

# Learning Matters

May 2016

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## Festival of Learning

The **2016 Festival of Learning** was held over three days, Wednesday to Friday 4-6 May. The Festival commenced with an opening event in the Engineering Pavilion, attended by approximately 80 people, and provided an opportunity for staff and students to 'experience' first hand, some of the amazing tools that are available to enhance the learning experience.

Our guest speaker Wayne Mackintosh, Director of the Open Education Resource (OER) Foundation and the UNESCO/ICDE Chair in OER, visiting from New Zealand, provided the plenary session kicking off the 37 sessions attended by 561 staff across the 3 days. The Festival celebrations concluded with the presentation, by the Vice-Chancellor, of 12 Curtin Excellence and Innovation in Teaching awards and citations, and official close of the Festival. Overall, 705 people participated in one or more of the Festival activities.

Thank you to those who showcased their work and to those who took the advantage of participating in the wide range of sessions. As we value your feedback, please take a moment to complete the [short survey](#) (5 questions) for us to develop and enhance future Festivals. We are hoping to have the iLectures from the Festival sessions available shortly, on the [Festival of Learning website](#), for those people who were unable to attend.

## Meet the Course Design Team

The Course Design Team work collaboratively with faculties across the University, to assist in the design and delivery of quality curriculum. They are one of the teams in the Course Quality area within Curtin Learning and Teaching.



**Ann Kosovich:** I am part of a team that works collaboratively with all sectors of the University to facilitate the development of quality courses, engaging learning experiences, implementation of approval processes and compliance with Curtin policies and national regulatory bodies. My focus as a Learning Designer has been to support teaching staff in the faculty of Humanities to develop high quality curricula and enhance teaching, learning and assessment practices.



**Sonia Ferns:** As Manager of the Course Design team I work collaboratively with the team to identify the strategic directions of curriculum design at the University and ensure Faculty staff have the support necessary to facilitate a quality experience for Curtin students. I am an active researcher in the Work Integrated Learning area and work nationally on industry engagement and quality standards for a WIL curriculum.



**Raelene Tifflin:** I work with teaching and support staff in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Curtin Business School to design courses and curriculum elements that assure and enhance quality learning and teaching. Best practice principles for effective learning and teaching are at the heart of design and decision-making and are reflected in the enthusiasm, commitment and work of engaged teaching teams. I am a Culture Representative, as part of the Strengthening our Culture initiative.



**Jonathan Bullen:** My role as Learning Designer (Indigenous Curriculum & Pedagogy) within the Course Design Team is to facilitate the embedding of Indigenous Australian perspectives within curriculum across all faculties at Curtin. I advise around the nuances of learning and teaching in the Indigenous intercultural space, and work with Curtin Learning Institute to provide professional development to Curtin staff within the Indigenous space.



**Dimity Wehr:** In the Course Design Team my role as a Learning Designer is to facilitate the review of curriculum primarily in the faculty of Science and Engineering. I am also available to advise academics around learning and teaching enhancement and quality elements; particularly when making changes to current outcomes and assessments and other pedagogical aspects of the curriculum.



**Stu Knox:** As the English Proficiency Advisor, I support staff with regard to embedding English language development within units through course design and curriculum review. I assist staff to articulate and align communication skills as part of unit learning outcomes and assessment tasks, as well as to scaffold tasks in order to foster language development. I offer help with the development of assessment in the area of English language proficiency.



**Eric Martini:** My role as Course Design Officer is to provide administrative and technical support to the Course Design team with respect to Course Review processes. The administrative functions include maintaining and monitoring implementation of the Unit Outline Builder system. Part of my duties include; working with staff to prepare and manage Course Portfolios and Curriculum Maps.



**Elsie Chipper:** My role as Course Review Officer is to provide administrative support to the Course Design Team. This includes working collaboratively within the team to assist with formatting and maintaining documentation used as part of the Course Review Process.

## CurtinX MOOCs

Judy Schrape and Jacqui Kelly from the CurtinX Team (Curtin Learning and Teaching) provided a session at the 2016 Festival of Learning on *Making a MOOC: The Insiders' Guide*. The session explored the benefits of the MOOC journey; advantages of interacting in a global classroom; trialling new ideas and building cultural competence by including local students in an edX experience. They also looked at the commitment required; the advantages of working with an educational design team where new course materials are created and learning artefacts can be re-used and re-purposed in Blackboard.

CurtinX has been offering courses for less than a year but already, over 42,000 students from 150 countries have enrolled in a Curtin MOOC. An update on our 2016 MOOC offerings is as follows:

- **Digital Branding and Engagement (MKT1x)** was re-offered in April 2016 and is due to close on May 13. Current total enrolments sit at 9,790 (with 230 verified certificates).
- **Reputation Marketing in a Digital World (MKT2x)**, a new course opened for enrolments on 13 March and is due to commence on 30 May. Current total enrolments in this second offering, sit at 2,503 (with 15 verified enrolments) but this is expected to increase once the course is promoted by edX in conjunction with University marketing, in the lead up to the course start date.
- **Foundations of Environmental Studies: a Global Perspective (ENV1x)** is due to open for enrolments in early May and the course start date is 1 August 2016.

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## Director of Course Quality

It is with pleasure that we announce the appointment of Professor Craig Zimitat to the position of Director, Course Quality in Curtin Learning and Teaching (CLT). He will be responsible for: Course Design; Assessment; Evaluation; Courses Management and The Learning Centre teams.

Craig joins us from the University of Tasmania where he was the Director of Medical Education and Deputy Head of the School of Medicine. Craig graduated as a biochemist from the University of Queensland, and then completed a PhD exploring the molecular basis of Wernicke's encephalopathy. Subsequently he was awarded a Masters of Higher Education around the design, development and utility of a web environment for interprofessional clinical reasoning skills. Craig has been involved in major curriculum reform initiatives and has a wealth of experience in curriculum design, development and transformation, assessment, online learning and simulation, interprofessional learning and curriculum quality assurance. He was awarded a national Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning in 2011.

Craig commences with CLT on 30 May 2016, so please make him welcome.

## Manager Courses Management

As some of you may already know, Matthew Rose has been appointed the Manager, Courses Management, Curtin Learning and Teaching and commenced on 20 April 2016.

Matthew brings a wealth of experience managing education courses and complex projects including software development. This will hold us in good stead with the implementation of AKARI. Matthew joins us from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners where he was Manager, Assessment. He has already met some of you, and will continue to work closely with the Faculties on unit and course management.

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## TCIT Name Change

The Transforming Curtin IT (TCIT) Program (group of projects) has changed its overall name to “Digital Futures”. The new name aims to reinforce the core digital theme that underpins all of the work being delivered through the TCIT Projects and emphasises the focus on moving Curtin forward towards a digital future.

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## Congratulations OLT Fellowships

STOP PRESS.....

Curtin has been extremely successful in our submission for the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) Fellowships. Two were submitted and both have been successful! A Senior Teaching Fellowship has been awarded to Professor Dawn Bennett, from the Faculty of Humanities entitled, *From theory to practice: Equipping and enabling Australia's educators to embed employability across higher education*. Also a Teaching Fellowship was granted to Associate Professor Lisa Tee from the Faculty of Health Sciences entitled, *Making curriculum visible: Engaging students in learning outcomes and career relevance through a multi-dimensional, interactive map*. We congratulate these two outstanding individuals – both of whom are Curtin Academy Fellows.

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**Professor Julianne Reid**

Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching

18 May 2016