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OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

this issue

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THE UNIVERSITY
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+ FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Welcome to the Winter 2009 edition of *Graduate Contact*.

This is my first column for the magazine, and in the months since taking up the role of Chancellor, I have been inspired by the great things that are achieved by those with UQ connections. Serving on the University Senate has been a privilege for the past three years, and I am humbled that my colleagues have now allowed me the opportunity to represent the University in this way.

I had the pleasure of attending, along with some 1200 others, the opening of the Margaret Olley exhibition at the UQ Art Museum in February. It was a wonderful evening (with a record turnout I'm told) that showcased what is possible when universities engage with their communities in positive ways. A full report is published on page 31.

The event was also notable as one of the final formal appearances of my predecessor, Sir Llew Edwards. I need not elaborate on Sir Llew's many achievements in his 16 years as Chancellor other than to say he has left an extraordinary legacy of support for UQ in many circles, something I plan to build upon in the coming years.

I notice on page 19 there is an article about an extended family of UQ alumni attending a memorial lecture to honour a long-serving University academic and relative. Stories like this highlight the history that runs through the University and will be the focus for UQ's upcoming centenary celebrations, which begin in December and continue into 2010. We hope many of you can join us for this historic occasion.

Incidentally, current alumni figures stand at around 170,000, and this number grows with every graduation ceremony. The *Graduate Contact* board has wisely decided to create a new website for the magazine, which is launched with this edition – www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact. It is a vehicle for things not possible in the printed form, such as video and audio recordings, and will also allow the magazine to reach a greater and more global readership. I encourage interested readers to visit the website and explore the ways in which

it can keep them better posted about what's happening at The University of Queensland.

Happy reading.



John Story
Chancellor

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THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Japanese and Australian cultures have combined for a unique UQ project

www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact

+ COVER

A female green turtle returns to the water after nesting on Heron Island. Photo: Stewart Gould

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RESEARCH INVESTMENTS YIELD REWARDS

by Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield AO

More than 8000 people have received a UQ PhD since the program began six decades ago, and research higher degree candidates set a new 12-month benchmark in 2008 when UQ awarded a record 599 Doctors of Philosophy and Masters of Philosophy.

Each has been a deposit in humanity's bank of knowledge, with the potential to influence other endeavours and contribute to life-altering breakthroughs. Research higher degree projects can also generate economic wealth, and augment societal and workforce qualities such as analysis and problem solving.

Fostering outstanding performances from higher degree, postdoctoral and early career researchers is a key UQ objective that meshes with other discovery-related aims, including building and sustaining excellent infrastructure.

In some areas it takes tens – even hundreds – of millions of dollars to establish the facilities needed for entry to the global league, followed by large ongoing outlays to maintain the position. Given heavy reliance on imports for necessities ranging from medical imaging equipment to library books, the challenge escalates when the Australian dollar slides.

The right infrastructure sets off a virtuous cycle, helping the University recruit and retain exceptional people who in turn make UQ more attractive to other high achievers. Large research infrastructure grants from government, industry and philanthropists are harbingers of a strong, sustainable academic community.

A striking 2009 example of this is a genomics program targeting pancreatic and ovarian cancers, bringing in \$27.5 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council and \$5 million from the Queensland Government.

Genomics is a “watch this space” field, potentially allowing treatments for serious

“FOSTERING OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES FROM HIGHER DEGREE, POSTDOCTORAL AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS IS A KEY UQ OBJECTIVE THAT MESHES WITH OTHER DISCOVERY-RELATED AIMS, INCLUDING BUILDING AND SUSTAINING EXCELLENT INFRASTRUCTURE”

illnesses to be individualised for patients. Its pace of development is rapid because new generations of the enabling sequencing technology are continuously being released to – and mastered by – specialist scientists. It is fortunate – but not accidental – that UQ has a cadre of world leaders on staff.

They can sequence a human genome in a matter of months for \$US100,000 (AUD 131,000), whereas the initial sequencing was a worldwide, 13-year effort that cost \$US3 billion (AUD 3.93 billion). Some impressive young UQ researchers are already at the candidacy or post-doctoral stage, and the advent of the international cancer program will fuel interest.

Another recent Australian Government grant with vast implications is \$47 million for the School of Veterinary Science's new headquarters at Gatton. It supports stage two of a plan to assert UQ as a world force in teaching, research and technology transfer related to animals and plants, and will impact on areas including food security, biosecurity and animal welfare. The completed first

stage is the Centre for Advanced Animal Science at Gatton (strongly backed by the Queensland Government), and the next step will involve plant sciences.

Engineering was a pillar discipline when UQ began almost 100 years ago, but it will take major investments to maintain international esteem in the second century. A new \$50 million Australian Government commitment for the Advanced Engineering Building, along with \$15 million from the State Government for the Queensland Centre for Advanced Materials Processing and Manufacturing, seeds the rejuvenation of the engineering precinct at St Lucia.

At our Herston Campus, \$104 million from Canberra will build the Oral Health Centre, the most advanced facility of its type in Australia and a long-overdue new home for the UQ School of Dentistry. It will, among other things, speed the translation of research findings into high quality clinical care, enable UQ to educate more dentists and oral health therapists, and treat about 17,000 dental and cancer patients per year.

The signature of our newly-retired Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor David Siddle, is a consistent feature of our strategic research successes. David could secure deals with corporate boards and policy units, and at the same time reward early career researchers and recruit ascendant stars. I thank him for his immeasurable legacy.

For enduring focus on the individual and personal as well as the corporate, I doubt anyone will out-perform our former Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards AC. Sir Llew unassumingly announced his retirement late in 2008, after almost 16 years as Chancellor. He is missed, but the University is fortunate that John Story agreed to succeed him. It is a pleasure to welcome John as UQ's 13th Chancellor.



STEWART GOULD

Scholars strengthen Vietnam link

UQ is gaining five talented young Vietnamese researchers under a scholarship program that expands a relationship anchored in philanthropy.

The five winners of UQ's Vietnam-Australia 35 Year Commemorative Research Higher Degree Scholarships will conduct PhD research in areas including cervical cancer, human brain activity and the development of safer pesticides.

Each scholarship is worth approximately \$200,000 for four years of study, with each student based in a UQ institute.

Announcing the winners during a visit to Vietnam in April, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the program was launched in 2008 to mark 35 years of resumed diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam.

"The scholarships advance the spirit of a scheme that was founded on the generosity of The Atlantic Philanthropies, a global organisation that has been enormously supportive of initiatives in Vietnam and at UQ," Professor Greenfield said.

Atlantic funded almost 300 Vietnamese students who completed coursework Masters and Doctoral Development programs at UQ

between 2000 and 2007. It also provided essential funding for some institutes in which the scholars will study.

"The recipients of these scholarships will enhance links between Australia and Vietnam, build the global knowledge base in vital areas of human health and sustainability, and gain critical skills that they may share with their communities and their nation," Professor Greenfield said.

The winners are:

- Duong Minh Tam, who will be supervised by Professor Peter Koopman in the Institute for Molecular Bioscience
- Nguyen Thai Vinh, who will be based in the Queensland Brain Institute with supervision by Dr Ross Cunnington
- Nguyen Thi Mai Thanh, who will study at the Sustainable Minerals Institute under the supervision of Dr Claire Cote
- Truong Phuoc Nghia, who will work alongside Professor Michael Monteiro in the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), and
- Tran Thi Bich Trinh, whose supervisors in the AIBN will be Dr Steven Reid and Professor Lars Nielsen.



Professor Paul Greenfield with (from left), Nguyen Thai Vinh, Truong Phuoc Nghia and Tran Thi Bich Trinh in Ho Chi Minh City

COURTESY UQ INTERNATIONAL

Record cancer funds

UQ scientists will use a record research grant to give new hope to patients with two of Australia's most fatal cancers.

In March the Australian Government pledged \$27.5 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for a genome sequencing program for pancreatic and ovarian cancers. This is the largest-ever NHMRC grant, and was followed by a commitment of \$5 million from the Queensland Government.

"This is our best chance to develop effective treatment and prevention strategies for cancer," said program director Associate Professor Sean Grimmond of UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience. Dr Grimmond leads Australia's contribution to the International Cancer Genome Consortium, which involves teams from around the world sequencing 50 tumour types from 25,000 patients.

Pancreatic cancer, the primary target,

is the fourth most common cause of death from cancer in the developed world and takes the life of the average patient within six months of diagnosis. Ovarian cancer is the sixth most common cause of cancer death in Australian women. It lacks a screening test and is often not discovered until it has spread beyond the ovary, making treatment difficult.

"We will combine the resources of countries and laboratories worldwide to create a map of the genetic changes that lead to cancer," Dr Grimmond said.

"This will act as a huge information resource for medical researchers internationally, and should allow for more rapid, personalised treatments for cancer sufferers."

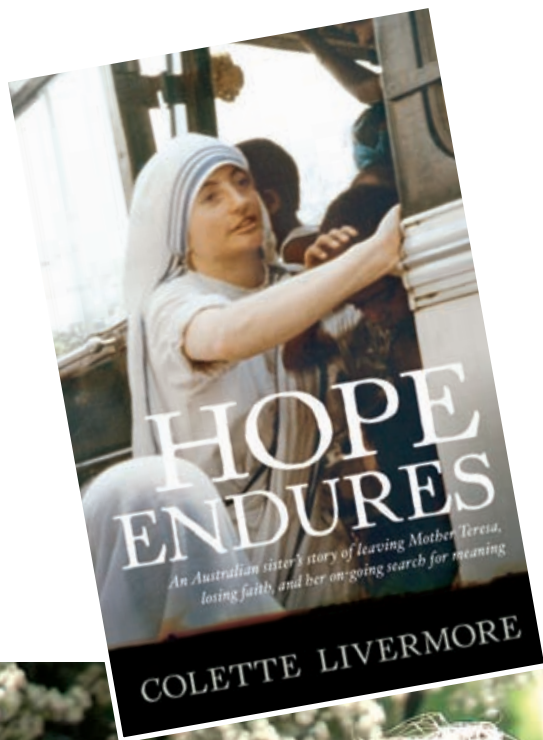
The government funding is part of a five-year package valued at more than \$40 million. Essential contributions are also coming from Applied Biosystems, Silicon Graphics (SGI), the Cancer Council NSW and UQ.



JOE VITTORIO

Key partners in the program are the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and the Australian Genome Research Facility.

The project will run in collaboration with the Ontario Cancer Institute in Canada and the US Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, with investigators from the University of California San Francisco and Johns Hopkins University.



HEALING HANDS

A new book charts the life-changing journey of a UQ graduate who became one of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity before finding her true calling as a doctor.

By Cameron Pegg

Blind faith can work miracles, but Dr Colette Livermore will tell you it can also cause heartache.

The UQ graduate joined Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity (MC) at 18 after watching the famous documentary *Something Beautiful for God*, but turned her back on her beliefs a decade later and has recently written a book about the experience.

Published by Random House, *Hope Endures* is the first official account from a sister within the order, and tells how Dr Livermore left disillusioned after 11 years of service to pursue a new career in medicine.

Dr Livermore's work with the MC took her to Calcutta, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, but her story began in Moss Vale, New South Wales, where the nuns at her secondary school urged pupils to find compassion for the suffering of others.

Although not a devout Catholic at the time, Dr Livermore was moved by the shocking images of starving children in Biafra (now Nigeria), and gave up a place studying medicine at the University of New South Wales to join the MC in 1973.

"The immediacy of Mother Teresa's compassion attracted me," Dr Livermore says.

"I felt people needed simple things like food and clothing more than complex medical care so I swapped my jeans for a sari and left home to join her."

Dr Livermore took her first vows before Mother Teresa in Melbourne in 1975 and then

"THE IMMEDIACY OF MOTHER TERESA'S COMPASSION ATTRACTED ME. I FELT PEOPLE NEEDED SIMPLE THINGS LIKE FOOD AND CLOTHING MORE THAN COMPLEX MEDICAL CARE SO I SWAPPED MY JEANS FOR A SARI AND LEFT HOME TO JOIN HER"



Top: the cover of *Hope Endures* and above, Dr Livermore today. Images courtesy Colette Livermore and Random House Australia



Clockwise from left: arriving in India with Mother Teresa in 1977, Dr Livermore with her nephew Matthew on her graduation day in 1990, completing a roadside examination in East Timor, and a photo taken by Dr Livermore in the Northern Territory in 1999

travelled with her and three other sisters to start a house in Papua New Guinea's Gulf province.

There she taught literacy and numeracy to low achieving primary-school students, but moved to Port Moresby after contracting cerebral malaria.

Central to Mother Teresa's teachings was the acceptance of poverty and suffering, and Dr Livermore (then known as Sister Tobit) committed herself to difficult tasks in the Philippines, where she worked in shantytowns and tended to those with tuberculosis.

She also spent several years in Melbourne working in soup kitchens, assisting the elderly and pitching in at homeless shelters.

But the strict obedience and unwavering routine of the MC led Dr Livermore to question her path in life, and she left the order in 1984 and began to doubt her faith.

"I was in turmoil because I had vowed to obey my superiors but also to serve the poor and desperate who are not able to conform to a rigid timetable," she says.

"When a person comes to you asking for help, such as the parents of a very ill child I met in Manila, I felt conscience-bound to respond in the best way I could, but was told to send them away because it was a day of prayer for part of our community.

"Moreover, when I wrote to Calcutta of this I was told that my hands were tied by obedience.

"Another problem was that I felt very poorly prepared for the work we were to do. For example I received no training in teaching, basic medicine and nursing or in the language and culture of the people we served."

Although her faith had been compromised, the desire to help those less fortunate had not, and she resurrected her goal of becoming a doctor as a mature-aged student in 1985.

"The University of Queensland gave me the chance to study medicine," Dr Livermore says.

"I applied as an undergraduate with a 13-year-old matriculation and was accepted on the basis of my NSW Higher School Certificate pass.

"I had a rough transition from the convent to university life and my classmates were amazed to know someone so ancient who had used log tables at school was now doing medicine and struggling to use a scientific calculator."

Dr Livermore recalls many memorable

experiences with her new group of friends, and remembers carting skeleton bones from tutorials in her backpack while riding to and from her rented house in Milton.

She busied herself with her studies until graduating in 1990, landing shortly after in the Toowoomba Accident and Emergency department.

She then completed rural service in Bundaberg before heading to Katherine in the Northern Territory, where she worked as a hospital doctor and also with the Air Medical service.

"I flew out to communities for routine clinics and was also on call for emergencies. I visited most settlements in the district but my main communities were Kalkaringi – famous for its struggle for land rights – and Wulgar," she says.

Her next calling took her to East Timor as a volunteer doctor with the Uma Ita Nian Clinic run by the Maryknoll sisters in Aileu.

