



GRADUATE

# contact

## OUT OF AFRICA

Whale sharks find sanctuary

## Green power

UQ sustainability in focus

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UQ can help you keep in touch with old friends and connect with our alumni community around the world.

**The benefits to UQ alumni include:**

- Access to UQ Alumni and Community – [alumni.uq.edu.au](http://alumni.uq.edu.au)
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- Library services
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- Invitations to functions and professional development activities
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- Quarterly eNewsletter with the latest information from the UQ Alumni program
- UQ Sport membership benefits

Keeping your contact details up-to-date will ensure you enjoy all these benefits. You can do this by:

- filling out the form enclosed in this edition of *Graduate Contact*
- updating your details online at [alumni.uq.edu.au/update-your-details](http://alumni.uq.edu.au/update-your-details)
- emailing – [uqalumni@uq.edu.au](mailto:uqalumni@uq.edu.au) or
- phoning +617 3346 3900



## + FROM THE CHANCELLOR

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

As always, when reading through the magazine I am inspired by the ways in which UQ alumni, staff and students are giving back to the community and being recognised for their achievements.

From the historic appointment of Quentin Bryce as Australia's first female Governor-General to the work of PhD researcher Simon Pierce in saving endangered whale sharks, the stories in this issue highlight this proud tradition.

A public way to honour hard work is the staging of graduation ceremonies, and in May it was my pleasure to meet some of our newest graduates and their families and friends in South-East Asia. The trip was also special for another reason as it was the first visit of Professor Paul Greenfield to the region as Vice-Chancellor, and helped establish important links with business and industry.

In an open address to staff in March, Paul drew on almost 40 years of experience at UQ to discuss the importance of such engagement, and the future direction of the University. More of his exciting plans are detailed in his first *Strategic Moves* column on page 4.

Across our campuses we continue to see the results of an impressive series of building projects, while The University of Queensland Press – responsible for launching the likes of Peter Carey and David Malouf – celebrates its 60th birthday in September. I hope you find a reason to visit UQ soon and see these developments for yourself.

With the University's 2010 Centenary celebrations on the horizon, it's not too early to get involved, and I would encourage all interested alumni to contact the Advancement Office to voice your ideas. A new website has been set up to better serve our growing network of graduates, and by visiting [www.alumni.uq.edu.au](http://www.alumni.uq.edu.au) you can keep in touch with UQ more easily than before.

*Graduate Contact* plays an important part in this process, and included with this edition is a short survey which can also be completed online. By filling out this questionnaire you can let us know your thoughts on the magazine and how best to keep you informed about the goings on at your *alma mater*.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sir Llew Edwards, AC  
Chancellor



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A whale shark off the coast of Mozambique photographed by UQ PhD researcher Simon Pierce

#### GRADUATE CONTACT

is produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld 4072, Australia

**Telephone:** (07) 3365 3367

**Email:** [c.pegg@uq.edu.au](mailto:c.pegg@uq.edu.au)

**Editorial Board:** Chair: Jack Lunn (Former Deputy Chair, Queensland Press Pty Ltd)

**Members:** Dr John Desmarchelier (Former General Manager, Sugar Terminals Limited)

Professor Michael Keniger (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)

Shaun McDonagh (Director, Office of Marketing and Communications)

Carla Boeckman (Director, UQ Advancement Office)

Shane Rodgers (General-Manager, Queensland Newspapers)

**Acting Editor:** Cameron Pegg

**Sub-editor:** Tegan Taylor

**Designer:** Wendy Oakley

**Photographers:** Jeremy Patten, Stewart Gould

**Photographic Librarian:** Diana Lilley

**Advertising:** Tina Hannan (07) 5460 1739

**Printing:** Alpine Offset

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

**Please telephone:** (07) 3346 3907

**Facsimile:** (07) 3346 3901

**Email:** [j.stein@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.stein@uq.edu.au)

The international code for dialling Australia is +61

**[www.uq.edu.au](http://www.uq.edu.au)**

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## Engagement the focus for a university of the future

Today is a time of exciting opportunities for the tertiary education sector but also one of pressing challenges. To capitalise on the University's infrastructure and human resources, UQ must adopt new practices and engage in smarter and better ways with its growing list of stakeholders.

// by Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield, AO

You don't need to have started at UQ more than 30 years ago, as I did, to have witnessed staggering changes. If I were a more recent graduate or staff member who last visited at the turn of the 21st century, I would today struggle to recognise the newer parts of our campuses.

The physical difference includes new research institutes and centres, libraries, high-tech teaching and learning spaces, and a bridge over the Brisbane River.

A program of innovations within the University will be less striking to the casual observer, but at least as important to anyone with a stake in our future. Current and future students are the primary focus of these changes, but graduates also stand to benefit and will have the opportunity to contribute.

Take the example of UQ's move to treat all enrolled students as alumni. It expands the global alumni network to include tomorrow's talented professionals and will foster students' engagement with graduates working in their chosen professions. Students will hone practical knowledge and career directions, and graduates seeking future staff will be able to identify potential recruits.

Graduates will have further "talent-spotting" opportunities as a result of a new UQ-wide commitment to internships. The aim is that, by 2015, up to 20 percent of undergraduates will complete an internship as part of their degrees. Graduates who mentor interns may have input into curricula, in turn making UQ programs and courses

more responsive to employers' needs. UQ graduates – already in demand – will be more sought-after.

If your passion is discovery, then consider UQ's 2015 goal of encouraging 20 percent of undergraduate (excluding honours) students to undertake either a semester or a summer of research. These opportunities will expose our students to everyday laboratory experiences and, we envisage, excite some of them to pursue careers in the sciences, adding to Australia's innovative skills base.

With a third 2015 objective being that about 25 percent of undergraduates will enjoy an international experience as part of their studies, there will be plenty of opportunities for graduates based outside Australia to link up with current students.

In setting these targets I hope to provide a trajectory for enhancing the learning experience at UQ.

Learning, discovery (or research) and engagement are three symbiotic themes that will characterise the future strength of the University. Engagement is broadly defined to include relationships with alumni, employers, high schools, governments, non-government organisations, higher education and research institutions, and any people and communities with an interest in UQ.

UQ has many advantages in the quest for long-term sustainability. Not least of these are the new buildings and infrastructure made possible by donations (notably from The Atlantic Philanthropies) and by grants from the

Queensland Government, industry, and Australian Government research and teaching funding bodies.

Our top capital works priority for 2008 is relocation of the St Lucia-based School of Veterinary Science into new facilities at Gatton. With construction beginning in August 2008 and completion due in October 2009, the arrival of Veterinary Science students in 2010 will complete Gatton's transformation.

The scale of this initiative highlights the imperative for innovative business models, particularly as they apply to major capital undertakings. Another monumental project scheduled for first stage completion in 2010, the Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence, embodies such an approach (more about the innovative building projects taking place at UQ is featured on pages 18-19). It will be the first building on UQ land to house a UQ entity (the School of Pharmacy) but be owned not by the University but by a business partner.

The year 2010 promises a series of historic occasions, as it will be the year for UQ's Centenary celebrations. Alumni will be intrinsic to the character and quality of the anniversary, and I anticipate groups in various parts of the world holding their own celebratory events. A UQ reunion, including alumni and former staff from the University's history, will be a feature of the first half of 2010. The University will keep you up to date as planning progresses.

Whether you left here in our early years or graduated more recently, the Centenary reunion will be an ideal opportunity to experience the evolution of UQ. //





## New leadership LOOKS FORWARD

Professor Paul Greenfield  
and Professor Debbie Terry  
with first-year students  
Cameron Turner and  
Rebecca Martens

Professor Paul Greenfield, AO, has begun a five-year term as The University of Queensland's Vice-Chancellor, replacing Professor John Hay, AC, who held the post for 12 years.

UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, made the announcement in August 2007 after Professor Greenfield's unanimous selection by the UQ Senate last year, which followed an international search for the best candidate.

"On behalf of Senate I congratulate Paul Greenfield, who was outstanding amongst an impressive international field of candidates," Sir Llew said at the time.

"Throughout his 32-year career at UQ he has made exemplary contributions to the University and to our local, national and international communities – including as Chair of the International Expert Panel for the Queensland Water Commission and Chair of the Scientific Expert Panel of the SEQ Healthy Waterways Partnership.

"He has won widespread respect as a researcher, teacher, and advisor to the private and corporate sectors, and has forged strong links throughout government and business in Queensland, nationally and internationally.

"Paul has applied his outstanding leadership qualities and intellect to great effect as Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and has already shown that he will have a tremendously positive impact as Vice-Chancellor."

Professor Greenfield came to UQ as a lecturer in chemical engineering in 1975, and has held a series of senior positions

since 1985. Becoming Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 2002, he has continued to make time to supervise PhD students.

He has influenced public and private policy in areas including climate change, environmental management, wastewater management and biotechnology. In 2006 he became an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia for service to science, engineering and tertiary education.

He has a Bachelor of Engineering with first class honours and a PhD from the University of New South Wales and a Bachelor of Economics from UQ. His research has attracted more than \$7 million in funding, and he is credited with three patents, more than 180 journal publications, 120-plus conference publications, more than 20 invited international keynote or plenary addresses, and numerous medals and awards. He has worked in the private sector and won a CSIRO fellowship to the University of Massachusetts. //

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OUR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES"

### CORE STRENGTHS

The key areas of teaching and learning and research will have an even stronger profile at The University of Queensland following changes at the top.

In his first major administrative move this year, the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, AO, created the portfolio of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

He promoted Professor Debbie Terry into the position and gave her wide-ranging responsibility for the learning environment.

"The learning environment is not limited to UQ's campuses and facilities – it's limited only by our imaginations," he said.

Professor Greenfield said Professor Terry had proven to be an excellent Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) since assuming the position in February 2007, and balancing it with her responsibilities as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences.

As well as monitoring and updating strategies, policies and practices to enhance and promote a culture of excellence in teaching and learning, Professor Terry will improve links with prospective students and guide preparation for the 2009 Australian Universities Quality Agency audit of UQ.

To shore up UQ's future success in innovation and discovery, Professor Greenfield also recently announced the promotion of Professor Alan Lawson as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) and Professor Christa Critchley as Dean of the Graduate School. //



# VISIONARY PRACTICE

Whether barrelling down a rugby field or providing the miracle of sight in Indigenous communities in Cape York, Dr Mark Loane has found success in many areas of his life. Now his passion is art, and the UQ alumnus has returned to study once again.

// by Shirley Glaister

Brisbane ophthalmologist Dr Mark Loane is a modern Renaissance man, excelling in study and sport, and devoted to using his knowledge and skills to improve the lives of others.

"For me, the most advanced act of evolution is light falling on three retinal receptors to give us vision. The eye is a wondrous thing and I wanted to spend my life looking at something beautiful," he said.

This is how Dr Loane explains his decision to specialise in ophthalmology in 1982 after completing his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at The University of Queensland five years earlier.

It was around the same time that he

retired from elite-level rugby union, including 10 seasons for University, 89 games for Queensland and 61 games for Australia.

He played 29 Tests for the Wallabies as number 8, earning the nickname of "The train without a station". He is believed to be the youngest forward ever to have played for Australia, aged just 18 in an Australia v Tonga match in 1973. He was inducted into the Wallaby Hall of Fame last year, along with Tom Lawton Senior and David Campese, AM.

"I really loved playing at number 8 where you have seven players behind you and seven players out in front and both sides of the field of play," Dr Loane said.

"You're totally in the middle of everything. The position requires a balanced combination of strength, stamina and anticipation. Number 8 is probably the most intellectually challenging position in rugby."

At about the same time he chose to specialise in ophthalmology at age 28, Dr Loane stopped playing rugby at the height of his career.

"I also chose ophthalmology because

there's no dilemma about it – all you can do is improve people's lives as well as (the lives) of those who care for them," he said.

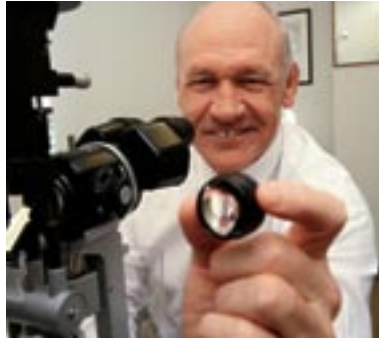
As part of his specialist training, Dr Loane completed a Fellowship in Corneal Transplantation and External Eye Disease at Flinders Medical Centre in 1988 with Professor Douglas Coster, and a Fellowship in Glaucoma at the University of California, San Diego in 1990 with Professor Robert Weinreb.

He now works at the Eye Centre River City in Auchenflower.

Dr Loane also oversees the Cape York Eye Health Project (CYEHP) – responsible for providing a mobile, high-tech clinical capacity to 13 Indigenous communities throughout Cape York. It provides advanced cataract and general eye surgery at the Weipa Hospital in western Cape York.

The major disease complications he deals with through the project are unattended refractive error, unattended cataracts, trauma and, most importantly, the ocular complications of diabetes (diabetes rates are 30 percent for Indigenous populations in Cape





Clockwise from far left: Dr Mark Loane at Eye Centre River City; Dr Loane with fellow surgeon Dr Stephen Godfrey and a patient in Cape York, and Dr Loane (with ball) during his playing days



York compared with eight percent of non-Indigenous populations).

Dr Loane said his work in this area was motivated by a need to put something back into developing communities.

"It's my way of repaying the faith and trust put in me," he said.

"There's no reciprocity involved in what I do on the Cape. I am humbled when the people there put their trust in me. I try my best for them. They deserve it. Treating fellow Australians in remote communities is enough of a reward for me."

The CYEHP is funded and supported by a combined Federal and State government initiative. However, it is also a combined ophthalmological and optometrical initiative.

Dr Loane and lead optometrist, Dr Rowan Churchill, have been instrumental in developing CYEHP over the past 10 years.

"Suddenly we had access to equipment, including lasers, we could fit into the back of a plane. Ten years earlier, the same equipment would have required the floor space of an average-sized room," Dr Loane said. "Now, we have lasers that can fit into a briefcase."

He said he felt energised by his annual trips to Cape York in the dry season between May and October as he was able to combine his love for rugged and remote environments as well as art – viewing and studying rather than collecting. He is a particular fan of the

work of Aurukun artist, Arthur Koo-ekka Pambejan Jr.

Dr Loane's interest in the visual arts was sparked during successive Wallabies rugby tours to the United Kingdom in the 1980s.

"We only had to train once a day in those days so I could wander off and explore galleries and museums such as the National Portrait Gallery, the Tate and the British Museum," he said.

"I commanded the team bus twice weekly for tours including museums and visits to significant sites such as in Leicester where I took everyone on a day trip to the Bosworth Battlefield – the site of a decisive 1485 battle

"THE MOST ADVANCED ACT OF EVOLUTION IS LIGHT FALLING ON THREE RETINAL RECEPTORS TO GIVE US VISION. THE EYE IS A WONDROUS THING AND I WANTED TO SPEND MY LIFE LOOKING AT SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL"

which brought Henry VII, and the Tudor dynasty, to the English throne."

Ipswich-born Dr Loane said his senses had been awakened by the art, culture and lifestyle of London and the United Kingdom after a childhood spent moving between Queensland country towns, then as a boarder at St Joseph's Nudgee College.

Dr Loane's love of the arts led to his starting a Bachelor of Arts degree at UQ with his wife, Elizabeth (nee O'Neil), who completed her degree in 1998. Mrs Loane also has a film studies degree from Swinburne University and the couple met each other at an art gallery.

"So far I've done Approaches to Ancient History; European, American, Australian Art; Modernism 1890–1945, Renaissance Art; and Post-Modernism. Dr Rex Butler in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History is a great guide," Dr Loane said.

