Best Radiothon ever

Curtin FM’s 2008 Radiothon was a record-breaking success, raising $115,000 in just five days of non-stop on-air activity earlier this year.

Volunteers and staff called for donations from the station’s loyal listener base, receiving more than 2,000 calls and collecting pledges over and above the conservative estimate of $80,000.

The money raised will go towards the operation and upgrade of facilities at the station, which depends entirely on the support of listeners and sponsors to broadcast.

Station Manager Quinn Glasson says this year’s success was a tribute to all the Curtin FM staff and volunteers who coordinated the entire event and worked tirelessly to answer the phones. He says that much of the money was raised through raffles and ‘quirky’ on-air auctions.

Among the many and varied prizes up for grabs, listeners could bid for the chance to have a local chef prepare a meal in their home or even enjoy a plane trip over Perth.

Curtin Volunteers! set a community standard

CURTIN Volunteers! (CV!) has received the Citizen Group Award at the 2008 WA Youth Awards for their outstanding dedication towards others in the community and for inspiring and empowering others to add value and participate in community life.

CV! President Cameron Wright says winning the award was a humbling experience for the 1,000-strong volunteer task force, which is Australia’s largest not-for-profit student-run organisation.

“Seeing the wide variety of activities the finalists are involved in is inspirational and made us realise no matter how much we are doing, there is always more to be done,” he says. Last year CV! members gave their collective time and know-how to make a positive impact on numerous communities around WA. One of the significant events on the CV! calendar is the annual John Curtin Weekend in October when hundreds of volunteers are mobilised across regional WA to participate in a wide variety of community service projects.

But CV! is not only about getting your hands dirty for a good cause. The organisation has evolved over the past decade to provide more mutually beneficial programs that contribute to the volunteer’s professional and personal development. Earlier this year, 120 Occupational Therapy students completed 20 hours of volunteer clinical practice through the various community partnerships established by CV!

“Programs are designed to maximise networking opportunities, create an environment for forming lasting friendships and working relationships, and to assist participants to develop useful skills outside their course of general study,” Wright says.

The volunteers are able to further broaden their educational experience by contributing to regular programs in areas of fundraising, child care, administration, activism, health, teaching and environmental rehabilitation. Volunteers work with children, seniors, people with physical or mental disabilities, refugees, migrants and Indigenous people.

CV! also plays a key role in public health programs coordinated by the Royal Life Saving Society, Red Cross, Anglicare and Foodbank WA. It also offers support to family carers through the Carer WA organisation, works with underprivileged children and migrants, preserves local wetlands around the Swan River and protects coastal dune systems in Margaret River.

From left to right: Quinn Glasson, Elaine Bannister and Ruby Rowden.

Best Radiothon ever

From left to right: Quinn Glasson, Elaine Bannister and Ruby Rowden.
Director’s Welcome
Welcome to the August edition of CurtinLink

Our cover story applauds Curtin Volunteers! who received a Citizen Group Award at the recent WA Youth Awards. The 1,000-strong task force has had a huge impact on rural and metropolitan communities but remains humble in the face of state-wide recognition.

Accolades continue to flow as we highlight the alumni who have been making an impact in their diverse fields of expertise.

Chemical Engineering graduate Sebastian Bunney has secured a much sought after position with one of the largest energy companies for his OT Abroad program and welcome a team of five Sarawak ambassadors as they finish their final year of study at the Bentley campus.

This will be my last foreword for CurtinLink as I now return to the Curtin Business School as Director of Development and Marketing. I’ve enjoyed my time with the Alumni Relations team, our Curtin alumni and the various alumni chapters, and wish them every success in the future.

The new Director of Alumni will be introduced in the November edition of CurtinLink, launching a new phase in the development and promotion of Curtin’s alumni both nationally and internationally.

Kenley Gordon
Director, Marketing and Alumni

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Have you moved?
Don’t forget to keep us up to date if you change address. You can update your details online at 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

CITE subscription
If you would like a free subscription to Cite, Curtin’s issues-based magazine, please send an email to m.mcnally@curtin.edu.au

Simon Haynes
Award winning Spacejock
Chances are that you or your children are reading one of Simon Haynes’ Hal Spacejock novels. Haynes holds an undergraduate degree in film and television and creative writing, and a Graduate Diploma in Computer Science from Curtin.