"We did general, antenatal, and tuberculosis clinics and had a ration distribution for malnourished children and the TB patients," Dr Livermore says.

"We went out on mobile clinics once or twice a week, travelling on roads which defied belief, or in the dry season drove up river beds. With the nurses I saw over a hundred people while sitting on a box in a hut or school room."

After two-and-a-half years she returned to Australia in 2003 for family reasons and joined a general practice in Gosford, New South Wales.

That year also marked Mother Teresa's posthumous beatification (the becoming of a saint), and it was with mixed feelings Dr Livermore took her place with thousands of others at the Vatican to witness the proceedings.

"She was a dynamic, energetic woman whose word was law," Dr Livermore says.

"She seemed very certain of her beliefs and convictions but after her death letters were published which showed she struggled



with a terrible pain of the loss of God and felt he may not exist.

"She was afraid to confront the doubts and questions within her because she feared committing blasphemy and prayed that 'if there be a God forgive me'."

It was standing in St Peter's Square, trying to reconcile her journey from nun to non-believer, that Dr Livermore decided to write *Hope Endures*.

"I hope readers will take my point that no matter what organisation we belong to we must be true to our inner truth, for if we betray that, we betray our whole purpose and the people we serve," she says.

"There is a great difference between the obedience of co-operation and cohesion that stops us running a red light and the obedience of cowardice which silences us when we should speak and paralyses us when we should act.

"The truth can defend itself in open debate. It is not a weakling that needs to be closeted away."

ONLINE // To read an exclusive extract from *Hope Endures*, visit www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact

Lecture theatre goes live

UQ students are stepping into the future with a new high-tech lecture theatre equipped with individual touch screens, connections for iPods and wireless recognition for lecturers.

The Advanced Concept Teaching Space (UQ ACTS), within the \$54 million Sir Llew Edwards Building, has opened for classes and combines research, interactive technology and innovative teaching under one roof.

Set across three levels, the space accommodates 100 students and maximises classroom communication through high-resolution touch screens for instant feedback, as well as links to students' own portable devices such as iPods, mobile phones and laptops.

Lecturers will no longer have to log in to the room's computer control systems and input their preferences, with wireless identification tags allowing the system to instantly recognise them as they step to the podium and automatically set up the room to reflect their needs.

Teachers can use projection screens, interactive whiteboards, tablets and front-of-stage preview monitors as well as innovative lighting systems to direct students' attention.

From the podium, a single touch will be enough to launch an instant poll on students' screens or activate translation software that can render a PowerPoint file in six different languages.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Deborah Terry congratulated staff involved in the planning and design of UQ ACTS, saying their ideas had positioned the University at the forefront of teaching and learning infrastructure.

"The University of Queensland is always

looking for new ways to open communication channels during teaching sessions and with UQ ACTS, the opportunities are endless," Professor Terry said.

"UQ ACTS will allow state-of-the-art technology to be tested and therefore implemented into mainstream UQ teaching spaces at a faster pace."

UQ Teaching Technology Support Manager Derek Powell said academics had identified a need for greater student participation and discussion.

"The touch screens provide students with the opportunity to share and discuss material with their peers in small groups," he said.

"A primary goal of the experimental systems in UQ ACTS is to allow students to use whatever technology they prefer in their learning – from iPods to PDAs, mobile phones to laptops – with an important part of the project to research and test a variety of ways in which students can use these portable devices to participate in class activities."

UQ ACTS was funded by the Australian Government's Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.



STEWART GOULD

Fond farewell for UQ stalwarts

Professor David Siddle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Professor Christa Critchley, Dean of the UQ Graduate School, both entered retirement on April 3 after many years of exceptional service to the University.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield paid tribute to both of them as having crucial roles in making UQ one of the leading Australian universities.

"Both David and Christa have been integral in shaping UQ as a modern and dynamic university and will be sorely missed," Professor Greenfield said.

"In David's time UQ's research profile has flourished as annual funds from the Australian Research Council have more than trebled, yearly National Health and Medical Research Council

funds have more than doubled, and we have gained outstanding research buildings, equipment and people.

"Christa has, among other things, successfully promoted UQ as a destination for high-quality research higher degree training, as demonstrated by the record number of RHD graduations in 2008."

Professor Siddle completed his studies in psychology at UQ before beginning an international academic career in the early 1970s and returning to head UQ's Department of Psychology in 1991.

He became the first Dean of Postgraduate Studies in 1993.

After a period as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Sydney, he was appointed UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) in 2001, shortly before Senate approved a title change to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Professor Critchley has spent 20 years at UQ most recently as Dean of the Graduate School.

A respected plant scientist, she also held the post of Deputy Dean of the Graduate School from 2002 and was previously Head of the then Department of Botany.



JEREMY PATTEN



CHRIS STACEY



LEONARD CHAN

FEDERAL FUNDING WELCOMED

New national funding of \$70.8 million will be invested in better facilities for UQ students and staff in areas ranging from innovations in animal health to modern learning spaces.

The funds are split between a \$47.2 million contribution towards the completion of new UQ School of Veterinary Science facilities at Gatton (the total project is worth more than \$98.5 million), and \$23.6 million to create or renew teaching and learning infrastructure.

The veterinary science precinct is currently under construction at UQ Gatton (pictured below), and is due for completion in December, with the school to be relocated by February 2010. The small animal clinic and hospital will continue to operate at St Lucia.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the funds would help enhance the experience of students and staff and lead to better outcomes for partners in industry, research, government, the non-government sector and the community.

"The \$23.6 million for teaching and learning infrastructure is a welcome surprise for UQ. We had asked the government to fund the veterinary project but had not sought the \$23.6 million," Professor Greenfield said.

The Government has advised UQ and other universities of one-off funding for teaching and learning spaces in 2009, from the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Higher Education.

"I congratulate the Government for making university infrastructure a feature of its efforts to stimulate the economy," Professor Greenfield said.

// www.uq.edu.au/vetschool



JEREMY PATTEN

contact NOW ONLINE

University of Queensland alumni can keep up-to-date with news and information from their *alma mater*, thanks to a new *Graduate Contact* website.

The website, which is launched with this issue and includes all of the content from the hard-copy magazine, also incorporates added features such as vodcasts and podcasts, photo galleries and other extras.

Graduate Contact editor Cameron Pegg said the website would give alumni even more reasons to stay in touch with UQ, and he encouraged readers to check out stories which carried an "online" icon at the bottom.

"*Graduate Contact* is already a great resource for alumni, and the website's added content capabilities make the publication even more exciting and inclusive," Mr Pegg said.

Readers can now rate and comment on articles, in addition to sending them to others via social networking sites such as Facebook. Stories are also "tagged" with key words so users can access similar articles with ease.

Mr Pegg said the recent *Graduate Contact* readership survey (see box) showed graduates were concerned about the effect of printed publications on the environment, and were interested in greener alternatives.

"While we will continue to produce and distribute *Graduate Contact* as we always have, alumni now have the option of reading the magazine online, and in the long term we hope this can reduce our carbon footprint," he said.

All alumni will continue to receive the hard-copy magazine unless they specifically request to unsubscribe. To update your mailing details, visit www.alumni.uq.edu.au

ONLINE // www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact

Survey feedback

More than 5000 *Graduate Contact* readers recently shared their impressions of the magazine, with many of their suggestions now being put into practice.

The Summer 2008 edition of the magazine included a survey that covered key issues such as readership habits and preferred delivery and content.

Many readers offered additional feedback, including suggestions that text be easier to read on coloured backgrounds and that content include a broad cross-section of discipline areas. Several readers were also interested in the impact of *Graduate Contact* on the environment (please see information on inside cover).

Overall, the response to the magazine was positive.

"I find it very useful as an update on the events at the University in general and in particular the research initiatives undertaken at UQ," one reader wrote.

MUSIC FANS EMBRACE CORPORATE BRANDING

A UQ researcher has gone backstage to some of Australia's biggest music festivals to discover what makes them tick.

And the answer is the corporate dollar but, unlike days gone by, today's music fans are comfortable with that situation.

Dr Nic Carah, a lecturer within UQ's School of Journalism and Communication, studied the way corporations use music festivals to help build their brands, finding that, rather than alienating young people, these branding practices were embraced.

"Instead of being seen as an outsider of youth culture, they gain authenticity by being part of these events," Dr Carah said.

He said while some of these strategies may have been looked on as suspicious in the past, young people today accepted marketing practices as part of festival culture.

"Young people aren't fooled by these tactics, they don't get sucked in by them," he said.

He said events such as the V Festival – a very overt branding exercise – were acceptable as long as there was value in it for the concert goer.

"If Virgin brings popular bands to a festival, then the audience is comfortable to use their phones and cameras to send texts and pictures to giant branded screens," he said.

"The audience perceive they get something and the company develops brand value by associating itself with such an event."

Dr Carah is working on a book about his research to be titled *Pop Brands: branding, popular music and young people*, which is expected to be published next year.



JEREMY PATTEN



PHIL LONG

Avatars of Professor Deborah Terry and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield cut the ribbon for CEIT in Second Life

CEIT BECOMES A VIRTUAL REALITY

The University of Queensland's new Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology positions UQ at the forefront of research into teaching and learning technologies to be disseminated to universities around the world.

From remote online laboratories where students and educators are provided with unlimited access to iLab experiments, to lecture browsers that allow students to pinpoint words or phrases from within a lecture stream, the research potential of CEIT is endless.

CEIT's digital innovations are continuations of projects started with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) iCampus Project, a Microsoft/MIT Research and Development partnership.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Deborah Terry said UQ was proud to be leading Australia when it came to educational innovation.

"The potential impact of CEIT on teaching and learning worldwide is enormous and at the centre is the intellectual synergy of The University of Queensland's researchers and academics, powering a new digital education age," Professor Terry said.

CEIT founding Director UQ Professor Phil Long, who comes to the University from MIT, will help create access to research on technology-assisted teaching and learning, assisted by UQ iCampus co-ordinator Dr Mark Schulz as the centre's associate director.

UQ JOINS \$60M WATER CENTRE

UQ will participate in the new \$60 million National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training recently announced by the Federal Government.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, and Minister for Innovation and Research, Senator Kim Carr, said the new centre, led by Flinders University, was an investment in securing Australia's water supplies.

Hydrology Chair Professor David Lockington will lead the UQ component, with his team focusing on the groundwater dynamics and biogeochemistry of key coastal environments from local to regional scales.

Other key UQ investigators will be Professor Ling Li, Associate Professor Catherine Lovelock, and Associate Professor Massimo Gasparon.

"Australia's extensive coastline has an incredibly diverse range of terrestrial and



STOCKXCHNG

shallow water conditions and habitats, which are home to complex and sensitive ecosystems of rich biodiversity, and are subject to major development pressure as well as climate change impacts," Professor Lockington said.

The \$60 million centre has \$30 million in joint funding from the Australian Research Council and the National Water Commission, with \$30 million in additional

contributions from the 20 organisations involved. Partners include the University of New South Wales, the Australian National University, CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, and the governments of NSW and South Australia.

Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle welcomed the Australian Government's recognition of the importance of groundwater research, and said UQ's inclusion in the successful bid reflected its high quality research into the coastal and marine interface.



DEEP BLUE DASH EXPLORED

Research is uncovering the true cost of how baby turtles make their dash from hatching in the dunes to the relative safety of the ocean.

Zoologist Dr David Booth, from UQ's School of Integrative Biology, said his research was aimed at discovering how much energy the hatchlings needed to reach safe deep water.

"Having run the gauntlet of air and land predators to make it to the sea, the tiny voyager must also evade hungry fish patrolling the beaches in its bid for freedom," Dr Booth said.

Curious to know how much energy the youngsters needed to reach safe deep water, Dr Booth measured the hatchlings' oxygen consumption and found they had enough energy reserves to survive 10 days at sea without feeding.

Basing his research at UQ's Heron Island Research Station, Dr Booth took advantage of the unique laboratory facilities that are within metres of a green turtle nesting beach.

"At hatching time, I corralled the nest in order to catch several youngsters as they reached the sand's surface about 100 metres away from the lab before they could reach the sea," he said.

"I then fitted each hatchling with a lycra

swim suit with a cord attached to a force transducer, before setting the youngster free in a seawater aquarium."

Dr Booth said initially the animals swam very hard using their front flippers with their heads down, only switching to a "doggy paddle" as they came up for air before returning to fast front-flipper swimming.

"But as time drew on, the youngsters' activity slowed," he said. "They spent more time doggy paddling and less time pulling with their front flippers until they eventually began taking the odd break after about 12 hours."

Calculating the amount of energy the hatchlings consumed during their 18-hour swim, Dr Booth said the turtles carried almost 10 times as much energy in their yolk remnants as they needed to reach safety.

"So the youngsters aren't at risk of running out of energy before making it to safety," he said.

"They can probably survive 10 days in the open ocean before finding food."

Dr Booth said the baby turtles were released into the ocean following the experiment. The experiment was conducted with the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as UQ's ethical research guidelines.

The research was published in *The Journal of Experimental Biology*.



MULTILINGUAL BOOST

An Australian-first alliance between Queensland's three largest universities will expand higher learning in a range of Asian and European languages.

With \$2.27 million in Australian Government funding, The University of Queensland, Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology will pool teaching of at least nine languages so their students can learn them as part of formal studies.

Students at all three institutions will be able to major in Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish. Provided they study at award level at one of the three universities, they will be credited as if they were studying at their own institutions.

The alliance is the first of its kind involving multiple languages and three Australian universities. It arises from a determination by the three vice-chancellors that major world languages must continue to be offered at university level in Brisbane, even though enrolments are in single digits at some institutions.

"If we applied accounting principles alone some of these languages would disappear from university curricula," UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said.

"However the three universities' bottom line is that we can't afford to see language scholarship atrophy in Australia's third biggest capital city."

"This alliance is the most comprehensive educational collaboration ever undertaken among our universities," QUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake said.

"Together we can provide a more sustainable and wide-ranging offering of languages to our students than is possible as individual universities."

Griffith University Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor said the initiative would build on the university's existing strengths in Asian and European languages.

"This is a tangible move to cater for any student who wants to develop their passion for languages by providing access and opportunity to study where it suits them," Professor O'Connor said.

The alliance builds on recent initiatives by the universities to boost interest in language education, starting at the high school level. All three have offered bonus points to school leavers applying for university who have succeeded in a language other than English in year 12.



NHMRC FUNDING FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

Vaccines for cancers, better pain relief and getting people off the couch and exercising are some of UQ's research programs recently given a multi-million dollar boost.

Three UQ research teams have received almost \$22 million as part of the \$108 million National Health and Medical Research Council 2010 Program Grants aimed at giving scientists the ability to expand the scope of their research. UQ was awarded more than 20 percent of the national total.

