It is the conceit of members of every generation to think the times they live in are extraordinary, unprecedented and unpredictable. I recall that my generation had that conceit, as we gave wide-eyed witness to Watergate, the Vietnam War, the emergence of punk, the Cold War, and the Cultural Revolution.

Nonetheless, for the generation now studying at or considering university, the conceit aligns very closely with the facts.

Young people are learning, maturing, and sizing up their futures in an age sometimes called the Fourth Industrial Revolution, when global geopolitics are at a tipping point and disruption is becoming the norm.

For a university conceived at a time when a degree was a rarity and a financial base, and remain an institution in which alumni of all generations take pride?

These complexities, and others, are faced by UQ simultaneously generating opportunities for change and finding new enterprises. How will UQ simultaneously generate research and innovation, establish a sustainable and resilient financial base, and remain an institution in which alumni of all generations take pride?

I can see abundant opportunities for the involvement of alumni who wish to continue fuelling the success of their alma mater.

The metrics will reflect progress in a wide range of areas, including graduate full-time employment rates, the extent to which alumni collaborate with non-academic partners, greater source-country diversity among international students, participation and success rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, representation of women at senior academic levels, the percentage of research publications with an international co-author, and the percentage of domestic students from non-academic partners, greater source-country diversity among international students, participation and success rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, representation of women at senior academic levels, the percentage of research publications with an international co-author, and the percentage of domestic students from regional or remote areas.

I can see abundant opportunities for the involvement of alumni who wish to continue fuelling the success of their alma mater, particularly the experiences of students and recent graduates. Their capacity to contribute and bring knowledge and skills to the workplace is key to society, continue learning, segue into new careers, and find enterprises.

Peter Varghese AO, Chancellor
THE BIG QUESTION
Should Australia become a smoke-free society?

Associate Professor Coral Gartner
Research Fellow,
School of Public Health
Faculty of Medicine

“Burning tobacco and inhaling it is the most harmful way to use nicotine. Cigarettes need to go the way of asbestos. They are an unacceptably harmful, defective drug delivery system. No other product that kills two-thirds of its users would be allowed to be sold as a general consumer item. Lower-risk alternatives are available (vaping nicotine, Swedish snus, nicotine lozenges), so it’s time to reconsider how we regulate all nicotine products, including how long combustible cigarettes can be sold by general retailers. There are regulatory models in-between prohibition and general retailing that Australia should explore to achieve a smoke-free society.”

Professor Stephen Birch
Director, UQ Centre for the Business and Economics of Health
Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

“Effective smoking control and reduction requires careful understanding of the reasons why people smoke. For some people, smoking provides an important coping mechanism for dealing with life situations. Simply outlawing smoking would drive smoking ‘underground’ unless we could provide people with alternative and acceptable coping mechanisms. Tobacco control policies need to be part of broader public health strategies aimed at dealing with factors that cause people to smoke.”

Professor Graeme Orr
TC Beirne School of Law
Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law

“There is no justification for smoking tobacco. Tobacco smoke contains nicotine and other addictive substances and class 1 human carcinogens. Second-hand (so-called passive) smoke is similarly dangerous. UQ is showing leadership by not allowing smoking anywhere on campus from 1 July 2018, not allowing any research to be done funded by the tobacco industry in its broadest sense, and by actively advocating against the continued sale of tobacco products.”

Professor Peter Sly
Director, World Health Organization
Collaborating Centre for Children’s Health and Environment
Faculty of Medicine

“In this age of online personal branding, how we communicate may be even more important than what we communicate. According to communication researcher Associate Professor Restyn Petelin from the School of Communication and Arts, everyone’s a writer now and words matter more than ever. Reputations can be made or lost simply by the way writers present their words to the world - sometimes at huge cost. Several court cases revolving around grammatical issues have hit the news of late,” Petelin said.

“For example, a multimillion-pound legal battle was waged over a mistake involving a single missing letter, and an absent serial comma led to a US$5 million underpayment to dairy-truck drivers in the US.”

“But on a personal level, bad grammar may have all the right interpersonal skills, but if they can’t write coherently, they will find this to be a big disadvantage in their job search. Nothing can make you lose credibility more quickly than a spelling mistake,” she said.

“Think covfefe [for ‘coverage’] – the media attack that backfired on US President Donald Trump in mid-2017, immediately launching a series of internet memes, comedy sketches and articles of ridicule. "If Trump’s intention was to enhance his reputation, it certainly missed the mark.” Petelin’s analysis of popular literature has revealed that, with the rise of social media and the internet, and with everyone writing more than ever, situations like this will inevitably become more commonplace, eroding personal branding in the process. Her solution? Join the more than 540,000 people who have already enrolled in her free MOOC (massive open online course) WRITER101x English Grammar and Style and pick up some useful tips.

“I want the learnings from my research to help everyone respond confidently to the unprecedented and accelerating demand of writing in the 21st digital century: a knowledge of grammar will provide you with a wonderful toolkit.”

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“I want the learnings from my research to help everyone respond confidently to the unprecedented and accelerating demand of writing in the 21st digital century: a knowledge of grammar will provide you with a wonderful toolkit.”
Three-time Grammy-award-winning flautist Tim Munro (Bachelor of Music (Honours) ’99) is driven by a single goal: to draw audiences into an engrossing and whimsical musical world. The Chicago-based UQ alumnus spoke to Contact and shared a sneak peek into his melodic life.

Q&A

“I seek anything that grabs ears and eyeballs, and doesn’t let go.”

You’re passionate about creating immersive and dynamic musical experiences. So what does music mean to you?

Years ago, when I first joined Facebook, my profile asked me to name my religion. I wrote ‘JS Bach’, and then I’m sure I laughed quietly and nerd-ily to myself. But that answer has felt more real every year. I believe in an ephemeral thing, for whose existence there is no objective evidence, a thing that has the power to move people to tears, a thing whose beauty is understood differently by people all across the globe.