The first novel in the Spacejock series was a Dymocks bestseller, the second in the series was nominated for a West Australian Young Readers Book Award and the third book, Hal Spacejock – Just Desserts, won the WA Science Fiction Foundation award for best long work (novel). Hal Spacejock – No Free Lunch is his fourth and latest book in the humorous science fiction series.

“One of my proudest moments was to see my first novel on bookstore shelves everywhere I went,” Haynes says.

“Authors get a lot of knock-backs along the way, but I stuck with it. Having to write and revise work to present to my fellow students was great training for working with an editor and publisher.”

Haynes also runs his own company which designs and distributes share market trading software.

spacejock.com.au

One of my proudest moments was to see my first novel on bookstore shelves everywhere I went.
Scholarship brings Sarawak students to Bentley

Five top Curtin Sarawak students are finishing their final year on the Bentley campus as recipients of the WA Premier’s Scholarship and settling in well in their new environment.

They all agree Bentley is a much bigger campus than Sarawak, with many more facilities, and students are more motivated to learn independently.

Chemical Engineering student Roger Chai Koh Yek noticed a big difference in teaching and learning methods, and welcomed the challenge to think beyond the text.

“We are encouraged to do more research and learn by ourselves,” he says.

Bay Yeo Yang Seng, who is studying Civil and Construction Engineering, encourages fellow international students to get involved in social activities, rather than just focus on study.

“Seize the opportunity to meet new people, as doing so broadens your view, helps develop critical thinking and improves your perspective on life,” he says.

Enjoying her studies in Electronic and Communication Engineering, Tan Kim Yong would love to continue on to postgraduate research at the Bentley campus and become a tutor in the future.

“Coming to Perth is an eye opener. The way people think here is different from the way my friends, colleagues and classmates in Miri think,” she says.

Alexander Bong Ng Heng Zu, a Mechanical Engineering student, thinks that staying on campus is a must for new international students.

“You will be guided by the managers of the residential areas and they will help you to adapt,” he explains.

Belinda Yeo Pei Yee intends to stay in Australia after graduating from her accounting and finance course.

“I would encourage my friends to come here because most of them have doubted whether they can settle in Perth or adapt to the different culture, but I will definitely tell them they will fit right in”, she says.

I would encourage my friends to come here because most of them have doubted whether they can settle in Perth or adapt to the different culture, but I will definitely tell them they will fit right in.

Anne Farren is actively promoting the celebration of Western Australian fashion and design, with Curtin at the forefront.

After graduating from WAIT with a degree in Education, and from Curtin in the 1990s with a degree in Fine Arts, Farren returned to Curtin a decade later to teach. She has since dedicated eight years to the expression of art at the University and is currently a lecturer and course coordinator in the design department. Farren is an inspiring mentor to many graduating students.

“Working at Curtin has enabled me to continue my curatorial work on projects as part of my research activity,” she says.

She is a guest curator developing two very exciting exhibitions, The House of Tarvydas and Looking Out, which examine Western Australian designer fashion.

Farren is also overseeing the planning of Prelude, an event in September that will debut young Curtin fashion and design graduates to the local fashion industry.

“All of these Curtin events will be making a significant contribution to the development of a broader cultural program running in association with the Perth Fashion Festival this year,” she says.

For more information on Anne Farren’s exhibitions at the John Curtin Gallery, please visit johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au.

Working at Curtin has enabled me to continue my curatorial work on projects as part of my research activity.
Ukraine orphans get the OT treatment

Highlights

Dominica Abo

Curtin graduate Dominica Abo was selected by the New Zealand Prime Minister to attend the Leaders in Development: Managing Political and Economic Change Program at the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, held in June. She was one of six women to attend the prestigious program.

Professor Michael Alpers

Curtin’s Professor Michael Alpers has been elected Fellow of the Royal Society, the world’s oldest scientific academy in continuous existence since 1660. This rare honour recognises researchers who have made an outstanding contribution to science. Other noted Fellows include Isaac Newton, Christopher Wren and Charles Darwin.

Associate Professor John Bass

Curtin’s Associate Professor John Bass has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the community through the development of information technology systems relating to the collection of population health data. He is collaborating with colleagues to create a national system that could revolutionise planning and research in health and health-care systems.

Professor Phillip Della

Professor Phillip Della, Head of Curtin’s School of Nursing and Midwifery, has been appointed Chair of the new Anaphylaxis Management Implementation Group (AMIG). The goal of AMIG is to protect WA children through appropriate management of anaphylaxis in schools and childcare services.

