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CRICOS No. 00213J
QUT’s newest Rhodes Scholar is determined to seek justice for international war crimes.

SEEING alleged international criminals judged fairly and expeditiously in their own countries is the goal of Queensland Rhodes Scholar, QUT law graduate Andrew Trotter.

When Mr Trotter (pictured), also one of the university’s inaugural Vice-Chancellor’s scholars, graduated last year with distinction in a Bachelor of Arts and with first-class honours in a Bachelor of Laws degree, he already had some international war crime trial experience under his belt.

He completed internships at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague where he worked for judges in the trial of Bosnian Serb ex-army chief Ratko Mladic, at the Office of the Co-Prosecutors in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the Khmer Rouge trials), and at the South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre in India.

Mr Trotter’s interest in international criminal law was sparked when he took part in an International Criminal Court moot in The Hague while on a QUT exchange program in Taiwan. He walked away with the award for Best Trial Lawyer.

At Oxford University, QUT’s sixth Rhodes Scholar will study theories of criminal law, in particular as they relate to prosecutions for international crimes.

“It is an exciting and important area of the law,” Mr Trotter said.

“Those countries that have been affected by crimes perpetrated during conflict need an appropriate level of international support to run trials so they can administer justice according to law in their own countries.

“In Cambodia, the public flooded into the courts. They wanted to be witness to the legal process. Justice must not only be done, but seen to be done.

“The people working on the Khmer Rouge trial and at the tribunal in Yugoslavia were of great integrity and commitment and I learnt much from their expertise.”

Mr Trotter will take up his three-year scholarship at Oxford next year after completing an associateship with High Court of Australia Chief Justice Robert French.

“I’m really looking forward to the intellectual challenge,” Mr Trotter said.

“To have my ideas and assumptions constantly questioned and interact with other Rhodes Scholars from around the world is an exciting prospect.”

– Rose Trapnell
ERA research ranking world class

Research at QUT has received world-standard ranking in the Federal Government's 2012 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) national assessment. The ERA ranked 95 per cent of QUT's broad discipline research areas at world standard and above. Materials Engineering had the biggest jump universitywide, after being bumped up two spots to a five (the highest rating). Communication and Media Studies also maintained its top rating of five.

Walkley winners take a bow

Four QUT journalism alumni have won prestigious Walkley Awards. The awards recognised Leigh Sales for tough questions put to Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and other interviewees, and investigative journalist Amanda Gearing for a flood documentary that aired on ABC Radio National. Walkleys also went to Angus Grigg for best newspaper feature ('The Punters Club – tax, totes and the boys from Tassie', The Australian Financial Review) and the ABC's Nance Haxton for a report about victims of sexual abuse.

Business and Health deans appointed

New deans have been appointed to QUT Business School and the Faculty of Health. Professor Robina Xavier (pictured) is the new Executive Dean of Business at QUT, while Professor Ross Young (pictured) has been appointed as the new Executive Dean of Health.

Professor Xavier previously headed the School of Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations for six years, and has more than 20 years' experience in the tertiary sector. She is also a past president of the Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA). Her teaching and research focuses on crisis communication and shareholder communication.

Professor Young's previous QUT posts include serving as executive director of the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) from 2006 to 2012, and head of QUT's School of Psychology and Counselling. Professor Young, a clinical psychologist, researches areas including substance misuse and major psychiatric illness.

Research centres bring big matters into focus

Two new research centres have opened their doors in the Faculty of Law. The Health Law Research Centre is tackling such life and death matters as palliative care, advance directives, withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, and surrogacy, abortion and artificial reproductive technology. The new centre is home to Australia's largest group of health law academics including co-directors Professors Ben White and Lindy Willmott (pictured).

Professor Belinda Carpenter, meanwhile, will lead QUT's Crime and Justice Research Centre. It will conduct independent research into controversial areas including carbon trading fraud, LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) youth and policing, romance scams, violence in mining communities and sex trafficking legislation. The School of Justice has also launched a new International Journal for Crime and Research.
RESTORING vision to eyes whose surface has been damaged by trauma or disease is on the horizon thanks to world-leading research by a Brisbane-based biomedical scientist.

Dr Laura Bray (pictured), from the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) at QUT and the Queensland Eye Institute, is the recipient of the inaugural Prime Minister’s Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award. She will use the $118,000 award, which supports the advancement of women’s leadership in Australia, to further her research at the Leibniz Institute for Polymer Research in Dresden, Germany, for two years.

Dr Bray, who is passionate about women moving into biomedical engineering leadership roles, decided to research ways to improve outcomes for patients with eye injuries when her brother’s eye was damaged by a nail on a building site.

“I am researching the use of fibroin, a protein found in silk fibres, to repair injuries to the surface of the eye,” Dr Bray said.

“When eyes are damaged by foreign objects or workplace accidents such as chemical burns, or by some congenital, immunological or bacterial disease, the limbal stem cells needed to repair the cornea’s surface can become deficient.

“I’m looking at ways to engineer the silk materials to create a more natural environment in which to grow limbal stem cells that can be transplanted back to the eye to improve vision.”

