

# CurtinLink

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[alumni.curtin.edu.au](http://alumni.curtin.edu.au)

## Alumni networking online



**C**URTIN University of Technology is revolutionising the way it connects with its alumni, and is proud to introduce *CurtinLink Online* – the next step in building a stronger Curtin alumni community.

Though the University's alumni span the globe, they are connected by a common experience – their student years at Curtin.

*CurtinLink Online* is a web-based networking tool, where alumni can

reunite with fellow graduates and reignite links to the University.

As a registered member, they will gain access to a range of interactive services to help manage their social and professional networks.

Upon registration to *CurtinLink Online*, members will receive a lifelong graduate email address. When using this email address, they can elect to have their messages forwarded to a personal or work email.

Members will gain access to the *CurtinLink Online* directory which will

enable them to search for their classmates and reunite with anyone from their graduating year or area of study.

Members will also be able to upload photos, post messages on friends' pages and participate in group discussion boards.

Alumni chapters, too, will benefit from *CurtinLink Online*. Chapter committees will be able to manage their sections or 'chapter hubs', enabling chapters to keep their information current and engaging for members.

*CurtinLink Online* will officially launch in the coming months. Alumni are encouraged to update their details to benefit from the changes, which will include invitations to events and tailored information about their specific industry.

Update your details now at [alumni.curtin.edu.au/update](http://alumni.curtin.edu.au/update) to be a part of Curtin's global online reunion, and stay tuned for your alumni connection.



## Large boost to aluminium research

Curtin has secured a share in a \$US2 million research grant from Russian aluminium giant Rusal to progress its innovative new application for the light metal.

The grant will facilitate research into the use of aluminium for hydrogen storage.

Research fellows and doctoral and undergraduate students will all be involved in developing the technology over the next three years.

Rusal, a partner in Queensland-based alumina refinery QAL, invited submissions from around the world, and Curtin secured the grant ahead of competition from 100 universities and research centres.

The Head of Curtin's Hydrogen Storage Group in the University's Department of Imaging and Applied Physics, Professor Craig Buckley, said the research could pave the way for hydrogen fuel cell cars, and ultimately reduce the world's greenhouse gas emissions.





# Director's welcome

Welcome to the autumn edition of *CurtinLink*, the first for 2009.

**W**HILE there have been changes to the Alumni Relations area, with the move to Development and External Relations, there remains a strong focus and enthusiastic desire by the entire team to ensure the delivery of high-quality service and engagement with alumni and its associates.

The responses of alumni in the Census Survey of 2006 and general feedback to the office drove the need to provide alumni with an enhanced online connection to the University. This has been a substantial undertaking nearly two years in the making, and we are very excited to be able to provide this online tool for our alumni members to stay connected with us and each other. Stay tuned for your alumni connection!

If you have not updated your details with us recently, now is the time to do it to ensure you get an invitation to our Global Online Reunion.

Already this year Alumni Relations has hosted the Alumni Family Movie Night at Movies By Burswood in Perth (now an annual event on our calendar), with the screening of the Disney movie *Bolt* on Friday 27 February. More than 1,400 alumni, family and friends attended the event and enjoyed pony rides,

face painting, balloon sculptures, show bags and a free sausage sizzle. By hosting this event for its alumni, Curtin is also supporting the numerous West Australian charities that Movies By Burswood is affiliated with, which seek to improve the lifestyle of children in a health or physical ability crisis. We thank all those who attended and look forward to holding the event again next year.

In this issue, Curtin's Sarawak Campus in Miri celebrates its 10-year anniversary. It's a burgeoning campus, with more than 2,500 students enrolled and several new facilities. We also recap on the launch of Curtin Singapore and the revival of the Singapore Alumni Chapter.

There is a special feature on successful alumni in the field of architecture, interior design, and urban and regional planning. We are also proud to launch the new Alumni Career Mentoring Program which has been made possible through the support of the Curtin Careers Centre. The program aims to help final year students become work ready and career oriented with the support of an alumni mentor.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *CurtinLink*.

Jane McMeikan  
Director  
Development and External Relations

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#### Have you moved?

Don't forget to keep us up to date with your change of address. You can update your details online at [alumni.curtin.edu.au/update](http://alumni.curtin.edu.au/update)

#### Tell us your story

If you've got an interesting success story, anecdote or reminiscence from your time studying at Curtin or WAIT, we would love to know about it, so we can share it with your fellow alumni. Email your story to [alumni@curtin.edu.au](mailto:alumni@curtin.edu.au)

#### CITE subscription

If you would like a free subscription to *Cite*, Curtin's issues-based magazine, please email Margaret McNally at [m.mcnelly@curtin.edu.au](mailto:m.mcnelly@curtin.edu.au)



## alumniprofile

### MARYANNE KELLY



### A sparkling career

In less than 10 years, Maryanne Kelly has transformed herself from a single mother earning a living as a bar maid into a multi-award-winning business person, which she said she owes all to her degree – a Bachelor of Commerce from Curtin.

