

Amanda Whitely

Public Relations 1994

CEO and Founder, HerCanberra

Amanda Whitley is an emblem of resilience and dedication within the media industry. As the founder and CEO of the online magazine HerCanberra, Amanda's success is unparalleled. HerCanberra was one of the first online magazines dedicated to an inclusive digital community for women in Canberra, tackling a wide range of issues that impact women. In 2016, Amanda was awarded ACT Woman of the Year, and was named one of the '100 Years, 100 Great Women by UN Australia for her work. Amanda has overcome several challenges in her career, but her determination to keep HerCanberra running even in the darkest of times is admirable.



Sue Maslin

CCAE Media Studies, Film Production 1983

Screen Producer (Film, Television, and Digital content)

Sue Maslin is best known for her productions The Dressmaker and the Road to Nhill, in which she commits to telling the often-overlooked stories of women. In 1983, the CCAE's media studies programme was only a one-year course, but when Sue enrolled, it proved a massive turning-point in her life. She has since faced numerous challenges in the industry, including being told by film financiers that The Dressmaker was too focused on female perspectives. Sue persevered regardless, and The Dressmaker went on to become one of the highest-grossing Australian films in history. Sue's resilience in Australian film industry is an inspiration for women aspiring to work in the film production industry.



Megan Watson

Communication and Media Studies Photographer, Artist, Filmaker

Megan Watson has done outstanding work as an artist and photographer in Canberra, and her contributions have left an impressive impact. During her studies at UC, Megan solidified her interests in documentary production, and worked to tell the stories and complexities of human life. In 2019, Megan spent three weeks in Namadgi National Park creating art to celebrate the 1969 moon landing for Craft ACT. These artworks were grounded in astrophotography, one of Megan's several passions, and told the beautiful narratives that connect us on earth to the stars above.



Rob Henry

Environmental Design, Architecture (Honours) 2006

Founder and Architect of Rob Henry Architects

As an architect, Rob Henry has made significant contributions with innovative sustainable designs that demonstrate environmental consciousness, effectively responding to dynamic and unpredictable climates. With multiple awards to his name, Rob is committed to influencing Australia's architectural and construction sectors, promoting a heightened focus on quality of life, particularly in the wake of challenges such as COVID-19, bushfires, floods, and hailstorms.



Hew Sandison

Media Arts and Production 2013

Producer

Since graduating, Hew Sandison has achieved some significant milestones in the film industry. The skills that Hew acquired during his studies proved invaluable as he overcame several challenges while co-producing the film Her Own Music. In 2020, the film earned a spot amongst the top 10 finalists for the Dendy Awards in the Sydney Film Festival. Hew's skills and passion for filmmaking has propelled him forward, with plans for feature films and television in the future.



Jamie Wilson

Public Relations 2007

Founder and CEO of Supercurious (Coordinate)

Jamie Wilson has had a remarkable journey since graduating from the University of Canberra. He sparked the concept for the iconic CBR logo, and, despite initial mixed reactions, Jamie's perseverance made it Canberra's own symbol. At the age of 20, Jamie founded Coordinate, now Supercurious, which is one of Canberra's leading advertising agencies. Jamie has been involved in numerous projects, crafting timeless brands and logos for organisations such as Zango, The National Arboretum, and AusCycling. In his work, Jamie emphasises the value of commitment, focus, and discipline, qualities that continue to fearlessly drive his creative career forward.



Ashley Parker

Media Arts and Production, Cinematography 2019

Filmmaker, Cinematographer

Ashley Parker, one of Canberra's most promising and talented filmmakers, is someone who is driven by a dedication to storytelling through the camera lens. Ashley received two awards for her film This Mess in the Lights! Canberra! Action! 2020 Awards. The film tackles themes around the climate crisis through a symbolic story about a boy who can't play outside because of the bushfires. Ashley holds a compelling vision for impactful cinema, and her passion and expertise continue to evolve even through the toughest of challenges in the film industry.



