

BRISBANE PERSON OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE

Katelin Haynes

Next Gen scientist

From student to research scientist, Katelin Haynes is on a fast track to success and her passion is attracting other young people to join her. Story by **Alex Bernard**



Katelin in the lab at UQDI, left, and in Boston, above, to compete at iGEM

If Helen Haynes hadn't given her inquisitive 10-year-old daughter Katelin a copy of *Newton* magazine, the Australian science community may well have been deprived of one of its brightest stars.

The bubbly Katelin must be a dream come true for recruiting young people to science. At just 21, she is not only accomplished but her passion for her chosen career is clear – a passion apparently ignited by reading an article on nanotechnology. "I was so excited about it! I knew straight away that's what I wanted to do. Science got its hooks into me then and there," she beams as we catch up on campus.

Katelin is currently studying for honours in a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry

at the University of Queensland (UQ) and will start her PhD there next year. The only daughter of admin assistant Helen and electricity share market trader Tony Haynes, and sister to younger brother Jamie, she is the first person in her family to attend university.

Mum Helen says Katelin was a gifted student from early on. "Tony always says that by the time she turned six, we couldn't teach her anything else – she was teaching us! I got her *Newton* magazine because we had nothing left in our house that she hadn't read – she devoured everything! I liked *Newton* because it had lots of different articles in it and I thought she'd like it because she loved science and nature."

At 14 Katelin went to her first science

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