School of Built Environment lecturer Katherine Ashe has piloted a WIL project, with Master of Architecture students. The ‘Architecture It Grows’ project, is in collaboration with the City of Vincent, the North Perth Community Garden Centre and industry partners.

Students were asked to design a new micro public open space for the North Perth Community Garden. Students then worked in an interdisciplinary design team to fulfil the design brief and contribute to the concept of activating the space through the relational study of body, garden and community.

The design team brought together the talents, industry knowledge and skills of allied trades, suppliers, designers, surveyors and a statutory authority to direct students’ learning and manage the design application process. Ms Ashe says facilitation of the project by the design team was integral to the success of the project and to enhancing the student experience.

For students, she says, the “poetics of studio readings has been starkly and consciously juxtaposed to getting a project out of the ground with the preparation of briefs, development applications, building permit submission and cost plans.”

The design team included representatives from North Perth Community Garden, the City of Vincent, Brickworks, Auswes Timbers, Austral Bricks, Fini Sustainability, Blackwells and Associates, Curtin Centre for Sport and Recreation and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The students, Ms Ashe explains, “have stretched themselves in many directions and the resultant richness is evident in the design propositions. My thanks extend to WIL Academic Lead, Sonia Ferns for her input in the preliminary stages of the project.”

To conclude their projects, students presented their designs to stakeholders, with two students individually awarded Best Design in the competition.

Please contact Katherine Ashe directly for more information about the project. Or contact Sonia Ferns if you are interested in embedding WIL in curriculum.
Disney Comes to Curtin!

The Happiest Place on Earth was transported to Curtin University campus on Monday 24 August, with Walt Disney Resort International Recruiters, Jill Jacobsen and Scott Barczak, presenting the Disney Australia New Zealand Exchange Program to a very receptive student audience. Jill explains, “Walt Disney World Resort is one of the top vacation destinations with guests visiting from all over the world. Disney recruits students from Australia to gain international work experience and learn from one of the top leaders in the entertainment and hospitality industries. Students are immersed in American culture as well as having the chance to live with students from other countries in a multicultural community. Australian students are excellent candidates because their positive energy and outgoing personalities really stand out to our guests and help create memories that last a lifetime. Participating in the Disney Cultural Exchange Program is an experience that can leave a lasting impression on students’ lives. The training they receive is world-class, and skills they develop like communication, teamwork, multi-tasking and time management transfer to any future career.”

Visit the Disney International Programs website for more information.

Volunteering to Learn Webinar

Join the Volunteering to Learn Project team as they present their findings on the OLT funded project “Volunteering to Learn: Enhancing learning in the student volunteering experience in Australian Universities.”

Event details:
Date: Thursday 1 October, 2015
Time: 9:00am (WA) 10:30am (SA/NT) 11:00am (AEST)
Register: here
Login to Blackboard: here

Shanghai Education

Secondary Education students Jane Ferguson and Kaitlyn Goddard have won New Colombo Plan Mobility Grants to complete four week internships at the Gold Apple Bilingual School in Shanghai, China. Both students are excited at the prospect of being immersed in Chinese culture and teaching students largely from non-English speaking backgrounds. Jane expects the experience will help her achieve her career goals. She says, “I will not only gain experience teaching internationally, but I will also be able to bring that knowledge back to Australia and be confident teaching a new multicultural generation.” Kaitlyn feels the program has the potential to develop her skills base and enhance her employability because she will have to be flexible and adapt to a new and challenging teaching environment. In particular she is keen to “see how teaching and learning styles differ in a Chinese school.”

We wish Kaitlyn and Jane all the best with their experience at the Gold Apple School and look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return in September. Good luck girls!

WIL Blog for Students

WIL has entered the blogosphere...

The WIL team has developed a blog to help students get the most out of WIL experiences. Posts support students through each stage of WIL from preparing for the experience; what to expect; how to deal with failure; how to accept feedback and a guide to reflect on experiences.

See the first post on Preparing for Fieldwork and encourage your students to consult this resource before commencing their WIL experience this year.

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Make tomorrow better.

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