Big steps for a small artist

S. Chandrasekaran pushes the boundaries of art

Tourism for the future
Creating a sustainable model

A new life?
Web 2.0 has changed the face of the Internet
Cite (s) 1: To put forward thought-provoking arguments; to offer insightful discussion and new perspectives on topics of social, political, economic or environmental relevance; to report on new thinking. Sight (s) of to frame or scrutinise community, research and business initiatives; to present points of view on current issues. Site (s) of: The location of a building or an organisation, esp. as to its environment. * To place or position in a physical and social context.

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Cite has a strong and loyal readership, which supports the magazine’s outward focus and quality writing and design.

Please note, the research showed that Cite has a strong and loyal readership, which supports the magazine’s focus and quality writing and design. Cite is seen as interesting to read while also demonstrating the contribution Curtin makes to the community. Potential change to the magazine were not widely supported by the readers involved in the market research. In light of the comments received and the level of support demonstrated, we have decided not make any significant change to Cite. The magazine will continue to provide stories which are interesting and relevant to our readers while also communicating the value and importance of Curtin’s work.

Curtin opens its doors
When would you find spectacular dress, futuristic cars and your own face aged by smoking? Where would you find free popcorn, helicopter rides, information and inspiration – and even some appealing dogs, a goat and a rooster? At Curtin Open Day 2007, of course. Breezing stromy weather at the end of August, almost 12,000 visitors explored Curtin’s Bentley Campus to learn about courses and all the University has to offer its students. Curtin Vice-Chancellor Professor Jeanette Hackett was delighted with the number of people who came to Open Day. “It was wonderful to see visitors getting a feel for our beautiful campus and exploring the many exciting and diverse displays and activities.”

Curtin’s first ever Curiosity Carnival attracted strong crowds, combining interesting science with an American travelling carnival atmosphere. The carnival came complete with a “Magic” ringmaster on hand to entice visitors into the science educational alley, which was filled with activities specially designed for the day. To complete the mix, the Curtin Café offered carnival treats such as popcorn, fairy floss, toffee apples, hotdogs and activities specially designed for the day. To complete the mix, the Curtin Café offered carnival treats such as popcorn, fairy floss, toffee apples, hotdogs and activities specially designed for the day.

According to the Faculty of Science and Engineering’s Matt Sandford, who developed the concept of the Curiosity Carnival, it was to encourage people to make as much science relates to everyday life and how enjoyable it can be. The innovation Display was an equally strong attraction for the visitors with its array of some of Curtin’s best research and development projects. Researchers were on hand to explain and inspire future students to follow a path from curiosity to knowledge.

All areas of the University were represented on the day with displays, parades, exhibitions, information sessions and hands-on experiences. “Curtin Open Day provides a wonderful insight into what university life is really like and how it helps to study at the largest university in Western Australia,” Professor Hackett said. For more information: openday.curtin.edu.au/news/

Celebrating vision, leadership and community service
A high profile Aboriginal activist and a noted charity fundraiser were honoured at the tenth annual John Curtin Medal award ceremony in October 2007. The medal, Curtin’s highest non-academic award, is given to citizens who have exhibited John Curtin’s qualities of vision, leadership and community service.

David Goldstone was recognised for his inspiring fundraising, which has raised more than $10 million for a number of significant causes locally and internationally. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven said the level of altruism, dedication and perseverance in Goldstone’s fundraising efforts was outstanding.

Curtin’s Bentley Campus to learn about courses and all the University has to offer its students. Curtin Vice-Chancellor Professor Jeanette Hackett said Goldstone’s fundraising and community work had, and would, continue to change the lives of disadvantaged people in WA, Dennis Eggington, a Noongar man who has represented his people and Indigenous issues with great passion for most of his life, was also honoured by the University. Privately as well as professionally, Eggington has devoted his life to the fight for fundamental human rights for Indigenous people.

Professor Hackett commended Eggington on his tireless work and dedication to the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike. “Dennis Eggington is respected not only by Noongar people, but also by the non-Indigenous community throughout the State,” she said. For more information: johncurtin.curtin.edu.au/medals.html

John Howard: The Biography
One of the authors of a controversial biography of former Prime Minister John Howard spoke at the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy breakfast lecture in August. Dr Peter van Onselen said, John Winston Howard. The Biography with Dr Wayne Emmington, and the book’s revelations about Howard’s relationship with former Treasurer Peter Costello generated significant media interest. More broadly, the book contains that John Howard’s impact on the country, modern politics and government is both deep and lasting, and, indeed, that Howard is the first politician in Australia’s history to create such a legacy.

The biography offers a rare insight into John Howard the man, and John Howard the politician, through more than 100 interviews with family, friends, political supporters and detractors. Peter van Onselen’s background as Associate Professor in Politics and Government at Edith Cowan University and as a former ministerial staffer for the Coalition Government made him the ideal researcher and interviewer for this biography. Peter van Onselen is currently preparing a book on the 2007 federal election, which was held on November 24, as well as a book on political campaigning in Australia. Both books will be published in 2008.

