GRADUATE
contact

CHINESE CONNECTIONS
First UQ visit to Beijing and Shanghai

From small things
New institute boosts biodiscovery

Exploding landmine carnage
United Nations man on a mission
The value of belonging to the UQ International Alumni Network

Being an active member of The University of Queensland (UQ) alumni community is all about reconnecting with friends, making new contacts and developing business networks along with enjoying the prestige that comes with having a qualification from one of the world’s leading universities.

UQ greatly values the contributions from, and importance of, our international alumni and therefore provides an array of services, support and networks for our graduates. These include access to library and employment services, regular newsletters and invitations to exclusive events and seminars.

Participating in one of the many established international alumni networks also enables all UQ graduates to connect with 160,000 other alumni throughout the world.

Register as a UQ Alumnus

Email: alumniinternational@uq.edu.au or visit: www.alumni.uq.edu.au
Welcome to the Summer edition of Graduate Contact.

I write after having recently returned from an important and enormously enjoyable visit to Asia for a series of graduation celebrations.

The annual celebrations give the University a chance to pay tribute to our young overseas graduates at gatherings with their families and friends, something not always possible when they conclude their studies.

This year’s visit during October was particularly exciting, as it was the first time celebrations had been held in China. I was delighted to be among the proud group of UQ representatives in Beijing and Shanghai.

The University’s relations with China continue to grow through an increasing number of graduates and active alumni associations, and through initiatives such as a scientific collaboration finalised during the recent visit.

Of course, we also held celebrations in Singapore, where we were fortunate to again meet many old friends, as well as a host of new graduates and those close to them.

The celebrations and profiles of some of our high-achieving alumni are covered in detail in this edition of Graduate Contact.

Also featured in detail is another landmark event for the University, the opening of the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology at St Lucia by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie on October 23.

The projected outcomes of research projects at the new institute are diverse and in most cases simply amazing to those without a background in science.

However, it does not take any specialist knowledge to see that the addition of the wonderful building and the facilities within it, along with the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, the Sustainable Minerals Institute, and the Queensland Brain Institute opening at St Lucia next year, has positioned our University at the forefront of revolutionary scientific research.

Sir Llew Edwards, AC
Chancellor

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

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Beijing UQ Alumni president Daisy Wu with fellow Master of Business graduate Hardy He at Tiananmen Square Tower after the University’s graduate celebration in China.

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

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is produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld 4072, Australia
Telephone: (07) 3365 3367
Editor: Brad Turner
Editorial: Elizabeth Kerr, Miguel Holland, Shirley Glaister
Designers: Felicia Chetcuti, Wendy Oakley
Photographers: Chris Stacey, Jeremy Patten
Photographic Librarian: Diana Lilley
Advertising: Tina Hannan (07) 5460 1739
Change of Address: Please telephone: (07) 3346 3907
Facsimile: (07) 3346 3901
Email: j.stein@uq.edu.au
The international code for dialing Australia is +61.
www.uq.edu.au
The Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) is Australia’s first purpose-built facility for research combining the biological, chemical and physical sciences. It also has a strong focus on working with industry and commercialisation of outcomes.

The opening on October 23 followed two years’ construction of the six level facility on College Road.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the AIBN was the latest outcome of a highly-successful partnership between the University, The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Queensland Government.

The building opening by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie was attended by Chuck Feeney, the founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Professor Hay said the AIBN had attracted team leaders, postdoctoral researchers and students from around the world.

"Many of these researchers are part of international collaborations of the highest calibre, with organisations including the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in the US, the Chinese Academy of Science, and the European Union," he said.

"The presence at UQ of UniQuest, a national leader in technology commercialisation, will ensure that commercially-viable outcomes of AIBN research are available to industry and the community in an optimal timeframe."

AIBN Director Professor Peter Gray said the new AIBN building represented the latest in lab design. It currently houses more than 250 staff and students, with a capacity of 350, in conditions found in very few places globally.

"Furthermore, the facilities and equipment found within the building are among the most advanced, enabling research at the cutting edge of the bio and nano fields," he said.

Residents of the new building include research groups with interests ranging broadly from genes to nanoparticles. Projects range from technologies to help prevent chemotherapy patients from contracting life-threatening infections; to needle-less therapeutics for the delivery of vaccines (see story page 6); to biological markers for early cancer diagnosis; molecules with detergent properties known as surfactants to improve recovery of crude oil from oilfields; and bioplastics from sugarcane.

The building houses state-of-the-art microfabrication facilities (the collective term for the technologies used to fabricate components on a micrometer-sized scale), a good manufacturing practice bioprocessing facility and world-class microscopy facilities coupled with advanced data storage and visualisation packages.

Premier Peter Beattie said experts from the Queensland Government and the University had identified at an early stage the enormous potential of marrying bioengineering with nanotechnology, and had been strongly supported by Mr Feeney.

"We couldn’t have done it without Chuck Feeney who, like us, had a vision and could see what he wanted to do. It was a little bit like the planets aligning," Mr Beattie said.

He said his government had contributed $20 million towards the Institute's $70 million building, the first project from the Smart State Research Facility Fund to be completed.

"Our investment in infrastructure and programs at the AIBN will help Queensland maintain its edge as a powerhouse of the knowledge economy and in creating a critical mass of researchers," Mr Beattie said.

It joins a growing number of Smart State initiatives at UQ to be supported by the government, including the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI), the Queensland Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Network, and the UQ Centre for Clinical Research.

Professor Hay said the facility’s completion reasserted that UQ was building Australia’s finest cluster of new science research institutes.

"Having opened in recent years the $105 million Queensland Bioscience Precinct housing the IMB, and the $24 million Sir James Foots Building housing the SMI, UQ will next year commission the new $64 million home of the QBI," he said.

In coming years, a $60 million UQ Centre for Clinical Research and a $300 million translational medical research facility will also become Brisbane research landmarks.

Professor Hay said their addition would mean that, by the end of this decade, more than 1500 scientists would be conducting bio-related research in new UQ facilities.

"Their output will reward the faith that our funding partners, collaborators, and the national and international communities, place in excellent research," he said.
“OUR INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS AT THE AIBN WILL HELP QUEENSLAND MAINTAIN ITS EDGE AS A POWERHOUSE OF THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY AND IN CREATING A CRITICAL MASS OF RESEARCHERS.”
SHARP ALTERNATIVE

You could say Professor Mark Kendall’s research really gets under your skin.

Scientists now know that the most efficient way to deliver many vaccines and other therapeutics to the human body is via immunologically-sensitive cells within a thin layer of skin called the epidermis just below the surface and as wide as a human hair. But the dominant current drug delivery method – the needle and syringe, first invented in 1853 – is unable to target the area. So researchers such as Professor Kendall are developing precise technologies such as “nanopatches” to do the job instead.

The patches are designed to deliver DNA antigens to stimulate the body’s immune response rather than deliberately infecting a person with a small amount of virus – the basis of most current vaccines. The result is improved, safer and pain-free vaccines.

The techniques being developed by Professor Kendall will enable rapid and effective mass vaccinations with only one-thousandth of the vaccine per patient. This is great news for the eradication of disease in the developing world and for treating sudden outbreaks such as avian flu.

The techniques will also consign needle-phobia and needle-stick injuries – two downsides of the needle syringe – to history.

Needle-phobia can prevent people seeking medical attention, while needle-stick injuries cause avoidable sickness and death to thousands of health workers each year.

“The World Health Organisation estimates that of the billion or so vaccination injections delivered in Africa each year, a staggering 30 percent are unsafe, in other words there is a high risk of needle-stick injury,” Professor Kendall said.

A joint appointment with UQ’s AIBN, Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research (CICR) and Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Kendall recently returned to UQ after eight years at the University of Oxford.

His work dovetails with efforts by other UQ researchers such as 2006 Australian of the Year and CICR Director Professor Ian Frazer to develop new vaccines.

In fact, Professor Frazer was one of the reasons Professor Kendall returned to UQ from the University of Oxford, where he was initially postdoctoral research fellow and then concurrently Associate Director of the PowderJect Centre for Gene and Drug Delivery, a University Research Lecturer and Lecturer at Magdalen College.

“There are tremendous opportunities at the AIBN and a vibrant environment for interdisciplinary work with biologists and clinicians such as Professor Frazer and his colleagues,” Professor Kendall said.

Professor Kendall is no stranger to commercial success – he helped develop a bioballistic gene gun and is an inventor of six patent families on the technology. The gun is a hand-held rocket nozzle delivering millions of DNA-coated gold micro-particles to the skin at speeds of up to 2000 km/hour.

ENGINEERING A NEW KNEE

Researchers at UQ’s AIBN are developing an artificial meniscus to replace damaged knee cartilage.

The meniscus is the knee’s shock absorber. It is a cartilage spacer found between the thigh and shin bones, preventing friction and absorbing approximately a third of the impact load that the joint cartilage surface experiences.

AIBN’s Associate Professor Justin Cooper-White heads the project, which is supported by UQ’s Faculty of Health Sciences and the Mater Medical Research Institute, and also capitalises on the cell biology expertise of AIBN’s Professor Julie Campbell.

The project aims to develop a tissue-engineered meniscus using tailored three-dimensional scaffolds and mesenchymal stem cells (precursors of the meniscus).
The Dutton Park Ferry Service may have
gained life as a result of a student prank but
it has more than proved its worth after nearly
40 years’ service.

Brisbane Ferry Service owner, Robert
(Bob) Kent, 83, said while he was sad the
service would be discontinued with the
opening of the Eleanor Schonell Bridge in
December, it was “inevitable”.

“Bridges will always be better than ferries
as they can transport more people,” Mr Kent
said.

Mr Kent, his brother Kevin, late brother-in-law, Dick Hoggett, and friend Vince
Downey, were co-owners of the company
when approached by Lord Mayor Clem
Jones to establish a ferry service between
the University and Dutton Park.

UQ’s Student Union had convinced
the Lord Mayor of the need for the service
through a 4000-signature petition but six
months after the service began in March
1967, numbers of passengers were well
short of expectations.

“It turns out the petition had been
gathered largely at the Regatta Hotel as a bit
of a prank,” Mr Kent said.

Mr Kent said he and his partners
persevered with the Dutton Park ferry in the
early years despite disappointing passenger
numbers largely because their own children
were studying at UQ.

“Our eldest daughter Susan was
studying physiotherapy at UQ and my wife
Del didn’t want her using Coronation Drive,”
Mr Kent recalled.

Both his family and company have had
a long and very positive association with UQ
– Susan (one of the couple’s three children)
is a graduate as well as five of their 11
grandchildren. He said the company had
worked closely with UQ to make travel safe
and convenient for staff and students.

“We took over the service with a subsidy
from the Council but in the days
since, it has more than paid for itself.”

Historian Percy Hanlon said Bob Kent
and his partners had shown considerable
foresight in their running of Brisbane ferries,
in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council,
for many years.

“Bob himself was Brisbane’s longest-
serving ferry master (60 years) and was
proved correct in sticking with the Dutton
Park crossing. It was Brisbane’s only wholly
privately run ferry service,” Mr Hanlon said.

UQ staff member Andrea Prescott, who
has used the ferry service daily for the past
six years, praised captains such as afternoon
driver, Barry Calder.

“Barry is polite and accommodating and
always has a smile for all his passengers
at the end of our day. It is also great to see
him in his captain’s outfit which gives a truly
professional touch,” she said.

With the last crossing approaching, the
two river ferries are now for sale, the
Loyalty for $45,000 and the Vicky Lynn for $40,000.

For more information, contact Mrs Kent on
(07) 3398 3781.

Final crossing for ferryman

A ferry service that started as a prank will soon make its final journey across the Brisbane River between UQ and Dutton Park.

