

**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

UNIQUELY
YOU

Student Awards

2024



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Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria University (VU) acknowledges the Elders, families and forebearers of the Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) and Wathaurung (Wadawurrung) who are the custodians of University land and have been for many centuries.

We acknowledge that the land on which we stand is the place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal, and that the Kulin people's living culture had, and has, a unique role in the life of this region. VU supports the aim of Reconciliation Australia to build better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians.



Artist: Paola Balla, Moondani Balluk, 2017

A message from the Vice-Chancellor and President

My personal congratulations to all of the 2024 Victoria University (VU) Student Award recipients.

You have worked incredibly hard, and this Award recognises your outstanding achievements. It signifies your resilience, determination, and resourcefulness – and how you have excelled during your VU journey.

I am deeply proud of your commitment to your studies and the important contributions you have made to the VU community, and you should be equally proud to be recognised by your Colleges.

Our dedicated staff have supported your success along the way. They are innovative in their practice, leaders in their disciplines, and play a crucial role in guiding you through university towards career success.

You are the next generation of thinkers, leaders and entrepreneurs – and this Award highlights all the wonderful places you will go.

Congratulations to each of you for receiving a 2024 Student Award.

Well done!

Adam



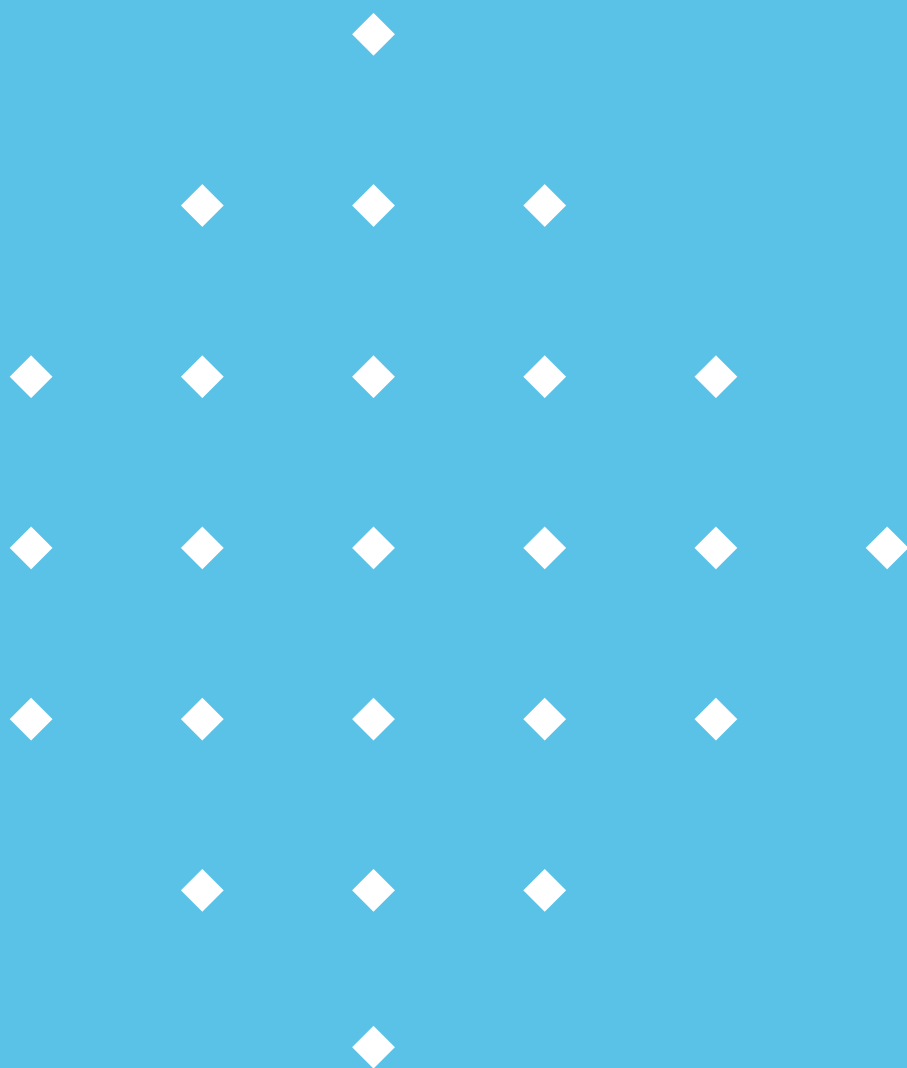
Professor Adam Shoemaker

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT
BAHonsQU(Canada), PhDANU



College of Arts, Business, Law, Education and IT

Award Recipients



Dean's Scholar Award

Undergraduate



Melinda Kate Dine

Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Criminology

An interest in the law piqued when Melinda's mother was killed and stepfather seriously injured in a car crash caused by a drug driver. Melinda was fascinated by the court process following the tragedy and could see opportunity for reform to improve victim experiences in the criminal justice system. In order to contribute to lowering the road toll and in support of alternative responses to justice, Melinda volunteered her time at the Amber Community, speaking at restorative justice seminars for driving offenders. She later joined on as an Advisory Board member for the Centre for Innovative Justice Restorative Justice Pilot program. Melinda was then statutorily appointed to the Victorian Government's Victims of Crime Consultative Committee for three years; providing a platform to contribute to justice reform for victims of crime.

