help me or I'm leaving you,' and to be a divorced woman in Nepal is a very vulnerable position."

And while life inside a Nepali jail is a grim existence, the female prisoners take some solace in the fact that their children are safe.

Ms Ranamagar runs two children's homes – one in Kathmandu and another in a village just outside of the city, established in an effort to get away from the pollution and overcrowding in Nepal's capital.

For the children of Nepali inmates, Ms Ranamagar's homes offer a safe and loving alternative to living in prison with their parents, or on the streets.

PA Nepal cares for approximately 80 children whose parents are either in jail, dead, or went missing in the 10-year armed conflict that ended last year.

"Unfortunately there's a limit to the number of children that Indira can take but she finds it hard to say no because she knows that they'll have a good upbringing in her home," Dr Setterlund says.

"In a country like Nepal that's so poor, sometimes homes are set up as a front for child trafficking or they're just there to make money."

"IN A COUNTRY LIKE NEPAL THAT'S SO POOR, SOMETIMES HOMES ARE SET UP AS A FRONT FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING OR THEY'RE JUST THERE TO MAKE MONEY."

"People will go to the villages and say to the parents, 'I've got a boarding school in Kathmandu, your children can come to me', and then they're brought to the city and they're not looked after."

The need for transparency, and a love of Nepal and its people, are the reasons that four of NAFA's executive members visit the country each year to lend a hand with projects, and ensure funds are being spent responsibly.

"We have lots of guidelines in place," Dr Setterlund says.

"People have to show us separate bank accounts for the money they receive from us – it can't go into their personal bank accounts.

"We're careful about making sure that we are absolutely accountable for every cent.

"The four of us who travel regularly completely fund our own trips. We pay for everything, so we can guarantee that every dollar donated for our overseas aid program goes to Nepal. Plus we have a great time working with all the Nepali adults and children associated with our projects."



NAFA fundraising activities include a Nepali New Year Dinner, a Hike to Help Nepal and selling craft items at market stalls.

Donors have the option of specifying which NAFA projects their money supports, an initiative that has increased the organisation's fundraising success. NAFA is recognised by AusAID as a legitimate overseas aid organisation which means all donations are tax deductible.

With 25 years' lecturing experience, as well as a Bachelor of Social Studies and Masters (UQ, 1989) and PhD (UQ, 1996) in social work, Dr Setterlund is one of NAFA's most valuable and qualified members.

On top of monitoring current NAFA projects, she utilises her social work expertise during the annual extended visits.

"Because of my social work background, I've been able to think about how our projects could be run with more of a community development approach," she says.

"It has to be a community owning it and believing in it and growing with it and being trained in it and thinking about the idea of a gift to someone else, which is not necessarily part of the culture."

This year, for the first time, Dr Setterlund is taking two UQ final-year undergraduate social work students – James Norman and Georgina Heaslop – to Nepal to undertake NAFA work as part of their course requirements.

The students are assisting with a project called FEAT – Further Education and Training for Youth.

"We're concerned about what becomes of children in NAFA's programs once they reach grade 10 and can leave school," Dr Setterlund says.

Dr and Mr Setterlund will return home to Brisbane in December, just in time to start brainstorming new fundraising initiatives for NAFA's 20th anniversary in 2009.

INFO // To learn more about NAFA projects, or offer donations, visit www.nepalaust.org or email setterlund@hotmail.com

Celebrate The University of Queensland's Centenary in 2010

The year 2010 marks the Centenary of The University of Queensland.

As a valued alumnus, The University of Queensland invites you and your family and friends to celebrate with us.

In recognition of this historic event, a series of celebratory programs and activities will run throughout 2010 at all UQ campuses throughout Australia and internationally.

You can help us celebrate at the UQ Alumni Centenary Reunion Weekend, a dedicated weekend of cultural, social, sporting and academic events planned for April 16-18 at the St Lucia campus.

If you have any old photos, stories or memories of UQ, would like to be involved as a volunteer, or have an idea about how you would like to celebrate, please email uqalumni@uq.edu.au

Graduates catch up after half a century

More than 150 alumni, their guests and UQ staff attended this year's Graduates of 50 or More Years Reunion Lunch.

The event was held at Customs House in August and hosted by the Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards.

Guest presenter Professor Bill von Hippel, from UQ's School of Psychology, spoke about happiness. Professor von Hippel gave examples of his research into what makes people happy, what doesn't and how people confuse the two.

Master of Ceremonies and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger gave an overview of new developments at UQ against a backdrop of historical photos.

The Advancement Office looks forward to welcoming back alumni to next year's Graduates of 50 or More Years Reunion Lunch.



IMAGES LYLE RADFORD

Top: Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards

Middle: Dr Patrick O'Dwyer

Bottom: Professor Keniger addresses guests

BRISBANE'S BEST BOOK BARGAINS



UQ ALUMNI BOOK FAIR®

UQ Centre, The University of Queensland, St Lucia

**Saturday 25 April (Anzac Day) –
Wednesday 29 April 2009**

Anzac Day, 12–5pm, other days 11am–5pm

Sunday 26 April, open 10am–11am exclusively for people with disabilities (may be accompanied by one carer)

Free parking Saturday and Sunday

Refreshments for sale by the Red Cross

RARE BOOK AUCTION

The Women's College, St Lucia
Friday 24 April 2009 at 6.30pm



www.uq.edu.au/alumni, alumni@uq.edu.au or (07) 3365 1562

Honour for outstanding alumni

UQ has celebrated the achievements of a women's rights champion, a peace activist and a disability services advocate in its annual **Alumnus of the Year** awards.

Australia's first female Governor-General, Quentin Bryce, has been named **Alumnus of the Year**, Cambodian aid worker Path Heang **International Alumnus of the Year** and music therapist Alissa Phillips **Young Alumnus of the Year**.

Mr Heang and Ms Phillips received their awards at the 2008 Courting the Greats luncheon, hosted by UQ's Chancellor Sir Lew Edwards, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield and Vice-President of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. Dalma Jacobs on September 25.

Dr Bryce, who was unable to attend the event, will be presented with her award at a special ceremony next year.

Professor Greenfield said UQ was honoured to have such extraordinary alumni.

"Dr Bryce, Mr Heang and Ms Phillips have used the knowledge and experience they gained at UQ to remarkable effect, and their work will have lasting positive impacts on the lives of individuals, communities and even nations," he said.

The **International Alumnus of the Year Award** was introduced in 2002 to recognise the outstanding personal and professional achievements of UQ's international alumni.

Mr Heang was taken from his parents at age six and forced into a Khmer Rouge labour camp in the 1970s.

He graduated from UQ in 2004 with a **Master of International Studies (Peace and Conflict Resolution)**.

As a young boy, Mr Heang endured severe hardships during internal conflicts in Cambodia.

He taught himself English by reading the labels on food commodities sent by UNICEF when the Khmer Rouge was overthrown.

From these beginnings, he triumphed over adversity to win a **Rotary World Peace Fellowship** to fund his study at UQ.

