



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

FOR ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY SUMMER 2015

CONTACT



In this issue:

Meet our 2015 Alumni Award recipients

Women in science

Tribute to the Chancellor

CONTACT

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COVER IMAGE:

Three recipients of The University of Queensland Alumni Awards 2015 return to where their distinguished careers began. From left, Distinguished Young Alumni Award winner Kathryn Zealand; Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award winner Dr James Morton AM; and Indigenous Community Impact Award winner Michael Aird in the Great Court at the University's St Lucia campus.



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Meet the outstanding and inspirational recipients of The University of Queensland Alumni Awards 2015.

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SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS



Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Hoj addresses the crowd at the Courting the Greats ceremony at Brisbane City Hall in October.



CHANCELLOR'S TRIBUTE

Friends and colleagues reflect on the career of Chancellor John Story AO.



SPOTLIGHT ON GERMANY

Biotechnology and renewable energy sectors have placed Germany at the forefront of UQ's global strategy.



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Associate Professor Neil Paulsen is opening the eyes of future business leaders to the challenges facing their communities.



GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

Contact talks to alumna and former staff member Cynthia Burnett about bequests and the value of generosity.



A rewarding EXPERIENCE

At the end of this year, I will retire from the position of Chancellor of The University of Queensland. Regular readers of *Contact* will be aware of the huge range of extraordinary activities that take place within the University, and my seven years in this position has been a richly rewarding, if sometimes challenging, experience.

But I suspect that, for many readers, the role of Chancellor may remain something of a mystery, and I thought that it might be useful to outline what my experience has entailed, and to add some reflections on the future.

Perhaps the aspect of the role that is most evident to the community is the conferral of degrees at the graduation ceremonies. This has been a responsibility that I have shared with the Deputy Chancellor of the day. During my time in office, they have successively been the Honourable Margaret White AO, Adjunct Professor Mary Mahoney AO and Dr Jane Wilson, and I am grateful for the wonderful support from each.

Over the seven years, I have presided over numerous ceremonies and congratulated, individually, countless graduates as they have come across the stage. I say countless because certainly I was not counting, but I am advised that by the end of the December graduations I will have presided over 132 ceremonies and congratulated over 35,000 graduates.

On the face of it, that might appear to be a rather intimidating task and something of a burden. May I assure you that this has definitely not been the case. Given the level of pride, energy and enthusiasm that the graduates invariably demonstrate as each crosses the stage, it has for me been a consistently uplifting experience.

The conferral of degrees is a ceremonial function, but it signifies the final step in the process by which graduates have, pursuant to rigorous courses of study and research, earned their degrees from an institution recognised globally as being of the highest standard. Not only are our graduates well equipped to make the world a better place, but in my experience they all demonstrate a fixed determination to do so. It has been a privilege to play a part in this process.

There are many other activities and events within the life of the University which call for the participation of the Chancellor. It is a dynamic and vibrant organisation, and there is a consistent pipeline of exciting initiatives and achievements to be recognised, whether it be research programs completed, new centres or institutes launched or new infrastructure opened.

Every such initiative will have required the dedicated commitment of many individuals within the University, well beyond what might be reasonably asked for or expected, and often with the enthusiastic collaboration or the generous support of individuals and bodies external to the University. Recognition and thanks are therefore richly deserved, and it is appropriate that this be undertaken by the Chancellor on behalf of the University.

Whilst this represents a part of the job of Chancellor, once again it could not, based on my experience, be seen as a burden. These initiatives are exciting. They are invariably dedicated to ambitious and constructive purposes, whether it be the enhancement of our teaching resources in some imaginative way, or the conduct of research with the potential to change lives. It has for me provided a fascinating insight into the vast range of the activities of the University across its multiple campuses, faculties, schools, institutes and centres, as well as its critical support divisions.

The most important component of the Chancellor's role, however, concerns the governance of the University.

At the outset, it should be emphasised that it is Professor Peter Hoj as Vice-Chancellor who is the chief executive officer of the University, and it is Peter who is responsible for its day-to-day operations.

The terms "senate", "chancellor" and "vice-chancellor" have a long history within the traditions of the English and Scottish universities, whose model was followed in the establishment of UQ. The meaning of those terms, and the respective roles they describe, are well understood within



Chancellor John Story AO welcomes US President Barack Obama to UQ in November 2014, during the President's trip to Australia for the G20.



Provost and Senior Vice-President Professor Max Lu; Honorary Doctor of Science Terri Irwin AM; Valedictorian Sam Dunston; Executive Dean Faculty of Science Professor Stephen Walker; and Chancellor John Story AO at the Faculty of Science Graduation Ceremony in July 2015.

the cohort of universities around the world which also follow that model. Within the many universities that are outside that tradition, the terms sometimes cause confusion, and for that reason our Vice-Chancellor is generally described as Vice-Chancellor and President, in order more accurately to convey the full significance of his position.

The roles of Senate, Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor in the governance of the University are best described by comparison with a publicly listed company. The role of Senate is equivalent to that of the board of a company, the Chancellor to the non-executive chairman, and the Vice-Chancellor to the chief executive officer. It is, however, fair to point out that, in the case of UQ, the positions of Chancellor and members of Senate are unpaid, and represent contributions to the good of the University.

Broadly speaking, it is the Senate's commission to make the major strategic decisions affecting the University, including adoption of the budget and the strategic plan. It must be recognised that normally these matters will be driven by the Vice-Chancellor, and may well involve extensive consultation with many bodies within the University. But the ultimate responsibility is borne by Senate.

Above all, Senate is tasked with the oversight of the Vice-Chancellor's performance of his role in the administration of the University, and he is accountable to the Senate for that performance.

In undertaking all of these jobs, Senate works through Committees, the principal of which are the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Finance Committee, the Legislative Committee and the Risk Committee.

With overall responsibility for the effective working of Senate, it is the Chancellor's job to chair its meetings and, with its 22 Members, this is not always an easy task. I have, however, been blessed to have had successive Senates with Members who have been experienced, engaged and committed to the best interests of the University, and I believe that our meetings have been consistently collegiate and constructive. Given the calibre of the Senate and the conscientious hard work of the Committees, I have utmost confidence in the quality of the University's governance.

As many readers will recall, there was during my term an event with sad consequences, representing a very difficult period for the University. The handling of this matter precipitated strongly held views within the University community, ranging over a wide spectrum of opinion. I do not wish to re-open those issues, except to record that it is a tribute to the strength and resilience of the University and of so many within it that, during that period, the momentum of development and progress within its core academic activities was not only maintained but advanced.

Today, UQ's standing has never been higher. In qualitative terms, this is evidenced consistently across the range of global academic rankings. In a quantitative sense, the worth of its graduates is evidenced by the impact that its alumni are making within Queensland and Australia and throughout the world. The impact of the outcomes of its research is profound, as will be evident to any reader of *Contact*.

I recently attended The University of Queensland Ambassadorial Reception and Dinner in Canberra. With its global engagements, it is

important that the University and its objectives are well understood within the many foreign delegations represented in this country, and the event was undertaken for that purpose. It is a tribute to the University that so many senior members of those delegations attended and were fully engaged. As I listened to Professor Høj describing the strong achievements and ambitious aspirations of UQ, I could not help but feel enormously proud of this institution. I cannot think of any other body or organisation within this state that has contributed, and continues to contribute, so much.

This does not, of course, mean that the future of the University is without challenge. It is generally accepted that the current funding model for Australia's higher education sector is broken. From the perspective of government, the arrangements are not sustainable, and from the perspective of universities, the arrangements are driving practices which are not in the best interests of students. The funding of research is both uncertain and inadequate.

To date, the higher education sector has served Australia extraordinarily well but, if that service is to be maintained, it is essential that the leaders of this country confront the funding issue. The objective must be to strike the balance that provides certainty and sustainability for the universities, reasonable access to quality higher education for capable students and a fair burden on taxpayers.

Through the effective allocation of its modest resources and the maintenance of very lean operations, UQ has managed to achieve a huge amount. Throughout its history, its progress has been facilitated by generous philanthropic support. This support has included not only major transformational donations, but many contributions of more modest proportions. The reality is that the modest contributions collectively have had their own transformational impact.

Philanthropic support has enabled the University to go that extra distance, whether in the excellence of its teaching resources, the provision of scholarships to assist its students or the conduct of ground breaking research. For supporters, there is a fulfilling sense of engagement with a much-loved and highly successful institution and the satisfaction of contributing to such constructive objectives.

Today, the need for support has never been greater, but the University is far more proficient in communicating to its supporters the significance of their contributions. It is a satisfying experience, and if you are not a contributor, I strongly urge you to join the many of us who already are.

There are a multitude of individuals who, over the life of the University and in so many different ways, have contributed to its growth and development. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chancellor, and am privileged to have had the opportunity to make my own small contribution. In doing so, I have been enormously assisted by the constant support of my wife, Georgina, herself an engaged and committed alumna. We certainly intend to maintain our involvement, in any of the many ways available to us all, with the University in the future.

John Story AO
Chancellor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am writing to let you know that in the photograph of service women on page 31 (Winter 2015), my mother, Marjorie Tilly, is pictured in the left of the front row. She was stationed at UQ in a Quonset hut and was at that time serving in the maps section of General Douglas MacArthur's staff. She left the Armed Services when she was pregnant with me, and I was born on May 2, 1945.

I am very honoured to think that my mother was at UQ before me, and though not studying, she played a very significant part in Australia's history.

Dr Dimity Dornan AO 2011 Alumnus of the Year

Bachelor of Speech Therapy – '76
Doctor of Philosophy – '11



Marjorie Tilly (left of the front row) was one of the service women pictured circa 1943 at the St Lucia campus.

Image courtesy of UQ Archives.

Editor's note: We were sad to hear of the passing of alumnus Bill Park (Associate Accountancy '42, Bachelor of Commerce '47, Master of Philosophy '09) in July. As mentioned in the Winter 2015 edition of Contact, Park was assisting Dr Jonathan Richards on a project to update UQ's Roll of Honour, a plaque that memorialises UQ students who died during World War II. The project is continuing under Richards's guidance and we will provide an update in future editions of the magazine.



Queensland Governor @QldGovernor - Jun 3
Change of address was noted, the latest @UQ_News Contact alumni mag inc iView with the Governor arrived at Fernberg



His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, checking out his Q&A profile in the Winter 2015 edition of Contact.



Dr Alastair Blanshard, UQ's Inaugural Paul Eliadis Chair of Classics and Ancient History.

UQ's Inaugural Paul Eliadis Chair of Classics and Ancient History Dr Alastair Blanshard's article in the Winter 2014 edition of *Contact* is excellent. It's great to read of the seminal relevance of the classics to day-to-day life.

Jason Tangen's article on a new method of lecturing (interestingly what appears to be a socratic approach) was also inspiring.

Ruth Beach

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws '90

FEEDBACK

Have you downloaded the UQ Contact app?

If so, we would love to hear your feedback! Visit the iTunes™ App Store or GooglePlay™ store to rate and review the app.

Your feedback will help us make your magazine even better and ensure more people discover the wonderful achievements of our alumni.

If you have a letter for the editor, please email the *Contact* editorial team at contactmagazine@uq.edu.au

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UQ's new Director of Alumni and Community Relations Patricia Danver shares her first impressions of UQ and how alumni are helping create change.



GLOBAL FOOTPRINTS

How time flies. Three months into my new role as Director of Alumni and Community Relations and I still find myself marvelling daily at the wonders of Brisbane and The University of Queensland. This institution has already contributed so much to humanity and I am so excited to be a part of its present and future.

I came to the University in September after several years at George Washington University (GW) in the United States. As a member of the development and alumni relations division, I was privileged to ensure effective engagement amongst GW alumni through guiding constituent relations, as well as providing communications counsel and planning for the Vice President and other senior staff.

Prior to GW, I worked with the diverse alumni population at the Washington International School. I also served as the US Alumni Representative at the American School in London (ASL), and participated in building an alumni relations program from the ground up for the worldwide ASL community.

I'm excited for the opportunity to learn more about UQ's alumni and apply the skills and knowledge I gained in these positions to support and build alumni and community relations at this august university.

I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the success and dedication of

my predecessor, Gina Wheatcroft, who the University farewellled in June.

For three years Gina and her team worked to transform alumni and community relations, overseeing the opening of the Alumni Centre at the St Lucia campus,

“The University has the opportunity to create a global footprint through our alumni and constituent diversity and I look forward to leveraging that profile to strengthen our worldwide presence.”

ensuring the development and success of the Alumni Awards program, and increasing our office's presence and impact at graduations and other key events.

Gina has been able to innovatively steer our young alumni program and I look

forward to continuing the great work she has done with alumni engagement.

The University has the opportunity to create a global footprint through our alumni and constituent diversity and I look forward to leveraging that profile to strengthen our worldwide presence.

Alumni are of paramount importance to an institution like ours. They take the knowledge, skills and expertise developed at UQ out into the world and make major contributions to the sciences, to the arts, to business and technology, to the social fabric of humanity.

They are ambassadors, advocates and supporters of UQ and they contribute to the University's ability to continue investing in learning, discovery and innovation.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, to engaging with the alumni of UQ, and having meaningful conversations about who you are, your UQ experience, the impact UQ has had in your life and how you might want to engage with us.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me to introduce yourself at p.danver@uq.edu.au and tell me your ideas and thoughts about how we can serve you best.

To get the latest University news, invites and offers, update your details at: alumni.uq.edu.au/update-your-details. To share your stories, email us at advancementnews@uq.edu.au.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Bring the kids to uni for great holiday activities!

The UQ Sport Kids Club runs during public school holidays and involves a variety of activities to encourage active minds and healthy bodies. Enrol your kids for a jam-packed week of active fun and learning at uqsport.com.au/content/uq-sport-kids-club.

Kids can join goddess of love Aphrodite on her exploration of Cyprus and the Ancient Mediterranean and enjoy other exciting activities at the RD Milns Antiquities Museum's exhibition *Cyprus: An Island and a People*. Visit uq.edu.au/antiquities/cyprus2015 for more information.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SERIES

The Global Leadership Series for 2016 begins in February. Join us for 10 thought-provoking, sometimes controversial and always insightful discussions throughout the year by registering at alumni.uq.edu.au/global-leadership-series.

2015 UQ NATIONAL ARTISTS' SELF-PORTRAIT PRIZE

Visit UQ Art Museum over the summer and be immersed in diverse and innovative interpretations of self-portraiture by 30 high-profile Australian artists and many exciting newcomers. The \$50,000 invitation-only, acquisitive prize is held by UQ every two years, with previous winners including Ben Quilty, Julie Rrap, Domenico de Clario and Nell.

In 2015, the competition has been curated by former Deputy Director of the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, Michael Desmond, and

judged by Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA)'s Curatorial Manager of Australian Art, Jason Smith.



Artists invited to participate in the 2015 UQ National Artists' Self-Portrait Prize and

create a self-portrait in response to the theme "becoming" include Khadim Ali, eX de Medici, Julia deVillie, Fiona Foley, Julie Gough, Guan Wei, Marie Hagerty, Nicholas Harding, Patricia Piccinini, Andrew Sayers, Tyza Stewart, Christian Thompson, Philip Wolfhagen and Judith Wright, among others.

Visit artmuseum.uq.edu.au to see the full list of participating artists and visitor information.

The exhibition runs from 14 November until 13 March 2016.

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Create change



Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj, left, and Chancellor John Story AO with a portrait of the Chancellor painted by artist Jiawei Shen.

PICTURE OF INTEGRITY

Friends, colleagues and distinguished leaders pay tribute to John Story AO as he concludes his term as Chancellor after seven years in the role.

