

Griffith

ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2011

\$320 MILLION
EXPANSION

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SPOOKY
QUANTUM
DYNAMICS

PAGE 16

GRIFFITH
SOARS
IN RANKINGS

PAGE 4





IN JUST 40 years, Griffith University has accomplished much to be proud of. Named in honour of Australia's first Chief Justice and Queensland pioneer, Sir Samuel Griffith, we have earned a reputation as a leading, research-intensive, comprehensive university of the Asia Pacific region.

Given our unique, relatively young heritage, we have from the outset been distinctively interdisciplinary, refusing to be fenced in by traditional boundaries. And we remain deeply committed to our community, delivering a social dividend through collaborative projects locally and across the globe.

2011 marks an extraordinary year of accolades for our top researchers. The much awaited Excellence in Research for Australia report demonstrated more than 90 per cent of our academics are working in fields assessed at world-standard or better—positioning us within the top ten of Australian research universities.

This has inspired us to launch our “Know More. Do More” campaign which demonstrates the benefits for students of the ‘research-teaching nexus’—in plain language, that means the benefit of learning from teachers and lecturers who are also high performers in their research fields.

We are intensely proud of our 120,000 alumni who are making their mark across the world.

If you take the opportunity to come back to our campuses as part of our anniversary celebrations, which I sincerely hope you do, you will witness frenetic building activity in the order of \$320 million revitalising our research, learning and community spaces.

I hope you will help us celebrate our 40th anniversary in the coming weeks, and stay connected to the University, our staff, students and alumni.

PROFESSOR IAN O'CONNOR

Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President

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IF YOU know more YOU CAN do more

Top to bottom: Lawrence Leung talks with Professors Lyn Griffiths, Paul Mazerolle and Michael Good.



GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY IS on a mission to educate students about the value of knowledge. And it has signed up its top researchers and science advocate-comedian Lawrence Leung to help spread its message.

Its “Know More. Do More.” campaign for television, social media and the web was launched at the University’s Open Day on Sunday August 14 by Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O’Connor.

Professor O’Connor said Griffith had been rated a Top 10 Australian research university* and needed to convey what that means for its 43,000 students and 120,000 graduates worldwide.

“Research is the way we advance the body of knowledge—on a personal or collective level,” he said. Knowledge is everything. It gives you a head start and stays with you—whether you want to save the world or just get a good job,” Professor O’Connor said.

He said the University had asked some of its most distinguished researchers to be interviewed by Leung. “I’m delighted to say they signed up unreservedly.”

Television spots featuring high-profile malaria researcher Professor Michael Good, leading criminologist Professor Paul Mazerolle and geneticist Professor Lyn Griffiths aired from Sunday August 14 on Brisbane and Gold Coast stations.

The spots—produced by Brisbane agency Junior—were shot on a red couch incongruously perched in real

research field locations such as Vanuatu and Norfolk Island and in one case, symbolically, in Brisbane’s infamous and now defunct Boggo Road jail.

Other media such as a dedicated website, light projections and student videos—filmed on red couches—will reach audiences in locations around its five campuses and internationally.

Leung, currently performing his live stand-up show to sell-out audiences in London’s West End, said he was delighted to be part of it. “As a psychology graduate and documentary maker, science and knowledge is what I’m passionate about. By joining this campaign, I hope to encourage the future minds of research so one day at least one of them can build me a jetpack,” Leung said.

Professor O’Connor said the main message was you will know more, be better educated and be in a position to do more with your life if you study at an innovative research university like Griffith.

Griffith External Relations director Meredith Jackson said the campaign had taken on the promotion of knowledge and learning per se: “Griffith is of course saying ‘study with us’, but more than that, we are saying ‘get the right sort of education’—so it’s part advertising, part information.”

Lawrence Leung’s second television series, *Lawrence Leung’s Unbelievable*, aired recently on ABC television.

* *Analysis of the Excellence in Research for Australia National Report 2010.*



STORY: GEOFFREY MASLEN

Clockwise from right:
Professor Mark von
Itzstein, director, Institute
for Glycomics; Professor
Ned Pankhurst, Deputy
Vice Chancellor (Research);
Professor Paul Mazerolle,
Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts,
Education and Law).

Griffith SOARS in rankings

GRIFFITH HAS APPEARED for the first time in the world's most prestigious university rankings—the Academic Ranking of World Universities—known as the Shanghai Jiao Tong Top 500.

In that key indicator of institutional performance, Griffith University is now positioned among the top 10 research institutions in the country with more than 90 per cent of its academics working in fields assessed at world-standard or better.

According to an evaluation by the Federal Government's Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) scheme, Griffith's efforts are at world-standard or better in 18 broad fields. This placed the University among the top eight of Australia's 39 universities, including the big research-intensive institutions of Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian National University.

Griffith received the ERA's highest possible rating, reserved for outstanding research, for dentistry and physical sciences, specifically quantum physics. Another 15 fields performed above world-standard, including condensed matter physics, earth sciences, oceanography, physical geography and environmental geosciences, soil sciences, urban and regional planning, education systems, tourism, political science and law.

In July, Griffith was placed in the top eight among Australian universities for social sciences research in the QS World University Rankings. Griffith is ranked in the top 51-100 universities in the world for Law as well as

Politics and International Studies and the top 151–200 for Sociology and Economics and Econometrics.

So how can a relatively youthful university have reached such a high pinnacle so soon? Professor Ned Pankhurst, Griffith's Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), points to targeted investment in infrastructure, people and programs, an investment that has led over the past five years to the biggest ever increase in research spending. And the trend is continuing upwards.

Professor Pankhurst says research income has been rising by 20 per cent a year while external research funding has jumped from \$36 million in 2006 to \$65 million in 2010. This huge rise has resulted in a substantial boost to publication outputs—the research papers academics prepare for prestigious national and international journals.

Earlier this year, Griffith came seventh among Australian universities, and 30th in the Asia-Pacific region, in the prestigious *Nature Publishing Index* which measures the output of research articles in the *Nature* family of 17 journals that includes several of the most highly cited publications in the scientific literature. Griffith Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor said at the time the ranking confirmed Griffith's high-quality research output and was consistent with other research quality measures that had also placed the University among the top 10 in Australia.

To achieve these sorts of outcomes, a university needs high-quality researchers who are well resourced and working in good quality buildings and laboratories. Professor Pankhurst says: "We have a dual strategy of





growing the research capacity of existing staff and hiring high-quality rising stars.”

He says that apart from the \$80 million a year Griffith allocates to researchers through its salary outlays, the University is also spending an additional \$40 million over five years recruiting top academic researchers. This is part of the five-year investment in a dozen areas of research expertise underpinned since 2003 with a \$500 million allocation to infrastructure.

Many of the thousands of students who have graduated from Griffith University have gone on to make names for themselves around the world in science, industry and the arts. Some have returned to take up senior positions and among them is Professor Mark von Itzstein, director of the Institute for Glycomics on the Gold Coast.

A prominent biomedical researcher as well as a joint winner of the prestigious Australia Prize in 1996, Professor von Itzstein defies the conventional image of the scientist as lab-coated nerd, test tube in one hand and a text book in the other. He represented Queensland in volleyball and is a keen triathlete who speaks four languages and plays piano and trumpet. Professor von Itzstein also has won world fame for his design and synthesis of Relenza®, a drug intended to attack one of the scourges of humanity: influenza.

Then there are the academics from other countries, including internationally renowned criminologist

Professor Paul Mazerolle. Although Pro Vice Chancellor for Arts, Education and Law, Professor Mazerolle is also director of the Violence Research and Prevention Program at Griffith as well as a research associate in the Centre for Youth at Risk at St Thomas University in Canada.

After an early career in the US at the University of Cincinnati, Professor Mazerolle relocated to Australia in 2000 to take up an appointment at the University of Queensland where he became head of the criminology program. From 2002-2005, he was director of Research and Prevention at Queensland’s Crime and Misconduct Commission. In his final year there, he was recruited by Griffith and in mid-2006 became director of the University’s Violence Research and Prevention Program.

Along with his ability to attract considerable sums in research money for Griffith, Professor Mazerolle believes there is a powerful connection between world-class research and quality teaching, that there is a relationship between cutting-edge research and translating that into the student’s experience.

“World-class researchers bring back the best and brightest and newest ideas that excite students,” he says. “It’s not a case of lecturers who are two or three weeks ahead of the students in terms of mastering the material, you have real scholars and experts talking about the work they are doing and feeding it into the teaching.”

The Australian Higher Education Supplement’s Jill Rowbotham wrote on March 30, 2011 that Griffith University had “shot up the rankings in an index of influential Nature Publishing Group journals”.

For further information griffith.edu.au/research/research-excellence





\$320 million EXPANSION



STORY: JASON OXENBRIDGE
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS STACEY

CAPITAL REDEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Expansion to Willett Centre, Environment 1 & 2, Macrossan Building (Nathan), including \$1.2 million outdoor learning spaces—\$19.3 million.
- New Student Centre in the Willett Centre, upgrades to Science labs, teaching venue upgrades Northern Theatres and Environment 1&2 (all Nathan) and refurbishment of the Technology building (Mt Gravatt)—\$16.2 million funded by the Federal Government's Better Universities Renewal Funding.
- New Griffith Health Centre, including Medical School, Dentistry, Psychology, Public Health, bookshop and restaurant (Gold Coast)—\$150 million.
- Expansion and refurbishment of the Library and Gumurrii Centre (Gold Coast)—\$20.5 million.
- Sir Samuel Griffith Building (Nathan), set to be Australia's first teaching and research building powered by renewable energy generated on site—\$32 million funded by the Federal Government's Education Investment Fund.
- New International Building (Gold Coast)—\$27 million.
- Swimming pool (Mt Gravatt)—\$3.8 million.

The \$150 million Griffith Health Centre is being built across the road from the Gold Coast University Hospital.

A MASSIVE \$320 MILLION has been invested across Griffith University's five campuses, including the most significant in the University's 40-year history, the \$150 million Griffith Health Centre on the Gold Coast.

Located in the middle of the Health and Knowledge Precinct and directly across the road from the State Government's \$1.76 billion Gold Coast University Hospital, the health group is set to become a world leader when it is completed in 2013.

It is the catalyst for the University's largest growth over the next decade with student enrolments set to tip 21,500 by 2020 on the Gold Coast alone. There are currently 43,000 students enrolled across the University's five campuses, hailing from 131 countries, with Gold Coast enrolments amassing more than 16,500.

Griffith Vice Chancellor, Professor Ian O'Connor, is confident the roll-out will position the health group as a world leader in research across a vast range of interrelated health disciplines including dentistry, psychology and physiotherapy.

"This is the most exciting educational precinct in the country," Professor O'Connor says, surveying the vast construction site from his office.

"You've got the fastest growing campus, a comprehensive research facility and you're doing it in the 21st century. This means you are not bound by the old disciplinary divides. You have this opportunity to put something together that has not been done before.

"There are no rigidities of the past. You have this opportunity where a comprehensive health campus is positioned alongside the University Hospital and the fantastic connectivity with the (planned) light rail, so it's a very exciting space."

Since 2004 the University has invested around \$220 million to develop capital infrastructure and staffing to

expand a suite of health-focused education and research programs. Significant capital infrastructure projects have included the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health.

Premier Anna Bligh has trumpeted the project and surrounding developments as one of the most significant health commitments in the state and a boost to the local economy.

"The Health and Knowledge Precinct will be home to new industries driving the Gold Coast's economic development and prosperity," the Premier says.

"The Gold Coast Health and Knowledge precinct provides a unique opportunity to bring the visions of the Queensland State Government, Griffith University and the Gold Coast City Council together to drive economic growth for the city and surrounding region over the next 10 to 15-year period."

Then there's the connectivity—the \$1.8 billion light rail project, linking Griffith to the city's CBD and restaurant and retail hubs where cosmopolitan meets coast at places like Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.