He worked with the **Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace**, was program officer for the **World Bank's Justice for the Poor** program and is currently working for the **United Nations Development Programme** in its **Access to Justice** project.

Nominees for UQ's **Young Alumnus of the Year** must be under the age of 35 and are



LATE PHOTOGRAPH



COURTESY PATH HEANG



COURTESY ALISSA PHILLIPS

Above: Mr Heang and Ms Phillips with their awards

Far left: Mr Heang teaching conflict resolution to communities in Cambodia

Left: Ms Phillips with Christopher Seizovic, who participates in her music therapy sessions

judged on their career achievements and how they have benefited the community.

Ms Phillips graduated with her **Masters in Music Therapy** in 2006 and last year won the **Lord Mayor's Young Citizen of the Year** award.

As a registered music therapist, she has created a centre where young people with disabilities and their families can access allied health professionals such as physiotherapists and speech therapists.

The **Specialised Programs and Community Endeavours**, or **SPACE**, is also where young people with speech and language impairments, autism, acquired brain injuries and other disabilities can socialise.

Ms Phillips has already developed a music therapy program called **BEAT** (Be Enriched and Together with Music), aimed at teaching social skills to young people with intellectual impairments and autism.

She works with residents and clients of **YoungCare**, which provides relevant and dignified lifestyles for young Australians who need high levels of care. She also works as a music therapist at the **Glenleighden School** for children with speech language impairments.

The following alumni, nominated for the 2008 **International Alumnus of the Year** awards, were highly commended by the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Ali Al-Issa, PhD Educ 2002

Assistant Professor of English Language Teaching and the Assistant Dean for Postgraduate and Research at the College of Law – Sultan Qaboos University.

Acknowledgement for achievements in education in the Sultanate of Oman.

Dr Ali was the first Omani to be awarded a PhD by an Australian university.

Kumaran Phillai, BInfTech 1997

Acknowledgement for service to the finance sector in Asia.

Dr Bin Tean Teh, MD (Medicine) 1992

Director, **VARI International**, Van Andel Research Institute, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Acknowledgement for outstanding services to research and innovation in cancer genomics.

Earthquake aid

A UQ research and commercialisation dynamo has lent his energy to help survivors of the earthquake which devastated southwest China earlier this year.

Professor Max Lu, UQ's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Linkages), is one of the founders of the Sichuan Earthquake Surviving Children's Education Fund, which aims to be a lifeline for the schooling of devastated children.

Launched in May, the fund is run by the Federation of Chinese Scholars in Australia (FOCSA), of which Professor Lu is honorary president, and raised more than \$16,000 during its first two days.

"Our aim is to ensure orphaned, badly injured and disabled children living near the epicentre, in Beichuan County, can at least retain hope that their educations will continue," Professor Lu said.

He said FOCSA would partner with education authorities to ensure all donations were used to assist children's education.

Funds will sponsor a school to rebuild classrooms, or provide children with financial support for tuition and living expenses, so they could continue studying until the end of Year 12.

INFO // To donate, visit <http://e-research.csm.vu.edu.au/ict/donation.php>



When Professor Ian Zimmer officiates at his last graduation ceremony in December, he estimates he will have witnessed almost 20,000 excited graduands receive their awards.

The Executive Dean of UQ's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law will hang up the official robes at the end of 2008 after 10 years in the job.

Professor Zimmer (pictured) was appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty in 1998 and has officiated at more than 70 graduation ceremonies in Brisbane and overseas.

During Professor Zimmer's tenure, the faculty has grown to become a destination of choice for international students; approximately 1800 international students are now enrolled in faculty programs from more than 60 countries.

"The increase in the number of international students studying programs with the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law over the past 10

years is a reflection on the quality of the programs on offer and the growing reputation the University has in the region," Professor Zimmer said.

"I would like to think that UQ's international student population has also played a large part in the growth of Brisbane into a modern cosmopolitan city that is placed comfortably among other cities in the Asia-Pacific region."

Professor Zimmer said he was honoured to have been involved in the continued growth of all four of the faculty's constituent schools into areas of innovation in research and teaching and learning.

He said he was also fortunate to be a part of some of the University's recent fundraising initiatives such as the Frank Finn Scholarship Fund.

Professor Zimmer began his involvement with UQ as a Reader in 1984. Since then, he has held positions such as Professor of Accounting, Head of the School of Commerce and Head of the TC Beirne School of Law.

UQ duo top Queenslanders

Wotif.com co-founder, philanthropist and University of Queensland alumnus Graeme Wood has been named the 2008 Queenslander of the Year while a UQ student and Afghan refugee is Young Queenslander of the Year.

Mr Wood was presented with his award by Premier Anna Bligh at a ceremony held at Parliament House in June, and follows recent UQ winners Professor Matt Sanders and Professor Ian Frazer.

In accepting the award, Mr Wood said Queensland was the ideal location to launch a global business such as Wotif.com and encouraged Queenslanders to give back to their communities.

"I hope this becomes an example to people who have the capacity to give more back to Queensland, Australia and the world in general," Mr Wood said.

In 2000, Mr Wood, who holds a Bachelor of Economics and Master of Information Systems from UQ, founded Wotif.com with fellow UQ graduate Andrew Brice.

Wotif.com was listed on the Australian stock exchange in June 2006 and, in

October 2007, Mr Wood retired from his role as CEO and Managing Director, giving him more time to dedicate to his philanthropic initiatives such as the Graeme Wood Foundation and The University of Queensland Endowment Fund.

In further success, UQ Bachelor of Science student Homa Forotan (pictured) was named the 2008 Young Queenslander of the Year.

Ms Forotan arrived in Australia in 2005 as an Afghan refugee and went on to achieve an OP1 before being awarded a Group of Eight scholarship.

She is active in the UQ Muslim Student Association and radio 4EB ethnic broadcasting for Afghans, and said she was keen to do her part in promoting harmony between cultures and a positive image of refugees and the Islamic faith.

Ultimately, Ms Forotan hopes to practise medicine in all three of her "homelands": Afghanistan, Australia and Pakistan, where she and her family stayed before moving to Brisbane.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to convey my deep thanks to the Queensland Government, who considered me for this prestigious award regardless of my faith, cultural background and other differences," Ms Forotan said.



Bronzed Aussies

The Australian Olympic team returned home from China with its second highest medal haul in history, with UQ athletes playing a key part in the success. **By Cameron Pegg**

Sixteen UQ athletes amassed one gold and six bronze medals between them in Beijing, one of the best ever efforts from a University contingent.

Science student Melanie Schlanger scored the first UQ medal of the Games when she picked up a bronze in the 4 x 100m relay, backing up in the heats of the 4 x 200m to help Australia claim a historic gold medal in the event.

Ms Schlanger took part in the Brisbane Olympians parade on September 19 and said the Games and the reception at home had been an incredible experience.

"Just to walk down the street with teammates and have so many supporters out there, it was just excellent," she said.

"It kind of hits home about how amazing an Olympics are."