Justin Heazlewood

Professional Writing 2001

The Bedroom Philosopher, Musician, Comedian, Author

Justin Heazlewood, or The Bedroom Philosopher, has had an eclectic career since graduating the University of Canberra. His journey is marked by some outstanding creative pursuits both during his time studying, and in the following years. Justin has produced several musical and literary works which have given him national recognition, and he has written for several magazines throughout his time. Justin emphasises the values of following one's passions, rejecting conformity, and persevering to achieve one's dreams. Justin's journey is a testament to pursuing artistic visions in what can be a challenging and unforgiving profession.



Alex Henderson

Creative Writing and Literary Studies 2016 (Undergraduate), 2017 (Honours), 2023 (PhD) Research, Australian Research Council

Alex Henderson has made some remarkable strides in their career, showcasing a continued dedication to literature and research. Alex is currently contributing their expertise to the Australian Research Council and also has several publications on the horizon. Their work is set to be featured in the upcoming queer fiction anthology An Unexpected Party, reflecting the energy and purpose of their thesis. They also hope to transform their PhD manuscript into a beloved bestselling novel. Alex holds a deep gratitude to the Faculty of Arts and Design, who has been instrumental in their growth as a creator and researcher.



Lisa Fuller

Professional Writing, Creative Writing 2010 (Graduate Diploma), 2015 (Masters), 2020 (PhD) Writer/Author

Lisa's academic journey spans several years, culminating her current pursuit of a Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Writing. Lisa's initial inspiration was driven by her dreams of becoming a writer and her desire to delve into publishing and editing. She has faced numerous challenges, balancing full-time work, family, and community commitments, but her hard work and perseverance has not gone unnoticed. Lisa's Master's project transformed into her award-winning novel Ghost Bird, and her role at the Aboriginal Studies Press proves a significant achievement that has left an enduring impact. Lisa credits her loved ones, spirituality, and her supportive supervisors for helping her overcome several obstacles in her career.



Stephen Trathen

Industrial Design 1982

Retired Adjunct Associate Professor of Design at the University of Canberra

Stephen has a unique blend of artistic and technical expertise, stemming from his early studies in Art and Industrial Design. Stephen's notable achievements include earning a Graduate Diploma, a Research Masters, and a PhD. Stephen has had to overcome some difficult challenges over the 25 years he has spent with the University of Canberra but also holds some overwhelmingly positive memories. He values staying connected to the world of design and expresses gratitude for the profound influence of the Faculty of Arts and Design has had on his professional and academic life.



Ben Walker

Architecture, Landscape Architecture

BA Landscape Architecture 1999, BA Architecture 2006

Founder & Director - Ben Walker Architects Pty Ltd

Ben founded Ben Walker Architects in 2012 following a period of time working in architecture and urban design practice, following graduation in both Architecture and Landscape Architecture degrees. These positions were held in both Canberra and Melbourne. Ben worked with Townsend + Associates Architects in Canberra for six years prior to the establishment of BWA. BWA has established itself as a practice working on small scale projects in the ACT and NSW, and Ben continues to participate in the Faculty of Arts and Design architecture stream studios and ACT Chapter events.



Dianne Firth

Landscape Architecture 1982

Retired Practicing Landscape Architect, Academic, Adjunct Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture

Holding a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and PhD, Dianne has established a remarkable career over her time with the University of Canberra. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, and worked on the ACT Heritage Council until 2017, advising the government on heritage preservation in landscape and urban design. Dianne's research has also extended to creative textile works, where she has gained recognition as a leader in contemporary quilt making on local, national, and international levels. Dianne expresses her appreciation to the great staff and students that she has seen during her time at the University of Canberra.



Andrew Mackenzie

Landscape Architecture 2002

UNSW Researcher and Academic

Andrew's journey from his time as a Landscape Architecture student to his current role with UNSW is full of some remarkable feats. His achievements range from directing the University of the South Pacific in Vanuatu to coaching the Vanuatu national team at the Tokyo Olympic Games, and even sailing from Vanuatu to Australia. In 2014, Andrew became the Head of the Design and Architecture discipline at the University of Canberra. Despite some significant challenges, Andrew expresses gratitude for the support of his friends and colleagues at the University of Canberra.



Nigel Fitton

Applied Science, Architecture 1985

Sole Practitioner, Spatial Environs

Nigel embarked on his architectural journey at the University of Canberra in 1979 and graduated in 1985. From here, his professional career has been nothing short of outstanding. Nigel has been involved in various high-profile positions on international scales, collaborating with several industry luminaries. His achievements encompass a range of projects, awards, and teaching roles. His dedication to architecture began during his time at the University of Canberra, where he was actively involved in student and architectural organizations, setting the stage for a fruitful career in the field. Nigel hopes to continue doing excellent work as a sole practitioner until his late 70s.