"My proudest achievement was completing my first degree from Curtin," she said.

"I could not have dreamed that it was possible. And to be where I am less than a decade later is unbelievable."

As the general manager of production at Rio Tinto's argyle diamond mine, Kelly is responsible for the delivery of diamonds, the maintenance of their mobile equipment, the open-pit mine and the process plant as well as support areas such as logistics, supply, travel and accommodation.

In 2005, Kelly was the winner of a *WA Business News* 40under40 Award for being in the top 40 entrepreneurs under 40, while working as operations manager at Pannawonica, Robe River (a Rio Tinto subsidiary). She also won the 2007 Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award in the Hudson Private and Corporate Sector category.



**My proudest achievement was completing my first degree from Curtin.**



# Curtin Sarawak celebrates 10 years



From left to right: Mass Communications students Rachel Kedung Bulan and Siti Sarah with technical officer and Associate Lecturer Juliana Yong Siew Tchin.



Curtin Sarawak Campus.

**W**HEN the 350 or so engineering and commerce students hold their graduation ceremony at Curtin's Sarawak Campus in April, it's likely to be a very big celebration indeed.

That's because the graduation ceremonies will coincide with the 10th anniversary of the opening of the campus at Miri, with festivities including a carnival-style open day and VIP tours.

The campus was Curtin's first outside of Australia when it opened in 1999, in collaboration with the Malaysian Government, with little more than 200 enrolments.

According to Curtin Sarawak's Pro Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Professor John Evans, enrolments have now grown to more than 2,500 students, and the campus itself is still growing.

"We've just completed the new School of Business, which has lecture theatres and academic offices, and the recreation centre, with its thousand-seat hall, is being finished now," he said.

"We've also just opened a student accommodation block as well as the Learning Centre, which provides learning modules for students, and a 24-hour information technology centre."

**“ I think it represents a major contribution by Australian higher education to the region. ”**

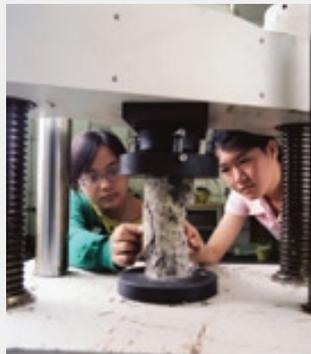
Miri is the main city in northern Sarawak and is an oil and gas centre. Evans said a primary goal in establishing the Sarawak Campus was to provide trained personnel for the local industry.

"In many ways, we've filled that void because each year we now graduate a large number of civil, chemical and mechanical engineers," he said.

The Sarawak Campus has also grown to include commerce, arts and engineering courses, postgraduate courses and local research programs.

Evans said one of the major achievements of the campus is the way it has integrated with the local community.

"Curtin Sarawak is a part of Miri and a part of Sarawak now. When you think of Miri, people think of Curtin," he said.



Former civil engineering students Wendy Lim Mui Joo (left) and Hii Ling Chee.

Curtin's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jeanette Hackett, said as well as filling local needs, the Sarawak Campus also attracts students from other nearby countries.

"I think it represents a major contribution by Australian higher education to the region," she said.

"It's also been important in strengthening Australia's relations with Malaysia and Sarawak in particular. That includes the acceptance by the Malaysian Prime Minister of an Honorary Doctorate of Technology from Curtin in 2007. And that's the first time he's accepted an honorary doctorate from an Australian university."

More information can be found at: [curtin.edu.my](http://curtin.edu.my).

## alumniprofile

PROFESSOR LANCE TWOMEY AO



### High honour for former Curtin VC

Professor Lance Twomey AO, former Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University of Technology, has received the highly prestigious title of Panglima Setia Bintang Sarawak (Honorary), which also carries the title of Dato.

Awarded in October 2008 by His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak, the title recognises Professor Twomey's work in developing a unique partnership with the State Government of Sarawak that resulted in the successful international tertiary campus in Miri.

"While I am thrilled to receive this personally, it is a tribute to Curtin and the extensive work so many people have done to develop the University's thriving campus in Miri, Sarawak," Twomey said.

In 1999, the Sarawak State Government invited Curtin to set up a university in Miri. Today, the University enrolls nearly 2,500 students in a broad range of courses.

Professor Twomey was a member of the University's academic staff from 1969, and was Curtin's Vice-Chancellor from 1997 to 2006.

**“ While I am thrilled to receive this personally, it is a tribute to Curtin and the extensive work so many people have done to develop the University's thriving campus in Miri, Sarawak. ”**

# Grads help build Curtin Stadium

It is with pride that Curtin acknowledges the professional efforts of four of its alumni, who are involved in the development of the University's state-of-the-art sports and recreation facility, Curtin Stadium.