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John Curtin Medallists David Goldstone and Dennis Eggington

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Through Cite we aim to communicate the socially important work undertaken at Curtin to a broad general audience in interesting and innovative ways. The magazine doesn’t assume everyone knows what a university is like, but through articles and, more particularly, photographs, we provide insights into the working life of a modern university, especially its more interesting and surprising aspects.

With Cite now five years old, Curtin undertook market research to gain a clearer understanding of whether this approach was appreciated by our readers, and to help us make decisions around the future of the magazine. Thank you to all who participated in the online survey and focus groups – your involvement and feedback were really appreciated.

I hope you and your family have an enjoyable and peaceful holiday season.

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They come in their droves. Grey nomads, families, surfers, recreational fishermen, divers, snorkellers, boats, backpackers, state, national and international tourists – some stay a few days, some a few months. And why wouldn’t they? It’s a slice of paradise. It’s the pristine Ningaloo Coast.

Ningaloo is around 1200 kilometres north of Perth, shutting the Cape Range National Park, home to the 280-kilometre Ningaloo Reef. It’s a place of spectacle: beauty where visitors can have the rare adventure of stepping straight from the beach onto the 260-kilometre Ningaloo Reef. It’s a place of adventure of stepping straight from the beach onto the 260-kilometre Ningaloo Reef. It’s the Ningaloo Experience.

Tourists love Ningaloo. The locals love Ningaloo. It’s the Ningaloo Experience. It’s the Ningaloo Experience. It’s the Ningaloo Experience. It’s the Ningaloo Experience.

But the danger is, we could lose it to death. If local tourism continues to grow at current rates, unplanned, unmanaged, uncontrolled, then over time, there’ll be less and less left to love.

The importance of understanding, planning and managing tourism activity in the area for its long-term economic, social and ecological health was dramatically spotlighted in 2002-03 with the proposal for the 2,500-person Maud’s Landing tourism development. The concept sparked a public re-evaluation around the nation and across the globe. It was sparked by then-Government and, the State Government’s subsequent path to have the area World Heritage-listed has further stimulated international tourism.

Former WA Premier Geoff Gallop, now Director of the University of Sydney’s Graduate School of Government, believes that decision was a watershed event, that determined the direction that Ningaloo would take, and the type of management practices that would have to be undertaken in the area.

“We wanted to ensure that Ningaloo would be protected, and that the area would be managed to deliver the highest possible level of environmental sustainability,” he says.

Since then, research interest, expertise and dollars – more than $15 million in current projects – have begun flowing into the area. Their focus is on pulling together all the threads to realise an achievable, sustainable management plan for the region.

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The modelling system will enable planners to look at how changing tourism numbers and activities will impact on the local economy, environment and socio-economic data from tourists, tourism operators, recreational and commercial fishing, the oil and gas industry and aquaculture. It’s a complex challenge meeting the needs of this diverse group, but one science can play an important role in addressing.

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The pristine Ningaloo Coast, around 1200 kilometres north of Perth, abuts the Cape Range National Park and is home to the 260 kilometre Ningaloo Reef. It’s a place of spectacular beauty where visitors can have the rare adventure of stepping straight from the beach onto a coral reef.

And while there are few, say, does it affect access to doctors, is another supermarket needed?

Community involvement and consultation in the modelling project is vital. Wood and her team have conducted highly exhaustive local workshops looking at the ‘what if’ scenarios which should be planned and getting a feel for what people’s expectations and needs are for the region’s future.

‘It’s a huge data collection process,’ Wood says. ‘My team is gathering all the socio-economic data – our project is every much about land use – and other teams in the flagship cluster are collecting empirical data about human use of the environment and all the impacts of tourism – environmental, economic and on service provision will be able to be mapped for proactive and prompt reactive management. And it should also be transferable to other economic models.

But can there be a happy mix between the need to conserve and develop tourism, the environment and the economic and social needs of the local communities?

There’s no doubt tourism provides wonderful opportunities to add services, facilities and jobs to a region and to enrich people’s quality of life, but it has to be properly managed for those benefits to be sustained. The tourism industry has been shown to add to the overall economy of a country, but on marketing and promotion, but not on tourism management. Maximising benefits from tourism and minimising potential negative impacts requires in-depth knowledge of the region concerned, what its residents want, what its tourists want, what the environment needs, and what infrastructure is needed.

Tourism management or modelling is a relatively new concept and that master project which starts with data gathering from all the relevant stakeholders will provide a fantastic scenario planning tool which will enable us to balance all competing needs and deliver triple bottom line tourism management.

‘These are the first step in understanding the Ningaloo Tourism Destination Modelling project according to Wood: its dynamism, its local ownership and its timeframe.

‘Firstly, all inputs into the planning tool can be adjusted with changing local circumstances,’ Wood explains. ‘This offers an amazing flexibility for proactive and prompt reactive management planning and action.’