"I'm not finished with UQ yet. I want to finish my art history degree then do more study. I feel my education is incomplete and I will only be satisfied if I can study at UQ.

"I like hanging around universities – there's something vital and optimistic about them."

Apart from their university study and two grown-up daughters, Francesca and Sophia, the couple shares a love for rugged landscapes and have so far explored environments such as the sub-Antarctic islands and fjords of New Zealand, as well as the Southern Ocean, Falkland Islands, Antarctic Peninsula, deserts and reefs.

Dr Loane counts himself fortunate to have been able to successfully combine his medical studies with a career in top-level rugby and fondly remembers a conversation with then Head of the UQ School of Medicine, Professor Eric Saint, as a pivotal moment.

"It was the beginning of fourth year and I was in a quandary about whether to go on the Wallabies tour to the British Isles so I went to see Professor Saint about it," Dr Loane said.

"I told him I wanted to do both medicine and rugby and he told me as long as I kept passing my exams, he would ensure I could keep playing. I kept my side of the bargain and so did he."

He said he had always loved the "physical beauty" of the St Lucia campus.

"You have these beautiful halls of learning on a hill overlooking supreme sporting fields and facilities, all situated in a picturesque promontory of the Brisbane River with no through traffic," he said.

"It was fantastic walking down to training from Union College where I lived for about two-and-a-half years while I was studying.

"UQ still has the best set of sporting facilities of any university I know." //



## TOP JOB for UQ alumna

University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield has congratulated Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, Queensland Governor since 2003, on her appointment as Australia's first woman Governor-General.

Ms Bryce, who is the official Visitor to the University, is a University of Queensland graduate, former UQ academic and an honorary Doctor of Laws recipient.

She takes up her new appointment on September 5.

"The University is delighted to hear of Ms Bryce's appointment," Professor Greenfield said.

"She has a wonderful record of community service and professional expertise and will serve the office with dignity, ability and respect.

"Ms Bryce is a role model to all people who aspire to the highest positions in the land."

Ms Bryce graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from UQ, where she later spent 14 years teaching Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law and Legal Aspects of Social Work.

She has been Principal and Chief Executive Officer of The Women's College within the University of Sydney; founding Chair and Chief Executive Officer, National Childcare Accreditation Council; Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner; Queensland Director, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission; and inaugural Director, Women's Information Service Queensland, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Professor Greenfield said several former Governors-General also had close links with UQ.

They include former UQ Senator, the Right Rev Dr Peter Hollingworth (Governor-General 2001-2003); Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient the Hon Sir William Deane (1996-2001); UQ economics graduate and honorary Doctor of Laws recipient, the Hon Dr Bill Hayden (1989-1996) and former University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor, and Doctor of Laws recipient, Professor Emeritus The Right Hon Sir Zelman Cowen (1977-1982).

## Donors lead by example

A fund set up through a generous gift from two UQ graduates will lead the way for other benefactors in years to come.

The University of Queensland Endowment Fund (UQef) was launched in February in Brisbane with an \$18 million kick start from UQ graduates Graeme Wood and Andrew Brice.

The co-founders of accommodation website Wotif.com committed \$8 million worth of company shares between them.

Mr Brice pledged a further two million shares over the next two years and Mr Wood will contribute an additional \$2 million over the next five years.

The total value is approximately \$18 million, based on Wotif.com's share price in late February.

UQef is a new avenue for donors to support academic initiatives they feel need stronger support or accelerated development. Examples of ways in which they may choose to do this include scholarships, named professorial chairs and contributions to research programs.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield enthusiastically welcomed the fund and praised Mr Brice and Mr Wood.

"This initiative is tremendous for its foresight as well as its generosity," Professor Greenfield said.

"We are delighted that Andrew and Graeme have chosen UQ as the target of their personal generosity and the prescribed private fund.

"It is rare for an Australian university

to benefit from this scale of donation from alumni, yet graduate philanthropy is likely to be a hallmark of internationally competitive Australian universities in the not-too-distant future."

Mr Brice and Mr Wood said the motivation to create the fund followed a trend of benefactors wishing to become more engaged with their contributions.

"Engagement with the donation process is desirable because it offers accountability and motivation," Mr Brice said.

"Donors are interested in being actively involved in the process and seeing the positive impact that their support has on the individual, industry or the community."

Mr Wood said he and Mr Brice hoped the opportunity to personalise the process would spark an increase in educational philanthropy throughout Australia.

UQef will work in partnership with UQ to provide the best possible outcomes for the students and the University.

It will be overseen by a board of UQ alumni and business people including Mr Wood, John Wiley of Carnegie Wylie, Tim Crommelin of ABN AMRO Morgans and Darryl McDonough of Clayton Utz.

For more on recent UQ philanthropy, see pages 20-21.

From left: Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law Professor Ian Zimmer, Wotif.com Director Andrew Brice, 2005 scholarship recipient Mary Lim and Wotif.com Executive Director Graeme Wood





# Rocketing AHEAD

After two decades of successful partnership, The University of Queensland and NASA have renewed an agreement that will see them work together on space engineering projects and pioneering air-breathing engines known as scramjets.

The new memorandum of understanding will allow both groups to continue their collaboration on hypersonic propulsion projects.

Hypersonics is the study of velocities of Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) or more.

The University of Queensland's Centre for Hypersonics, the largest university engineering group of its kind in the world, conducts research into all aspects of hypersonic flight.

This includes test facilities, air-breathing engines, rocket flight-testing, aerothermodynamics, computational fluid dynamics and optical diagnostics.

Head of the UQ HyShot Group and the Chair of Hypersonic Propulsion, Professor Michael Smart, said the new MOU continued UQ's history of collaboration with NASA over the past 20 years.

"Exchanges of staff and students and research collaborations between UQ and NASA were pioneered by Australia's first professor of space engineering, UQ's Emeritus Professor Ray Stalker," Professor Smart said.

"This new agreement continues opportunities for Australia's next generation of space engineers to gain international expertise."

Professor Smart returned from NASA Langley in 2005 to work on scramjets and to share his expertise with postgraduates.

"I was lucky to spend time at Langley and would like to see the cream of the crop of our new graduates have the same opportunities," he said.

He said the new MOU would give UQ access to NASA's state-of-the-art computational fluid dynamics

(CFD) research and provide exchange opportunities for staff.

The first activity under the MOU was the recent visit of NASA Langley research scientist Jeffery White to provide instruction in the CFD code for hypersonic flows, called VULCAN.

UQ postdoctoral researcher and current PhD candidate Rowan Gollan will visit NASA Langley for a year starting in July as part of a two-year experimental and numerical hypersonics study.

Hypersonic aerodynamics is a major research activity at UQ. The researchers in this group have been active internationally and are involved in collaborative research programs with about 20 universities and research institutions around the world.

## UQ scoops grant pool

UQ students will research new ways to tackle obesity, diabetes, cerebral palsy, iron disorders and food poisoning using the latest round of Smart State grants.

The University has secured eight of the 18 Queensland Government Fellowships, which are worth up to \$21,000 to assist researchers with their PhD studies.

Valued at \$7000 each year, the Fellowships top up the students' Australian Postgraduate Awards.

The Smart State PhD Scholarships are part of Queensland's \$200 million Smart State Innovation Funds, created to stimulate research projects in Queensland and attract top quality researchers.

The UQ recipients of the 2008 scholarships, and their areas of study, are:

- **Robert McLeay**, who will develop modelling software for different genetic regulatory networks. This tool will help biologists in their research and also in speeding up the development of new drugs to combat disease.
- **Carol Kistler**, who will research a new protein and its connection between regulating fat in the human body and hormone secretion from the brain. This could help develop new ways to tackle obesity and diabetes.
- **Elizabeth Skippington**, who will study the function of proteins and how they work as part of the molecular networks that control living cells. She will focus on the role of proteins in the origins and virulence of disease.
- **Leesa Wockner**, who will develop a sophisticated genetic analysis that can be applied to the diagnosis and study of cancer.
- **Megan Auld**, who will investigate upper limb function in children with hemiplegia – a form of cerebral palsy where paralysis affects one side of the body. This research could provide better interventions and treatments for children with the condition.
- **Elizabeth Leddy**, who will investigate the regulation of iron stores in patients with haemochromatosis, a disorder that causes the body to absorb an excessive amount of iron. Haemochromatosis is one of the most common disorders of iron, however, the regulation of iron in the human body is poorly understood.
- **Rebecca Goulter**, who will use an Atomic Force Microscope to understand the physiological and chemical properties of food bugs.
- **Marianne Diaz**, who will investigate the role of the Ski protein on muscle and fat metabolism. The study will lead to a greater understanding of genetics and fat metabolism and could help doctors predict the onset of type 2 diabetes.

## Delicate research

The extraordinary results of an in utero stem cell treatment could lead to a new treatment for babies with brittle bones, as well as a range of other conditions.

Action Medical Research has announced the outcomes of an Imperial College London study by a team led by Professor Nick Fisk, that could lead to a stem cell treatment for babies with brittle bones – before they are even born.

Professor Fisk, who now heads the new \$66m UQ Centre for Clinical Research, said the work held potential for improving treatment of other disabling conditions such as muscular dystrophy and congenital brain diseases.

Brittle bone disease or *Osteogenesis imperfecta* (OI) affects babies while still in their mother's womb.

This is because collagen, one of the main building blocks for bone, fails to develop properly. The disease is detected by DNA testing or ultrasound and leads to weak bones and stunted growth.

Professor Fisk's team transplanted specially manipulated stem cells into 14-day-old mouse fetuses that had OI.

The mice had a reduction in long bone fractures of two thirds by the time they were 12 weeks old.

They also found that the bones of these mice were stronger, thicker and longer than those with the disease that had not received the transplants.

The results published in the journal *Blood* suggest that, with further research, the treatment could be translated to human babies affected by OI.

"It has significance not only for treating this and other disabling conditions in affected fetuses inside the womb, but also for future related work," Professor Fisk said.

"Our work suggests that, in the future, it could be possible to take stem cells from an unborn baby carrying the abnormal OI gene, manipulate them to correct the errant gene and then put them back into the fetus to allow it to develop properly."



## Test for diabetes risk

University of Queensland researchers are developing a simple test that may predict whether a child will develop type 1 diabetes.

Professor Ranjeny Thomas and her colleagues from UQ's Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, have identified a cellular pathway known as NF-kappa B that is activated in blood cells of people with type 1 diabetes.

"Blood cells are the major infection and immune-control cells of the body, called monocytes and dendritic cells," Professor Thomas said.

"Monocytes from healthy people are 'quiet' in the blood and if we expose them to infection outside the body, the NF-kappa B pathway gets activated.

"In individuals with type 1 diabetes, we

found monocyte NF-kappa B was already activated in the blood, and when exposed to infection the pathway shut down. This tells us something fundamental about the problems of immune control that cause diabetes to develop in children.

"As a spin off, by simply taking blood, we hope to now be able to identify if a child will develop diabetes.

Professor Thomas said type 1 diabetes was caused by problems in the immune system, so that the pancreas was not tolerated – like an organ rejection.

"The pancreas of diabetics doesn't get sore but it gets inflamed, and then stops producing the hormone insulin. Insulin is needed to control blood sugar," she said.

Professor Thomas said the test would target families with a history of diabetes with the aim of picking up other children at risk.

## Stock market mystery solved

UQ Business School academic Dr Jamie Alcock and graduate Trent Carmichael have solved a financial problem that has puzzled experts for more than 10 years.

Posed in 1996 by Professor Michael Stutzer of the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado in the US, the problem challenged the world's finance scholars and practitioners to come up with a nonparametric method of pricing American options in the mid-nineties.

Dr Alcock said it had taken more than a decade to solve the problem.

"A nonparametric method is one that doesn't make any assumptions about the statistical distribution of underlying stock prices," he said.

"Most methods used to price stock and derivatives do rely on a model of stock price movements – so if the model doesn't reflect what actually happens, the pricing method can become useless.

"Nonparametric methods make no assumptions, instead letting the data speak for itself."

UQ Business School graduate Trent Carmichael, a University Medallist and UQ's Graduate of the Year in 2006, worked with Dr Alcock on the project.

Mr Carmichael said the new method did not require observed option prices, only stock prices.

A paper co-authored by Dr Alcock and Mr Carmichael describing the method won the ASX / SFE Best Derivatives Paper at the 2007 Australian Banking and Finance Conference.

The paper will be published in the *Journal of Futures Markets* later this year.





## First architects

Read *Gunyah, Goondie + Wurley*, the first book to detail Australian Aboriginal architecture, and you're bound to learn a thing or two.

Put together by Associate Professor Paul Memmott and published by UQP, the book turns on its head the belief that Indigenous people were devoid of houses or towns when Europeans first reached Australian shores.

Now the Director of UQ's Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC), Dr Memmott's interest in the area began while working with Indigenous communities in North-west Queensland during the 1970's.

*Gunyah, Goondie + Wurley* is the result of his extensive research in the field since then, taking 35 years of "detective work" to assemble information from oral histories, explorers' diaries, paintings, photographic collections and old newspapers.

Dr Memmott said the myth that Indigenous Australians lived only in makeshift huts or lean-tos began because early explorers often made their observations in favourable weather, when people were mobile and needing only nocturnal fires and windbreaks.

He said he hoped continuing research in the area would not only clear up the historical record, but help to inform architectural designers working on current Indigenous housing problems.



## Rainforest WRECKERS

Green snags and simulated pig noises are being used to keep feral pigs from tearing up the Daintree Rainforest.

UQ PhD student Andrew Bengsen has trialled new green, sausage-shaped baits that target wild pigs but are not eaten by most of the other 300 odd animals that co-exist with them.

"Feral pigs are a huge problem up here both environmentally and economically," Mr Bengsen said.

"They chew up huge areas of the forest. It looks like the Western Front in some areas. They knock over rows of banana trees and tear up pastures for cattle."

Mr Bengsen said he was trying to make poisoning an option for feral pig control as traditional trapping methods only had a limited, localised effect due to the animal's rapid reproduction.

He has trialled non-toxic versions of the baits, developed by Animal Control Technologies Australia and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IACRC), in the rainforest and in surrounding banana plantations and cattle properties.

The baits are green cylinders

that weigh about 250 grams, are 10 centimetres long and made of fishmeal and grains.

"Having animal and vegetable products in it deters specialist feeders such as wallabies and other strict herbivores. Pigs are happy to eat anything," he said.

They are coloured green to deter animals that use colours to identify food and are buried 10 centimetres below the forest floor so only pigs can smell and dig them up, while most other animals don't.

"Small animals like rodents will have a nibble on the outside of the bait and they'll be full, but the toxic core would be put inside the centre of the bait so the animal has to eat the whole bait or tunnel right into it in order (for it) to be poisonous."

Mr Bengsen said there were still eight species that ate the baits but was considering adding chemical repellents for birds and other animals and using sounds of pigs feeding to deter rodents and bandicoots.

Mr Bengsen has won a national award for his research, the inaugural CEO's Prize for Excellence, and is part of a UQ team working on a four-year project to control pigs in tropical rainforests.

## Virtual pilot tracks marine wildlife

UQ experts are using a remote-controlled plane to count dugongs and whales in Moreton Bay.

The research group are investigating whether Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) are a better way to count marine mammals than traditional methods such as using boats or manned aircraft.

Migrating humpbacks and dugongs will be captured via a specialised video camera system attached to the three-metre long aircraft.

The plane costs about \$100,000, has a

wingspan of five metres, a maximum range of 1500 kilometres and a top speed of 200 kilometres an hour.

