BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN UGANDA

Anne-Marie Reddan's transformative work with non-government organisation Yimba Uganda

FOUR WOMEN CHANGING THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

ACU graduates become agents of change, with their impact reaching around the globe

BOOST YOUR PERSONAL BRAND

Dr Sebastian Krook provides insight into personal branding

STRIVING TO MAKE HISTORY IN RIO

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UPDATE YOUR DETAILS
Update your details and connect with ACU alumni
Australian Catholic University (ACU) is proud of your achievements. As alumni, you have put into practice your university lessons and experiences to bring about real change in your world.

What is more, you have inspired continuing generations of students to follow in your footsteps and to make their own presence felt in Australia and around the globe.

As of this year, you are now part of an ACU alumni community of more than 85,500 people.

ACU has an ongoing commitment to ensure this strong community is a place where you can learn more about the efforts of your fellow alumni; gain support in your own endeavours; build up contacts; and discover new opportunities.

That is why we started a new ACU tradition with the celebration of the University’s inaugural Alumni of the Year Awards in 2015. The upcoming awards will be a fresh opportunity to further highlight ACU alumni achievements and for you to network.

In the meantime, please enjoy this edition of ACU Alum magazine for 2016. Within these pages we explore alumni stories, provide useful career advice, highlight opportunities to connect and share new developments that have taken place across the University.

I encourage you to take every opportunity to connect with your university, your Australian Catholic University.

Yours sincerely,
Professor Greg Craven
Vice-Chancellor
The business world is forever changing and evolving, and Catholic organisations are not immune. How these organisations uphold the Catholic ethos is shaped by the people in leadership positions, with ACU shaping these leaders. Taking an active role in the education and evolving discussion surrounding Catholic mission and identity within Catholic organisations, ACU is bringing together the brightest from these organisations as part of the Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture.

Developed by ACU Executive Education in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, the course explores effective leadership in Catholic organisations.

Senior Consultant and Lecturer in Organisational Development Ms Julie Morgan said the course is built around the core premise of “leadership in a Catholic context”, attracting people in senior and executive level positions.

“Leadership in a Catholic context; how does it make a difference for people, how does it make individuals flourish within the organisation, while trying to transform the community, particularly on behalf of the most vulnerable,” Ms Morgan said.

“They’re all people who have a responsibility to develop a culture within their organisation which is genuinely Catholic, which means genuinely inclusive, genuinely just, and genuinely sacramental.

“There’s a Catholic understanding of the world you want these leaders to have and be able to articulate to others.

“The type of people involved in this course are very bright, very committed, and extraordinarily busy. They are running highly complex organisations such as hospitals, aged care facilities, and other health organisations.”

The course was developed in response to a need within Catholic organisations for senior staff to further their understanding of Catholic mission and identity, the integration of a Catholic perspective into leadership, and the review of practices and policies to reflect the Catholic ethos.

In collaboration with industry partners, including Catholic Healthcare Australia, the course is delivered in four week-long intensive units at North Sydney and Melbourne Campuses through a consortium model, where organisations are encouraged to enrol a minimum of three senior staff.

The success of the course has seen ACU develop strong links with several major Catholic organisations throughout Australia, including St John of God Health Care, St Vincent’s Health Australia, Mercy Health, and Catholic Social Services Australia.

Primarily developed for the health and aged care industry, Ms Morgan said the course is beginning to see expansion into other industries where Catholic organisations operate.

“The course was designed to strengthen the leadership capabilities of people in very senior positions in large Catholic organisations in the health and aged care industry, but we are increasingly seeing enrolments from social services, aid and development agencies and Catholic education,” Ms Morgan said.

It is clear to this expanding audience that there is a distinct correlation between the course and career progression.

“This course is very much embedded in Catholic health and aged care, and now in many of those organisations to be able to progress into more senior positions of leadership, you will have to do this course,” Ms Morgan said.

“It’s becoming a benchmark for leaders in Catholic organisations. That’s testament to the people who have done the course and returned to their organisations feeling its transformative power.”

Comprised of four units that explore all aspects of the Catholic ethos, ethics, social teaching and leading the mission, the course has a strong focus on understanding what it is to be a key decision-maker of a Catholic organisation.

“The way the course has been shaped, it really helps people to articulate what it is about the Catholic understanding of a person, of suffering, of joy, experiencing loss, and how as leaders we can help make meaning for people in their organisations,” Ms Morgan said.

“Most of our ethical decision-making happens every day – how do we treat staff members; who do we go into business contracts with; how do we make decisions about investments, mergers and acquisitions – so we want to inform this decision-making with Catholic understanding.”

To learn more about ACU Executive Education visit acu.edu.au/executiveeducation.
ACU OPEN CENTRE IN ROME

The Rome Centre, a collaborative endeavour between The Catholic University of America (CUA) and ACU, opened in September 2015. Located within a short distance from the Vatican, the centre offers living quarters for undergraduates, a wing for postgraduate students, apartments for visiting faculty, a chapel, garden, and other amenities.

Bringing together students and academics from both universities, the centre offers opportunities for study and research.

ACU Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven said the centre was an important coming-of-age for the University.

“It is fitting that in the year of our 25th anniversary, ACU is being taken to new heights with the establishment of a centre overseas,” Professor Craven said.

“Twenty five years ago ACU became Australia’s first truly national university, with campuses in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

ACU’s first Indigenous PhD staff scholarship holder, Dr Bindi Bennett, has graduated at a ceremony in Sydney.

Her doctoral thesis entitled Developing Identity as a Light-skinned Aboriginal Person with Little or no Community and/or Kinship Ties makes a significant contribution to scholarship in the area of contemporary Aboriginal identity.

This thesis provides an understanding of identity for light-skinned Aboriginal people who, for a variety of reasons, may need a place to start their identity journey as well as tools to undertake this task.

The thesis also contributes to the discussion of identity for Aboriginal people from an Aboriginal perspective, giving privilege to the participant voices.

One of the key outcomes of the research has been the development of a map for Aboriginal people who want to find their identity. The map was developed in two ways: An Aboriginal map (flower) and a non-Indigenous map. These maps provide a guide that Aboriginal people can use in their identity journey.

“Identity and knowing who you are is so important in the Aboriginal community,” Dr Bennett said.

Professor Morag McArthur supervised Dr Bennett’s research and was among those who attended her graduation in Sydney.

In 2010 ACU became one of the first universities in Australia to introduce Indigenous staff research scholarships to facilitate valued Indigenous contribution to learning, research, and community engagement.

“ACU has been the privileged beneficiary of Mr O’Connell’s appointment as our new Pro-Chancellor builds on a record of excellent appointments to the University,” Mr Fahey said.

As a distinguished executive and businessman, Mr O’Connell has built a successful career in insurance, accounting and risk management. Mr O’Connell’s five-year term as Pro-Chancellor commenced on 1 January 2016.

ACU Chancellor The Honourable John Fahey AC said the University was fortunate to have attracted distinguished individuals to the role of Pro-Chancellor.

“Mr O’Connell’s appointment as our new Pro-Chancellor builds on a record of excellent appointments to the University,” Mr Fahey said.