Fellow swimmer Leith Brodie scored relay bronze twice (4 x 100m and 4 x 200m) and narrowly missed the final of the 200m individual medley, which was won by American Olympic superstar Michael Phelps.

It was also a successful campaign for softball Tanya Harding, who added a bronze to

her Olympic tally, and for Suzie Fraser and Amy Hetzel in the women's water polo, triumphing over Hungary in a penalty shoot-out for the bronze.

Human movement studies student Emma Moffatt placed third in the triathlon behind teammate Emma Snowsill, with UQ staff member Shaun Stephens serving as a team coach.

The Games were also memorable for business management student Sam Conrad, who made the final of the men's rowing eight, and medical student Robert Newbery, who narrowly missed out on a medal in the 10m synchronised diving event in his third and final Olympics.

Meanwhile, UQ alumni Laurie Lawrence and John Eales played their part behind the scenes as team motivators.

And in another special achievement, Dr Ian Jobling, Director of UQ's Centre for Olympic Studies, has been appointed to the Executive Board of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

A UQ SPORT function officially honouring the athletes took place on October 25.

2008 UQ Olympic Medallists

Leith Brodie – Swimming
4 x 100m relay (bronze)

4 x 200m relay (bronze)

Suzie Fraser –
Water Polo (bronze)

Tanya Harding – Softball (bronze)

Amy Hetzel – Water Polo (bronze)

Emma Moffatt –
Triathlon (bronze)

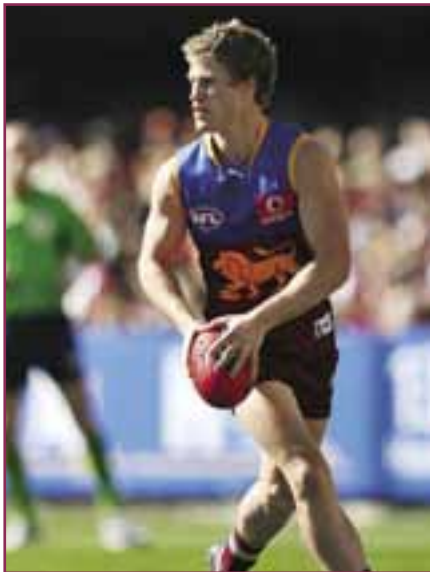
Melanie Schlanger – Swimming
4 x 100m relay (bronze)

4 x 200m relay (gold)

Members of the bronze medal-winning 4 x 100m freestyle relay team (from left): Alice Mills, Cate Campbell, Melanie Schlanger and Libby Trickett



COURTESY THE SLATTERY GROUP



GRADUATION GOAL

It may have taken a decade, but Brisbane Lions midfielder and three-time AFL Premiership player Luke Power now has a UQ degree.

"It's been 10 long years...I think I must be the longest-serving arts student ever," Mr Power said.

Born in Melbourne, he moved to Brisbane in 1998 to play with the Lions and enrol in an arts degree, majoring in journalism and psychology.

"I'm from a very academic-oriented family. My mum and dad both studied and always encouraged me to do something besides football," Mr Power said.

"When I had to decide what course to go for, I chose journalism because I always liked writing.

"I'm sure I'll write the occasional article but I'd probably prefer to work in communications or marketing."

Despite squeezing study around 209 Lions games, a gruelling training schedule and media commitments, Mr Power said he was glad to have had the university experience.

"I studied part-time and towards the end was only doing one subject a semester because of my football commitments," he said.

"I chose UQ because it had some really great features – the facilities and resources were great but I also enjoyed the historical aspect of the campus and being around the old buildings."

EDUCATOR HONOURED

UQ has recognised the President of the University of South Carolina (USC), Dr Andrew A Sorensen, with an honorary doctorate.

A distinguished educator, researcher and government advisor in areas including medicine, biosecurity, AIDS and public health, Dr Sorensen has led USC to unprecedented success during his six-year presidency.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this degree from The University of Queensland," he said.

"It has special significance for me, given the collaboration between South Carolina and Queensland, as well as the special relationship between The University of Queensland and the University of South Carolina."

UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, said Dr Sorensen had pursued a vision to elevate his university as a catalyst for economic growth and positive societal change.

Before being appointed President of USC, Dr Sorensen served as President of the University of Alabama, Executive Director of the AIDS Institute at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

He has also been a visiting faculty member at the Harvard University School of Medicine and the University of Cambridge School of Medicine.



JEREMY PATTEN

A tale of two sisters

They crossed oceans to begin a new life as students in Australia and now sisters Manroop and Charanpreet Soin have farewelled their time at UQ to embark on new experiences.

Call it luck, an act of fate or divine intervention but the Kenyan-born sister act not only graduated on the same day, but at the same ceremony.

The sisters (pictured first and third left respectively), were joined by their parents who flew in from Kenya specially for the occasion.

Charanpreet, who finished a Bachelor of Environmental Management (Sustainable Development) last year, deferred her graduation six months to tie in with Manroop's big day, but wasn't aware at first that they would be attending the same ceremony.

"It was just luck that this year both our graduations fell on the same day and even

luckier that we managed to get into the same ceremony," she said.

Manroop chose to study a Bachelor of Business Management/Law dual degree to broaden her career options.

UQ is a long way from the cultural surrounds of Nairobi, with both girls being each other's pillar of strength as they juggled new beginnings in a foreign country.

"As we both studied completely different subjects and courses there was no rivalry and competitiveness in that respect, however it does make life very easy having family close by," Charanpreet said.

She said both UQ and Australia were leaders in the field of sustainability, making the decision to study in Brisbane easy.

"University was always part of the plan, initially I had wanted to undertake a degree in marine biology but changed my mind once I read about the environmental management course offered here at UQ."



STEWART COULD

Alumni events strengthen Asian connections

UQ delegates met with alumni and business partners during a recent whirlwind tour of China and Hong Kong. **By Penny Robinson**

Congratulating graduates and strengthening relationships with industry were Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield's top priorities during a recent trip to China and Hong Kong.

Between October 11 and 19, Professor Greenfield attended functions in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

Accompanying Professor Greenfield in China was Professor Max Lu, the recently appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Linkages).



Clockwise from current image:
UQ Law graduate Jennifer Cheung and Justice Roslyn Atkinson of the Queensland Supreme Court

Douglas Porter, Justice Atkinson, Professor Richard Fotheringham and Director-General of the China Executive Leadership Academy Jiang Haishan

IMAGES WENZ PHOTOGRAPHY



The UQ delegation with a model of the main Shanghai Jiao Tong University campus

Originally from Shandong Province, Professor Lu has strengthened UQ's research alliances with industry, governments and academic institutions.

In 2006, *Phoenix* magazine ranked Professor Lu among the world's 50 most inspiring Chinese people. He is the Honourary President of the Federation of Chinese Scholars in Australia and an Adjunct Professor at several Chinese universities.

"Professor Lu is a champion of collaboration in science and technology between Australia and China," Professor Greenfield said.

"He was also instrumental in setting up an appeal that has now raised enough money to rebuild a school in Sichuan, and will help child casualties of the 2008 earthquake to continue their education."

