

LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

LEARNING

- L1** UQ ranked number one in Australia in two subject areas and among the world's top 20 in four, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2016 rankings. UQ ranks at number one in Australia in Mineral Resources and Mining Engineering (10th globally) and Environmental Science (12th globally). The University ranks 17th globally in Agriculture and Forestry and 18th in Education. UQ's other QS global top-30 subjects are: Psychology (21), Development Studies (23), Chemical Engineering (25), Communications and Media Studies (25), Accounting and Finance (26), Veterinary Science (29) and Nursing (30).
- L2** UQ plant virus expert Dr Ralf Dietzgen, history researcher Dr Christopher Dixon and Toowoomba teacher David Rawson, a UQ graduate, will head to America on prestigious Fulbright scholarships.
- L3** UQ will pay literacy and numeracy test fees for its teacher education students for the next three years to ensure no students are disadvantaged.
- L4** Dr Hannah Gullo from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences has received an \$8000 Ian Ballard Travel Award to study the use of smartwatches in combatting the effects of multiple sclerosis (MS).
- L5** Graduate Abigael Mawby will move from Iran to New York to study anti-corruption law after winning a prestigious John Monash scholarship.
- L6** Clinical training for UQ medical and allied health students was boosted with the opening of student training centres in March at the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee and Redland hospitals.
- L7** Research into fighting fires with science helped a UQ student net \$5000 in a national competition in the lead-up to World Science Festival Brisbane.
- L8** More secondary school students than ever will have access to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects after a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), launched on 10 March. QUERY101x Question Everything: Scientific Thinking in Real Life was developed by a team of Brisbane Grammar School maths and science teachers and online learning specialists from UQ, and will be open to a global audience.
- L9** More than 100 international experts have contributed to a world-first online course designed to improve healthcare for people with intellectual disability. The ABLE XSeries, developed by a team of online learning specialists from UQx and The Queensland Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability, launched on World Down Syndrome Day, 21 March.
- L10** Two UQ law students have undertaken a summer internship in Borneo to complete *pro bono* legal work.

- L11** Students Josephine Macmillan, Samuel Reiser and Liang-Chuan Cheng have been awarded \$10,000 Westpac Bicentennial Foundation Asian Exchange Scholarship to spend a semester studying on exchange at a leading Asian university.
- L12** UQ anatomy students competed for the 2016 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Dissection Prize on 26 February. The event was hosted by UQ, and judged by three alumni.
- L13** Law students participated in the first international crime and comparative criminal law course offered jointly by UQ's TC Beirne School of Law and the University of Zurich in February.

DISCOVERY

- D1** A \$7 million National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Program Grant will propel the advance of personalised medicine for common diseases in a five-year research project at UQ's Queensland Brain Institute.
- D2** A UQ breast cancer researcher will work with two QIMR Berghofer researchers to lead a \$6.5 million NHMRC-funded program that is set to change the future of breast cancer diagnosis, prevention and treatment.
- D3** Needle-free Nanopatch technology developed at UQ has been used to successfully deliver an inactivated poliovirus vaccine.
- D4** Two scientific reports featuring Professor Wayne Hall from the Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research have found the total number of regular methamphetamine users in Australia is 270,000 — greater than the populations of either Hobart or Townsville.
- D5** An international team led by UQ researchers has studied the genetics of pancreatic cancer, revealing it is actually four separate diseases, each with different genetic triggers and survival rates.
- D6** Australian Environment Minister Greg Hunt has announced funding for the Global Change Institute (GCI) to undertake underwater surveys on the Great Barrier Reef, following the current mass coral bleaching north of Cairns. GCI Director Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg will lead the surveys to determine the impact, by comparing the reef's current health with imagery from 2012 baseline surveys.
- D7** UQ researchers have contributed to the invention of a new degradable plastic film that is less than the width of a human hair and helps regenerate native trees and establish high-value crops. The plastic won the Excellence in Innovation Award at the CRC Association on 8 March.
- D8** Toxic plastic is wreaking havoc on marine life and UQ researchers fear it could be making its way up the food chain and ending up on our dinner plates.