‘Secondly, in a unique move, the researchers involved in designing and customising systems for profiling data – how many people are coming to the area, what they’re doing, what the aims are, and how individuals negotiate different cultures in the same space. It’s not about fame. It’s about being recognised and personally feeling supported and accepted as part of your community.’

For the performance Bleeding Tent, he has a volunteer pierce his back with eight hooks. Ribbons tied to the hooks are then tied to a hank, temple-like structure which Chandra drags behind him while he walks down a street. Such apparent pain is the artistic expression of his research from which he aims “to carve a unique aesthetic.”

‘I don’t want to borrow any other artist’s aesthetic,’ he says. ‘I want to build on my own aesthetic so that when someone looks at my work they recognise it is mine. It’s not about fame. It’s about being recognised and personally feeling supported and accepted as part of your community.”

He hopes to also push beyond borders and explore cross-cultural interactions abroad, where he can give back through teaching what he has gained from learning.

He says he has experienced recognition and support at Curtin since arriving in 1989 as one of the first two international students to enrol. Born and raised in Singapore, Chandra studied at the country’s then art school, the National Academy of Fine Arts. He found the course limiting, he says, because they were conducted in Chinese and control only on painting and sculpture. But then a chance meeting with Christ, the Arts Fission Company Director, and a research student at Singapore’s Australian Embassy opened a new window.

At Curtin, he encountered the freedom to explore different mediums before graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (with distinction).

I actually moved into installations and performance during my PhD,” he says. “Curtin didn’t restrict me. They allowed me to explore my ideas and culture and the way I thought and felt about being an outsider in the culture. In 1999, multiculturalism was picking up and there was growing excitement about Asia. Because of the critical dialogue going on, we were encouraged to open up our thinking and be more flexible about cultures.

‘My personal philosophy is that art should not be restricted by any medium. We have this capacity in our mind to move beyond restrictions. Curtin has given me the platform to develop my creative process and research, and to move not only with my medium, but also with the way I think. It allows an art to go beyond the box and that was very much encouraged.”

Between his BA, master and DCA studies, Chandra lectured at LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts in Singapore where he became Head of the Art Department. He has lectured at Curtin and is founder and Artistic Director of The Arts Fission Company in Singapore. A prolific artist, he has exhibited and performed around the world, including in Sweden, China, India, Poland, and the United Kingdom.

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The scientists concluded that instead of being a turbulent ball of bubbling and boiling magma, the Earth at this time was much cooler and more evolved than previously thought. They are now more inclined to believe that the diamonds were formed as the result of the Earth’s crust being recycled deep within its mantle, subjected to high pressures and temperatures." Obviously, this supports the view that the Earth at this time was much cooler and more evolved than previously thought," he explained.

Using highly sophisticated ion probe technology, the Curtin team has dated the oldest inclusion at 4.2 billions years old – one billion years older than any diamond previously found in terrestrial rocks. The new evidence, once again disseminated to the scientific community via an August edition of Nature, has been widely reported in the international media, stirring both interest and controversy. "These conditions can occur when you have big, heavy continental masses moving around and colliding with each other, or they can occur deep beneath stable continents, which is the source of most of today’s commercially mined diamonds," Professor Simon Wilde and Robert Pidgeon, from Curtin’s Department of Applied Geology, explained. "But the age of the minute fragments was not their only point of interest, because zircons are incredibly durable, even under extreme geological conditions, and can provide insights into the original chemical and isotopic composition of the diamonds to determine more precisely the conditions under which they formed. Némchin and his colleagues will now test the composition of the diamonds to determine more precisely the conditions under which they formed. The scientific community will again be waiting with interest; the results might just shed light on whether there were life forms on Earth much, much earlier than we ever thought possible. Each new discovery creates as many questions as it answers." For more information, visit: geology.curtin.edu.au

As evidenced by Nathan’s satirical comments branding the tables, the counter and the coffee cups, he yearns to write and act and has enrolled in a performing arts degree next year.

There’s always a queue and a smile at the Concept Café. Years in the hospitality industry have given barista Nathan Hitchins a certain savoir faire when dishing up an order. Despite prepping up to 600 coffees and 200 iced beverages daily, Nathan always has a smile.
a virtual life

In 1993, a New Yorker cartoon that depicts a dog sitting at a computer saying to another dog “On the Internet, nobody knows you’re a dog” became an icon of the promise of anonymity the Internet offers, which was part of the lure of having an online presence for many. But the social networking sites that have spawned as a result of Web 2.0 have turned this notion on its head and raised a number of new debates about identity, privacy and young people’s safety on the Web.

WEB 2.0 (pronounced two-point-oh) describes a shift in online usability and culture from surfing the net to find information on static Web pages to an emphasis on user-generated content and collaboration. It is the driving force behind social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and others. These sites allow you to post pictures, contact details, likes and dislike and update about your activities on your personal profile and invite ‘friends’ to view and respond to them. And they are becoming extraordinarily popular. MySpace claims to have more than 3.6 million Australian users and Facebook 40 million users worldwide, with Australia its fourth largest source. In July, a news.com.au monitoring of registrations found that 100 Australians an hour were signing up to Facebook, with the over 25s market its largest growth area.