Marine mammal survey and tracking experts from UQ, James Cook University and The University of Newcastle are working with local UAV business Aerocam Australia on the test flights.

The project's chief investigators are Dr Amanda Hodgson from UQ's Centre for Marine Studies and Dr Mike Noad from UQ's School of Veterinary Science.

Key questions to be answered are whether the drone can replace manned aircraft to reduce costs, human risk, and animal disturbance, and improve animal detection, location and species identification.



## Grad boasts rich family history

An Australian descendant of a famous German family made her own mark in history when she graduated with a dual degree from The University of Queensland in December.

Anna von Zeppelin was awarded a Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Arts degree at a Faculty of Business, Economics and Law graduation ceremony.

Ms von Zeppelin, who majored in finance, Spanish and German, is the great-granddaughter of Graf Ferdinand von Zeppelin, the inventor of the rigid airship, the Zeppelin.

"I used to get a few jokes at school about my name, but probably more about Led Zeppelin the music group," she said.

Ms von Zeppelin was one of the first Student Ambassadors appointed at UQ in 2003 and for the past few years has visited schools telling students what the University has to offer, taken tour groups and helped domestic and international students familiarise themselves with the University.

In 2004/05 she took part in a student exchange program to the University of Vienna, Austria, attending lectures in finance in German.

She was also selected to take part in an Australian National Internship Program through the Faculty of Arts, sponsored by the UQ Dean of Students, Dr Lisa Gaffney.

"As part of the program I completed a research paper on skills shortages in the Australian tourism sector," Ms von Zeppelin said.

"I was lucky to get to work in Parliament House in second semester."

Ms von Zeppelin said studying at UQ had allowed her the opportunity to gain overseas experience, and job prospects.

She now works at Goldman Sachs investment bank in London, researching European companies.



## Sound of SUCCESS

Bill Raymond is the first cochlear implant recipient to become an audiologist in Australia after graduating on December 14.

The 24-year-old was born with a severe hearing disability and received the implant when he was 13 after his hearing deteriorated and hearing aids no longer helped.

A cochlear implant is surgically implanted and transforms sound into electrical impulses which are transmitted to the brain for decoding.

Mr Raymond's initial reticence about implants disappeared after he met 11-year-old recipient Julia Keger and watched as she spoke with several people and on the phone.

The \$5000 cost of receiving the implant was donated by his local Rotary Club in the Darling Downs town of Pittsworth.

Mr Raymond's 1996 implant involved interviews with health professionals, a two-hour operation (now performed via keyhole surgery), sickness from anaesthetic and the first attempts to turn on the implant.

"The first time the implant was turned on, Mum spoke to me. Her voice should have been the most natural sound in the world, but it sounded like breaking glass and I cried, and they stopped to let me recover my composure," Mr Raymond said.

But very quickly, the implant enabled his brain to make sense of the sounds.

Mr Raymond now works as an audiologist at the Brisbane Hear and Say Centre, where he assists fellow young cochlear implant recipients.

## UQ HONOURS BRISBANE HEROES

The Father of Brisbane's Chinatown, Eddie Liu, OBE OAM, and former Queensland Premier Wayne Goss, were among six recipients of University of Queensland honorary doctorates in last year's December graduation ceremonies.

Also receiving an honorary doctorate was the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, AC, who retired after 12 years' service on December 31.

The other three honorary doctorate recipients were:

- The 18th President of Indiana University, Professor Michael McRobbie, who

was presented with a Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.

- Head of the Women's College within UQ, Dr Maureen Aitken, who was presented with a Doctor of the University *honoris causa*.

- Warden of St John's College within UQ, Reverend Canon Professor John Morgan, who received a Doctor of the University *honoris causa*.

Eddie Liu, OBE OAM, receives his honorary doctorate from Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC







# Asia tour links alumni with industry

UQ graduates living outside Australia were able to meet the Vice-Chancellor on their home soil when Professor Paul Greenfield made an overseas mission as part of his new role in April, visiting Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

Professor Greenfield met business partners, local education providers and alumni in 11 events during his four-day trip.

The UQ Vice-Chancellor traditionally visits alumni in South-East Asia each year, but this was the first tour to include events focused on giving alumni opportunities to connect with leading business people.

## THAILAND

UQ renewed its memorandum of understanding with Chulalongkorn University, and created a new agreement between UQ's Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and Chulalongkorn's Faculty of Psychology.

The new agreement will see the universities offer a joint degree program, in which students will study half of their psychology program at each institution.

At a joint UQ/Australian Education International seminar for key Thai universities, Professor Greenfield also highlighted a new English language pathway for entry to UQ, for students from non-English-speaking countries.

## MALAYSIA

The 2007 International Alumnus of the Year, Datuk Dr Rosti bin Saruwono, was presented with his award at an alumni and business event.

At the function, Professor Greenfield congratulated Malaysian alumni on travelling to Australia to study, saying they set an example for others.

"Many of you came to The University of Queensland as international students. In doing this, you took a bold step, experiencing not only another academic environment but also our culture," he said.

"One of my visions for UQ is to see more of our Australian students experiencing other cultures through overseas exchange programs, just as you came and studied in Australia."

## SINGAPORE

About 500 guests attended a graduation celebration in Singapore, where 78 recent graduates were presented to the University's Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards AC, in academic dress.

This provided an opportunity for the graduates' families and friends who were unable to attend the 2007 ceremonies held at UQ's campuses to witness the formal presentation of their degrees.

The Vice-Chancellor was also a guest speaker at a Faculty of Business, Economics and Law graduate employment seminar in Singapore, along with representatives from IBM, Merrill Lynch and other leading companies.

Clockwise from top left: President of the UQ Thailand Alumni Association Kulkanya Prateetong, Professor Greenfield with 2007 International Alumnus of the Year Dr Rosti bin Saruwono and his wife Datin Noorul Huda Mohd Dimyati and daughters Rosdayana and Rosda Syazana, and new Singaporean graduates Toh Yi Qien, Lew Shan Min and Kok Krystle Ashley



## Bipolar trip fights mental illness

A UQ academic is aiming to raise \$1 million to fund research into bipolar disorder through bi-polar expeditions.

Dr Tim Silk, a researcher with UQ's Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), pitched the idea of The Bipolar Expedition at a 2007 Brightest Young Minds Conference and now has a registered charity, a dedicated team and two adventurous trips planned.

All that's missing is the sponsors.

The expedition involves a trek to the South Pole in November and another to the North Pole in April 2009, with the aim of raising awareness of, and funding for, bipolar disorder.

"The whole trip will be filmed for a documentary, which will hopefully raise awareness and generate more funding for research," Dr Silk said.

The voyage will set off from Ushuaia, at the southern tip of South America, later this year.

Dr Silk said his desire to increase bipolar awareness resulted from frustration with the condition's frequent misdiagnosis.

"About 70 percent of people with bipolar are misdiagnosed, so there's a huge race to get a correct diagnosis and put the research which has been done to good use," Dr Silk said.

Bipolar disorder, sometimes called manic depression, causes extreme mood swings.

For more information visit [www.bipolarexpedition.org](http://www.bipolarexpedition.org)



## Fresh leadership for student body

2008 UQ Union President Joshua Young hopes his year in office will mark a turning point for the University, making changes designed to improve student services and campus culture.

The 21-year-old led his "Fresh" team to victory at last year's union elections.

Previously a union councillor and National Union of Students delegate, his win delivered the University with its first Liberal president in over a decade.

A fourth-year Business Management/Economics student, Mr Young said it was the opportunity to effect practical change that drew him to the position.

"The union is a vital institution with a rich history, and the president has a unique opportunity to make an impact on the way

that students are represented and provided services on campus," he said.

According to Mr Young, this means making union facilities more affordable, investing in the University's campus life, and redeveloping the internal structure of the union.

He said there would be noticeable changes on campus with the possible reopening of the Schonell Theatre, as well as price cuts and a more active campus culture.

As well as targeting issues of social justice through the re-introduction of Student Emergency Loans and campaigning on public transport and car-parking charges, Mr Young said the union was firmly focused on overcoming the challenges presented by Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU).

"This year, I hope to show that it's possible, under a VSU environment, to run a revenue-neutral student union that is self-sufficient in the short, medium and long-term," he said.

## Educator returns

An Australian education leader will return to UQ after completing a series of high profile appointments in the United Kingdom.

Professor Bob Lingard will head UQ's School of Education from July, resuming a career at the University which spanned 15 years until 2004.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Debbie Terry said the appointment was significant and would consolidate the University's reputation for excellence in education research and training.

"The School of Education is responsible for producing the next generation of teachers, and with Professor Lingard's leadership and experience we will continue to help students hone and improve their skills and knowledge," she said.

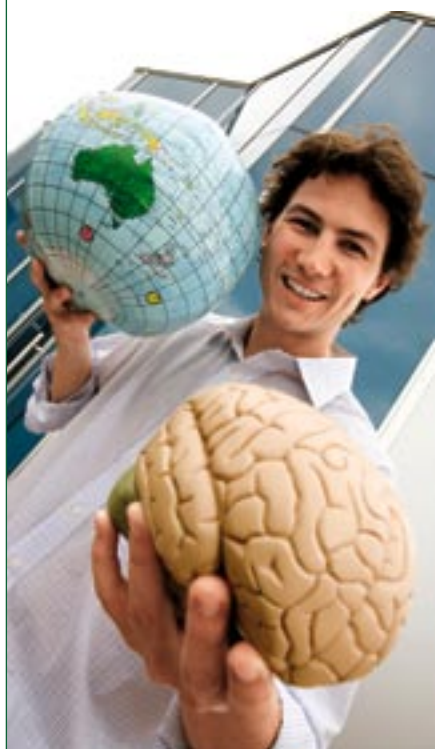
"With hundreds of new teachers

graduating from the University each year this is a real coup for educational leadership in Queensland."

A UQ Arts and Education Studies graduate, Professor Lingard was most recently the Andrew Bell Chair in Education at the University of Edinburgh, and before that held a top research role at the University of Sheffield.

Prior to leaving Brisbane he chaired the Queensland Studies Authority – the body responsible for syllabus development and assessment moderation across the state – and from 1998-2001 directed a large-scale study for Education Queensland which resulted in major pedagogy, assessment and educational leadership reforms.

Professor Lingard is also the author of more than 100 journal articles and book chapters and his diverse research interests include education policy and its links to globalisation and educational reform and equity.





## Native Title goes global

It's not often that a university lecturer crosses several time zones while giving a class, but for UQ's Margaret Stephenson it has become a regular occurrence.

Mrs Stephenson is part of a team that delivers a comparative Indigenous law course to students in Australia, Canada, the United States and New Zealand simultaneously with the help of new teleconferencing technology.

Mrs Stephenson said the approach was particularly useful for Australian students, given the landmark Mabo ruling recognising Native Title took place as recently as 1992.



"We've had Native Title in this country for just over 15 years now, and for students to study the ways governments in other countries have dealt with their Indigenous peoples' rights allows us to look at these responses and policies – very critically in some cases – and to learn from the mistakes and the successes that have been made," she said.

The course is comprised of weekly seminars, with lecturers presenting via high definition webcams and facilitating discussion by flicking between the screens of the six participating universities as needed.

The innovative approach is catching on internationally, with Mrs Stephenson and course co-founder Professor Brad Morse from the University of Ottawa last year giving a live demonstration from UQ to a legal education conference in China.

The change over from expensive ISDN lines to VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) has allowed more universities to become involved since the course began seven years ago, with UQ offering the subject since 2006. And despite some 7am lectures to accommodate the time differences, Mrs Stephenson said feedback had been consistently positive.

"Students enjoy this course, and they gain a great deal by being exposed to a wide range of Indigenous issues in the various jurisdictions," she said.

"Broadening their knowledge of what is occurring elsewhere allows our students to be better placed in their future careers to deal with evolving Indigenous legal rights in Australia."



## Focus on learning

A teacher with a strong profile in educational research is the new leader of UQ's Teaching and Educational Development Institute (TEDI).

Professor Marilyn Goos took over as Director of TEDI on February 1 and, at a time when increasing emphasis is being placed on teaching and learning, her role will no doubt be a challenging one.

"The teaching and learning landscape is changing, both inside and outside the University," Professor Goos said.

"The creation of the Carrick Institute and the introduction of teaching-focused academic positions at UQ are indicators of the increased importance attached to excellent teaching, and of the reconceptualisation of university teaching as a scholarly activity."

TEDI provides support services and staff development to enhance teaching, learning and other aspects of educational development.

Professor Goos succeeds Beth Cavallari, who was TEDI's Acting Director for two years following the departure of long-serving Director Denise Chalmers, who joined the Carrick Institute.

## New program a sound experiment

Students of the new Bachelor of Biomedical Science at UQ received a lively induction into their undergraduate careers when they gathered on campus for an introductory day of experimental science activities in first semester.

From measuring human reaction time to determining the velocity of nerve signals in toads and calculating the speed of sound

across the Great Court, the scholars were treated to a taste of what lay ahead of them.

Program Director Associate Professor Peter Thorn said the day's program – centred on the theme of "reaction time" – was the first of many research opportunities that would set the program apart from other degrees.

"While they will begin with courses providing a broad foundation in the biomedical sciences, the students will later choose from specialisations that include things like neuroscience, human genetics, physiology,

pharmacology, immunology and infectious diseases, and molecular and cellular biology," Dr Thorn said.

"During this time, they will gain valuable experience by working in the laboratories of some of Australia's leading biomedical scientists as part of their Bachelor program."

Kicking off their time in the University's research-rich environment on a high note, the students were also the first to use the new world-class Science Learning Centre in St Lucia's Priestley Building (pictured).





# 60 years for pioneering press

From Peter Carey to David Malouf, The University of Queensland Press has launched the careers of some of Australia's best-loved authors. On the eve of 60th anniversary celebrations, historian and chair of UQP's board **Professor Peter Spearritt** captures some of the key achievements spanning the past six decades.

Since its creation 60 years ago, UQP has become a major presence in Australian cultural life. The press assists in the creation of new non-fiction and literary works, making it the custodian of a rich intellectual heritage.

When UQP was founded most books sold in Australia were still imported, primarily from the UK. Australian publishing imprints including Brisbane-based Jacaranda and Sydney-based Angus and Robertson are no longer separate publishing entities. Our publishing industry has long been dominated by Sydney and Melbourne. UQP is one of only two major commercial publishing houses in Queensland, and plays a vital role in taking the work of Queensland and other Australian writers to national and international audiences.

Early press titles included *Tropical Fatigue*, *Applications of Atomic Energy* and *Introduction to Greek Philosophy*. In the 1950s and 1960s the press continued to issue a wide variety of

textbooks in all disciplines, including agriculture and animal husbandry. The publication of artist Ian Fairweather's *The Drunken Buddha* in 1965 marked a new development in the press, because here was a title of interest not only to staff and students but to the national culture.

From the late 1960s the press began to publish the work of established and emerging poets and novelists, a tradition that continues to this day. UQP published Peter Carey's first book, *The Fat Man in History*, in 1974, and David Malouf's *Johnno* in 1975. In the charged political atmosphere of the 1970s Jill Jolliffe's *East Timor* was the first book-length account of tensions there. The 1980s drew novelists Thea Astley, Barbara Hanrahan, Marion Halligan and Janette Turner Hospital to the press.

In 1988 UQP published Phil Dickie's *The Road to Fitzgerald*, the culmination of a close examination of corruption at the highest levels of the Queensland Government and the police service. UQP's reputation for publishing major historical works continued, including John Gunn's two-volume history of Qantas and Roger Joyce's biography of Samuel Griffith.