Dr Bray said a deficiency of these stem cells caused conjunctival tissue, normally covering the white of the eye, to grow over the cornea’s surface, leading to loss of sight and pain.

“Fibroin with growth factors could help regenerate the cornea and reduce scarring as the silk degrades away.”

Dr Bray said her laboratory at IHBI was possibly the only one in the world growing primary human limbal stem cells on silk fibroin materials.

“This research could assist my brother to regain some of his vision in the future, along with others like him who cannot benefit from current treatment methods.”

– Niki Widdowson

Silk and stem cells could be the key to repairing debilitating eye injuries.
Science and Engineering CENTRE

Bringing science to the big screens

World-best technology – unveiled at QUT by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, and Queensland Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman MP – will revolutionise science and engineering teaching and research.
THE Cube, at two storeys high and one of the world’s largest touch and display systems, is a centerpiece public feature of QUT’s new $230 million Science and Engineering Centre at its CBD Gardens Point campus. The Cube is a unique technical accomplishment that took QUT developers more than two years to build, and offers unprecedented learning and research opportunities.

It comprises 190 sqm of high-definition screens including 48 touch panels which integrate with 14 high-definition projectors to reach a massive 115-megapixel resolution.

Open to the public, The Cube will enthrall as it inspires future scientists. Thousands of high school students are already booked in to explore the gigantic digital science lab and take part in national curriculum-linked workshops.

QUT is the only Australian university with an embedded LEGO Education Learning Centre (left), where high school students take part in hands-on sessions focusing
on robotics. The Cube’s Physics Playroom provides a game-like environment where people of all ages can learn about the concepts of physics.

The capacity of The Cube will help researchers analyse and visualise complex systems and other data, driving collaboration among researchers and with the real world.

QUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake said The Cube and the new Science and Engineering Centre would be transformational in many ways.

‘Transparent’ analysis labs enable students and the public to see research being undertaken.
The technology developed by QUT will transform the way people think about science. The spectacular public spaces and first-class community facilities have transformed the Gardens Point campus, and as a city landmark the Centre transforms the gateway to Brisbane,” Professor Coaldrake said.

The Science and Engineering Centre is headquarters to QUT’s newest research institute, as well as housing some of the nation’s most advanced electron microscopes in a $17 million analytical research facility.

The new Institute for Future Environments is working to solve some of the world’s most pressing problems – from tackling global food security to managing scarce natural resources.

It brings together more than 300 scholars from the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, business and law to seek solutions collaboratively.

“The entire Science and Engineering Centre is built around an ethos of collaboration,” Professor Coaldrake said.

“The benchmark design of the Centre’s open, stimulating spaces with flexible technology and inviting lounge areas was informed by a new understanding of how people learn.”

Among the high-level research labs, workstations, glass-lined meeting rooms and hi-tech public areas are quaint, retro spaces designed to give personality and warmth to the Centre.

From its subtropical surrounds to the rooftop, the Science and Engineering Centre is a sustainability showpiece so green that it is even powered by trees – solar trees that are programmed to follow the sun, thereby drawing maximum energy every day.

The Centre is a certified 5 Star Green Star rated building in “Education v1!” for “Design”.

It is powered by a combination of grid power, natural gas and solar energy, generating enough electricity to power itself and to also put power back into the QUT grid.

This tri-generation system has been engineered to reuse rather than lose heat, with heat being used to cool the air-conditioning systems, de-humidify labs and heat the swimming pool.

The Science and Engineering Centre was jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government ($75 million), the Queensland Government ($35 million), Atlantic Philanthropies ($25 million) and QUT ($95 million).

– Janne Rayner
Collaborative and quirky – the design of the Centre’s learning spaces reflects a new understanding of how students learn.
A SURPRISE discovery has won a QUT PhD graduate a national Research Excellence Award and may well be the foundation of a needle-free Chlamydia vaccine.

Connor O’Meara (pictured), a postdoctoral fellow from the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) at QUT, said working on controlling the body’s response to Chlamydia was the key to preventing infertility.

“The infertility that can develop because of a Chlamydia infection occurs as an indirect result of the body’s immune response trying to get rid of the infection and not from the Chlamydia itself,” he said.

“Therefore, if we can manipulate this harmful immune response we can prevent infertility.”

Dr O’Meara said that while trialling the use of adjuvants (agents commonly used in vaccines) he uncovered a way of effectively “switching-off” the body’s harmful immune response, which kills the Chlamydia bacteria but also causes massive scarring to the reproductive system.

“We have been able to suppress the body’s damaging immune response and prevent infertility, but what is most interesting is that this protection developed independently of the control of the infection,” he said.

The discovery earned Dr O’Meara Australia’s 2012 AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Award at the AusBiotech national conference.

“Common practice is to try and develop a vaccine to get rid of the infection, however this approach often fails to prevent infertility,” he said.

“We’re trying to train the body not to react so aggressively towards an infection, essentially making Chlamydia harmless.”