How would you describe your music?

I seek anything that grabs ears and eyeballs, and doesn’t let go. Sometimes that thing is old old old music by dead European blokes. Sometimes that thing was written yesterday and has relevance to us now. But one thing I’ve never liked is the idea that there are some musical genres that are ‘better’ or ‘more worthy’. There are no guilty pleasures. All of my artistic pleasures add up to who I am as an artist, whether it is a terrifying horror film, or a stand-up set, or the work of an electronic musician.

When you are performing a piece, what do you want to impart upon the listener?

It’s quite simple: I want to tell a story. But that’s quite complicated: there are often not words with which to tell this story, just notes. So I’m always looking to find the perfect venue, the perfect lighting set-up and the perfect physical presentation to tell that story. That might mean that the musicians physically surround the audience in a very dimly lit church. Or it might mean that the musicians are spread throughout a building, and the audience can take their own journey.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

Oh gosh. That is such a hard one. I’ve been lucky to play in quite prominent music venues in several countries, but I have to say that my favorite performances are whenever my mum is in the audience. My mum is my number one fan, and no matter if I’m playing in Sydney, Miami or Liverpool, I do love the feeling of having the home-team advantage!

How has the music landscape changed since you first started in the music profession?

In some ways it is unrecognisable. We’ve seen the explosion of streaming services, the continued descent of classical music from its ‘sacred cow’ status, the falling away of arts coverage, the drying up of paid freelance work across the globe. But in some ways it refuses to budge. Huge music organisations still hold sway, be they orchestras, opera companies or even universities. Young musicians still spend hours practising for few orchestral jobs. But the music world is artistically healthier in many wonderful ways. Women and people of colour are starting to have more of a voice in the classical music world, as composers, conductors and administrators. There is an explosion of young, energetic groups that bring zero snobbery and hugely open minds to the presentation of music.

To read the full interview and to listen to Munro’s music, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the Contact app.

top 5

INFLUENTIAL MUSICIANS

1. Patricia Kopatchinskaja: The violinist ‘PatKop’ has consummate technique, but she throws it to the wind in favour of blistering, wild interpretations.

2. David Lang: The Philadelphia School District owns more than 1000 broken instruments, and David composed a musical work for 100 of these instruments.

3. The Kilroys: This theatre organisation started a list of recommended un-and under-produced plays by female and trans authors of colour.


5. Julie Kitch: Julie is the artistic director of the Chicago-based Filament Theatre. She believes the best audiences are young audiences. Now, when I make work for grown-ups, I do my best to create work for the child within. Oh, and Julie happens to be my wife.

life in surround sound
UQ women create CHANGE

From designing safer cities, to helping fight world hunger – UQ women are creating change every day.

For more than a century, UQ has educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver unparalleled teaching and research.

Now, more than half of UQ’s community of students and staff are women who lead the way in their industries and inspire the next generation.

Significant senior staff appointments this year include Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Bronwyn Harch, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) Bronwyn Fredericks, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology Professor Vicki Chen, and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Professor Heather Zwicker.

UQ is also excited to be part of the national SAGE Pilot of Athena SWAN program this year. Forty-five Australian organisations, including universities and medical research and government research institutions, are involved in the program, which aims to address and improve gender equity in the sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) disciplines.

In this photo essay, Contact is highlighting just some of the many UQ women who are excelling in STEMM disciplines. Women like Associate Professor Cynthia Riginos (pictured), from UQ’s School of Biological Sciences. Originally from Washington DC, Riginos joined UQ 11 years ago and researches ecological and evolutionary genetics.

She co-founded the Diversity of the Indo-Pacific Network (DIPnet), a group of more than 50 scientists from various countries who research genetic-based marine biodiversity and are committed to principles of open data and mentoring young scientists.

Read on to meet more outstanding UQ women working to create equality, while saving threatened species, finding cures for diseases, and leading the way in engineering and construction.

“Although I have much less time for snorkelling and diving nowadays, early morning swims off UQ’s Heron Island Research Station are highlights of my year – there is always something new and surprising to see.”

Associate Professor Cynthia Riginos
School of Biological Sciences
“I really hope I can realise my childhood dream and develop a new drug.”

Associate Professor Irina Vetter
Deputy Director,
Centre for Pain Research
Institute for Molecular Bioscience

One of Vetter’s earliest memories is reading about the discovery of penicillin. She has wanted to achieve something similar ever since. Vetter’s research interests lie in the fields of peripheral pain mechanisms, target identification and analgesic drug discovery.

“I want to use my experience of being a member of both the queer community and a woman to help make science a better and more inclusive place.”

Natasha Taylor
PhD student, School of Mathematics and Physics

Taylor is nearing the end of her PhD on quantum effects inside biological systems. She completed her undergraduate degree at the Australian National University with a double-major in theoretical physics and physics, followed by honours in quantum coherent control, researching how to use lasers to control chemical reactions.

“I started tutoring at age 14 and, by 15, I was tutoring students older than me in subjects I hadn’t yet taken myself.”

Carmen Gorska Putynska
PhD student, School of Civil Engineering

Gorska Putynska is a PhD student studying self-extinguishment of cross-laminated timber and its potential uses in large structures.

She excelled at high school – particularly in mathematics, physics and chemistry – and gained a better understanding of the subjects through her mother, who has a mathematics degree and encouraged her to look for different ways to solve problems. This influence led her to tutor older students in those subjects.

Gorska Putynska obtained a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and was subsequently accepted into the International Master of Fire Safety Engineering program on a fully funded European Union Scholarship, giving her the opportunity to study in the UK, Belgium and Sweden in the discipline of Fire Safety Engineering.
"I’ve had great mentors at UQ who have always encouraged me to strive for my goals."