Tom Müller

The exhibition World Passport and Liquid Empires by Curtin visual art honours graduate Tom Müller was the WA winner of the inaugural Qantas Foundation Encouragement of Australian Contemporary Art Awards. Müller received $20,000 cash and $10,000 worth of Qantas air travel, and plans to use it to fund a documentary on airstrips.

VER 18 months of planning will culminate in November with a pilot program that will see two Curtin staff and eight occupational therapy students undertake developmental screening, intervention and treatment for orphaned, abandoned and disabled children in Kiev, Ukraine.

Kirrily Manning, Associate Lecturer in Curtin’s School of Occupational Therapy (OT), says that services will be evaluated in state-run orphanages and hospitals as well as a private rehabilitation home for street children.

“It is envisaged training of staff on site will be included in the student tasks to ensure the sustainability of the services provided,” she says.

The School has undertaken a scoping study, with a view to expansion into Ukraine.

Whilst independence has brought tremendous freedoms to the once Soviet-occupied country, Ukraine still faces many challenges socially. UNICEF has estimated that 65,000 children in Ukraine live in state-run institutions, with alcoholism, drug abuse and poverty being the main reasons babies and children are abandoned.

Manning will be visiting Kiev in August, at the invitation of Riverview Charitable Fund Ukraine, to discuss and assess the feasibility of establishing a partnership for service delivery between organisations partnered by the charity and OT’s program.

Since 2001 OT has worked through established international partners in China, India and South Africa, with staff and students delivering over 32,000 hours of sustainable humanitarian and health services. The aim is to create capacity within the host sites.

Students gain invaluable professional and personal skills through this life-changing experience.

The Ukraine initiative is built on the successfully established, multidisciplinary international programs that see students in the Health Sciences Faculty learn and work collaboratively, and enhance cross-cultural awareness.

For further information contact Kirrily Manning, Ukraine Program Coordinator, on +61 8 9266 3683 or kirrily.manning@curtin.edu.au.
Chemical engineering celebrates 25 years

MORE than 200 industry leaders, alumni, current students, staff and other guests celebrated Chemical Engineering’s 25th Anniversary at a function at the John Curtin Centre in October last year. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of two inaugural awards – the Don Watts Award (acknowledging an alumni member over the age of 30) and the Terry Smith Award (up to the age of 30) – for an alumni’s contribution to their profession, employers and the community.

It seems only fitting, then, that Laurence Stonehouse, one of the first set of honours graduates from the Chemical Engineering department in 1986, was the recipient of the Don Watts Award, sponsored by BP Refinery. Zaneta Mascarenhas, who graduated in 2003, was the recipient of the Terry Smith Award, sponsored by Alcoa World Alumina.

As well as receiving a personal trophy, both award winners will be recognised on perpetual trophies designed by Curtin design students and held by the Department. Dean of Engineering Professor Moses Tadé says the event showed the strength of the Department’s links with its alumni and wider industry. “We are very proud of our alumni who are excellent ambassadors for the University,” he says. “We are also grateful to our industry sponsors who made the awards and the evening’s festivities possible.”

Other sponsors were Cockburn Cement, Hatch Associates, Coogee Chemicals, Nufarm Australia, Poyry Energy, Lycopodium, BHP Billiton and Emerson Process Management.

More than 900 undergraduates and 50 Master of Engineering and PhD students have graduated from Chemical Engineering since it was established at the then Western Australian Institute of Technology in 1982. The Chemical Engineering Alumni Chapter will celebrate its keynote event for 2008 – the Annual Networking and Awards Evening – at the John Curtin Gallery from 5.30pm on Friday 29 August.

“We are very proud of our alumni who are excellent ambassadors for the University.”

Dion Nicol
Curtin environmental biology honours graduate Dion Nicol won the 2008 AW Howard Memorial Research Fellowship. It acknowledges his outstanding research work with native legumes as an alternative crop to lucerne to improve the productivity of WA’s low-rainfall regions. The $15,000 Fellowship bursary will help finance his ongoing research and field trials.

Vinod Ramamurthy
Recent Curtin engineering graduate Vinod Ramamurthy won the prestigious 2008 National Undergraduate Prize at Enviro 08 for his research on rainwater harvesting systems for developing countries. Enviro 08 is a premier event where industry, government and academic experts gather to share ideas and foster viable solutions to Australia’s environmental sustainability challenges.