Dr O’Meara said they were also looking at a vaccine that could be delivered without needles.

“Queensland currently has the highest levels of Chlamydia infections per capita in Australia and national notification rates are increasing by almost 20 per cent each year,” he said.

“It is also estimated that untreated Chlamydia infections cost the Australian health system $90 million to $160 million each year.

“This work will help influence how we design future vaccines against Chlamydia, but also against other pathogens that cause disease as a result of the body’s immune response.”

– Alita Pashley
BY using a skateboard, dice and other items often associated with children at play, QUT researchers are revolutionising the way maths is being taught in schools throughout Queensland and far beyond.

The YuMi Deadly Maths program, developed at the YuMi Deadly Centre (YDC) in QUT’s Faculty of Education, incorporates common objects into learning to show students how maths is used in everyday life.

Lead researcher Dr Bron Ewing (pictured) said the Queensland Government-funded program, which is being rolled out to more than 1000 primary and secondary schools across the state, was achieving solid results.

“In many cases students’ maths learning has improved,” she said.

“Students learn how to apply their maths understanding by using objects they’re familiar with.

“For example, they can learn about angles by considering a 360° turn on a skateboard and about fractions by cutting fruit into sections.

“Teachers are finding their students are more attentive and motivated to attend class.”

YuMi Deadly has been so successful it has expanded into Victoria, with expressions of interest from as far afield as Thailand.

Originally designed for Indigenous and low socioeconomic students in Queensland state schools, YuMi Deadly has been adapted to benefit migrant and refugee children and those at risk of disengaging.

It is now being taught in 12 schools in Victoria and has also sparked an Australian Thai Mathematics Education project, a collaboration between YDC and school directors and teachers in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Elements of the program have also been incorporated into a construction course at Mt Isa TAFE.

“This method of teaching provides students of all ages with positive education experiences, and equips them for lifelong learning,” Dr Ewing said.

With schools at Vincent in Townsville, Sunshine in Melbourne, and Marsden and Beenleigh south of Brisbane becoming Centres for Excellence in YuMi Deadly Maths, further promotion and expansion of the program is likely.

- Rose Trapnell

A deadly maths program is making learning as easy as child’s play.

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A deadly maths program is making learning as easy as child’s play.
WHEN Bridie Scott-Parker donned a cap and gown and added the title of “Doctor” to her name, she had 11 peer-reviewed papers under her belt, had travelled the world speaking at road safety conferences and boasted an international research reputation.

That is because unlike 82 per cent of her QUT graduating peers, the CARRS-Q researcher (pictured) had taken the PhD path less travelled – a PhD by Publication.

A PhD is not a one-size-fits-all prospect. At QUT there are three options for students: the PhD traditional thesis, the PhD by Publication and the PhD by Creative Works.

Dr Scott-Parker completed a Bachelor of Psychology and from there undertook an honours program looking at the risky behaviour of young drivers.

After being awarded the RACQ Road Safety Prize for the most outstanding fourth-year thesis, Dr Scott-Parker decided to embark on a PhD studying the factors contributing to the increased crash risk of young drivers.

“With my honours research I published a paper in a peer-reviewed journal, so I had had some experience in publishing,” she said.

“I had also had people around the world contact me based on those publications asking if I would be interested in collaborating in their research projects.

“This signalled to me that publishing my findings, rather than waiting for three or four years after I’d finished my research, would be a better option for me.”

With a PhD by Publication, just like a traditional thesis, students are required to tell a story but that story must include published papers.

“It certainly isn’t the easy option. Many people conduct their research and then spend the last year or so writing. With a PhD by Publication, you need to write from day one,” Dr Scott-Parker said.

But a PhD by Publication has opened doors.

“I am collaborating with researchers in Germany, who saw one of my publications in a former ERA A-star publication,” she said.

“That would never have happened otherwise ... because my thesis is still not available in the public realm even though I do have my doctorate conferred.”

- Sandra Hutchinson
This Brisbane writer’s words will unfold on the small screen.

WITH equal parts genuine talent, devilish wit and old-school charm, Benjamin Law seems purpose-built to be an ambassador for the next generation of Australian storytellers.

Since completing a Bachelor of Arts with honours and a PhD in Creative Industries at QUT, he has penned two books – *The Family Law* in 2010 and *Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East* in 2012 – is a regular contributor to *Frankie*, *The Monthly*, *QWeekend* and *Good Weekend* and has appeared on ABC’s *Q&A*. And this was all before his 30th birthday.

But Dr Law, a native of QLD’s Sunshine Coast, humbly attributes his speedy rise through the ranks of the Australian literary scene to being “a disgusting opportunist”.

“My first book came out because there was an anthology called *Growing Up Asian in Australia*. I thought, ‘Wow. I grew up Asian in Australia and I’m a writer. This is made for me’,” he said.

“I didn’t hear back for a long time and felt sort of deflated. It turned out they wanted to know if I could write more with the possibility of turning it into a book and I thought, ‘Yeah, maybe I could’.”