Curtin PhD student Sarah Xu is exploring ways in which people represent themselves on the Web and she suggests attitudes have shifted since the world’s first web sites. “At first everyone was saying that we can cut off our Reality bodies and be anything we want to be on the Web,” she says. “But it seems that Web 2.0 users aspire to be themselves and have an accurate representation of themselves. It is more like pseudonymity than anonymity. Even in online games, avatars (the characters people adopt or create) are often an idealised representation of themselves rather than a whole new character.” Xu admits to camera shyness in public, but has no qualms about putting up her image on the Web for potentially millions to see. “I think it is about control,” she says. “I have a sense of control about how images of myself are used.”

Concerns about privacy and surveillance on the Internet in the past have centred on the uncovering of information that people did not know existed. But the new thing about Facebook and MySpace is that people are volunteering information.

But PhD student Kate Raynes-Goldie, who is researching how social networking spaces are used, says there are emerging concerns about how much control people actually have over their information once it is posted on social networking sites. When you read the fine print, technically many of these sites own the content. “It has been coined ‘free digital labour’,” she says. “Since such as Facebook and MySpace rely on people putting in the time and effort to put up information about themselves, and people use very honest in that information, including phone numbers and other personal details. This information is being used to market goods back to you or being sold to marketers. You are giving away your rights to everything you put online.”

“This means that although social networking sites have privacy controls that allow the user to determine who can access their information, there is no guarantee it will stay hidden to others. “Theroretically, if you have a photo of yourself drunk and doing something bad on a Facebook entry that has privacy settings that only your friends can see, there is nothing stopping Facebook putting that on their home page,” Raynes-Goldie says.

She says maximum privacy settings are not the default setting, and people may not be aware of how they can control who accesses their profile. Also privacy levels can change without notice. Facebook recently allowed Google to use its databases in searches without informing its members or giving them the opportunity to change their privacy settings to opt out. Although it is not possible to access a full profile through Google, it is possible to find out who has a profile and other basic details. “Concerns about privacy and surveillance on the Internet in the past have centred on the uncovering of information that people did not know existed. But the new thing about Facebook and MySpace is that people are volunteering information,” Raynes-Goldie says. “A lot of young people are putting up things that they would not necessarily want a future employer or school to see. The information is easily searchable and persistent.” It can be embarrassing, too, as US Presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani found recently when his daughter was exposed as having joined a Facebook group supporting his rival, Barack Obama.

Debates surrounding Web 2.0 are resonant of the future that comes with new socio-techno development.

A DARKER SIDE TO SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES is exposing young people as never before. A Federal Government survey of more than 850 young people found that almost 40 per cent had posted their photo online. Eighty-one per cent of 13 to 17 year olds and 48 per cent of children aged between 8 and 12 chat online. Of these, 28 per cent of 8 to 12 year olds, and 42 per cent of 13 to 17 year olds had been contacted by someone they did not know. Nineteen per cent of teenagers indicated that they would meet an online correspondent in the real world in certain circumstances.

The government has responded by establishing a NetAlert Working Group “to address the potential serious abuses of social networking sites by paedophiles and sex offenders to groom and contact children.” The group’s terms of reference include examining tighter regulation of sign-up provisions to sites, such as stricter controls on age-groups which are allowed to sign-up, including requiring parental permission.
Bill Elliott says there are certainly grounds for concern about what children may be exposed to on the Internet, but increased regulation, even if that is possible, is not necessarily the answer.

“There is no doubt there is an issue and with any new environment or new practice you need to become educated on how to use it,” he says. “Online spaces offer different forms of opportunity and hazard and we have to work out how to deal with this.”

Internet Studies lecturer Dr Helen Merrick says trying to restrain the spaces that young people use is not workable. “You need to educate them to use them responsibly,” she says.

The British Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre is focusing its efforts on education and reporting. It has created a ligo with Microsoft that is placed in front of messaging software which children and teenagers can click on if they feel uncomfortable with in other ways.”

But Merrick and Wilson caution against getting too caught up in the negative hype around social network sites and how young people use them – just because there are millions of people online does not mean Web users are tailoring to them all. And research suggests that the overestimating majority of young people spend most of their time talking to people that they already know.

There are certainly grounds for concern about what children may be exposed to on the Internet, but increased regulation, even if that is possible, is not necessarily the answer.

“A lot of these kids go to these sites because they know someone and it’s a supplementary social activity,” Wilson says. “A lot of the literature shows that proximity still matters and people are still interacting online with people in their local community who they may well have connections with in other ways.”

Merrick says the debates surrounding Web 2.0 are “very important but they are at the moment very much focused on the child user.”

