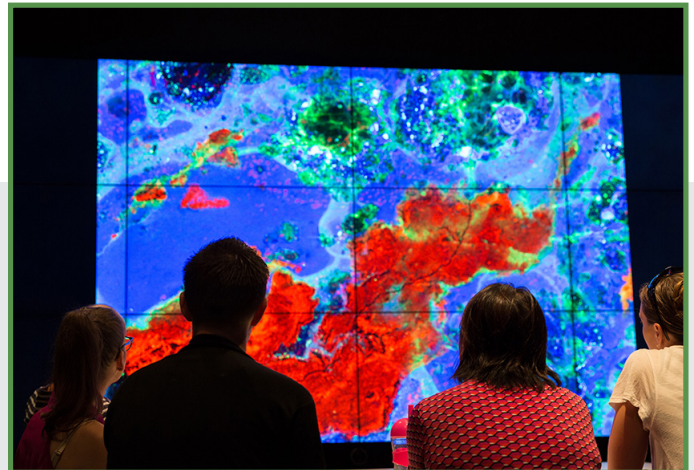


Learning Matters

September 2016

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Upcoming diary dates.....

Curtin Internal Learning and Teaching Grants - close 10 October 2016

The Curtin Institute for Computation Research Seminar: Econometrics and Computation - 12 October 2016

ATN Learning and Teaching Grants - close 14 November 2016

Global Learning Environments play labs - drop-in sessions - fortnightly on Fridays 9am-10.30am

National Learning and Teaching Citation for Curtin Staff

Congratulations to Curtin staff being awarded a national Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. We have two staff who have been recognised and rewarded for making a significant contribution to the quality of student learning.

- **Dr Jonathan Paxman**, Senior Lecturer in the School of Civil and Mechanical Engineering
'For approaches to research-integrated teaching, support for student activities, and outreach that build the confidence, motivation and identities of citizens and engineers of the future'
- **Dr Rachel Sheffield**, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education
For creating and sustaining interactive, community-focused learning design and spaces to support the development of teachers and student teachers professional identity in Science Education.

Well done Jonathan and Rachel on receiving this national recognition.

Learning and Teaching Grants

ATN (National) Excellence in Learning and Teaching Grants

Following the abolition of the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) grant scheme; the Australian Technology Network (ATN) has established a collaborative grants scheme for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. This scheme, administered by the ATN, will provide the ATN Universities with a competitive edge in learning and teaching excellence. A maximum of \$470,000 is available for Strategic Initiative Grants (up to \$235,000 per Strategic Initiative Grant). There are four priority areas identified:

- i. Employability skills for the 21st Century;
- ii. Assessment and promotion of student learning;
- iii. Designing learning for the future; and
- iv. Learning analytics.

Grant applications are currently open and **close on Monday 14th November 2016**. Information on the ATN grant scheme, eligibility, and how to apply can be found at: <http://www.atn.edu.au/ltgrants>

Curtin (Internal) Learning and Teaching Grant Scheme

Curtin Learning and Teaching grants provide funding to support Curtin staff in development activities and capacity-building approaches that foster excellence and Scholarship of Learning and Teaching. These grants support Curtin's vision for 2020: to position Curtin on the international stage as a leader in the provision of quality teaching and research, and supports the vision to effect change and make a real difference. The Teaching Academic Scholarship Seed (TASS) grants and the Teaching Excellence Development Fund (TEDF) have been reviewed and are now combined into one grant scheme which offers two types of grants:

- Seed Grants: which provide the opportunity for staff in Teaching Academic roles to build their profile in the Scholarship of Learning and Teaching; and
- Innovation Grants: which provide the opportunity for all academic staff who are involved in teaching at Curtin (Teaching Academics, Teaching and Research Academics).

The 2017 round is now open. For detailed information on the Curtin Grants Scheme, please refer to the [Guidelines](#). Submissions for the 2017 round will **close 10 October 2016**.