Beijing

Professor Greenfield arrived in Beijing on October 11 and attended a UQ dinner and an alumni reception.

Chinese students comprise 20 percent of UQ's international student body, with most studying business and commerce.

"In Beijing I signed two new agreements: one between the China Coal Research Institute and a centre within our Sustainable Minerals Institute, and the other between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and UQ's School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering," Professor Greenfield said.

Shanghai

The two-day trip to Shanghai allowed the Vice-Chancellor to update partners on research collaborations between UQ and Chinese institutions.

"In Shanghai, I have had discussions about E-Water research with Shanghai Jiao Tong University," Professor Greenfield said.

New economics graduate Kayeung Choi

Guangzhou

Professor Greenfield arrived in the capital of Guangdong Province in the southern part of the People's Republic of China on October 16.

Among his activities were visiting Sun Yat San University to sign an agreement between Lingnan College and UQ's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (BEL).

This collaboration will include a double degree articulation program, scholarships offered to Lingnan students, research cooperation and academic exchanges.

Hong Kong

The Vice-Chancellor was able to congratulate recent Hong Kong graduates in person during a graduation celebration on October 18, where more than 250 guests witnessed the graduation of 42 recent graduates, including three PhDs.

Also in Hong Kong, Professor Greenfield announced developments at the School of Veterinary Science. In 2010, the school will relocate from St Lucia to Gatton, where the \$33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science was recently opened.

An employment seminar hosted by the BEL Faculty allowed Professor Greenfield to inform alumni and friends of UQ's upcoming centenary.

"We plan to bring some of the 2010 celebrations to Hong Kong, but we also hope alumni will come back to the University," he said.



Are you mentor material?



LB

The UQ Law Graduates Association and the TC Beirne School of Law conduct a mentoring program for students in the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) program.

The program matches selected students with a legal professional who they can approach for practical advice on study, legal practice, career paths and job opportunities.

You are invited to participate as a mentor.

To register your interest go to www.law.uq.edu.au/mentor



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CRICOS Provider Number 00025B

+ UQP BOOKSHELF

BITTER CHOCOLATE: Investigating the dark side of the world's most seductive sweet

Carol Off // RRP \$34.95

Providing food for thought at this year's Brisbane Writers Festival was Canadian journalist Carol Off, whose new book *Bitter Chocolate* delves into the dark side of the confectionary trade.

Published in July by University of Queensland Press, the book offers a stinging exposé of the chocolate industry throughout the ages.

Ms Off said the Spanish stole the secret of chocolate from the Mesoamericans, whose use of cocoa concoctions dates back thousands of years. From there, it was only a matter of time before the chocolate craze spread throughout Europe and then America.

"I found a long history of cocoa as a product that was consumed by the elites while it was produced by slaves. That history goes back to ancient Olmecs and the Aztecs ruled by Montezuma, who was the world's first chocoholic," Ms Off said.

Bitter Chocolate details how some of the biggest names in the business were complicit in the slave trade during the 18th and 19th centuries, despite their public opposition at the time.

She also discovered disturbing reports that African child labour continues to be used in cocoa farms and her subsequent investigation into the practice forms an important part of the book.

"I was surprised that the farmers and their labourers – mostly conscripted and forced labour of children – didn't know anything about chocolate," Ms Off said.

"They harvested the beans and cultivated cocoa but they told me they had no idea what westerners did with the beans or how they were consumed. They had never tasted chocolate and probably never will."



SHOWTIME: A history of the Brisbane Exhibition

Joanne Scott and Ross Laurie // RRP \$39.95

A historical account of the Brisbane Exhibition reveals much more about Queensland than its love of show bags, fairy floss and cattle displays.

Dr Ross Laurie, a lecturer in Australian History at UQ Ipswich, and co-author Associate Professor Joanne Scott from the University of the Sunshine Coast, delved into the event's 132-year history to produce *Showtime*, which is published by UQP.

The colourful 250-page publication explores everything from Ekka foods to entertainment in the main ring, and provides a fascinating sense of the state's development.

"We had always wondered why a comprehensive history of this iconic event had not been done, so when we had the opportunity we began the project," Dr Laurie said.

"We were able to chart the development of Brisbane through the lens of the exhibition – changes in dress, behaviour, cuisine etc."

Since 1876 the 10-day event, which was originally intended to showcase the state's agricultural, pastoral and industrial resources, has attracted a large number of Queenslanders to their capital city.

"One of the themes we explore is 'the country comes to town'," Dr Laurie said.

"The impact of the bush ethos through ring events, wood chop, sheepdog trials and other rural events demonstrates that abiding connection, which does seem stronger in the case of the Brisbane Show than for other states, though more research on this needs to be done."

In assembling *Showtime*, the authors drew upon a variety of printed, photographic and oral history sources, and conducted about 50 interviews on the Ekka experience.



Fuel for thought

Standing six metres tall and taking a small army to assemble, the UQ Art Museum's latest acquisition certainly makes a statement. **By Cameron Pegg**

Attention grabbing art comes in all shapes and sizes, as *My Humvee* by Melbourne artist Peter Hennessey attests.

Carved out of black painted plywood and standing permanently in the UQ Art Museum foyer, the piece resembles a tower that on closer inspection becomes a model of the gas-guzzling car tipped on its nose.

Commissioned for the 2008 Melbourne Art Fair, the work was donated to the University by the Melbourne Art Fair Foundation and was officially launched in September.

"The Humvee is the workhorse of the US military; tens of thousands of these vehicles are deployed wherever American forces are sent," UQ Art Museum Director Mr Mitzevich said.

"It's a mind-bogglingly functional vehicle but it's also legendarily fuel inefficient, with the Hummer, a consumer version, voted the most environmentally unfriendly vehicle of 2004."

Although the Humvee burns five litres of fuel per kilometre, Mr Mitzevich said the vehicle enjoyed a cult status among celebrities and consumers, with Arnold Schwarzenegger credited as the first US civilian to own one.

"As such, the Humvee is a potent symbol of the excesses of both western military power as well as consumer culture," he said.

Mr Hennessey travelled to UQ to install the artwork, which is made up of 3000 individual pieces and took four people three days to erect.

He said the museum was the perfect place to house the sculpture due to its spaciousness and natural lighting, which allowed the work to be appreciated from different angles at different times.

"*My Humvee* is a powerful work that demonstrates the possibility of art in the 21st century," Mr Mitzevich said.

"Its size and scale are impressive but as equally compelling are the ideas which the work explores."

The UQ Art Museum is open free to the public between 10am-4pm daily with parking free on weekends.

Eco art: Artist Peter Hennessey with *My Humvee*



+ KEEP IN CONTACT



COURTESY BOB ANDERSSSEN

Dr Anderssen receives his honorary doctorate from La Trobe University Chancellor Sylvia Walton

1959

PASTA, PIANOS, PLASTIC AND... MATHS

Dr Bob Anderssen, BSc (hons), MSc

CSIRO mathematician Dr Bob Anderssen knows a thing or two about the good life – he does the maths that makes it enjoyable.

