



GRADUATE

# contact

## RIVER OF INSPIRATION

Lockhart art goes global

**Light in the darkness**

Partners in cancer treatment

**Home and away**

Graduates celebrate in Asia



city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city  
ty pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city

# The music that changed Brisbane

Music and education both play a significant role in the changing of political and cultural consciousness, so it's no surprise that UQ played a key part in the formation of great Brisbane bands from the Go-Betweens to Powderfinger.

Celebrate the music of cult  
heroes and international stars  
with a live concert at  
UQ St Lucia on July 14 2007.  
Gates open at 12 noon.

city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city  
ty pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city pig city

**Pig City, Then and Now:** A symposium on the past, present and future of the rock music industry in Brisbane.  
UQ Centre, St Lucia 13 July from 1-4pm.

Proud sponsor and host of Pig City

ST LUCIA IPSWICH GATTON



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

## + FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Welcome to the Winter 2007 edition of *Graduate Contact*.

In the 17 years since the first edition of this magazine there have been hundreds, if not thousands, of articles detailing the achievements, successes and challenges of the alumni, academic, teaching and executive staff of our University.

However, as a graduate in medicine, I was particularly pleased and also considerably moved by the feature story about two other UQ graduates, Padideh Malcolm and Dr John Bashford, which appears on pages 4-5 of this edition.

It is truly inspiring and I was filled with admiration for Padideh for her determination in the face of a very serious disease, and for Dr Bashford's great professional and personal support during a very trying period.

I also pay tribute to Dr Bashford and his wife Deborah, also a UQ graduate (in both cases with Honours) in Physiotherapy and Law, for their financial support for their *alma mater*.

It is particularly timely in view of the launch of this year's Chancellor's Fund Appeal, the contributions to which help the University provide support in so many areas of research both inside and outside of Australia.

On pages 30-31 you will be able to read about three projects that are among the many to have been assisted through the Chancellor's Fund Appeal and I am sure you will agree this is well deserved in each case.

In April, I had the great privilege of representing the University at graduation celebrations in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

As always, it was a pleasure to see the joy on the faces of the graduates, but perhaps even more so to see their proud parents and friends who were able to be present to witness the achievements of their loved ones.

The ceremonies and other articles on the University's alumni and activities in Singapore and Malaysia are featured on pages 18-21 of this edition, which I am sure you will enjoy.

Sir Llew Edwards, AC  
Chancellor



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#### GRADUATE CONTACT

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With husband Raymond on their wedding day, December 2006



In Rome just before Padideh's diagnosis with cancer

# GREATEST GIFT OF ALL



Padideh Malcolm and Dr John Bashford are from different generations of UQ students and would probably never have crossed paths if it hadn't been for a cancer diagnosis. They have since formed a strong bond during a harrowing but inspirational journey.

// By Shirley Glaister

Padideh Malcolm has stared down death twice already in her 33 years, the first time while fleeing Iran as a child – the second, on being diagnosed with cancer.

Mrs Malcolm was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, also known as Hodgkin's disease, in February 2006, shortly after beginning a Masters of Molecular Biology at UQ.

An x-ray revealed a cancerous lymph node, swollen to the size of an orange, wedged between her heart and one lung. She cut short her studies and embarked on six months of debilitating chemotherapy under the supervision of oncologist and UQ graduate, Dr John Bashford.

Dr Bashford was to become a source of hope for Mrs Malcolm in her darkest days as well as a mentor who constantly encouraged her to return to UQ and pursue her lifelong ambition of becoming a vet – a dream finally realised this year.

Hodgkin's lymphoma occurs most frequently among two distinct age groups – young adults aged between 15 and 35, and people over 60. It was one of the first cancers to be rendered curable by combination chemotherapy.

"I had a pain in my chest but thought it was a cracked rib after a summer spent backpacking through Europe," said Mrs Malcolm, who was previously very fit, running up to 5kms every two days.

"The only other symptom was extremely itchy shins with the itch feeling like it was inside my leg. I found out later this is quite a common symptom but didn't know it at the time."

Once a fortnight, for four or five hours,

she would have four drugs administered at the Wesley Hospital after her appointment with Dr Bashford.

Her eyelashes, eyebrows and very long hair fell out, she was exhausted, feverish and nauseous. She was confined indoors most of the time with her lung capacity reduced by one-third. She wore a wig on her wedding day in December last year – a month after finishing her course of chemotherapy.

"It's like having severe food poisoning for five days every two weeks. The drugs administered poison and kill off all your cells, including the cancerous ones. It's just that the cancerous ones don't recover as quickly. In other words, they're killing you just a little bit every 14 days to eventually cure you," Mrs Malcolm said.

Grateful for the loving support of her then fiancé, now husband, Raymond Malcolm, and her parents, Legha and John Zareh, Mrs Malcolm credits Dr Bashford with "saving my life".

She said she was inspired by his positive attitude and looked up to him both as a physician and a person. During her appointments, she said he would often talk about his own memories of UQ, as well as her studies and future plans.

"He always encouraged me to return to UQ once the chemotherapy was completed and I was in remission. He told me I could do it. I can't thank him enough," she said.

"I had dreamed of becoming a vet as a child but didn't think my marks would ever be high enough. When UQ Admissions staff told me I could gain credit for my postgraduate award and potentially study vet science, it was such a lovely surprise and kept me going at times."

Mrs Malcolm's Masters degree was converted to a Graduate Certificate in Molecular Biology and her high marks rewarded with a Dean's Commendation and a place as one of 103 Bachelor of Veterinary Science students commencing in 2007.

"All my teachers were and are very supportive. I get very tired and will have to be regularly tested for cancer for the rest of my life," she said.

Mrs Malcolm said throughout her illness, she drew on a strength borne from past experiences such as the night in 1982 when she, aged eight, her mother, and brother, Pej, then aged six, were whisked away on the back of motorbikes into Pakistan to escape the Iranian Revolution.

"It was an ordeal – my father stayed behind to try to recoup some funds from the sale of our house. We ended up being in a camp in Pakistan for nine months trying to get visas to come to Australia. The man who organised our escape was eventually captured and executed by the Iranian authorities. I remember it all so clearly," she said.

A former biology and chemistry high school teacher – she graduated with a Bachelor of Education from UQ in 2002 – Mrs Malcolm said she loved being a UQ student again.

"A favourite spot on campus is the boardwalk bridge over the University Lake. I can often be found there between lectures enjoying a little peace," she said. //

## LIFE THROUGH A NEW LENS

// By Dr John Bashford

My fondest recollection of studying at UQ is meeting my future wife, Deborah Sinnott. We were married in late 1978, just before I graduated from my Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS, honours I) in 1980.

Deborah has a Bachelor of Physiotherapy with first-class honours (1977) and a Bachelor of Laws with second-class honours (1987) from UQ. We both loved the beautiful campus, the friendships formed while at UQ, and in my case, living at Emmanuel College. They were very happy years.

I'm delighted Padideh has returned to study. I have treated many students as I have an interest in cancers among adolescents and young adults. Often people look at life through a new set of lenses after they've endured cancer treatment. It is very important for them to re-engage with their interests once they get through the disease. This is a significant part of their recovery process and being able to live a normal life again. Padideh is also a very positive person so I am not surprised by her amazing progress.

I have been in practice at the Wesley and Mater Private hospitals for 15 years following many years of postgraduate training including time in Melbourne and London. I believe my greatest career achievement to date was leading the team that established the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Wesley in 1997. At the time, it was Australia's first fully integrated bone marrow transplant unit in the private sector. The unit treats about 100 patients a year who otherwise wouldn't be cured of their cancer and more than half of those will be cured.

I was attracted to medicine because it offers an ideal mix of science – which I loved at high school – and human interaction. It is practical science if you like and for me, seemed the right thing to do.

Of my University teachers, I particularly admired and was inspired by the then head of the Department of Pathology, Emeritus Professor John Kerr, AO, as well as distinguished clinician, academic, military doctor, and UQ's 2004 Alumnus of the Year, Professor John Pearn, AM, RFD, KStJ. Professor Kerr's landmark discovery on apoptosis, or programmed cell death, published in 1972, revolutionised the study of many processes in biology and disease. These teachers passed on a clear understanding of the link between high quality science and clinical excellence that hopefully continues to guide my practice today.

Of course, I see a lot of sadness in my job but I cope with it by intellectually focusing on the positives – these days many people are cured of their cancers and even those who aren't, often gain a substantial benefit in terms of length and quality of life.

I have a fantastic family life with Deborah and our four children, aged 21, 19, 15 and 10, and this gives me a lot of personal strength. We make sure we have adequate time off and holidays together as a family. Our favourite spots are Noosa and bushwalking in Tasmania and New Zealand.

I am delighted our two eldest children, Stephanie and Julia, are now UQ students – Stephanie is a third-year arts/law student and Julia is in third-year science.

Deborah and I are dedicated, long-term supporters of the University and I strongly urge other alumni to invest in UQ in some capacity. Mine was a privileged generation, in that our education was largely free, and we have gone on to benefit from it enormously. It's very important to put something back. //

The Bashford family on reaching the end of the Milford Track in New Zealand. From left Dominic, Julia, Stephanie, Alexander, Deborah and John.





## + UQ PEOPLE

### VC NAMED A QUEENSLAND GREAT

Twelve outstanding years as UQ Vice-Chancellor have earned Professor John Hay, AC, the accolade of "Queensland Great".

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie presented Professor Hay with the award on June 1, saying he had "led, nurtured and inspired many thousands of enquiring minds and, in doing so, has helped to build the Smart State".

"As Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Queensland since 1996, Professor Hay has strengthened our state's reputation for providing world-class education and undertaking world-class research," Mr Beattie said.

The Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards, AC, warmly congratulated Professor Hay.

"It is utterly fitting for John to receive this award, because he is a driving force behind Queensland's rising reputation as a location



The Hay family: (from left) Ben, Barbara, Chris, John and Tim after the ceremony at Roma St Parklands

for internationally-significant research and learning," Sir Llew said.

Professor Hay said he would treasure the award, particularly as he had no birthright as a Queensland Great.

"My wife Barbara and I were born in Western Australia; we have lived and worked in the UK and elsewhere in Australia, and have travelled widely. We are blessed with many choices after I retire from UQ at year's end,

but we so thoroughly enjoy this region and its people that Brisbane will remain our home," Professor Hay said.

The other 2007 Queensland Greats include winner of eight tennis Grand Slam titles, Mr Ashley Cooper; former Queensland Governor, Ms Leneen Forde, AC; the previous Director of the Queensland Art Gallery, Mr Doug Hall, AM; and the Chair of the Queensland Treasury Corporation, Sir Leo Hielscher, AC.

### GLOBAL ACHIEVER

The University has congratulated a distinguished graduate who has been honoured with the Premier of Queensland Expatriate Achievement Award.

Dr Andrew Liveris, the President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of The Dow Chemical Company, was announced as 2007 winner by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie in New York on May 10.

Dr Liveris, who in 2005 was named UQ's Alumnus of the Year and awarded an honorary doctorate, graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) in 1975.

He is based in the United States, from where he continues to make substantial contributions to the UQ community.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the expatriate award was further recognition of Dr Liveris's exceptional value as a Queensland-educated global industry leader.



Dr Liveris with Premier Peter Beattie in New York



### FAMILY MAN WINS STATE'S TOP HONOUR

A UQ researcher whose practical parenting advice has helped millions has been named the 2007 Queenslander of the Year.

Professor Matt Sanders, Professor of Clinical Psychology, Director of UQ's Parenting and Family Support Centre and founder of Triple P-Positive Parenting Program was named Suncorp Queenslander of the Year on June 3.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said Professor Sanders' outstanding research gave priceless support to people grappling with the world's most important job: raising children.

Professor Sanders is the second UQ identity in as many years to receive the award after Professor Ian Frazer, co-inventor of the world's first cervical cancer vaccine, was honoured in 2006.

"Professor Sanders and Professor Frazer have applied their brilliant minds and passion for research to address global health and social problems," Professor Hay said.

"It is a credit to the modern Queensland that such people are being upheld as Queenslanders of the Year."

### DIRECTOR BRINGS SOCIAL SCIENCE INTO FOCUS

The University of Queensland has appointed Professor Brian Head as the inaugural director of its new Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR).

Professor Head joined UQ in May from the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, where he was the first full-time Chief Executive Officer.

He has also held senior roles in government, academia and the non-government sector.

Professor Head said the institute would address national and regional priority issues, and focus on evidence-based approaches.

"The ISSR will become one of the largest concentrations of social science excellence in Australia," he said.

He said the ISSR would enable the University to capitalise on the excellent work already being undertaken by social scientists across a number of schools and research centres.



# Mission of love for China's babies

A UQ Arts graduate is finding fulfillment and providing much-needed assistance at an infant palliative care unit in China.

// By Miguel Holland

Caring for disabled and dying babies in a small Chinese hospice has given UQ law student Caitlin Mullins a new perspective on life.

Ms Mullins spent January managing the Jiaozuo palliative care unit in northern China which cares for 12 babies at a time.

The babies, ranging in age from two weeks to 12 months, are abandoned because of their severe disabilities.

"It was incredibly hard work and a life-changing experience," Ms Mullins said.

"The children were so desperately ill and knowing that they were abandoned somehow made watching them fade away so much harder."