Isobella Stone
PhD candidate, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences
While completing her undergraduate degree, Stone was involved in Oaktree, a volunteer organisation of young people fighting to end extreme poverty. She is also passionate about promoting science to a wider audience on social media.

"Dermatology had not allowed anyone to train part-time or job-share in Queensland before me. Since then, there have been at least five who have taken advantage of a more flexible training program."

Dr Erin McMeniman
Deputy Director, Dermatology Department, Princess Alexandra Hospital
Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine
McMeniman is a private-practice dermatologist and a visiting specialist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. She is also completing her PhD part-time within the Faculty of Medicine at UQ, studying genetic associations of multiple primary melanoma.

Erin believes in the importance of a healthy work-life balance and enjoys sports like rowing, swimming, running and cycling.

"I can clearly recall the first time I took Ventolin and how much this drug benefited my life. The thought that my research and teaching could ultimately improve the health of others is one of my primary motivations."

Professor Avril Robertson
Biotechnology Program Director, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences
Originally from Scotland, Robertson had severe asthma as a child and also experiences anaphylaxis. She attributes the difference therapeutics made to her life, and the desire to improve the health of others, as the reasons she pursued a career in drug discovery and teaching.

After initially struggling at school due to missed days, Avril found a passion for chemistry and excelled. She spent 10 years working in industrial chemistry and senior drug discovery roles before taking up research and teaching at UQ.
“Sometimes someone has to shake the tree to keep science moving forward.”

Dr Rochelle Soo
Postdoctoral Fellow, Australian Centre for Ecogenomics, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences

Soo studies the microorganisms that live in the gut of marsupials. Originally from New Zealand, she studied Biomedical Science, Commerce and Administration at Victoria University in Wellington. When Soo was looking for a supervisor for her master’s degree, a professor at the University of Waikato was recommended to her. Despite not having funding to study hot spring microbiology, which Soo was most interested in, he had funding to study thermophilic soils in Mt Erebus, Antarctica. So, she packed up her life and moved for what she describes as one of the most amazing experiences of her career.

“I had to decide whether I would miss out on the field work or fight the system and take my five-week old daughter with me.”

Dr Rebecca Dunlop
Senior Lecturer, School of Veterinary Science

Originally from Ireland, Dunlop obtained her Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Environmental Biology and, by 25, had completed her PhD in fish neuroethology at Queen’s University Belfast. She moved to Australia in 2003 and completed a postdoctoral research project on humpback whale social communication.

Outside of academia, Dunlop trains in boxing, and began competing in bouts in 2017. She has a young daughter who joined her on a large field project in 2014 when she was five weeks old.

“I was the first engineer in the office to have a baby, so a colleague and I had to write the maternity leave policy.”

Dr Liza O’Moore
Senior Lecturer, School of Civil Engineering

O’Moore came to UQ from an all-girls high school in 1983 to find herself one of 12 women in a cohort of 260. She completed her undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering and later returned to UQ to undertake a PhD in high-performance concrete. O’Moore accepted an academic position at UQ 17 years ago and teaches Engineering and Civil Engineering while researching concrete design and structures.

“Sometimes someone has to shake the tree to keep science moving forward.”
Malcolm Campbell opens a folder on his laptop, scrolling through photographs as he talks. His train of thought is often interrupted by the passing images. “Little babies with decayed teeth,” he says as he pauses on one of the photos. “It’s just heartbreaking.”

Another photograph shows the back of a Toyota Landcruiser loaded with all the equipment that three dentists need to extract 230 teeth and give check-ups to 600 children in Timor-Leste over the course of a week.

For the past five years, Campbell (Bachelor of Dental Science ‘84) has been travelling to Timor-Leste annually, implementing a slowly evolving program of dental aid for the Timor Children’s Foundation Dental Project. The project isn’t a slick charity — it is something that happened accidentally and is expanding organically and out of sheer need.

Each year, Campbell and a small team of volunteers have expanded the number of sites they visit and the number of patients they treat.

“You don’t have to start big to get involved in aid work. With $15,000–20,000 you can get a mobile unit with enough equipment that you can take anywhere,” he said.

“That’s the point of difference with what we do — it’s mobile. There are other dental charities in Timor-Leste. But, with the exception of some work by Rotary, they are at fixed clinics.”

Access to health services such as fixed dental clinics is a major issue in Timor-Leste because about 70 per cent of the population lives in rural areas in small, dispersed villages isolated by mountainous terrain and poor roads.

“Our equipment is lightweight, so we can pack it up and drop in anywhere.”

Campbell started his career in mobile school dentistry, but it was his later roles working out of The Townsville Hospital and serving in the Army Reserve that happened accidentally and is expanding organically and out of sheer need.

Access to health services such as fixed dental clinics is a major issue in Timor-Leste because about 70 per cent of the population lives in rural areas in small, dispersed villages isolated by mountainous terrain and poor roads.

“As well as running a dental practice in Brisbane’s CBD, Campbell has a mobile dentistry business that visits nursing homes and aged-care facilities. He is also a guest lecturer at UQ on mobile dentistry.”

Campbell’s reputation in mobile dentistry caught the attention of Timor Children’s Foundation Director Rexverd John Ruhi in 2013. The foundation runs the Samaria Children’s Home in Dili and also provides scholarships for students to attend school, university and technical colleges.

“John believed the mobile dentistry approach could work in Timor-Leste and encouraged me to come and have a look,” Campbell said.

“I didn’t want to go in on my big white charger and pretend that I was going to do everything. But my heart was ripped open and I thought, ‘We can do this’.”

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the young nation of Timor-Leste has made steady progress in the health sector in the last decade by constructing health facilities and expanding community-based services.