Dr Anderssen has used mathematics to understand the drying process of pasta manufacture, increase understanding of vibrating piano strings and maximise the efficiency of mixing wheat-flour bread dough.

Now, 41 years after being awarded a PhD, Dr Anderssen has received his second doctorate, an honorary Doctor of Science, from La Trobe University in Bendigo.

Dr Anderssen said his studies have taken him into areas few people could imagine maths had anything to do with.

"The importance of mathematics is not always obvious," he said.

"Mathematical approaches, like breaking complex problems down into several simpler ones, can help solve all kinds of problems in a whole range of different areas."

His recent work deals with pattern formation in plants and its role in genetics and agriculture.

In his speech at La Trobe University to fellow graduates, Dr Anderssen explained the challenge of mathematically modelling industrial "collars" used to package breakfast cereals and other commodities into plastic bags without tearing them.

Dr Anderssen is now a Post-Retirement Research Fellow at CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences, where he has worked for many years.

He grew up in country Queensland going to school in Tingalpa, Wynnum North, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Charters Towers, before studying at The University of Queensland.

Dr Anderssen also earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Adelaide.

His research illustrates the breadth and depth of applied mathematics and the importance of mathematics in applications.

His work has been published in research journals on agriculture, cereal science, mathematics and even brewing.

1979

GRADUATE WINS PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

Helen Rowe, BOccThy

Occupational therapy graduate Helen Rowe has been given an opportunity to travel around the world for seven weeks to learn more about allied health, working in the area of chronic pain management.

Ms Rowe was awarded a Churchill Fellowship, also known as a Travelling Fellowship, awarded by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

This year, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust provided the opportunity for 120 Australians to travel overseas and undertake research not available in Australia. Benefit to the Australian community played a significant role in the selection of the fellows.

Ms Rowe will be travelling in early 2009 to study the clinical practice of allied health team members within Multidisciplinary Pain Management Centres in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada and New Zealand.

"I've been interested in the concept of the Churchill Fellowship for a long time. I saw an advertisement for it and I was at a time in my career where I wanted to grow as a practitioner, but was not interested in that point in time in further academic study. I wanted to add to my knowledge base and the fellowship offered an opportunity to travel around the world and learn in clinical settings," she said.

Ms Rowe will be observing and talking to allied health practitioners during her trip in hope of learning more about the roles of allied health and the clinical settings they work in.

"I am interested in both their theoretical and evidence-based focus and the practical daily issues they face," she said.

The information obtained will be used in the Tess Cramond Multidisciplinary Pain Centre, Royal Brisbane Hospital and reported on throughout Queensland and Australia.

"I want to bring information back and make it useful to other practitioners, ultimately improving the quality of service provision to patients," she said.

Ms Rowe has been working as an occupational therapist at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital for five years. She has also been running a private practice in Paddington for a decade.

Ms Rowe graduated from UQ in 1979 with a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and has since acquired a Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling, a Masters in Counselling and a Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Hypnosis, all from Queensland University of Technology.



COURTESY HELEN ROWE

"I WANT TO BRING INFORMATION BACK AND MAKE IT USEFUL TO OTHER PRACTITIONERS, ULTIMATELY IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE PROVISION TO PATIENTS"

1985

EAST AND WEST

Lloyd Parker, BCom, LLB (hons), BA

UQ graduate Lloyd Parker recently made a special trip back to UQ from Tokyo to interview the applicants of the Lovells Horitsu Jimusho Gaikokuho Kyoto Jigyo Japanese language prize.

The prize was awarded to Stewart Webster, a combined Japanese language and law student who had high grades in both disciplines and presented well during the interview process.

Mr Parker initiated the prize in his current role as Managing Partner for Lovells Horitsu Jimusho Gaikokuho Kyodo Jigyo (Tokyo).

Mr Parker is an alumnus with a long history as a student with UQ.

During his time at UQ he was a recipient of two scholarships to study in Japan, including the Australia Japan Foundation Scholarship at Doshisha University and a UQ scholarship to study at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies.

"I see this as an opportunity to encourage other people and to give something back to the Australia-Japan relationship," Mr Parker said.

"(A UQ qualification) opens up so many doors for you. Even before you graduate and start looking for a job, it's a huge seal of approval because it is considered so highly by employers."



COURTESY LLOYD PARKER



STEWART GOULD

"UNDERSTANDING HOW A MOTHER RESPONDS UNIQUELY TO HER OWN INFANT, WHEN SMILING OR CRYING, MAY BE THE FIRST STEP IN UNDERSTANDING THE NEURAL BASIS OF MOTHER-INFANT ATTACHMENT"

1992

A BABY'S SMILE IS A NATURAL HIGH

Lane Strathearn, MBBS

UQ medical graduate and US-based developmental pediatrician Dr Lane Strathearn has found a baby's smile can trigger more than just a fuzzy feeling for a new mother.

Dr Strathearn and his team from the Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) conducted a study that involved asking 28 first-time mothers to watch photos of their own babies and other infants while they were in a functional magnetic resonance imaging scanner.

The findings of the research, which appeared in the July edition of *Pediatrics*, revealed that when a mother sees a photograph of her own child smiling, the reward centres of her brain light up.

Dr Strathearn said the finding could help scientists explain the special mother-infant bond and how it sometimes goes wrong.

"The relationship between mothers and infants is critical for child development," Dr Strathearn said.

"For whatever reason, in some cases, that relationship doesn't develop normally.

"Neglect and abuse can result, with devastating effects on a child's development."

A major finding was that when the mothers saw their own infants' faces, key areas of the brain associated with reward lit up.

"These are areas that have been activated in other experiments associated with drug addiction," Dr Strathearn said.

"It may be that seeing your own baby's face is like a 'natural high'.

"The strongest activation was with smiling faces.

"We were expecting a different reaction with sad faces."

In fact, the researchers noted little difference in the mothers' brains when they saw their own babies' crying face compared to that of an unknown child.

"Understanding how a mother responds uniquely to her own infant, when smiling or crying, may be the first

step in understanding the neural basis of mother-infant attachment," Dr Strathearn said.

Dr Strathearn, who graduated from UQ in 1992, is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at BCM and Texas Children's Hospital, and a Research Associate in BCM's Human Neuroimaging Laboratory.

Others who took part in the study included BCM's Dr Read Montague and Dr Jian Li and Professor Peter Fonagy of University College London.

The research received funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Kane Family Foundation, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.



JEREMY PATTEN

1993

SKELETONS COME OUT OF CLOSET FOR EXHIBITION

Alison Kubler, BA

When Alison Kubler returned to UQ earlier this year, she brought her fair share of skeletons with her.

It was a welcome return for the art history graduate, who crossed the country finding skulls, snakes and tombstones to include in the *neo goth: back in black* exhibition – one of the biggest art shows the University has ever staged.

Taking over both floors of the UQ Art Museum and attracting more than 6000 people, the exhibition included photography, film, painting, fashion and sculpture, and featured works from artists including 2008 Archibald Prize winner Del Kathryn Barton.