Through this volunteering and advocacy, Melinda was further encouraged by legal practitioners to pursue a career in the field. In 2020 Melinda left her 15 year career in the music industry and commenced a double degree in Law and Criminology. Melinda found she had an aptitude and newfound passion for the law. While studying Melinda was awarded an internship with the Aurora Foundation that led to a role as Policy Officer with Barengi Gadjin Aboriginal Land Council where she worked on developing strategic, cultural, and operational policy and on land council policy matters such as Native Title. Melinda also completed a seasonal clerkship with Russell Kennedy Lawyers in Melbourne.

Melinda completed her degree in 2023 and received first class honours with her thesis on the public hearing power of the newly formed National Anti-corruption Commission. In a full circle moment, Melinda started her legal career on graduation by being employed as an Associate to His Honour Judge Palmer in the County Court of Melbourne; the very place she first found an interest in the field.



Dean's Scholar Award

Postgraduate

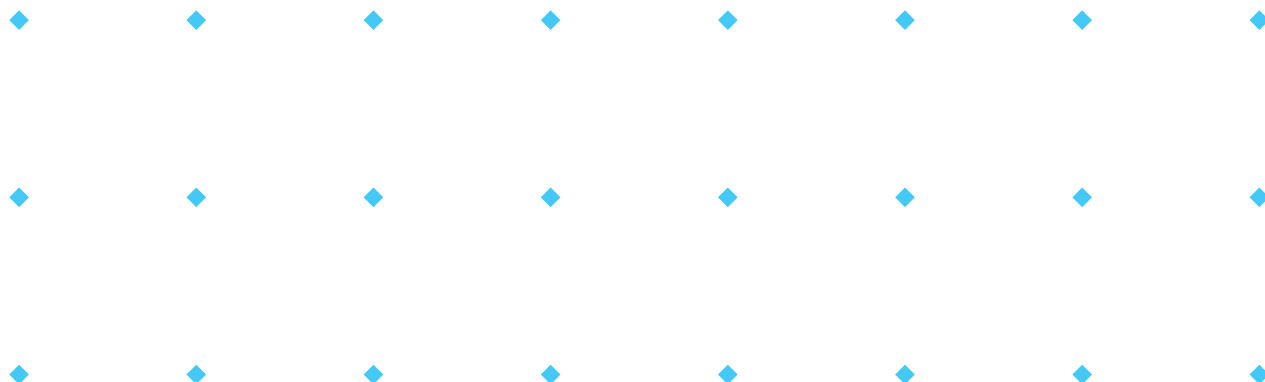


Natalia Sanchez Master of Enterprise Resource Planning

As a dedicated professional with an unyielding passion for learning, Natalia has thrived on continuous self-improvement. Her journey from Colombia to Australia has been transformative, enriching her personal and professional growth over the last four years.

Professionally motivated by nurturing student growth, she holds a Bachelor's in Business Management and SAP certifications, including SAP Finance ERP 6.0. Recently, Natalia completed her Master's in ERP from Victoria University, and obtained the S/4 HANA Sales on Public Cloud certification. During her Master of ERP, she led a team at the ERP SIM competition with University Alliance and provided strategy on how to play the game. Victoria University Business School came 3rd in the competition and now is the final round Asia Pacific on 26 April. These accomplishments have equipped her to navigate complex challenges within her professional field.

Additionally, Natalia's interactions with peers and professors from diverse cultural backgrounds at Victoria University have left a profound impact on her life, broadening her perspective and cultivating meaningful connections that transcend borders.