The 1990s saw D J Murphy's biography of Queensland Premier T J Ryan, Kate Grenville's *Joan Makes History*, Peter Carey's *The Tax Inspector* and Jack Maggs, while Hugh Lunn's *Over the top with Jim* memoir continued to be reprinted.

The new century opened with the publication of Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang*. Public commentary continued with Frank Brennan's *Tampering with Asylum* and *Acting on Conscience*. Young adult fiction flourished with regular releases from Brian Caswell and Michael Noonan, and children's authors Catherine Bateson and James Moloney continued to reach younger readers.

Today, UQP's strengths are in children's literature, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, from art and architecture to history and public debate. Textbook publishing is increasingly subsumed by material now best accessed on the web or via print on demand. The web is already the dominant mode of academic research publishing, especially for journals. But books will continue to thrive where people value the prospect of not only reading but returning to a favourite title, whether it is David Malouf's elegant volume of poems, *Typewriter Music*, Tara June Winch's *Swallow the Air* or Paul Memmott's *Gunyah, Goondie + Wurley: the Aboriginal Architecture of Australia*.

An independent, Australian-owned press is something to cherish, and the growing number of UQP books that can be found around the world is proof enough of that.

To keep up to date with UQP releases and events, visit [www.uqp.uq.edu.au](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au)



# Honouring tradition and embracing change

UQP has long held a reputation for spotting writing talent and launching new voices, and this focus will continue as the publishing industry evolves, writes General Manager **Greg Bain**.



Reflecting on UQP's success thus far, it is important to be clear on our role as a university press. With an expanding and changing readership in mind, we are now firmly focused on some key objectives:

## Reflecting the wealth of talent at UQ and our region to the world

As a university press, I am mindful of the opportunities to publish important research – to support and draw attention to the output of our University. To underpin a resurgent scholarly list, two major academic series will be announced shortly drawing on local and international scholars. UQ's rich body of research presents many opportunities for publishing groundbreaking ideas and UQP is an important medium for distributing knowledge.

## Fostering emerging writers

UQP has also set an ambitious course in building new careers. We publish the annual winners of three key prizes: The Queensland Premier's Emerging Writer Award, the David Unaipon Award for best Indigenous manuscript and the Tom Shapcott Prize for poetry. The opportunity to provide support for these emerging talents is one of the privileges of the job, and to then see many of them develop into writers of prominence is a delight to us all.

## Engaging new readers

UQP introduces quality Australian literature at the earliest opportunity through dynamic and imaginative picture books, to challenging young adult novels from arguably the best stable of authors assembled in Australia today. Our adult fiction list continues to receive national recognition, and UQP's poetry routinely scoops the pool in literary prizes. A new focus on developing quality non-fiction titles is taking shape with recent books including a survey of Indigenous architecture to an enlightening study on the tumultuous history of chocolate.

## Capturing a world audience

Since 2004, UQP has built a strong platform to present new Australian voices to an international audience. We are now represented in Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands Spain, Taiwan, Turkey and the UK. We have sold international publishing rights to many of our books, translated into scores of languages, and generated important income for our authors.

Our books are now distributed throughout Europe and North America, and are on sale through virtual bookstores worldwide. We are currently re-launching another 500 UQP titles for print-on-demand distribution, and we continue to negotiate the re-release of many significant works to new readers.

## Harnessing new technology

With a healthy respect for heritage and many important works from the past back in circulation, UQP will endeavour to reach wider for readers, young and old, through the opportunities of new technology.

Print on demand, downloading of text from the internet, (with devices to secure content and ensure royalties for creators), and the inevitable boom of portable eBook readers present exciting new channels to markets. Audio books are also experiencing a resurgence thanks to the iPod. Imagine a world where you can wave your mobile phone over a bar code on the back of a book and instantly download the entire contents to have read to you on the train – UQP will release the first example of this in the near future.

As the fourth General Manager for UQP in 60 years, I am privileged to lead the press at such an exciting time. The digital world is opening new markets and creative ways for our writers to be "discovered", and the press continues to make a significant contribution to Australia's cultural landscape. May we continue for another 60 at least!

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# FUTURE BUILDING



UQ is completing an ambitious building program across its campuses, with the following a snapshot of the innovative works taking place and the implications they hold for teaching and research.

// by Cameron Pegg

## **Visionary hub to lure best and brightest**

The University of Queensland is embracing the future by constructing Australia's pharmaceutical answer to the Silicon Valley.

The **Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence (PACE)** has been in the planning phase for several years, with site works commencing on a Queensland Government-donated site adjacent to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in March.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh said UQ was "the first cab off the rank" in relocating the school and ramping up research into the quality use of medicines.

Once complete, the facility will cover every aspect of the pharmaceutical production line, incorporating cutting-edge research, commercial pharmaceutical development facilities, professional bodies and a major hospital.

The Centre's \$120 million first stage, featuring education facilities, laboratory space, and accommodation for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Qld), is due for completion in 2009, with the first students to enter the facility in 2010.

In anticipation of this, UQ has increased new student enrolments in the discipline from 185 in 2006 to 246 in 2008. Numbers in the Bachelor of Pharmacy program will continue to grow in order to ease a widespread shortage in the profession that is estimated to reach 3000 nationally in 2010.





Left and above: Premier Anna Bligh and Stephen Jorgensen at the PACE construction site. Panel, clockwise from top left: GPN4, an artist's impression of the MCRF, Lady Sonia McMahon and Professor Paul Greenfield at the opening of the ACRF Brain Tumour Research Centre and the UQCCR

Head of the School of Pharmacy, Professor Nick Shaw, said this shortfall represented a demand for a new breed of graduates.

"Pharmacists now have an increased involvement in practice-based and fundamental science research, designed to improve community use of medicines, develop new medicines and improve their delivery," he said.

"Twenty-first century pharmacists are involved in activities that were not even considered by their predecessors."

The State Government has estimated that when fully operational, PACE is likely to generate around \$46 million a year for Queensland.

### Sustainable resourcing

A new \$7.8 million mineral research centre being built at UQ is expected to boost Queensland's mineral production while cutting the state's power use.

The **Mineral Characterisation Research Facility** (MCRF) will develop new processing technologies to increase metal production while reducing the amount of electricity needed for the process.

The centre will be located at the University's experimental mine at Indooroopilly, which is home to one of Australia's oldest mining research groups, the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre (JKMRC).

The Queensland Government will contribute \$6.1 million to the project, which is the newest mineral characterisation centre in Australia and first in the state.

Mining partners Xstrata Technology, Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Anglo Platinum, JKTech, Cytec Industries Inc and Metso Corporation are contributing about \$10 million in cash and equipment for research projects.

Queensland's mining industry was worth \$14.3 billion in 2004-05, accounting for about half the state's exports. The MCRF aims to increase Queensland mineral exports by \$255 million, decrease carbon dioxide emissions from mining by 427,000 tonnes and reap \$4.2 million in royalties within the next decade.

### One-of-a-kind teaching space

The latest technologies in teaching will be harnessed at the \$54 million **General Purpose North 4 Building** (GPN4) at St Lucia, which opens in July.

Housing the Institute for Continuing and TESOL Education, and including two floors of centrally controlled teaching space, the v-shaped building consists of five levels on the south wing and six levels on the north wing, with a covered courtyard connecting the two.

Construction Project Manager Idranhi Cabraal said GPN4 included the Advanced Concept Staging Space, a new type of lecture theatre with optimised computer access not seen before in Australia.

In response to a range of environmental issues, the building also contains a range of smart technologies that control lighting and air-conditioning.

Mains water consumption in GPN4 will be significantly lower than usual thanks to the installation of a 240,000 litre tank which will store captured roof water for use in toilets and landscaping.

Refurbishment of the nearby Joyce Ackroyd Building will begin after GPN4's official opening.

### New cancer centre opens

More effective treatments for brain cancer will be developed at a new testing facility housed at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI).

Funded by a \$1.14 million grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF), the **ACRF Brain Tumour Research Centre** was officially opened by Queensland Minister for Health, The Hon Stephen Robertson, MP, in March.

QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said despite significant advances in treatments, the average life expectancy of patients with aggressive forms of brain cancer was often less than a year.

"This is the first time researchers will be able to isolate, enumerate and purify tumour

stem cells with such high levels of efficiency," Professor Bartlett said.

"We know brain cancer occurs in about 10 in every 100,000 people in the Western world. It's a disease that presents in patients of all ages, and is the second-most common tumour type among children and young adults."

Scientists from UQ, the Queensland Institute for Medical Research and research clinicians from Brisbane's leading public hospitals will all have access to the centre.

The ACRF is a private foundation which awards grants to leading-edge cancer research programs around Australia.

The foundation provided funding for Professor Ian Frazer's cervical cancer vaccine program at a critical point in his research.

### Bedside treatment in focus

Bringing research breakthroughs to the bedside is the focus of UQ's \$66 million **Centre for Clinical Research** (UQCCR).

Officially opened in November, the UQCCR is located beside the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and will house more than 300 researchers who will turn advances in the lab into better treatments and results for patients.

The facility is a first for Queensland and will help fill a gap in Australia's clinical research capacity.

Researchers are concentrating on clinical trials, diagnosis of breast and prostate cancers, diagnosis and treatment of brain disorders, and therapies for tissue inflammation and injuries.

Centre Director Professor Nick Fisk comes to UQ from Imperial College London, where he was Professor of Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine.

The UQCCR has been funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Queensland Government and UQ, and forms part of a growing series of state-of-the-art facilities that include the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) and the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB). //

## + THE POWER OF GIVING

The University of Queensland's reputation as a place of excellence in research and teaching owes much to the generosity of donors. Here is a small sample of the many ways in which philanthropic gifts to UQ can make a difference.

# QBI lab targets motor neuron disease

**Peter Goodenough**, whose generous donation established the UQ brain disorder research laboratory in March, was born in Cornwall, England, and died aged 69 on November 14, 2004 in Cairns.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Mr Goodenough developed a multi-million dollar civil engineering contracting company with extensive interests in Papua New Guinea.

At its peak, Mr Goodenough's Bougainville operation employed more than 100 people for road building, trucking and pre-fabricated housing.

He was forced to leave Bougainville in the late 1980s when fighting broke out.

During one dramatic episode Mr Goodenough's three dogs (wantoks) helped him to escape a violent confrontation with rebels.

Mr Goodenough battled motor neuron disease (MND) for about three years before the disease left him wheelchair-bound and unable to speak for the final year of his life.

Neil Matheson, Mr Goodenough's Joint Trustee and former accountant, said after Mr Goodenough lost his voice, they communicated via a whiteboard.

Mr Matheson said Mr Goodenough gave to UQ after spending six months trying to find the best scientists to work on a cure for MND to ensure that no "other bastard" suffered from MND.

"He wanted to make sure his money was well spent which is why he entrusted it to the University and the QBI," he said.

He said Mr Goodenough was a self-made millionaire with strong morals and showed no interest in personal wealth.

He is survived by five children, most of whom still reside in Cornwall.

Peter Goodenough with his children Cecilia and Alexandre



From left: Professor Perry Bartlett, Graham Isles, Professor David Siddle, John Wearne, Rimbink Pato OBE, Jo Simpson and Neil Matheson at the centre's launch

UQ's newest brain disorder research lab was opened in March in honour of self-made millionaire Peter Goodenough, who lost his life to motor neuron disease (MND).

Mr Goodenough bequeathed more than \$6 million to the University's Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) to help find a cure for MND.

MND is a group of disorders which cause muscle wasting and the loss of nerve cells controlling speech, swallowing and respiration.

State Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry Desley Boyle, MP, officially opened the Peter Goodenough and Wantoks Research Laboratory, on level six of UQ's QBI.

(Wantoks means close friends or relatives in pidgin English – a reference to Mr Goodenough's three pet dogs and "best mates" whom he wanted recognised).

Ms Boyle said philanthropy was one way to boost Queensland's woeful investment in research and development in comparison with other states.

His former carer Jo Simpson was among about 50 people at the lab opening.

The lab was completed in November 2007 and is now home to the Molecular Genetics of Human Disease team led by QBI's Dr Robyn Wallace.

QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said

Mr Goodenough's unprecedented support would allow QBI and Australia to lead the world in discovering new therapeutic treatments for MND.

"Dr Wallace (inaugural Ross McLean Fellow) is currently focusing on discovering new biomarkers and disease-candidate genes in blood samples taken from MND patients, both here and in China, as well as identifying genes associated with muscle weakness in the mouse," Professor Bartlett said.

"Dr Elizabeth Coulson (QBI's Nerve Cell Survival Lab Head) has discovered new molecules that promote nerve survival and prevent motor neuron loss. It is only through fundamental research like this that a cure for MND will be found.

"Because discoveries can, and often do, come from unexpected areas of research, we must continue to pursue a multifaceted and strategic approach, as there are so few clues as to what causes MND and currently no therapies to reverse the effects of the disease or to prevent its progression."

Three fully-funded scholarships for Papua New Guinean students studying engineering, law and neuroscience were also announced in Mr Goodenough's honour.

Dr Wallace said she believed it would be at least a decade before there was a MND treatment.



# Schizophrenia research here to stay

The University of Queensland has secured a continuing PhD scholarship in the area of schizophrenia research thanks to a \$550,000 donation.

Dr Felice Zaccari, a retired GP, and his late wife Mary Zaccari have provided funding to the University for many years, and their recent donation ensures research into the condition will continue.

"We wanted to create a scholarship that would support a cause that needs research," Dr Zaccari said.

Schizophrenia is a debilitating psychiatric disorder for which the cause is unknown.

It affects approximately one percent of the population and is characterised by disruptions in language, thought and social activity.

The donation will fund a perpetual scholarship, to be located at the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research.

The current recipient of the Zaccari scholarship is Amanda Jones from the School of Medicine, whose aim is to uncover whether some cases of schizophrenia could be categorised as an autoimmune disease.

"The cause of schizophrenia is unknown, but evidence is mounting that there may be several immune abnormalities in some people with schizophrenia, including the presence of antibodies directed against brain neurotransmitter receptors," Ms Jones said.

She said her research had the potential to expand treatment options for schizophrenia patients.

"Improving our understanding of disease mechanisms in schizophrenia would offer new avenues to be explored in the treatment of schizophrenia," Ms Jones said.

"If autoantibodies are found to be present in the sera of people with schizophrenia and not healthy controls, then it may be possible to develop a diagnostic test for schizophrenia similar to that used to diagnose lupus or other antibody-mediated autoimmune diseases.

"New therapies could be developed which target the cause rather than the symptoms of



## SCHOLAR REALISES OPPORTUNITY

Many students struggle to achieve a GPA of 6.5 out of a possible 7 but Amanda Acutt has done so while overcoming an even greater challenge: a total visual impairment.

The Arts/Law dual degree student is the inaugural holder of the Kym Broadhurst Scholarship, set up through

a donation from James Broadhurst, whose late daughter Kym also had a visual impairment.

Ms Acutt, who is a resident of St John's College at the St Lucia campus and navigates with the aid of a cane, said her impairment made her studies labour-intensive at times.

She types notes into her computer and has a special screen-reading software program called JAWS for Windows that reads text aloud.

Similarly, all her readings need to be converted into Microsoft Word format, which can be time-consuming, but she proudly points out she has never had an extension on an assignment.

"I am encouraged by the fact that there are people out there who believe I can succeed. I appreciate the financial support provided by this scholarship," Ms Acutt said.

"It's a lot of work but I really enjoy my course because I can see where it's taking me."

But simply excelling in her studies isn't enough for Ms Acutt, who is applying to go on exchange to the University of Nottingham next year.

Mr Broadhurst, who along with his wife established the scholarship in their daughter's memory, is pleased his gift is helping a student like Ms Acutt.