If you have any questions regarding these contact Beatrice Tucker, Director, Curtin Learning Institute at B.Tucker@curtin.edu.au

Launch of edX MicroMasters Program

Tuesday 20 September 2017 was a new milestone in Curtin's relationship with EdX, as we were part of the launch of a suite of MicroMasters to be delivered through the EdX platform along with 13 other EdX consortium members, including ANU and University of Queensland. This is a new category of online education, and offers a pathway to credit to an accelerated Master's degree. Curtin will be offering a MicroMasters in Human Rights from January 2017, which is being progressed in a collaboration between the CurtinX team in CLT, the Humanities FLET and the Centre for Human Rights Education (CHRE). We are also teaming up with MIT to provide a pathway from their MicroMasters in Supply Chain Management to the Curtin Master's in Supply Chain Management. Exciting times and watch this space ...

If you would like to find out more about MicroMasters, contact the CLT CurtinX Team.

New MOOC with edX

Congratulations to all those involved in developing Curtin's fourth MOOC [Environmental Studies: A Global perspective](#), on the edX platform. This MOOC showcases Curtin's research expertise with 18 Curtin staff from both the Faculty of Science and Engineering and Humanities featured in video presentations.

The course is jointly facilitated by Professor Teri Balsler and Professor Joseli Macedo and commenced on 12 September 2017. Those completing the MOOC will learn about the fundamentals of environmental studies as they explore global and local communities and investigate solutions to environmental challenges.



WA Teaching and Learning Forum 2017

Save the date....2-3 February 2017 for the WA Teaching and Learning Forum. The call for papers and registrations are now open.

The WA Teaching and Learning Forum brings together educators from institutes around Western Australia and beyond to discuss, share and develop ideas on current trends and best practice in the Higher Education sector.

The theme for the 2017 Forum is "*Innovation: Multiple Dimensions in Teaching and Learning*" which can be applied at the practitioner, university and national level.

More information is available on the [Forum website](#) or contact Evelyn Gibbs at E.Gibbs@curtin.edu.au

Innovative Schools Consortium - Partnering with High Schools

The Learning Futures team (Curtin Learning and Teaching), have invited innovative schools to build deep partnerships with the University, with a view towards identifying and developing high achieving students. Through the Innovative Schools Consortium (ISC), unique learning programs, accelerated tertiary pathways and scholarships are being offered to outstanding high school students. These initiatives are designed to develop and recognise students' strengths in innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.

Twelve schools have been invited to join the ISC to date. They are schools that demonstrate innovation in learning and teaching and have an interest in building a partnership with Curtin. We are pleased to announce we have Memoranda of Understanding in progress with Scotch College, St Stephen's School, Shenton College, Cecil Andrews Senior High School, Presbyterian Ladies' College and Penrhos College, with further partnerships set to develop over the coming months.

If you would like to find out more about the ISC, contact Melissa Langdon in the CLT Learning Futures Team at Melissa.Langdon@curtin.edu.au

Online Learning Programs for Students

It was mentioned in the last issue that The Learning Centre provides free interactive online learning programs for students. If your students need assistance, the following are available. The range of learning resources are also available at <http://studyskills.curtin.edu.au/>

- Better Sentences – sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, syntax
- Better Essays – guidelines, formulae, exercises for successful essay writing
- Better Grammar – finer points of English usage, including verb tenses, prepositions, the article, adverb clauses and word order
- Academic Integrity – understanding academic integrity (plus a challenge test)
- Time Management – understanding how to manage your time efficiently
- Thinking Matters – understanding the principles of critical thinking
- Better Maths – understanding important mathematical principles, including the decimal numbers system, order of operations, fractions, percentages, exponents, etc.
- Better Tests – understanding how to prepare for successfully completing test items such as multiple-choice questions

Embedding Work Integrated Learning

Embedding work integrated learning in postgraduate management courses for evidencing employability

outcomes: The School of Management has engaged in Comprehensive Course Reviews (CCR) of several of its postgraduate programs. A key focus of the reviews was to embed Work Integrated Learning (WIL) into curriculum through authentic assessment to evidence the development of employability skills. Professional pathways for graduates of Management degrees are diverse and globally competitive. The inclusion of real-world learning and assessments in the student experience enables graduates to meet dynamic needs of business in a globalised world.

