

W A S M A L U M N I review

WA SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT ALUMNI MAGAZINE

INTRODUCING
WASM:MECE
HEAD OF SCHOOL
PROFESSOR

**MICHAEL
HITCH**

DOUBLE THE
CELEBRATIONS
FOR KALGOORLIE
WASM GRADUATES

**WASMA'S 2021
MENTORING PROGRAM
TAKES OFF**



WINTER 2021 | V12

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Cover image: WASMA Kalgoorlie Branch member Boiketo Mazibeli with recent graduates Dennis Liptrot and Larissa Diaz at the Kalgoorlie Graduates Dinner.

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It has been a great start to the first half of 2021. In May we had our second graduation event for the year, we were fortunate that Covid didn't again disrupt the Curtin Kalgoorlie Graduation celebrations. The WASM Alumni Graduates Dinner was a great success as two cohorts of graduates (2019 and 2020) celebrated the completion of their studies. We also recognised our 50 and 51-year graduates for reaching this milestone.

I would like to personally acknowledge Peter Golding, Bill Holly and Graham Wilshaw, all 51-year graduates who were able to join us for the celebrations. They are all exceptional examples of the calibre of WA School of Mines' graduates, the heart and soul of our Alumni. The Kalgoorlie Campus is the spiritual home of the WA School of Mines Alumni, whilst extending the strong connection to our Energy and Chemical Engineering graduates.

The Graduation was timed well with the commencement of new Curtin University Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne ONZM, who visited the Kalgoorlie campus for the first time. Professor Hayne immediately connected and engaged with staff, students and community members over the two days. She was even treated to a personal tour of the Super Pit with Northern Star Managing Director and former WA School of Mines President Raleigh Finlayson. We look forward to further growing the WASM Alumni connection with Curtin and increase the impact we can have showcasing WASM:MECE to the global resource sector.

We were honoured to have esteemed Alumni member David Flanagan AM as the keynote speaker at the dinner. David has had a remarkable career in the resources sector and his inspirational words will leave a lasting

impact on our recent graduates. David has embarked on ground-breaking work as the Chair of the Australian Remote Operating Centre for Space and Earth (AROSE) which integrates the technology resources sectors into the development of remote space technology, check them out at www.rose.org

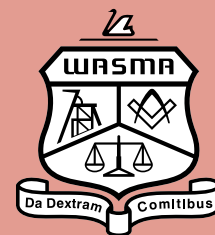
In April, WASMA successfully kicked off its second Mentoring Program. The six-month program is open to all graduates as mentors or mentees. We look forward to catching up with many of our program participants at the WASMA networking event on July 27 at Print Hall. We also hope to welcome other members from across the Alumni community to this event. Please make sure you RSVP for catering purposes.

The WASMA and WIMWA Diggers Sundowner in Kalgoorlie is coming up on August 3. The Diggers and Dealers Conference has returned to its usual date after being delayed last year. The Sundowner is a highlight of the conference calendar, we hope you can join us there.

The WASMA Council is also on the lookout for new members to join its Sub-Committees, if you would like to get involved with the direction of the Alumni, meet new people and re-connect with others, please email: admin@wasma.com.au. We hope to have representation from all disciplines across the Alumni. ■

BEST WISHES

CHRISTIAN PRICE
WASMA ALUMNI PRESIDENT



EVENTS CALENDAR

WASMA NETWORKING AND MENTORING PROGRAM EVENT

27 JULY

Venue: Print Hall
Brookfield Place, Perth
Time: 5.30-7.30pm

WASMA & WIMWA DIGGERS SUNDOWNER

3 AUGUST

Venue: WASM Graduates Hall,
50 McDonald St Kalgoorlie
Time: 5.30-8pm

CURTIN KALGOORLIE OPEN DAY

18 AUGUST

Venue: Curtin Kalgoorlie Campus

WASMA AGM

14 SEPTEMBER

Venue: Curtin University
139 St George's Tce
Time: 5-7pm

WASMA-SANDVIK GALA

6 NOVEMBER

Venue: WA Museum, Boola Bardip
Time: 7pm til late

WASMA KEEPING IN TOUCH

1 DECEMBER

Venue: Celtic Club
Time: 4-6pm



**TUESDAY
27 JULY**

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US!