"Amanda sounds like a very exceptional young lady and I am really thrilled the scholarship is helping someone like her," he said.

schizophrenia, as is the current practice, and these treatments could be tailored to individual patients, resulting in less medication side effects and less time spent hospitalised."

Ms Jones, whose PhD is due for completion this year, said receiving the scholarship had lessened the financial pressure associated with her medical research.

"I've had the scholarship since 2005 and I wouldn't have been able to finish without it," she said.

Below: Pieces from the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research art collection





## Anthropologist returns to UQ

For centuries, anthropologists have mused and romanticised over the idea of “home” and just what it involves and implies.

Better than most, Professor David Trigger knows how difficult it can be to pin down the term in words and values.

Twenty-five years since completing his anthropology studies at UQ, Professor Trigger has returned to help strengthen the discipline and ask new questions about senses of place and belonging among diverse groups of Australians.

He also oversees UQ's Anthropology Museum, which is open to the public and holds a particularly strong Indigenous Australian and Papua New Guinea collection.

Professor Trigger's interest in the subject began during years of fieldwork he undertook while completing his doctorate at the Doomadgee Aboriginal mission in northwest Queensland.

“At the age of 24, I was given a powerful Toyota land cruiser, site recording and camping equipment, and told to drive off to the remote gulf country to record Aboriginal sites of significance,” Professor Trigger said.

“Aside from being a wonderful

experience, I feel these intensive years of mapping Aboriginal cultural landscapes prompted me to ask questions about senses of connection to place, home, nature and built environments.”

In ensuing years Professor Trigger continued to visit the region, providing research for land claims and cultural heritage surveys.

“In fact, I was at Doomadgee on the day the Mabo decision was announced in the early 90s, doing a cultural heritage survey in relation to drilling exploration at the time,” he said.

Professor Trigger said it was important to tease out what “home” meant to different groups of Australians and hoped to focus on the area while heading the Anthropology discipline at UQ.

“I'd like to build a working group of anthropologists concentrating on the significance of place and home for life in a number of contemporary societies,” he said.

The UQ Anthropology Museum is located on the second floor of the Michie Building, St Lucia. For further information visit [www.socialscience.uq.edu.au](http://www.socialscience.uq.edu.au)

## ANCIENT MYSTERY OPENED

A 2000-year-old mystery has arrived at UQ in the form of a large golden earring, now on display in the R D Milns Antiquities Museum.

Thought to be from the Hellenistic Period (4th-1st century BC), the earring is among the collection's newest objects, which include a terracotta figure of the fertility goddess Astarte, a silver Greco-Roman ring and two bronze military medallions (*phalerae*).

Museum curator and UQ lecturer in Ancient History Dr Sonia Puttock said rough dates were known about the items but the rest remained elusive.

“We have to do the research on them to find out just exactly what they are. When you buy an object you'll often get a broad date but often you don't get a provenance (origin),” Dr Puttock said.

Each year the museum obtains new artefacts which can be matched with current teaching and research areas – anything from a study of the Roman military to ancient myth and magic.

Dating the objects involves tracking down references in historical texts and images and finding likenesses in other collections around the world.

Dr Puttock said mistakes were common – a recent example being a stone and terracotta mosaic thought to belong to a certain period until UQ researchers tracked down a similar item in Sicily and set the record straight.

“We have to try and find the context of an item and if something's been out of its context for hundreds of years it's difficult. You'd be surprised what you can find out about an object when you're researching it,” she said.

Dr Puttock, an expert on Romano-British jewellery, said items like the earring had aesthetic value today but would have been prized for something much more important two millennia ago.

“The little goose on it, for example, it will signify a specific god and the workmanship is important. It's not just a decorative earring, it would've had some significance.”

To find out more about the museum's artefacts and opening hours, visit [www.uq.edu.au/antiquities](http://www.uq.edu.au/antiquities)







Clockwise from top: pieces from UQ Art Museum exhibitions *Repeat that again!* and *The Slates* and a scene from *Last Riot*

## Alumni build links to ART MUSEUM

The University of Queensland is currently exhibiting its own slice of Australian art history, and it's largely thanks to the efforts of UQ alumni.

*The Slates* – a series of unique works by Sidney Nolan – appears at the UQ Art Museum until July 13, and was made possible by a donation from the graduating class of 1955 and the Peter Stuyvesant Cultural Foundation.

Museum Director Nick Mitzevich said the Nolan show was the latest in a packed program which had seen attendance jump by 100 percent since the start of 2008.

"The gallery runs 18 exhibitions a year so it's a very changeable and dynamic program which hopefully responds and keeps an audience enthused about art," Mr Mitzevich said.

"Our aim is to provide a platform for UQ's eminent collection in Australian art but also to bring to Brisbane really innovative and exciting things that you see nowhere else."

A radical transformation of UQ's Mayne Hall in 2004 saw a ten-fold increase in exhibition space, with the transformation made possible by a \$5 million donation from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Mr Mitzevich led the Newcastle Region Art Gallery for six years before taking up the director's post in September last year, and said he was committed to showcasing the best of local and international talent.

Features of the 2008 program thus far have included the breakthrough Russian video work *Last Riot* (a favourite at last year's Venice Biennale), and a retrospective of German Expressionist paintings.

Mr Mitzevich said the University owned

an impressive and eclectic mix of works which included everything from contemporary Indigenous art to Chinese antiquities and the country's only collection of artists' self-portraits.

"The collection has been put together through the University's investment but more significantly by people who have had a link to UQ. The Nolan pieces were purchased with the generous assistance of graduates from 1955, who made a donation in 1980 as a 25th anniversary gift to the University," he said.

*The Slates* comprise 18 roof tiles Nolan decorated between 1941-42, only a few years before his iconic Ned Kelly series grabbed international attention.

"The strength of the art collection is completely defined by the generosity of people who have had a connection with UQ," Mr Mitzevich said.

"We want all UQ students and alumni to enjoy the works on display and to contribute to future exhibitions by joining our online mailing list and becoming involved in our public programs."

Current and upcoming highlights include a new show from popular Australian video artist Shaun Gladwell and the ambitious *Neo-Goth* exhibition which takes over both floors of the building in July.

The UQ Art Museum is located at the St Lucia campus, and is open free to the public between 10am-4pm daily.

To keep up to date with museum events and openings, send your details to [artmuseum@uq.edu.au](mailto:artmuseum@uq.edu.au)





The portrait of Professor Colin O'Connor (left) alongside an earlier gift from the group honouring Professor J H Lavery, UQ's first Professor of Civil Engineering

## ENGINEERS SHARE THEIR LIFE STORIES

UQ has honoured its Civil Engineering graduates from 1955 at the February launch of a book of their life stories.

*Civil 55* documents the diverse and colourful achievements of the group, who have made many contributions to the planning and building of essential infrastructure in Queensland during a time of unprecedented population growth.

Their members worked on and oversaw important projects including the development of the Merivale Rail Bridge over the Brisbane River (John Snelling), the Brisbane Administration Centre Precinct (Eric Bishop) and the Kingfisher Bay resort on Fraser Island (Philip Breene).

Mr Breene said the 24 members of the group had met every year for more than half a century.

"This network has been important because of the fellowship and friendship it has provided us as we have progressed through our lives and careers," he said.

The stories within *Civil 55* include that of Jock McLean, the eldest graduating student and prisoner of war in Borneo during WWII, Kevin Stark, who went on to become a Pro-Vice Chancellor of James Cook University, and Reginald Tanna, who later became General Manager of the Gladstone Port Authority.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger said the graduates' contribution to the development of Queensland and Australia was significant.

"The group has provided a fascinating account of their part in Queensland's social and engineering history," Professor Keniger said.

"The University is proud to have been a part of their successful and diverse careers."

The members of *Civil 55* also used the launch to present a portrait of one of their lecturers, Professor Colin O'Connor, to the UQ School of Engineering.

Copies of *Civil 55* are available from the UQ Bookshop.

## Eights gather at Gatton

The UQ Gatton annual reunion for past students and staff, known as the Back to College weekend, will be held this year on December 6 and 7.

The event, organised by the UQ Gatton Past Students Association, is this year focusing on attracting graduates from the years 1998, 1988, 1978, 1968, 1958 and 1948.

A reunion of former staff will take place at lunch on December 6 as part of the activities.

The 1962 and 1963 graduates are also planning on celebrating their 45 and 46-year reunions respectively on the weekend, as are those involved in rugby in 1978. Other groups are also welcome.

UQ Gatton Past Students Association President Graham McClymont said more people were attending the event each year to meet up with old friends and remember good times at the campus.

"In 2007, there were around 200 people registered for the weekend including a large number of former staff," Mr McClymont said.

Many past students and staff stay for the weekend activities, which include 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, with the UQ Gatton historical collection also on display. Donations of memorabilia are always welcome.

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



## 2010 Centenary call for suggestions

The year 2010 marks the Centenary of The University of Queensland. In recognition of this historic event, a series of celebratory programs and activities will run throughout 2010.

The University of Queensland's Advancement Office invites alumni, as well as the wider community, to play a part in the celebrations and welcomes suggestions for the Centenary program.

The Office is looking for creative ways to mark the milestone, so please be as imaginative as you wish. Email your suggestions to [uqalumni@uq.edu.au](mailto:uqalumni@uq.edu.au)



## Alumni relations IN FOCUS

The University of Queensland is ramping up its outreach efforts to graduates with a new alumni program that will include more events and improved career development services.

Advancement Office Deputy Director – Alumni and Community Relations Lea Sublett said UQ's connection to the broader community was a focus of the newly developed alumni program.

"The University of Queensland is committed to community engagement and, with a large percentage of our alumni living in Brisbane, it's a priority for us to provide opportunities for alumni and others to come back to UQ more regularly," she said.

Responsible for the management of University-wide activities relating to alumni, the UQ Alumni program aims to produce more alumni events, improve communications processes and broaden the career development services currently available to graduates.

"The UQ Alumni team is working to increase services and benefits for our large and diverse community," Ms Sublett said.

"Many of our graduates live locally, while many live overseas, and we hope to be able to expand services that appeal to alumni regardless of where they live, their professions or ages.

"UQ is committed to ensuring that students are involved in the UQ Alumni program and we hope to provide opportunities for students to meet alumni for



Lee Lindley, Lea Sublett and Kylie McIntyre in the Great Court

mentoring and careers discussion. A major new initiative for UQ is honouring students as alumni on the day they enrol."

UQ also has a large community of international students and alumni, with 10 active international graduate networks.

Supporting UQ's reinvigorated focus on alumni is a new team, comprised of Ms Sublett, International Alumni Relations Officer Julia Vannucchi, Alumni and Events Coordinator Kylie McIntyre and Alumni Support Officer Lee Lindley.

Ms Sublett, who came to UQ in April 2007, has drawn her experience from around the world. She worked for five years in the Middle East for the Australian Government.

Ms McIntyre started at the Advancement Office in late 2007 and has more than 10 years' event management experience, while Ms Lindley's background is in library services and business and marketing.

Ms Vannucchi has 12 years' experience in international education and came to UQ in 2006.

## WEBSITE GETS A MAKEOVER

The UQ Advancement Office has launched a new and improved website to better connect with graduates, and the resource has already proved a hit with UQ alumni and staff.

Located at [www.alumni.uq.edu.au](http://www.alumni.uq.edu.au), the site is the starting point and central source of information for alumni and the broader community.

Via this resource, alumni can update their contact details, stay in touch with classmates, find out about UQ alumni activities, browse memorabilia and download copies of *Graduate Contact*.

Feedback from alumni visiting the new website reveals it is more user friendly, appealing to the eye, easier to navigate and has a greater amount of useful information than the previous site.

"It is wonderful to see a fresh new look for a UQ site," was one response.

"I think the use of colour, icons and more importantly, the quality of useful information on the site is just outstanding."

Another respondent said: "It's a welcoming website and easy to get around. There wasn't anything I wanted to know about that I couldn't find."

The screenshot shows the UQ Alumni & Community website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: UQ HOME, SEARCH, CONTACTS, STUDY, NEWS, EVENTS, MAPS, LIBRARY. Below this is the Advancement Office Alumni & Community header. The main content area features a large image of a smiling man, a globe, and the text "Make the connection today." Below this is a "Welcome to UQ Alumni & Community" section with a quote from a former student. To the left is a "UQ Alumni" sidebar with links to memorabilia, networks, news, stories, notable graduates, reunions, and updating details. Below this is a "Community Services & Facilities" section with links to events and supporting UQ. To the right of the welcome message is a "Latest Alumni News" section with a list of recent events and a "Benefits for Alumni" section with links to equity and diversity awards, a feedback form, and a profile update button. At the bottom right is a "Quick links" section with links to alumni awards, memorabilia, transcripts, notable graduates, finding a network, supporting UQ, and visiting campus. The footer includes a "READ GRADUATE CONTACT" button and a "contact" graphic.

# Librarian led the way

**HARRISON BRYAN AO**

September 23, 1923 –  
February 12, 2008

Harrison Bryan was James Forsyth Librarian at The University of Queensland from 1950 to 1963 and went on to become one of Australia's most significant librarians.

He was the son of Walter Heywood Bryan, Professor of Geology at the University from 1947-59, and Mryee (nee Harrison). He matriculated from Brisbane Grammar School, served in the army for four years, graduated with Honours in history, married Florence Jolly in 1948 and trained as a librarian in the Public (now State) Library of New South Wales. In 1954 his thesis on John Murtagh Macrossan secured his MA.

Upon taking leadership of the library, Harrison had to transform its staffing, accommodation, collecting and technical processing and finances. He took on posts such as secretary to the staff association and as the University's ceremonial marshal to get greater recognition for the library and its staff. A very thoroughly prepared study tour of British university libraries and some libraries in America in 1957 strengthened his advocacy. By December 1962 he had trebled the collection that he had inherited to almost 290,000 volumes



– (it now holds 2.5 million volumes, plus an electronic cornucopia).

Harrison was outgoing, zestful and productive: a Highgate Hill staff member saw his car parked as she rose to look across the river each morning. He wrote quickly and clearly: a veteran editor decades later remarked that he was "... one of the few who could be relied upon to produce his promised manuscript on time".

An expatriate Australian, Andrew Osborn, had returned from Harvard to the University of Sydney to set new standards in library collection and accommodation. He recommended Harrison Bryan as his successor, and Harrison went to Sydney in 1963. There he quickly won support, and

student use of the library grew rapidly, with the later use of computers supporting this demand.

Harrison and Florence had planned for his early retirement, but by 1980 the National Library of Australia was anxiously seeking new leadership. Harrison was so widely known and respected he was virtually drafted into the position of Director-General. It was a time of Commonwealth frugality, and he found ministers and bureaucrats less cooperative than university colleagues. Even so, he helped restore working relationships between the National Library and Australian libraries generally, particularly through a national cooperative cataloguing network.

When Harrison retired in 1985, he relaxed by editing the three-volume encyclopaedia on Australian library services, *Alias* (1988-91). His career was celebrated in a festschrift, *An Enthusiasm for Libraries* (1988), and he also wrote a frank and detailed autobiography, *No Gray Profession* (1994). His honours included the Officer of the Order of Australia (1984), the premier award for Australian librarians, the HCL Anderson Award (1984) and three honorary doctorates, including a UQ LLD (1985). Retirement in Sydney also included gardening, reading and work with a hand printing press. Ill health in the last few years took the Bryans closer to family in Melbourne. Harrison Bryan died there from a stroke on February 12. He is survived by Florence, four children and another two generations.

