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Dear Minister

In accordance with section 61 of the Financial Management Act 2006, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of Curtin University of Technology for the year ending 31 December 2007.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gordon Martin
Chancellor

Professor Jeanette Hacket
Vice-Chancellor

On behalf of the University Council

Dated this 19th day of March 2008
2007 was an exciting and productive year for Curtin.

The challenges facing the higher education sector as a consequence of the booming economy, the increasingly competitive higher education environment, and the continuing globalisation of education were many. Some of these challenges were providing more relevant graduates and postgraduates for the changing needs of industry; increasing competition from industry for the best academics to maintain the highest standards of education and research; the changing modes of delivery; and the continuing drive for efficiency.

With a continuing emphasis on providing excellence in education, we continued a comprehensive review of our curriculum, the Curriculum 2010 project, to ensure relevance and efficiency in our core competencies. The University’s research income and capability also grew significantly, with a notable increase in industry funding into our key areas of research focus.

University governance, a fundamental requirement for good performance, was also strengthened with a detailed review of “matters reserved for Council” and the commencement of a review of “the schedule of delegations”.

The University continued to strengthen its strategic direction by further defining its key areas of focus in response to the former coalition government’s diversity agenda. This agenda will continue under the new Federal Labor Government which has announced that it too will require universities to differentiate themselves by focusing on their areas of strength.

In keeping with the diversity agenda, the University has initiated the development of two new institutes which build on the University’s core strengths and foci.

One is in the area of health sciences and the other in the area of sustainable development.

The proposed health research institute will build on Curtin’s existing strengths in research and education in health sciences, with an emphasis on the translation of research and knowledge into practice. With the ageing demographic the institute will have particular community relevance in the areas of health, ageing and wellbeing.

The proposed sustainable development institute will be based on the vision of a better quality of life for the present population, whilst at the same time preserving the ability of future generations to enjoy a high standard of living. Sustainable development is now recognised as one of the core concerns of Government and the institute will build on Curtin’s existing strengths and leadership in this area.

With its exceptional leadership team, its deeply loyal and committed employees, its sound financial base and the continuing growth in areas aligned with its core strengths, Curtin is once again positioned for an exciting year of growth.
The University will be undertaking significant fundraising activities to assist with the development of these initiatives.

In March the University Council held a two-day conference off-site, which provided the opportunity for Councillors to better understand the University’s operations and to clearly define the University’s Key Performance Measures. Time was also spent understanding some of the major challenges facing the higher education sector and the effect the changing environment and technology would have on the University’s strategic direction.

Many important initiatives were made throughout the year, including the following:

- Fully implemented Curriculum 2010 to completely review and renew the University’s educational offerings;
- Consolidated the Divisions of Engineering, Science and Computing and Resources and Environment into the Faculty of Science and Engineering to increase synergy in the delivery of educational and research programs;
- Implemented a new academic structure that will enhance the quality and efficiency of University performance. A new position of Vice-President Corporate Services, reporting directly to the Vice-Chancellor, was established to consolidate the activities of several service areas, to improve efficiency and effectiveness;
- Implemented a University-wide Teaching Performance Index to promote and resource teaching and learning improvement;
- Developed a multi-purpose Recreation and Events Centre; and
- Conducted a University-wide service review designed to simplify administration and reduce duplication.

More importantly, a number of key appointments were made, including Professor Andris Stelbovics as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering; Professor Paul Dunn as Director of the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM); Professor Robyn Quin as Pro Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning; and Professor Jill Downie as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

With these appointments I believe we have in place an outstanding executive team, led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Jeanette Hacket, capable not only of meeting the many and varied challenges facing our University, but also of taking Curtin to an even higher level.

In conclusion I wish to convey my thanks to all our staff for their commitment over the past year. It is also my pleasure to thank the members of Council for their enormous contribution in time, knowledge and experience, and especially Dr David Karpin, Adjunct Professor Peter Browne, Ms Georgina Carnegie and Dr Ruth Shean, who retired during the year after many years on Council.

With its exceptional leadership team, its deeply loyal and committed employees, its sound financial base and the continuing growth in areas aligned with its core strengths, Curtin is once again positioned for an exciting year of growth.
Vice-Chancellor’s report

Curtin aspires to be a leading university in education and research, and the University is well placed to achieve this goal with a commitment to serve our students and community through quality teaching, scholarship and research.

Curtin aspires to be a leading university in education and research, serving the wider region, and the University is well placed to achieve this goal. In 2007 Curtin implemented a range of University-wide initiatives and services to strengthen the quality and relevance of teaching, learning and research. These initiatives promote the sustainability of Curtin’s programs into the future and the achievement of the University’s objectives in serving the community.

Many Australian universities are facing a static or declining demand in domestic undergraduate places and there is increasing competition to develop new programs and services to meet the needs of students and employers. Curtin will continue to move forward with its existing programs, together with new and exciting initiatives, to be a leading Australian and regional university.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In 2007 the University continued to position and differentiate itself, to thrive in a diversified higher education sector. Curtin is defining its focus in areas of competitive strength and where there is present and anticipated market demand.

Curtin has determined that it will be a broad-based education institution but will reduce its very high number of courses and units to increase the resources which are available for each selected area of activity.

In research, Curtin has identified major areas of focus to define the University’s distinctiveness within the diversity policy framework. These major areas of focus encompass the University’s strengths within each of the four Faculties and also capture the Faculties’ cross-disciplinary strengths.

The key areas of focus are:

- Resources, energy, chemistry, engineering and related sciences;
- Health, with a focus on chronic conditions and developmental health including ageing, wellness and lifestyle diseases;
- Sustainability in a broad and integrated approach to environmental, economic, social, geopolitical sustainability and resilience in Western Australia;
- Emerging technologies and Information Communication Technology (ICT);
- Wealth and prosperity.

The attraction, retention and development of quality staff was a high priority, with numerous new initiatives in 2007. A new Promotions Policy was developed to improve the career paths of staff. New development opportunities for staff have been provided through a range of programs offered by the new Organisational Development Unit. Outstanding performance by many staff is highlighted in detail in the Annual Report.
To improve the University’s educational and research activities, changes were made to Curtin’s academic structures and executive management arrangements.

Several senior staffing appointments were made during the year. Professor Robyn Quin was appointed as the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Teaching and Learning; Professor Andris Stelbovics was appointed the Executive Dean of Science and Engineering; and Professor Jill Downie, formerly the Head of Nursing and Midwifery, was appointed Executive Dean of Health Sciences. Professor Paul Dunn was appointed as the Director of the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM), and 2007 saw Professor Peter Newman and his expert team join the University to lead Curtin’s sustainability project. Professors Steven Tingay and Peter Hall also joined the University as experts in Radio Astronomy and both are leaders in the Square Kilometre Array project.

A new position of Vice-President Corporate Services was created, which will bring together areas including Financial and Commercial Services, Properties and Curtin Information Technology Services. Recruitment was undertaken to replace Professor Greg Craven, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Strategy and Planning, who resigned to take up the position of Vice-Chancellor at the Australian Catholic University in February 2008.

### TEACHING AND SCHOLARSHIP

The University continued to improve its teaching and learning performance and was again recognised with an award of funds under the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund. Many University staff were also recognised for their teaching and scholarship excellence during the year, details of which are listed throughout the Annual Report.