Five years later, *The Family Law* has been hailed as a stand-out debut, was nominated for three accolades in the 2011 Australian Book Industry Awards and is being developed for TV by Matchbox pictures, the production company behind *The Slap* and *The Straits*.

“It’s in its embryonic phase at the moment. They (Matchbox) are gently holding my hand saying, ‘Benjamin, this is how you do this very basic task’. They’re very good at teaching me exactly what I’m supposed to be doing,” he said.

With *Gaysia* cementing Dr Law’s reputation as an author with plenty to say, he admits he has no idea where the next five years may take him.

“I’m a terrible planner so as far as a master plan for a career, I haven’t really sat down and thought of what I’d like to do,” he said. “For me it’s been about doing slightly stupid things. Things I’ve realised after the fact are difficult or moronic. But by the end of it you might have something good to show for it.”

– Alita Pashley
Power play
It’s not just for men in hard hats. Felicity Briody is changing women’s views about engineering.

AT just 26, Felicity Briody is listed among the top 100 most influential women in the nation.

Named alongside surfing great and philanthropist Layne Beachley, Business Council of Australia boss Jennifer Westacott and Origin Energy chief operating officer Karen Moses in the Australian Financial Review’s top 100 Most Influential Women in Australia, the QUT engineering alumnus (pictured left) is somewhat humbled by the accolade.

“It’s awesome . . . I guess I am a bit blown away by it still,” she said.

Ms Briody, who works with global professional technical management and support services firm AECOM in Brisbane, received the honour for her initiative in co-founding the Power of Engineering program, a not-for-profit organisation that is changing the perceptions of how young women view a career in engineering.

Last year Ms Briody held 10 events for high school-aged students, talking to them about the opportunities engineering offers.

“It’s been said to me that a career in engineering is like being a super hero. You get to play with the forces of nature,” the civil engineering graduate said.

“I tell people that with engineering you have the power to change the world around you. If you want to make a difference, this is the path to do that.”

As a young woman in a male-dominated industry, Ms Briody acknowledges she’s a small fish in a big pond.

“But I think there are barriers and unconscious biases in all industries,” she said.

“When I first started my career after finishing uni, I thought I had to be the same as everyone else. But now I have realised that being different is a valuable asset.

“I think women bring a lot to the table. From my perspective, I am a good communicator and also good at getting teams to work together.”

Ms Briody said many young women viewed engineering as “men in hard hats” and limited to buildings, cars and bridges.

“As part of the Power of Engineering events, I have been going out there and telling students what engineering really is,” she said.

“I am empowering them to think about engineering in a different way.”

– Sandra Hutchinson

Taking the lead in workplace safety

COMPANY boards have a powerful role to play in influencing the safety outcomes of the organisations they govern beyond pure compliance with relevant workplace safety legislation, experienced company director and QUT PhD researcher Kirstin Ferguson (pictured above) said.

Ms Ferguson, who is on the listed board of Dart Energy Ltd and is also the first female non-executive director of the Queensland Rugby Union Board, has undertaken an Australian-first study investigating the role of boards in driving safety outcomes within organisations.

Her Colin Brain Governance Fellowship, awarded through QUT Business School, recognises the research importance of her study into corporate governance.

Ms Ferguson said the responsibility and liability of directors had been catapulted into the spotlight following new Workplace Health and Safety Acts and high-profile safety disasters including the New Zealand Pike River mine explosion and the 2011 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, where the role of the board had been addressed.

“One of the outcomes of this research will be to create a governance framework for best practice in terms of safety governance,” she said.

Ms Ferguson graduated with a QUT Bachelor of Laws degree with honours in 2001.
WHEN Australian companies enter the European carbon trading scheme in 2015, they will join a complex and poorly regulated market that is a hotbed of fraud.

Assistant Dean of Research in the Faculty of Law Professor Reece Walters (pictured) said the carbon trading market, which has operated in Europe since 2006, offered massive opportunities for criminals and had done little to reduce pollution, while governments lacked the will and international policing capacity to deal with the situation.

He said European Union (EU) countries continued to exceed agreed-upon pollution targets, while companies falsified records to show they emitted less pollution.

"Industry regulation is so lax that on the whole they are able to get away with it," Professor Walters said.

He said that while companies generally employed brokers to buy and sell their credits on the carbon market, the market was peppered with dodgy brokers who set up bogus companies to trade in credits.

"Again because of lax regulation these companies get away with not paying Value Added Tax (VAT) to government. In Britain alone these violations are costing the public millions of pounds per year."

Professor Walters said carbon credits were like a ‘get-out-of-jail-free card’ for big polluters, who often offset their pollution by investing in ‘green’ projects that were foisted upon Indigenous communities and that often destroyed their native vegetation.

He said reputable companies wanting to offset their carbon emissions needed to be sure that the brokers they used were reputable too, or they ran the risk of funding unwanted projects.

Professor Walters said much work needed to be done to ensure the carbon trading scheme operated efficiently and without criminality.

"There are few regulatory arrangements, no specialised enforcement agency, no case law, no watchdog and no plans for independent review," he said.