The School of Management - led in the reviews by the Director Learning and Teaching, Ruth Taylor, Course Coordinators John Taya and Subra Ananthram – worked collaboratively with the Curtin Learning and Teaching Course Design team to use an evidence-based approach to embed WIL in postgraduate curricula. Curtin has adopted a WIL framework to support staff in determining a descriptor to define the nature and extent of WIL evident in the learning outcomes and assessment. WIL attribute descriptors were allocated to units within the Master of Human Resources, Graduate Diploma in Human Resources, Graduate Certificate in Human Resources and Master of International Business courses, to identify where WIL is situated within curriculum and how it is substantiated through the authenticity of related assessment.

Examples of authentic assessment in the curriculum include critical case studies and presentations, industry strategic analysis, and workshop facilitation. The School has established strong networks with industry that inform the design and implementation of curriculum for employability. Course Coordinator, John Taya, has secured recently retired Chief Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Tony Beech, to work with the students on developing the practical skills to investigate, mediate and negotiate workplace conflict and disputes. John has also engaged the Australian Fair Work Commission Conciliator, Dave Robinson, who was formerly the head of the peak union body in Western Australia, to do the same work with students, with a focus on the federal jurisdiction. Students studying postgraduate Industrial Relations Negotiation, Mediation and Advocacy undertake an industrial relations hearing and the current Chief Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations, Pam Scott, has agreed for the students to present to her as advocates would in real cases, in the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission courtroom in St Georges Terrace, Perth.

Whilst postgraduate curricula have been the focus of CCR in 2016, the undergraduate student experience is greatly enhanced by the School of Management's commitment to Work Integrated Learning. The Sustainable Event Management class have recently undertaken a site visit to the Swan Brewery and Event Risk Management students undertook a site inspection for the Chevron City to Surf event 2016. Curtin Sarawak students visited Sarawak Slipways SDN BHD to learn more about managing operations.

If you are seeking further information about embedding Work Integrated Learning into your curriculum or comprehensive course review, contact Sonia Ferns, Manager, Course Design, Curtin Learning and Teaching at S.Ferns@curtin.edu.au

Meet the UniReady Team

Kathy Lawson: Kathy Lawson is the Manager of the Curtin UniReady team. Kathy has a background in language teaching and spent 8 years in Tokyo teaching and managing an English language school. She has worked at Curtin for over 14 years and has held various positions involving learning and teaching and materials development. She has worked both in Curtin Learning and Teaching and in the Faculties. Kathy has been with UniReady for over 3 years as a tutor and Program Coordinator, prior to her role as Manager.



L-R: Tess Wilkinson, Caitlin Lee, Mel Lamb, Claire Hulcup, Ange Babic, Kathy Lawson, Lindy Kerr, Janine Macleod, Ming Koh, Donna Brookes.

Claire Hulcup: As Applying Mathematics Program Coordinator, Claire designs and implements unit content of the optional Applying Mathematics unit, along with coordinating sessional staff and overseeing students. The unit aims to develop a core set of numeracy skills to aid students in their undergraduate study and accordingly part of Claire's role involves communicating with Faculty staff to discuss how best to enable this. Claire also creates and updates assessments, moderates and finalises grades and investigates and employs ways to support and engage the diverse cohort of online and internal students, whilst continuing to teach the unit.

Caitlin Lee: Within UniReady Caitlin performs the role of both Teaching Support Officer (TSO) and Student Services Officer (SSO). As TSO, Caitlin assists the Unit Coordinators with creation and management of their Blackboard sites, the general running of their units, and the preparation of examinations. As SSO, Caitlin assists with the administration of the course in areas such as applications, enrolments and timetabling, as well as answering student queries.