However it is worth highlighting the National Carrick Awards in which the University won three of the prized awards for teaching and excellence and programs that enhance learning.

In 2007 the University continued to improve its outcomes in teaching and learning and several initiatives were implemented towards achieving this goal.

Professor Robyn Quin was appointed to the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning with the specific aim of achieving the University’s objectives within T&L. A major initiative undertaken has been the implementation of the Curriculum 2010 project. C2010 is designed to enhance the quality of our learning and teaching activities and to ensure the University’s sustainability through course renewal and redesign.
The support of staff in this project has been extremely positive, with the vast majority welcoming this initiative and wanting to participate.

The University also completed its fifth semester of eVALLuate, the student feedback assessment tool. The results showed increased overall student satisfaction having risen to 81.4 per cent in second semester 2007 from 79.9 per cent in second semester 2006. The survey information provided valuable feedback to staff who are then able to identify areas of excellence as well as those areas where improvement could be achieved.

The Curtin Annual Student Satisfaction (CASS) survey results for 2007 also showed an increased level of overall student satisfaction with their courses, rising from 78 per cent in 2006 to 82 per cent in 2007. 2007 also saw the introduction of the Teaching Performance Index which is designed to promote and reward good teaching.

RESEARCH

Curtin had strong growth in its research funding performance. The University improved its ranking in Research Training Scheme Funding to 13th with $12.9 million (up from 15th in 2006) and ranked 20th for Research Infrastructure Block Grants with $2.1 million (up from 21st in 2006).

The University’s Institutional Grant Scheme ranking improved from 13th in 2006 to 11th in 2007 with funding of $6.2 million. For a third successive year Curtin has increased the University’s Research and Development funding by $8.7 million, representing an increase of 47 per cent.

University researchers received awards in a range of fields, as detailed later in the report, and new research staff and teams joined Curtin in 2007, further enhancing the University’s strengths and performance in specific fields.

A particularly notable University-wide development to assist the University in improving performance outcomes in both research and teaching and learning was the development of a set of expectations for academic staff, which cover all major aspects of academic work including teaching, research, leadership and service. Curtin Expectations recognises that academic staff may have different proportions of duties which may vary during their academic careers.
Construction of the University’s Resources and Chemistry Precinct commenced in 2007. Located at the southern end of the Bentley campus it will create an international centre of excellence for resources-related education and research. It is anticipated the Precinct will eventually host the largest group of researchers supporting the resources, minerals and chemistry sectors in the southern hemisphere.

EFFICIENCIES, EFFECTIVENESS AND STANDARDISATION

Curtin continued to make great gains in terms of efficiencies and the effectiveness of our University-wide services. For example, the University consolidated 13 different email systems, achieving one single standard email for staff and one for students. This is a great achievement and will streamline the provision of our ICT services.

The University also undertook a review of a range of University-wide policies. In particular the Heads of School policy was revised to ensure consistency across the University and it recognises the management role associated with the position. Additional training and personal development will also be available to Heads of School to empower staff in these positions.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

In 2007 the University made significant investment in campus development to improve teaching, learning and research facilities, as well as the overall student experience on campus more broadly. For example, the University commenced construction of a multi-purpose Recreation and Events Centre which will provide greatly enhanced sporting and recreation facilities for students and which will also provide additional space for graduations and other University events.

Construction of two new 200-seat lecture theatres was also undertaken during the year to provide additional teaching and learning space. These will be ready for the commencement of 2008.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

In 2007 the University continued to strengthen its financial security through increased revenue and some improved efficiencies. The University has invested in extensive new capital works projects, and has upgraded facilities and equipment to provide high-quality facilities for students and staff. Improved financial outcomes have enabled a significant increase in investment in staff development, teaching and learning initiatives, research and research infrastructure, and student scholarships.

Curtin completed the year with a significant operating surplus which will enable the University to invest in future activities, in both teaching and research.

GOING FORWARD

While the higher education environment continues to be challenging for Australian universities, Curtin has embraced many new opportunities. With its strategic direction defined to build on its strengths and respond to the needs of our region, Curtin is committed to serving our students and community through quality teaching, scholarship and research.

Jeanette Hackett
Vice-Chancellor
Curtin University of Technology is internationally focused and committed to service in its wider region. A culturally diverse university with more than 70 nationalities represented in students and staff, it fosters tolerance and encourages the development of the individual capable of contributing in a global community.

Curtin University of Technology is Western Australia’s largest university with more than 40,000 students; over 17,000 of these are international full-fee paying students studying either offshore through a partner or onshore at one of the University’s campuses. Research student numbers are approaching 2000.

The University takes its name from the Prime Minister of Australia from 1941-1945, John Curtin, and its values reflect the leadership and strength associated with one of Australia’s pre-eminent prime ministers.

Curtin is internationally focused and committed to service in its wider region. A culturally diverse university with more than 70 nationalities represented in students and staff, it fosters tolerance and encourages the development of the individual capable of contributing in a global community. The University’s programs have an applied and practical focus, and centre on the provision of knowledge and skills to meet industry and workplace standards and needs.

A combination of first-rate resources, staff and technology makes Curtin a major contributor to tertiary education, both within Australia and internationally.

The University’s primary campus is situated in Bentley, six kilometres south of the centre of Perth, Western Australia’s capital city. Curtin has two additional metropolitan campuses; regional campuses in Kalgoorlie, Northam, Geraldton and Margaret River; and education centres in Albany, Armadale, Esperance, Karratha, Midland and Port Hedland. Curtin also has an offshore campus in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia. Curtin’s newest campus opened in the Sydney Central Business District in 2005.

Curtin offers more than 700 undergraduate and postgraduate courses in business, engineering, health sciences, humanities, science, mining and agriculture. The University’s Centre for Aboriginal Studies offers bridging courses for Indigenous students and the Vocational Training and Education Centre conducts vocational courses at Kalgoorlie and Esperance. Curtin also has an extensive research and development program.

Curtin University of Technology is a body corporate established under the Curtin University of Technology Act 1966, an Act of the Western Australian Parliament. It is domiciled in Australia.

The University is not an incorporated company under the Corporations Law. Therefore it does not have an Australian Company Number (ACN), nor does it have a Certificate of Incorporation.

Curtin’s main campus is located at:
Kent Street,
BENTLEY WA 6102

The postal address is:
GPO Box U1987,
PERTH WA 6845

www.curtin.edu.au
vision, mission and values

The University applies the philosophy of its namesake, former Prime Minister John Curtin, who said:

“The great university... should look ever forward; for it the past should be but a preparation for the greater days to be.”

VISION
Curtin will be a leading university in education and research serving its wider region

MISSION
Curtin is committed to innovation and excellence in teaching and research, for the benefit of our students and the wider community

VALUES
Integrity – being consistently honest and trustworthy in all activities
Respect – having regard for self and others
Fairness – ensuring just decisions through open decision-making
Care – acting to ensure the welfare of others

Strategic Plan
The University’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives are operationalised by its Strategic Plan 2006-2008.

Curtin’s Strategic Plan provides a framework for the development of key plans and strategies across all teaching and administrative areas, as reflected in primary statements relating to the Teaching and Learning Plan, the Research Management Plan, the Internationalisation Plan, and the Valuing Curtin Staff Plan.