“ACU has been the privileged beneficiary of our outgoing Pro-Chancellor Mr Ted Exell’s balance, wisdom and counsel since 1996, when he first served the University as a member of its Senate.”

“As the former Business Manager for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Deputy Managing Director of the Australian Trade Commission, his financial acumen has been invaluable to ACU. As Pro-Chancellor since 2000, Mr Exell has also played an important role in ACU’s expansion.”

Mr Fahey was pleased to welcome Mr O’Connell as ACU’s new Pro-Chancellor and to advise that Mr Exell will continue to serve the University as a Member of Company.

MEET ACU’S NEW PRO-CHANCELLOR

ACU has appointed Mr Julien O’Connell AM as its next Pro-Chancellor following more than 15 years of outstanding leadership and service from outgoing Pro-Chancellor Mr Ted Exell AM.

ACU’s new Pro-Chancellor, Julien O’Connell AM

MEETING INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

Dr Bindi Bennett with Professor Morag McArthur

ACU’s first Indigenous PhD staff scholarship holder, Dr Bindi Bennett, has graduated at a ceremony in Sydney.

Dr Bindi Bennett is a lecturer in Social Work at ACU who recently graduated with a PhD. She is one of five recipients of ACU’s Indigenous Staff Research Scholarships.

“That is why, with the development of the Light-skinned Aboriginal map, a tool that Aboriginal people can use in their identity journey.”

Professor Morag McArthur supervised Dr Bennett’s research and was among those who attended her graduation in Sydney.

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RESEARCH BITES

STRONG PERFORMANCE IN NATIONAL RESEARCH RANKINGS

ACU researchers performed strongly in the 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessment. The University received high scores in the fields of research identified as strategic priorities and in which it has concentrated investment in order to achieve the highest levels of excellence. These include selected areas of Health, as well as Education, Psychology, Theology, and Philosophy.

In the two-digit Field of Research (FoR) codes, ACU received the top score of five – well above world standard – in Psychology (17). ACU also received a score of four – above world standard – in Medical and Health Sciences (11) and Philosophy and Religious Studies (22). ACU received a score of three – at world standard – in Education (13), Studies in Human Society (16), Law and Legal Studies (18), and History and Archeology (21).

ACU’s research in the four-digit FoR codes was especially strong.

ACU received the top score of five in Human Movement and Sports Science (1106), Nursing (1110), Public Health and Health Services (1117), and Psychology (1701).

ACU was awarded a score of four in Specialist Studies in Education (1303), Philosophy (2203), and Religion and Religious Studies (2204).

ACU received a score of three in Education Systems (1301), Curriculum and Pedagogy (1302), Business and Management (1503), Political Science (1606), Sociology (1608), Law (1801), Applied Ethics (2201), and Historical Studies (2103).

VIRTUAL-REALITY BASED REHAB SYSTEM WINS PREMIER’S DESIGN AWARD IN DIGITAL DESIGN

Elements, an interactive artwork designed to support movement assessment and rehabilitation for patients recovering from traumatic brain injury, received the ‘Best in Category – Digital Design’ prize at the 2015 Victorian Premier’s Design Awards.

The project team included Professor Peter H Wilson and Dr Nick Mumford from ACU, working with colleagues from RMIT University, Griffith University, Epworth Hospital in Melbourne, and with contributions from the Australian Research Council and the Australia Council for the Arts.

Brain injuries often result in impaired hand and reach function, which is profoundly disabling for those affected. The Elements system provides patients with an intuitive workspace that affords basic gestural control.

Elements integrates digital media software, tangible user interfaces (TUIs), augmented feedback, and artistic expression to enhance patient’s motor and cognitive skills. The results of clinical evaluations indicate that patients relearned movement skills, increased their level of engagement, motivation and self-esteem, and importantly day-to-day functioning also improved.

Peter Wilson, Professor of Developmental Psychology and Co-Director of ACU’s Centre for Disability and Development Research (CeDDR) said: “We are currently working on a commercialisation plan that, with appropriate support, will hopefully see the system used widely in hospitals, rehabilitation clinics, and other practices.”

MORE SUPPORT NEEDED TO TACKLE DEMENTIA AND DEPRESSION AMONG AGEING AUSTRALIANS

Residential aged care workers need more support in tackling dementia and depression among their patients, new research from the Institute for Health and Ageing (IHA) shows.

In a study of more than 250 aged care workers from 21 aged residential aged care facilities in Melbourne, researchers found that employers needed to do more to boost staff confidence in dealing with the two conditions.

The results showed study participants rated autonomy, trust, support, and job stress as the most important factors in their ability to manage patient dementia.

Study participants said that job satisfaction and knowledge of the illness were also important factors in their ability to treat patients suffering from dementia.

Lead Researcher and IHA Director, Professor Marita McCabe said the results highlighted the importance of investing more in training and support for aged care workers.

“Both dementia and depression affect a significant proportion of older Australians, with a higher prevalence of both conditions among patients in aged care facilities,” Professor McCabe said.

“What our findings demonstrate is the need for a greater focus on training and support programs for aged care workers and the need for further research in this field.”

The study was funded by the NHMRC and is a collaboration between the IHA and the School of Psychology at Deakin University and the Department of Psychiatry at Monash University.

NHMRC GRANTS FOR ACU RESEARCHERS

ACU health researchers have been awarded two prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) research grants.

Dr Jocasta Ball, Mary MacKillop Institute for Health Research, was awarded an Early Career Fellowship for her research Improving health outcomes in atrial fibrillation via optimal management.

Professor Marita McCabe, Director, Dr Lucy Busija, Senior Research Fellow, and Professor Daniel O’Connor, Professorial Fellow, Institute for Health and Ageing, were part of a successful team led by Dr Tania Davison, Monash University, awarded a grant to investigate psychological interventions for adults transitioning into aged care.

Professors McCabe, O’Connor and Dr Busija are Chief Investigators on the project A cluster RCT of a novel psychological intervention to reduce depression among at-risk older adults transitioning to residential aged care.
Boosting your personal brand

Associate Lecturer Dr Sebastian Krook unravels the mysteries of personal branding and provides insight into how branding can benefit your career, Max Bennett writes.

We’ve all heard of the term “personal brand”, but do we really know what it means, and what we can do to develop and enhance it to position ourselves for that dream job?

Like Rolls Royce signifies luxury and Rolex signifies precision, your personal brand will characterise the qualities and attributes you wish to project to an external audience.

Peter Faber Business School Associate Lecturer in Human Resources and Marketing Dr Sebastian Krook believes the importance of development and adding to your “brand” is vital to career progression and development.

“Starting to build a career is very much about profiling yourself as having particular competencies that others lack,” Dr Krook said.

“Your degree certificate says one thing about you, but you can add to that by finding a niche area of expertise that relates to something you would like to work with in the future. Whatever you want to be an expert at, go and be an expert at it.”

A strong proponent of the benefits of business networking website LinkedIn, Dr Krook said the benefits, particularly early in your career, of a strong LinkedIn network can have a significant impact on future employment prospects.

