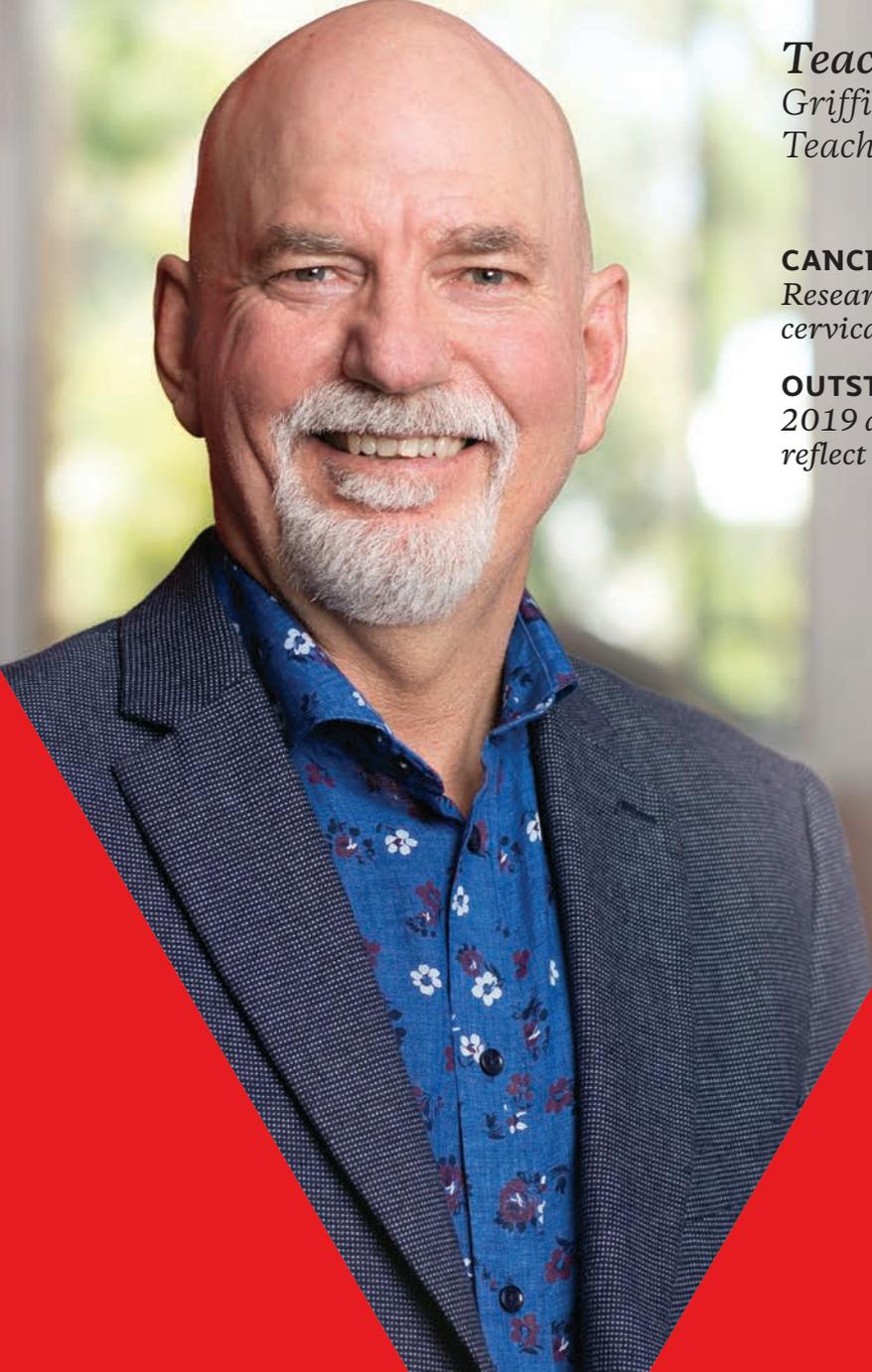


| 2019
EDITION

GRIFFITH MAGAZINE



Teacher of the Year
Griffith receives another
Teacher of the Year accolade

CANCER CODE BREAKER
Researchers flag world-first
cervical cancer breakthrough

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI
2019 award recipients
reflect selflessness

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



I started as Vice Chancellor at Griffith nearly a year ago. Since that time, I have been grateful for the warm welcome that I have received from our alumni, staff, students and many other supporters. My heartfelt thanks for making me feel so at home.

Since I have arrived, I have watched with admiration the way in which Griffith pursues its vision through its core principles of excellence, ethics and engagement.

In 2025, it will be fifty years since Griffith first opened its doors. Now it is time to reset and map a course to position Griffith as a university of influence, worthy of being ranked in the top tier of world institutions.

In our recently released strategy, *Creating a future for all*—Strategic Plan 2020–2025, we have put living our values at the core. We will be investing in sustainability, First Peoples, and renewing our commitment to inclusive education. This strategy signals exciting times ahead for Griffith with everything from a deepening commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching to investing in a major new CBD campus along with substantial new buildings on our other campuses.

The University welcomes your support in achieving its ambitious aspirations as we continue to pioneer a new and exciting way forward.

I am therefore pleased to introduce this year's edition of the Griffith Magazine. There are wonderful stories of alumni achievement, academic excellence, sporting brilliance and community engagement that sets Griffith apart.

I enjoyed reading about Dr Kevin Larkin's inspiring commitment to teaching, as well as Professor Nigel McMillan's team taking huge strides into eliminating cervical cancer. These are just a few of the many magazine stories highlighting the impact we have on the communities we serve.

Professor Carolyn Evans
Vice Chancellor and President

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COVER IMAGE: Dr Kevin Larkin



EDUCATION ADDS UP FOR TOP TEACHER KEVIN

It was a proud moment when inspirational mathematics educator Dr Kevin Larkin was named Australian University Teacher of the Year 2018.

Dr Larkin, from Griffith University's School of Education and Professional Studies, was honoured for his many years of providing expertise, support and motivation for pre-service teachers, along the way transforming how mathematics education is delivered.

In helping future teachers to overcome negative perceptions of mathematics, Dr Larkin has also encouraged them to reach their full potential and confidently launch their careers.

Dr Larkin said his overarching goal was to inspire the next generation of creative, motivated and knowledgeable teachers who recognise the importance of developing numerate citizens.

'It is an incredibly powerful experience teaching a person and then sharing the joy of them discovering new things,' he said.

'I have been a teacher for many years and I still get goosebumps when this happens.'

'The power of good teaching lies in its ability to change people's lives. Education is critical for everyone in our society—it gives them the skills to create a better Australia and a better world.'

Dr Larkin is the fourth Griffith academic to be named Australian Teacher of the Year since the awards began in 1997.

Previous winners are Associate Professor Halim Rane (2015), Associate Professor Brydie-Leigh Bartleet (2014) and Professor Keithia Wilson (2007).

'It is an incredibly powerful experience teaching a person and then sharing the joy of them discovering new things.'



Dr Kevin Larkin is transforming mathematics education

DR BARRY KIRBY AO, OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS FOR 2019

Dr Barry Kirby AO, a carpenter-turned-remote medico and founder of not-for-profit organisation The Hands of Rescue (THOR), is the recipient of the 2019 Griffith University Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Dr Kirby was a middle-aged 'chippie' working in Papua New Guinea when he witnessed a traumatic incident that resulted in the death of a woman in labour.

It changed the course of his career. In that moment, he decided PNG needed doctors more than carpenters.

'At 52, I became a doctor,' he said, pausing to reflect on the challenges he's overcome.

'When I started I was too old, I came from the wrong background, I was a carpenter, I failed high school, I had all these negative things thrown at me. Griffith was the only university to give me a break and that's what I needed.'

The 2019 Griffith University Alumni Awards were presented at a gala event on the Gold Coast in September 2019. Guests heard how Dr Kirby, having completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours), returned to PNG determined to make a difference.

'Every time a woman has a delivery, she is risking her life for the sake of giving life,' he said.

'The Hands of Rescue focuses on reducing maternal deaths by increasing supervised deliveries and by upskilling staff to deal with obstetrics emergencies.

'We put maternal deaths on the radar, saying mothers are precious, they carry this country and we have to make it good for them.'

Dr Kirby's foundation, THOR, was established in 2011 with a focus on achieving safe motherhood for women in the Milne Bay Province and throughout PNG.

'He is a champion of maternal health and an unlikely hero in a remote landscape of overburdened and unsupported healthcare workers,' said Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans.

'Dr Kirby is achieving remarkable outcomes in what is his second career, one that is solely motivated by his compassion for, and commitment to, women giving birth to new generations of PNG citizens.'

While grateful for the Outstanding Alumnus recognition, Dr Kirby said he's 'just a normal bloke'.

'The mother that gave birth to you and gave birth to me ... that's what a hero is,' he said.

'Helping women in this country to have a better life is what I have to do.'

'He is a champion of maternal health and an unlikely hero in a remote landscape of overburdened and unsupported healthcare workers.'



2019 Griffith University Outstanding Alumnus Dr Barry Kirby AO

MEET OUR OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2019

Complementing the announcement of Dr Barry Kirby AO as Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, three other remarkable Griffith University graduates were also honoured at the 2019 awards ceremony.



Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Dr Elizabeth Hamilton

Since completing a Doctor of Medicine program at Griffith University, Dr Elizabeth Hamilton has forged an inspiring career focused on advances in global health.

Dr Hamilton interned at Townsville Hospital, has written award-winning essays and presented at international conferences. She is a former Director of Ubuntu Through Health, a non-profit initiative of Griffith's HOPE4HEALTH program.

Ubuntu Through Health promotes positive health outcomes in developing regions and assists in the realisation of health equality at home and abroad.

At the end of 2018, Dr Hamilton was awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University.



Outstanding First Peoples Alumnus Award

Dr Kerry Bodle

A prominent and highly respected First Peoples advocate, Dr Kerry Bodle is regularly called upon to speak on Indigenous issues within the accounting and financial services industries.