**Melinda Whelan** – Associate Director, James Christou & Partners Architects  
Design Architect on Curtin Stadium Bachelor of Architecture (2000)  
Bachelor of Applied Science and Bachelor of Architecture Science (2000)

**Kirsty Griffiths** – Associate Director, James Christou & Partners Architects  
Interior Designer on Curtin Stadium Bachelor of Arts Interior Architecture (2000)

**Luke Pruyn** – Assistant Project Manager, Doric Construction  
Bachelor of Applied Science Construction Management (2006) (Hons)

**Lucy Bothwell** – Interior Designer  
Bachelor of Arts Interior Architecture (2006)

Curtin Stadium will officially launch in late-July 2009.



Curtin Stadium.

# Lecturers do an About Face



Simon Pental and Stephen Neille.

CURTIN lecturers Simon Pental and Stephen Neille, who operate Perth architectural practice Pental and Neille, were named joint winners of the prestigious About Face design competition run by the Australian brick industry's peak body, Think Brick Australia.

The About Face competition is research-based and allows architects to undertake architectural research within their own practices.

Pental and Neille's winning design comprises a new arts centre and adjacent public place in Wolf Lane, a thoroughfare that connects King, Murray and William streets, in Perth's central business district.

"We wanted to create architecture of space and light, a new building that is compelling and memorable to join the ensemble of enduring brick structures that signify Perth," Neille said.

"This new centre is a small civic institute for events, gallery shows, presentations and parties."

Pental, who graduated in architecture from Curtin in 1994, said winning the About Face competition was fantastic.

"Our approach aims to establish lucid and beautiful architecture that can touch the imagination, so this is a wonderful accolade for Stephen and myself," he said.

Pental and Neille were awarded prize money of \$10,000 for their winning design.

The accolades continued, when final-year Curtin architecture student Shane Winter won the inaugural About Face Student competition. Winter was selected from a field of more than 80 students from universities around Australia.

Final-year architecture student Georgina Willis received a High Commendation.

Curtin's Adjunct Professor of Architecture and Interior Architecture, Adrian Iredale, who is also a principal of Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects, will take on the role of competition adviser for 2009 and 2010.

# Planning a path to sustainability



Martin Keen.

CURTIN Urban and Regional Planning graduate Martin Keen is the 2008 recipient of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) (WA) Young Development Professional Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded to the most outstanding young talent aged under 30, who is working in the industry.

A senior planner with the East Perth Redevelopment Authority (EPRA), Keen said he is "honoured to be awarded this scholarship, as there was a strong field of candidates".

"It will enable me to broaden my skills and knowledge of the industry and open up numerous networking opportunities," he said.

As part of the scholarship package, which is valued at more than \$5,000, Keen will act as an ambassador for other young professionals working in

the property development industry in Western Australia.

"As a member of the UDIA Outlook and Sustainability Committees, I will have opportunity to voice the views of other young development professionals," he said.

Keen is the youngest senior planner at EPRA and began his career through its scholarship program while completing his Bachelor of Arts (Urban and Regional Planning) at Curtin. He graduated with honours in 2006.

He said he chose to study urban and regional planning because of the diversity of career paths the course offered.

"I chose the degree at Curtin because it offered a Planning Institute of Australia accredited course, and I respected the University's reputation," he said.

Envisioning Perth as a vibrant city that brings together a range of people, opportunities, activities and lifestyles in a sustainable way, Keen is involved in some of the most exciting developments around Perth, including the Perth Arena, the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia and The Link.

"Planning has a vital role to play, and sustainable development is something I am very interested in," he said.

# Diversity in design



Orang-utan enclosure at Perth Zoo.

**W**HILE many speak of the vocational limitations in Western Australia, three Curtin Alumni know that where there's a will, there's a way; the architectural way. Perth-based architecture practice Iredale Pedersen Hook (IPH) has attained national and international fame, having won numerous awards across the globe.

Adrian Iredale, Finn Pedersen, and Martyn Hook were each awarded a Bachelor of Architecture with honours in 1991.

Building on a mutual foundation, the architects have realised their individuality. After graduating, the trio travelled separately to explore a

**“** Looking back on our final-year projects, it is remarkable how important they were to our design evolution. **”**

variety of opportunities, with Iredale and Finn eventually reuniting by chance as sessional tutors at Curtin. The two met up with Hook while he was over from his new base in Melbourne. While comparing projects it became clear to the architects that to combine their different attitudes would actually prove highly effective.

The idea was implemented and in 1999 IPH was born. The partners' collaborative effort is a major key to the company's fruition, with each implementing three very different approaches to the work.

“We maintain this diversity and allow ideas to drift between projects,” said Iredale, the practice's conceptual artist-architect.

An avid drawer, Iredale infuses watercolours into his sketches to provide an innovative dimension to projects. Environmentally aware Pedersen provides the social conscience, as he combines an ecological bias with a functional elegance. Hook's pragmatism completes the partnership.

Such diversity is not limited to the partners themselves. IPH has covered a broad scope of projects, ranging from bridges and schools to regional wineries and restaurants.