Five babies died while she worked at the hospice, but the motto was *to comfort always, to relieve often and to save sometimes*.

"I'm just glad they were in a place where people loved them as they died," she said.

Ms Mullins' daily duties included organising care for the babies, supervising the intake of new babies, overseeing the work of the unit's 16 nannies and three housekeepers, managing the unit's finances, and performing basic medical work such as changing wound dressings.

Her fluent Mandarin allowed her to work with local hospice workers and Chinese and foreign medical personnel to ensure the babies received the right care and medications.

The 21-year-old from Sandgate also performed some basic medical procedures because there was a shortage of appropriately skilled volunteers.

Ms Mullins graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Arts, with a double major in Chinese in 2006.

This year she is studying law part-time at UQ as well as her Honours on disability and abandonment in China part-time at Griffith

University after being awarded a Griffith business scholarship.

"If a mother gives birth to a disabled child in China it's seen to be her bad blood and her problem that led to having a disabled child," Ms Mullins said.

Ms Mullins has been visiting China since 2004, initially to practise her Mandarin skills at the Beijing Language and Culture University, before she volunteered for palliative care.

Last year, with the help of another UQ student, she raised \$3700 for the Jiaozuo unit and hopes to do the same this year.

Ms Mullins said she also wanted to link Australian heart surgeons with abandoned Chinese babies who needed cardiac surgery.

She hopes to work in diplomacy in China, combining her legal, social and language knowledge.

Ms Mullins will return to the Jiaozuo palliative care unit in December. //



"IT WAS INCREDIBLY HARD  
WORK AND A LIFE-CHANGING  
EXPERIENCE"



## TIMELY FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

The 40th anniversary of the Constitutional Referendum which resulted in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples being included in the national censuses has focused public attention and that of the University on the need for a more productive and sustainable engagement on Indigenous issues.

// By Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC

Many UQ alumni will have personal memories of the Constitutional Referendum of May 1967, while others will be conscious of its historical significance.

In the most resounding “yes” vote since Federation, 90.77 percent of enfranchised Australians voted to expunge blatantly discriminatory words from the Australian Constitution, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples could be included in national censuses and the Commonwealth could pass laws for their benefit.

Despite initial optimism, the fortunes of Indigenous Australians during the past 40 years have given rise to questions about the real impact of the Referendum.

Ironically, official statistics which the mandate empowered the Commonwealth to collect show that progress is wanting in areas including health, education, employment and contact with the justice system.

Consequently, for many Australians the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Referendum is not a time for celebration, but a cue for thought and action. In this spirit, UQ is treating 2007 as a time of focus on Indigenous issues, under the Referendum-inspired theme of *We All Count*.

UQ has responsibilities to make meaningful contributions to debate and progress surrounding Indigenous issues. Our obligations include providing learning, research and scholarly comment, as well as excellent experiences for Indigenous students and staff. Some measures – such as a decline in enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, despite positive policies and work by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit – highlight the need for

us to focus on our own patch as well as the larger arenas.

The intention is not for 2007 to stand alone as a year of focus on Indigenous issues, but rather for it to be the start of a more productive and sustainable engagement with Indigenous issues. This should reach into all areas of UQ’s endeavours, including research, teaching and learning, alumni activities, and interaction with international, national and local communities.

The potential for closer engagement with Indigenous Australians is captured brilliantly in *Our Way*, an astonishing exhibition of art from the remote community of Lockhart River, and a companion book of the same name. The exhibition, running until July 1 at the UQ Art Museum in the James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre, comprises more than 100 paintings, prints and sculptures by a group

of predominantly young artists known as the Lockhart River Art Gang. The book *Our Way* balances scholarly rigour with personal insights and interpretations from some of the Art Gang’s members. It is stunningly illustrated with artworks, and images of Lockhart River’s community life and natural environment, and in my view is one of the best books ever published on Aboriginal art in Australia.

UQ art historian Dr Sally Butler is the exhibition’s curator and the author of the book, published by UQ Press. Alumni based in southeast Asia and the United States may gain a better appreciation of why UQ is so proud of this venture when a touring collection shows at the National University of Singapore in August, and at Stony Brook University (Long Island, New York) in October and November.

Alumni throughout the world may have a role in fostering greater global awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures and issues. This is one important element of UQ’s newly-adopted Education Principles on Indigenous Australian Matters, which aim to embed Indigenous Knowledge into the curriculum.

The new principles are founded on UQ’s responsibility to develop students who understand not only their disciplines and professions, but also the societal context in which they will perform their professional duties.

Our alumni demonstrate, every day, this tradition of developing thoughtful and well-rounded graduates. Stronger engagement with Indigenous issues will give future graduates added advantages, and even greater capacity to make positive contributions in their personal and professional lives. //

“THE POTENTIAL OF CLOSER ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IS CAPTURED BRILLIANTLY IN *OUR WAY*, AN ASTONISHING EXHIBITION OF ART FROM THE REMOTE COMMUNITY OF LOCKHART RIVER”





# Angel with both feet on the ground

Heather Parker has barely had time to touch down since gaining her first degree from UQ more than three decades ago.

When Dr Heather Parker (nee Woodrow) graduated from UQ with a Diploma in Speech Therapy in 1965 at age 20, she never imagined she would be studying through the University again 35 years later.

But in 2001 she did just that, completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Journalism, this time downloading audio lectures via the internet and submitting course assignments by email.

After graduation, Dr Parker married and moved to Townsville, working at Cootharinga Home for Crippled Children, Endeavour Foundation and the Bush Children's Health Scheme. There, she started the speech therapy department at Townsville General Hospital.

As one of the only speech therapy specialists north of Brisbane, she treated a wide range of patients, both children and adults, and found herself doing hearing screening and taking ear-moulds to be mailed to the National Acoustic Laboratory in Brisbane for assembly into hearing aids.

In 1967, Dr Parker and her husband John immigrated to Canada, where she continued working as a speech therapist for

another eight years at the Manitoba Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the Child Guidance Clinic and Winnipeg Municipal Hospitals.

In addition, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg, and was accepted into Medical School at the University of Manitoba.

Her elective term was spent with the Royal Flying Doctor service in Cairns and thus began a love affair with flying.

On graduation as a doctor, Dr Parker worked as a partner in a practice in Winnipeg and was elected to the St Vital School Board.

Her particular interest was in obstetrics and she delivered hundreds of babies over the next few years.

Dr Parker had two daughters, both born in Canada, and the family returned to Australia in 1984.

She trained as a pilot in Caloundra and participated in the women doctor's fly-in clinics.

She also flew herself to regional towns such as Kingaroy, Gayndah and Wondai to conduct women's clinics.

This enabled Dr Parker to combine her

two loves – medicine and aviation – by serving on the committee of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine, in addition to her involvement with the Maroochy Aero Club and the Australian Women Pilots' Association.

After graduating with journalism qualifications, she had articles published in *Australian Flying*, *Airnews*, *Australian Doctor*, *Medical Observer* and *Helinews*.

In 2002, Dr Parker was invited to be patron of Corporate Angel Network of Australia, a charity providing free air travel to carers of patients who are organ donors or have leukaemia or other cancers.

At the 2006 women pilots' conference in Geraldton, Western Australia, she was awarded the Nancy-Bird Walton award for "the most noteworthy contribution to aviation by a woman of Australasia".

"I was surprised and thrilled to receive this award," she said. "The best thing was that Nancy herself, now aged 90, was there to present me with an engraved silver tray."

Dr Parker was also honoured with an Order of Australia Medal last year for "services to medicine as a GP, membership in professional associations and to aviation." //



## RESEARCHER RETURNS WITH VENOM

A researcher who has spent most of the past decade working overseas has returned to Australia to continue working on revolutionary insecticides based on spider venom.

Professor Glenn King, formerly at the University of Connecticut, recently joined UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience, where he will further develop his pioneering approach to insecticide discovery.

"Since spiders have been developing insecticidal compounds for almost 400 million years, I decided to interrogate their venoms to find natural toxins that might kill insects without harming vertebrates," Professor King said.

He has described three families of insecticidal compounds, and moved back to Brisbane with the help of a \$576,000 Australian Research Council grant.

"An increasingly serious public health issue for Australia is the emergence of infectious diseases spread by insects such as ticks and mosquitoes," Professor King said.

"Hopefully this project will result in environmentally-sustainable methods for controlling insects that destroy crops or spread human and animal disease."



## CLIMATE CHANGE

A UQ microbiologist is part of an international team that has identified a bacterial gene that may affect climate and weather.

Dr Phil Bond, from UQ's Advanced Wastewater Management Centre, and his former colleagues at the University of East Anglia in England, have found how a type of marine bacteria *Marinomonas* generates a key compound involved in global sulfur and carbon cycles.

"Marine algae can produce large amounts of a compound (dimethylsulfonylpropionate or DMSP) that when broken down by bacteria produces dimethyl sulfide (DMS)," Dr Bond said.

"DMS then enters the atmosphere and is thought to contribute to condensation of water vapour and cloud formation.

"These algae can be found in such large numbers in the world's oceans that the amount of DMS released can increase the reflection of sunlight by clouds which may contribute to a reduction in global temperature."

Dr Bond isolated the *Marinomonas* bacteria from the east coast of the UK and the research team was able to identify the gene responsible for the bacteria being able to change DMSP to DMS.

Dr Bond said while the research unlocked a vital part of the microbial puzzle, more work needed to be done.

"By finding how this process works, as we have done, it opens the door to further research into how these, and other similar bacteria, affect the global flux of sulfur and carbon and their impact on the climate," Dr Bond said.

"This research really does show how integral something as simple as microbial interactions may be to our entire environment."

The research was recently published in *Science*, one of the world's top academic journals.

## SMART LIGHTING SWITCHES ON

Working with Dr Ralf Muhlberger from UQ's School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE), Aaron Tan hopes to create the world's first interactive or affective lighting system, which can respond intuitively to the mood of audience members and performers.

At present, lighting design is both time and labour intensive and Mr Tan said two of his primary goals were to digitise the process – making it faster and more efficient

– and to produce lighting effects that better reflected the emotions of those both on and off the stage.

"There's really no intelligence behind current mood lighting," Mr Tan said.

"The technology in question enables more control and accuracy in classifying emotion, providing a more robust and efficient approach to visual storytelling."

The affective lighting project is part of ITEE's broader research program into how emotions are expressed and affected through technologies such as video conferencing, computer games and email.



Mr Tan (left) watches a lighting designer at work



## SHARK VISION STUDY AN EYE OPENER

Sandbar sharks might have prized flesh and fins which are culinary delicacies, but scientists are more interested in their eyes.

University of Queensland PhD student Lenore Litherland along with researchers in Hawaii and Virginia have been investigating the adaptability of the shark's vision.

Sharks are thought to have poor eyesight but little is known about their visual capabilities.

"The sandbar shark's eyes have a retinal specialisation enhancing vision for tracking predators and prey," Miss Litherland said.

"Preliminary results suggest the shark's eyes can respond to a broad range of light levels enabling it to function efficiently in the different environments it inhabits."

She said she chose to study the species because they were docile and found in a range of habitats.

"My study will provide insights into foraging and prey detection, habitat use and interactions with fishing gear — information that is important for the management and conservation of this heavily fished species."



## RUNNING FOR LOVE

An endangered mouse-like marsupial from central Australia has been found to run more than 30 kilometres in one day while in heat.

Several marathon-running Julia Creek Dunnarts were clocked at the David Fleay Wildlife Park on the Gold Coast using odometers attached to running wheels in their enclosures.

Kate Pollock, a UQ Bachelor of Applied Science (Animal Studies) honours student, has been studying the reproductive cycle of 10 female dunnarts using 24-hour video surveillance and analysing their faeces and urine.

Julia Creek Dunnarts are rare carnivorous rodents that grow to about 20 centimetres long.

They were thought to be extinct until 1991 when they were rediscovered in the Mitchell grasslands of north-west Queensland and now live in 25 locations.

Miss Pollock has found that the dunnarts usually travel less than 10 kilometres a day but that increases to more than 30 when in heat with one individual spending nine hours running.

More than half the animals studied had travelled the maximum distance.

Their average speed of between one and three kilometres an hour when not in heat peaked at 7.4 kilometres an hour when in oestrus.

Miss Pollack said her research aimed to ensure the genetic viability of the population, and to understand more about their reproductive patterns which could boost numbers in the wild.

## GREENHOUSE FOSSILS A BLAST FROM THE PAST

A UQ researcher is going back 50 million years to get a glimpse of what a future greenhouse climate might be like.

Dr Patrick Moss, a lecturer in physical geography with the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, is working on a project that is unearthing what the world's climate was like 50 million years ago.

"We have been looking at how plants respond to warmer temperatures to give us an insight into what might happen if the Earth's temperatures continue to increase," Dr Moss said.

Dr Moss's research has focused on a particular area of western Canada, where fossilised leaves, insects and pollen are revealing a vastly different landscape to that of today.

He said the site was chosen because of its well-preserved fossil plants and insects, as well as being at a similar latitude now as it was 50 million years ago, making it perfect for comparison with today's environment.

"Compared to 50 million years ago, our present climate is generally characterised as being much cooler and drier," he said.

Dr Moss has recently returned to Canada to collect further samples and expand his research.



# A LIVING CANVAS

A new exhibition of striking contemporary Aboriginal art is drawing large crowds to the UQ Art Museum.