The self-confessed 'accidental academic' was 38 years old when she completed her Bachelor of Business degree at Griffith.

A descendant of the Karendali (Thargomindah), Kalali (Conbar Outstation) and Waka (Cherbourg) First Nation Peoples, she went on to complete her Honours in 2003, later enrolling in a doctorate degree.

Most recently, Dr Bodle was appointed Griffith Business School's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Academic Director.

'The legacy I want to leave is that I want to be a disruptor to the traditional way of teaching, especially in accounting and in business,' she said.

'One of my roles here is looking at indigenising our curriculum. Unless we're brave enough and put ourselves out there, we won't see change.'



Outstanding International Alumnus Award

Dr Hum Gurung

A man on an environmental mission, conservationist Dr Hum Gurung has dedicated his professional life to promoting environmental conservation. In so doing, he has become a respected ambassador for conservation between Nepal and Australia, and for Griffith University.

Dr Gurung's notable professional achievements include working with the government of his native Nepal on the formulation of that country's Sustainable Development Agenda, and a leading role in a think-tank chaired by the Prime Minister of Nepal and led by the National Planning Commission.

Dr Gurung has provided consultancy services to global environmental organisations including the United Nations Development Program and the World Wildlife Fund.

He fundamentally believes in the power of education, considering it to be the only long-term investment for building the capacities of underprivileged people and inspiring new generations.

STELLAR YEAR FOR GRIFFITH IN GLOBAL RANKINGS

Griffith University has vaulted into the 201–250 band in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2020, placing it firmly in the top 2 per cent of global universities. The result capped a stellar rankings year for Griffith.

Since 2015, THE has placed Griffith in its 251–300 range, but latest rankings released in early September saw the University rise into the Top 250, matching its result on the 2019 US News Best Global Universities ranking.

Griffith is equal 12th in the THE Australian rankings among 35 listed universities.

‘This result is outstanding and well-earned, confirming Griffith’s continued rise in a highly competitive global field,’ Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans said.

‘Placement in the global Top 250 demonstrates sustained improvement in the quality of the education provided, research excellence and our ability to partner strategically with industry, government and high-calibre academic partners domestically and internationally.

‘It is welcome recognition that Griffith University is on an upward trajectory, reaffirming our increasing strengths in research, teaching and engagement.’

Founded in 2004, the THE World University Rankings are acknowledged among the world’s pre-eminent rankings. For the 2020 rankings, nearly 1,400 institutions were assessed.

Other results throughout the year affirmed Griffith’s rising global status and leadership.

Griffith achieved the highest position of any Australian university in the Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2019, being ranked second globally for Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The University was ranked in 37 of a possible 54 subjects, with two acknowledged in the top five in the world and nine inside the global top 100.

Griffith also ranked first in Australia for Nursing and Midwifery (fourth in the world) and in Law and Criminology.

Griffith Marine/Ocean Engineering was ranked number 13 in the world.

‘I am very pleased to see Griffith continue its rise up the Shanghai academic subject rankings,’ Professor Evans said. ‘Results like these are the outcome of long-term planning and strategic focus by the University, combined with the pursuit of excellence by our academic staff.’

Nursing and Midwifery graduate Oliver Dupen said his Griffith experience was ‘incredible’. ‘My choice to study there was definitely influenced by its global recognition and ranking as the best university in Australia for nursing,’ said Oliver, who graduated in 2018 and is now working as a Registered Nurse at Gold Coast University Hospital.

Griffith also moved up two places to 35 in the THE Young Universities listing.

‘This result is outstanding and well-earned, confirming Griffith’s continued rise in a highly competitive global field.’

ZENA VOWS TO USE EDUCATION TO HELP OTHERS

Zena Safa was 16 and in her final year of high school in Libya when her life changed forever. The peaceful existence her family had made since fleeing Iraq in 1994 was shattered by civil war.

In February 2011, simmering anger about the regime of Libyan then-leader Muammar Gaddafi ignited mass protests and violence. The decision by Zena's father to keep her back from school that first day probably saved her life.

As the violence intensified, the sky rained bombs and gunshots rang out in the streets.

'You would hear the whistle, then the explosion, and the ground would shake. It was non-stop,' said Zena, whose family endured years of turmoil.

The good news is that there is a happy ending. Zena is now pursuing a Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science at Griffith University and is a member of Griffith Honours College. Her parents are safe in Sydney.

But what a tumultuous journey it took to reach this point in her life.

Having fled through Tunisia, Jordan and Turkey, the family reached a turning point in Syria, where Zena and her mother, Inamm, secured visas and travelled to Malaysia. Zena's father, Safa, returned to Libya to work and support them so Zena could study.

She achieved outstanding results and received a full scholarship to a university in Malaysia. That was until both parents suffered serious health problems.

Zena's 18th birthday compounded the hardship. Inamm was on a guardian visa, so was no longer able to stay in Malaysia. Her father, meanwhile, was on a one-month tourist visa.

Fortunately, when Zena's brother secured permanent residency and employment in Australia, the family was able to reunite and claim asylum.

'I consider it a miracle that I'm here,' Zena said. 'Five years ago, all I wanted was to stay alive. After that, my biggest goal was to get a really good education.'

That goal brought Zena to Griffith University—'it's amazing, Griffith has everything a dental student could need or want'—a dream made possible through the Griffith Futures Scholarship, awarded to students experiencing personal or financial hardship.

This includes using her skills and experience to help others in raising awareness about the plight of refugees. Zena also hopes to provide dentistry to remote, Indigenous and disadvantaged people.

'Five years ago, all I wanted was to stay alive. After that, my biggest goal was to get a really good education.'



Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science student Zena Safa

FROM CRICKET TO THE CLASSROOM AND BACK

A couple of years into his post-cricket career, Alister McDermott didn't know what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

After leaving high school, Alister followed in the 'bowler's footmarks' of his father—Australian cricket legend Craig McDermott, who took nearly 500 Test and One Day International wickets.

By 18, McDermott Jr had made his debut for Queensland. By 21, his potent swing bowling had seen him become part of winning Sheffield Shield, one-day and T20 teams. He also represented Australia at Youth Test, one-day and Under 19 levels.

Yet how quickly things change, particularly in sport.

'Two years after that, I had no contract,' Alister said. 'Coming to terms with that was challenging, but the last year on contract I wasn't really enjoying cricket, to be honest. I think I'd lost that focus on why I actually started playing the game.'

A poor run of form seemed to have ended Alister's promising cricket career. He was just 23.

'When I finished with cricket in 2015, I got a job doing sales and leasing in commercial property,' said Alister, who had previously studied a Bachelor of Business (Real Estate and Property Development) at Griffith University.

Unsure of his next step, Alister called Emma Kenward, Queensland Cricket's player development and welfare manager.

'I pretty much said to her, 'I'm not sure what path I want to go down next',' he said.

'That's when she arranged a meeting with (Griffith Sports College manager) Naomi McCarthy. We spoke about what I enjoy and what I'm looking for in a job.

'I told Naomi I was coaching and that I enjoy helping kids and mentoring. That's when the idea of becoming a teacher came up.



Bachelor of Secondary Education student and Queensland Bulls squad member Alister McDermott

'I was a bit sceptical because never once have I thought of becoming a teacher, but now I've done nearly two years of my degree and I'm really enjoying it.'

Currently studying a Bachelor of Secondary Education, Alister hopes to teach Health and Physical Education, and English.

Not that he has abandoned cricket. In fact, while studying has led Alister down a different path, it has also helped return him to a familiar one. As well as being head coach at Wynnum Manly District Cricket Club, Alister is running his own cricket academy.

'Studying teaching has definitely given me more perspective. I'm a lot more vocal with expectations at Wynnum and I started to think a lot more about my game and understand it a lot better,' he said.

'The biggest thing for me has been getting back and enjoying the game for what it is and remembering why I started playing.'

That new focus was recently rewarded with Alister's recall to the Queensland Bulls squad for 2019-20.

He wasn't the only Griffith student on the list, with Sam Heazlett, Michael Nesar, Cam Gannon, James Peirson and Jack Wildermuth also included.

AFL PARTNERSHIP COMBINES SPORT AND STUDY

Griffith University's commitment to the Gold Coast has attained premiership status thanks to a partnership with the Gold Coast Suns AFL and AFLW teams.



Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans and Gold Coast Suns CEO Mr Mark Evans

Following its highly successful partnership with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, in 2020 Griffith will become the Official Research and Education Partner for the Gold Coast Suns.

It is the first tertiary education partnership for the Suns since the team entered the AFL in 2011.

The two-year whole-of-university alignment will be multifaceted and provide valuable benefits for Griffith, the football club and the community.

Griffith students will take advantage of internships within the Suns' football operation. These will encompass marketing, human resources, finance, sport and event management, exercise science and high performance. There will also be key research opportunities for Griffith academics working with the club's football and management systems.

The CEO of the Gold Coast Suns, Mr Mark Evans, said the partnership would help drive the club and its community programs.

'Partnering with Griffith University will not only improve our staff and players, but will provide students with opportunities to learn and develop within a professional environment,' he said.

'It was impressive to see Griffith University's community-minded approach during the Commonwealth Games. We look forward to working with Griffith and continuing to deliver great community outcomes for the Gold Coast.'

Leading sports physiology and performance expert Associate Professor Clare Minahan said the partnership would benefit the Suns and Griffith in the advancing field of sports science.

'Joint projects will give our researchers the opportunity to work with an elite sports team and contribute to real-world advances in the sports industry,' she said.

'It will also enable the men's and women's teams to access our sports science expertise to help improve on-field performances and develop skills, fitness and best practice.'

The Suns have worked closely with Griffith University since the side's inception and currently have a number of players from both the AFL and AFLW lists enrolled in education programs. All are part of the Griffith Sports College's Elite Athlete Program, the top-rated program of its kind in Australia.

'Partnering with Griffith University will not only improve our staff and players, but will provide students with opportunities to learn and develop within a professional environment.'