// By Shirley Glaister.
BUILDING BASE FOR BIOSCIENCE BOOM

By Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC

The University of Queensland’s $70 million Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) is the latest in a series of world-class infrastructure to be completed with the support of The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Queensland Government’s Smart State funding.

The commissioning of the AIBN at the St Lucia campus in October is featured in detail in this edition of Graduate Contact, as befits the importance of the Australian-first institute. The AIBN uniquely combines researchers from the biological, chemical and physical sciences, who conduct basic and applied research within a strong culture of commercialisation including problem-solving for industry.

The completion of the institute highlights that UQ has Australia’s best on-site university bioscience precinct. The $105 million Queensland Bioscience Precinct – home to the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) – opened in 2003. The St Lucia “circle” will be complete when the $64 million Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) building opens in 2007.

Other formidable developments in medical science research infrastructure are occurring within a radius of a few kilometres at major UQ teaching and research hospitals.

At the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the University and the Director of our Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, Professor Ian Frazer (the 2006 Australian of the Year), initiated a proposal for a $300 million translational medical research facility. It will have a capacity shared by only a handful of institutions worldwide to take laboratory discoveries through the rigorous processes leading to advanced clinical trials.

The University has a $100 million pledge from the Queensland Government towards the facility (called the Smart Therapies Institute by the Government). In line with UQ’s proven formula for funding large-scale infrastructure, we will raise additional investments from sources such as the Australian Government and philanthropists. Given the continuing decline of per-capita Australian Government funding for university education and research, attracting funds from elsewhere will be a prerequisite for the survival of high-performance institutions such as ours. Concurrently, universities building world-class research infrastructure will benefit the entire nation, because without this, Australia will lose its brightest people and squander the economic bonanza of the resources boom.

As UQ’s success in attracting expertise from overseas reaffirms, fine facilities will draw top-quality people. Together, the AIBN, the IMB, the QBI, the UQ Centre for Clinical Research and the new translational medical research facility will house more than 1500 researchers, all of whom will be ultimately committed to improving human health and well-being. This research community will have been achieved within the first decade of the new century.

Similar convergences of talent from throughout the world are occurring across the disciplines. UQ has more international PhD candidates than any other Australian university, and is the destination of choice for many distinguished postdoctoral academics. In 2006, we collected six new Federation Fellowships, almost one-quarter of all those awarded nationally, to bring to 18 the total of our Fellows since the program began in 2002. Some academics have come from prestigious overseas postings to pursue Federation Fellowships at UQ.

The presence of such people enhances national and international respect for our University, and for all who are associated with UQ through study or employment.

The AIBN building (left) and an artist’s impression of the Centre for Clinical Research (right).
Kirstin Murray loves telling stories. From the ABC’s Brisbane studios, Ms Murray works as an Associate Producer on Australian Story, the ABC’s award-winning documentary series.

Most of her work involves pitching and fishing for potential stories, extensive research, shooting re-enactments and producing.

She said her goal for each story was to capture highs and lows and love and loss, just like a good film script.

“I love the format, I love the style, I love the reporterless pieces and the insight that you get into people,” Ms Murray said.

“There’s not many opportunities to work on documentaries in Australia and this is the closest I’ve found.”

She produced an Australian Story piece about gay former rugby league player turned actor Ian Roberts. She also produced a piece about the late tennis great Ken Fletcher and American billionaire philanthropist Chuck Feeney.

Mr Feeney’s organisation The Atlantic Philanthropies has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to a variety of worthy projects in Australia, including a number of UQ research centres and buildings.

Ms Murray’s toughest assignment was the disappearance of Sunshine Coast teenager Daniel Morcombe in 2004.

“We began that story only three months after he had disappeared so it was extremely raw,” Ms Murray said.

“We walked into the Morcombe’s house where they [Daniel’s parents] had that hollow look in their eyes. His room was as it was when he left. Police officers were taking away now precious things such as his school books so they could obtain DNA samples.

“You really had to question your morals of being there, taking up their time and asking horrible and tough questions when that wasn’t their priority.”

Ms Murray said she was most proud of the episode on Daniel because it was the most-watched Australian Story and resulted in thousands of calls to Crimestoppers.

“People put a lot of trust in your hands. On many stories we ask people to go back to a place and a time that they have tried to forget,” she said.

At UQ, Ms Murray studied a Bachelor of Arts majoring in communication and media studies, specialising in film theory.

Journalism wasn’t one of Ms Murray’s majors.

“People put a lot of trust in your hands. On many stories we ask people to go back to a place and a time that they have tried to forget,” she said.
GENDER BENDER

Why do males produce sperm and females produce eggs?

An Australian research team led by Dr Josephine Bowles and Professor Peter Koopman from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience has solved one of biology’s most fundamental puzzles.

The breakthrough finding could lead to improved infertility treatment, cancer therapy and even pest management.

The research team discovered that derivatives of Vitamin A triggered the beginning of egg and sperm production, a process known as meiosis.

The cells that eventually turn into either eggs or sperm, known as germ cells, are identical in male and female embryos.

“Whether a germ cell develops into an egg or a sperm depends on the time at which meiosis begins,” Professor Koopman said.

“In females, meiosis begins before birth and eggs are produced, whereas in males, meiosis begins after birth and the result is sperm.”

Professor Koopman and his team found that retinoic acid, a derivative of Vitamin A, caused germ cells in female embryos to begin meiosis, leading to the production of eggs.

They also discovered an enzyme present in male embryos that wiped out retinoic acid and so suppressed meiosis until after birth, resulting in sperm production.

“This is an extremely important process that nobody has been able to figure out until now,” Professor Koopman said.

The team’s findings have been published in Science.

MINERAL WEALTH

Australia’s mining industry will receive a multitude of benefits as a result of the establishment of a $16 million minerals research facility.

A new Minerals Characterisation Research Facility (MCRF) will be located at UQ’s Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre (JKMRC) and be part of the University’s world-leading Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI).

The Queensland Government will contribute $6.1 million to the MCRF project through its Smart State Innovation Building Fund.

JKMRC Director Professor Ben Adair said the MCRF would develop technologies to enable Queensland’s billion-dollar mining industry to extract more from current mineral reserves.

“Mineral processing research is on the threshold of producing a critical mass of knowledge with the potential to create industry-transforming technologies,” Professor Adair said.

Professor Don McKee, Director of the SMI, said a sustainable and profitable mining and mineral-processing industry was critical for Queensland’s economy, where minerals represented about half of overseas exports.

“The funding from the Queensland Government, along with the support of our industry partners, will guarantee UQ stays at the forefront of innovative and commercially-relevant research,” Professor McKee said.

“The MCRF will help increase the productivity of Queensland mining operations as well as sustain our international competitiveness.”

MCRF partners include Xstrata Technology, Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Anglo Platinum, JKTech, Cytec Industries Inc and Metso Corporation.

SPEEDY SOLUTION

Biomedical and computational scientists at UQ have combined to create a powerful new tool that will greatly increase the amount of data bioscientists can expect to process in a week.

Sophisticated software that slashes the processing time required to select high-resolution images is poised to boost biomedical research around the world.

Screening processes that once demanded hundreds of hours from a skilled operator can now be done by a less-skilled operator in a fraction of the time.

The rapid semi-automated single particle selection software (SwarmPS) speeds up the painstaking and often laborious process of selecting scientifically “significant” images from the thousands of “non-significant” images which routinely accompany them.

Incorporating cross-correlation and edge-detection algorithms, SwarmPS is an improvement on other available technologies because it uses human interaction with images to fine-tune its considerable processing power.

Queensland Brain Institute (GBI) computational scientist Dr Geoffrey Ericksson said the software involved about 20,000 separate lines of computer code and had the potential to save researchers both time and money.

“Essentially, SwarmPS has been designed to provide a user-friendly, powerful and flexible graphical interface to manage and run particle-selection jobs,” Dr Ericksson said.

Developed by scientists from the GBI and UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, SwarmPS has been designed to run across most standard computer platforms.
MEAL DEAL

Different fish species have been found to form the kind of mutually beneficial relationships more commonly associated with humans.

Dr Lexa Grutter, from UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, and Dr Redouan Bshary, from the Swiss University of Neuchatel’s Department of Zoology, have been researching the synergy between cleaner fish and client fish.

The researchers have found that client fish “eavesdrop” to determine the trustworthiness of cleaner fish, and cleaner fish in turn behave altruistically to be considered more trustworthy.

Dr Grutter said the interactions between the cleaner fish Labroides dimidiatus and its client fish were a well-known example of mutually beneficial behaviour involving different species.

Cleaners may cooperate and remove parasites from client fish; however they may also cheat by feeding on client mucus, which they prefer.

“Our experiments suggest image scoring is one of several alternative mechanisms used by clients to avoid exploitation by cheating cleaners,” Dr Grutter said.

“Given a choice, clients preferred to spend more time with a cleaner that behaved cooperatively than with a cleaner whose cooperative level was unknown.

“We have also seen complicated behaviours in cleaner fish where the benefit of cooperation was not reciprocated directly, but gave them a better reputation.

“Previously there was only evidence that humans were capable of this type of behaviour.”

KOALA INSURANCE

UQ scientists have unveiled koala joeys produced by artificial insemination (AI) as part of the development of the world’s first koala sperm bank.

Three of the eight joeys made their first public appearances at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast on October 30.

They were conceived with new breeding technology which uses sperm mixed with a solution that prolongs the sperm’s shelf-life for up to 40 days in the laboratory.

The research is a joint project for UQ advanced reproductive technology scientists, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Dreamworld, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, David Fleay’s Wildlife Park and the Zoological Society of London.

Dr Steve Johnston, project leader and reproductive biologist at UQ’s School of Animal Studies, said his team now had the technology to use transported koala semen in Australia and eventually overseas.

“Eight of the 12 current test-tube joeys were born following the artificial insemination of freshly diluted sperm samples,” Dr Johnston said.

“The next vital step is the use of chilled sperm and then thawed frozen sperm from the sperm bank.”

Samples are screened for koala diseases such as chlamydiae and retroviruses.

The koala is not classified as an endangered species but it is listed as vulnerable to extinction in parts of Queensland and in New South Wales.

“We don’t want to claim the technique as a solution to koala conservation but more of a tool for genetic management and animal welfare — an added insurance policy,” Dr Johnston said.

GAMES GOLDMINE

Savvy marketers eager to gain brand recognition for clients have seized on the computer-gaming boom.

UQ Business School Honours graduate Lars-Peter Schneider and Professor Bettina Cornwell have found that marketers are following consumers as they migrate away from mainstream television.

Professor Cornwell, also from the UQ Business School, said the explosion in computer gaming had led marketers to experiment with brand placement as a way of reaching consumers.

“It's a technique that has been widely used in movies such as Steven Spielberg's Minority Report, which was subsidised with $25 million in deals with Nokia, The Gap, and Lexus,” Professor Cornwell said.

“With top quality games now costing as much as US$5 million to make, game producers are also interested in alternative funding sources.”

Mr Schneider and Professor Cornwell monitored 46 men playing a car-racing game.

“One of the most interesting findings was the potential of interactivity to influence memory,” she said. “In movies, being central to the plot is thought to be important — in video games, being central to the action is important.

“Many of the executional factors deemed important in successful product placement in movies — such as showing the product in a positive light and for an extended period — are easy when designing and scripting a game.

“Building in an interactive experience with a product or brand is also easy in the digital game environment and makes computer games an appealing target for marketers.”
An historian who chronicled one of Brisbane’s most intriguing families in The Mayne Inheritance will leave a legacy which offers hope for families afflicted by a genetic kidney disease.

Dr Rosamond Siemon has turned her focus from the past to the future by supporting kidney research at the University, through a bequest and a scholarship beginning next year. Dr Siemon completed her PhD in history at UQ and was the University’s Alumni Officer for 11 years. She will aid Professor Melissa Little and her team from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) in researching polycystic kidney disease, an inherited condition affecting more than 60,000 Australians.