"Though the ideas behind *neo goth* were a very long time in conception, I only had about six months to realise the exhibition, which was slightly daunting considering it featured 60 artists and 170 artworks," Ms Kubler said.

"I have really enjoyed coming back to UQ to work as curator and consider it

an honour. This is a very pivotal time for the UQ Art Museum and I am thrilled to act as Associate Curator."

Ms Kubler also runs her own art consultancy and writing business, and acted as an advisor to former Federal Minister for the Arts, Senator the Honourable George Brandis SC.

"I took the job with no political aspirations or affiliations but rather as another career experience and it certainly afforded me a unique appreciation of the other side of working in the arts," she said.

"It was an excellent opportunity to hone my skills in diplomacy but also to get a really national view of the arts industry in Australia and make significant contacts. It felt good to be able to advocate for artists and arts workers at a federal level."

While the creative industries can be difficult to crack, Ms Kubler encouraged aspiring artists and curators to make the most of their networks and skills to make an impression on future employers.



STEWART GOULD

"I think this is an industry that rewards diligence and passion," Ms Kubler said.

"It can be hard to be noticed but if you take an innovative approach and work outside the traditional parameters you can make exciting things happen and accrue invaluable experience along the road to a fabulous career."

1996

INCREASING THE PROFILE OF ABORIGINAL BUSINESS IN AUSTRALIA

Neil Willmetts, BAppHSc(IPHC)

Since graduating, Neil Willmetts has gained a reputation as one of Australia's young Aboriginal success stories. By the age of 30, the high school dropout and one-time medical student had founded, built and successfully sold three businesses.

As owner of the Willmetts Group, he provides human resource and business advice to government and business and has launched his first book, *How to Establish a Successful Aboriginal Business in Australia*.

Mr Willmetts graduated from The University of Queensland in 1996.

After withdrawing from graduate medical studies, Mr Willmetts threw himself into business.

"I was always interested in business. I read everything that I could get my hands on. I networked and surrounded myself with successful business people," he said.

"A tertiary education is a powerful tool.

"It provided me with skills and created employment opportunities."

His passion for business and learning soon paid dividends.

The Brisbane-based

company is now in its fifth year, advising government, Indigenous organisations, small businesses and corporate sector clients on providing practical solutions to managing people and businesses.

The company works with government agencies and some of Australia's most well-known companies, including Gloria Jeans Coffee and Australia Post.

Mr Willmetts said the skills he learned at University helped him manage more than \$1 million in employment and health-related projects for government agencies.

Mr Willmetts said there was a need to build the Aboriginal business sector in Australia.

"There are approximately 3000 Aboriginal businesses in Australia," he said.

"Most are single-operator businesses. We need to build, support and promote this sector so that Aboriginal people can achieve the same financial independence as non-Indigenous business owners."

Mr Willmetts's book, *How to Start a Successful Aboriginal Business in Australia*, was the first book written for and targeted at Aboriginal people wishing to establish a business in Australia.

"I hope that Aboriginal people will use it and that it will help increase the size of the Aboriginal business sector in Australia," he said.



IMAGO PHOTOGRAPHY

2001

MINING CAREER YIELDS RICH LIFESTYLE

Melanie Gordon, BE (hons), GCMInRes

Melanie Gordon may be just 29 but she is already making an impact in the field of engineering.

The BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) engineer has won a raft of awards, including a Queensland Resources Council outstanding achievement award in 2006, the council's Annual Resources Award for Women in 2008 and, most recently, a Smart Women – Smart State Award.

Ms Gordon won the 2008 Smart State honour in the Industry/Business (Engineering) category for her project management of a dragline shutdown in a Central Queensland mine.

Ms Gordon is the area manager for the establishment of a coal handling and preparation plant for a major project in Queensland.

She leads a team of people responsible for the planning and execution from project initiation through to final operations mode of the \$200 million project.

Ms Gordon is currently involved in an initiative to set up networking events for women in the mining industry in and around Moranbah, where she works, through her involvement in Women in Mining and Resources Queensland.

"If you have any interest in working in the resources industry, then give it a go," she said.

"Certainly don't ever think that females don't belong in the resources

industry because I know many amazing women who have achieved amazing things and have stories similar to mine."

Ms Gordon said she initially joined the resources sector because of the high pay and other benefits such as subsidised rent and medical insurance.

She said she intended to save some money, get some practical experience on mine sites and move back to her home city of Brisbane after about two years.

Six years on, she has married her husband, also an engineer, and has swapped the bright lights of the city for life in the close-knit community of Moranbah.

"When I first left Brisbane for the bush my friends were all taking bets on how many days or weeks I would last out west because they had no idea of what goes on in a mining town and neither did I," Ms Gordon said.

"My husband and I barely have a free weekend and are always busy with our friends.

"Moranbah has horse racing days, markets, a cinema, an award-winning shoe shop, nice restaurants and just about every type of sporting activity you can think of.

"We spend a lot of time having barbecue dinners at friends' houses, going away to places like Airlie Beach and Mackay for long weekends and going to the gym."

Ms Gordon at
Goonyella Riverside
Mine



JEREMY PATTEN

2001

"WAS IT GOOD FOR YOU?" UQ RESEARCH LOOKS AT ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES

Sandy Ng, BBus (hons), GCResComm, PhD

Beijing's eye-catching Bird's Nest Stadium made a notable impression on many Olympic spectators, yet China's strict security may have detracted from the event, according to one researcher.

PhD graduate Dr Sandy Ng has delved into the consumer behaviour of the service industry to identify how a customer's experience at sporting and entertainment events affects their satisfaction, value impressions and most importantly, their intentions to re-attend.

Dr Ng's research into a range of stadium events, concerts and theatre found excessive security, substandard entertainers, unsafe parking and bad social surroundings deterred crowds and undermined the experience.

Factors that lured ticket holders included the exterior appearance of the venue, positive social surroundings, engaging performers and affordable souvenirs and merchandise.

"The selection of venue is an important factor as consumers will consider if it is worth the time and effort to physically go to attend the event," Dr Ng said.

"Whilst not being physically present to see the Bird's Nest Stadium and the Water Cube in Beijing, the uniqueness and size of these venues are simply breathtaking even on TV.

"Managers of such large scale events must shrewdly select performers that are able to draw crowds based on their performance excellence.

"In addition, not only must there be a sufficient number of staff to help customers, these staff must also be knowledgeable to answer customers' queries."

Dr Ng said visitors had complained that the 2008 Olympics was over-managed, lacking the joyful party atmosphere that was a hallmark of previous events.

Her four-year study found proper management of events was crucial and failure to deliver good experiences could result in crowd violence or boycotts.

Dr Ng observed the environment at entertainment venues, held focus groups and purchased a database to reach attendees of sporting, theatre and concert events.



GRAHAM MACDONALD



COURTESY CENTRELINK

2005

CENTRELINK KICK-STARTS GRADUATE'S CAREER

Christopher Keepkie, BA (hons)

The final year of any university program is hard enough, but Christopher Keepkie had more obstacles than the average student while completing his studies.