// by Spencer Routh, former UQ librarian

# Gatton loses dedicated graduate

**LOUISE IRELAND**

December 16, 1982 –  
November 18, 2007

Members of the Gatton campus community gathered in November to farewell a friend and colleague struck down in a tragic road accident.

Louise Ireland, 24, was passionate about horses, and obtained a Diploma in Applied Science (Equine Studies) with Distinction in 2001.

At her memorial service the eulogy was given by Ms Ireland's boss from the Wenley Park stables on the Gold Coast, who paid testament to her dedication and patience during the recent Equine Influenza outbreak.

Ms Ireland's father Rod said Louise's focus had always been working with horses, and that many of her classmates would remember her horse Gator, who was still with the family.

"He was a bit of a wild boy in those days, we still have him, but he has settled down now," Mr Ireland said.

"I would like to thank all of those who looked after her and helped make Louise's time at Gatton such a pleasure."





# Dark side of THE FORCE

New University of Queensland research into “dark energy” is unravelling not only Einstein’s famous Theory of Relativity but the very nature of our Universe.

// by Tegan Taylor

What do exploding stars, gender equality and Ultimate Frisbee have in common? Usually not much, unless you are Dr Tamara Davis.

The University of Queensland researcher is a new addition to the School of Physical Sciences, where she is using her knowledge of galaxies and supernovae to study the expansion of the Universe.

Dr Davis came to UQ in February after a two-year stint at the University of Copenhagen to work on a project called WiggleZ.

Rather than studying four skivvy-wearing children’s entertainers, Dr Davis will be examining the “bumps and wiggles” in the pattern of galaxies we see in the sky and using the findings as a ruler to measure how quickly the Universe is expanding.

Her project tries to measure the mysterious dark energy that seems to be causing the Universe to expand at an accelerating rate.

Dr Davis said dark energy, jokingly known as “the dark side of the Force”, was a

relatively new discovery cosmologists were still struggling to understand.

The idea that the Universe’s expansion is accelerating seems to fly in the face of everything physicists thought they knew about gravity.

“It’s as though a ball thrown in the air has accelerated into space instead of falling back to Earth,” Dr Davis said.

“It may mean that Einstein’s Theory of Relativity needs revision, or that the Universe is filled with some sort of substance with anti-gravity.”

While these concepts seem far beyond the realms of everyday, Earth-bound life, Dr Davis said her projects potentially had very practical results.

“We’re trying to get down to the nuts and bolts of how the Universe works. Past examples of discoveries like this have resulted in unforeseen applications like electricity and nuclear power,” she said.

“We’ve got the Universe accelerating

without any currently identified energy source, so maybe in the future we will be able to harness this as some sort of green energy.

“I think the possibility of a clean source of fuel is one of the things that makes this kind of fundamental research worth doing.”

While women are increasingly well represented in many areas of academia, Dr Davis said astrophysics was still a male-dominated field, with just 15 percent of researchers being female.

But Dr Davis said her male colleagues had never made her feel “anything but welcome” and she was drawn to astrophysics from her first forays into university study.

When she’s not unlocking the secrets of the Universe, Dr Davis plays Ultimate Frisbee, a non-contact team sport played with a flying disc. She represented Australia in the sport at the World Championships in Germany in 2000 and Finland in 2004.

For more information on UQ astrophysics, visit [www.physics.uq.edu.au/ap](http://www.physics.uq.edu.au/ap) //

“IT MAY MEAN THAT EINSTEIN’S THEORY OF RELATIVITY NEEDS REVISION, OR THAT THE UNIVERSE IS FILLED WITH SOME SORT OF SUBSTANCE WITH ANTI-GRAVITY”

# Pacific challenge

Disaster response, HIV/AIDS care and health information research will all benefit from AusAID funding recently awarded to UQ population health researchers.

Three University of Queensland research teams are involved in an \$8.8 million AusAID initiative to improve the quality and effectiveness of Australia's overseas aid.

The new program will fund research aimed at providing decision makers with practical solutions to the most difficult development challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.

The first project, aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,



will analyse the opinions and experiences of Australians involved in disaster response overseas and consists of Professor Richard Taylor, Dr Bronwen Blake and Dr Fernanda Claudio.

The second study tackles HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea by investigating male circumcision and vaginal microbicides as preventative methods in men and women at high risk of infection.

Dr Andrew Vallely leads the research team,

which also includes Professor Gail Williams, Associate Professor Peter Hill and Dr Megan Jennaway.

The third project will span five countries – Samoa, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati – as it strengthens cause of death and mortality reporting in Pacific Island health information systems. School of Population Health Head Professor Alan Lopez, Professor Taylor, Dr Chalapati Rao and Ms Karen Carter will work on the project.

Professor Lopez said AusAID's funding of the initiatives was a "major success" for those involved and the University at large.

"This reflects the very significant efforts made by the school in recent years to develop a world-class research program in international health," he said.

"Strategic recruitment of academics, targeted investment in particular fields of research and the excellent leadership of Professor Taylor have helped build real strengths in the public health priorities of Australia and the Asia-Pacific region."

The School won three of the 27 grants awarded, which were selected from more than 500 applications.

## UNIVERSITY REGIMENT celebrates success

The Queensland University Regiment has led the pack at the recent Royal Military College of Australia Graduation Weekend, outperforming its interstate counterparts on the eve of its 60th anniversary.

The regiment contributed the highest number of graduates, imparting what Honorary Colonel Major General John Pearn has described as a "fitting tribute" to its longstanding legacy of success.

"Since it was founded, initially as the Queensland University Rifles, the regiment has been one of the principal army reserve units training young men and women for

leadership careers in the Reserves of the Australian Defence Force," Maj. Gen. Pearn said.

"The regiment has a very proud history, having had a series of esteemed alumni on the University staff and many of its cadets over the years having gone on to occupy very senior positions in the professions, particularly in law, engineering, education and medicine."

Fourteen cadets graduated across a variety of arms and service corps, with QUR's Lieutenant Tyson Brock awarded the top prize nationally for leadership.

Lt. Brock has been posted as a Platoon Commander at the 25th/49th Battalion of the Royal Queensland Regiment, where he will lead a platoon of 30 soldiers.

QUR Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Cotton said the graduates had represented their various corps admirably, exhibiting great dedication and commitment.

"They completed two training components – a suite of residential modules of about 104 days in five different periods usually held during University semester holidays, and the non-continuous training, which is one weekend a month and a parade night every Tuesday evening," she said.

"The spread of corps was quite broad – we had graduates posted to infantry, artillery, transport and signal corps, as well as those working as electrical and mechanical engineers."

Lt. Col. Cotton said the 60th anniversary highlighted just how far the Queensland University Regiment had come since it was first formed in 1948.

Despite the changes and updates, which have also include extended and expanded activities at the Witton Barracks at Indooroopilly, Lt. Col. Cotton said the unique opportunities offered by a career in the reserve had remained constant.



Captain Keith Payne, VC, Australia's sole surviving Victoria Cross winner, inspects the Queensland University Regiment during anniversary celebrations



# A fighting chance

The world's largest fish, the whale shark, now has a champion in the form of UQ PhD student Simon Pierce, who has made it his mission to protect the marine giant from extinction.

// by Miguel Holland



UQ postgraduate student Simon Pierce is leading the fight to protect whale sharks – the world's largest fish – from being fished out of its own African sanctuary.

The marine biologist is working for Eyes on The Horizon (EOTH), a non-profit organisation in Mozambique that helps manage the country's fisheries and prosecutes illegal fishing.

Mozambique is a hotspot for endangered whale sharks and manta rays. The 15-kilometre coastline of Tofo Beach, along the southern tip of the country, is home to the world's biggest population of manta rays and whale sharks.

Mr Pierce, who hopes to finish his PhD this year, has been studying whale shark behaviour, populations and their migration off this beach since 2005, when he jointly created the Manta and Whale Shark Research Centre with fellow UQ student Andrea Marshall.

Together they have been working with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Mozambique to create the first marine park to protect whale sharks, manta rays, dolphins and turtles.

"Andrea and I are working closely with WWF and providing the data that is driving the project," Mr Pierce said.

"WWF will handle the legislative side of things and we'll work with local stakeholders to implement a practical and effective management regime."

Whale sharks can reach up to 20 metres in length and weigh 35 tonnes, outsized only by blue and fin whales.

Unlike other sharks, whale sharks eat plankton – which is filtered through their large gills – and can live for more than 100 years.

"Whale sharks are now fully protected in quite a few countries, including Australia. They're a unique shark, an iconic species and also a big, friendly and extremely photogenic animal," Mr Pierce said.

"Unfortunately they've been targeted by fisheries in several countries and their populations have been reduced to the point where they're now vulnerable to extinction."

On his last trip to Mozambique in March, Mr Pierce identified the 1000th whale shark sighted worldwide – a 6.5-metre male.

So far Mr Pierce has identified more than 300 whale sharks off Mozambique and is the largest contributor to the global whale shark library, which includes the shark's details, movements and identification photos.

Mr Pierce, along with many divers and tourists, have collected the sharks' "fingerprints" by taking photos of the unique spots on their flanks, which allow them to be identified.

While working with a Swiss team in

2006 he helped show that whale sharks were making deep dives – some of the deepest on record. One shark made several dives of more than 1200 metres while crossing the Mozambique Channel.

"They're diving on a fairly regular basis from the surface, where water temperatures are between 28 and 30 degrees, into depths where temperature is in the low single digits," Mr Pierce said.

"There's obviously some purpose to these dives – we just don't know what it is."

Whale sharks are placid compared to other sharks, as Mr Pierce learned on his first solo dive off Tofo Beach back in 2006.

He was 30 metres down installing an acoustic receiver for rays when he looked over his shoulder and saw a four-metre great white shark coming up close behind him.

"I stayed nice and still. It was just having a look. It had become a great story by the time I got to a bar that evening," he said.

Shark experts have estimated the value of each whale shark at about \$2.2 million in Belize (Central America), while international whale shark tourism was estimated at \$51.6 million in 2004.

Mr Pierce, originally from New Zealand, had always been fascinated by sharks and stingrays before he decided to "get serious" and move to Australia to study a BSc (Hons) with Associate Professor Mike Bennett.

"I had a great time that year and decided to stay at UQ for my PhD. My research actually focuses on stingrays: I'm researching their biology, ecology and conservation requirements within south-east Queensland," he said. //

"WHALE SHARKS ARE NOW FULLY PROTECTED IN QUITE A FEW COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA. THEY'RE A UNIQUE SHARK, AN ICONIC SPECIES AND ALSO A BIG, FRIENDLY AND EXTREMELY PHOTOGENIC ANIMAL"



## University switches off

With the help of a dedicated staff team, UQ cut an impressive 14 percent of its daily electricity usage during Earth Hour 2008.

Follow-up figures were also promising, with energy savings boosted by almost seven percent across the University's operations a week after the event.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield AO said UQ was proud to be among the Australian and international organisations who took part in the annual event, which helps raise awareness about energy conservation and climate change.

At 8pm on March 29, cities around the world turned off their lights for one hour to show it was possible to take action on global warming. Last year the first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, reducing the city's energy consumption by 10.2 percent for 60 minutes.

Non-essential lighting was turned off at UQ locations including St Lucia, Gatton and Ipswich campuses, the Indooroopilly Mine, Medical School at Herston, and the Moreton Bay and Heron Island Research Stations.

"We also encouraged staff to turn off their computers, monitors and associated equipment and lights in their work spaces before leaving work on the Friday prior, and this included laboratories, workshops, meeting rooms, kitchens and hallways," Professor Greenfield said.

UQ is among Australian university leaders in developing green credentials and recently became one of the first to draw its electricity from renewable energy sources. It signed up to use 2.5 percent GreenPower, which will save 3400 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> this year – enough to run about 580 homes every month.

The University has also reduced its water consumption by 50 percent since 2004 and its Green Office program has resulted in a 47 percent reduction in the amount of recyclable material going to landfill (2002–2007).

## ISLANDS ON THE EDGE

Rising sea levels from global warming will threaten the livelihoods and homes of more than 200,000 people who live on coral atolls in coming generations.

The warning comes from UQ archaeologist and expert on the prehistoric use of coral atolls, Dr Marshall Weisler, who said the Central Pacific islands of Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, as well as the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, were most at risk.

Dr Weisler said the situation was more serious than people realised with agricultural land already being lost to rising seas in the Marshall Islands.

"People have shown me where there used to be gardens are now lagoons. There are coconut trees that are 20 metres off shore, half-falling over," Dr Weisler said.

"In Kiribati, there are high tides that inundate portions of villages, so people are on dry land in the morning and on stilt house villages with water under their house during high lunar tides.

"There are very serious problems for the next generation, which may not even be able to live on the island that they are living on now."

The International Panel on Climate Change has predicted sea levels could rise between nine and 88 centimetres this century.

Atolls are at risk because they are small coral islands, barely metres above current sea levels.

Dr Weisler said predicting sea level rises was complex as waters could rise by different levels and have different effects, depending on the atoll location.

He said island nations would face tough decisions in the future about land ownership, economic futures and relocating entire countries within other nations.

"In Kiribati, where is the next generation going to live?" he said.

He spoke about the prehistoric history of coral atolls at an atoll management conference at the University of Tokyo in February with some of Japan's leading experts in the area.

The group recommended there be more study into the adaptive capacity of atoll islands, more modelling on atoll development and more public awareness of the current situation.

Dr Weisler said he hoped Japan's Ministry of Environment would continue to fund further studies into the sustainability of reef islands.

"The people on these islands have a small voice because they are not Western, industrialised countries with high populations. People aren't paying attention to them," Dr Weisler said.

"THERE ARE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION WHICH MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO LIVE ON THE ISLAND THAT THEY ARE LIVING ON NOW"





## Biofuel success

The thought of powering your house on banana waste may sound a little unrealistic, but two years ago Associate Professor Bill Clarke proved it was a possibility.

Between 2004 and 2005, Dr Clarke, supported by the Queensland Government and The Australian Banana Growers' Association Inc, uncovered the potential to produce energy from banana waste.

Growcom, a peak horticulture organisation, has recently transformed Dr Clarke's research into a commercial-scale project in North Queensland, a location where bananas are far from scarce.

"We demonstrated in 2004–2005 that waste bananas and stalk material within the banana bunch are a great source of methane," Dr Clarke said.

"There are no technical problems with producing methane from bananas.

"However, for the process to be economically viable, we need to develop a cheaper and simpler digester compared to those that are currently used for organic waste in Europe."

Biogas is a combination of methane and carbon dioxide and could potentially be used as an alternative energy source.

"The biogas can either be stored at moderate pressure, possibly for use as a transportation fuel, or directed to a gas engine to generate electricity, as is currently done in Australia at a number of landfills," Dr Clarke said.



## Going green for good

UQ has become one of the first universities in Australia to draw its electricity from renewable energy sources.

As part of an ongoing commitment to reducing its ecological footprint and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices, the University has signed up to use 2.5 percent GreenPower in 2008.

UQ Engineering Manager Stewart Hobbs said the purchase was likely to be the first of many, as the University worked to cut greenhouse emissions and further improve its environmental credentials.

"With this initial purchase alone, we stand to reduce emissions by a whopping 3400 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> this year – that's enough to run about 580 homes every month," Mr Hobbs said.

The switch to renewable energy is the latest in a string of water, power and waste management strategies employed at UQ.

Since 2002, the University has invested well over \$1 million in water saving measures, reducing water consumption by 50 percent and making UQ the Brisbane City Council's "Top Water Saver" for 2006.

Savings to date have been achieved through initiatives including retrofitting toilets, urinals, hand basins and showers with water efficient devices; using recycled water for irrigation of campus grounds; installing water meters to monitor water consumption; and installing two 110,000 litre rainwater tanks in a new building.