College Awards

Arts and Humanities

Blackmagic Design Award for Outstanding Graduate in Screen Media in 2023

Abbey Hewat

Bachelor of Screen Media

Outstanding Graduate in Arts in 2023

Rose Storer

Bachelor of Arts

Outstanding Graduate in Music in 2023

Sam Campbell McCrae

Bachelor of Music

Roger Dunn Prize for the Highest Achieving First Year Student in 2023 in the Bachelor of Screen Media

Daniel Summers

Bachelor of Screen Media

Program Citations

The Amira Inglis Award for Outstanding European History Student in 2023 in the Bachelor of Arts

Khalid Abu-Rizeq

Bachelor of Arts

Community

Outstanding Graduate in Community Development, in 2023 - Bachelor of Community Development

Claudia Macarena Cevas Vegas

Bachelor of Community Development

Outstanding Graduate in the Youth Work Discipline in 2023 - Bachelor of Youth Work and Criminal Justice

Demiana Saad

Bachelor of Youth Work and Criminal Justice

Outstanding Graduate in the Criminal Justice Discipline in 2023 - Bachelor of Criminal Justice

Jordan McGarry

Bachelor of Criminal Justice

Early Childhood Education

Bank First Award for Outstanding Graduate in Early Childhood, in 2023 - Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching

Hira Hasan Zoberi

Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching

Bank First Award for Outstanding Graduate in Early Childhood Education, in 2023 - Bachelor of Early Childhood Education

Rachel Brown

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education

Education

Bank First - Art Pearl Award to the Highest Achieving Student in the Bachelor of Education (P-12) in 2023, in the following categories: (a) Meritorious Academic Performance; (b) Social Justice Qualities During Their Placement; and (c) Readiness to Engage in Master's Level Studies

Breanna Daley

Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Four, in 2023 - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Ashleigh Fay

Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year One, in 2023 - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Eliza Malapit

Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Three, in 2023 - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Asta Richards

Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Two, in 2023 - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Xristos Kastis

Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Bank First Award for Outstanding Graduate in Education Studies, in 2023 - Bachelor of Education Studies

Artemis Pinferi

Bachelor of Education Studies

Outstanding Achievement in Pursuing Education Career Pathways in 2023 - Diploma of Education Studies

Skye Himmerman

Diploma of Education Studies

Program Citations

History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) Award

April Pratt

Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Victorian Association for the Teaching of English -The Michael Hamerston/VATE Award in 2023, for Outstanding Preservice Teacher in English Pedagogy, in the Master of Teaching (Secondary Education)

Maree Gerke

Master of Teaching (Secondary Education)

Information Technology

Australian Computer Society (ACS) Award, for Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology in 2023 - Master of Applied Information Technology

Anh Dung Le

Master of Applied Information Technology

Australian Computer Society (ACS) Award, for Outstanding Student in Information Technology in 2023 - Bachelor of Information Technology (Professional)

Nikolas Bishop

Bachelor of Information Technology (Professional)

Australian Computer Society (ACS) Award, for Outstanding Student in Information Technology in 2023 - Bachelor of Cyber Security

Hayden Emmett

Bachelor of Cyber Security

Australian Computer Society (ACS) Award, for Outstanding Student in Information Technology in 2023 - Bachelor of Information Technology

Syaela Djunnuurain

Bachelor of Information Technology

PEXA Award for Outstanding Student in Information Technology (Postgraduate) in 2023 - Graduate Certificate of Cyber Security

Timothy Hunt

Graduate Certificate of Cyber Security

PEXA Award for Outstanding Student in Information Technology (Undergraduate) in 2023 - Bachelor of Information Technology

Rylee George

Bachelor of Information Technology

Victoria Law School

African Australian Legal Network Award for an Outstanding Law Student of African descent

Margret Ochwata

Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (Graduate Entry)

Dr Jim Rangelov Award for Outstanding Student in Criminology

Taquila Angel

Bachelor of Criminology

Moondani Balluk Outstanding Indigenous Student

Wendy Maddocks

Bachelor of Laws

Excellence in Industry and Student Engagement

Mei Angelin Lole

Bachelor of Laws

Law Institute of Victoria award for Ethics and Professional Integrity

Megan Lloyd

Bachelor of Law

Paul Booth award for Outstanding First Year Student - Bachelor of Laws Booth Medal

Daniela White

Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry)