"My brother was in a near-fatal motorbike accident and spent months undergoing treatment in Brisbane, with our mother at his bedside," Mr Keepkie said.

"At our Gracemere home, I took on the care of my younger siblings as well as my grandfather who was battling cancer."

But he persevered, and on graduating already had a job lined up in Centrelink's National Graduate program.

While attending Centrelink interviews to win his place in the graduate program, Mr Keepkie was also taking his grandfather to Brisbane for cancer treatment.

"It certainly was a very testing time," he said.

In late 2006, Mr Keepkie got the news he would be starting his 12-month Centrelink internship and a new life in Canberra.

"I was over the moon and after what I'd been through it was great to tackle a new challenge: finding somewhere to live and meeting new people," he said.

"Centrelink is a good fit for me – progressing my career goals and putting to good use my qualifications gained as a UQ student.

"Working with talented people, I learn and develop new skills every day."

Since joining Centrelink, Mr Keepkie has been involved in several large projects helping to improve support services for thousands of Australians.

"Centrelink's graduate program has given me some unique opportunities acting as a project leader, as well as providing briefings for Government ministers," he said.

"It's been quite a ride, but it goes to show if you put the effort in, good things can happen."

2005

UNLOCKING THE FUTURE OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Keith Pembleton BAgSc (hons)

A sustainable future for the dairy industry may be in sight, thanks to the research of UQ graduate and Fulbright scholar Keith Pembleton.

Mr Pembleton, who has been studying the biology of agriculture at the University of Tasmania, is currently at Purdue University, Indiana, as part of his Fulbright scholarship in a bid to better understand the dairy industry.

"In rural industries worldwide, massive gains in efficiency of production are being realised through the use of molecular methods of experimentation and associated molecular-derived technologies," he said.

"The dairy industry of Tasmania needs to be involved in this area of science if it is to remain a world leader in producing high quality products in a sustainable manner."

At Purdue University, Mr Pembleton is undertaking courses in molecular biology and advanced crop physiology as well as laboratory research.

"Integral to this will be better understanding of gene expression that will improve the management of lucerne, particularly in the area of drought tolerance," Mr Pembleton said.

"Lucerne is a major forage crop in the United States and is considered the third most important crop to the US rural sector.

"In comparison, it has represented only a small proportion of the forage base in southern Australia, and consequently has received little research effort until recently. US universities therefore have more established programs and expertise in this area.

"The Tasmanian dairy industry is the

largest rural industry in the Tasmanian economy, representing 25 percent of the total economic production of Tasmania's rural sector."

Mr Pembleton is a postgraduate student in Agricultural Science at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR), University of Tasmania, and is only the second Tasmanian Fulbright Scholar.

Studying at TIAR, Mr Pembleton's research focuses on the molecular biology of agricultural industries and is funded by an Australian Postgraduate Industry Award with Dairy Australia.

He has worked hard to earn the prestigious Fulbright scholarship, having long been a committed student. While studying at UQ, he received the Dean's Commendation for High Achievement in every semester of his undergraduate studies, and is now keen for his work to have a global impact.

"I am excited about the potential of my Fulbright to help build the capacity of the Tasmanian dairy research group and develop international collaborative linkages between the US and Tasmania in this important area," Mr Pembleton said.

The Fulbright program is the largest educational scholarship scheme of its kind, created by US Senator J. William Fulbright and the US Government in 1946.

Aimed at promoting mutual understanding through educational exchange, it operates between the US and 150 countries.

In Australia, the scholarships are funded by the Australian and US governments and corporate partners, and are administered by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission in Canberra.



COURTESY KEITH PEMBLETON

2006

SEARCHING FOR A HOMELAND

Delaney Skerrett, BA (hons)

What would make someone leave their homeland and start a new life in a country where they will have a lower standard of living?

This is the question UQ graduate Delaney Skerrett has been asking as part of a study into Latvian and Estonian exiles.

"I was particularly interested in why people such as myself (I am one quarter Latvian, one quarter Estonian on my mother's side) have moved to a country where they were not born and most likely have a lower standard of living than the country where they grew up," Mr Skerrett said.

"Latvian and Estonian exiles were mainly relocated to Australia, Canada, and the USA."

Mr Skerrett last year presented his findings at a conference in Miami that sought to predict what might happen should the communist regime in Cuba end, using post-communist Europe as an example.



Mr Skerrett speaking on a Spanish-language radio station in America (left), and in Estonia



IMAGES COURTESY DELANEY SKERRETT

"I spoke about the traumatic effects of loss of homeland through exile and how this influences the version of history, the types of memory, and identity transmitted intergenerationally," he said.

"The results of my study suggest that the way history is 'remembered' by descendants of exiles, usually with strong emotions of sadness, loss, and injustice, is an important factor in motivating them to 'return' to the country of their parents' or grandparents' birth.

"I compared the experience of Baltic exiles to that of Cubans in the US to date and potentially after a transition to democracy in Cuba."

While in America, Mr Skerrett also put his UQ Spanish studies to use, speaking on two Spanish-language radio stations.

Mr Skerrett gained his expertise about exiles while studying a Master of Arts in Baltic Studies at Tartu University, Estonia.

He was one of the first three students to complete a degree in English at the university, which was founded in 1632 and is one of the oldest in Europe.

Mr Skerrett also recently received an Estophilus scholarship from the Estonian Institute for his language policy research; he was the only person in his application round to win one of the 10-month scholarships.

2006

TRAVELLING GREEN

**Kathryn Valley, BBusMan/
BAppSc(EnvTour)**

Coupling a love for the environment with her travel studies, Kathryn Valley chose a career in the sustainable tourism industry.

Ms Valley is a project officer for EC3 Global, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Australian Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre.

EC3 Global is a partnership of highly respected business services including Earthcheck, Sustainable Tourism Services, Green Globe, Decipher, IPAT and Total Tourism Management.

Working as part of the consulting division of EC3, Ms Valley is currently responsible for coordinating report preparation, project research and proposals, as well as client liaison across a number of projects, for commercial groups and international organisations.

"I've always had an interest in sustainability; now I am part of a leading Australian agency which helps businesses and destinations to plan and implement strategies to achieve long-term sustainable outcomes," she said.



IMAGES COURTESY KATHRYN VALLEY

+ KEEP IN CONTACT

2007

PLACEMENT COURSE DELIVERS DREAM JOBS FOR GRADUATES

Erik Ekevall, BBusMan, and Kalan Douglas, BBusMan, BEcon

Two UQ Business School (UQBS) graduates have proven the value of the school's Business Industry Placement course after scoring jobs with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the world's largest professional services firm.

Erik Ekevall, 26, began the placement course at PricewaterhouseCoopers in the first semester of 2006, while Kalan Douglas, 24, began in early 2007.

The two young men impressed their temporary bosses and were offered full-time jobs, in Mr Ekevall's case, even before he finished the course, allowing him to finish his studies part-time.

"I was given the opportunity to work with great people on a very interesting project and apply some of the skills I had learned at UQ into a real-life situation," Mr Ekevall said.