Vice Chancellor Professor Carolyn Evans with Gold Coast Suns players Touk Miller, Jack Bowes, Tori Groves-Little and Charlotte Hammans

GRIFFITH ATHLETES TARGET TOKYO OLYMPICS

Two of Australia's most promising athletes—both members of Griffith Sports College—are eyeing Olympic success.

Discus thrower Matthew Denny and race walker Katie Hayward are poised to deliver top performances at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in July–August.

Katie is studying occupational therapy at Griffith. The 19-year-old enjoyed a breakout sporting year in 2019, winning her pet event—the 20 km walk—at both the Australian titles in February and the World University Games in Naples in July.

Despite the setback of being disqualified during the same event at the IAAF World Athletics Championships in Doha in September, Katie remains positive and has her sights firmly focused on Tokyo.

With the support of Griffith Sports College, Katie has been able to study part-time and manage her busy training and competition schedule.

As for Matthew, Australia's top discus thrower also won gold at the World University Games and followed up with a tremendous showing in Doha. The Griffith Business School student threw a personal best of 65.43 m to finish sixth.

Other Griffith athletes performed superbly at the World University Games, including sprinter Riley Day and swimmers Grayson Bell, Charles Cox, Chelsea Hodges, Tristan Ludlow, Mikayla Messer, Joshua Parrish and Alice Stuart. Jessica Borg and Presley Johnson competed in taekwondo and Sophie Milliken in water polo.



Matthew Denny



Katie Hayward

HUMANITARIAN INTERNSHIPS FUELLED BY OPTIMISM

The twists and turns of life have taken Griffith University graduate John Akol Maluk and student Jennefer Simon along similar pathways since they fled conflict and unrest in their native South Sudan.

For each, the first step to safety and a new future came through refugee camps in Kenya. While Jennefer was only five years old at the time, Akol completed Years 1–8 of his schooling in Kenya before moving to Australia.

Their paths would cross again, eventually meeting at Griffith University. In July 2019, Akol graduated with a Master of Public Administration and Jennefer will graduate with a Bachelor of Business.

To complete their serendipitous story, Akol and Jennefer share the distinction of being the first students to complete Griffith University's Humanitarian Internship Program.

Akol initially completed a Bachelor of Government and International Relations at Griffith Business School, then built on this with a Master of Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Policy Analysis. He is currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Integrity and Anti-corruption.

'I'm optimistic about the future after the internship,' he said. 'The experience has made me confident about going for job interviews. I can now show I have relevant experience along with my university qualifications.'

Jennefer, a Human Resource Management major at Griffith Business School, learnt of the internship program while networking at a Stepping Out Program event at university.

'The flexibility meant I could still study while gaining paid work experience,' she said. 'I was able to implement specific skills from the classroom on a number of projects, including a redevelopment of the induction/orientation process for the Transitions Centre of Expertise.'

'I have grown so much as an individual and I am very much looking forward to starting my professional career with the skills I have gained through the internship.'

'The flexibility meant I could still study while gaining paid work experience.'



John Akol (right) at his graduation



Griffith Business School student Jennefer Simon



Corey Johnson

COREY DRIVING INNOVATION AT UBER

A 'random LinkedIn message' put Android engineer Corey Johnson on the road to his dream role.

The Griffith University graduate was working for Brisbane-based RedEye Apps when a recruiter made contact.

'I usually get messages from companies I've never heard of and all of a sudden I got one from Uber. And it was, 'wow';' said Corey, who studied a Bachelor of Information Technology at Griffith.

'Uber is the gold standard for app development, so I was pretty stoked.'

After passing a technical phone test, Corey was invited to one of the rideshare giant's recruiting events.

'They fly people in from San Francisco and New York to interview Australian candidates. I went to one and just missed out, but went back a few months later and got an offer.'

In September 2018, Corey moved to San Francisco to work as a software engineer in Uber's New Mobility division.

'I'm working on the supply team for eMobility, focused on electric bikes and scooters. Essentially, we're in charge of building tools to keep the vehicles on the road charged and in good shape,' he said.

Growing up on the Gold Coast, Corey was interested in computers through high school and studied a TAFE course before enrolling at Griffith.

Though unsure about the area of IT he wanted to specialise in, a work placement organised through Griffith's work-integrated learning program provided a first-hand look at the app development industry.

Corey undertook a placement with RedEye Apps, a Griffith Sciences Industry Partner, and impressed enough to be offered a full-time position after graduation in late 2016.

'I like mobile development specifically because you have to make considerations for the end user and you get feedback from them,' Corey said.

'In the six months I spent with RedEye, I built an app for real users and worked with real data. It was pretty exciting.'

Now Corey is putting his skills to use for Uber, a company known for its innovation.

'I think the part of my job I enjoy the most is the sheer scale we work at. The amount of people that you reach is just so much faster than anything I've ever touched before.'

'It's pretty cool to know that people are actually using what I'm building.'

SCIENTISTS MAKE CERVICAL CANCER BREAKTHROUGH

In what is believed to be a world first, Griffith University researchers have cured cervical cancer in mice using CRISPR gene-editing technology.

‘This is the first cure for any cancer using this technology,’ said lead researcher Professor Nigel McMillan from Menzies Health Institute Queensland.

The scientists used CRISPR-Cas9 to successfully target and treat cervical cancer tumours in vivo (via injection into live and tumour-bearing mice) using ‘stealth’ nanoparticles.

‘The nanoparticles search out the cancer-causing gene in cancer cells and ‘edit it’ by introducing some extra DNA that causes the gene to be misread and stop being made,’’ Professor McMillan said.

‘This is like adding a few extra letters into a word, so the spell checker doesn’t recognise it. Because the cancer must have this gene to produce, once edited, the cancer dies.

‘In our study, the treated mice have 100% survival and no tumours. The mice showed no other clinical signs such as inflammation from treatment, but there may be other gene changes we haven’t measured yet.

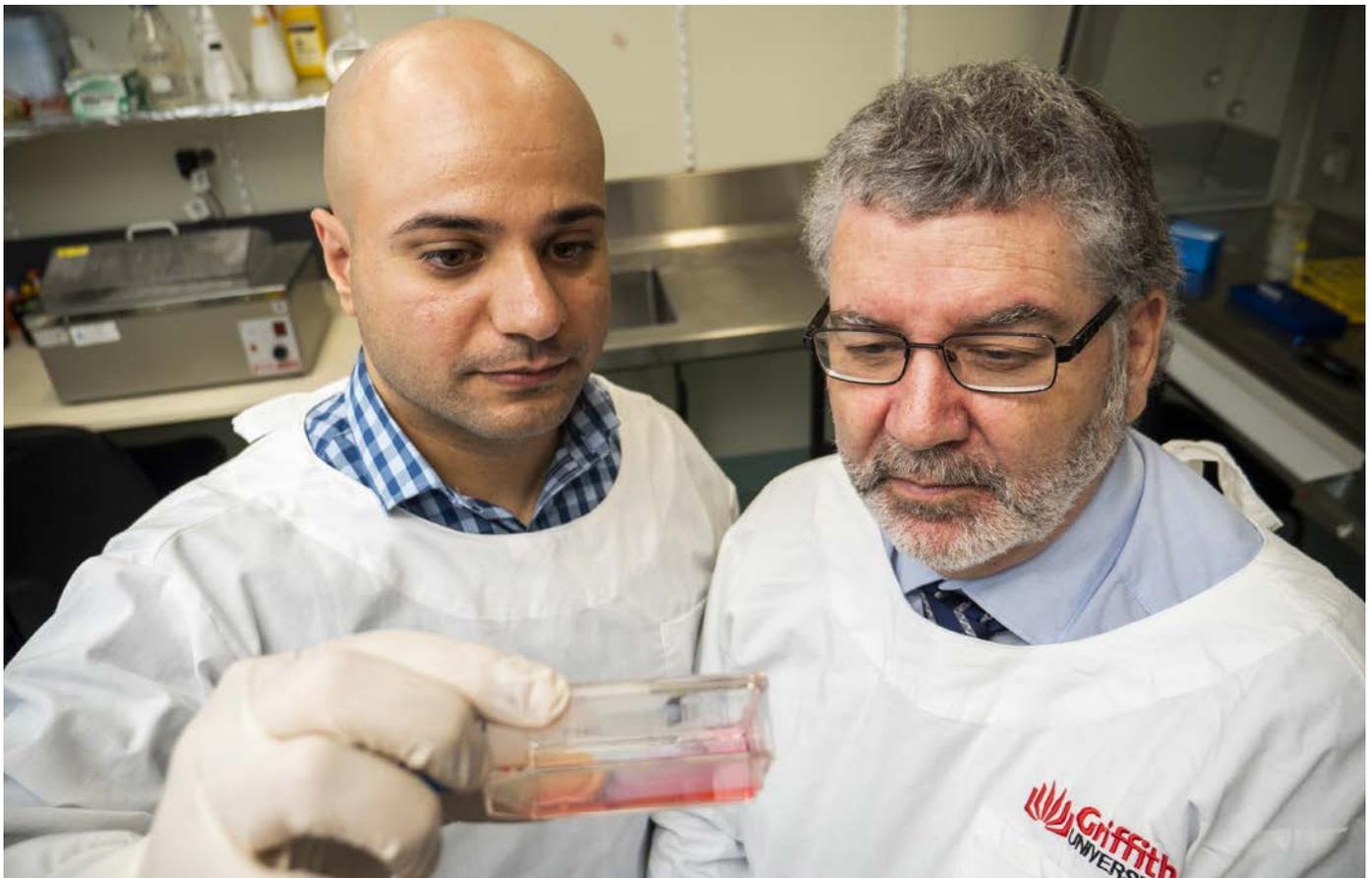
‘Other cancers can be treated once we know the right genes.’

Nearly all cervical cancers are caused by a human papillomavirus infection (HPV). According to Cancer Australia, more than 250 women in Australia die from the disease each year.