Dr Siemon’s son-in-law had the disease, which made him dialysis-dependent for most of his adult life and led to his premature death. “I could not look my grandchildren or great-grandchildren in the eye if I did not do something, and that is why I’ve established the scholarship now,” she said.
Capacity to build hope

Carly Stephan is driven by a passion to empower people in developing countries to help themselves in important areas such as poverty relief.

By Melinda Midgley

Ms Stephan with refugee children in Kenya. Photographs courtesy of Ms Stephan.

International travel, on-the-job training, and making a difference to people around the world are just some of the facets of daily life for UQ graduate Carly Stephan.

After only having worked full-time for a year, Ms Stephan is already discovering many opportunities presented by her career.

Be it travelling overseas or working in Australia, Ms Stephan is exposed to the field of international development every day.

She is a Project Coordinator appointed under the Young Professionals Program by GRM International, an international aid and development organisation working on projects worldwide.

Ms Stephan has helped coordinate projects including the RAMSI Law and Justice Program (under the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands), the RAMSI Governance Support Facility, and the Vanuatu Police Force Capacity Building Project.

“At the moment, I am predominately focused on the Law and Justice Program in the Solomon Islands. I assist with the day-to-day running of the project, liaising with our Solomon Islands project office on matters such as managing personnel, contracts, purchasing of goods and services for the program and training activities,” she said.

Ms Stephan graduated from UQ in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science)/Bachelor of Business Management (International Business).

She then spent a year undertaking an Honours degree (First Class) in International Relations. She has also had experience as a volunteer for the Red Cross, tutoring refugee students.

Ms Stephan joined GRM in 2005, following an internship with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya, where she worked with the Sustainability Unit on the high-profile Lelechwa environment conservation project.

“Working in Kenya was an incredible experience, given that I had only just left university,” she said.

“I was exposed to all aspects of the project, from a UNDP headquarters office perspective to experiences working in the field.”

Ms Stephan said her passion for international development was driven by the desire to help empower people to help themselves.

“I feel strongly about working towards an alleviation of poverty in developing countries through capacity-building, which is helping people to help themselves,” she said.

“People in developing countries generally aren’t looking for handouts; they want to be self-sufficient and empowered to run their own lives. Furthering this cause is where my passion lies.”

As part of the GRM Young Professionals Program, Ms Stephan says she is provided with myriad opportunities to acquire project management skills and contribute to the international development sector.

“I am exposed to a wide variety of project management and international development issues on a daily basis, which is both challenging and exciting,” she said.

“There are also many opportunities to travel and learn about international development from the ‘ground-up’, and I am enjoying the experience,” she said.
Since that time, the St Lucia campus has become the second-largest traffic generator in the Brisbane area, with up to 40,000 people a day visiting the campus at the beginning of first semester.

In October 9, 2003, the University Senate set out stringent conditions on support of construction of a bridge to, but not through, the St Lucia campus. Senate noted the worsening traffic congestion on Coronation Drive and Sir Fred Schonell Drive in St Lucia and supported a bridge that would encourage the use of public transport to the campus. Senate also affirmed there would not be a connection to the campus road network, and no through-running bus services to preserve the amenity of the area.

FOSSILS CENTRE OF ATTENTION

The discovery of the ancestor of all crocodilians has led to the establishment of a new centre in the central western Queensland town of Isisford.

Dr Steve Salisbury, from the School of Integrative Biology, in July attended the opening of the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre in Isisford, the centrepiece of which is a replica of a fossil crocodilian that he and his team recently discovered in the region.

Dr Salisbury said the new fossil, which he and his colleagues named *Isisfordia duncani*, may represent the ancestor of all modern crocodilians (crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharials).

The $1.34 million centre, opened by Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce, includes a prominent display on *Isisfordia duncani*, along with the research that Dr Salisbury and his team have conducted in the Isisford district since 2001.

"It is such an honour to have our work featured like this," Dr Salisbury said.

"And to be able to give something back to the community, which has supported our research for many years, is something we are very proud of."

The first fossils of *Isisfordia* were found in the mid-1990s in a dried-up creek bed on the outskirts of town.

Isisford Shire is approximately 1200km from Brisbane and 700km inland from Rockhampton.

BIG INNINGS FOR FAMILY

An honorary doctorate award ceremony for Australian cricket coach Dr John Buchanan became a family affair when his daughter graduated at the same ceremony on July 19.

Since taking over in 1999, Dr Buchanan has coached the Australian Cricket Team to World Cup Champion and Test Cricket World Champion status.

He began his cricket career with the University Club and represented Queensland in seven matches between 1978 and 1979.

He graduated from UQ with a Human Movement Studies degree in 1976 and on July 19, was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa*.

His daughter Lauren received a Bachelor of Science degree.

"I'm very proud to receive the honorary degree at the same ceremony as my daughter," Dr Buchanan said."
NEW SENATORS STEP IN

The University’s links to the State’s wider business, legal and cultural communities have grown stronger with seven prominent “downtowners” playing a leading role on its Senate. These recent appointments link UQ to a network of national and international contacts outside the academic world and are paving the way forward for a more corporate-based management style.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the 22-member Senate, which is the University’s governing body, had adapted to reflect the complex changes taking place in higher education.

“UQ’s research, teaching and commercialisation initiatives are in demand internationally; our global collaborations are growing in importance; and we have students from more than 120 countries. It is therefore imperative that UQ operates like a modern, outwardly-focused corporation – and the Senate reflects this thinking,” Professor Hay said.

Six of the seven new Senators: clockwise from back left: Judith Bell, John Story, Timothy Crommelin, Dr Jane Wilson, Nerolie Withnall and Isabel Tarrago.

RUGBY REIGN

The UQ team is the 2006 champion in the Brisbane women’s competition after defeating minor premiers Easts in the Grand Final at Ballymore.

University posted seven tries to three in its 39-21 romp over Easts, the Red Heavies’ first premiership since 2000.

Easts dominated in the early encounters and scored two early tries to lead 14-0 after only 15 minutes.

The students hit back with some sustained pressure in the Tigers half that resulted in 19 unanswered points, courtesy of tries to Sarah Hind, Tricia Brown and Angie Wam.

With the half-time score poised at 24-21 after both teams traded tries, University asserted its dominance in the second half as the forwards created a great attacking platform from which the backs were able to run in three further tries to seal the premiership.

University captain Jacqui Cutts said the team improved throughout the season.

“It was fantastic. The girls put a lot of work in throughout the year and they really deserved it,” Ms Cutts said.

“When we started the season, somewhere between a quarter and a half of the girls had never played rugby before, so there has been a lot of development over the year. To come out and win the final was hugely impressive,” she said.

“Our stand-out players were tighthead prop Christine Wamna and our number five Bridget McNee.”

Ms Cutts, Trish Brown and Kelli Donnelly all made the Wallaroo squad for the World Cup in Canada.

ARTWORKS CARVED INTO IPSWICH HISTORY

History was carved at UQ Ipswich when artwork by a patient of the former Ipswich Hospital for the Insane was celebrated.

Peter Harley, a patient from 1907 to 1941 at the hospital, which was later named the Challinor Centre, carved an Honour Board and mirror frame. The artworks were unveiled at a morning tea at the Ipswich campus in June.

The Honour Board was donated to the University when UQ Ipswich moved to the centre site in 1998.

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

He was admitted to the hospital in 1907, died there in 1941 and was buried in the Ipswich Cemetery. He was well-known at the hospital for his wood-carving.

The mirror frame, carved in 1914, was presented to the campus by sisters Joan Witt and Margaret Boulter in 2005.

Relatives and friends of the families and staff members celebrated the work of Mr Harley at the morning tea hosted by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ipswich Professor Alan Rix.
BREAST CANCER TARGETED

Research by a UQ academic could lead to a treatment for breast cancer.

Dr Greg Monteith from UQ’s School of Pharmacy received a $67,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award for his research on calcium transportation and breast cancer. Calcium exists in the body as a mineral for healthy teeth and bones, but also as a freely movable form inside cells.

Dr Monteith has been studying calcium and breast cancer since 2000. His research found breast cancer cells have abnormal expression of pumps that could transport calcium out of cancer cells.

His research focuses on intracellular calcium and the transportation of this calcium in the breast.

Intracellular calcium is moved through the body via different transporters, and there are a number of different transporters in the breast.

Dr Monteith’s research aims to control the transporters pharmacologically and is examining different transporters as potential drug targets.

“What my lab is looking at is not only how calcium gets into milk and what transporters are involved, but also how important the transporter is in breast cancer development, and whether it is a drug target,” he said.

“There’s something that goes on in breast cancer that makes cells adopt a very abnormal expression of calcium transporters. “We found that these calcium transporters are altered and so we are trying to understand them better to eventually lead to breast cancer treatments.”

The quality of Dr Monteith’s research has resulted in international collaborations with universities in the United States including Johns Hopkins University and the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory.

COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

A UQ academic is studying the growth in professional science communicators specialising in explaining sometimes complicated research to the public.

Dr Joan Leach, from UQ’s School of English, Media Studies and Art History, said scientists not only had to make sure their research was accurate, but to trust another person to communicate it.

Her research has been recognised with an $55,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

“An estimated 25,000 people around the world identify themselves as science communicators, with 900 in Australia,” Dr Leach said.

“With fewer media outlets having specialised science writers, these communicators hold powerful positions as knowledge brokers for scientists and scientific institutions.”

Dr Leach said Australia was a leader in science communication, with the profession emerging from the CSIRO, where public engagement was a key issue.

She said Australian museums and universities were also internationally acclaimed for recognising the importance of communicating science.

“Scientists and governments worry about negative representations of science and that the public will reject science and technology,” she said.

“Governments have assumed that if people know more about science and technology they will accept it more readily.

“The problem is that all the research to date suggests that, at best, this is only partly true. We need a different framework if science communicators are going to do their work properly.”
PIG AND POULTRY PATHOGEN

A new UQ study aims to improve understanding of a remarkable organism that is an important cause of diarrhoea in animals and humans.

Dr Darren Trot, a lecturer in UQ’s School of Veterinary Science has received a $55,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to study the intestinal spirochaete Brachyspira pilosicoli.

“This organism has consistently been identified as one of the major disease-causing agents (pathogens) leading to colitis in pigs and poultry,” Dr Trot said.

“In the past, antibiotics were used to control these pathogens. However, the use of these agents is being phased out in many countries due to concerns over the transfer of antibiotic resistance to human pathogens.

“Alternative strategies to antibiotics must be investigated, and I hope that this research project may lead to new methods of control.

“For example, vaccines based on novel surface proteins found in the organisms could be an applied outcome of this research.”

He said if scientists could understand the way the organism attached itself to the surface of the intestine and how its proteins were involved in this process, it might be possible to control it.

Dr Trot said B. pilosicoli was also common in developing countries and among immuno-suppressed humans. Its significance for causing disease in human patients was receiving further recognition.

It led to failure to gain weight in grower pigs, while in poultry, birds had sub-optimal feed conversion rates, increased numbers of weak chicks and laid fewer eggs.

CHANGING FACE OF TERRORISM

Terrorism hasn’t always taken the forms manifesting in today’s society.

UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award winner Dr Alex Bellamy has won his $75,000 grant to write a book about the ethics of terrorism for Oxford University Press.

Dr Bellamy, a Senior Lecturer at UQ’s Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, will explore the motivations and justifications behind terrorism, a term first used during the French Revolution.

Dr Bellamy said during the Cold War, terrorism was often the weapon of choice for those seeking to right what they regarded as political wrongs, to liberate a country or to free people seen as being oppressed.

He said there was now less terrorism than ever before because of the increased revulsion towards the killing of civilians.

“Until very recently, the most deadly terrorists were states,” Dr Bellamy said.