The name “Story” is as iconic to UQ as its sandstone walls. And as renowned artist Jiawei Shen applies the final brush strokes to his portrait of John Story AO, the University’s 13th Chancellor is preparing to complete his seven-year term on 31 December 2015.

His portrait will hang alongside those of other former University leaders, including his grandfather John Douglas Story who sat on the first University Senate in 1910 – continuing until 1963 – and was UQ’s first full-time Vice-Chancellor serving in an honorary capacity between 1938 and 1960.

Story began his association with UQ as a student, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws in 1969.

Former Dean of the Law School at The University of Melbourne, Professor Michael Crommelin AO (Bachelor of Arts ’67; Bachelor of Laws (Honours) ’71), studied alongside Story during those years and said while Story was an intelligent and serious student, he never lost his sense of fun.

“He had a keen eye for the ridiculous in the cases that we read, and took considerable delight in exposing it,” Crommelin said.

“He had an incisive approach to the task and never appeared unduly oppressed by the burden of study. He was unaffected,

natural and easy in manner, and leadership seemed automatic.”

Story has had a long and distinguished career as a lawyer and businessman, and in June 2015 became an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list for distinguished service to business and commerce through a range of corporate governance roles, as an industry leader and mentor in the public and private sectors, to the law, and to professional organisations.

Story was a Partner of the law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth for 36 years and also served as the firm’s Queensland Managing Partner and National Chairman.

He was also a Chairman of Suncorp, Tabcorp Holdings, Echo Entertainment and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and held a number of directorships.

Story maintained his connections to UQ during his professional career. While working at Corrs Chambers Westgarth, he initiated supportive links between the legal firm and the TC Beirne School of Law and in April 2015 became Chairman of the School’s fundraising committee.

He has held other honorary positions at the University – as a Senator since May 2006, and as an Adjunct Professor.

Academic Dean and Head of School at the TC Beirne School of Law, Professor Sarah Derrington (Bachelor of Arts ’89; Bachelor

of Laws (Honours) ’90; Master of Laws ’97; Doctor of Philosophy ’99), said the School was extremely grateful to Story and his wife Georgina (Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) ’69) for their generous support, particularly in relation to the Mooting Program.

“Their support has enabled several teams of students to travel to Canberra and then Washington DC to compete in the Jessup International Moot Competition. The School was pleased to be able to repay the investment in some small way in 2014 by bringing home the international championship,” Derrington said.

“John has accepted the role of Chairman of the School’s fundraising committee and, in that capacity, his support is integral to the planned transformation of the School’s physical space and the creation of an endowment fund to support future generations of law students.”

Story was appointed Chancellor in February 2009 following the retirement of Sir Llewellyn Edwards.

He presided over the successful appointment of Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj in 2012 and, under his watch, UQ’s reputation as an outstanding global university has strengthened, culminating in its place in the world’s top 50 universities in two key independent rankings*.

Høj paid tribute to the Chancellor and said his exceptional chairmanship had been invaluable to him since he came to Queensland in October 2012.

"His integrity, honesty and precise knowledge of the principles of sound corporate governance have been vital to UQ's growth into a \$1.7 billion enterprise with bright prospects for ongoing success," Høj said.

"John's chancellorship has also been characterised by his deep appreciation of UQ's role in society, and his personal commitment to the success of students and graduates.

"John's and Georgina's generous philanthropy will continue to boost the prospects of a great many students and graduates, well into the future."

While UQ has faced some challenging periods during his term as Chancellor, Story has been recognised for his leadership and help in developing a strategy that focuses on excellence in teaching and research, while bringing a focus to improving culture across the campus.

The Honourable Justice Martin Daubney (Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws '86; King's College '81) said it was a privilege to work with Story on the University's Senate.

"John's paramount priority has always been the best interests of the University," Daubney said.

"His enormous store of legal and corporate governance experience has

"John has always approached his role as Chancellor from the overall perspective of what is best for UQ," Hennessy said.

"It has been a pleasure working with John through some interesting challenges and he has always provided encouragement, constructive challenge and balance.

"He has not only freely given his time and considerable personal talents and skills, but also brought to bear his passion for UQ, which is infectious."

During his term as Chancellor, Story has worked closely with three Deputy Chancellors, including the Honourable Margaret White AO ('06-'10), Adjunct Professor Mary Mahoney AO ('96-'98; '10-'13) and Dr Jane Wilson ('14-current).

Mahoney (Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery '63; Doctor of Medicine '05) said Story's outstanding leadership had been of enormous value to the University.

"Working with John was a very enjoyable and rewarding time for me. I saw first hand what an outstanding leader he is," she said.

"He has a keen intellect, is very astute and ethical, has high integrity and is an inspiring and impressive person.

"UQ campuses are among the best in Australia. As a member of the University Senate's Buildings and Grounds Committee, John has overseen the construction of some very important buildings – namely the Advanced Engineering Building,



IMMORTALISED IN BRONZE

Set within sandstone walls and supported on silky oak joinery, the bronze miniature grotesque portrait of John Story AO, created by sculptor Doctor Rhyl Hinwood AM (Honorary Doctor of Philosophy '01), was presented to him in December.

Hinwood said the artwork (pictured above) symbolised the Chancellor's close connection to the "Sandstone University".

Wearing his academic mitre, he is depicted smiling down from his ceremonial throne, while his familial, professional and personal links to the University are represented by three large chain links connected to UQ's armorial bearings – the Maltese Cross emblazoned with an open book.

Hinwood has had a long affiliation with the University spanning almost 40 years since winning a commission in 1976 to recommence work on sculptures surrounding the Great Court.

The bronze grotesque of the Chancellor was completed on 17 September 2015.

"When creating artwork for the University, I always try to incorporate the beautiful Queensland materials that are symbolic of UQ," she said.

"I like to create enduring artworks from long-lasting materials that represent the subject's life and achievements at the University."

Hinwood said she had met the Chancellor on a number of occasions before she was approached about creating the sculpture but would always remember their first meeting.

"I first met the Chancellor when I was conducting a tour of the Great Court during the University's Centenary celebrations in 2010," she said.

"He asked if he and his wife Georgina could join the tour group. There was a huge crowd already but I welcomed another two.

"At the time I didn't recognise that he was the Chancellor of the University.

"He's a very charming and dignified gentleman and proud of his links to UQ."

"John's experience and strength of leadership contributed greatly to preserving the integrity of the institution."

The Honourable Justice Martin Daubney

contributed greatly to the consolidation of high standards of governance practice across UQ.

"UQ weathered a particularly stormy patch midway through John's tenure as Chancellor, and the reality is that John's experience and strength of leadership contributed greatly to preserving the integrity of the institution.

"I think that one of John's principal legacies will be his implementation of a range of governance best practices, particularly in the fields of fiscal oversight and risk assessment and management."

UQ Senate member and President of the Academic Board Professor Fred D'Agostino said Story had managed the complex and high-stakes issues facing the Senate with skill and patience.

"Of course, one of his significant achievements was presiding over the selection of Professor Peter Høj as Vice-Chancellor," D'Agostino said.

"That's always a key issue for a governing body. Getting the right chief executive in place has been crucial to the culture changes that we've been implementing in the face of earlier challenges."

UQ Senate member and Independent Company Director and Advisor Philip Hennessy said Story had given a significant portion of his life to UQ and his contribution would be missed.

the Translational Research Institute, the Global Change Institute, and the Oral Health Centre – all of which are world class."

Wilson (Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery '81) said Story brought to the chancellorship the skills and characteristics he had developed over a distinguished career in the legal profession and in business, both as an advisor and eminent company director.

"The role of universities in our society has evolved and changed significantly over recent years," Wilson said.

"Deregulation, competition, international ranking pressures, media scrutiny and global influences have all forced change upon Australia's tertiary campuses. Through this evolution, UQ has prospered to now consistently rank in the top three universities in Australia.

"Many fine people have contributed to this achievement. I have had the privilege to work with John and observe first hand his enormous contribution to help the University meet today's challenges.

"The name Story is already embedded in the history of our University, and John's term as Chancellor has only reinforced this enduring and positive legacy," she said.

*QS World University Rankings 2015/2016 and the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities 2015.

app Download the **Contact** app to learn more about artist **Jiawei Shen**.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

UQ ALUMNI AWARDS 2015

From inspirational young achievers to leaders in their chosen fields, meet the outstanding recipients of The University of Queensland Alumni Awards 2015.

They are the prized alumni who are creating positive change every day on a national and international level.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Hoj paid tribute to the distinguished line-up of community and business leaders at the annual Courting the Greats ceremony held in October at Brisbane City Hall.

The awards recognise alumni who have achieved outstanding success in their fields and made exemplary contributions to their communities.

UQ's selected recipients included six Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award winners, five Distinguished Young Alumni Award winners, an International Alumnus of the Year Award winner, an Indigenous Community Impact Award winner and a Colleges' UQ Alumni Award winner.

The recipients were nominated and endorsed by their peers and selected by a committee led by Professor Høj. He said the winners were proven leaders who had taken on major challenges and responsibilities.

"These wonderful alumni are standard-bearers for UQ's global impact," Professor Hoj said.

"They represent the excellence that is seen every day at UQ and in the actions and accomplishments of our 225,000 alumni, who are a constant source of inspiration."

The Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. presented its awards at the event, including Alumnus of the Year and three Graduates of the Year.

UQ Sport also celebrated its Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, recognising the recipients' elite achievements in sport and contributions to university life.

Director of Alumni and Community Relations Patricia Danver said UQ was proud to celebrate the success of this year's award winners.

"The University takes great pride in the success of its alumni and we are honoured to celebrate their achievements," she said.

"These distinguished alumni contribute to the success of the University and inspire

current students to create change and have a positive impact on society."

The alumni awards were introduced in 1992, with the first Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Awards presented in 2013.

Previous winners include Academy Award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush AC, author David Malouf AO, Dow Chemical Company Chairman and CEO Andrew Liveris AO, leading melanoma researcher Professor Adèle Green AC, Wotif founders Graeme Wood AM and Andrew Brice AM, and former Governor-General of Australia, the Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO.

Nominations for the 2016 Alumni Awards are now open. To nominate a UQ alumnus, please complete the enclosed nomination form or visit alumni.uq.edu.au/uq-alumni-awards.

app Download the *Contact* app to see a video and photo gallery from the awards ceremony.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Recognising the significant contributions made by alumni in their local communities and beyond.



Photo courtesy of Lyndon Mechielsen/NewsPix.

Mark Sowerby

Bachelor of Agricultural Science '93,
Master of Business Administration '03
Emmanuel College '89-'92

BRAVING THE ELEMENTS

Mark Sowerby training in Brisbane for his swim across the English Channel.

Mark Sowerby welcomes a challenge and is always looking for new ways to improve. It's this way of thinking that has helped him grow into a successful business leader.

Mark Sowerby reckons he's not a good swimmer and he hates the cold. So, in August this year, he swam the English Channel.

It's an extreme challenge and one that has demanded incredible discipline over two years, including training in the colder waters of New York and the English city of Dover.

But Sowerby's no thrill-seeker. Nor is he out to break any records. It's just part of a long-term plan of making himself better.

And part of making himself better, the 44-year-old says, is getting outside his comfort zone.

"Just like in the business world, there are no short cuts. You've got to throw yourself at the cold water and embrace it," he said.

Sowerby is the founder and Managing Director of Blue Sky Alternative Investments Limited.

"Within the business we encourage everybody to get outside their comfort zones.

When people push outside their comfort zones they realise they have more to give," Sowerby said.

He established the Blue Sky group in 2006 as a private equity house, investing expansion capital into Australian small- to medium-sized businesses. In 2012, the company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) as the country's first diversified alternative asset manager.

Since listing on the ASX, Blue Sky has grown to more than \$1.35 billion in assets under management, with offices in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and New York.

Sowerby said Blue Sky invests where others fear to tread – in unlisted businesses and in asset classes including agriculture, hedge funds, water and venture capital – and has provided returns of more than 15 per cent in challenging times.

Sowerby credits a lot of his success to his love of people. He says by listening to people, things become embedded as rules that he is able to take back to his business.

It is a key lesson he learnt during his two stints as a student at UQ.

Sowerby first arrived at UQ in 1989 from Warren, in western NSW. He chose to study Agricultural Science and engrossed himself in college life during the four years he lived at Emmanuel College.

Like many young adults fresh out of university, Sowerby set out to see the world,

and during his travels he spent time working in commodities trading in Hong Kong.

Upon his return to Australia, he worked as an agronomist on Queensland's Darling Downs before being approached by Weil Brothers, a major cotton-trading company based in Alabama.

While still working for Weil Brothers, Sowerby returned to UQ in 2000 when he enrolled in a Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.

"The MBA program at UQ very much helped me on my current course," Sowerby said.

"I was running a cotton-trading business for a big US firm and I was very young. I was essentially doing a subject at a time and literally running a workshop on everything I had learnt.

"I would take it back to my work and try it. Out of that I ended up with a tool kit of things that I've used ever since."

Since founding Blue Sky, Sowerby has continued to engage with UQ and said he was surprised but proud to receive a Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award.

"I owe UQ a lot. It wasn't just somewhere I studied. For me it's had significant life impact," he said.

app Download the **Contact** app to see a video and photo gallery of Mark's swim.

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT

With a passion for philanthropy and social initiatives, Dr James Morton AM believes in working collaboratively to solve problems.

Dr James Morton AM

**Bachelor of Medical Science '86
Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor
of Surgery '87 (Honours)**

As a medical director of Haematology-Oncology Clinics of Australia and a senior specialist in leukaemia and bone marrow transplant services, part of Dr James Morton AM's job is to deliver bad news.

But when his then two-year-old son Andrew was diagnosed with autism in 2001, Morton admits he was left shocked and confused.

He barely knew anything about the disorder but was determined to learn more and do what he could to help kids and their families cope.

"I think back to when I was doing paediatrics at university and autism would have been a paragraph in the textbooks. It just wasn't a commonly made diagnosis then," Morton said.

Morton said there was a lot of information at the time of Andrew's diagnosis that recommended high-quality early intervention for children with autism, but there was limited access to affordable programs.

"Andy went into the special education system, but it wasn't autism-specific and we saw skills deteriorate in that setting so we thought that we had to do something about it," he said.

Morton and his wife Louise worked to establish the AEIOU Foundation to provide effective early intervention treatment for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), with the first centre opening in 2005.

The AEIOU Foundation is now one of Australia's largest providers of high-quality

early intervention treatment for children with ASD and has grown to 10 centres in Queensland and South Australia.

"Our big battle now for AEIOU is the National Disability Insurance Scheme," Morton said.

"The NDIS is mostly focusing on funding the costs of caring for disability. Actually getting them to invest in building abilities so you don't have the long-term costs of disabilities is incredibly difficult.

"The school system is also very interesting around disability. The whole focus is on inclusion, rather than the quality of the education that the children receive.

"Andy was in inclusive education up to grade seven and he is now in a special school and he is thriving. It's because he is hanging out with kids who are interested in the same things that he is.

"Government and decision makers are focused on inclusion as a right. But I actually think that the right for a person with a disability is to have the best pathway to a fulfilling life. For Andy, that pathway is through a special school."

Morton has been known for his philanthropic work and social initiatives throughout his career, and was named as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2014 as well as Citizen of the Year at the Lord Mayor's Australia Day Awards in 2011.

He became involved with the Leukaemia Foundation while working as a haematology registrar in the early 1990s at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and was instrumental in creating The World's Greatest Shave for a Cure initiative.