WASMA NETWORKING EVENT AND MENTORING PROGRAM CATCH UP

TICKETS: events.humanitix.com/wasma-july-networking-event

FOOD AND DRINKS COMPLIMENTARY

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL BY MONDAY 19 JULY

**PRINT
HALL**

**5.30 TO 7.30 PM
BROOKFIELD PLACE PERTH**



Each of our sponsors plays an integral part in
helping the WASMA community to thrive.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

PLEASE EMAIL ADMIN@WASMA.COM.AU
FOR SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES



Curtin University





PROFESSOR MICHAEL HITCH: TAKING ON SOCIETY'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

West Australians love to hear that expats would prefer to live on this side of the country than the other! So it's pleasing to hear that the new Curtin University WA School of Mines: Minerals, Energy and Chemical Engineering (WASM:MECE) Head of School, Professor Michael Hitch and his wife Carol were willing to return to Australia for another stint, this time to WA – not back to Sydney.

"We love Perth, it's like Vancouver," Professor Hitch, a Canadian, said. "The people are friendly and driving is not a contact sport."

After working in around 190 countries he should know, Professor Hitch even went to the length of taking up a position at Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) in Estonia to escape Sydney's daily grind.

Professor Hitch has a varied professional background having started out his career as an Exploration Geologist and Geological Engineer. He built mines across the world including in Mongolia, Peru, Lesotho China and Russia.

He later became an investment banker in Toronto. It was then that his career took a different path when he started working on fixing troubled companies. After 23 years of industry experience, Professor Hitch turned to an academic career, to give back to the industry by preparing students for mining careers and by producing the knowledge,

through research, the industry requires. He has been an academic for around 15 years.

It was in his position as a Professor at UNSW that Professor Hitch first started working with Curtin University, as part of the MEA joint-curriculum program. Professor Hitch would regularly travel to Kalgoorlie to give guest lectures and support other student activities.

After leaving UNSW, Professor Hitch was asked by Curtin to come back and participate in a 2018 Foresight Review that resulted in a new direction for Mining Engineering, with a curriculum to support it. It was determined that digital literacy and a greater integration of industry input was the direction and pathway to producing job-ready graduates.

"I already knew a lot of people at Curtin before I took up my current role, people who knew my approach with graduates, colleagues, and students. This has led to a greater acceptance of a shared future vision, which has made the transition easier," he said.

The top KPI Professor Hitch has been tasked with is to lift WASM:MECE to the coveted QS number one ranking for Engineering (Mineral and Mining) in the world. Curtin currently sits at number two behind Colorado School of Mines. This will involve increased research publication, sustainable research funding and an improved industry and academic reputation.

"My job will be to steer the course. We need to improve our academic reputation by continuously collaborating with other universities," he said.

"It needs to be a team effort with everyone contributing, it's all about getting on with others and looking for opportunities for collaborative research.

"We need to have diversity of thought where different people come together, and everyone brings a different world view. That's what gets me up in the morning."

Professor Hitch said that since taking up the position in February, his starting point has been to look at each of the School's six disciplines and assess their capacity within the ranking framework.

"This is a self-identification phase where we look at where each discipline wants to be in five years," he said.

"We want each discipline to do this themselves, rather than be told what their role is and how they want to get there.

"The overall vision is to re-shape the whole school as we address some of society's biggest challenges of Critical Materials and Energy Transition."

Professor Hitch said WA had a lot to offer in taking on these challenges.

"WA punches well above its weight with producing critical materials for building infrastructure. The biggest challenge here is not in renewable energy but the different ways we can use our commodities.

"Instead of production being taken offshore, it needs to be brought back to Western Australia."

These are big picture goals and Professor Hitch is realistic about the timeframe they will take to achieve.

"If we start thinking about them now and use what we have more sustainably, then we will not only be able to provide for ourselves into the future, but the rest of the world," he said.

"WA is a safe and respectful place. We're the best jurisdiction for mining, so why wouldn't we want to share our expertise and what we produce with everyone else?

"We can be a global destination for students of mining and for industry innovation."

Professor Hitch strongly backs his team at WASM:MECE to be instrumental in making this happen.

"We have very smart people here at Curtin," he said. "I want to give them credit for what they do and will continue to achieve, because we have an amazing talent pool." ■



"We are delighted that Michael Hitch has joined us in Curtin and takes over as Head of School of WASM:MECE. Michael brings great leadership experience from both industry and previous academic posts and with his vision for the School will make a critical difference positioning Curtin as a major contributor to the Future Energy agenda and the WA resources sector."