“It’s the hopes and fears about what is happening to our society, and in an increasingly industrialised, urbanised, staminised city, forum for interaction and communication is very under the microscope,” she says. “There is now a large overlapping of online and physical communities. That’s why Facebook has become so popular, because users are mazeramiing or reestablishing a connectivity that was formed off work or high school.”

Wilson says there are positives of Web 2.0 and social networking sites that they provide an opportunity to extend or supplement social activities. “These are arguments that are inescapably happening now because you have a greater opportunity to do so, even though once we were getting busy,” she says.

As Sarah Xu points out, “Web 2.0 is just another way to communicate.”

For more information:
info.medsiid.info.curtin.edu.au/internet_studies.cfm

The science lead of CSIRO’s geochemistry laboratories and Senior Research Fellow in Geochemistry at the John de Lacer Centre of Mass Spectrometry at Curtin will participate in NASA’s high-tech projects to measure and characterize the surface of Mars and the moon – and to predict what lies beneath.

“We have to find resources that are of value to mankind – maybe 100 years from now it won’t even be extraterrestrial,” McInnes says.

Highly advanced sensors are being developed for the Lunar Reconnaissance Owl (LRO) Mission to be launched in 2009 and the Mars Sciences Laboratory Mission to be launched in 2008 and it’s all part of the vision to have humans back on the moon by 2020.

The LRO will spend at least one year in low polar orbit around the moon, collecting information about the lunar environment with a high-tech instrument suite expected to provide the highest resolution data ever recorded.

The next phase of human study on the moon and Mars requires an exploratory and mining prospecting because prospecting for the natural resource required to build infrastructure and support life will be an absolute necessity.

The Lunar Reconnaissance Owl will spend at least one year in low polar orbit around the moon, collecting information about the lunar environment with a high-tech instrument suite expected to provide the highest resolution data ever recorded.

“In the case of Mars, they need to find sites with water and carbon which can be extracted and used by manned missions. These sites will also be able to extract water and carbon dioxide to support human life,” McInnes says.

It’s an opportunity for him to put CSIRO’s considerable experience in mineral exploration and the development of remotely operated mining vehicles into practice in an organisation with a considerably larger budget.

At NASA, he’ll work with project teams building geochemical analysis and mineralogy sensor feedback systems. These instruments could have potential commercial applications on Earth – particularly for use by the mining industry operating in hazardous or isolated environments.

“The Australian resources sector is continually on the lookout for new ideas that will keep workers safe, increase productivity and minimize environmental impact during exploration and mining operations,” he said.

“If you devise a robotic method of doing some of that characterization work – sampling and measuring mineral and metal contents – that will benefit Australia’s industry and economy.”

“I’m going to go in being very humble because I know they’ve got lots of talented people doing fantastic things there for me. It will be like being a kid in a candy store.”

McInnes says he plans to present public lectures on his Fulbright experience to students upon his return to Australia, “to inspire the next generation of students to seek exciting career opportunities in science and technology.”

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BOOM... OR BUST?

Western Australia is in the throes of one of the biggest resources booms the State has ever seen, drawing comparisons to the phenomenal gold rushes of the 19th century and predicted to last from 15 to 20 years. But as commodity prices are rapidly rising and as the demand for our mineral resources grows, the pressure on our communities is increasing.

Research Institute of Western Australia at Curtin, agrees the situation in the State’s north is critical. The Institute is studying housing market dynamics in ‘boom towns’ in Western Australia and Queensland and places where there hasn’t been similar affordability crises, as well as the flow-on effects to people outside the industry.

In Karratha, residents can expect to pay $2600 to $3400 a week for properties described as basic, for resources company or government employees, whose packages often include rental and utility assistance, this might not be an issue – but what of other workers?

“We’ve come across people living in light industrial areas, overcrowding is significant, people are living in caravans – it’s totally unacceptable.”

McKenzie says.

It begs the question – who’s responsible for fixing the problem?

Not necessarily the resource companies, says McKenzie, whose business is and always has been helping to manage the ripple-out of the ground – but not necessarily the government either.

“The State Government has stated on numerous occasions that they didn’t know when the boom year was going to kick in and therefore they’re not to blame; but clearly, history shows the Pilbara has been on going to kick in and therefore they’re not to blame; so too is government from royalties, and very little of that money appears to be flowing back to the Pilbara, the resource companies do throw money at the problems at a local level but it tends to be uncoordinated, causing sprawl and intractable gaps.”

McKenzie says the State Government has a responsibility to lead the way in reducing housing pressure through their agency Landcorp, which is “clearly part of the profit making”.

“We’ve come across people living in light industrial areas, overcrowding is significant, people are living in caravans – it’s totally unacceptable.”

McKenzie says.
But to some, she says we should think differently about what is required by way of infrastructure for “permanent towns of temporary residents.”

“If people don’t want to live in the Pilbara, we shouldn’t be building permanent towns there,” she says.