"Getting involved in that sort

of thing is fun because you have to think creatively. The really fun thing is linking people and linking ideas."

Morton is also turning his attention to an organisation he has helped develop called DayNation, with the idea of encouraging people to donate one day's annual leave to assist in disaster relief.

Morton credits much of what he has achieved throughout his professional career to his university years and said he was honoured to receive a Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award.

"I have very fond memories and I'm very proud of being a UQ graduate," he said.

"The University made us very good doctors.

"My brother and sisters are all graduates of UQ as well so it's very much a part of our family."



Dr James Morton AM with children from the AEIOU Foundation.

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PEOPLE FIRST

With a long and successful career that has seen him rise to the top of his field, Dr Jeffrey Dawes has not lost sight of what is most important in life.

Dr Jeffrey Dawes

Doctor of Philosophy '87

Working a nine-day-on, five-day-off roster in the early 1990s at Compañía Minera El Indio, the largest gold mine in Chile at the time, alumnus Dr Jeffrey Dawes quickly learnt the value of people in mining operations.

"I spent more time with the guys at the mine than I did at home. You tend to bond with people because you spend 24 hours a day with them," Dawes said.

"That was when I started to realise that people were important – maybe even more important than the company. I learnt that if you worried about the people and made sure that they were okay and had the right people doing the right jobs, and working safely, then you can be pretty sure that the business results will be good."

Dawes learnt that the people living in the communities where the mine operated were important too. Continually passing through small towns on the two-and-a-half-hour drive to and from the mine, Dawes was concerned about the impact the dust from the dirt road must be having on the people who lived there, and worked with the mine's management to pave those sections of the road.

"Feedback from the community was extremely positive, and that positive feedback actually helped our operation," he said.

"I came to realise that for any mining operations to be truly viable, you had to worry about the communities you were living and working in."

These were important learnings that Dawes has carried with him throughout his career, which began at UQ in 1980 when he received a research scholarship to complete his thesis at the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre (JKMRC). Over six years, he analysed how ground vibrations affect blast performance and design, learning from mentors including Emeritus Professor Alban Lynch AO FTSE, his supervisor, and Cameron McKenzie, the project leader.

"If I look back and say, 'What did studying a PhD do for me?' he reflected, "the first thing would be developing perseverance.



Dr Jeffrey Dawes presents a fishing boat title to Yanett Flores in Pellehue, Chile.

A dedication to innovation and recognition of how important it is to persevere and continue with your goals is something that has been fundamental in my life since then."

After graduating, Dawes went on to work as a project manager for JKMRC in Chile before transitioning into operational mine work at El Indio, a move he says was "unusual" at that time.

"There were almost no higher-degree professionals, especially with PhDs, working in operating mines. It was a big decision."

The decision proved to be fruitful, with Dawes working his way up the ranks in various roles for Barrick Gold Corporation, including on-site roles at El Indio, Tambo and Pascua-Lama mines, and as General Manager for Disca Mining Services (DMS). Following the sale of DMS to the Komatsu/Cummins consortium in South America, he was appointed General Manager for Komatsu Mining Systems Chile, before assuming his current dual roles as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of both Komatsu Holdings South America and Komatsu Cummins Chile, which have sales in excess of US\$2 billion per annum.

The early lessons Dawes learnt while

working at El Indio are evident in his current role. He believes "giving back" to society is a best practice in business, and has set ambitious corporate social responsibility targets for the companies he leads.

For example, although it "sells no machines" in Haiti, Komatsu Cummins Chile has partnered with the Chilean government and the regional NGO América Solidaria to design, raise funds and rebuild a school in Haiti following the devastating 2010 earthquake. Staff are also offered paid time off to assist as volunteers. In another program known as "ReinventarSE", juvenile offenders are accepted into the company and given the skills necessary for them to reinsert themselves into society.

Dawes values time spent with his wife and three children, and travelling. His advice to fellow alumni is not to overplan things.

"Don't be too rigid. Be aware of opportunities when they turn up and take full advantage of them when they do."

app Download the **Contact** app to see a video about Komatsu's ReinventaRSE program.

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LIFE OF SERVICE

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland,
has built his career around a sense of community and desire to serve.

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws
(Honours) '71
Honorary Doctor of Laws '00
King's College '69-'70

As a former Supreme Court judge and Chief Justice of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC was known as a "judge of the people".

His Excellency said that from his pre-teen years he always wanted to be a barrister and he worked hard to break down barriers between the judiciary and the public.

"This was driven by curiosity about the challenge of helping people resolve disputes that were beyond their own capacities, both with other people and with the state," he said.

His Excellency, the third son of school teachers Ronald and Moya, has demonstrated a lifetime of community leadership, starting during his school and university days and culminating in his appointment as the 26th Governor of Queensland last year.

While attending Brisbane's Church of England Grammar School in the mid-1960s, His Excellency qualified with a Licentiate in Speech and Drama Australia through the Australian Music Examinations Board regime.

He was also an active member of the Queensland University Regiment (1966-71) while attending UQ and attained a commissioned rank in 1969.

"My time in the regiment was a life-defining experience," His Excellency said.

"It emphasised the importance of service, which is really a critical theme now during the Centenary of Anzac."

In recent years, His Excellency has been publicly acknowledged for community and professional achievements, becoming a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2000 and receiving a Centenary Medal in 2003.

He said he was honoured and humbled to be recognised as one of this year's Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award winners.



His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC greeting the Shake a Leg dancers at Injinoo Junior Campus, Northern Peninsula Area State College, Cape York.

"I view it very much as giving tangible recognition to UQ and affirming its quality-first approach which has provided beneficially for me personally and professionally," he said.

"I remember particularly enjoying an unhurried regime which allowed beneficial intellectual pursuits."

His Excellency attended King's College from 1969-70 and said he was particularly grateful for the lifelong friendships and professional acquaintances he forged during his time at UQ.

"I always admired UQ alumnus and former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia Sir Harry Gibbs," he said.

"During my early professional years, I was mentored by then Chief Justice Sir Charles

Wanstead and I seek in many ways now to draw upon the exemplary governorship of former UQ Chancellor Sir Walter Campbell."

His Excellency's life would not have been the same without UQ, as he met his wife, Kaye, while she was working as a librarian in the Law Library at St Lucia.

He said the most valuable skills he learnt from his university years were to maintain a sense of happiness and fun and to be persistent when things look unexciting or grim.

"The advice I always give is to make the most of your capacities. Strive to improve, and thereby you shall succeed. And always respect and realise those wonderful people who help and support you along the way, particularly your families."

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ALL IN THE GENES

Professor Peter Donnelly has had an illustrious career, culminating in his lead role in the largest study ever undertaken of genetics in human diseases, with the potential for significant global impact.

Professor Peter Donnelly

Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) '80
Union College '76

Professor Peter Donnelly's career has been a journey of excellence ever since he walked into UQ's Great Court as a 16-year-old in 1976.

"It's where my real experience of the academic world started," Donnelly said.

"For the rest of my career I've stayed in the academic world, so it's my base and I have a really strong connection with that."

Donnelly graduated with a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) in 1980 and enjoyed a brief affiliation with Union College, as well as St John's College.

"I lived in Union College for a month in the middle of 1976, while my parents were overseas, and then later in my university career I did some tutoring at St John's," he said.

The highlight of Donnelly's university career came in 1980 when he was awarded a University Medal as well as being selected as a Queensland Rhodes Scholar.

Thirty-five years later he is being honoured again – this time as a Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award winner.

"I'm excited and very honoured. To have recognition from the place where it all started is really special," Donnelly said.

"I had the opportunity to learn in an amazing environment and to be lectured by some very eminent academics.

"They were a really valuable source of advice for the career choice that I was making as I was leaving Queensland."

A thirst for knowledge led Donnelly to England in 1980, where he completed his



Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics Professor Peter Donnelly.

doctorate in Mathematics at the University of Oxford.

Following academic positions at the University of Michigan, The University of Wales and University College London, he was appointed Professor of Mathematical Statistics and Operational Research at the University of London in 1988 at the age of 29, becoming the youngest professor in Great Britain.

Donnelly moved to the United States in 1994 as a Professor of Statistics and of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago. Two years later, he was enticed back to England and the University of Oxford to take up a professorship in the Department of Statistics, which he still holds.

"I was appointed to a professorship at the University of London when I was quite young and there was a lot of fuss at the time as the youngest Professor in Britain. And to be appointed as a Professor at Oxford in

the mid-1990s was a huge honour and very exciting," Donnelly said.

"Over the last 10 years my research has been focused on genetics and I've been fortunate enough to lead some of the major studies into the genetics of human diseases."

From 2002 to 2005, Donnelly co-chaired the analysis group of the International HapMap Project – the successor to the Human Genome Project. In 2007, he was appointed Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics at the University of Oxford and led the landmark study of genetics in human diseases, known as the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium (WTCCC).

"Just seeing those studies come to fruition and seeing the knowledge we are gaining from genetics is exciting, and over the next 10 to 15 years this knowledge will start to impact in very real ways on some aspects of clinical medicine."

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LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Catherine Tanna

Bachelor of Laws '84



EnergyAustralia Managing Director Catherine Tanna.

As the Managing Director of EnergyAustralia and a current board member of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Catherine Tanna knows what it means to be a leader.

"I try to be organised, and think about the impact of my decisions on other people," Tanna said.

"I want the people around me to succeed. I've had great mentors, and giving people the opportunity to develop is important to me.

"If you are ever in doubt, imagine it is your own business and the future of your family depended on its success – you will then know the right thing to do."

Tanna was appointed to the role of Managing Director of EnergyAustralia in 2014 after holding some of the most senior roles in the oil and gas industry with Shell and BG Australia.

The projects she has led have provided significant economic growth in countries like Nigeria as well as regional communities in Australia.

As chairperson of BG Australia, Tanna oversaw development of the US\$20.4 billion Queensland Curtis LNG project in Gladstone. At Shell, she was Executive Vice-President responsible for the company's LNG, gas transmission and power generation interests across Africa.

Catherine Tanna is one of Australia's most powerful businesswomen and she credits some inspirational role models for her rise to the top.

In 2015, she was named in the top 20 list of *The Deal's* 50 Most Powerful Women in Business.

"I've enjoyed working in the energy sector. What we do is fundamentally good and important for the wellbeing of everyone," Tanna said.

"We create jobs, we underpin growth, we make a positive difference to people's lives.

"If you do not feel that way about what you are doing, it's time to reflect on whether you should do something different."

Tanna grew up in Gladstone and said her parents' values and Catholic education helped shape her moral code.

Her father, Reg (Bachelor of Civil Engineering '55, St Leo's College '52-'55), was the son of Lebanese immigrants and long-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Queensland Port Authority. He is recognised as the architect of Gladstone's transformation from a fishing village to a leading industrial city in the 1960s.

"My father was my first role model. He had vision, and the enthusiasm and drive to go with it," Tanna said.

"He could relate to people and felt just

as much at home on the coal loading docks as he was in the boardroom. He knew how important it was for managers to be leaders, to treat people equally and fairly.

"I've also been inspired by women who have achieved amazing things, including former Governor-General Quentin Bryce; Ann Pickard, head of Shell's operations in the Arctic (known as the bravest woman in oil and gas); and Linda Cook, the CEO of Harbour Energy."

Tanna said she was lucky to be part of a group of law students to be taught by Bryce while completing her Bachelor of Laws at UQ in the early 1980s.

"She was a remarkable and inspirational female role model for all of her students – men and women," Tanna said.

"I'm proud and grateful to have studied at UQ. It means I have been given one of the most important skills – how to think – and I learnt that skill at one of the premier places of learning. We've had a wonderful opportunity, and I think we have an obligation to pass on and apply what we've learnt so that our businesses, communities and relationships are the better for it."

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WAVE OF MERCY

Nick Veltjens lives his life with one clear objective: “To demonstrate God’s love to others through my example and through laying down my life in service to those who need it.”

Nicholas Veltjens

Bachelor of Physiotherapy '05
King's College '01-'04

It's August 2012 and the Mercy Ships hospital is docked at Conakry in the West African nation of Guinea. A sea of people are waiting patiently to be assessed by the medical staff.

They wait in their thousands; many suffering with severe orthopaedic deformities, some with burns, others with giant tumours – struggling to see and even breathe.

On this day, physiotherapist Nick Veltjens is one of the Mercy Ships medics selecting patients they can help – and consoling others they can't.

“Those screening days are one of the hardest days of the year when you're serving,” Veltjens said, recalling his experience on the ship.

“When you are one of the people making the call of ‘yes’ or ‘no’, it's pretty tough to turn away those people.

“For us, sometimes all we can do is pray for them and hand them back over into God's hands and trust that he'll take care of them.”

With a crew of more than 450, Mercy Ships services some of the world's poorest nations for up to 10 months at a time.

Veltjens has worked as a physiotherapist at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and served as a volunteer aboard Mercy Ships since 2010.

Serving in nations such as Guinea, Congo, Sierra Leone and Togo, he works in post-operative rehabilitation for patients undergoing orthopaedic, burns and plastic surgery.

More recently, Veltjens has been a member of the team introducing what is known as the Ponseti Method for treating children suffering from club feet. This technique requires surgery to lengthen the Achilles tendon as the child grows.

“Treating and teaching in Africa is so relational,” Veltjens said.

“They won't trust the fact that you went to UQ and have a good degree. Until they trust that you care about them and you want to help them, they won't actually be open to what you are saying.”



Physiotherapist Nick Veltjens with a patient during a Mercy Ships mission in Togo.

Photo courtesy of Mercy Ships.

Veltjens looks back fondly on the four years he spent at UQ, particularly his days at King's College where he lived from 2001 to 2004.

“It's really special to have graduated from UQ because the physiotherapy degree you get is very well recognised internationally,” he said.

“Coming from Cairns, it really was the best home away from home I could have.

“Being at college, you get pulled in a lot of different directions, and it was a really good lesson in being able to know exactly what I needed to do from the academic side of things, but also having commitments on the sporting field as well.”

Veltjens said volunteering on Mercy Ships had been one of the highlights of his career so far – an environment where he could combine a desire with the skills he had learnt at university and in the hospital.

He is currently volunteering on another mission with Mercy Ships, this time in Madagascar.

“Mercy Ships have asked me to run a club foot program. We've taught people the Ponseti Method in the past but it hasn't been its own program,” he said.

“What we've learnt is that we can treat a certain amount of patients in a year through the Mercy Ships hospital but, when we leave, people are still born with club feet.

“If we can leave behind a certain amount of skills that local doctors can use to help their own people, then that's way more effective than just coming in for 10 months.”

app Download the **Contact** app to read Nick's blog and to watch a video about Mercy Ships.

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PEDAL TO THE METAL

Mike Boyd says his biggest fear in life is running out of time. After founding a number of businesses before the age of 30, he is wasting no time in establishing himself as one the country's brightest young entrepreneurs.

Mike Boyd

Bachelor of Applied Science/Bachelor of Business Management '10

While most other 11-year-olds were spending their free time playing games and watching cartoons, Mike Boyd was getting a head start in his entrepreneurial career, finding and selling lost golf balls.

By the age of 25, he had gone on to found or co-found seven businesses.

Boyd is now the Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of VroomVroomVroom.com.au – a fast-paced technology company that specialises in comparing car rental prices with major suppliers in Australia, New Zealand, North America, the United Kingdom, Europe and parts of Asia.

Since taking on the role of CEO in 2012, the 28-year-old has helped transform the company, taking record bookings while producing an annual turnover of about \$70 million.

"From a very young age I've been extremely focused on where I wanted to go," Boyd said.

