

MONASH
University

60
YEARS OF
MAKING
CHANGE

60 STORIES TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS

A look at 60 of our most accomplished
alumni from **Monash Arts, Humanities,
Social Sciences and Performing Arts**





The stories in this book have been collected over a period of three years. In that time, we have all experienced upheaval on many levels, and this has delayed our ability to complete and share these stories. We appreciate some of the details may have changed since we first spoke with our featured alumni. We are very grateful for all their contributions – to our book and to the world.

Monash University recognises that its Australian campuses are located on the unceded lands of the people of the Kulin nations, and pays its respects to their elders, past and present.

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At 60 years young, Monash University makes an impact on the global stage amongst an outstanding set of highly established and esteemed tertiary education institutions.

37th

US News and
World Report Best
Global Universities
Rankings 2022-23

44th

Times Higher
Education
World University
Rankings 2023

The Faculty of Arts' subject
world rankings* include:

Philosophy / 27th

Arts and Humanities / 42nd

English Language and
Literature / 46th

Modern Languages / equal 66th

*QS Subject Rankings, 2022



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

The last few years have been significant for Monash University, and the members of our global community. In 2021, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our inaugural cohort of 347 students arriving at Clayton campus in 1961, providing us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our collective accomplishments over the past six decades.

Since then, we have rapidly grown to become the largest university in Australia and a founding member of the Group of Eight: the nation's leading, research-intensive universities. We have much to celebrate throughout this time, having built an extensive alumni network of more than 440,000 changemakers, strengthening our contributions to, and innovations in, education and research, and making a positive difference to communities around the world.

Some of the foremost influential and reputable academics, entrepreneurs, industry leaders and politicians—among others—have walked the grounds of Monash University, including through our renowned Arts Faculty, seeking and developing skills to shape the future.

In just 62 years, we have asserted our reputation as a leading Australian and global university, recognised for our excellent

education and research capabilities, and strong commitment to make positive change to communities around the world. We are firmly ranked in the world's top-50 universities, and our evolution has seen Monash's presence expand both in Australia and overseas to include four campuses in Victoria and campuses in China, Malaysia, India and Indonesia, as well as a centre in Italy and dedicated partnerships at a number of universities across Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

Our Strategic Plan, *'Impact 2030'*, frames our ambition for the future; that we will work collaboratively with government, industry and community to address the global challenges of our time – climate change, geopolitical security and fostering thriving communities. This requires a commitment to lifelong learning, which is grounded in our motto, Ancora Imparo ("I am still learning").

I hope you can see from the stories in this book that it is entirely possible to make a real and tangible difference, one that is worthy of your authentic talents, and which opens your mind and gives you potential to create a better tomorrow.

**Professor Margaret Gardner AC,
President and Vice-Chancellor**



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Monash Arts 60 for 60, a celebration of the accomplishments and fascinating careers of some of our most talented and impressive humanities, social sciences and performing arts alumni.

In our globalised and digitally transforming world, the ways of thinking and understanding that comes from deep study and knowledge of the arts, humanities and social sciences have never been more important. This is clearly evidenced by the vast array of talent amongst our Faculty of Arts alumni, now standing over 84,000 people in 110 countries. These are people, like you, who are passionate about propelling society forward to a better and fairer future.

The impact of Monash Arts is shared here through the inspiring journeys of our alumni. They are testament to what we have always strived for: emboldening the next generation of authentic creators, critical thinkers and attuned global citizens, to solve the problems of today and tomorrow.

Sir John Monash believed one should "equip [one's self] for life, not solely for your own benefit but for the benefit of the whole community." This is the fundamental mission

of Monash Arts, driving how we shape our graduates to be truly ambitious, enterprising, and socially-responsible changemakers.

Building on our stellar research programmes, our Arts education is focused on the latest thinking and knowledge produced here at Monash, through the globalised lens we always apply. By prioritising global knowledge and experiences, industry exposure, collaboration, imagination and ingenuity, we equip students with a unique combination of skills to set them up for their futures in an extraordinary array of industries, companies or their own start-ups and enterprises.

To our remarkable alumni featured in these pages: thank you. We hope you can see how your collected stories inspire and motivate others to pursue their passions. You are part of the rich legacy of Monash Arts, and your stories encourage others to aspire to lives well lived and, ideally, of impact and influence. For those with stories not yet written, I can offer only one piece of advice, given with the knowledge that it is amongst the soundest advice you will receive in your lifetime: do Arts.

**Professor Katie Stevenson,
Dean of the Faculty of Arts**

MONASH THROUGH THE DECADES

To learn more about Monash University's history and key moments, use the code shown.



Monash University founded.

1958



Music department opened.

1965



Bridging program for Indigenous students.

1984



Monash Prato opens.

2001

2022

1961

Monash Arts Faculty founded.
150 students were enrolled in Arts (out of the 360 students attending the university).



1963

Sir Robert Menzies opens Humanities building.



1970

Monash students marched the moratorium.



1998

First 'foreign' university in Malaysia and first Monash campus outside Australia.



2012

Monash goes to China in an Australian-first.



2020

Established first foreign university in Indonesia.



A WOMAN OF IMPACT IN GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMACY AND EDUCATION

The story of gender & racial equality advocate, Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the Honourable **Sharman Stone**

Member of Parliament for 20 years, former Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, former Professor of International Relations, Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and founding patron of Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre.

Bachelor of Arts, Honours, 1973; Doctor of Philosophy, 1999, Monash University.

Awarded the Faculty of Arts Distinguished Alumni Award at Monash University in 2018.



“I’ve got a sign stuck on my computer and it says ‘silence is complicit’ and I absolutely believe if you see a problem, if there’s an issue, if there’s some people being hurt, you better speak up, better get in there and fight for it.”

Sharman’s extraordinary life began on her small family farm in Pyramid Hill, a little country town of just 400 people in rural Northern Victoria. Growing up in the tight-knit community of the tiny district of Mincha West, Sharman acquired a unique and formative view of Australian life, Indigenous history, and caring for the country. She recalls her mother’s unacknowledged work; discovering Indigenous artefacts and battling salinity on her family’s land, and it was perhaps these triggers that launched her eclectic career spanning public service, politics, gender equality, female empowerment, Indigenous affairs, education and environmental sustainability. However, it was her tertiary education, in particular the connection she had to individuals at Monash, that she credits as being pivotal in helping her create the impactful life she has lived.

Even though her rural education failed to provide her with sufficient maths or english, the prerequisites for an arts degree at Monash, Sharman was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to La Trobe University. La Trobe University didn’t offer anthropology at the time; however once she arrived she called Monash and secured her enrollment by promising to get a high distinction and study a language. She started the course in 1969.

“The thing that stood out for me in my honours degree in anthropology was the inspiring individuals. There was Dr George Silberbauer, who did all of his field work amongst the Kalahari Bushman, Professor Colin Tatz AO who had a PhD in Indigenous Peoples and the Law, and another PhD candidate whose research focussed on Holocaust victims.”

After completing her honours degree and a master’s in sociology back at La Trobe University, Sharman poured her efforts into writing a book: *‘Aborigines in White Australia, a documentary history of the attitudes affecting official policy’*. She later adapted it into a Year 12 curriculum course called, ‘Australian Race Relations’, and gained a Diploma of Education to teach it herself.

“Too many Australians are not aware of—and don’t acknowledge that—our land, the great Australia that we live in, was taken by force without compensation or acknowledgement of the previous ownership and then the psychological, economic and physical legacy of that on the Indigenous people, the original owners, is just intergenerational.”

Once qualified, she accepted a secondment to the Aboriginal Education Service, where she taught the course to Indigenous men in the Victorian prison system. These prisoners were almost all Victorian Aboriginals, many were stolen children raised in boys’ homes where they were told they were Italian or Greek. They desperately wanted to take Sharman’s course to find out what had happened, where they came from, and to learn any traditional knowledge. One of the young men used the subject to gain entry into Ballarat Teachers’ College.

Inspired by the impact she could see she was having on these men, along with her desire to build a better Australia, Sharman transitioned into public service in 1975 — a move she said was also influenced by Monash bringing her into the world of political activism in the early 1970s.

“Monash University was a campus of activism, with the Vietnam War and the early days of gender freedom through contraception access and women’s rights and feminism being talked about out loud. Albert Langer was the hero of the campus in those days. You would spend your lunchtimes at demonstrations in the middle of the bit of blank space between the Ming Wing and the student amenities block.”

During her time in public service, Sharman continued to break down barriers by becoming the first woman manager



His Excellency Wahidullah Waissi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; Professor Sharon Pickering, former Dean at Monash Arts; Professor the Honourable. Sharman Stone; and Dr Ahamd Samast, Founder & Director at ANIM at the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Afghanistan at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, 2019



A WOMAN OF IMPACT IN GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMACY AND EDUCATION

The story of gender & racial equality advocate, Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the Honourable, **Sharman Stone**

of the Victorian Rural Water Corporation, one of the first woman superintendents in the Office of Corrections, one of the first two women Directors in the Department of Agriculture, and the first woman Director of the Victorian Farmers Federation.

Fuelled by her desire to return to her community in Northern Victoria to help them overcome rural disadvantage and environmental degradation, she moved into politics in 1996 and was elected the federal member for Murray, a seat she held until retirement at the 2016 elections. This was a historically significant period of politics, especially as she led the fight to introduce the abortion pill RU486 with a conscience vote in 2006. Sharman said that the cross-party engagement of women in that vote was one of the most important moments of her political life.

“I managed to talk John Howard into giving us a conscience vote in the House of Representatives, and to sit in that chamber and look across at a whole raft of people who weren’t supportive of women’s sexual reproductive rights, was an extraordinary moment.”

However, Sharman has had her challenges, too. When dropped from the ministry by the then Leader Tony Abbott, she recalled fellow MP Philip Ruddock telling her: “It’s how you tackle failure, it’s how you behave in defeat, that really is the mark of a person”.

“One of the challenges in my life has been when you confront adversity and what appears to be failure, how do you make that work so that it’s not [failure] at all—it’s just the opening up of a new direction.”

In 2017, Sharman found her new direction as the Australian Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, where she travelled to 63 countries in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to help empower and uplift young girls and women, representing Australia in the United Nations (UN) in New York, and the Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

With that role coming to an end in 2020, Sharman’s life has come full circle and she has found herself back at Monash, where she earned her first anthropological and academic qualifications. Now, she works as a Professor of Practice, a position where

she can contribute on the basis of her lived experience, beyond just her qualifications of which there are many.

“Having lived through 20 years of being a parliamentarian, and then three years travelling across the Asia Pacific trying to bring about economic empowerment, political empowerment and eradicating violence, to then return to Monash University and to participate in researching, mentoring and teaching, is very fulfilling.”

As she reflects, with her beautiful red-haired republican dog called Harry Smith by her side, it’s clear that the people Sharman has helped, the places she’s visited and the causes she has crusaded for: have all allowed her to truly achieve her dream of making the world a better place.

She believes her amazing journey started with an Arts degree from Monash University, and that the students of today will continue to be inspired by the people they’re going to meet and engage with.

“It’s not just academic, it’s not just career, it’s deep, heartfelt empathy and conviction that the work that’s being done, the research that’s being done, is going to get us to a better place.”

INFLUENCING THE MALAYSIAN LEGAL SYSTEM

Insights from international commercial and corporate lawyer, **Christopher Leong**

Bachelor of Arts, 1985, Monash University

Christopher serves on the Industry Advisory Board for the Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

What is your current role? What are your key responsibilities? I’ve been a lawyer in private practice in Malaysia for the past 31 years, and I’m currently the Managing Partner of Chooi & Company + Cheang & Ariff, a law firm in Kuala Lumpur. My areas of practice are primarily commercial and corporate litigation and arbitration. Additionally, I occasionally take on public interest matters, usually on a pro-bono basis. Currently, I’m representing several members of the Malaysian parliament in court proceedings, who are challenging the Proclamation of Emergency that has suspended the parliament.

What impact are you looking to have in your community, industry and world? My involvement in law is driven by three things; (a) to contribute to the legal profession and the development of the law; (b) to learn what it means to be a member of the legal profession, as opposed to a lawyer in legal practice; and (c) to develop as a useful person.

What is the biggest obstacle you’ve faced in your career? To continuously learn, advocate and share ‘what the law is, what the law should be, and what the law ought not to be’.

The greatest highlight? Aside from a cold beer (or two) at the end of each day, being elected president of the Malaysian Bar and subsequently as president of LAWASIA are highlights for me. These gave me opportunities to apply myself to areas outside the usual confines of corporate and commercial dispute resolution practice. It exposed me to the myriad and multi-faceted socio, economic and political issues from a legal perspective, at both a national and regional level. They were challenging and enriching responsibilities and experiences.

What from your studies are you still calling on, or learning from, in your role today? At Monash I learnt to have an inquiring mind; not just as part of academic pursuit, but as a constant state of being. To always ask ‘what, when, where, who, why and how?’ as an automatic mental checklist with regard to anything and everything.



What is the one piece of advice you want to impart to our students? Always have an inquiring mind, be open to the world, and have respect for other people, their views and values.

“My objectives may have changed or evolved through my career over time; but I would say that learning has by and large remained my focus. It has always been about learning, as learning is the great enabler. Perhaps that is one reason why it is described as the practice of law; one could not be said to be so accomplished as to do away with the need for practice.”

FROM INDONESIA TO IMPACT

How this activist and pioneer of academia used an Arts' degree as a catalyst to drive important understudied research, and improve Indonesia-Australia engagement.

Tell us a bit about your career today.

As an academic, my primary interest has been on popular cultures, and other modes of articulating the competing aspirations, fantasies, and anxieties of urban public life in globalised Indonesia. This has led me to become the founding Director of the Monash Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre from 2018 to 2020, and most recently, to accept a position as an Emeritus Professor with the Faculty of Arts at Monash University in 2020.

What is the impact you want to make on the world?

Issues of importance to the everyday life of millions of Indonesians have been largely understudied. I devote my investigation to shedding some light on the critical ways popular cultures take part in the social, economic and political dynamics of the nation. The importance of Australia-Indonesia relations is often presented in a simplistic and slightly exaggerated projection of Indonesia's economic power in the future. To challenge such a view, I have been collaborating with colleagues in Australia,

Indonesia and Europe to disseminate less discussed stories of people-to-people contact outside trade and diplomacy.

What have been your biggest career challenges so far?

I was born in Indonesia and worked there for the first half of my academic career. For 32 years from 1966, Indonesia was under military dictatorship which led to many of my colleagues and friends being prosecuted. It was ethically impossible to do research work purely on a theoretical plane, or for academic purposes. Then from the mid-1990s, political turmoil and widespread violence escalated, crippling our campus in Indonesia.

And your greatest highlights? Having the honour of being appointed as the founding Director of the Monash Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre is one highlight of my career. This coincided with Monash's renewed commitment to engaging with Indonesia at an unprecedented level.

What would you say is the most important thing you learned or experienced at Monash Arts that has helped you get where you are today?

Visiting Australia first as a researcher at the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies at Monash, and then becoming a doctoral

student at Monash Anthropology, changed my view of the world profoundly. This Centre was one of the world's largest, politically progressive and scholarly leading hubs of Indonesian specialists in the 1970s to 1990s. Building relationships with a great number of socially-committed academics at Monash Arts, and working closely with some of them, has been the most important source of inspiration for the trajectory of my career. Many of them have remained my closest friends, colleagues and associates ever since.

What do you value most about your Monash Arts experience?

What I treasure most from being part of the Monash academic community is the legacy of egalitarianism, collegiality and global solidarity. This experience enriched and enhanced my long-standing passion and commitments to devoting my academic career to understanding and appreciating everyday life among ordinary people: those who are neither the elites nor the extremely under-privileged.

What would you say to someone considering a Monash Arts degree?

Monolingualism is curable. The greatest reward of learning another language is the discovery of a brand new world, and one's new self in it.

The story of Monash University Arts' Indonesian Scholar & world-leading Emeritus, **Professor Ariel Heryanto**

Doctor of Philosophy, 1994, Monash University



"My long-standing commitment is to make a contribution to two different, but related social groups: the international scholarly community and Australia-Indonesia friendship."

VALERINA DANIEL

Prominent Indonesian journalist, environment ambassador and communications adviser for the Indonesian government

Valerina Daniel is an Indonesian journalist, author and environmental activist. She's been an Anchor at Indonesia's leading TV stations, namely Metro TV, SCTV, and BeritaSatu since 2000. Valerina believes that the media and communication sector plays an important role in building a more sustainable tourism industry and environment, and can improve the welfare of Indonesians. To help facilitate this, she's currently acting as the Environment Ambassador and Communications Adviser for the Indonesian government, roles that give her a window to learn about and influence Indonesian culture, community and environment.

"With more than 17,000 islands, climate change and connectivity are two of the

challenges that we are facing in Indonesia. Many great tourist destinations have to be developed based on the values of sustainability. Hence as the Adviser to the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, I led the development of Indonesia's Sustainable Tourism Observatories in 10 priority tourism destinations, and connected the government with local and international stakeholders."

Valerina studied a Master of Communications and Media Studies at Monash University in 2010, where she was able to advance her network and skills through a coveted internship at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Her awards include the 2011 Australia Alumni Award for Journalism and Media, 2011 Indonesia Green Awards for Outstanding Performance in Climate Change, and 2008 Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) scholarship.



"Always fight for your dream and what you believe in."



"Receiving two research fellowships that allow me to investigate exactly what is effective in countering prejudice, is a career highlight and very exciting."

DR SUSAN CARLAND

Academic, writer and social commentator

Dr Susan Carland is an academic researcher, author and television personality, who has dedicated her professional life to studying and developing strategies to change the minds and perceptions of individuals, particularly those who are prejudicial or discriminatory. Susan was the inaugural Director of the Bachelor of Global Studies at Monash University until late 2020, stepping down to join the Victorian Government's Anti-Racism Taskforce. As one of eleven community members on the taskforce, Susan provides advice on effective approaches that Victoria can employ to tackle the issue. Susan also hosts the 'What Happens Next?' podcast.

"You will never have a time like this again, so wring every moment out of your university experience. Actively participate in all your classes, do the extra readings, join the students' association and as many clubs and societies as you can, go to all the extra events, and ask lots of questions."

Susan graduated from a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science at Monash University in 2002. She went on to achieve her honours in 2005 and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 2015, again at Monash. Since then, her writing has appeared in local and international newspapers, academic journals and publications. She was also the proud recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 2020 and an ARC Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA) in 2020.

CHAMPIONING INDEPENDENT MUSIC IN THE GLOBAL MUSIC INDUSTRY

The story of music entrepreneur and global music activist, **Charles Caldas**

Partner at Exceleration Music, a new-generation global music company investing in the future of independent labels and artists, and Supervisory Board Member, Edel A.G.

Bachelor of Arts, 1987, Monash University. Charles was awarded a Monash University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2020.

Charles is the recipient of many esteemed industry awards. He was twice featured, in 2018 and 2019, in the Billboard Magazine Power 100, recognising the world's 100 most influential music industry executives, as well as the Billboard International Power List in 2014 and 2017. Other awards include the "Outstanding Contribution Award" by pan-European music body IMPALA, the UK Association of Independent Music "Independent Champion", STOMP Netherlands "Independent of the Year" and the Associação de Músicos Artistas Editoras Independentes (AMAEI) Portugal "Outstanding Contribution Award". He has also served on the boards of the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA), the Australian Independent Record Labels Association (AIR) and the Worldwide Independent Network (WIN).



"If you have something to say, as a musician or a visual artist of any kind, you've got the world at your fingertips. The challenge now is how to navigate your way through the millions of other people who are doing that as well."

Charles Caldas is a visionary of the music industry and a changemaker regarding extrapolating the commercial value from independent music in the digitalised world. A global activist for the independent music sector, he has enjoyed an illustrious career, including time spent founding the independent digital licensing association Merlin, and 16 years working as the CEO of Shock Records in Melbourne. Now, he finds himself faced with a fresh challenge, as the doors to his new company Exceleration Music opened in January 2021.

However, before his success, Charles came from humble beginnings. He was a first generation Australian and the first in his family to attend University, enrolling in a Bachelor of Arts at Monash in 1982. During his time on campus, he considered his extracurricular activities, particularly those that introduced him to the music industry, to be just as valuable as the education itself.