The section 2007 Activity Highlights presents Curtin’s activities and achievements over the year in relation to the primary statements of the Strategic Plan.
2007 activity highlights

Vision and Mission

Curtin’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives are actioned through its Strategic Plan. This section presents a selection of Curtin’s activities and achievements during 2007, highlighting the foci and themes of the Strategic Plan and the priorities of the supporting Enabling Plans.

John Curtin Medals

The John Curtin Medal, Curtin’s highest non-academic honour, was awarded to Aboriginal activist Dennis Eggington and to life-long community project leader and fundraiser David Goldstone. Mr Eggington is well known and respected as the chief executive officer of the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) and as a Nyungar elder and leader. In addition to his active role in the ALS he has served on committees and forums in the fields of education, health, justice and housing, amongst others. Mr Goldstone was honoured for a lifetime of work for charity. He has raised support and funds for causes such as Rotary’s worldwide Polio Eradication Program, the St John of God Foundation Lighthouse Project which provides long-term housing solutions for the young homeless, and the Rotary WA Cord Blood Bank. In total, Mr Goldstone has raised more than $10 million for charity. The John Curtin Medal is presented by the University each year to people who exhibit the former Prime Minister’s qualities of vision, leadership and community service.
HIGHLIGHTS

• The John Curtin Weekend in October saw more than 350 members of Curtin Volunteers! – a student-led volunteer group within the University – visit more than 30 Western Australian towns to take part in various community service projects. The volunteers came from many nations, and they participated in a range of activities, including revegetating the Harvey River and assisting OzOpera, the touring arm of Opera Australia, in Borden, with a variety of activities.

• Curtin’s Health Sciences Faculty received almost $3 million from the national Health and Medical Research Council (nHMRC) for the following research projects:
  – Associate Professor David Moore, from the national Drug Research Institute, was awarded approximately $750,000 to research the healthcare needs and barriers to health service utilisation of methamphetamine users in order to reduce harms such as psychosis, viral infection and violence.
  – Associate Professor Sandra Thompson, from the Centre for International Health, was awarded more than $1.1 million to investigate the management of coronary heart disease in the Indigenous population in Western Australia.
  – Professor James Semmens, from the School of Public Health, was awarded more than $1.1 million to investigate the management of coronary heart disease in the Indigenous population in Western Australia.
  – Professor David Hay, from the School of Psychology, was awarded $340,000 to examine the long-term outcomes of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
  – The Centre for Research on Ageing, led by Associate Professor Barbara Horner, has secured Federal funding of $1.33 million to establish the Western Australian Dementia Training Study Centre at Curtin. This collaborative centre will provide training and support for health professionals, resulting in improved care for people with dementia.
  – Curtin’s Executive Dean of Humanities, Professor David Wood, received a major grant from the Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre to develop dynamic models to assess the social, economic and environmental management of tourism along Western Australia’s Ningaloo Coast.
  – Dr Hong Wei Wu, from the Department of Chemical Engineering, was awarded more than $900,000 from the then Department of the Environment and Water Resources to work with Monash University on developing technology around the use of biomass for energy generation and utilisation.
  – Curtin, through its Centre for Developmental Health (CDH), is addressing suicide-related issues. In particular, CDH Director Sven Silburn received $1.14 million in February to develop, trial and evaluate an integrated proactive postvention support model, to better address the support needs of people bereaved through suicide. The 18-month pilot program started in October 2007. The Federal Department of Health and Ageing has funded the project under its National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

• Curtin’s Women in Social & Economic Research (WiSER) unit undertook research into the effects of WorkChoices legislation on the lives of West Australian women. Women working in the areas of aged care, childcare, retail, hospitality and cleaning were invited to discuss their experiences at work and any changes that had occurred due to the introduction of WorkChoices. The research revealed that these women gained no significant advantages from the legislation and continued to be disadvantaged in their endeavours to achieve work-life balance and negotiate preferred patterns of work. This study also contributed valuable West Australian data into a larger cross-institutional national study initiated by the National Foundation for Women and the Women’s Electoral Lobby.

• Curtin’s community radio station Curtin FM 100.1 expanded its audience in the 45-54 age group. Market research estimated that the radio station had a listening audience of 145,000 over one week in September, with six out of 10 Perth adults aware of the station.
Strategic focus 2
Student-centred learning

CURRICULUM 2010
To compete and excel in the increasingly dynamic higher education sector, Curtin implemented the Curriculum 2010 project – a three-year program to revitalise the University’s academic offerings.

The University implemented the project to enhance the quality of its learning and teaching performance, improve staff workloads, and determine which existing courses are sustainable in terms of strategic focus, quality and financial viability.

Curriculum 2010 focuses on implementing the course-related objectives of the University’s strategic Teaching and Learning Plan, and its key objectives include:
– revising Curtin educational awards, with a focus on redefining the educational emphases of courses and implementing policies which redefine the shape, structure and consistent standards of courses;
– initiating a comprehensive review of courses, with a view to eradicating duplication, streamlining awards and significantly reducing the number of units being offered;
– implementing an annual course review process; and
– implementing tools and processes to ensure the currency of course data.

CARRICK AWARDS
Curtin won three Carrick Awards for teaching excellence and programs that enhance learning. Dr Euan Lindsay, a lecturer in Curtin’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, received a Carrick Early Career Award (one of the 2007 Carrick Awards for University Teaching). He was recognised as one of four outstanding Australian academics with less than seven years of teaching experience. Curtin’s Centre for International Health received a Carrick Award for Programs that Enhance Learning for its postgraduate program in International Health. The University was also awarded $220,000 by the Carrick Institute Promoting Excellence Initiative to develop a Teaching and Learning mentoring program. Curtin also received seven Carrick Citation Awards.
HIGHLIGHTS

• The Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning policy was developed and Curtin is using data from eVALUate – the online system for gathering and reporting student feedback on their learning experiences – to improve the quality of teaching and learning activities and enable continuous improvement based on student feedback. The target of a 35 per cent student response rate from the eVALUate survey was exceeded in Semester 1, 2007.

• Curtin received a Carrick Citation for eVALUate and is now seeking benchmarking partnerships with other universities by encouraging them to adopt the survey. eVALUate was utilised at Curtin Sarawak, in Malaysia, and in Singapore and Mauritius during the year.

• Curtin completed its fifth semester of the eVALUate survey and the results at the end of 2007 indicated an overall student satisfaction of 81.4 per cent in second semester 2007. This increased from the 79.9 per cent in second semester 2006. There was also an increase in the response rate in second semester 2007 above that in second semester 2006.

• The results of the 2007 Curtin Annual Student Satisfaction (CASS) survey showed that overall satisfaction among onshore students increased from 84 per cent in 2006 to 87 per cent in 2007. Eighty-two per cent of respondents (compared with 78 per cent in 2006) indicated that they would recommend their current course of study to a friend, relative or other student. Similarly, 88 per cent of onshore students (86 per cent in 2006) said they would recommend Curtin to a friend, relative or other student.

• The University’s second Careers Fair was held in April and attracted several thousand Curtin students. More than 120 government and private industry organisations attended the event, which was organised to give students an opportunity to meet with leading employers, such as BHP Billiton, ANZ, and the WA State Government. The Fair also provided students with information on finding employment, preparing resumes and performing well at job interviews.

