Citation for Dr Curtis Wong BA, Ecosystems; MA, Business & Information Systems; PhD, Honoris Causa Doctor of Humane Letters

Wednesday 20 December, 2017 at 3:00pm

Officiator:	**Mr Jim McDowell**
Award recipient:	**Dr Curtis Wong BA, Ecosystems; MA, Business & Information Systems; PhD, Honoris Causa Doctor of Humane Letters.**
Award being conferred:	**Honorary Doctorate (DUniv)**
Citation delivered by:	**Professor David Lloyd,** **Vice Chancellor and President, the University of South Australia**

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Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit. It is my pleasure to present Dr Curtis Wong for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to technology, communication and knowledge sharing.

Curtis Wong has been a pioneer in the development of new media that is accessible to all and he is respected around the world for pushing the boundaries of digital information and interactive learning to provide greater public access to information, education and entertainment.

For the past 18 years he has been a Principal Researcher at the Microsoft Redmond Research Laboratory in Seattle, developing prototypes that have shaped many product innovations. He also formed the NextMedia group, which developed technologies to enhance browsing and sharing of interactive media experiences.

Over his career he has been granted 57 patents in areas as diverse as data visualisation, user interaction and automated cinematography.

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Curtis Wong is currently an Honorary Professor of Histories and Humanities at Trinity College, Dublin, specialising in creative arts, technologies and culture, and an advisor to the Getty Foundation and the Getty Conservation Institute on technology-related issues for cultural preservation and interpretation.

He also has dedicated considerable time to working with non-profit organisations involved in education and the arts, including currently as a Trustee of the Seattle Art Museum and previously as a Trustee of the Rhode Island School of Design. He has been an advisor to other arts organisations, including the Canadian Arts Centre, and has a long history of working with public broadcasting.

Curtis Wong's professional achievements include many innovations that have changed the way the world communicates, shares knowledge and does business.

As early as 1981, while working as a strategy consulting manager with KPMG, he created the first strategic management practice utilising personal computers.

In 1997, while General Manager of Corbis Productions, he created a CD-ROM that is still considered the benchmark for ancient manuscript interpretation for public and scholarly access and another that was described by the Wall Street Journal as "the greatest CD-ROM of any kind since the multimedia revolution began".

The following year, while Director of Intel Productions in Silicon Valley, he conceived and developed ArtMuseum.Net, the first web-based, publicly accessible broadband art exhibition network, featuring 3D recreations of displays in a number of major art galleries and museums. He also was responsible for the first enhanced digital television program broadcast in the United States.

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After joining Microsoft, he led the team that built an interactive spatial-temporal data visualisation in Excel, which allows users to gain insight from the patterns of data rendered, and in 2008 he fulfilled a long-held dream by leading the vision for the WorldWide Telescope which allows millions of people around the world to explore the universe and learn about astronomy from scientists and educators.

Soon after its launch, Curtis Wong formed a team that would create PowerMap and 3D Maps in Office Excel, allowing everyone to be able to visualise spatial and temporal data on a map/globe to understand the patterns of activity over time.

Curtis Wong has made a significant contribution to the shape of modern education, both directly through his own innovations and indirectly by empowering others to create and share information via a new range of platforms.

He developed Project Tuva, in collaboration with Microsoft founder Bill Gates, to make the Messenger Series Lectures by acclaimed Nobel Prize winning theoretical physicist Richard P. Feynman freely available to the public on the Web. Tuva featured an innovative interactive player with links to simulations and detailed reference information directly from key points in the lecture.

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