Transport Minister Rachel Nolan says when stage one of Gold Coast Rapid Transit is complete in 2014 it will be a world-class public transport system which will dramatically change the way people move around the coast.

"The 13-kilometre dedicated light rail corridor will service the new Gold Coast University Hospital, Griffith University, Southport medical precinct and the fast growing commercial, retail and recreational centres of Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach," she says.

Bringing people together is one of the key benefits of rolling out a precinct of this magnitude, according to Professor O'Connor. He cites opportunities across a range of spaces.

"It's not just about health, it's also about a whole institution," he says.

"The other thing it does is create this exciting knowledge-based hub, with 1000 health care workers

Professor Allan Cripps,
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health)



New Student Centre and Library at Nathan

and close to 20,000 students by the time it opens in 2013. This will be a campus and a precinct that, when you walk onto it, you will find all of these interconnections and collaborations that will merge. So it will become an enormous social space as well.”

And it’s not just health related industries that are set to reap the rewards as demand for business, administration and other interrelated areas of learning are tapped.

“We have invested heavily to meet the educational needs of the community and put our resources into having great teaching spaces and great research spaces,” Professor O’Connor says.

“It will become a bigger magnet of exceptional health education and research and a whole lot of interrelated activities that spin around that. When you think about placements you tend to think about medical and health-related jobs, but there will also be opportunities for students in business, architecture and administration. Most students partake in part-time work and that’s a good thing, but it would be fantastic to tap into that part-time work in the areas in which they are studying.”

Pro Vice Chancellor for Health, Professor Allan Cripps, has been engaged at a senior level in a number of significant health projects in Australia over the last three decades. These include Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, The Hunter Area Pathology Service in Newcastle and the ANU Medical School in Canberra”. He says the Griffith Health Centre will set a precedent.

“What we are seeing on the Gold Coast is the State Government investing in a University Hospital co-located with a major comprehensive health facility. There is an opportunity to grow and culture an edge in clinical treatment where public health research is unparalleled. Future opportunities are just unbelievable,” Professor Cripps says.

“The logistics of the roll-out remain the biggest challenge—getting so many balls in the air and keeping them there. If we achieve this, we will stand among the best in the world. It’s an opportunity that no one else has in the areas of social health, clinical sciences and bio-medical. This health group is one of the most comprehensive in Australia. It is a large health footprint across the various disciplines, including the professional areas of dentistry, medicine and pharmacy.”

In 2004 Griffith’s health courses recorded 3600 students. Today that number exceeds 7200.

“I think I have the best job anywhere. I came here in 2003 and set up the Medical School and then the health group in January 2005 and we have grown phenomenally since then,” Professor Cripps says.

“My next goal is to set up the Griffith Institute of Research and Health. To do that we need around \$120 million. What we’re looking for with Queensland Health is a partnership on the Gold Coast to complement the outstanding relationship we have with District Health. Griffith presents a wonderful opportunity. Wouldn’t it be magnificent if the State and Federal Governments could match the financial injection by the University?”

Vice Chancellor Ian O’Connor notes that it’s 40 years since the passage of the Griffith University Act. After it was passed in Queensland Parliament in 1971, construction soon commenced on the first building in 1972.

“In the last five years investment in infrastructure has snowballed across all our five campuses.”

Jason Oxenbridge is Group Editor of Business News Publications, a Griffith University alumnus—Bachelor of Communications (journalism, creative writing, film) and the recipient of the 2010 Golden Quill for excellence in journalism—a Gold Coast Media club initiative.

Quick stroll from lecture to theatre

FINAL-YEAR MEDICAL student Charles Noonan (*below*) moved from Tasmania to the Gold Coast after successfully applying for Griffith University’s accelerated two-year Bachelor of Medical Science degree.

“I’ve got one year left and I’m currently full-time at Gold Coast Hospital doing practical in obstetrics,” Noonan says.

Noonan is one of 9000 students enrolled to study across the Griffith Health Group. He is doing practical work at the hospital in seven-week blocks between hitting the books and studying in his final year. Besides convenience, the holistic aspects of having a University Hospital co-located has obvious advantages.

“It’s amazing, we can jump across the road to the hospital, from locker to lecture and into theatre,” he says.

“It’s really exciting to see so many things all happening in the one spot. Everybody is looking forward to the hospital shifting to the new University Hospital. There will be better equipment and facilities and it’s such a nicer environment.”





OWEN ZUPP
MASTER OF AVIATION MANAGEMENT
 Aviation consultant, author and commercial pilot

MY JOURNEY WITH Griffith University began in the wake of the collapse of Ansett Australia. As a commercial pilot it soon became apparent that my skill set was rather narrow in its nature and not generally recognised outside the aviation industry. By undertaking the Masters Degree in Aviation Management I was not only able to formalise my qualifications and experience, but gained a far broader understanding of aviation. This understanding has seen my career achieve a great level of diversity beyond the flight deck.

In the years since graduation I have designed safety management systems and conducted training courses relating to this field. I have also had over 200 articles and one book published on aviation topics ranging from personal wartime sagas to the latest technological advances. These stories have been wide ranging both in scope and geography, being published in Australia, Africa, Europe and North America. There has even been an Aviation Press Club award along the way.

Without doubt, my time at Griffith University broadened my horizons and I availed myself of a whole new world of opportunities. In addition to the enhanced job security stemming from the postgraduate study, the subsequent experience has been overwhelmingly enjoyable. In many ways this enjoyment was typified by my around-Australia flight in May of last year, titled *There and Back*. Marking one hundred years of powered flight in Australia, I flew an all-Australian Jabiru aircraft and raised over \$10,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in the process. Over three weeks and 13,000 kilometres I enjoyed the best seat in the house over this great land and met an equally fascinating range of people.

My aviation experience took a major step up through my time at Griffith University, but I can also sense that the journey still has some way to go.



ROSS JONES
BACHELOR OF COMMERCE
(ECONOMICS AND HUMAN RESOURCES)

I WAS AN electrician living in Brisbane, but I wasn't enjoying it. For me, becoming educated and getting a degree was a way for a career change. I enrolled in the commerce degree under the air force undergraduate scheme, which funded my study, and never looked back.

University study gives you exposure to wider experiences and for me it was a transition from a technical background to managerial roles. It also taught me about researching and how to critically analyse. After graduating I worked for the air force in logistics at locations across Australia including Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne. I was a squadron leader in Canberra for the Aerospace Systems Division and was responsible for logistics preparedness planning.

In 2006 I was deployed to the Middle East for six months as the commander of a combat support element. Today I'm the commanding officer of the recruit training unit, which provides ten and a half weeks of induction training for all personnel at the non-commissioned level entering the air force.



JEMIMA ROBINSON
(NEE DOHERTY)
 BACHELOR OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



MY OLDER SISTERS worked internationally so I knew that's what I wanted to do with my life. I was in the first cohort of my degree so it was a small intake and we had great lecturers. I lived on campus and it was all I imagined it would be.

A lot of my friends that I know now, my core group of friends, are people I met at university. After graduating in 1991 I set off for Banff, Canada, where I saw snow for the first time and worked front counter in a plush hotel. It was so beautiful and so different from Townsville where I grew up.

It was during that time I developed my love of winter sports and heard about the Banff Mountain Film Festival, an international film competition of short films and documentaries about mountain culture, sports and the environment. I didn't know then that I would eventually be the director of the festival.

After a year in Canada I worked in London and Switzerland before a journey around Europe, Asia and Australia where I worked in a variety of jobs. I wanted to work in fashion so I got a job with fashion label Jag and then moved to MARCS as their marketing manager. So all up I worked in fashion for about 10 years and that was a great experience.

My university studies really helped with all those roles, particularly the marketing and events. I took over promotion of the Banff Mountain Film Festival five years ago when there were just five screenings in Australia across three cities. Today there are 33 sold-out screenings and every year it gets bigger.

A L U M N I M A K E T H E I R M A R K



MICK RYAN
BACHELOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

Public servant

I COMPLETED A Bachelor of Communications with a double major in journalism and public relations in 2004 but started work at Brisbane's Channel 7 sports section from late 2003. I did some voluntary work experience which led to a paid, casual position. Little did I realise that only a couple of months later they would offer me a paid position basically to just watch the football and work with Pat Welsh who is an icon in Queensland sports reporting. I have always been really interested in sport and the main reason I decided to study journalism was in the hope I would one day be able to get paid to watch sport, and I had already achieved that goal before I even started the final year of my degree.

I have been in the Queensland Government since I left Channel 7 in late 2006. My career path progressed very quickly once I got into the Queensland Government and I think that was because of the excellent communication, organisational and interpersonal skills I developed from my time at Griffith and at Channel 7. I have progressed to the position of Senior Public Affairs Officer and during this time I have also worked as Senior Media Advisor for two Queensland Government Ministers which is an action-packed role with a great insight into the workings of government and decision making as well as dealing with the media on a constant basis.



ABBEY MCCULLOCH
RESEARCH MASTERS
IN VISUAL ARTS AT
THE QUEENSLAND
COLLEGE OF ART

Finalist in the Archibald Prize 2007 and 2009



MEGAN DAVIDSON
MASTER OF ADULT AND
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN passionate about conservation, which is what led me to establish Sentir Vida—an organisation that aims to give people an experience of a lifetime—while offering the opportunity to improve the environment. Our general conservation projects are aimed at people of all ages and from all walks of life. It is critical work and provides orangutans and other animals in Borneo with a natural corridor of movement.

We work closely with the World Wildlife Fund and the Borneo Orangutan Society to reforest along the Lower Kinabatangan River in Sabah, Borneo. It's truly rewarding to see the animals use the areas we have restored at the end of each visit. We also offer educational projects for school-aged children between 12–17 years of age called *Wild at Heart*, which have been specifically designed by educators to fit within the Australian curricula. It's planned that our first school will be signed up and ready to depart by early 2012.

I enjoy connecting people with what is happening globally so that they can hopefully come home with a renewed energy to make changes locally. I love that we help people make a difference and I enjoy the feedback that I get from each volunteer who has participated in our conservation projects because they are all so inspired and positive.

WHEN I FIRST graduated, it felt impossible to see a future as a practising artist and to be able to make a living at the same time. Now, 11 years into my career, I've been lucky enough to have regular exhibitions and to have the support in terms of sales has been a huge boost. Although I have always felt determined as far as my art goes, I could never have predicted that I'd get to do what I love for a living.

My paintings have always centred on the duality of femininity—the promised package of what it means to be a woman on both the surface and beneath it. I like to focus on the idea of any sort of proposed reality, the manufactured expectations aligning with the insecurities that most women actually face.

There is a real intricacy about the female sense of self-awareness that I aim to uncover in my paintings. The vulnerability of what lies underneath a facade continues to inspire me.

I've always been a self-confessed magazine addict, so it's an honour to be supported by and featured in publications like *Vogue* and *Harpers Bazaar*—the very sources that provide me with most of the inspiration in the first place.

I'm intrigued by the merging of fantasy and reality within the world of fashion and how it influences women. I was recently asked by the Yves Saint Laurent brand to be an ambassador for their cosmetics and it was a surprising and immensely flattering proposal. Again it is interesting how the world of art and fashion are so symbiotic.

Returning to the QCA to undertake my Masters taught me to take stock of things and to develop an understanding of how important it is to always dig that little bit deeper. It has really put my little journey into context.

Painting women and making investigations into my own femininity will continue to be the focal point of my work. It's very rewarding to connect with an audience and it's an absolute pleasure to be able to do what I love each day.



JODI GARDNER
BACHELOR OF LAWS
(HONOURS) AND BACHELOR
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

I RECEIVED A Griffith University Academic Excellence Scholarship and commenced a double degree in Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of International Relations in 2003. During my university student period I worked full-time, largely as research assistant and tutor for the Griffith Law and Griffith Business Schools. This included a number of years at the Centre for Credit and Consumer Law, which ignited my interest in consumer law and my desire to advocate for a fairer and more transparent consumer lending system. Since graduating from Griffith I have worked as the associate for Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, President of the Queensland Court of Appeal, Clayton Utz and non-profit Caxton Street Legal Centre where I coordinated the pro bono response for Queensland flood victims fighting insurance claims.