• An innovative national education project designed to address the severe shortage of engineers was launched at Curtin by the then Federal Minister for Education Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop. ‘Engineering Tomorrow’s Engineers’ is a collaborative, Federally-funded project which will help to produce engineers with new skills to suit the ever-changing needs of the profession.

• A Digital Media Unit (DMU), within Corporate Communications, was established in April to revolutionise Curtin’s online presence. Its purpose is to better meet the needs of current and future students and to compete with other universities’ websites. The DMU undertook benchmarking and monitoring during the year, to set performance indicators for digital development activities.

It completed a new Future Students site and overhauled the Curtin home page to raise the University’s profile and give more prominence to marketing campaigns, events and news. An area for animation, video and interactivity was also implemented on the home page. Integration of major marketing campaigns with the Curtin website was achieved for the first time.

• Curtin broadened its undergraduate scholarship program, with more than 300 new scholarships awarded in 2007 amounting to approximately $2 million. Academic Merit and Academic Merit Support Scholarships were awarded to high academic achievers as a way for Curtin to recognise and encourage academic excellence. New scholarship categories included the Top TER in High School Scholarships, Merit Support and Engineering Support Scholarships, the Principal’s Recommendation Scholarship and Alumni Scholarship.

• Curtin introduced the Innovation Scholarships program which provides an opportunity for innovative thinkers to receive between $30,000 and $40,000 over the course of their degree. The scholarship is open to students wanting to study nursing, teaching, aquaculture and aquatic resources, and offers $10,000 for each year of study to assist with HECS fees, text books and related study expenses.
INVENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The impact and relevance of Curtin’s research, and the success of the University’s commercialisation program, was highlighted in the 2007 Western Australian Inventor of the Year Awards. MillMapper, a technology of the Curtin spin-out company Scanalyse Pty Ltd, was the winner of the Ready for Market category. MillMapper is a tool to capture the internal conditions of large grinding mills on mine sites. It is designed to increase safety and increase mill throughput, resulting in millions of dollars of extra revenue for mine sites. Runner-up in the same category was CryoCell Technology from another Curtin spin-out company, Cool Energy. CryoCell Technology extracts carbon dioxide from natural gas, making it available for geosequestration or industrial applications. The Virtual Observer system, a device which recreates images captured by cameras on buses and taxis as a video-surveillance network, developed by Curtin’s Dr Stewart Greenhill and Professor Svetla Venkatesh, was runner-up in the Early Stage Category.
HIGHLIGHTS

• Curtin continued with strong growth in research activity in 2007, following growth of 31 per cent of external research income in 2006. Research productivity remains high, while national and international recognition of individuals and research groups at Curtin emphasises widespread excellence in research quality. Curtin’s performance in research productivity is evidenced by the University having secured approximately $4.43 million in research funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC). Projects cover a range of issues affecting the broader community, including water quality, climatic events, digital business-intelligence systems, energy and resources and child protection in Indigenous communities.

• Professor Kok Lay Teo was awarded more than $1 million by the ARC to investigate and develop new theory and solution methods for non-convex and non-linear semi-infinite optimisation problems which affect many communications engineering applications.

• The National Gas Separation and Sub-Sea Multiphase Flow Loop Facility at Technology Park was launched by Resources Minister Francis Logan. The Facility is led by Professor Robert Amin and is the result of Curtin’s successful collaboration with long-time industry partner Woodside Energy. The Facility will address the technical and economic challenges associated with the extraction of offshore oil and gas reserves from deep water.

• The School of Public Health installed the first beta positron emission tomography probe in Australia, and only the fourth of its kind in the world, under a grant from Cancer Council WA. The hand-held probe can detect tumours less than one centimetre in size, and promises to bring hope to cancer sufferers faced with the prospect of repeated surgery. Principal investigator Kerryn Butler-Henderson will use the probe initially for women with ductal carcinoma. The probe will help to pinpoint cancer cells during surgery, potentially removing the need for a second operation.

• A group of organic and isotope geochemists at Curtin’s Centre for Applied Organic Geochemistry (CAOG) began cutting-edge research for global petroleum exploration. Led by Professor Kliti Grice, the State Isotope and Molecular Biogeochemistry Group comprises 11 doctoral and postdoctoral researchers who are studying stable isotopes and molecular geochemistry relevant to petroleum exploration. The group’s capabilities have resulted in collaborations with organisations including the Institut Francais du Petrole (IFP), Woodside Petroleum, Chevron, Origin and ARC Energy.

• Professor Kliti Grice conducted research into paleoclimate change and mass extinction. Her team is applying isotope technologies to algal imprints and other biomarkers to determine whether a correlation exists between the conditions that led to climate change and the deposition of petroleum source rocks. The work will help identify crude oil sources, addressing a major issue in petroleum exploration.

• The Eye and Vision Epidemiology Research (EVER) group is part of a research program that renowned epidemiologist Professor James Semmens established as the University’s inaugural Chair of Health Services Research. The group comprises research expertise from Curtin and the University of Western Australia, and is complemented with the resources and knowledge of the Association for the Blind WA, ophthalmologists and other eye-health stakeholders. The group’s ongoing investigation of blindness causes and associations also involves a strategy to help address the expected growth in blindness rates in Australia in the next 20 years, due largely to ageing populations.
Theme 1
Productive partnerships

Strong, strategic partnerships have proven to be vital to the growth of Curtin’s research activities in the past, and the University will continue to pursue these alliances in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Curtin currently participates in 16 Cooperative Research Centres (CRC); 13 as a Core Partner and three as a Supporting Participant. Curtin’s high level of engagement aligns the University’s research goals with the goals of the CRC program to undertake research of the highest quality, which will lead to innovation within Australian industry, for the benefit of the Australian community.

- Curtin has been involved in several CSIRO National Research Flagships, including Wealth from the Oceans, Water for a Healthy Country, Light Metals, Energy Transformed, and Food Futures Flagship. The National Research Flagships are large-scale, multidisciplinary research partnerships which harness world-class expertise to tackle national research priorities.

- The Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Alan Carpenter, officially launched the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) in May 2007 at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle. Curtin is one of 12 core partners in WAMSI, joining the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO, the Department of Fisheries, and other WA universities. This initiative will bring together and expand research capability to underpin the conservation and sustainable management of the State’s marine environment and resources.

- The Curtin-based Western Australian Nanochemistry Research Institute – a collaboration with other Western Australian universities under the State’s Centres of Excellence Program – was launched by Premier Alan Carpenter. Nanotechnologies are expected to underpin major developments in the biomedical and resources areas. The Institute is led by Professor Eric Bakker, who is a leader in the development of biosensors and chemical sensors.

- Construction commenced on Curtin’s Resources and Chemistry Precinct at the University’s Bentley campus. The Precinct is a unique collaboration between the University, government and industry, which will encourage collaborative projects in geochemistry, hydrometallurgy, forensic science, nanochemistry, biotechnology, and water quality and treatment. Curtin’s partners in the Precinct are the Chemistry Centre (WA) and BHP Billiton. Stage one of the development is expected to be complete in early 2009.

COURTESY OF WOODS BAGOT
Theme 2
International engagement

HIGHLIGHTS

• Curtin established high-level collaborations with key Chinese energy research organisations, thus furthering the University’s international linkages in science and engineering. In June, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research and Development Professor Linda Kristjanson and Professor of Chemical Engineering Dong-ke Zhang visited China to formalise agreements with Tsinghua University – China’s most prestigious university – and the Institute for Coal Chemistry within the Chinese Academy of Science. The goal of the agreements is to promote clean coal technologies.