"The challenges for regulators across the EU are immense and the expansion of the scheme to include Australia will open new criminal possibilities and we need to be ready."

Professor Walters said QUT was the only academic institution researching carbon trading from a criminological point of view.

– Rose Trapnell
The Nuremberg defence gives little protection to soldiers who carry out illegal orders.

SOLDIERS should be trained to disobey unlawful superior commands to legally protect them against criminal convictions, new QUT research shows.

Law graduate Dr Carmel O’Sullivan’s PhD, The Legal Position of the Obedient Soldier: The Defence of Superior Orders as an Effective and Practical Standard, recommended a cautious approach be taken in training soldiers to defy illegal orders.

“Obedience is a central element of military training,” Dr O’Sullivan (pictured) said.

“However, unquestioning obedience significantly increases the likelihood that the reasonable soldier in combat will obey the orders of his superior, irrespective of the order’s legality.

“While this conditioned response contributes to important military purposes, it affects the application of the ‘defence of superior orders’, also known as the Nuremberg defence.”

Dr O’Sullivan’s study looked at the legal liability of soldiers in combat who obeyed the unlawful orders of their commander.

Specifically, it focused on whether the current legal standards for determining soldiers’ liability was an effective and practical standard given the effects of military training and the realities of modern warfare.

Her study examined the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was set up as a permanent criminal court to try soldiers and civilians who engaged in war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

“From a legal perspective, what the ICC says is that a soldier can only raise a ‘defence of superior orders’ to a war crime and that the defence can be used only if they didn’t know the order was illegal or if it wasn’t manifestly unlawful,” Dr O’Sullivan said.

“Military training that promotes obedience without question or delay is incompatible with the doctrine of superior orders, which requires soldiers to question the legality of orders.”

She said instead of merely informing soldiers of the legal duty to disobey, the identification and disobedience of illegal orders should be incorporated into daily training.

But Dr O’Sullivan warned this had the potential to present its own challenges and dangers.

“Therefore, the military must implement this training with caution in order to prevent excessive disobedience or uncertainty.”

- Sandra Hutchinson
Research update

Eating for two

TWO-THIRDS of Australian mums-to-be are in the dark about weight gain during pregnancy. Susie de Jersey’s PhD study at QUT found a third of women surveyed gained too much weight during pregnancy, while another third struggled to gain enough weight. She said giving intensive support to women during this time could help instil healthy habits for life, and help lower child obesity rates. The study was published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Pumice rafting brings new life to reef

TINY marine plants and animals have been hitching rides on floating pumice stones from Tonga to the Great Barrier Reef, a QUT scientist has found. Dr Scott Bryan’s research has proven for the first time that “pumice rafting” can disperse marine life (coral, algae, crabs, anemones, etc) thousands of kilometres after volcanic eruptions. Pumice forms when frothy molten rock cools rapidly and forms bubble-rich rock that can float in water.

Looking for clues

SOPHISTICATED eye-tracking glasses are helping a QUT industrial designer study how people use their intuition to navigate their way around airports. PhD researcher Andrew Cave (pictured above) is using the technology at airports including Brisbane International Airport, where community volunteers don the Tobii device for a mock travel scenario. The research is part of the QUT Airports of the Future project.

Boeing tech expert onboard

A BOEING technical expert has been seconded to QUT to help in the quest to safely fly unmanned aircraft (UA) during bushfires, floods and search-and-rescue missions. Adjunct Associate Professor Brendan Williams has joined the Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation (ARCAA), where he will work with the QUT-led Project ResQu.

He will help address two of the biggest technical hurdles to UA flying in civilian air space – detecting and avoiding other planes and landing safely in an emergency.

Binge drinking bad for brain

QUT research shows teenagers who binge drink risk inhibiting part of their brain’s development and may be laying the groundwork for alcoholism in later life. Professor Selena Bartlett, from QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI), studied the effect of excessive binge drinking during adolescence on a particular receptor in the brain. She discovered teen bingeing altered it irreversibly, keeping the brain in an adolescent state.
‘Taste addiction’ was the guiding motto of brothers and QUT graduates Sean and Colby Carthew when opening the first Burger Urge six years ago.

OVER a miniature wire basket of superbly crisp, herb-seasoned sweet potato chips with wasabi dressing, it’s clear the Carthew brothers achieved their goal: planning my next meal here begins after just a few mouthfuls. It’s impossible for a cheese lover to ignore a menu board featuring a burger with blue vein and tomato chutney.

Sean has a Bachelor of Property Economics and Colby a Bachelor of Business Management – opening a burger bar in a crowded market was hardly an obvious choice for a first business venture. Nevertheless they parlayed Colby’s long experience with food in various hospitality student jobs and their QUT-acquired knowledge into a thriving gourmet burger business.

“We started with the concept of ‘taste addiction’ and built our brand around that tagline. We wanted it to have an urban feel,” says Sean, seated in their fifth and latest New York-inspired, industrial-look outlet (complete with graffiti by local street artists), in the new Science and Engineering Centre.