I was recently awarded a \$150,000 General Sir John Monash Scholarship to study a PhD in consumer law at Oxford University, which I will start in September. It is a great privilege to receive such a prestigious scholarship and to be able to research an area of law that is so important for disadvantaged and struggling Australians. My research at Oxford will allow me to analyse the best elements from UK and European Union consumer law and apply these to the consumer lending system in Australia. This will benefit consumers, lenders and the courts because it will identify and clarify the existing relief available to borrowers adversely affected by unfair lending practices and identify the areas where the law needs to provide better protection for borrowers and security for lenders.



JAMES GAUCI
BACHELOR OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE,
Voice of GPS

A COUPLE OF unexpected events resulted in my postgraduate life starting with a bang rather than a whimper at the end of 2010. My final exam period at Griffith University was fast approaching when a drastic change came in the form of a surprise competition triumph. I won a nationwide search for the TomTom GPS *Voice of Australia*.

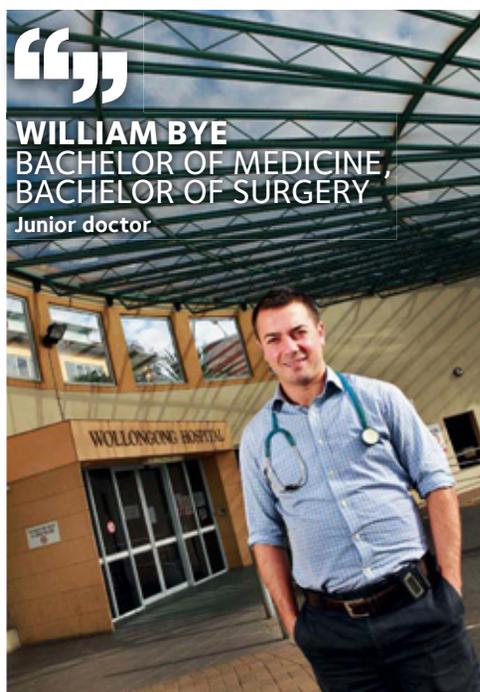
The college years on the microphone, moonlighting as a pub trivia host, paid off as I was flown to Melbourne and Sydney for spots on Sunrise, newspaper interviews and voice-over recording sessions in the same studio used by Hamish and Andy. I breathed a huge sigh of relief with the financial windfall it brought. The \$10,000 prize greatly softened the impending postgraduate, pre-employment spell.

I had found myself in the midst of a strange love-hate grieving process over finishing my degree, dreading the job search and convincing myself that my employment experience and formal education would never marry up on a resumé.

My confidence in my skill-set and Griffith education was restored when I landed a job as a recruitment consultant. My experience in human resources management, gained through my pub trivia job, combined with my understanding of people, organisations and psychometric testing, all developed at university, helped me secure a position with John Davidson & Associates. JDA has been operating as a recruitment provider for the world's largest mining, resources, energy and engineering companies for more than 20 years.

I entered the role backed by a strong family history in the mining industry dating back to my Maltese great-grandfather who worked in a Broken Hill mine in the Great Depression. That mine later became part of Rio Tinto and members of my family have been with that company ever since.

It's exciting knowing that roles I'm helping to fill are now driving some of the largest projects in the world, from diamond drill operators in East Africa, to safe work practices writers in Papua New Guinea, to mobile fleet managers in Kalgoorlie.



WILLIAM BYE
BACHELOR OF MEDICINE,
BACHELOR OF SURGERY
Junior doctor

I FOUND THE notion of choosing a career straight out of school rather daunting and, after completing a general commerce degree, an almost passive migration found me working in banking in Sydney.

A little worldly experience and some slowly developing self-insight made me realise that perhaps this vocation was not for me. A close friend from school was working at the same bank and one late, long evening at the desk we decided to make a move and get out.

After a period of reflection and applications I found myself among the first cohort of medical students at Griffith University's School of Medicine

A L U M N I M A K E T H E I R M A R K



EMMA JONES
BACHELOR OF
ENGINEERING

RELOCATING TO MORANBAH, Central Queensland, was part of the deal with my new job as a graduate geotechnical engineer for BHP Billiton.

Located on the Peak Downs Highway, two hours from Mackay, and with a population of just 11,000, this coal mining town is a far cry from my previous location on the Gold Coast.

I love it here. The people are really friendly, the services are what you would expect in any town and I think I am a real country girl at heart.

My job involves identifying and solving problems in the mine's day-to-day operations, as well as assisting in the design work for new open-pit mining.

The work is very interesting and varied with no chance for me to get bored as no two days are the same. There are also fantastic opportunities for advancement in this area of engineering and a lot of diversity in the types of roles that you can apply for.

Currently I am enrolled in the Foundations for Graduates Program, which is the original reason that BHP was my first choice of employer following graduation. It's a two-year program—some of it including residential trips—where we undertake activities designed to develop our professional skills and manage people more effectively.

I am learning a lot about myself and my values along the way and I can see how beneficial it will be further along my career path. Ultimately I would really love to progress on to senior geotechnical engineer and become an expert in my field. I can't see myself leaving Moranbah any time soon!



DR ROHAN DAVIS
PHD IN MARINE NATURAL PRODUCTS

I COMPLETED MY PhD at Griffith in 2001 and am now group leader of the natural product chemistry team at the University's Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies.

Leading a research team within the Natural Products Drug Discovery Program, my role is predominantly commercially-based with a focus on furthering the needs of pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer and Actelion.

I work within the early stages of the drug discovery process as part of a program that identifies compounds from either terrestrial plants or marine invertebrates that have the potential to be developed into future drugs.

It's an incredible challenge to identify possible drug candidates which tick all the boxes. Unfortunately, the drug discovery and development process has a very high attrition rate. In order for a compound to become a drug it typically must have potent and selective biological activity, be stable within the human body and also produce minimal or preferably no side effects.

However, the thought of being involved in the identification and development of new anti-parasitic, anti-bacterial or anti-cancer compounds from nature is a compelling proposition.

It's this idea, plus the satisfaction that I get from collaborating with academics and commercial parties from all over the world, that spurs me on.



MARTEENA MCKENZIE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
(ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY &
MANAGEMENT), BACHELOR
OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
(HONOURS 1)

WHEN SEEKING OUT a course in environmental science Griffith appealed to me because it had a good reputation for multi-disciplinary environmental studies. I began my studies thinking that all environmental science graduates became park rangers! However, the subjects on offer at Griffith opened my eyes to environmental policy, economics, community development and anthropology.

Following my degree I started an honours project looking at renewable energy policy in regional and remote Australia. This project helped me make connections with relevant organisations in the field and these connections led me to obtain a role with Bushlight a few years later.

Bushlight is part of the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT), which is Australia's peak Indigenous science and technology organisation, based in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

Bushlight works with remote communities of Indigenous people, assisting them with sustainable energy supply and management services.

For my first three years at Bushlight I managed the operations for Central Australia. This involved working with Indigenous people in some of the most remote communities in the Centre, planning and managing the installation of renewable energy systems.

My work at Bushlight has taken me to some of the most beautiful and isolated communities in Australia, from the Kimberley in Western Australia to the islands of the Torres Strait in Queensland, and everywhere in between. Working in the interdisciplinary field of energy efficiency in Indigenous communities is rewarding in so many ways.

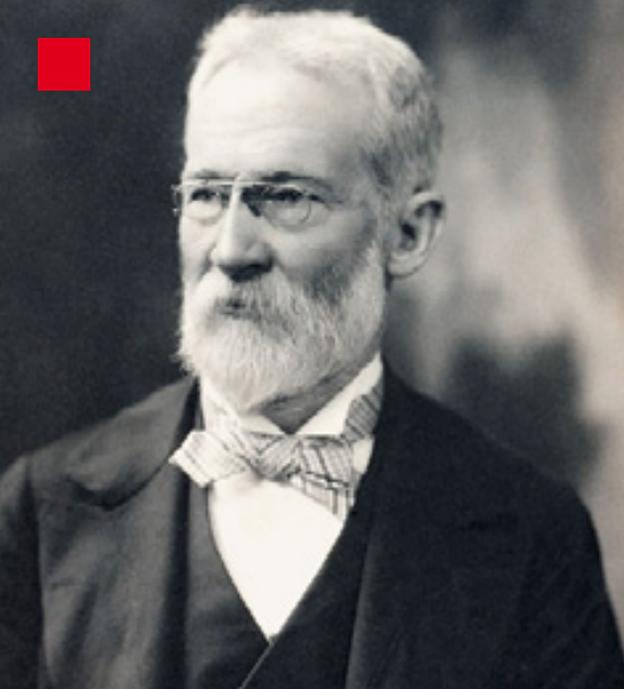
in 2005, chasing what amounted to a more rewarding trade for me.

After completing the four-year post graduate degree, my new direction in life led me back to Sydney where I was fortunate enough to complete my intern and resident years at Prince of Wales Hospital. I was honoured to be chosen the hospital's intern of the year, although it left me scratching my head with wonder. The working environment there is unique. It is a dynamic and challenging workplace where efficient interaction with other healthcare professionals is a priority.

Each day I meet and treat sick people. But there is so much more to the job. I am still learning, from

day to day, to deal with the families of patients and their emotional responses to disease and death.

The work can be demanding and taxing, however the practice of medicine, even as a junior doctor, is a privilege that I find constantly satisfying. At present I am doing my physician training. The length and demands of the training can at times feel overwhelming, but most days are brightened by a positive, uplifting experience with a patient. Quite often it might seem the most trivial of exchanges but it's usually more than enough to make it all worthwhile.



Griffith celebrates 40 years

Sir Samuel Griffith

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY IS named in honour of Australia's first Chief Justice, and renowned Queensland pioneer Sir Samuel Griffith. As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations, a special display of his artefacts will be displayed in University libraries during September and October.

These artefacts shown at Griffith libraries complement an exhibition of Sir Samuel's clothing on display at the Queensland Museum. The Honourable Chief Justice of Queensland Paul de Jersey AC spoke at the official launch of this Sir Samuel Griffith Clothing Collection Exhibition given to the Queensland Museum by the Queensland Women's Historical Association on May 6, 2011.

"Twice Premier and once Attorney-General, Sir Samuel went on to be the third Chief Justice of Queensland, serving from 1893 to 1903, going on to appointment as the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, an office he held from 1903 to 1919," Justice de Jersey said.

"Through those positions, Griffith proved himself a truly great administrator, judge and draftsman, one of this nation's great founding fathers, and perhaps the most significant lawyer Australia has ever seen."

"It is frankly extraordinary that we see today the transfer of such an old collection, but in such good shape. And that is largely due to the initiative of the Queensland Women's Historical Association in garnering, preserving and displaying the collection, particularly driven perhaps in relation to these items by the obvious interest of President Julie Bigge, who is the great granddaughter of Sir Samuel Griffith."

For further information about the Sir Samuel Griffith exhibitions, visit griffith.edu.au/40years

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of the Queensland Parliament's passage of the Griffith University Act to establish South East Queensland's second university. From the outset, Griffith was to be a different type of university, deeply engaged with and responsive to its region—locally, nationally and internationally. Forty years on, Griffith has made significant progress in building one of the leading, research-intensive, comprehensive universities of the Asia Pacific region.

To mark this milestone, alumni are invited to come back to campus and celebrate with their former colleagues and teachers.