• Curtin and the University of Newcastle – the two strongest coal research organisations in Australia – signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreement in February and established the Institute for Coal Strategies (ICoalS). The initiative combines the expertise of Curtin’s Centre for Fuels and Energy and Newcastle’s Priority Research Centre on Energy, to advance clean-coal technology development and facilitate joint international efforts. ICoalS is focused on engaging high coal-use developing countries, such as China and India, in research that facilitates cleaner coal use. The initiative also led to a four-way collaboration with the Thermal Power Institute of China and the Institute for Coal Chemistry. The establishment of these collaborations resulted in a significant agreement which was signed in China by Curtin’s Executive Dean of Science and Engineering, Professor Andris Stelbovics, and Professor Jinghai Li, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Science (China’s equivalent of CSIRO). The agreement will see the two organisations undertake research collaborations across science and engineering.

• Curtin hosted more than 40 visits by international delegations and greeted many guests, including those who attended Curtin events and graduation ceremonies, and visited the Vice-Chancellor. Visitors included the Chinese Ambassador to Australia; Netherlands’ Ambassador to Australia; the Permanent Secretary for Higher Education Hong Kong; the University of Hyogo, Hyogo Prefecture Japan; the Chancellor and Board Members of Ukrida University Jakarta, Indonesia; and the Australian Ambassador to Jordan.

• Associate Professor Ian Phau, from the School of Marketing at Curtin Business School, received the Leading Editor award in 2007 from the Emerald publishing group, the world’s foremost English language publisher of academic and professional literature. Associate Professor Phau, who coordinates the Marketing Honours program and founded the Curtin Marketing Association, received the award for his work as editor of Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing & Logistics.
Theme 3
Organisational culture focused on excellence and responsive to its environment

HIGHLIGHTS

- Curtin’s students and staff will benefit from a new $25 million recreation and events facility being built at the Bentley campus on grounds opposite the existing Fitness Centre. The centre will include three international-grade sports courts, a new fitness centre including a women’s gym, beach volley ball facilities, and a coffee shop and patio area. The state-of-the-art venue will also be a venue for large events, such as graduations, with seating for 2,500 guests. The recreation centre is due to open in late 2008.

- Construction of a world-class Resources and Chemistry Precinct in the southern gateway to the campus commenced. The Precinct will attract world-class expertise for industry-focused research relevant to Western Australia’s resources and related industries. It will also provide a major boost to science education, attracting top quality students to science and resources education, and create the next generation of industry professionals and researchers. The Precinct will co-locate Curtin’s Department of Applied Chemistry and the Chemistry Centre of WA on the Bentley campus adjacent to CSIRO Waterford.

- Curtin’s Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2007 – 2011 (DAIP), which covers students, visitors and staff with disabilities, was lodged in July. It replaced the Disability Services Plan; the first plan in any West Australian university in 1997. The DAIP was lodged with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Its implementation is well underway, with the establishment of the Implementation Committee made up of senior University staff; an inaugural Universal Design reference group; inclusive curricula embedded in the C2010 and Teaching and Learning agenda; and an agreement to undertake an access audit of the Bentley campus in 2008. The needs of students with disabilities were included in the draft policy on fieldwork, and the Disability@Curtin website, as the ‘one stop’ resource for staff, students and visitors regarding disability matters at Curtin, was created.

- Journalism lecturer Joseph Fernandez won the Clarion Prize at the WA Media Awards. The Clarion Prize is awarded annually by the Western Australian Journalists’ Association for the best individual contribution to the media industry or to its union, the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance. Mr Fernandez was awarded the Clarion Prize for his work as a leader amongst media activists involved in lobbying governments to protect and defend free speech, and for producing practical guidelines on defamation, contempt, freedom of information and the new Australian sedition laws.
In 2007 Curtin achieved a healthy surplus for the second year in succession. The 2007 surplus was $75.7 million, an outcome achieved through higher revenues, improved efficiencies and productivity, and a lower rate of expenditure. The additional revenue came from a range of areas, including the Commonwealth Grant Scheme, research and other grants, international onshore and offshore fees, and interest on investments. Spending was lower across a number of expenditure categories.

Curtin’s strong financial position means it has improved cash and investment reserves and the financial capability to invest in a range of strategic initiatives and capital works programs. More than $175 million will be invested in physical facilities over the next three years.
The Office of Teaching and Learning was created to ensure Curtin’s curriculum is relevant, robust and contemporary in the increasingly competitive higher education environment. It will bring together teaching development, learning resources, courses management, and project management and support. Professor Robyn Quin was appointed to the newly created position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning) as part of the University’s commitment to excellence in these areas. She came to Curtin from Edith Cowan University, where she was Executive Dean in the Faculty of Education and Arts and Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement and Development. Professor Quin is also an auditor for the Australian Universities Quality Agency, and has worked as a consultant to the Ministry of Education, where she was responsible for curriculum design and implementation in Western Australian government schools.

> 2007 activity highlights (continued)
The University implemented the Curriculum 2010 project to enhance its learning and teaching performance, improve staff workloads and determine which existing courses are sustainable in terms of strategic focus, quality and financial viability. It aims to eradicate duplication, streamline awards and significantly reduce the number of units being offered.

A Teaching Performance Index (TPI) was developed and endorsed to recognise and reward good teaching practices. The initiative focuses on best practice in teaching, and rewards staff who demonstrate excellence. The TPI also provides tools for teaching staff to improve their quality of instruction, including training for course coordinators and heads of school in the management of academic programs; the transfer of print-based, distance education materials to a digital format; a comprehensive set of teaching and learning standards; and a trial of a plagiarism detection tool. In addition, an online tool for TPI applications was developed.

Curtin has continued to improve its teaching and learning performance and was awarded $500,000 from the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF). Eighty per cent ($400,000) of the award was distributed to improve teaching and learning and 20 per cent ($100,000) to recognise and reward teaching and learning.

Curtin won three Carrick Awards for teaching excellence and programs that enhance learning and seven Carrick Citation Awards. The University was also awarded $220,000 by the Carrick Institute Promoting Excellence Initiative to develop a divisional Teaching and Learning mentoring program.

The annual Curtin Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching provide recognition and reward for outstanding performances by individuals and teams in teaching and in enhancing student learning. In 2007 the University allocated 20 internal Curtin Excellence and Innovation in Teaching Awards, totalling $40,000.

The Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning policy has now been developed and Curtin is using eVALUate data to improve the quality of teaching and learning activities, and enable continuous improvement based on student feedback. eVALUate was utilised at Curtin Sarawak, in Malaysia, and in Singapore and Mauritius through the year.

Curtin’s commitment to regional education and regional communities in Western Australia saw the University acquire the executive management responsibilities for the Centre for Regional Education (CRE) and the Vocational Training and Education Centre. Additionally, a School of Regional, Remote and e-Learning (RR&E) has been established. The inclusion of CRE will augment the future opportunities for the new School of Regional, Remote and e-Learning within the Office of Teaching and Learning. RR&E is tasked with the delivery of Curtin courses to remote and regional clients through a range of options, including distance education, face-to-face learning and electronic delivery.