“LinkedIn is all about networking with the right people, while following industry trends and developments. Once you have decided on a niche for yourself, it’s time to start following ‘thought leaders’ in that field, and learn from them,” Dr Krook said.

“What expressions do they use, what are they talking about, how do they present themselves? Look at the content they repost and the stories they tell – taking cues from the pros is a vital first step.

“Once you get a sense of how to talk like a thought leader, you will build a more confident and professional vocabulary, and before you know it, you will be contributing with your own informed commentary in your chosen niche area of expertise.

“I see students who have graduated, and who stay in touch on LinkedIn, and some of them have built impressive profiles and are actively engaging in public conversations on a variety of topics.”

While online networking will provide you with opportunities to form professional relationships with people from across business, many of these connections are first made through functions, seminars, and conferences.

“Spending time in the virtual space, such as LinkedIn, with accomplished professionals is one way to learn the culture of a particular profession. Knowing the culture, and being able to comment on industry developments in a knowledgeable way, will earn you respect when you meet other potential employers, whether at a function, conference, or seminar in the real world,” Dr Krook said.

**THREE STEPS TO DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL BRAND AND DIRECTION FOR YOUR CAREER**

1. **GET CONNECTED ON LINKEDIN**

Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook are all staples in your social media arsenal, but you need to start building your professional network and LinkedIn is a site where future employers will be looking at your profile. It is important to be careful what you post. This is not a social site, it’s strictly business, so no LOLZ-cat pictures.

2. **FOLLOW YOUR HEROES’ FOOTSTEPS**

Who do you admire? Who inspires you? When developing your personal brand, you need to work out what you want to do and where you want to go. With the retirement ages continuing to push into the late 60s your career will go through many phases and changes over time. To provide direction look at the pros on LinkedIn, and see what they are saying and how they present themselves.

3. **GET ENGAGED**

Can you play guitar? Why not offer lessons to a family friend. Are you good at soccer? Coach the local under 10s in your area. Community engagement gets you out there doing things. These activities often lead to other opportunities. And when you do something like this, post it on your LinkedIn profile. Prospective employers will see you are someone who is engaged in life and this could give you the edge over your competitor. At ACU, community engagement is a core part of the curriculum, and our graduates say this was extremely helpful in landing a job.

Photography: Anna Zhu
The Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Law and Business offer rebates to ACU alumni wishing to pursue further study at ACU.

Visit acu.edu.au/alumni/benefits for more information.
Anne-Marie Reddan has co-founded a charity organisation in Uganda, contracted typhoid and malaria (twice), is now engaged to an African pop star, and has booked a one-way ticket to the capital city, Kampala, where she plans to begin a new life with her soon-to-be husband, all while completing a Bachelor of International Development Studies at ACU.

Suffice to say this 22-year-old has already embarked on an extraordinary journey that shows no signs of slowing down.

Along with her fiancé Emmanuel Kusaasira (stage name Coopy Bly), Anne-Marie co-founded Yimba Uganda, a non-government organisation aiming to provide local people with the skills, education, and opportunities to build sustainable futures and be leaders in their community.

“Our core goals are around sustainability, empowerment, and economic independence. We want to put in place mechanisms for the people to support themselves in the long term. So we are not just meeting their needs now, but so future generations won’t need organisations like us,” Anne-Marie said.

“But as soon as I set foot inside the orphanage I fell in love with the country. The people were so hospitable, so welcoming, so genuine – the culture so vibrant and bold. And the need – it’s not something you see and can just go home and forget about it – it was never an option. I’ve seen and now I feel that I am responsible.

“From that point on I always knew that I would have some part of my future in Uganda.”

After completing high school, Anne-Marie was accepted into a Bachelor of Nursing at ACU as part of the Early Achievers’ Program. Choosing to defer her studies, she took a GAP year to Uganda where she would work with a host of development organisations.

“Thinking she was going to change the world, an 18-year-old with little more than a high school education quickly found out that good intentions can only take you so far.

“I went over to volunteer in an orphanage and help build houses, and I thought I was doing the best thing possible. In reality I was probably doing more harm than good,” Anne-Marie said.

“I’m not a qualified builder and what I was doing was actually taking work away from highly qualified builders residing in the local community, who could have done a far better job than me. I would have been of much better use working in an area that was able to utilise my skills and passions.”

Working across many organisations, Anne-Marie came to the realisation that if she wanted to instigate positive and lasting change in the community she would need to pursue a different study path.

“I worked in a range of different programs and saw the needs that actually exist. I was able to be a part of the community, talk to the people and become more aware of what these people want,” Anne-Marie said.

“It was more beneficial for me to work on a larger scale view, such as looking at ways we can get menstrual hygiene management into the national curriculum or similar advocating.

“So I looked into the Bachelor of International Development Studies and thought this could not be more perfect for me – it was exactly what I wanted to do and it also gave me three years to explore the direction of international development I wanted to go in.”

During her GAP year, Anne-Marie volunteered in a women’s refuge, seeing young women struggling with coming to terms with their bodies through a distinct lack of education.

“At the refuge I was sleeping in a room with 12 other girls and found out when they had their periods they were using foam from the mattresses as an alternative to sanitary products,” Anne-Marie said.

“It’s taboo, something that’s not even talked about in schools – so of course they are not going to know it’s a natural bodily process.
“This experience is where I discovered my passion was with helping youth, particularly young women, and that’s the direction we went with Yimba in our early programs.”

Trying to find a solution, Anne-Marie found inspiration in the form of a sewing group in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

“I thought this problem had an easy solution – just get people to bring over sanitary packs and that would solve it, but this was another example of a girl straight out of high school not thinking of the bigger picture,” Anne-Marie said.

“We had issues as there was no way of disposing of them, so we had to think of another solution. At the time my Mum and her sewing group were making washable sanitary packs and that was exactly what we needed.

“We now employ our vocational training students to create these washable sanitation packs for us, providing them with a sustainable income, empowering them to be agents of change in their country, while also increasing the output of packs we can provide to young women in Uganda.”

Programs like these have become the signature of Yimba Uganda, with the focus of empowering agents of change within the community already having a significant impact.

The first program was centred around providing widows and single mothers with the means to purchase a goat, which they would care for and once it had a kid it would be distributed to another family in the community, with the owner of the original goat able to source an income through selling the goat’s milk and any further kids it would have.

“At the start I underestimated the impact a goat could have, but as the program developed I saw people able to buy bricks and cement to build a house, and even open a community store where they (could) sell sugar and rice,” Anne-Marie said.

“A major part of what we hope to achieve is encouraging people to be leaders in their community and not just think of their own situation, but that of their brothers and sisters in the more rural areas who are less fortunate than themselves.

“Cecilia, from the first original group, now coordinates the program and the community has full ownership of it, which is the goal for all of our programs.”

Yimba Uganda also facilitates vocational training, through a tailoring, fashion, and design course that has resulted in dresses and garments being sold in a Melbourne boutique, providing income to the students.

It is this empowerment that drives Anne-Marie and Yimba Uganda.

“The people in these communities have these great, big picture ideas, but they don’t have the resources or infrastructure in place to achieve them, and that’s the most heartbreaking thing,” Anne-Marie said.