"When I was at school, I had a couple of experiences where I actually lost a couple of mates to the world – far too young.

"It really instilled a value in me that you never know how long you've got. Life really is too short.

"I've worked extremely hard to put myself in a position where I have the freedom to decide how I want to spend my time. And what I'm doing right now is exactly how I want to be spending it."

VroomVroomVroom's headquarters is based in Brisbane, and Boyd is currently living between Hong Kong and the Philippines, working to expand the company into new international markets.

Boyd returns to Brisbane every six-to-eight weeks and, on top of running an

international business, for the last three years has served as a Director for the Australian Institute of Management's Young Manager Advisory Board.

He is also well known in Brisbane for starting the Queensland chapter of the non-profit networking group The Hive, where young entrepreneurs met to share their skills and ideas.

"I must admit I'm pretty exhausted most of the time," Boyd said.

"But I absolutely love what I do, so I do bound out of bed every day to take on the challenge."

Boyd has been recognised this year as one of UQ's Distinguished Young Alumni and said he was shocked but "absolutely delighted" to receive the award.

"Being a Brisbane boy, I knew choosing UQ was a great choice," he said.

"What I didn't fully appreciate was how much of a great choice it was on the international stage."

Managing Director and Group CEO of VroomVroomVroom.com.au, Mike Boyd.



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FROM ASTROPHYSICS TO AFRICA

Kathryn Zealand was just 17 when she completed a Bachelor of Science and Year 12 in the same year. Now aged 24 and with several degrees to her name, she is combining her love of both science and economics to solve global problems.

Kathryn Zealand

Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) '09

As an extremely bright student growing up in the rural community of Taranaki on the North Island of New Zealand, Kathryn Zealand quickly progressed to higher grades of study. After arriving in Brisbane and enrolling at Brisbane Girls Grammar School (BGGGS) in Year 10, she was encouraged by the head of mathematics at BGGGS to apply for UQ's Enhanced Studies Program.

But there was a catch, with Zealand told to wear her uniform to lectures and tutorials as "a representative of the school".

"I remember walking in... it was one of my first advanced classes, and I was in my school uniform, looking nervous," she recalled.

"One of the guys said, 'Are you lost?' and I said, 'I don't think so!'"

Zealand said UQ was "very supportive" of her studies, which she completed in only one-and-a-half years – half the time it usually takes – while concurrently completing her high school certificate.

She spent a further 18 months at UQ completing her Honours in Astrophysics

and a research project before undertaking a Masters in Science (Theoretical Physics) at Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Canada, and a Masters in International and Development Economics at Australian National University in Canberra – both on full merit scholarship.

She credits female physicists Professor Tamara Davis and Dr Margaret Wegener as mentors during her time at UQ.

"They were fantastic and were happy to judge me on the quality of my work, rather than age, which was really nice," she said.

Zealand has since focused her career on social development, working as a consultant for McKinsey and Company in Australia and Lagos, Nigeria, before joining the Clinton Foundation as its Manager for Enterprise Development in Africa.

She said development economics allowed her to combine her passions for both science and the people side of economics, with tangible results.

For example, in her role at the Clinton Foundation, Zealand has applied her problem-solving abilities to a pipeline of agricultural social enterprises, such as helping Haitian peanut



Kathryn Zealand.

farmers produce better yields and seeking sustainable solutions to challenges such as sourcing mangoes in Kenya.

She said physicists had the skills to make a contribution in the sector, possessing "an ability to disaggregate issues and solve them, and not be intimidated by the unknown".

Zealand has also found time to explore Africa, including hiking to see open lava fields atop a volcano in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"It would be a major tourist attraction if it wasn't in an active war zone!" she said.

Earlier this year, Zealand was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the United States.

With acceptance into both the Master of Public Administration at Harvard University and the Master of Business Administration at Stanford University, she has new choices to consider.

"The opportunity to continue studying is incredible," she said.

"You get different things out of it once you have been in the workforce for a while.

"I'm looking forward to being able to apply my new knowledge and make a positive difference."

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LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Having reached the pinnacle in Australian motorsport, engineering alumnus Jeromy Moore is pursuing his passion with one of Germany's most famous racing brands.

Jeromy Moore

Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical)
(Honours) '00

In 2010, Jeromy Moore celebrated on the podium next to Craig Lowndes at Mount Panorama after engineering a famous one-two finish for the Triple Eight Race team in the Bathurst 1000.

For a kid from the Sunshine Coast growing up with a love of cars and V8 racing, this was the moment he had been dreaming of.

As the chief designer and senior race engineer of Triple Eight Race Engineering (Red Bull Racing) Australia, Moore was the key cog of the team's engine room and the right-hand man to champion driver Lowndes.

"Winning Bathurst in 2010 and standing on the podium with the drivers... engineers don't normally get to experience things like that," Moore said.

Moore helped steer the Triple Eight team to six V8 Supercar championships and five Bathurst 1000 wins, but after 11 years, he recently decided to change lanes.

Moore moved to Germany in early 2015, taking on a performance-engineer role with Porsche Motorsport in the World Endurance Championship.

"I've always considered travelling to Europe with Formula 1, but being quite successful in Australia it delayed my desire," he said.

"And of course, working with Craig Lowndes and some really talented people, it just made it easy to stay where I was.

"But, in the end, I always wanted to strive to do something a little more important for society. The series I'm in now actually has a follow-on effect from racing motorcars to improving the cars people drive every day."

Moore's passion for mechanics developed during his time at UQ, particularly during his extra-curricular pursuits as a member of the



Jeromy Moore, right, celebrates with Craig Lowndes.

University's solar racing team.

"I learnt that engineers could be involved in improving and making things more efficient," he said.

"Everyone needs transport, and to make that transport more efficient with the resources we had was an eye-opener."

Moore said he was surprised to be nominated as one of UQ's Distinguished Young Alumni, and said UQ had taught him the value of teamwork and the ability to think deeper to solve a problem.

BREAKING BARRIERS

Yassmin Abdel-Magied is thankful for the opportunities she has been given and is determined to make the most of them.

Yassmin Abdel-Magied

Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) '11

As a female engineer, self-confessed rev-head and part-time boxer Yassmin Abdel-Magied has spent her life punching through barriers.

Not with the intention to "wreck the system", but simply to see what opportunities are available in places other women haven't explored.

The drilling engineer spends most of her working life on a remote oil rig off the coast of Western Australia, while carefully juggling her roles as chair of Youth Without Borders and board member of the United Nations Youth Association and ChildFund Australia.

In her limited spare time, Abdel-Magied can be found in pit lane at motorsport events or in the boxing ring.

"I think what I do is go places where people think I shouldn't belong, or shouldn't be," she said. "I love challenging the status quo and I don't think that anything should stop me."

Abdel-Magied has won a host of academic and community awards since graduating from UQ in 2011, including Queensland Young Australian of the Year in 2015.

She said it was a "huge honour" to be named as one of UQ's distinguished young alumni.

"My family moved to Australia from Sudan with nothing and they were able to educate us and provide us with access to opportunities that enabled us to make the most of every opportunity," she said.

"Being an alumna to me means that I am part of the story and every recognition and achievement that the University has, or initiative it supports, is important."

Abdel-Magied's work with Youth Without

Borders has helped the organisation grow in recent years, with chapters expanding into Sydney and Melbourne. She said UQ was one of its major supporters, especially through the Spark Engineering Camp.

"UQ is a place where I was able to make a difference while I was there, but it also enables me to continue to make a difference and support students."

Abdel-Magied spent time during her final two years at university working as a designer and principal of UQ's Student Race Team.

"I fell in love with motorsport when I was 13 and that's part of what drew me towards engineering," she said.

"One of my other loves is boxing. I want to be fit, strong and able to live up to a challenge.

"As an operator, there are times when every possible thing that can go wrong does go wrong, and I think, 'I wish I could just leave,'" she said.

"It's kind of like being on the ropes in the boxing ring. You can't just sit there and close your eyes and hope that it's going to go away. So it's important to be ready to take on the challenge."



Yassmin Abdel-Magied.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Recognising an alumnus whose outstanding contribution to Australian Indigenous communities has improved outcomes for Australian Indigenous people and contributes to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

DOOR OPENS TO OPPORTUNITY

Michael Aird had recently completed a sheet-metal apprenticeship in a factory on the Gold Coast when a letter from UQ changed his life.

Michael Aird

Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) '90

By his own admission, Indigenous photographer and freelance curator Michael Aird wasn't a great student. But all he needed was a foot in the door.

He left his Southport school in year 10 in 1979 "with reasonably bad grades", but had learnt the value of hard work while working as a sheet metal apprentice making air-conditioning ducting on the Gold Coast.

"To me, working in a factory and installing air-conditioning ducting was the best job in the world, but I was starting to get disappointed with looking at some of the older guys I was working with and seeing that none of them were happy," Aird said.

"I knew I wanted a different career and to work in Aboriginal culture somehow. But being an apprentice in a factory, I wasn't sure how that was going to happen."

Aird credits former curator and director of UQ's Anthropology Museum Dr Peter Lauer for his start in the academic world.

Through Lauer, Aird commenced a short-term research contract at the museum in 1985, assisting in the documentation of archaeological sites on the Gold Coast.

"Thanks to Dr Lauer I got my foot in the door at UQ and that was it for me, I was sold," he said.

"Even though my writing skills were so bad, I wrote a letter with the help of a cousin asking for mature entry and I got accepted into the University in 1986," he said.

"I think the biggest highlight was just getting that letter saying that I had been accepted."

Since that day Aird hasn't looked back. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) in 1990, he has become one of the most prominent and highly regarded Indigenous curators in Australia.

Aird was one of the first researchers



Photographer and curator Michael Aird in his home library in Coomera.

in Australia to explore the significance of historical photographs of Indigenous people to narrate Indigenous history.

He has since curated a series of landmark exhibitions: *Portraits Of Our Elders*, which featured at the Queensland Museum in 1991 before it was turned into a book in 1993; *Transforming Tindale* at the State Library of Queensland in 2012; and *Captured* at the Brisbane Museum in 2014.

"*Portraits Of Our Elders* was the really early days of people actually focusing on Aboriginal photography and the politics behind it. A lot of academics around Australia took notice of that book," Aird said.

Aird maintains connections to UQ, and earlier this year he helped curate the

Wild Australia exhibition at the University's Anthropology Museum.

Aird is being honoured as one of UQ's distinguished alumni of 2015, receiving the Indigenous Community Impact Award.

He joins one of his idols, singer-songwriter Kev Carmody, who received the award in 2013.

"I am aware that I would never have gotten to where I am today without that degree and to receive an award like this is really special," Aird said.

"If I have one piece of advice for young Indigenous people looking to pursue a career in academia, it is to get that acceptance letter. Then be willing to work hard and be committed to getting your degree."

COLLEGES' UQ ALUMNI AWARD

Recognising an alumnus who has made an outstanding contribution to UQ and a Residential College, and continues to make a positive impact on the wider community, nationally or internationally.

KNOWLEDGE AND PASSION

He's an influential lawyer and corporate banking Vice-Chairman, but Steven Skala AO has never lost sight of the important things in life.

Steven Skala AO

**Bachelor of Arts '76,
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) '78,
International House '75**

Lawyer and Vice-Chairman of Deutsche Bank AG Australia and New Zealand Steven Skala AO has four main passions: his family, the law, the arts and cricket.

He has forged an impressive legacy in many sectors, and his achievements are proof that by following one's passions, one can achieve anything.

"My advice to students is to do what you love," Skala said.

"Find things that really count to you, where the acquisition of knowledge makes your day. If you do that, you're well on the way to leading an interesting and happy life."

Skala, the son of Holocaust survivors, has a determination to support and serve his community.

"My parents loved Australia because it was a tolerant and decent country," he said.

"Individuals had the opportunity to be the best they could be. But there always was a proper safety net that helped in hard times or for those who, for whatever reason, couldn't cope.

"I chose to study law at UQ through a process of elimination. But I was lucky because I had a great mentor in my life, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Sir Zelman Cowen."

It was Sir Zelman's influence that led Skala on his quest for greater knowledge, which saw him complete a Bachelor of Civil Law at the University of Oxford.

His professional career began in Brisbane in 1980, when he joined Morris Fletcher and Cross Solicitors, and within two years he had become one of the firm's youngest ever partners.

Skala moved to Melbourne in 1985 as a partner of prestigious firm Arnold Bloch Leibler, where he was a renowned negotiator and praised for his innovation and

commercial approach. In 1991 he played a major role in the development of the firm's pro bono and native title practices.

Skala's career took a new direction in 2004, when he became Vice-Chairman of Deutsche Bank AG Australia and New Zealand.

He was part of a team that successfully guided the bank through the challenges of the global financial crisis.

His role includes governance, high-level relationship management, transactional work for investment banking and a responsibility for the bank's representation with government.

Skala has also played a significant role in supporting and influencing education and the arts, as well medical and policy research.

He holds non-executive directorship positions in many influential public and private companies including the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Wilson Group Limited, BlueChilli Technology Pty Ltd, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, the General Sir John Monash Foundation and the Centre for Independent Studies. He is also a Member of the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art (New York).

In 2010, Skala was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to business, commerce, education and the arts, and this year he has been recognised as the Colleges' UQ Alumni Award winner.

As a driven academic and skilled sportsman, Skala became a compass point for those around him when he arrived at UQ as a 17-year-old in 1973. He moved into International House for a year in 1975 and is remembered for driving robust conversation around the dinner table, and also for leading the college to its first inter-collegiate cricket premiership.

"I've always had great affection for International House," Skala said.

"It was just a wonderful and exciting experience

and I was exposed to different ways of seeing the world, which I found enormously stimulating... and still do."

Skala remains an active alumnus and continues to support the Law School.

"I think it's very important to maintain a relationship with your alma mater," Skala said.

"People say it's giving back, but I don't think that's the right expression. We're not obliged to give back to anything. I think we're obliged to give. And it's pretty good to give to an institution that taught you."

Vice-Chairman of
Deutsche Bank AG
Australia and
New Zealand
Steven Skala AO.



INTERNATIONAL ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Recognising and honouring the outstanding achievements of an international alumnus who has realised distinction in his or her chosen field and whose accomplishments enhance the prestige of the University.

NO SHORTCUTS TO SUCCESS

As a leader in the field of biomolecular science, Professor Dato Dr Rahmah Mohamed is guiding the way for students with passion and perseverance.

Professor Dato Dr Rahmah Mohamed

**Doctor of Philosophy
(Biochemistry) '86**

As a budding scientist, Professor Dato Dr Rahmah Mohamed was fascinated by some of history's greatest scholars.

The achievements of Nobel Prize-winning philosopher and physician Albert Schweitzer, and the discovery of Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) by James D Watson and Francis Crick, inspired Mohamed to pursue a career in biomolecular science.

Now, as the Vice-Chancellor of INTI International University and Colleges in Malaysia and expert in bacterial pathogenesis and microbial genomics, Mohamed is inspiring other young scientists through her leadership and achievements in the field.

"During my school and college days I would read about the great scholars, and their achievements guided me in my aspiration to be a good scientist and contributor to society," Mohamed said.

"One thing I have learnt is that a research career in molecular biology requires passion and perseverance.

"The outcome of research takes time and there are no shortcuts in the journey towards prominence."

Mohamed graduated from UQ in 1986 with a PhD in Biochemistry after completing

a Bachelor of Biomolecular Science at the University of Portsmouth in the United Kingdom in 1980.

She returned to Malaysia to take up an academic position in the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Life Sciences at the National University of Malaysia (UKM).

She went on to serve as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation at UKM for five years before taking on the role of Vice-Chancellor of INTI International University and Colleges last year.