As a further commitment to innovative teaching, and to promote the integration of e-learning into Curtin’s courses, the University obtained strategic funding to implement two projects that will deliver more than $2 million in individual incentives to divisional teaching in 2008.

In line with the recommendation from the Australian Universities Quality Agency’s (AUQA) Audit Panel Report, the Course Review Process is now being implemented at Curtin. The initiatives now in place include an AUQA Standards Working Party and the improved definition of minimum standards for teaching and learning, which address student admission, curriculum, teaching staff, evaluation, assessment, learning environment, and course satisfaction.

The first University-wide annual Management of Plagiarism Review was also implemented, and staff-development sessions on plagiarism and academic integrity were held. The successful completion of the Turnitin Plagiarism Detection Service trial also took place in 2007, for use in 2008.

A Teaching and Learning Action Plan was created and circulated, addressing the incorporation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan strategies in day-to-day business. Also implemented was a draft Fieldwork Education policy, developing (in test mode) a University-wide fieldwork website.

The inaugural, year-long Foundations of Teaching and Learning at Curtin program attracted an increase in enrolments from 75 participants in 2006 to 143 in 2007. The program was also inaugurated at Curtin’s Sarawak, Malaysia campus during the year.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

• Nan Ning, a PhD student with the Institute of Multi-Processing and Content Analysis (IMPCA) and Department of Computing, was awarded the WA Information Technology & Telecommunications Award (WAITTA) (Student Category) for her project “Remote Tracking of Terrorist/Criminal Using Distributed Mobile Camera”. The project was based on work undertaken for her Honours degree, under the supervision of Dr Tele Tan, and develops an automated visual surveillance system that could be used for large-scale geographical terrorist/criminal tracking. The WAITTA awards recognise outstanding performance and contributions by members of the IT&T community in Western Australia.

• Ashley Hunt, who is studying for a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering, was the only Western Australian awarded a prestigious Order of Australia Prize by the Order of Australia Association Foundation in 2007. Mr Hunt, a third-year student, was one of four recipients awarded $40,000 each towards their studies. The award recognises both community and career leadership potential. Mr Hunt was chosen on the basis of his academic record and his demonstrated qualities of leadership, initiative and willingness to be involved in community affairs.

• Accounting and Business Law student Karrissa Cotterell won the West Australian Business Icon competition. Ms Cotterell won for excelling in the task assigned to her as one of four finalists. The task involved creating a media statement and facing mock media questioning over a fictional environmental disaster. The Business Icon competition is run by the Australian Experiential Learning Centre (AELC) and is designed for 18-25 year olds to test their business skills.

• In 2007 Kate Bickley was the first student in Curtin’s Department of Languages and Intercultural Education (DOLIE) to be awarded a Mitsui Educational Foundation (MEF) Study Tour of Japan. The 21-day MEF Study Tour of Japan is run by the Mitsui Educational Foundation which was established in 1971 by Mitsui & Co (Australia) Ltd to build stronger links between Japan and Australia. Ms Bickley had undertaken a double degree in Asian Studies (majoring in Japanese) and Commerce (majoring in Public Relations).

• Nursing undergraduate Aishah Binte Mohammed Sim was named Curtin’s international undergraduate student top achiever in 2007 at the inaugural Perth Education City (PEC) Most Outstanding International Student and Staff Awards. Ms Sim won the award, which is based on academic merit, for achieving the best weighted-average score among all the nominees.

• Conrad Bieganski, a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Construction Engineering) student, was awarded the $5,000 Qantas prize for making the Vice-Chancellor’s List eight times during the course of his studies. Membership to the VC’s List is granted to the top one per cent of undergraduates, including international and Honours students, across all disciplines and University campuses. A total of 505 students were added to the VC’s List in 2007.
• Curtin graduate and artist S. Chandrasekaran was invited to show his performance art project entitled Bleeding Tent at two prestigious art exhibitions, Venice Biennale and Documenta. The project – a modified version of Chandrasekaran’s Doctor of Creative Arts research which he undertook at Curtin – explored the conflicts and tensions of cross-cultural interactions between individuals, and aimed to establish how certain human activities, such as bleeding and drinking which he enacted for the project, are parts of everyday reality.

• Daniel Howell, a 2007 Curtin graduate in Computer Science, accepted a lucrative position as a Software Design Engineer at Microsoft’s Seattle headquarters, in the US. The Microsoft headquarters employs approximately 22,000 people, including 400 Australians of which approximately 20 are Curtin graduates.

• Curtin graduate Michelle Webb won the 2007 NAIDOC Perth Scholar of the Year Award for her outstanding accomplishments in Indigenous education. Ms Webb works as coordinator of the Aboriginal Bridging Course in Curtin’s Centre of Aboriginal Studies (CAS). She is one of the first Indigenous people in Australia to graduate with a Master of Human Rights Practice.

• The prestigious KPMG AdviceBank Award was presented to Curtin Business School graduate Stuart Ball at the 2007 State Australian Business Arts Foundation Awards (AbaF). Mr Ball was recognised for his work with Country Arts WA, where he reviewed the organisation’s IT requirements with the view to upgrading their technology systems and infrastructure. After implementing his recommendations, Country Arts WA increased productivity and now benefits from a 40 per cent reduction in IT support costs.

• Curtin Film and Television Honours graduate Vegard H Sorby was accepted into the American Film Institute (AFI) Conservatory in Hollywood, US, where he has undertaken the Fine Arts program. Mr Sorby, with fellow Curtin Film and Television graduate Dean Israelite, also won two awards – the People’s Choice Award and the Award for Acting – at the 2007 WA Screen Awards for their joint filmmaking project The Department of Nothing.

• Curtin graduate Kareena May was named the National Young Planner of the Year at the annual Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) awards in 2007. Ms May graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning and a Graduate Certificate in Eco-Tourism Development from Curtin in 2003. She is a senior town planner with Koltasz Smith – a town planning and urban design project management consulting firm, with offices based in Burswood and Busselton.
The Research Management Plan

The Research Management Plan provides the framework to guide Curtin towards growing and improving its research program. It addresses three broad issues: increasing research capacity, research differentiation, and knowledge transfer.

Five broad themes have been identified to focus research activity at Curtin. The themes are consistent with national and state research priorities:

- Resources and Energy
- Information and Communication
- Health, Ageing and Wellbeing
- Communities and Changing Environments
- Growth and Prosperity

HIGHLIGHTS

- Curtin continues to participate at a high level in discussions on Australian and State Government policy, including the Productivity Commission’s review of Public Support for Science and Innovation, the establishment of the Higher Education Endowment Fund, and the assessment of research quality in universities. With external drivers emphasising the importance of research quality, 2007 saw Curtin evaluate the overall quality of research and focus on identified areas of research excellence. The strong growth in research activity in 2006, including a 31 per cent increase in external research income, coupled with continued growth in 2007, indicates that research productivity remains high, while national and international recognition of individuals and research groups at Curtin emphasises widespread excellence in research quality.