Professor Ranjeny Thomas's team at UQ's Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine received \$10.13 million to work on vaccines for cancer, chronic infections and autoimmune diseases such as diabetes.

Meanwhile, Professor Neville Owen who leads the Cancer Prevention Research Centre in UQ's School of Population Health, received \$5.39 million to examine ways to increase physical activity in an increasingly less active society.

Associate Professor Richard Lewis from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience also received \$6.36 million to develop new drugs to treat chronic pain.



UQ welcomes new Chancellor

The University's new Chancellor is John Story, a highly experienced corporate leader with strong familial, professional and personal links to UQ.

Members of UQ's governing body, Senate, voted Mr Story into the honorary position, which carries important governance, ceremonial and symbolic responsibilities.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield congratulated Mr Story, and said his acceptance of the role showed a generous commitment to serving UQ and the broader community.

"John's paternal grandfather, John Douglas ('JD') Story, was UQ's first full-time Vice-Chancellor, serving in an honorary capacity, and John has continued the affiliation by studying here and formerly giving legal advice to UQ," Professor Greenfield said.

"He has held two voluntary positions, as a Senator since May 2006 and formerly as an Adjunct Professor, and whilst he was a partner of Corrs Chambers Westgarth he initiated supportive links between the legal firm and UQ's TC Beirne School of Law.

"He is a lawyer with deep and broad corporate experience, being chairman of

Suncorp-Metway, Tabcorp Holdings and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a director of CSR, and a member of the Queensland Public Service Commission.

"John's loyalty to UQ and his extensive business experience are fitting qualities for the Chancellor who will take UQ – which will mark its centenary in 2010 – into its second century."

Mr Story thanked his Senate peers for honouring him with the position, and paid tribute to his predecessor Sir Llew Edwards AC, who was Chancellor for 16 years.

"I look forward to working with the Vice-Chancellor to fulfil the office's duty of maintaining high standards of accountability by the University executive to the Senate," Mr Story said.

"Equally importantly, this office encompasses the spirit, traditions and values of Queensland's oldest university, and it grants opportunities for interaction with members of the UQ community and with partners in the broader community.

"Sir Llew was a superb Chancellor, and I am very conscious of the responsibilities associated with being his successor."

Mr Story's term as Chancellor will extend until December 31, 2012.



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a fitting finale

He has had students high five him, take pictures on stage and offer bear hugs, but former Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards AC was lost for words when one graduate took to the podium in December.

Sir Llew's son David was a surprise addition to a Faculty of Arts and Social and Behavioural Sciences ceremony on December 3, fulfilling a journey that had been 20 years in the making.

Now the Queensland Director of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, Mr Edwards completed a dual Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Arts in 1989, but was more interested in seeing the world than donning a cap and gown.

"I always promised my parents that I would complete my university studies prior to travelling abroad so as soon as my final exams were over, I was off – attending a ceremony in 1989 was certainly not a high priority," Mr Edwards said.

"With Dad's retirement as Chancellor, I thought it would be a nice surprise for him to present one of his children with their degree at one of his final graduation ceremonies."

Mr Edwards thanked staff from the Vice-Chancellor's office who made the surprise possible and ensured it went off without a hitch.

Sir Llew presided over his last graduation as Chancellor on December 15, having shaken the hands of approximately 80,000 graduates as part of his formal duties spanning 16 years. He announced in November that he would not seek reappointment when his fifth consecutive term as Chancellor expired in February.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said no accolades could do justice to Sir Llew's contributions, which included chairing UQ's Senate, presiding at graduations and representing UQ at events at home and abroad.

"In an era when the relevance of many time-honoured institutions has been questioned, Sir Llew has single-handedly magnified the relevance of the office of UQ Chancellor," Professor Greenfield said.

"Without taking a day's pay in almost 16 years as Chancellor, he has built enormous goodwill not only for UQ but also for Australian higher education at home and internationally."

In honour of his special place in UQ history, the landmark GPN4 Building (featured in the Summer 2008 issue), has officially been named the Sir Llew Edwards Building.

ONLINE // A photo gallery chronicling Sir Llew's time at UQ can be viewed at www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact



Above: Sir Llew Edwards with his son David and granddaughters India and Elise and below, presiding over his final Senate meeting

"WITH DAD'S RETIREMENT AS CHANCELLOR, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A NICE SURPRISE FOR HIM TO PRESENT ONE OF HIS CHILDREN WITH THEIR DEGREE AT ONE OF HIS FINAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES"



IMAGES: JEREMY PATTEN

NEW-LOOK EXECUTIVE

The University has welcomed several new and familiar faces to its executive team for 2009.

Among the appointments is legal leader Dorothy Collins, who has been named UQ's first Secretary and General Counsel.

Ms Collins has been General Counsel since May 2007, prior to which she practised as a commercial and corporate lawyer in Perth and was a lecturer at the University of Western Australia.

Among Ms Collins' new responsibilities are serving as the University Secretary, leading the UQ Legal Office and supervising the operations of Assurance and Risk Management Services.

Former Director of Australia's Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO) and Head of Joint Operational Intelligence, Maurie McNarn AO, has been appointed UQ's inaugural Executive Director (Operations).

Mr McNarn's responsibilities include co-ordinating the management of UQ's financial, physical, management information and information technology services.

In related news, Professor Susan Hamilton has been elected the President of the Academic Board, and Professor Ian Zimmer has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Relations).

Professor Zimmer recently completed a successful 10 years as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, and has been succeeded by Professor Tim Brailsford.

Another recent addition to the executive team is Clare Pullar, who has been appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Advancement).

Ms Pullar has been Director Advancement at the Melbourne Business School since 2007.

Meanwhile, Professor Graham Schaffer is the Executive Dean of the new Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology, while Professor David de Vaus is the new Executive Dean for the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences.

Professor Mark Western has been appointed Director of the Institute for Social Science Research.



The UQ Centre for Clinical Research is among the University's architectural highlights

ARCHITECTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

The University of Queensland's creation of a high-quality built environment has earned the 2008 Australian Institute of Architects President's Prize.

Queensland Chapter President Bruce Medek presented the award to Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield and outgoing Property and Facilities Director Alasdair McClintock during the President's Dinner held in November.

"This has special meaning for UQ, because it recognises the priority attention paid to the built environment at all our campuses and facilities," Professor Greenfield said.

"Hundreds of people – UQ staff as well as consultants and contractors – have earned this prize, and I congratulate them all."

Professor Greenfield said the University appreciated the Australian Institute of Architects' recognition of UQ's respect for the architecture profession.

"It is the University's honour to work with exceptional architects – including many UQ alumni – who consistently deliver designs that are innovative, practical and sympathetic to our ethos," he said.

Established in 1998, the President's Prize recognises individuals or organisations for their contribution to, and support of, the architectural profession.

Mr Medek congratulated UQ on recognising and appreciating the benefits of exceptional architecture and creating buildings that were cleverly linked with surrounding structures.

Recent architecturally designed projects at UQ include the \$33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science at UQ Gatton, the \$54 million environmentally friendly Sir Llew Edwards Building (formerly known as General Purpose North 4), and the \$63 million Queensland Brain Institute.



SERVICE GIVES THANKS TO DONORS

UQ's annual multi-faith Thanksgiving Service was held at the St Lucia campus on May 6.

This year's ceremony honoured 93 anatomy donors, the largest number in the service's history.

UQ Thanksgiving Service organising committee chair Leo Brown said the University welcomed relatives and friends of donors, and interested members of the community to attend the service each year.

"The gift of donors is important for the training of professional groups including medical, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, science, speech pathology and audiology, dentistry, pharmacy and human movement studies students," Mr Brown said.

UQ has been holding the Thanksgiving Service since 1992, when it acknowledged all donors to the School of Biomedical Science's Bequest Program since 1927.

SPORTING SUCCESS

A particularly impressive piece of silverware is on show at UQ SPORT, thanks to the efforts of the University's rowers.

The UQ men's coxed eights recently took out the 2008 Oxford and Cambridge Cup for the first time in 16 years, and were rewarded with a famous silver trophy that is more than 100 years old.

The trophy was donated by old Blues of Oxford and Cambridge in the early 1890s to be rowed for annually by the universities of Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and is estimated to be worth more than \$250,000.

The cup has scenes of both Cambridge and Oxford engraved on its sides and depicts pictures of rowing and the floral emblems of England, Scotland and Wales. An angel at the top is pictured in the traditional pose of the toast to rowing.

Queensland first entered the race contested by men's eights in 1920 and won in 1922 and 1923, with both crews stroked by Eric Freeman (after whom the UQ Boatshed is now named).

Queensland won again in 1958 and 1959 and broke tradition by taking the trifecta in 1990, 1991 and 1992.

The 2008 winning crew was coached by Lincoln Handley and consisted of Ben Ward, Will Lindores, Angus Morton, Charles Ohtomo, Jonathan Trovas, Robert Lewis-Swan, Sam Conrad, Michel McBride and Mark Alexander.

UQ crossed the line first in 6:56.03, several seconds ahead of Sydney University and the University of Melbourne.



CAMERON PREGG



STEWART GOULD

DEVELOPING THE UQ BRAND

Bus commuters at the St Lucia campus would have noticed a new addition to their routine recently – a series of striking billboards featuring UQ staff, students and alumni.

The posters are part of a revitalised branding project designed to communicate the value of the UQ experience, and are based on findings from the INSIGHT market research project.

The campaign focuses on staff, students and graduates who discuss their work, study and play, and will be featured in coming months across print, broadcast and online media.

INSIGHT involved extensive consultation with current and future staff, students, alumni and industry representatives.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Relations) Professor Ian Zimmer said feedback to the campaign had been overwhelmingly positive so far.

"This internal and external assessment has helped us to focus and build on our strengths as we look to the future," Professor Zimmer said.

A feature of the branding is a new "UQ" device, which has been designed to complement the long-established University of Queensland logo, and will be used across publications, advertisements and websites.

// www.youruq.com

IPSWICH BUILDS COMMUNITY LINKS

The University of Queensland has welcomed the Queensland Government's announcement of the new location of Bremer State High School beside the University's Ipswich campus.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Rix said the move marked a major step in the education of students in Ipswich, and opened a new chapter for UQ Ipswich and for the students, families and staff of Bremer High.

"The University will be working closely with Bremer State High School and Education Queensland to build this education precinct and to ensure there are opportunities for students and teachers to work with the campus in terms of curriculum, leadership development, the creation of pathways for future education and training, and access to education and recreation infrastructure," Professor Rix said.

"Bremer students will be able to widen their learning opportunities by being part of activities at UQ and this may give them a head-start at university.

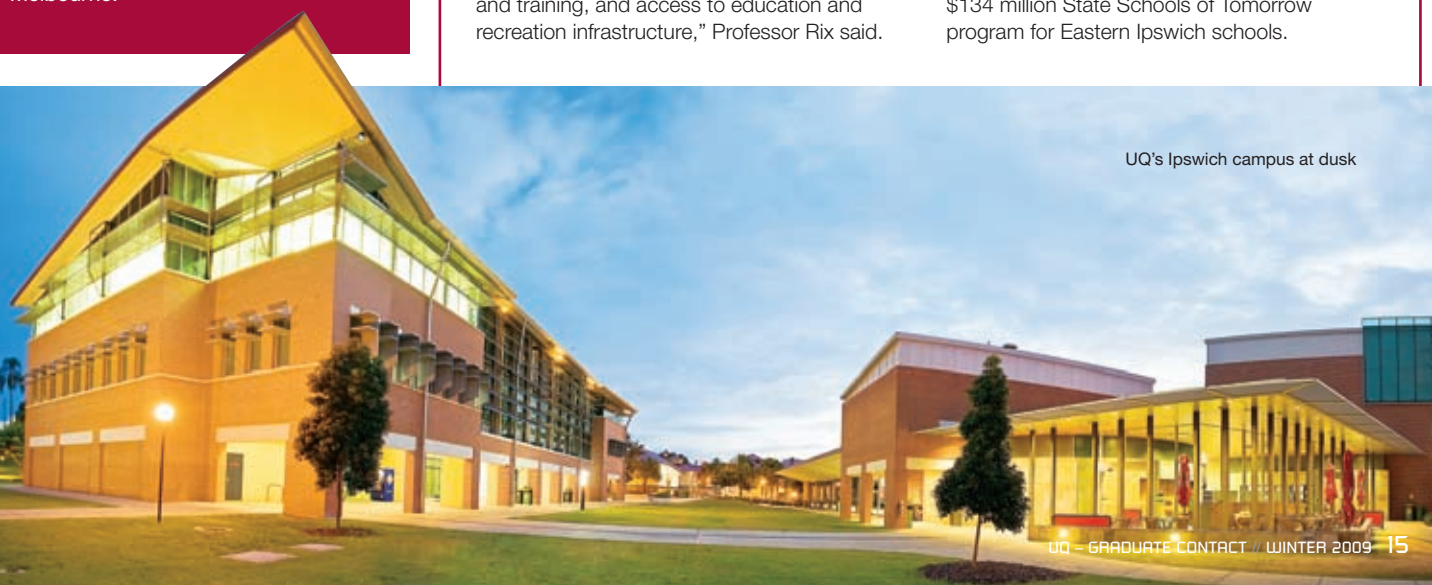
"We look forward to developing this relationship further and developing close collaboration with both the staff and students."

Professor Rix thanked former Education Minister Rod Welford, Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan and staff of Education Queensland for their strong commitment to the project.

"Celebrating our 10th anniversary later this year, UQ Ipswich is still a new campus and is entering an important stage of planning," he said.

The new school to replace Bremer State High School is part of Education Queensland's \$134 million State Schools of Tomorrow program for Eastern Ipswich schools.

UQ's Ipswich campus at dusk



STEWART GOULD



Reef renewal

UQ marine research is ready to take flight again after a \$9 million upgrade of Heron Island facilities was unveiled in February.
Photography by Stewart Gould, reporting by Tegan Taylor



“MY RESEARCH GROUP HAS FOCUSED ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, EXPLORING HOW CORALS AND OTHER ORGANISMS ARE RESPONDING TO INCREASING TEMPERATURES AND GROWING OCEAN ACIDITY”

UQ's Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef was officially reopened on February 20 by then Minister for Education, Training and the Arts Rod Welford, following a \$9 million upgrade.

The refurbishments came after a fire destroyed most of the station in March 2007.

UQ Centre for Marine Studies director Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg said having a research station in one of the healthiest parts of the Great Barrier Reef was an asset, not just to UQ, but also to researchers worldwide.

“This proximity enables researchers to explore coral reefs using the latest laboratory facilities and equipment while being situated literally metres away from a living and breathing coral reef,” Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

“There are very few places in the world that have this type of access and sophisticated study platform.