It was through her work in the community that she met Emmanuel, a successful gospel and reggae singer in Uganda, who also had a passion for the community.

“Through the programs I was volunteering with I met Emmanuel, who had the same vision of working with youth in disadvantaged communities – it really aligned well,” Anne-Marie said.

“He was not like anyone I had met in Uganda before, we were so like-minded in terms of the programs we wanted to develop and our dreams of what Uganda could be like. I remember he, like me, had worked in a lot of organisations and we saw a way that we could help the community that was through the creation of Yimba Uganda.

“We spent a lot of time together building the organisation, and you know how these love stories unfold – we fell in love. I went back to Australia to do my degree, so we did the long distance thing for three years, but we always had Yimba that was pulling us together.

“At times, a lot of pressure was put on us, when we didn’t have enough money to pay for rent for the Yimba House or we needed to pay staff wages, and at times we thought, ‘how are we going to do this?’

“But it really is amazing that we’ve been able to build Yimba together, and I feel that we work better when we are together.”

Life in Uganda begins for the couple in May, with a one-way ticket to Kampala booked. Anne-Marie Reddan enters an exciting new phase of her remarkable journey, and one feels this will not be the last time we hear about this world-changing woman from Healesville.

To learn more about Yimba Uganda visit yimbauganda.org.
Four women changing the not-for-profit sector

The community engagement programs run at ACU share the common goal of instigating positive change in the community for those that are most vulnerable. The desire to deliver change for the common good, which forms part of the ACU Mission, has inspired four ACU women to become agents of change – with their impact reaching around the globe.

Simone Mossop, ReadyStepGrow

Working in neonatal care, Simone Mossop noticed something that concerned her. While research and intervention on how to help premature babies reach their development goals was increasing, it was not readily available to parents and their children.

Simone was determined to change this. Combining her experience in nursing and primary school education, the ACU graduate created ReadyStepGrow, a not-for-profit that provides programs that aim to improve a child’s executive functions (a set of mental skills that help you achieve tasks) to help them reach development goals.

Simone explains, “Executive functions are the best predictors for who will end up with a job they enjoy and who will have fulfilling relationships in their lives. They are the functions we are especially focused on in the programs at ReadyStepGrow.”

By intervening early, Simone’s organisation gives babies who are born preterm a greater chance of a healthier and happier future.

She explains, “Survival rates for these babies have been improving for some time now however long term developmental outcomes remain unchanged, and this is something that I would like ReadyStepGrow to achieve.”

Julie Sprakel, Think Pink Bahrain

For Julie Sprakel, Think Pink Bahrain began with a birthday wish. Having been personally touched by cancer, Julie asked her friends and family not for presents but for a donation to breast cancer.

She planned to donate the gifts to a local charity but she explains, “nobody answered my calls or directed me. This got me thinking, ‘if I couldn’t access information, how did others – both nationals and expatriates?’ I made the decision then, to become that change agent.”

With that in mind, Julie founded Think Pink Bahrain, a not-for-profit that educates women on the importance of self-screening and raises money for vital equipment and supplies.

As Julie explains, “Education is the first step to prevention... when we educate our mothers, daughters, sisters, and nieces, we can help them make informed decisions, which may ultimately save their lives.”

With Think Pink Bahrain, the ACU nursing alumnus has raised over $2.5 million. This has provided a crucial MRI machine to a local hospital and covered the cost of training medical staff.

But, Julie insists, “My charity is more than just an organisation about money, Think Pink Bahrain is about directing the funds into health care gaps – where they will make a positive impact and change.”
Jean Madden, Street Swags

Appalled by the mental and physical health dangers of living on the streets, ACU graduate Jean Madden decided action was needed. She explains, “I don’t think it’s acceptable that we have women and children and men – our own people, our own community – living in extreme poverty. When we’re such a wealthy nation there’s no reason for us to have poverty or accept poverty.”

This led Jean to create Street Swags, a charity that has provided more than 50,000 homeless Australians with basic bed and shelter to minimise the dangers of sleeping on the streets.

Jean’s work with Street Swags has gained widespread recognition and praise. In 2013, Jean won the Young Australian of the Year Award and in 2015 she was formally inducted into the Businesswomen’s Hall of Fame.

However Jean is determined to do more. She insists, “the swags keep people alive long enough for communities to take responsibility for their own. It’s time to give these people the support that they need – a roof over their head.”

Now the ACU alumnus, who graduated with a Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Theology, is tackling homelessness with the affordable housing initiative Swags with Walls.

“In the next 20 years, we will dramatically change what poverty looks like in Australia. I plan on building 50,000 cabins, affordable for anyone, no matter what their income, to not only have secure and safe housing, but to ultimately own their own home. We have lowered the cost of housing to lift people out of the margins and effectively bring an end to extreme poverty in Australia.”

Genevieve Radnan, Gennarosity Abroad

Genevieve had always been interested in helping others. But it was a two-week trip as a volunteer in Kenya that transformed her interest into Gennarosity Abroad, a charity that provides a range of services and support to African communities.

The first project of Gennarosity Abroad was the building of Karunga’s Emanuel Kindergarten. Genevieve raised $15,000 to build the education facility, which has grown from 18 to 48 students over the past four years. Then, after meeting an impoverished mother of one of the students, Genevieve decided more needed to be done for women in the community.

She recalls, “I thought, ‘how is this woman meant to provide for her children if she can’t even provide for herself?’ What’s a holistic way of helping her (that) we can apply to other women in similar situations?”

This question led to the creation of Grandma Jenny’s Training Centre, a place where illiterate women are taught mathematics, business studies, and other practical skills.

“The results have been amazing,” says Genevieve. “[The Centre] opened in 2013 and we’ve had students open up their own business as a result of the education they were taught.”

The goal now is to combine her nursing degree from ACU and experience in the health care system to build a new medical centre. As Genevieve sees it, these may be small, community-based projects but they can make a huge difference to individual lives.

She explains, “I feel like I can make a change. It might not be a huge number of people but it will be somebody. That’s my attitude.”
History beckons for Milly Tapper, with the Bachelor of Exercise Science graduate aiming to become the first Australian Paralympic athlete to represent her country at the Olympic Games. Max Bennett caught up with Milly about her incredible journey.

STRIVING TO MAKE HISTORY IN RIO

ACU OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS

DEBBIE WATSON
WATER POLO (SYDNEY, 2000) (GOLD MEDALLIST)

BRENDON COLE
400M HURDLES AND 4 X 400M RELAY (LONDON, 2012)

VERNON CHEUNG
HANDBALL (SYDNEY, 2000)
A table tennis world number one at 21, Paralympic semi-finalist at 22, the first Australian Paralympic athlete selected into an able-bodied national team, and a Commonwealth Games bronze medallist – not a bad a career CV, but this jigsaw is missing two pieces.

Melissa “Milly” Tapper wants to be a part of the Australian Table Tennis Team for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, becoming the first Australian athlete to represent their country as a Paralympian and an Olympian.

