New accreditation status for Curtin Sarawak

I am pleased to announce that the Malaysian Qualifications Agency recently granted Curtin Sarawak self-accreditation status. This follows an institutional audit that included a visit by an MQA panel of auditors to the campus in October last year.

Eight selected higher education institutions were invited by the MQA to apply for self-accreditation status from January 2008. Self-accreditation status proves Curtin Sarawak’s maturity and credibility as a private higher education institution in Malaysia and brings many benefits and advantages to the University and its students.

Congratulations to Curtin Sarawak on achieving such a significant milestone.

ALTC Fellowship for Curtin academic

Congratulations to Dr Dawn Bennett who has received an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Teaching Fellowship. Dr Bennett, of the Faculty of Humanities, is one of nine recipients of this prestigious fellowship.

Her project will focus on reinvigorating learning among higher education students by embedding learning and teaching strategies that enhance identity development.

Funding for research with India

Curtin researchers have received funding from the Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund which is part of the $65 million Australia-India Strategic Research Fund. The funding was announced this week by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr.

A total of eight collaborative projects between Australian and Indian scientists will be funded.

The successful Curtin projects are:

- Rational development and evaluation of an effective vaccine for the prevention of Staphylococcal Mastitis in bovines using mouse mastitis as a model system.
- Extraction and purification of sorghum seed protein for delayed delivery of bioactives.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent collaborative work of the Curtin academic and general staff involved with these successful applications.

2010 John Curtin Medal Nominations

I am pleased to advise that nominations are open for this year’s John Curtin Medal. The John Curtin Medal is the University’s highest non-academic award and is presented to outstanding members of the external community who demonstrate John Curtin’s attributes of vision, leadership and community service.

The John Curtin Medal is presented annually as part of the October 7 commemoration of John Curtin’s swearing in as Australia’s Prime Minister in 1941.
Candidates must be nominated by a Curtin staff member, so I encourage you to consider nominating someone from the external community who you believe meets the criteria for this award. The nomination form and further details can be found at http://www.johncurtin.curtin.edu.au or please contact Julia Nicol, Director of Public Relations and Corporate Publications on extension 7711. Nominations must be received prior to 5pm on Friday 30 July 2010.

Please note that nominations should be kept strictly confidential. Candidates should not be contacted for information regarding their nomination.

Open Day 2010 – doing things differently

Curtin has held annual Open Days since 2003, and the event has evolved into a key recruitment activity for the University.

Open Day usually uses existing facilities wherever possible and tries to group activities on or near Sir Charles Court Promenade. However, in August this year a significant amount of construction work will be underway on the Bentley campus which will make the usual layout impossible to use.

After consultation with Faculties and areas, and Marketing Executive Group, a new layout has been agreed, as shown in the map below. The key components of the new design are:
- using Edinburgh Oval south as a ‘courses expo’ site, with all Faculties, the Centre for Aboriginal Studies and Prospective Student Services co-located and providing courses information and advice
- relocating Student Central to level two of building 100, to make information on admissions, scholarships and fees available close to the courses expo
- locating student support services such as University Life, Study Abroad and Security in Alcoa Court
- holding Open Day presentations by Faculties in the four lecture theatres in buildings 210 and 213, close to the courses expo
- promoting the benefits of the capital works program for incoming students in the pre-promotional activities and on the day itself.

Visitors to the campus will still be able to experience Curtin’s great facilities in other parts of the campus. Student Mentors are being recruited to act as guides and help visitors find their way around the campus. As always, there will be buses available to move visitors around the campus, and DJs and roving performers will be on site to add colour and atmosphere.

An Open Day blog has been created so staff and students can become aware of the interesting, exciting and innovative things being arranged for this year’s Open Day. I encourage you to become involved by following the Open Day blog at http://blogs.curtin.edu.au/openday/staff/

Professional development scholarship winners announced

Congratulations to Associate Professor Jeanne Dawson and Doctor Le Jian who have been awarded $5000 professional development scholarships by the Perth Convention Bureau (PCB), under the 2010 Curtin Professional Development Scholarship Scheme.

Associate Professor Dawson is founding head of the Curtin Learning Centre and plans to use the scholarship to present a paper at the International Conference on Learning in Hong Kong in July this year where she will canvass support for Perth to host the event in 2013.

Doctor Jian, a School of Public Health Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow, plans to use her scholarship to present a paper at the 2010 Conference of the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health in Bali in November. With colleagues Professor Susan Fyfe and Professor Colin Binns, she will lobby for Perth to host the 2012 convention.
The scholarships are offered annually by the PCB which is responsible for marketing WA as a business events destination.

Applications for the 2011 scholarships, exclusive to Curtin staff, will be advertised later this year. For more information contact the Organisational Development Unit on ext 4140 or orgdevelopment@curtin.edu.au.

Jeanette Hacket
Vice-Chancellor