Professor Graham Seal AM
Curtin Professor Graham Seal AM is the first WA-based author to win the State Library of New South Wales National Biography Award. Professor Seal was named joint winner of the $20,000 Award for 2008 for his convict story These Few Lines: A Convict Story – the lost lives of Myra and William Sykes.

Professor Ted Snell
Professor Ted Snell, Dean of Art, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to the visual arts, as an academic, artist, commentator and administrator and as a mentor. The honour recognises the dedication Snell has displayed in the field of the arts throughout his distinguished career.

Professor James Semmens
Curtin academic Professor James Semmens has been awarded the prestigious Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Medal. The medal recognises his valuable contribution to the College through his work with the Safety and Quality of Surgical Care Project and the Western Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality.
An honour to study nanotechnology at key research facility

RESEARCHING exciting applications for nanotechnology at an internationally respected science facility is a reality for science graduate Amy Gelmi.

The First Class Honours Bachelor of Science (Nanotechnology) graduate says the quality of teaching and access to specialised nanotechnology facilities at Curtin enabled her to pursue a career at the cutting-edge of scientific research.

“The rigorous nature of my course work, together with experience using task-specific equipment prepared me well. Eventually, I would like to run my own company or laboratory dedicated to nanotech research in an area that benefits society,” Gelmi says.

“Nanotechnology is a fast-growing field with intriguing possibilities. For example, the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) is developing polymer implants to release drugs over time to help epilepsy sufferers – research like that would be very satisfying.”

Gelmi has begun a PhD at the IPRI at the University of Wollongong, south of Sydney.

Her doctorate focuses on the study of certain inherently conducting ‘polymers’ (ICPs) which, under electrical stimulation, will absorb and release chemicals. These materials make excellent interfaces between the biological and electronic domains, and are very applicable in the emerging field of bionics.

Local TV program wins national award

CONGRATULATIONS to Curtin’s film and television and journalism students and graduates who recently won a prestigious national community television award for Best Indigenous Program at the 2008 Antenna Awards earlier this year.

This is a second win for their production Noongar Dandjoo which also took out the Best Community Television Award at the WA Screen Awards earlier this year.

Noongar Dandjoo was a groundbreaking series of four 30-minute programs investigating community issues and showcasing inspirational stories. It aired on Access 31 in June this year.

The entire production was a collaborative effort between the students, their lecturers, Curtin’s Centre for Aboriginal Studies and the Noongar community.

ABC journalist and alumni Clara Heeroma, who was principally involved in the production, says winning the award was a great honour.

“We gained valuable experience in all aspects of television production, which prepares us for work in the industry,” she says.

Lecturer in Media and Information Studies Russell Bishop says the group was up against some extremely tough competition.

“It is a tribute to their talents that they stood out from a strong field of filmmakers from across Australia to collect these two coveted awards,” he says.

alumni profile

SEBASTIAN BUNNEY

Off the shelf

A year after graduating from Curtin with a BSc in Chemistry and BEng (Hon) in Chemical Engineering, Sebastian Bunney is on the fast track to success as a graduate facilities engineer with Chevron Australia.

Bunney was accepted as an intern with Chevron Corporation in Houston, in 2006, and will now be working in a team overseeing the North West Shelf Joint Venture in Australia – a partnership among six major resource companies that accounts for a good deal of Australia’s oil and gas production.

He gives credit to Curtin and his lecturers for providing him with the necessary skills for success within his field.

“Chemical engineering, as challenging as it is, requires a level of instruction that would make obtaining the degree almost impossible without the unparalleled support Curtin lecturers and tutors gave me,” Bunney explains.

“I’d like to someday return to Curtin to study, with the end goal of moving into Chevron’s management structure.”
Tales from abroad
By Thanh Nguyen

I was born in Vietnam. My family and I left Vietnam as refugees in 1979 and went to Malaysia, where we stayed in a refugee camp for six months before receiving Australian residency.

Even when I returned to Vietnam in 1994 it was practically impossible to find nappies, milk or the most basic necessities. Now, everything including the latest luxury goods and the latest gadgets are available, even before they are in Australia.

Upon arriving in Australia in 1987 I enrolled in a Bachelor of Business (Business Law and Accounting) at Curtin. I chose Curtin because of its reputation for business courses and the practical training provided.

With the skills learned at uni, I returned to Vietnam as managing partner for giant international business management company Ernst and Young, which boasts offices in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Vietnam and Indochina in general have been experiencing remarkable economic growth in the past few years, providing many opportunities to participate in or lead exciting and varied projects.