Already qualified for the 2016 Rio Paralympics, Milly wants to add Paralympic Gold to her collection in what is shaping as a year to redefine her career.

“Getting to the Commonwealth Games was a dream and to win a Bronze Medal with the women’s team was an amazing feeling, but the Olympic Games would be something else,” Milly said.

“It’s the pinnacle of sport, with the entire world watching, so to compete on that stage is the goal.”

Diagnosed with Erb’s Palsy resulting from complications during her birth, Milly suffered significant nerve damage in her right shoulder and arm, which restricted development, movement, and strength.

Mindset has been a key aspect of Milly’s ability to overcome her physical disability, with a burning desire to succeed and continue to take her game to the next level shining through.

“I know that I’ve put in ten times more work than anyone else has, so that’s where I get the confidence I have in myself. So when I get to that stage when the pressure’s on, I know that I’ve put in the time, done the training and have the inner-strength to play my game without thinking about what the result means.”

This determination was never more evident than when it became clear that if Milly was to take her game to the international stage, her serve would need to dramatically improve.

“I remember spending hours and hours on my serve. I had a terrible serve and every time I played against the higher ranked players I would be smashed and it was down to my serving ability,” Milly said.

“I would stay back after training and games in the hall for hours and hours every week just working on improving my serve, and that hard work has really paid off because now I feel like I have one of the best serves in Australian table tennis.

“I’m a bit of a perfectionist. I can handle, in a sense, failing, but I can’t accept not trying my best or leaving any stone unturned to improve my game. I think that drive has been a major part of my success in the sport.

“I will always find a way. It may not be the same as everyone else, but I will find a way.”

A prodigious talent, Milly would establish herself as one of brightest stars in the sport, claiming six Australian Junior Girls Championships, and winning her first title in her first competitive tournament as an 11-year-old.

As she continued to take all before her as a star junior it become apparent that for Milly to fulfil her potential, a move from the small country town in which she grew up to the big smoke was needed to accelerate her development into one of the top players in the country.

Not one to shy away from making sacrifices to achieve her goals, at just 14 Milly moved to Melbourne to live with her older sister, leaving behind her close-knit family and friends. Through the struggles of adapting to city life, solace was found in the table tennis hall.

“Coming from a small country town (Hamilton in the Wimmera region of western Victoria) where you know everyone it was a real shock moving to the city not knowing anyone or even how to get around,” Milly said.

“It wasn’t the easiest transition for me, but I think the table tennis at that point really helped me get through it. I was able to put all my energy into it and it was a place I felt comfortable.”

The move to the city would pay dividends, with Milly becoming a regular on the international circuit, winning tournaments across Europe, and skyrocketing up the rankings to finish 2011 as the number one player in the world.

A semi-final appearance at the 2012 London Paralympic Games cemented Milly’s place as one of the premier players in the world, having a major impact on her mindset and desire to achieve success.

“The experience of the 2012 London Paralympics was probably the biggest eye opener for me in terms of the sheer scale of the event,” Milly said.

“I was really proud of reaching the semi-finals in London, where I just fell short of the Bronze Medal game. I would probably say that was the defining moment for me, realising I needed to work harder if I’m to take my game to the next level.”

And take her game to the next level she did, becoming the first Australian Paralympic athlete to qualify for a national able-bodied team.

At just 24, Milly would play a leading role in the Bronze Medal-winning performance by the Australian Women’s Team at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Capping off the year, Milly moved onto the podium for the first time as a singles player, claiming the Bronze Medal at the 2014 Para World Championships.

Throughout her rise to the top education remained a priority for Milly and her family, with the ACU Bachelor of Exercise Science degree providing an arsenal of information and knowledge that would provide that extra one percent edge.

“Doing the Exercise Science degree, while I was training and starting to take my table tennis more seriously, was great for my development and understanding of the things I needed to do away from the table tennis hall,” Milly said.

“I would learn things in class during the day and then go to training in the evening and talk my coach about things we could do to improve in my game and preparation. Everything I was learning while I was studying was essentially a guide on how to be the best prepared and informed athlete you can be.

“I felt that as a result of doing the degree I had a greater understanding of my body and could tailor my training regime to best look after it and strengthen areas that needed improvement.”

Milly is entering the final stage for Olympic Games qualification with one tournament to decide her fate.

Milly claimed a third place finish at the Australian Olympic Qualification Tournament in February, ensuring she advanced to the ITTF Oceania Olympic Qualification Tournament. To be held in the central Victorian city of Bendigo in March, Milly must again place in the top three to secure a place on the team to compete in Rio.

Despite the sheer magnitude of the journey she is about to embark on, Milly isn’t one to allow herself to contemplate hypotheticals in the prime of her career.

“I’ve had so many people tell me what an amazing achievement (reaching the Commonwealth Games team) was, but for me I don’t see myself as being any different, so I think if I can qualify for the Commonwealth Games, why can’t I qualify for the Olympic Games?”
ACU GRADUATES: Where are they now?

FIONA GODFREY
Graduate Diploma of Education; Principal at Radford College (Canberra)

JESSICA HANSSON
Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science; Master of Applied Science; Exercise Physiologist at Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

MELISSA TAPPER
Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science; Paralympic Athlete (VIS)

ANNE CUMMINS
Master of Educational Leadership; Deputy Vice-Chancellor at ACU

GEMMA RYGATE
Bachelor of Education; CEO at The Centre for Volunteering

DARREN CROCKER
Graduate Diploma in High Performance Sport; Director of Coaching at North Melbourne Kangaroos (AFL)

PENNY DALY
Bachelor of Arts; Founder, The Welcome Group

MELINA MACHETTA
Bachelor of Education; Author

KRYS FREEMAN
Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science; Player at Newcastle Knights (NRL)

SARAH MILLER
Doctorate of Psychology (Clinical); Senior Clinical Psychologist and Forensic Psychologist

ANNE-MARIE REDDAN
Bachelor of International Development Studies; Co-Founder of Yimba Uganda

STAN KRUSS
Bachelor of Business; CEO at Expocentric
Join the network of ACU alumni on LinkedIn
linkedin.com/company/australian-catholic-university

DAVID TUBB
Graduate Diploma in Education/
Graduate Certificate in Religious
Education; Operations Manager at
Orange Sky Laundry

GEORGIA BLACK
Bachelor of Exercise and
Sports Science (Honours); PhD Candidate and Sessional Tutor at ACU

BLAKE SINCLAIR
Master of Business Administration; Manager, Schools and Not-For-Profit Sector Banking at Commonwealth Bank

BRADFORD MORTON
Bachelor of Information Technology; IT Security Analyst at Department of Parliamentary Services

NEAL MAXWELL
Graduate Diploma in Arts (Catholic Leadership); Western Principal at Yew Chung International Secondary School, Hong Kong

JOS COALEY
Master of Teaching; Integration Aid at St. Christopher’s School - Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

MICHAEL CAMILLERI
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce; Associate, Levant Consulting

GEORGE WEHBE
Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science (Honours)/Doctorate of Philosophy; Performance Analyst, Western Sydney Wanderers (A-League)

RUTH ANDERSON
Bachelor of Social Science; Lead Psychologist at Great Britain Cycling Team

ANTHONY SAMS
Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Business Administration; Business Solutions at Forum Group

MATT HEINRICH
Bachelor of Education; Director of Digital Learning & Innovation at Radford College (Canberra)

VANESSA DESLOIRES
Bachelor of Arts; Markets Reporter at Fairfax Media
Max Bennett writes about the celebration of alumni who are making an impact in the community.