Mohamed's research achievements in the field of bacterial pathogenesis and microbial genomics have been recognised nationally and internationally.

In 2008, she received the British Council PMI 2 Research Award for her collaboration with the University of Sheffield, which led to the identification of a key bacterial protein involved in the tropical disease known as melioidosis. These findings were published in the renowned scientific journal *Science* in 2011 and Mohamed was also honoured this year after being named as Fellow of the Academy Science Malaysia.

Mohamed has been instrumental in training young biochemists and has maintained strong links with UQ, where two of her Master of Science students have successfully completed PhDs.

She believes in celebrating diversity and individuality and has overseen the Nobel Mind-



Professor Dato Dr Rahmah Mohamed spearheading the Rafflesia Genome Diversity Project. The Rafflesia species is found in Peninsular Malaysia.

set program in Malaysia, which provides mentoring by Nobel Laureates to students, teachers and young scientists to develop the ability to solve problems beyond the conventional education system.

Mohamed said she felt a tremendous sense of honour and privilege to be named this

year's International Alumnus of the Year.

"The University is well respected for the advanced contributions in life sciences and there are many great discoveries from UQ in life and medical sciences that are world-renowned and an enormous benefit."

NATURAL TALENT

At 19, Holly Ferling has achieved almost everything in world cricket while juggling a busy university schedule.

In the past three years, rising Australian women's cricket star Holly Ferling has won a One-Day World Cup, a Twenty20 World Cup and played in three Ashes campaigns.

It's not a bad resume for someone who had no intention of playing cricket as a child.

"I would go to my brother Lane's junior club matches with a book and read the whole time," Ferling, who grew up in Kingaroy, said.

"I used to play in the backyard every now and then. While playing touch football, I actually had a girl come up and ask me to try out for the school sport district cricket team.

"Within two months of starting, I had made the school sport team, the regional team and the Queensland team."

It's fair to say that cricket – and especially bowling – came naturally to Ferling.

In her first game of men's grade cricket, she took a hat-trick with the first three balls she bowled.

"I honestly owe everything to playing against the men," the 19-year-old fast bowler said.

"They taught me very early on that if I didn't bowl in the right area, I was going to get hit to the boundary.

"I think it's a massive compliment when you're taking wickets and playing well against the men.

"If you can do it against them, then you can do it against anyone."

Ferling made her international debut as a 17-year-old against Pakistan during the 2013 One-Day World Cup in India – four weeks into her Year 12 studies.

Later that year, she was on a plane to England for her first Ashes campaign and backed up for the return series in Australia.

Ferling was also a member of Australia's victorious 2014 Twenty20 World Cup team in Bangladesh and recently returned from another successful tour of England, where the Southern Stars won the Ashes series 10 points to 6.

The women's Ashes series is determined by a points system taking in Tests, One-Day International and Twenty20 matches.

"Being a part of World Cups and Ashes tours, I think that's what it's all about as a cricketer," she said.

Ferling, who in July was the first player signed for the Brisbane Heat in the Women's Big Bash League, is currently completing a Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education and is UQ Sport's 2015 Sportswoman of the Year.

The Clem Jones Sporting Scholarship holder said she was honoured to receive the award, particularly after a frustrating season plagued by a back injury.

"I'm really honoured. Last season probably wasn't the greatest season for me with an injury," Ferling said.

"I've been very fortunate to have the support of different course coordinators who have allowed me to juggle cricket and my university subjects.

"The scholarship is a huge help. I don't have to worry about trying to balance a part-time job on top of studies and training."

Ferling said studying at UQ while pursuing cricket helped keep her grounded and was a positive distraction from professional sport – particularly while she was recovering from injury.

"I'm really focused on my degree and I can't wait to get out there and start teaching kids," Ferling said.

"I had plenty of teachers back home at Kingaroy who inspired me to achieve my best and I really want to be able to do the same.

"There's no better way to tap into the youth and try to motivate them. I don't think a lot of kids understand what is achievable and what they can do."



Photo courtesy of Getty Images.

Australian cricketer Holly Ferling appeals for a wicket against England.



Photo courtesy of Swimming Australia Ltd.

Brenden Hall in the pool swimming for Australia.

GOLDEN DREAMS

After achieving his childhood dream with a gold medal in London, Paralympic champion Brenden Hall is focused on defending his title in Rio.

Swimming world champion Brenden Hall says it's hard to describe the feeling of winning a Paralympic gold medal.

"You're just so happy and relieved, and you don't know whether or not you want to cry," Hall said.

"There's an overwhelming sense that all the work you put into the last four years has finally paid off and you've managed to achieve your childhood dream."

Hall competed at his first Paralympics as a 15-year-old in Beijing in 2008, reaching the final in the 400-metres freestyle (S9).

He went on to achieve his dream in London in 2012, where he brought home two gold medals in the 400m freestyle (S9) and 4x100m freestyle relay (34 points).

The 22-year-old is the current world-record holder for the 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle (S9) events and has set his sights on a third Paralympics next year in Rio de Janeiro, after winning two more gold medals in July this year in the 100m backstroke (S9) and 400m freestyle (S9) at the World Championships in Glasgow.

"The ultimate goal is to defend my 400m title

in Rio, swim a world record and be up on the podium for my other swims as well," Hall said.

Born in Nambour on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Hall said he was drawn to swimming from an early age.

At the age of six, his life was turned upside down after doctors were forced to amputate his right leg after complications from chicken pox.

The disease also resulted in the loss of 70 per cent of his hearing, but Hall said he was determined not to let his disability stand in his way.

"In 2000, I saw some of the swimming events at the Sydney Paralympics and I realised that there were guys competing who were exactly like me, and they were winning medals for their country," Hall said.

"From then on, it was my dream that I was going to represent Australia and hopefully win a gold medal."

Hall is currently studying Exercise and Sport Science and is a recipient of a Clem Jones Sporting Scholarship.

While he trains and swims for the Lawnton Swimming Club, Hall said he was grateful for the support he had received through the

scholarship and from the University.

"Through the sporting scholarship, I've received significant support that has helped me focus on my training while maintaining my studies at the same time," Hall said.

"I was at UQ when I won gold in London in 2012, and the University put out a social media post to congratulate me.

"It not only helped to promote my success, but Paralympic sport in general. That was a pretty big highlight."

After experiencing success on the world stage, Hall is now helping disadvantaged kids to achieve their best through his role as an ambassador for the Aspiration for Kids program.

"It's something I hold close to my heart," he said.

"It helps kids who are struggling with a range of hardships that can restrict them from achieving further in school sport.

"You don't want to see these kids slip through the cracks. They could be the next Sally Pearson, or someone like that.

"To be able to help provide these kids a chance to go on and achieve at the next level is very special."

ALUMNI FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND INC. AWARDS

Awarded by Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Dr Russ Morrison AM

**Bachelor of Engineering '62,
Master of Engineering Science '64,
Doctor of Philosophy '69, Honorary
Doctor of Engineering '14**

For a young mechanical engineer fresh out of university, the moon landing in 1969 seemed like one small step for man but another world away for Dr Russ Morrison AM.

Morrison had completed his PhD at UQ that year and was involved in setting up the engineering consulting firm Winders Barlow Morrison (WBM), now known as BMT WBM. As a postgraduate student, Morrison became interested in rocket development and often stayed up late listening to the rocket launches during NASA's Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs.

"I was fascinated by the development of the Saturn V,



Dr Russ Morrison.

the rocket used in the Apollo program. At that time, I didn't think there was much of a chance to get involved," Morrison said.

Little did he know that less than 20 years later, at the height of the Cold War, he would be playing a role in helping the US lead the space race against Russia.

Morrison's early professional contributions included pioneering measurement and troubleshooting techniques on heavy mining machinery.

In the late 1980s, WBM took on a new direction. Through his friendship with UQ Emeritus Professor Ray Stalker, Morrison brought the company into the field of hypersonic combustion research – and into the space race.

"Ray Stalker was the father of the Australian scramjet involvement. He invented the free-piston shock tunnel, now known as the Stalker tube, which is a hypersonic wind tunnel," Morrison said.

At the same time, Rocketdyne, the US company responsible for building the liquid-fuelled engines for the Saturn V, was planning a ground-based testing tunnel for scramjet engines. Within six weeks, Morrison, Stalker and their team were in the US working on the project.

Over the past three decades, Morrison and BMT WBM have made significant contributions to the advancement of engineering,

both in Australia and abroad. As the company's Director of Product Development, Morrison has led a group working on automation and collision avoidance systems for bulk handline machines, as well as an innovative robotic vibrating system for assisting the discharge of coal from rail wagons.

During the 1990s and through to the early 2000s, Morrison chaired the committee that developed the new Australian standard for the design of bulk material-handling machines and in 1998 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Morrison said he was honoured to be named this year's Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. Alumnus of the Year.

"We've always surrounded ourselves with the best and brightest people we could find – and the majority of those have come from UQ."

GRADUATES OF THE YEAR

Nicholas Doyle

**Bachelor of Engineering
(Honours) '14**

Kianoosh Soltani Naveh

**Bachelor of Mechatronic
Engineering '14**

Julian Tonino

**Bachelor of Engineering
(Honours) '14**

There's a great sense of accomplishment that comes with completing university, and these three young engineers have achieved even more than they ever imagined as the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. Graduates of the Year.

Kianoosh Soltani Naveh came to UQ from Iran and quickly became involved in symposiums, domestic and international conferences and

other programs on global and social responsibility – all while maintaining a 7.0 GPA.

"Coming from such a distance was not like going from A to B. It was a journey that was not trivial. It required determination, faith and goodwill," Soltani Naveh said.

"The whole journey exposed me to different challenges and I learnt a lot very early on."

One of last year's University Medallists, Soltani Naveh is currently completing his PhD in Control Systems Engineering.

Julian Tonino enrolled at UQ in 2011 from St Joseph's Nudgee College and was eager to immerse himself in university life. Tonino completed his degree with a 7.0 GPA and a University Medal.

He was also the Valedictorian of the 2014 engineering class.

Tonino is currently working on national infrastructure projects



Graduates of the Year Nicholas Doyle, Julian Tonino and Kianoosh Soltani Naveh.

as a highways engineer for consulting firm ARUP Brisbane.

For Nicholas Doyle, academic success came down to the basic principle of hard work.

On top of a 7.0 GPA, Doyle collected a host of academic prizes during his four years at UQ, including a University Medal last year. He was also awarded a

UQ Merit Scholarship in 2011 and Hatch Engineering Scholarship in 2012.

Doyle is working as a structural engineer at Brisbane consultancy firm Robert Bird Group.

app Download the
**Contact app to read
their full stories.**



FUNCTIONS - RESTAURANT - WEDDINGS



UQ ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND STAFF RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT WHEN DINING IN THE RESTAURANT
\$5 parking available after 5pm Mon-Fri and all day Sat and Sun. Please see the website for full details.

DISCOVERY HIGHLIGHTS

Talented researchers are making a difference by finding solutions to global issues. To find out more about how you can contribute to the University's research efforts, visit uq.edu.au/giving

BUILDING BLOCKS TO BETTER COMMUNICATION

How can two people come up with completely different LEGO models while working from the same instructions? According to UQ School of Psychology research, it can depend on who people believe is giving the instructions.

Dr Katharine Greenaway said receiving instructions from someone considered “similar” was more effective than following orders from someone “different”, even if the content and method of delivery were identical.

"We explored whether sharing an identity with someone changes the way we communicate with them," Greenaway said.

Tasked with producing a 44-piece LEGO car (pictured), among other models, one group was told the instructions were created by a fellow group member, while the other group was told they were created by a member of the opposite group.

"Not only did participants perceive the instructions to be better if they believed they came from inside the group, they also produced better models as a result," Greenaway said.

"Shared identity can facilitate that feeling of connection, because we believe the other person 'gets us' and that improves our ability to communicate."



QUEST FOR PAIN RELIEF

**UniQuest success to
bring relief to chronic
pain sufferers.**

The \$1 billion acquisition of UQ-founded Spinifex Pharmaceuticals by global pharmaceutical giant Novartis International AG has brought an unprecedented treatment for

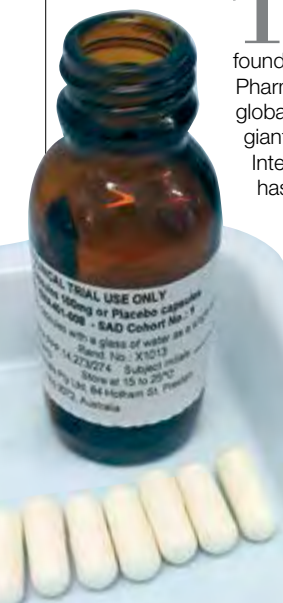
chronic pain one step closer to the people who need it most.

Spinifex is developing the drug candidate EMA401, an oral treatment for chronic pain, particularly neuropathic pain (a type of nerve pain), without central nervous system side effects.

Instead of the traditional method of blocking a receptor in the brain, this new drug blocks a receptor on the nerve, treating pain directly at its source.

The technology is based on a discovery by UQ's Professor Maree Smith.

"Chronic pain can be a debilitating condition, most commonly associated with cancer chemotherapy, post-herpetic neuralgia (a painful condition that can follow shingles), diabetes, peripheral nerve injury and osteoarthritis," Smith said.



Dr Grant Edwards and Dr Celine Chaleat, TenasiTech Engineers, inspect a moulded acrylic glass plaque incorporating TenasiTech's nanotechnology. Image: Phil Savory.

SUSTAINABLE ACRYLIC GLASS

Start-up company TenasiTech has developed a scratch-resistant and environmentally sustainable acrylic glass for use in the computer, electronics and automotive industries, potentially spelling the end of cracked phone screens forever.

Professor Darren Martin and his team from the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) have created a ceramic nano-additive that, once processed into the acrylic glass using usual processing methods, can significantly enhance the durability of the glass without any loss of impact strength.

"Globally the acrylic glass market is worth almost \$6 billion; however, the material's poor scratch-resistance is a barrier to its more widespread use as a replacement for traditional glass," Martin said.

This advancement could mean a mass rollout of the new material.

"The technology we've developed is better for the environment in terms of reduced chemical and solvent use, (and) our process gives a more durable and scratch-resistant product for a fraction of the cost of other hardened acrylic products."

BUG DRONE HELPS CORN CROPS

Agricultural science student Michael Godfrey (pictured) has developed a drone that spreads beneficial insects onto crops, potentially saving farmers time and money.

Godfrey investigated whether drones, remotely controlled from the ground, could be used to spread the beneficial Californicus mite onto corn crops infected with two chlorophyll-munching spotted mites.

"As corn grows, it is very difficult to walk between the crop to spread beneficial bugs," Godfrey said.

"My initial concept for the 'Bug Drone' came from a seed spreader, and in the end I built an attachment to the drone that can be used to spread the mites over the crop from the air."

He began his project at the Agriculture and Remote Sensing Laboratory at UQ's Gatton

Campus, and proved the concept of the product at Rugby Farms.

Godfrey said the next step was to monitor the crops to see what happens after the bugs have been dropped.



DINOSAUR STOMPING GROUND BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

Bringing a 130-million-year-old dinosaur landscape back to life is no easy task, as UQ palaeontologists found while studying the “Dinosaur Coast” in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia.

School of Biological Sciences Senior Lecturer Dr Steve Salisbury and his team, which includes dinosaur track expert Dr Anthony Romilio, have scoured the sandstone outcrops along about 100 kilometres of the Dampier Peninsula’s coastline, documenting fossilised dinosaur footprints.