“Half of our business is property – understanding leases and retail spaces – finding the right location is half the battle for a successful product. It’s very difficult to succeed in retail if the store location isn’t right – even if the product is great, so we spend a lot of time on this part of the business.”

Colby took on the job of working with local chefs for six months to develop the menu from locally grown produce for their first New Farm venture.

“I love the food side of the business but I’ve probably used the accounting component of my degree the most for analysing costs and price structures,” he says.

The brothers acquired some effective HR skills from their studies too. Many of the senior management team have been with the company more than three years, and their operations manager joined more than five years ago.

“We have a good culture, we encourage individuality. We want people to be themselves and we want our staff to have fun in their work environment,” they say.

And though some of the unusual burgers, such as the blue cheese, can be “polarising”, the new offerings coming on line – homemade gelati and boutique beers – should bring everyone back together again.

– Niki Widdowson
EACH year more than 50 Queensland families suffer the heartbreak of losing a child through terminal illness. Queensland does not have a specialised respite facility for families caring for a dying child or a place where they can be together while their child receives end-of-life care.

But that is due to change.

QUT Executive MBA graduate Paul Quilliam is using the business skills and networks he acquired during the course to build Queensland's only children's hospice, close to the new Queensland Children's Hospital that is scheduled to open next year in South Brisbane.

"My wife and I have fostered children with complex, high-care needs during the past five years and we know how difficult it is to find respite services with adequate medical care for these children," Mr Quilliam said.

"When a child has a terminal illness, the parents often become 24/7 carers. This adversely affects everyone in the family, especially siblings, who can feel isolated when their parents focus so much time, energy and finances on the sick child.

"Hummingbird House will give these families the specialised medical, emotional and respite support they desperately need."

After two years of solid work, Mr Quilliam is well on the way to establishing a dedicated 10-bed children's hospice with accommodation for three families.

With help and financial support from his QUT classmates and lecturers, Mr Quilliam has established the charity Queensland Kids to raise Hummingbird House's $3 million annual operating costs.

"Queensland Kids believes in enhancing the quality of whatever time a child may have left by empowering them to live fully and joyfully," he said.

"We have secured the pro bono services of Global Philanthropic to raise money for the full cost of construction. We also have some significant pledges of construction and trade materials," he said.

In the meantime, Queensland Kids has canvassed enough support to subsidise the travel costs of families with terminally ill children to a Sydney children's hospice.

Brisbane parent Rabecca Thurecht provides round-the-clock care to her seven-year-old disabled daughter Maya.

"Because Maya is in palliative care she very rarely goes to school," Ms Thurecht said.

"I'm sleep deprived and wonder how I will get through each day, but I have to because I'm all Maya has."

• To be involved or help Queensland Kids achieve its goal, visit www.queenslandkids.org for more information.
Ms Jenny Robertson was elected the new Alumni President and Alumni Representative on QUT Council. Ms Robertson has been an alumni board member for several years, governance practice leader for Board Matters and is passionate about QUT maintaining connections with its varied and talented alumni.

“The QUT Alumni Board provides a vital link between QUT Alumni, the university, business, industry and the wider community,” she said.

Elected to the board for a second, four-year term is author and international change management consultant, Dr Tim Baker who will also continue to represent QUT Alumni on QUT Council.

Elected board members with two-year terms are:
- Kerri McConnel – recipient of QUT’s 2012 Laurie Cowled Women in Leadership Scholarship to Harvard, Ms McConnel is an expert in business management, innovation and collaboration.
- Brett Gibson – senior account executive for SAS, and teamwork enthusiast.
- Earle Johnston – development manager for The Salvation Army and former Alumni Chapter President for the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Non profit Studies at QUT.

QUT Alumni Board members appointed by Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake are:
- 2002 Chancellor’s Outstanding Alumnus Geoff Mitchell AO (now retired); 2005 Health Faculty Outstanding Alumnus, health industry consultant Jennifer Muller and co-founder of the Creative Industries Alumni Chapter, Amanda Ronan-Hearn.

Recognising that the alumni relationship starts when a student steps on campus, rather than upon graduation, Eddie Robinson has been appointed Student Representative on the Board in 2013.

Mr Robinson, recipient of a 2012 QUT Student Leadership Award, is a high achiever who has thrived by tapping into QUT’s student support services.

“QUT’s support services are the lifeblood of the university,” Mr Robinson said.

“Receiving a Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship and being a Member of the College of Excellence has provided me with extraordinary opportunities, including meeting Sir Richard Branson and Andrew Forrest.”
Chapter and Group news

- Creative Industries Alumni Group launch
  PROFESSOR Rod Wisler, Executive Dean of the Creative Industries Faculty helped launch the new Creative Industries Alumni Group at their inaugural event held on Kelvin Grove campus in March.

  The new group is being spearheaded by Amanda Ronan-Hearn and Sally Porteous, both experienced volunteers in the QUT Alumni program.

  The launch event kicked off a calendar of activities dedicated to Creative Industries’ alumni and the diverse professions the faculty produces.