The Griffith University scientists are working towards human trials of the gene therapy in the next five years.

The study is published in *Molecular Therapy*.

To find out more or support the Menzies Health Institute Queensland by making a donation, visit griffith.edu.au/giving



Professor Nigel McMillan with research associate Dr Luqman Jabair

CONCERT LAUNCHES GRIFFITH-BLEACH PARTNERSHIP

Students and alumni took part in a blockbuster outdoor performance of Verdi's *Requiem* in April 2019, officially launching Griffith University's three-year partnership with Bleach* Festival.

Musicians from the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra performed alongside a full cast from Opera Queensland under the stars at the Home of the Arts (HOTA) on the Gold Coast.

Bachelor of Music student and trumpeter Michael Whitaker said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

'Being part of a performance like this is not something we get the chance to do every day, and it's a testament to everyone's love and passion for the music that we pulled off such an amazing and difficult work.'

Queensland Conservatorium alumnus Rosario La Spina returned to work with students, taking on a starring role as one of the featured soloists.

After studying classical voice at the Queensland Conservatorium, the former bricklayer won a scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music in the UK.

He later won a spot in the renowned Young Artists Programme at La Scala in Milan.

'It was amazing to come full circle and come back to work with students from the Con,' he said.

Bleach* Festival has attracted more than 500,000 people to the Gold Coast since 2012. The program covers genres including dance, theatre, contemporary music, opera, installations, circus and major public events.

TOP MARKS FOR 50 YEARS OF EDUCATION

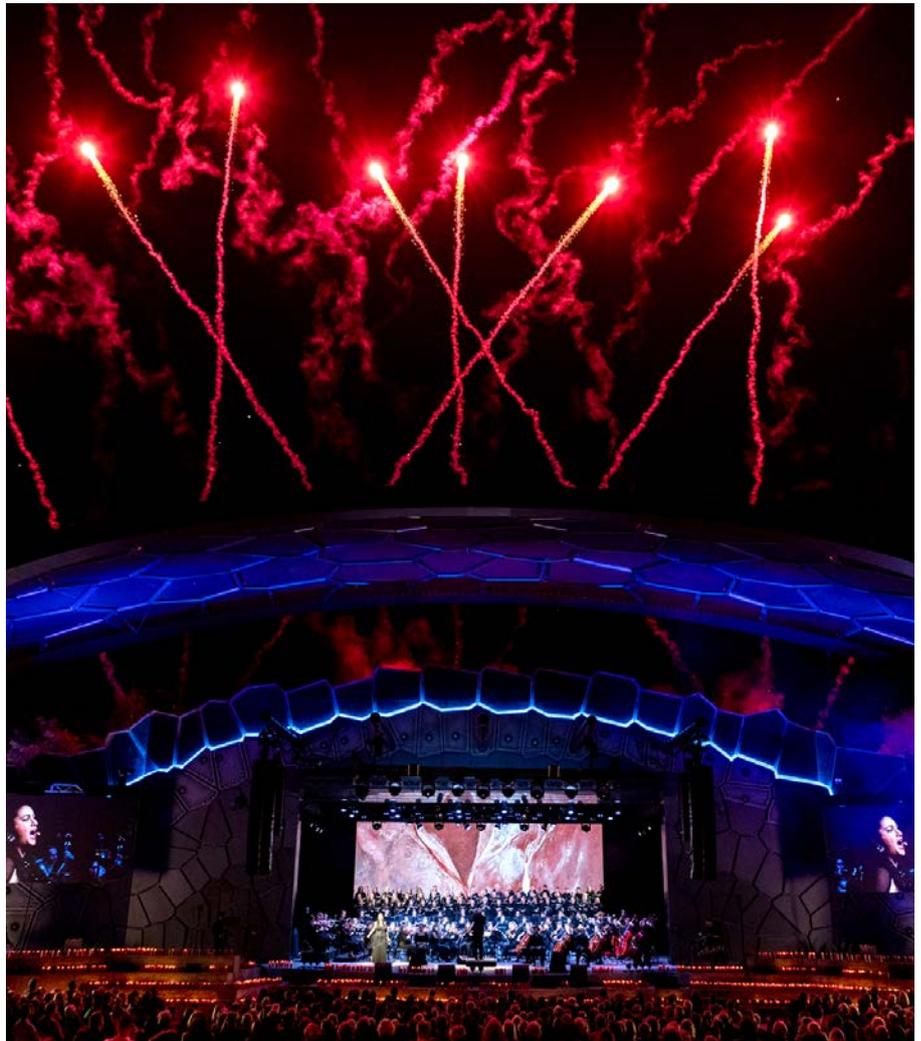
Griffith University's School of Education and Professional Studies has celebrated 50 years of teacher education.

Past and present students and lecturers were among 450 guests who gathered in April 2019 to celebrate the milestone.

More than 40,000 students have graduated from teaching education programs since the school was established in Queensland in 1969.

Dean and Head of School Professor Donna Pendergast paid tribute to the contribution of what today is one of the largest schools at Griffith University.

'Many graduates have enjoyed successful teaching and school leadership roles, while others have utilised their teacher education qualification in a diverse range of careers.'



Outdoor performance of Verdi's *Requiem* at the Home of the Arts

GUITAR DESIGN STRIKES A CHORD FOR MARTIN

What do acclaimed musicians John Butler, Ash Grunwald, The Teskey Brothers and Tash Sultana have in common? They all play instruments hand-made by Griffith University industrial design graduate Martin Pratley.

Martin, 39, re-opened Pratley Guitars on the Gold Coast in 2018.

'I was a musician growing up, playing guitar and piano. I started studying design because I wanted to be an industrial design and technology teacher. I always thought that making a guitar would be cool,' he said.

'In my spare time at university, I thought of an idea to make an acoustic guitar that you could take hiking with you. I designed one where the neck came off and folded in half so that it could fit into a backpack.

'By my fourth year of study, we had to do a major final design project so I implemented that one. I received a high distinction and made the local and national media. It made me think I could do this as a living. I just didn't realise how long and hard that road would be.'

Martin graduated with a Bachelor of Technology Education in 2003. He would teach by day, then swap the classroom for the workshop at night.

In 2004, Martin designed his own stomp box and by 2008 his product was taken on by Billy Hyde Music, the then-largest music retail chain in Australia.

Soon his instruments were being supplied to around 50 stores across Australia, until trouble struck in the form of the Global Financial Crisis.

In 2016, Martin thought about releasing one of his many inventions using crowdfunding.

The P-LINK (Pickup Link) pickup ring was launched to an amazing response. Every major guitar magazine covered it and the promotional video hit 500,000 views in the first three weeks.

Then, in 2018, Australian Guitar Magazine requested a Pratley Pro DLX electric guitar to feature on the cover of its January edition.

Martin said that while running a business is hard work, he's never lost sight of his passion or the lessons he took from his time at Griffith.

'University is something that teaches you how to learn for yourself; to investigate and implement,' he said. 'You might not realise it at the time, but what you learn will most certainly help you down the track.'

'My advice is to use what they give you to your own advantage, and don't be afraid of hard work.'



Bachelor of Technology Education graduate Martin Pratley

LYNLEA SADDLES UP FOR SUCCESS



Griffith University PhD graduate Dr Lynlea Small with her husband, legendary Queensland jockey Cyril Small



Griffith University PhD graduate Dr Lynlea Small has a way with people and, if her success as a thoroughbred trainer is any guide, she also has a way with horses.

Lynlea's energy and dedication are evident in her role as coordinator of Griffith Business School's Work Integrated Learning program. Her approach to training racehorses is no different.

This dual career was born of necessity. The irony is that, as Lynlea works to secure internships and create career paths for students, her own journey to Griffith University exemplifies how higher education can enable opportunity.

There is no doubting Lynlea's success as a thoroughbred trainer. In more than 100 career starts, she has produced many winners and placegetters.

Her husband is legendary Queensland jockey Cyril Small, whose career reached its greatest prominence in the late 1980s riding *Vo Rogue*, one of Australia's best-performed and loved champions of the era.

The couple live on seven-and-a-half acres in the Gold Coast hinterland. The property is dedicated to the safety and welfare of their racehorses and retired stock, aged between 14 and 30.

Cyril's late father, Bob, was a well-known horse trainer and breeder based at Casino in northern NSW. His memory lives on via the Bob Small Bridle (previously the Bob Small Memorial), which is run annually at the Casino Racing Club.

In 1994, it was fitting that Lynlea should be part-owner of *Good Memory*, winner of the inaugural Memorial and a horse bred by Bob, trained by his son Warren and ridden that day by Cyril. Lynlea has owned and trained two subsequent winners of the race, again ridden by Cyril.

'My first love is racing and I think that when people speak to me they know that and see that in my passion for it,' said Lynlea.

'But racing doesn't pay the bills. It has for Cyril and it's been wonderful for him, but he's also had some terrible falls. I thought there may come a time when I would have to become the breadwinner.'

A serious fall for Cyril on the Gold Coast in 2002 affirmed Lynlea's decision to study at Griffith University. The fall occurred while she was sitting her MBA exams.

'Cyril nearly lost his life,' she said. 'He fractured three vertebrae in his neck, had four fractures through his back and a broken nose. He was a very sick man, although to his credit he left that hospital weighing 47kg and 11 months later was back in the saddle.'

Despite juggling a demanding life schedule, including raising three children, Lynlea attained her MBA with Distinction in 2003, a feat she still views with some awe.

'I was always business savvy, but the only thing I used to study as a kid was the form guide,' she said.

As if to prove that hard work creates opportunity, a week after finishing her final exam Lynlea was offered a nine-month contract at Griffith's former Graduate School of Management.

'I grabbed it with both hands, started work the next day, and I haven't left.'

That opportunity has blossomed into an esteemed career for Lynlea, a two-time winner of the Griffith Award for Academic Excellence. She also became the foundation MBA coordinator for Griffith Business School.

