Teaching Staff who have not previously used Blackboard in their courses should attend "minimum presence" training in the three weeks prior to start of teaching, semester 1, 2011. These one hour sessions will provide hands-on experience of the basic Blackboard features, familiarising teaching staff with its common functions. Please register via the staff development page www.uq.edu.au/staffdev/ under IT and Systems Training - Teaching and Learning technologies.

The EAIT IT Infrastructure Group (ITIG) have developed an IT specific help site for EAIT staff and RHD scholars to assist in finding answers to your IT questions or problems and keep you informed with the latest news, software and notices: http://help.eait.uq.edu.au

The site will be updated regularly and feedback or suggestions are most welcome. There have been quite a few staff changes within the ITIG this year. Names and photos of the group can be found at: http://help.eait.uq.edu.au/who-itig.html

For many years, the School of Education has run a successful professional development program for university teachers. In 2011, the program will consist of four 2-unit courses, which are typically taken over two years. It includes study modules on student learning, teaching methods, curriculum design, eLearning, postgraduate supervision, student assessment, and evaluation of teaching and courses. Participants conduct a project designed to enhance their own teaching.

From 2011, the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) will provide full tuition-fee funding for eligible UQ staff (continuing or fixed-term whose contracts do not expire before the expected graduation term). Availability of funding for the GCHEd may vary each year, so applicants are encouraged to apply early. Applications are being sought for 2011. An application form and additional details can be found at: http://www.uq.edu.au/education/index.html?page=9427.

The Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS) is a Commonwealth initiative that has been introduced to make Australian qualifications recognised and renowned throughout the world.

UQ is one of the first universities in Australia to produce Graduation Statements for its graduates. All December 2010 graduates were presented with a Graduation Statement in addition to a testamur and official transcript. The Graduation Statement describes the details of the graduate’s degree, a statement about the University, a list of the student’s course achievements relevant to the degree from which they are graduating and details of the Australian Higher Education Sector as supplied by the DEEWR. Further information is available at: www.uq.edu.au/myadvisor/ahegs

The Graduate Certificate in Higher Education

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Guest Speaking Opportunities

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) is looking to promote awareness of UQ’s research in the community by arranging guest speaking opportunities.

For a small time commitment, you can share your stories and engage with the local community groups. If you are interested in meeting new people, communicating your research and answering questions about what you do, register your interest at research@uq.edu.au.

Grants, Fellowships and Conferences

2012 ARC Discovery Projects
The ARC has opened 2012 Discovery Projects (DP) applications. The DP Instructions to Applicants and FAQs for funding commencing in 2012 are also now available at the ARC website at http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_instructions.htm.

Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship Program
Up to three Fellowships will be awarded in 2010-11. The duration of a Fellowship is for a maximum of 26 weeks and a minimum of 13 weeks, with a maximum award of $30,000. Applications are open to Queenslanders working in areas of mutual interest with the Smithsonian. Applications close at 5:00pm on Friday 11 March 2011. Detailed information about the Fellowship Program, including the guidelines and application form, can be found at www.science.qld.gov.au/international.

“Clean Air 2011”

Grant Success

MEI
The School is part of three successful bids for Major Equipment and Infrastructure (MEI) Grants for funding in 2011. The recipients were:
- Complete laboratory to semi-industry scale high energy milling and dispersion facility. For Yu, Halley, Truss, Veidt, Hou, Memmott, Wang, Xu, Zhu, Smart
- Advanced facility for transmission electron microscopy specimen preparation. For Qiu, Drennan, Schaffer, Qian, Taylor, Hayes, Nogita, Gates, Atrens, Caceres.
- A High-Sensitivity, - Resolution and -Throughput X-ray Powder Diffractometer for the Investigation of Polycrystalline Materials for Drennan

Congratulations

Free Access distinction
Congratulations to A/Prof Carlos Caceres whose manuscript (“Grain Size Hardening in Mg and Mg-Zn Solid Solutions” by C.H. Caceres, Gemma E. Mann, and J.R. Griffiths) was chosen by the Editors of Metallurgical and Materials Transactions to appear on Springer's website (SpringerLink) as an “Free Access” article. This honor is reflective of the comprehensive nature of Carlos’ paper and its overall excellence. Only a few papers are selected each year for Free Access, which means the paper can be viewed 24/7 worldwide via Springer’s site.

2010 Emerald Engineering Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards
Congratulations to Dr Kamel Hooman as his research on “Modeling Variable Viscosity Forced and Free Convection in Porous Media” has been chosen, by the Editor of International Journal of Numerical Methods for Heat & Fluid Flow as a Highly Commended Award winner of the 2010 Emerald Engineering Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards in the Numerical Heat Transfer & CFD category.

ACARP
Congratulations for Prof Peter Knights and his team, and Dr Saiied Aminossadati and his team who both received Australian Coal Industry’s Research Program (ACARP) research grant awards.

Member of the Order of Australia
Congratulations to Professor John Simmons who was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2011 Honours List.

The citation for John’s award reads “For service to engineering and education, particularly through innovative approaches to curriculum reform and the development of the international student market”.

This is indeed a fitting and well deserved honour for John for his outstanding contributions to engineering at UQ and throughout Australia.