“Since 1789, we count the number of victims of state terror in the millions.

“Terrorism came to be seen as illegal and illegitimate after the Geneva Conventions, although the great powers retained the right and ability to resort to it in emergencies in the form of nuclear deterrence.”

Dr Bellamy said an example of state-driven terrorism to suppress internal dissent were the massacres of Greeks by Turkish authorities, while the Holocaust was an example of terrorism to eliminate ethnic or religious groups.

He said Stalin’s Russia was an example of terrorism to impose an ideology and British rule in Kenya an example of terrorism used to maintain order in a colony.

GOOD BUGS FIGHT URINARY INFECTION

Analysing urine is not a glamorous job but UQ’s Dr Mark Schembri is hoping it will lead to better treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs).

“Alternative strategies to antibiotics must be investigated, and I hope that this research project may lead to new methods of control."

He will study the genome sequence of one of the good bacterial strains in collaboration with scientists from the Technical University of Denmark.

Dr Schembri said having any bacteria in the urinary tract was unavoidable for some patients.

“These people might have long-term urinary catheters, such as patients who have a spinal chord injury,” Dr Schembri said.

“The bacteria can grow on the catheter surface in thick clumps and are virtually impossible to remove.”

Dr Schembri’s UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award is worth $75,000 and his work is also supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council.
**LIGHT METALS REVOLUTION**

Novel surface modification methods being developed by a UQ researcher will result in the replacement of steel parts with lighter metals in future fuel-efficient vehicles, aircraft and spacecraft.

Dr Mingxing Zhang, an Australian Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer with UQ’s Division of Materials within the School of Engineering, has been awarded a $65,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

Dr Zhang said lighter alloys, magnesium alloys in particular, had to date been problematic for wider applications in the automotive and aeronautical industries because of their softness and poor corrosion resistance.

“Lighter vehicles are cheaper to run as they consume far less fuel. For example, a 10 percent weight reduction in a car can save 0.7 litres of fuel every 100 kilometres,” he said.

Dr Zhang said Australia had strategic long-term interests in the production, processing and application of light metals and had become a world leader in the development of alloy.

“It is vitally important we don’t lose any momentum in refining these products further,” he said.

Dr Zhang’s laboratory is evolving and trialing different routes as well as two methods of treating the surface of light metals to vastly increase their strengths and corrosion resistance, but not their weights or densities.

Dr Zhang’s research group is one of a handful in the world racing to develop methods that will open the floodgates to replacing the parts currently made of steel in car, truck and even aircraft with lighter alloys.

**CLEAN COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS**

UQ researchers are working on a process that could make the theory of clean coal a reality.

Dr Joe da Costa’s research group, from the Division of Chemical Engineering in the School of Engineering, has developed unique hollow fibre technology that can separate oxygen from air, making the process of capturing environmentally harmful CO2 gases in coal-fired power stations easier.

Dr da Costa’s work has been recognised with an $80,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

Dr da Costa noted that much current research was focusing on separating CO2 at the end of the cycle, which is expensive at the moment.

“Our process happens at the start, before the coal is even burnt, which reduces the cost of removing oxygen as well as making the capture of CO2 easier,” Dr da Costa said.

The secret of the process rested in the technology of producing ceramic hollow fibres that were efficient at removing oxygen from the air.

Dr da Costa said the fibres, which were less than 1mm in diameter, were woven in a novel process that combined nanotechnology and ceramic powder technology.

He said the next stage of the research would target reducing the temperature at which the process happened so as to make it cost effective on a large industrial scale.

“At the moment the process takes place at 800 degrees but we need to get it down to around 500 degrees to make it commercially viable,” he said.

Dr da Costa said investment in clean-coal technology made the best use of the Earth’s finite resources.

**SWOTTING UP ON SEX DIFFERENCES**

A UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award winner is investigating how genetic triggers produce key differences between males and females such as longevity and particular disease rates.

Dr Steve Chenoweth, an Australian Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer with UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, is using a native species of fruit fly, *Drosophila serrata*, to understand how genomes are able to produce males and females.

“Differences between males and females make up a substantial component of diversity in the biological world, with the sexes often differing in size, shape and colour,” said Dr Chenoweth, who won an $80,000 Foundation Research Excellence Award.

“The catch from a genetic standpoint is that the male and female sexes share almost all of their genes. Because of this, many genes that benefit one sex may actually be harmful to the other. In birds, a gene that causes brightly coloured plumage in males may have advantages in terms of attracting a mate whereas its effect in a female could be a distinct disadvantage in making her more noticeable to predators.”

He believes that while the genes for sex differences may be shared, the trigger for their development or suppression might be located on sex chromosomes.

“Once we understand where these sex-specific triggers are and how they work, there is potential for developing intervention methods to control sex differences in the development of certain conditions such as heart disease – much higher among men – as well as areas such as longevity – women on average live a lot longer than men,” he said.
Conduct most becoming

Dane Lam has already built a formidable reputation conducting Australian orchestras and now wants to make an impression on the world stage.

Electric is an apt description of conductor and UQ Music School student Dane Lam's career to date.

The 20-year-old had already conducted UQ's Symphony before he even started University and has also conducted the Sydney Symphony at the Opera House.

On top of all of this, he conducted the Melbourne Symphony on September 20 for a concert broadcast live on ABC Radio.

The former Mansfield High School student graduates with his Bachelor of Music with honours from UQ next month and will pursue post doctoral studies overseas in 2007.

He has auditions lined up with a "Who's Who" of music schools – the Juilliard School in New York, the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

Mr Lam said he was drawn to conducting after growing up in a house where classical music was constantly played, in particular the scores to famous ballets. His mother and grandmother both played amateur piano.

"It's fantastic being able to get 120 musicians to speak as one," Mr Lam said. "I cannot narrow down my favourite composer. I love Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven and Mahler, but Beethoven symphonies are my favourite to conduct as they're very gutsy."

According to UQ School of Music senior lecturer and the head of its conducting program, Gwyn Roberts, Mr Lam is one of a highly talented band of Australian conductors in their 20s and 30s.

Mr Lam said he chose UQ after discussions with Mr Roberts who visited Mr Lam's high school toward the end of Year 12.

"I received offers of places at both the Conservatorium of Music and UQ and chose UQ because of its excellent conducting program and aural studies training – "hearing" music is an obvious foundation skill for conducting," Mr Lam said.
THROUGH STUDIES AND EXPERIENCE AT UQ AND AUSTRALIA, I UNDERSTOOD THAT RECEIVING EDUCATION BEYOND ONE’S COUNTRY IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSCEND BOUNDARIES TO ALLOW UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES.
UQ strengthened its Asian ties in October with its first graduate celebrations in China, while in Singapore, a new alumni vision was unveiled to coincide with a special anniversary. Journalist MIGUEL HOLLAND travelled with the University’s delegation to report and take photographs for Graduate Contact.

About 100 people including graduates, their friends and family came together for the University’s inaugural graduation celebration in China in Beijing on October 10, with a similar number attending the Shanghai ceremony two days later.

UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, congratulated about 40 graduates from all UQ faculties in Beijing, China, while in his keynote address, Australia’s Ambassador to China Dr Alan Thomas said Australia and China’s educational engagement was now second only to the US.

Mr Haishan Jiang, Director-General, Department of International Exchange and Program Development, China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP), addressed graduates in Shanghai.

Mr Jiang, who finished his Masters of Education Studies in 2001, said UQ had been a great source of intelligence and wisdom. “Through studies and experience at UQ and Australia, I understood that receiving education beyond one’s country was a great opportunity to transcend boundaries to allow understanding of global issues,” Mr Jiang said.

Chinese students are UQ’s biggest international student group with more than 1000 Chinese students studying at UQ this year, mostly in commerce and engineering.

UQ has about 30 agreements with Chinese institutions to foster research and academic collaboration and student and staff exchanges.

While in Shanghai, UQ also formalised a neuroscience agreement with China’s Institute of Neuroscience (ION) to share research and student exchanges.

The ION is part of China’s premier science agency, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which works to improve the health and welfare of about 1.3 billion people.

Professor Trevor Grigg, UQ’s Acting Vice-Chancellor during the visit, and the ION’s Deputy Director and Senior Investigator Dr Ai-Ke Guo signed the agreement.

Leading scientists and students from UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) and China will collaborate and study at UQ’s new Advanced Imaging Centre within the QBI.

QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said the two institutes shared similar expertise. “It makes good sense to work together to accelerate the discovery processes that will lead to the development of new therapeutics to treat mental and neurological diseases,” he said.

“It’s also a coming of age for the Asia-Pacific region, which is now a force in neuroscience.” Professor Bartlett said the $1.5 million (CNY9.9 million) Centre, equipped by technology company Carl Zeiss, would be part of the QBI and a regional hub for high-end microscopy.

QBI and Zeiss also agreed to create travelling fellowships to allow scientist and student exchanges between QBI and China. The inaugural fellowship winners are ION PhD students Chun-Lei Wang, 29 and Ting-Jia Lu, 25.

Mr Wang is studying the functions of the brain’s different hemispheres and Ms Lu the genes associated with intellectual disability.

Professor Bartlett said he expected six fellowships to be offered by 2008.

“Chinese neuroscientists are superbly trained and have much to offer in terms of their intellectual insights and the scientific vigour they bring to neuroscience,” he said.

In Singapore, more than 900 students and their families took part in UQ’s October 8 graduate celebration.

More than 110 graduates, mostly from business and engineering, were congratulated on behalf of the University by Sir Llew.

Senior Consultant Paediatrician and Gastroenterologist Professor Phua Kong Boo from the KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Singapore was guest speaker.

Professor Phua, a UQ alumnus from 1965, told graduates to live a humble life, have goals and not procrastinate. “We need to be strong enough to admit our mistakes, smart enough to profit from them and strong enough to correct them,” Professor Phua said.

Singapore is the second biggest source of international students at UQ after China, with more than 820 Singaporeans enrolled this year. The graduation celebration marked the 10th anniversary of the UQ Alumni Association of Singapore. It also coincided with UQ’s new vision for international alumni unveiled by Professor Grigg.

UQ was committed to extending its relationship with alumni, as the measure of a good university was based on the success of its graduates, Professor Grigg said.

“We want to work with you to ensure that you get every support from your alma mater, not just while you are with us but after you’ve graduated,” Professor Grigg said.

He said some of these improved services included a searchable database of all alumni called UQ Reunited to allow graduates to connect with friends for social or business opportunities. A UQ Alumni Referral Program would allow alumni to refer friends and family to study at UQ, providing benefits to those referred.

For example, the normal application fee would be waived, applications would receive prioritised treatment and there would be an online inquiry service.

The UQ Career Hub will soon include an international alumni section featuring employment options and other advisory services. All alumni will be granted one year’s free library membership with a 10 percent discount thereafter, as well as access to long-distance document delivery.

Other improvements will include updating the UQ Alumni website, expanding mentoring programs and introducing branding initiatives. //

Pictured above: The UQ delegation at the Chinese Academy of Science in Shanghai. (From left) Andrew Everett (International Education Directorate), Douglas Porter (Secretary and Registrar), Dr Geoffrey Goodhill (Queensland Brain Institute), Professor Pankaj Sah (Queensland Brain Institute), Professor Grigg, Professor Bartlett, Sir Llew Edwards and John Moller (Protocol and Ceremonies).
MARKET RESEARCHER CONNECTING WITH BEIJING ALUMNI

UQ’s Beijing Alumni Association President Daisy Xu tried her hand at journalism before working as a market researcher.

Ms Xu spent a year working as a journalist for China’s government-controlled national newspaper, the People’s Daily, but decided it wasn’t for her.

So she switched to be a market researcher for global market agencies TNS, ACNielsen and is now with Synovate, based in Beijing.