While their portfolio boasts more than 300 projects in eight years, the architects' proudest achievement is their dedication to social and environmental sustainability.

Iredale said he believes his time at Curtin was invaluable in preparing the team for a progressive career.

“Looking back on our final-year projects, it is remarkable how important they were to our design evolution,” he said. “They remain important, and the design directions that [each future partner] was exploring at the time are still evident in our current work.”

Perhaps their most interesting project is an ongoing plan for the orang-utan enclosure at Perth Zoo. The practice is currently designing the final stage, which involves a collection of ramps and platforms for public viewing. The aim is to elevate the visitor to the same level as the orang-utan platforms to allow eye contact at a common level. Completion of the enclosure's master plan will mean IPH has provided services at every stage of refurbishing the habitat of these popular primates during the last 10 years.

Photo courtesy of Shamnon McGrath.

## alumniprofile

FLEUR WATSON



### Designer wears many hats

She's an editor-in-chief, author, journalist, teacher, researcher, curator and designer, but 1993 Bachelor of Applied Science (Interior Design) graduate Fleur Watson essentially sees herself as a communicator who promotes an appreciation of the value of architecture and design.

After completing an Associate Degree in Journalism in 1998, Watson went on to hold the position of editor-in-chief of the Australian architecture and design publication *Monument*, a position she held for six years.

In 2007, she completed a Master of Art (Curating Contemporary Design) from the Design Museum, Kingston University in London. She is currently curator for the 2008-2009 Cultural and Public Programs State of Design Festival and the L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival.

“I have also opened a multidisciplinary art studio that aims to present art, architecture and design through various exhibitions, events and publications,” she said.

With a workload that would exhaust most people, Watson will soon begin a PhD, and, later this year, launch her book *Architecture and Beauty: Conversations with Architects about a Troubled Relationship*, co-authored with architect Yael Reisner.

**“** I have also opened a multidisciplinary art studio that aims to present art, architecture and design. **”**

# Curtin Singapore strengthens presence in Asia

CURTIN is strengthening its presence in Asia by delivering its programs from a central location in one of the world's most stimulating and vibrant cities.

Curtin Singapore opened in November 2008, giving students access to a first-class education in modern facilities.

The University has been delivering programs in Singapore since 1986 through the Marketing Institute of Singapore, the Singapore Institute of Materials Management and the Singapore Human Resources Institute.

Curtin Singapore will continue its relationship with these institutes, although global education services provider Navitas will operate the new facility.

At a special alumni function on the day of the official launch, Curtin Singapore's Pro Vice-Chancellor, John Neilson, welcomed alumni, staff and students, and paid tribute to the many Singapore alumni who have already made a positive impact in their fields.

"Curtin has more than 12,000 alumni in Singapore, and I am looking forward to working with students and alumni to develop a Singapore Alumni Chapter," he said.

"All of you are ambassadors for the University, and your presence in the community contributes to Curtin's international reputation."

He said Curtin graduates have always been highly sought after by government, industry and business sectors throughout the world.

With the exception of Pro Vice-Chancellor John Neilson, all academic staff are local. Initially, academics from Curtin's Bentley Campus will be brought in to supplement local staffing needs, and while this will decrease over time, opportunities for academic visits to Singapore will continue.

**All of you are ambassadors for the University, and your presence in the community contributes to Curtin's international reputation.**



Curtin's Vice-Chancellor Jeanette Hackett and guests at the Curtin Singapore launch.



Curtin Singapore launch.

## What's on offer

From semester one in March 2009, a Bachelor of Commerce is the first undergraduate degree to be offered by Curtin Singapore. All the courses follow the same structure and content as those offered by the Curtin Business School at the Bentley Campus.

The Bachelor of Commerce degree has a range of single and double majors in the following disciplines:

- Accounting
- Accounting and Finance (double major)
- Finance and Marketing (double major)
- Management and Human Resources Management (double major)
- Marketing; Marketing and Advertising (double major)
- International Supply Chain Management and Logistics Management.

Curtin Singapore intends to offer programs in nursing, health sciences and humanities. At postgraduate level, Curtin Singapore offers a Master of Accounting, a Master of Human Resources and a Master of Logistics as well as Master of Supply Chain Management.

# Alumni Singapore Chapter: A new era begins



Edmund Seng.

**A**S Curtin Singapore officially opens its doors to welcome students in 2009, Curtin University of Technology Alumni Singapore Chapter (CUASC) has its fair share of news and exciting plans. On 21 February 2009, CUASC held its inaugural Annual General Meeting at Curtin Singapore. New committee

members were voted in to CUASC in the presence of Curtin Singapore's Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor John Neilson.

"I am delighted with this new facility. Both Curtin alumni and undergraduates will now have a permanent location to congregate and interact," he said.