They used the latest mapping technology for the project, including a remote-controlled aerial drone, nicknamed the “dino-drone”, and a hand-held laser-scanner developed by CSIRO, known as Zebedee.

They also used a remote-sensing survey plane from Airborne Research Australia at Flinders University, as well as rapid-setting silicon rubber moulds and high-resolution photography.

“Despite recent National Heritage Listing of the Dampier Peninsula’s dinosaur tracks, many of the track sites remain largely undocumented, and their full scientific significance is poorly understood,” Salisbury said.

“The results of this project should allow us to construct high-resolution, 3D digital outcrop models of the track sites, and really re-imagine this region as it was when dinosaurs walked the earth.”

Goolarabooloo Law Boss Phillip Roe, Dr Steve Salisbury and Linda Pollard use the dino-drone. Image: Damian Kelly.



GENES SOURCE OF PROBLEMS FOR TEEN BINGE-EATERS



A collaborative study analysing data from 6000 adolescents aged 14–16 has found that genetic variations associated with obesity risk could also predict binge eating.

UQ Diamantina Institute Professor David Evans and a University College London Institute of Child Health team found that if a young person had a particular variation in the location of the FTO gene, they were between 20 per cent and 30 per cent more likely to binge eat.

Professor Evans said the pattern was particularly evident in girls, who were 30 per cent more likely to binge eat if they had the variation.

One in 10 adults and teenagers are believed to binge eat – that is, they excessively overeat with a lack of control of what they are eating. While it’s known that a combination of genetic and environmental factors lead to eating disorders, until now there has been limited research into how specific genes increase the likelihood of binge-eating behaviours that can lead to obesity.

“In the future, it may help us create strategies for identifying at-risk teenagers before they get to the stage where they are overweight or obese and face the many health problems associated with these issues,” Evans said.

A previously unknown species of insect has been identified by Biological Sciences Honours graduate Thomas Semple, and it is living in Australian suburbia.

Semple and Dr Lyn Cook found a type of bush tucker known as bush coconuts or bloodwood apples in Crows Nest National Park, west of Brisbane, and in Toohey Forest in the heart of Brisbane, far from where they typically occur in the savannah woodlands of northern Australia.

“Although their names sound like fruit, they are actually growths on plants – galls – triggered by the feeding of a very strange insect,” Semple said.

BUSH TUCKER LEADS TO NEW INSECT DISCOVERY

Until recently, there were only two known species of the insect *Cystococcus* that lives inside these galls.

“We collected samples of the newly discovered populations from around South-East Queensland, as well as the two other species from right across northern Australia,” Semple said.

“Using a combination of physical characteristics and DNA sequence data, I was able to determine that it was a species new to science.”

He and collaborators have named the newly recognised species *Cystococcus campanidorsalis*, with the second part of the scientific name referring to the insect’s bell-shaped back that plugs the entrance to the gall. This work was recently published in the journal *Invertebrate Systematics*.

Thomas Semple named and described *Cystococcus campanidorsalis*. Here, the nymphs (sister insects) are clinging to their brother’s back, beneath his folded wings. Image: Dr Lyn Cook.



Women in science: TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

While just as many women attend university as men, it remains a sobering fact that women are significantly under-represented at senior academic levels, particularly in the science fields. Here, two senior researchers from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience discuss why this is the case and what's being done to address the imbalance.

Professor Jenny Martin
NHMRC Research Fellow and
recent ARC Laureate Fellow,
Institute for Molecular Bioscience

Q. What do you call a room full of women at university?
A. A gender equity forum.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Professor Jenny Martin is a Professor of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery at UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience. She holds national and international scientific and policy leadership roles, is a current National Health and Medical Research Council

Research Fellow and a recent Australian Research Council Australian Laureate Fellow. She trained as a pharmacist in Melbourne, undertook her PhD at Oxford University and her postdoctoral research at Rockefeller University. Martin's research is devoted to understanding the structure and function of proteins involved in health and disease and to discover new therapeutics. She is the recipient of many honours including the Australian Society for Bioschemistry and Molecular Biology Roche Medal, the Queensland Smart Women Smart State Research Scientist Award, and the Women in Biotech Outstanding Biotechnology Achievement Award. She was also one of three finalists in the 2015 NAB Women's Agenda Mentor of the Year Leadership Award.

Follow Martin on Twitter @JennyMartin_UQ

There is a sad truth to that joke. As a senior research scientist, I am often the only woman in a room full of men. Finding myself in the reverse situation, in a room full of women, is very unusual. Yet call a gender equity or diversity meeting and suddenly the ratio is reversed. It's odd, really.

When I was awarded my pharmacy degree, there were as many women as men graduating. What's more, women were awarded most of the 15 prizes on offer in the course, including the gold medal. Those sorts of figures are generally similar across the board. Gender equity was achieved at undergraduate level in Australian universities in the 1980s. Since then, women have regularly won more than their fair share of prizes at undergraduate, postgraduate and early-career levels in Australian universities.

You might assume that by now, some 30 years later, those numbers would have translated into gender representation approaching parity at senior academic levels. But it has not. The percentage of women professors at Australian universities has been stuck stubbornly below 20 per cent for decades. The greater attrition of women relative to men has been referred to as the "stupid" curve, the silent brain drain, or the scissor graph (because of the shape of the plotted data, see right). And it is most glaringly obvious in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. This wastage of half of our best talent impacts negatively on productivity and innovation.

It is clear that not everyone can progress to senior status in academia. The big question is, why do the careers of women in

STEM disciplines stall much more often than those of men? Contributing factors are many and varied. Unconscious bias. Stereotypes. Structural barriers. Casualisation of the workforce. Normalised discriminatory behaviour. Everyday sexism. Impostor syndrome. Primary carer roles. Lack of flexible work practices. Lack of senior female role models. Lack of mentoring. Lack of sponsorship. Not to mention the feeling of isolation and the overwhelming committee burden (to ensure gender balance) for those who do progress. The list goes on.

"I look forward to the day... when gender equity is fully embedded in the Australian academic landscape."

So, if these are the reasons, what can we do to tackle the loss of talent? In 2005, 10 UK universities signed up to the Athena SWAN charter to establish a scheme of excellence that recognises the universities that best support gender equity. These 10 institutions included the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford and Imperial College London (no lightweights – all are regularly ranked in the top 10 worldwide). Ten years later, charter membership is well above 100 and the UK is reaping the benefits.



IMB's Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Maggie Hardy, left, and NHMRC Research Fellow and recent ARC Laureate Fellow Professor Jenny Martin.

The impact has been enormous. Staff across the board – female and male, scientists and professional staff – employed in departments granted a silver Athena SWAN award report greater career satisfaction, improved opportunities for development and promotion, and better fairness in workload allocation. Most importantly, research funding bodies have come on board: a silver Athena SWAN award is now mandatory for major medical research funding in the UK.

Achieving an Athena SWAN award is not simple. It is not just a “box-ticking” exercise to find out if appropriate policies and schemes are in place. The time and effort

required is significant; it has been likened to writing a research higher degree thesis. Nevertheless, the success of Athena SWAN in the UK has attracted considerable interest abroad. The Republic of Ireland is part way through a three-year pilot. And now, I am very proud to say, Australia is signing up.

I am a founding member of the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) steering committee of the Australian Academy of Science. The Academy, through SAGE, commenced a pilot of Athena SWAN in August. Thirty-two institutions (universities, medical research institutes, publicly funded research agencies), including UQ, have signed up to the

Athena SWAN charter and will participate in the Australian pilot and work towards accreditation. It is a most exciting time!

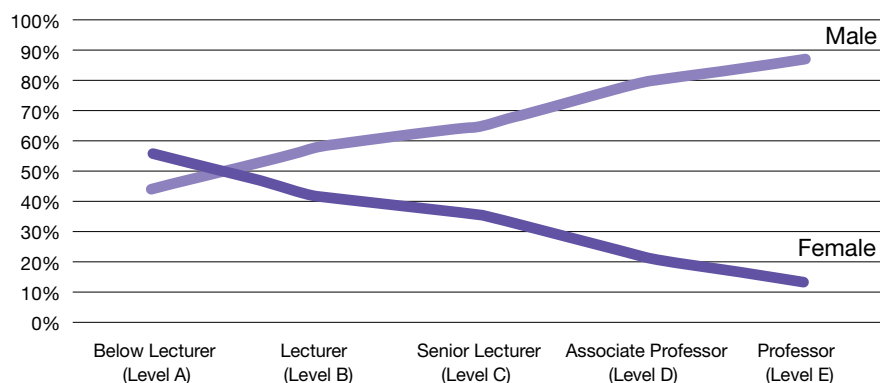
Meanwhile, Australian scientific research funding bodies are leading their own charge. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), of which I am a member of the NHMRC Women in Health Sciences Committee, and the Australian Research Council are developing approaches to address the gender inequity they have identified in grant and fellowship funding. They are analysing their data, identifying crunch points and developing action plans. Just this year, the NHMRC committed to addressing the issue of under-representation of women at senior levels, requiring organisations who wish to remain eligible for funding to have institutional policies in place (including addressing any gender pay gap) by the end of 2015.

I look forward to the day (which I hope arrives in the not-too-distant future) when gender equity is fully embedded in the Australian academic landscape and grant funding systems. And when Athena SWAN expands further and goes global, perhaps gender equity might figure in international university rankings. After all, if the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge and Imperial College London all consider gender equity to be critically important for their continued success, shouldn't we too? Absolutely.

To find out more about the SAGE Pilot of Athena SWAN in Australia, visit science.org.au/SAGE/Pilot.

GENDER DISPARITY IN THE NATURAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES IN ACADEMIA

2012



Source: Higher Education Research Data Collection 2012, Department of Education; Office of the Chief Scientist, Australia. www.science.org.au/sage/gender-equity

Women in science: TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

“Visibility is key for women in science. Showcasing the diversity of career journeys that women researchers have taken – as scientists and as mothers – illuminates the path for the next generation.”

Dr Maggie Hardy

**Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
Institute for Molecular Bioscience**

Like many working mothers, I never considered staying at home after my maternity leave ended. I love my job and I worked hard to get where I am with my career. I'm very lucky to have a supportive husband and healthy children – without those, I'm not sure my decision would have been as simple.

Why do I love my job so much? I have the privilege of working with one of the world's deadliest spiders. My research

is focused on the discovery of new, environmentally friendly insecticides from the venom of native Australian spiders, including the funnel-web. I also milk tarantulas, which are about the size of a bread plate.

In the course of my PhD, I discovered a suite of orally active insecticidal compounds that were patented. After finishing my PhD, I worked as a postdoctoral research officer on a grant that continued the research trajectory for the compounds I discovered. During that postdoc, I had my first children: a set of boy/girl twins. Next, I received my own independent fellowship position; I fell pregnant again (another boy!), and was promoted while I was on maternity leave.

My time at UQ has given me some unique advantages: being at a Group of Eight institution means I have access to the nation's top researchers and equipment. As a research-focused academic, my time is split between the lab, writing grants and writing papers. Our human resources staff did a fantastic job of explaining my flexible return-to-work options, and the group leader for whom I work has been supportive of my transition from scientist to mother, to working mother (and back, with my second pregnancy).

I've also been grateful to receive one of UQ's Postdoctoral Research Fellowships for Women, which support women who are returning to a career in research after a career break to have children. There are only two fellowships of this type given each year, one full-time and one half-time, and I'm glad I was able to return to work full-time.

Why is this institutional support important? Australia's investment in research and knowledge-intensive jobs is significant and supports a broad range of industries, from mining, to medicine, to agriculture. When parents leave research careers, we reduce our human capital: when women leave because they can't get a look-in after having children, we risk losing 50 per cent of that highly skilled workforce. Any kind of career break can produce a dip in publications and therefore grant funding: primary caregiving responsibilities for young children or an elderly parent, but also lateral moves into industry, government or clinical positions.

Recent initiatives like Athena SWAN (UK), the San Francisco Declaration on

Research Assessment (USA) and the SAGE pilot (Australia) have brought these issues of equity to the forefront of the research agenda. Valuing the more difficult-to-quantify contributions of researchers (like science communication, mentoring and outreach) ensures that our work remains relevant to a larger audience, and provides a vehicle for those of us who have taken career breaks to return to the lab bench.

A PhD isn't just a degree signifying technical proficiency: it's a mandate to provide leadership in our disciplines, our institutions and our communities. We are in a golden age of science and I plan to be in the lab to see how it unfolds.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, Dr Maggie Hardy is a Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Division of Chemistry and Structural Biology at UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience. She earned her Master of Science in Entomology from the University of Hawaii

in 2007 and a PhD in Chemistry and Structural Biology from UQ in 2011. Her dissertation focused on discovering and characterising novel insecticides from the venom of native Australian spiders, including funnel-webs and tarantulas. Hardy is also an advocate for evidence-based science policy and the importance of science engagement, and actively works toward increasing the proportion of persons in research careers from traditionally under-represented groups. In addition to her research, Hardy is a wife and mother.

Follow Hardy on Twitter @DrMaggieHardy

HOW INSTITUTIONS CAN HELP CREATE GENDER EQUITY

- Schedule meetings between 9am and 2pm.
- Allow flexible working hours for parents with young children.
- Create opportunities to showcase the work of women.
- Ensure women are represented on panels and organising committees.
- Consider metrics like mentoring and engagement in recruitment, hiring and promotion.
- Provide on-site childcare with adequate places.
- Furnish a parents' room with facilities for feeding and changing children, and expressing milk.
- Arrange funding for parents/carers attending conferences to cover gaps in caring responsibilities.
- Ensure a diverse range of people are represented in publicity materials, including the institution's website.



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As the host venue for the G20, lauded as the friendliest and most successful to date, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre is confident in its ability to host any event, big or small.

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With a dedicated team to help UQ scientists and alumni bid for conferences, our bidding support is free and we can help with financial assistance for travel scholarships and speaker costs.

If you know of a conference that should be held in Brisbane to showcase UQ then contact us and we'll make it happen.

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SPOTLIGHT ON UQ IN GERMANY

A thriving manufacturing sector and emerging dominance in the advancement of information technology, biotechnology and renewable energy sectors have placed Germany firmly at the forefront of UQ's global strategy.

Germany, the largest single European economy and fourth largest worldwide, is a global leader in research, innovation, science and technology. It maintains this position by spending close to three per cent of its gross domestic product on research and development annually.

As such, Germany has been a significant research partner for UQ for several decades. UQ has established relationships with 19 universities and two research institutes in Germany, including global top 100 universities Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich (LMU), Technical University of Munich (TUM) and Humboldt University of Berlin. These partnerships have led to significant student mobility, academic collaborations and research discoveries.

Close alliances have also been formed with the German Research Foundation (DFG), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Max Planck Society and the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres.

In addition, UQ has partnered with a number of German companies for joint research and funding, including Siemens, Boehringer Ingelheim International, Bayer HealthCare and Bruker BioSpin MRI.

Three UQ alumni have also been appointed as Australian Ambassadors to Germany during the past decade, including David Ritchie AO (Bachelor of Arts (Hons) '75), who in 2014 replaced Peter Tesch (Bachelor of Arts (Hons) '87), and Ian



Technical University of Munich (TUM) President Professor Wolfgang A. Herrmann (left) and UQ Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj signing the renewal of agreements between TUM and UQ in June. Back row from left: Professor Volker Sieber and Dr Harald Olk from TUM, Dr Jessica Gallagher, Professor Monique Skidmore and Professor Simon Biggs from UQ, and Professor Markus Schwaiger from TUM.

Kemish AM (Bachelor of Arts (Hons) '87).