However, the country only has 10 dentists for a population of 1.25 million people. That’s a ratio of 1:125,000. In Australia, the ratio of dentists to population is 1:1000.

Another challenge is that Timor-Leste has one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world, and poor nutrition is a leading risk factor for poor oral health. WHO uses the decay-missing-filled (DMF) index for assessing the prevalence of tooth decay, as well as dental treatment needs among populations, and has set a target for children under 12 years of age to have a DMF score of under three.

“In the 600 kids that we saw in Timor-Leste last year, their average DMF was 5.2. Some children had a score of 20. That’s absolutely shocking,” Campbell said.

Despite having travelled to Timor-Leste on many occasions, Campbell is still finding fresh inspiration to help communities in need.

Last year, he and his team travelled for the first time to the remote village of Los Palos. A seven-hour drive from Dili and almost impossible to access during the wet season, the village is home to 17,000 people and one dental health nurse.

The nurse is able to undertake extractions if necessary, but these are performed without anaesthetic — there simply isn’t any.

“Los Palos would benefit greatly from a fixed dental clinic, but building one is years away,” Campbell said.

“Try telling someone in pain that a dental clinic will be built in a few years.”

Cambridge is now a co-director of the Timor Children’s Foundation and a primary source of fundraising for the dental project.

He said that for every $1 donated, the project provides $10 of dental services.

“Companies such as Colgate, Southern Dental Industries and Henry Schein Halas have provided in-kind support, while a number of dental practices around Brisbane have donated supplies and money.

“Our hope is that the project can become self-sustaining with small teams of volunteers being able to use the mobile equipment that is now stored in Dili.”

Still flicking through the images on his laptop, Campbell stops at one showing his interpreter holding the hand of a small boy in a dental chair who is seeing his first time to the remote village of Los Palos.

A Timor-Leste child is happy with his dental treatment (main image) and Dr Malcolm Campbell (right). Images supplied

To find out how you can support the Timor Children’s Foundation Dental Project, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the Contact app.
Then & now

WRITING
the next chapter

As the University of Queensland Press celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, emerging poet and UQ PhD student Shastra Deo pays tribute to the publisher’s influence on Australia’s cultural landscape and looks forward to adding her own pages to its history.

Whether it’s her childhood stories about mermaids or her poetry about physical trauma and its connection to memory, Shastra Deo has always had a voice.

It’s a voice that called to the editors of the University of Queensland Press (UQP), and it’s a voice that reflects both the publishing house’s history and vision for the future.

Deo, the winner of the 2016 Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize, is one of UQPs brightest up-and-coming authors. Her debut book The Agonist has received rave reviews.

The Agonist, published last August, combines Deo’s love of writing with academic interests in biology to explore the languages of anatomy, etymology and incantation, while sparking conversations about fracture and repair, and incantation, while sparking the languages of anatomy, etymology academic interests in biology to explore combines Deo’s love of writing with The Agonist debut book brightest up-and-coming authors. Her Shapcott Poetry Prize, is one of UQP’s anniversary this year, emerging Press celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, emerging Press celebrates its 70th

“Society has typically separated science and the arts, but I think we’re now doing more to integrate the two fields. Even if you don’t know the meaning of the scientific words, there’s something about the music of them that resonates.”

This year, UQP was established in 1948 and, for the last 70 years, has played a crucial role in giving voice to emerging writers who now contribute so much to mainstream Australian cultural life.

UQP Publishing Director Madonna Duffy said celebrating 70 years of independent Australian publishing was a monumental achievement.

“The demonstrates longevity in the competitive world of publishing and reaffirms our role as a major contributor to arts and culture in Australia,” she said.

“We have maintained our conviction to publish enduring and important books that have impact.”

UQP’s first two decades were largely spent producing academic books and scholarly journals, but a dramatic transformation occurred in the 1960s under the stewardship of Frank Thompson, who began to publish literary fiction and poetry.

“Our were one of the first mainstream publishers to introduce an Indigenous writing list and create the David Unaipon Award for unpublished Indigenous writers,” Duffy said.

“Finding and nurturing the writers who will lead the way in decades to come has been a highlight for all of us at UQP!”

Deo (Bachelor of Creative Arts ’14, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) ’15, Master of Arts (Writing, Editing and Publishing) ’16) is currently completing her PhD in creative writing at UQ and said she has valued the welcoming environment at UQP, as well as the care it has shown in publishing the poems that mean so much to her.

“I’m the first poet of South Asian descent to be published by UQP and the fact that UQP continues to embrace young writers from a range of backgrounds and ethnicities is exciting,” Deo said.

“They’re doing what’s right, and they’re doing what’s right now for the literary community.”

Deo follows in the footsteps of a long list of poets and novelists who have appeared under the UQP banner, including David Malouf (Bachelor of Arts ’55, Doctor of Letters honoris causa ’03), Olga Masters, Roger McDonald, Murray Bail and Marion Halligan AM. (1975) David Malouf

“I believe UQP is the best publisher of Australian poetry. Hopefully great poets like David Malouf are okay with me standing somewhere in their shadows,” Deo said.

To mark its 70th anniversary, UQP has commissioned new work from 25 of its authors to form the dynamic collection Reading the Landscape: A Celebration of Australian Writing, available at The Co-op Bookshop at UQ’s St Lucia campus.
GOLD on the Gold Coast

UQ athletes starred at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, combining to win 12 medals in front of a proud Queensland crowd.

The success of the para-sports was just one of the great stories from this year’s Commonwealth Games, with Australia’s para-athletes winning 15 gold medals.

“I believe the Commonwealth Games were a great insight into the incredible talents of para-athletes in Australia, and the feedback I have received from Australians has been overwhelming,” Patterson said.