  Creative Industries now covers 17 disciplines, including design and architecture as well as the full spectrum of media, creative and performance courses.

  If you are an alumnus of this faculty and are interested to join this group simply contact QUT Alumni (e-mail alumni@qut.edu.au) and you’ll be put in touch with Amanda or Sally.

- QUT launches Canberra Alumni Group
  QUT officially launched its Canberra Alumni Group on February 28, 2013. More than 50 people turned up to help celebrate the launch of one of the newest QUT Alumni Groups. There are some great networking opportunities available to all QUT alumni living in and around Canberra.

  Canberra Alumni Group President, Brett Ackroyd, encourages any QUT alumni in the greater Canberra region to become involved. Feel free to get in contact with this Canberra Group through the QUT Alumni office – alumni@qut.edu.au or 07 3138 4778.

  There are some great activities planned during 2013, and we would love for you to be a part of it.

- Inaugural QUT Classic Fun Run
  GET your joggers on and limber up! QUT will host the Inaugural QUT Classic on Sunday, May 5. The event will begin at 8.00am and all QUT alumni, staff, students, friends and their families are invited. So plan on joining us for a great fun run, followed by a day of community activities. $2 from each registration and all profits from this event will benefit the QUT Learning Potential Fund, which supports scholarships for students from low socio-economic backgrounds. The events will be held at the QUT Gardens Point campus. To register for this event visit: www.qut.edu.au/about/events/qut-classic

- Alumni communications survey
  THANKS to the more than 2,700 alumni who responded to our Alumni Communications Survey last October. We’re taking your feedback on board so keep watching as your alumni program continues to improve. We look forward to providing you with the information, events and networking opportunities you’re looking for. And we’re so glad you want to download QUT Links on your tablet. You’ll be able to from our spring edition.

  Congratulations to 2006 Bachelor of Business alumnus Zaman Jaunitis (Brisbane) for filling out our survey and winning the iPad. Zaman doesn’t often participate in surveys, but he is very glad that he did this time.
Join Our Alumni E-Newsletter for special offers, alumni events and activities, QUT and alumni news.

How to contact the alumni office: Web: www.qut.edu.au/alumni Email: alumni@qut.edu.au P: +61 7 3138 4778 Fax: +61 7 3138 1514 Mail: QUT Alumni, GPO Box 2434, Brisbane Q 4001, Australia

# Indonesian Alumni Chapter rebooted through batik

A specially-designed batik was unveiled in Jakarta, Indonesia, in January as part of a reboot of the QUT Indonesian Alumni Chapter.

The QUT Alumni Indonesia Batik was designed by Ahmad Syarif, QUT alumnus and owner of Batik Sapto Hadi in Solo, with motifs of Kawung (sugar palm) representing hope and nitik (making dots) symbolising wisdom.

Newly elected President of the Alumni Chapter, Mr Fajar Sulaiman Taman, said the Chapter's own batik design was presented to local dignitaries and members at the launch. Contact the QUT Alumni Office to find out how you can get involved with the Indonesian Alumni Chapter.

# Melbourne Alumni Chapter

With over 2000 alumni the Melbourne Alumni Chapter is among the largest in Australia. The Chapter assists all QUT alumni in creating a community in Melbourne. Whether it’s settling in to a new city, attending professional events or just a social gathering, the Chapter is dedicated to providing members with a common forum.

The Chapter is currently organising members’ events for 2013. There will be wine tours, special interest talks, day trips, drinks night and much more. And as a member, we’d love to see you at one or all these events.

The Melbourne Alumni Chapter is led by a dedicated group of individuals who come from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds, but have their QUT experiences in common. You can contact the Chapter President for any inquiries you may have.

Contact: Sandeep Johal (Melbourne Chapter President) by email: deepology@gmail.com

# Calling all QUT Golden Graduates

Did you complete study at one of QUT’s predecessor institutions in 1963 or earlier? If so, you are invited to the annual 2013 Golden Graduates morning tea on Saturday, November 2.

QUT LINKS to go digital in spring – make sure we have your email address

YOUR QUT Links magazine will be undergoing a transformation this spring. Links will be available as a tablet app – making us environmentally friendly and providing you with a richer, multimedia magazine to peruse. Make sure we have your email address so we can send you the new-look e-zine. Contact us on alumni@qut.edu.au or 07 3138 4778.
2000s

Sabrina Amir
AFTER graduating from QUT in 2002, Sabrina returned to Malaysia, worked with leading multinational Petronas and was active in QUT’s alumni activities. In 2007, she came back to QUT and did her Master of Business (Research). She is now studying for her PhD.

Jocelyne N Berry
BCI[MediaComn]/LLB 2005
SINCE graduating with a dual degree, Jocelyne has continued to work with the law firm ACS Legal Solutions, where she was employed as a conveyance clerk. Jocelyne is now the firm’s co-principal director. Jocelyne is keen to mentor others.

