School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering

SCHOOL NEWS

Upcoming Events

23 Nov  **Examiners Meeting (whole school)**
   When: 3pm
   Where: 45-204
   Action: email your grade distribution to enquiries@mechmining.uq.edu.au by 1pm 23 Nov.

27 Nov  **School Retreat**
   When: 8:00am - 4:30pm
   Where: Riverglen (70 Kate Street, Indooroopilly)
   RVSP: www.surveymonkey.com/s/79X72SS

28 Nov  **Results for semester 2, 2012 released**

28 Nov  **Teaching and Learning Forum**
   When: 8:15 - 4:00pm
   Where: Hillstone, St Lucia
   RSVP: tracey.papinczak@uq.edu.au

28 Nov  **2012 EAIT Thank You Event**
   When: 4:00pm - 5:30pm
   Where: First Year Engineering Learning Centre
   RSVP for catering purposes

14 Dec  **Pre-Graduation Party**
   When: 11:00am TBC
   Where: St Leo’s College

**Graduation**
   When: 2pm
   Where: UQ Centre
   If you wish to attend the ceremony, please note that it is necessary to complete the online registration form by 30 November, so that suitable academic dress can be arranged for you.

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr Vince Wheatley (SoMME) who received an EAIT faculty Award for Teaching Excellence during Teaching and Learning week.

Congratulations to the successful chief investigators who were successful in obtaining funding to commence in 2013 –

**Discovery**
Han Huang and Yueqin Wu
Developing a simple method for characterising the mechanical properties of nanowhiskers
$330,000

Richard Morgan, Michael Smart,
Ananthanarayanan Veeraragavan, Ingo Jahn,
Sandy Tirtey
The science of scramjet propulsion
$550,000

**Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards (DECRA)**
Emilie Sauret
Next-generation expanders for renewable power applications: dealing with variability and uncertainty
$361,880

**Linkage Equipment and Infrastructure**
Han Huang, Matthew Dargusch
Super high speed grinding facility for difficult-to-machine materials and structures
$310,000

Ming-Xing Zhang
Thermal and mechanical simulation laboratory for light metals
$390,000
Graduate Certificate in Higher Education in 2013
The School of Education is offering a unique opportunity for professional development in a UQ accredited program for those teaching in the university context. In 2013, the program begins on Saturday 23 February. It will consist of four 2-unit courses, which we recommend are taken part-time over two years. The program includes study modules on student learning, teaching methods, eLearning, and evaluation of teaching. Participants carry out a teaching innovation to enhance their own teaching or course.

In recent years, the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) has provided 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 and not all applications may be successful, so you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Applications are now open for 2013. An application form and additional details can be found at: http://www.uq.edu.au/education/index.html?page=9427.

Data projection facilities
ITS are currently in the process of upgrading data projection facilities across all campuses. As a part of this process, Overhead Projector units will be removed and replaced with visualisers across all centrally-controlled venues. Please inform your academic staff that OHPs will soon be phased out across The University of Queensland and that some minor adjustment to their teaching practices may be necessary. All venues which previously contained OHPs and visualisers will now only contain visualisers.

Academic staff will still be able to request the use of an Overhead Projector through ITS. For further information regarding this process, please contact ITS (itsupportdesk@its.uq.edu.au).

Grade Spread sheets
Final grade spread sheets in .csv format should be emailed to enquiries@mechmining.uq.edu.au. Please note that earlier submissions are gratefully and happily received by the administrative staff. Results should be carefully calculated, carefully entered and double checked to see that marks have been awarded to the correct students (please be sure to double check students with common surnames, etc). We would appreciate if you can send us the final .csv spreadsheet, and the spreadsheet which lists all pieces of assessment and the marks awarded.
Mining Field Trip

An excerpt from the BMA Gregory-Crinum mine newsletter is below -

**University of Queensland Student Visit**

On the 26 September a group of 13 UQ students currently studying second and third year degrees in Mechanical and Mining Engineering visited Gregory Crinum Mine to experience the world of underground mining firsthand.

The group were divided up and escorted by GCM’s Mine Planning and Underground Graduates to explore both the development panels and the Longwall. The students reported back that not only were they were fascinated by the opportunity to interact with an underground operation, but they enjoyed interacting with the graduates who not so long ago were in their shoes and many of them mentioned that the visit "brought their studies to life".

Please keep safe at all times
Michael Nucifora
General Manager
The TLDP will be responsible for the following in 2013:

- Mentoring program (new or inexperienced teachers will be allocated a mentor). Please contact Tracey on tracey.papinczak@uq.edu.au if you can be a T&L mentor next year;
- One-on-one advice and support for staff with lower SECaT scores;
- Maintaining and improving the SIGEE Blackboard site, including the new “peer review” section of the site;
- Tutors@UQ for EAIT Faculty;
- Teaching Assistants (TA) Program – this is a grant-funded initiative to provide additional mentoring and professional development of promising, experienced tutors in the Faculty;
- Workshops and the Annual EAIT T&L Forum (see Table)