“It just shows that inclusion is slowly getting better. I am a proud Paralympian, and hope that I can inspire the next generation, and anyone else, to work hard and follow their dreams.”

Patterson said it was always an honour to represent Australia, but to do it on home soil was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

“The gold medals represent hard work and sacrifice, as well as the support I received from everyone around me,” she said.

“UQ has been understanding of my sporting commitments and has allowed me to study part-time, ensuring I succeed in the pool and in the classroom.”

Fellow para-swimmer and UQ graduate Brenden Hall (Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science ’17) continued Australia’s
success in the pool, winning a gold medal with a thrilling finish in the Men’s S9 100m Backstroke.

The three-time Paralympic champion also claimed a bronze medal in the Men’s S9 100m Freestyle.

On the track, race walker and Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education (Honours) student Dane Bird-Smith capped a remarkable two-year period by winning a gold medal in the Men’s 20km event.

Fuelled by the support of the Queensland crowd, Bird-Smith won the event in a Commonwealth Games record time of 1:19.34, finishing four seconds ahead of English silver medalist Tom Bosworth.

“I knew the Aussie support was waiting in the final straight. It definitely helped give me a final burst of speed,” Bird-Smith said.

Sevens, Cherry scored a try in Australia’s 17-12 loss to New Zealand in the gold-medal match.

Diver and UQ graduate Maddison Keeney (Bachelor of Science ‘17) also won a silver medal in the Women’s 3m Springboard event, while para-swimmer and 2009 UQ Blue recipient Blake Cochrane won silver and bronze in the pool in the Men’s SM8 200m Individual Medley and the Men’s SM8 100m Breaststroke events respectively.

Bachelor of Business Management student Danielle Prince won her second Commonwealth Games medal, taking bronze in the Women’s Rhythmic Gymnastics Team event. Competing at her third Commonwealth Games – the most by a female Australian gymnast – Prince also contested the Ball final, finishing in eighth position. The Clem Jones Sporting Scholarship holder won a gold medal in the Team competition at Delhi in 2010.

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) student and fellow gymnast Michael Mercieca represented Australia in the Men’s Artistic Gymnastics Team event, with the squad finishing fifth. Mercieca, a UQ Sports Achievement Scholarship recipient, also finished in fifth place in the Men’s Individual All-Around competition, missing a bronze medal by just 2.4 points.

UQ graduate Caitlin Sargent-Jones (Bachelor of Physiotherapy ‘13) represented Australia in the Women’s 4x400m Relay, finishing fifth in the final, while Brittany McGowan (Bachelor of Journalism ‘13) missed the final of the Women’s 800m, finishing fourth in her heat and 13th overall.

To see more pictures of UQ’s Commonwealth Games athletes, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the Contact app.
James Allan grew up on the sweeping plains of Kenya, East Africa, and spent his childhood on safari with elephants and lions. He is now on a mission to protect the world's last great wilderness areas for the next generation.

The Niassa National Reserve (NNR) is Mozambique’s largest protected area and is home to large populations of megafauna. Despite this, the NNR is one of the least biologically explored places on Earth.

Inspired by his father, who runs safari tours through the jungles and savannahs of Kenya, James Allan travelled to Brisbane in 2014 to pursue a PhD at the UQ School of Earth and Environmental Studies.

“I spent my childhood on safari taking photos of animals, walking in some of Kenya’s wildest and most beautiful regions – it’s just so inspiring,” Allan said.

“There is nothing like being next to an elephant, you just can’t describe the feeling of seeing an animal that big near you on foot.”

While at UQ, Allan’s PhD supervisor Professor James Watson recommended that he get involved with the Wildlife Conservation Society on a three-month fieldwork study in Mozambique. Allan leapt at the opportunity to use applied science to help conserve Niassa for the next generation.

The study looked at patterns of forest loss and found the reserve had lost 138 square kilometres between 2001 and 2014 due to agriculture and human settlement. Allan said the study found that Niassa’s protected area status had helped save it from large-scale land clearing that had occurred in Mozambique. The land could potentially support up to 50,000 elephants and 1000 lions.

“With proper investment, Niassa could once again support large assemblages of megafauna like elephants and lions, which have been decimated by rampant poaching for meat and ivory,” he said.

“There are not many habitats this big that are still intact and have large charismatic animals.

“The importance of that goes beyond northern Mozambique, beyond Africa. I think it’s the responsibility of the world to save these areas.”

Allan embarked upon two six-week fieldwork trips to Mozambique in July 2015 and again in July 2016, and is now working to protect wild spaces around the world through applied conservation projects with his lab group, Green Fire Science.

“PhDs are what you make of it. UQ opens doors to amazing opportunities – travel, meet new people, learn, grow and do some important work that can make a difference.”

To see more photos from the Niassa National Reserve, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the Contact app.

WILD at heart

(Clockwise from left) A pack of wild dogs in the NNR; the sprawling forests of the NNR; PhD student James Allan wading through the Lugenda River in Mozambique; plains of the NNR; James Allan (third from right) working in consultation with key stakeholders to draft a sustainable management plan for the NNR; and a pride of lions resting in the NNR.

Images: James Allan and Jean-Baptist Defontaines

To see more photos from the Niassa National Reserve, view this article online at contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the Contact app.
The UQ Young Achievers Program (UQYAP) is celebrating its 10th year of supporting Queensland state high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds to reach tertiary education.

In that time, more than 900 Young Achievers have participated in the program, which broadens tertiary education aspirations and career options by actively engaging and mentoring them throughout their academic journey and beyond.

The inception of the program was made possible and continues through ongoing support from a variety of donors.

The program also has a strong focus on community mindedness, and this is a value I have taken with me as I forge a career as an accountant in my home town of Chinchilla, in Queensland’s Western Downs region.