He is now a senior consultant in the strategy and operations team in PricewaterhouseCoopers advisory practice.

"I was very happy with the academic rigour of my Bachelor of Business Management degree," he said.

"The placement course really appealed to me because it allowed me to apply some of the tools I had developed as well as giving me the opportunity to work alongside some of the most talented business leaders in Australia."

Mr Douglas said the business degree gave him a solid theoretical grounding.

"This course really builds on that framework by letting you get involved in real and practical problem solving for real clients," he said.

Mr Douglas was invited to start at PricewaterhouseCoopers as a consultant in the strategy and operations team just a month after graduating from UQ with a dual Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Economics degree.

He said he had no doubt the placement course secured his position.

"Being offered this job was a direct result of doing the course," Mr Douglas said.

"It was fantastic, and was an experience I couldn't have arranged by myself.

"I had to do some hard work while I was here (at PwC), but the fact that I had my foot in the door was one of the most important aspects the course provided."

UQBS academic and course co-ordinator Dr Liz Ferrier said the placements enabled students to gain greater insight into the realities of communication and management in organisational settings.

"This placement course is an important and valuable part of our degree, not just for the students but also for the employers," she said.

"THIS PLACEMENT COURSE IS AN IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE PART OF OUR DEGREE, NOT JUST FOR THE STUDENTS BUT ALSO FOR THE EMPLOYERS"

LYLE RADFORD



Mr Erik Ekevall (left) and Mr Kalan Douglas

2007

CROSS-CONTINENTAL BIKE RIDE TARGETS CHILD POVERTY

Jon Pfeffer, BE (hons)

Fighting child poverty, building a closer relationship with his dad, getting fit...UQ engineering graduate Jon Pfeffer had plenty of reasons to cycle across Australia earlier this year.

Starting in May, the 24-year-old cycled from Brisbane to Broome over 10 weeks with his father and stepbrother to raise awareness and money for child-centred development agency, Plan.

Plan is one of the world's largest community development organisations and works to help end child poverty in Asia, Africa and Central and South America.

Mr Pfeffer referred to the charity bike ride, which raised \$6000 for the development agency, as his greatest challenge yet – but an achievable one.

"Generally it was a lot easier than we'd expected and nowhere near as lonely," he said.

"We had the impression that some of the roads we were taking would be nigh on empty, but the tourism trade is strong.

"On the most remote roads we travelled, we still encountered 10 or more vehicles per day."

Mr Pfeffer said that, while he did the ride to raise money, he found the trip personally rewarding as well.

"I had hoped to get to know Dad better and for him to better understand me and it certainly lived up to my expectations on that side. Our relationship really grew from near strangers to good mates," he said.

"Regular highlights were riding with Dad in the morning before the sun was up, side-by-side, sharing the light from my bike while the sun crawled up from its bed behind us.

"We'd often ride on without a break, covering a third or more of our distance for the day without seeing another vehicle or feeling like a break."

Mr Pfeffer's love of cycling inspired the mode of transport for the trip.

He said he looked forward to other fundraising tours, planning future cycle trips in Asia and possibly Europe.

INFO // For more information on the work of Plan, visit www.plan.org.au



EMILIE WATSON



Mark Bathie (left) and Abhishek Sodhani, part of the winning CVSDude team

2008

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THE RIGHT TOUCH

Abhishek Sodhani, MBA

Abhishek Sodhani has some advice for international students looking to bag that first job in Australia — get involved.

Mr Sodhani, 25, left his job in India as finance manager at a crane-manufacturing company and came to study in Australia in 2006.

Now a financial analyst for Gold Coast-based IT company CVSDude, Mr Sodhani admits he struggled to get the professional experience he needed to break into the workforce.

"Once you get that first job, it just flows, but for overseas students it is really hard to know where to start," Mr Sodhani said.

"People here don't care about what you have done back home, they only look at Australian work experience and most students who have just arrived from overseas have no contacts and don't know the culture or the companies," he said.

But Mr Sodhani didn't let these difficulties defeat him, instead seeking out hands-on experience.

Mr Sodhani worked 20 hours a week as a financial analyst for Brisbane Housing Company and was part of the winning team in last year's Enterprize competition, which was awarded a no-strings-attached \$100,000 prize.

Through Tuscon, a postgraduate placement company, Mr Sodhani found out about the UQ competition, and was accepted as part of the CVSDude team, which won the \$100,000 prize.

Mr Sodhani went on to secure a full-time position with CVSDude but said the Enterprize experience alone would have been worth the effort.

"It widened my network of contacts and because people know about Enterprize it brings you to the notice of employers — it gives you an edge," he said.

2008

TREK FOR A CAUSE

Elisabeth Viggers, BMus

As a musician and composer, Elisabeth Viggers is used to bringing people joy through her work.

This year she took that calling a step further — she trekked across South America, raising more than \$4000 for conservation and impoverished communities.

Ms Viggers, a former UQ Excellence Scholarship holder and exchange student to the University of California, was inspired by the concept of the Girls on Top Andes to the Amazon trek from the moment she heard of it last year.

"I first heard about Girls On Top in 2007 from a Kathmandu (adventure equipment company) catalogue. I was mainly drawn to the words 'South America'," she said.

"I wasn't particularly interested in mountaineering but I liked the idea of conservation in the Amazon. It seemed different to your usual tour!

"There was a scholarship running in 2007 that Kathmandu sponsored, and I applied in less than an hour. I just answered honestly, I didn't think too hard or try to sound good — I was just myself!"

One of five finalists out of more than 1000 women, Ms Viggers was unsuccessful last year but reapplied and made this year's cut, travelling from August 10 to September 11.

"I AM INTERESTED IN ALL PEOPLE. I WENT TO INDIA, THAILAND AND MALAYSIA LAST YEAR AND THESE EXPERIENCES HELPED ME TO REALISE THAT WEALTHY COUNTRIES LIKE AUSTRALIA REALLY CAN AFFORD TO GIVE A LITTLE MORE"

She said she was a conservation advocate ("I am vegetarian and I compost!") and was excited about the opportunity to help people and the environment in South America.

"I am interested in all people. I went to India, Thailand and Malaysia last year and these experiences helped me to realise that wealthy countries like Australia really can afford to give a little more," she said.

"In general, I think giving begins at home. I have been doing volunteer work for years — in jails, detoxes, old people's homes and hospitals, even just giving my friends an ear or being involved in a community choir or barbecue or fun run."

The money Ms Viggers raised will go towards building a clinic for volunteers who treat dengue fever, parasites, leprosy, wounds and other afflictions.

Ms Viggers said she hoped to do postgraduate study in music composition and perhaps teach at university.



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Information about UQ graduates is always welcome for inclusion in Keep in Contact. If you have a story to tell, or you know someone who has, please send information to *Graduate Contact* via t.taylor@uq.edu.au

Items should include degree(s) held and year(s) graduated.

Articles accompanied by high resolution colour photographs preferred.

The deadline for the Winter 2009 issue is February 27.

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