## Funding for solar power

A leading UQ nanotechnology researcher has been recognised for his work on sustainable energy with a second Federation Fellowship.

The prestigious Australian Research Council Fellowships are considered to be the premier scientific appointment in the country and are aimed at attracting and retaining world-class researchers.

Professor Max Lu, from UQ's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, is developing a solar material that is more efficient in harvesting sunlight and costs less to produce.

"We are working on a new class of photocatalysts with high visible light activity that could lead to cost-effective solar energy conversion to electricity or to split water to hydrogen," Professor Lu said.

"We are also developing more efficient processes for water purification and converting carbon dioxide to a liquid fuel using this class of photoactive materials."

He said his research had the potential to transform Australia's energy and environmental industries and to speed up our transition from fossil fuel to a renewable energy economy.

UQ's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said Professor Lu's research could revolutionise Australia's energy production.

Professor Lu also had the honour of carrying the Olympic torch in April, one of only two UQ people taking part in the Australian leg of the relay, the other being the co-creator of the cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil, Professor Ian Frazer.



## 1969: Efforts add up

**Jim Hill** (BSc Hons 1 1969, PhD 1972, DSc 1998) has been awarded the 2008 ANZIAM medal for outstanding achievements in Applied Mathematics and for services to the field.

The prize is awarded on the basis of research achievements, activities enhancing mathematics and contributions to the Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics organisation.

The Head of UQ's School of Physical Sciences, Professor Halina Rubinsztajn-Dunlop, congratulated Professor Hill on the achievement.

"This is a true testament to his status as one of Australia's leading mathematicians," she said.

Professor Hill is the head of the Nanomechanics Group at the University of Wollongong, and has received almost \$4 million in research funding from the Australian Research Council in the past 20 years including a five-year Senior Research Fellowship and a current Professorial Fellowship.

An active member and former Vice-President of the Australian Mathematical Society (AMS), he also held the position of ANZIAM Chair for two years.

Professor Hill has not only been active in professional circles but has encouraged, mentored and supported a considerable number of students at all levels, many of whom have gone on to become successful scholars who have influenced the discipline in Australia, New Zealand and further abroad.

His career includes time as Associate Editor of five major international mathematical journals including the *IMA Journal of Applied Mathematics* (Oxford University Press), the *Quarterly Journal of Mechanics and Applied Mathematics* (Oxford University Press), the *Journal of Engineering Mathematics* (Kluwer), the *Journal of Mathematics and Mechanics of Solids* (Sage Science Press), and, for more than 25 years, the *ANZIAM Journal of Industrial and Applied Mathematics*.



## 1980: Art with an agenda

Achieving world peace may seem like a lofty goal, but **Kathryn Brimblecombe-Fox** (BA 1980) is giving it her best shot.

The Brisbane-based artist believes the medium can play a significant role in the process because of its ability to stimulate cross-cultural communication.

"I really get excited when my paintings are catalysts for different types of conversation and stimulating dialogue between people from all over the world," Ms Brimblecombe-Fox said.

"Art can propel you into conversations you would never normally have had."

Ms Brimblecombe-Fox staged a solo exhibition in Brisbane last year – *Prayers for the Planet: We are all the Same* – and led a workshop at UQ based on a trip to the Middle East.

"In 2005 I had an exhibition in Abu Dhabi," she said.

"On a daily basis people from all over the Middle East would tell me that 'if more people thought like you there would be peace in the world'.

"These are the kinds of stimulating conversations you don't just have in the boardroom or over the diplomatic table, and it's because of the art that you are propelled into that type of discussion more swiftly."

She said the aim of her work was to get people thinking about ways they could engage creatively with conflict.

"I'm not offering any solutions, I'm offering ideas," Ms Brimblecombe-Fox said.

"I wanted people to leave the workshop wondering, 'is this possible?' and 'what could I do to assist in making these conversations meaningful?'"

The event was hosted by UQ's Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies MAP program, which explores the role music, arts and poetry can play in the peace process.

Ms Brimblecombe-Fox also helps fellow artists through an export consultancy service and was a finalist in this year's \$15,000 Stanthorpe Art Prize.



## 1980: Culture warrior

Australia's cultural history need no longer be regarded as "a tale of two cities" thanks to **Dr William Hatherell** (BA Hons 1 1980, PhD 2003) and his book *The Third Metropolis*.

Based on his doctoral thesis completed through the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, the study explores the history of Brisbane between 1940 and 1970.

"Anything written on Australia's cultural history has largely been about Sydney and Melbourne, or a comparison between the two," Dr Hatherell said.

"Brisbane is Australia's third largest city yet there has not been a lot of focus on its cultural significance.

"The title was, in a way, an attempt to place Brisbane in the same context as Sydney and Melbourne."

The book combines three intertwining areas of study in an effort to explore the cultural significance of the city.

"I bring together elements of Brisbane's actual history – political, demographic and economic; its cultural history – the history of societies and art galleries; and literary representations," Dr Hatherell said.

"There was significant tension between the representation of Brisbane as a big country town and a true metropolis.

"Brisbane is often seen represented in images as a 'cultural desert' but I don't think that's quite right. There was a lot of cultural activity during the period."

Brisbane's artistic pursuits, particularly during the post-World War II era, provided added inspiration to undertake the project.

"*Meanjin*, the cultural journal, was launched in Brisbane in 1940 and moved to Melbourne in 1945. Authors such as David Malouf, Rodney Hall and Thea Astley have represented 1950s Brisbane through literature. I was interested in exploring quite an active period in Brisbane's cultural life," Dr Hatherell said.



PHOTO: SUZANNE GOOPY



Above: Gayle Cullinan teaching peacebuilding skills in Aceh, and below, at work in Afghanistan

## 1983: From Afghanistan to Aceh

United Nations staffers are routinely sent to the world's most troubled spots, and it's **Gayle Cullinan's** (BSocWk 1983) job to look after them.

A senior psychosocial advisor with UNICEF in New York, Ms Cullinan is charged with helping humanitarian workers and their families adjust to day-to-day life in the field.

"There has never been a time in my life that I cannot recall wanting to help the lives of those in need," Ms Cullinan said during a recent mission to Congo, West Africa.

"Since originally studying social work at UQ I have moved from helping individuals directly to helping those who help others – be it policing, emergency services or humanitarian agencies. I have profound respect for the vital work they do – 'caring for the carers' is privileged work for me."

Ms Cullinan said the shift to the United States came as a culture shock after an extended stay in Aceh with the 2004 Tsunami recovery effort.

"It would be hard to find two more different worlds than the disaster and war-ravaged conservatively Muslim community of Aceh to the heart of capitalism in New York," she said.

"I also admit to suffering the typical 're-entry syndrome' that I actually teach humanitarian workers about – the shock experienced when re-entering the first world after living in the developing world."

She advised those interested in aid work to first volunteer for programs locally where they would gain an insight into the challenges and rewards involved.

Acquiring foreign languages quickly was also an important skill, with Ms Cullinan recalling an unexpected exchange in Timor Leste as a case in point.

"I was approached by a young male staff member who wanted some advice, so we sat down under a tree and ended up discussing life, love and relationships. Soon a few other youths joined in our conversation," she said.

"At some point I realised that I was talking with a group of fatherless sons. Most of their fathers had been killed or disappeared during the Indonesian militia occupation.

"We discussed how it takes a 'hati berani' (brave heart) to care for people responsibly. We discussed how it is a strong man, not a weak one, who can love and trust and be kind to his wife. To respect others was to truly have a 'hati berani' – not through war and fighting."

Ms Cullinan said her goal was to empower people to help themselves.

"Good humanitarian practice never exists 'for' people – it partners with and enables the community to recover itself," she said.



## 1988: Novel treatment for local landmark

Almost 70 years after it was built, the iconic Story Bridge has inspired a new novel from one of Australia's rising literary talents.

Labelled "a brave and impressive debut" by David Malouf, *The Comfort of Figs* by **Simon Cleary** (BA 1988, LLB Hons 1992) is a recent release from the University of Queensland Press.

Mr Cleary grew up in Toowoomba before studying at UQ, and after working in community legal centres and Legal Aid Queensland, is now serving as the Deputy Telecommunications Ombudsman.

It wasn't until 2001 when he read the papers of his great-grandfather – an engineer who worked on the bridge's construction – that he began his novel.

"It's very much a work of fiction," Mr Cleary said.

"It follows a father and son. The father is a worker on the bridge in the late 1930s and the novel follows his journey.

"I tried to create an impression of the Brisbane of the 1930s and the Brisbane of now."

Mr Cleary said he was honoured to receive praise from one of Australia's most celebrated writers.

"I've admired Malouf's work since my University days and it was an extraordinarily special thing for one of my literary heroes to give the gift of those words," he said.

Measuring almost 800 metres long, the Story Bridge was completed in 1940 and designed by John Bradfield, the man behind the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

It was part of a plan devised by UQ's Professor Roger Hawken in the 1920s to ease congestion on the Victoria Bridge and divert traffic away from the CBD, and is named after John Story, who served as the University's Vice-Chancellor from 1939-1960.

"The construction of the bridge was this great civic undertaking," Mr Cleary said.

"It crossed the river from Petrie Bight to Kangaroo Point. It had been on the drawing board for a long time and it came to be a Depression-era project which generated employment."

Mr Cleary said he was fascinated to learn the bridge was built cantilever-style – that is from either side of river piece by piece until complete.

While a testament to the architectural achievements of the time he hoped his book would also speak of Brisbane's rich history.

"In some ways the book explores the tension between the construction of a city with its buildings and bridges and civic infrastructure with the natural landscape," Mr Cleary said.

"It covers some of that tension and what I've tried to do is explore some of the creative forces that clash in a process like that."



## 1992: Virus work distinguishes vet

**Dr Kim Halpin** (BVSc 1992, MSc 1996, PhD 2000) has been singled out for Tall Poppy treatment for all the right reasons.

The veterinarian and virologist was acknowledged as one of Australia's young intellectual high fliers at an awards ceremony last year.

The Tall Poppy awards form part of a campaign established by the Australian Institute of Policy & Science to promote awareness of local academic achievers.

Dr Halpin is the Molecular Diagnostic Science Leader at CSIRO Livestock Industries' Australian Animal Health Laboratory, and is responsible for leading the molecular investigations surrounding suspected animal disease outbreaks.

Since enrolling in Veterinary Science at UQ Dr Halpin said she had devoted her time to the profession and had made a conscious decision to share her passion with others.

"The award gives me a real opportunity to act as a representative for science by encouraging interest in scientific careers and keeping science at the forefront of the public agenda," she said.

In 1996 Dr Halpin's focus became the infectious Nipah and Hendra viruses, which are carried by fruit bats and can be transmitted to other animal species, including humans.

In 2000 she began a two-year research stint in America, developing an in vitro replication system so Nipah virus could be studied more closely and safely.

The guest speaker at the 2007 Tall Poppy awards was Professor Ian Frazer, who co-developed the world's first cervical cancer vaccine, Gardasil, at UQ with the late Dr Jian Zhou (a feature on Dr Zhou's legacy appears on the back cover of this issue).

Simon Cleary with Queensland Premier Anna Bligh at the launch of *The Comfort of Figs*







Mark Alexander with champion swimmer Ian Thorpe at the closing ceremony of the 2004 Olympics in Athens

## 1995: Physio gains Beijing berth

Australian triathletes are poised to make history at the 2008 Olympic Games, and **Mark Alexander** (BPhty Hons 1995) will be playing his part in the attempt.

Mr Alexander is a sports physiotherapist with the national triathlon team, and heads to Beijing with high hopes they can come away with their first gold medal in the event.

"It was always my dream to go to the Olympics as an athlete but genetics didn't help me out so I made a goal to go as a physiotherapist," he said.

"I was a volunteer at the Sydney Olympics, an official team member in Athens 2004 and now off to my third Games. It is always an awesome experience and being a member of the Australian team really is an amazing honour."

### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Information about UQ graduates is always welcome for inclusion in *Keep in Contact*. If you have a story to tell, or you know someone who has, please send information to *Graduate Contact* via [communications@uq.edu.au](mailto:communications@uq.edu.au). Items should include degree(s) held and year(s) graduated. Articles accompanied by clear colour photographs preferred. The deadline for the Summer 2008 issue is September 12.

Triathlon is part of the Olympic program for only the third time, with the 1.5km swim, 40km bike leg and 10km run taking place in and around the historic Ming Tomb Reservoir site.

Mr Alexander said physiotherapists played an increasingly important role in taxing events such as the triathlon.

"It isn't only about treatment and relieving pain anymore, it is operating in a high performance team with the athlete, coach and support staff such as biomechanists, physiologists and sports psychologists," he said.

"It's all about getting an athlete to the start line, in the best possible shape in the best possible frame of mind."

He said preparations for Beijing would be finely tuned to provide the team with the best chance of performing at its peak.

"The athletes and support staff will arrive in Beijing from various places only three to four days prior to the event to reduce the risk of getting sick over there and ensuring the athletes can get good quality training in as well," he said.

On top of his Olympic duties, Mr Alexander also lectures at La Trobe University and runs his own back care company selling a self-treatment device that relieves back pain.

An avid sports fan, he has previously worked with the London Broncos rugby league team and looked after the Australian triathletes during the 2002 and 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Once the serious side of competition in Beijing was over, Mr Alexander said he looked forward to discovering the surrounding sights, particularly the Great Wall of China.

## 1998: Student support focus

As the Director of Student Services at The University of the Sunshine Coast, **Eva-Marie Seeto** (MSocSc 1998) draws on her own experiences to support others.

"I would love to say that I had the storybook experience – but it wasn't that straightforward," she said.

"I had two significant challenges as an undergraduate – one I had control over and one I didn't. The first was common to many students – I wasn't 100 percent sure that I was in the right degree for me.

"The second was losing my parents and suddenly finding myself guardian of my two younger siblings – we were all very young and it wasn't an easy time for any of us."

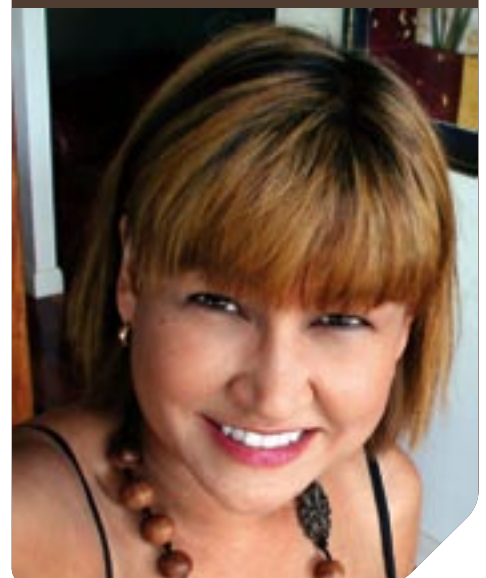
Ms Seeto worked full-time and returned to university as a mature-aged student, taking online and evening courses to fit everything in.

Since graduating she has taken on a variety of positions in the health sector, including time at the Wesley Breast Clinic, Queensland Health and the Royal Blind Foundation. She also sits on the board of directors of Relationships Australia and is planning to complete her Doctor of Social Science at UQ later this year.

In her current role Ms Seeto is responsible for providing a wide range of student services, and is particularly passionate about improving opportunities for those who may otherwise slip through the support net.

"The main thing to remember about any study is that it isn't necessarily going to be smooth sailing, and it's how you respond to those glitches that will make all the difference," she said.

"Your education is a continuum, and sometimes the timeframe blows out, but that's OK."