"I was involved in 3MU, which was a radio station that Monash ran at the time. I was in a band that was rehearsing at Monash and using the facilities there to practice and make awful noises late into the night. Really what it was, in retrospect, was a place of connection. I connected with like-minded people, I connected with people I found who were interesting, and I was challenged out of my comfort zone."

Charles said he never dreamed or thought about working in the music industry and

had no idea how it worked, he just seemed to spend a lot of money on records at the time. It wasn't until his band, These Future Kings, was signed to a small independent record label in Melbourne in 1986 that he found his start in the industry, with a holiday job packing and selling records to Brashes, Gaslight and other independent record stores.

After graduation, he left the record label to go travelling, before returning to Australia in 1989 to accept a position at Shock Records in Melbourne. There he also sold records (and CDs) to record stores, however the business quickly grew to 100 people and within nine years Charles found himself at the helm as CEO. A lot of what he did in his time there was international, and he recalls seeing the digital revolution and navigating it in real-time along with the whole, disrupted global music industry.

"On one of my first trips after leaving Shock Records, I reconnected with a bunch of people that I knew from my music world. They were at this conference in Berlin called Popkomm and invited me to dinner to talk about the challenges of the digitalisation of the marketplace, and how they as independents, were going to navigate that."

The dinner resulted in a consulting job for Charles that saw him undertake six months of research around the world to try and understand what was happening in the music industry, and how independents

could capitalise on it. In 2008, his research was rewarded, and Charles opened Merlin in London as CEO. Merlin started with just 15 labels, as a global not-for-profit enterprise focused on helping independent artists compete with the big multinational labels. They experienced rapid growth in the 12 years that Charles was CEO, eventually representing tens of thousands of independent record labels from 63 countries, with a membership base equating to over 12% of the total global digital recorded-music market. After negotiating landmark deals with Pandora, Spotify and YouTube, Merlin paid US\$845 million to its members in 2018 alone, and by the end of 2019, had paid a total of over US\$2.5 billion to its members.

"We want to play a part in preserving those legacies, the histories, the stories of the labels and the musicians behind them and build something lasting..."





CHAMPIONING INDEPENDENT MUSIC
IN THE GLOBAL MUSIC INDUSTRY

The story of music entrepreneur and
global music activist, **Charles Caldas**

Although hugely successful, Charles also encountered significant challenges during his time at Merlin, including the notion that they were essentially responsible for establishing why independents mattered in this new music paradigm.

“People knew who Universal Music and Sony Music were because they were big global brands, but they had this perception of independents as a bunch of people in bedrooms, who didn’t smell too good, and somehow managed to scrape a few pennies together to put a record out every now and then. Whereas in reality, the independent sector is now a third of the global business. It’s a hugely significant part of the industry.”

More broadly, Charles recalls the biggest challenge of his career was deciding what that career would be. He accredits his time at Monash as being formative for him in becoming the person he is today, someone who has been lucky enough to have the experiences he’s had.

“The highlights of Monash were not only learning incredible things and being in a really great academic environment, which continues to this day, but it was all of the other extra-curricular opportunities that were available. I tried to join the theatre group, I worked at the radio station, I wrote for the Lot’s Wife magazine, I helped put events on. As I was the only person from my school that went to the University, I had no support system around me. I just poked my nose into things, and some of them were disastrous, like trying to be an actor, and some of them worked out. And I still have friends to this day from that time, which I think is a testament to how great those times were.”

In 2019, Charles felt the familiar call to take on a new challenge and he opened Exceleration Music in January 2021, with five highly-respected, industry-veteran partners. The venture aims to help independent labels navigate the way the market continues to change, this time not by representing them, but by investing in them.

“We want to play a part in preserving those legacies, the histories, the stories of the labels and the musicians behind them and build something lasting, that actually helps consumers find great music and also helps the people that we work with be healthy and have a sustainable business.”

Charles said the business was currently exploring many opportunities and had some clients already confirmed, including Chicago blues label Alligator Records, specialist jazz label Candid, plus a strategic partnership with the Ray Charles Foundation.

When it comes to identifying particular highlights of his career, Charles finds it difficult, which is no surprise with such an eclectic and interesting life to-date. He instead said that he identifies best with a quote from the fiercely-original musical legend Bob Dylan.

“When asked about whether he felt he had arrived at icon-status, Dylan said something along the lines of “the problem with most people is that they think they’ve arrived, when the reality is, no one ever arrives.” We’re always on a road to somewhere else.”

However, Charles did have some sage advice for anyone considering an Arts degree at Monash, the institution he accredits with introducing him to the music industry, and independent music.

“Anyone debating whether or not they should go to Monash should definitely go to Monash. It’s an incredible institution, it’s got brilliant leadership, it’s innovative, forward-thinking, and truly I’ve been so impressed by what I’ve seen.”

DEBORAH GLASS OBE

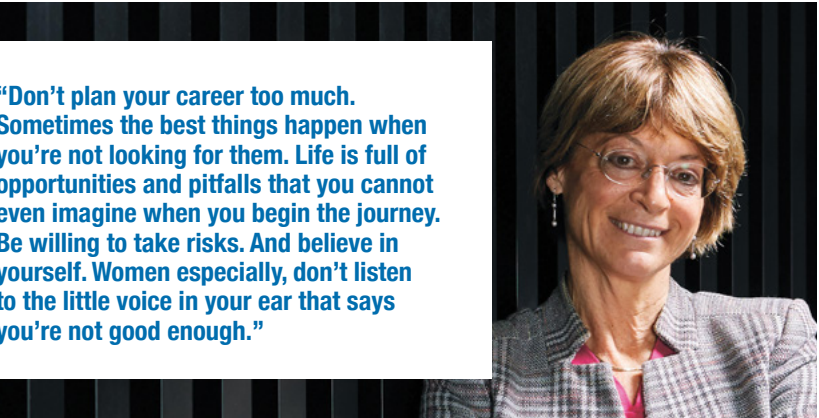
Victorian Ombudsman and
esteemed Australian lawyer

Deborah was awarded a Monash University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016. She delivered the graduation address in October 2019. She has taken part in a number of Monash events throughout her career, including the Monash Global Leaders Summit.

Deborah Glass OBE has been the Victorian Ombudsman since 2014. Devoting her life primarily to serving the public interest in Australia, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, she’s worked across a variety of areas including law, financial regulation and police corruption. In 2012, she launched a new investigation into the Hillsborough train disaster that killed 96 people in 1989, and considers this a career highlight, despite its challenging nature.

“In my current role, I love the many opportunities it gives me to make a meaningful difference to people’s lives. I am hugely proud of the work of my office, which exists, fundamentally, as a result of the imbalance of power between the individual and the State. We are able to redress that imbalance in so many ways, ranging from the thousands of individual grievances we resolve each year, to the systemic investigations that result in legislative reform.”

Deborah studied a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws at Monash University, graduating in 1980 and 1982. It was a time of heightened student political debate and she remembers her most memorable experience as co-editing the student-magazine, Lot’s Wife, during this interesting time.



“Don’t plan your career too much. Sometimes the best things happen when you’re not looking for them. Life is full of opportunities and pitfalls that you cannot even imagine when you begin the journey. Be willing to take risks. And believe in yourself. Women especially, don’t listen to the little voice in your ear that says you’re not good enough.”



“Books allow young readers to conjure entire worlds in their minds, and to embark on wild and impossible adventures.”

SKYE MELKI-WEGNER

Australian young adult fantasy author

Skye Melki-Wegner has authored six Young Adult Fantasy novels, and has been published in over seven countries including China and Germany. Her accolades include being shortlisted for both the prestigious Aurealis and Norma K Hemming Awards, featuring in the Premier’s Reading Challenge lists in both New South Wales and Victoria, and having her first book added to the high school text list. Motivated by providing fun and escapism through imagination, Skye aims to encourage children to foster empathy for different perspectives and experiences.

“When you submit your work to agents or publishers, start writing your next book while you wait for the responses. Having a new creative focus takes the sting out of rejections and encourages you to hone your skills, placing you in a stronger position when you finally nab that publishing deal!”

Skye graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 2012. She credits this experience with equipping her with the skills she needed to make the journey from hobbyist to working author, “as a career, being an author isn’t just about pursuing whimsical flights of fancy, it comes with deadlines and contractual responsibilities, which require strong organisational skills.”

FAHD PAHDEPIE

Indonesian political communication strategist, media entrepreneur and CEO

Fahd Pahdepie is a political communication strategist, media entrepreneur and CEO of inilah.com: one of the most impactful media platforms in Indonesia. Focused around ‘solutions journalism’, this platform does more than just cover the news; it also links beneficiaries with government, CSO and industries. Through the platform, people are empowered with various programs that solve problems, attract crowdfunding and start dialogues.

“Don’t just focus on studying, try to make connections. Adopt the spirit of ‘Ancora Imparo’: the mentality of always growing and reaching many possibilities.”

Fahd graduated from Monash University with a Master of International Relations in 2015. He said that taking an elective



unit from the communication and journalism area inspired him to combine his knowledge in politics and international relations, with the future of the internet and media. This led him to start a digital agency directly after graduating, designed to help politicians and government officials achieve relevance within the digital landscape.

In 2019, Fahd was an Advisor in the executive office of the President of the Republic of Indonesia. In 2017, he received the Australia-Indonesia Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Prior to this, he won the Mizan Unlimited Creativity Award and was selected as one of the best among 10 writers in the UNICEF Young Writer Award. In 2009, he was nominated for the Extraordinary Intellectual Property Award from the Ministry of Education and Culture in Indonesia and in 2010 he received the Ahmad Wahib Award for his work on promoting interfaith dialogue and pluralism from the Paramadina Foundation and Hivos Foundation.

“Social media in politics is a new thing. To convince old politicians and officials to use social media for public communication is a big thing. Especially when most politicians and government officials come from the older generation.”



“Most people enter parliament with a firm desire to leave the place better than they found it, and I’m no exception. For me, that means embedding certain policy priorities in the fabric of government—all governments—so that important issues are given the long-term commitment they deserve.”

THE HONOURABLE GABRIELLE WILLIAMS

Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Treaty and First Peoples in the Victorian government

The Honourable Gabrielle Williams is an impassioned advocate for equity and social inclusion, and a proud member of Victoria’s first ever gender-equal cabinet. Motivated by a desire to address persistent inequality, Gabrielle is engaged in important reform agenda to improve outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community, along with women, young people and families. Gabrielle believes achieving this will require both big vision and a sustained commitment to structural change. In May 2021, she led the government’s commitment to, and establishment of,

Australia’s first ever truth-telling body for First Nations people: The Yoorrook Justice Commission.

“I conducted field research in the north of Ireland as part of my Honours year, where I interviewed IRA ex-prisoners. I had lived a relatively sheltered life up until that point, and the experience opened my eyes to the world and changed me. It also taught me many lessons I’ve brought with me into political life, in particular the importance of inclusivity and equity, and the dangers of alienation and discrimination.”

Gabrielle graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 and a Bachelor of Laws in 2010. She commenced her career as a Ministerial Advisor, before switching to law at Baker & McKenzie.

A CRUSADE FOR STRONG, MUTUALLY PROSPEROUS CHINA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

Helen was awarded a Monash Fellowship in 2018, and delivered the graduation address in December 2018. She has taken part in a number of guest speaking and mentoring events at Monash Arts.

Describe your career today. What are your key responsibilities?

For more than 30 years, I worked as a corporate lawyer and business executive. I’m now the Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner to Greater China with Investment NSW, based in Shanghai. In this role, I help NSW companies export to China and also attract Chinese students, tourists and investors to NSW.

What is the change or impact you are hoping to influence? Half of our population in Australia is female, with more than three million citizens also being of Asian heritage. However, the business and government leadership of this country is not representative of this, or our community overall. Society has also witnessed some horrific episodes of racism against Asian Australians after the

COVID-19 pandemic. To help fight this, I’m a passionate advocate of gender and cultural diversity, a proud former member of the Advisory Board of the Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre, and I also mentor young Asian Australians.

What has been the biggest challenge in your career so far? Leading the Australia China Business Council (ACBC) from 2016 to 2020 as National CEO was incredibly challenging when diplomatic relations between the countries deteriorated. The ACBC membership was largely comprised of Australian companies whose livelihoods were highly dependent on China. We also had many Chinese companies as members who were frustrated by the increasing hurdles for investment in Australia. And yet, bilateral trade continued and hit a record of over AUD\$250 billion.

And your greatest highlights? At the same time that Australia was devastated by bushfires in early 2019, COVID-19 was spreading throughout China. I was overwhelmed by how many Chinese companies reached out to us at ACBC offering assistance to bushfire victims,

and similarly how many Australian companies offered support to the humanitarian efforts to fight the pandemic in China. It was a great affirmation of how our humanity connects us, despite political tensions between governments.

How did your arts degree influence the trajectory of your career? Monash Arts helped to open my world, offering diverse subject matters. It built the foundation of a broad education, and a sense of curiosity that would always remain with me and help shape my career. That same sense of curiosity Monash instilled in me as an undergraduate, remains with me today. It calls upon me to keep learning and to have the courage to challenge and innovate.

What is the one piece of advice you’d like to impart to future Monash Arts students? Connect with your fellow students, domestic and international, your lecturers and tutors and everyone you encounter. Each connection you make brings the world closer together and creates an opportunity for future creativity, business, diplomacy, or love.

Insights from **Helen Sawczak**

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws, 1990, Monash University



“Australia prides itself on being an egalitarian society free of discrimination, and yet the top echelons of our society are still out of reach for many women and people of colour.”

HEALING AFGHANISTAN AND ITS CHILDREN THROUGH THE REUNIFYING AND TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF MUSIC

The story of ethnomusicologist
Dr Ahmad Sarmast

Founder and Director of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, a symbol of freedom of expression in music, and passionate advocate of a just and sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

Doctor of Philosophy, 2005, Monash University.

Ahmad has received many accolades, including the 2018 Polar Music Prize, the Asia Game Changer Award in 2016, the Cultural Rescue Prize in 2016, the Monash University Distinguished Alumni award in 2014, the Royal Philharmonic Society Award in 2013, the 2013 Radio Azadi Person of the Year, the Said Jamaluddin Afghan Award of the Government of Afghanistan in 2019, the International Music Council Musical Rights Award in 2009, the David Chow Humanitarian Award in 2009, and others.



“To have a sustainable peace and a victory over the idea of extremism, religious radicalism, we have to give an alternative to the people of Afghanistan. And this alternative is education. Through education, we may defeat the ideology of extremism.”



Dr Ahmad Sarmast is one of the world's foremost ethnomusicologists, focusing his work on music as an essential human right for the people of Afghanistan. He brought music back to the war-torn Central Asian nation, when he opened one of the most influential cultural, educational and human rights organisations in the country, the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM). Ahmad believes in the reunifying, healing and transformative power of music and is dedicated to using this to change the lives and legacies of thousands of children in Afghanistan.

Ahmad was born in Afghanistan, and is the son of renowned Afghan musician, composer and conductor Ustad Salim Sarmast. Ustad had a difficult childhood, and was surrendered as a young boy to an orphanage. There, he was fortunate to be included in the first music school of Afghanistan, where his talents developed and he was revealed to be gifted. Ahmad grew up hearing this story, and it was this understanding of the power of music that would ultimately inspire him to pursue music and enrol at a local Afghan music school.

Ahmad graduated in 1981, but was forced to leave Afghanistan shortly after due to the ongoing and escalating civil war. He relocated to Russia to continue his studies at Moscow State Conservatory, where he earned a master's degree in musicology, in 1993. Still unable to return home, Ahmad was granted asylum in Australia in 1994 and enrolled in Monash University, later becoming the first Afghan in the world to

obtain a PhD in music. His time at Monash cemented his belief in not only himself, but also in the incredible metamorphic quality of music, and his inherent social responsibility.

“As I began researching Afghan music I also began learning that our music played a significant role in unifying Afghan people, unifying ethnically divided communities in Afghanistan, how music has become a part of the Afghan identity internationally, and how music has linked Afghanistan to the rest of the world. I have seen throughout my life how music is changing, transforming communities and the people, regardless of their age.”

Graduating in 2005, Ahmad joined Monash as a research fellow. In 2006, with strong belief in the transformative power of music, he decided to dedicate his knowledge, passion and social responsibility to musical rights and the betterment of the Afghan children and youth through music and education.

In October 2019, as part of celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Afghanistan - Australian diplomatic relations, Ahmad returned to Monash University with ANIM's internationally acclaimed all girl orchestra Zohra, to perform together with students of the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance. The sold out concert drew over 1500 guests to the Robert Blackwood Hall, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Australia and Afghanistan.

The military invasion of Afghanistan by the international coalition and the defeat of the Taliban, resulted in the ban on music being lifted after five years. This presented an incredible opportunity for Ahmad to chase his dream. Supported and funded by Monash, he began to help his country of birth in its recovery, first from afar and then by travelling back to conduct research, which he later developed into a report. ‘Music in Today's Afghanistan’ aimed at garnering support for the re-establishment of music education in Afghanistan, rebuilding the music sector, and bringing musical rights back to the Afghan people.

While collating his research, Ahmad saw there were hundreds of thousands of orphans on the streets of Kabul. He wondered about their futures, and wished they could receive the chance to heal and grow through music, like his father.

It was then that he started to realise that bringing change and peace to Afghanistan began with improving the outcomes for these impoverished children, and ensuring that every child in Afghanistan has human rights and access to an education.

“One may witness daily that our teenage girls, young girls who are begging or working on the streets of Kabul, are becoming the subject of sexual harassment. How can we change and bring peace in Afghanistan, if we are not investing in those kids? If we will not be respecting human rights, women's rights, equality, or respecting the musical and educational and cultural rights of the Afghan people?”

Driven to make more of an impact, Ahmad made the decision to leave Australia and return home to Afghanistan, to bring





HEALING AFGHANISTAN AND ITS CHILDREN THROUGH THE REUNIFYING AND TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF MUSIC

The story of ethnomusicologist **Dr Ahmad Sarmast**

music back to his people. He opened the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) in 2008, which he said was made possible through Monash University's support and seed funding. Inspired by the story of his father, and motivated to reunify Afghanistan through music, ANIM has a dream — to help Afghan children heal through the discovery of music, find their smile again, and to have a chance at a brighter, more educated, free and creative future. The program is offered to all children, including street working kids and orphans without homes, as his father once was.

The school began with 100 students, including just one girl. Now, there are over 300 children enrolled and nearly 33% of these are female.

In 2011, ANIM unveiled its Afghan Youth Orchestra, and in 2015 the institute launched the Afghan Women's Orchestra: Zohra. Zohra quickly became an international success, and in October 2019 the group embarked on their debut Australian tour. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of

diplomatic relations between Australia and Afghanistan, the tour featured sold-out concerts at Monash University's Blackwood Hall and Sydney's iconic Opera House.

When asked to explain how the healing power of music can play a significant role in the recovery of his people, and why he believes so strongly in what he does, he recounts some of the amazing stories of his students. He considers these to be the highlights of his career ahead of the many awards he has won, including The Polar Music Prize in 2018 — a musical Nobel Prize, of sorts.

“Negin Khpolwak is the first female conductor of Afghanistan. She was living in an orphanage, and has become a symbol of emancipation and empowerment of girls and women in Afghanistan.”

“Zarifa Abida is the second female conductor of Afghanistan, and successfully led the all-female orchestra, called Zohra, at the World Economic

Forum, and in Europe. Music made her a very strong young advocate for human rights and diversity and she is currently studying law in AUCA.”

“Arson Fahim, a pianist, composer and conductor recently joined the Longy College of Music in the US, enrolled in ANIM through our partnership with an orphanage. Due to his musical education, his connection with music and talent that has developed, he has become a very well-known pianist and composer with a very strong sense of social responsibility. He uses music as a powerful force in fighting injustice in Afghanistan.”

Ahmad's challenges for the past 14 years at ANIM have almost entirely pivoted on corruption, bureaucracy and security. In 2014, the latter almost cost him his life after he was the victim of a deliberate terror attack that temporarily deafened him. He's adamant that while he can adapt, invest in, and continue his mission amid these concerns, bureaucracy is the real threat to the longevity and legacy of the school.