'As a people person, I really loved that job so much,' she said. 'I was recruiting the students, mentoring them, and I was helping them navigate life as senior executives trying to do an MBA, working 60 hours a week and still making sure their kids go to soccer practice.'

'I really appreciate and love higher education and helping students. I think the students are phenomenal. You learn so much from them.'

Lynlea's appetite for learning is a constant. In 2007, she completed a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education, followed in 2008 by a Certificate IV in Racing (Racehorse Trainer) undertaken with Racing Queensland. In 2015, she attained a Bachelor of Human Resource Management with First Class Honours.

She also recently completed her PhD thesis, an Australian-first study of how relationships between workplace supervisors and business student interns enhance graduate employability.

The pace of life hasn't let up either. In her current role, she liaises with employers throughout South East Queensland to create 90-plus internships a year for students.

'Many of these students go on to have phenomenal careers, and we have instances where the students actually get a job where they did their internships. That's really the gold-medal performance.'

In terms of racing performance, Lynlea would love to train the winner of the iconic WS Cox Plate held each year at Moonee Valley in Melbourne.

Her latest hope is a two-year-old by *Street Boss*, whose father—*Street Cry*—sired the mighty *Winx*.

'I really appreciate and love higher education and helping students. I think the students are phenomenal. You learn so much from them.'

GRIFFITH TEAM GOING GLOBAL WITH HIT SHOW

The children's hit TV series, *Bluey*, made history in 2019 when it became the ABC's most-watched show, reaching more than 100 million plays on iView.

Hardly surprising then that it also won the Logie Award for Most Outstanding Children's Program and in October was nominated for an International Emmy Kids Award. But did you know that at the heart of the much-loved show is a team of Griffith alumni?

Bluey was created by Griffith Film School alumnus Joe Brumm and co-founded by fellow alumnus Daley Pearson. Meanwhile, the theme song was composed by Queensland Conservatorium alumnus Joff Bush. The show also employs Griffith animation graduates.

The creative team recently inked a deal with Disney Junior and Disney+ that will see *Bluey* go global.

They have also partnered with Moose Toys to produce a range of books and toys, and are in discussions to create a play based on the show.

Daley said that, despite such success, the team is determined to ensure the show remains true to its roots.

'This is definitely the biggest thing that's happened to any of us, but we want everything that goes out to be as good as the show,' he said.

'It's about following the natural instincts that made the show a success in the first place.'

Joe Brumm: creator

Joe Brumm previously worked on BAFTA-winning children's shows *Charlie and Lola* and *Peppa Pig*. He created *Bluey* after watching his daughters playing.

'It's fascinating seeing how much they learn from devising and playing their own games. *Bluey* is a celebration of the role that imaginative play has in shaping healthy kids,' he said.

Joe wanted to ground the show's universal themes of family and fun in a recognisably Australian setting.

'We are making this series right here in Brisbane with local animators and actors, so I wanted that reflected on screen — we've included Queenslanders, hilly suburban streets, backyard swimming pools,' he said.

Joe graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Animation (Honours). He worked in London for a decade before returning home to establish his own production company, Studio Joho.



Image supplied by Ludo Studio

Daley Pearson: executive producer

For *Bluey*, Joe teamed up with Ludo Studio—co-founded in 2012 by fellow Griffith Film School alumnus Daley Pearson, who also helped create the Emmy-winning children’s series *Doodles*.

Ludo’s ethos is simple: create locally, screen globally. This is evident in the amount of local talent working behind the scenes on *Bluey*, including more than 20 Griffith Film School animation graduates.



Bluey executive producer Daley Pearson

Joff Bush: composer

Queensland Conservatorium alumnus Joff Bush is the man behind the music of *Bluey*.

The show’s infectious theme has been heard tens of millions of times, with thousands of Aussie families recreating the famous “Bluey Dance” as part of the ABC’s popular Bust a Bluey Move competition.

Joff is working on a *Bluey* album and said the runaway success of the show had come as a surprise.

‘It’s super exciting—you talk to anyone on the production and none of us had any idea that it was going to be this big,’ he said.

‘I’m still just pretending it’s a little show that no one will ever see, because otherwise it’s just too much pressure.

‘I had someone ask me the other day what it was like to be part of a show that defined childhood!’



Bluey music composer Joff Bush

‘It’s about following the natural instincts that made the show a success in the first place.’



NEW DVC (RESEARCH) APPOINTED

Distinguished Canadian academic Professor Mario Pinto is Griffith University's new Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research). He replaces Professor Ned Pankhurst, who retired from the role in mid-2019.

A highly regarded chemical biologist with a successful record in championing research across several continents, Professor Pinto joins Griffith's leadership team after serving as President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and as Vice President Research and Chair of Chemistry at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Professor Pinto said the decision to move halfway across the world to take the top research role at Griffith felt natural. 'I like upstart universities, those who are not fettered by tradition, and willing to engage in bold experiments,' he said. 'Embracing interdisciplinary modes of research and teaching is vital because it's the real way forward to address global issues.'

Professor Pinto believes strongly in the power of diversity and dialogue in effecting meaningful change. 'Griffith University and Simon Fraser University have a very similar ethos with a real focus on issues that matter, like sustainability, as well as facilitating the development of discovery and practice-based research,' he said.

Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans said the appointment of Professor Pinto will help raise the profile of Griffith as an emerging leader in research, development and innovation.

'Professor Pinto has world standing in individual research capability as well as building university-wide research performance, implementing commercialisation opportunities and fostering relationships with government, industry and community partners,' she said.



FROM MARS TO GRIFFITH FOR NEW HEAD OF ICT



When Griffith University's Professor Paulo de Souza stares into space, he has a different perspective than most people.

While completing his PhD, Professor de Souza contributed to the design, production, deployment and operation of a sensor that was used by NASA aboard two of its Mars rovers.

'I helped in the development and deployment of a small instrument that was selected by NASA and the European SPACE Agency (ESA) for their 2003 missions to Mars,' said Professor de Souza, the new Head of Griffith's School of Information and Communication Technology.

'ESA's lander (Beagle 2) crashed on the surface at Christmas 2003. In January 2004, we landed two large rovers (Spirit and Opportunity) on Mars.

'Way beyond its warranty of three months, Spirit worked for six years and Opportunity until January 2019. The data we collected has helped us transform our understanding of the evolution of the Solar System and determined Mars was once habitable.

'I can't describe the feeling of receiving data from the surface of another planet using an instrument I helped build. I am still flabbergasted when I see Mars in the night sky, knowing that I have two sensors up there.'

Professor de Souza joined Griffith in September, having previously been the CSIRO's Chief Executive Science Leader and Chief Research Scientist.

'The future of ICT is promising and challenging. This is the era of digital transformation and students of ICT will be in a position to shape this future and even create new industries,' he said.

'There is absolutely no area of knowledge that information and communications technology cannot contribute to—from business, law, medicine, sport, engineering and environmental sciences to associated industries such as defence, space, logistics, mining, agriculture and the arts.

'My focus will be to work with academics, professionals and stakeholders to provide our students with an extraordinary learning experience, innovative teaching and to enable more interdisciplinary and industrial research to emerge.'

Growing up on an Amazon farm beneath clear night skies is where the notion of contributing to a more sustainable society was instilled within Professor de Souza.

'I had a strong connection to the land, forest and the night sky and at a very young age I realised the entire ecosystem was linked,' he said.

He went on to receive his PhD in Natural Sciences from Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, and has Bachelor and Master degrees in science from the Federal University of Espirito Santo in Brazil.

His research interests lie in the area of micro-sensing where he explores the applications of his instruments across different fields of science and in industry, including mining, ICT and space.

And speaking of space, Professor de Souza has ongoing engagement with NASA through data analysis using machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms that collectively are leading to groundbreaking discoveries.

He has also applied the instrument in earthbound applications, such as environmental monitoring, archaeology and medical technology. However, he said his career highlight is still to come, right here at Griffith University.

'I see our University as a research powerhouse with a vibrant academic environment and a wonderful collegiate culture. We have the potential to grow in every area we work and I am excited about what we can achieve here.'



Professor Nigel McMillan

BIOBANK BOOSTS MEDICAL RESEARCH

Improved treatment and management of chronic diseases such as breast cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's is a step closer after the opening of Gold Coast Biobank at Griffith University in 2019.

Established at the Gold Coast campus by Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ), Gold Coast Biobank is a purpose-built bio-storage facility bridging the gap in translational clinical research.

'Biobank is an important resource where people generously donate samples that allow us to carry out research to find cures for chronic diseases,' said Biobank Director Professor Nigel McMillan.

A first for the Southern Hemisphere, Gold Coast Biobank features an automated bio-storage facility, the Arctic, which can hold up to 100,000 specimens in a compact package, and a bio-storage management system known as OpenSpecimen.

'The facility currently holds more than 3000 samples from breast cancer patients and 1500 placenta cord specimens,' Professor McMillan said.

'With this technology, we have the resources to improve the management of our existing samples and the capacity to take on new projects.

'MHIQ is committed to translating innovative health research into better outcomes and we are able to offer research collaboration for academics and clinicians whose work involves the collection of human tissue.'

To find out more or support the Menzies Health Institute Queensland by making a donation, visit griffith.edu.au/giving

NEW HOPE FOR HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH TREATMENT

A scientific discovery at Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics is providing new hope for the effective treatment of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD).

Led by the Institute's Founder and Director, Professor Mark von Itzstein AO, researchers have discovered potent small molecules which block the early stages of Enterovirus 71 (EV71) infection. This opens the potential for novel drugs for treatment.

The research was published in the highly reputed journal, *ACS Infection Diseases*.

'We are hopeful that the findings of this research project will lead to an effective treatment to fight HFMD in its very early stages, and in turn offer peace of mind to millions of people around the world, especially concerned parents,' said Professor von Itzstein.

EV71 is a large family of viruses that is a major cause of HFMD, a highly contagious and generally self-limiting illness.

Although EV71 can infect children and adults, it is most commonly observed in children under five, with those aged under two years at higher risk of developing a severe EV71 infection.