As a Synovate Project Director, Ms Xu deals mainly with automotive and finance companies.

She is responsible for writing proposals and reports, meetings with clients and overseeing her team in managing market research collection and data quality.

“`My work involves people and data and the data I work on impacts on people and their business, which is the fun part of the job,” she said.

Miss Xu has been the President of UQ’s Beijing Alumni group since its formation in October 2004.

There are about 150 active alumni members who take part in regular social events, sports and charity functions and festival celebrations such as Chinese New Year and Christmas.

They also hold workshops and seminars to bring employers, recruiters and alumni together to discuss career opportunities and challenges.

Miss Xu said her goal as Alumni President was to keep UQ graduates in China connected via a variety of social events.

“The majority of members in the Beijing chapter are returned Chinese students from Australia or graduates of UQ’s overseas programs,” she said.

“Another nice proportion of members are Australians now living and working in China who are happy to find the UQ community, while being far away from their homeland.”

Many UQ alumni in Beijing are from business backgrounds such as Anthony McQuade (North China Director for real estate group Savills), Peter Xiao (Operations Director, Ericsson Beijing) and Cecilia Fan (co-founder of her own management firm).

Miss Xu studied part-time at UQ from 2001–2003 for her international Masters of Business Administration program in China.

“I love UQ and the people who are running it,” she said.

“Therefore, I was motivated to take the role of the President of Beijing Alumni Association and organised an executive committee with a few fun and creative people to join.”

She said she liked all sports such as hiking, snowboarding, horseback-riding and golf.

Chinese alumni wanting to make contact with other UQ graduates or help organise alumni functions, can contact the Alumni Association of Beijing on daisyx@gmail.com or +86 13701362991.

THAI ALUMNI PRESIDENT LIVES A DIPLOMATIC LIFE

UQ’s new Thailand Alumni Association President Ohm Cusripituck is a career diplomat who loves making friends and spreading Thai goodwill.

Mr Cusripituck, 27, works for the Department of International Economic Affairs within Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

About 30 people work in his Department to further Thai trade interests with many countries and regional trade groups such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Some of his daily duties include organising and attending events and liaising with Thai Embassies, ministries, departments and Consulates General based around the world.

“I’m a career diplomat and my job is to make friends for my country and represent my country to do anything to foster relations with other nations,” Mr Cusripituck said.

He has hosted United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and in June helped organise the visit of 25 of the world’s royal families to Thailand for the King’s 60th anniversary on the throne.

Mr Cusripituck studied a Masters of International Relations and Asian Politics at UQ (2003) through the School of Political Science and International Studies.

He said he enrolled specifically at UQ because he had always wanted to work in foreign affairs.

Mr Cusripituck replaced founding Thai president Dr Stuart Blacksell.

Thai alumni wanting to contact other UQ graduates or help organise alumni functions, can contact the Alumni Association of Thailand on ohmcm@mfa.go.th or +66 8 9 931 2244.
TEACHING AND LEARNING CHINESE CULTURE

About 16 months ago, primary school teacher Mary Vibert-Guigue packed up her home near Byron Bay to teach English in southern China.

It was a big move for Mrs Vibert-Guigue, who has family in Brisbane and Melbourne.

Mrs Vibert-Guigue, who received a Masters in Educational Studies at UQ’s October Beijing graduate celebration, joined the China Hong Kong English School in Zhongshan, a Southern Chinese city in Guangong Province.

As supervisor of the School’s English teaching, she is responsible for mentoring about 20 Chinese and foreign English teachers.

“My biggest challenge is not having enough Chinese language skills which can be a barrier to being 100 percent effective,” Mrs Vibert-Guigue said.

“But I am studying Mandarin and picking up a little Cantonese as well.

“It’s been a real cultural learning curve too. I wanted to explore the Chinese culture and build bridges between Eastern and Western styles of teaching and learning.”

Mrs Vibert-Guigue, whose husband Jean Louis teaches French at the school, loves the cultural exchanges with her Chinese friends.

“A lot of the Chinese English teachers are quite young, but the friendships have bridged that generation gap,” she said.

She said many of her Chinese students had excellent memories, English grammar and study skills.

“I’ve never seen anything like it in Australia but they have very little communicative ability with English.

“This is where we come in to help them to learn English as a language of communication not just as a field of study.”

LEGAL EAGLE DRAWN DOWN UNDER

Studying in Australia has given Jessie Zhang a new appreciation of China’s cultural and legal heritage.

Since last July, the Master of Laws student has been studying dispute resolution at UQ.

Ms Zhang said differences in language, law, and culture between China and Australia had given her a better understanding of Chinese culture.

“I never realised culture could have such a significant effect on law and even on every aspect of life,” Ms Zhang said.

“I know China and its culture better through studying in Australia at UQ.

“In China, people generally don’t like to go to court. People don’t want to expose their disputes to public because of the concept of face.”

“It seems in Western countries people prefer to go to court.”

Ms Zhang is the first graduate under UQ’s double Master of Laws degree with the East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai.

She joined Chinese students and their families at UQ’s inaugural Shanghai graduate celebration.

Ms Zhang, a UQ scholarship recipient, has now been credited with the second year of her three-year Masters.

The 24-year-old from Shangdong Province in eastern China will finish her final year in Shanghai, majoring in international law.

WHIPLASH DRIVING LESSON

People who have had a whiplash injury are driving and placing themselves at further risk, new research shows.

Singapore physiotherapy student Michelle Pereira, who will graduate at the end of the year, has compared the driving abilities of drivers with and without whiplash.

Ms Pereira has found that people with whiplash injury, sometimes unknowingly, have difficulty driving because of impairments such as decreased neck motion.

“I wanted to see which particular aspects of driving were difficult for these people and whether there was a relationship between their difficulty and the level of physical impairment that they suffer,” Miss Pereira said.

Ms Pereira spent June in Singapore’s second biggest hospital, Tan Tock Seng, which has a specialty rehabilitation centre.

“I saw general musculoskeletal patients and performed physiotherapy assessment and treatments.”

She organised her hospital experience to test her whiplash theory, usually treating at least two whiplash patients a day.
An acclaimed author and Queensland's youngest woman ever elected to State Parliament are UQ's 2006 Alumnus of the Year and Young Alumnus of the Year.

Best known for his chronicles of youthful angst, multi-award-winning Brisbane author Dr Nick Earls is The University of Queensland's 2006 Alumnus of the Year while Rachel Nolan, Member for Ipswich and a former UQ Senator, has won the young alumnus title.

Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards presented the awards at the Courting the Greats luncheon at Brisbane's Customs House on October 26.

The event was supported by UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and the Alumni Association of The University of Queensland Inc.

Dr Earls said he was honoured to be named Alumnus of the Year. “Bearing in mind the accomplishments of previous Alumni of the Year – an Oscar, Nobel Prize and more – I can honestly say I’m very surprised to find myself in their company. This is a great honour, and made all the more meaningful by the close attachment I feel to UQ.”

Ms Nolan, who was elected to State Parliament at the age of 26 in 2001 and appointed Deputy Government Whip in March 2004, was similarly delighted.

“UQ has been a part of my life since I went to pre-school at the age of three. The quality education I’ve received has opened a whole world for me and I feel privileged for my small efforts to be recognised,” Ms Nolan said.

Dr Earls, a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with honours graduate from the University (1986), is the author of nine novels including 48 Shades of Brown, recently adapted into the film, 48 Shades, and two short story collections.

Some of his best-known books include Zigzag Street, Bachelor Kisses and Perfect Skin. The success of the books allowed him to concentrate on writing full-time in 1998.

He won the Queensland Writers’ Centre’s Johnno Award in 2001 and a Centenary Medal for service to the arts in 2003.

Dr Earls is a member of the State Government's Creative Industries Leadership Group and is ambassador for the Australian arm of aid organisation War Child.

Collaborative fundraising anthologies for War Child raised around $3 million and in 2001, Dr Earls visited Kosovo to see how the money was being spent. He became founding chair of the organisation’s Australian arm in 2002 until this year when he became Australian ambassador.

Ms Nolan, who holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours (1998) from UQ, studied community development in India with Community Aid Abroad and her policy interest areas include environment, energy, security and economic policy.

A former UQ Senator, she is a member of the Parliamentary Amnesty Group and also co-convened Emily’s List Partnerships in Equity Network, an organisation working to support Indigenous women to be elected into Queensland Parliament.

She recently co-founded the Ipswich Women’s Development Network which established the Heather Bonner Scholarship to assist a young woman to go to UQ Ipswich. She served on UQ’s Ipswich Community Advisory Committee and the committee advising The Boilerhouse, Community Engagement Centre.

The Boilerhouse oversees projects including a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for West Moreton involving government agencies working together for better outcomes, young migrant and refugee mentoring, and community engagement standards and benchmarks for Australian higher education.

Chilean Trailblazer is International Alumnus

Australia's first Chilean PhD graduate and current President (Vice-Chancellor) of the Universidad Austral de Chile, Professor Victor Cubillos Godoy, is UQ's 2006 International Alumnus of the Year.

Professor Cubillos has been a pioneer for Queensland and Australian education in Latin America, particularly the development of key research collaborations between UQ and Chile in agriculture and veterinary science.

He completed English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) studies and a PhD program in animal pathology at UQ from 1980 and 1987 with his academic career at the Universidad's Institute of Animal Pathology this year culminating in his election as Rector.

Rectors in Chile are elected by fellow academics so it is a very high honour and a fitting tribute to Professor Cubillos’s expertise and leadership in veterinary science.

Originally enrolled at an American university for his PhD studies, Professor Cubillos switched to UQ after becoming convinced it was the best university in the world at which to study animal pathology.

He was later awarded the Ernest Singer Postgraduate Research Scholarship to help fund his studies.

He was one of the first three ELICOS students at the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ) in the early 1980s and later became Australia’s first PhD graduate from Chile.
**REFERRAL PROGRAM**

Friends and family of international graduates have an opportunity to study at UQ as part of a new referral program.

The UQ International Alumni Referral Program provides a number of special benefits to friends and family referred to UQ by graduates.

Under the program, referred friends and family pay no application fee (a saving of $50) and receive prioritised application processing.

They also have access to a dedicated online enquiry form with a guarantee of a one-day turnaround on enquiries.

Graduates need to provide referees with their full name and UQ student ID number and ask them to complete the enquiry form online.

The form can be found at www.alumni.uq.edu.au/international/referral

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**TOMORROW’S DOCTORS**

UQ’s School of Medicine is delving into nearly a decade of statistics to reveal how well its students are selected, educated and perform as they train to become doctors.

Researchers with the three-year Tomorrow’s Doctors project aim to give the school a clearer view of future training needs by analysing students’ progress.

Project Research Fellow Dr Haida Luke said she expected her group’s research would justify the quality of UQ’s medical training by identifying the needs of medical students and correcting any unprofessional behaviour.

UQ medical student data has been collected since 1997.

“We’re looking at all the data the Medical School has been collecting and we are publishing papers on how our UQ graduates come in, how well we train them and their quality on graduation,” Dr Luke said.

“We want to select a wide range of students who are appropriate for medicine and so we address the needs of the medical workforce for many years to come.

The results should be known by February.

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**+ BENEFACIONS 2006**

Your generous support each year ensures UQ can continue to deliver teaching and research of interest and significance for the wider community.

To those who have made donations this year and in the past, our thanks for the projects and students you have supported with your contributions.

Following is an edited list of those who have donated to the University between January 1 and October 31, 2006.