My family now live comfortably in the country we were once forced to flee – a far cry from our time in the Malaysian refugee camp.

We have a pretty good place, with five bedrooms and two offices – enough room to accommodate our family of five plus five dogs, two hamsters and one rabbit.

In March 2008, I left Ernst and Young with the hope of branching out into other areas, both professionally and geographically.

I am now working independently to develop a number of projects, including real estate, mining and medical projects in Vietnam as well as in other countries.

I chose Curtin because of its reputation for business courses and the practical training provided.

Behind the scenes
2007 Curtin film and television graduate Annabelle Fouchard is making a name for herself as a promising young filmmaker.

Her short film Making Poison (2006) won Best Children’s Film and Best Film at the 2008 Surf and Turf Film Festival. Another production, Flowers for Emily, was awarded Best Drama. Clouds (2007) recently received nominations for Best Film and Audience Choice Award at the Margaret River Shorts.

Fouchard co-founded Black Lantern Films in 2006 with Curtin student Lana Roberts. She is currently collaborating with another Curtin student, Will Faulkner, on two short films, Wanderer and Beautiful Decay.

“Curtin helped me to equip my career through networking with other students,” Fouchard says.

“Finding an experienced crew who knows how to make films and being able to communicate and share ideas with them is essential to good filmmaking.”

Graduation ceremony dates

Hong Kong
Sunday 5 October
10am and 2pm
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong
Graduates attending Hong Kong will be informed of their ceremony time via their confirmation letter.

Singapore
Sunday 12 October, 10am
Raffles Convention Centre
Singapore

Perth
Tuesday 28 October, 7pm
Thursday 30 October, 7pm
Saturday 1 November, 7pm
Perth Convention Exhibition Centre

Further graduate information
T: +61 8 9266 7115
E: graduations@curtin.edu.au
W: graduations.curtin.edu.au
Alumni events

Social Sciences
20th Anniversary Reunion
(class of 1989)
Friday 15 August
6pm-8pm
The Royal, East Perth
RSVP: alumnievents@curtin.edu.au
by Friday 8 August

Open Day
Curtin Bentley Campus
Sunday 17 August
10am-4pm
W: openday.curtin.edu.au

Assembly Items, Music and Drama Ideas Workshop
Hosted by the Early Childhood Education Alumni Chapter
Saturday 23 August
10am registration
12pm lunch
12:30pm networking
RSVP: Sandy van Galen
bobandsandy@exemail.com.au

Annual Networking and Awards Evening
Presented by the Department of Chemical Engineering
Friday 29 August
5.30pm-7pm
John Curtin Gallery
RSVP: alumnievents@curtin.edu.au
by Friday 15 August

Go Global: Curtin Health
Presentation on OT Abroad Program by the Faculty of Health Sciences
Tuesday 2 September
6pm-7.30pm
Bankwest Theatre and Foyer of John Curtin Gallery
RSVP: alumnievents@curtin.edu.au
by Monday 25 August

Prelude exhibition
Fashion and textile alumni showcase
Thursday 4 September – Sunday 7 September
11am-4pm daily
Gingers Garage
267 William St (upstairs), Northbridge
Entry: FREE

AGM Sundowner
Presented by the GSB Alumni Chapter
Friday 5 September
Curtin GSB
78 Murray Street, Perth

John Curtin Day weekend
volunteer activities
Local and international locations
Friday 3 October – Sunday 5 October
T: +61 8 9266 2118
E: m.meredith@curtin.edu.au

John Curtin Day
Medal Ceremony
Curtin Bentley Campus
Tuesday 7 October
T: +61 8 9266 2563
E: events@curtin.edu.au
W: johncurtinday.curtin.edu.au

House of Tarvydas
Friday 22 August – Friday 10 October
Curated by Anne Farren
House of Tarvydas will be a major survey of Ruth Tarvydas’ work from her first collection in 1968 to the present. Tarvydas’ career and significance to the local industry will be illustrated through the presentation of key works, images and media.

Looking Out: The Internationalisation of Western Australian Fashion
Friday 22 August – Friday 10 October
Curated by Anne Farren
Looking Out: The Internationalisation of Western Australian Fashion will present the works of key contemporary Western Australian fashion designers, who reflect the dynamic and innovative nature of fashion design in WA.

Further gallery information and opening times
T: +61 8 9266 4155
E: gallery@curtin.edu.au
W: johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au

John Curtin Gallery