As the name suggests, the disease is characterised by mild rashes on the hands, feet and mouth. However, in severe cases, HFMD can lead to meningitis, encephalitis, polio-like paralysis, and even death.

There are currently no drugs on the market to effectively treat HFMD.

EV71 has caused outbreaks of HFMD worldwide and has become increasingly prevalent across the Asia-Pacific, where it is now a major public health issue.

To find out more or support research at the Institute for Glycomics by making a donation, visit griffith.edu.au/institute-glycomics/support-us

CAREER DREAM ALIVE AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLE

Bachelor of Psychological Science student Luke Jones brings tough life experience to the university classroom. The 25-year-old has already dealt with being homeless as a teen and becoming a single father at 19.

That's why the Griffith Futures Scholarship program has been so important as Luke pursues his university dream.

'I grew up on the streets from the age of 12 to 18. I slept in parks mostly, which was hard. Most nights I just didn't sleep,' he said.

'My daughter lost her mother from her life when she was one. I had a pretty full-on experience of fatherhood. I haven't had a night off in years, but I love Scarlett and every part of being a dad. We make a great team.'

When Scarlett started prep, Luke rediscovered his 'intrinsic motivation' to renew an interrupted education journey. With finances a constant struggle, his Griffith Futures Scholarship eased those stresses, providing funds for a desperately needed car.

'The scholarship meant I could continue university. It pushed me to keep on working,' said Luke, who hopes to become a child psychologist and studies with a photo of Scarlett at his side.

'I've received great support from Griffith, especially through disability services, which helped me deal with PTSD and studying full-time,' he said. 'I've had a pretty complicated life, but I've been told this kind of first-hand experience can be very useful as a psychologist.'

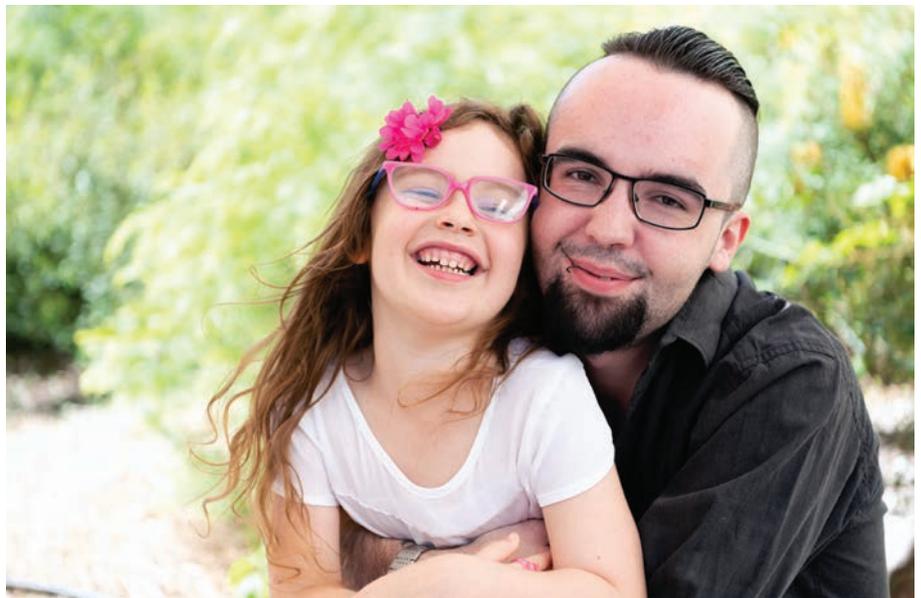
'I hope to use all the bad experiences in my life to try and ensure children don't have similar experiences to some of mine. The key is kindness.'

Griffith Futures Scholarships are funded through donations to the University's Annual Appeal. They support students who, like Luke, face financial or personal hardship.

'When I found out the scholarship was funded by donations, it brought a tear to my eye knowing people care about our futures that much,' said Luke.

'I'm not the only person here because of the scholarship. It's life-changing.'

For more information, or to support students like Luke, visit griffith.edu.au/annual-appeal



Luke Jones and daughter Scarlett

STAY CONNECTED

Griffith University's alumni are found throughout the world and are succeeding in all areas of life.

Maintaining connections with our alumni, students, industry partners and many other friends affirms that university degrees are not just an education, but are the foundation of a partnership that continues for life.

Each year, Griffith University hosts alumni networking events to engage with graduates, staff and friends across the world. In recent times, we have visited cities including Jakarta, Singapore, Los Angeles, Toronto, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

Through the Development and Alumni Office, we encourage you to update your details to ensure you stay in touch, and stay connected, with Griffith University.

There are several convenient communications options:

P +61 (0)7 5552 7218

E alumni@griffith.edu.au

W griffith.edu.au/alumni



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BEQUEST HAS NINA IN TUNE FOR STARDOM

Gold Coast piano virtuoso Nina Fan is the inaugural recipient of the Emily Reinhardt Piano Scholarship —part of a \$1 million bequest to the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

Nina, 17, studied at the Young Conservatorium before winning the scholarship that ensures a fully funded place at the Queensland Conservatorium.

‘The scholarship has made a huge difference to my life,’ she said. ‘I want to be a concert pianist, which isn’t easy, and winning this scholarship allows me to chase my dreams. I’m shooting for the world stage. I want to play Carnegie Hall. I want to perform with the Berlin Philharmonic.’

The Emily Reinhardt Piano Scholarship covers full tuition for an outstanding piano student, with a new recipient announced each year.

Ms Reinhardt’s husband, Peter, came from a famous artistic family in Austria, whose stunning home provided the setting for the iconic film, *The Sound of Music*.

But like so many people of Jewish descent, Peter was forced to flee Austria during World War II.

He found refuge in the Netherlands, where he met Emily. They worked for the Dutch Resistance before emigrating to Australia in 1950 to start a new life on the Gold Coast.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the German government compensated the Reinhardt family. Emily and Peter decided to nurture the careers of young musicians.

Nina began learning piano at the age of seven. At 13, she was chosen to participate in the Griffith University Young Conservatorium Rising Stars Program, taking lessons with the Queensland Conservatorium Head of Keyboard, Natasha Vlassenko.

In 2018, Nina won the Young Virtuoso National Award. She is also a previous winner of the Brisbane Eisteddfod Piano Award, and was one of the Top 20 finalists in the 2017 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition.

‘The feeling of performing on stage with an orchestra and just getting lost in the music is amazing,’ said Nina. ‘When I play, it comes from my heart, and I love that music helps interpret all of my emotions.’

If you are thinking about leaving a gift in your will to Griffith University, visit griffith.edu.au/development-alumni/giving/bequest-gift

‘The scholarship has made a huge difference to my life.’



Piano virtuoso Nina Fan is the inaugural recipient of the Emily Reinhardt Piano Scholarship

QUEEN'S HONOURS RECOGNISE GRIFFITH ACHIEVERS

The 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List was indeed an honour for several members of the Griffith University community.

Announced in June, honorees included the Founder and Director of the Institute for Glycomics, Professor Mark von Itzstein, who was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to medical research and education in the field of structural biology and glycochemistry. The award also recognised his work as a mentor.

'This honour belongs to a whole host of people who have made major contributions to both my career and life,' said Professor von Itzstein.

'Reflecting on the Institute for Glycomics' establishment at Griffith University in the year 2000 with only a handful of people, to expand to a vibrant critical mass of over 220 staff gives me a great sense of pride.

'I look forward to continuing to contribute to the University, the Gold Coast and Queensland community through my role in the Institute for Glycomics and its scientists' outstanding research.'

Among many achievements, Professor von Itzstein led the team that discovered the world's first anti-influenza drug, Relenza, which saves thousands of lives each year.

'This is just one example of so many of his profound contributions to society. We're excited to see what he will achieve next,' Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans said.

Several Griffith University alumni were recognised in the 2019 Honours List.

Forensic odontologist Associate Professor Alex Forrest was awarded an AO for services to dentistry. Associate Professor Forrest spent 14 years at Griffith.

Former Griffith senior executive (Human Resources Director) Janine Walker was named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to education, community health and the media.

Dr Steven Nisbet, formerly of the School of Education and Professional Studies, received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community through music and education.

Griffith Sciences graduate Professor Alan Cowman—currently the Deputy Director and Head of Infection and Immunity at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Victoria—was named a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for eminent service to the biological sciences, notably to molecular parasitology, medical research and scientific education, and also as a mentor.

Honorary Doctors of the University were also recognised, including Queensland Supreme Court Justice Debra Mullins, who has chaired Griffith University's Visiting Committee Advisory Board since 2005.

The Honourable Justice was awarded an AO for distinguished service to the law, the judiciary, professional development and legal education, and to women.

Mr Li Cunxin DUniv was awarded an AO for distinguished service to the performing arts, particularly to ballet, as a dancer and artistic director.

'I look forward to continuing to contribute to the University, the Gold Coast and Queensland community through my role in the Institute for Glycomics and its scientists' outstanding research.'



Institute for Glycomics Professor Mark von Itzstein AO

ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY AN AWARD-WINNER FOR LEAH

Harnessing the power of sound to preserve the planet's waterways has earned a Griffith University researcher an APRA Art Music Award.

Dr Leah Barclay's *Listening Underwater* project won the Queensland Award for Excellence in Experimental Music at the 2019 Art Music Awards.

Her large-scale acoustic ecology project drew on more than a decade of underwater recordings from freshwater and marine ecosystems around the globe—from coastal mangroves in Mexico to frozen rivers in Norway, the iconic Great Barrier Reef and the Queensland coastline.

The project was commissioned for Horizon Festival 2018 and was delivered as a series of sold-out, immersive live performances in a custom-built geodesic surround-sound dome on Mooloolaba Beach.

The live performances were accompanied by augmented reality sound walks accessed via a custom-built mobile app, and also featured live projections from Emmy Award-winning underwater cinematographer David Hannan.

Dr Barclay said it was an honour to be acknowledged by the awards which recognise excellence in the composition, performance, education and presentation of Australian art music.