My journey with the UQYAP began during the program’s first year in 2009, when at the Laidley State High School awards night I was awarded a scholarship to UQ. Little did I know what an amazing adventure I was in for.

The program provides assistance to students who wouldn’t normally consider tertiary study and is designed to give prospective students an insight into life at UQ.

My experience with the program was fantastic and is something I will never forget.

The support I received throughout my senior years of school, both financially and through my university student mentor, was very useful.

I was able to experience university life, and consider a future that I never thought was possible.

As a participant of the program in Year 11, I was encouraged to attend the UQ Open Day to meet with my mentors and fellow Young Achievers. This was an important turning point. I attended information sessions on architecture, which I had been considering, but found it wasn’t what I imagined it to be.

I thought about what I enjoyed and excelled at in school, which was business and accounting. Had I not attended an open day until Year 12, I wouldn’t have done the necessary senior subjects to get into my degree of choice.

I studied a Bachelor of Commerce with a major in Accounting, which has led to my career as an accountant.

When I began my studies at UQ, I applied to become a UQYAP mentor myself to give back to the program. It was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. Watching the students I mentored grow through the program and do what they truly believed in was something special.

Being a mentor also pushed me out of my comfort zone and led me to do things I wasn’t used to doing, in particular public speaking. As a mentor, I had to step up and do presentations in front of nearly 100 people. Developing this skill was invaluable for presentations throughout my degree, and I use it almost every day in my job.

A fellow mentor, Jessica Muller, is now my wife and we were married in April this year. She was also a member of the first UQYAP cohort.

I know the level of work that happens behind the scenes and I am proud to see how the program has evolved in its 10th year.
Welcome to Not If, When – the Campaign to Create Change. Since the historic launch of the University’s first philanthropic campaign, donors from Queensland and around the world have partnered with UQ to proactively create change in society.

As a result of this support, students have been empowered to succeed, teaching and learning has been transformed, and impact and discovery have excelled rapidly.

In the following pages, we feature three stories that illustrate the transformative capacity generosity can have when vision meets research and teaching excellence. The first story highlights the generosity of international business leader Andrew Liveris and his wife, Paula, who have chosen to partner with UQ to support innovation and leadership in engineering and science. This gift – the largest single contribution to the campaign to date – will ultimately address major challenges in sustainability, and will have an impact throughout the world.

We also tell how a journalism alumnus has partnered with UQ to establish a memorial scholarship named after one of his fellow graduates and closest friends. The scholarship will ensure the door to an increasingly competitive industry is opened to the best and brightest journalism students, and the inaugural recipient has already been named.

The final story discusses a landmark collaboration between UQ and global thought-leader Mark Hutchinson. Hutchinson is aiming to drive meaningful change in business education and build a generation of ethical business practitioners, who are fit to lead us into the future.

These initiatives are just a sample of what has been achieved in the short life of our campaign so far.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, visit uq.edu.au/giving.
GIFT TO BUILD FUTURE LEADERS

As a child, Andrew Liveris AO used to play on the dirt roads of Darwin. As a man, he has advised world leaders and brokered some of the most significant business deals of the 21st century. The lessons of a simple country upbringing have stuck with him and have led to an extraordinary UQ gift to teach and develop future generations of leaders.

A childhood spent in Darwin with children of different social, cultural, and economic backgrounds gave Andrew Liveris AO an appreciation for diversity in the company he kept. As he grew, building makeshift forts turned into building global businesses.

Despite his international career success, the Dow Chemical Company Chief Executive Officer’s path to education wasn’t always clear.

In his teenage years, Cyclone Tracy ripped through Darwin and destroyed his family’s home and business, and with it, his hopes of attending university.

A government scholarship provided Liveris (Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) ’75, Doctor of Science honoris causa ’05) with the opportunity to pursue his passion for science and mathematics at UQ, where he went on to win an array of merit-based prizes and scholarships, including a University Medal in Chemical Engineering.

“I started university in 1972 and I still draw on the knowledge and the skills I learned at UQ,” he said.

“I took courses outside my comfort zone, like liberal arts and psychology. These were the courses that broadened my perspective and helped me learn how to learn.”

Liveris and his wife, Paula, are now spearheading an extraordinary effort to support UQ innovation and leadership by donating A$13.5 million to help establish the Liveris Academy in UQ’s Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology (EAIT). The academy will be housed in the Andrew N. Liveris Building, an 11-storey engineering education and research hub to be built at UQ’s St Lucia campus. It will teach and develop future generations of leaders, equipping them to discover and implement technology-driven innovations that address sustainability challenges.

A rigorous selection process for the academy will identify promising students with leadership potential and a passion to address sustainability issues involving clean water, safe food and modern energy services.

The academy will allow students to collaborate with industry and leading researchers to create positive change in society by addressing global challenges that require large-scale innovation.

“Paula and I hope the Liveris Academy will attract, support and develop many of the planet’s smartest young people and finest minds in engineering and science, enabling them to reach their full potential while addressing major challenges facing society today,” he said.

After graduating from UQ, Liveris moved to Melbourne to begin his career as an engineer with the Dow Chemical Company. He quickly rose through the ranks and has held the position of CEO for more than a decade.

Based in the US, he has overseen the US$130 billion Dow Chemical and DuPont merger — one of the most significant mergers in modern history — and has also advised several US presidents on business strategy and policy.

His career success is built on a mantra of being willing to work with anyone, regardless of their background.

Now planning his retirement from the top position at Dow, Liveris will return to Australia this year, where he will continue to use his expertise and influence to drive change in the Australian economy.

“We must train our students to be technically adept at specific skills, and to be adaptable, critical thinkers,” he said.

“For too long, our country has allowed our prosperity to be driven by the resources underneath the ground, rather than the brainpower of the people above it.

“I would like the next innovators who lead this change to set up shop right here in Australia.”