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Monique Skidmore said German institutions had a history of cooperating closely with industry partners.

"These partnerships have enabled them to transfer knowledge from research endeavours to inventive products and services for the benefit of society," she said.

TUM is one such institution that has very close links with industry, signing around 1000 co-operation agreements every year. Some of TUM's long-standing partnerships include global giants Siemens, General Electric, BMW and Audi.

In June, UQ expanded its collaboration with TUM through a jointly organised research

symposium on the topic of "Water, Environment and Sustainability".

The symposium provided researchers from both universities the opportunity to share their knowledge and perspectives, and discuss collaborative approaches to pressing global challenges. An important feature of the symposium was the presence of some of TUM's industry partners, who provided valuable insights for UQ researchers.

"Partnering with German institutions such as TUM provides UQ with expanded opportunities to engage with leading global companies in Germany and forms a key foundation in achieving our vision to create knowledge leadership for a better world," Skidmore said.

UQ and TUM are both world leaders in research into life

sciences and physical sciences, as evidenced by the top 100 rankings for both organisations in those disciplines in the Academic Ranking of World Universities and *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings.

"These high rankings provide an excellent platform for our research teams to submit joint proposals for funding to expand our collaborative research and deliver greater global impact," Skidmore said.

Another important research collaboration is the partnership between the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) and the Munich Centre for Neurosciences (MCN), which has been in place since 2010. The MCN is a virtual centre in which several faculties of LMU and other Munich-based research



Master of Business student Anna Brandt.

WELCOMING FUTURE GLOBAL LEADERS

Germany is home to UQ's eighth largest cohort of international alumni, and this figure will continue to grow as UQ becomes an increasingly popular student exchange destination.

One program helping to boost these numbers is the German Global Leaders Scholarship, which provides German students who excel academically with the opportunity to undertake postgraduate study at UQ in the areas of business, economics and law.

Master of Business student Anna Brandt, a German Global Leaders Scholarship recipient, is currently on exchange from Hamburg. She said she was enjoying studying at St Lucia campus.

"I really love the St Lucia campus and all it has to offer – nice places to meet people and socialise, great libraries with quiet study spaces that are open 24/7, great outdoor space and a lot of student services, from career advice to academic workshops and language courses," she said.

Brandt said diversity was another advantage of studying at UQ.

"Although I have studied an international degree in my undergraduate studies and have spent some time abroad, it has not been as diverse as UQ," she said.

"It is very enriching to study and work with so many people from completely different cultural backgrounds and I think that this experience has changed my view, the way I work with people and has opened new perspectives."

To complement her studies, Brandt is completing an internship at UK Trade and Investment, which is based at the British Consulate in Brisbane and supports Australian companies starting businesses and investing in the UK.

"The internship is giving me very interesting insights on the business relationships between the UK and Australia, especially Queensland," she said.

"It is great to get these experiences and learn more about this field."

"The career team from the BEL faculty helped me to get this internship position and supported me throughout the application process."

Brandt said she highly recommended UQ and Brisbane as a study destination.

"My advice for students from Germany: do it. It's an excellent university and a great place to live!"

To find out more about the German Global Leaders Scholarship, visit bel.uq.edu.au/uqdeutschlandscholarship

centres participate to enable integrated, interdisciplinary neuroscience.

Director of QBI Professor Pankaj Sah said the QBI-MCN agreement provided opportunities for collaborative research and teaching programs, as well as staff and student exchanges.

"So far we have held three symposia together, two at UQ and one at LMU. In addition, we organised an Autumn School and Workshop in Human Cognitive Neuroscience at UQ in 2014 and had staff and students visiting each others' labs over the past five years," he said.

"The long-term goal is shared expertise, to learn from each others' experiences and to mutually benefit and prosper from the relationship."

While the relationship is still quite young, Professor Sah said QBI and MCN aimed to increase the number and quality of co-publications and in time build a critical mass which would allow both to jointly apply for grant funding for major research projects.

TARGETING CHRONIC PAIN

A significant research collaboration between UQ and German pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim International is seeking new ways to target chronic pain, with the potential to bring relief to millions of sufferers around the world.

Professor Maree Smith from UQ's Centre for Integrated Preclinical Drug Development is leading a three-year project that ultimately seeks to help develop new painkillers that are highly effective, without the unpleasant side effects.

Top 20 global pharmaceutical giant Boehringer Ingelheim International contributed \$1.5 million towards the project in 2012, which also attracted a \$1.575 million Australian Research Linkage Project Grant.

Smith said chronic pain was an area of large unmet medical need.

"Chronic pain affects one in five adults in Australia and other countries globally," she said.



Professor Maree Smith and Dr Nemat Khan from UQ's Centre for Integrated Preclinical Drug Development.

"Currently available analgesic drug treatments are often poorly effective and/or they produce unpleasant side effects."

"Unfortunately in the past two decades, most new molecules that have been tested in patients with chronic pain did not produce pain relief, despite these same

compounds showing promising analgesia in rodent pain models.

"The overarching goal of my large ARC Linkage grant-funded research project in collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim has been to bring innovation into the methods used to assess the analgesic properties of new molecules produced by drug discovery researchers."

RECOMMENDED READING

Established in 1948, UQP is a dynamic publishing house known for its innovative philosophy and commitment to producing high-quality books of cultural significance. It has launched the careers of many celebrated Australian writers, such as David Malouf AO, Peter Carey, Kate Grenville, Doris Pilkington and Nick Earls.

UQP's scholarly books are internationally recognised, presenting contemporary issues including peace and conflict, creative industries and our own regional concerns through a major Pacific Studies collection. Other publishing activities include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, Indigenous writing and the promotion of literacy and a love of reading through its children's and young adult titles.

UQP is also dedicated to co-releasing front-list titles as eBooks and digitally printing selected out-of-print titles.

To purchase any of these books or sign up to UQP's monthly e-newsletter, visit uqp.com.au.

Not Just Black and White

Lesley and Tammy Williams

Reviewed by Meredith Anderson — Graduate Certificate in Arts (Writing, Editing and Publishing) student

Lesley and Tammy Williams, mother and daughter, share their personal stories in this memoir about family, dreams, and injustice.

Lesley relives her youth, growing up at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, bringing to light the best and worst parts. The best part was her tightly-knit family; little was more important than taking care of one another. The worst part was how the white officials who overlooked the settlement had luxuries her family did not, and the injustice in their living arrangements; something that Lesley noticed more and more as the years passed.

This compelling read is made stronger by the conversational tone between mother and daughter, as each comments on what the other has experienced and how it has affected them and their dreams for the future.



app Download the **Contact** app to read extracts from the books.

The Promise Seed

Cass Moriarty

Reviewed by Martine Kropkowski — Master of Arts (Writing, Editing and Publishing) student

Cass Moriarty's debut, *The Promise Seed*, is a tender account of betrayed childhoods. The novel, which was shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Awards in 2013, navigates the distressing ground of child abuse and the wretchedness that can shadow victims throughout their lives.

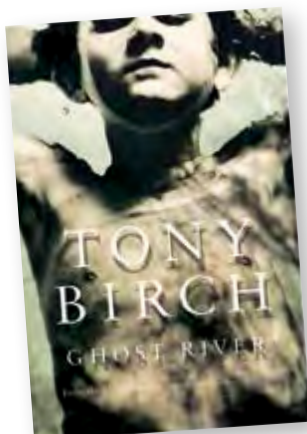
This book's insights into uneasy life are undoubtedly

informed by Moriarty's experience as a counsellor in child protective services. Honest and confronting, it follows the stories of two "unspeakably betrayed" boys, one at the beginning of his life, the other now at the end. Friendship grows between the pair, bringing solace and escape to both characters.

The Promise Seed illustrates not only the despair of

neglected childhoods, but the shards of light and happiness that punctuate them.

Told with a vividness that brings to life the dry and smooth hands of old age and the clinking staleness of alcoholism, Moriarty's novel paints a portrait of abuse and salvation with a hopeful poignancy likely to linger with readers beyond the last page.



Ghost River

Tony Birch

Reviewed by Joseph Diskett — Master of Arts (Writing, Editing and Publishing) student

Following up on the success of his novels *The Promise* and the critically acclaimed *Blood*, author Tony Birch has created an intricate and thought-provoking story in his new novel *Ghost River*. The story follows two best friends – scoundrels on the outside but

truly good-at-heart – as they discover the realities of work, religion, authority and, most importantly, themselves. Set in 1970s Melbourne, Birch's story highlights the evolution of society by contrasting this almost-unrecognisable Collingwood and Yarra River with the world around the

reader, just forty years away from Ren and Sonny's adventures.

After a slow start, *Ghost River* picks up as we meet more and more of the diverse cast of characters who throw one obstacle after another at the boys, which they triumphantly overcome.



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CHALLENGING THE FUTURE

business.uq.edu.au

CREATING COMMUNITY LEADERS

As the driving force behind UQ's Social Economic Engagement Program, Associate Professor Neil Paulsen is on a mission to ensure tomorrow's business leaders contribute to the communities in which they do business.

When *Contact* met with Associate Professor Neil Paulsen earlier this year, he was preparing to fly to Zambia to run a workshop for African delegates to help them address the challenges of building infrastructure in their home countries. It's all in a day's work for Paulsen who runs UQ's Social Economic Engagement Program (SEEP), a not-for-credit program that provides MBA students with the opportunity to apply their professional expertise and skills to address challenges facing community organisations, both in Australia and internationally.

It's an area Paulsen is absolutely passionate about; a passion that is evident in the enthusiasm he displays when talking about the many projects SEEP students have been involved in, for organisations such as Yalari, GIVIT, Hear and Say, Suited to Success, and Life Stream Australia.

It's a passion that clearly resonates with his students and has seen him win a number of teaching excellence and service awards, including the 2006 ANZAM Management Educator of the Year Award, the inaugural UQ Business School Corporate Education Award in 2009 and the UQ Business School 2011 Industry Engagement Award.

Contact spoke to Paulsen about the Business School's work in community engagement and social enterprise and how alumni can get involved.

Neil, you have been running UQ's SEEP program for five years. How did the program come about?

I've always had this idea that people need to be exposed to the challenges that are happening in the wider community and thought maybe we could find a way of engaging students with community-based organisations. I put this idea to a group of MBA students in 2009 and, in 2010, a few of them came back to me and said, let's make this happen. So it kind of started like that.

What was the first project SEEP students were involved with?

I knew Alex McDonald who is Executive Director of the Wise Foundation, which was set up to sponsor social enterprise. A group of MBA students worked with Alex to conceptualise and build a model for his idea for the "Buffed" business, a social franchise shoe-shine business. The franchisees, who are refugees or other people excluded from the Australian workforce, sign a franchise agreement and pay a weekly fee to the Wise Foundation, which owns the brand. Any other money they earn is their own so they are incentivised to build their own business. Over 10 months, the students did some market research and explored different business models and funding strategies. Eight franchisees are now located in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

Since that initial project, there have been around 45 projects in about 35 different organisations involving 170 MBA students.

The program is co-curricular (not-for-credit). Why do students want to be involved?

The students who end up in the program are those who have always thought that they wanted to make a contribution to the community but didn't know how to do it. Maybe they are students who are already involved in local organisations, on boards or at their local sports club. This opportunity

allows them to engage at a more strategic level, to add value out of their own expertise, to work with a group of people who have different expertise to them, and to get their head around a challenge in an organisation and make a recommendation or difference. That's what people are responding to.

Are there other opportunities for students to get involved with community organisations?

A similar program has now been spawned at the undergraduate level called the Community Engagement Program (CEP), and the response to that program has been enormous. We have a whole stack of people at UQ who are thinking about this space and how to provide opportunities and challenges to students in this area. For example, course coordinators in the Business School are using projects from community organisations for classes in the marketing discipline and in social enterprise and innovation. Students are looking for opportunities to engage with community challenges and enjoy learning how to do it.

What value are organisations involved in these projects getting?

With the changes in government policy, such as the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as well as economic and social changes, community-based organisations need to continually re-invent themselves to deliver services that meet client needs and provide value for money.

Students don't realise how valuable their skill-set can be in assisting organisations facing such challenges. With their limited resources and high demand for their services, organisations do not always have the capacity to dream up alternative funding models or ways to structure their business. The SEEP program allows people with that mindset to get their head around the issues and make useful recommendations.

A portrait of Associate Professor Neil Paulsen, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark grey blazer over a green and white checkered shirt. He is standing with his arms crossed against a background of vertical wooden slats.

“I’m hoping long term that people in the MBA program (and alumni in general) will see the value of their skill-set to the wider community and continue to make a contribution.”

Associate Professor Neil Paulsen

What are you hoping students who participate in the program take with them out to the wider community?

I’m hoping long term that people in the MBA program (and alumni in general) will see the value of their skill-set to the wider community and continue to make a contribution. Hopefully, a more inclusive community will emerge in which those people in critical decision-making roles (especially our graduates) make decisions that take account of the needs of others in the communities in which they do business.

Neil, you have won a number of teaching awards. What do you think makes a great professor?

At the postgraduate level in particular, I believe that teaching and learning is about building relationships with students that encourage individual and professional development. These students are out there doing their professional thing and

now they are in my classroom. I can’t just walk in and say, “Sit there and listen to me because I know how it works”. I hope my classroom becomes an environment for rich conversations and one that enables an interactive relational dynamic to emerge.

The next challenge is to take what I read, research and write about and assist the people in the room to make sense of it and apply it to their own context. By encouraging discussion and debate in a safe environment, I encourage people to make new sense of their experience. My goal is to challenge students to become more strategic and intentional about how they conduct themselves in their profession. Such outcomes can only be achieved in the context of respectful relationships.

What can alumni do to contribute to this space?

Alumni can do many things! One is to find ways to get involved in their communities.

Another is to find ways to use their expertise to add value to community organisations that are struggling with the issues out there. They could offer projects in their own organisations or spheres of influence to SEEP or other initiatives, and then perhaps mentor students through those projects, or connect other people they know. Or they could contribute financially to the MBA Foundation, which has been designed to do multiple things, including support SEEP and our not-for-profit partners, as well as provide scholarships to assist disadvantaged students into our MBA program.

To find out more about SEEP, visit business.uq.edu.au/social-economic-engagement-program-seep

To support the MBA Foundation, visit uq.edu.au/giving. Click on “Give to UQ” then “Choose a Giving Destination” then using the dropdown, choose “UQ Business School” then click on “MBA Foundation”.

Gift that keeps GIVING

After inheriting her father's estate, Cynthia Burnett decided to honour the lessons impressed upon her as child. Her generous donations are now providing meaningful opportunities for future generations of students.

Sitting on her back patio on a sunny but cool afternoon, Cynthia Burnett (Bachelor of Arts (Honours) '69; Graduate Diploma of Education '70; Master of Educational Studies '94; Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics '96) describes the values her parents imparted on her; values she has carried with her throughout her life and which continue to guide her decisions today.

"As an only child, I was brought up to understand that the world didn't revolve around me. It is important to consider others and the impact of your actions on them."

In 2009, Burnett's father, Dr Francis Baron Burnett (Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery '40), one of the University's first medical graduates, passed away, leaving his estate to her to decide how best to use it.

While friends asked what new luxury car she might buy and whether she'd move to a larger home, Burnett saw a greater opportunity to honour the lessons of a lifetime.

"I realised I had to do something meaningful on my father's behalf; something he would have been pleased with," Burnett said.

This decision resulted in Burnett establishing a charitable foundation in 2011 that has pledged a significant sum to be given over time to Greenslopes Clinical School, UQ's premier teaching hospital.