“We should be providing viable towns with services and housing which can be dismantled relatively quickly. Better quality, temporary housing with the better footprint on the landscape. Another well-documented factor facing the sector is a crippling skills shortage, which is having a dramatic knock on effect on the struggling industry, what they didn’t foresee was that it was the very communications that the information boom is letting move through. It is letting move through our feet.

If we add a science and technology component to our resources processing, we will have much more higher value products and themselves we would not have to pull so many resources out of the ground to sell them at a lower price,” he says.

“Some are missing out on family life in exchange for lucrative salaries to fund a lifestyle they are increasingly left out of. Australia is blessed to have less than 40 per cent of the world’s uranium reserves, whether we like it or not, we are part of the nuclear cycle on a global scale,” he says.

But with uranium, as with all our resources, he says Australia’s failure to value-add to the raw products through downstream processing means it is letting move through our feet.

“Fifteen years ago, surgery to treat aneurysms of the abdominal aorta was a nerve-racking business. Opening up a patient’s chest required a long and risky operation, proved highly traumatic for both patient and surgeon, and demanded an extensive period of recovery.

Today, treating arterial aneurysmal disease is a different story. Advancing progress in the development of non-invasive surgery now means that the surgery is a whole lot less frightening for the almost 3,000 people who undergo aneurysm procedures annually in Australia.

One of the most common devices used to treat these diseases – the Zenith Endoluminal Graft technology – was developed in Western Australia within the Perth Zenith Endoluminal Graft Program, now based at Curtin. Prof Michael Lawrence Brown – Emeritus Senior Surgery at Royal Perth Hospital and Adjunct Professor at Curtin’s School of Public Health – developed and patented the device, along with David Harling.

The Perth invention is a balance between a stent and graft. What the doctor ordered.

Australian researchers, working at Curtin, are at the forefront of this change, having developed new surgical technology that has become one of the standard international approaches in the field.

But Grimsey admits the extent of the boom caught everyone by surprise.

“We’re also cooperating in the education of endovascular surgeons and researchers. With more money we will have the ability to invest in more education, science and technology for the future.”

Admitting more skilled people and new technology are required, he says the education and training of the next generation has a responsibility to use the “enormous profit that we’re generating” to invest in the social infrastructure of the nation.

“I think the government and society as a whole should think about how we would invest our higher education and funding models to invest in the society for a longer term benefit, to build a more robust economy,” he says.

To those not doing justice to the rich resources we have and we are not doing justice to our future generations who have equal rights to the resources, our limited resources, as we do a.”

For more information: healthbranes@curtin.edu.au

CHAMBER of Commerce and Industry figures suggest the sector will need 27,000 new tradepeople and professional nationals within the next decade and in WA alone, major iron ore mining operations plan to double their capacity within the next two to three weekend in to the create, Curtin is building a Resources and Chemistry Faculty, a university government and industry collaboration aimed at locating industry professionals and researchers.

It has also formed several educational partnerships, including a national university of mining engineering with the University of Queensland and the University of New South Wales funded through the government and industry collaboration aimed at educating professionals nationwide within the next decade and the University of New South Wales funded through the 30th annual symposium of Australian Academy of Commerce and Industry figures suggest the boom is over.

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Australia has played a significant role in the global evolution of treatments for aortic aneurysm disease. A team of researchers, now based at Curtin, is at the forefront of this change, having developed new surgical technology that has become one of the standard international approaches in the field.

Three years ago, surgery to treat aneurysms of the abdominal aorta was a nerve-racking business. Opening up a patient’s chest required a long and risky operation, proved highly traumatic for both patient and surgeon, and demanded an extensive period of recovery.

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SNAPSHOTS

AUSTRALIA NEEDS ARE weaknesses in the artery wall that blow out like a balloon. They can eventually rupture, presenting a surgical emergency that frequently ends in death. Elective surgical intervention while the aneurysm is small provides the commitment to the treatment of this disease.

Instead of opening up the chest, nearly two small incisions in the femoral arteries allow two guidewire delivery systems to be inserted into the artery and tracked up to the aneurysmal chamber with the use of advanced imaging equipment. When in the correct position, a self-expanding stent graft is released.

Once appropriately inserted, the stent graft provides a passageway for arterial blood to flow and relieve pressure on the artery wall. After surgery, it remains permanently in place in the aneurysm chamber, which then decreases in size. The patient is conscious throughout and recuperation time is minimal.

The result from this type of surgery is just what the doctor ordered. Patients experience dramatically less surgical trauma and reduced recovery time. Risks, while they do exist, are far fewer than before.

Australia and New Zealand have been able to participate in a global dialogue with other endovascular surgeons and researchers.

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PHOTO ESSAY

Curtin’s Sarawak Campus is situated on a 400-hectare site at Lutong in Miri, Sarawak. The University boasts state-of-the-art facilities and is able to accommodate students drawn from around the world.

How Tong Wei, known as Daryll, is one of those students. Originally from Malacca, in Malaysia, Daryll is in his fourth year, studying towards a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering. This photo essay illustrates a typical day in his life.