BACK TO CAMPUS PROGRAM

Back to Logan Campus	Monday 5 September	3:00–5:00pm
Back to the Conservatorium, South Bank	Tuesday 6 September	5:30–7:30pm
Back to the Queensland College of Art and the Griffith Film School, South Bank	Thursday 8 September	5:30–7:30pm
Back to Gold Coast Campus	Wednesday 28 September	5:30–7:30pm
Back to Mt Gravatt Campus	Monday 10 October	5:30–7:30pm
Back to Nathan Campus	Wednesday 26 October	5:30–7:30pm

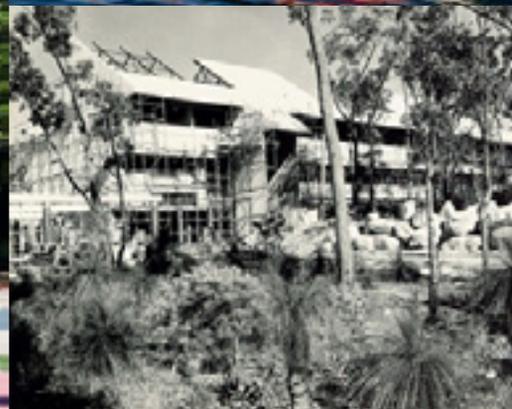
RSVP is essential.

For further information on Back to Campus events, or to register please visit: griffith.edu.au/40years





Foundation Vice Chancellor Professor Emeritus F. John Willet surveying construction sites on Nathan Campus. 1970s



SOME REMARKABLE GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

- **Dauida Allen**
Internationally acclaimed fine artist
- **Gordon Bennett**
Celebrated Australian artist
- **Cathy Border**
State Political Editor, Channel 10
- **Sara Carrigan OAM**
Olympic Gold Medallist
- **Professor Peter Coaldrake AO**
Vice Chancellor, QUT
- **Professor Alan Cowman**
World renowned anti-Malaria researcher
- **Phillip Di Bella**
Founder, Di Bella Coffee
- **Clinton Dines**
Former President BHP Billiton, China
- **The Hon. Andrew Fraser MP**
Queensland Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade

- **Jodi Gardner**
2011 John Monash Scholar
- **Stephen Gregg**
Chair, Queensland Tourism Industry Council and Chair, Queensland Rail Ltd.
- **Ruth Link**
Manager of the Cultural Intervention Project, Queensland Corrective Services
- **Tania Major**
GenerationOne Spokesperson and 2007 Young Australian of the Year
- **Senator the Hon Brett Mason**
Senator for Queensland
- **Daphne Mayo MBE (decd.)**
Pioneering female sculptor
- **Professor Gerard Milburn**
World renowned physicist
- **Tracey Moffatt DUniv**
World renowned artist and filmmaker
- **Katie Noonan**
ARIA award winning singer

- **Margaret Olley AC DUniv (decd.)**
Celebrated Australian Artist
- **Lloyd Rees AC CMG (decd.)**
Celebrated Australian landscape painter
- **William Robinson AO DUniv**
Archibald prize winning artist
- **Professor Paul Simshauser**
Chief Economist and Group Head of Corporate Affairs, AGL Energy Ltd.
- **Andrew Slack**
Former Australian Rugby Union Captain
- **Dr Ly Qui Trung**
Leading franchising entrepreneur
- **Professor Mark von Itzstein**
Co-Inventor of the anti-viral drug Relenza TM
- **Jonathon Welch AM DUniv**
Singer/Performer/Recording Artist/Educator

Giving back to Griffith



Clockwise from far left: Luara Karlson-Carp, Students' Future Fund Scholarship recipient; Professor Lyn Griffiths, Director of Griffith Health Institute; Colgate gets behind rural, remote and Indigenous oral health at Brewarrina.

WE ARE COMMITTED to staying connected with our Alumni and recognising their achievements. Join the Griffith Alumni LinkedIn community to enhance your career opportunities and stay in touch with us through our monthly eNewsletter. We want to hear your latest career highlights and share your stories. Contact our Alumni Relations Manager today on +61 7 555 27218 or email: alumni@griffith.edu.au. To register your details with us go to griffith.edu.au/development-alumni



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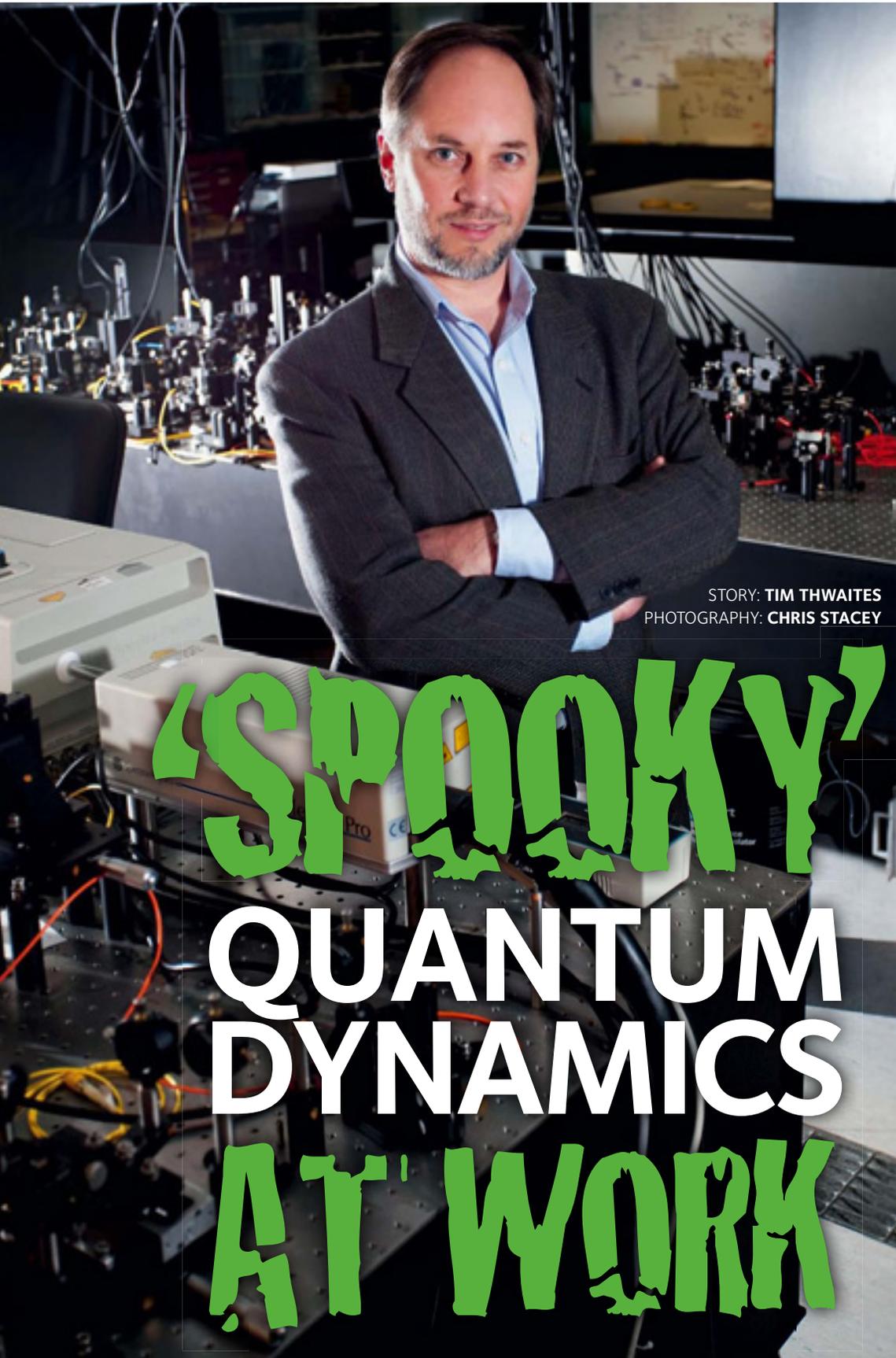
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3

Griffith Business School dinner.





STORY: **TIM THWAITES**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **CHRIS STACEY**

'SPOOKY' QUANTUM DYNAMICS AT WORK

Left: Professor Howard Wiseman, director, Centre for Quantum Dynamics

Right: The Australian Attosecond Science Facility laser system, generating the fastest light pulses in the country.

HUMANS HAVE DIFFICULTY coping with the very large, on the scale of the universe, and the very small, on the scale of atoms. Our size dominates the way we think.

For instance, it took an Einstein to see that Newton's laws of motion only work well in the tiny speck of space where humans live and gravity rules. Einstein formulated his own vision of a vast universe of stars, galaxies, supernovae and black holes, where energy moves at the speed of light and over eons of time. But it's still difficult for many to comprehend.

At the other extreme of the very small—at the scale of atoms and electrons—gravity is unimportant and electrical and nuclear forces come into their own. Here, even Einstein was confounded by what he and others found. "Spooky" was the term he famously used.

That's the very area in which Griffith's Centre for Quantum Dynamics is at the forefront, recognised for its achievements both inside and outside the University—externally by the highest possible 5-star rating, both for physical sciences overall and for quantum physics, in the Australian Research Council's (ARC) Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2010 assessment and internally by this year's Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Award.

While the Centre's research is of fundamental significance, adding to our basic understanding of the construction and workings of atoms, it also has direct application to matters of importance to our daily lives, such as the security of communications, new ways of delivering cancer therapy and the future of computing,



in particular the lure of a new high-capacity, blindingly fast, quantum internet.

“We are a pure science centre, but with technological applications,” says the director, Professor Howard Wiseman, an ARC Federation Fellow in 2004. “We just want to understand the world better through understanding the behaviour of microscopic particles such as photons, electrons and atoms. This behaviour is governed by quantum mechanics, which is very different from the behaviour of macroscopic systems.”

Very different indeed, when you consider phenomena such as “entanglement”, where two particles at a distance from each other both react instantaneously and in the same way to a measurement performed on one of them, or “superposition”, where a particle can be in two different places at the same time. Studying such particles is not made any easier by the fact that the very act of measurement changes what you are measuring.

Griffith University has a history of studying atomic physics which extends back to its foundation in the 1970s. That history includes Emeritus Professor David Pegg, a key figure in the research that became quantum information theory, now a focus of the Centre.

The Centre itself is small and tightly integrated, with research groups led by two professors and four associate professors. It is almost entirely based in one building on Griffith’s Nathan campus, but has just appointed a part-time member in biophysics on the Gold Coast campus. Its resources include the Australian Attosecond Science Facility, and it is a node of two of the Australian Research Council’s Centres of Excellence—Quantum

Computation and Communication Technology, and Coherent X-ray Science.

In the past five years members of the Centre have distinguished themselves by publishing work in many of the world’s most prestigious journals including *Science*, *Nature* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. But more importantly, the Centre has provided opportunities, facilities and an atmosphere to attract people such as Professor David Kielpinski, from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who works on imaging atoms, and Michael Pullen, a student from Shepparton in country Victoria, who has just completed a PhD on verifying experimentally the quantum description of the simplest atom of them all, hydrogen (see sidebar over page).

Wiseman thinks that one of the secrets of the Centre’s success is its “open plan” laboratory. “It’s a very large space in which there will usually be several people working. And I think that’s really contributed a lot to collaboration between groups—theorists and experimentalists—which is quite unusual anywhere in the world.”

And that is exemplified in Wiseman’s own work, where he, a theorist, has had a long-term collaboration with Centre experimentalist, Associate Professor Geoff Pryde. Their latest publication tackles entanglement—Einstein’s “spooky action at a distance”—head on. Wiseman defined the conditions for proving this spooky action more rigorously than ever before. Then

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DID YOU KNOW?