To help support the next generation of Australian leaders, visit giving.uq.edu.au.
ETHICS KEY TO AVOIDING MISTAKES OF THE PAST

“Learning how to act with integrity and do the right thing is as vital as learning how to read and write.”

In a time when the capability and ethics of our leaders are regularly questioned, alumnus Mark Hutchinson is looking to avoid a second global financial crisis through a landmark partnership with UQ.

The year was 2007, and a toxic bubble of poor credit and ‘sub-prime’ mortgages in the US burst, toppling a system based precariously on unsustainable and unscrupulous finance practices. The fallout sent ripples through the global economy, and scenes not seen since the Great Depression played out around the world – businesses closed or, at best, posted record losses; people lost jobs and pensions; and families lost homes and futures.

The primary contributor to the global financial crisis (GFC) was a lack of global regulation in the banking and finance sector. Lapses in judgement and leadership led to investment in products (and people) that were likely, and in some cases even expected, to default.

As a leading global business figure and the former Chief Executive Officer and President of General Electric Europe, Mark Hutchinson (Bachelor of Commerce ’86, Doctor of Business honoris causa ’14) saw the devastation the GFC caused and has decided to take action to prevent a similar crisis.

Hutchinson (pictured) is partnering with UQ to build a generation of ethical business practitioners, fit to lead society into the future. His support in creating the new position of Professional Chair in Ethics forms part of a $1 million partnership to drive meaningful change by making ethics a foundation in the education of young professionals.

Hutchinson has also been named Executive-in-Residence to UQ’s Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, a voluntary role which will see him guide students and staff through the complexities of ethical decision-making, training and leadership.

“For me, learning how to act with integrity and do the right thing is as vital as learning how to read and write,” Hutchinson said. “To truly prepare students to become ethical advocates in their future workplaces and communities, we need to engage them in an ongoing conversation as they encounter and resolve issues in real time.”

Hutchinson recently returned to his alma mater to provide a series of informative lectures throughout Australia on ethics in business and finance, aiming to stimulate better awareness about good ethical practice.

“When you talk to young professionals, they care about what an organisation values, how it behaves and if it has a good culture,” Hutchinson said. “These aspects are now seen in equal measure to salary, which is fantastic.”

“Ethical leadership is vital to securing stable economic growth for Australia and the world.”

“That’s why it’s so important that we teach ethics in ways that are practical and relevant to our future leaders and the situations they will face in their careers.”

While this generous gift has gone a long way towards realising the goal of a Chair in Ethics, there is still further support needed to make the creation of this teaching position a reality.

If you would like to help support the ethical progression of Australia, visit uq.edu.au/giving/ContactIBEL.
An increasingly heavy door stands between journalism graduates and the competitive industry they hope to work in. Journalist and UQ graduate Shannon Molloy is determined to help push that door open for worthy but disadvantaged students, with a scholarship established in honour of his lost friend.

Looking in from the sun-soaked footpaths of Sydney’s Paddington on a Sunday afternoon, it might have looked like an ordinary event – music playing softly to complement the weekend afternoon vibe as friends came together to share stories over food and drinks. However, the cordiality of the celebration was metered by the sorrow and hope that had brought this group of media professionals together as they marked the launch of the Clare Atkinson Memorial Scholarship. They gathered not simply to provide financial support, but to commit to sharing their experience and expertise in honour of a bright and generous soul taken too soon.

“It’s harder than ever to pursue a career in journalism,” Shannon Molloy (Bachelor of Journalism ’08) said. “But many of those who are studying journalism have no choice. Because, like Clare and me, being a journalist is their dream, their passion. I wanted to provide someone else the opportunity to pursue this dream, in Clare’s memory.

“There are many people who have heard Clare’s story and are inspired or touched by it, and who have come together to support this initiative.”

Born of friendship and admiration, Molloy established the scholarship in 2017 to honour the memory and life of his close friend and fellow UQ graduate (Bachelor of Arts (Music and German) ’06, Bachelor of Journalism ’06), who passed away from cancer in 2016 at just 31 years of age.

“Clare’s death had a profound impact on me, as it did all of her loved ones. This scholarship is a tribute to her, her career and her zest for life,” Molloy said. “She was incredibly tenacious and took every opportunity that life gave her with both hands. She was smart, a born storyteller, a fantastic journalist, and a mentor to young women who were coming through the newsrooms she worked in.

“The scholarship honours all of that, and the things she was passionate about.”

Multi-award-winning investigative journalist and UQ graduate Marian Wilkinson (Bachelor of Arts ’76) was one of many journalists at the event, and said the scholarship would help give students an advantage in an increasingly competitive field.

“I think it’s a brilliant initiative that gives a young, enthusiastic journalism student what they really need: it gets them through the front door,” Wilkinson said. “This is so important because, frankly, in journalism, so much can be determined by your connections. This is a way of taking the best and the brightest, and saying you don’t have to get there on favours and friendship, you can get there on merit.”

Merit was something Atkinson had in spades, alongside a genuine passion for her career and the journalism industry. Molloy said the scholarship supports students who demonstrate the commitment to journalism that Atkinson displayed throughout her life, and allows future UQ journalism students the chance at an extraordinary career. The first Clare Atkinson Memorial Scholarship was awarded in April this year to UQ journalism and arts student Chantelle Bringas, who shares Atkinson’s passion for journalism and storytelling. Bringas is majoring in International Relations and Peace and Conflict Studies and aspires to become a war correspondent. She is also an active member of the club for UQ Journalism and Communication Students (JACS), a group that Atkinson and Molloy originally founded.

To help support Clare Atkinson’s legacy, the careers of UQ students, and the future of journalism, visit giving.uq.edu.au.

Award-winning journalist Marian Wilkinson with fellow journalist and UQ alumnus Shannon Molloy at the launch of the Clare Atkinson Memorial Scholarship.