In celebration of Australian Catholic University’s 25th anniversary, the inaugural ACU Alumni Awards were launched in 2015, celebrating the achievements of the more than 85,500 members of the University’s alumni community.

Held in Sydney, the Awards brought together alumni who have had a significant impact in the community on a local and global scale, acknowledging the outstanding achievements of a selection of talented former ACU students.

Headlining the celebration was the inspiring story of the four Sisters of the Holy Cross Convent in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the inaugural winners of the ACU Alumni of the Year Award.

Rev Sr Geraldine Michael, Rev Sr Pricilla John Baptist, Rev Sr Anushala Alexander, and Rev Sr Virgini Edwardrajah were recognised for their life-changing work in camps for internally displaced people, providing medical treatment and pastoral care to civilians wounded or traumatised in the Sri Lankan civil war, and their work in clinical teaching and securing sponsors for students who cannot afford an education.

The Sisters are all senior nurses at Holy Cross Hospital, senior lecturers in the Holy Cross School of Health Sciences and International Institute of Health Sciences based in Jaffna Sri Lanka, and were recipients of the International Contribution Award.

Joining the Sisters as an inaugural award winner was Dr Sarah Miller, receiving the Community Engagement Award for her work as clinical and forensic psychologist.

Completing a Doctorate of Psychology (Clinical) in 2006, Dr Miller has drawn international acclaim for her work providing psychological assistance in response to natural disasters and in conflict zones as the only Australian clinical psychologist on the delegation list for deployment by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

As part of her humanitarian roles with the Red Cross, Dr Miller has been deployed to flood-devastated Pakistan, Norway following the massacre that saw 77 killed, and to the Philippines in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, as well as many domestic disasters including the Queensland floods, Northern Territory cyclone, and Victorian bushfires.

Continuing the theme of ACU alumni making a difference both here and abroad, Penny Daly was acknowledged with the Community Leadership Award for her impactful work with at-risk youth.

A 2002 Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Psychology and Philosophy) graduate, Penny has become an advocate for helping asylum seekers and those in immigration detention.

This has taken Penny to Christmas Island supporting unaccompanied minors living in detention, working as a child protection specialist in the Families Area of Manus Island Regional Processing Centre, and also at the Nauru Offshore Processing Centre where she ensured that children had the protection of their parents and international human rights obligations.

On the home front, Penny has worked on stakeholder engagement programs in the Yarra City Council in Melbourne, developing policy and procedures for at-risk youth from refugee backgrounds.

She is also the president and founder of The Welcome Group, which has empowered thousands of volunteers to provide direct support and welcome to refugees in the community.

The amazing work done by our alumni continues to inspire the next generation of alumni, who are already having a significant in their communities. One such young alum is Jessica Hansson.

Winner of the Young Alumni of the Year, Jessica is balancing her time as a senior exercise physiologist at Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) and as a lecturer at ACU in Neurological Analysis, Prescription and Rehabilitation.

After completing her undergraduate degree and masters at ACU, Jessica has emerged as a leading light in the area of clinical supervision at SCIA, supervising more than 100 exercise physiology students from across universities in Melbourne.

This saw Jessica recognised as the 2013 Exercise and Sport Science Australia (ESSA) Practicum Supervisor of the Year.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven led recognition of those honoured and those to be honoured for living out the University’s Mission in their everyday lives.

“Each winner has taken the University’s Mission and applied it to their work and to their lives. They demonstrate a deep commitment to producing real change in communities,” Professor Craven said.

“We are inspired by their leadership and honour them as role models within the ACU community and across the world.

“We are proud to establish a wonderful new tradition to recognise these worthy efforts as we celebrate the past 25 years and look forward to the future.”

The 2016 ACU Alumni of the Year awards will recognise another outstanding group of former students, who are having a positive impact on the community at home and abroad.

For details regarding the 2016 ACU Alumni awards, please contact the Alumni Relations Manager, Sarah Currie, at alumni@acu.edu.au.

2015 Winners

ACU Alumni of the Year and International Contribution Award

The Sisters of the Holy Cross – Rev Sr Geraldine Michael, Rev Sr Pricilla John Baptist, Rev Sr Anushala Alexander, and Rev Sr Virgini Edwardrajah – senior nurses at Holy Cross Hospital, senior lecturers in the Holy Cross School of Health Sciences and International Institute of Health Sciences in Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Community Engagement Award

Dr Sarah Miller, Clinical and Forensic Psychologist, renowned in the international humanitarian sector for trauma counselling

Community Leadership Award

Penny Daly, Founder and President of The Welcome Group

Young Alumni of the Year

Jessica Hansson, Senior Exercise Physiologist, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, and ACU Faculty of Health Sciences lecturer
For information regarding the 2016 Alumni Awards including the selection criteria, nomination procedure, and the Alumni Awards Ceremony (Tuesday 18 October, Melbourne) please email: alumni@acu.edu.au
ACU is growing and the campuses are changing. Over the past five years, the number of students undertaking studies at our seven campuses in Australia has significantly increased, coupled with a strong focus on research resulting in the introduction of research institutes and centres to ACU. As such, development of infrastructure across the campuses has been a significant focus.

“There are two key drivers of the infrastructure development. Student growth is the most obvious, but we’ve also seen in the past 24 months the research intensification, bringing on research teams from outside the University, (which) has driven considerable space demands,” Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director Infrastructure Paul Campbell explained.

This exponential growth is being matched by capital investment, with the University establishing a 10-year infrastructure plan taking us to 2025, totalling $600 million. The infrastructure plan includes allocations for physical (building and campus) and virtual (ICT and Business Systems) infrastructure.

Already the seeds of the planning have begun to bear fruit in the form of the award-winning John Paul II Building in Brisbane, the Raheen Library and ground level refurbishment of Melbourne’s Mary Glowery Building, Canberra’s Faculty of Heath Sciences laboratories’ refurbishment, and the Catherine of Siena Centre in Ballarat.

The investment in infrastructure has driven a desire to create functional spaces that are both inspiring and beautiful, tapping into local knowledge with a national view.

“I give credit to a good balance between local leaders and national leaders in relation to those recently constructed projects,” Mr Campbell said.

“If we took the John Paul II Building on the Brisbane Campus as an example, having (Professor) Jim Nyland (Associate Vice-Chancellor – Brisbane) on the ground, our local and national infrastructure staff, and architects who have all contributed to the delivering the vision.

“It’s about a team approach and working with people who have that passion to deliver more than just teaching spaces and offices.”

The outcomes have been the envy of universities around Australia, with the John Paul II Building winning multiple awards, including the Master Builders of Australia National Public Building Award.

Committing $600 million to infrastructure has inspired further detailed planning for each campus, with masterplans developed to ensure development that captures and enhances the university campus feel.