- Curtin’s Resources and Chemistry Precinct was launched by the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Alan Carpenter in March. This world-class Precinct is a collaborative venture supported by BHP Billiton and involves the co-location of the Chemistry Centre (WA) and Curtin’s Department of Applied Chemistry. It will bring together more than 300 scientists, engineers and support staff in state-of-the-art facilities, and support education, research and regional training to underpin the resources sector. Expertise in hydrometallurgy, water quality and treatment, energy, forensic science, environmental and food chemistry, corrosion and biotechnology will be situated within the Precinct, which will be in proximity to additional expertise in chemical engineering, oil and gas, petroleum engineering and environmental science.

- The Western Australian Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care, a collaboration between Curtin and Edith Cowan University (ECU), was officially launched in February by Western Australia’s Minister for Health, the Hon Jim McGinity. Moyez Jiwa, Professor of Primary Care at Curtin’s School of Pharmacy, and Associate Professor Samar Aoun, from ECU, have been appointed as Co-Directors, taking over from Professor Linda Kristjanson, who established the Centre’s foundation research team 10 years ago.

- The Curtin-based WA Nanochemistry Research Institute – a collaboration with other Western Australian universities under the State’s Centres of Excellence program – was launched by the Premier of Western Australia. Nanotechnologies are expected to underpin major developments in the biomedical and resources areas. The Institute is led by Professor Eric Bakker.

- The Curtin Energy Research Showcase was held at the University’s Bentley campus in October to highlight key research projects in the area of energy and resources, with particular emphasis on innovative research to ensure the long-term viability of energy and resources for future generations. Research topics included exploration geophysics, engineering, business and renewable energies, and the attendant issues of sustainability and climate change.
Curtin secured approximately $4.43 million in research funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) as follows:

- Professor Zheng-Xiang Li was awarded $1 million to examine and test causal links between Neoproterozoic global geodynamic and climatic events. The work involves an international team and will provide insight into how plate tectonics interacts with deeper mantle process, and how major geodynamic events, like supercontinent cycles and large-scale plume events, impact on the Earth’s climate.

- Associate Professor Anna Heitz, Director of the Curtin Water Quality Research Centre (a joint venture with the Water Corporation), received $870,000 to research advanced water treatment technologies, to minimise the formation of emerging disinfection by-products in potable and reuse water.

- Professor Tharam Dillon, from the Digital Ecosystems and Business Intelligence Institute, was awarded approximately $800,000 to develop a commercially viable innovation, an XML-enabled association rule framework. Successful methods for storage and retrieval of data from XML databases have been developed. The next stage consists of identifying patterns or knowledge in XML data or association rule mining, and the project will develop a framework and algorithms for mining such data, which will significantly enhance the value of these large document databases.

- Professor Kliti Grice was awarded $770,000 under the ARC’s Discovery Program to analyse the characteristics of organic matter formed in toxic, sulfide-rich modern and ancient environments. The research will lead to a better understanding of mass extinction events, particularly those associated with global warming, which may be crucial to managing current threats to biodiversity. The research will also identify new sources of petroleum in Australia.

- Professor Kliti Grice was awarded $330,000 under the ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities Grant to establish Australia’s first state-of-the-art high-pressure hydropyrolysis system for the molecular and stable isotopic characterisation of high-molecular-weight organic materials. She also received $22,000 under the ARC Linkage International scheme.

- Professor Daniela Stehlik, from the Alcoa Research Centre for Stronger Communities, in conjunction with researchers from Griffith University in Queensland, was awarded $640,000 under an ARC Linkage Grant involving Western Australia’s Department for Child Protection and Queensland’s Department of Child Safety. The study focuses on a shared problem of recruiting and retaining high-quality professional staff to enable child protection service delivery in rural and remote communities with high proportions of Indigenous families and children. It aims to enable the development of breakthrough technologies and best practice models.

- Professor Peter Love was awarded $350,000 to evaluate the dynamic life cycle of Customer Relationship Management systems. The research aims to design and develop a life-cycle evaluation model for CRM – a business and marketing strategy which integrates technology, process and business activities around the customer – so that business can better manage its investment and its contributions to improving long-term profitability.

- Professor Stephen Zubrick, from the Centre for Developmental Health (a joint venture with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research), was awarded almost $2 million to measure and model the childhood determinants of human-capital formation and human-capability expansion. The researchers will collect new population data on families and integrate them with appropriate administrative data in the education and health sectors to more appropriately describe a human-capability framework. The findings will be of policy relevance across levels of governments and would be assessed for their generalisability to national efforts in charting policy responses.
The Internationalisation Plan

The Internationalisation Plan aligns closely with the University’s Strategic Plan 2006-2008 and includes outcomes related to staff, students, culture, and core activities with an international perspective. Strategies to increase international student numbers, internationalise the curriculum and develop an international culture amongst Curtin staff are the aims of this plan.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Curtin’s international student population continues to grow, reflecting its strong position and good reputation amongst the international student population. The number of international students enrolled at Curtin in 2007 increased by 7.8 per cent, with a marked increase in enrolments from India. Curtin continues to attract a strong flow of students from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and China.

• In 2007 more than 9,000 students enrolled in Curtin’s programs offered in partnership with higher education institutions in a range of countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Sri Lanka. Many of these students transfer to Curtin’s Bentley campus for the final year of their studies.

• More than 600 international students sponsored by the Australian Government (AusAID), foreign governments and universities, and international companies were enrolled at Curtin in 2007. The International Sponsored Students Section (ISSU) within the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) International provides assistance and support to sponsored students, including individual case management, pastoral care for students and families, and social events.

• The International Office provided support to the International Students’ Committee for the staging of the Pasar Malam (night market) event, the highlight of Multicultural Week held at Curtin. Multicultural Week reminds the University of the value of its diversity and the wonderful contribution that its staff and students from all cultures make to the teaching, research and community activities of Curtin.

> 2007 activity highlights (continued)
• In December Curtin hosted the 2007 Conference of the Association for Southeast Asian Institutes of Higher Learning (ASAIHL). More than 120 foreign academics participated in the conference, including a large number of Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors. The staging of the Conference at Curtin presented an excellent opportunity for the University’s senior staff to meet with counterparts from a range of countries in our region.

• In January 2007 new premises for the Curtin Sydney Campus was officially opened in a specially renovated four-storey building close to the CBD. Curtin Sydney is a joint venture arrangement between Curtin and Navitas Ltd and during the year it strongly increased its student numbers to reach more than 800 by the end of the year. New course offerings at Curtin Sydney in 2007 included the Master of Finance.

• During the year good progress was made in the development of several research and teaching relationships with universities offshore, and the University hosted visits by many delegations from overseas universities. These visits and the associated relationships developed by Curtin staff resulted in the signing of a number of Memorandum of Understanding agreements, student transfer agreements and student exchange agreements.

• Curtin continued to expand its student mobility programs in 2007 through the provision of grants to students, to support periods of study offshore. A total of 107 Curtin students spent at least one semester at a partner university overseas, while 91 students from those universities visited Curtin for a similar period. The learning on all levels that is engendered by such exchange programs is an integral element of Curtin’s goal to provide an international experience for all its students.
The Valuing Curtin Staff Plan

The Valuing Curtin Staff Plan is the University’s plan for the support, development and growth of its people, work environment and organisational culture. The plan outlines the key people-management strategies and targets that relate directly to the University’s Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Objectives.