## 1999: Cross-cultural understanding

When Australian soldiers in Iraq needed to communicate with the local people last year they often turned to **Greg Mitchell** (BAppSci 1999) for help.

The Darwin-based military policeman was deployed with the Australian Battle Group to Dhi Qar Province, approximately 350 km south of Baghdad, where his Diploma of Arabic Language studies from the Australian Defence Force provided a crucial link between Iraqi civilians and Australian soldiers.

"My daily activities were generally dictated by varied requirements of the Arab civilian population, politicians, governors and other government representatives with whom the Battle Group deals with on a daily basis," Captain Mitchell said.

While on deployment he also managed the team of local interpreters who work alongside Australian soldiers in the region.

Captain Mitchell said foreign language skills played an essential role on overseas missions, with Iraq marking his third tour abroad after serving in East Timor in 2000 and 2006.

"I love the challenge of deploying overseas, and enjoy the application of cultural knowledge and language skills," he said.

"While I was in Iraq I thought a lot about the two special ladies in my life, my wife Bronwyn, and daughter, Leila. I cannot thank them enough for the support and strength they gave me throughout the deployment."

More than 1500 members of the Australian Defence Force are still on duty in the Middle East as part of Operation Catalyst, the Australian Government's contribution to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the region.



## 1999: Musician fiddles with history

Gypsy music – whether playing or studying it – is something which takes up a significant amount of **Michael Patterson's** (BMus Hons 1 1999) time.

Mr Patterson is a violinist with gypsy-style band Doch, and is also studying a Master of Philosophy in Music at UQ, due for completion at the end of the year.

"My topic is concerned with the influence of Romanian folk music on the compositions of George Enescu, the most famous Romanian composer," Mr Patterson said.

"It sort of ties in with what I do with Doch."

Doch, a seven-piece band which formed six years ago, has had considerable success in Australia and New Zealand, performing music which originates from the Balkan region.

"The music we play comes from transcriptions of old folk music," Mr Patterson said.

"One member of the band will listen and work out the notes and then teach the rest of us."

Doch has performed at a number of impressive venues and festivals, including the Brisbane Powerhouse, The Festival of Colour in Wanaka, New Zealand, the Woodford Folk Festival, the 2006 Commonwealth Games and the 2006 Big Day Out on the Gold Coast.

Mr Patterson said there had been a number of performance highlights over the past six years.

"Performing in Melbourne during the Commonwealth Games, even though it wasn't at the opening ceremony, was awesome," he said.

"The second time we played at Woodford we got to perform at the amphitheatre."

And Doch's members are as talented as they are qualified – four band members are graduates of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

Further information on Doch can be found on its website, [www.doch.com.au](http://www.doch.com.au)





## 2001: Exporter fluent in language of trade

For **James O'Donnell** (BA 2001), studying Chinese has allowed him to tackle the business world with confidence.

As the Managing Director of AustAsiaCo, Mr O'Donnell uses his language skills to help others engage with the world's most populous country as import or export partners.

"China is an ambiguous market and it takes experience and cultural knowledge to tackle it," he said.

After receiving his degree, Mr O'Donnell decided to take the plunge and live and work in a Chinese-speaking country to increase his fluency.

He settled in Taiwan for two-and-a-half years, teaching English and doing freelance translating work.

On his return to Brisbane he worked for a company which required a fluent Chinese speaker to export from China and Australia to the South Pacific.

After taking leave he travelled to China to investigate different ways of structuring the business and how he could assist Australian companies trade safely in the quickly growing market.

He found local businesses needed an



organisation that could help them source reliable suppliers and products which met strict Australian standards.

"Australians like the advantage of our company as we do not buy and sell products – we sell our services," Mr O'Donnell said.

His company is now trading in Brisbane as an Australian Chinese business consultancy group, with an arm also operating in China.

"Everything I studied at UQ has helped

me to develop my company – the Chinese language, culture, history, business law, management skills, communication, marketing, web page development, programming, applications, networking and general knowledge.

"The main advantage is that the customer's supply chain is secured and we can do the work load in one fifth of the time required.

"Many companies fail and end up losing a lot of money in trying it themselves."

## 2001: Writing your way to success

UQ's Writing, Editing and Publishing (WEP) program may only be a few years old, but its graduates are already landing influential jobs in the industry.

One such success story is **Fiona Tucker** (GDipArts 2001), who has been appointed Head of Books Publishing with Express Newspapers in London.

Ms Tucker, who was part of the first cohort to study WEP at the post-graduate level, said the qualification had provided an advantage when job-seeking.

"After graduating I worked as an editorial coordinator with The University of Queensland Press, and moved to London in 2003.

"No one in the UK had heard of that sort of degree which I think worked well in my favour.

"I arrived in London without anything lined up and was offered jobs with Penguin, Macmillan and HarperCollins."

Ms Tucker stayed with HarperCollins

until February this year, when she took up the offer with Express Newspapers.

"I'm Head of Books Publishing, which means I'm responsible for everything to do with making a book – budgeting, marketing, editorial, production and publicity," she said.

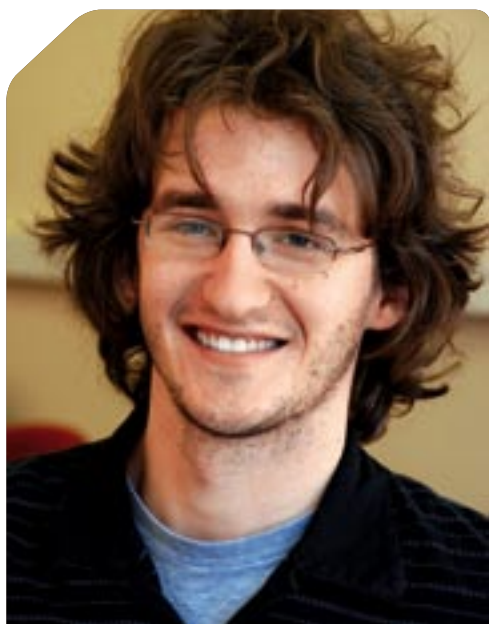
"The job also involves quite a bit of overseas travel. In 2008 I'm meeting with printers in Italy, Portugal, Poland and Singapore."

Ms Tucker said she recommended the program to those interested in pursuing a career that covered any aspect of professional writing, editing or publishing.

"There were so many pros. The teaching staff were very supportive and great at pointing out your strengths and weaknesses, and letting you know what sort of positions you might be suited to," she said.

"We had so many guest lecturers who brought great outside perspectives into the 'real world' of publishing."





## 2004: Meeting of legal minds

A contact made at a student function proved to be career-defining for **Max Del Mar** (BA Hons/LLB Hons 2004).

Mr Del Mar is completing a PhD in legal theory at the University of Edinburgh, to be followed by a three-year research position in philosophy and sociology in Switzerland.

But it was as president of the Australian Legal Philosophy Students Association (ALPSA) that Mr Del Mar made a major step towards beginning his academic career.

When organising ALPSA's inaugural lecture Mr Del Mar booked world-renowned Scottish legal theorist Professor Neil MacCormick to speak, without realising he would later become his dissertation director.

"Professor MacCormick is certainly one of the most important legal theorists in the world today," Mr Del Mar said.

"I have been lucky enough to have spent the last few years working on my doctorate in legal theory at Edinburgh under his supervision."

While at UQ, Mr Del Mar also managed the student publishing initiative UQ Vanguard where he said he learned some other lessons on academic life.

Prior to commencing his doctorate Mr Del Mar worked as an associate at the Supreme Court of Queensland.

He then combined working as a lawyer in migration law with acting as the Founding Director of the Legal Professional Ethics Education and Regulation project at the Queensland Law Society.

## 2007: Spruiking in Spanish key to ambassador's success

**Leah Klass** (MISAdv 2007) has returned to the United States to work as a trade ambassador helping Colorado businesses spruik their services to South America and the Caribbean.

Ms Klass has spent the last six months marketing Colorado's major export industries, including renewable energy, bioscience and aerospace, after graduating from UQ with postgraduate qualifications in peace and conflict resolution.

She is a trade and investment director with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

"I provide the research, marketing and partnering that Colorado companies need in order to do business in that region," Ms Klass said.

The 31-year-old has attended a rodeo, trade fairs and toured Spain and Brazil – all in the name of work.

She has taken foreign companies to visit the Colorado State University Clean Energy Supercluster to see new sustainable energy opportunities.

"I have also worked with a Colorado company that manufactures membrane filtration systems used to desalinate and clean water, make it reusable and to recover different minerals that may be polluting it," she said.

"The job requires me to do a fair

amount of relationship building which I recently did at the National Western Stock Show, dressed in a cowboy hat and all.

"I may sit with a small company and review their strategy for marketing in Brazil or Chile. I also perform market research to answer company inquiries and attract investment.

"This work allows me to apply both my skills and interests to promote positive relationship building and concrete economic results through the creation of business, new jobs and cultural understanding."

Ms Klass said she used her Spanish and Portuguese language skills to communicate with international colleagues from government agencies, education providers and other businesses.

She studied at UQ under a Rotary Scholarship after transferring from an Argentinian university.

"UQ not only had a terrific faculty, people who were bright and inspiring with diverse expertise and experiences, but the school also had resources that were far beyond what I'd seen elsewhere."

She applied for her current job after networking through her local Rotary club, and will be reunited with her Australian host family from Bardonia when they visit her in September.







## 2007: A once in a lifetime odyssey

India, Africa, Mexico and Chile were all on the itinerary for **Nick Holmes** (BSc 2007), winner of the inaugural "J Odyssey" competition.

Run by ABC radio station Triple J, the prize allows one listener their ultimate international travel adventure and the chance to report back to Australia via blogs, images and video.

Mr Holmes, who is completing Honours in the School of Integrative Biology, spent four weeks last year visiting and photographing environments of conservation concern.

"A report released by the UN listed environments most threatened by climate change," he said.

"I wanted to visit places that were different and interesting – locations no one knew of."

Mr Holmes visited the mangrove forests of India, the endangered mountain gorillas of Uganda, the Chihuahua desert in Mexico, endangered turtles, manatees and threatened coral reefs in the Caribbean and the Valdivian rainforests in Chile.

Finding out about the "once in a lifetime" opportunity involved a bit of chance, Mr Holmes said.

"I heard about the competition in early July when I was driving from Coffs Harbour to Brisbane.

"I didn't have CDs, and the only radio station (I found) between Coffs and Brisbane was Triple J, so if I hadn't been travelling I might have missed it."

Entering in time also proved somewhat of a challenge as Mr Holmes was completing field work in Cairns on the submission date.

"You had to send in a five-minute DVD explaining where and why you wanted to go, and provide a full travel itinerary," he said.

"I knew I was going to be away with no access to phones or internet, so I had to make it a week early and leave it for my flatmate to post."

To view Mr Holmes' complete travel diary, visit <http://blogs.abc.net.au/triplej/jodyyssey/>

## 2007: Gallery grad fulfils desire

Surrounding herself with beautiful things is the way **Sally Flynn** (GDipMusmSt 2007) makes a living.

As gallery assistant at Artisan in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, Ms Flynn works with local artists to create eye-catching exhibitions – the first being "Unleashed: objects of desire".

For the show she assembled market-friendly items including everything from earrings and vinyl murals to picture books and bamboo lamps.

"I had a certain aesthetic I was aiming for – avoiding text and seeking out cleverly used pattern, colour and line. I was looking for timeless pieces that weren't a passing fad," she said.

Ms Flynn said the chance to put into practice what she had learnt during her degree was a welcome learning curve.

"At University I was completely idealistic about putting together the perfect exhibition. Instead what it came down to

was being organised. I had lists and lists of things to do, templates and organisers – everything to keep me on schedule."

On top of co-coordinating gallery shows, Ms Flynn – who is also an artist herself – manages a large window space which opens onto the corner of the busy Brunswick Street entertainment precinct.

"Here I get to see timid artists come to me with fabulous ideas. I get to encourage them and show them ways to proceed. Seeing their work on display is always a moment of pride," she said.

Although unpredictable funding sometimes made life difficult, Ms Flynn said the rewards of working in the art world were many, with a packed opening night for "Unleashed" the best possible affirmation of a job well done.

"As the exhibition came together, especially in the days of the installation I was positively beaming. People seemed to understand the theme and really interact with the works on display," she said.

"It was probably a better feeling than graduation. It was a delicious symbol of what my education has set me up to do."



Clockwise from right: Dr Jian Zhou, his widow Xiao-Yi Sun and their son Andreas; Andreas at the launch of Gardasil in 2006; Cover of *Dr Jian Zhou's Brilliant Mind* and Professor Ian Frazer, Xiao-Yi Sun, Andreas and Professor Alan Lawson at the memorial service



## Life-saving LEGACY

His career was delayed by a political experiment and cut short by an early death, yet Dr Jian Zhou achieved more than most researchers hope to realise in a lifetime.

// by Fiona Kennedy

Dr Zhou was the brilliant molecular virologist whose work in Professor Ian Frazer's UQ laboratory led to the cervical cancer vaccine which has reached more than 22 million women in just two years.

His legacy will prevent hundreds of thousands of early deaths, especially in his birthplace of China and other developing nations. But in 1999, eight years after he and Professor Frazer discovered the vaccine and seven years before it became widely available, Dr Zhou suddenly died, aged 42.

This May, about 300 people gathered at Queensland Parliament House to celebrate Dr Zhou's life and to receive from his widow, Dr Xiao-Yi Sun, the gift of a book: *Dr Jian Zhou's Brilliant Mind*.

Family, friends, colleagues and dignitaries from China, England and Australia delivered tributes to a lateral thinker who never surrendered to a technical challenge, published more than 40 peer-reviewed

papers in 10 years, had collaborators on every continent bar Antarctica, and secured 10 patents.

They remembered a generous, witty, fun-loving man whose youth was overshadowed by the Cultural Revolution. From the age of 11, Jian and his sister – a year his senior – fended for themselves in Hangzhou city, after their parents were sent to work in the countryside. Jian's inventiveness and problem-solving skills – which later were instrumental in the vaccine's discovery – eased their daily drudge.

Jian was 20 before China reopened access to university by examination. He began a prodigious scholarly career that took him from Wenzhou Medical College (where he met and fell in love with Dr Sun) to Zhejiang Medical University, Beijing Medical University, University of Cambridge in England, UQ, and a stint at Loyola University in Chicago, USA.

Dr Sun followed her husband with their son, Andreas. She holds an ophthalmology degree but wanted to be Jian's research assistant. For three years at Wenzhou they had kept their partnership secret, fearing expulsion from campus for breaking the taboo of a "normal love relationship". When his passion turned to human papillomavirus

(HPV), the cause of cervical cancer, Dr Sun joined the quest. In 1991 her "green fingers" helped grow the virus-like particles which are the basis of the vaccine.

Her enduring mission is to ensure that Dr Zhou's memory lives.

"Jian is forever my soul mate, my prince and my knight in shining armour," she has written.

Dr Sun – a dynamo behind the book and the memorial – shares with Dr Zhou's colleagues a conviction that his bequest to science will extend far beyond cervical cancer.

"The lasting legacy from Jian's research is by no means limited to the HPV vaccine," Professor Frazer has written.

"The work on gene expression that he initiated lives on in a biotech company (Coridon), in the research careers of the many students and scientists that he mentored over the years, and in the example of creativity combined with selfless dedication to science that he has demonstrated to all who came in touch with him."

*Dr Jian Zhou's Brilliant Mind*, edited by Mingxian Su PhD and Jia Qu MD, is published by People's Medical Publishing House. The memorial in May 2008 was sponsored by the Queensland Government and the Australian Chinese Foundation. //