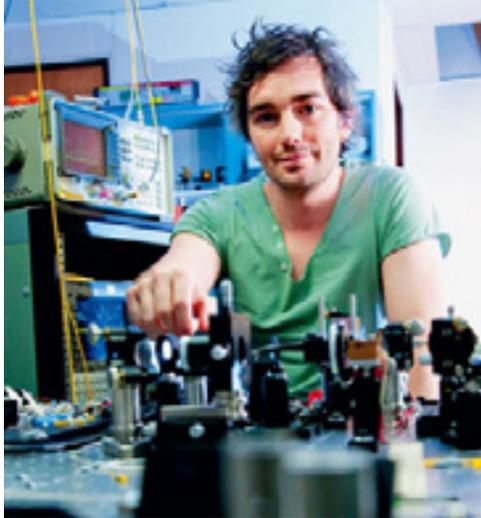
1 Did you know Albert Einstein was a brilliant violinist soloist with the London Symphony in his early years? When he first discovered that $E=mc^2$, his theory of relativity, it superseded a 200-year-old theory of mechanics elucidated by Isaac Newton. But he denied that Newton could ever be superseded by his own work.

2 John Nash, the subject of the film *A Beautiful Mind*, says (seriously) that what actually sent him mad was trying to understand Quantum Mechanics.

3 Einstein, even though he was one of the founders of Quantum Mechanics, never liked the theory.

4 The same is true of Schrodinger. He’s an interesting character who worked out the equations for modern quantum theory while on holidays in an Alpine chalet with his mistress.

5 One of the most important equations in Quantum Mechanics was first published as a footnote. This was in a paper by Max Born, who was Olivia Newton-John’s grandfather.



The world of H by Michael Pullen

THE WORLD IN which Michael Pullen now works is a long way from the fruit trees and dairy farms surrounding Shepparton in Victoria where he grew up. For the past four years he has been in Brisbane using lasers to glimpse the world of the hydrogen atom, where distances are measured in millionths of a millimetre and time in infinitesimal fractions of a second.

He has just completed a PhD in Griffith University's Centre for Quantum Dynamics where he was collecting data on how closely the behaviour of atomic hydrogen—the simplest atom of all—matches the description provided by quantum mechanics theory.

And he found quantitative agreement with predicted outcomes under conditions where it had never been seen before. It is a good result, it is reproducible and it shows that, at least for hydrogen, quantum mechanics provides an excellent description of the real world.

The two main pieces of equipment Michael uses are sophisticated, delicate and the only examples of their type in Australia. They were part of the reason he came to Griffith in the first place.

One is the Australian Attosecond Science Facility, a state-of-the-art laser facility which has been described as Australia's fastest camera, producing pulses of light measured in billionths of a billionth of a second, fast enough to watch an electron orbiting an atomic nucleus.

And, for Michael's experiment, it was paired with a hydrogen atom beamline. Hydrogen usually occurs in the form of molecules, a pair of atoms in each. To generate individual atoms demands not just considerable energy at just the right radio frequency to split the molecule but, once that has been achieved, to keep the atoms from colliding with any surface thus reforming molecules. "In the end, you get a pink ball of gas," Michael says. "It makes a great picture."

Michael now hopes to go on in research as a post-doctoral fellow. While winding up his experimental work and showing others what he has learned about the equipment, he is actively searching for another position. With his experience, there should be little problem.

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they tested the work experimentally by generating two entangled particles, photons of light, in one laboratory (conventionally called Bob's lab) and sending one of them through a kilometre of optical fibre to a second laboratory (Alice's lab).

They were able to show that what Alice chose to do in her lab could influence the state of Bob's photon, even when the chance of Alice receiving her photon was very small (most of the time it gets absorbed in the optical fibre or lost elsewhere). This verification of spooky action at long distances could eventually be harnessed to detect eavesdroppers on a quantum communication channel, they say, because any interference with transmission would destroy the effect.

It was Wiseman's commitment to creating the right sort of environment for quantum research that drew Kielpinski to Griffith. "Howard took some money out of his Federation Fellowship and dedicated it to creating a new position—the position I now hold. It was advertised with a five-year holiday from teaching, something you would never get in the US. It was just an outstanding opportunity."

The move has paid off. Kielpinski works with electrically charged atoms known as trapped ions in an ultrahigh vacuum chamber. These individual atoms are completely isolated from everything else, "quantum objects floating in a vacuum", he says. They can be manipulated electronically to absorb or emit light and thus they may become the transistors or logic gates of a quantum computer.

Computation in a standard computer depends on calculations using ones and zeros, represented by whether each of the millions of transistors on a silicon chip is carrying current or not. Quantum elements such as the trapped ions, however, are capable of superposition. They can be on or off at the same time. This holds the possibility of undertaking multiple calculations in parallel, thus speeding up computing enormously.

But the only way you can determine an answer is by detecting whether the atom is on or off, absorbing or emitting light. Determining the readout from large numbers of atoms was a significant problem until Kielpinski and collaborator Dr Erik Steed re-purposed the Fresnel lens—an old technology originally used in lighthouses—to amplify the light emitted. They now use the same technology as a form of microscope to produce the highest quality images of single atoms in the world.

In their research into quantum computing and communications, Wiseman, Pryde, Kielpinski and their colleagues are slowly fashioning the elements of what could become a superfast quantum internet.

Kielpinski's appointment has paid off in another way too. Having worked on ultrafast optics at MIT, it was he who saw the value to the Centre of acquiring the Australian Attosecond Science Facility, where lasers could pulse rapidly enough to allow interaction at the speeds at which atoms and electrons operate.

Now he and Wiseman want to find support for a proposed Australian Laser Accelerator, a synchrotron-like machine which uses lasers rather than electromagnetic fields to produce small X-ray beam lines cheaply. As well as assisting their research and the work of many others, they argue that laser-accelerated particles are already being used to treat inoperable cancers in Europe, Japan and the US. Such technology would only cost tens of millions of dollars as opposed to the hundreds of millions for a synchrotron.

"Something special is happening here in the Centre for Quantum Dynamics," Kielpinski says. "It is a really unusual thing to have a group of people in a university who are all playing on the same team to this extent. That was one of the things I found really refreshing in coming here." 🍷

For further information griffith.edu.au/science-aviation/centre-quantum-dynamics

L-R Professor Dave Kielpinski and Associate Professor Igor Litvinyuk adjusting the reaction microscope.



TRAIPSING FROM TOWN to town with a raggle-taggle troupe of world-weary clowns and acrobats is not all it's cracked up to be, so if you're going to run away with the circus it's best to do it in style.

It is 10 years since Mimi Venker gave up the Gold Coast for the globe and disappeared under a big top with arguably the greatest circus in the world.

Australia's fascination with Cirque du Soleil started in 1999 when its Saltimbanco show first toured down under.

In the Brisbane audience, a 21-year-old Griffith University graduate saw beyond the artistry and the agility. Mimi Venker spied a career and then showed all the audacity of a trapeze artist in mid-air to reach out and behold her dream.

"I had seen the Cirque on video years before it came to Australia and then went to see Saltimbanco on its original Australian tour," she says.

"I immediately thought this was something that I wanted to do even though I did not know at the time that they had physiotherapists. The diversity of the performers and athletes was amazing and it appealed to my background."

Mimi Venker had grown up in a family environment where the arts and entertainment loitered happily. Dance and gymnastics became a part of her life from an early stage, before she intensified her focus and combined the dance with acrobatics while a student at All Saints Anglican School.

Although she would later dance professionally during her university years, the limelight's lure was not for Mimi.

"I always knew I wanted to work behind the scenes," she says. "Physiotherapy was the obvious choice for me."

She graduated from Griffith University with a degree in exercise science in 1999, the year the circus came to town. She would further her education with a Master of Physiotherapy after the circus left town, but acrobatic thoughts never ventured far from her mind.

When Associate Professor Libby Gass brought her attention to a Cirque du Soleil advert for a full-time physiotherapist in *The Australian*, Mimi put pen to paper in spite of her intentions to complete her education.

The application created a connection that endured, indeed strengthened, across a decade and a host of continents.

"I kept in contact with Cirque du Soleil up until I finished studying and then contacted them to see if I could visit the physio team on Alegria when they came to Australia in 2001.



WHEN THE **BIG TOP** BECKONS

STEPHEN O'GRADY TALKS
WITH MIMI VENKER,
MASTER OF PHYSIOTHERAPY
ALUMNUS AND PERFORMANCE
MEDICINE SUPERVISOR AT
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.



"I spent the day with the physios to get an idea of what was involved and then fortunately the head of the Performance Medicine Department in Montreal contacted me about six months later and invited me to apply for a new touring show. I got the job."

Her first day on the job in March 2002 was in the Montreal office where the Cirque du Soleil shows are conceived. From there her new career took flight, taking her throughout Canada, the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Europe, New Zealand and to Sydney during the next 10 years. She also lived in Las Vegas for three years working with one of Cirque's permanent shows before hitting the road again.

When she touched down on a steamy hot Gold Coast to celebrate the past Christmas at home, she left behind the cold and biting winds of Atlantic City. Her return to work after Christmas landed her in the sub-zero climes that Texas offers in January.

"You're living out of a suitcase unless you're working on a permanent show," she says.

"But it's very addictive. There's always something different happening from day to day. Working in a clinic would be very different.

"You become part of the touring family. In my case I'm still doing a medical job so I can't get too close to everyone. The rules of confidentiality still abide."

Mimi's tools of the trade include a mobile gym which is packed up and trucked from city to city at the end of each show. As the Performance Medicine Supervisor on tour, responsible for the good health of 50 artists and a touring staff of 125, she also liaises with local orthopaedic and sports medicine doctors from city to city and country to country.

She supervises therapists and works within a multi-disciplinary artistic team.

"I provide Pilates and specific exercise programs to maintain the high acrobatic/physical needs of the show.

"As well as being available during times of all trainings we are on site for all shows and provide emergency medical care when needed as well as regular things such as taping, strapping and overall education and advice."

Right now she sees no reason to run away from the circus. She tried it once before, when she planned to settle down in Queensland some years ago, but her smile and highly-rated physiotherapy skills were in constant demand as she was called back to work in Sydney first, and then New Zealand, Mexico and the world.

"Australian physios are known for their good training. We are also recognised as very adaptable.

"I'd leave for love," she says. Except, maybe she loves it too much to leave. 🎪



LUNCH TIME HEROES IN FAT FIGHT

STORY: STEPHEN O'GRADY

IT'S LUNCHTIME, IT'S a weekday and you're peckish. But you're under pressure for time, have an email backlog swelling your inbox and food on the move is the easy option.

Not entirely unfamiliar, the fast food place on the corner presents itself in timely fashion and before you've given it a second thought, you're in, you're out and you have the brown paper bag to show for it.

Before you get back to your car for the short drive back to the office, a friendly researcher intervenes, angling for a moment of your precious time.

You're the receptive type. You resist the alluring whiff rising from the brown paper bag and agree to help out.

"Did you choose any of the healthy options on offer in the fast food restaurant?" she asks. And only now do you pause for thought.

Griffith University graduate Louise Atkinson was that researcher. As part of her Master of Nutrition and Dietetics study, the Gold Coast researcher studied customer habits at the counters of fast food restaurants in Queensland's southeast corner.

Revealing that fewer than 3 per cent of fast food clientele chose salad and wraps before burger and chips launched the 23-year-old into the eye of a media storm last autumn, culminating in a full presentation of her findings at the national conference of the Dietitians Association of Australia in Adelaide.

Atkinson's research is just one small but important example of the time and effort Griffith University researchers are devoting to the battle against obesity.

Professor Elizabeth Kendall, director of the Healthy Places Healthy People research program at the Griffith Health Institute, explains: "At Griffith, we have researchers working on genetic predispositions to obesity, also on counselling and online programs to support good nutrition, ways of building communities that support healthy lifestyles and tools for better health planning.

"Griffith research gives a comprehensive response to obesity and helps to understand how obesity can be tackled at all levels. This multilevel approach is critical, incorporating genetics, nutrition, psychology, sociology, urban planning and spatial understanding."

Obesity remains a complex problem that requires complex and often unprecedented responses.

An Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development report released last September revealed obesity rates in Australia to be higher than in any other advanced economy over the past two decades.

As director of the Healthy Places Healthy People research program, Professor Kendall is happy to take a pivotal role when the opportunity arises. On a Thursday afternoon, she sets an online ball rolling with an open email to interested colleagues seeking their input to guide an interdisciplinary response.

Soon, informed opinion on how to bring down the beast that is obesity is bouncing around Griffith University, from campus to campus and from school to school.

From the health sciences building on the Gold Coast campus, Professor Lyn Griffiths, director of the Griffith Health Institute, is quick to reply with her focus on cardiovascular disease (CVD), its risk factors, including obesity, high cholesterol and high blood pressure, and her ongoing study of the genes that influence CVD risk among the isolated population of Norfolk Island.

Professor Griffiths also points to further research on obesity by Dr Natalie Colson at the Griffith Health Institute, who is investigating the reward pathway at the centre of the brain, the section responsible for driving our feelings of motivation, reward and behaviour.

"I focus on how a high sugar diet may change signals from neurotransmitters and receptors in the brain," Dr Colson explains.

Also on the Gold Coast campus Dr Liisa Laakso is leading a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, developing a secure, online, interactive device to help people with chronic disease manage their health.

"People who are obese face many barriers to regaining their health," says Dr Laakso, deputy head of the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science.

"These barriers are created by difficulty accessing help and socioeconomic restrictions and attitudes, both their own and those of the community."

"Griffith research gives a comprehensive response to obesity and helps to understand how obesity can be tackled at all levels."

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH KENDALL

From the Social and Population Health research program at Logan campus, Dr Carolyn Ehrlich has taken her research into the domain of general practices where she has uncovered a key role for nurses in the fight against obesity.

"It was important for people to draw on their natural support networks and once nurses understood the importance of the context within which people lose weight or gain weight, they were able to become powerful allies against obesity," she says.

Support is also a key strategy used by Associate Professor Saras Henderson, also from the Social and Population Health research program. Working with Professor Kendall, she found that obesity was viewed as a common challenge by the Pacific Islander people living in the Logan-Beaudesert area of Queensland.

"They believed that their culture played a major role in the eating patterns that contributed to obesity," she says.

"Pacific Islander people recognise the need for healthy eating promotion activities to reduce obesity; however cultural foods such as taro must be included in the diet plan."

Also at the University's Logan campus Dr Shawn Somerset enters the discussion.

Dr Somerset is a senior lecturer and nutrition specialist at the School of Public Health and an expert in the area of community-based health promotion, environmentally sustainable living and food choice.

"We have found that enriching the monounsaturated fat content in the diet of overweight people can reduce cardiovascular risk independent of weight reduction," he says.

"We have also done preliminary work on how people acquire food and the potential for urban environments to influence the risk of obesity."

In another corner of the Logan campus this topic has raised the interest of urban planner Ori Gudes. For almost three years he has worked closely with Professor Kendall on a Griffith University Australian Research Council project that aims to shift the focus of health planning in the Logan and Beaudesert areas.

Much of this time has been dedicated to gathering urban information and formatting this data so it can contribute to the



Professor Elizabeth Kendall

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Sara's life cycle

FOR OLYMPIC GOLD medallist Sara Carrigan OAM, embracing a positive lifestyle is like learning to ride a bike.

The 2004 Athens champion is overseeing a cycling revolution on Queensland's Gold Coast and the ethos of her cycling school has as much to do with friendship and fun as it does with road etiquette and safe cycling.

"When you cycle you don't even think about losing weight. It's just such a healthy environment that involves discipline and responsibility where you're in control of a machine," she says.

"Cycling gives people confidence and a motivation to feel better about themselves and this translates into a positive lifestyle.

"What I do is try to educate people and make them feel more confident and ultimately safer. Cycling goes from being a scary experience to a positive lifestyle choice."

Sara Carrigan graduated from Griffith University with a degree in business in 2010, a university journey that started 12 years ago but which involved detours to Athens and a maze of other racing circuits before the degree was in the bag.

"I was determined to get it done. It was almost as good as winning a gold medal when I got my degree."

Ranging from young children to a more mature vintage, her cycling students form new relationships and friendships as quickly as they hone muscles and lose kilos.

The classes begin in the safe surrounds of the Gold Coast Velodrome where starting, stopping and braking are practised before the group ventures out to a more challenging roadside environment.

"Before I started my courses, after getting home from Europe, there were no formal courses that existed to teach those who wished to learn the appropriate techniques to feel safe, confident and comfortable.

"New cyclists often imitated those they thought were going strong. Ultimately they developed bad habits and with time their confidence dwindled and their safety was compromised.

"This is all about safety and a healthy lifestyle."

continued from page 21

knowledge to underpin this different approach to health planning," Professor Kendall explains.

A geographic information systems expert, Gudes arrived from Israel to develop the geospatial tool that could revolutionise health policy development in Logan and Beaudesert.

Now, intrigued by Dr Somerset's investigations into how people acquire food, he wants to know more.

"It would be interesting to know how people acquire healthy food versus unhealthy food and we could map the locations of obesity and food acquisition to see if there are any patterns.

"For instance, it would be interesting to know whether places which are associated with a low level of accessibility to healthy outlets are also areas of higher levels of body mass index."

Even as he asks the question, Gudes seeks to answer it by using the geospatial planning tool to map several layers of data against each other.

"With this tool, we will be able to use sophisticated analysis, such as spatial regression, to find answers to the obesity problem. Hopefully those answers will influence planners and policy-makers in future."

Dr Somerset replies that there are extensive studies in this area, but the results are open to interpretation

because of the complicated way in which people acquire and consume food.

"People generally do their shopping on the way to or from work, school, university, etc," he says.

When Ori Gudes combines the datasets on fast food restaurants and the schools in the region, he immediately notices that some schools are virtually caged in by the fast food shops.

"The proximity of schools to fast food outlets must be associated with childhood obesity, although this is just an assumption until we test it fully."

Dr Somerset adds: "It is not just the geographical make-up in isolation that affects people's diets, but also how they navigate their environment.

"It would be interesting to map their food environment and then track where they acquire, store, prepare and consume foods, and also understand their reasons for specific choices at each stage.

"For example, the choice of food outlet, the choice of food, choice of recipe, how they choose to prepare their food. Who do they eat their food with? Where? How?

"The type of study I would like to do is to focus on a specific neighbourhood, and learn how individuals within that neighbourhood make decisions about food choice."

For further information griffith.edu.au/health/griffith-health-institute



Ori Gudes, who developed geo-spatial tools looking at obesity and the location of fast food outlets in Logan and Beaudesert

VISIONS TAKE FLIGHT TO SILICON VALLEY

LOUISE DURACK SPEAKS TO GREG PHIPPS, BACHELOR OF INFORMATICS ALUMNUS AND TECHNICAL PROGRAM MANAGER FOR GOOGLE.

A CAREER AS a fighter pilot had been a long-held dream since childhood for Greg Phipps but fate got in the way and it was not to be. Instead he found himself turning to a career in technology just as things began to heat up with the internet revolution. “It was my eyesight that let me down,” the former Queensland, a self-confessed internet veteran, tells me, speaking from his adopted homeland near California’s Silicon Valley.

It was during his time in training at Melbourne’s Officer Cadet School in the Australian Air Force, straight from high school, that his dream was scuppered during a routine medical.

“The doctor told me I was too short sighted to fly aircraft so that put paid to that,” he says with a whimsical sigh. It also signalled the end of his university degree in aeronautical engineering.

Next stop was a Bachelor of Economics degree, coupled with part-time work in a bank to fund his studies. “I was a bit undecided about what I wanted to do and being told I couldn’t become a fighter pilot had really thrown me, so I think I was desperately trying to fill the void with something else,” he says.

“It turned out that my other great love was computers, as it was about this time that I bought my first PC, the Commodore Amiga. Initially I bought it just to play games such as Pong but I was hooked from the start and didn’t realise that the world was on the edge of such dramatic change with technology,” he says.

Economics didn’t fulfil its promises for Greg either, and it wasn’t until signing up for the Bachelor of Informatics program at Griffith University in 1989 that he found there really was life outside of being a fighter pilot.

“Once I got into the study at Griffith, I knew it was third time lucky on a university degree and right from the beginning I immersed myself in the software engineering modules and the project management opportunities that opened up for me in interesting new areas such as artificial intelligence.”

He says those early days of learning, and especially the learning opportunities to project-manage large scale IT projects, really helped to shape the path that his career began to take following graduation in 1991.

Software development consulting in locations such as Canberra and Sydney were the precursor for what Greg says was to become a move into the more exciting world of program management.

“I remember I was working in consultancy back in about 1994, just prior to when Microsoft was about to launch Windows 95 and the Microsoft network.

“I became very involved in building Microsoft systems on top of what was then the first proprietary Microsoft network and it was thrilling to see what could be achieved.

“My company at the time sent me to a conference at Microsoft in San Jose to learn more about the technology. Little did I know then that I would be working for Microsoft at a later date.”

Lots of work-related travel and a stint working for Lintas

Online—a company famous for producing the first ever website—followed, and Phipps was kept busy building the first online share trading system for Commonwealth Bank Securities and then later in program management for the Australian version of travel website Expedia, which was originally developed by Microsoft.

“I was lucky to be right on the cutting edge of building commerce sites back in the heyday,” he says. “We were using dial-up connections of course and so it was challenging to be building connections over low bandwidth but it was exciting to see people begin to book holidays over the internet.”

Four different roles at Microsoft—mainly working in program management and online mapping—ensued, with Phipps ultimately moving to the Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Seattle, and a new life in the US.

He points to the great progress that online mapping has made over the last few years and says it was the breakthrough in this technology that led him into managing the engineering group at Yahoo, prior to eventually taking on his current role at Google where he manages the building of software infrastructure for the “local business area”.

Griffith University Alumnus
Greg Phipps at Google



PICTURE: CHUCK BARRY

“The whole local area is very interesting and although currently there is only about 10 per cent of local spend conducted online, this area has huge potential over the next few years,” he says. “For example, Facebook adding support for check-ins at the airport.”

Having a chat about the topic with the social networking king himself, Mark Zuckerberg, during a job interview was also part of Phipps’s agenda in 2009. “He is certainly one of the most passionate, focused and intelligent technology guys that I have come across during my career,” Phipps says. “Luckily I had a Facebook account with a respectable amount of friends on it at the time, so I didn’t have anything to worry about, despite not getting the gig!”

For the last two years at Google, Phipps has been working on the features and functionality of the ubiquitous mapping technology and satellite imagery, aiming to keep up with the high churn rate of the local business area. “Keeping up the freshness of businesses is pretty intensive and getting up-to-date data is always a challenge.” 📍

Happiness at work

STORY: LYNNE BLUNDELL



Professor Adrian Wilkinson,
director Centre for Work,
Organisation and Wellbeing

GONE ARE THE days when work was something that provided an income and, if you were lucky, even a modicum of satisfaction. These days we expect much more from our workplace. Most people want their work to be meaningful and well remunerated and to feel they have a say in their workplace. And employers are increasingly aware that work satisfaction benefits both sides—a happier, healthier workforce means higher productivity and profits.

We hear a lot about work/life balance and the word workplace is increasingly linked with terms such as “engagement” and “wellbeing”. But just how engaged are most people at work?

According to global leadership consulting firm Blessing White, disengagement at work is currently costing Australian companies \$33 billion a year. This is despite the fact that Australia gets a high workplace engagement score, second only to India in Blessing White’s Employee Engagement Report 2011.

The report, which involved surveying 11,000 individuals globally, concludes that fewer than one in three employees worldwide (31 per cent) are engaged and nearly one in five (17 per cent) are actually disengaged.

With skills shortage a key issue, the concept of workplace wellbeing is taken seriously by organisations of all sizes. Many struggle, however, to effectively engage their workforce.