// By Brad Turner



Top: Fiona Omeenyo: *Growing*  
Above: Adrian King: *The New Site*

The first exhibition of the works of an internationally acclaimed group of young artists from a remote Aboriginal community in Queensland's Cape York is on show at the University's St Lucia campus.

*Our Way, Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River* was opened by Queensland's Deputy Premier Anna Bligh at the UQ Art Museum on May 5.

The exhibition will remain at UQ until July 1 before moving to the National University of Singapore Museum from July 19 to August 19, then Stony Brook University on Long Island, New York, in October and November.

The exhibition is accompanied by a major publication of the same title written and compiled by curator Dr Sally Butler, a lecturer in art history at UQ, which was officially launched by Queensland's Premier Peter Beattie in New York on May 8.

The exhibition celebrates the work of the Lockhart River Art Gang, led by Rosella Namok, Samantha Hobson and Fiona Omeenyo.

They are among several young artists from the remote Cape York community to have achieved international recognition while in their 20s.

The community is situated 800 kilometres north of Cairns in one of the world's most spectacular wilderness environments.

"Despite geographic isolation, contemporary art from the area connects with audiences across the globe," Dr Butler said.

The exhibition and book survey the development of the art movement from its inception as a Queensland Government post-primary education initiative, through to the establishment of the Lockhart River Art and Cultural Centre.

"Possibly the most fascinating aspect of the Lockhart River art story is in how it demonstrates the regenerative nature of Australian Indigenous cultural traditions and how knowledge is mediated between different generations," Dr Butler said.

"Their contemporary art is a spectacular example of the diverse ways that Australian Indigenous peoples keep the Dreaming alive."

The project is supported by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts as part of the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing and Export Agency, and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. //



*Our Way, Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River:*

The University of Queensland Art Museum, The James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre, University Drive, St Lucia ([www.maynecentre.uq.edu.au](http://www.maynecentre.uq.edu.au)). Admission free, Open 10am–4pm, Tuesday to Sunday





Items from a Fryer Library digital exhibit on the 1967 Referendum

## Focusing on moving forward

UQ is celebrating 2007 as a year of special University focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues to mark the 40th anniversary of the historic referendum of May 27, 1967.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said that in 1967, more than 90 per cent of Australian voters approved the altering of the Constitution relating to Indigenous Australians.

"This provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be included in the Australian census for the first time," he said.

"It also enabled the Federal Government to enact laws to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"One of the reasons the University is adopting a special focus is that despite the referendum outcome, Australia has a long way to go before Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are living on an equitable basis with non-Indigenous Australians.

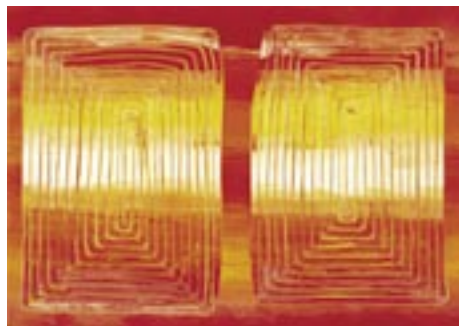
"As an institution with a significant intellectual and moral leadership role within the wider community, it is appropriate that the University uses 2007 to highlight issues related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples both in its own core business, and more broadly."

To promote the significance of the referendum in Australia's history, UQ is holding a series of events and activities throughout the year supported by the Vice-Chancellor. The focus extends the University's Diversity Week theme of "We All Count".

So far, events have included the Vice-Chancellor's Equity and Diversity Awards on May 16, which were followed by a panel discussion of distinguished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander thinkers, and a reconciliation dinner held on May 25.

The Fryer Library has searched its archives to create a digital exhibit to mark the referendum, which can be viewed at <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/>.

Further information including related news stories and activities is available on a dedicated website <http://www.uq.edu.au/weallcount/>.



From top clockwise:  
Samantha Hobson: *Bust 'Im up again*  
Rosella Namok: *Waterhole, Lockhart Canteen*  
Fiona Omeenyo: *Mother and Child*  
Terry Platt: *Before time*  
Samantha Hobson: *Bushfire*



### LEARNING LEADER APPOINTED

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, has appointed Professor Deborah Terry as the University's first Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning.

Professor Hay said the role expands Professor Terry's pre-existing portfolio as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, and will ensure that UQ continues to respond effectively to a full range of existing and emerging priorities in teaching and learning.

"We've seen teaching and learning move from making sure the right processes are in place, to treating teaching and learning more like we treat research: monitoring, understanding and being responsive to the key indicators of quality in this area," Professor Terry said.

Professor Terry will chair the

committee leading the review of the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Plan (2008-2012), which she sees as an opportunity to identify the current key priorities in teaching and learning and to incorporate a stronger focus on outcomes.

These will be measured by the University's success in attracting national awards, Learning and Teaching Performance Fund outcomes, and grants and fellowships from the Carrick Institute – the nation's peak teaching and learning body.

"It's imperative that we put in place strategies that will ensure we have national and international recognition for excellence in both our program offerings and in our teaching and learning," Professor Terry said.

Professor Terry with students during Orientation Week 2007



### MILLION-DOLLAR BOOST FOR ANIMAL SCIENCE

The future profitability and security of Queensland's multi-billion-dollar animal industries has received a major boost with work beginning on a new \$33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS) at Gatton in February.

The CAAS is a joint project between the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) and the University.

UQ's Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Professor Roger Swift, said the CAAS would boast world-class research

facilities in the areas of animal growth, adaptation, welfare, health and vaccines.

"These are key areas of strategic investment to ensure continued growth, diversification and protection of Queensland's animal industries," he said.

"CAAS will encourage increased national and international collaboration between scientists in the developed and developing world."

Acting Director-General of the DPI&F Robert Setter said the CAAS would make a major contribution to the Queensland Government's priorities in developing smart industries, safeguarding Queensland and its environment, and capitalising on the advantages offered by a tropical climate.

### CLUES IN CLOSE-UPS

Detailed brain images being generated by UQ's new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) spectrometer are astounding neuroscientists.

Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) Director Professor Perry Bartlett said the new MRI represented a quantum advance in brain-imaging technology.

"This is an extremely exciting development. We've learned a lot about how we think the brain works, but we've never been able to look at it in real time," Professor Bartlett said.

"This imaging capability will allow us for the first time to rapidly identify and really interrogate the mechanisms controlling brain function and apply these discoveries to disease treatment."

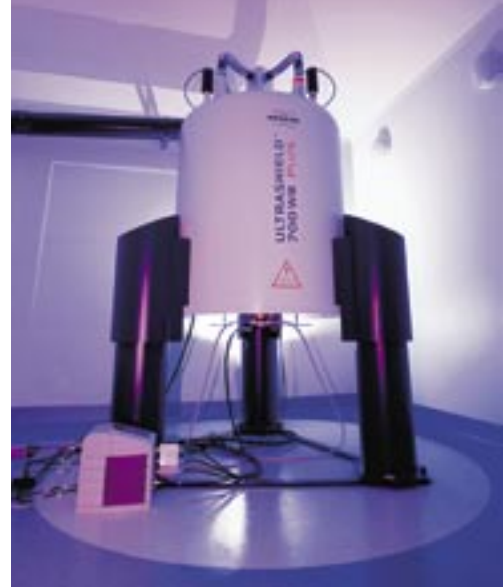
Professor Bartlett said QBI scientists were currently using the technology to look at molecules they believed would help with the regrowth of damaged nerve cells following trauma such as spinal cord injury.

"If this proves successful in animal models, we could conceivably go to human trials within the next 18 months to two years," he said.

"Imaging technology such as this is vital if we are to address the overwhelming incidence of neurological disorders in the community."

Located at UQ's Centre for Magnetic Resonance (CMR) and purchased with the assistance of Queensland Government Smart State Funding, the new 16.4T MRI wide-bore spectrometer is one of fewer than six such machines worldwide.

CMR Acting Director Professor Ian Brereton said the technology enabled scientists to obtain exquisitely detailed images of intact biological specimens, at spatial resolution approaching the cellular level.





## FUN DAY BRIDGES COMMUNITIES

More than 6000 people took part in a celebration of the new Eleanor Schonell bridge at UQ's Bridge Fun Day on February 25.

Families from around Brisbane walked, biked and bussed their way across the bridge, which links the University's St Lucia campus with Dutton Park.

Among the free activities on offer during the day were historical tours of UQ's Great Court by University sculptor Rhyl Hinwood, junior sporting clinics, and a pet-friendly lunch at the Pizza Caffé.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the University was pleased to host the community so people could discover the many attractions of the St Lucia campus.

"The Eleanor Schonell Bridge illustrates the University's commitment to the local community and the environment, allowing easier and greater access than ever before to the outstanding public facilities UQ has to offer," Professor Hay said.

At the event, Professor Hay announced the University would contribute \$25,000 towards a new fund to establish a Multiple Sclerosis Senior Research Fellowship to be based at the University's Queensland Brain Institute.

Since the bridge opened in December, many thousands of University staff members, students and visitors have taken advantage of expanded bus services and the opportunity to cycle to and from work at St Lucia.

Ethan Bell, Andrew Bell and Trudi Border were among those who enjoyed the UQ Bridge Fun Day



## ABC OF LANGUAGE

Learning a language is now as easy as listening to the radio, thanks to a new initiative between UQ's Institute of Modern Languages (IML), the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies (LCCS), the Modern Language Teachers Association and 612 ABC Brisbane.

Professor Roly Sussex, UQ's Professor of Applied Language Studies, suggested the idea to ABC Radio, with the lead role in forming the project taken by the IML's Director, Georgiana Poulter.

For half-an-hour each Monday at 10.30am on Madonna King's radio show, IML teachers discuss common phrases and nuances of languages. Italian Spanish and Indonesian have been explored so far.

"Throughout the month, there will also be 30 'drops' – 90-second sessions refreshing listeners on aspects of the spotlighted language," Ms Poulter said.

The project has been dubbed Language of the Month, or LotMo, and will involve around 25 IML and LCCS staff throughout the year.

IML is Australia's biggest University-based language training organisation, offering courses to the

general public in more than 30 languages in addition to translation and interpreting services.

Ms Poulter, who speaks six languages other than English, said learning a second language greatly increased cultural awareness and LotMo was a way of "reaching out" to the community.



Madonna King and UQ student Riza Harmonika in the studio

## CAMPUS TO BE A CENTRE OF ACTIVITY

Community use of facilities at UQ's Ipswich campus was enhanced in March with the official opening of the Ipswich Activity Centre.

The centre has been designed to provide a place for public activities, small-scale events, and as a facility to host multi-faith activities.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Ipswich Professor Alan Rix, said the opening of the Centre heralded benefits for University staff and students as well as the local community.

"Since its inception in 1999, the campus has been focused on engagement with the local community to develop mutually beneficial outcomes designed to enhance the region's interaction with the University," Professor Rix said.

"The Centre enhances these on and off campus partnerships and we are looking forward to the many opportunities and interactions this will provide."

Further information about the Centre, including how to make public bookings, is available at [www.uq.edu.au/ipswich/community](http://www.uq.edu.au/ipswich/community) or by telephoning 07 3381 1333.

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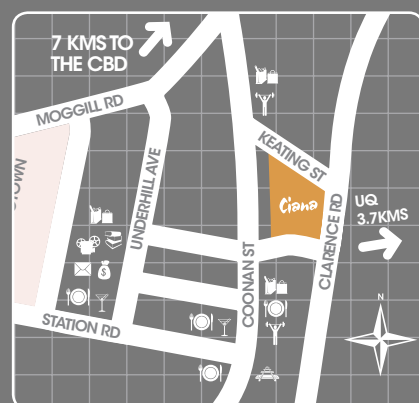
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From left: Professor Milns and sculptor Peter Dornan



From left: Dr Dorothy Watts, Professor Milns and President of the Friends of Antiquity Juliet O'Brien



Friends and wellwishers at the function

# CLASSIC HONOUR

## for Emeritus Professor

The renaming of UQ's Antiquities Museum and launch of an endowment fund recognise the continuing contribution of Emeritus Professor Bob Milns.

// By Cameron Pegg

The renaming of the University's Antiquities Museum in honour of Emeritus Professor Bob Milns, AM, is a fitting tribute.

Professor Milns retired in 2003 after 33 years as UQ Professor of Classics and Ancient History, during which time he built the museum into an invaluable resource for teaching and research.

"The name Bob Milns has become synonymous with Classics, Ancient History and the Antiquities Museum at UQ," Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said.

"Under Bob's leadership, the museum has grown into one of the country's finest collections of its kind – a reflection of the quality of his scholarship and passion for the discipline.

"Renaming the museum is a well-deserved and appropriate tribute to his ongoing contribution to The University of Queensland and the community at large."

Professor Milns, a first-class honours graduate from both Leeds University and Cambridge, was appointed Chair of Classics and Ancient History in 1970, holding the position until his retirement.

An expert on Alexander the Great and his father, Philip II of Macedon, Professor Milns fostered the display and promotion of a small collection of antiquities as soon as he took up his appointment.

Under his stewardship, the original collection has since been joined by more than 1000 objects – the oldest dating back more than 4000 years.

"I always insisted that the objects in the museum, while belonging to the University, were also public treasures," Professor Milns said.

"I have always believed that they should be promoted outside the University, and that the public should have the opportunity to come and see them."