Anglea Babic: Angela began her UniReady journey as a sessional tutor in 2014. In 2015, she became the Unit Coordinator for Introduction to Commerce, where she re-developed the unit to provide students with a better and clearer knowledge on business related issues in the real world. While overhauling the unit, Angela worked closely with various Unit Coordinators from Curtin Business School to ensure the unit's objectives follow closely with those of the core units in CBS. Angela also works as a sessional academic at Curtin Law School and is currently in her final year of her Bachelor of Laws studies.

Melanie Lamb: Within UniReady, Melanie's role is Program Administrator which involves the development and ongoing improvements of administrative processes including updating and maintaining eApps and EnrolNow before the commencement of each semester. Melanie Manages the roll-over of course and unit availabilities; class timetabling; prepares Study Plan Templates; assists with Board of Examiners (including ratification, uploads and amendments of final results); processes course completions; sessional staff contracts and salaries; and ensures all required University training is completed. Melanie also supervises the UniReady administrative staff and provides administrative assistance to the UniReady Manager.

Lindy Kerr: Lindy coordinates this pre-tertiary anatomy and physiology unit for UniReady. This part time role involves online and face to face teaching, staff and student management as well as liaising with relevant undergraduate unit coordinators and the entire UniReady team to continually improve content and opportunities for student engagement. Lindy also has several other jobs at Curtin, coordinating Faculty of Health Sciences interprofessional education (IPE) workshops for senior health sciences students, tutoring across core first year Health Sciences units and educating staff on how to use SPARKPLUS self and peer evaluation resource kit.

Janine Macleod: Janine coordinates the UniReady Foundations of Communication unit for UniReady. In addition to tutoring an online group, the part-time role of coordinator involves working with online and face-to-face tutors and students, as well as working with the other UniReady team members. The Foundations of Communication unit prepares the pre-tertiary students for undergraduate studies by exposing them to group work, preparing and presenting oral presentations and developing an understanding of effective communication skills.

Donna Brookes: Donna is Program Coordinator for two of the UniReady units, Fundamentals of Academic Writing and Introduction to Humanities. The role involves writing unit content, coordinating staff and students, online tutoring, and collaborating with other UniReady staff to ensure best practice in the program. The Academic Writing unit prepares students for their future Curtin degree by supporting them in developing vital writing and referencing skills. The Humanities unit includes a broad range of ideas designed to introduce students to important life issues, and to expose them to the many degree opportunities available in Humanities on Curtin campus. Donna is a sessional tutor for the third year unit Indigenous Australian Education with the Centre for Aboriginal Studies, and has recently updated the UniReady Humanities materials to include Indigenous content and perspectives.

Ming Koh: Ming has worked at Curtin for over 10 years in various learning and teaching positions. She has been part of the UniReady team from its very beginning and was Unit Coordinator for many of the units. She now works as the Student Service Coordinator and manages the support service UniReady offers all students. Ming manages the retention of students and oversees both Academic Support Officers and mentors who support this work.

Robyn Chien: Robyn job shares with Ming Koh to ensure all UniReady students are supported during their time in the program. This includes interviewing conditional students, following up with students with specific needs and providing help to any student who requires it. Robyn also runs information sessions for students wishing to progress into Undergraduate studies. Robyn also works in the Faculty of Health Sciences and is the Pilbara Distributed Learning Coordinator. She currently teaches in both Health Sciences and the UniReady program.

Tess Wilkinson and Cheryl Har: Both Tess and Cheryl share the role of Administration Assistant at UniReady. They are the first point of call for any enquiries related to the program. In addition to this, they also process applications through Student One, which involves sending out student's letter of offers, as well as maintaining student records. Tess and Cheryl work very closely with all the staff and provide administration support if needed.

Professor Julianne Reid

Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching

5 October 2016