“Investigators and students come to Heron Island Research Station from all over Australia and the world.”

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said coral reefs were important to people in Australia and surrounding countries due to their ability to support industries such as tourism and fisheries.

“Over \$6 billion flows into the Queensland economy each year from tourists coming to see the Great Barrier Reef, for example,” he said.

“Unfortunately coral reefs both here in Australia and all over the world are being affected by human activities such as declining water quality, over-fishing and global warming. This has generated an imperative for research.”

Research at Heron Island has already led to major discoveries, including medicinal properties associated with cone shells, and using sea sponges and abalone to better understand evolution.

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg's own research area relies heavily on closely studying the reef.

“My research group has focused on global climate change, exploring how corals and other organisms are responding to increasing temperatures and growing ocean acidity,” he said.

“This work has turned out to be fundamentally important to our understanding of how coral reefs – the most biodiverse marine ecosystems in the ocean – are going to respond to increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.”

Heron Island Research Station is one of the oldest marine research stations in the world, having been in operation for more than 50 years.

Thanks to the reconstruction, the station now includes seven research labs, three teaching labs, two instrument rooms, aquaria infrastructure and seminar and computer rooms, along with an 80-bed student accommodation block.

THE HERON ISLAND RESEARCH STATION

Located at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef National Park, Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) is the largest and most sophisticated marine research station in Australia, providing research laboratories within metres of Heron Reef.

The station is located at the leeward end of a coral cay on a 10 x 5 kilometre platform reef, 80 kilometres east of Gladstone and 600 kilometres north of Brisbane.

Heron Reef is home to approximately 60 percent of the fish species and 72 percent of the coral species found on the Great Barrier Reef, as well as the cay's rich terrestrial flora and fauna.

The research station is one of only four centres of excellence recognised in the global Coral Reef Targeted Research Program funded by the World Bank. It was established more than 50 years ago and is a cornerstone of the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence in Coral Reef Studies.

HIRS is recognised as one of the world's key facilities for marine research as well as undergraduate teaching and training. Many high schools also come to Heron Island to teach their students about coral reef ecosystems.

ONLINE // To listen to a podcast from the opening, or to view video footage and a photo gallery, visit www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact

Natural wonders: Heron Island from the air, and from bottom left, Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg and a research team on the reef, an aerial shot of HIRS facilities, underwater life and some of the station's new buildings



VIRTUAL ARTS

The Faculty of Arts and UniQuest Pty Limited, UQ's main commercialisation company, have launched a new arts innovation enterprise.

Ortelia Interactive Spaces offers art galleries, museums and other cultural venues a unique 3D interactive marketing and visualisation tool for attracting audiences to view special exhibitions and collections in both real and online spaces.

Ortelia is also valuable for preservation projects, where historically sensitive sites and buildings can be recreated for educational and reference purposes.

Lead researcher Professor Joanne Tompkins, from UQ's School of English, Media Studies and Art History, said students could view archived versions of original exhibitions and also curate their own artworks.

Ortelia Interactive Spaces can also produce detailed scale models of venues, develop 3D websites and convert exhibitions into DVDs.



JEREMY PATTEN

3D vision: Professor Joanne Tompkins with an Ortelia screenshot of *Our Way* artworks in front of the real thing

Our Way, the internationally acclaimed UQ exhibition of art from Lockhart River in far north Queensland, is one of several exhibitions which have used the technology.

Professor Tompkins' research assistant Neal Harvey suggested the name "Ortelia" after Abraham Ortelius, the 16th century Flemish geographer credited with compiling the first modern world atlas.

"UniQuest supported the commercial development of the Ortelia technology so that its applications can help to promote Australia's

heritage and cultural assets more widely, especially to global audiences," UniQuest Managing Director David Henderson said.

UniQuest's support for Ortelia's commercial development was complemented by further UQ funding, an ARC Linkage partnership with La Boite Theatre, the Cairns Civic Centre and the Queensland Government.

The Ortelia Interactive Spaces team currently includes Professor Tompkins, Laz Kastanis, Sean Ivermee and Darren Pack.

// www.ortelia.com

Translation a mother and daughter act

Not many mothers can say they share university classes with their daughter, but UQ postgraduate Victoria Oyama is one of them.

Ms Oyama and her daughter Akane (pictured) have both recently commenced the Master of Arts in Japanese Interpreting and Translation (MAJIT) program at St Lucia, and share a goal to sharpen their skills English and Japanese.

Victoria is Australian by birth but moved to Japan when she was 18, eventually teaching herself Japanese through immersion over three decades.

Upon her return to Australia in 2004, she decided to "put the cart before the horse" by enrolling in a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Japanese after attaining the highest possible level in a language proficiency exam.

She said the decision to tackle postgraduate study at UQ was because of the international reputation of the translation degree, which takes two years to complete full-time.

"I heard that MAJIT was one of the top programs in the world for acquiring the official NAATI (official translation) qualification," she said.

The program is one of only two of its kind in the world, and the only one in the Southern Hemisphere ranked by the Swiss-based AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters).

Students become familiar with legal, business and even medical language, and in their final year participate in weekly live forums where they interpret for a guest speaker in real-time.

At the end of her studies, Victoria hopes to achieve a NAATI qualification, and plans to put her skills to use in Australia or Japan.

For Victoria's daughter Akane, the situation is reversed. Acquiring Japanese as her native language, she developed her English skills from her mother during childhood, further building on these through Japanese public schooling, undergraduate studies in Australia and work experience.

"MAJIT is such a well known translation and

interpreting course around the world that at first, I thought that the level of study would be too high," Akane said.

"However, while I worked as an in-house translator and interpreter at one of Japan's car makers, I strongly felt the need to improve my translation and interpreting skills and to undertake systematic and thorough training at an early stage."



JEREMY PATTEN

HISTORIC JOURNEY

The UQ-sponsored Q150 Steam Train is making its way through the state on a five-month journey celebrating Queensland's history.

The locomotive departed Brisbane on April 14 embarking on a journey that will end on August 30 and include visits to more than 30 Queensland communities.

The heritage-listed steam train's trip is part of a year-long celebration of Queensland's 150th anniversary of becoming a state.

Staff and students will travel on the train collecting information for the Queensland Places Project, an initiative that aims to construct an interactive community website devoted to settlements with present or past populations of 500 or more people.

UQ Master of Philosophy student Janet Spillman, who took the steam train's first leg from Brisbane to Rockhampton, said she looked forward to chronicling Queensland's past through her role in the project.

"We expect that Queenslanders who took their cameras on holidays between the 1950s and 1980s will have a treasure trove of images from all over Queensland," Ms Spillman said.

"It's an exciting opportunity to collect images that bring Queensland's history to life."

The Queensland Places Project is seeking contributions of colour slides and captions of Queensland towns to include on the website.

Professor Peter Spearritt, who is in charge of the project, said staff were looking for slides depicting distinctive landscapes, buildings and events.

The Q150 Train journey is open to members of the public and will correspond with community events in the towns it visits.

The journey is divided into six sectors and visits places such as Cairns, Mt Isa, Quilpie and Toowoomba.

Ms Spillman said she had a special connection to regional Queensland and steam train travel.

She grew up west of Hughenden and relied on trains for transport, especially during the wet season.

"I remember long trips by steam train between Brisbane and Townsville, then out west to Hughenden," she said.

"On one memorable occasion, I bought the wrong ticket and found myself on the milk train – it took nearly two days to get to Townsville, and when I arrived, my hair was very sooty!"

// www.q150.qld.gov.au

The Q150 steam train on the day of its departure, and above, Janet Spillman starts her journey



IMAGES: JEREMY PATTEN



Memorial lecture a family affair

Descendants of Thomas Gilbert Henry Jones, UQ Professor of Chemistry (1940-1965), attended the 2008 public lecture in his honour given by the CEO of the Australian Research Council, Professor Margaret Sheil.

In attendance were grandsons Peter and Michael Jones, great-granddaughters Alison, Megha, Katherine and Gwyneth Jones, and great-grandson Lloyd Jones.

All of the family members are UQ alumni with the exception of Lloyd, who is a UQ Science Ambassador at his high school.

The annual lecture is a memorial to the late Professor Jones who joined UQ as an assistant lecturer and demonstrator in 1915. Following service in WWI as a munitions and explosives

producer, Professor Jones returned to the University as a lecturer in inorganic chemistry, being promoted to Professor and Head of Department in 1940.

During his 50 years of service to UQ, he was a member of Senate (1944-68), Dean of the Faculty of Science (1942-49 and 1960-61) and President of the Professorial Board (1951-56).

Professor Jones initiated a program of research into the chemistry of natural plant products and held officer positions in the Royal Society of Queensland and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

He led a public meeting in City Hall in 1957 to protest against State Government legislation that threatened the University's autonomy in making

appointments, and was awarded a CBE in 1960. He also received honorary doctorates from UQ and the University of Newcastle.

Professor Jones married fellow UQ graduate Vera (nee Haines) in 1923, with their two children David and Margot also becoming UQ graduates in medicine and physiotherapy respectively.

Professor Sheil's lecture discussed research and innovation policy, including the proposed Excellence in Research in Australia (ERA) scheme which would benchmark Australian researchers against the best in the world.

An overview of ARC funding schemes including the new Laureate Fellowships and Future Fellowships program was also covered during the event.

POP CULTURE

Thickshakes and espionage unite in a new comic series starring real actors, the brainchild of a University of Queensland graduate.

By Tegan Taylor


MERCURY



Clockwise from left: Yalin Ozucelik as Mercury, Leah Shelton as Cilla, and (left to right), Candice Storey, Lisa Fa'alafi and Andrew Collins as the Cool Kids

When pop culture is in danger, you need the right team to rescue it: Burger Force, the guys who serve justice with a side of fries.

The creation of UQ graduate Jackie Ryan, Burger Force is a comic that follows an espionage agency located beneath a fast food store.

Its operatives are tasked with protecting the perilously delicate balance of pop culture.

"The agents serve thickshakes and fries by day and thwart diabolical masterminds by night," Ms Ryan said.

"There are two defining moments in my pop culture life: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The Avengers* (Diana Rigg period).

"Burger Force, to my mind, is what would happen if these two entities met up on a dark and stormy night."

What makes Burger Force different to many other comics is that it stars real people – using graphic design software to transform photographs into comic book-style images.

"From a practical point of view, real people and locations can be 'comified' through a laborious combination of Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign and Flash," Ms Ryan said.

The pop culture theme made comics an obvious outlet for the Burger Force story, and it was also a more affordable format than film, she said.

For someone with a background in cinema, creating a comic strip meant Ms Ryan had to approach storytelling in a new way.

Instead of having ongoing action, as is the case in film or theatre, she had to choose discrete points in time to tell the story frame by frame.

"The actors are faced with the challenge of communicating the emotional amalgam of a line or situation in that frame," she said.

One of the actors, Ms Ryan's friend and fellow UQ graduate Yalin Ozucelik, said Burger Force was different from anything he had been part of before.

Having studied at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and acted in plays around Australia, the prospect of starring in the "intelligent and laugh-out-loud funny" comic was an appealing change of scenery for Mr Ozucelik.

"I know that Jackie conceived the idea of Burger Force many years ago and has been writing the series ever since," he said.

"WHAT MAKES BURGER FORCE DIFFERENT TO MANY OTHER COMICS IS THAT IT STARS REAL PEOPLE – USING GRAPHIC DESIGN SOFTWARE TO TRANSFORM PHOTOGRAPHS INTO COMIC BOOK-STYLE IMAGES"



IMAGES JACKIE RYAN

"We reconnected last year and she told me of her brilliant, dastardly plan to turn it into a comic and asked me if I wanted to play Mercury: a hapless, lovelorn, nerdy uni student-turned-secret agent.

"I saw more than a little bit of me in Mercury I think, so I happily donned a fabulous wig and slumped nerdlily in front of the camera."

Burger Force debuts as a web comic in June and will become available in print later in the year.

// Visit www.jackieryan.net for more on Burger Force and other projects



Rhodes to achievement

Success is in 2009 Queensland Rhodes Scholar Caitlin Goss's genes.

The UQ graduate (pictured) is the winner of the prestigious scholarship to Oxford University in England.

Ms Goss stood out from the 21 other applicants because of her academic achievements and personal qualities, having graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Arts (first-class honours) and Bachelor of Laws, and earning a University Medal in 2006. She also graduated from Brisbane Girls Grammar School with an overall position (OP) 1 in 2001.

She is the daughter of former Queensland Premier Wayne Goss and UQ PhD candidate Roisin Goss, sister of 2007 Queensland Rhodes Scholar Ryan Goss and granddaughter of 1927 scholar Konrad Hirschfeld.

Ms Goss said she had humble expectations of herself.

"The other applicants were terrifyingly impressive," she said.

"It was surreal when I first heard I had won. I got out and called my mother. She was a bit teary."

In September she will travel to Oxford University to study a Bachelor of Civil Laws, allowing her to expand her knowledge of post-conflict law reform.

Ms Goss hoped her studies would allow her to help set up new legal systems in countries recovering from war.

Rhodes Scholarships, founded in 1902 under the will of Cecil John Rhodes, are tenable for an initial two years, with the possibility of a third.

Ms Goss is The University of Queensland's eighth Queensland Rhodes Scholar in a row.



STEWART GOULD

Clip for cancer

In the past 12 months, UQ PhD candidate Rebecca Banks has learned just how precious life is and undergone the "big chop" for cancer research.

The occupational therapy student lost her locks as part of the Leukaemia Foundation's 2009 World's Greatest Shave event.

In recent times, Ms Banks' life has been rocked by the news of close family and friends being diagnosed with cancer.

Her experience of watching her loved ones deal with the disease, her work as an occupational therapist and her strong belief in the value of the Leukaemia Foundation compelled her to put her hair to good use.

"Three years ago, when I saw those advertisements on TV saying that one in every three Australians' lives are affected by cancer, I

remember thinking how lucky I was that no one I knew had cancer at that time," Ms Banks said.

"In the past 12 months, I've had three relatives diagnosed with cancer, a very well-respected colleague from the occupational therapy division who has been diagnosed with cancer and has retired for health reasons, and a number of friends whose parents and family members have also been diagnosed with cancer."

Ms Banks didn't shy away from the fact that having a shaved head would be an adjustment, but hoped her participation would encourage others to support the cause.

"Sometimes people think 'I'm just one person, what can I do?'" she said.

"But these types of events make you realise that individuals with a common goal can collectively achieve great things."



JEREMY PATTEN

Inspiring support

Inspiring greater support for UQ is the focus of newly appointed Advancement Office Deputy-Director, Fundraising, Susan Chenoweth.

Ms Chenoweth has come to UQ from fundraising organisation BoysTown, where she played a key role in setting the strategy for building fundraising revenue and developing corporate and community partnerships.