Professor Milns said the museum continued to be popular with school groups, UQ students and scholars from around the world.

"The histories of both Greece and Rome very definitely underpin western civilisations," he said.

"It's not just the historical figures, but the philosophers, the playwrights and the poets, and people understand and appreciate this and they want to come and learn about them."

In addition to serving as head of department for many years, Professor Milns held several positions within the University's administration, including as a UQ Senator and long-serving member of the Academic Board.

His many awards include Member of the Order of Australia (1997), a Centenary Medal in 2003, and the "Niki" award of the Australian Hellenic Council for distinguished service.

Adding further recognition to his ongoing support for Ancient History and Classics at UQ, the R D Milns perpetual endowment fund was launched in May.

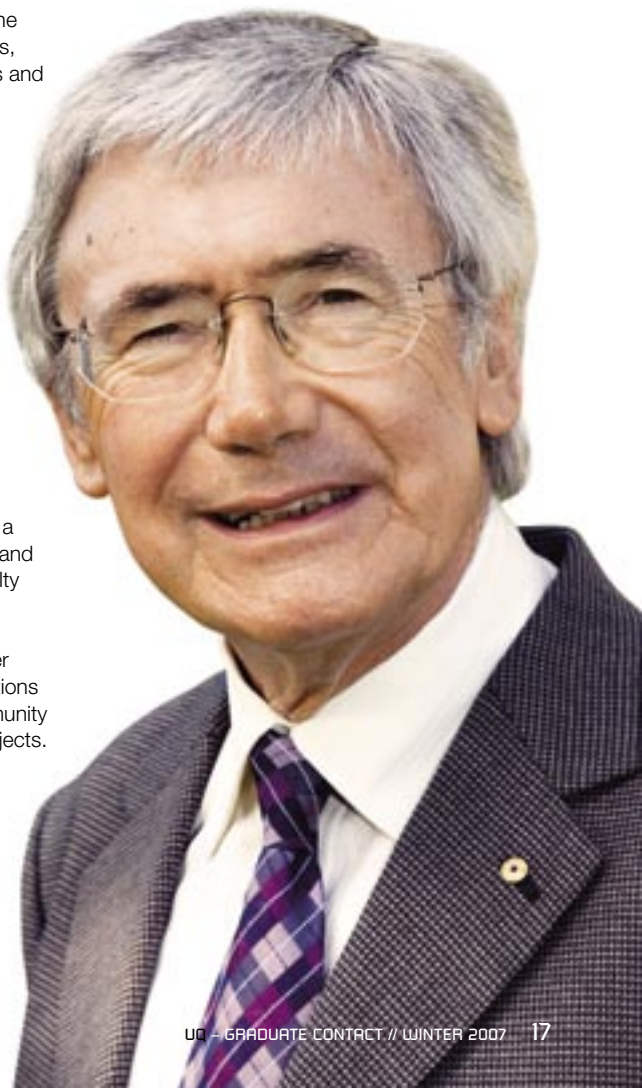
Proposed by the Friends of Antiquity – a sub group of the UQ Alumni Association – and supported by the UQ Senate and the Faculty of Arts, the fund will promote teaching and learning in Ancient History and Classics.

Chair of the fund committee and former UQ academic Dr Dorothy Watts said donations from graduates and members of the community would be used to support a number of projects.

These include bringing eminent researchers to the University to promote discussion and research, the purchase of artefacts for the museum, and to employ academic staff.

Anyone interested in contributing to the fund can contact Dr Watts on 07 3371 8817 or at [d.watts@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.watts@uq.edu.au). //

"UNDER BOB'S LEADERSHIP, THE MUSEUM HAS GROWN INTO ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S FINEST COLLECTIONS OF ITS KIND – A REFLECTION OF THE QUALITY OF HIS SCHOLARSHIP AND PASSION FOR THE DISCIPLINE"



# REASON TO CELEBRATE

The University held its latest “offshore” graduation celebrations in Singapore and Malaysia in April. The ceremonies give the family and friends of recent graduates a chance to see their loved ones receive the rewards of their studies in Queensland.

The visits to the two countries also included events for UQ alumni, as well as projects aimed at adding value to the relationship between the University and its alumni, as *Graduate Contact* Editor BRAD TURNER reports.







Opposite page:

Above: Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay and Professor Liew Ah Choy, guest speaker at the Singapore celebration. Below: Sir Llew Edwards (left) and Dato' Azizan Abdul Rahman, guest speaker in Kuala Lumpur

This page, left: Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards congratulates Dr Abdul Wahid



Students at the Singapore celebration

Pride and happiness are the emotions most often associated with UQ graduation ceremonies held outside Australia.

At the University's celebration in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on April 16, there was also a light-hearted touch to the formalities.

UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, had conferred degrees, speeches had been made and the academic procession was readying to leave when Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter called a halt to proceedings.

It was decided that the determination and enthusiasm of a late-arriving graduate Dr Sfadihah Abdul Wahid should be rewarded.

A relieved Dr Abdul Wahid explained she had been delayed by late ward rounds at the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and paid tribute to the driving skills of husband, Dr Sahrir Sanusi.

"The hospital is usually about 30 minutes away and it felt like we made it in about 15 minutes. It was a very quick trip this time, but I don't think he broke any rules," she said.

"I was too busy to come when the University held its last ceremony here and I didn't want to miss out again."

Dr Abdul Wahid was also accompanied by daughters Anisah Farhana and Aishah Najeeha and sons Amiirul Ikhwani and Amir Hakeem.

She was awarded a PhD by the University for her studies into cancer fighting cells in the blood at Brisbane's Mater Medical Research Institute.

Dr Abdul Wahid is now the Head of Clinical Hematology and Stem Cell Transplantation Services at UKM and Associate Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

"I manage hematology patients and general patients, as well as doing academic work by

teaching undergraduates and postgraduates, as well as research," she said.

Earlier, guest speaker Dato' Azizan Abdul Rahman, the Director-General of the Labuan Offshore Financial Services Authority said learning should not end with graduation.

"I am sure some of you are contemplating studying further to obtain higher degrees," said Dato' Azizan, who was awarded a Masters of Business Administration by UQ in 1994.

"Some may be eagerly waiting to explore the opportunity to start your working life.

"Whatever decisions you choose to make, remember that you can never be far from education.

"Wearing the robe today does not mean that it is time to say goodbye to books.

"As you start your working careers, you will realise that leveraging on your education and continuously learning will actually help your career progression.

"SO COUNT EVERYTHING  
AS A LEARNING  
EXPERIENCE. LEARN FROM  
YOUR SUCCESSES.  
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY,  
LEARN FROM YOUR  
FAILURES."

"So count everything as a learning experience. Learn from your successes. But most importantly, learn from your failures."

The University also held a graduation celebration in Singapore on April 14 where the guest speaker was Professor Liew Ah Choy, the Director of International Relations Office at the National University of Singapore, and a Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Professor Liew, who graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) with First Class Honours in 1969 and completed his PhD three years later, noted the ceremony was on the same day 35 years after his first son was born at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

He told graduates their decision to study overseas would always be of great personal and professional value and provide them with an advantage in the "highly-competitive and fast-changing global landscape."

"I am sure that you valued the chance to manage your life away from home – to look after your own accommodation, cook your food, open a bank account, experience a different culture ... and be able to understand that is exciting and necessary to live in a multi-cultural world.

"As you embark on life's journey and go the distance, even with your secured advantage, you must find your niche and differentiate yourself from the competition.

"The mathematicians amongst you would know that if you differentiate distance with respect to time, you would get velocity or speed – speed to pick up and go.

"If you further differentiate velocity, you will get acceleration and then, indeed, the sky is not the limit. Differentiate and secure your rate of rise." //



Professor Marley and SIG project manager Ingrid Panitsch at the Kuala Lumpur graduation celebration

## HEALTH NETWORK'S GROWTH GOALS

Malaysian alumni of the University's Faculty of Health Sciences are the latest members of a health network formed to address global epidemics such as diabetes and obesity.

The network of Malaysian UQ health graduates has linked with other UQ alumni in Asia to help bring an international perspective to major health issues.

The Malaysian Faculty of Health Sciences Alumni Special Interest Group (SIG) was launched in Kuala Lumpur on April 13.

The event was hosted by UQ Alumni Association of Malaysia President Dato' Nik Ezar and Professor John Marley, the Faculty's Director of Internationalisation.

Professor Mahani Clyde Mansor has been elected to chair the SIG and UQ Alumni Association committee member Azim Osman, has been elected as secretary.

The SIG will also explore mutually beneficial opportunities in Malaysia, including work placements and experience, mentoring, professional development and collaborative research.

The Malaysian SIG was the third established by the Faculty, joining groups launched last year in Singapore and Thailand. It is hoped alumni in China, Vietnam and India will join the network next year.

"The idea is to deepen our geographic footprint globally using our alumni networks as entree into their respective countries' business, research and educational environments," said Professor Marley.

"We believe this vision can be achieved by creating 'health-focused hubs' – SIG's with the mutual aim of working towards health solutions.

"Having a common goal is a cohesive and strengthening exercise for the SIG members, who are from a cross section of disciplines and living in the same city."

Professor Marley said the SIGs were designed to fit within the framework of existing UQ alumni associations.

"Where the Faculty has many alumni in a country with no association, we might form a SIG outside the framework of an association, or lobby to have one established," he said.

## FAREWELLS BEGIN FOR VC

The University's Singapore alumni hosted the first formal farewell function for UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, during a visit in April.

UQ Alumni Association of Singapore members joined academic, government, business and community leaders to pay tribute to Professor Hay, who retires at the end of the year, and his wife Barbara.

Guests included Dr Lee Boon Yang, Singapore's Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, a Veterinary Science graduate and UQ's International Alumnus of the Year in 2003.

UQ Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter said he and Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, who attended with Lady Edwards, were on the committee that interviewed Professor Hay in 1995.

He said while Professor Hay had been the outstanding candidate, the appointment had the additional benefit of bringing Mrs Hay to the University.

"What we did not know then is that we were really getting two for the price of one, because John and Barbara Hay are an outstanding team who have both made significant contributions to the University in so many areas," Mr Porter said.

UQ's International Alumnus of the Year in 2005, Loh Hoon Sun, and UQ Alumni Association of Singapore president, Frankie Tan, presented Professor and Mrs Hay with a gift on behalf of the alumni.

Mr Tan said the gift, a classic Chinese painting of a horse engraved in pewter

and mounted on rosewood, had special significance.

"The four Chinese characters on the Chinese painting literally say, 'When the Horse has arrived, the mission is accomplished'."

Professor Hay admitted he "didn't think it would be in Singapore that I would begin a Nellie-Melba-like series of quiet internments of myself."

Professor Hay recalled he first visited Singapore in 1964, but hadn't been able to go ashore from his ship because of confrontation with Indonesia prior to the country's separation from Malaysia.

"I have had a lot of contact with Singapore since, and in particular with the National University of Singapore (NUS), and I have many memories and stories associated with your country," he said.

Professor Hay recalled discussions with his friend, the highly-distinguished poet and later Professor of English at NUS, Edwin Thumboo.

"We used to talk about how Singapore was exploring ways to be different from British universities, because the British had a very powerful influence upon Singapore at that time," he said.

"But there was a strong tradition of other people writing the script for the NUS, which is no longer the case.

"The utter transformation of that wonderful university is something that I have watched and admired during my time here, and the transformation of the city itself also beggars belief."

Mr Tan presents the gift of a classic Chinese painting to Professor and Mrs Hay







Yantian Port in China. These photographs were taken by Mr Mulligan on a recent visit

## SHIPPING SHOPPING

When UQ graduate Alastair Mulligan arrives in a new country he heads straight for the coast – but he doesn't have boating, swimming or fishing on his mind.

Instead, the New Zealand-born Mr Mulligan can usually be found checking out the efficiency and operations of the nearest international shipping terminal.

Mr Mulligan, who graduated in 2002 with a dual Science/Commerce degree majoring in financial maths and corporate finance, travels the globe assessing the value of ports as investment opportunities.

He joined the infrastructure division of the Australian-listed investment bank Babcock & Brown (BNB) in March and, with his focus on the Asian region, is based in Singapore.

"The infrastructure division of BNB looks to link private equity with investments that provide long term steady cash flows," Mr Mulligan said.

"Ports and shipping terminals are excellent infrastructure assets for a number of reasons.

"Firstly, they serve a hinterland with connections to the rest of the world, meaning that the driver of the cash flows is dependent on global trade, and that trade is not likely to

change in the short to medium term.

"And, with a lot of investment required to develop a port or terminal, they are generally on a minimum of 30 year leases or freehold.

The shipping industry is in Mr Mulligan's blood and was the reason he found himself in Brisbane at the start of Year 12.