“The state bureaucracy and corruption worsen on a daily basis. And I always say lately that if I am going to leave Afghanistan, it will not be the threat of the Taliban that makes me leave. It will be the bureaucracy and corruption that in a systematic manner create not only blockages in the way of the progress of the school, but also paralyse the republic in general and lead to the collapse of the government.”

Ahmad is a force to be reckoned with. His school has come to represent more than the return of music to Afghanistan. It's a beacon of hope for the Afghan people, and to many, ANIM is synonymous with freedom and the potential of peace. His advice to current and future Monash students is to determinedly pursue their ambitions.

“No challenges and no difficulties should stop you from chasing your dreams. And always link chasing your dreams, with your social responsibility, and how you can help others.”

BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE TO PREVENT ALL FORMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

In 2016, Kate was appointed as a member of the Victorian Government's Expert Advisory Committee on Perpetrator Interventions. In 2018, she was appointed to the inaugural board of directors of Respect Victoria, and in 2021 was appointed as Chair of the Respect Victoria Board. She was previously a member of the Monash City Council Gender Equity Advisory Committee, and won the AFR Emerging Leadership Award.

Tell us about your current role.

I'm Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. In this role I'm in the incredibly privileged position to work with a team of early career and senior researchers, to build the evidence base needed to prevent all forms of family violence, and to inform transformational policy and practice reform at the state, national and international level.

What impact are you looking to make?

Violence against women, including all forms of family violence, is a national crisis in Australia. Through my research I am seeking to drive improved responses to violence against women in Australia and inform prevention of all forms of domestic and family violence.

Biggest challenge thus far?

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown up challenges that none of us imagined two years ago. Prior to this, I loved travelling internationally and using international conferences and events to stay connected with a global network of scholars in my field. The pandemic has challenged that and it is now more important than ever to find virtual ways to maintain the strength of those relationships.

And the greatest highlight?

Some highlights of my career to date have been interviewing the Lord Chief Justice at the English Royal Courts of Justice, spending time as a Visiting Scholar at Oxford University, giving evidence in Parliament in South Australia and New South Wales, having my first solo authored

book cited in the High Court of Australia, being awarded a Churchill Fellowship, and driving changes to homicide laws and family violence responses across the country.

What would you say is the most important thing you learned at Monash Arts?

That women's leadership matters. During my time studying at Monash Arts, I was exposed to incredibly inspiring examples of women's leadership. I learned that it's important to look up to the leaders you admire and to learn from the acts of those you do not.

What from your studies are you still learning from today?

Monash Arts instilled in me a responsibility to conduct research with impact, and that has significantly shaped the way I approach my research and my role as Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre.

Your advice for our students?

Follow what you are passionate about and trust the direction that it takes you in!

Insights from Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre Director, Professor

Kate Fitz-Gibbon

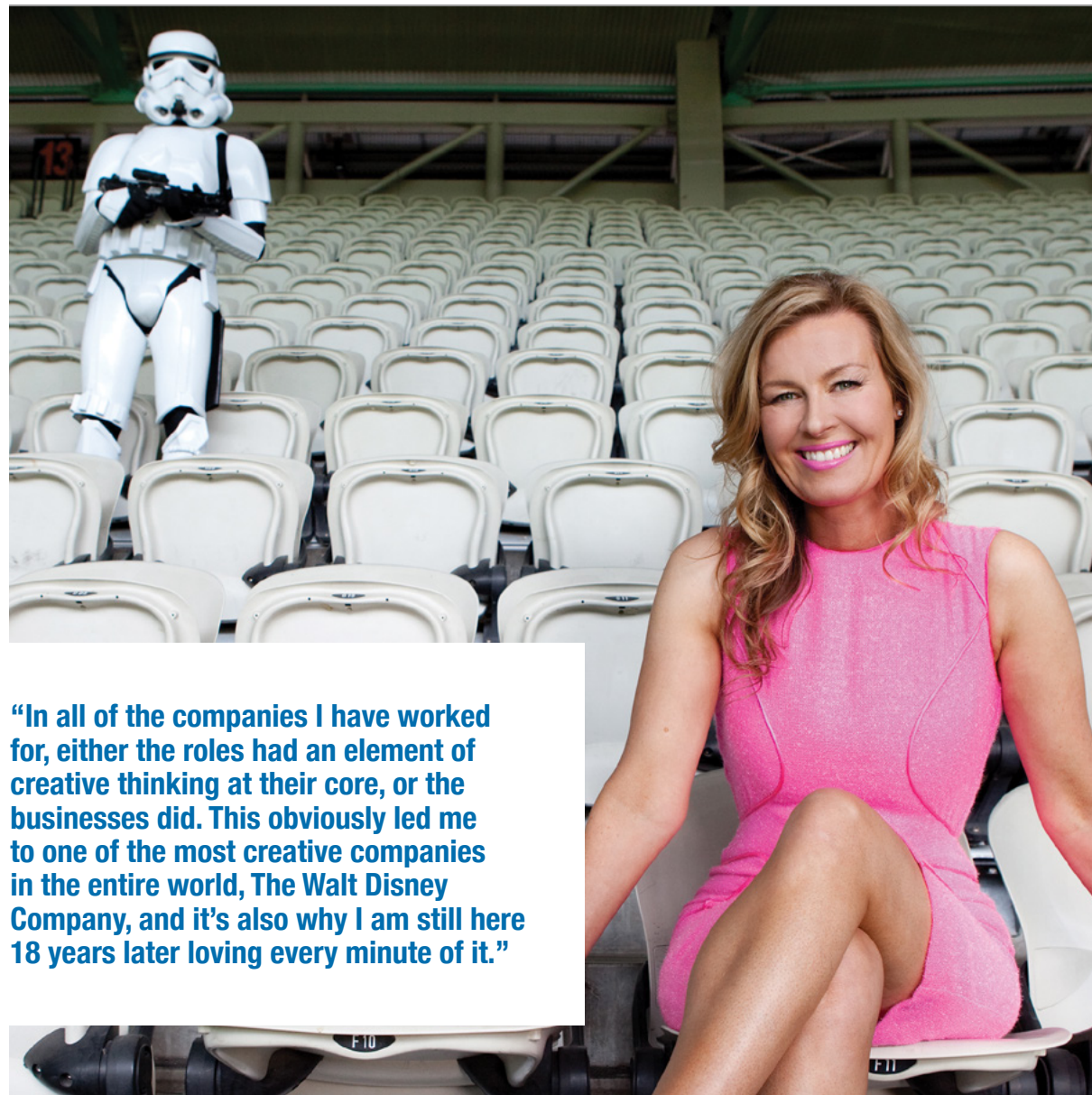
*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 2009
Doctor of Philosophy, 2012, Monash University*



“The opportunities I have had to influence policy and practice through my career have been beyond anything I imagined at the outset of my studies.”

FINDING MAGIC IN LEADERSHIP, STORYTELLING AND SPORT

The story of entertainment, media and
AFL leader, **Kylie Watson-Wheeler**



“In all of the companies I have worked for, either the roles had an element of creative thinking at their core, or the businesses did. This obviously led me to one of the most creative companies in the entire world, The Walt Disney Company, and it’s also why I am still here 18 years later loving every minute of it.”

Bachelor of Arts, 1992, Monash University.

Senior Vice President & Managing Director of The Walt Disney Company Australia and New Zealand, and President of The Western Bulldogs (AFL Club).

Kylie Watson-Wheeler is an Australian legend in business and leadership. For more than 25 years, her influence in marketing, management and sport has guided some of the most important decisions for the world’s most loved brands, companies and organisations, including Hallmark Cards, Coca Cola Amatil and Penguin Books. For the past 18 years, she has held various roles at The Walt Disney Company Australia and New Zealand, where she is currently the Senior Vice President & Managing Director. Kylie has also served as the President of the Western Bulldogs (AFL Club) since 2020.

Kylie began her eclectic career at Monash University in 1990, by undertaking a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and English Literature. By connecting academic thinking with real world thought processes, she said that her arts degree gave her a broader perspective and understanding of the world and what was going on in it.

“One of the disciplines that I think really comes through in an arts degree is the importance of taking multiple views into account before finalising your decision, really weighing up both sides to determine what the best pathway forward is. And I use that regularly both in decision making and around what initiatives we should proceed with within the market, what opportunities we should follow, as well as how best to negotiate deals and partnerships.”

It was during her studies that Kylie also discovered her creative flair. Searching for a job that would allow her to explore and leverage that, led her to a publicity role at Penguin Books in 1994. This initiated her into the world of business and paved the way for her next opportunity in Promotions at Coca Cola Amatil in 1995. However, it was when Kylie made the transition to the Hallmark Cards business in 1997, that she began to understand where she should focus her energy and add the most value.

“I moved into marketing at Hallmark Cards and spent four years there, and then had the opportunity to oversee global advertising for Hallmark Cards in the United States. Before I moved back to Australia, I was Director of Advertising and Brand Management for Hallmark Cards globally. For me, the journey was really about both leveraging my skills, while following my creative passion.”

In 2004, Kylie joined The Walt Disney Company Australia and New Zealand as Director of Publishing. She would move through numerous roles over the next 18 years, including General Manager of Consumer Sales, Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, and Vice President & General Manager of Disney Consumer Products and Retail. Kylie said it was her willingness and ability to move laterally within the company that allowed her to acquire her broad and dynamic skillset.

Now, she manages a portfolio of content and products across Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, ESPN, ABC Studios (United States), 20th Century Fox and National Geographic. Her role enables her to be at the forefront of the rapidly changing evolution of the media industry, which she regards as an exciting and motivating opportunity. However, it is the quality of the product that is truly inspirational to her.

“One of the things that the business does that inspires me, and why I love to work for this company, is that our content truly is really special and is of the highest quality in storytelling. And so for me that opportunity to bring that storytelling to Australian audiences across multiple generations, is a real privilege.”

In a career defined by passion, curiosity, exploration and very good instincts, Kylie has continued to always play to her creative strengths. In 2020, this saw her take the reins of her beloved sporting team, the Western Bulldogs AFL Club, as their proud President after seven years served on the board and 4 years as Vice President. Her appointment was unanimous amongst the board members, an experience she describes as both thrilling and humbling and is a sign of the times—with 50% of the board being female. The acceleration of the growth of the AFLW over the last few years, and the incredible increase in female participation in the game as a result has

“The most important goal is pursuing your passion. True passion shows – it’s inspiring and contagious.”

also demonstrated a shift within the game and a broadening of its inclusiveness of the broader population on the field as well as off the field.

Throughout her career, Kylie has steadfastly pursued her diverse interests. As a leader, she hopes to see more arts graduates hone their creative thinking, and ruthlessly strive to be resilient and multi-faceted individuals. For those wanting to make an impact in entertainment or leadership, she has some straightforward words of wisdom.

“The most important goal is pursuing your passion. True passion shows—it’s inspiring and contagious. A passionate mindset combined with the critical thinking and innovative problem solving developed in an Arts degree is incredibly valuable in the current, ever-evolving business environment.”

CONNECTING FIRST PEOPLES WITH THE STORIES OF THEIR PAST: RENEWING THE SPIRIT OF CULTURAL MATERIAL AND ANCESTRAL OBJECTS

The Story of Yorta Yorta woman, writer and curator, **Kimberley Moulton**

Senior Curator, South-Eastern Aboriginal Collections at Museums Victoria and an Artistic Associate for RISING Festival Melbourne. She is currently a Director of the Board for the Adam Briggs Foundation, Deputy Chair of the Shepparton Art Museum board and member of the board for the International Art Critics Association-Australia.

Independently, awarded the Power Institute Indigenous Art Writing Award in 2019, and in 2020 was the co-editor for Artlink Indigenous 40.2 Kin Constellations: Languages Waters Futures.

She is also Alumni of the Wesfarmers Indigenous Leadership Program National Gallery of Australia, Inaugural National Gallery of Australia and Wesfarmers Arts International Curatorial Fellow.

She is currently a PhD candidate at Wominjeka Djeembana Indigenous Research Lab, Monash University Melbourne.

“As a Yorta Yorta woman working in the museum and across history and contemporary art within Australia and globally, it’s not just work for me, but it’s for and with the communities I come from and am connected to and want to support. And that’s also why I love curating and the work I do so much, and that’s also why I feel it so much; there is still a struggle in art and museum institutions for our people to this day. I want to continue to critically engage with these spaces that have our collections and our histories within them, and work towards further agency and representation led by First Peoples.”



Photographer and source: Eugene Hyland

Kimberley has curated numerous contemporary art shows across Australia and the U.S.A including AceOpen Adelaide, Gertrude Contemporary and Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum Virginia.

Curator and Project Officer Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre (2009-2015), Assistant curator for the permanent First Peoples Exhibition at Melbourne Museum (2009-2013).

Senior Curator South Eastern Aboriginal Collections Museums Victoria (2016-current).

Lead curator for Mandela, My Life (2018), an exhibition on Nelson Mandela at Melbourne Museum in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation Johannesburg, Museums Victoria and IEC exhibitions.

Co-curator for the inaugural Tri-Nations Indigenous Triennial at Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG-Qaumajuq) for Naadohbii: To Draw Water (2021).

Kimberley Moulton is a proud Yorta Yorta woman; from the James and Cooper families and originally from Shepparton in country Victoria. Her practice is centred on the intersection of history and contemporary First Peoples art practice. Her role and responsibility is unique; to connect First Peoples with the objects and stories from their past, and create enriching experiences for First Peoples cultures to reconnect with their heritage. Over the last ten years, she has led research into collections across esteemed museums and galleries around the world, including at the Museum of Ethnography Geneva, The British Museum, Oxford University Pitt-Rivers Museum, Cambridge University, The Met in NYC, and the Smithsonian Institutes. In her current position at Melbourne Museum, Kimberley is facilitating this critical connection between Indigenous people and their history, with cultural belongings and knowledge. She works tirelessly for representation of First Peoples within these pivotal, crucially important contemporary industries, spaces and institutions.

“They [these objects] are so important in terms of our cultural strength and our identities, and in honouring our Ancestors. All of these things make us strong as a community, which means our futures will be strong. I really think museums and cultural collections and contemporary art play a crucial role in all of that.”

Working as a curator, Kimberley sees herself as a conduit for First Peoples communities, creating a space for them to have access to, and agency in, their cultural belongings. They are much more than simply “objects” to her, there are family photos in the Melbourne Museum collections of her Nan and family, there are cultural belongings made by her Ancestors but she also feels a responsibility for the whole collection in connecting them to their communities and to re-voice and recontextualise their stories through contemporary art and engagement. Her expertise and lived experience has empowered and enlightened her to appreciate the necessity of engaging meaningfully and ethically with First Peoples history, Cultural belongings and contemporary art practice.

In an article with Broadsheet in 2020, she said, **“My practice works with knowledge, histories and futures at the intersection of historical collections and contemporary art and making. I am also focused on anti-colonial curatorial methodology and First Nations representation in museums and galleries, which means critically looking at the way in which First Peoples objects and histories have been represented and the language used in museums, and creating platforms for change and agency within colonial institutions. Further to this, I am interested in extending the paradigm of what a museum can and should be from a First Peoples perspective.”**

Growing up on Yorta Yorta country, it wasn’t until 2004, when she enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University, that she experienced an ‘awakening’ and committed herself to sharing the history of her own family, community and found her love for contemporary art. During that time she was introduced to the work of strong Aboriginal women artists (such as Destiny Deacon and Tracey Moffatt), and she also realised after sitting in classes that taught about her great grandfather and family that the personal stories she had heard as a child had a much deeper political context.

“My lecturers were fantastic,” recalls Moulton, adding that often in Indigenous studies she was learning about her own family from family, such as her cousin, Dr Wayne Atkinson. “I remember sitting there thinking, ‘Oh, I’ve really got to step up. I’ve got to be stronger and prouder and louder”.

Currently, Kimberley is the Senior Curator of Museums Victoria’s South Eastern Australian First Peoples Collections: a collection containing over 4000 historical and contemporary objects from communities. Dating back to the early 1800s, some of these items include shields, clubs, possum-skin cloaks, and other extraordinary ancestral belongings. Part of her focus, methodology and practice involves connecting these contemporary artists and makers across multidisciplinary areas, to reframe collections



CONNECTING FIRST PEOPLES WITH THE STORIES OF THEIR PAST: RENEWING THE SPIRIT OF CULTURAL MATERIAL AND ANCESTRAL OBJECTS

The story of Yorta Yorta woman, writer and curator, **Kimberley Moulton**

and create new dialogues with object and community. For Kimberley, actually bringing First Peoples communities into the museum to see, and connect with these collections, is also deeply important.

Kimberley is also leading a senior creative role at RISING, Victoria's international arts festival. Over her two years as Artistic Associate she has developed Moving Objects, a partnership between

Museums Victoria and RISING to support contemporary art response to the historical collection. In 2021, she was the inaugural curator for the *'First Peoples Art Trams project'*, and in 2022 she is curating a national exhibition at Flinders Street Station's historic rooms, which will be one of the largest newly commissioned exhibitions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art the state has seen.

"In the past, Aboriginal people haven't felt welcome in these places; they haven't really felt represented correctly. They've often been historified through a non-Indigenous, anthropological perspective."

This is something that Kimberley has experienced first-hand throughout her career. On one occasion in particular, while viewing some of the earliest Australian collections of ancestral material at a prominent American museum, she encountered two of her greatest fears: dormancy, and a lack of cultural context.

"[After viewing the objects] when it was time to go, the curator closed the drawer and said softly, 'time to go back to sleep now,'. I was startled by this comment. It came with care, like a grandmother tucking in her grandchild, but deeply disturbed me. I wondered if it was going to sleep, when would be the next time it would wake up? It was the notion that all of the objects were sleeping and dormant that made my heart ache."

Today, Kimberley is focused on cultivating an evolving curatorial methodology that intersects historical cultural material and contemporary practice, developing ways to 'restore the spirit' of collections, place, and to regenerate cultural knowledge with community. She hopes to foster deep, long term projects with connections to artists and communities, and to see more First Peoples represented in museums, art galleries and institutions. More than that, Kimberley yearns to change the paradigm of non-Indigenous curators holding the key to unlocking her People's history, and to pass the pen from the anthropologists back to the Indigenous communities to which these objects truly belong.

"Now is a time of shifting consciousness around the world. First Peoples and people of colour are challenging the colonial structures that have oppressed us for so long, and to participate in these movements for the benefit of community, the collection, and the future of the museum is important."

LUCINDA HARTLEY

Urban Designer, Entrepreneur and Founding Director of Neighbourlytics

Lucinda Hartley is a pioneer in urban design, entrepreneurship and technology, who has spent the last decade developing innovative methods to improve cities. She is one of two founding directors of Neighbourlytics: a social analytics platform for neighborhoods. It solves the human data gap that exists for city makers around access to information and insights about behaviour and lifestyle, and has now created data for more than 2000 neighbourhoods in 12 countries.

"Your postcode is as likely to determine your life expectancy as your genetic code, and where we live has a huge impact on our opportunities in life."

Graduating from a Bachelor of Arts in 2002, Lucinda has gone on to hold positions with the United Nations, supported city making initiatives for Google, and also co-founded award-winning placemaking consultancy, CoDesign Studio. In 2019, she was named one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence by the Australian Financial Review, and one of Melbourne's 100 most influential people by The Age.



"Most data that city makers such as property developers and governments use to create neighborhoods, is about the physical environment or demographics. However, the culture and the vibe of a neighborhood is actually what makes places great, and that is largely invisible."



"Indigenous peoples around the globe are good stewards of the Earth and its fragile ecosystems and precious resources. Each of us has a role to play in preserving our environment. As we all live on this earth, we are also responsible for protecting it."

SONIA SMALLACOMBE

Senior researcher and voice for many Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Sonia Smallacombe is an experienced senior researcher and a proud member of the Maramanindiji people from the Daly River region of the Northern Territory. She has led and represented the rights of Indigenous peoples within Australia and around the world, including at the Australian Human Rights Commission, and during her 11 years at the United Nations (UN).

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from Monash University in 1992, Sonia then spent a brief period working as a lecturer at Charles Darwin University. There, she taught in a number of subjects including Indigenous history and contemporary Indigenous studies, before joining the UN in New York from 2005 to 2016 as a Social Affairs Officer.