As the Advancement Office's first Deputy Director, Fundraising, Ms Chenoweth is developing a strategy for encouraging support and corporate partnership at UQ.

She brings a wealth of experience in the areas of relationship management and business development, within profit, not-for-profit and financial services.



STEWART GOULD

As a UQ graduate with degrees in economics and arts, Ms Chenoweth already has genuine affection for the University.

"I'm excited to play a role in inspiring greater support for the University," she said.

"The University of Queensland is committed to providing exceptional opportunities and generating remarkable futures.

"Without the support of the UQ community, this would not be possible."



IMAGES COURTESY SAMUEL'S HOUSE

Clockwise from left: the children who live at Samuel's House with UQ graduate Alvin Tan, Samuel's House co-founders Mr Tan, Shaun Cavanagh, Dr Linda Lua and Caroline Cavanagh, Hannah Pawcome in the home's renovated kitchen, and Samuel's House children having fun

HOME AT LAST

Four UQ graduates have combined their skills to establish a home for orphaned and abandoned Thai children.

By Tegan Taylor

A chance encounter with a homeless boy at a Thai bus stop has sparked a vision for a global network of children's homes for four University of Queensland alumni.

Caroline Cavanagh and her husband Shaun, together with Alvin Tan and Dr Linda Lua, all UQ graduates, have established a children's home in north-eastern Thailand and plan to use it as a model for similar homes around the world.

Ms Cavanagh said the idea for Samuel's House, which takes in orphaned and abandoned children, began to take shape after visiting Thailand on a campus student group trip in 1998.

"We found a little boy at a bus stop in Khon Kaen who was homeless and we were able to

"THESE CHILDREN ARE THE ONES, IF GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY, WHO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE IMMENSELY TO SOCIETY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE"



find him somewhere safe to live through our Thai contacts," Ms Cavanagh said.

"Meeting him had really impacted on me and I knew there were more like him but didn't know what I could do."

Through Thai friends Hannah and Nehamee Pawcome, Ms Cavanagh realised just how many orphaned and abandoned children there were in Thailand.

When Ms Pawcome emailed Ms Cavanagh in 2006 saying she and her husband had begun to take in homeless children to their basic farmer's shack, the four graduates decided to band together and help.

Lending both financial support and organisational skills, the group raised funds for a solid house, new beds and a new kitchen.

"In June 2007 we officially launched Samuel's House in Australia to a grassroots network of friends, family and colleagues," Ms Cavanagh said.

"We now have a diverse support base from many nations."

Thanks to this support base and a child sponsorship and scholarship program, the 12 children who live at the home are well looked after and attend private school, an opportunity Dr Lua said would help Samuel's House to have a far-reaching impact.

"Without the opportunity and second chance given to them, they would otherwise be roaming the streets, not have an education or be in the child slavery trade," she said.

"These children are the ones, if given an opportunity, who have the potential to contribute immensely to society and make a difference in their country's future."

Dr Lua hoped Samuel's House was the start of a global network of homes for orphaned and abandoned children.

"Our aim is to empower, enrich and equip the locals at Samuel's House to enable them to manage and run the children's home themselves in the near future," she said.

"We hope to develop our children's home model to a stage where we can set up other children's homes in Thailand and other countries to meet the enormous needs."

Ms Cavanagh said Samuel's House was becoming more self-sufficient through starting small businesses such as selling hand-made greeting cards and farmed pigs.

Donations throughout 2007 and 2008 bought water tanks, new bedding, helped build a new building to house more children and renovated a functional kitchen.

Work is also being expanded to improve the lives of villagers in the immediate community.

"We are delighted with the progress of the children since the project started in 2006. The love and joy that radiates from the kids is abundant and genuine," Ms Cavanagh said.

"The kindness and compassion they show one another and visitors, their gratitude and the respect for the house parents, are things we have never witnessed before."

"The progress we have made in such a few short years seems unbelievable. It is without a doubt attributed to the hard work of the team, the on-site workers who have loved these children to wholeness, the generosity of many supporters, and the gentle hand of providence that guides us each step of the way. It is truly a privilege and a blessing to be a part of it."

ONLINE // View a photo gallery at www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact and visit www.samuelshouse.org for more information

Students gain alumni privileges



Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield recently announced all UQ students would be considered alumni from the day they enrol, giving them access to a raft of new privileges.

In response to this, the UQ Student Alumni Program was launched in February as part of the wider UQ Alumni Program, which is coordinated by the University's Advancement Office.

Advancement Office Deputy Director, Alumni and Community Relations, Lea Sublett said students had responded enthusiastically to the change. The first student alumni event of the year, the UQ Backpack to Briefcase Career Breakfast seminar, proved a success.

"We want to engage UQ students with this initiative and show them the ways we can enhance their studies and careers," Ms Sublett said.

All UQ alumni are invited to be part of the program, which includes career assistance.

To find out more about the program and how it can benefit you, contact the UQ Alumni team on (07) 3346 3900, or register your interest at www.alumni.uq.edu.au

ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR

- Backpack to Briefcase Career Breakfast seminar: "Enterprise and the Young Entrepreneur – Making the Dream a Reality", August 14.
- UQ delegation visit to China and Hong Kong, September 3-13.
- Vice-Chancellor Melbourne alumni cocktail reception, October 6.
- Courting the Greats luncheon (Alumnus of the Year Awards), Customs House, November 26.

// For further details, including venues and times, visit the events and activities page of www.alumni.uq.edu.au

UQ centenary celebrations gain momentum

Alumni will have the chance to relive memories of their time at University during the UQ Alumni Centenary Reunion Weekend. Please note the date for the reunion weekend has changed to July 3-4, 2010.

The reunion weekend will be an opportunity for alumni to reengage with their favourite cultural, social, college, sporting or academic groups.

Plans for the centenary celebrations are well under way, and details on various areas of interest will be posted on www.uq.edu.au/centenary as information becomes available.

If you have old photos or stories of UQ, are interested in being involved as a volunteer or have ideas about how to celebrate UQ's 100th anniversary, let us know.

We are also collecting memories of UQ. Do you have a favourite UQ moment? What did UQ mean to you? Let us know in 100 words or less.

Email the UQ Alumni team with your suggestions and memories at uqalumni@uq.edu.au



From left: the 1959 A Grade cricket team, and "Lawes Saras" is named Grand Champion Brahman Female at the RNA Brisbane Exhibition in 1969



Nines are called back to Gatton

Past students and staff will be heading "Back to College" to take part in the UQ Gatton annual reunion on December 5-6.

The event, organised by the UQ Gatton Past Students Association, this year focuses on graduates from the years 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

The weekend is an important event in the calendars of many Gatton graduates, particularly Dr Kerry Dowsett, winner of the 2008 Gatton Gold Medal (see page 28).

"It is always a special occasion to meet old mates at these reunions and realise that while the years have passed very quickly, the attitude and characteristics of the old mates is still very much present and unchanged," Dr Dowsett said.

"The reunions have been very important to me over the years as they are great social occasions that provide the opportunity to tell lies, catch up with the news and have a great time."

Guests enjoy a weekend of activities, with last year's highlight being the formal dinner on the Saturday night, which 240 people attended.

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 Graham McClymont on (07) 3378 0201, gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au or visit www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents



Former Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards presents Governor-General Dr Quentin Bryce with the 2008 Alumnus of the Year award

Worthy winner

The University of Queensland recently presented a distinguished graduate and Australia's first female Governor-General with a special award.

By Shirley Glaister

Australia's first female Governor-General, Dr Quentin Bryce AC, was presented with the University's Alumnus of the Year award for 2008 in February.

Dr Bryce, who was Governor of Queensland from 2003 until 2008, was announced as UQ's Alumnus of the Year late last year, along with UQ's International Alumnus of the Year, Cambodian labour camp survivor Path Heang, and Young Alumnus of the Year, music therapist Alissa Phillips.

Dr Bryce received her award at a special presentation ceremony at Customs House, which

was attended by UQ's former Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards AC, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield AO, as well as President of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. Feona Walker and the group's Senior Vice-President Dalma Jacobs.

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

She was sworn in as Australia's 25th Governor-General at a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra on September 5.

Professor Greenfield said UQ was privileged to have alumni of Dr Bryce's calibre.

"A university's reputation is determined largely by the character of its graduates, and Quentin Bryce is a great example to students, staff and other UQ graduates," he said.

"She has put her UQ education to excellent use by improving conditions for people who have not shared in her advantages."

Ms Walker said the Alumni Friends were honoured Dr Bryce had accepted the award of Alumnus of the Year for 2008.

Dr 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.

Some of her appointments have included founding Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the National Childcare Accreditation Council and Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner.



IMAGES: JEREMY PATTEN

Cause for celebration: (from left) Louise Greenfield, Dr Michael Bryce, Professor Paul Greenfield, Dr Quentin Bryce, Sir Llew Edwards, The Honourable Paul Lucas MP and Dalma Jacobs

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The University of Queensland seeks your help in locating young and international alumni whose achievements qualify them for these prestigious annual awards.

These awards honour alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their community by demonstrating exceptional leadership in their field or stimulating their community through creativity and innovation.

If you know a UQ alumnus who deserves recognition for their exceptional achievements, submit a nomination. Nominations open July 6 and close September 4, 2009.

For further details, visit www.alumni.uq.edu.au/alumni-awards

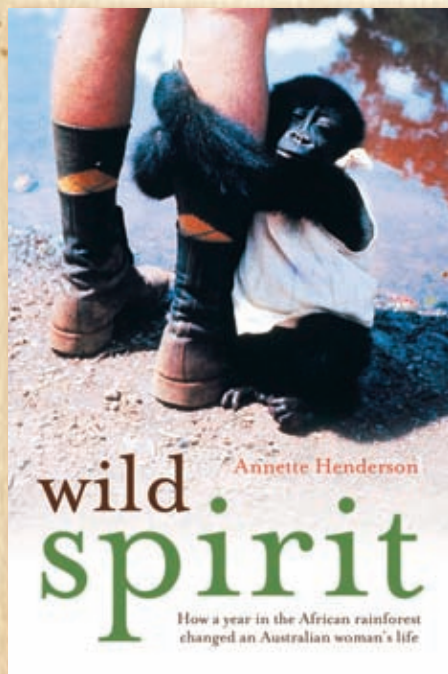
African ADVENTURE

After a once-in-a-lifetime African adventure in the 1970s, a UQ graduate and former long-serving staff member has decided to tell the world her story.

By Cameron Pegg



“COMPLETING THE MEMOIR AND HAVING IT PUBLISHED MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME. IT’S LIKE CLOSING THE CIRCLE THAT BEGAN IN 1975 – AN OUTCOME I NEVER COULD HAVE ENVISAGED”



The cover of *Wild Spirit*. Courtesy Random House Australia

If crossing the Sahara Desert in a Kombi van, dodging civil war and interacting with great apes sounds like an adventure and a half, you may want to read Annette Henderson's memoir.

Published by Random House in May, *Wild Spirit* formed part of Annette's Master of Philosophy (Creative Writing) degree which she received at a UQ graduation ceremony last year, capping off a dream that had been decades in the making.

The book was inspired by the time Annette and her husband Win spent in Gabon, West Africa, while attempting to cross the continent from north to south 30 years ago.

“Many people over the decades have told me: ‘you really must write this book’,” she says.

“Completing the memoir and having it published means a great deal to me. It's like closing the circle that began in 1975 – an outcome I never could have envisaged.”

Annette and Win arrived in Gabon during the Angolan war and, unable to travel to South Africa as planned, found themselves working at an iron ore exploration camp 600km from the coast.

“The first night we were in Gabon we were robbed. One \$20 traveller's cheque was all we had left,” Annette says.

“So we knew no one, we had almost no money and we couldn't go anywhere because of the war further south – we were totally stuck.”

By chance, the couple met the New Zealand director of the mining project, who offered them employment and accommodation for a year.

Annette's work was demanding and varied, relying on her knowledge of French to co-ordinate via radio the movements of dugout canoes that transported people and supplies up and down the river.

Among her more unusual tasks was to issue shotgun shells to the Gabonese hunters who were employed to feed the workers and their families, and calculate how much they were to be paid.

“At the end of the day when they brought in their kill, I had to weigh it on a set of rusty

old scales that sat on a log, and note down in a book the weight that they'd brought in for that day because they were paid by the kilogram,” she says.

During their time in the forest, Annette, Win and a colleague became surrogate parents to Josie, an injured orphaned baby gorilla, but it was an encounter with Ikata, an eight-year-old male blackback who had been raised in captivity, that changed Annette's life.

“We were visiting a research station where orphaned gorillas and chimpanzees were being rehabilitated to the wild. I was coming up the pathway as he was coming down and I thought ‘I'll have to indicate to him that I'm very peaceful in my intent’, so I stretched out my arms towards him palms upwards and he just kept walking towards me,” she says.

“When he got within reach he just enfolded me with a gentle embrace and he put his face beside my cheek and I rubbed the top of his head. It was just the most wonderful moment.”

From the outset, Annette sought practical ways of protecting the gorillas in their natural habitat.

“The first thing I did when I was offered the opportunity to have a work role was to say ‘I don't think we should pay for gorilla meat and I think the hunters should be told that right away.’ Our project director agreed, so we didn't pay for gorilla meat again.”

Having read about the pioneering work with great apes by primatologists such as Jane Goodall, Annette ultimately decided to pursue tertiary studies in anthropology upon returning to Brisbane.



After several years working in London, she completed her Bachelor of Arts with first-class honours in anthropology at UQ in 1983, and used her skills to contribute to Indigenous land and cultural projects in the Northern Territory.

She then took up university teaching in Brisbane before spending a memorable five months in Indonesia – teaching social science in the local language, which she learned in just four months before taking up the position.

Annette's life took another unexpected turn when she began what would be a 17-year career as a senior administrator within UQ's School of English, Media Studies and Art History (EMSAH).

Over the years, the gorilla photos in Annette's office intrigued former EMSAH colleague and award-winning author Amanda Lohrey, who encouraged her to return to study in 2006 under an APA scholarship and finish the book she'd always wanted to write.

With the assistance of supervisors Dr Stuart Glover and award-winning poet Dr Bronwyn Lea, Annette produced the manuscript of *Wild Spirit* and a 10,000 word critical essay, "Great Apes, Humans and Epiphanies: Profound Interspecies Encounters", for her Masters.

Interest in the memoir took off last year after Annette was interviewed on ABC Radio, and within hours she was contacted by major Australian publishers and literary agents eager to read the story in full.

Annette is now focused on ways she can help protect great apes around the world. She is a zoo parent of the lowland gorillas at Taronga Zoo and has adopted an orphaned orangutan in Borneo through the Australian Orangutan Project in addition to sponsoring German mountain gorilla research.