- An Organisation Development Unit was established to provide an expanded set of professional development programs supporting senior, academic and general staff.
- In response to employee feedback, expanded staff reward programs were designed and implemented to recognise excellence in teaching and learning and research.
- Substantial work was undertaken in 2007 to address academic staff concerns with high workloads, including curriculum reviews, academic workload planning and additional resource allocations to academic units.
- The University commenced the development of a Curtin Expectations document, with the aim of developing an overarching set of expectations which make clear the levels of performance expected of academic staff in the areas of teaching, research, leadership and service. Consultation on the draft has commenced and it is expected the final document will inform the promotions process and performance management.
- The University increased the diversity of its workforce and served its local community through the establishment of new employment support programs for Indigenous and disabled workers.
- University Council approved the adoption of a new academic structure for Curtin to improve the organisational structure and culture. The structural reform included standardisation of faculty structures and standardisation of positions. The new structure becomes effective on 1 January 2008.
- Substantial work was undertaken across campus facilities as part of the University’s commitment to providing a safe environment for its staff.
LEADERSHIP

• Regular events were offered for the senior management group to meet on key strategic issues in 2007. A two-day conference in June, themed Taking Curtin to the Next Level, involved 120 senior managers working on key challenges facing the University. A key area of the conference was to increase the University’s capacity in quality research, teaching and learning, and service to the community. Invited speakers included local and international leaders in organisational enhancement.

• Professor Greg Craven, Curtin’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Planning) resigned in the latter part of the year to take up the Vice Chancellorship of the Australian Catholic University in February 2008. Professor Craven had previously worked as the Executive Director of the John Curtin Institute for Public Policy and held a Chair in Government and Constitutional Law.

• A national commentator on government and public policy, Professor Craven made a significant contribution to the University’s strategy development, governance and external relations.

• A review of the responsibilities of the executive management team effected changes in University structures to improve the spread of load, collaborative synergies, and the level of focus which can be achieved. The review re-assigned the major academic portfolios of Education, Research and Development, and International, to report directly to the Vice-Chancellor, and re-titled Executive Deans as Pro Vice-Chancellors to recognise the contribution of these positions to University senior management, and to improve Curtin’s ability to recruit in a highly competitive labour environment.

• Curtin continued to attract high-quality academic leaders to its senior positions. Professor Robyn Quin was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor of Teaching and Learning; Professor Andris Stelbovics was appointed Executive Dean, Science and Engineering; and Professor David Wood was appointed Executive Dean, Humanities.

• Professor Paul Dunn was appointed as Director of the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM) in October 2007. His appointment follows his position as Director of the Centre for Mining Technology at the Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation (MIRARCO) in Canada, a not-for-profit applied research and technical service company. Professor Dunn has held positions with the University of Queensland and taught at WASM between 1990 and 1993.
A collaborative Curtin research project which focused on improving pregnancy outcomes for women with serious mental illness won a 2007 Mental Health Good Outcomes Award in the Mental Health Research and Education category. The collaborative project involved staff from Curtin’s Faculty of Health Sciences, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, North Metropolitan Area Health Service Mental Health and the Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry (CCRPN). Entitled “A Clinical Pathway and Guidelines for the Provision of Antenatal Care to Pregnant Women with Serious Mental Illness”, the project involved the development of an antenatal care package to help reduce the risk of poorer health outcomes for women with serious mental illness and their babies.

Curtin won three Carrick Awards for teaching excellence and programs that enhance learning. Dr Euan Lindsay, a lecturer in Curtin’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, received a Carrick Early Career Award (one of the 2007 Carrick Awards for University Teaching). He was recognised as one of four outstanding Australian academics with less than seven years of teaching experience. Curtin’s Centre for International Health received a Carrick Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning for its postgraduate program in International Health. The University was also awarded $220,000 by the Carrick Institute Promoting Excellence Initiative to develop a divisional Teaching and Learning mentoring program. Curtin also received seven Carrick Citation Awards.

Curtin’s Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence were given to nine individual staff and nine staff groups, in recognition of the significant innovation they demonstrated in their area of employment and the pursuit of excellence in their activities.

Curtin’s Excellence and Innovation in Teaching (EIT) Awards Committee awarded 20 recipients with a Curtin Excellence and Innovation in Teaching Award. Each award winner received a certificate in recognition of their contribution to improving the quality of student learning and a prize of $2000 to enhance teaching and learning.
STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Following the sad and premature death of Professor Aileen Plant, of Curtin’s Centre for International Health, in March, the University established The Aileen Plant Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is intended for a student with an interest in Indigenous Public Health issues in Australia, and is open to students enrolling in a Health Sciences degree at Curtin. The Scholarship honours the work of Aileen Plant in public health and, in particular, in Australian Indigenous health, through encouraging and rewarding young students who demonstrate academic and leadership potential.

- Journalism lecturer Joseph Fernandez won the Clarion Prize at the WA Media Awards for his work as a leader amongst media activists involved in lobbying governments to project and defend free speech, and for producing practical guidelines on defamation, contempt, freedom of information and the new Australian section laws. Mr Fernandez lectures in media law at Curtin and is a member of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance’s National Ethics Panel as well as a member of the Media Asia Research Group.

- Moyez Jiwa, a Professor of Primary Care at Curtin, won the 2007 Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) WA Research Award for ongoing research work that will make a significant contribution to general practice in medicine. Professor Jiwa’s research is themed on GP management of patients with cancer symptoms; the effects of GP-specialist interactions on patient outcomes; methods of improving practice through information dissemination; and clinical research in primary care and related fields.

- Associate Professor John Teschendorff was awarded for his lifetime of successes in teaching and visual arts education in Australia and South-East Asia and was presented with the 2007 Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS) Award for Distinguished Teaching.

- Professor Graham Seal, Acting Director of the Australia Research Institute, was awarded an Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. Professor Seal is Australia’s first professor of folklore and his award recognised his research and contribution as an editor and author of approximately 20 publications on Australian folklore.

- Dr Bobbie Oliver and Dr Patrick Bertola, from Curtin’s Faculty of Media Society & Culture, won the WA History Award section of the WA Premier’s Book Awards for their publication The Workshops: A History of the Midland Government Railway Workshops.

- Dr Dawn Bennet received the Callaway Doctoral Award from the Australia Society for Music Education (ASME). The award recognises the best doctoral thesis from an Australian university, based on the contribution made to theoretical, empirical, historical and/or methodological knowledge.

- Emeritus Professor Brian O’Connor, from the Department of Imaging and Applied Physics and the Centre for Materials Research, was elected President of the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) for 2007-2008. AINSE is a partnership between the Australian universities and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). Its specific mandate is to arrange for the training of scientific research workers and to award scientific research studentships associated with nuclear science and engineering.

- Four Curtin staff were honoured in the inaugural Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia Professional Service Awards. The award recipients were: Dr Susan Beltman, a lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities, for her work with the Western Australian Institute for Education Research; Mr Kent Miller Logie, lecturer, for his work in music education; Dr Stephan Millet, the Director of the Centre for Applied Ethics and Philosophy, for his role in championing philosophy in Western Australian schools; and Ms Ros Marshall, Education Coordinator at the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library, for her work with school Political and Legal Studies curriculum.

- Five staff were promoted from Associate Lecturer to Lecturer, 40 per cent of whom were women. Eighteen staff were promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer and 44.4 per cent of them were women. Twenty-five staff were promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor, 40 per cent of whom were women. Four Professors, of whom 25 per cent were women, were promoted to Personal Chairs.