The following teaching and learning **workshops** will be offered throughout 2013. Each interactive workshop will be delivered by a team of engineering educators and will model good teaching practice. **Please note these in your 2013 diary now!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Staff Teaching and Learning Basics</td>
<td>14-Feb-13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8:30 – 13:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistant Workshop #1 (O week)</td>
<td>20-Feb-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(8:30 - 12:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutors@UQ (O week)</td>
<td>22-Feb-13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(9:00 – 15:00)</td>
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<td>Active Learning in Large and Small Classes (mid-semester 1)</td>
<td>4-Apr-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(8:30 – 12:30)</td>
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<td>Assessment in Engineering Contexts (Swot vac)</td>
<td>5-Jun-13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8:30 – 12:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Staff Teaching and Learning Basics (O week)</td>
<td>15-Jul-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(8:30 – 13:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistant Workshop #2 (O week)</td>
<td>18-Jul-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(8:30 – 12:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutors@UQ (O week)</td>
<td>19-Jul-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(9:00 – 15:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Design and Constructive Alignment (mid-semester 2)</td>
<td>30-Sep-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(8:30 – 12:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giving &amp; Receiving Meaningful Feedback (Swot vac)</td>
<td>30-Oct-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(8:30 – 12:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Forum</td>
<td>28-Nov-13</td>
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If you are planning a summer vacation away from home, there are a few things to keep in mind while travelling to incur a small environmental impact. If you go to another country, support local tourist shops when buying gifts and souvenirs. Instead of renting a car, try to walk or rent a bike instead - you may find a great local restaurant or shop that you would have otherwise missed in the car. Try to learn something new about the area you are visiting for a more cultural and fulfilling experience. If you are staying in Brisbane, eat meals outside, and enjoy the beautiful summer weather. Most importantly, have a safe and happy holiday, and see you in the new year!

Sustainable Holiday Tips and Tricks

Leading up to the holidays there are many things to organize like planning vacations and buying presents for family and friends. Whatever your plans are this holiday season, don’t forget to continue making sustainable choices away from the office. If you plan on hosting a dinner party, go to a farmers market to buy local produce, make dishes with food that is in season and purchase fairtrade coffee, tea, and chocolate for dessert.

Thinking of great gift ideas is always difficult, but don’t just buy an item for the sake of having a gift - this can lead to clutter! Instead, opt for tickets to see a sporting event, a day at the spa or a gift certificate for dinner at your favourite restaurant. If you do decide to go shopping amongst the holiday crowds, make sure you remember to bring a reusable bag to hold all your purchases. For a unique and sustainable gift wrap idea, use the ‘comics’ section of the newspaper. This will not only save you time and money on buying wrapping paper, but it will also guarantee a smile and a chuckle from the recipient.

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Sustainability, Food and You

In June and October, Julita Greda, Green Office Representative for the School of Education, held a Sustainability Morning Tea for her office. Staff were encouraged to contribute homemade and home grown food items such as feta with spinach in home baked bread, passionfruit, apples and eggs. In addition to sustainable food, a quiz was also given with questions on sustainability. Second and third place were given a UQ sustainability water bottle or keepcup, and the winner with the most correct answers was given a bottle of Queensland organic wine. To hold your own Sustainable Morning Tea, consider sourcing locally made products, using produce items that are in season, buying fair-trade coffee and chocolate, and items with less packaging. More sustainable food options can be found here.

Meeting Virtually at UQ

If you are planning a meeting with individuals from different locations, decide to meet virtually instead with UQ’s Adobe Connect web conferencing solution. Conferences can be created for up to and over 50 people, are hosted in real time, and contain features such as video, chat and desktop sharing. Holding meetings online instead of commuting will help reduce travel emissions, and conferences can be easily accessed from anywhere with an internet connection.
What are environmental offsets and why are they important?

An environmental offset is an action that minimizes environmental impacts incurred from some associated activity. Environmental offsets can be applied to greenhouse gas, waste, air and water emissions. Some common actions for offsets include restoration and rehabilitation of areas, removing threatening processes and maintaining positive management practices. Offsets are important to ensure positive practices within companies, but they can also provide benefits to the wider community through reduction of air pollution, supplying parks for wildlife and reducing waste from landfills.

What does ‘sustainable purchasing’ mean?

Purchasing goods in a sustainable manner involves consideration of the economic, environmental and social impacts of the goods. Criteria including where the product was made, the materials used, how it can be disposed of, and whether the item is really needed should be considered for every purchase made.

Green Office Update Session: Noisy Miners

September’s Update Session, presented by Dr. Martine Maron, gave some Green Office Representatives a closer look into the behaviour of the Noisy Miner, a growing pest problem at UQ. A common misconception is that Noisy Miners are an introduced species, but they are actually native to Australia and are commonly mistaken for the Indian Myna, which is an introduced and invasive bird. Noisy Miners are territorial, and act in coalitions when forcing predators out of their habitats. They also work together to raise their young, so often they can be found in large groups all over campus. The dominant nature of the Noisy Miner has given them an advantage over smaller birds, like the Bush Stone-curlew, by removing them from habitats, which is why they are considered a pest problem and Key Threatening Process nationally. Forest edges and open areas are preferable to the Noisy Miner, so planting smaller trees and bushes will benefit the persistence of other birds.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Upcoming Events

Green Office - Sustainable Transport Competition
29th October - 2nd November 2012
Send results by 8th November to:
greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au

National Recycling Week
12th-18th November 2012
For more information visit: http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/

Green Office Update Session, St Lucia - The Guilt Trip: Can we enjoy a Sustainable Holiday?
Thursday 15th November, 10:00-11:00am,
Michie Building (09), Room 201
Followed by fairtrade coffee at Darwin’s Café
Please RSVP by Tuesday 13th November to:
greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au
Limited spaces are available

For further information contact the Sustainability Office, Property & Facilities Division:
Green Office Coordinator (p/t) 33469959  greenoffice@pf.uq.edu.au
Suzanne Davis, Sustainability Coordinator 33652076  s.davis@pf.uq.edu.au
Website: www.uq.edu.au/sustainability