'It's pretty fantastic being recognised for this particular work, which has a real environmental and community focus,' she said.

A sound artist, composer and researcher, Dr Barclay's work bridges the divide between art and science.

Her acoustic ecology research is helping raise awareness of the health of aquatic ecosystems, which cover more than 70 per cent of the Earth.

'This project used experimental music, augmented reality and new technologies to connect communities to their waterways and to inspire action,' she said.

'It demonstrated how listening can inspire empathy, and it allowed communities to understand their rivers, lakes and oceans in ways that are usually not accessible.

'*Listening Underwater* demonstrates that sound is one of the most powerful tools to respond to these challenges.'



Dr Leah Barclay using hydrophones to record aquatic ecosystems

FROG DISCOVERIES HAVE SCIENTISTS HOPPING

Three new species of frogs—one resembling Pinocchio, another a monkey and the third a parachute—have been discovered by Griffith University and Queensland Museum scientists.

The trio of frogs were found in New Guinea's rugged, forest-covered mountains and are incredibly rare, with scientists seeing each of these species only once.

Queensland Museum senior curator Dr Paul Oliver said all three frogs were unique and remarkable.

At first glance *Litoria pinocchio* and *Litoria vivissimia* look like typical small tree frogs, but on closer inspection a small spike, like a short nail, can be seen protruding from the tips of their snouts.

The third species, *Litoria pterodactyla*, is a parachuting frog, with extensive webbing on its fingers that is used for gliding out of its treetop home.



Long-nosed Tree Frog (*Litoria sp. nov.*)
Credit: Tim Laman, National Geographic.
Courtesy of Queensland Museum

GLOBAL HUB TO FIGHT WORLD HEALTH ISSUES

A new international hub at Griffith University will connect researchers fighting world issues such as climate change and infectious diseases.

The Centre for Environment and Population Health (CEPH) will provide a space for international and Australian researchers to collaborate on matters of public health.

The aim is to improve the forecasting of, and preparation for, major events. Examples include extreme weather, climate change, dengue fever and Ebola outbreaks, mosquito-borne diseases, hand-foot-and-mouth diseases, diarrhoea and heart disease.

CEPH Director Professor Cordia Chu said that while there was a plethora of international research being carried out in these areas, the new initiative would help to avoid missed connections.

'The key objective is to build capacity to strategically address priority health security issues with a focus on climate change-related extreme weather events, floods and emerging infectious disease outbreaks,' said Professor Chu.

'There are many sectors working on important health security issues. However, because they do not work together, too often they duplicate each other's work, struggle to identify gaps and resource less effectively.

'The CEPH Hub will coordinate international and in-country networks on global health security which can help link the many sectors working on these health issues.'

The CEPH Hub has an Indo-Pacific focus, with the intention of strengthening the capacity of researchers and policy-makers in Australia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam.



CEPH Director Professor Cordia Chu

HOW PROFESSOR BELA STANTIC PREDICTED THE 2019 FEDERAL ELECTION

On the morning of the 2019 federal election in May, Griffith University's Professor Bela Stantic breathed a sigh of relief as the results of his analysis hit mainstream media, via an exclusive article for news.com.au.

Not wanting to influence the outcome, the Head of the School of Information and Communication Technology delayed his prediction until midday, stating his belief that Scott Morrison would be returned as Australia's Prime Minister, despite official polls saying otherwise.

What followed was a frenzy of media appearances as news outlets clamoured to hear from the only expert to correctly predict the election outcome of the Liberal-National coalition retaining government.

'I've worked in data analytics for a long time because of my strong mathematical and data science background—it's what I enjoy doing. I'm not good with names, but I'm very good with numbers,' said Professor Stantic.

As Head of School and Director of the Big Data and Smart Analytics lab within the Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems, Professor Stantic has long been Griffith's proponent for the power of big data in analysing major event outcomes.

Media attention has increasingly come his way since he correctly predicted the result of the 2016 US election that brought President Donald Trump to power. At the time of his forecast, Democrat Hillary Clinton was heavily favoured to win the presidency.

That same year, he also predicted the UK would vote to leave the European Union after the Brexit referendum.

In each case, Professor Stantic's findings were formulated after days of crunching millions of Twitter tweets, not only analysing the figures, but also their underlying targets and sentiment.

'Even as a child, I realised that I read numbers differently than others and I am able to easily find interesting and often hidden information,' he said.

Professor Stantic said anything can be predicted if there is sufficient data. The issue is that predictions can influence output, so going public too early can cause results to change.

'I don't see predicting elections as a challenge any more. I'm now focusing on fake posts and fake news, to identify where people aren't telling the truth in their posts. It's my 'lie detector' for social media,' he said.



Professor Bela Stantic

VACCINE TACKLES DEADLY STREP A CONDITIONS

A vaccine developed by researchers at Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics has the potential to treat and prevent toxic shock caused by streptococcal disease. The invasive disease kills more than 160,000 people every year.

'Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) is an acute condition like meningococcus,' said program leader and laboratory head Professor Michael Good. 'If exposed to the organism, you can be dead within days, so we're hopeful that what we've discovered can help save lives.'

Invasive streptococcal disease and toxic shock are increasing in prevalence around the world, particularly among disadvantaged populations.

According to lead researcher Dr Manisha Pandey, streptococcus (Strep A) belongs to the same bacteria group that causes common, non-life-threatening and easily spread ailments such as school sores and tonsillitis.

However, in about one in 100 cases, the organism enters the body and becomes the invasive and potentially life-threatening streptococcal disease (ISD). Mortality rates exceed 25 per cent in even the best-equipped treatment facilities.

STSS occurs when a toxin made by the Strep A organism binds to a human protein on certain cells and activates T-cells in the immune system that prompt a cytokine or highly inflammatory response. This agitates white blood cells, which then release potent immune hormones that can result in death.

'About four years ago, we became aware of a cluster of bad cases of streptococcal infection resulting in a couple of deaths due to invasive streptococcal disease and toxic shock.'

The international research team used a transgenic (DNA altered genes) mouse model to develop a world-first STSS vaccine candidate. Known as J8, it showed a 1000 to 1 million-fold reduction of the bacterial burden in the spleen and blood after infection.

'About four years ago, we became aware of a cluster of bad cases of streptococcal infection resulting in a couple of deaths due to invasive streptococcal disease and toxic shock,' Professor Good said.

'We were looking at a vaccine candidate to prevent streptococcal infections.

At the time we were looking at it to prevent rheumatic heart disease, which is also caused by Strep A, and thought that the vaccine might prevent streptococcal toxic shock.'

The next step is to make monoclonal antibodies—antibodies made by identical immune cells that are clones of a unique parent cell—that could be suitable for human trials.

To find out more or support research at the Institute for Glycomics by making a donation, visit griffith.edu.au/institute-glycomics/support-us



Institute for Glycomics program leader and laboratory head Professor Michael Good

KATE'S GREAT AT EUROVISION

Queensland Conservatorium alumnus Kate Miller-Heidke delivered a stunning performance at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest final, placing in the top 10.

Kate won millions of fans and generated serious buzz with her performance, declaring her Eurovision journey 'one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life'.

'I'm on such a massive high—to get top 10 is amazing, and far beyond what I expected coming into this,' she said.

Kate performed her genre-bending ballad *Zero Gravity* in the grand final to a global television audience of 200 million.

The talented singer-songwriter graduated from Griffith's Queensland Conservatorium in 2004 with a Bachelor of Music Performance, majoring in classical voice.

Queensland Conservatorium Director Professor Scott Harrison said the Con was proud to be associated with Kate's vocal training through the work of renowned teacher Associate Professor Margaret Schindler.

'Kate is one of many Queensland Conservatorium graduates who are making their mark on the world stage,' he said.

Kate is the second Queensland Conservatorium alumnus to represent Australia at Eurovision, after Dami Im was runner-up at the 2016 Eurovision finals. Also, Young Conservatorium alumnus Nicole Blair penned the UK's entry in last year's competition.

Queensland Conservatorium
alumnus Kate Miller-Heidke
Credit: Jo Duck



INNOVATION DEGREE WITH A REGIONAL FOCUS



Associate Professor Popi Sotiriadou

Griffith University's Logan campus is expanding in 2020 to offer a new business degree that can be completed in just two years. The Bachelor of Business Innovation will have a heavy emphasis on entrepreneurship, innovation and community.

The Program Director for the new degree, Associate Professor Popi Sotiriadou, said it was designed specifically for the Logan region. 'We had a specific goal, to create an innovative degree, so we looked at all the available Griffith Business School courses and strategically selected the best elements to build this unique degree,' she said.

'We also went to Griffith Sciences and the School of Information and Communication Technology to make sure we included courses that meet the demands of the emerging technologies field, like smartphones, eLearning, eHealth, eCommerce, 3D printing, robotics, autonomous vehicles, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things.

'This course will introduce various cutting-edge technologies and explore the interactions between the technologies and users.'

Students will cover the foundations of business as core subjects and will learn what these mean for business through a series of industry-integrated activities relevant to the region around Logan.

The degree is designed to ensure graduates have strong networks within their class group and close extended ties to the community and industry.

'It takes into account specific factors influencing the Logan region, including rapid population growth, demographic makeup and student and workforce needs,' Dr Sotiriadou said.

'Students will work directly with organisations and businesses to ensure relevant problem-based authentic learning.'

Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of Logan campus Professor Linda O'Brien said the degree builds on a range of existing strengths, including deep partnerships with local business and industry, particularly the SME sector.

'This course will introduce various cutting-edge technologies and explore the interactions between the technologies and users.'

RAD SCIENTISTS INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

Professor Kathy Andrews leads the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) and heads a research team battling malaria—but she is equally passionate about inspiring the next generation of female science stars.

Professor Andrews founded Griffith University's That's RAD! Science project, creating a series of simple and colourful books that help bring STEM careers alive for children.

The latest book—*My Aunt Is a Crystal Protein Scientist*—was launched at the 2019 Brisbane Science Festival.