Jane Darbyshire
BA/LLB 2008
JANE graduated in 2008 with a combined Bachelor of Arts/Laws. After visiting Cambodia in 2006 Jane helped set up a jewellery-making enterprise which provides employment and training to Cambodian women living in poverty, and promotes fair trade and ethical business in Australia.

Dr Philip J Doecke
PhD 2006
PHIL has been teaching in the School of Education at RMIT University, Bundoora Campus, since March 2006. His research has taken him overseas where he has studied the health and physical activity of children and young people. Currently program director for the Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Applied Science (Disability) at RMIT, Phil is working on establishing placements for education/disability students in India and China.

1990s

Michael Bloyce
GradDipBus[Admin] 1992
MICHAEL has been appointed as Gladstone’s first ever manager of arts and culture. Formally venue hiring manager of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and manager of Nambour Civic Centre, Michael is responsible for six libraries, the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum, the Gladstone Entertainment Centre and Council’s events unit.

Michael J Costigan
BBus 1999
MICHAEL completed an electrical apprenticeship in 1977 and was appointed as an electrical inspector to SEQEB (South-East Qld Electricity Board) in 1981 at age 23. Prior to and after completing a Bachelor of Business (Management) at QUT in 1999, Michael led his own property development company specialising in industrial, commercial and retail developments across the Sunshine Coast. He is now a full-time student studying a Bachelor of Laws and aims to become a barrister.

David Page
MBI(TESOL) 1999
DAVID is the campus manager of the higher education facility, SAE Institute, at Byron Bay. David has worked in the post-secondary education and training sector in Australia and internationally for more than 20 years. He continues to actively consult, has participated in the creative arts throughout his life, and continues to work on his own music, productions and projects.

1980s

Peter Davis
CertCartography 1981
PETER studied cartography at QUT. He began a cadetship with the Qld Department of Mapping and Surveying in 1976, which produced the first government tourist map in Australia. Over the next 20 years he worked with Hema Maps, which distributed Australian and international maps across the world. Peter was part of the largest single mapping project undertaken in Australia, the Great Desert Tracks Mapping Expedition. Peter is now a private consultant with World MapMan Solutions.

1960s

Merilyn D Becconsall
MERILYN is a graduate of the Central Technical College (CTC). Her husband was also a graduate of CTC as well as her mother in the 1930s. Merilyn worked with the Bank of NSW in Brisbane. While working she continued her music studies to AMusA level, with her final exam being held at Old Government House in 1962. She also undertook an evening course in Applied Decoration at CTC and obtained honours in 1964/65. At present, she belongs to the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS) on the Gold Coast and is a member of both the Queensland Art Gallery Society, and Brisbane West Inner Wheel.

Wei An I Tan
BA 1998
WEI was nominated for the Spirit of Enterprise award in 2011. Although his experience and education at QUT was in media studies, he has opened a small bistro which has been running for more than two years. Visualise Media is his main business which he has run for more than 11 years.

Peter Davis
CertCartography 1981
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0407 791 760
THE opening of the Science and Engineering Centre represents the culmination of many years of planning, consultation and communication within the university and with a wide range of external stakeholders. The Centre itself is part of a series of wide-ranging reforms encompassing a fundamental rethink of QUT’s education and research activities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas, as well as new conceptions of the relationships between the physical campus, virtual facilities and services, and the wider community.

There were several key reasons for the new approach. Science and technology is clearly an important part of QUT, and over the years we have developed a number of strengths in STEM education and research, but it was clear that we had potential to do much better, for example by reducing fragmentation, improving facilities and strengthening the impact and relevance of what we can offer. The Gardens Point campus was densely populated but needed physical renewal and lacked a fully cohesive sense of internal community or systematic links to the wider world, despite its ideal location. The opportunity existed not only for QUT to refresh itself but to offer something more inspiring, relevant and valuable to the local, national and international scene.

In 2008, noting the progress that had been made in precinct developments across QUT in areas such as creative industries and health, the then QUT Blueprint recognised the potential for such an approach to guide future development of the Gardens Point campus, with a focus on science and technology, and made this a key priority for the university. As our ideas developed we were able to convey our vision to potential supporters, and particularly generous support was provided by the Commonwealth and State governments and by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

As the building progressed we restructured our STEM-related faculties and courses and developed a new focal point for research in the form of the Institute for Future Environments. The building and its surrounds were designed to reflect our commitments to sustainability, openness and interaction and to seamlessly link with other campus developments including the restored Old Government House, the theatre and art museum. The combination of state of the art technology with physical spaces for interaction and learning is particularly important, with The Cube providing a striking centrepiece.

The end result is a remarkable achievement, one that is testament to the hard work and commitment of many people from across the university and to the support so generously provided by external sponsors. The impact on QUT will be transformative; there is no doubt that it will reinvigorate life at Gardens Point for students and staff, and it will provide a great platform for our plans to strengthen our impact and profile in the future. Just as importantly it will also greatly enhance the accessibility of the university to the wider world and provide a source of inspiration and excitement about the potential of science and technology for current and future generations.

Professor Peter Coaldrake, Ao
Vice-Chancellor