- D9** Patients with heart failure, peripheral artery disease or stroke could benefit from a new stem-cell based treatment, following an agreement between UQ and US-based start-up company AngioStem Inc.
- D10** Research into postnatal depression is going high-tech, with scientists from QBI launching a free mobile phone app aimed at studying the genetics behind the condition.
- D11** Scientists from Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation are undertaking world-first research into ancient wheats to ensure the crop's future.

ENGAGEMENT

- E1** UQ awarded honorary doctorates to philanthropists Greg Poche AO and Kay E. Van Norton Poche, in recognition of their life-changing dedication to Indigenous health.
- E2** UQ is harnessing mobile technology to improve student and staff safety with the launch of the SafeZone smart phone app (by CriticalArc). It connects students and staff directly to the UQ Security team or emergency services for on-campus first-aid or emergencies, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- E3** UQ and the Queensland Museum worked to transform Brisbane into a city of science for the World Science Festival Brisbane from 9-13 March.
- E4** Known for her lifelong work in Aboriginal social issues and women's rights, Professor Marcia Langton AM of the Bidjara Nation added another honour to her long list of accolades, being installed as an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College at UQ.
- E5** UQ's Research Computing Centre Director Professor David Abramson has been named the iTnews Education Chief Information Officer of the Year.
- E6** UQ celebrated the inaugural United Nations Day for Women and Girls in Science on 11 February, with more than 40 scientists taking part in a social media campaign to highlight their achievements.
- E7** UQ and global pharmaceutical company Pfizer have formed a partnership to advance drug discovery in Australia, via an agreement with UniQuest, UQ's main commercialisation company, and Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation program.
- E8** UQ has slashed grid electricity use at its Gatton campus by 40 per cent since bringing Australia's largest solar research facility on line a year ago.
- E9** Graduate Tim Munro celebrated his third Grammy win, after taking out the 2016 Award for Best Chamber Music Performance for his work in the sextet 'eighth blackbird'.
- E10** Global Change Institute Deputy Director Professor Karen Hussey has been appointed a WWF-Australia Governor.

- E11** The UQ RD Milns Antiquities Museum acquired a rare Roman medical kit, thought to be one of the finest and most complete of its type in the world.
- E12** UQ and Surf Life Saving Queensland teamed up to deliver the UQ Secondary School Surf League on 10 March. 150 high school students took part in the beach competition.
- E13** Students with a passion for entrepreneurship are set to benefit from the new UQ Idea Hub program, which will link mentors, innovators and entrepreneurs.
- E14** UQ and Netball Queensland announced a formal partnership on 11 March to help promote higher education to women and girls.
- E15** Rio Olympic hopefuls are among a group of more than 40 UQ students who have received 2016 UQ Sporting Scholarships.
- E16** Olympic-qualified race walker and UQ student Dane Bird-Smith was named 2016 Sportsman of the Year at the UQ Sport Club and Sports Awards. The award comes after Bird-Smith won gold in the 10,000m Race Walk at the Australian Athletics Championships in April, and broke the Australian 5,000m Race Walk record at March's IAAF Melbourne World Challenge.
- E17** Australian and Queensland Firebirds representative and UQ student Gabi Simpson claimed the 2016 Sportswoman of the Year Award.
- E18** UQ sporting scholarship recipients Brandon Herrigan and Clara Smith – as well as UQ Sport Academy athlete Shemaiah James – were named in the Australian squad to compete at July's IAAF World Under 20 Athletics Championships in Poland.

VALE

The University was saddened by the recent deaths of UQ community members, including:

Mr Jiaya (Max) Li, current Bachelor of Information Technology student, 15 January 2016

Emeritus Professor Rudolf Vyborny, Honorary Research Consultant with the School of Mathematics and Physics, 5 February 2016

Dr William von Witt, School of Medicine alumnus and current PhD student within the School of Mathematics and Physics, 9 February 2016

Cr Steve Jones AM, Mayor of Lockyer Valley Regional Council and UQ Agriculture and Food Sciences alumnus, 19 February 2016

Mr Libao Zhu, current PhD student with the School of Civil Engineering, 23 February 2016

Mr David Hall, Previous UQ Senate member, alumnus and former lecturer within TC Beirne School of Law, 24 February 2016

Mr Patrick Cowie, current UQ Security Officer, 1 March 2016

Mr Jueyu Chen, current postgraduate student within the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, 16 March 2016