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**ORGANISATIONS**

Abused Child Trust, AMPLA Ltd, Australian Dental Association (QLD Branch), Ball FloraPlant, Barclay Mowlem Construction Ltd, Bayer Australia/New Zealand, Blogion Idec Australia Pty Ltd, BOC Quaries, Brisbane Lions Australian Football Club, Bronkie Constructions Pty Ltd, Carers Australia, Centenary Classic Mercedes-Benz, Central Veterinary Surgery, Cooper Reeves, Dentistry Alumni, DJ Builders Pty Ltd, Doug Slack Foundry, Emerald Group, G James Australia Pty Ltd, GPF International Pty Ltd, Hopgood Ganjam Lawyers, Index Group of Companies Pty Ltd, ip-tek Pty Ltd, JT Press, Ken Duncan Panographics Pty Ltd, Lyppard Holdings Pty Ltd (Qld), Mack Trucks Australia Pty Ltd, Macleay Tower & Villas CTS 24663 Body Corporate, Macquarie Bank Foundation, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Maritime Association of Australia Queensland Branch Inc., Mayohcare Pty Ltd, Mazda Foundation Ltd, Minter Ellison, N Stenning & Co Pty Ltd, NF Clark Pty Ltd, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd, Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, Oakley Veterinary Hospital Pty Ltd, Parkinson’s Queensland Inc, Pennell

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**INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

The impact of digital journalism, recognition of an international human rights advocate, and a “grilling” of Queensland Premier Peter Beattie by students were highlights of 85th anniversary celebrations for the UQ School of Journalism and Communication on September 22.

It is the longest established journalism school in the country, and one of the oldest in the world. Acclaimed television journalist, host of the ABC’s 7.30 Report and UQ Adjunct Professor, Kerry O’Brien, helped facilitate a day-long program of events to mark the anniversary.

Head of School Professor Jan Searvaes said the anniversary provided the industry and public with a rare opportunity to consider the future of journalism.

“The news media and the communications technology are very different to when journalism studies commenced at UQ in 1921,” he said.

“But the basics of good journalism that serves the community through accurate and fair reportage has not changed.”

Mr Beattie opened the day’s program and later agreed to be questioned by journalism students.

Highlights of the anniversary included:

• An industry panel discussion on the impact of online and visual journalism;

• An alumni dinner;

• The presentation of the inaugural Communication for Social Change Award (see adjacent story);

• A media conference featuring UQ student journalists and the Queensland Premier; and

• An exhibition of the history of Australian journalism, Historic Newspapers and Headlines at the Brisbane Commissariat building.


JOURNALISM TURNS 85

Premier Beattie (third from left) with Tara Cheyne, Scott Casey, Christine Stubbs, Professor Searvaes, Clare Atkinson and Shannon Molloy.
Garvey, John Gordon Gazley, Carolyn R George, J Galletly, Anthony John Gallo, Paul Galvin, Chiew William Fulcher, Ronald H Fuller Ernestine Friend, Amy Claire Froome, Robert Freeman, Meredith Louise Ruth Freeman, Creina Frazer, Anne Lawrie Frederick, Gaye Rosina Fraser, Gregory Fraser, Ian Fraser, Ian Hector Young Fox, Harold Alexander Bell Foxton, Foo, Brian Douglass Foote, Suzanne Hardwick Rosanne Mary Fleming, Ian Thomas Florence, Stuart Findlay, Margaret Helen Findlay, Francis James Finn, James Patrick Finucane, A Fitzgerald, Diosima D Fitzpatrick, Kenneth Wayne Fitzsimmons, Ken Flanders, Max Flanagan, Olwyn Patricia Fleming, Rhoda Elizabeth Fleming, Rosanne Mary Fleming, Ian Thomas Florence, Lynda Irene Flowers, Leslie Anthony Fodor, Phillip John Follert, Ralph Fones, David Si Hun Foo, Brian Douglas Foote, Suzanne Hardwick Foote, James William Foutts, Michael Ford, Alan Clark Foreman, Roscoe Wallace Foreman, A M Forsythe, Robert Allan Fortier, Richard Allen Fotheringham, June Marion Fox, Peter Frederick Young Fox, Harold Alexander Bell Foxton, Marianne Francoey, Steven James Francis, David Arthur Franke, Dianne Marie Fraser, Florence May Fraser, Gregory Fraser, Ian Fraser, Ian Hector Frazer, Anne Lawrie Frederick, Gaye Rosina Freeman, Meredith Louise Ruth Freeman, Creina Ernestine Freyne, Anne Claire Froome, Robert William Fulcher, Ronald H Fuller


Geoffrey Byford Ilett, Kenneth Frank Ilett, Glen Joseph Ingram, Douglas Elwood Irwin, Marshall Philip Irwin, Alexander Robert Isacca, Janice Fay Ivey


Carmel Anne Catherine Macdonald, James A Macdonnell, Justin Joseph Stewart Macdonnell, John Barry MacKay, Elina Mackesy, Daphne Maclean, Hamish Ross Peter Maclean, Donald John Macnaught, Jean Margaret, Ken Madsen, Daniel Henry Maguire, Mohan Maharaj, Kevin Patrick Mahoney, May Deirdre Mahoney, Alexandra Katherine Main, Greg Maloney, Catherine Elizabeth Manathunga, Jeffrey Gordon Mann, Clare Frances Marcum, Francesca B

Michael Denis Quinlan, Chel Margaret Quinn


CLASS OF ‘63 GATHERS

Members of the University’s Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) graduating class of 1963 travelled from far and wide to attend their first reunion at a lunch held at the Staff and Graduates Club at the St Lucia campus in August.

Among the group swapping tales about University and beyond was Roger Batstone, who took time out from his senior executive position with the World Bank to fly from Washington to catch up with his old friends.

Also on hand were Peter Wetherell (Adelaide), Dave Ryerson (Sydney), Brian Olson (Gordonvale), Kev Howell (Yeppoon), Jim McLeod and Ron Miller (Brisbane) and well as former lecturers Emeritus Professor Ted White and Professor Gus Wiles.

From left: Ron Miller, Brian Olson, Dave Ryerson, Kev Howell, Roger Batstone and Jim McLeod.
Rowley, Robert William Rowlings, Bruce Norman Runneger, Gillian Russell, Lisa Ryan, M Ryan, Mark Thomas Ryan, Patricia Vera Ryan


Ronald William Tabley, Saul Tager, Mina S C Tang, Tuck Kim Tang, Professor Christopher Tanos, Julie Ann Tapping, Eric John Taylor, George Arthur Taylor, Ian Michael Taylor, Patricia Elise Taylor, Jeffrey R Teague, K T Teo, Deborah Jane Terry, Anne Cecelia Thacker, Helen Margaret Theile, C H Theile, Glen Joseph Thomas, Richard Graham Thomas, Yvonne Garma Laura Ives Thomas, Michael Bertram Thomasson, Harry Edward Thompson, Joyce Marion Thompson, Deborah Michelle Thomson, Allan Angus Rodney Thoburn, Anthony Guy Thwaite, Margaret Anne Tainian, Mary J Tidey, Christopher Michael Tiffin, D G Timmins, Joseph Yk Sang Ting, Trudi Jane Tobin, Sandra Tomlinson, Joanne Elizabeth Tompkins, Judith A Tong, Linda Jane Tong, Anthony B Toohey, Allia Tornabene, Christine Ellen Tracey-Patte, Douglas Moffat Travis, Paul Alexander Treanor, Judith Anne Treanov-Hawke, Roger Stewart Trundel, Christine Margaret Truscott, Yi Hua Eva Tu, J M Tucker, Graham Harold Tuckett, Thelma Caroline Turner, Janette Theo-Turner-Hospital, Asilma Aisyah Tush, Margaret A Tweedy, Edward John Twomey

Annie B Udy, Norma Dorothy Ultmann

Vaea, A Valastro, Dorothea Maria Van Hees, Stephanie Hilda Anna Van Horck, Elizabeth Vandelieu, Kevin William Vandelieu, Vincent John Vandelieu, Christopher Vane, Carolyn Ann Van-Egmond, Frank Vecchio, Lynne Vermeer, Gregory John Vicker, Mark Alexander Vigan, Michelle Voevodin, Zdenek Volek, Marie Vorhauer, Kim-Dung Vu


Paul Anthony Xavier

Anthony N Yeates, Julie Yeoman, Charlie P Yorke, Frank S Youngelson

Judith-Ann Zacka, Scott Zaluda, Je Zhang, Meryn Joseph Felix Ziesing, John William Zillman, Ian Raymond Zimmer, Kevin Anthony Zuzela, Nikki Genevieve Zuzela
Many countries aren’t just affected by landmines; they are infected, according to a UQ graduate charged with the task of clearing these deadly remnants of war.

By Chris Saxby.

Maxwell Gaylard, who was appointed Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in February, is optimistic that the hidden dangers of landmines can be eradicated within the next 40 years.

“What I like about the challenge is it is something I can see an end to. The thing about landmines is that the problem can be fixed,” Mr Gaylard said.

The former Emmanuel College resident, who graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Arts with honours in 1968, has been with the UN for nine years, working in countries that have been badly affected by landmines. He has seen first-hand the devastation they cause.

Mr Gaylard was previously the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia and Sudan and was UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraqi Kurdistan.

“It’s a day-to-day learning experience – there is always something you see that you didn’t think was possible or you didn’t think could happen,” he said.

“The mines are a symptom of much wider issues such as fractures not only in government but also in society.”

Landmines injure or kill between 15,000 and 20,000 people annually.

“There are about 80 countries that are affected, or ‘infected’. Of those countries, the UN is present in virtually all and is involved in mine action in 30,” Mr Gaylard said.
UNMAS was formed in 1997 to serve as the UN focal point for mine action. It is responsible for coordinating all aspects of mine action within the UN system, including providing assistance during humanitarian emergencies and peacekeeping operations.

It has operational centres in Congo, Sudan, Afghanistan, South Lebanon and on the border of Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Mr Gaylard said UNMAS’s work was more than removing landmines from the ground. It included actions ranging from teaching people how to protect themselves from danger in a mine-affected environment, to advocating for a mine-free world.

He also stressed mine issues were not just about the actual landmines. In many countries, unexploded ordnance (UXO) pose an even greater threat to people’s safety. UXO comprises bombs, mortars, grenades, missiles or other devices that fail to detonate on impact but remain volatile and can kill if touched or moved.

“The effect of mines is much more than just killing people, for example, it also ties up agricultural land,” he said.

“There are villages in southern Sudan now, where there is a peace agreement, and there are mine belts around these towns. Now peace is returning to these areas, people are coming back and they are being blown up.

“So there are a lot of issues involved, not just social and humanitarian, it’s also a development issue.”

Mr Gaylard said Australia was playing its part in helping solve the problem.

“The Australian Government has been very generous, allocating $75 million over five years,” he said.

Mr Gaylard said there was something about the Australian character that promoted a sense of justice and fairness among the international community.

“Australians are very good at what they do overseas, they relate easily, have a work ethic, want to get things done and are very operational,” he said.

“Australians are doing their bit in surprising numbers.”

And Mr Gaylard, who is based at the UN headquarters in New York, can be counted among those Australians working in various locations around the world to help bring stability to countries affected by war and tragedy.

After graduating from UQ, Mr Gaylard went straight into the Department of Foreign Affairs (then known as the Department of External Relations).

He served on the staff of Australia’s Foreign Minister (and later Prime Minister) Sir William McMahon from 1970 to 1971 and was posted to Mexico from 1972 to 1975 and Burma (now Myanmar) from 1978 to 1980.

He also served with the Australian Army in Malaysia and Singapore (1969–1970).

Mr Gaylard represented Australia as High Commissioner in the Solomon Islands from 1985 to 1988 and Deputy High Commissioner in Singapore from 1983 to 1985. From 1988 to 1996, he was the Director of International/Political Affairs with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

He said his diplomatic experience had helped him get to the core of the landmine issue, which was the people directly affected.

“In dealing with the mines problem you have to deal with the communities, so a lot of the grassroots effort involves talking to the communities about their problem,” he said.