Alistair Henchman

Architecture 1980

Strategic Planner, Owner and Director of SAJE Consulting, Registered Planner RPIA, Retired Registered Architect

Alistair originally studied Architecture at UNSW; however, he found the traditional and narrow approach to design education challenging and left to study at the CCAE's School of Environmental Design. Alistair states that the school provided the environment and support he needed for him to find his unique place in the architectural industry. Alistair is now the Owner and Director of SAJE Consulting, serving as a strategic planner. Since his days at the University of Canberra, Alistair has achieved several milestones. Alistair has been actively involved in various advisory and leadership roles and is currently a Trustee for the Ginninderry Conservation Trust. He continues to contribute his expertise as a member on the ACT Heritage Council. Alistair has also worked on engaging projects across Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific while also collaborating with First Nations peoples on various initiatives. He has deep appreciation for the University of Canberra and credits the institution, the faculty, staff, and the innovative and individualized approach to education for shaping his success.



Dean McPherson

Architecture 1999

Director at AMC Architecture

Dean is a dedicated architect who was drawn to the field by a passion for art, technical drawing, and some inspiring mentors. Overcoming the hardships of a six-year degree, he excelled, achieved career success, and has contributed to the industry with multiple accolades and leadership roles to his name. Dean has some fond memories of his time studying, working late night projects in Building 7, building models in one of the best faculty workshops in Canberra, and extensive learning opportunities in site visits and guest lectures. Dean aims to leave a lasting legacy in the architectural and construction world through mentorship and advocacy.



Jane Cassidy

Applied Science, Architecture
1993 (Applied Science), 1996 (Architecture)
Architect, Australian Institute of Architects National
President Elect and Board Director, GHD APAC Service
Line Leader (Architecture and Design), GHD Design
Pty Ltd Board Director

Jane is an outstanding architect with multiple accolades to her name. Her career path has been marked by adaptability, transitioning between architectural practice, academia, and her current portfolio career. In her work, Jane combines technical leadership across the built environment, and advocates for high design quality and sustainability. In her role as the National President of the Australian Institute of Architects, she leads the transformation of the architecture industry towards a low-carbon, circular economy future. Jane expresses deep appreciation for her teachers and mentors, notably Gurdev Sing, Ann Cleary, Carol Guida, and Nino Bellantonio, who played pivotal roles during her time at the University of Canberra.



René Linssen

Industrial Design 2016

Design Lead at Formswell Design, Co-Founder of Furnished Forever, Sessional Lecturer and Tutor at the University of Canberra

René's career as a skilled industrial designer is full of outstanding achievements. Since graduating in 2016, René has won many awards for his extensive range of projects, namely the Parliament House inspired bike racks, of which a few hundred are scattered around Canberra. During his years studying, René encountered challenges in balancing work, personal life, and study. Despite initial difficulties in mastering 3D computer-aided design and model making, René still embraced these skills and now employs them in his career. René fondly remembers late-night collaborations with classmates on design projects, which helped the cohort develop a competitive and motivating spirit. René mentors design students at the University of Canberra as a sessional instructor. René's advice to emerging designers emphasizes the importance of effort, building connections, and seizing opportunities. He finds working in Canberra a blessing, and his future projects include 3D visualizations for the Canberra light rail and a new shelter for the ACT Government.



Kate Mason

Secretarial Studies 1987

Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Social Value, Founder and CEO of Self Energy, Board Member of STUFF Global

Kate Mason's remarkable journey from the CCAE to Chief Transformation Officer at Coca-Cola, to now the CEO and Founder of two business services showcases her unwavering tenacity. Her career spans various HR roles in global companies like GE and Coca-Cola. She's a staunch advocate for women in business, serving as Vice-President of the International Women's Forum. Outside her professional life, Kate's heart lies with the Starlight Children's Foundation, reflecting her deep commitment to creating equal opportunities for all children. Her advice to aspiring professionals is to seize opportunities, deliver with passion, and foster a strong support network.