In her father's memory, Burnett agreed to fund the cutting-edge equipment needed to establish the Francis Baron Burnett



Cynthia Burnett.

Simulation Centre, a facility of purpose-built simulated emergency bays, operating theatres and hospital wards in the grounds of Greenslopes Private Hospital.

The facility focuses on the use of state-of-the-art, high-fidelity mannequins that can be programmed to simulate real-life patients in a variety of health scenarios.

Burnett has strong ties to UQ through her own education and time as a member of

staff, and through her father's education and that of her aunt, Zoe Ann Burnett (Bachelor of Arts '78; Master of Literary Studies '89), who was also a donor to the University.

"A portion of Zoe's estate was bequeathed to the University when she passed away and used to establish the Alfred Midgley Postgraduate Scholarship," Burnett said.

"If there is an aspect of university life that you feel strongly about, then a bequest of any value is important."

Cynthia Burnett

"Alfred was Zoe's grandfather, my great-grandfather and one of the first published poets in Queensland."

The scholarship offers financial support to one or more research students completing their Master of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy in the field of Australian literature.

In addition to her already significant contributions, Burnett will be donating even more to the University, establishing the Medics of the Future Scholarship for undergraduate medical students who can demonstrate financial hardship.



From left: Cynthia Burnett pictured with her aunt Zoe Ann Burnett, father Dr Francis Baron Burnett and mother Dorothy Burnett in 1966.

Like her aunt, she also plans to bequeath part of her estate to UQ to establish an endowment fund that will provide scholarships to students majoring in two languages, as she herself did.

"It's always been in my will to establish a scholarship and bequeath a portion of my estate to the University; however, more recently I began thinking, why wait?" Burnett said.

She feels it is important that anyone considering a donation or bequest to the University understands that there are many ways to give.

"A bequest doesn't have to mean many thousands of dollars," she said.

"If there is an aspect of university life that you feel strongly about, then a bequest of any value is important."

This sentiment is shared by Ruth O'Hanlon, Associate Director, Development and Philanthropy (Bequests and Planned Giving), who lists a number of recent

bequests that support a wide range of interests at UQ.

"Recent bequests include \$10,000 for Alzheimer's disease research, \$38,500 to the School of Veterinary Science's Small Animal Clinic and \$50,000 to support a

endowed, meaning a perpetual fund would continue to produce income for many years.

"It means the donor is giving to future generations," she said.

"A bequest is the last thing a person says to the world about what was important to them and what they wanted to see go on long after they have departed the world."

When asked why she considered UQ for her bequest, Burnett's answer was simple.

"The University has played a big part in my life," she said.

"It's the University that gave me my tertiary education and cumulatively I spent a decade of my life studying at UQ!"

"A bequest is the last thing a donor says to the world about what was important to them and what they wanted to see go on long after they have departed the world."

**Ruth O'Hanlon, Associate Director,
Development and Philanthropy (Bequests and Planned Giving)**

prize in the study of Australian history," O'Hanlon said.

While there are different ways an individual can make a bequest to UQ, O'Hanlon said that bequests were often

**For more information about bequests,
please contact Ruth O'Hanlon at
bequest@uq.edu.au or +61 (0)7 3346 3904.**

CLOSING IN ON A CURE

Thanks to ongoing financial support from Arthritis Queensland, Professor Ranjeny Thomas and her team at UQ's Diamantina Institute are on the cusp of developing a vaccine for rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases.

Life could have taken a dramatically different route for Arthritis Queensland Chair of Rheumatology, Professor Ranjeny Thomas. As an accomplished pianist and violinist, she could easily have turned her hand to the arts. Similarly, with a passion for writing, she earnestly considered a career as a novelist. At a challenging point in her career, she even considered throwing it all in and becoming a chef. Thankfully, Thomas chose – and stuck with – rheumatology.

"I trained as a rheumatologist in Perth until 1990," Thomas said.

"Then I went to the US for four years to do a doctorate studying human dendritic cells, and specifically studying rheumatoid arthritis dendritic cells."

In 1994, after completing her MD, Thomas began searching for research positions back home in Australia.

"I wanted to combine clinical practice with research and the position for the Arthritis Queensland Chair in Rheumatology at the UQ Diamantina Institute (UQDI) was ideal for me, given its proximity to the Princess Alexandra Hospital," she said.

After 20 years in successive positions funded by Arthritis Queensland – first as Senior Lecturer, then as Associate Professor, before finally being promoted to the Chair of Rheumatology – Thomas reflects on how her research progression might have differed had Arthritis Queensland not backed a fully funded role for her, as well as two staff.

"I had support from day one, which meant I could begin work immediately," she said.

"I received a grant early on and was able to turn the research assistant position into a post-doctoral position, which meant we gained even more momentum."

"Without Arthritis Queensland's funding, it would have been less certain that I would have achieved anything."

According to Thomas, when a researcher has to source their own salary, their focus can at times become dominated by fundraising, rather than on research.

"I would have had to rely on research grants or clinical hours for my salary," she said. "With my own salary covered, I

could focus on applying for grants for other people. As a clinician, Arthritis Queensland's funding gave me the flexibility to work fewer clinical hours and free up time to be productive in research.

"Most of all, the organisation's faith in my ability – so much so that they would wholly fund my position and a small team – gave me exceptional stability and a great level of confidence. I have successfully obtained a number of competitive Australian and international research grants and commercial contracts, which all grew out of this seed-funding."

Thomas's work and research has contributed greatly to elucidating the underlying causes of rheumatoid arthritis, an

"Our funding ensures that the approximately 445,000 Australians living with rheumatoid arthritis will hopefully soon have access to better treatment options."

**Dr Ian Dover,
President of Arthritis Queensland**

autoimmune disease in which the immune system attacks healthy tissues, particularly in the joints, causing inflammation, pain and deformity.

"When you know the cause, you can design treatments for that cause, rather than simply the symptoms," she said.

"We know that dendritic cells initiate the disease when they incorrectly promote attacks on healthy joint tissue. A number of years ago, we discovered a switch in dendritic cells that can turn their function on and off in the same way you turn a light on and off."

"We've been working on a way to deliver joint-specific antigens to the dendritic cells, effectively turning the cells off to those particular antigens, but maintaining function

towards other antigens so that they can continue to fight infections correctly."

Thomas's research is now in human clinical trials and has entered drug development and commercialisation.

"Very few researchers have gone from a basic science discovery to a research trial, and then received funding for commercialisation," she said.

"It's very significant, and Arthritis Queensland can be extremely proud of the investment they've made."

President of Arthritis Queensland, Dr Ian Dover, said Thomas's research was providing hope to thousands of people living with rheumatoid arthritis.

"The seed funding we provided more than twenty years ago for the Arthritis Queensland Chair of Rheumatology at the UQDI directly supported Professor Thomas's breakthrough of a vaccine," he said.

"Our funding ensures that the approximately 445,000 Australians living with rheumatoid arthritis will hopefully soon have access to better treatment options."

Thomas's discoveries and resulting treatment are not simply a breakthrough for rheumatoid arthritis, with the treatment already being touted as a potential treatment for any autoimmune disease or allergy.

"By changing the antigen or allergen applied to the dendritic cells, we are looking to turn dendritic cells off in a range of diseases or allergies, including Type 1 Diabetes and coeliac disease," Thomas said.

Like many researchers, Thomas humbly accepts praise for her extraordinary work as well as comparisons to her own mentor, Professor Ian Frazer AC, preferring to note that the results are a collective effort.

"As an international community, we are getting closer to a cure for rheumatoid arthritis, and I'm optimistic that we at UQDI are going to make a real contribution to that effort," she said. "A cure was something that wasn't even thought of when I first became a clinical rheumatologist."

For more information about Professor Ranjeny Thomas's research, please contact UQ Diamantina Institute at di.uq.edu.au or +61 (0)7 3443 6999.

A portrait of Professor Ranjeny Thomas, a woman with short dark hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a bright yellow sleeveless dress with black trim along the neckline, armholes, and down the sides. She is standing outdoors, leaning on a wooden railing, with a blurred background of green foliage and warm lighting.

“As an international community, we are getting closer to a cure for rheumatoid arthritis, and I’m optimistic that we at UQDI are going to make a real contribution to that effort.”

Professor Ranjeny Thomas,
Arthritis Queensland Chair
of Rheumatology



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TIDES OF CHANGE



The Dutton Park ferry terminal on the St Lucia side of the river in 1978 (left) and the new UQ St Lucia CityCat terminal, located on the same site. Image on the left courtesy of Brisbane City Council. Image on the right © Christopher Frederick Jones.

The University's prime position on the banks of the Brisbane River has meant ferry transportation has always been important for students, staff and community members who travel to and from its St Lucia campus.

Ferry services to and from St Lucia pre-date the campus's establishment in 1937, with a cross-river service between Laurence Street at St Lucia and Hoogley Street at West End commencing in 1920, according to the late historian Percy Hanlon's self-published book *Oh-ver*, which chronicles the history of Brisbane's ferries. According to Hanlon's book, this would have been a motor ferry, as diesel-powered ferries didn't begin operating in Brisbane until World War II.

The operation of Brisbane's early ferry services swung between council and private lessees, with Mr John Cloherty listed as the original lessee of the St Lucia ferry for a subsidy of 40 pounds per annum. The newly formed Brisbane City Council (BCC) took over the operation of all Brisbane ferries in 1925, leasing them out again to private operators in 1931 and providing the appropriate slip yards free of charge for boat maintenance.

During World War II, Australian Commander-in-Chief General Sir Thomas Blamey established his Advanced Land Headquarters at the new University of Queensland site at St Lucia, and ferry was an

important mode of transport to and from the army base in the city. According to *Oh-ver*, three boats operated as part of the St Lucia ferry service during the war: the *Madgee*, the *Phylis* and the *Planet*, which collectively could transport almost 100 passengers.

Between 1967 and 2006, a privately run ferry service ran between the St Lucia campus and Dutton Park, transporting up to 1900 passengers a day at its peak. The service was established and run by Robert (Bob) Kent, his brother Kevin, late brother-in-law Dick Hoggett and friend Vince Downey following a request by then Lord Mayor Clem Jones, who had been convinced of the need for such a service when he was presented with a 4000-signature petition from UQ's Student Union.

While it turned out the petition had been gathered at the Regatta Hotel as a prank, the service grew to be extremely popular, with two boats, four captains on staff and crossings from 6.30am until 9.55pm, five days a week. After nearly 40 years of service, the Dutton Park ferry service ceased in December 2006 with the opening of the Eleanor Schonell Bridge, Australia's

first pedestrian, cycle and bus bridge, linking the St Lucia campus and Dutton Park.

Ferry remains a popular mode of transport to and from St Lucia campus, with the BCC's fast CityCat service, in operation since 1996, delivering an average of more than 500 passengers and picking up an average 700 passengers from the campus on any given day.

In May, the new UQ St Lucia CityCat terminal opened, replacing the original terminal which was damaged during the 2011 floods. Located on Sir William Macgregor Drive, on the same site that the Dutton Park ferry operated from and 450 meters upstream from the original CityCat terminal, the new terminal is designed to be flood-resilient, providing improved accessibility and catering for an increasing number of passengers over the next 50 years.

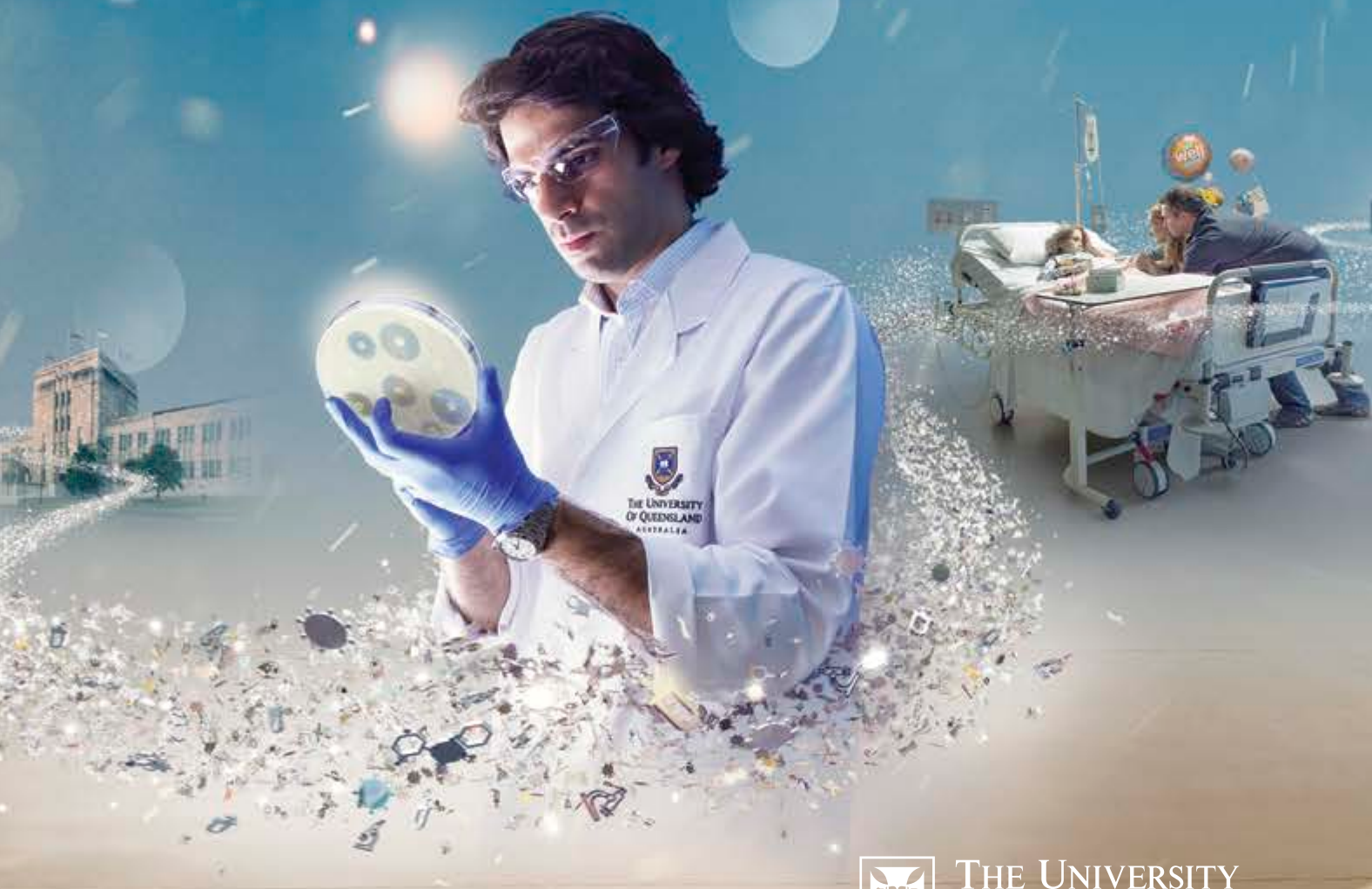
For more information about the CityCat service and timetable, visit translink.com.au.

 Download the **Contact** app to view more images of UQ's ferry history.

To know that I can impact on people's lives is such a motivating and inspiring feeling

Hosam, UQ PhD student

Under the mentorship of renowned infectious diseases expert Professor David Paterson, Hosam is creating a diagnostic tool to rapidly identify antibiotic-resistant superbugs, to help save lives. The tool has the potential to allow patients to be treated quickly and minimise opportunities for the deadly superbugs to spread. By learning to see the world differently, Hosam is creating change. See Hosam's story at uq.edu.au/createchange



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