Professor Adrian Wilkinson, director of the Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing at Griffith University, says the concept of engagement at work has come out of two different philosophies. The first is a democratic and humanist approach which says workers have a right to be involved and have a say at work, and the other is about economic efficiency, where employers see the sense in engaging employees to have better access to their knowledge and because they will be more productive.

“Those two streams have been running parallel and we have ended up with a debate about engagement. The

modern view is that workers want to do a good job but there are often barriers to this created by management,” Wilkinson says.

“People intuitively see how engagement benefits their business but they need a road map.”

Professor Wilkinson is currently running a number of Australian Research Council projects at the Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing. One of these, Managing Productive and Collaborative Relationships in Australian Workplaces, is aiming to develop a training toolkit for line managers and employee representatives to help create effective, collaborative workplace arrangements, which in turn would improve productivity.

“There are currently gaps in our knowledge of how successful relationships between employees, their representatives and managers are conducted. In this study we’re aiming to identify the elements of mutually beneficial, productive relations and understand how these elements can enhance collaborative workplace relations in unionised and non-unionised Australian workplaces,” Wilkinson says.

A significant aspect of this research is identifying the important role of middle managers in effective collaboration in the workplace.

“The link between initiatives to increase workplace engagement and the effectiveness of line managers is critical,” Wilkinson says. “Ninety-five percent of interactions of workers are with their direct managers, so having their buy-in for engagement programs is absolutely essential.”

This is echoed in the Blessing White survey, which found that good relationships with managers impact more on engagement levels than do the managers’ skills. It found that employees want to know their managers as “people” beyond their work role and title.

Susan Ferrier, head of People, Performance and Culture at global financial advisory firm KPMG, says giving middle managers the tools and skills to effectively communicate with those who work with them is a key part of KPMG’s human resource strategy.



is a two-way street

“We know how important it is that our performance managers effectively communicate with their team members and we do a lot of work to support them in this through skills workshops and briefing packs.”

In addition to running engagement surveys every two years, KPMG has initiated a culture change program to move the organisation towards a client-centric model. This encourages all employees to constructively challenge each other and to be very ambitious for the client.

As part of this process the company is using tools to measure both individual and corporate motivations that guide behaviour and affect performance.

“We’re using these tools for cultural shift. These measure an aspect of wellbeing in that we think if we are more client centric, collaborative and ambitious for our teams, our clients and the firm, we will be more successful as well as more energised and engaged,” Ferrier says.

And at the end of the day no amount of talk about engagement, workplace surveys or motivational workshops will have any effect if employees feel it is just that—talk.

Professor Wilkinson says this is the danger for employers—initiating too many programs without giving real voice to employees.

“The danger is providing forums that go nowhere. It is very easy to turn people off and to make them cynical about the motivation of management if their concerns and views are not acted upon. Then it’s hard to get them back,” Wilkinson says.

It is this ability to act on engagement strategies that Professor Wilkinson and his team hope to define through their research project. A key aim is to model the essential internal factors, such as interactions between line managers, employee representatives and workplace structures and processes that make collaboration possible. 

Further information griffith.edu.au/business-commerce/centre-work-organisation-wellbeing

Team trains to engage

DAVID MORGAN, MANAGING director of Runaway Bay Sport and Leadership Excellence Centre and a Griffith University Alumnus, who graduated with a Masters in Business Administration in 2007, has instigated a program in his organisation to encourage collaboration and higher engagement.

Called Team Active, the program brings together all employees in sports and other activities once a week. Prior to this the seven independent business units at the large athletics training venue were very separate with the remuneration of managers directly linked to their financial performance.

“This was good on one level but it created a silo effect,” Morgan says. “Managers were very focused on their own unit without much thought for how the rest of the organisation was faring.”

Measurement of engagement levels showed that 50 per cent of employees were apathetic, 25 per cent disengaged and 25 per cent highly engaged. What David Morgan wanted was to move more into the highly engaged category.

“We haven’t measured the numbers as yet but we can see in our monthly financials that business profitability is up, absenteeism is down and from that we can assume productivity has improved.

“Our aim was to tap into the discretionary effort of our staff. We

are in a very competitive industry and we can’t differentiate ourselves through our equipment but we can do it through our work culture—it’s hard for our competitors to replicate that,” Morgan says.

Meanwhile Shaylan Ramnath, who is studying the Bachelor of Commerce (professional) at Griffith University, is currently doing an internship at the ANZ Bank on the Gold Coast as an associate financial planner. He is experiencing the value of collaborative effort first-hand in ANZ’s mentor program.

As part of the mentor program, each associate is closely mentored by a senior planner. The bank also forms teams of around 10 financial planners for each region, referred to as hubs.

“The mentor system is very supportive. I feel I’m able to voice my concerns to my mentor, Nathan Jeffery, and to get support where I have gaps in my knowledge.

“The hub also works well. There is a risk when you work for a large organisation that you end up feeling like a small fish in a big pond but the hub makes you feel like you’re part of a team and that you are heard. It’s very social as well as work oriented,” Ramnath says.

Mentor Nathan Jeffery agrees: “Financial planning can be a bit of a solo occupation but the team-oriented environment makes it much more collaborative.”





PENTACON

STORY: PHIL BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS STACEY

Professor Huib Schippers,
director, Queensland
Conservatorium Griffith
University

PROFESSOR HUIB SCHIPPERS, director of Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, says a groundbreaking international alliance between five institutions, dubbed Pentacon, is making inroads in a sector still hovering between the 19th and the 21st centuries.

Pentacon focuses on five broad themes that need addressing to bridge this gap: practice-based research, new pedagogical models, the development of the interface between music and technology, professional preparation for emerging musicians, and community engagement.

The five partners of Pentacon, an initiative of Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, include the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (London); Sibelius Academy (Helsinki); The Schulig School of Music of McGill University (Montreal); The Royal Conservatoire in The Hague with its links to Conservatorium Groningen, Orpheus Institute Ghent, and the University of Leiden; and of course Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and its Research Centre.

The inspiration for the group came at a meeting of the AEC (Association Europeenne des Conservatoires) in Maastricht in 2010. Professor Schippers says he looked around the room and thought: "Conservatoires are fabulous institutions and add much to society but they are not always as responsive to the needs of the 21st century as they could be. Who among the people here are really going to move on the themes we have been talking about for over a decade?"

Breaking away into a smaller working group to streamline and champion change was seen as exclusive by some but Professor Schippers doesn't apologise for that.

"In three decades of leadership in music I have learned that if you want to create movement in an area like this, you don't start pushing

from the bottom, you have to pull from the top," Professor Schippers says. "This is why we chose the format of taking five forward-looking conservatoires and seeing how far they can get in five years, rather than working with all 300 or so conservatoires in the AEC. There is room for that in other forums.

"The collaboration is aimed at generating insights and sharing experiences that will inform how we address the needs of students, curriculum development, organisational models, international benchmarking, inspiring leadership, staff development, strategies for implementing change, effective use of space and maintaining a creative atmosphere in university sectors with ever-increasing emphasis on accountability."

The five institutional members of Pentacon have committed to working across the five broad themes in five countries for five years, spending a total of five million euros in the process.

"That sounds like a lot of money, but it's not really given the fact that we all already invest in these areas," Professor Schippers says. "In the case of Queensland Conservatorium, we have been singled out by the Vice Chancellor as one of eight areas of strategic investment within the University. This provides us with one million dollars per annum covering activities that largely coincide with the five Pentacon themes. So we didn't promise something we can't deliver when we formed Pentacon."

Pentacon delegations met at McGill University in Montreal in March this year for a lively and inspiring exchange on the future of music technology. In May the Pentacon leadership met in a teleconference.

"The meetings and interaction between the organisations have been vibrant and exciting," Professor Schippers says. "We have come to the conclusion that we are not crazy to be doing it this way and so far the results have been very promising, inspiring staff."



John Kotzas, Chief Executive, Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Teaming up with a select group of forward-thinking conservatoires has enabled the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University to fast-track advances in a number of fields.

“We have already done a major program review of our undergraduate programs inspired by the work we did on pedagogies and on professional preparation,” Professor Schippers says. “This has yielded a new curriculum we have been rolling out since the beginning of this year. An exciting development within the undergraduate curriculum is the introduction of the *My Life As a Musician* strand which addresses practical issues and helps prepare musicians for the realities of working life. Now that we have introduced it, others comment it’s strange that nobody has done that before to this extent.”

In improving its community outreach beyond the University, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University has also undertaken major refurbishment of its public spaces and access.

“We are now ready to take our position as one of the most exciting performance spaces for quality music in Queensland, particularly for small ensembles,” Schippers says.

Another important innovation is the introduction of a three-year degree in musical theatre which recognises the popularity of the form. The degree was an opportunity to strengthen a co-operative partnership with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the major venue for musicals in Brisbane.

“We wanted to serve the community by introducing this degree since there is no one else offering this at this level on the eastern seaboard,” Professor Schippers says. “The only comparable degree in musical theatre in Australia is available at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at Edith Cowan University in Perth.”

QPAC chief executive John Kotzas says the collaboration is a natural fit and that QPAC has already made its Merivale Street Studio available as a rehearsal space for students participating in the Bachelor

of Music (Musical Theatre) and will provide other technical and professional support.

“QPAC has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and we are extremely proud this now includes the new degree,” Mr Kotzas says. “Young performers play a vital part in the future of musical theatre here and in the international arena, so it’s very important to be able to offer this practical course to nurture and develop this talent. Musical theatre is a great driver of economic success. In addition to revenue from ticket sales, it provides employment for hundreds of Queenslanders. We will continue to look at ways we can build on our successful partnership and work together for mutual benefit in the future.”

Next year Pentacon members will meet in Brisbane, a city that has a higher profile than we might think according to Professor Schippers.

“People hear about us at overseas conferences and think there must be something interesting happening here,” Professor Schippers says. “Martin Prchal, former CEO of the Association of European Conservatoires, said he thought the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University was one of the most interesting and forward-thinking conservatoires south of the equator. Admittedly, that includes an awful lot of ocean but still, it’s nice to hear.”

The conservatorium’s role in Pentacon certainly focuses attention on what’s happening at Griffith University. “Pentacon is proving so successful that people keep asking if they can join,” Professor Schippers says. “But we have to say no because if we have any more members we’d have to change the rather attractive tongue-in-cheek name.”

Anyone wondering if he’s completely serious about that can be sure that he also has a very healthy sense of humour. 🎵

Further information griffith.edu.au/music/queensland-conservatorium-research-centre



NEW MALARIA VACCINE LAUNCHED

A MALARIA VACCINE to protect against all known strains of the deadly disease was launched by Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics in July at the opening of the new Laboratory of Vaccines for the Developing World. PlasProtec™ uses a scientific method whereby ultra-low doses of whole malaria parasites are "put to sleep" using a unique chemical treatment. The sleeping parasite will be administered to volunteers as part of phase one human vaccine trials within the next 12 months with the treatment expected to produce an immune response that will protect against all known strains of malaria.

Lead researcher Professor Michael Good said previous attempts to find the "silver bullet" solution to attack the malaria parasite have proved elusive. "Our approach has entailed putting the parasite to sleep by using a new class of chemical compounds that target certain DNA sequences in the parasite. The sleeping parasite is then injected in very small doses and we have observed very strong immune responses that can protect from multiple strains and species of the parasite, thus potentially overcoming the major hurdle to developing a vaccine."



CLIMATE CHANGE—THE VERDICT

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS have released a report revealing a high level of concern among Australians about immediate and future climate change impacts. The research found 74 per cent of respondents believe the world's climate is changing. When asked about the causes of climate change, 90 per cent of respondents accepted some level of human causality. Only 5 per cent of respondents thought that climate change was entirely caused by natural processes. Commissioned by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, the findings are one of the few in-depth or national studies of public perceptions and understanding of climate change conducted in Australia. Environmental and social psychologist Professor Joseph Reser from Griffith's Climate Change Response Program said the findings were consistent with public perceptions in the UK and other parts of the world, but Australian respondents viewed climate change as more immediate and closer to home. "That's not surprising given the nature, intensity and dramatic impacts of natural disaster events in the past few years."