Ann Cleary

Architecture 1984

Architect, Fellow of Australian Institute of Architects, Senior Lecture in Architecture

Ann is an alumna of the CCAE era School of Environmental Design, commencing studies in architecture in 1979 as one of the earliest cohorts to learn within the newly completed Building 7 studios. Ann's practice in architecture includes many public and cultural scale projects in international settings, including Sweden, Belgium, New York, Los Angeles USA, and Singapore. Ann co-founded Cadence, a design group, to contribute to Canberra's urban project initiatives. Ann's architecture journey began with the extraordinary opportunity as a young graduate to work on the Australian Parliament House project over a period of many years. During this time, Ann learnt from international colleagues, local artisans and makers. One architect in particular, Aldo Giurgola, supported Ann in evolving her architectural practice in the years that followed, and even during her teaching career. Ann feels fortunate to have had such diverse opportunities, both local and afar, and the scope to now support the next generation of emerging architectural graduates contributing to our public realm.



Bill Shelley

Industrial Design 1994

Technical Services Coordinator

Bill Shelley, with a passion for both design and fabrication, returned to his roots at the University of Canberra in 2007, to run the faculty's workshop after a decade of running his own design and fabrication business. Bill's biggest legacy is the opportunity to create the new workshop 7, and he takes immense pride in the impactful work produced by students, staff, and researchers in this innovative space.



Peter Bickle

Architecture 1981

Registered Architect, Sessional Teacher at the School of Architecture RMIT

Peter was a foundational member of the CCAE's School of Environmental Design, and while it was a challenging time of trial and error, it fostered a strong sense of comradery amongst the staff and students. Peter also fondly remembers his involvement in the Batemans Bay Urban Design Project in his fifth year of study. Since graduating, Peter has worked on a wide range of complex projects to deliver important design elements and practical outcomes. He has played a pivotal role in site projects such as the Melbourne Recital Centre, the Geelong Library, and Melbourne's Hamer Hall. With nearly 30 years as a sessional teacher at RMIT, Peter excels in teaching architectural design, and he hopes to continue to inspire as a design tutor while also working on his own personal projects in the future.



Catherine Carter

Communications 1989 (Bachelor), 2000 (Masters) Managing Director of Salon Canberra, Faculty of Arts and Design Adjunct Professor

Catherine is a natural and passionate leader, showing continual resilience in various career paths and contributing massively to the Canberra community. Now Salon Canberra's Managing Director and one of the University's Adjunct Professors, Catherine has an outstanding career journey, including her role as CEO of Local Government Professionals Australia. Catherine actively contributes to various boards and committees, earning several awards for her achievements and milestones. During her studies, Catherine overcame several challenges in her personal life. She is deeply appreciative for her enduring friendships and the University's ongoing support in these challenging times, both during her studies and today.



Philip Coxall

Landscape Architecture 1989

Landscape Architect at McGregor Coxall

Phillip chose the Landscape Architecture field due to his profound connection with the broader landscape. During his time studying, Philip overcame challenges of being a married mature-age student, and balancing economics, however his friendships with other students made his experiences increasingly memorable. Since graduating, Philip formed a company with Adrian McGregor, and has received several awards, even being nominated as one of Sydney's top 100 professionals to improve Sydney's quality in 2009. Philip shows gratitude to the University for providing him and environment to explore and experiment with ideas.



Tim Fulton

Graphic Design 2017

Digital Project Manager and Designer at Swell Design

Tim Fulton has had an incredible career journey since his time graduating. During his studies, Tim overcame several challenges, from learning difficulties to battling an autoimmune disease. But he resiliently persevered and won the Graduate of the Year for Visual Communication Design in 2017. Tim emphasises the importance of embracing all elements in educational journeys such as challenging conventions and building supportive networks in the industry.



Isaac Nowroozi

Journalism 2017

ABC Journalist

Isaac exemplifies the modern journalist embracing digital journalism. Despite learning challenges in his early years, Isaac discovered his passion for writing and storytelling while pursuing a journalism degree at the University. His internships with Capital Football, SBS, and ABC helped him construct an outstanding professional career, and is now working for ABC as a journalist and presenter. Isaac's passion for sharing stories and his adaptability in evolving the media industry make him a dedicated investigative journalist.