In 2019, Sonia was appointed the new Elder in Residence at AFTRS, the Australian Film Television and Radio School, where she contributes her diverse knowledge and guides the next generation of Indigenous storytellers.

TONI HOFFMAN OAM

Intensive care nurse, bioethics expert and key whistleblower in the prosecution of Jayant Patel

Toni Hoffman OAM has been an intensive care nurse since 1981. She's faced many ethical dilemmas during this time, including working in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War and also as the nurse unit manager in the intensive care unit at Bundaberg Base Hospital in 2003, when Jayant Patel was a surgeon there. Toni's role as the leading whistleblower in the resulting criminal case would save countless lives, and also see her recognised as the Australian of the Year Local Hero in 2006, as well as a Member of the Order of Australia (OAM).



“Follow your dreams, stick with your study. Stay true to yourself and your moral compass, and always advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves. Remember we all have a story, and our life experience adds to our value to the community.”

“It was a very difficult journey to navigate the process of making the complaints, deciding to become a ‘whistleblower’, and giving evidence at The Royal Commission and Dr Patel's manslaughter trials. To have him initially convicted and spend two years in jail was a victory for the many patients that suffered at his hands.”

Toni completed a Bachelor of Nursing at Monash University in 1997, and a Master of Bioethics in 2003. She said it was the arts faculty that had the biggest impact on her education, and is still grateful for the support she received from Monash during and after Jayant's trial.



“Find a job that aligns with your sense of purpose and/or value, that you're passionate about, and you'll never work a day in your life.”

BRENDON GALE

Australian sporting icon and long-standing CEO of the Richmond AFL Club

Brendon delivered the Monash Arts graduation address in May 2019. He was awarded a Monash University Distinguished Alumni Award from the Faculty of Law in 2021.

Brendon Gale is Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Richmond Football Club, and a true believer in the role sports plays in building healthy, connected and cohesive communities. Although his role at Richmond is to lead an organisation and team that wins games, of which the AFL premierships in 2017, 2019 and 2020 are career highlights, Brendon knows this can only happen when the

community that supports and sustains both the code and the club is strong. “AFL is Australia's indigenous game and is uniquely Australian. I would like to see our club continue to champion diversity in its many forms and be reflective (both internally and externally) of the rapidly changing and diverse nature of Australia —to be a place where all people can feel valued, respected and that they belong.”

Brendon was a professional footballer with Richmond while studying a Master of Arts at Monash University, graduating in 1996. He recalls the athlete-scholar experience as being extremely beneficial, and thoroughly enjoying learning and being on campus. Brendon returned to Monash to study a Bachelor of Laws, graduating in 2002.

PIONEERING PROFOUND AND IMPORTANT CHANGE

Anna's fingerprints are on nearly every major reform for LGBTIQ+ people in recent years. She played a critical role in the campaign for marriage equality, co-chairing the Equality Campaign, and running the challenge to the postal plebiscite in the High Court of Australia. She was named Victorian LGBTIQ+ Person of the Year in the first GLOBE community awards in 2014, a finalist for the Tony Fitzgerald Community Award in the 2014 Australian Human Rights Awards, a finalist in Victorian Australian of the Year in 2015, and winner of the Tim McCoy Award in 2015. In 2019, she was named winner of the Social Enterprise and not-for-profit category in The Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence awards. In the same year, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for “service to human rights, and to the LGBTIQ+ community”.

What is your career focus today?

I've dedicated most of my career to achieving positive change through

advocacy, law reform and litigation, particularly for LGBTIQ+ people. I currently lead a national organisation dedicated to equality for LGBTIQ+ people, which I built from the successful campaign for marriage equality. I had worked and volunteered in the space for some time and saw a real need for a national voice for LGBTIQ+ people, particularly given the inequality and discrimination still entrenched in our laws and impacting on the shocking rates of suicide and poor mental health we experience.

How do you want to change the world?

I want to ensure that everyone is treated equally and with dignity, no matter who they are or who they love. I feel very privileged to have worked across a number of states and territories, and nationally, to remove the stain of discrimination from our statute books, and build understanding and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

What is the biggest challenge you've had to overcome?

Imposter syndrome. I find it hasn't become easier as I have become more senior. In fact, I feel even more out of place because in my head I'm still quite young and inexperienced.

Insights from lawyer and LGBTIQ+ activist,
Anna Brown OAM

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Bachelor of Laws (Honours), 2004, Monash University

What are your greatest accomplishments?

There have been many highlights. I'll always remember being in the Chamber of the House of Representatives when the marriage equality legislation passed through our parliament, and the gallery erupted into song. The earlier vote in the senate was equally memorable though, and I was much more emotional because the YES vote had happened the day before, and I'd been holding it together until the bill was finally introduced.

How did your arts degree influence you in your life and career?

My time at Monash instilled in me a deep and abiding passion for social justice. This was fuelled by my study, but also my involvement in student politics, where I first got a taste for working collaboratively to achieve positive change. Student politics is a really useful training ground, and I made many cherished life-long friends; some of whom I work with today as sitting MPs and advocates in civil society.

Do you have any advice for future and current students?

Know that you can, and will, make a positive difference in the world. Don't be afraid of doing something because it's new or scary. In fact, it's a good reason to seek it out.



“I've heard from clients and seen first-hand the profound change that is possible when someone is recognised and celebrated for who they are. Every LGBTIQ+ young person should grow up comfortable to be themselves, and confident they will be embraced by those around them and the broader community.”

LEADING OUT WITH DESIGN, COMMUNICATION AND COLLECTIVE CREATIVITY FOR A CONTEMPORARY AND RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

The story of Australian business leader and philanthropist, **Naomi Milgrom AC**

Executive Chair & CEO of the Sportsgirl/Sussan Group: Australia's largest female fashion retailer, founder of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, and a champion of education, science, women in business, the arts, design and architecture.

Bachelor of Arts, 1973; Monash Distinguished Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010; Doctor of Law honoris causa, 2017. Additional recent awards: Philanthropy Leadership Award, Creative Partnerships Australia, 2016, Melbourne Achiever Award, Committee for Melbourne, Honorary Fellow, Australian Institute of Architects (FDIA Hon), 2020; Honorary Fellow Design Institute Australia (FDIA), 2020. Featured in Forbes Magazine's 'Asia's Power Businesswomen'; The Australian's 'Top 10 Most Powerful Women in Business' and The Australian Financial Review's 'True Leaders'. In 2020 Dr Milgrom was awarded Australia's highest honour; the Companion to the Order of Australia, for eminent service to the community through philanthropic leadership and support for the promotion of the arts, architecture, design excellence and cultural exchange, and to business.



“My emphasis has always been to focus on doing something that hasn’t been done before, to enable and invest in leadership, excellence and emerging talent, and to make sure the largest number of people can benefit from the results.”



Naomi Milgrom AC is one of Australia’s most influential business leaders and philanthropists. She is an impassioned advocate and supporter of the arts, design, architecture and culture in Australia and across the world. The impact of her work spans multiple creative industries, including education, publishing, fashion retail, design and architecture. Her contribution and legacy is undeniable and tangible. For almost 30 years, Naomi has been at the helm of the Sportsgirl/Sussan Group. She is committed to her family, mentoring women and philanthropy.

In 2014, she extended her philanthropic portfolio with the establishment of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation to invest in contemporary art and design, and to bring new audiences to appreciate the importance of design, architecture and space in modern society. Over the past decade she has generously given to Monash University through her support of the Women in Neurology Fellowship, the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and the donation of the 2017 MPavilion.

Naomi was born in Melbourne, as the eldest of four children. Her parents, Marc and Eva Besen were retailers and avid art collectors with a strong sense of community service. She received her education at Mount Scopus Memorial College and Firbank Girls’ Grammar School, before enrolling in a Bachelor of Arts (Languages) at Monash University, where she studied Spanish, French and Indonesian.

“It was languages that first captured my interest at Monash University, where I pursued a deep interest in communication through my studies. While I haven’t used French, Spanish or Indonesian in my professional career, I think they provided me with an understanding of difference and a global perspective that has informed everything I have done in business and philanthropy.”

In a speech after being conferred an Honorary Doctorate by Monash University in 2017, Naomi spoke of her passion for education and communication, and how she enrolled to study Special Education at the University of New South Wales after completing her first degree at Monash. This led to four years as a special education teacher with mute children. Later, she moved to London, honing her communication and business skills while working in publishing, advertising and software development.

In the late 1980s her father, Marc, invited her back to Australia to join the family retail business, Sussan, established by her grandmother Faye Gandel in the 1930s. Naomi began work as a Marketing and Strategic Planner, then Merchandise Director, and finally, CEO. She enlarged the fashion group with the acquisition of the struggling iconic Australian retailer Sportsgirl, and against all advice bought the company out of administration in 1999 with a three-year revitalisation plan.

Naomi’s strategy breathed life back into the brand by ensuring Sportsgirl stayed relevant to its 16-24 year-old youth market, developing innovative retail tactics, design collaborations and community partnerships. In 2003, Naomi acquired the Sportsgirl/Sussan Group from her family and reflects on her success in empowering women through her business as one of her most rewarding professional contributions.

Throughout her life, Naomi has had a strong sense of community service and philanthropy. She has chaired the Melbourne Fashion Festival, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), and was the Australian Commissioner for the Venice Biennale of Art in 2017. She has served on boards with diverse interests and focuses, including the Howard Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne Business School, Centre for Ethical Leadership, PHOTO International Festival of Photography, and The Menzies Foundation. She has been a judge for the World Architecture Awards from 2015-2021, and currently Chairs the Design Project for the Sydney Powerhouse Precinct in Parramatta, NSW.

The Naomi Milgrom Foundation was established with a central purpose of enhancing the presence and influence of creative culture in Australia. Through the Foundation Naomi has continued her lifelong investment in visual and performing artists and her collaboration with arts organisations in Australia and globally to showcase the work of major contemporary artists.

“Education is so important. It opens your mind to different points of view, new experiences and new perspectives. If you are curious about the world, I don’t think you ever stop learning.”

Naomi has led several groundbreaking initiatives through the Foundation, including the MPavilion, Australia’s leading annual architecture commission, and the Living Cities Forum, an annual assembly of the world’s leading architects and urban thinkers. MPavilion and the Living Cities Forum highlight the best of what is possible with collaborations across business, government and education, providing a centre of energy and design to create conversations about how our cities can be better, and how to improve urban planning for those who come after us.

“I’m very interested in the idea of collaborative creativity and how to cultivate talent and projects in business and philanthropy that wouldn’t happen otherwise. Put simply, I know collaboration engenders creativity.”



LEADING OUT WITH DESIGN, COMMUNICATION AND COLLECTIVE CREATIVITY FOR A CONTEMPORARY AND RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

The story of Australian business leader and philanthropist, **Naomi Milgrom AC**

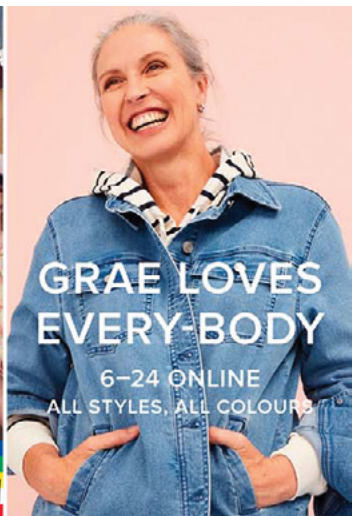
MPavilion is now in its eighth year and after each season, the pavilion is gifted to the public and relocated to a new site where it continues to provide a public space and community resource. Naomi is very proud that the 2017 MPavilion designed by Rem Koolhaas and David Gianotten of Netherlands based architectural firm OMA, was relocated to the Clayton Campus of Monash University.

“Thanks to the generosity of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, MPavilion at Monash has become an integral part of campus life, and offers a dynamic and transformative experience within the artistic, educational and cultural life of the University.” Professor Margaret Gardner AC, President and Vice-Chancellor

“MPavilion in its exciting new permanent context continues to engage and support the development of Monash University and the wider city. We are so pleased that OMA's MPavilion has been relocated to a place of knowledge and debate.” Rem Koolhaas & David Gianotten, OMA Architects

At the heart of Naomi's motivations for her various interests is a fascination with the cross-fertilisation of multiple disciplines, and a deep interest in building frameworks that support creativity and deliver major social impact. She also regards collective creativity as being the key to her success, and firmly believes in collective partnerships, creative energy and that everyone is at their best when they are collaborators and partners.

And when it comes to giving advice to our current and prospective arts students, Naomi enthusiastically encourages lifelong learning, matched with curiosity and an adventurous creative spirit.



JAMES MASSOLA

National affairs editor, political correspondent, journalist, commentator and author

James Massola is an award-winning Australian national affairs editor. He has previously been the Sunday political and South-East Asia correspondent for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. In 2019, he won the Kennedy award for Outstanding Foreign Correspondent after writing a book called *'The Great Cave Rescue'*, about the miraculous rescue of a soccer team and their coach from a cave in Thailand in 2018. James was also a finalist in the prestigious Walkley Awards in 2015, for his role in reporting a detailed leak from former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's cabinet.

“The best stories are the ones about ordinary people. The two that stay with me are visiting refugee footballer Hakeem al-Araibi in a Bangkok jail to interview him and eventually seeing him freed, and most of all, the amazing Tham Luang cave rescue of the Thai boys football team.”

James completed a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University in 2006 and a Master of International Relations in 2008.

He said his studies were absolutely crucial in his formation as a journalist, as they taught him to read critically and ask the right questions.



“Working in the parliamentary press gallery in Canberra, it's my job to hold politicians from all parties to account, without fear or favour.”

“Ultimately, what matters in politics is that you bring the same energy to the job each and every day. For any politician, regardless of how safe you consider your seat to be, the clock starts ticking the moment you are elected. I understood this clearly and promised not to waste a day.”



NICK STAIKOS

State Member for Bentleigh and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

Nick Staikos is the State Member for Bentleigh, where he is deeply honoured and committed to serve the small community he grew up in. He is also the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, with a focus on ensuring all of the investments made as a government create economic conditions that provide jobs and opportunities for Victorians.

“We should all have the opportunity to pursue our dreams and to aspire to achieve whatever we want to achieve. That's why I spend much of my time as a parliamentarian supporting strong investment in education. Supporting our schools and our teachers to provide young people with the best start in life is the most transformative thing governments can do.”

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Monash University in 2008, Nick recalls being particularly inspired by his lecturers, including Dr Nick Economou and Dr Paul Strangio, who he remains in touch with today.

DEVELOPING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES, AND INITIATIVES TO SEE WOMEN WIN

Joanne has participated in a number of Monash events, including the Global Leaders Summit, and is a mentor as part of the Monash Intercultural Lab Initiative.

How would you sum up your current role and position? I'm currently the Asia-Pacific Marketing Leader for EY Private, based in Shanghai, China, and have recently been appointed their Global Marketing Leader for Family Enterprise. My purpose is to connect our business with clients and vice versa, ensuring that they know what we do and what we can do specifically for them. The objective is for clients to consider and choose us over our competitors, and for them to become advocates. To achieve this, I create content, build media campaigns and develop experiences and programs.

Tell us about the impact you want to have? I want to see more women win and more women achieve their potential.

It's so rewarding to enable this, whether that be through training and education, connections and introductions, inspiring them to be bold through mentorship, or bringing in the right business solutions to help them succeed.

What are the key challenges you've overcome to get where you are today? Sometimes what is valuable isn't recognisable or quantifiable. When I came back from working overseas for the first time several years ago, it took me a while to break back into the market in Australia and build a history again. Employers liked my experience, thought it was unique, inspiring and that it demonstrated ambition, but could not immediately understand how to transfer those skills and experience into meaningful roles.

How about the moments where you've felt most proud and accomplished? I launched the EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women Asia-Pacific Program in 2015,

which allows me to champion women in business. The amazing thing about being in Asia-Pacific is the diversity of culture as well as gender. I'm most proud of my work with this community and of my firm, who are as engaged and invested in this as I am. Being able to bring others along for the journey is as important as me leading the change.

What is something you learned in your arts degree that you are still using today? In my first year at Monash, the politics lecturer told us that an arts degree is different from other degrees, in that it teaches you the ability to critically think, and to be aware of all the parts of an issue. I've brought that with me throughout my career, and always tried to stand back, be open to different points of view, and pursue lines of inquiry to validate or negate a position.

Any advice for current and future students? Stay curious and open to change.

Insights from brand, marketing and communications leader, **Joanne Warrin**

Bachelor of Arts, 1991, Monash University



"Do things outside of your comfort zone. Find out what you don't know. Keep learning and follow your own path."

CHANGING THE OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS AROUND THE WORLD, THROUGH RETAIL

Jeremy has cooked with Martha Stewart, been featured in The Washington Post, Boston Globe, New York Times and InStyle, and was on the cover of NAB's Business View magazine.

Tell me about your career and focus today. I'm the Founder and CEO of i=Change: a simple and powerful platform that enables retailers to give back to non-government organisations (NGOs) that focus on empowering women and girls around the world. Having seen firsthand a lot of the violence and different kinds of abuse that women and girls experience on a daily basis, I wanted to create a new funding stream to support the NGOs that work with, and for, these communities.

How are you having an impact? How do you hope to change the world? Studying Spanish changed my life. I ended up living in Latin America for about a year and spent time with many communities. Over time I realised almost every woman I met had a story of abuse. I began to wonder why this was so pervasive, terribly entrenched and even accepted, and how I could possibly make a difference to this enormous issue.

I started meeting with NGOs, travelling to over 30 countries, speaking with the impact leaders who I believe are the true heroes of our time. They all needed more funds to do their work, so I knew we needed to create a new and sustainable funding stream for these NGOs, using the power of retail and business, instead of philanthropy.

Tell me about the challenges you've dealt with. Having zero technology experience personally was a big challenge. Another challenge was trying to effectively sell a solution to retailers who didn't want it. We were ahead of our time when we started. However, we've always been very pragmatic, by speaking the language of business and retail. Some brands were engaged in 'doing good', such as corporate social responsibility or cause marketing, but there had never been a simple plug and play solution.

What is the most fulfilling part of your work? It's very satisfying now, when large brands reach out to us and want to know how it works. However, for me the highlights are absolutely being in the developing world, meeting with communities and speaking with NGO leaders to understand how the funds we're raising are making a difference in people's lives.

How did Monash University fuel what you do today? The teachers were very passionate about what they taught. I remember in my arts degree that most of us actually enjoyed our studies and were there because we were interested in expanding our minds and studying all kinds of subjects, even if they weren't considered 'practical'. My study of Spanish at Monash opened my eyes. It took me out of a privileged bubble, and I learned a lot about life living both in Latin America and Miami that would not have been possible without learning Spanish, and the world that it opened to me.

Do you have anything to share with future and current students? Follow the breadcrumbs. Life doesn't need to make sense, and probably won't until you look back, a long time into the future. Remain courageous. Be humble. Listen deeply. Follow what you feel most passionate about, where you feel you can add the most value and be of service to something bigger than yourself. That's the path to the most fulfilling journey.

Insights from social entrepreneur, **Jeremy Meltzer**

Bachelor of Arts, 1999, Monash University



"We made it simple for online retailers to give back, to build a broader message about their purpose into their brand, and the customer journey and experience."

STRENGTHENING INDONESIA THROUGH PROGRESSIVE AND POSITIVE INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL RELATIONS

The story of Indonesian diplomat and international relations expert, **Ibu Dewi Savitri Wahab**

*Indonesian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark
(with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Lithuania).*

Master of Arts, 1995, Monash University.

Ibu Dewi was awarded the Arts Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019, and was the keynote speaker at the Australia Awards graduation ceremony at Monash University in 2017. She has also been a guest speaker and mentor at a number of other events at Monash.



“The impact that I would really like to see is that both countries have strengthened relations in which we can collectively contribute to be a part of solutions to the complex and urgent transboundary challenges we are facing today at a bilateral, regional and global level.”