“I live off campus with three flatmates. The University provides a shuttle bus to run students to and from classes. Every morning I run through my assignments or read through my notes quickly to prepare myself for upcoming classes.”

a day in the life

How Tong Wei
“The canteen is a good place for everyone to catch up as it is always my first stop when I get to uni. I bump into friends for breakfast or a quick chat before my classes start.

“I’m a typical Malaysian. My opinion is that all authentic Malaysian food is tasty. Just as long as it’s not too spicy, I’ll like it. Most days I spend at least an hour in the library reading. The library has a wide range of reference books. So after breakfast it is always the next stop for me when I am working on an assignment or if I need a book.”

“I am the president of Sarawak’s Curtin Volunteers! program. I think that to make university life great, what you do outside of study plays an important role.

“I am also on the committee for the Student Council and the Buddhist Club. I often visit the Student Council office, as it is a great spot for me to catch up with the planning for the next event. Apart from being fun, I think being involved in clubs and committees is important for students as it gives them some informal work experience.”
“There are a number of public parks in Miri. I keep fit by exercising in them at the end of each day, which helps me unwind after University. “The Miri City Fan is one of my favourite spots because it has a big jogging area and a traditional rock floor for reflexology, which gives me a great foot massage after a long run.”

“Classes in the mechanical lab are among my favourites, as it is very technical and there is lots of hands-on activity to help us learn the mechanics of engineering.

“The student hostel has a cafeteria that serves good food for students. My friends and I enjoy taking a slow five minutes walk there to enjoy the scenery, to reek our minds a bit and have a peaceful lunch together. The campus is a peaceful and tranquil setting.

“The best part about studying on campus is we can go online for free anywhere on campus because of the wi-fi Internet facilities. I can go online while talking with friends at the lakeside, which is a nice way to take a break from being indoors.”
A ray of light

Launched in Melbourne in July, the Australian Synchrotron is one of the most exciting pieces of research technology established in this country. It’s as big as a football ground, cost $250 million to build and emits light a million times brighter than sunlight.

**What is a synchrotron and why did we build one?**

A synchrotron is a type of particle accelerator machine producing electromagnetic radiation as brilliant beams of light. It allows researchers—those fortunate enough to have access—to focus a beam of intense light less than a micron (10^-6 m) in diameter on their samples. Investigating the structure and composition of samples requires penetrating the sample with a wavelength of similar or smaller magnitude. With synchrotron light, chemical speciation of atomic and molecular structure can be revealed, and the intensity of the light means that high-quality data can be acquired quickly. And synchrotron light is tunable—it is possible to obtain an intense beam of any selected wavelength, from infrared to x-rays. It’s an extremely versatile tool for investigation.

The synchrotron process begins with electrons being accelerated in a circular orbit by a series of magnets, as they deflect through the magnetic field created by the magnets (each weighing more than seven tons), they release electromagnetic radiation. The synchrotron light produced is then channelled down "beamlines" to experimental workstations, where researchers are studying samples for scientific, industrial and medical applications.

The synchrotron per se is not a recent invention; synchrotrons were first developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used synchrotron light for a variety of scientific purposes, and the first were developed in the 1940s to study high-energy particle physics, and synchrotron light was first harnessed in the 1950s. Researchers around the world have since used...
Curtin’s presence at APEC
Dr Alexey Muraviev, a lecturer in Curtin’s International Relations and Strategic Studies courses and co-founder of the International Relations and Global Security Research Unit in the Faculty of Humanities, was a key commentator at the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Sydney.

Muraviev’s specific interest and expertise focused on discussion of Russia’s President Vladimir Putin, Russia’s role and place in the Asia-Pacific region and Russia’s economic interest in Australia. A strategic analyst, Muraviev gave a number of interviews to media both in Australia and internationally. As part of the lead-up to the APEC summit Muraviev also set up a Strategic Policy Forum, The Red Star of the Pacific: the Forgotten Player in Black, a seminar provided with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a forum which attracted considerable media attention.

Muraviev told The New York Times that among the clearest manifestations of Russia’s aims to once again become a ‘formidable Pacific power’ were the growing use of weapons exports for diplomatic and commercial gain and the plans announced to significantly increase the firepower of its own military bases deployed in Asia.

Muraviev regularly offers his expertise and professional advice to state and federal governments and agencies, as well as to the private sector. His presence in the media at the APEC summit highlighted issues of strategic importance for Australia.

THE REBUILDING OF THE IRAQI OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Iraq’s new hydrocarbon law
With the third-largest oil reserves in the world, Iraq is a major player in international oil production. However, the Iraq oil industry has for a number of years been in need of large-scale capital investment and infrastructure development. Many oil producers have been reluctant to make deals despite the huge prospects. The country’s recently implemented, and long awaited, new hydrocarbon law signals a significant change in Iraqi management of oil reserves and oil revenue.