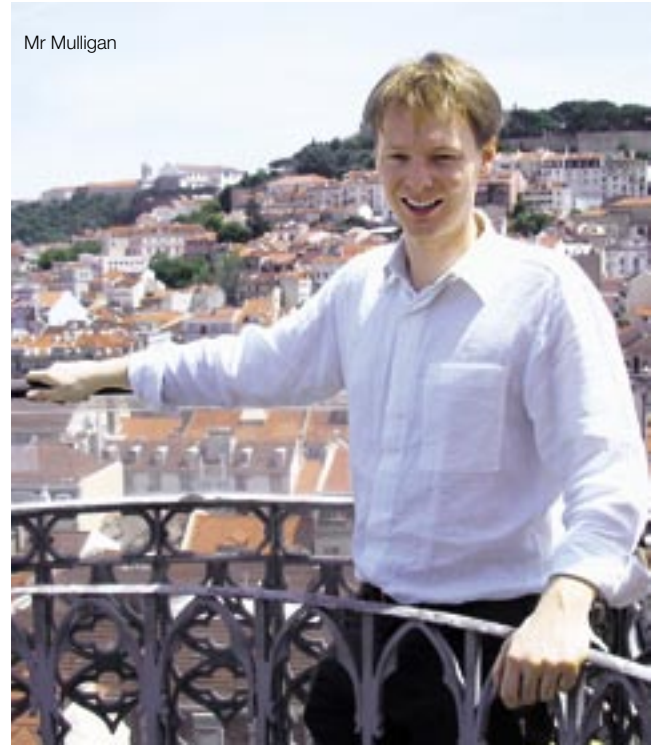
"We moved from Wellington when my father was offered the job as Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Brisbane," he said.

Mr Mulligan enrolled at Brisbane Boys' College, and the next year at UQ.

He said he planned on continuing his studies after being offered an opportunity to study for an honours degree in Commerce – when once again the shipping industry changed his path.

"After finishing my final exam, I was offered a short-term project working for a new company called International Infrastructure Management Ltd," he said.

"This ended up being a full-time job which



Mr Mulligan

involved me working as part of a team which provided port and terminal consultancy.

"Then the company was sold to British Maritime Technology and I was relocated to Singapore to work out of the Asian office."

He spent three years in the job before moving to container shipping line, APL, to assess container terminal purchase opportunities.

"With most cities only having one port if any, there is certainly a lot of travel involved," he said.

"So far I have been to Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Germany, London, France, United Arab Emirates, Portugal, USA and India."

## NO TIME TO BE HUMBLE

Asian graduates need to overcome a natural tendency to be humble to increase their chances of securing a job, according to a leading employment expert who addressed a UQ seminar in Malaysia in April.

Simon Si, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development at JobStreet.com, a pioneering and leading online recruitment company operating throughout Asia, said it was important that Asian students learnt to promote themselves to employers.

Mr Si was the keynote speaker at the UQ Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (BEL) seminar to help UQ graduates with advice on how to successfully start their careers in their home country.

The idea of holding an offshore Employment Seminar, a first for the University, was conceived and organised

by the Faculty's International Employment Services Manager, Nicole Andronicus, and attended by Director of Studies, Professor Frank Finn.

"Asians are usually humble and are not used to promoting themselves, but it is essential that a candidate overcomes this, particularly when it comes to preparing a resume for the potential employer," Mr Si told graduates.

Mr Si also advised graduates to make sure they had a good command of English.

"English is really the international language of business these days and it is important for people looking for a career in Asia to have a good grasp and understanding of English," he said.



Graduates Eun Chun Oun (Bachelor of Engineering) left, and Peishan Wong (Bachelor of Commerce), right, discuss employment issues with Mr Si

Mr Si said his company had surveyed its client companies about why they did not employ recent university graduates.

"The three main reasons given were poor command of English (55 percent); poor character and attitude (37 percent); and asking for unrealistic salaries (33 percent)," he said.

# PUPPIES DO TIME TO REFORM LIVES

A program to examine the impact on prison inmates of training dogs for a future helping humans is being assessed for the first time by two UQ postgraduate students.

// By Miguel Holland

Two UQ students are investigating whether puppies in prison can help reform inmates and improve the working lives of prison staff.

UQ postgraduate students Claire Eddie and Georgia Sakrzewski are following the progress of four pups delivered into the care of prisoners and staff at the low-security Darling Downs Correctional Centre.

Eight prisoners are raising and training the puppies in basic obedience for 16 months to become assistance dogs.

Assistance dogs are companions for people with disabilities and are often able to help open doors and retrieve dropped objects.

Corrective Services introduced Pups In Prison last year in partnership with Assistance Dogs Australia to help inmates develop patience, compassion, self-regulation, communication skills and cooperation.

Similar programs have been trialled in New South Wales and the United States, but Ms Eddie and Ms Sakrzewski said they believed they would be the first to measure the puppies' impact on prisoners and staff.

Ms Eddie said they were interested in changes to the prisoners' psychological wellbeing, criminal attitudes, loneliness and parenting skills and also the job satisfaction and workplace morale of prison staff.

She said the effect of the puppies would be evaluated by questionnaires, prison visits, feedback from correctional officers and face-to-face interviews with prisoners and staff.

Ms Eddie said the puppies lived with the prisoners but also had purpose-built kennels and home visits with prison staff.

UQ's Centre for Companion Animal Health Director Professor Jacquie Rand said she

expected the puppies would help rehabilitate prisoners and hoped the program would be expanded to other open security prisons.

Professor Rand said homeless dogs that needed retraining would be trialled in a similar program.

Ms Eddie and Ms Sakrzewski are seeking sponsors to expand this work during the next four years.

UQ's Centre for Companion Animal Health initiated the collaborative research project with UQ's School of Psychology, Assistance Dogs of Australia and Queensland Corrective Services.

Anyone wishing to help this research or other studies to improve the health and welfare of companion animals and human-animal relationships can do so by supporting the 2007 Chancellor's Appeal (see page 30). //

Ms Eddie and Ms Sakrzewski with one of the puppies







An early-morning fire destroyed much of the infrastructure of UQ's Heron Island Research Station in March, but scientists and staff are determined to have the world-class facility fully operational in a year.  
// By Jan King

# HERON STATION TO REBUILD

UQ marine researchers had backed up most of their significant data at Heron Island Research Station before the world-renowned facility was damaged by fire in the early hours of Friday, March 30.

The Director of UQ's Centre for Marine Studies, Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, said backed-up material included data on climate change's impact on coral reefs (such as coral bleaching), and a major international project largely funded by the World Bank and the Global Environment Fund.

"The fire hasn't killed the enthusiasm of the staff, nor their will to rebuild an even better Station," Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

Located in the southern Great Barrier Reef, the Station is a world-class research and

teaching facility, and the most productive and prestigious marine research station in Australia.

It has been established for more than 50 years and is internationally renowned for coral reef research, and student training.

Staff and researchers at the Station when the fire broke out at 4am were safely evacuated.

A number of buildings, including the Station's research laboratories and part of the staff accommodation were destroyed.

University Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter said the Environmental Protection Agency had last month given approval for the removal of debris and soil from the site.

"Fire alarm systems in the remaining accommodation cabins have been upgraded

and the Station hopes to be in a position to take bookings for field activities from midway through this month (June)," he said.

"Planning is well underway for the replacement of the facilities and buildings which were destroyed.

"However, we are not able to put any time scale on the rebuilding process at this stage."

Mr Porter said the insurance claim was being compiled, and that the personal claims of some staff had been partly or entirely dealt with.

The cause of the fire is still being determined by an official investigation team.

"We have had no authoritative feedback on the cause of the fire, which was so intense we may never know," Mr Porter said. //

Above, from left: Damage done to buildings by the fire, and Heron Island Research Station staff members at the scene of the blaze  
Below: Heron Island shortly after the fire



# COMMUNITY TIES THE KEY TO A STRONG UNIVERSITY

Greater engagement with the community is the key to assuring long-term sustainability for universities, according to Carla Boeckman, UQ's new Director, Office of University Development and Graduate Relations.

Her responsibilities encompass relationship-building and fundraising, as well as financial administration. "With government support in decline, the impulse would be to view alumni and other stakeholders in the narrow sense as a potential source of funding. What attracted me to UQ was the commitment to foster long-term relationships with graduates, the private sector and the broader community," Ms Boeckman said.

"Initiatives such as first-year students helping to recruit at their old high schools, more recent graduates providing on-campus career advice, and experienced friends serving on faculty advisory boards are some of the ways UQ strengthens this engagement."

Ms Boeckman was most recently Development and Alliances Director of Cambia, a not-for-profit research institute based in Canberra that creates tools to foster open innovation and collaboration in the life sciences for public good.

Prior to this appointment, she spent more than five years at the Geneva-based World Economic Forum, identifying and monitoring

science, technology, education, environment and health issues to ascertain their impact on business strategy and public policy. She also initiated a University Presidents meeting to examine how this group of powerful leaders might use their influence to create social value.

She brings to UQ 18 years of program management, marketing and international experience, in particular, experience in developing relationships with senior leaders from university, private sector, government, non-government organisations and media backgrounds.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Illinois and a Master of Arts in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University.

"It is critically important to engage the public in order to raise awareness of the tangible benefits to society of university research. If people can see the big picture and how universities are providing real value, they will be more inclined to provide both moral and financial support," she said.

She stressed this was not an overnight process and took time.



"Nike founder Phil Knight's recent US\$105 million donation to his *alma mater*, Stanford University, was described as an 'overnight success that took four years'. I would imagine that, in reality, such contributions are based on relationships lasting well over 50 years," Ms Boeckman said. For more information, contact [development.office@uq.edu.au](mailto:development.office@uq.edu.au)

## SEVENS HAVE IT AT GATTON REUNION

The UQ Gatton annual reunion for past students and staff, known as the Back to College weekend, will be held on December 1 and 2, with special focus on those who graduated in a year ending in the number seven.

The featured graduation years will be 1997, 1987, 1977, 1967, 1957 and 1947.

A reunion of former staff will take place over lunch on December 1 as part of the weekend activities.

The 1962 graduates are also planning on celebrating their 45-year reunion on the weekend.

Association president Graham McClymont said other reunion groups were welcome to take the opportunity to have a get-together.

"More people attend each year to meet up with old friends and

remember the good times they had at the campus," Mr McClymont said.

"In 2006 there were more than 200 people registered for the weekend, including a large number of former staff."

Mr McClymont said many past students and staff stayed for the entire weekend.

Activities include dinner on the Saturday night, overnight accommodation in the halls of residence and breakfast in the dining hall on Sunday morning.

"The weekend includes bus and walking tours of the campus," Mr McClymont said.

"Browsing through the historical collection now housed in a large space on the ground floor of Morrison Hall is particularly enjoyable."

For more information, contact Mr McClymont on 07 3378 0201 or [g.mcclymont@bigpond.com](mailto:g.mcclymont@bigpond.com); or visit [www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents](http://www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents)

The 1947 boxing team at Gatton







## ARTWORKS CARVED INTO IPSWICH HISTORY

In 2005, an honour board and mirror frame carved by a patient of the former Ipswich Hospital for the Insane were donated to the University.

After reading about the donated works, a UQ graduate and his wife have revealed they inherited artworks by the same man.

Dr Peter Cairns and his wife Paula are former Ipswich locals who were left the artworks by Paula's father.

The couple, who now live in Tamworth, New South Wales, said Mrs Cairns' father had belonged to a band that had entertained inmates of the hospital on Sundays.

Mrs Cairns said the Scottish theme of the intricate carvings would have appealed to her father because of his own Scottish heritage.

"I'd say the band members saw the work and I know my father would have appreciated the carving and the fact that it had Scottish thistle and that he himself was Scottish," she said.

"This is probably why he bought the two carved mirror frames which have now been passed on to us."

Peter Harley, the patient in question, was born in Scotland and travelled to Australia, probably around the turn of the century.

He was admitted to the hospital in 1907,



died there in 1941 and was buried in Ipswich Cemetery. He was well-known at the hospital for his wood-carving skills.

Mrs Cairns said the couple had grown quite fond of the works – which were dated 1923 – and planned to hold on to them for now.

"There is a great dignity about them actually, there is a real presence."

"They are quite ornate and I think he worked with oak... with the symbols of a scotch thistle, a chrysanthemum, beautiful birds, swans, bees and the English rose.

Dr Cairns graduated in Medicine at UQ in 1957, before studying radiology at Brisbane General (now the Royal Brisbane Hospital) then moving into private practice in Tamworth.

The retired couple have seven children.



Mr and Mrs Petherick at the ceremony

## ROOM FOR HONOUR AT GATTON

The contribution and service of Stan Petherick to the University's Gatton campus was officially recognised in December with the naming of a room in his honour in the Foundation Building.

President of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Graham McClymont invited Mr Petherick and his wife Agnes to share in the naming of the Stanley Petherick Meeting Room as part of the "Back to College" celebrations.

A large number of former staff and students also attended to help Mr and Mrs Petherick celebrate the honour.

Mr Petherick dedicated more than 44 years teaching at the Gatton campus between 1938 and 1982 and has for more than six decades been an integral member of the Lockyer Valley community and the UQ Gatton Past Students Association.

His professional contributions span generations of students who studied at Gatton, formerly known as the Queensland Agricultural College.

Many students who were educated and trained under the guidance of Mr Petherick have gone on to become leaders in industry, enjoying long and prosperous careers as farmers, technologists and scientists.

In 1994, Mr Petherick's service to agricultural education was recognised with the The University of Queensland Medal.

Following retirement from the University, Mr Petherick served as president of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association for 12 years.

Mr McClymont noted Mr Petherick's involvement and leadership in his letter of recommendation to the University.

"Stanley Vincent Petherick is an exceptional individual whose capacity to lead by example, mentor both young and old, provide pastoral service and provide leadership in community activities makes him a worthy individual for recognition by the University," Mr McClymont wrote.