CUASC gratefully recognises the support offered by Professor Neilson and his team and staff at the Office of Alumni Relations at Perth's Bentley Campus. The dedication, enthusiasm and efforts of the Pro Temp Committee, who sacrificed valuable time despite heavy personal and work commitments to help move this exciting initiative to greater heights, is also greatly appreciated.

President of CUASC's Pro Temp Committee Edmund Seng said:

"We are receiving more enquiries from alumni members about CUASC and how they can contribute. This is testament to the exciting times that lay ahead for the chapter and Curtin Singapore. It is without doubt that 2009 is going to be an exciting year, with new faces and new plans in place."

The committee represents a mix of Curtin graduates from diverse backgrounds and occupations. In 2009, its aim will be to re-establish connections with all Curtin graduates in Singapore and to organise activities and events that benefit CUASC members.

To stay connected with CUASC, and to ensure you get the latest information, update your email address at [alumni.curtin.edu.au/update](mailto:alumni.curtin.edu.au/update).

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**I am delighted that with this new facility, both Curtin alumni and undergraduates will now have a permanent location to congregate and interact.**

”

## Remembering humble beginnings



Kim Keat Primary School in the 1960s. Photos courtesy of Suzanne Chew.

**T**HE opening of Curtin Singapore brought together not only the Curtin community, but also locals who are a part of the building's history.

When Singapore's Housing Development Board (HDB) began relocating families from the kampong of Potong Pasir to the suburban Kim Keat Road district in the 1960s, Suzanne Chew and her seven siblings began an unbroken

association with the newly built primary school in the area.

"Kim Keat Primary School was built adjacent to the new housing, and five of my siblings were of school age," Chew, now a primary school teacher, said.

"My whole family would be involved in that school one way or another for many years to come. My father secured the 'sweets' stall at the school, and my siblings and I used to help out during recess before the bell called us back to class. When dad



was away, mum took charge, cleaning the stall and replenishing stock.

"My father, missing the vegetation that used to grow abundantly around the grounds of our kampong, also planted numerous trees and shrubs around the school, and today his beautiful, shady Angsana trees still stand."

The trees remain, but the primary school building, which Chew can still see from her flat built on the site of the old HDB housing, had an extensive facelift and was transformed into Curtin Singapore.

Chew said her youngest brother, Khim, had managed to organise a primary school reunion in 2007, ahead of renovations to convert the premises.

"I am glad that Curtin has chosen to locate its Singapore teaching facility on the site of the old school," Chew said.

"In its day, it was an architectural marvel, and with clever renovations, it has been transformed into a beautiful building for a prestigious university."

“

**In its day, it was an architectural marvel.**

”

## Highlights

### Alan Barrett

Graduate Alan Barrett has become the University's first Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA). The prestigious EMPA, an initiative of the Australia New Zealand School of Government, is a degree which provides exposure to national and international best practice approaches for addressing public policy issues.

### Robyn Cleaver

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust has awarded Curtin Master of Education student Robyn Cleaver a Churchill Fellowship. The fellowship will enable Cleaver to travel overseas to study methods for improving educational opportunities for rural, academically gifted and talented secondary students. There she hopes to meet with educators, and investigate various programs and mentoring initiatives.

### Helen Dullard

In 2008, Helen Dullard was awarded the John Curtin Medal, acknowledging her long-standing contribution and service to the community. Described as a social entrepreneur, Dullard is widely admired for her work with organisations, including the Hills Community Support Group, Mundaring Shire, Local Government Advisory Board, Racing and Gaming Commission and the Council of the Ageing Board.

### Darren Garvey

A lecturer at Curtin University of Technology's Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Darren Garvey has been short-listed for the 2008 Stanner Award. His book, *Indigenous Identity in Contemporary Psychology – Dilemmas, Developments, Directions*, is one of only three short-listed for the award, which is presented by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

### John de Laeter

Emeritus Professor John de Laeter has been inducted into the Western Australian Science Hall of Fame. He was recognised as part of the Premier's Science Awards 2008 for his lifelong dedication to science in WA. Professor de Laeter was also inducted into the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame, in October 2008, for his seminal research into mineral exploration technology. His research has made a significant contribution to geochronological research – the science of dating and determining the time sequence of events in the history of the Earth.

# A hot night gambling on global business

**T**HE Graduate School of Business's highly anticipated Hot Night in the City was a huge success, with more than 80 alumni, students and friends meeting for an evening of fun, mock-gambling and all-important networking.

The event, which was held at Tiger Lil's in the Perth CBD, in October 2008, took the theme 'gambles we take to go global'. The organisers backed a winner when they introduced high-profile guest speaker Patria Jafferries to the gathering.

Co-founder of Dome Coffee Australia, and widely regarded as one of Australia's visionary

marketers, Jafferries spoke about "growing a Perth business idea into a global phenomenon, from an entrepreneurial perspective".

Jafferries was awarded Telstra Business Woman of the Year in 2000, and was instrumental in developing the Matilda Bay Breweries brand. With experience in the finance industry, community organisations and the corporate arena, she shared some of the gambles she has taken over a diverse career with the gathered crowd, in a relaxed, informal and highly engaging talk.