Marco Man & Associates award for Outstanding Student - Bachelor of Legal Services - Full Time Student

Amal Halabi

Bachelor of Legal Services

Leo Cussen Centre for Law award for Outstanding Student - Honours

Molly Hore

Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (Graduate Entry)

The College of Law award for Outstanding Student in Laws - Full Time Student

Melinda Kate Dine

Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Criminology

Absolute Immigration award for Outstanding Student in Migration Law

Ying Xu

Graduate Diploma in Migration Law

Absolute Immigration award for Outstanding Student in Migration Law

Ming Kin Sham

Graduate Diploma in Migration Law

Absolute Immigration award for Outstanding Student in Migration Law

Ashley Jacoby

Graduate Diploma in Migration Law

College Award for Leader in the Community

Agassi Tomeldan

Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry)

Program Citations

Thomson-Reuters award for Outstanding Student - Family Law in Society

An Le

Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry)

Thomson-Reuters award for Outstanding Student - Taxation Law

John Papazisis

Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (Graduate Entry)

Thomson-Reuters award for Outstanding Student - Civil Procedure

Hannah Spalding

Bachelor of Laws

Thomson-Reuters award for Outstanding Student - Privacy & Media Law

Emma Danese

Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry)

Outstanding Student - Cindy Farran Award

Abigail Ferreira

Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Criminology

Victoria Business School

Belgravia Leisure - Most Outstanding Student in Career Development

Kasey Saito

*Bachelor of Sport Management
(Sport and Active Communities)*

Belgravia Leisure - Most Outstanding Student in Sport Management

Isabelle Chettibi

*Bachelor of Sport Management
(Sport and Active Communities)*

Institute of Managers and Leaders Award - Most Outstanding Student in Master of Business Administration

Brad Petryczkowycz

Master of Business Administration

Institute of Managers and Leaders Award - Most Outstanding Student in Master of Business Administration

Muaz Salim Batterywala

Master of Business Administration (Global)

Jane Shou Award for Most Outstanding Student in Master of Business Analytics

Mohammad Aziz

Master of Business Analytics

My-Linh Dao Award for Outstanding Academic Performance in Bachelor of Business Accounting

Murside Busra Aytekin

Bachelor of Business Accounting

My-Linh Dao Award for Outstanding Academic Performance in Masters of Business Accounting

Otia Ofon Henry

Masters of Business Accounting

The Rumpf Award for Most Outstanding Postgraduate Student in Master of Business, Management

Ingrid Xiomara Barrera Ramirez

Master of Business (Management)

The Rumpf Award for Most Outstanding Student in Bachelor of Business, Management/HRM

Max Benstead-Thompson

Masters of Business (Management/HRM)

The SAP ACC Award for Most Outstanding Student in Enterprise Resource Planning

Thanh Binh Nguyen

Master of Enterprise Resource Planning

Work Integrated Learning Outstanding Achievement

Stephen Esmore

Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management/Management and Innovation)

Sponsors & Donors

Victoria University's College of Arts, Business, Education, Law and IT would like to thank all sponsors and donors for their support.