The Past Students Association was a major contributor to the recent restoration of the Foundation Building at the Gatton campus.

## ALUMNI BOOK FAIR A REAL PAGE TURNER

Brisbane's bibliophiles were in their element at the UQ Alumni Book Fair in April.

Taking place over five days at the UQ Centre, the biennial event attracted thousands of book lovers and raised more than \$130,000 for a number of causes.

The fair was preceded by the popular rare book auction.

"This year, we received a large, wonderful and valuable donation which included a number of 19th and early 20th century books on Egypt," organiser Feona Walker said.

"There was also a great limited edition facsimile of Aubrey Beardsley's *Lysistrata of Aristophanes* as well as a 1988 edition of *The Complete Etchings of Norman Lindsay*."

Ms Walker said the Book Fair was different from others as extra care was taken to sort all items into their specific genre or subject for easy browsing, with a morning

session open exclusively for people with disabilities.

"We also do not have book dealers or anyone else previewing the sale or being involved during the year so all-comers have the same opportunity to get a bargain," she said.

A dedicated team of volunteers – many of them UQ graduates – took two years to collect and expertly catalogue the tens of thousands of items on sale at the event, which included magazines, sheet music, CDs, videos and DVDs.

"The Book Fair is run entirely by the regular volunteers, their friends, relatives and other people who come just to help," Ms Walker said.

"We have about 40 regulars who work over the two years, and about 100 who help at the Book Fair itself."



Students Malar Krishnasamy and Noah Bergel-Bartlett look for book bargains

The fair is the major fundraiser of the Alumni Association of The University of Queensland, which has given over \$6 million to community projects from providing electric chairs for people with disabilities to supporting the Fryer Library, the UQ Art Museum and student scholarships.

## PROGRAM LINKS LAW STUDENTS WITH PROFESSIONALS

The UQ Law Graduates Association and the TC Beirne School of Law have launched a mentoring program for final-year students to help ease the transition into the profession.

Since the program was officially launched in February, more than 50 students have been matched with mentors.

Program coordinator Dr Nick James said the journey through university and the transition to legal professional practice could be challenging and confronting for many law students.

"The journey is much easier if the student is able to establish connections with the profession before graduation," Dr James said.

"The program matches law students with a legal professional who

can provide an insight into the realities of legal practice and who can be approached for practical advice and guidance about improving study techniques, choosing a career path, and locating job opportunities."

Mentors and students are given some assistance in determining the type of guidance to be provided, but are otherwise left to negotiate the details of the mentoring relationship themselves.

Dr James said 60 graduates, including legal practitioners, members of the judiciary and leading business people in Australia and overseas, had registered as mentors, with new mentors registering daily.

"Most of these mentors have agreed to mentor multiple students," Dr James said.

"We hope that after graduating these students will themselves become mentors and that, as the number of available mentors increases, the program is opened up to all law students enrolled at the University."

Law School graduates or final-year law students interested in participating in the program should visit [www.law.uq.edu.au/mentor](http://www.law.uq.edu.au/mentor)







Mr Vatiwutipong and Ms Sawatpanit examine material surrounding the Thai Royal visit

## THAI KING'S VISIT REMEMBERED IN FILM

The 1962 visit to the UQ Gatton campus by King Bhumibol of Thailand will be featured in a television documentary series to be shown on Thai television later this year.

A Thai film crew visited the campus in February to shoot footage for the 52-episode series, which details all aspects of the King's 60-year reign.

He is the world's longest-serving monarch.

Among topics being covered in the documentary are the King's overseas travels, including his September 1962 visit to the then Queensland Agricultural College, now the University's Gatton campus.

The King was keen to visit Gatton during his five-day stay in southeast Queensland to speak to researchers and examine agricultural innovations for possible use in his own country.

Members of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association searched their archives for information and memorabilia about the King's visit, and were able to locate a number of newspaper articles and photographs.

Also featured was a cup brought from Bangkok by Pitt House swimming captain Ken Kamasuta in 1953 and donated by the College's Thai students for the champion inter-house swimming team.

*The Gatton College Magazine* from that year recorded that Mr Kamasuta had then captained Pitt House to an unexpected win in the competition to claim the cup.

Association members and long-serving Gatton employees Val Kilah and Julie Reid assisted the crew of director Niti Vatiwutipong and content creator Phimchanok Sawatpanit during the filming.

The filming was in the new museum on the ground floor of the historic Morrison Hall, which is the culmination of years of collecting and cataloguing by members of the association.



From left: Robert Wensley, John Miles, Tony Drake and Norman Traves

## ALUMNI NETWORK RE-ENGINEERED

Good food, great wine and hot jazz were the order for the evening when UQ Engineering relaunched its UQ Engineering Alumni network in November last year.

More than 140 people gathered at the UQ Staff and Graduates Club to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter for UQ Engineering – one in which graduates will have greater opportunities to stay in touch with friends, colleagues and their *alma mater*.

Alumni attending on the night graduated as far back as 1943 and as recently as December 2006, and included a number of groups who had remained in close contact since meeting as students.

Head of the School of Engineering, Professor Jim Litster (himself a graduate in 1979), said it was a chance for people to reacquire themselves with the St Lucia campus and refresh the memories they formed there as students.

"It's amazing the variety of careers and directions that UQ Engineering alumni have taken. I have heard a number of

stories about the various successes of our graduates, and the challenges they have faced in their roles," Professor Litster said.

"We hope to engage our past graduates with current students – to inspire them by speaking about their professional experiences and the opportunities available, to provide mentoring as they progress through their studies, and to offer support as they enter the workforce."

Head of the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering Professor Paul Bailes said continued contact between UQ and its engineering alumni benefited all involved.

"The representation of engineering alumni across the generations benefits new graduates in particular by placing them in contact with role models of professional excellence and achievement. For the older graduates, their continued connection with and influence on the student program represents a vital investment in the future of the profession," Professor Bailes said.

For more information visit <http://www.eng.uq.edu.au/alumni/>



# CALL OF THE WILD STILL RINGS

A trip across Africa in the 1970s continues to play a pivotal part in the life of a UQ graduate and staff member.

// By Lucy Manderson

Few people have had close interactions with great apes.

The best-known are anthropologists Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Birute Galdikas.

Another to have had what turned out to be a life-changing experience is UQ graduate Annette Henderson.

In the mid 1970s, Mrs Henderson and her husband Win embarked on an ambitious journey to cross Africa from north to south in a Kombi van.

After being pulled over by the army at machine-gunpoint, then later breaking down crossing the Sahara Desert, the couple eventually made it to the central West African nation of Gabon, only to have all of their money stolen.

As they waited for a transfer of money from England, they chanced upon the director of a local mineral exploration camp, a New Zealander who had lived in Brisbane.

Mrs Henderson's husband was a builder which, as it turned out, the camp badly needed. While initially hesitant, it took just one look at the remote site for the couple to sign on for a six-month stint.

"This place was in the middle of the forest, with elephants, leopards, gorillas, chimpanzees, everything just outside the range of vision – and we absolutely enjoyed it from the first second," she said.

Six months soon became 15, and a year of French at UQ came in handy for Mrs Henderson, as she began operating the radio and organising supplies for the camp's 100 workers and their families.

She also had her first contact with the western lowland gorillas that inspired her to eventually return to UQ to study anthropology.

Mr and Mrs Henderson and a geologist colleague fostered an orphaned baby gorilla, the legacy of the Gabonese people's hunting lifestyle.

"Josie came into our care because her mother had been shot by the people at the village because she was eating their bananas," Mrs Henderson said.

"It was like having a child in the sense that she was with us all the time and we let her dictate the agenda."

While Josie planted the seeds of inspiration, Mrs Henderson said it was an experience with an eight-year-old male gorilla named Ikata that really decided her course.

"My experience with Ikata was life-changing. Having this immensely powerful creature gently stroke my hair and hug me and interact with me for some time was overwhelming and absolutely amazing," she said.

Returning to Brisbane, Mrs Henderson completed an anthropology degree, before completing her honours on an aspect of Aboriginal studies.

While she tutored in anthropology over the next few years, her career path took a turn and she took a position on the University's general staff in 1986.

Twenty years on, she is proud to say her life experiences have come "full circle".

Mrs Henderson is completing her Masters in Philosophy (Creative Writing) at UQ on an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) scholarship, with her major project a memoir of her time in Africa.

"It was the encouragement that came from a fabulous colleague that made me think about doing the MPhil," she said.

"You never know where opportunities are going to come from or who's going to inspire you and I guess, being open to this is one of the most important things." //

"THIS PLACE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST, WITH ELEPHANTS, LEOPARDS, GORILLAS, CHIMPANZEES, EVERYTHING JUST OUTSIDE THE RANGE OF VISION... AND WE ABSOLUTELY ENJOYED IT FROM THE FIRST SECOND"





## Debaters make their point

The University's debaters have been talking up a storm, with good performances at competitions in Australia and overseas this year.

// By Cameron Pegg

The University's Debating Society (UQDS) made a winning start to the year when two of its speakers were named runners up at the World University Debating championships.

It was the best ever result by a Queensland team and warmly welcomed by the UQ Alumni network, which supports the society.

After 12 preliminary rounds, UQDS members Erin O'Brien and Evan Goldman made it to the grand final along with teams from Cambridge, Oxford and the University of Sydney.

The World Championships are held in British Parliamentary style, where four pairs compete against one another – two forming the "government" and two the "opposition" to a motion.

With only 15 minutes preparation for each debate, Ms O'Brien and Mr Goldman spoke on a number of controversial topics including land redistribution in South Africa, the banning of cosmetic surgery, and whether those sentenced to life imprisonment should be allowed to instead choose the death penalty.

In the grand final, the team argued against the motion that economic growth is the solution to climate change.

"Thinking on your feet is the most

important skill in debating at this level," Mr Goldman said.

"In the finals series especially, all our best and debate-winning arguments were essentially thought up on the spot in response to what other teams had put out there."

Ms O'Brien said it was gratifying to compete against the world's debating elite.

"It's the first time that a Queensland team has ever made the grand final, so it was exciting to be there," she said.

"Sydney, Oxford and Cambridge are regulars in the world's grand final so it certainly indicates that Queensland will be a force to be reckoned with in the future."

"IT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT  
A QUEENSLAND TEAM  
HAS EVER MADE THE  
GRAND FINAL, SO IT WAS  
EXCITING TO BE THERE"

UQ's success continued at this year's National Debating Championships in Sydney over the Easter long weekend, where a separate team comprising Alice Heathcote, Nihal Kumta and Oliver Badenhorst won the University's first national title.

Ms Heathcote said the three-a-side championships were designed to allow novice speakers to compete alongside more experienced debaters, with UQ fielding its largest ever team.

"It was great to get nearly 30 new members coming to Sydney out of a contingent of over 50," she said.

"Many of those new students had never debated before and it was impressive how rapidly their speaking confidence and general knowledge improved."

The UQDS is one of the country's largest debating societies, holding a regular social competition at the St Lucia campus.

With ongoing support from the UQ alumni network, UQDS members save throughout the year to fund their trips to the tournaments in Australia and abroad.

The society's next major competition is the 2008 World Championships, held over the New Year at Assumption University in Thailand. //

## + CHANCELLOR'S FUND APPEAL

The annual UQ Chancellor's Fund Appeal helps support the world-class research undertaken at the University, with a particular focus on providing community solutions and global outcomes. The projects featured on these pages show how donations to the Appeal are helping advance research at local, national and international levels.



Professor Kavanagh and team member Anna Salzgeber

### ON TRACK TO BEATING DEPRESSION

For many Australians living in the country, getting treatment for problems such as depression can be difficult, particularly when the drive to the nearest counselling facilities can take hours.

But some rural Australians who have lived with depression have been able to find solace in a unique program provided by UQ researchers.

The program, called On Track, is delivered by mail and helps support people who have previously been depressed to keep their lives on course and become more healthy and active.

Professor David Kavanagh, a psychiatrist in the University's School of Medicine, said the program was ideal for people living in rural areas, where treatment facilities were often scarce.

"We are particularly keen to tell people in rural and regional areas about this program as we know that it is often hard for them to get enough help for this problem," Professor Kavanagh said.

"The great thing about this program is that it is free and uses a series of letters – this means that people can get some help, no matter where they live.

"It may feel odd for them to ask for help if they are not actually depressed right now, but it

is really important that they do something about it, before the depression comes back."

Professor Kavanagh said that without counselling or support, for many people depression could be like a "roundabout" they felt they could not get off.

"We know that more than half the people who suffer from depression will have another episode in the next five years," he said.

"Over time, they are also more likely to get physical illnesses, or use alcohol or other drugs."

Professor Kavanagh said the program, which has been running for more than a year, was an ideal way of communicating with people who experienced depression, as there was "something personal" about receiving a letter.

"The series of letters that our recruits receive will let them know when depression may happen in the future and help them to detect early signs," he said.

"The letters also get people to consider how they can look after their physical health.

"Each letter offers ideas to try and show them how they are going. There is also a toll-free number people can use to talk to someone about their problem."

Heather (not her real name), an On Track participant, said the program was particularly helpful because it allowed her to retain a sense of anonymity while giving her the skills to take charge of her life.

"I think in city areas it is easier to be anonymous – if you want to go to a doctor it is easy to go across the city," she said.