“We go through exercises of campus master planning. This is where key people from ACU work with architects and town planners to assess our needs, and look at how we can best bring these ideas together to ensure our campuses create that unique university atmosphere,” Mr Campbell said.
The Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Strathfield, and Melbourne masterplans have reached the implementation stage, and the North Sydney masterplan is currently under development following the landmark acquisitions of 23 and 33 Berry Street in 2015.

The space in North Sydney presents a unique challenge to create an excellent university experience, but the blueprint is there as Mr Campbell explains.

“In North Sydney we’re focusing (on) bringing together the many properties held by the University, and we face challenges of creating a connected city campus. I think we’ve got it right in Melbourne as a blueprint for how a city campus should look and feel,” Mr Campbell said.

The evolution of the North Sydney Campus is just the tip of the iceberg to come over the next two years, with major projects underway and planned at most campuses as ACU continues to evolve and grow.

**2016-17 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

**BALLARAT**
Physiotherapy is coming to Ballarat, with a state-of-the-art teaching and training facility to be completed ahead of the course commencing in 2017.

**BRISBANE**
The expansion of the picturesque Banyo campus continues with the construction of the ‘Building U’ adding further teaching and office space.

**CANBERRA**
Canberra will have a new focal point with the development of the Campus Heart building comprising of student common areas, food outlets, library, and event space.

**MELBOURNE**
Melbourne continues its evolution of the Fitzroy precinct with the construction of the higher education building at 115b Victoria Parade.

**NORTH SYDNEY**
Following the acquisition of 23 and 33 Berry St, North Sydney enters master planning phase as they continue to transform to a connected campus.

**STRATHFIELD**
There will be digging at Strathfield, building an underground carpark capable of accommodating more than 260 vehicles.
It was only fitting that some of ACU’s most successful and influential alumni championed women making a difference as part of the 2016 International Women’s Day celebrations held on Tuesday 8 March.

International Women’s Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, with ACU taking the opportunity to invite alumni to reconnect and share their stories.

At functions held across ACU campuses in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, and Ballarat, some of ACU’s most prominent alumni shared their amazing journeys around how Women Make a Difference, the theme for the inaugural event.

ACU Alumni Relations Manager Sarah Currie said the insights and experiences these women shared were truly inspiring to those in attendance.

“To have these amazing women, who are making such a significant difference in the local and international community, and in business and social welfare, among our alumni network is a testament to the quality of graduates we produce at ACU,” she said.

Among the guest speakers were recipients of the 2015 ACU Alumni of the Year Awards, including Dr Sarah Miller (Community Engagement Award), Jessica Hansson (Young Alumni of the Year), and Penny Daly (Community Leadership Award).

For Ms Daly, the founder of refugee support organisation The Welcome Group, when asked how women make a difference she spoke of the ability to step up and “take action”.

“Women make a difference in the world with our passion. If we care about a cause or issue it is generally the women of this world who step up, walk the walk and take action,” Ms Daly said.

“We throw ourselves in 110%, be it as a mother, a professional, a volunteer – women are often the rock in any situation. We can multitask well and it would be hard to find a woman who does not have dual roles in life giving her all to all of them.”

This powerful sentiment was shared around the five event locations, where several high-profile alumni added their insights, including The Centre for Volunteering CEO

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**Professor Anne Cummins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students, Learning and Teaching)**

“Women have a distinctive perspective integrating relational and business goals. They frequently see complex nuances and have tenacity and courage.”

**Professor Michelle Campbell, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences**

“Women have many traits that make them good leaders – they are very nurturing, caring, compassionate and collaborative. They demonstrate more empathy and are more adaptive.”

**Dr Sarah Miller, Senior Clinical Psychologist and Forensic Psychologist**

“International Women’s Day represents an opportunity to celebrate women’s equally important contribution to society, and their role in empowerment to bridge the gap for equity.”
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Pippa Hallas, CEO Ella Baché

“Women need to celebrate each other and all genders need to make room for women in leadership roles across all industries, otherwise we are losing out on the huge contribution women can make.”

Fiona Godfrey, Principal Radford College (Canberra)

“As a life-long educator of young people, I have always attempted to instill in my students an appreciation of the importance of education, the positive impact women have on our community, and the importance of women being represented (at) all levels of leadership.”

Emma Larsen, Director and Education Leader, Avenel Kindergarten (Seymour, Victoria)

“Women have enormous capacity to have a positive impact on the lives of others. By placing a value on education, starting with the youngest members of our society, we are able to highlight the positive impact women have on all sectors of the community, paving the way for an equitable future.”

Gemma Rygate, Ella Baché CEO Pippa Hallas, and The Pyjama Foundation founder Bronwyn Sheehan, captivating audiences.

“We wanted to create a platform where the women of the ACU alumni network could come together to celebrate their achievements, be inspired by compelling speakers, and discuss issues facing women in a warm and welcoming environment – and I believe we achieved this,” Currie said.

ACU’s involvement in International Women’s Day celebrations reflects the University’s long and storied history educating women, which as Currie explains, continues today.

“ACU has long been a preferred tertiary education option for women across Australia, reflected in our alumni network, where women make up more than 60 per cent of past students, and in our population where currently enrolled female students make up 70 per cent of the student body.

“We see the International Women’s Day celebrations at ACU becoming a marquee event on the alumni calendar, providing a great opportunity to network and to hear inspiring stories from some of our more than 45,000 female alumni.

“There was an overwhelmingly positive sentiment from those who attended, which speaks volumes of the environment created at each function and the influence of the hosts and thought-provoking speakers engaging the audience.”

Aiming to attract more alumni to the growing network, Currie said ACU provides opportunities for past students to engage with the current student body.

“A major benefit of a growing alumni network is the opportunity to connect past and current students through the Career Connect initiative.

“Career Connect is an opportunity for a conversation between current students and graduates that provides industry insight and information on current roles and working environments.”

Visit the ACU 2016 International Women’s Day website at acu.edu.au/iwd to read more about some of our most influential alumni and engaging stories about women making a difference.
Evolution of the health care professional

In an industry where treatment and service delivery is moving ahead in leaps and bounds, postgraduate qualification is fast becoming a requirement for professionals seeking to progress and evolve in their health care careers. Max Bennett writes about this development.

“I was pretty clear to me that if I wanted to advance my career I needed to explore doing postgraduate study. All the positions I was enquiring about needed that level of qualification. “It’s opened doors and presented me with opportunities I didn’t think I would have at this stage of my career.”

These are the reflections of Fiona Faulkner, Clinical Nurse Specialist at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, who completed a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing at ACU, a decision that has propelled her career development and left her eager to explore further study opportunities.

ACU has long established a reputation as one of the premier education providers for nursing and midwifery studies, with postgraduate offerings continuing to expand to meet the growing needs of the industry. This evolution of postgraduate education comes as more nurses and midwives see further study as a necessity to open the door for career progression and skill specialisation.

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine Senior Lecturer Dr Val Goodwin, said the industry is demanding postgraduate qualification as part of the evolution and progression of their professionals.