“The people in the villages and towns want these things disposed of. Children are being blown up, they can’t play, they can’t use the fields, sometimes you can’t even drive down the roads.”

Mr Gaylard said he was certain the problem could be solved with time and money.

“These little anti-personnel mines cost about $3 to make but when it comes to finding them, lifting them and neutralising them, you are talking many hundreds of dollars. And there are millions of them,” he said.

“We are not sure of the numbers but there are probably about 160 million stockpiled, that governments have declared. But as to how many are still in the ground ……”

“WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE CHALLENGE IS IT IS SOMETHING I CAN SEE AN END TO. THE THING ABOUT LANDMINES IS THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE FIXED”
**1951**

**LITERARY LIFE**

Betty Birskys (BA hons 1951) is an emerging literary talent. In 2004, she was nominated for a Queensland Premiers Literary Award in the Emerging Writers category. This was a great tribute to an 81-year-old who has been writing for more than 50 years.

Much of her writing concerns the post-war immigrant experience, which produced multicultural Australia. Her short stories have been published in leading literary magazines and her new book Homeland adds more to that history by detailing her own experiences as the daughter of an Australian-born mother and an English father. Betty herself married a Lithuanian displaced person migrant.

“Australians tend to neglect one of the most important parts of their history: the story of the many different people who make up this country,” she said.

“We are such a mixture, especially since the end of World War II, and after all, with the exception of the Aborigines, all of us, or rather our ancestors, came here from across the seas.

“Why those people came and what happened to them here is the real history of Australia, more so than wars and the antics of politicians.”

**1956**

**FROM LIFE ON LAND TO TEACHING**

Life experience and change has led UQ Gatton graduate Beville Varidel (QDAH 1956) to Innisfail where he works as a volunteer at an education resource centre in the wake of Cyclone Larry.

Mr Varidel recently volunteered with the team of Jubilee Christian College, Atherton, at its Innisfail Resource Centre (IRC), part of Jubilee’s Distance Education Program. While mathematics is his speciality, he looks after motivation and study supervision.

Indigenous students enrolled at the resource centre have recorded high attendance and achieved above-average academic results.

“I am enjoying the opportunity to help Indigenous students, many of whom are struggling academically because of previous poor attendance and lack of motivation,” Mr Varidel said.

After graduating from the then Gatton College, Mr Varidel worked as a jackaroo and Pasture Improvement and Water Supply Officer on Carisbrooke Station in the Dawson Valley, Central Queensland, before making a life change into Christian education.

He also spent time working in Papua New Guinea where he promoted, designed and managed the Boboa Animal Husbandry Training Centre on behalf of local Indigenous Councils and Cooperatives. The centre supplied fish, meat, cattle and produce to the Ok Tedi copper mine.

**1976**

**HIGH-FLYER**

After graduating from UQ, Dr Rowan Gilmore (BE 1976) earned a Doctor of Science degree from Washington University, US, in 1984. He has worked for many years abroad, firstly in Asia as a field engineer in the oil industry for Schlumberger Limited, and then for more than 15 years in the US and Europe in the IT and telecommunications industries.

Dr Gilmore returned to Australia in 2003 and currently leads the Australian Institute for Commercialisation as its Chief Executive where his mission is to enhance the success rate of commercialising Australian innovation, much of which comes from publicly-funded research.

Prior to his current role, he was based in Geneva from 2000 and London from 1998 as Vice President of Network Services for the global airline IT company SITA-Equant, now part of France Telecom.

He continues to hold links with UQ as an adjunct professor in the School of Business and School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering.
1977

ABIDING PASSION FOR
INDIGENOUS ART

Margaret West, AM, (BA 1972, hons 1977) is passionate about art and anthropology.
She has worked with Aboriginal art for more than 30 years and has seen many changes in the field.
"Art was always my first love, coupled with an interest in ancient history and anthropology," Ms West said.
"These interests combined to fuel my fascination with Aboriginal art when I was a student at UQ.
"Aboriginal art was a marginal subject at the time, so there were no courses and very little literature available on the topic.
"Since then, I have witnessed remarkable changes in both the growth and diversification in Indigenous art alongside radical shifts in public attitudes toward it."

After studying anthropology, history, fine art and sociology at UQ, Ms West was Curator for Aboriginal Art and Material Culture at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory from 1978 until her retirement last year.
She still holds an honorary position at the gallery as Emeritus Curator of Aboriginal Art and also works as a private curatorial consultant.
"When I arrived in the Northern Territory, there were only around seven community art centres," Ms West said.
"Today, there are more than 30 servicing several thousand or more artists.
"Aboriginal art, once regarded as just an anthropological curio, has been embraced as contemporary fine art and accepted into mainstream culture."

She said another major change was the acceptance of the diversity of Aboriginal art and the legitimacy of those practitioners working from urban centres or outside established conventions.
"This was an important break with the general prejudice that only the ‘real’ art came from remote areas such as Arnhem Land or the desert," she said.

Ms West’s career also saw her work with some of Australia’s most famous Indigenous artists including Bardayal Nadjamerrek, AO, Uta Uta Tjangala, Kaapa Tjanpitjinpa and Johnny Warangkula.

She had developed her museum skills and experience at UQ, working for seven years at the UQ Anthropology Museum.
Ms West has curated more than 30 semi-permanent, national and international touring exhibitions and was the founder of the annual National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.
Besides her curatorial roles, she has also published numerous books in the field of Aboriginal Art.

1987

RELIGION ON SCREEN

Despite the controversy surrounding films such as the Da Vinci Code, one Australian religious figure is showing art and religion do not always have to be at odds.
The Director of the Australian Catholic Film Office, Jesuit priest Reverend Dr Richard Leonard (BA 1987), provides consumer information about films to all sectors within the Catholic Church in Australia.
"I encourage people to understand the language of some films so they can celebrate the human spirit, knowingly explore the darker side of life and even touch on the divine," he said.

Dr Leonard added to his UQ undergraduate qualifications earlier this year when he graduated with a PhD in cinema studies from the University of Melbourne.
He wrote on The cinematic mystical gaze: the films of Peter Weir and has just published his first book on the cinema, Movies that matter: reading film through the lens of faith.

A former resident of UQ’s Union College, Dr Leonard’s favourite films include classics such as Citizen Kane, anything by Australian director Peter Weir, A Man for All Seasons, Vera Drake, Italian for Beginners and The Road Home.
"I like being a priest and film critic because I don’t assess film on its general appeal, but by what it is saying, if anything, about human dignity and rights, spirituality and contemporary beliefs," he said.

Dr Leonard said he had always enjoyed going to the movies, but it was the Jesuits who thought he should further his film knowledge.
"After I was ordained a priest in Sydney at the end of 1993, I was apprenticed to Albert Street Productions to learn the ropes of television production," he said.
1992

PET PROJECT

Tanja Stark (BSocWk 1992) is helping domestic violence victims with pet care during times of family crisis.

Ms Stark’s DVCONNECT Domestic and Family Violence Crisis Service project with partner RSPCA Queensland won a State Government Domestic Violence Prevention Award earlier this year.

Ms Stark, DVCONNECT’s Development Officer, said the partnership had been initiated in response to the serious problem faced by women forced to delay refuge or leave animals behind with abusive partners.

“This program not only reduces animal cruelty as part of the domestic abuse, but also lessens the extensive trauma and loss faced by women and children who have had to abandon their homes. They know their pets are safe with trained volunteers,” she said.

1993

ARTS IN THE BLOOD

Art and theatre are in Kate Gould’s blood. Ms Gould (BA hons 1993) continued a family tradition when she was appointed to one of the most prestigious positions in the country, General Manager and Associate Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

She is the first person to hold the new amalgamated position which was designed around her skills.

Ms Gould’s parents are NIDA National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) and London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) trained theatre professionals.

Her father, Tony Gould, AM, worked for the ABC before becoming the Director of the Queensland Performing Arts Trust and Artistic Director of the Brisbane Festival.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English Literature and Drama, Ms Gould had to decide whether to continue studying or follow her parents and work in live theatre.

Her role for the Adelaide festival is a challenge she enjoys enormously.

“I manage all aspects of the festival from programming to production, marketing to sponsorship, as well as financial management,” Ms Gould said.

“I take an active role in working with the Artistic Director. This involves selecting and commissioning works of drama, dance, opera, music and the visual arts.

“I enjoy the fast-paced world of international theatre and the challenge and empowering feeling of bringing complex productions to the stage.

“It is thrilling when a performance truly connects with an audience, forever changing something about how they view the world.”

1998

ENDANGERED SHARK WELL WORTH SAVING

Carley Bansemer (BSc hons 1998) has always loved the ocean and began diving at only 10. Becoming an ardent supporter of the Grey Nurse shark came naturally.

After completing a science degree at UQ and working in conservation at the Moreton Bay Marine Park, her interest in sharks developed into a passion.

The Grey Nurse, which inhabits the east coast of Australia, is on the verge of extinction due to mass slaughter in the 1960s.

Ms Bansemer said the sharp-toothed predator had an undeserved reputation as an aggressive monster, exacerbated through movies and the media.

Ms Bansemer describes the shark as gentle, intelligent and misunderstood. Her fascination with the marine carnivore led to her PhD study at UQ.

Her thesis is on marine ecology, tracking Grey Nurse numbers along the Australian east coast, examining their habitats and trying to further understand them.

She conducts her research through photo records and claims capture and permanent tagging is not justified.

“The Grey Nurse is endangered so we cannot capture them to conduct detailed biological research,” Ms Bansemer said.

“We have to rely on what’s known and what’s been done overseas. I’m very passionate about non-invasive research. You don’t always have to catch and fin a shark to find out information about it.

“My research is all based on photo identification. I depend a lot on the diving community to help with information and this has proven very successful.”

Ms Bansemer started her PhD part-time in 2004 and decided to change to full-time study this year to get planned research papers published and spend more time on fieldwork in Moreton Bay.

“While studying part-time, I only had time to get preliminary research analysis done. I have three papers planned and I’d like to get them published. These papers have conservation benefits,” Ms Bansemer said.

“I started the PhD to try and get this data together and to make sure this shark did not become extinct. It’s really hard to conserve a non-cuddly species that reminds the public of the movie Jaws.”
LAND RIGHT REWARDS

Two UQ graduates are helping protect the rights and interests of Indigenous people under their traditional laws and customs.

Senior anthropologists with the Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water (NRMM), Neville Terlich (BA hons 1998) and Sean McBride (BA hons 1998), assess Native Title claims on behalf of the State.

They examine anthropological material to make sure there is enough evidence for the Queensland Government to enter into Native Title negotiations.

Mr Terlich said it was rewarding to see such issues being resolved quickly and fairly.

“Having a productive role and in some way making a difference for Aboriginal people is rewarding,” he said.

“It is a good feeling when the government accepts the material, agrees to a determination and land is handed back,”

Mr McBride said NRMM aimed to resolve native title claims through negotiation, rather than through the courts.

“There is a sense of social justice in the office,” he said.

“The State has a policy of negotiating rather than litigating. The government has a good attitude towards the issue,” he said.

As anthropologists, Mr Terlich and Mr McBride say they want to ensure claimants are the correct people.

They do this by maintaining connections with areas being assessed over a long period and by establishing how societies lived at the time sovereignty was claimed.

“We look for behaviours that would demonstrate an Aboriginal society is in place today, such as traditional hunting methods and the laws and customs in the society,” Mr McBride said.

“But we also make allowances for change over time – they don’t have to have maintained a pristine hunter/gatherer existence, for example.”

The duo are currently working on Native Title claims in the Cape York region, working with anthropologists they used to read about when UQ students.

“Professor Bruce Rigsby was our lecturer at UQ – now we have a working relationship with him regarding claims,” Mr Terlich said.

“Some of the anthropologists who wrote papers when we were at University are people whose work we now assess.