"I'm looking for other ways to become immediately involved," she says.

"I plan to spend the rest of my life writing and continuing my involvement with conservation."

From top left: Annette with Bouéni the chimpanzee and Ikata, meeting famous primatologist Jane Goodall in 2008, operating the radio in Gabon, and Josie the orphaned gorilla. Images courtesy Annette Henderson and Random House Australia. Main image: Annette today



ONLINE // To read an exclusive extract from *Wild Spirit*, visit www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact

JEREMY PATTEN

Golden contribution

A veterinarian and mentor recognised for his outstanding contributions to the profession has been recognised with UQ Gatton's highest honour.

Dr Kerry Dowsett (pictured centre) received the prestigious UQ Gatton Gold Medal and addressed graduates at the December 5 ceremony at the campus gymnasium.

The UQ Gatton Gold Medal is awarded each year to a past student who has made an outstanding contribution in their field.

"To be recognised in such a way by the place where my career began is a very special and great honour that I will treasure for the remainder of my life," Dr Dowsett said.

After graduating from the Queensland Agricultural College (which became the UQ Gatton Campus) with a Diploma in Animal Husbandry in 1963, Dr Dowsett went on to complete his Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 1970 and PhD in 1983 at UQ.

Before joining UQ as a lecturer in veterinary medicine in 1975, he worked as a husbandry officer within the Beef Cattle Husbandry Branch of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

He is deeply committed to the training of the next generation of Queensland veterinarians, particularly in the area of equine medicine, continuing to teach and train students long into his retirement from UQ in 1997.

Dr Dowsett is highly regarded in the industry and was called upon by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries in 2007 to work with the Equine Influenza Veterinary Investigations Section during an EI eradication program.

He has Honorary Life Membership and a Special Award from The University of Queensland Veterinary Student Association, and in 1999 won the Peter Irwin Literary Award from the Australian Equine Veterinary Association.



JEREMY PATTEN

SHARED SUCCESS

Graduations are a special time for all involved, but for the Stephenson family, UQ's December 2008 ceremonies were especially memorable.

Mother and daughter duo Birgitta and Laura Stephenson (pictured) joined more than 900 others in receiving their degrees for studies in the faculties of Arts and Social and Behavioural Sciences.

Birgitta graduated with a double major in archaeology while Laura earned a Bachelor of Psychology with honours.

"There is something reassuring about a UQ degree. It is an esteemed achievement at any age," Birgitta said.

Birgitta and Laura join a growing family tradition, with Dad graduating from design studies in 1982 and architecture in 1985, Grandad from medicine in 1959 and second eldest daughter Eloise currently studying towards a science degree.



JEREMY PATTEN

CAPPING HONOUR for Registrar

The retirement of UQ Secretary and Registrar Dr Douglas Porter marked the "end of an epoch" for The University of Queensland, according to former Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards.

Dr Porter retired on January 28 after more than 22 years at the helm of the University's finances and administration.

In that time he signed testamurs as proof of graduation for 150,300 UQ alumni – about 90 percent of all living UQ graduates.

On December 15 he received his own UQ degree, an Honorary Doctorate in Economics, and was officially farewelled by 150 guests at Customs House – a heritage building that UQ bought and refurbished on his watch.

Sir Llew said Dr Porter had made "immeasurable contributions" to UQ since he began as Secretary and Registrar in 1986.

"A great many of these are linked to his indispensable role as Secretary to the University's governing body, the Senate," Sir Llew said.

"He has worked with eight consecutive Senates, including two Chancellors, five Deputy Chancellors and three Vice-Chancellors, and has guided us through a changing and increasingly complex maze of legislation, protocols and regulations."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said in almost 100 years, UQ had "never seen another Secretary and Registrar, and was unlikely to ever do so".

Dr Porter said after 43 years working in three universities he particularly wished to thank and recognise his wife, Dr Janet Porter (pictured), a UQ PhD graduate, who has made valuable and sustained contributions to the University's social and cultural networks.

Fellow recipients of honorary doctorates in December were Sir Peter Kenilorea KBE, PC, Donald Argus AO, Dr Frank Gannon, Graham Bligh, Dr Susan Pond AM, Michael Bryce AM, AE, John Simpson, Sir Frank Moore AO, and Dr Russell Howard.



STEWART GOULD

UQ celebrates alumni in Asia

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield led a UQ delegation on a recent alumni tour of south-east Asia.

UQ graduates and industry representatives from south-east Asia were able to meet the Vice-Chancellor and other senior UQ representatives when they visited the region recently.

Between April 15-22, Professor Paul Greenfield met business partners, local education providers and alumni in Singapore and Vietnam, with acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Mick McManus hosting events in Malaysia.

The trip provided an opportunity to discuss current and potential university partnerships, explore commercial opportunities and host graduate celebrations in concert with local alumni chapters.

MALAYSIA

Over 100 guests attended an alumni and business reception at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on April 15. Professor McManus promoted key alumni developments for 2010, including UQ's centenary celebrations, a new online community and the International Alumnus of the Year award.

At a luncheon earlier that day in the presence of the Australian High Commissioner Penny Williams, Datuk Dr Rosti Saruwono (winner of the 2007 UQ International Alumnus of the Year Award) was congratulated on his new appointment as Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Industri Selangor (UNISEL).

SINGAPORE

More than 150 guests attended an alumni and business reception on April 18. The UQ Alumni Association of Singapore committee was introduced by the new chairman Dr Angelo Venardos who showed a presentation of the association's current activities.

The Vice-Chancellor was also guest speaker at a Faculty of Business, Economics and Law graduate employment seminar, which explored strategies for surviving the current economic crisis. Participants included



Stephen Tjoa, an executive director at KPMG Singapore, and Jerome Yeo, General Manager of TopCable Singapore.

VIETNAM

Professor Greenfield hosted alumni receptions and education seminars in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in addition to meeting with partner institutions and government officials between April 20-22.

One of the highlights of the visit was the announcement of the five winners of the UQ Vietnam-Australia 35 Year Commemorative Research Higher Degree Scholarships (for full story, see page 5).



From top: Janet Elliot, Professor Paul Greenfield, Dr Nguyen Kinh Luan and Tran My An in Ho Chi Minh City, Professor Liew Ah-Choy and Dr Hon Fatt Ho in Singapore, and Lily Tan and Jamilah Mohamed Jamil celebrate in Kuala Lumpur





Remembering Val Vallis (1916-2009)

Much has been written on the sad passing in January of the Queensland poet, loved teacher, philosopher and opera critic Val Vallis. An omission in the many accolades is the important gift that Val had in delivering inspiring lectures that captured the enthusiasm of many UQ students – so much so that science or commerce scholars would swap over to English and continue on to become English professors themselves.

Part of the dynamic nature of his lectures at UQ during the 1960s and 1970s was sure to be the frequent arrival of fellow academic in the class, the late Cecil Hadgraft. Both Val and Cecil would come into each other's lectures and create mini-debates, and sometimes quite heated fights, over the power of the imagination versus sceptical pragmatism.

Val had a diversity of passions beyond poetry, one of them opera. When his junior colleagues and students were travelling to London he would press an English five pound note on them, saying "You can still get a seat at the English National Opera, so go and see something there when you get to London."

Dr Chris Tiffin, an Honorary UQ Research Consultant and former student and colleague of Val's, credits him with being the reason for his switch from an interest in French to English. Chris warmly recalls the rapport that Val had with his colleagues when his house in Indooroopilly was thoroughly inundated in the 1974 floods. It took a large number of helpers two days of cleaning to reclaim the furniture.

Another former student who originally studied science, Associate Professor Anne Collett, talks about when she came under the influence of Val: "Val was the most inspiring of teachers because his love of his subject was infectious. I remember animated discussions of Shelley's *Defence of Poetry*, of Wordsworth's original and revised *Prelude*, and of Coleridge's distinction between fancy and imagination. It was imagination, an idea central to Romantic philosophy, that inspired Val's teaching and that became central to my own work."

If Val believed in you, he was untiring in his support, and for that belief we say with Shelley, "Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!"

– TARA YOUNG

Written with assistance from Dr Chris Tiffin and Associate Professor Anne Collett. A Memorial Service was held on April 5 at UQ's St John's Chapel.

+ UQP BOOKSHELF

MADE IN QUEENSLAND

Fitzgerald, Megarrity and Symons // RRP \$45

A crowd of maroon-faced fans cheering on their favourite footballers and skimpily clad bodies basking in the Queensland sun are just some of the iconic images captured in the newly-released UQP title *Made in Queensland: A New History*.

Made In Queensland coincides with the state's Q150 celebrations and is the work of historians Professor Ross Fitzgerald, Dr Lyndon Megarrity and David Symons.

The book details the state's separation from New South Wales in 1859, its mining and tourism industries, changes in technology, the evolution of the arts and its shifting political landscape.

It canvasses the impact of the World Wars on the Queensland people, and the importance of the 1982 Commonwealth Games and Expo 88 in showcasing the state to the world.

Professor Fitzgerald said one of the many things that intrigued him about writing the history was how much Queensland had changed culturally, politically and socially since the Commonwealth Games, and especially since Tony Fitzgerald's pathbreaking report into police and political corruption.

"Queensland is no longer seen as the 'hillbilly' state and on the periphery of Australia. It is central to political and economical change," he said.

As historian David Symons believes, some of the state's greatest achievements belong to Queenslanders themselves.

"Being able to settle in some inhospitable terrain, and succeed, is testament to the character of Queenslanders," he said.

The book was published through the support of UQ's Fryer Library, John Oxley Library, Queensland State Archives and Queensland Art Gallery, as well as the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and picture archivists at *The Courier-Mail*.



ROBERT HELPMANN: A SERVANT OF ART

Anna Bemrose // RRP \$49.95

To celebrate the 2009 centenary of Robert Helpmann's birth, UQP has published *Robert Helpmann: A Servant of Art* by Anna Bemrose.

Dr Bemrose, an honorary research adviser in the UQ School of English, Media Studies and Art History, has brought to life the enduring and charismatic story of one of Australia's most notable international performers.

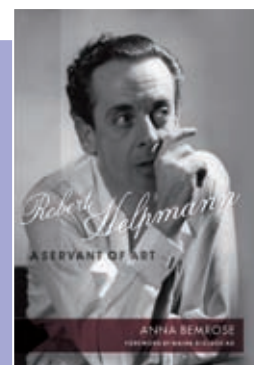
The book, which contains more than 100 images, profiles one of our greatest performers from dancer to mime, choreographer, stage and film actor, director of operas, make-up artist, co-artistic director and later sole director of the Australian Ballet and director of the 1970 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Dr Bemrose said many people assumed Helpmann went to England to learn his craft, but her research discovered he had already choreographed his first ballet and was involved in experimental theatre in Adelaide before he went overseas at the end of 1932.

She writes about Helpmann's 17-year partnership with Dame Margot Fonteyn, his choreographic works for the Australian Ballet and his pivotal role in showcasing home-grown talent to the rest of the world.

"One of the most important patterns that emerges in Helpmann's development as an artist was his driving ambition to learn as much as possible about every facet of the performing arts and to be taught by the best teachers in each discipline," Dr Bemrose said.

Dr Bemrose's research took her on a whirlwind journey through the Helpmann Papers and other collections in the National Library, and personal interviews with many of Helpmann's professional collaborators including Peter Sculthorpe, Bill Akers, Richard Bonyngne and Royal Ballet founder Dame Ninette de Valois (then 100 years old).





Living treasure

A new exhibition of Margaret Olley's travel paintings has attracted a record number of visitors to the UQ Art Museum. **By Cameron Pegg**

National treasure: Margaret Olley sketching in Newcastle in 1965 and right, with former Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards and Lady Edwards at the exhibition opening in February

Fans of Margaret Olley were in for a treat when they visited the UQ Art Museum earlier this year.

Running from February 6 until April 19 before opening in Sydney and Newcastle, *Margaret Olley: Life's journey* traced the many places the artist has lived and worked over the years, from romantic Paris to the remote and exotic New Guinea highlands.

The exhibition included more than 80 pieces drawn from public and private collections, as well as the artist's own, and provided a unique look at Olley's celebrated career.

Museum director Nick Mitzevich said the artist's popularity in Australia was immense, and a record 10,831 visitors had enjoyed the exhibition during its time at UQ.

"Her oil paintings of still life and interior subjects invariably receive enormous public attention," Mr Mitzevich said.

"So popular is she that a huge marquee needed to be erected in front of the Art Museum for the crowd attending the official opening event with Governor-General Quentin Bryce."

The University of Queensland awarded Margaret Olley an honorary Doctor of Letters in 1999 in recognition of her 50 years service to the arts and philanthropic endeavours.

Mr Mitzevich said assembling the show had been a colossal but enjoyable task, as his research team tracked down many works that had dropped off the art world's radar.

"Our visitors have told us how they have been surprised and enchanted by these works, which offer such an unexpected spectrum of the artist's experience," he said.

"Margaret Olley herself was delighted to rediscover works also, some of which she had not seen for 60 years."



LYLE RADFORD

Mr Mitzevich encouraged interested alumni to make the most of upcoming exhibitions and events by joining the museum's mailing list.

ONLINE // To view an image gallery from opening night, or download a podcast of curators Nick Mitzevich and Michele Helmrich discussing the exhibition, visit www.uq.edu.au/graduatecontact



Union Street, Paddington (1965) and *Concarneau, Brittany* (1952). Images courtesy the artist and Philip Bacon Galleries

Margaret Olley: Life's journey

Sydney – National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery (8 May–28 June)

Newcastle – Newcastle Region Art Gallery (15 August–25 October)

To join the museum's email list, contact artmuseum@uq.edu.au

1959

MUSIC AND WRITING MAKE THRILLING LITERARY MATCH

Juliet Hoey, BA

What do you do when you have competing loves of music and writing? Combine them, of course.

Arts graduate Juliet Hoey has done just that, marrying a flair for writing with a passion for music in her recently released suspense novel, *The Sixth Partita*.

Based on Bach's keyboard composition of the same name, the book is a psychological thriller that follows a young Brisbane pianist who overcomes debilitating stage fright to win a scholarship to study music in London.

Having conquered her fear of performing, the pianist is soon faced with the terrifying danger of a stalker who shadows her, basing his stalking upon Bach's Sixth Partita, which the heroine is studying.

Mrs Hoey's own history parallels some of the heroine's experiences – except for the stalking part, of course.

After graduating from Queensland Conservatorium in piano, she studied the Sixth Partita in England under acclaimed pianist Denis Matthews, a specialist in Bach's keyboard works.

"I performed the Partita several times, including a broadcast with 4MBS radio," Mrs Hoey said.