Attendees later tried their luck at mock gambling tables with the 'funny money' they were handed on entry.

GSB alumni president Rebecca McCabe was delighted with the success of the night.

"Hot Night '08 was a highlight evening in an active calendar of events for GSB alumni," she said.

"2009 will bring more valuable opportunities for our alumni, both for networking and continued learning, and we're particularly looking forward to the launch of GSB alumni events in regional areas."

She particularly acknowledged the support of Hot Night in the City's major sponsor, Integrated Group.

For further information regarding the alumni chapter, please contact Rebecca McCabe on 0408 830 323 or visit the website at: [alumni.curtin.edu.au/chapters/gsb](http://alumni.curtin.edu.au/chapters/gsb).



GSB Alumni Committee.



Patria Jafferries, guest speaker and co-founder of Dome Coffee, Australia.



# Information Systems Sundowner

**M**ORE than 50 Information Systems (IS) alumni, current Curtin students and staff enjoyed an industry meet-and-greet at the Moon and Sixpence hotel in October.

Organised by Curtin's School of Information Systems and the Office of Alumni Relations, the event provided an opportunity for current students and alumni to connect with fellow alumni and IS lecturers.

The first of two guest speakers on the night was Jim Ellis, a former chairman of the Australian Computer Society Foundation.

Ellis, who received an Order of Australia Medal last year, said information systems was one of the

most exciting career paths you could choose.

He said there were three things that made IS unique: first, its ability to constantly evolve and re-invent itself; second, IS professionals can work anywhere in the world without the need for retraining; and third, IS is relevant to, and an integral part of, every industry.

Following Jim Ellis was Julian Clarke, from the Australian Computer Society Young IT, who spoke about the foundation and IS career pathways.

Clarke said Young IT was a support network that provides a range of services and benefits for its young, up-and-coming members.

Manager of the School of Information Systems Karen Clarke said student

numbers are surprisingly declining in the IS field, but that every effort was being made to encourage and promote the industry as an exciting and viable career choice.

"One of the ways in which we have addressed the situation is through the formation of THiNK, a professional association aimed at connecting current Curtin students with alumni working in the IS field," Clarke said.

"Also, interest has been raised by alumni and staff to form an IS Alumni Chapter in 2009.

"It is hoped the two bodies will come together through various mentoring programs, special events and industry information sessions to not only connect students and alumni, but also promote the industry as a whole."

## Highlights

### Roger Mandel

Curtin's School of Agriculture and Environment welcomes the appointment of Dr Roger Mandel as agronomy lecturer. As well as teaching, Dr Mandel will carry out new research, including joint projects on precision agriculture with the CSIRO, and on emerging weeds in changing farm systems with the Department of Agriculture and Food WA. Both projects are funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

### Lesley Parker AM

Emeritus Professor Lesley Parker AM received the 2008 Australian Learning and Teaching Council Career Achievement Award, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to learning and teaching in higher education for 30 years. As well as serving as Curtin's Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor for nearly eight years, and as a member or chair on the councils of numerous schools, colleges and industry bodies, Professor Parker has also authored many publications.

### Hannah Rigby

Dr Hannah Rigby was recently appointed Postdoctorate Research Fellow at Curtin University of Technology's School of Agriculture and Environment. Her research focuses on the beneficial use of biosolids and biowastes in agriculture. The research could eventuate in an environmentally and economically sustainable alternative to synthetic fertilisers for farmers throughout the world.

### Jeanette Robertson OAM

Late last year, Jeanette Robertson was awarded an Order of Australia for service to nursing and the community through athletics, the Perth Zoo Docent Association and other voluntary roles. The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens.

### Geoffrey Searle

In September 2008, Geoffrey Searle was appointed Vice-President Corporate Services at Curtin. The position is a broad, newly created leadership role within the University's executive. Searle's experience, having held senior positions with Home Building Society, StateWest Credit Society and Challenge Bank Group, will help drive Curtin's commercial success, physical development planning and overall information technology initiatives.



Information Systems alumni networking at the Moon and Sixpence hotel, Perth.



Alumni Family Movie Night at Movies by Burswood.

# Tales from abroad

By Jamie Macchiusi



Jamie Macchiusi.

**W**HILE I was completing my honours in art at Curtin in 2007, I was selected for the Advanced Course in Visual Art, also known as Corso Superior Arte Visive (CSAV), which is held annually by the Fondazione Antonio Ratti.

Fondazione Antonio Ratti (FAR) is a non-profit organisation founded

in Italy in 1985 by Antonio Ratti. Ratti's aim was to transform a deep personal, cultural and entrepreneurial passion for textiles into an institution, which would operate in the field of textiles and contemporary art. The CSAV course's distinguishing feature is that students have the opportunity to work side by side with renowned artists, and to compare their work with that of other students who come from different artistic backgrounds.