An esteemed diplomat, Ibu Dewi Savitri Wahab has dedicated more than 25 years to ensuring Indonesian international and bilateral relations are prosperous and mutually beneficial. Her plethora of diplomatic roles have seen her foster relationships and solutions between multiple countries and continents, with conflicting priorities, values, cultures and interests. Skilled at operating within the United Nations (UN), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and bilateral relations in the Asia and Pacific Region, Ibu Dewi believes foreign affairs can empower nations around the world. Through this, she said, traditional and non-traditional challenges can be overcome, to ensure peace and prosperity for the benefit of the people.

Ibu Dewi was born in the small Indonesian village of Ngawi, a two-hour drive from Solo. The daughter of a painter and school principal, she moved to Jakarta at the age of three, where she completed her schooling. After enrolling to study English Literature at the University of Indonesia in 1980, she travelled to Canada as part of a student exchange program and worked as a journalist for The Jakarta Post. She then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1989.

Ibu Dewi became more curious about the world around her, and international relations. This culminated with her being awarded a scholarship in 1992 to complete a Master's in International Relations at Monash University, courtesy of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau.

This education was significant for Ibu Dewi and gave her perspective, intellectual prowess, confidence in herself, and her abilities. Graduating with a firm intention to have an impact, she secured her first position in 1995, as Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

“That was my first experience in a multilateral forum, and in a multilateral forum if you don't speak, you are not recognised. If you speak foolishly, you are also not recognised. My first role helped me a lot in terms of navigating myself in meetings and with other diplomats, in Geneva and beyond.”

Her journey in diplomacy took her from Switzerland to New York in 2000. There, she served as Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations for four years, and again as the Minister Counsellor from 2008 to 2010. Later that same year, Ibu Dewi encountered the most significant challenge of her career, when she was appointed as the Director of East Asia and Pacific Affairs. In her role, she was responsible for Indonesia's bilateral relations with 32 countries in the Asia and Pacific region. She regards meeting, working and collaborating with policy makers from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and other ministries in Indonesia, as well as high officials from countries in the region during this time, as unforgettable and invaluable.

“In those four years I was the Director of East Asia and Pacific Affairs, I experienced many incredible things. For example, I accompanied the Indonesian president and minister of foreign affairs at the time, to different meetings with three Australian prime ministers: Julia Gillard, Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott. I also attended meetings alongside the Indonesian foreign minister, with Australian foreign ministers Bob Carr, Julia Bishop and Stephen Miles. I met with the very democracy of Australia.”

Ibu Dewi served as the Consul General of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in Victoria and Tasmania from 2014 to 2017, and was the Senior Advisor to the Foreign Minister on Social Culture and Indonesian Diaspora, from 2018 to 2020. Both of these roles would prepare her in 2020 to become the Indonesian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Lithuania. Now she resides in Copenhagen, where her focus is on exploring opportunities for the advancement of both countries, whilst navigating obstacles that she has never encountered before.

Denmark is a small and developed country, with a population of under six million in comparison to Indonesia's 270 million. The relationship between both countries is robust. Indonesia and Denmark have established the Innovative Partnership

“Whenever the opportunity presents itself to improve your knowledge, and if that opportunity comes from Monash, you need to take it because opportunity sometimes doesn't come twice.”

for the 21st Century, encompassing comprehensive cooperation in many sectors. The architecture of the relationship is solid as the two countries have government-to-government, business-to-business and people-to-people relations. Democracy, renewable energy, climate change, health and maritime collaboration are priority areas of cooperation.

“In a world where we all face transboundary challenges, cooperation among countries is of paramount importance. Bilateral relations between Indonesia and Denmark are in sync with both countries' commitment to be a part of the solution. Not only at the bilateral level, but also at the regional and multilateral forum. My work is to strengthen our bilateral relations in all areas, so collectively, we can contribute to finding solutions to the complex challenges we are facing today.”



STRENGTHENING INDONESIA THROUGH PROGRESSIVE AND POSITIVE INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL RELATIONS

The story of Indonesian diplomat and international relations expert, **Ibu Dewi Savitri Wahab**



Glancing back at a career spent contributing to a globalised, enriched and collaborative world, Ibu Dewi acknowledges that her experiences in life and diplomacy were made possible by her time at Monash Arts. Not only did she build self-confidence and an involved knowledge of international relations there, but she also learned how to critically think and to try to make a positive difference: something she has repeatedly called upon.

To current and future students, Ibu Dewi offers sage advice:

“Go to Monash. It is such an outstanding University and has become an institution that lives up to its values. It also keeps up with globalisation and provides perspectives on how to be a part of the solution to complex and urgent cross- boundary challenges.”



“If you ever have to choose between being liked or being respected, choose respect. Never compromise your standards, not for anyone.”

JON FAINE AM

Journalist, lawyer, broadcaster, writer, MC and public speaker

Jon Faine is a freelancer in the gig economy, where he speaks at and moderates conferences, authors books, and writes for newspapers. He spent more than 30 years with the ABC working mostly on live radio in Melbourne, notably on the morning program on 774, where he said he felt useful everyday to the hundreds of thousands tuning in. He recalls many highlights, including assisting the survivors and bearearved of the Black Saturday bushfires, being on stage several times with ‘Monty Python and Fawltly

Towers’ John Cleese, and meeting many of his favourite performers.

“My daily radio show on the ABC required me to scrutinise power and to hold powerful people to account, which is an incredible privilege. Giving people a voice and being their mouthpiece is exhilarating as well as an enormous responsibility.”

Jon studied a double degree of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at Monash University in 1976. He credits Monash with teaching him how to learn, think critically and for himself, and to resist doing things just because everyone else was doing them.

DR ENDAH SRI REJEKI

Policy-maker, activist, and the Director for Civil Rights, Information, and Child Participation in the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection in the Republic of Indonesia.

Dr Endah Rejeki is a champion for change; on a mission to improve the human experience and lives of women and children in her native Indonesia. Currently, she works within the Government of Indonesia as the Director for Civil Rights, Information, and Child Participation in the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection. There, she is pioneering solutions, approaches, and alternative perspectives, to overcome the critical challenges of gender equality, gender-based violence, and protecting children.



“I am currently responsible for ensuring child rights fulfillment, particularly civil rights, child-friendly information, and child participation. These are immense issues in Indonesia, especially for those children in need of special protection. My PhD research on Child-Friendly Cities has enabled me to frame the larger picture of the issues, looking at the different aspects of the experiences of poor children and poor girls in the cities, and child participation in Child-Friendly Cities. I hope my knowledge will help me to contribute to better policy on civil rights, child-friendly information, and child participation in Indonesia.”

In 2014, Dr Rejeki relocated to Australia to begin her four-year PhD (Arts) journey with Monash University, after previously completing a Master’s degree there in 2008. She believes the experience has helped her to become a better version of herself, with a broader perspective and sharper, more analytical way of thinking.

“I believe in the process. The process provides me with numerous things to learn. My achievement is a collection of stories of adjustment, failure, struggles, and finding solutions to problems. This is how my PhD at Monash assisted me in my career in women’s empowerment and child protection issues.”

ARTISTS AS THE MIRROR FOR SOCIETY

What is your current position?

I'm currently Artistic Director and CEO at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) and the Deputy Chair at Contemporary Art Organisations Australia (CAOA). I've held other leadership positions, including at the National Gallery of Victoria, Monash University Museum of Art and Gertrude Contemporary.

My primary focus at ACCA is working with a team of dedicated arts professionals, and supporting artists to make new, risk-taking and experimental work that challenges our thinking, encourages new perspectives, and connects and resonates with a wide range of communities.

What has been your biggest challenge thus far?

The arts make a profound contribution to our society, to our sense of identity and imagination, creativity and cultural participation, social inclusion, ethics and wellbeing. However, it's often challenging to find the language and evidence to translate this understanding into the metrics favoured by governments and their treasurers.

And your greatest achievement?

One of the highlights of my career was the opportunity to oversee the development of a new award-winning building for

Monash University Museum of Art on the Caulfield campus, designed by Kerstin Thompson Architects, which opened in 2010, and continues to go from strength to strength. Perhaps the greatest highlight is being able to go to work everyday, and to be continually inspired by the work of contemporary artists.

How did an arts degree help you get where you are today?

The visual arts department at Monash was pioneering in its research and teaching of contemporary art and art history, alongside film and architectural history and theory. I was privileged to have had Professor Margaret Plant as a lecturer, supervisor and mentor; to have attended the lectures of Conrad Hamman on architecture; and later secured Professor Anne Marsh as a supervisor in my postgraduate years.

How did your experience help shape the impact you are making?

The visual arts at Monash are strongly positioned at the intersection of professional practice, critical research and wider community engagement, and this has been incredibly important and valuable. I am also especially grateful to be in dialogue and friendship with a generation of inspiring peers and colleagues.

Insights from artistic director and leader in the arts industry, **Max Delany**

*Bachelor of Arts, 1986; Master of Arts, 2002, Monash University
Max was awarded a Monash University Fellowship in 2018*



"I feel privileged to have worked with many of Australia's and the world's most significant and inspiring artists, and to continue to learn from their vision, courage and generosity. Most recently, this includes figures such as Ai Weiwei, Juan Davila and Emily Floyd, to Yhonnie Scarce and Jeremy Deller."

Do you have any advice for current and future students? I'd underline the importance of collaboration and learning from your peers, as well as ideals of community service, creating a platform

for others, and working for the common good. It is also important to understand the value of embracing risk, remaining playful, and doing things for the love of it.

HARNESSING DATA TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFER

Insights from privacy, compliance and security expert and leader, **Evelyn De Souza**

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 1987, Monash University

What is your current career focus?

My career trajectory has uniquely positioned me to sit at the intersection of privacy, compliance and security. I lead strategic privacy programs for the Oracle SaaS Cloud Applications line of business, working across multiple functions to drive privacy excellence and bridge the gap between policy and technical teams.

How do you want to change the world?

My personal mission is to make our world a safer place, not just for industry but for our children. Increasingly, our children's playground is online.

What has been the biggest challenge that you've had to overcome?

Making the transition from teaching music, to a cyber and data security leader. It was an intense transition but one that I have not looked back on.

What about your greatest accomplishment?

Being honored as a Top 10 Woman in Cloud by CloudNOW in 2014. It was validation that my work was having the broad impact in industry that I had sought, as well as the success of my career pivot.

What was a pivotal moment during your Monash experience?

Sitting in one of the late Herb Feith's political studies lectures – he was an intensely moral person who spoke out against injustices and inspired everyone around him to work to make the world a better place.

How did your time at Monash inspire you?

I was inspired by my lecturers to use words to influence. Throughout my university education, I poured my soul into my words, whether written or spoken. The ability to communicate and influence is the most important skill I currently use in my role as a cyber leader, and to inspire the next generation of leaders.

What's your advice for current and future Monash students?

Careers today are not necessarily linear. Follow your passion and be prepared for your career paths to zig and zag, so long as you can connect the dots with a common theme.



"I seek to safeguard data, whether corporate or personal, by evangelizing new approaches in the industry and by promoting best practices."

AMBASSADORS AND
SENIOR DFAT STAFF
WHO ARE FACULTY
OF ARTS ALUMNI

Mr Todd Mercer
Ambassador to Chile

Mr Arthur Spyrou
Ambassador to Greece

Ms Sarah Storey
Deputy Head of Mission to India

Mr Peter Truswell
Consul-General in Mumbai, India

Dr Justin Lee
High Commissioner to Malaysia

Mr Michael Cutts
Ambassador to Morocco

Mr Edward Russell
Australian Representative to
the Palestinian Territories

Ms Maree Ringland
Ambassador to Peru

Ms Sophia McIntyre
Ambassador to Spain

Luke Williams
High Commissioner to Kenya

Ms Jenny Bloomfield
Representative, Australian
Office, Taipei

Mr Robin McKenzie OAM
High Commissioner to Tuvalu

Ms Julie Heckscher
Deputy Head of Mission,
United Kingdom

DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI AWARDS

Monash alumni make a transformative impact in communities across Australia and worldwide. The annual Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAAs) are one important way of recognising their contributions. The Faculty of Arts DAAs are:

2014 - Dr Ahmad Sarmast

2015 - Professor Ben Kiernan

2016 - Professor Michael Smith

2017 - Dr Lachlan Strahan

2018 - Professor the Honourable Sharman Stone

2019 - Ibu Dewi Wahab

2020 - Charles Caldas

2021 - Annika Smethurst

2022 - Maria Dimopolous AM

FELLOWS AND
HONORARY FELLOWS

University Council awards Fellowships for Monash alumni in recognition of distinguished services or attainment in the arts, sciences, professions or civil society for the benefit of the community, including individuals who have made important contributions to, or are close associates of, Monash University. The Faculty of Arts alumni who have been awarded a Monash University Fellowship are:

Matthew Anderson PSM

Fiona Balfour

Anna Burke AO

Gillian Callister PSM

The Honourable Jennifer Coate AO

Carolyn Creswell

Max Delany

Mr Jon Faine AM

Sue Fennessy

Michelle Garnaut AO

Yalda Hakim

Dr Helen Light AM

Janet Hailes Michelmores AO

Stephen Newton AO

Karl Redenbach

Dr Dianne Reilly AM

Helen Sawczak

Dr Carol Schwartz AO

Peter Yates



PARLIAMENTARIANS AND
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MPS)

Federal Parliament

Mr Adam Bandt MP
Leader of the Australian Greens

The Honourable Bill Shorten MP
Minister for Government Services
Shadow Minister for the National
Disability Insurance Scheme

The Honourable Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

Ms Clare O’Neil MP
Shadow Minister for Senior Australians and
Aged Care Services

The Honourable Brendan O’Connor MP
Shadow Minsiter for Defence

The Honourable Tim Wilson MP
Assistant Minister to the Minister for
Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Mr Josh Burns MP
Federal member

Parliament of Victoria

The Honourable Daniel Andrews
Premier of Victoria

The Honourable Gabrielle Williams
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Mr Nick Staikos MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

Mr Steve Dimopoulos MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health

Mr Paul Edbrooke MP
Parliamentary Secretary for
Police and Emergency Services
Parliamentary Secretary for
Bushfire Recovery

Ms Harriet Shing MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries
Parliamentary Secretary for Equality
Parliamentary Secretary for Water

Ms Katie Hall MP
Member for Footscray

Mr Gary Maas MP
Member for Narre Warren South

The Honourable Adem Somyurek MP
Member for South Eastern Metropolitan

Ms Nina Taylor MP
Wendouree

Ms Juliana Addison MP
Southern Metropolitan

Jess Wilson MP
Member for Kew

Gaelle Broad MP
Member for Northern Victoria

SUJALA PANT

Chief Technical Advisor, and sustainable development and governance expert

Sujala Pant is a governance, climate finance and sustainable development expert, with more than 15 years' experience in supporting national and regional partners. She is currently based in Jordan at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where she manages the SDG-Climate Facility Project, which focuses on how sustainable development, countries in crises, and climate change intersect.

"The Arts degree gave me the opportunity to study a wide array of subjects so that I could figure out what I wanted to specialise in. I majored in politics,

and supplemented that with courses in economics, sociology, Mandarin Chinese and French, which are valuable when pursuing an international career."

Sujala graduated from Monash in 2001 with an arts degree, majoring in politics. Prior to working with UNDP, Sujala held positions at the Green Climate Fund, and the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation. Throughout her career, Sujala has supported over 30 countries in their sustainable development goals.

"I visited the United Nations (UN) Headquarters when I was about 15, and it reconfirmed my aspiration to work there. Even though there is always room for improvement, the mission of the UN is something I believe in sincerely, and I wanted to contribute to that."



"Find out what makes you excited and passionate, and enjoy it. If you're into what you're doing, it can help other things fall into place."

DR ADAM BANDT

Leader of the Australian Greens Party and prominent Australian politician

Dr Adam Bandt has been the leader of the Australian Greens party since 2020. Prior to this, he spent 10 years as the federal Member for Melbourne, where he solidified his intentions to tackle climate change and reduce inequality. He is known for pioneering radical change, including putting a price on pollution and adding children's dental to Medicare in 2010.

"When you take on powerful vested interests they push back, and I saw the fossil fuel sector, certain media and political parties join forces to tear down some of our world-leading climate reforms, but we'll keep fighting."

Adam completed a PhD at Monash University in 2008, where he was encouraged to think creatively and deeply about the big challenges faced as a city, country and world.

T GUTHRIE

Founder, CEO, musician

T Guthrie (they/them) is the co-founder and CEO of WhyHive: an impact focused data company on a mission to make data exploration more accessible. In April 2021, they won B&T's award for tech leadership in Data Science and in June 2022 they won the 7 News Young Achiever Award. When they're not working at the intersection of tech & impact they're making music and performing under their last name: Guthrie.

"Be kind to yourself, seek out people who make you feel empowered, take risks and

get in touch with people who inspire you. You never know where it might lead!"

T Guthrie Graduated from Monash University with a Diploma of Languages (Chinese Language), a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science, majoring in philosophy and pure mathematics. They said that the Monash community, both staff and students, provided them with a lot of inspiration and support which helped them to get where they are today.

"A running theme of the work that I'm interested in seems to be empowerment and equity, I'm keen to use the skills I've learnt to explore how tech can increase people's ability to advocate."



"Dream wildly. Experiment boldly. Embrace your mistakes. My own life has been a marathon of unexpected turns and 'failures'. Surprisingly, I've found these have always created unforeseen paths."

STEVE VIZARD

Writer, performer, broadcaster, lawyer and academic researcher

Steve Vizard is a Gold Logie awarded creative and academic, whose contribution and influence extends across print, film, television, radio, theatre, music, multimedia and major events. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Monash University and at the University of Adelaide, and a member of the J M Coetzee Centre for Creative Practices. A true believer in, and champion of, the arts, Steve devotes his time to researching his interests, including myth, national identity and colonial and post-colonial Australia.

"The arts are an essential, inescapable celebration of the human condition, a fundamental heartfelt day-to-day exploration and commemoration of everything, including beauty, love, hate, and joyous wonder."

Graduating from Monash University in 2019 with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) with his thesis titled '*Crucible of Dreams: Gallipoli as Myth in the Performance of Australian National Identity*', he considers the diminishing value that is often placed on arts and culture to be the most significant challenge of his career. Of this, he shared: "listening to beautiful music, losing oneself in a great book or in a new series, watching a great artist at work; these are the very reasons we live."

PROMOTING INCREDIBLE ARTISTS, THROUGH NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

What is your current role? I'm the Senior Director, Radio at Sony Music Entertainment Australia. My primary focus is to get our artists' music on the radio. I work very closely with Nova, HIT, KIIS, Triple M, smoothfm and Gold to do this. I love my job, which involves getting to meet with people and play music, strategise, be creative, lead a wonderful team and work with smart, driven and passionate people, both internally and externally. I also run the Victorian branch, and work in business development and brand partnerships.

Describe your biggest career challenge to-date. Dealing with COVID-19 has been really difficult. We've had to find new ways of doing things to promote our artists. Launching new artists during COVID-19 has been particularly challenging.

Tell us about your greatest highlight. There have been so many highlights but most recently, achieving record radio market share at the end of 2020 for SMEA when we reached 52.54%. It was unbelievable and something I'll never forget.

What was the most impactful experience you had at Monash? I loved how practical the course was, it was brilliant. I also made a lot of great contacts. Two of my lecturers helped me get my start, with an internship at the Herald Sun and producing at Southern Cross Austereo. I'll be forever grateful for those opportunities.

How has your degree shaped who you are in your career today? I'm forever using the skills I learned at Monash. Although I'm no longer working as a journalist or producer, I still really appreciate good grammar!

If you could give future and current students one piece of advice, what would it be? Network, network, network! Most of my role comes down to my network and relationships.

"Your network is valuable. Know everybody from the CEO to the receptionist and treat people with kindness, always."

Insights from public relations and media manager, **Fenella Wagener**

Bachelor of Journalism, 2013, Monash University



ORCHESTRATING THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME REDEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S WAR MEMORIAL

Insights from veteran, diplomat and director, **Matt Anderson PSM**

*Master of Arts, 1998, Monash University
Awarded a Monash University Fellowship in 2018*

Matt's previous posts at DFAT included Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Ambassador to Afghanistan, High Commissioner to Solomon Islands and High Commissioner to Samoa. He was Chief Negotiator of the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group on Bougainville and undertook a Short Term Mission to Cambodia. He was awarded the Public Service Medal for his role leading the humanitarian and consular response to the 2009 Pacific tsunami. Matt has been a guest speaker at a number of Monash student and alumni events.