“It’s well recognised across all parts of the nursing field that in order to rise through the ranks – for career progression, but also in terms of consolidating a specialty arm of practice – that postgraduate study is absolutely necessary,” Dr Goodwin said.

“It’s not just a nice qualification to have; it’s a requirement. You won’t be competitive in the industry unless you can demonstrate your knowledge and skills have progressed to the next level.”

These requirements are driving a growing demand from industry and students to meet the evolving way services are delivered in the field.

“The demand for offerings is coming from students and industry – they go hand in hand. An example of this is the mental health suite of postgraduate courses, which was developed in response to industry demand, resulting from changes in the way services are delivered,” Dr Goodwin said.

“This sparked a real desire within industry to have their nurses, in particular, renew and embark on their postgraduate qualifications in a way that reflects the contemporary approach of the industry. So our course was built with this in mind.”

The correlation between education and advancement, and the desire to adapt to an ever-changing industry, inspired Faulkner to initially explore the possibility of postgraduate study.

“Working in the surgical ward I was exposed to so many different areas of specialisation and opportunities for career development,” Fiona said.

“The common thread between all these opportunities to progress my career was postgraduate qualifications and it was clear that I would have to return to university to further develop my skills and knowledge.”

Since completing her postgraduate studies in 2014, Fiona has been able to pursue her ambitions of taking on roles in facilitating further education opportunities for other staff in her ward.

“As a clinical nurse specialist, my role involves working alongside the hospital’s education team and nurse unit managers to provide our nurses with ongoing educational support and advice. As part of this role I have assisted in delivering many seminars to staff and newly employed graduates.”

This has enticed Fiona to consider further study as she looks to explore a career path in clinical education and management roles, while highlighting the economic benefits.

“Along with the career progression doors that were opened, there were the financial benefits in terms of remuneration and allowances that, while not being the complete focus, certainly solidified that I’d made the right decision,” Fiona said.

“Facilitating training and education for nurses is something I’m really enjoying and I see myself heading into that education side of nursing. Further study in that area would position me to follow that career path.”

Courses such as the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Education have interested Fiona as she looks to expand her knowledge and qualifications, with the Faculty of Health Sciences graduate discount providing further incentive.

A 10 per cent rebate will be offered to domestic ACU graduates from any faculty enrolling in full fee-paying postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences, easing the financial burden associated with further study.

Completing her undergraduate degree at Federation University in Ballarat, the decision to choose ACU to complete her postgraduate studies was fuelled by her own personal experiences working with ACU students and alumni.

“We see a lot of ACU students come through our hospital for placement. Their clinical knowledge and professional attitude stood out to me when on the ward and dealing with staff and educators,” Fiona said.

To learn more about the postgraduate offerings available at ACU visit acu.edu.au/postgraduate.
AWASH WITH SUCCESS

Armed with scholarship backing and an innovative idea, ACU graduate David Tubb and two mates created a valuable service for those in need.

ACU graduate David Tubb was beaming with pride as he saw his mates, co-founders of Orange Sky Laundry Lucas Patchett and Nicholas Marchesi, receive the Young Australian of Year Award, drawing further recognition to a project having a positive impact on thousands of homeless Australians.

Since 2014, Orange Sky Laundry has been providing free mobile laundry services to homeless people in Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Sydney, Melbourne, South East Victoria, and Perth through their distinctive orange vans containing two commercial washing machines and dryers.

On the journey from the beginning as a Board Member and Operations Manager, David said that to see the expansion of the service and recognition it is receiving, both at home and abroad, is having a significant impact.

“It gives us a really big platform for people to become aware of the project. That sort of exposure is absolutely priceless, both in terms of attracting volunteers, and in terms of further fundraising and sponsorship to assist with the purchase of new vans and equipment,” David said.

“With additional vans helping our homeless friends we are going to be able to do more washing and have more conversations, allowing us to positively connect more of the 105,000 Australians who are homeless, as well as our volunteers; which is what the project is all about.”

Striking up a friendship during their school years, David, Lucas and Nicholas found themselves drawn to helping disadvantaged people in the community – identifying hygiene as an area that would benefit from their attention.

“All three of us were involved in food vans for our homeless friends when we were at school and realised that hygiene wasn’t something that had really been thought of before, and that’s where the idea of a mobile laundry came from,” David said.

“We often say the laundry itself is just a catalyst for conversation in that once the laundry is in the machine there isn’t much to do aside from having a really positive, genuine, and non-judgemental conversation with our homeless friends.”

ACU was among numerous organisations that have demonstrated their support of this important project through the Sophia Scholarship, awarded to students and alumni for outstanding contributions to the common good.

As part of his role, David oversees the operational aspects of the project, coordinating volunteers in locations around Australia. This role continues to grow as increases in support (financial and resources) and volunteers drives expansion to new locations.

“We have a really talented group of volunteers who operate the vans, and are so incredibly generous with their time and energy, which really characterises the organisation,” David said.

“The numbers do get a little bit exciting and scary sometimes – every week in Australia we wash more than 4,000kgs of laundry, with more than 450 volunteers involved. We have managed to scale the project very quickly, which is fantastic as it is allowing us to positively connect more and more people within the community.”

It’s a balancing act for David, who completed a Graduate Diploma in Education and Graduate Certificate in Religious Education in 2015, working his Orange Sky commitments around his main role as a teacher at St Joseph’s College Gregory Terrace in Brisbane.

Despite the long hours and often overlapping commitments, David’s enthusiasm and drive is sparked by the different challenges presented by teaching and Orange Sky Laundry.

“I find both teaching at St Joseph’s College and working for Orange Sky Laundry really life-giving, both challenge me in different ways but certainly give me plenty of positive energy in return for the time invested,” David said.

“A typical day for me is an early start at school, spend the day teaching, then putting in a few hours for Orange Sky in the evening.

“I would love to give 12 hours a day, seven days a week to Orange Sky Laundry, but I’m thoroughly enjoying the bits now where I can pitch in and help out.”

In his first year as a teacher, David said he is finding fulfilment in the classroom and the washing machine, feeling both activities complement each other.

“They are two very different audiences, but at the end of the day in both school and Orange Sky I’m trying to build positive and genuine relationships, whether that’s with my students or my homeless friends,” David said.

To learn more about Orange Sky Laundry visit orangeskylaundry.com.au.
2015 was a fantastic year filled with events celebrating our alumni. Below are some social snaps from the events.

Alumni Awards, Sydney, October 2015

ACU Alumni Events: Social snaps

Faculty of Law and Business Alumni Reunion and LinkedIn presentation, Melbourne, November 2015

Photography: Alumni Awards, Matthew Duchesne, Milk & Honey Photography. Faculty of Law and Business Alumni Reunion, Parsley Creative.
UPDATE YOUR DETAILS
AND CONNECT WITH
ACU ALUMNI

Stay up-to-date with alumni events, support the University and connect with the wider alumni community.

acu.edu.au/update-your-details
Artwork entitled “Mind of a Child” by Stephanie King. This piece won the ACU Ballarat Art Acquisition award and is hanging in the Catherine of Siena Centre on Ballarat Campus, along with previous winners of this award.