Stephanie Reeder

Librarianship (CCAE), Education (Masters), Philosophy (PhD) 1980 (Grad Diploma), 1983 (Masters), 2004 (PhD) Author

Growing up with an insatiable passion for books, Stephanie transformed her love of storytelling into an outstanding career as an author, illustrator and editor. In her works, generally targeted at children, Stephanie explores Australian history, encouraging readers to understand the past, appreciate different perspectives, and develop respect and empathy for others. Using these elements in storytelling, her works aim to connect generations and cultures. Her contribution to children's literature and dedication to teaching and inspiring children to explore literary skills and themes, making her a revered figure in the community.



Abhi Jeyakkumar

Media Arts and Production 2017 (Bachelor) 2018 (Honours)

Senior Policy Officer for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Abhi has carved a niche for himself in the film scene on local, national, and international grounds. In 2017, Abhi travelled to Los Angeles to take part in the Annual Stowe Narrative, a program that brings writers from around the world together and develop their craft. In 2018, he was a finalist in the Script Summit's Las Vegas competition, and also made it to the quarter finals of the ScreenCraft Short Screenplay Competition. In the same year, he won the Lights! Canberra! Action! Best Student Film award. Abhi's strong work ethic and passion for screenwriting fuel his goal to become a director. He advises future filmmakers to stay focused, seek feedback, and build supportive networks and connections for success in the industry.



Julie Ditrich

Professional Writing 1986

Author, Comics creator

Julie discovered her passion for comics late in her career. Despite limited knowledge in the medium, she co-wrote Elfquest: Wave Dancers, which turned into a successful spin-off series. Her experience in character development and visual storytelling allowed her to excel in creating comics. Julie became the first Australian woman to write for The Phantom series, which expanded its audience and attracted new readers. With continual success in writing comics, Julie plans to stay in the industry, exploring new areas in writing graphic novels.



IMG Goulbourn Civic Centre Design Project

Geoff Ashley

Applied Science Environmental Design, Architecture 1980

Principal at Ashley Built Heritage

Geoff is an accomplished architect and heritage conservationist. His career features notable achievements, such as leading expeditions to Antarctica and developing innovative hut rebuilding methods in recovery from bushfires. During his studies, Geoff worked on the Batemans Bay design project, and wrote his thesis on the design of the Goulburn Civic Centre, which heavily influenced his career in heritage. Passionate about the preservation of heritage sites, Geoff aims to leave a lasting legacy through his work and plans to write a book on Australian huts and shacks.



Erin Hinton

Architecture, Interior Architecture, Environmental Science 2006

Director of HINTON Architects, Lecturer in Architecture and Interior Architecture

Erin is a visionary architect and urban designer who is dedicated to shaping the future of Canberra. Her creative and unique approach to urban design and architecture is centred around community, envisioning a bigger city that retains its sense of togetherness. Erin has contributed to notable projects in Canberra, including Mocan & Green Grout, BentSpoke Brewing Company, and Ona on the Lawns. She excels in academia, teaching, and research, and she aspires to integrate her research with her teaching. Erin's remarkable journey, from interior design to curating exhibitions exemplifies her multifaceted talents and unwavering dedication to Canberra's creative growth.



Alkira Reinfrank

Media Production, Media Arts, Journalism, and Communications 2014

Features Producer and Journalist at CNN

Since graduating, Alkira's career path has been nothing short of remarkable. Though becoming a journalist was not always an aspiration, she excelled in her studies, winning scholarships and opportunities to engage in overseas programs. Alkira's journey started with the ABC, where she quickly made her mark on the industry, and is now a prominent figure in international journalism. She utilises multi-platform storytelling and digital production to go beyond traditional journalism. In her podcast Eat Drink Asia, Alkira has covered breaking news and crisis events such as Typhoon Mangkut, and the Hong Kong extradition bill protests. Her passion for storytelling and dedication to delivering news under challenging prospects showcases her



Sam Tomkins

Industrial Design 2013 (Bachelor), 2017 (Honours)

Lecturer of Industrial Design, Director and Design at Tomkins Design

Sam is a passionate advocate for sustainable design processes and technological innovation. He has led a ground-breaking project in Workshop 7, using a robotic arm to reuse and transform waste into valuable products, reducing environmental impacts and promoting localised manufacturing. Sam has made a massive impact as a lecturer at the University, sharing his extensive knowledge and love for the field with students. He emphasises the significance of exploring and shaping the built environment and is dedicated to pushing the boundaries of design in a constantly evolving world.