Tell us about the impact you want to have on the world. My greatest joy from more than 25 years of working in the Foreign Service was working with our remarkable diplomats and specialists to deliver development and humanitarian assistance, where and when it was needed most. Now as Director of the Australian War Memorial I have a different role: to deliver

a once-in-a-generation redevelopment that honours our modern veterans. They deserve nothing less and it is probably the most important thing I will ever be asked to do, as it ensures that we honour, learn and heal, together as a nation.

What are the biggest challenges you've faced? Disruption and relocation have been my constant challenges, alongside staying true to myself and my beliefs when being pulled in multiple directions. Over the course of my career, I have lived and worked in over a dozen countries, including some emerging from conflict. My family and I have helped several of these communities recover after riots, earthquakes and tsunamis.

What do you consider your 'career highlights' to be? Negotiating a weapons disposal agreement on Bougainville is a definite highlight, alongside spending the centenary of ANZAC with our troops in Afghanistan, walking the Kokoda Track and meeting various Kings, Queens, Prime Ministers and Presidents from around the world.

What do you value most about your Monash Arts experience?

In 1995, Monash selected me to be part of a groundbreaking training program for young diplomats. Through this program I acquired a solid theoretical background in foreign affairs and trade, and most importantly, built a network of like-minded individuals. These same individuals are now serving Commonwealth Ministers, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, academics, heads of think-tanks and industry leaders.

Do you have any guidance for future and current students? The difference between success and failure is both as simple and as difficult as getting up one more time than you fall.

"I have always been driven by Winston Churchill's quote: 'What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone?'"



CRAFTING SUBVERSIVE, OFF-THE-WALL TALES TO ENSNARE A NEW GENERATION OF READERS

The story of Australia's favourite children's author, **Andy Griffiths**

Author of more than 30 books, including: the JUST! series, *The Day My Bum Went Psycho* and the beloved *Treehouse* series.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 1984, Monash University.



“I want my readers to laugh, to gasp, to be inspired to create their own stories and cartoons and, above all, to fall in love with books and reading. If I can achieve this then I feel like my job is done.”

Andy Griffiths is one of Australia's most popular children's authors. He and illustrator Terry Denton have collaborated on more than 30 bestselling books since their first title, *'Just Tricking!'*, was published in 1997. Andy's irreverent, nonsensical and hilarious tales have won a multitude of awards, including more than 80 Children's Choice awards and 10 Australian Book Industry Awards, and have also made the New York Best Sellers list. Although illustrious, Andy's career has always been grounded in a deep desire to have a positive impact on the world, by encouraging children to read more books.

Born in Melbourne in 1961, Andy spent his childhood reading and developing his voice as a writer. He enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at Monash University in 1980, and for the next five years he honed his craft by attending lectures, absorbing classic literature, participating in the on-campus radio station 3MU, and even writing lyrics for the punk band he sang in. He said his time at Monash University was important, particularly as the more books a writer reads, the more storytelling knowledge they acquire.

“The opportunity to study the entire history of English Literature during my time at Monash is a priceless resource that I've drawn on heavily as a writer. For example, the playfully meta-fictional *'Tristram Shandy'* (1767), which I was fortunate enough to encounter in my second year

studies, has been endlessly inspirational in showing me what a long and noble tradition nonsense-humour has had in English Literature.”

By the time he graduated, Andy had developed an intense affinity with literature and wanted every child to have the same opportunity. To help facilitate this, he enrolled in a Diploma of Education at Rusden College. He was soon entrusted to teach English to a group of high school students and remembers them as being far more excited by films, television and computer games than physical books. He said that he first started writing stories to engage them, in the hopes of transforming them into voracious readers.

“I started writing provocative pieces and sharing these with the students to demonstrate that writing could be daring, dangerous and a lot of fun. Soon they were enthusiastically using my pieces as models for their own subversive literary efforts. I then began self-publishing collections of their —and my— writing,”

Andy had found his calling and truly believed in the potential, power and importance of his writing. However, it still took ten years of hard work and determination for him to find a publisher. Finally, Pan Macmillan Australia took a chance on him in 1997 and also connected him with his lifelong 'brother in stupidity' and illustrator, Terry Denton.





CRAFTING SUBVERSIVE, OFF-THE-WALL TALES TO ENSNARE A NEW GENERATION OF READERS

The story of Australia’s favourite children’s author, **Andy Griffiths**

Their first book, *‘Just Tricking!’* hit shelves the same year and was an instant bestseller. Although, this was the start of the real effort and investment. For the next 20 years, Andy would average at least 6-8 months on the road, conducting talks, workshops and building an appreciative audience. In building this career, he said there were two main challenges.

“The first challenge was to write a book that would persuade a generation raised on immediate gratification to make the effort to put in the sustained concentration that reading demands. Fortunately, I had a vivid recall of my own childhood love of subversive, off-the-wall humour and books that revelled in the pure pleasure of telling a story for storytelling’s sake. As an emerging writer for children, this type of left-of-centre humour came very naturally to me, and appealed enormously to the kids I shared my writing with, so I knew I was on the right track.”

The second challenge for Andy, was that his anarchic type of literature was not necessarily appreciated by the gatekeepers: in most cases, Mum,

Dad, or another guardian. In the process of growing up, he said many adults seemed to forget the joy of playing with words and ideas for the sheer fun of it. Andy also faced opposition from adults who believed that if children read books where the characters behaved badly, the children would behave badly also.

“I overcame these objections by standing my ground and explaining through many talks, essays and interviews, the important role that books designed for pure pleasure have in creating enthusiastic young readers. The most powerful thing, however, was for the adults to witness first-hand the huge enjoyment that kids were able to draw from the books without turning into anti-social monsters. The laughter of the readers spoke more eloquently and persuasively than my words!”

Andy has had some incredible experiences in the last decade, both hugely gratifying and completely unexpected. Even though he has witnessed the *‘Treehouse’* series be embraced by children in 35 countries, he considers his greatest highlight to be the correspondence he receives from

his readers. There is a steady stream, usually expressing how much the books meant to them, and how they’ve fostered a love of reading and writing. For this reason, Andy eagerly looks to the future, to the next generation of writers. He shares his guidance with those that are current or future Monash Arts students:

“In the words of Dr Seuss, the more you read/The more you know/And the more you know/The more places you’ll go. Adopt some form of daily writing practice that is not directly connected with writing formal stories. And always consider your audience—who they are and how you want your writing to affect them.”



MASTERING THE RECIPE FOR A MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR MUESLI BUSINESS

18-year-old Carolyn purchased Carman’s Fine Foods for \$1000 during her first year of study at Monash, and continues to lead the business today. She currently sits on the Board of the Human Rights Law Centre, is an Ambassador for the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre and Patron of the St Kilda Gatehouse.

What was it like running your own business at such a young age?
The hardest thing was that lots of my friends did gap years and went overseas, but I could never do that because I had my little business. However, I’ve been given so many incredible travel opportunities since then, that it was worth the pain. I worked late at night and on weekends. The first date I had with my husband was packing muesli!

What are the biggest challenges that you have faced in your career?
It was a huge leap; I was doing the books in the Clayton Utz library at lunch time and running deliveries before lectures. It took a long time to get my head around it because I hadn’t studied business, but I think that has

put me in good stead. I made what I think were the right decisions, such as treating people the way I would like to be treated.

What are the most important skills you learned during your arts degree at Monash? It is really important for people to understand two things; an arts degree teaches you how to think, and it teaches you how to research deeply beyond a superficial ‘have a Google’ level. An arts degree taught me to think about what I’m really trying to answer, where to get information, and how to put it all together. I really do fall back on this a lot, and it’s these skills that have helped me throughout my life.

Do you have any advice for current and future students? Choose subjects that you enjoy, or are passionate about. If you have an interest or a passion in your career, it will be much more enjoyable.

“Getting into the supermarkets was the game changer for me because the volume that they would sell is just so much more than all the little stores. I remember having tears dripping down my face when I got the okay that I could sell in 20 Coles stores. That was a big moment for me.”



Insights from Company Founder and CEO, **Carolyn Creswell**

Bachelor of Arts, 1994, Monash University

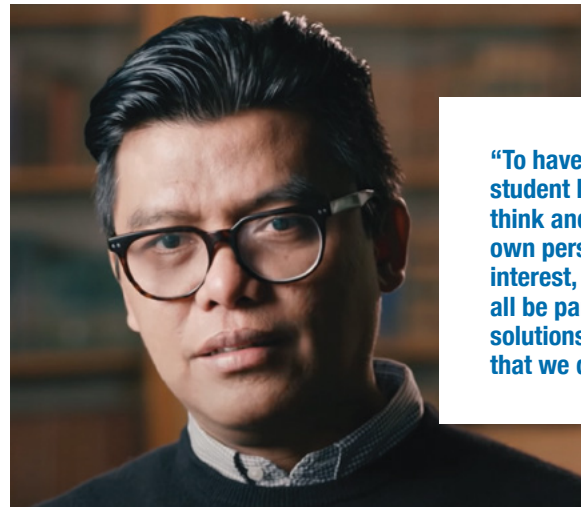
DR NOOR HUDA ISMAIL

Scholar, author, filmmaker, activist and journalist

Dr Noor Huda Ismail is a scholar and social activist, focused on helping reformed terrorists. He's currently a visiting fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore, and is also the producer of several documentaries, including *'Cubs of The Caliphate'* and *'Seeking the Imam'*. His deep involvement in the social rehabilitation of these individuals inside and outside of Indonesia's criminal system is largely facilitated through the foundation he established in 2008: The Institute for International Peace Building.

"The nature of my controversial work is "bridging understanding" between various people and groups who have competing ideas and interests. In this regard, my perennial challenge is earning 'trust' not only from my 'clients' (especially from reformed terrorists, deportees and returnees) but also from government and society."

Noor studied a PhD at Monash University, graduating in 2019. He was thrilled to have unlimited access to international journals and publications, and to expand his network globally.



"To have a meaningful student life, one must think and do beyond one's own personal greed and interest, so that we can all be part of possible solutions to any issues that we dearly care for."



"The most powerful thing I've learned about our individual capacity to create social change is that the world needs more people who are willing to be their true selves and empower others to do the same."

ROSIE THOMAS OAM

Australian changemaker, social innovator and Founder of PROJECT ROCKIT: a youth-driven movement against bullying

Rosie's work has been recognised by UNICEF among the 12 Digital Champions for Children's Rights in the Digital Age. She has received the International Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cybersafety, became a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal in 2019 for her service to young people and her work against bullying, and was named a 2020 Westpac Social Change fellow as one of ten social innovators recognised for their social leadership in Australia.

Rosie Thomas OAM is one of Australia's leading social innovators. She launched PROJECT ROCKIT, Australia's youth-driven movement against cyberbullying, hate and prejudice, straight after high

school in 2006. Now, she reaches more than half a million young Australians with her workshops, which have allowed her to join life-changing conversations with individuals dedicated to positively reengineering the world.

"We believe in a world where kindness and respect thrive over bullying, hate and prejudice and all young people are free to realise their potential. Fast forward 15 years and PROJECT ROCKIT workshops have now reached half a million young Aussies who are united and ready to tackle hate, and build a kinder world."

Rosie studied a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University, graduating in 2011. She said that Monash was a playground to her: a place of curiosity, exploration and discovery that provided the backdrop to the early days of building PROJECT ROCKIT.

MENTORING AND EMPOWERING AUTISTIC YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST AUTISTIC-LED ORGANISATION

Insights from founder, entrepreneur and chief enabling officer, **Chris Varney**

*Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Honours), 2013, Monash University
Awarded a Monash University Student Alumni Award in 2011*

Chris was a 2018 Victorian Australian of the Year Finalist, a recipient of the 2017 Supreme Court of Victoria's Best Achievement in Human Rights Award, the 2009 Australian Youth Representative to the UN and World Vision Australia's Manager of Youth.

How do you want to change the world?

In 2013, I was very tired of the deficit view of Autism. I didn't see any emphasis on Autistic people organising themselves and creating their own services and programs. Against this backdrop, I wanted to create a company which delivered Autistic-led group mentoring programs and in doing so, served as a demonstration of Autistic self-determination, entrepreneurship and inclusive workplaces practices.

What is your career focus today?

My career choice was definitely against the grain. I'm a Monash Arts and Law graduate, who put the pen down on my double degree and decided to start up an Autistic-led social enterprise called the *'I CAN Network Ltd'*. At the time my friends and family were quite nervous about whether it would work out, however an Autistic lived experience, sheer determination and a willingness to learn from my mistakes has helped I CAN Network make its mark. We are now an employer of 78 Australians, including 62 Autistic people, and together we serve 2000 young people through 102 schools and online mentoring programs.

What are the biggest challenges you've overcome?

Setting up the I CAN Network business and learning how to be a responsible employer was an extreme challenge. It involved an aggressive emotional rollercoaster as I went through all the steps of setting up a team, incorporating a company, building programs, income streams and facilitating feedback systems for customers and staff. I made tons of mistakes and did my best to keep learning from them. I found it helpful to keep the big vision in mind, but keep my feet grounded in very concrete tasks.

And your greatest highlight? The people I have met. The first person who helped me was James Ong: an absolutely brilliant Monash Science student who rolled up his sleeves and helped me during every phase of the I CAN journey. You can have absolutely no resources, but if you have a small group of passionate, like-minded and disciplined individuals, there's so much you can achieve.

What is the most valuable thing you took from your studies at Monash?

When I was the 2009 Australian Youth Representative to the UN, I asked the fantastic Professor Rae Frances for help. I'll never forget how empowering her words of 'You have a challenge' were for me. In that line she encapsulated Monash Arts: we're a faculty which prides itself on celebrating challenges, but we're not too proud to ask for help.

How did your time at Monash help you get where you are today?

I learned to write. Writing is such a valuable skill in your career and I've relied on my knowledge of how to write in countless situations in the I CAN Network.

Any words of wisdom for current and future students? Embrace your failures. Failure facilitates the best learning, self-awareness and, in my experience, is usually followed by great achievements.



"One thing led to another and we were running Autistic-led camps, then school programs, online programs and now we're a national organisation. Be careful what you dream of: it might just happen."

CREATING UNFORGETTABLE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCES IN THE NEW ERA OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The story of technology entrepreneur and global disruptor, **Karl Redenbach**

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws, 1999, Monash University.

Co-Founder and CEO at LiveTiles, a global software company building employee experience platforms through AI, analytics and user interface design.

In 2014, Karl was awarded the CEO of the Year at the Australian Human Resources Industry (AHRI) awards.



“You can be comfortable or you can be courageous, and if you really, truly want to make a change, if you want to make a difference in the world, you’ve got to be courageous. You can’t just be comfortable and keep doing what you’ve always been doing.”

Karl Redenbach is a technology and entrepreneurial maverick. An inherent innovator, he has spent the last 20 years based out of London and New York, first working in the legal profession before creating and building two exciting, purpose-driven technology companies. Globally-attuned and driven by disrupting the status quo, Karl has recently returned to Australia due to the pandemic, to face the interesting challenge of remotely leading a growing international organisation.

Karl grew up in Western Melbourne. He was the son of two teachers and attended Kings Park Secondary College (now Copperfield College), before starting a double degree in Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at Monash University, graduating in 1999. Although it’s been 21 years since he left, Karl said that attending Monash was the highlight of his life, with the relationships and network that he built there having a significant impact on the trajectory of his career.

“There are a lot of people [in the Monash University alumni network] doing incredible work all over the world, and what you start to realise is that your external networks become the critical component of how successful you can be in running any business.”

Whilst at Monash University, Karl undertook several extracurricular activities, including performing in multiple bands, joining the

sailing club and playing on the Monash Blues AFL team. He also led the Law Student Society and acknowledges those experiences, both academic and extracurricular, as invaluable.

“A balanced degree, particularly an arts degree which got me thinking creatively, gave me a good understanding of the world. There’s a lot that I’ve definitely leaned on during my career and that education.”

After graduating, Karl went immediately into a role as a junior corporate lawyer at respected law firm MinterEllison, and then transitioned on to legal counsel at Insurance Australia Group (IAG). He considers these two roles some of his greatest challenges, albeit pivotal in helping him understand large companies and how to run successful businesses.

However, it was in 2001 at 26 years old that Karl took a risk and started his first technology start-up, nSynergy, alongside his business partner (still to this day), Peter Nguyen-Brown. The company provided specialist services in Microsoft SharePoint globally and grew an astonishing network with offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, London, New York, San Diego and Shanghai, before selling to Rhippe in 2014 for AUD\$23.5 million. Karl believes one of the secrets of this success was always doing what he felt was right, rather than following the rules.

“I was told when I set my first business up “you can’t go overseas, you have to start in Australia first and get it up and running”, and then I set up an operation in Shanghai and I was told “you can’t do that because you’re not big enough”, and then I was told “you can’t go to London because you haven’t cracked the Australian market completely”. I was told these things by the so-called experts and business advisers, and I broke every single one of their rules.”

Karl said that starting nSynergy required him to take a leap of faith, one that he was motivated to make again after its sale, alongside the same business partner. Karl and Peter launched LiveTiles later that same year, with a vision of becoming the world’s foremost employee experience platform and capitalising on what has been defined by Microsoft as a USD\$300 billion opportunity.

By helping companies and organisations connect and engage their employees, Karl hopes that LiveTiles will develop software that makes employees happier and allows them to enjoy what they do more. Powered by an incredible workforce headquartered in Melbourne, and a vibrant, dynamic network located across North America, Europe and Asia, they are achieving this mission.

“We’re trying to take the traditional norms of work, which is this idea that you’ve got to work for shareholders and just be productive all day, into acknowledging employees as a critical

part of the business and realising if they’re looked after, if they have a great experience, and if you can create an emotional connection to their work, then everyone is better off. The company makes more money and the people are happier.”

Despite the fact that LiveTiles relies on technology to achieve its’ impact, to Karl and his company, the pivotal element is connection, and in particular, humans feeling part of a bigger group and engaged. The challenge, he said, is amplifying incredible brands, strategies and cultures, to all employees in a global world, across innumerable barriers.

“We’ve got many customers that we’re revolutionising in a way, for example Nike that’s been a customer of ours for a long time. They’re constantly reviewing how do they bring their strategy to life and connect with their 70,000 employees, across so many different cultures and jurisdictions? They need to be able to communicate in different languages and constantly evolve and create this culture that’s important to them.”

Karl said that the appetite for LiveTiles’ solutions had increased since COVID-19, with companies starting to realise employees are losing those relationships they would ordinarily have when physically going into a work environment. He said that whilst it may be called work from home now, he refers to it as ‘the remote worker’: a concept LiveTiles was writing about four years ago.



CREATING UNFORGETTABLE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCES IN THE NEW ERA OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The story of technology entrepreneur and global disruptor, **Karl Redenbach**

“We’re going through what we believe is our biggest change in the workforce in probably the last 100 years, simply because of the situation we’ve been forced into. If you don’t have the ability to facilitate video calls and share news and important information through a digital platform to your employees, then you’re going to suffer as a business.”

One of the most important tools Karl relies upon to navigate this change is artificial intelligence (AI). Every piece of software developed at LiveTiles now contains some form of AI, usually focused on understanding the behaviours of employees. LiveTiles is also using AI for language understanding, and has recently developed new technology that can summarise information in meetings. This exciting product can condense two hours of video content into a two-minute distillation.

In a career filled with incredible growth and experiences, it could be difficult to pick the most fulfilling moments, but Karl doesn’t

hesitate. He regards the enjoyment of his work, the people he has worked with and the relationships he has built with them, as the most significant aspects of his journey thus far. He is especially proud of the more than 20-year relationship he has shared with his business partner.

In the past few years Karl has come full circle and is back working with Monash University, as a vital funding partner and facilitator of the Global Discovery Program. Through this endeavour, eight young people are given access and exposure to The United Nations (UN), alongside some of the biggest companies in the world, such as Biocom.

When it comes to guidance for future entrepreneurs looking to study the arts, Karl said it was important that the students of today understood that having an idea is not enough. It is having the courage to look past potential challenges, embrace failure and ‘just do it’, that truly matters.