**PROFESSOR JEREMY KILBURN
CURTIN UNIVERSITY
PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR,
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

SANDVIK ACQUIRES SCREENS AND FEEDERS MANUFACTURER KWATANI

Sandvik recently signed a deal to acquire the South African based company Kwatani, a leading supplier of screens and feeders for the mining industry. The product offering includes screens, feeders, fine separators, drives and services. The company will be reported in Stationary Crushing and Screening, a division in Sandvik Rock Processing Solutions.

The acquisition of Kwatani, which is the first since the Sandvik Rock Processing Solutions business area was established at the beginning of 2021, will expand Sandvik's equipment range and complement the existing aftermarket product and services portfolio. Kwatani's strong offering in large multi slope screens for the mining industry will add to Sandvik's existing portfolio while also strengthening the Group's position in Africa.

President of Sandvik Rock Processing Solutions, Anders Svensson said: "Kwatani's offering of large vibrating screens and feeders for the mining industry is in line with our strategy to strengthen our capabilities in comminution and will be a good complement to Sandvik's strong competence and experience within stationary crushing and screening. This will further accelerate our growth within rock processing." ■





SANDVIK DELIVERS 100TH AUTOMATED LOADER IN ASIA PACIFIC

Sandvik Mining and Rock Solutions has delivered its 100th loader connected to the AutoMine® platform in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region. A Sandvik LH621i loader was delivered to Byrnecut Australia in March, making it Sandvik's 100th automated load and haul unit to be delivered in APAC.

Sandvik has 30 AutoMine® systems installed across Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, with customers including Barminto, OceanaGold, Redpath, and Byrnecut, who now have 11 sites in Australia connected to AutoMine®. The first AutoMine® system was delivered and commissioned in 2008 for Mount Isa Copper Operations, now owned by Glencore.

AutoMine® is Sandvik's automation system for autonomous and tele-remote operation for a wide range of Sandvik and non-Sandvik underground and surface equipment. It provides a safe and controlled process which increases mine productivity and profitability, as well as protecting operators and other mine personnel in underground and surface operations.

AutoMine® can be scaled from tele-remote or autonomous operation of a single machine to multi-machine control and full fleet automation with automatic mission and traffic control capability. Operators can simultaneously control or monitor multiple machines from the comfort and safety of a remote-control room.

Technical Support Manager - Mine Automation, Ty Osborne said: "The digitalisation field has developed significantly over the years and we have adapted to meet the industry needs along the way." ■





With last year's Curtin Kalgoorlie Graduation put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions, there was double the amount of celebrating at the WASMA Graduates Dinner on 7 May. Two cohorts of WASM graduates as well as 50 and 51-year graduates came together to mark their milestones.

To add to the celebratory atmosphere, new Curtin University Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne ONZM made her first visit to the Curtin Kalgoorlie Campus. There she met staff, students, graduates and community representatives.

WASMA Kalgoorlie Branch Chair and event MC Jacob Sammut welcomed guests to the dinner. Attendees heard from WASMA President Christian Price who reminisced about his own graduation celebrations at the campus, this was followed by an address from Professor Hayne.

Keynote speaker and WASM Alumnus David Flanagan captivated the audience with his words of wisdom and recollections of a colourful and successful career in the resources industry.

WASMA SILVER MEDALS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WERE PRESENTED TO:

- Mining Engineering (2019) – Samuel La Macchia
- Metallurgical Engineering (2020) - Saint Natalino Purba
- Mining Engineering (2020) – Georgia Kerr
- The Metallurgical Engineering (2019) silver medal was presented to Adisa Yoniton last year at the Graduates Lunch in Perth.
- 51-year graduates Peter Golding, Bill Holly and Graham Wilshaw were in attendance and were recognised for reaching this significant milestone. ■

Congratulations to all award winners, recent graduates and 50 and 51-year graduates.



MINING AND LANDS CAMP

Aboriginal high school girls, who are interested in careers in the resources sector, recently took part in Curtin University's inaugural Mining and Lands camp.

The five-day camp included visits to Talison and Alcoa mine sites, presentations from Professors Kingsley Dixon and Stephen van Leeuwen and activities from Curtin Geology and the Centre for Aboriginal Studies.

Participants also took part in networking events with industry representatives. Staying in Curtin University student accommodation, the girls were able to experience what university life is like.

The camp was supported by AngloGold Ashanti in collaboration with the Association of Independent Schools of WA, and WASM Emeritus Professor Odwyn Jones.