Samantha Williamson

Media, Arts and Production, Cinematography and Film Production 2017

Director of Rosella Street

Sam has significantly contributed to sustainable action in Australia through innovative community-based platforms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sam saw an opportunity to make environmental change in reducing consumption. Alongside Mick Fritz, Sam co-founded Hey Fritz, a community based rental platform that allows individuals access to a wide range of materials. Sam's background in media and marketing was instrumental in Hey Fritz's success, and she is proud to have made such a positive environmental impact while supporting community-led and small business initiatives. Sam is now the Director of Rosella Street, an online platform that works to improve Australia's transition to a circular economy while motivating local communities. Sam's dedication to supporting Australia's communities has left an undeniable mark, and her work is nothing short of admirable.



James Hiscutt

Film Production 2023

Director of Rosella Street

James' journey in the film industry began in high school, where his media teacher greatly influenced and validated his filmmaking passion. In college, he centred his skills for storytelling, creating a gorgeous documentary about sea urchins off the shores of Montague Island. The documentary entitled James to a study grant with the Faculty of Arts and Design, launching his studies in Film Production. In 2020, James founded James Hiscutt Films, initially focusing on mountain biking scenes but expanding to music videos and travel shows. With an unwavering love for film, James is working to build a successful production career and cherishes the industry's collaborative elements that motivates his work.



Kate Spencer

Advertising, Graphic Design 2019

Graphic Designer at KPMG Australia

Kate's journey has been one of remarkable personal growth and triumph, with some outstanding achievements that reflect her inspirational creative leadership. For the 2018 National IAA Big Idea Marketing Challenge, Kate had to overcome self-doubt and tackle challenges from a new perspective. Her role as the Creative Lead for the project was pivotal, and with an outstanding presentation, the team was awarded with the championship title for their work. This achievement marked a first for the University and was a proud moment that jump started Kate's promising career as a graphic designer.



Danielle Dal Cortivo

Public Relations

Managing Director and Principal Consultant at Kayo Consulting

After graduating, Danielle's career spanned across several roles, but her outstanding contributions are pinpointed by her work in founding the Raize the Roof charity. In 2019, Danielle built a Canberra community house entirely on donated materials and volunteer labour to support disadvantaged children. The house was the main project of the charity, and her dedication and resilience during this time reflected her passion for improving the Canberra community. Danielle stands as an inspiration, working incredibly hard to overcome any challenges in making a difference to the lives of children.



Dan Polgolla

Marketing Communication 2021

Marketing Specialist at Danworthy Marketing

Dan's story is one of resilience and transformation. After moving to Australia from Sri Lanka, and while pursuing a degree in medical science, he was faced with some significant personal trials. After deferring his classes to take some time recovering, Dan returned to the University to study marketing communication, and discovered a new passion. Dan has contributed to several projects, including The Mill House's marketing portfolio. He also commits to changing the world for the better, supporting children in Sri Lanka and sponsoring educational necessities.



Panisara Sutthikanjanawong

Journalism 2020

Economic Journalist for AMARIN Group

Panisara's passion began when her short stay in Australia evolved into a fulfilling career fuelled by her deep love for Canberra. During her time studying, Panisara embraced campus living, notably leading the Thai Student Club. This chapter in her life was a catalyst for a childhood dream: to become a television newsreader. After graduating, Panisara became an interviewer and podcast host for SBS Thai. She now works as a journalist for AMARIN Group in Bangkok, but her appreciation for Canberra still burns bright.



Tom Skeehan

Industrial Design 2013

Design Director at SKEEHAN Studio

Tom Skeehan, founder of SKEEHAN Studio, specialising in industrial design with a strong commitment to collaboration, inclusivity, and sustainability. With 15 years of global design experience, Tom has chaired the DIA, travelled extensively for work, and established his company in Canberra while building a family. He is dedicated to inspiring design innovation and lifelong learning.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN GRADUATE EXHIBITION