Dr Peter Rumpf

**Family and Friends
of Jane Shou**



**Dr Jim Rangelov
Memorial**



**Paul Booth
Philanthropic Fund**



**Quynh Dao in memory of
her sister My-Linh Dao**



VU Council Members

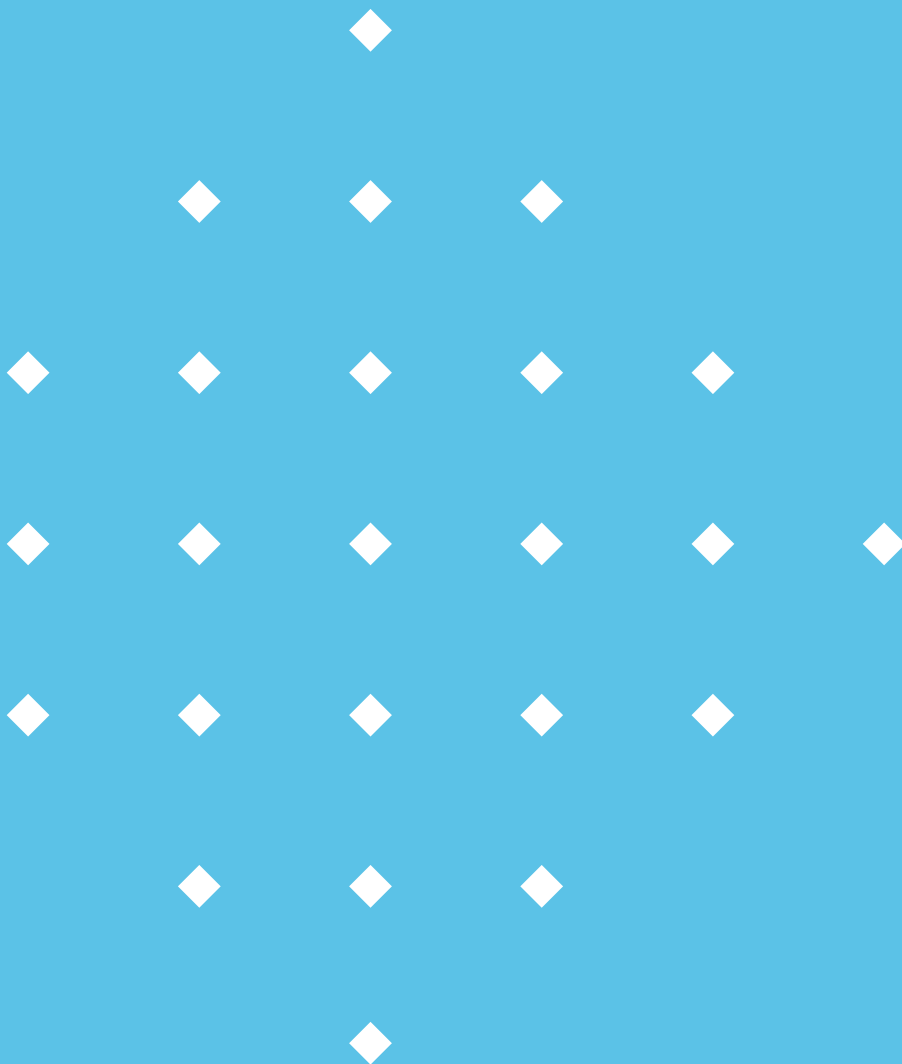


**Mr Wei Wang,
Private Donor**

**Jill Pappas and
George Pappas AO**

College of Sport, Health and Engineering

Award Recipients



Dean's Scholar Award

Undergraduate



Danielle Kanatas Bachelor of Biomedical Science

Danielle is a driven and passionate individual whose journey through academia and extracurricular activities reflects her dedication to making a positive impact. Initially apprehensive about returning to university after pursuing a multi-disciplinary career and other life endeavours, Danielle found support at Victoria University, where she quickly felt at home amid the nurturing environment with dedicated teaching staff who are accomplished in their respective scientific fields, and access to cutting-edge laboratory facilities. As a passionate Biomedical Science student, the hands-on laboratory approach at VU was a highlight. One particularly memorable experience involved the surgical excision of a 3mm coronary artery segment from a lamb heart within a strict 3-minute timeframe.

Danielle is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society in recognition of placing in the top 15 percentile of the Biomedical Science discipline in 2022. In addition to her academic accomplishments, serving on the Victoria University Council as an elected Student Representative further enriched Danielle's university experience, allowing her to make meaningful contributions and broaden her impact within the University. Danielle was committed to creating a strong nexus between the student body and Council to enhance student experience at VU. She was also nominated to be a panellist on the Strategic Review of the Block Model which focuses on the academic quality and integrity of pedagogical approach. A highlight for Danielle was the Vox Pop she participated in at a Council end-of-year dinner event, as well as appearing on The People of VU podcast with Vice Chancellor Shoemaker. She is also proud to have presented at an Academic Integrity and Assessment Security Symposium alongside professors and experts in academia.

Underpinning Danielle's endeavours is a values-driven approach, as she remains committed to driving positive change. Her dedication to transformative and impactful initiatives is evident in her continued pursuit of opportunities to make a difference, both academically and professionally. As she embarks on her next chapter, Danielle remains steadfast in her mission to create meaningful and lasting impacts in her community and beyond.

Dean's Scholar Award

Postgraduate



Aline Bonifazzi Master of Public Health

Aline is a dedicated student who achieved outstanding academic results in her Master of Public Health degree. Her lecturers described her as a highly engaged and considerate student who demonstrated a very high level of commitment to her studies. Her academic excellence was particularly evident in a final research unit in which she developed, conducted and wrote a publication-ready systematic review.