Thamer Aghabab, Iraq’s former oil minister and advisor to the current Prime Minister of Iraq, recently invited to Western Australia by Curtin’s Professor Robert Amin to deliver a seminar to key players in the State’s oil and gas industry on the implications of Iraq’s hydrocarbon law. The seminar provided participants with valuable information on the new structure and future financing of Iraq’s oil industry, as well as insight into investment opportunities and the possible risks involved.

Amin said the rebuilding of the Iraqi oil and gas industry presented tremendous opportunities for the major industry players in Australia.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The ‘Close the Gap’ campaign is national in nature, but the concept of curiosity, and this signals to future students that Curtin is a place where they can be intellectually engaged. The main driver for the campaign is the series of three advertisements currently screening – one for Curtin in general, one for the Faculty of Business and one for the place where they can be intellectually engaged.

Future campaigns will be expanded to showcase a number of other areas of Curtin’s strengths, including health and creative industries. The style of the first series of advertisements will continue as it has proven a very powerful branding and marketing tool which promotes a clear identity for the University.

Curtin’s campaign was launched to ‘Close the Gap’ and get curious!

SNAPSHOTS

For more information about upcoming events visit: haymantheatre.curtin.edu.au
Liz Byrski is a writer who lectures in the School of Media, Society and Culture. She is the author of 11 non-fiction books and three novels and her articles have been published in Australia and internationally.

I was 16 when I announced that I wanted to be a writer and I can still see the shock on my parents’ faces. I don’t know why they were so surprised, it seemed perfectly obvious to me. Hoped at maths and science, incapable of clearing the teaching hooes at its lowest setting, and unable to resist the significant prizes along the roadsides of Holland, Europe, writing was the only thing I excelled at. So I learned shorthand and typing and became a bored and inefficient secretary. Then I found my way into journalism by selling a few stories to a local paper. It was a hack job, but most of it freelance, and there have also been periods in broadcasting, government and now here at Curtin. I’ve written stories for girls’ comics, pamphlets, speeches, policy papers, opinion columns, teaching materials, travel guides, eleven non-fiction books and, more recently, three novels.

When I’d said I wanted to be a writer I really meant a novelist, but for years, as a sole parent, I clung to non-fiction as a way of earning a living. My first novel was published in the year of my sixtieth birthday. I wish I’d asked fiction earlier in my career because it’s proved immensely satisfying and successful. But there is no one in one’s life that are right for doing certain things and this has proved to be the right time for me.

My experience has made me passionate about encouraging young people to find their own pathways to making a living as writers.

Much has changed since I set out to become a writer but much remains the same. There is no obvious career path, and young people are still told that they should get a ‘real’ job. My experience has made me passionate about encouraging young people to find their own pathways to making a living as writers. It certainly broadens telemarketing or making enquiries.

The blurb on the back of a DVD cover, through policy documents, to a Pulitzer Prize winning novel, or a speech to the United Nations, it’s all writing and someone is to do it. The more you do it, the better at it you become. Talent helps, but curiosity and professionalism are essential. Many wannabe writers kid at the first big hurdle, getting it right and meeting deadlines.

There is an ongoing and, in my view, pretentious debate in Australia about whether or not it is possible to teach creative writing. Writing is the only creative art to be discussed in this way. No one questions the need for dedicated training and practice for actors, musicians, painters or dancers. I don’t know if you can teach creativity, but I do know three very important things. First, you can create an environment in which people can experiment, take risks, but their ideas and develop their craft skills. Second you can introduce them to the pathways to earning a living as a writer. Third, and perhaps most important of all, you can foster the enthusiasm and confidence that makes they’ll get it right, get it right on time, and learn to see criticism and rejection as useful experience.

That’s what I try to do. I feel passionately about the importance of offering young people a bunch of keys and encouraging them to try them in different doors. It is hugely rewarding to see graduates moving into jobs as writers in business, industry, government, media and the arts, and to read their published work. I tell them that writing both creatives and collects the Zeitgeist, that it challenges us to understand other lives; that it has the power to change hearts and minds, even to change the world. Sometimes they believe me.

For more information: lizbyrski.com.au
humanities.curtin.edu.au

PERSPECTIVE

pathways

For the last 40 years writing has been my proper job, most of it freelance, but there have also been periods in broadcasting, government and now here at Curtin. I’ve written stories for girls’ comics, newspaper and magazine features, advertising copy, radio-documentaries, pamphlets, speeches, policy papers, opinion columns, teaching materials, travel guides, eleven non-fiction books and, more recently, three novels.

My parents were right and they were wrong. I have made a living as a writer. And while I have never been a burden on the economy I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I never been a burden on the economy I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I have made a living as a writer. And while I have never been a burden on the economy I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I have never been a burden on the economy. I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I have never been a burden on the economy. I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I have never been a burden on the economy. I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I have never been a burden on the economy. I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I have never been a burden on the economy. I have often been extremely hard up. Men did want to marry me, but I have never been a burden on the economy.