“UQ gave us the knowledge and the confidence to be able to sit at a table with these anthropologists, although they have been in the field for a lot longer than either of us.”

1998

GROWTH OF A SPY

Dr Shalin Naik (BSc hons 1998) has been working in scientific research in Australia and overseas for the past six years.

He recently completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne studying how the human body fights infectious disease.

He also received an $8000 commendation at this year’s prestigious Premier’s Awards for Medical Research in Victoria.

Dr Naik’s landmark discovery was how the body grows “spy” cells in the immune system, a group of white blood cells known as dendritic cells.

“These cells are the James Bond of the immune system,” Dr Naik said.

“They covertly take a snapshot of infection when it enters the body and then kick-start the rest of the immune system to get rid of it.

“They are the reason we usually get better in time.”

With this new knowledge, medical researchers can begin to look at the development of customised immune therapies to target particular infections such as HIV, malaria and influenza; certain cancers; and even autoimmune diseases.

His work was last month published in the prestigious journal, Nature Immunology.

Dr Naik has also been awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship to continue his research at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam.
1999
THE RIGHT DRUM
A graduate with first-class honours and a University Medal might be expected to do well in postgraduate studies, but psychologist Dr Geoff Goodwin was still nervous about how he would cope at a US Ivy League university.

When Dr Geoff Goodwin (BSc hons I 1999) began studying for his PhD at Princeton University he said he felt overawed, despite his outstanding UQ academic achievements.

“They expected everyone to work 24/7 and I couldn’t see how I was going to have any time for my other loves, drumming and soccer,” he said.

Dr Goodwin, who studied on a graduate fellowship, had nothing to worry about; he graduated earlier this year after five years of intense research. He received a Master’s degree and a PhD.

His doctorate was accompanied by a Friends of the International Center Teaching Award and a Charlotte Elizabeth Proctor postdoctoral fellowship.

“As for the recreational activities: the drumming seems to have been put on hold, perhaps at the request of my roommates, but I’m still coach of a soccer team in the local competition,” he said.

2000
NEW STEPS FOR PHYSIO IN SIERRA LEONE
“It was the picture of a young girl with callipers on both legs, oversized crutches, bright red shoes and a shy smile. Something about that picture captured my imagination.”

It was that picture, which Michelle Watson (BPhty hons I 2000) first saw in 2000 when reading a Mercy Ships charity pamphlet, that persuaded her to use her physiotherapy skills to benefit people who would not normally have access to rehabilitation services.

Ms Watson returned from Sierra Leone earlier this year, where she worked for eight months with the New Steps rehabilitation team of volunteers serving with Mercy Ships.

Ms Watson was one of only two physiotherapists working in the country, which is recovering from a 10-year civil war.

“Thousands of people are living with disabilities sustained during the war or exacerbated by a lack of preventive and restorative medical help,” she said.

“Many children and adults now live with the effects of polio because the vaccination program was interrupted during the war.”

Ms Watson worked with Mercy Ships providing rehabilitation to people with orthopaedic and neurological problems. The charity provides assistive devices such as wheelchairs and crutches and works with orthopaedic technicians to make callipers and prosthetic limbs for use in therapy.

“It was an amazing experience with each day bringing challenges and rewards that I would never have experienced in the developed world,” she said.

2000
SCIENCE LEADERSHIP THE BIGGEST EXPERIMENT
Scientist Dr Doug Horton (BSc 2000 hons I, PhD 2005) has swapped his labcoat for a keyboard.

No longer content with research, he wants to ensure that investment in science continues to pay dividends. As a Senior Project Officer with the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, he supports Professor Peter Andrews, AO, to ensure that scientific innovation continues to flourish in Queensland.

The Chief Scientist’s role is to raise Queensland’s profile on the national and international stage as a centre of research and commercialisation, improving links with other governments, academia and industry to build critical mass in the State’s science industry.

“I enjoy looking at the bigger picture. You are investigating the issues that affect the industry rather than conducting the scientific work yourself,” Dr Hall said.

“You are promoting the industry and looking at how to make things better.

“Science has been a major contributor to the success of nations in the past and it is certain to become increasingly important in the future.

“Science is essentially the way forward.”
**2001**

**HISTORY BUFF FINDS PARADISE IN CHINA**

A love of history and teaching has taken UQ graduate Lynn Fair (MA 2001) to China.

With a background in teaching at UQ in the School of Tourism and Leisure Management, Mr Fair left for China almost immediately after graduating to teach at a small college in Wuhan, a large city on the Yangtze River.

Mr Fair now works for Wuhan University of Technology and has been teaching English at the International School of Software for the past year.

But it was his passion for history that inspired Mr Fair to move to China.

“I continue to maintain an interest in history and I am in the process of writing a book about the old western buildings in what were the foreign concession areas of Hankow,” Mr Fair said.

“I am also working with the local business community to try to protect and maintain these old and very beautiful buildings.

“There are 5000 years of history in China to experience.”

Mr Fair has also found the time to complete a book about teaching oral English in China.

He also coaches the Wuhan University of Technology softball team.

Mr Fair (right) talks to a resident in an old concession building area.

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**2002**

**SEEDS FOR CHANGE**

Alex Dalley (BSc (Ecology) 2002, BA 2002) has an ambitious aim – to make one of the world’s newest nations self-sufficient in food.

Mr Dalley is one of three Australians working on stage two of the $7.6 million Australian Government-supported Seeds of Life program, which aims to reduce malnutrition in East Timor.

The first stage of the program saw new varieties of staple crops tested to find higher yielding varieties than those currently grown.

Improving food security is essential in East Timor, where about half the population experiences food shortages.

The current program involves on-farm testing to ensure crops developed during the first stage are suitable for farmers.

“My work takes me all over Timor-Leste, working with young Timorese extension workers and farmers to establish trial plots of high-yielding varieties of staple food crops,” Mr Dalley said.

He has been in Timor-Leste since March 2004 working for the Government in the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.

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**2002**

**JUGGLING ACT**

Joel Gilmore (BSc hons I 2002) has combined his two very different passions – acting and physics – to promote science to young people.

In 2002, the PhD student and fellow UQ physicist, Jenny Riesz, set up the Physics Demo Troupe, which tours the country making science entertaining and accessible for school children.

“We started training physics students to do these demonstrations in an entertaining and informative way, almost like a pantomime,” Mr Gilmore said.

“It’s about teaching everyday concepts that students can go home and explain to their parents.”

Mr Gilmore, a University Medallist, said he wanted to show scientists were not “just bearded old men in lab coats.”

During his shows he uses fun games and props to demonstrate basic scientific concepts, for example juggling to demonstrate gravity – he even rides a unicycle to demonstrate the science behind a circus balancing act.

“I’ve always enjoyed performing and when I was little, I learned to do magic and started doing magic shows. I then sang in school choirs and was in the production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at Brisbane’s Lyric Theatre,” he said.

“I loved performing and public speaking. But at the same time I was very interested in maths and science.”

Mr Gilmore is now completing his PhD in biophysics in the School of Physical Sciences, investigating the role of quantum mechanics in biology and trying to make simple models to help scientists further understand vision and photosynthesis.

He said that one day he might have to choose between his two passions, but hoped that once he gained his PhD he would find a job allowing him to do both.
2003
MICRO TO MACRO
Economist Anthony Rossiter (BSc hons 2002, BEcon hons 2003) has been awarded the David Finch International Fellowship for PhD study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Mr Rossiter, 24, won the Cartridge World Science and Technology Award for his contributions to research in biologically-inspired robotics and artificial intelligence.

His most recent research will be presented at the International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems later this year.

Mr Rossiter was awarded a $2000 savings account from the Heritage Building Society.

“I am really grateful for the award and hope I can encourage many more young people to pursue a career in science and technology,” Mr Milford said.

As well as studying for his PhD, Mr Milford is publishing educational textbooks for school children.

He recently finished the Complete School package, on sale at Dymocks bookshops.

The high-school educational resource, which includes textbooks and DVDs, covers the entire school Mathematics and English curricula.

“I like to challenge myself. I wanted to do something that nobody had come close to trying before so I came up with the idea of an ultimate educational resource for high school students,” he said.
2005

IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITY OFFERS COME IN TWO

Not many Australian students get to choose the top US Ivy League university at which they will study.

But that is exactly what UQ graduate Katey Robinson has been able to do, having received offers from two of the world’s most prestigious institutions.

Ms Robinson (BSc hons 1 2005) began her PhD at Harvard University in September.

“It has a brilliant reputation and a brilliant department and academics,” she said.

Ms Robinson has also received a Harvard scholarship of US$60,000 a year, for six years to cover her living expenses, tuition fees and other costs.

She decided to take up the offer from Harvard after initially receiving offers from both Harvard and Princeton universities.

Her PhD will be in the area of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, looking at the early patterning of embryos.

“The PhD will involve basic research with applications to stem-cell techniques or tissue engineering,” she said.

“Understanding how these embryos form can help you understand how you can regenerate them.”

Ms Robinson became interested in this area of science while examining a gene, KLF12, in zebra fish development for her UQ honours thesis under the supervision of Dr Andrew Perkins from University’s Institute of Molecular Bioscience.

“We think this gene is involved in either the development of blood vessels or blood,” she said.

Ms Robinson had her first taste of US university life when she attended a welcome weekend at Harvard in March.

“I had the chance to meet some of the academics and current students and took tours of the area,” she said.

Andrew Stephen (BE hons 1 2003, BBusMan hons 1 2004) is the only Australian in a decade to study for a PhD in a business field at Columbia University in New York.

Mr Stephen said a big issue for businesses was what to do with all the information they had about their customers.

“My research is broadly targeted at trying to enhance our understandings of how consumers interact with each other,” he said.

“We will then be able to identify more socially ‘influential’ or ‘connected’ consumers and predict with reasonable accuracy what will happen if we spend money trying to make these people our customers and have them bring other people with them through word-of-mouth.”

Mr Stephen said Columbia Business School was regarded as the top institution of its kind in the world.

“It is common to share an elevator with a Nobel Laureate in Economics, and I work with some of the top business and marketing professors of their generation,” he said.

The University Medal recipient has been in New York since July 2005.

“The city itself is inspirational – just realising that I have made it here makes me smile, even when life’s stresses are bearing down on me,” Mr Stephen said.
Help dogs like Bob help people like Shirley

Shirley is suffering from Alzheimer’s. Soon she will forget how to do everyday activities such as putting on her shoes and making dinner. One day she may not even remember her own name.

Sadly, this is the reality for sufferers of Alzheimer’s disease.

The University of Queensland’s own Centre for Companion Animal Health is looking at how animal-assisted therapy can make a real difference to the lives of people with Alzheimer’s disease — and you can help.

**Please support the Centre with a donation of $25 or more today. You’ll be helping improve the quality of life for elderly Australians like Shirley. And you’ll be helping dogs like Bob at the same time.**

We rescued two-year-old Bob from a council pound, and took him into our Centre for Companion Animal Health. For 10 months he called our Centre home, and helped us with our studies. Happily, Bob now has a new owner and is well-loved and looked after by a caring family.

The Centre for Companion Animal Health is a leader in its field of animal health and welfare, undertaking important studies which aim to develop the best possible treatment and prevention for diseases in pets; enrich the lives of our aged and disabled people with a loving pet as a companion; and find solutions to prevent unwanted and problem pets.

**As a graduate of The University of Queensland, we are looking to you to help us continue our tradition of contributing to the community, and helping make life better for homeless animals and all Australians.**

Thank you.

Professor Jacqui Rand, Founder and Director, Centre for Companion Animal Health
School of Veterinary Science, The University of Queensland

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**Yes! We/I will help elderly people and homeless animals like Bob have a better life!**

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**Thank you!**

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For brochures and more information on the Centre, please contact (07) 3365 2122
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