Written by former GRIDD Director Professor Jenny Martin AC, the book gives its younger audience a fresh perspective on scientific research.

'There is such a thrill in discovering new things about our world. That is what interested me in science in the first place,' said Professor Martin, a high-profile advocate for gender equality in science.

There are now four books in the That's Rad! Science series. Professor Andrews wrote the first—*My Mum Is a Parasite Scientist*—and hopes the initiative will encourage Queensland kids to follow female scientists into STEM careers.

'My aim is to show children that STEM can be fun and a great career option,' she said.

'We've had such an enthusiastic response to the books and are hoping to roll out the series nationally.'

That's RAD! Science books have been donated to primary schools across Queensland and are also available at Brisbane City Council libraries.

That's RAD! Science is a non-profit initiative of Griffith. The books are written by Griffith University faculty and alumni, and designed by students in the Queensland College of Art's Liveworm Studio.

To find out more or support the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery's, That's RAD! Science project through a donation, visit thatradscience.com

AWARD GIVES ACCESS TO RESEARCH, RESOURCES

Two Griffith University PhD researchers are among only six Australian recipients of the artificial intelligence-based AI for Earth Azure Award from technology giant Microsoft.

For Emad Kavehei and Abdul Karim, the prestigious award allows them to access data that will help in the development of a carbon interchange model of green stormwater infrastructure in cities like the Gold Coast.

Emad is based at Griffith's Cities Research Institute. Abdul is with Griffith's Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems.

'Traditionally, only a few influencing factors of soil carbon accumulation were monitored, despite knowing more factors are involved,' said Emad.

'Microsoft is supporting this project, which builds on my PhD studies to create and deploy an open-source model to predict the below-ground carbon content based on above-ground image data.'

Abdul added that by integrating different levels of relevant data with state-of-the-art AI methods, it would better enable them to predict the urban carbon budget.

Terrestrial carbon storage in soil accounts for more than 65 per cent of global carbon, making it a recognised strategy for climate change mitigation. However, so far there is little understanding of carbon storage in urban areas.

Emad and Abdul will access Microsoft's data to create computer vision and AI-based solutions for analysing and predicting carbon sequestration potential.



Professor Kathy Andrews at the launch of her children's book

NEW 'LIVING LABORATORY' SET TO INSPIRE AS N79 OPENS DOORS



Associate Professor Cheryl Desha returned to her alma mater at Griffith University in 2016, excited by a game-changing to-do list.

In addition to establishing a Civil Engineering discipline at Griffith University's Nathan campus, her duties also extended to a key role as End-User Coordinator—Academic, alongside Sciences colleague Stephen Boyd, in the development of the newest academic building.

In the intervening three years, that 6,000 m² building—also known as 'Engineering, Technology and Aviation N79'—has risen into the picturesque landscape of the Toohey Forest campus on Brisbane's south side, and soon Cheryl Desha will go to work each day in the building she helped create.

'As a chartered engineer, this has been a career highlight,' she said. 'It is not often that one person can be involved from concept through design and onto construction, and then move in!'

A Bachelor of Environmental Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy graduate (2010) from Griffith University, Cheryl had worked in industry and academia before the Academic End-User Coordination role crossed her path and brought her full circle. Back at Griffith, she was tasked with providing connectivity between the architects and builders on site and the university's staff and students who will work and study in the finished building.

Cheryl was part of a project team that needed to investigate and evaluate the expectations of future building occupants, and then use this knowledge to guide and inform a rapid design and construction work plan.

With an ambitious timeframe, Cheryl and her colleagues embarked on an intense consultation period in 2017, engaging with more than 100 academic and professional staff across a range of faculties and disciplines including Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Griffith Sciences and the School of Environment.

Within engineering alone, this included around 40 staff of civil, environmental, electrical, electronic, software and mechanical engineering, plus aviation.

'There was a commitment from the outset that the new building would provide a genuine environment for authentic, experiential learning,' Cheryl said.

'We are very proud to say that N79 offers an inclusive and engaging setting where students and academics from similar or varied disciplines can co-locate and collaborate to great effect.'



N79 is described as an energy-efficient, low-carbon building that is in keeping with its natural surrounds. It includes specialised laboratories, workshops, informal learning spaces, engagement spaces, a simulation studio and an energy research zone on its roof. Three of the bottom floors can be converted into event spaces that take advantage of a central atrium, and the 10 m-high laboratory includes a gantry upon which a lightweight aircraft or vehicle can be suspended.

The whole building is considered a 'Living Laboratory' where more than 30 sensors relay information about the building's energy, water and structural performance in real-time to students, ready for use within their studies.

'We were determined to create a digital building that is elegant, functional and future-flexible for evolving teaching and learning needs,' says Cheryl, now the Engagement Director (Industry) for the School of Engineering and Built Environment. 'It also serves to enhance the visibility of this university—literally it can be seen from neighbouring suburbs, reminding families of the opportunities offered by our Nathan campus. It represents a significant investment in creating innovative spaces for students and staff to excel, encapsulating the mission and indeed the vision of our new Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Carolyn Evans.

'Parents can see us creating great opportunities for their daughters and sons to come and study 21st-century engineering that is career-ready, at a beautiful and inspiring location in Brisbane. We truly want this building to contribute to shaping our future leaders—now and into the future.'

Associate Professor Desha paid tribute to the dedication and unrelenting high standards of architects, engineers and builders on the project including the aforementioned Stephen Boyd (End-User Coordinator—Technical, Griffith Sciences); Mark Roeher (Architecture, Hassell); and Ian Bacon (Project Manager, Griffith University Campus Life).

More than 250 employees worked onsite during the construction phase, which began in May 2018.



PROGRAM AIMS TO BOOST INDIGENOUS HEALTH



Renee Briggs, left, and Donisha Duff are making a positive difference through Deadly Choices

Donisha Duff and Renee Briggs are a 'deadly' combination as they strive to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Griffith University graduate Donisha is general manager of Deadly Choices, the flagship preventative health program of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIIH). Since 2009, UIIH has led planning, development and delivery of comprehensive primary healthcare services to the Indigenous population of South East Queensland.

'The word deadly means good to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and results affirm just how good the Deadly Choices program has turned out to be,' said Donisha, a recipient of a Griffith University Alumni Award.

'In 2018 alone, we conducted more than 23,000 health checks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and we're now involved in more than 360 school programs across the state.

'Deadly Choices is helping to engage our mob with health services; to not just see a doctor when you are sick.

'And our school programs normalise healthy behaviours and choices for our kids. This builds their confidence and leadership as young people to live healthy lives.'

With partnerships in the government and corporate sectors, some big names in Australian sport are also on board with Deadly Choices.

These include rugby league's Brisbane Broncos, Gold Coast Titans and North Queensland Cowboys, AFL's Brisbane Lions, Gold Coast Suns, Hawthorn and Essendon, and netball's Queensland Firebirds.

Participants in Deadly Choices programs and events receive special shirts acknowledging their involvement. A key requirement of receiving a Deadly Choices shirt is to complete a health check every year.

Donisha graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities (1998) and Honours (1999). Recently she took First Peoples student and Abedian Foundation Griffith Futures Scholarship recipient Renee Briggs under her wing.

'Doing a cadetship with Deadly Choices has only heightened my desire to work in First Peoples health,' said Renee, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Public Health in Health Promotion and Public Health Nutrition.

TOP POLICE ROLE FOR KATARINA

Queensland's highest-ranking police officer is a Griffith University alumnus. Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll APM assumed the role in 2019 after the retirement of former Commissioner Ian Stewart APM DUniv.

The first woman to fill the position in the Queensland Police Service's 159-year history, Commissioner Carroll graduated from the police academy in 1983. She began her career 'on the beat' before becoming a detective, with roles in the drug squad, crime operations and ethical standards.

A trailblazing role model for women in the police and fire services, Commissioner Carroll became Australia's first female fire commissioner in 2015.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies and an Executive Master of Public Administration.

In 2018, Commissioner Carroll received Griffith's inaugural Outstanding Alumnus Award.



Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll APM

Renee gained intimate insight into the health and wellbeing needs of the elderly when she became a full-time carer for her grandmother. It fired her desire to contribute in the wider Indigenous community.

'Deadly Choices is part of that journey,' she says. 'It feels like being part of a family, working for other people and other families everywhere.'

Essential reading for 2020

GriffithReview67 Matters of Trust

Alex Miller, Cameron Muir, Teela Reid, Damon Young,
Sana Nakata & Sarah Maddison, Alex Mankiewicz,
Omar Sakr, Jenny Hocking, John Kinsella, Anne Tiernan.



GriffithReview68 Getting On

Helen Garner, Tony Birch, Jane Goodall, Gabbie Stroud,
Vicki Laveau-Harvie, Melanie Cheng, Sarah Holland-Batt,
Charlotte Wood, Frank Brennan, Sam Wagan Watson.



GriffithReview69 The European Exchange

Christos Tsiolkas, Gabrielle Coslovich, Anna Haebich,
Julienne van Loon, Anthony Macris.
Edited by Ashley Hay and Natasha Cica.



GriffithReview70 Generosities of Spirit

Edited by Ashley Hay.



GriffithReview

Cover art (top row: left to right; bottom row: left to right): Anne Wallace, *Chain of Command* 2018;
Anna Di Mezza, *Memory's Persistence* 2016; Yury Avi, *Piece of the Sky* 2008; Louise Zhang, *Slosh Samples #2* 2014



“Griffith opened up a world of opportunities”

As a Townsville teenager with a rebellious streak, it took some time for Kimberley Bates to start the journey to university. By the time she reconnected with education and worked her way to Griffith, she thought she might have left it too late. Instead, Griffith is where she found her calling.

Today, Kimberley’s dedication has brought her to the attention of the United Nations, where she has taken up a role as a Humanitarian Affairs Peace Ambassador in Bangkok.

Kimberley Bates
Griffith student

BE REMARKABLE