Clare Atkinson, who passed away in 2016.
24 hours on campus

DAILY DOSE OF life at Herston

From the classrooms and research laboratories to the dental clinics and hospital wards, students and staff at UQ’s Herston campus cover all aspects of the healthcare industry on a daily basis.

6am Old and new worlds combine as the Mayne Medical School building is reflected in the sleek windows of the UQ Oral Health Centre.

8am Second-year Doctor of Medicine student Kevin Tian prepares for the day ahead in the locker rooms of the Health Sciences building.

10am School of Public Health students study and socialise in the Herston Student Hub.

12pm Master of Public Health students Ummay Salma Rahman and Beryl Onyango in the corridors of the Mayne Medical School building.

2pm Students take part in a Public Health Practice tutorial.

4pm Dental Science students Sereke Lau and Cheilyn Tesh prepare for a practical lesson at the UQ Oral Health Centre.

6pm Rakesh Jakiran performs brain imaging at the Herston Imaging Research Facility.

8pm PhD student Goutham Narayanan Subramanian fertilises mice eggs as part of his research into reproduction and IVF treatment at the UQ Centre for Clinical Research.

To see more images of everyday life at Herston, visit contact-magazine.uq.edu.au or download the Contact app.
A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

The Australian University Games will be transformed in 2018 as part of a plan to boost the standard of competition and profile of UniSport Australia’s flagship event.

The event has been rebranded as UniSport Nationals, where more than 10,000 students from 42 Australian universities will compete in national-standard sporting competitions.

The UniSport Nationals will comprise two major events, known as Div 1 and Div 2, and will be held on the Gold Coast in September and July this year respectively.

Div 1 consists of 33 sports contested across men’s, women’s, mixed and open categories.

Only the top 10 teams from the previous University Games rankings will qualify for competition in each sport. The two lowest-placed teams in each sport in Div 1 will be relegated into Div 2 the following year.

Div 2 will involve 14 sports, and universities can enter teams if they have not already qualified for Div 1 in that sport. The top two ranked teams in each sport in Div 2 will be promoted into Div 1 the following year.

Uni’s Div 1 athletics team captain and 400-metre and 800-metre runner Daniel Parnell applauded the changes.

“Uni Games has always been a great event and there’s a strong sense of camaraderie and mateship,” the three-time University Games competitor said.

“On the track, however, it’s cut-throat. Everyone has their own goals – some are seeking selection in the prestigious World University Games – and it’s incredible to run beside such esteemed athletes.

“Both Uni Sport and UniSport Australia have been working hard to support us and improve the experience, so I hope that we are able to match their efforts and come home with some fantastic results.”

Volleyball star Michaela Shuttleworth will captain UQ’s Div 1 women’s beach volleyball team, as well as UQ’s Div 2 women’s indoor volleyball team, this year.

Shuttleworth said the National’s new structure would help improve team morals as the competition becomes more serious.

“‘There’s already a sense of pride when we wear our UQ team colours. But being able to lead these teams into a more prestigious event motivates me more to perform well and inspire others.

“This year is the first time in four years that UQ has entered a women’s indoor volleyball team, so I’m hoping we can get the team into Div 1 for next year’s competition.”

Sports

CULTURE

HANGING ON EVERY WORD

If a picture paints a thousand words, then the UQ Art Museum’s latest venture, Hangs, is set for a long conversation. And not just about art.

Hangs is a podcast series with a difference. It’s not a lecture about art; it’s not a guide to an exhibition of art; it’s not even a musical accompaniment to art. It’s a cleverly recorded conversation between two people who happen to be looking at a UQ Art Museum exhibition – and where that conversation leads is anyone’s guess.

According to UQ Art Museum’s Digital Communications Officer Sebastian Moody, who came up with the idea for Hangs with Senior Education Manager Dr Holly Arden, art should be talked about, thought about and assessed.

“Some people think they have to have an art degree to be able to appreciate art, but this is simply not true. Anyone can have an opinion and admire – or not – the pieces on display,” he said.

“In fact, what inspired us to create this series of podcasts was our observation that people at our exhibition openings have the most fascinating and random conversations inspired by what they see on the gallery walls.

“We just thought we’d take it one step further.”

The pair worked with UQ communication and journalism interns to match up some chatty types – mostly comedians and media personalities – and set them off around the gallery with headphones and microphones attached.

“The results have been hilarious, and diverse,” Moody said.

“I have always thought that the UQ Art Museum is a ‘safe space for unsafe ideas’ and that’s certainly been the case here.

“We’ve had conversations about selfies, wildebeest and tooth-brushing etiquette, and that’s just the start. I can’t wait to see what the coming year brings – particularly with our major retrospective on Robert Smithson, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.”

Produced by students from the School of Journalism and the School of Communication and Arts, the UQ Art Museum plans to launch between four and six Hangs podcasts each year to coincide with major exhibitions.

What’s on

In site: process, performance, documentation (UQ Art Museum, until 5 August 2018)

Responding thematically to Smithson, this exhibition explores artwork that engages with the landscape through documented interventions that connect to environmental, political or artistic concerns. For more information, visit artmuseum.uq.edu.au.

Defying Empires: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial (UQ Art Museum, until 11 November 2018)

Bringing together works by 3D contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, this exhibition commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum that recognised Aboriginal people as Australians for the first time. For more information, visit artmuseum.uq.edu.au.
When you and UQ partner together, amazing things can happen.

Environments are protected, futures are nurtured, families are supported, lives are made healthier, culture is enriched and society’s injustices are tackled head on.

UQ has research expertise, passion and determination – side-by-side with you, we can accelerate towards success.

Together, we can confidently say, ‘Not if, when’.

Support the change you want to see in the world.

uq.edu.au/giving