“If you try and start a business and it doesn’t work, you should learn from it.

It’s not a failure, it’s a test and if you solve it you can go on to the next thing and you’ve got to constantly do that. As long as you understand that’s the case, then you’ll be successful ultimately.”

In 2014, Karl was awarded the CEO of the Year at the Australian Human Resources Industry (AHRI) Awards. LiveTiles has won business and technology awards for its AI and technology work including Microsoft’s ‘US Modern Workplace Transformation Partner of the Year’ award in 2018. As of 2021, it has raised AUD\$160 million in total funding.



EXAMINING AND LEARNING FROM THE HISTORY OF GLOBAL GENOCIDES

Ben was the Founding Director of the Genocide Studies Program at Yale from 1994 to 2015. His work has been published in fourteen languages and received many awards including the US German Studies Association’s 2009 Sybil Halpern Milton Memorial Book Prize for the best book dealing with the Holocaust.

Tell us about your position. I am the Whitney Griswold Professor Emeritus of History, Professor of International and Area Studies, and Director of the Genocide Studies Program at Yale University. My career, including 32 years at Yale, has been devoted to studying and teaching Southeast Asian History and World History, in particular Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and East Timor, and the global history of genocide.

What is the most significant challenge that you’ve faced in your career? The Khmer Rouge were led by the Communist Party of Kampuchea, which ruled Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. In 1995, Khmer

Rouge radio called me “an accessory executioner of the U.S. imperialists” who was “prosecuting and terrorising the Cambodian resistance patriots.” The Khmer Rouge ‘tried’ me in absentia and ‘sentenced’ me as a ‘war criminal.’ I took measures to ensure the security of our Phnom Penh field office, the Documentation Center of Cambodia, and of the probative Khmer Rouge documents we had collected.

What has made you most proud? In 1994, I founded the Cambodian Genocide Program (CGP) at Yale University. Then in 1995 in Phnom Penh, we established the Documentation Center of Cambodia, trained its Khmer staff, provided its equipment, and, having won US\$1.65 million in grants from the Department of State, we secured its future as an independent Cambodian institution. The centre later helped bring Khmer Rouge leaders to justice in a UN-sponsored tribunal.

How did Monash Arts empower you in your career? What stays with you? What stays with me is the memory of the Thursday postgraduate seminars of the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, held on the seventh floor of the “Ming Wing”, and the sage of the Monash

Insights from academic and historian, **Ben Kiernan**

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 1975; Doctor of Philosophy, 1983, Monash University
Awarded a Monash University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015*

History Department. The Indonesian historian Professor John D. Legge would always ask us postgrad students: “What is the thesis of your thesis?” He taught us early on to keep our eye on the ball.

What are you still calling on from your Monash experience? John Legge, Jamie Mackie, Herb Feith, Michael G. Swift, Margaret Kartomi, David Chandler, Merle

Ricklefs, Ian Mabbett, and other leading Monash University academics, built the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies into a pioneering, world-class institution. They taught me a lot as an undergraduate and postgrad.

Any advice for current and future students? Keep going, chase down the data, and take it all into account.

“There is always more data out there.”



DEDICATION TO SERVING THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC

Anna delivered the graduation address in October 2018. She serves on the Industry Advisory Board for the Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Tell us a bit about your career. My career has always been centred around service to the public. It's fuelled me, from my time as a graduate at VicRoads, to working for a Trade Union, then being elected as a Member of Parliament commencing in 1998. I was Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives from 2008 to 2010, and then again from 2011 to 2012. I was nominated and elected the Speaker of the House of Representatives unopposed. I'm now a full time Member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

What impact do you want to make on the world? I've always wanted to give back to the community through assisting others, who for many reasons are not able to help themselves.

Biggest challenges so far? Each phase of your career throws up challenges. For instance, deciding if a genuine refugee should be placed into indefinite detention because they do not pass the character test is a difficult decision to make. However, without doubt my time as Speaker in the hung Parliament was my most exhilarating, exhausting and trying experience.

What about your greatest highlights? My highlights are those many occasions when I genuinely impacted the life of someone else for the better. Working with the women in the Pacific to see greater female representation in their parliaments and seeing a mentee elected as a member of the Fijian parliament, are proud examples.

How has your studies influenced your career? Studying arts at Monash was fantastic. It gave me a set of employable skills such as writing, researching and advocating. But the thing I took away was to get involved, take all the opportunities on offer, and embrace student life.

What did you value most about your time? Never forget human nature will also prevail and can stuff up any good theory or plan. I use this as a fundamental in all my interactions in the workplace.

Advice for anyone considering studying at Monash University? Take every opportunity available to you, be a well rounded student, be true to who you are and don't let adversity stop you. Remember to turn up, go to lectures and tutorials, do the reading and meet deadlines. Life and work demands this, get used to it and enjoy it instead of seeing it as an intrusion on your sleep or screen time.

"It sounds completely corny but I truly want to make the world a better place, and being in positions where you can make and enact change, such as owning the green chairs of the Federal Parliament, has been my approach to seeing effective change."

Insights from politician, public servant and board member, **Anna Burke AO**

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 1987, Monash University
Awarded a Monash University Fellowship in 2017*



RAGHAV SACHAR

Bollywood music composer, singer and multi-instrumentalist

Raghav Sachar is a legend of India. A Bollywood music composer, singer and multi-instrumentalist. He has also been featured in National Geographic's worldwide series 'My Brilliant Brain', where he was called a 'born genius' for his ability to play 36 different musical instruments. For more than a decade, Raghav has been showcasing his talents across India and the world, and has performed on behalf of the Government of India as a Cultural Ambassador in Germany, Japan and the UK. His long list of performances include at Madame Tussauds in London,

the Waldorf Astoria in New York, the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games held in Delhi, India, and The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Raghav has also released a number of albums, and has played in over 150 films to date.

"If you are really a great artist and have something different to offer to the audience, then the future is bright."

Raghav completed a Bachelor of Music at Monash University in 2003. He now owns a music school, Raghav Sachar Music, where he shares his knowledge, including what he learnt during his studies, with the next generation of musicians.



"My degree shaped me up to be a world-class performer. It gave me confidence to jam with the best and biggest musicians from all around the world."



"Do the work. There's no getting around it. I know that is dull advice. But it's true."

THE HONOURABLE JILL HENNESSY

Politician and Member for Altona District

The Honourable Jill Hennessy has been the elected Member for Altona District since 2010, and currently serves as the Chair of the Integrity and Oversight Committee and as a member of the Privileges Committee. She is also an author, with her book 'Respect' published in July 2021. In 2018 to 2020, Jill held the position of the Victorian Attorney General and the Minister for Workplace Safety, and prior to that, various ministerial and shadow ministerial roles. Reflecting on the highlights of her career, Jill said that becoming the President of the Victorian Australian Labor Party (ALP) at a young

age, during politically difficult times, taught her a great deal about recovering from loss and rebuilding for success.

"To enact change and have an impact, I want to build community and institutional purpose, confidence and capacity to deliver better economic and social outcomes for everyone. To strengthen a sense of collective commitment and accountability, that compassion, diversity and respect are critical to sustaining great performance and innovation."

Jill studied a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at Monash University in 1996, and remembers being enthralled by the freedom to learn, reflect and think.

DR ROS BANDT

Australian composer, sound artist, academic and performer

Dr Ros Bandt is an internationally-acclaimed composer, researcher and sound artist, whose unique approach involves combining ancient and modern sonic practices. Her interdisciplinary work over the past 40 years was recognised in 2020, when she was awarded the prestigious Richard Gill Award for Distinguished Services to Australian Music at the APRA Art Music Awards. Ros hopes to raise awareness for sound as a barometer of the environmental health

of the earth, through a range of audio art, installations, radiophonic works and live performances.

“Use all your senses, respect the first nations and be humble to ask questions. Never lose the curiosity of a child, as magic will be revealed if you are attentive.”

Ros graduated with a Master of Arts from Monash in 1974, and later completed her Doctor of Philosophy in 1983. It was this education that she believes fostered her creative passions, allowing her to interpret ancient sites with new rituals, and work collaboratively on an international scale.



“The power of having solid ethnomusicological experience, such as playing in the Gamelan or being an expert in aboriginal music, is something we need even more now in the changing global environment of the pacific.”



WEN GU

Australia-China business adviser and entrepreneur

Wen delivered the graduation address in December 2019. She has also been a guest speaker for a number of student and alumni events, and is a mentor as part of the Monash Intercultural Lab Initiative.

Wen Gu was the first Chinese national to become the CEO of the Australia China Business Council in Queensland, from 2018 to 2020. She is now Co-Founder & CEO of Auwinns International, spending half of her career working in Brisbane and Melbourne, and the other in Shanghai. This unique experience has allowed her to intimately understand the challenges and dilemmas faced by each country.

“The Chinese people hope for a better life for themselves and the generations to come. I want to continue to play a positive role in strengthening the people-to-people links and fostering understanding and inclusion between the business communities of Australia and China.”

Studying a Master of Communications and Media Studies at Monash University in 2009 allowed Wen to meet classmates from different cultures. This diverse group of individuals brought fresh and unique perspectives together, helped her understand how people are interconnected around the world, and that we should celebrate our similarities whilst respecting our differences.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A TOOL TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Insights from program director, partnerships manager and sustainability expert, **Sam Loni**

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 2015, Monash University

Sam was named in the 2020 Forbes 30 Under 30 list of Social Entrepreneurs, awarded a Nobel Peace Prize Forum in 2017 and was a finalist for the 2015 Victorian Student of the Year award. Sam has spoken at a number of Monash events for students and alumni, including at the Monash International Affairs Society, the student society he formed during his studies.

What is the impact you are looking to make? I believe that sustainable development should be the most urgent goal for Australia and the world, as it offers a more systematic, prosperous, and just approach to social progress and community economic development.

Describe the most significant obstacles you've had to overcome. At one stage the biggest challenge I was facing was raising money to finance projects we were running, at another it was the management of large and diverse teams, across many time zones and getting them to work towards the same objective.

And the biggest 'proud moment'? The opportunity to work with amazing colleagues, friends, and teams from all over the world. I've learnt so much from each of them, and they inspire me every day.

What was the most valuable thing you took from your arts experience? My time at Monash was critical in two ways. Firstly, my classes really helped me better understand the world around me. From philosophy to politics to economics, the degree equipped me with the

knowledge and skills to become a better leader. Secondly, the university provided me with an incredibly enabling environment for building a community around my interests.

How did your Monash education shape you? The majority of my studies and interests focused on the political economy. The theories and case studies which we studied in those classes continue to serve as an important lens for my analysis and understanding of the world.

Any advice for current and future students? I'd give them the same advice I was given when I began my journey: “When advocating for a better world, be bold, be persistent, and do not take no for an answer.” Many of my like-minded peers at Monash Arts soon turned into life-long friends, and have been critical to both my personal and professional journey.

“As we head into an increasingly challenging, complex, and unpredictable future, sustainable development offers us a more holistic model of social progress, which unites these specific goals under a common philosophy and approach.”



LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR GOOD

Deanne has participated in a number of student and alumni events at Monash. She was a part of the Global Leaders Summit, and delivered the graduation address in May 2017.

What is the focus of your career today?

I'm a screen producer, investor and company director. Every day I have the joy of working with smart and creative business people, changemakers and storytellers who aim to change the world. I'm the Chair of ASX-listed company Ai-Media Technologies, a technology start-up called Seer Data & Analytics, Director and Co-Founder of Storyd Group, and a Board Member of Verve Super and several community-sector organisations, including the Sydney Film Festival and Global Sisters.

What impact are you looking to make, to create a better world? I'm passionate about gender equality, storytelling, and using technology for good. We have the knowledge and the tools available to us to make the world healthier, greener and more equal, but without gender equality, we simply won't get there. We want to contribute to a better and more equal society through the stories we help to tell and the businesses we help to build.

Tell me about the biggest lesson you've learned.

My career has had many twists and turns, and there hasn't really been a roadmap. I have had lots of great advice and support, but at the end of the day I had to roll the dice and take a lot of risks. Some worked, some didn't, but I learned something from every step, with my biggest lesson being to trust my instincts.

And your proudest moment? Listing Ai-Media on the ASX in 2020 was a true highlight. It has been a privilege to watch a "for purpose" technology company that I first invested in 10 years ago, grow into a global enterprise with customers, staff and shareholders around the world. There are some very exciting days ahead.

What brought you here today, from your time at Monash University? Whether it was politics, sociology or literature, all of my arts subjects helped me to think openly and critically, to question, to reflect and to appreciate the beauty of great writing, great argument and new ideas. More than ever, the world needs those skills and the appreciation of imagination.

What wisdom do you have to share with future and current students? Your career, indeed, your life, is not a linear journey, and it's not predetermined.

Insights from producer, media entrepreneur, leader and philanthropist, **Deanne Weir**

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 1989; Bachelor of Laws, 1990
Bachelor of Laws (Honours), 1991, Monash University*



"Use the skills you learn in your university journey to draw insights about yourself, what you will be good at, and what will bring you fulfilment and peace."

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND CHANGE AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF DIVERSITY, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE LAW

The story of Australian human rights advocate, lawyer and campaigner for women, migrants and refugees, **Maria Dimopoulos AM**

Nationally and internationally recognised expert on gender equality and domestic and family violence, with particular experience working with migrant women and refugees.

In 2020, Maria was the recipient of Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order Of Australia for significant service to women, cultural diversity, and to the prevention of domestic violence. In 2017, she was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award by the Migration Council of Australia for her tireless devotion to Australian multiculturalism and support for culturally and linguistically diverse women. In 2002, she was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Maria is also a recipient of an Amnesty International Human Rights Award for her work on the legal and human rights of women from culturally, religiously and diverse backgrounds. Monash University was also proud to award her with the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2022.



"In the words of one of my favourite authors, Angela Davis, an activist and an incredible human being, I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I'm changing the things I cannot accept. I'm drawn to this quote because it so succinctly expresses what has driven me throughout my life."

Maria Dimopoulos is a woman of conviction. A trained lawyer and expert on multicultural affairs, she is recognised both nationally and internationally for her more than 25 years of experience in cultural diversity, gender equity, justice and human rights. Throughout her career, Maria has held positions as a policy adviser, strategist, community advocate, speaker, mentor, and most recently from 2019 to 2020, she was appointed as the Special Adviser of Multicultural Communities at the Australian Government’s Department of Justice and Community Safety. In 2020, Maria’s dedication and passion was formally recognised, as she was named Member of the Order of Australia “for significant service to women, cultural diversity, and to the prevention of domestic violence”.

Born in Florina, Greece, Maria came to Melbourne with her family in the 1960s as a 2-year-old. A Greek heritage instilled in her family-orientated values, and these values alongside her experience as a migrant, guided her towards a life working in social justice. Arriving in Australia was a turbulent experience for her family, and she recalls that starting school in a new country, with an education system that was not yet equipped to embrace migrant communities, was a significant challenge. She spoke no English, looked very different to the other children, and there were no ESL classes to help her transition into an English speaking school. It was at her new school in Australia that Maria first encountered racism.

“The ugly face of racism was a daily feature of my early school years, and I decided at the age of eight or nine that I was either going to respond to racism in a way that allowed it to fester and defeat me, or I was going to prove that I’m not who they said I was.”

Choosing the latter, Maria enrolled in a double degree of a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and a Bachelor of Laws at Monash University. She graduated from her studies in 1987, profoundly impacted by the injustices she learned of during her classes. Resolute in her belief that the law could provide a framework for social change, Maria began work as a community lawyer at the Federation of Community Legal Services, before travelling north to work with First Nations communities.

“That was when my passion for human rights and social justice really emerged. It was when I finally encountered the truth of the history of this country. I was 22 before I truly appreciated and acknowledged how the Western legal system has been used, and continues to be used, to disempower First Nations peoples.”

Maria found herself working for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in camps in Africa. It was her experience there that shaped her absolute commitment to ensuring that refugee and humanitarian entrants are always treated with dignity, and not as illegal immigrants.

“Whilst we, the workers, were enclosed in compounds at night and safe, we could hear the screams at night for food parcels that were dropped to the starving masses outside of the camp.”

Upon her return to Victoria, Maria drew on these experiences, alongside those of observing gender-based violence on a global scale. She began working on solutions around family and domestic violence, collaborating with individuals such as Phil Cleary and Rosie Batty, who had both confronted the brutality of murder, under the guise of love or family.

“Together with others I co-authored a book called ‘Blood on Whose Hands’, based on the learnings that sadly have yet to be taken up. As we see, there are at least one to two women and children murdered in this country every week.”

Her passion for law reform and action on family and domestic violence culminated in her appointment to the National Council by the then Rudd and Gillard government, in a role dedicated to reducing violence against women and children. Professionally, Maria has grown to embrace a number of different parallel areas of work, however whether the focus is anti-racism, anti-discrimination, the rights of refugees and First Nations Peoples, or addressing the impact of violence on women and children, it’s always been about human rights at its core.

“Ultimately my work has taken me around the world where I’ve lived and worked in over 28 different countries, working closely with peak NGOs, including a stint at UN Women in New York, and also UNHCR in Geneva, plus numerous collaborations around the world with the most amazingly inspiring individuals and communities. It may be realised that making change includes seeing ourselves, all of us as citizens, not only of a community or a country, but also the world.”

Reflecting on her career thus far, Maria said that her journey has been greatly influenced by the lessons she learned right at the beginning, during her time at Monash.

“I value the relationships that I developed and the incredible lecturers who inspired us with stories of possibilities. Learning is indeed a treasure that accompanies us everywhere.”

Maria’s advice to the next generation of arts students is to leave their mark, **“Put your stake in the ground and build the future that you want together. Believe in it and fight like hell to do it.”**

CAMPAIGNING FOR GENDER EQUITY ACROSS INDUSTRIES

In 2001, Carol received the Centenary Medal in recognition of her outstanding service as a leading business executive and board participant. In 2006, she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her ‘achievements in business and commerce, and her contribution to community and the arts’. Carol was inducted into the 2011 Victorian Women’s Honour Roll and in 2012, she was recognised as one of Australia’s most influential women in the Australian Financial Review, and Westpac’s inaugural 100 Women of Influence Awards.

What is the focus of your career today? After a diverse career across property, the arts, finance, investment, entrepreneurship, government, health and serving on a variety of boards, I’m currently on the board of the Reserve Bank of Australia and Trawalla Group. I’m also a Chair of EQT Holdings Limited and a Founding Chair of the Women’s Leadership Institute Australia. I’m a passionate advocate for women in leadership, and this is the focus of my career and as an investor in female founder-led businesses.

What is the change you want to see in the world, that you are working towards? I believe so strongly in the value of more female leaders. For me this is about optimising outcomes for our country by ensuring that men and women together share power, leadership and decision making.

Tell us a little bit about your day-to-day. My days can look quite different depending on the demands of my board commitments, but I most enjoy connecting and collaborating, and catalysing high impact initiatives or organisations. Some days are filled with board meetings and focused on governance and decision making, whereas others involve mentoring and supporting the leaders I work closely with. I also regularly present at events and conferences, or talk with the media about the gender equality issues I’m passionate about.

Looking back, what has been your biggest challenge? It would be acknowledging and coming to terms with the fact that social change can take a long time. Twenty-five years ago I started asking in leadership forums “where are the women?” and unfortunately I’m still asking that same question!

And your highlights? Establishing the Pathways to Politics Program for Women has been wonderful, as it’s really starting to change the face of politics. The program seeks to increase female participation in Australian politics, by equipping women with the skills and knowledge to succeed in running for elected office, and to thrive as political leaders. Now in its sixth year, the program has already achieved remarkable success, with 13 program alumni from across the political spectrum elected to local, state and federal government in just five years.

How did your studies at Monash prepare you for your career? My university education really complimented my working life by providing me with such a strong academic grounding, and most importantly the confidence to achieve the many things I’ve undertaken over the years.

What advice would you impart to our arts students? There’s real value in choosing a breadth of subjects, so try to resist restricting your focus to just career relevant subjects. Take this wonderful opportunity to broaden your mind, be curious, creative and as expansive as you can be, which can only benefit you in your career and life!