The course was held over three weeks in July, in the Italian city of Como, about an hour's travel by train, north of Milan.

Each year, the CSAV course is directed by a visiting professor, and in 2007 it was under the guidance of seminal American performance and video artist Joan Jonas.

The foundation accepts only 22 places a year, divided equally between Italian and international students.

Thrilled to be one of them, I packed my case (which was a few kilos shy of my body weight) and, armed with a vague set of directions and a good measure of anxiety, I flew to Italy.

Some of the most memorable moments included driving towards the city of Brunate, with its magnificent views of Lake Como as the sun sets, and watching a group of innovative and determined art students trying to splice an RCA cable to a headphone jack with a table knife, in order to plug an iPod into a stereo.

At the end of the course, there is a follow-up exhibition run by FAR in Milan, which serves as an extension to some of the ideas and artworks that have developed during the CSAV course.

So I spent the end of 2007 preparing my exhibition *Invisible Miracles*,

and attempting to figure out what direction my work was heading in after a departure from my normal working method during the CSAV course.

Thankfully, my education at Curtin has enabled me to constantly challenge myself and to question and push my art practice in new directions.

*Invisible Miracles* was held in Milan on 29 November 2007.

I graduated at the end of 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts (Art) with honours, and am currently living and working as an artist, freelance designer and curator in Perth.

In 2008, Jamie Macchiusi was involved in a number of projects, including artwork for *Building Show, Silver*, the 25th Artrage Festival retrospective at PICA, and the curatorial project *For a moment the blissful feeling of being able to see it all* at the Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery in Fremantle. He also worked as the designer on *Home Alone (The Suburbs Dream Tonight)*, an Artrage Festival event. Macchiusi is currently collaborating on a new curatorial project, and continues to work with the newly established art and design collective SUBGANG.

# Oscar nomination for alumnus

**C**URTIN University of Technology congratulates Michael Carlin on his 2009 Academy Award nomination for Best Art Direction in the film *The Duchess* (2008).

Carlin graduated from Curtin in the 1980s with a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts), majoring in sculpture. He furthered his art studies in Sydney and London.

Since studying, Carlin has headed production design for many well-known feature films including *The War Zone* (1999), *What a Girl Wants* (2003), *The Last King of Scotland*

(2006), *Mr. Bean's Holiday* (2007), and the television series *Crime and Punishment* (2002).

Watch out for his latest feature film productions: *Red Tails* (2009), executive produced by George Lucas, and *Lost for Words* (2009) starring Hugh Grant and Ziyi Zhang.

Although the Oscar was won by Donald Graham Burt for *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, Curtin commends Carlin on the fantastic career accomplishment his Oscar nomination symbolises.



Michael Carlin in St. Petersburg to make *Crime and Punishment* for BBC TV.

# Curtin welcomes first Federation Fellow



Professor Peter Teunissen.

CURTIN is hosting its first-ever Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellow, with internationally renowned geodesist Professor Peter Teunissen, who commenced in January.

The appointment follows Teunissen's role in a Curtin-led 2007 ARC project to extend key technologies for next-generation Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS).

Geodesy is the study of the Earth's size, shape and gravity field, and forms the scientific basis of positioning and navigation.

The promise of a combination of multi-signal, multi-frequency GNSS offering autonomous geospatial positioning to within a few millimetres will provide a much broader range of capabilities than the current global positioning system (GPS).

Professor Teunissen will lead a team of researchers to improve Australia's capability in utilising a modernised

GPS and GNSS by addressing critical theoretical and modelling issues. The team will aim to fulfil the high accuracy and high integrity requirements of tomorrow's geospatial information needs in the Earth, atmospheric and space sciences.

The overarching strategy is to create one 'virtual' GNSS (system of systems) by exploiting multi-constellation GNSSs and the unique properties of their ultra-precise, multi-frequency, carrier-phase tracking data. The outcome will be a general theory, together with an integrated model that provides methods and techniques which will help to improve geospatial information for future geospatial technologies, such as vehicle navigation, automated machine guidance and location-based services.

## Who are Federation Fellows?

Federation Fellows are researchers of international standing who play a leadership role in building Australia's international competitive research capacity.

Applicants and Federation Fellow candidates submit their research proposals to the Australian Research Council (ARC) for consideration. The ARC is a statutory authority within the Australian Government's Innovation, Industry, Science and Research portfolio.

The ARC's mission is to deliver policy and programs that advance Australian research and innovation globally, and benefit the community.

To this end, the objectives of the Federation Fellowships scheme are to:

- attract and retain outstanding researchers of international renown
- build and strengthen world-class research capability in Australia
- expand Australia's knowledge base by supporting ground-breaking, internationally competitive research
- forge strong links among researchers, industry and the international research community
- support research that will result in economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits for Australia.

## Congratulations



Elissa Down.

CURTIN staff and alumni have received notable professional accolades with which to start 2009.