Resources camps have proven to be highly effective in introducing school and tertiary students to careers in the industry and attracting them to study related university courses.

Additional camps for Aboriginal students of both genders are planned for later in the year. For more information, contact: STEMOutreach@curtin.edu.au ■

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2021 MENTORING PROGRAM

THE 2021 WASMA MENTORING PROGRAM STARTED IN APRIL. EARLY INDICATIONS SHOW THAT THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM WILL BE JUST AS SUCCESSFUL AND REWARDING AS LAST YEAR'S. THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE AND ANTICIPATED GOALS AMONG THE COHORT OF 106 PARTICIPANTS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING YOU FURTHER UPDATES AS THE PROGRAM PROGRESSES.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THE PROGRAM SPONSORS:

AngloGold Ashanti, Eprioc and Mentorloop.

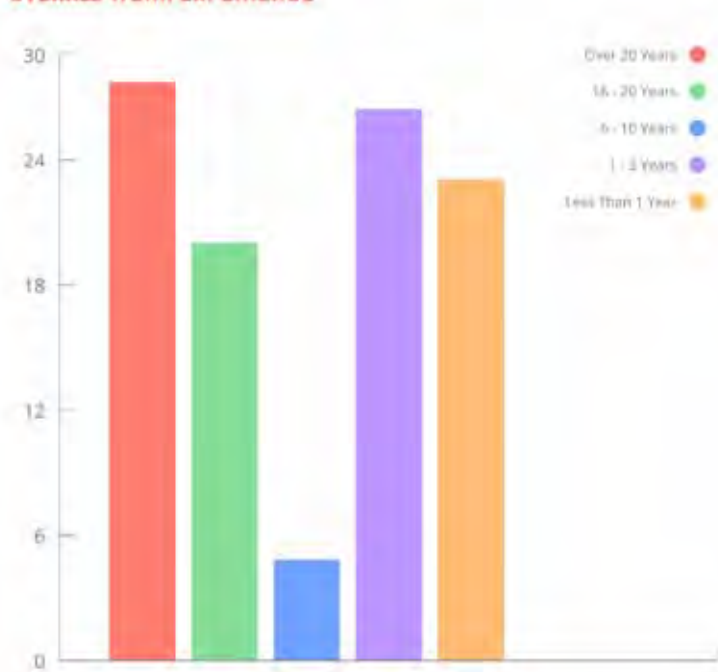
THANK YOU ALSO TO THE MENTORING PROGRAM SUB-COMMITTEE:

Jayde Webb, Warwick Jones, Darren Stralow and Suanlee Heng who have worked tirelessly to build this outstanding program.