"For years afterwards, I was haunted by this dark and unusual work, one of the most profound pieces Bach ever wrote.

"Gradually, the very character of the music itself suggested to me the scenario of someone being stalked.

"This germ of an idea took hold of my imagination and grew into a full-blown novel.

"The partita has six movements (sections) and I could so clearly envisage a disturbed personality using each movement as a template for tormenting his victim."

The Sixth Partita is Mrs Hoey's second published book after *Under the Mulberry Tree*, a non-fiction description of a Bulimba childhood.

She has also written numerous articles and poems, and three mini operas for children, including *The Loaded Dog*, which toured throughout Queensland with the Arts Council.

Mrs Hoey said her novel-writing career stretched back to a family holiday on Bribie Island when she was just nine years old.

"I had forgotten to bring any books. What better solution than to write my own?" she said.

"I was very lucky to come from a family of voracious readers of Celtic extraction who were more than blessed with the Irish gift of the gab.

"So for a young future writer, this was a huge advantage, because not only did I hear nothing but the very best of English in the home, but I grew up loving words for their own sake and discovering just what you could do with them."

While Mrs Hoey said music had always won over writing "by a whisker" throughout her life – she has performed, taught, adjudicated and examined on piano and cello – she could see writing coming increasingly to the fore in her latter years.

"Now that I am older and family responsibilities are so much less, I would like to concentrate more on my writing," she said.

"I think that, chronologically, the music had to come first. You see, for physical reasons, you have to develop musical technical skills when young or at the latest, middle age.

"However, you can write at any age because, unlike music practice, which is extremely demanding physically as well as mentally, writing is only mental."

Mrs Hoey credits much of her skill with the English language to her studies at UQ.

"I'd have to say that the best thing about my arts course at UQ was the training of a capacity for critical thinking," she said.

"I was taught to think for myself – regurgitations of 'expert' commentaries swiftly got the red pen from such exalted persons as Professor Russell, Andy Thompson and Cecil Hadgraft – wonderful academics who demanded nothing but the best."

The Sixth Partita is published by Zeus Publications.



COURTESY DUNCAN RICHARDSON

1982

A BURNING ISSUE

Duncan Richardson, BA (hons), GDipEd

The release of his first novel last year might never have come about if Duncan Richardson hadn't met a fellow student in an English lecture who said he collected rejection slips.

Suddenly the leap into the world of publishing, where egos were bound to be bruised, didn't seem so daunting.

Throughout his English studies at UQ, Mr Richardson's goal to be a writer was established. By the time he finished his Diploma of Education, he had published his first poem in a small magazine.

However, it wasn't until Mr Richardson began working part-time as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher that his writing career took off.

Since then, he has published three poetry books, a radio play on the ABC, a literary guide to Brisbane and short fiction for children.

Jason Chen and the Time Banana is based around the 1864 Great Fire of Brisbane, which destroyed most of the CBD including the block where the Myer Centre now stands.

The time travel novel for upper primary aged children is set in Brisbane old and new, and introduces cannibal librarians, gold diggers and an evil gang determined to rule the streets.

Mr Richardson drew on his experience of multicultural Brisbane to write the novel.

The main character, Jason, who is of Vietnamese-Chinese heritage, is based on many children who find themselves in between two worlds, born in Australia to parents from overseas.

"The story begins with his life here and now, school, parents and so on," Mr Richardson said.

"The readers then see the old town through his eyes as they share his adventure in the past, when children's lives were very different, and hopefully readers will share his excitement at going to this strange place and taking part in an event that changed the city we live in today."

The book is published by Brisbane-based Interactive Press.



COURTESY NOTEBOOK MAGAZINE PHOTO FRANK EVNN

1992

FISHING SCANDAL INSPIRES AUTHOR

Katherine Johnson, BSc (hons), BA

Turning fact into fiction is exactly what Katherine Johnson achieved in writing an award-winning novel, based on her studies as a science journalist.

Inspired by real-life events, her first novel, *Pescador's Wake*, involves the crew of an Australian patrol vessel given instructions to pursue the *Pescador*, a Uruguayan boat flagged for illegally fishing the Patagonian toothfish.

Having relocated with her husband to Tasmania to work for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) after graduating, Mrs Johnson said she was captivated by stories involving illegal fishing trades while she was writing marine journalism articles.

But it was not until hearing a radio report about a Uruguayan longliner pursued for suspicion of illegally fishing in Australian waters that she started the manuscript that would become *Pescador's Wake*.

"Becoming a novelist was not on my radar when I graduated from the University," Mrs Johnson said.



CHRIS LLOYD-PARKER

Mrs Johnson at the Hobart launch of *Pescador's Wake* at Fuller's Bookshop

"But such stories captured my imagination and filled my head with questions: what is going on with the world's fisheries when fishermen are prepared to risk their lives travelling to the earth's most remote southern seas, to fish in the deepest waters, in pursuit of a single species?"

Then expecting her second child, Mrs Johnson began crafting a work of fiction based on the perilous trips and pursuits these boats and their crew faced in the world of illegal fishing.

"I was fortunate to receive a HarperCollins Varuna Award for Manuscript Development in 2007, which provided me with the incredibly valuable experience of working with an in-house editor from HarperCollins," she said.

"This fabulous opportunity was the turning point in my career as a writer of fiction, and one for which I will be ever grateful."

Published earlier this year, *Pescador's Wake* explores the trade of illegal boat fishing, dealing with the personal dramas of the men and women involved in this hazardous industry.

1992

PRESIDENTIAL EXCURSION UNITES CULTURES

Noritta Moresu-Diop, BSocWk

When the United States officially inaugurated its first African American President in January, Noritta Moresu-Diop was in Washington DC to offer her applause.

Ms Moresu-Diop braved the US capital's freezing weather to witness history unfolding when US President Barack Obama officially took his seat at the White House.

"As Indigenous Australians, we have been inspired and encouraged by the human rights, civil rights and social justice movements of Americans for decades, especially by people like Dr Martin Luther King, Rosa Parkes, John F Kennedy, the Freedom Riders and now Barack Obama," Ms Moresu-Diop said.

"Coming from humble beginnings, Barack Obama has inspired us and many others around the world who are disadvantaged, disenfranchised and displaced. He has given us hope with a renewed vision for a brighter future that: yes, we too can!"

"We wanted to be present at his inauguration to stand in solidarity with the American people in honour of their choice in choosing Barack Obama as the next President of the United States of America."

Ms Moresu-Diop said President Obama's winning speech moved her emotionally.

"His election win was inspiring and his speech brought tears to my eyes and hope in my heart, because I never ever thought that Dr Martin Luther King's dream to see African Americans being judged by the 'content of their character and not by the colour of their skin' would be made a reality in my lifetime," she said.

"Being the president of the most powerful country in the world and the many challenges facing him as he takes on the Presidential seat, I truly hope that Barack Obama will bring harmony, hope, peace and unity back to the people of the world."

Currently a UQ PhD candidate in the School of Social Work and Human Services, Ms Moresu-Diop is studying the experiences of ex-incarcerated Indigenous people in Queensland and Aotearoa (New Zealand), looking at their perspectives on prison rehabilitation programs.

Fellow UQ graduate Neil Willmott joined Ms Moresu-Diop and three other Indigenous Australians in Washington.



STEWART GOULD

1996

A NOBLE CALLING

Peter Noble, BA, LLB

Lawyer Peter Noble could be forgiven for admitting that “it feels like a long time” since he graduated from UQ in 1999, given the many experiences he has had in the meantime.

Since first completing his articles with Leanne O’Shea at Brisbane Firm Delaney & Delaney Solicitors in 2001, Mr Noble has worked at the Fitzroy Legal Service in Victoria and was instrumental in the establishment of the Bendigo-based Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre.

He is now Principal Lawyer at the centre, allowing him to combine his original study areas of politics and law.

But immediately after his UQ graduation, Mr Noble was like many new graduates: not sure where his career would take him.

“When I finished, I wasn’t sure if I wanted to practise law full-time,” he said.

Mr Noble became involved in the Melbourne-based Fitzroy Legal Service

“I WASN’T PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CHASING THE DOLLAR AND THE CORPORATE LIFESTYLE, I WAS INTERESTED IN SERVING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING THEIR ACCESS TO JUSTICE”



COURTESY BENDIGO WEEKLY PHOTO: ANDREW PERMAN

through a desire to combine legal casework with community development.

After several years at the Fitzroy Legal Service, Mr Noble became the driving force in the creation of the Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre, which established the first homeless persons’ legal clinic in regional Victoria and the first regional arm of Senior’s Rights Victoria, specialising in the legal needs of older people, especially those facing abuse.

The centre also provides family violence legal assistance services, and specialises in giving legal assistance to new immigrants in the area.

In November 2008 he received the Law Institute of Victoria President’s Award in the Community Lawyer section, and the centre received the prestigious Tim McCoy award, which recognises innovative service delivery that improves access to justice.

“We’ve done the normal community legal

centre stuff while responding specifically to local needs. Addressing local needs through innovative service delivery contributed to us winning the Tim McCoy award,” Mr Noble said.

And while community legal services may not seem glamorous to the average new law graduate, Mr Noble said it had been extremely rewarding.

“It’s a privilege to have the time to work with people who are usually cut out of the legal system because of language, education or money matters,” he said.

“It’s particularly rewarding working with older people, who are one of those hidden demographics that can be abused and discriminated against, usually by people in positions of trust.

“I wasn’t particularly interested in chasing the dollar and the corporate lifestyle, I was interested in serving vulnerable communities and improving their access to justice.”

1996

REWRITING HISTORY

Peter Mauch, BA (hons), PhD

For Associate Professor Peter Mauch, studying Japanese as a UQ undergraduate student ignited a passion for the history of Japanese security and foreign policies.

Dr Mauch gained a BA from UQ in 1996 and first-class honours in history in 1997, and during his time as an undergraduate student was introduced to American diplomatic history by Joseph Siracusa.

This inspired him to specialise in the history of Japanese security and foreign policy, particularly Japan’s relations with the US.

After receiving a PhD in history from UQ in 2003, Dr Mauch was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at Kyoto University, and is now Assistant Professor of International History at Ritsumeikan University in Japan.

Going to Japan enabled him to study documents that shed new light on pre-Pearl Harbor negotiations between the US and Japan.

Dr Mauch discovered Japan’s then ambassador to the US maintained a pipeline to the Imperial Japanese Navy.

“The conclusions we can draw from this Nomura-Japanese navy pipeline are of immense significance. In April 1941 the Japanese navy engaged in a clandestine manoeuvre, which aimed not only to appease the US and avoid war, but also to completely undercut the hardline foreign policies of Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka,” he said.

“The Japanese-US peace plan which emerged from the Nomura-Japanese navy pipeline ultimately failed because the naval leadership in Tokyo was too weak to confront the rest of the Japanese government with one simple truth: the Japanese navy could not defeat its American counterpart in war.”



COURTESY PETER MAUCH



IMAGES COURTESY ROWAN MICHAEL

1999

KAZAKHSTAN STAY BROADENS HORIZONS

Rowan Michael, BA/BEd (hons), PhD

After graduating from UQ in arts and education with first-class honours in 2001, Dr Rowan Michael embarked on a PhD and travelled out of his cultural comfort zone to Kazakhstan.

"It was a lot of fun, we spent the first four-and-a-half months with a host family, sleeping on a fold-out couch in their living room. It was more normal than it would be in Australia," he said.

"The family consisted of two parents with three children. Only two of the children were still at home, the oldest son, who was 28, and their youngest daughter, who was 20."

The small Muslim family knew little English when Dr Michael first went to stay with them after being appointed Director of Studies for a nearby language school, and he knew little Kazakh.

"It was quite an incredible experience. We started out with zero language, but towards the end we were able to tell our host mother how our day was, or tell her little stories," he said.

The cultural differences were also significant.

"It was the first time I'd really lived in a Muslim culture. You hear a lot in the media about Islam, but after staying with the family

I have a better understanding of Muslim culture," Dr Michael said.

"Culturally, the people in Kazakhstan are very hospitable. The host cooks for anyone, regardless of whether they are invited or not, or what time they arrive, because the person arriving is the most important part. It doesn't matter that they were invited for dinner and turned up at 9pm.

"The host mother always cooks for visitors, and always has bread, fruit, nuts and sometimes cake on the table in addition to the main dishes; they always put out a lot of food."

But the food wasn't quite what Dr Michael was accustomed to in Australia.

"There was a lot of food I really liked.

There was one dish, shashlyk, that was like a shish-kebab with chunks of meat three by four centimetres on sticks, and another, pilov, that was like fried rice except it had carrot and lamb in it. My favourite though was the Kazakh national dish beshbarmak, roast lamb on large flat noodles," he said.

"But the worst meal we had was boiled lamb offal. Our host boiled up the heart and intestines into a soup, and the smell filled the whole house."

Dr Michael also made some field trips to nearby China to complete his PhD research about developing Northwest China through distance education, incorporating government policy and foundation-level practice.

Dr Michael said his time at UQ prepared him for settling into Kazakh culture.

"Someone in my first year said to me that having a language is like having a key to a whole new world," he said.

"They were right, each language, each culture is a whole new world, and I recommend everyone to learn at least one new language."



COURTESY STEPHANIE SINCLAIR

Ms Sinclair with Dr Connall O'Connell (left) and The Honourable Tony Burke MP, both of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

2002

TAKING PAIN BY THE HORNS

Stephanie Sinclair, BAgSc, BEd

Pain relief and faster healing for dehorned beef cattle is the aim of a UQ PhD student's award-winning project.

Stephanie Sinclair has been awarded the Australian Agricultural Industries Young Innovators and Scientists Award in Animal Welfare from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Ms Sinclair received a grant for \$20,000 at a Parliament House function in October. The grant money will be used to investigate the application of a topical anaesthetic and antiseptic for pain relief in northern beef cattle during dehorning.

Ms Sinclair, with CSIRO and Beef Genetic Technologies CRC, said it would probably be some time before cattle could be bred without horns and in the interim, dehorning would remain necessary.

"Topical anaesthetic, for example, has been successfully trialled in sheep, reducing pain-related behaviour and improved wound healing after procedures such as tail-docking and castration," she said.

"I aim to determine if topical anaesthetic alone, or in combination with other pain relief methods, can reduce pain and blood loss after dehorning.

"The fact that this product can be applied at the time of surgery makes it a practical option that is more likely to be accepted and embraced by the industry."

Ms Sinclair said it was important the impacts of dehorning were understood to ensure industry could not only satisfy concerns from animal welfare groups and the wider community, but also get on with the demanding job of raising beef cattle.

"Meeting concerns about animal welfare is not only the right thing to do, it will also enhance consumer confidence here and overseas," she said.