Curtin film and television graduate Elissa Down's debut film, *The Black Balloon*, which she co-wrote and directed, collected six awards at the 2008 Australian Film Industry Awards, including an award for best film and best director. The film, an uplifting story of a family



From left to right: Nicholas Leigh, Tabitha Berger, Jarrad Long and Rick Barrett.

dealing with the challenges of autism, took more than \$2.1 million at the box office last year.

Curtin's Digital Media Unit, which comprises many Curtin graduates, has been rewarded for its online excellence at the annual WA Web Awards. The Curtin website was judged best educational website in WA.

Researchers from Curtin's Faculty of Health Sciences have won the 2008 WA Inventor of the Year Award (Early Stage category) with their diagnostic kit that identifies people at risk of chronic

pain. The Cold Pain Test Kit will contribute to the quality of patient care provided by GPs.

Congratulations also to the winner of our wine giveaway in the November 2008 issue of *CurtinLink*.

Tina Pickford, a speech pathologist who graduated from Curtin in 2005, won two cases of 2005 cabernet merlot vintage, recently bottled by Curtin's Viticulture and Wine Science students. Thank you to everyone who entered.

## Graduation dates

### Monday 4 May, 6pm

Curtin Sydney Campus  
City Recital Hall, Sydney

### Friday 15 May, 5pm

Western Australian School of Mines  
Centre for Regional Education  
WMC Conference Centre

### May - Date TBC

Mauritius (All faculties).

### Further graduate information

Tel: +61 8 9266 7115  
Email: [graduations@curtin.edu.au](mailto:graduations@curtin.edu.au)

# 2009 alumni career mentoring program



and life experience, can enhance their networks, career development and promotion opportunities.

Following evaluation of the pilot program in Semester one 2009, the program will be expanded to other faculties.

For more information about the Alumni Career Mentor Program, please email the Curtin Careers Centre at [careers@curtin.edu.au](mailto:careers@curtin.edu.au).

**T**HE Curtin Careers Centre and the Office of Alumni Relations are piloting an alumni mentoring program in Semester one, 2009.

The semester-long mentoring program will match Curtin final-year or penultimate-year students to faculty alumni who graduated more than two years ago.

The purpose of the project is twofold.

Students will benefit as alumni enhance their understanding of a successful transition into the workforce. The career mentor provides insights into the workplace, networking opportunities and exploration of career options.

However, the program will also be an important career development opportunity for alumni. It will include two sessions for alumni with Careers Centre staff, where alumni can explore how the mentoring experience, along with their work

**“**  
**Students will benefit as alumni enhance students' understanding of a successful transition into the workforce.**  
**”**

## John Curtin Gallery

**d0Fa09**  
**1-31 May**

*d0Fa09* is an exhibition of works by graduating Doctor of Creative Arts, Master of Creative Arts and Master of Arts students from the Department of Art, Curtin University of Technology. The exhibition showcases a diverse range of artistic backgrounds and interests, from painting to large-scale audio-visual installations and digital artworks.

Participating artists: Roger Goodman, Kirsten Hudson, Elizabeth Hammond, Lindsay Harris, Rhett Jones, Rachel Kierath, Alana McVeigh, Adrian Reeve, Mio Takagi and Marzena Topka.

**Nalda Searles –**  
**Drifting in My Own Land**  
**19 June – 30 August**

For nearly 30 years Nalda Searles has been an innovator in the use of native fibres and found objects from the environment for the production of fibre-textiles, sculpture and installation artworks. Drawing on her own life, memories of her parents and the experience of regionally based women she has known, this exhibition is a powerful expression of identity in relation to both the physical and social landscape.

**For further information**  
**and gallery opening times**

Tel: +61 8 9266 4155  
Email: [galleries@curtin.edu.au](mailto:galleries@curtin.edu.au)  
[johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au](http://johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au)

### ALUMNI RELATIONS

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### alumniprofile

FADHILA ADNAN



### Google Jobs > Search

How many people have dreamed of working at Google? Curtin Business School graduate Fadhila Adnan is living that dream, having secured a position with the highly sought after employer.

As the Account Coordinator for the Finance Vertical, she is responsible for managing the daily activities that provide AdWords for Google's large financial clients. AdWords are search-related column advertisements that appear when Google customers use the browser.

"I came across this position at Google and thought it was too good of an opportunity to miss," Adnan said.

"I fulfilled all the criteria and thought, why not?"

Landing her position at Google Sydney proved to be challenging. Throughout the three-month screening process, Adnan needed to pass six interviews with six interviewers.

"It was challenging at times. However, I knew what my abilities were, and I was confident that I was the right person," she said.

Adnan now enjoys working with one of the most sophisticated and intelligent advertising tools operating in the online arena.

**“**  
**It was challenging at times. However, I knew what my abilities were, and I was confident that I was the right person.**  
**”**

Don't forget to **keep us updated** if you change address. We are also looking for story suggestions and would like to know what you've been up to.