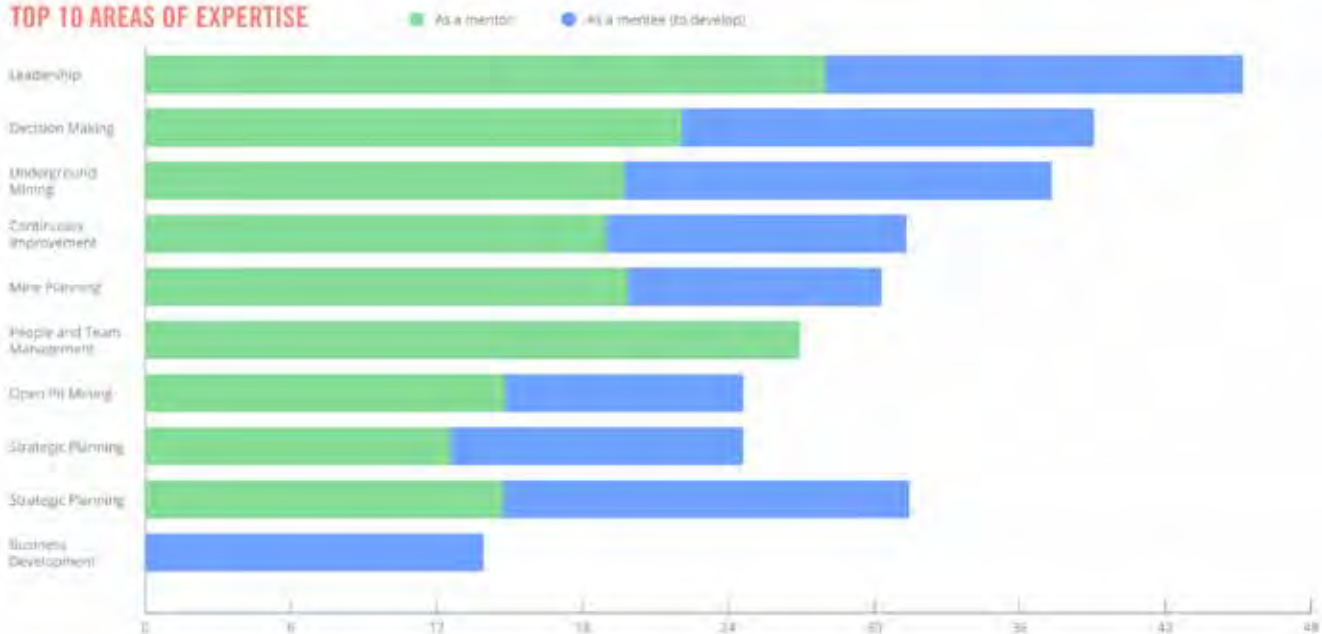
GRADUATED FIELD



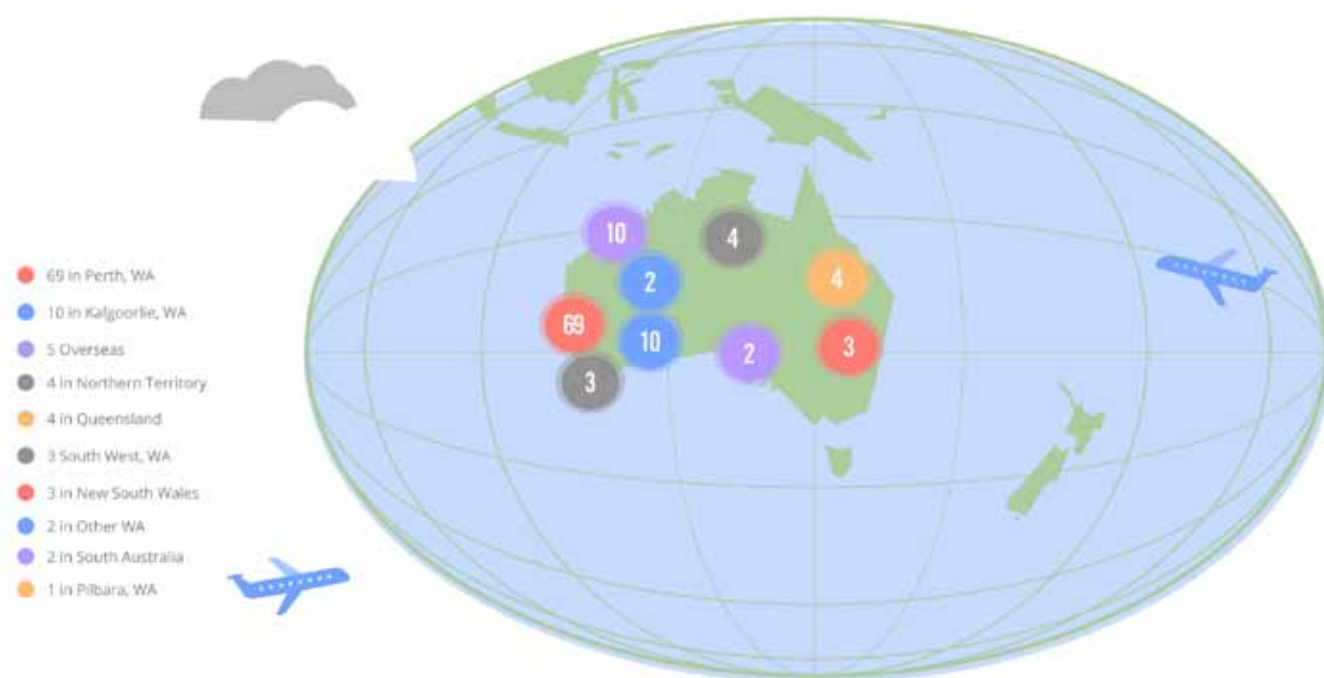
OVERALL WORK EXPERIENCE



TOP 10 AREAS OF EXPERTISE



LOCATION



GOALS LOOKING TO ACHIEVE (MENTORS)



GOALS LOOKING TO ACHIEVE (MENTEES)



GRADUATES DINNER

MAY





CURTIN OPEN DAY

MAY