Ms Sinclair's PhD is supervised by Professor Michael McGowan and Professor Clive Phillips.

+ KEEP IN CONTACT

2002

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE FINANCE WORLD

Tracey Martin, LLB

Considering issues such as natural catastrophes, property damage claims, the reinsurance market and insurer liability exposures is all in a day's work for UQ law graduate Tracey Martin.

Ms Martin is a Policy Development Manager for the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the regulator of the Australian financial services industry.

Working as part of the general insurance division of APRA, Ms Martin consults with a range of stakeholders including government and professional bodies to develop effective and supportive policies for the Australian general insurance industry and policy holders.

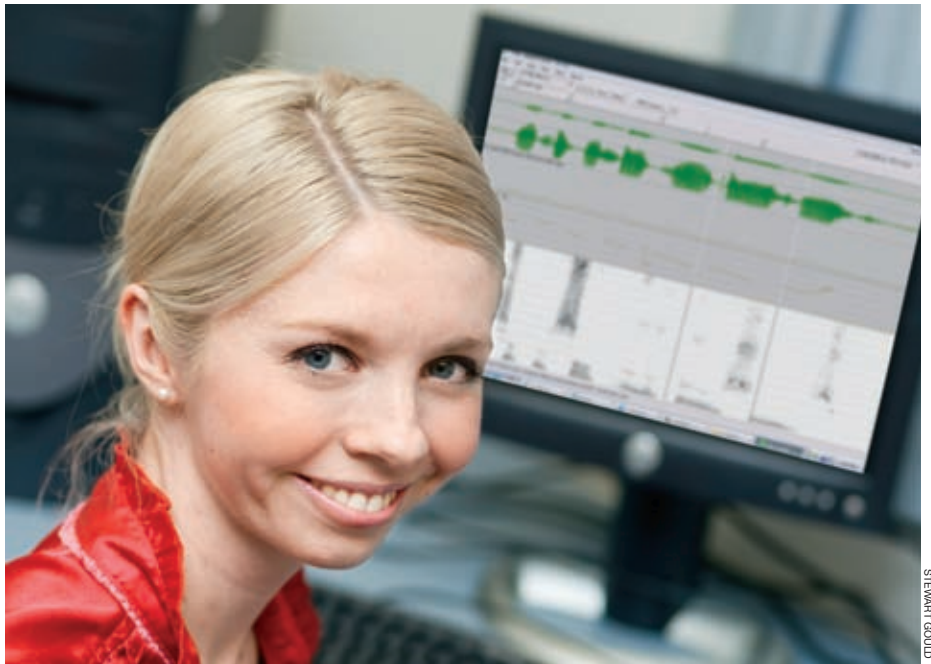
These policies form prudential standards and practices that ensure financial promises made by institutions under APRA's supervision are met with a stable, efficient and competitive financial system.

Ms Martin said APRA played an important role at all times but particularly in times of financial uncertainty.

"General insurance is a very important part of the financial system and Australian economy. I hope to make a valuable contribution to the general insurance industry through my policy development role," Ms Martin said.



COURTESY TRACEY MARTIN



STEWART GOULD

2004

SPEECH BREAKTHROUGH FOR STROKE PATIENTS

Rachel Wenke, BSpPath (hons), PhD

A UQ researcher has revealed a new treatment for a speech disorder that commonly affects those who have suffered a stroke or brain injury.

PhD graduate Dr Rachel Wenke has shown in a recent study that the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment® may be an effective treatment option for people with dysarthria, which can be caused by stroke or traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Dysarthria is a speech disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate as they can be difficult to understand and may have slurred or unclear speech.

The disorder affects 75 percent of individuals with Parkinson's disease, up to 30 percent of those who have experienced a stroke and about 60 percent of individuals with TBI.

The LSVT program was originally designed to assist Parkinson's patients but Dr Wenke is the first to trial the method's effectiveness in a group study involving other neurological conditions.

"This research will also help to provide speech pathologists with evidence for treatments for the disorder, which may also encourage further research in the area," she said.

In the study, the effectiveness of LSVT was compared with traditional dysarthria therapy for 26 participants, ranging from 18 to 88 years, who had experienced stroke and TBI.

The findings revealed that participants who received the LSVT demonstrated positive effects of a louder and clearer voice and slower rate of speech. Many participants also reported increased confidence in their ability

"THIS RESEARCH WILL ALSO HELP TO PROVIDE SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS WITH EVIDENCE FOR TREATMENTS FOR THE DISORDER, WHICH MAY ALSO ENCOURAGE FURTHER RESEARCH IN THE AREA"

to communicate, which significantly improved their quality of life and well-being.

"For instance, after receiving the treatment, one participant reported that the quality of his relationship with his wife had actually improved because his wife could now understand him, whereas before treatment, they would hardly communicate," Dr Wenke said.

"My findings have also shown that people who lived with dysarthria for up to 21 years were able to make improvements following treatment, therefore the mindset of not treating patients who have not improved in one or two years should be challenged."

The LSVT program is administered for one hour a day, four days a week, for four weeks. Patients are trained to use loud speech in progressively more difficult speech tasks.

Dr Wenke's research will be published in *Brain Injury* and the *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*.



Ms Cheung with Justice Roslyn Atkinson of the Queensland Supreme Court in Beijing

2005

DESTINATION: CHINA

Jennifer Cheung, BCom/LLB (hons)

Jennifer Cheung has been given an opportunity many graduates only dream about: advancing their careers overseas.

Ms Cheung, who since graduating has practised law in the Corporate Advisory, Mergers and Acquisitions sector of Brisbane-based firm Clayton Utz, has been given the chance to study internationally.

Connecting with her Chinese heritage and learning about Chinese commercial and legal environments, Ms Cheung has taken a 12-month leave of absence from Clayton Utz and begun a Master of Law in Chinese Law offered at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"My study in Beijing was originally motivated by personal interests, however the benefits I am already gaining from this experience are both personal and professional, and are impossible to exhaustively identify," Ms Cheung said.

"My classes at Tsinghua are valuable opportunities to learn about China's unique legal system and history from respected Chinese professors."

While she has no immediate plans to practise Chinese Law, she said living in Beijing allowed her to learn about Chinese culture, history and metropolitan life.

"In the long term future, armed with more knowledge and practical experience, I hope to identify possible business opportunities and niche areas on which to focus and explore," she said.

WENZ PHOTOGRAPHY

2006

PSYCHOLOGIST TEACHES BUSINESSES TO STRESS LESS

Rachel Hannam, PhD

Stressed families over the 2008 Christmas period were able to turn to psychology graduate Dr Rachel Hannam for advice.

The Assure Programs senior consultant ran "Survive Christmas!" seminars for staff at companies around Brisbane.

"When it comes to family tensions I always tell people to be realistic and anticipate conflict," Dr Hannam said.

"It's important to maintain a sense of humour and remember the spirit of Christmas.

"Research tells us that compassion and altruism are key predictors of happiness so it's great if you can help out a co-worker or family member.

"My advice to people regarding money management is to be realistic, and to think about how much they can spend before deciding what they want to buy."

The program was offered as a one-hour course and provided participants with straightforward, useful suggestions.

"Family conflict, loneliness, money worries and time management are all issues that tend to arise around this time of year and can contribute to stress," she said.

Dr Hannam said Assure Programs was the Employee Assistance Provider for a number of large employers including UQ, QUT and the Queensland Government.

However, her work extends beyond dispensing silly-season survival tips.

Dr Hannam also runs psychological resilience programs for staff who work in mortuaries and are exposed to graphic job content, and has created leadership and mentoring programs for the Royal Flying Doctors Service, Queensland Police Service and Crown Law.

"I enjoy the psychoeducation aspect of my job," Dr Hannam said.

"People really seem interested to learn about themselves and each other, and often don't get enough of this in their work."



COURTESY RACHEL HANNAM

+ KEEP IN CONTACT

2007

REACHING OUT IN RWANDA

Sean Mitchell, BA/BSc

UQ postgraduate Sean Mitchell tested both sides of his brain recently in Africa as part of his medical studies.

Using his science and French language skills, Mr Mitchell spent six weeks in Rwanda as part of an elective undertaken through the School of Medicine.

In conjunction with St John Ambulance, Mr Mitchell spent the first two weeks with a colleague teaching 200 Rwandan high

school students basic first aid in the French language.

He then went on to spend four weeks at the Nyanza District Hospital working in the maternity and surgery departments, where he saw donated equipment from Brisbane hospitals put to good use.

UQ students are involved with Towards International Medical Equality (TIME), which sent almost \$15,000 of equipment to hospitals all over the world last year.

Prior to commencing his studies in medicine, Mr Mitchell completed a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts dual degree, with his knowledge of French proving invaluable during his visit.

"Most of the doctors and nurses were trained either in Rwanda or the Democratic Republic of Congo, and as such French was used clinically for communication between the staff, and also between the Congolese doctors and their patients," he said.

"This also meant that doctors were accessing Francophone clinical aids from the World Health Organisation and UNICEF."



Mr Mitchell working with high school students in Rwanda

COURTESY SEAN MITCHELL

Mr Mitchell said he was fortunate to have studied several different disciplines before deciding to become a doctor.

"An Arts degree offers a great opportunity to explore both the theoretical underpinnings of various intellectual movements and critique your own way of thinking," he said.

"Having a strong understanding of who you are, the way you think and what you stand for before you begin to study medicine will make you a better doctor at the end of the day."

In the future, Mr Mitchell said he hoped to improve his clinical French so he could work in places such as Rwanda with *Médecins Sans Frontières*.

"HAVING A STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF WHO YOU ARE...WILL MAKE YOU A BETTER DOCTOR AT THE END OF THE DAY"

2008

BUDDING JOURNALIST KEEPS EYE ON THE BALL

Jacqueline Russell, BJ

UQ journalism graduate and netballer Jacqueline Russell is on track to a career in sports journalism after being accepted into the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

Miss Russell graduated last year from a Bachelor of Journalism and began at the AIS in January, having been introduced to netball at age eight.

She aims to become a sports journalist and help increase media coverage of women's sport.

"Being at the AIS will help me achieve my career goals as it means I will constantly be around athletes and not just netballers, but people from a wide range of sports," Ms Russell said.

"I will hopefully be doing an internship with the AIS media department while I'm in Canberra. The internship would be a very useful starting point for my career."

Miss Russell balances work commitments with morning and evening court sessions as well as fitness, strength and conditioning training.

"It's a fairly rigorous program, so fitting in work commitments will be tough but a good challenge," she said.

Miss Russell intends to use her training

at the AIS as a stepping stone into an ANZ Championship team such as the Queensland Firebirds.

During her final year of studies at UQ, Miss Russell travelled to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing as a volunteer cadet.

Twenty-one UQ students were given the opportunity to participate as volunteer cadets, working for the Olympic News Service.

The students' main role was to gather responses from athletes directly after their competitions and rush them to foreign journalists.

"We learnt so much and we had an absolute ball," Miss Russell said.

"We got to interview all sorts of different athletes, climb the Great Wall and I even met Usain Bolt."

Miss Russell's career highlights have included playing for Queensland at the national championships, representing Australia at schoolgirls level and training in the Firebirds squad in 2008.



JEREMY PATTEN



COURTESY RUTH LINK

2008

BARRISTER DREAMS OF A JUST SOCIETY FOR ALL

Ruth Link, LLM

A responsibility to her people and their culture is the driving force behind Ruth Link's passion for law.

Ms Link graduated in December with a Master of Laws from UQ's TC Beirne School of Law, majoring in Litigation and Dispute Resolution, and Criminal Law and Criminology.

As an Aboriginal Australian from Western Yalangi (Cape York of Queensland) and a descendant from Woppaburra (Great Keppel Island), Ms Link has witnessed first hand the effects of the justice system on Aboriginal people.

"Many people in my family are locked up in jail, so I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system to be able to seek solutions to the discrimination and overrepresentation of Aboriginal people," she said.

"I chose to major in criminology and criminal justice to understand the system and to see if the bama (Aboriginal) perspective could influence policy in the future for the betterment of all Australians who want to live in a just, democratic society.

"UQ gave me this opportunity through the decent amount of subjects available and a deeper insight into these issues."

Ms Link will now take the knowledge and skills learnt to the Bar where she will be one of just a handful of Indigenous people in Queensland admitted to practise as a barrister.

"I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY
TO MYSELF, LAND, WATER
AND CULTURE TO ENSURE
THAT MY UNIVERSITY
STUDIES CAN ACTUALLY
BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE
TO THE COMMUNITY"

"I have a responsibility to myself, land, water and culture to ensure that my University studies can actually be of some assistance to the community," she said.

"I am at the forefront of giving legal advice that incorporates bama and non-bama ways to ensure bama peoples are treated with dignity, humanity and peace."

During her studies, Ms Link received the Richard Cooper Scholarship to assist with living expenses.

"The Richard Cooper Scholarship allowed me to just breathe and not have to work so many hours," she said.

While studying, Ms Link lectured in Administrative Law and Introduction to Public Law and tutored in a number of law courses at various universities in south-east Queensland.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Information about UQ graduates is always welcome for inclusion in Keep in Contact. If you have a story to tell, or you know someone who has, please send information to *Graduate Contact* via t.taylor@uq.edu.au

Items should include degree(s) held and year(s) graduated.

Articles accompanied by high resolution colour photographs preferred.

The deadline for the Summer 2009 issue is July 28.

2008

NETWORKS ON TOUR

Rodolfo Baggio, PhD

Network analysis and tourism are two areas of study that sound wildly apart, but PhD graduate Rodolfo Baggio has used these concepts to explain why some tourist destinations are more successful than others.

Mr Baggio, who teaches computer science and information technology at Bocconi University, Milan, has published his research in a new book that discusses tourism destinations using social networks, rather than traditional geographic perspectives.

Network Analysis and Tourism: From Theory to Practice examines how tourist destinations can be seen from a social perspective as a group of people or businesses.

Mr Baggio said tourism destinations benefited when relationships between the public and private organisations operating in their territory were well developed.

Studying these groups allowed for increased efficiency in improving the competitiveness of the destination.

Mr Baggio's PhD thesis found network analysis could explain how collaboration and interaction worked at different locations.

By treating organisational relationships as networks within a tourist destination, it is possible to test different configurations to discover their efficiency.

"We may change the capacity of the organisations in the network to transfer information and see how the speed of diffusion changes," Mr Baggio said.

"For example, we may see how effective an 'education' program can be for the whole system. Or we can modify the linkages and find out whether fostering collaboration among operators can provide better results."

Mr Baggio shows no signs of slowing down with his studies in tourism and network analysis.

He has recently been appointed chair of the Information Technology and Tourism session at the next International Federation for Information Processing World Computer Congress.



COURTESY RODOLFO BAGGIO

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