Aline was born and spent her formative years in France, earning a Bachelor's degree in Arts followed by a CAPES qualification to teach English as a second language. After relocating to Australia in her mid-20s, she taught English to international students before taking a hiatus to raise her two children. With their enrolment in school, she seized the opportunity to pursue higher education and fulfil her passion for health and education. Aline obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Sports Science, and later enrolled in the Master of Public Health program at Victoria University. Throughout her academic journey, she has found particular enjoyment in the practical tasks enabling her to apply theoretical knowledge. For instance, she delved into a research project examining the mediating factors between ADHD and eating disorders. She also developed a social media campaign promoting active transportation to Australian adolescents, and designed an education poster aimed at reducing food insecurity in remote communities.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Aline dedicates her time to volunteering, serving as an Auskick manager and coach, as well as a junior football team trainer. She furthered her commitment to community engagement and development by contributing her efforts to the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation's programs and activities including Daughters of the West. In 2023, Aline had the opportunity to serve as a taskforce member for a commission dedicated to achieving carbon neutrality within her community. The taskforce collaborated to develop a set of recommendations supported by justifications, which was presented to their council members.

College Awards

Allied Health

College Award for Excellence in Academia in Paramedicine

Duy-San (San) Nguyen

Bachelor of Paramedicine

Biomedical and Life Sciences

Outstanding Graduate Student in Outdoor Recreation

Eric Macdonald

Bachelor of Outdoor Leadership

*Rowe Scientific Scholarship -
(Rowe Scientific Pty Ltd)*

Austin Player

Bachelor of Science

*Victoria Investments & Properties Award
for Outstanding 2nd Year Student in the
Bachelor of Science*

Alicia Da Silva

Bachelor of Science

Built Environment and Engineering

College Award for Partnership with Principle

Thomas William Griffiths

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Mechanical Engineering)*

Garry Powell Award

Jawel Wardeh

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Architectural Engineering)*

Introba Award for Outstanding Graduate in Building Fire Safety and Risk Engineering

Murray Keith Douglas

Graduate Certificate in Performance-Based Building & Fire Codes

John B. Koschade Award for Most Outstanding 2nd Year Student in Architectural Engineering

Jayson Tomicic

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Architectural Engineering)*

John B. Koschade Award for Most Outstanding 2nd Year Student in Civil Engineering

David Mcallister

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Civil Engineering)*

Outstanding Student in Engineering

Fahad Fahmi

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Civil Engineering)*

The Bogong Scholarship - 2nd Year Engineering Student from a non-metropolitan region in Victoria

Anne Casson

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Mechanical Engineering)*

The Footscray Technical College Engineering Graduates of 1959-60 Engineering Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Terrance Rafferty

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Civil Engineering)*

Program Citations

Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia (SRIA) Award for most outstanding student in Structures Units

Manish Bhusal

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Civil Engineering)*

Chadwick Geotechnics Most Outstanding Student in Geotechnical Engineering

Duy (Don) Do

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Civil Engineering)*

Australian Steel Institute Undergraduate Steel Design Award

Divay Vijaykumar Khimji Patel

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Architectural Engineering)*

Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Victorian Local Association - Fred Green Prize for Most Outstanding Student in Penultimate Year of Civil Engineering Course

Yavuz (Yogi) Akdeniz

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
(Civil Engineering)*

Nursing and Midwifery

Muna Rahman Nursing Award

Erin Byrne

Bachelor of Nursing

Outstanding Graduate Student in Nursing and Midwifery

Jessica Cecilia Lowe

Bachelor of Midwifery/Bachelor of Nursing

Sport and Movement Sciences

Outstanding Bachelor Graduate in Osteopathy

Bridget Mckenna

Bachelor of Science (Osteopathy)

Outstanding Clinical Student Award in Osteopathy

Alison Leong

Master of Health Science (Osteopathy)

Outstanding Graduate Student in Exercise Science

D'Andre Ricks

Bachelor of Exercise Science (Clinical Practice)

Outstanding Graduate Student in Sport Science

Jessica Stapleton

Bachelor of Sport Science

Sponsors & Donors

Victoria University's College of Sport, Health & Engineering would like to thank all sponsors and donors for their support.



**Footscray Technical
College Engineering
Class of 1959-60**



**John B Koschade
Awards**



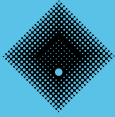
Munha Rahman Prize



VU Council Members







**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