"If you are in a rural area or country town where you are known, going to the doctor and saying 'I am experiencing these symptoms' is harder to do. I think in some areas, there is still a stigma associated with depression.

"For me, I'd find it hard to relate to people face-to-face."

Heather said it was easy for her to forget about her depression when things were going really well, but through her participation in On Track she now had the skills to recognise symptoms early.

"With On Track I can work at my own pace and there is always a number to call if I get stuck," she said.

The research project behind On Track is supported by the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and Queensland Health.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the program should call 1300 300 164.

*For more information about the appeal,  
or to donate, please visit  
[www.development.uq.edu.au/appeal](http://www.development.uq.edu.au/appeal)*





Mr Boland (second from left) and Mr Hunter (far right) with colleagues at the Agency for Agricultural Quarantine

## GRADUATES FIGHT BIRD FLU IN INDONESIA

Two former UQ students are helping Indonesia improve its quarantine services.

Russell Hunter, 21 and Pat Boland, 57, are working on the Indonesian Quarantine Strengthening Project being carried out by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.

The two-year \$1 million project, funded by the Australian Agency for International Development aims to reduce the impact of bird flu on rural livelihoods.

Mr Boland (Master of Veterinary Studies, 1978) is the project manager while Mr Hunter (Bachelor of Applied Science, 2005) is the support officer.

Mr Hunter said the project would improve Indonesia's quarantine policy and operations, raise public awareness, and increase quarantine laboratory and technical capacity.

"Its main focus is improving the understanding and the capacity of Indonesia's quarantine systems, particularly to the highly pathogenic avian influenza," Mr Hunter said.

Bird flu is endemic across Indonesia but Mr Boland will run quarantine workshops and training with Indonesian quarantine officers who are expected to also help control other diseases and pests.

He said other quarantine projects would include tailored public awareness activities catering to a specific region and particularly to women, who usually raise village chickens and prepare food.

Most of their work will be with the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency and partner institutions such as the Directorate General of Livestock Services and provincial livestock services.

Mr Boland, who has worked with many foreign governments, and Mr Hunter, who lived in Jakarta for two years in the late 1990s, have already been to Indonesia to coordinate quarantine meetings and to begin a program of public awareness activities.

## LITERACY REVOLUTION

A revolutionary UQ-developed literacy package will soon be available to classrooms throughout Australia and overseas.

Steps on the Path is a package of literacy programs for students from Year 1 to high school.

UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, AC, said the initiative of UQ's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences was believed to be a world-first.

"These programs integrate health and educational expertise into unique inter-disciplinary programs, which teachers deliver," Professor Hay said.

"They equip teachers to provide effective literacy intervention and guide students with sensory-motor difficulties and poor phonological (sound) awareness into lives enriched by literacy.

"Childhood literacy difficulties – if not remedied – can become a lifelong burden. These programs are showing how research and collaboration can deliver positive results for children, families and schools."

Professor Hay said Blackwater North State School and Boondall State School had already achieved excellent outcomes with the program.

"In only three years, Blackwater North State School reduced by more than half the percentage of children needing extra intervention," he said.

"Boondall State School adopted one of the programs in 2003 and achieved results that helped it win an Education Queensland 2006 Showcase Award."

The programs are suitable for most students with literacy problems.

They were written by speech pathologists and occupational therapists, in close consultation with teachers.

Project Leader Carolyn Burrows said the programs were unique because they



Brisbane State High School students William Smailes and Nina Hoffman with *Steps on a Path* authors Carolyn Burrows, Kate Pitty and Dr Julie Marinac

combined knowledge from these areas and had been designed in age-specific packages.

"This inter-disciplinary approach provides teachers with an extremely effective way of targeting two major roadblocks to literacy – poor phonological awareness and sensory motor difficulties," she said.

"Most students who struggle with reading and writing have difficulties in both of these areas, and researchers are now acknowledging the link.

"Tackling both areas together ensures maximum effectiveness. The improved outcomes for students have been significant.

"The programs have already provided significant results for many Queensland schools and have strong support from educators."

A licensing agreement has been secured with publishing company Plural Publishing Inc., which will take the Steps on the Path package to the international market. There will be a staged release of the programs.

The Early Literacy Foundations (ELF) program for Year 1 and 2 students is now available.

Programs for primary students (Phonological Awareness for Literacy) (PAL) and secondary school students (Phonological Awareness for High Schools) (PATHS) are also ready to be rolled out.



## + KEEP IN CONTACT

**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* (see contact details on page 3). Items should include degree(s) held and year(s) graduated. Articles accompanied by clear colour photographs preferred. The deadline for the Summer 2007 issue is September 14.

1974

### TOP IT JOB AT IU

Never in his undergraduate days did **Michael McRobbie** (BA 1974) dream of leading one of America's top universities.

But decades of hard work and success in the higher education sector have led the IT expert to become the President-elect of Indiana University, an eight-campus institution with almost 100,000 students and a budget exceeding \$2.5 billion.

Professor McRobbie joined Indiana in 1997 as vice president of information technology, successfully establishing an innovative IT and online learning environment for the university's students and staff.

He was named vice president of research duties in 2003 and then provost in 2005 before being voted in unanimously for the top job in March.

"It is to me a testimony to the American Dream that I can come from overseas and by working hard and with some modest successes, become the President of one of America's finest universities," Professor McRobbie said.

A prolific researcher in the fields of philosophy and information technology, he said during his tenure he would focus on strengthening Indiana's international standing in fields including medical science, the arts and humanities.

"As I progressed through a variety of academic appointments in Australia and started to regularly travel to the US, my admiration for the excellence and creativity of American universities grew and deepened," Professor McRobbie said.

"Hence, I regard it as the greatest professional honour of my life to have been chosen to be the next President of Indiana University."



1978

### AFRICAN EXPERIENCE

**Vikki Uhlmann** (BA 1978, Dip Psych 1983, PhD 2005) has many goals, but at the moment her aim is to help restore the Nairobi River catchment and improve access to water and sanitation for the local population.

Tackling one of the biggest health issues in Kenya is a fitting challenge for Dr







Dr Uhlmann at work in Nairobi

Uhlmann, who has a decade of experience working with water utilities in Queensland and has completed a doctoral project at UQ's Advanced Wastewater Management Centre.

"My biggest personal and professional challenge is to really understand how life is in Nairobi, as it's only then that I can truly design interventions that work," Dr Uhlmann said.

Having run her own management consultancy company and also practiced as a psychologist previously, Dr Uhlmann said

she hoped her strongly held values about social justice and approaches to sustainable living would combine with her skills and experience to help others.

"By the time I finished my PhD, I had realised my research would be useful for planning sustainable water and sanitation in developing, as well as in developed countries such as Australia," she said.

"This project is exactly the kind of area where I think I could make a small difference."



## 1982

### HISTORY BROADCAST

Not many people can say they witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall during a day at the office, but **Helen Seeney's** (BA 1982) line of work has always given her a unique perspective on the world.

A host and producer for German radio giant Deutsche Welle (DW) for the last two decades, Ms Seeney has had the opportunity to report on some of recent history's defining events.

"So much has happened here in Europe since I first arrived at DW in 1987 – the revolutions in Eastern Europe, the fall of the Berlin Wall, German reunification, the wars in the Balkans, the expansion of the European Union, and the introduction of a single currency," Ms Seeney said.

"It's seemingly impossible to run out of ideas for reports or interviews... the continent remains an incredibly dynamic place in terms of news."

Encouraged to apply for an internship with the company by her lecturer Bruce Grundy – now an adjunct professor with the University – Ms Seeney said she benefited from being in the right place at the right time.

"Thanks to his enthusiasm and belief in my abilities, I found myself at DW's headquarters in 1987, applying for a vacancy that had just come up," Ms Seeney said.

"Ironically, working in radio had never interested me but I've never looked back."

Ms Seeney's responsibilities include putting together weekly feature programs *Inside Europe* and *Network Europe* for the broadcaster, which distributes news in 30 different languages to outlets around the world, including the ABC.





1983

## PHYSIO TO ABRUZZO

After working for nearly 25 years in and around Brisbane as a physiotherapist, **Luciana Masci** (BPhty 1983) has embarked on a tree change: taking tour groups to the region of Abruzzo in central Italy.

The inspiration for the new venture came while treating the many Italian patients in her practice.

She often dreamed of being able to return to her family's home country and take Australians to experience the beauty of the countryside.

"I kept returning to Abruzzo to visit my extended family for holidays and I love the area and the people so much, my partner Michael and I decided to make it our new venture – hence Absolutely Abruzzo Tours was born," Ms Masci said.

Ms Masci says she realised she

would make a good tour guide quite early in her career as a physiotherapist, but had taken some time to set up a company capitalising on her talent.

"I was doing a job at the Italian Welfare Association in 1988, treating the frail and aged in their homes when Brisbane Expo '88 asked if I could be a tour guide for the Italian and French VIPs.

"I really enjoyed the rapport I had with people and I thought 'si', I could do this!" Ms Masci said.

Ms Masci is fluent in Italian and French, which makes it a lot easier for her tour groups as they explore the history and culture of the region.

Her partner and co-director on the tours, Michael Howard, is an internationally recognised opera singer who gives two concert performances during the nine-day tours.

Because her tourism business is still in its infancy, Ms Masci continues to work as a physiotherapist part-time.

Ms Masci at the Maiella National Park in Abruzzo



Mr Gul (centre) with colleagues in Hong Kong

1992

## MOBILE SUCCESS

Running the computer support section of a global accounting firm means **Ferdinand Gul** (BE 1992) focuses on service, but mostly on people.

The UQ electrical engineering graduate is the information technology (IT) service manager of Global Technology Services, a business which maintains the computer systems of accounting conglomerate, PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PwC), in Hong Kong.

Mr Gul manages a team of 25 electrical and computer engineers who provide service and support to 2500 PwC staff.

His team builds PwC specific computers, supports software, networks, email, databases, printers, storage resources and advises of outages and updates.

"I like coming up with new ideas and improving processes and workflows and working with people to solve problems," Mr Gul said.

"I also like dealing with unexpected issues and helping my younger team members work towards achieving their potential."

Mr Gul, 38, graduated from UQ in 1992 with majors in communications and electronics.

His first job was in a multimedia distribution firm before he joined a mobile phone company in Hong Kong.

He then worked for Lucent Technologies, another mobile phone company outside Chicago, servicing its Asian and North American customers.

"I enjoyed those five years tremendously as I got a chance to spend time in a great city while having a challenging job that allowed me to travel," Mr Gul said.

"During this time, I met my future wife, a Japanese national living in the United States."

The couple then moved to Tokyo in 2001 where he switched from telecommunications to IT, working for Fujitsu.

He said he returned to Hong Kong after a decade away to be closer to family and take advantage of more opportunities to practise his English skills.

Mr Gul said his future career goals included building his own company and helping lead a business out of hardship.



## 1995

### NOVEL DEBUT

London-based **Jonathan Drapes**

(BAppSc 1995) has found himself in a novel predicament: his debut book couldn't find an Australian publisher, but has now become a hit in the UK.

*Never Admit to Beige* tells the tale of hapless Englishman Trigger Harvey whose luck goes from bad to worse when he comes across a cursed Fijian figurine on the Gold Coast.

A smash in Britain where it's been published by Macmillan New Writing, *Never Admit to Beige* was recently named BBC Five Live's Book of the Month.

Far from having a dream run on to the bestsellers list though, Mr Drapes tells a familiar story about the difficulty of getting his first book noticed by editors.

An avid traveller, the sports science graduate worked his way from country to country holding down a number of odd jobs – among them model, bus counter, personal trainer and cartoonist – before getting his break.

*Never Admit to Beige* had its unofficial beginnings back in 1997 when Mr Drapes was named runner-up in the Queensland Young Writers Award.

"The success of the book has been a brilliant surprise," he said.

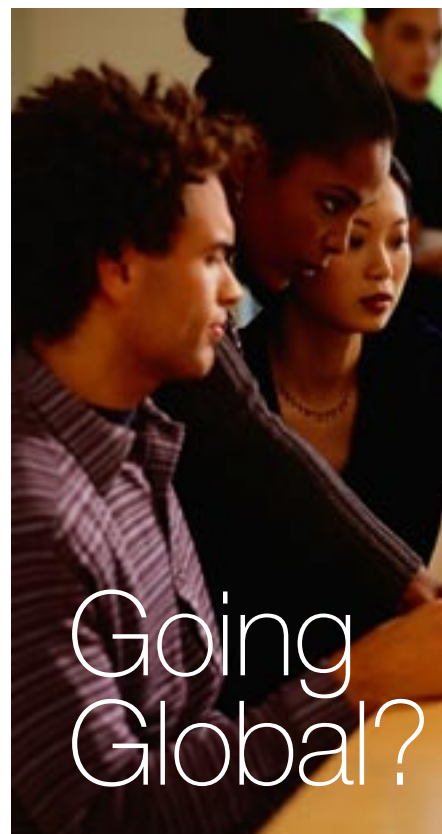
"And yes, surreal. Especially sitting in a BBC radio studio with some of the UK's top critics and Lalita Tademy, an author from Oprah's Book Club."

Now creative director with top London advertising agency CDP as well as a cartoonist for *TNT Magazine*, Mr Drapes said *Never Admit to Beige* proved persistence pays.

"A few trees must have been pulped in the submission letter/rejection letter phase," he said.