Insights from dynamic business and community leader, **Dr Carol Schwartz AO**

*Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws, 1978; MBA, 1987
Doctor of Law honoris causa, 2018, Monash University
Awarded a Monash University Fellowship in 2010*



“We must grow the critical mass of female leaders in politics, business and the media, to truly disrupt and change the way decision making is done. I think that equal representation will shape culture, decision making, collaboration, and ultimately reflect community issues in a more fulsome way.”

ELEVATING MEDIA, CULTURE, LIFESTYLE AND HOSPITALITY

Describe your current career focus.

What are your main responsibilities?

I'm the Founder and Publisher of Broadsheet Media, the Founder of Scout Jobs and the Co-Founder of Providoor. Broadsheet is Australia's leading culture and lifestyle publisher, with a monthly readership of two million and 50 employees. Scout specialises in connecting Melbourne and Sydney's top hospitality and creative services businesses with the best talent. Whilst, Providoor delivers restaurant experiences at home.

What is the change you are looking to make in the world?

At Broadsheet, we set out to help people make the most of their daily lives in Australian cities. We have some of the world's most exciting, dynamic and culturally rich cities, and we like to celebrate what is so excellent about them. This facilitates our audience engaging deeply within them.

What does your day-to-day life look like?

Day-to-day, I'm mostly focused on driving business forward. From vision and strategy setting, building key partnerships, and working with our senior team to realise that vision, I'm primarily engaged with maintaining the momentum of the brand.

Describe the biggest challenges you've faced in your career.

From launching Broadsheet 12 years ago and growing from a bootstrapped startup through to where we are today, our challenges can usually be described as 'growing pains'. Often when we set out to do something, we are doing it for the first time. That comes with excitement and opportunity for innovation, but it also means the challenge of working it out as we go along.

What are your greatest highlights?

The ongoing pleasure I get from seeing our team grow, in scale, ambition, talent, as well as the outstanding work they produce day after day.

How did your arts degree at Monash impact the trajectory of your career?

Every day I need to absorb information, often completely new to me, process it and act on it. My time at Monash helped me learn how to do that.

Do you have any advice for Monash students?

I learnt early on to not blindly accept conventional wisdom. The modern world changes quickly and what was right yesterday, might not be right today. Question why things are done, and if they can be done differently or better.

Insights from publisher & entrepreneur, **Nick Shelton**

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 2005, Monash University



“If I had listened to all the advice and wisdom when I was starting out, I would never have launched a digital media business.”

ANNIKA SMETHURST

Australian journalist and political editor

Annika Smethurst is a leading Australian journalist. She is the recipient of two prestigious Walkley Awards for outstanding journalism, in 2015 and 2017, and is the current State Political Editor of The Age newspaper in Melbourne. Monash University also awarded her the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2021.

In 2019, Annika's life changed forever when the Australian Federal Police raided her home, after she published a report that contained a 'top secret' memo leaked from within the Department of Defence. Annika went to the Supreme Court to defend her case, and won after the



search warrant was found to be invalid, becoming a beacon for press freedom.

“Very few people saw me cry over this, and those who did were those closest to me. I never wavered in public, and maybe that's not a good thing—maybe I should have been out in front of the High Court, crying. I'm a lot tougher than I realised.”

Annika graduated from Monash in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts (Journalism), and completed her Honours in 2010. In 2009, she won a cadetship with the Herald Sun, starting her successful rise at News Corp.

“I just wanted to go back to parliament and do my job as a journalist, but the phone stopped ringing. Why would a politician call me when they know that the police are listening?”



“Politics matters and state government is one of many ways that we as a society can achieve outcomes for the collective benefit. For me, it's at its optimum when policy initiatives have a positive impact on my local community, as well as benefiting Victoria overall.”

GARY MAAS

Member for Narre Warren South

Gary Maas grew up in the south eastern suburb of Springvale, as the Australian-born son of Sri Lankan parents. He's a dedicated politician and public servant, who has been the Member for Narre Warren South in Victoria since 2018. In this role, he proudly contributes to improving the safety of casual and labour-hire private sector workers, and is also responsible for a broad suite of climate initiatives, designed to reduce carbon emissions. Prior to joining politics, Gary spent 15 years at the National Union of Workers (now known as the United Workers Union), where he gained an astute understanding of the issues affecting Victorian employers and employees.

“The opportunity to make enduring friendships with people in fields that you will bump into later in life, shouldn't be missed. I'm currently working with many Monash alumni, and we are all integral to public policy and the functioning of good government in the State of Victoria.”

Gary graduated from Monash University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts, and his honours degree in 1993, and remembers his time travelling to Fiji and performing with the Monash Orchestra as highlights of his studies. During his career, he's worked as a musician, teacher and a lawyer in a suburban law firm, that was a key part of its community, running cases on behalf of its constituents—often against large corporations or statutory authorities.

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FINE DINING IN CHINA

Michelle has attended a number of Monash alumni and student events. She was an expert panel member on the 2020 'Connections for Change' program for Monash alumni, and has spearheaded Mentor Walks in both Beijing and Shanghai.

Can you tell us about your career journey to-date? I'm the CEO of M Restaurant Group and I've been in China and Hong Kong since 1986, building my career in hospitality, social enterprise and community engagement. For 23 years until early 2022, I owned and operated M on the Bund: a restaurant I founded on the Bund in Shanghai, that introduced fine dining to China. During this time, M on the Bund became a unique cultural centre and iconic institution in Shanghai, however I made the decision to close the doors on 15 February 2022.

What do you believe has been your impact over the past 23 years?

Ultimately, I have always strived to foster the kind of cross-cultural understanding that is so important today. I want to encourage people to look for the best in all cultures.

I've also always held an interest in reimagining the impact that business can have, and the way in which we presume business to operate. I've always thought that business should be understood as a vehicle to do other things, and as a platform for community engagement and the transmission of knowledge. I have a passion for leading others away from traditional profit-driven perspectives on business, too.

Can you give us a glimpse into your day-to-day life when you were at the helm of M on the Bund? Running M on the Bund was a delicate balance between being a big picture, driving force, and getting into the detail of menu planning, staffing, marketing, and government relations in China. I tried to maintain a focus on creating events that bring communities together: talks, festivals, mentor walks, chamber music, and a literary residency. No two days ever looked the same.

What are the biggest challenges you've faced? The most obvious recent challenge has been the pandemic, which is true for everyone in divergent ways. Over the longer term, though, I'd



"For me, hospitality is about giving. It's about providing comfort and community. Restaurants are not just places that people go to for fussy food; they are communal spaces that create memories for real people."

characterise the challenges I've faced as those of a pioneer. In 1989 when I opened M at the Fringe in Hong Kong, I forged a new direction in the restaurant world there. Many thought we would fail, but we thrived.

Shutting M on the Bund down, after such a long time and many indescribable experiences, was very difficult. At the end of the day, it was really a commercial decision. I decided that for the next five years, it was not going to be really feasible.

Insights from renowned restaurateur and literary champion, **Michelle Garnaut AO**

Awarded a Fellowship at Monash University in 2019

POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE WORLD OF WORK

Describe your current role and career focus. What are your key responsibilities? I've held the position of Managing Director for Hays Australia and New Zealand since 2012, after being on the ANZ Management Board since 2004, and determining global strategy through the Global Operations Board. Hays are known as recruitment experts worldwide. My role has two key focus areas: internally I ensure that we have an engaged, supported workforce, and an inclusive, vibrant and high performance culture, built on meritocracy. Externally, I consider the value, expertise and insights provided to our clients.

What drives you? How do you want to change the world? Since joining Hays nearly three decades ago, my passion for helping people succeed and enabling them to thrive has remained constant. I continue to be motivated by ensuring the work we do every day impacts the world of work positively, and changes lives. Whether that be by placing a candidate in their dream role, providing top talent, or supporting our employees to be their best at work, I'm always looking to build lifelong partnerships.

Tell us about the biggest challenge you've faced in your career.

COVID-19 rocked the world and we, like every business, felt its effect. Overnight, we had to put in place the technology infrastructure and systems to allow us to work from home, and we now combine working from home and the office. This has had significant implications from an engagement, connectivity, collaboration and teaming perspective.

Greatest highlight? The thing I've loved most through my career is the satisfaction of working with great people, and developing those relationships over time. I've been blessed to work with many fantastic individuals along my journey, that I've learned a lot from, and been inspired by.

What experience had the greatest impact on you from your time at Monash? My studies at Monash taught me to critically think, work independently, and to analyse information to gain insights and form conclusions. Undertaking my arts degree really helped to build characteristics that have guided me through life, including confidence and discipline.

Insights from leader and recruitment expert, **Nick Deligiannis**

Bachelor of Arts, 1986, Monash University

"Are you doing everything you can to seize the opportunities around you? Stay hungry, never be complacent, always look to better your best and constantly learn. If you don't have big dreams and goals, you'll end up beaten by someone who does."



One piece of advice for those studying, or looking to? Most people want to be successful, but the difference between those who are and those who aren't, ultimately comes down to determination,

resilience, focus, and hard work. The opportunities are there, make sure you take them. And most importantly, have fun and enjoy the journey, as much as the destination.

ADVOCATING FOR MONASH UNIVERSITY AND ENHANCING ITS HERITAGE VALUE

What is your current position and organisation? I'm currently the Director of the Saluting Monash Council and Chairman of the Monash Pioneers Sir John Monash Project Committee. However, I spent my early career in teaching, business and retailing, and as Senior Consultant at the Australian Centre of Retail Studies at Monash University. From 1996 to 2014, I was the Managing Director of the Retail Synergy Group Pty Ltd.

What was the biggest challenge of your career? To acquire unsurpassed knowledge of international retailing, and build a sizable client base.

And the greatest highlight? To witness the evolution of clients as leaders in their field.

Describe what Monash University was like when you attended. What are some of your fondest memories? Regardless of the constant construction and mud, Monash was an exciting place to be in the early 1960's. There were students from a wide variety of social backgrounds and

attitudes, and clubs and societies for every interest. The social hub was the Notting Hill Hotel, or the Vicarage, as Professor Jock Marshall coined it.

What is the most important or impactful thing you learned during your studies? The lecturers ensured that we were intellectually stimulated in the process of receiving wisdom. We were encouraged to push the boundaries with confidence. There were plenty of disruptors in literature, history and, of course, the example of Sir John Monash.

You've had a significant contribution to the Monash Pioneers group. Briefly describe what the group has achieved. At the 50 year reunion we organised it was clear that we prided ourselves on being founding students, despite the fact that many thought we were forgotten. Therefore, I coined the term Monash Pioneers, which the University accepted, and I decided to start a foundation for the University, as a way of saying thank you. The John Monash Statue resulted. The unveiling in

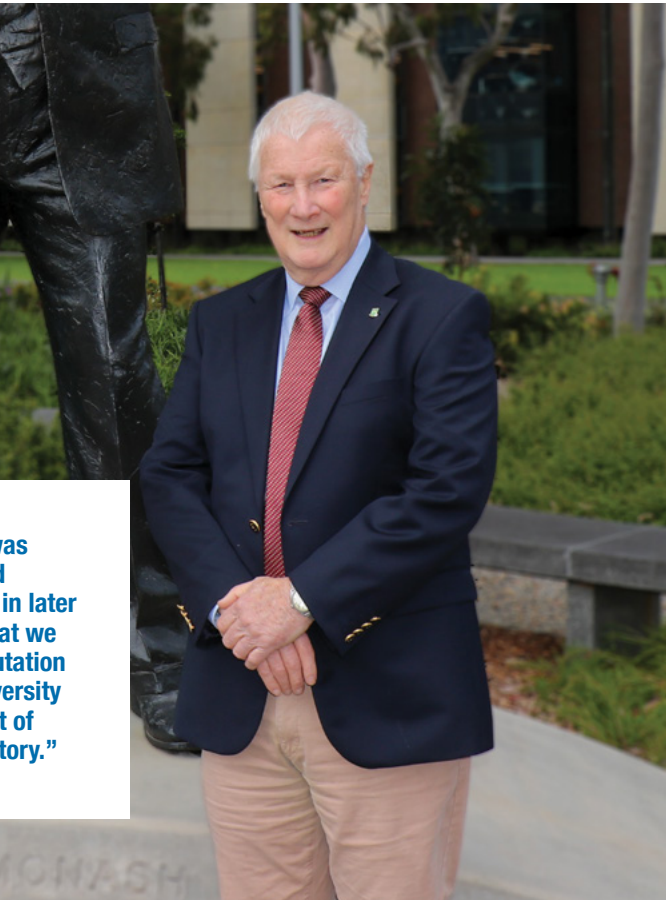
April 2015 was among the most satisfying achievements of my life, and I am very grateful to my project team for helping us 'make our mark'. Subsequently, the former Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Tim Fischer AC asked me to lead the Saluting Monash Council in Victoria, the aim of which is to attain an Honorary Field Marshal rank for Sir John Monash. It is unfinished business.

What is the one piece of advice you'd like to impart to our students? One simple thing: make your own history, as John Monash did.

"Our time in those early years was transformative and a very sound stepping stone for achievement in later life. We were also very aware that we were integral in forging the reputation and culture of Monash as a University that encouraged an environment of freedom to shape one's own history."

Insights from a founding student and Monash Pioneer, **Michael Headberry**

*Bachelor of Arts, 1977; Diploma of Education, 1977
Graduate Diploma of Marketing, 1981, Monash University*



CONSTRUCTING A MORE GENDER-JUST AND EQUAL WORLD

Insights from political scientist, **Jacqui True FASSA**

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 1992, Monash University

Jacqui was named one of Apolitical's 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy in 2021.

What are you doing in your career right now? I'm a Professor of International Relations at Monash University. Having returned to Monash in 2012 to teach, I established the Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre (Monash GPS) in 2015.

How are you looking to change the world? I'm working for a more gender-just and equal world that extends to empowerment of women in conflict-affected situations, such as Afghanistan and Myanmar. In 2021, that vision led me to help evacuate eleven Afghan youth leaders to Australia/Monash as the Taliban took over the country and their lives were at grave risk. I could not wait for the world to change.

What has been the biggest challenge of your career? Bringing together more than 40 scholars across 10 disciplines and twelve countries to focus on the mission of eliminating gendered violence has been the most significant challenge of my career to date. This effort, in some respects, over my entire career but intensely over

the past three years has culminated in a successfully-funded Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence. This is the first ARC Centre focused on women and also led by a political scientist. It is also the first ARC Centre of Excellence for the Faculty of Arts at Monash. It will enable us to scale up our research and partnerships to seriously tackle violence against women in Australia and our region.

And your greatest career accomplishment? To have our research mentioned by the UN Secretary-General at a UN Security Council meeting in 2019 and 2020 was a real highlight of my career. It was also a personal highlight to receive an Honorary Doctorate at Lund University in 2018.

How did your Monash degree help propel you to where you are today? I took a phenomenal class as an honours student at Monash, called 'Power, order and emancipation in international relations' it taught me that there are many different ways to see the world and all have validity but none have a monopoly on the truth. That class also inspired me to want to continue to study, teach and research international relations because the world is what we make of it, and a better world is possible.



"Don't wait until after university to think big, take risks and act now to realise your ambitions. Channel Greta Thunberg and her school climate strike."

What from that experience are you still calling on today? Many of my classmates have been lifelong friends and kindred spirits in the field of international relations. As students we worked together on a book called 'Theories of International Relations'. That book is now in its 6th edition and has been going for all the years of my professional life.

One piece of advice for current and future students? Be the change that you want to see in the world, as Nelson Mandela said.

GUIDING POSITIVE FISCAL POLICY CHANGE, THROUGH RESEARCH AND WRITING

How do you want to change your industry and the world? My focus is on the global economy and related macroeconomic policy developments. I believe the conventional macroeconomic policy framework needs reform, that monetary and fiscal policy must be closely coordinated, and that this can be done without sacrificing the benefits of central bank independence. Through my research and writing in this area, I am hoping to inform the academic and policy debate, leading to positive changes in thinking and practice.

What is the most significant challenge you've faced? In 2000, I was the Asia Chief Economist at the former leading investment bank, Lehman Brothers, before I was promoted to Global Chief Economist in 2006. This required me to turn my regional specialisation into a global perspective and expertise, plus relocate from Tokyo to New York City. Further obstacles arrived in 2008, when the company found itself at the epicentre of the global financial crisis.

Tell us about the most memorable thing you learned at Monash Arts. In the late 1970s, Monash University boasted the best Japanese language program in Australia, a unique feature of which was the opportunity to live and study in Tokyo for the first half of your fourth year. I wanted to do my Honours thesis on industrial geography, and the Japanese and Geography Departments came together to allow me to do a joint, bespoke Honours program, that essentially launched my career.

What single piece of advice would you give to current and future students? Invest in your personal and professional relationships, take an interest in other people; and when in doubt or when you really want to understand something, go to the underlying original sources.

“Don't feel you have to over plan your future, let serendipity play its part, too.”

Insights from Australian-American economist, strategist and academic, **Dr Paul Sheard**

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), 1981, Monash University



At Monash Arts, we are committed to making an impact locally, nationally and internationally, on the most pressing challenges facing our world — Climate Change, Geopolitical Security, and Thriving Communities. Our flagship centres amplify this impact, by focusing our excellence in research and education around some of the important areas that will help us to drive positive change within these challenges.

Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation

An interdisciplinary centre that researches and teaches, in its breadth and diversity, the significance and evolution of Jewish civilisation and its contribution to the world. Our researchers are immersed in the academic study of the cultures, literatures, politics and histories of the Jewish experience.

Monash Bioethics Centre

Addresses core ethical questions that arise in healthcare, science and technology, to shape the social world in years to come. The core vision of the Centre is to contribute to creating a more ethical society, in which the potential of systems, technologies and policy is harnessed to promote health, wellbeing, and equity for all.

Monash Centre for Consciousness and Contemplative Studies

Through unprecedented collaboration between philosophy, neuroscience, medicine, education and interfaith

dialogue, the Centre will serve as a regional and global leader in consciousness research and contemplative studies. Energised by Humanities research, methodologies and theory, the Centre will open doors to greater reflection, curiosity, resilience, wellbeing and meaningful connections, on both individual and collective levels.

Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre

The Centre is at the forefront of research and education aimed at preventing gender and family violence. The centre is contributing to transformative social change, aimed at ending family violence by providing an evidence base for policy change that better supports and protects those experiencing family violence, and addresses the cultural and economic drivers that underpin it.

Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre

Building globally-recognised, gender-inclusive research evidence to deliver peace and security globally.

Monash Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre

A dynamic and contemporary centre for Monash researchers engaging with Indonesia, aiming to provide a platform for developing strong relationships and collaborations for mutual benefit.

Monash Indigenous Studies Centre

Offering units that aim to encourage students to understand the past and contemporary experiences of Indigenous Australians.

Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre

The Centre takes an interdisciplinary, evidence_based approach to understanding migration and social, economic and cultural inclusion. It brings together expertise from across Monash to generate practical solutions, inform policy and engage with industry and community groups on migration, inclusion, settlement and irregular migration issues.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Whether you work for a company or run it, are in government, academia, or involved in the not-for-profit sector, we invite you to discover how we can work together to make change.

As a Monash Arts alumni, you can be actively involved in:

Advisory board memberships

Monash Arts courses are known for their relevance to industry, and the way they encourage students to expand their thinking. You know what the industry or sector needs, and we'd love to hear from you.

Hosting student placements

Internships benefit everyone. Students gain work experience. And you get first pick of some of our best talent.

Guest speaking

The wealth and depth of your experience may enhance our student learning, and can inspire students to think of career paths they may not have entertained.

Mentoring

Many of our alumni find great satisfaction in being a mentor to our undergraduate and graduate students. Discover how sharing your knowledge could change someone's life.

Philanthropic support

Many of our efforts would not be possible without the generosity of our benefactors. Your donation could support a high-achieving scholar, or contribute to our research benefiting the community as a whole.

Contract or collaborative research

We are always looking for ways to push the boundaries of research. Talk to us about your projects, ideas and goals, including applying for joint research grants, or commissioning specialised research reports.

Get in touch

To find out more, email us at arts-alumni@monash.edu





MONASH
University

60
YEARS OF
MAKING
CHANGE

monash.edu/alumni