Crime on your doorstep

GRIFFITH RESEARCHERS ARE working on a major international study into understanding where and when burglars decide to offend. The four-year Australian Research Council project will analyse offending profiles in Australia, Canada, UK and the Netherlands, building a comprehensive model of offender spatial preferences to determine how neighbourhood planning can be used in crime prevention. Dr Michael Townsley from the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice says burglary costs the Australian economy about \$2.41 million annually. "If researchers could work out how urban form influences offender mobility and what burglars perceive as suitable targets for crime then architects and town planners could play a role in crime reduction." Researchers will investigate the role public transport systems, street networks and building design plays in the production and facilitation of crime. "The built environment is a critical factor for understanding the forces of offender attraction and impedance."



SEEING GOLD IN TUMOURS

USING GOLD AS a treatment for cancer could become a reality thanks to a combination of imaging techniques described by researchers at the University of Western Australia and Griffith University recently in The Royal Society of Chemistry journal *Metalomics*. The research builds on long standing research of Griffith University's Pro Vice Chancellor (Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology), Professor Sue Berners-Price, on the development of gold-based anticancer agents. The journal describes how two imaging techniques allow scientists to see where gold complexes used in potential chemotherapeutic treatments end up in cells. They are also able to monitor the gold's effect on the cells in a non-destructive way. Berners-Price said a stimulus for this research had been the increasing realisation that the unique properties of metal ions can be exploited in the design of new drugs. "Certain gold compounds are selectively toxic to cancer cells but not to normal cells. However, the development of gold-based chemotherapeutics requires a much deeper understanding of the subcellular biochemical pathways involved."



WORLD-FIRST TOURISM CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY WILL host the world's first Tourism Confucius Institute at the Gold Coast Campus. The Institute will provide Chinese language teaching and training, tourism research, bridge the cultural gap between Chinese tourists and Australian communities, provide industry networking and international seminars and promote cultural activities to foster friendship between the people of China and Australia. It is a joint project between Griffith and the China University of Mining Technology. While there are 323 other Confucius Institutes in the world, including 11 in Australia, this is the first focused on tourism.

Coffee keeps cancer at bay

RESEARCH BY THE Griffith Health Institute has revealed that three cups of coffee each day may help the body to resist disorders like cancer and cardiovascular disease. "Coffee appears to have a protective effect in most people and provided a person's coffee consumption stays at a reasonable level, it can boost the self defence system and fight carcinogens and toxins," Professor Lyn Griffiths, director of the Griffith Health Institute, said. Professor Griffiths led a team from the Institute's Genomics Research Centre which collaborated with the University of Vienna in Austria in a world first study to investigate the impact of coffee intake on human genes.



ALUMNI SHINE AT CANNES SHORT FILM CORNER

FOUR GRIFFITH FILM School alumni travelled to the world's most prestigious film festival in May to showcase their work in the Cannes Short Film Corner. *A Picture of War*, directed by Kristy Campbell and produced by Rachael Janssen, depicts a recently retired war photographer struggling to cope with the haunting memories behind the photographs when he faces them at his last exhibition. The other short film *Maxwell and Sierra and the Inside Out*, directed by Hannah Ariotti, and produced by Naomi Kume, looks at the quest for blamelessness and perfection becoming flawed and out of hand. The Cannes Short Film Corner is at the heart of the festival's "rendezvous", providing participants with the opportunity to develop a network to enhance promotion of their work—films could be watched by the whole of the industry professionals present at the Cannes Film Festival.

For more information about the films and to view the trailers visit: apictureofwar.com and shortfilmcorner.com/sfcfilm/filmfiche2.aspx?id=53442460



TURNING POINT

CALLS FOR A new cultural heart, better law enforcement, better leadership and an improved brand and image for the Gold Coast came out of the first Turning Point summit in July. A combined initiative of *The Gold Coast Bulletin* and Griffith University, it brought 120 leaders from business, industry and the community together to explore what type of city the Gold Coast should become, and how it should get there. Griffith Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor said: "This process of engagement is about direction-setting, about contributing your voice to a strategy that will progress the future welfare of the Gold Coast and its people."



L to R: Rachael Janssen, Naomi Kume and Hannah Ariotti.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BIRD MUMMIES

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS are studying the sacred ibis's DNA changes over the past 4000 years with the help of well-preserved bird mummies from ancient Egypt's tombs. With an international multidisciplinary team of researchers, the project received a \$1.2 million grant from the Human Frontiers Science Program. Professor David Lambert from the Griffith School of Environment said there were millions of well-preserved ibis mummies in Egypt. "In ancient Egypt, these birds were regarded as an icon of the god of wisdom and writing and they were widely mummified. The large number of mummies available to us from different time periods gives us a unique opportunity to explore the processes that govern DNA change." The Griffith-led team, including researchers from University of Copenhagen, University of Tasmania and American University of Cairo, will travel to Egyptian burial chambers this year.

Since Michael Zavros (b.1974) graduated from Queensland College of Art in 1996 with a Bachelor of Visual Arts, he has gone on to become one of the most celebrated Australian realist painters of his generation. In addition to winning the prestigious Doug Moran Portrait Prize in 2010, his work is also held by some of Australia's finest collecting institutions, including the National Gallery of Australia, National Portrait Gallery and Queensland Art Gallery.



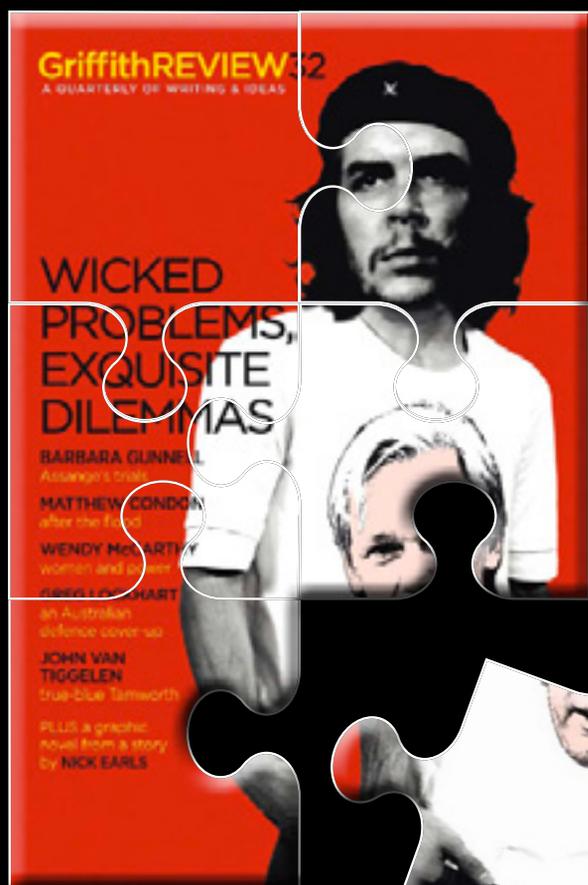
Michael Zavros,
Prince/Zavros,
charcoal on paper, 2011

Since its inception in 1976, Griffith has built a nationally significant collection of more than 4000 objects via purchase and donation, with almost \$1.5 million in gifts in the past four years. Works from the collection are periodically exhibited in the Griffith University Art Gallery on South Bank campus, and on over 140 sites across the five Griffith Campuses. Alumni and friends are welcome to contact Griffith Artworks for more information about the Griffith University Art Gallery Program as well as the On-Campus Exhibition Program (artworks@griffith.edu.au or 3735 7414).

GRIFFITH ARTWORKS IS delighted to welcome *Prince/Zavros* into the Griffith University Art Collection. This stunning charcoal on paper work takes the artist's interest in popular culture themes, specifically fashion and advertising, into new territory. The basis for the Zavros work is a famous Ektacolour photograph, *Untitled (Cowboy)* 1980-9, by American artist Richard Prince, itself sourced from an iconic Marlborough cigarette advertisement heavily run in American mass media publications. By re-imaging a photo-medium work already appropriated and disjointed, Zavros has placed emphasis on the journey of the image itself rather than its original subject. Here the embodied experience of the original photograph melts away to reveal multiple contemporary contexts for the work; first the years of global reproduction as an advertisement, second as an iconic photographic critique and thirdly as "received" image for re-rendering by hand. Zavros traces a process where images are now subject, more than ever, to the process of being de-anchored from their source author's context, via endless sampling, trafficking and transmission. Cleverly evoking Baudelairean ideas of distanced experience, his work will develop intriguing dialogues within the collection concerning the cultural landscape of the artist's birthplace on the Gold Coast. The aesthetic and conceptual relations between Scott Redford, another significant Coast artist held by the Griffith University Art Collection, and Michael Zavros, was the subject of a project at the Institute of Modern Art in 2010. 🍷

By Simon Wright, director, Griffith Artworks





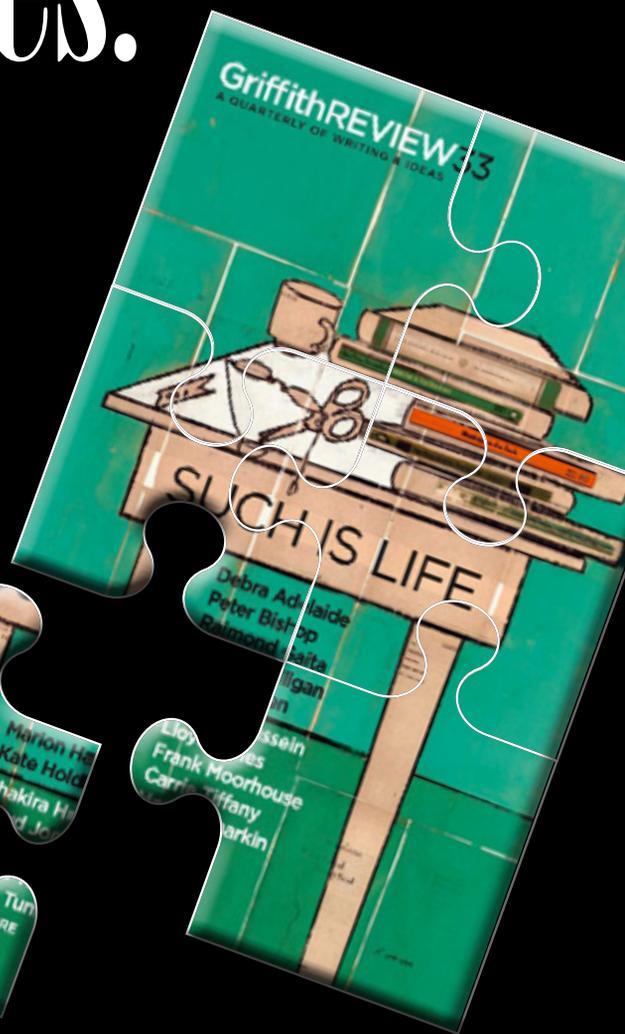
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Australian expatriate Clinton Dines has been at the heart of China's transition from a politically isolated agricultural state to an industrial powerhouse. How? As a leading executive working in China on behalf of global companies Clinton witnessed this change first hand and was an active participant in the spectacular commercial development that resulted.

In 1979, as a Griffith student, he travelled to China on a postgraduate program—and there he's been thriving since. With senior roles at the Jardine Mattheson Group, the Santa Fe Transport Group and with BHP Billiton, he also served as Attaché to the Australian Olympic Team during the Beijing 2008 Olympics. Clinton's Griffith degree in Asian Studies concentrated on Asian economics, which, when you reflect on what the world was like in the mid 1970's—was an interest that proved visionary.

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