"And there is a lot of luck involved; getting the manuscript in front of the right person, on the right day, when they're in the right mood, just after they've had a strong coffee...but then I guess you could substitute 'luck' with tenacity."

More information is available at [www.neveradmittobeige.com/](http://www.neveradmittobeige.com/)



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## 1995

### LOVE OF LANGUAGE

Linguistics graduate **Sacha DeVelle** (BA 1995, hons 1997, MA 2000, PhD 2007) recently began a research position with the prestigious Cambridge ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) Research and Validation Group.

The department specifically focuses on language testing, analysis and research design for all Cambridge ESOL exams and is a member of the Association of Language Testers in Europe.

Dr DeVelle's dissertation investigated online comprehension of enriched compositional processes.

While writing her thesis, Dr DeVelle coordinated the psycholinguistic experimental stream for the Linguistics Program within the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, and taught the Cambridge IELTS preparatory exams at the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education.

"I've always been fascinated by how speakers of different languages interpret extra linguistic meaning," Dr DeVelle said.

"Exposure to both the laboratory and the classroom provided me with invaluable experience into how this is carried out in English."

Dr DeVelle has spent the past year in Uruguay, South America, where she extended her research on enriched composition to bilingual (Spanish/English) populations.

1995

## BUSINESS IDEA BLOOMS IN ASIA

Agribusiness owner **Simon Appleby** (MVSc 1995) has come a long way since running through the jungles of Papua New Guinea and scooting around Philippine hills on a motorbike.

Dr Appleby, who finished a Masters and internship at UQ's Goondiwindi Pastoral Veterinary Centre in 1994, is the founding Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Yu Feng Management Limited.

The business he formed as a one-man consultancy in Australia back in 1997 is now a million-dollar operation employing 30 staff and 20 consultants in China.

Yu Feng, which means abundant harvest, sells specialised agricultural and horticultural supplies from its 12 branches in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The business supplies everything from greenhouse and piggery equipment to animal reproduction technology, orchard equipment, seed, irrigation systems for golf courses, coldrooms, abattoirs and fish farm equipment.

The 37-year-old said his UQ study and supervisor Geoffrey Niethe had given him a good grounding in agribusiness.

"The Masters I did looked at pretty much every aspect of an animal production system and then a great deal to do with the commercial side of implementing technology and yielding a financial result."



Mr McPherson (centre) helps out at a dolphin rescue

1997

## CHILDHOOD PASSION FINALLY REALISED

Some people take a lifetime to work out where their passions lie, but for **Cameron McPherson** (BVSc 1997), a childhood experience on the Great Barrier Reef was enough to point him in the right direction.

"I was on a fishing trip with my father, grandfather and a few other people to the outer Barrier Reef, when a school of dolphins came to bow-ride on the boat we were on," Mr McPherson said.

"My dad supported me so that I could look over the side at them, and to this day I can still remember them swimming on their sides to look up at us. From then on, I was hooked."

After completing high school in Cairns, Mr McPherson commenced veterinary science studies at UQ, and was able to indulge his passion for cetaceans (aquatic mammals such as whales and dolphins) while completing practical work at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Shortly after graduation he moved to

the UK, where he now works as a marine mammal vet with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), a not-for-profit organisation that coordinates rescue, conservation and education programs.

The charity received worldwide attention last year when volunteers tried to release a whale that had swum into the Thames, and shortly after were involved in a similar rescue with a trapped bottlenose dolphin.

Based in Scotland with his partner Caroline, a veterinary nurse, Mr McPherson travels to and from Yorkshire for locum work to supplement his BDMLR volunteering throughout the year.

"I live in Scotland, so it's a bit of a drive, but it's worth it. Inevitably though, I do get calls while I'm away at work, and while this can be very frustrating from a personal point-of-view, I try to help out over the phone if I can," he said.

"The desire to help protect and treat dolphins and whales was a large part of my motivation to study veterinary science at University, and hopefully I can use my degree and training to assist them when they get into trouble."



## 2001

### BUILDING SOUND RELATIONSHIPS

**Peter Bell** (BRTP hons 2001) says he has never been one to follow the crowd, and five years after graduating from UQ his chosen career path has proven to be no different.

Mr Bell has recently been appointed Associate Director of Project Marketing at PRD, providing strategic advice for major developments.

He said the role involved consulting on product development, target market selection, product mix and pricing for a range of significant projects in south-east Queensland.

One of his most notable projects to date has been the riverside apartments at West End, which he advised his

company to build because of their proximity to the University's St Lucia campus.

"We identified West End as the perfect location for students – it has a vibrant café culture and nightlife society and is just three kilometres from the CBD," he said.

"The provision for a new City Cat stop along Riverside Drive will also make UQ and the CBD more accessible for residents and, of course, the recently completed Eleanor Schonell bridge linking Dutton Park to UQ will also make transportation easy for students."

After completing his undergraduate studies, Mr Bell commenced work as a town planner with the Brisbane City Council.

But his desire for the challenges associated with property marketing led him to change his career focus to a role in property analysis and research.

"I'm sure many planners believe I've crossed over to the 'dark side' but the division between town planning and property development is no longer black and white," Mr Bell said.

"I am excited by the challenge of my new role – the company took a chance with me early in my career and I'm looking forward to repaying their faith in my ability."

"With all the developments around Brisbane at the moment there are a lot of exciting times ahead."



## 2001

### UPHOLDING A TRADITION

Arriving in Banda Aceh in the aftermath of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami is an experience **Mark Hanley** (MBBS 2001) will never forget.



Dr Hanley (right) with fellow UQ graduate Dr Julian Fidge

One of a long line of battalion doctors who have studied at UQ, Dr Hanley was among the first group of foreign medics to arrive in the devastated region.

A trained paratrooper and helicopter medic, Dr Hanley said he had been inspired to serve in the armed forces by former Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force and former Deputy Dean and Acting Dean of the UQ Faculty of Medicine Professor John Pearn.

"I fondly recall Professor Pearn speaking to the graduate medical course on our first day," he said.

"His introduction included references to the proud military achievements of the medical fraternity at the University, which sparked my interest."

"The Australian Army has a long association with UQ, preceding General Macarthur using UQ as his Allied Headquarters in World War II."

After returning from Indonesia, Dr Hanley spent four months in East Timor helping to ease civil unrest in the country.

Currently on leave from the Army to spend more time with his family, Dr Hanley said he planned to return to UQ for Master of Public Health studies in the near future.

## 2003

### SMART RESOURCING

As a senior human resources advisor in the tertiary education sector, **Henry Wong** (BBus/BEcon 2001, MBus Econ 2003) understands the importance of working as part of a team.

"Working in a university environment offers extensive development and training opportunities and access to a range of state-of-the-art facilities," Mr Wong said.

"It also provides an opportunity to be part of an innovative and supportive HR team – learning from colleagues' experiences, and adding to the collective pool of knowledge, skills and capabilities."

Mr Wong coordinates and promotes the Queensland University of Technology's HR department's benchmarking program, and also develops awareness of university services throughout Australasia and beyond.

Prior to beginning his current role, Mr Wong taught as a sessional academic at the UQ Business School in the areas of human resources, management and marketing.

He is also a certified workplace assessor and trainer, and has received several QUT HR awards in addition to being named a finalist in the 2006 AHRI Awards for excellence in leadership.

Mr Wong said his aims included starting his own business to support multiculturalism and diversity, and possibly returning to academia in the long term.



2004

## HELPING OTHERS

**Allison Mandrusiak** (BPhy 2004) describes her job working as a paediatric physiotherapist at Brisbane's Royal Children's Hospital as a privilege.

"It's a special job where I get to help children by creating fun approaches to therapy," she said.

"It's so rewarding to see the improvements in a child's life as a result of my help and it's really fulfilling to see how grateful the family is.

"I think paediatric physiotherapy is a great field as it is so diverse and you get to use your skills to care for kids."

Ms Mandrusiak said the field of physiotherapy was a growing industry where a range of people – from children to the elderly and from sportspeople to office workers – could be helped.

"I love the caring nature of the job and the idea of being able to help people to better their health and quality of life," she said.

Ms Mandrusiak is also completing a PhD at UQ, researching the role of exercise for young people with cystic fibrosis (CF).

"We know that exercise is beneficial for this population but we are yet to discover exactly what types of exercise are best for them," she said.

"By finding the best exercise programs and fun ways to make young people with CF want to exercise, my research will help them achieve better health and quality of life."



2006

## AN ANIMAL PASSION

**Marcel Muller** (BVSc hon 1 2006) developed his interest in plants and animals while growing up on a farm in New South Wales.

It was an interest that he has now turned into an ambition to improve the welfare and veterinary care of domestic animals.

But it took hard work and dedication to get there. Mr Muller was part of the UQ-Link program, which aims to provide equitable access to higher education for people from low-income backgrounds.

Graduating in December last year, Mr Muller currently works at Chermside Veterinary Hospital.

"I like that it's

not repetitive – each day is new, different and challenging. It's also very satisfying for me to help the animals and see them and their owners go home happy," he said.

The UQ-Link program allowed Mr Muller to get straight into the Veterinary Science program despite just missing out on the required entry scores.

"This motivated me to work harder and to appreciate my studies more," he said.

"The UQ-Link camp was a good introduction to University. It helped me to familiarise myself with the campus and I met other people who were in the same boat as me.

"During my time at university I often met people from the UQ-Link camp and caught up on what was going on in their lives. This provided me with some security, to know some people from outside of my program."

His message for other students is simple – hard work pays off.

"Once you start working and applying what you've studied, you really realise how worthwhile it is to do those hard yards," he said.







Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, Ms Stevens and Professor Peter Green at the 2006 UQ MBA Top Achievers Awards

## 2006

### SKY-HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS FOR AMBULANCE BOSS

**Leanne Stevens** (MBA 2006) did not limit herself to the ordeals of underwater helicopter escape training when speaking at the Queensland Business Women's luncheon earlier this year.

As one of the first women to become a paramedic in Australia, Ms Stevens is now area director for Ipswich and the most senior woman in the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), controlling a \$10 million budget and managing 100 staff.

Ms Stevens emphasised to the audience the importance of seizing opportunities and

considering relocation to secure promotion.

"There were few people working for the Tasmanian Ambulance Service who had degrees when I started, but I completed a commerce degree while working as a paramedic," Ms Stevens said.

Since directing her efforts from saving lives in Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland, to managing the Ipswich area for QAS, Ms Stevens has undertaken a Masters of Business Administration, graduating in December last year.

Seizing another challenge, she co-founded Motorsport Safety and Rescue, a private company specialising in medical and safety services for the motor racing industry.

She was awarded the Ambulance Service Medal last year, and is also a winner of UQ Business School's MBA Top Achievers Award.

## 2006

### ON AIR IN EUROPE

Young journalist **Clare Atkinson** (BJ/BA 2006) is another UQ graduate to find her niche at German broadcaster Deutsche Welle, recently completing a six month internship with the network. Ms Atkinson was stationed in Bonn,

Germany, where the multi-lingual broadcaster is based.

After completing a student exchange in 2006, Ms Atkinson said she was glad to return to the region.

"In 2005 and 2006 I studied at Albert-Ludwigs-Universitaet, and decided then that I would one day return to work," she said.

"Little did I

know that I would be returning within one year. The internship with Deutsche Welle seemed like the perfect start to my career."

During the course of her studies Ms Atkinson volunteered at local radio station 4ZZZ where she hosted *Brisbane Line*, a weekly news program.

Her work with the show was recognised with a nomination in the 2006 Queensland Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance Awards, where she competed against journalists from major Australian news organisations.

She said the challenge of producing stories to tight deadlines attracted her to a career in broadcasting.

"I hope the internship will allow me to find further work with Deutsche Welle," she said.

"I have always had an interest in politics and have enjoyed learning more about European and German politics. Reporting on the arts, and music in particular, would also be a great experience."

## 2006

### EXECUTIVE RIDES CHINA'S BOOM

Electronic marketing is booming in China and UQ graduate **Hardy He** (MBA 2006) is positioning his company to cash in on the growth from his Beijing office.

Mr He, Executive Officer of online marketing company Yourzine, said China's marketing industry was small but tipped to grow by 30 percent each year until 2010.

Yourzine sells marketing and sales software and strategic advice to more than 270 customers including international clients such as IKEA, Nissan, Mazda and Nike.

Mr He said he was positioning the business to be the top electronic marketing business in China via its next generation marketing tools for the web and mobile phones.

Some of these marketing tools include advanced 3G video messaging, click-to-print technology and online anti-forgery tools.

"My constant goal is to provide our customers with the best, the latest and the most effective e-marketing tools and services," Mr He said.

"Therefore, I will keep pushing back the frontiers of technical and functional e-marketing propositions in China.

"Our software is available worldwide in real-time with high-end tools to provide clear and immediate insights into the effect of e-marketing campaigns."

Yourzine opened in July last year with 30 employees, which Mr He expects to soon exceed 50.

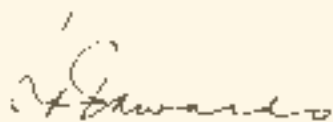
He said the demand for multi-channel marketing would increase because it was quicker, cheaper, reached more customers and was easier to monitor and measure than old marketing methods.

Mr He said he hoped to eventually list Yourzine on the Nasdaq and launch its new multi-channel communication platform.



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