



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

THE MELBOURNE FOUNDATION FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

2022 Annual Dinner

Wednesday 2 March 2022

Thank you

From the Deans

We are delighted to welcome our guests to the twelfth annual Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics Dinner, and we are honoured to once again host the Alumni of Distinction Awards 2022.

We recognise the support and generosity of table sponsors and donors over the past 12 years, as well as the invaluable contributions by our many volunteers. The Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics supports the best and brightest students to access a University of Melbourne education. Your support enables our students to become leaders in their chosen professions and the community through the scholarships program.

We acknowledge with gratitude the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp and Ben Walsh for their service as Co-Chairs of the 2022 Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics Dinner Committee. We extend that gratitude to the other members of the Dinner Committee, Dr Peter Yates AM and Alison Conn, and to the Chair of the Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics, Tony Burgess. The University greatly values the expertise and contributions of our many volunteers, without which events like this would simply not be possible.

Last year, we were only able to host a scaled-down Dinner. While we slowly emerge from the pandemic, we very much hope you enjoy tonight's Dinner, and share and celebrate the achievements of our students, our alumni and the business community.

Professor Paul Kofman

Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics
Sidney Myer Chair of Commerce

Professor Ian Harper AO

Dean, Melbourne Business School
Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics

Welcome to

THE MELBOURNE FOUNDATION FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

2022 Annual Dinner

The Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics was established by the Faculty of Business and Economics in partnership with its Business and Economics Advisory Board, and was launched with an inaugural dinner in Wilson Hall at the University of Melbourne on 15 March 2011.

The Foundation's purpose is to support the Faculty in our ambition to cement Melbourne as a global hub for business and economics education and research, and to strengthen our international standing and reputation for excellence.

Over the past 12 years, the Foundation has given bright minds a brilliant future by building a multimillion-dollar scholarship and bursary endowment for disadvantaged students.

As a result of the generous support of the Foundation, many deserving students have obtained the best possible education notwithstanding their circumstances. We are grateful to donors and sponsors for their continued support.

We are delighted you are here at our Annual Dinner tonight in support of the Foundation, particularly during these challenging times.

The pandemic has affected all University students, and has added additional challenges for those already facing disadvantage. In this program booklet you will find inspirational stories of scholarship recipients, which exemplify the transformative power of philanthropy. We invite you to speak to Advancement staff here this evening to discuss how you can magnify that transformative power.

Tony Burgess

Chair, Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp and Ben Walsh

Co-Chairs, Dinner Committee

Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics

Program

Exhibition viewing Gabrielle Chanel. *Fashion Manifesto*

Pre-dinner drinks and canapés

Welcome

Ben Walsh

Co-Chair, Dinner Committee
Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics

Entrée

Welcome address and Acknowledgement of Country

Alison Conn

Dinner Committee Working Group Member, Melbourne Foundation
for Business and Economics

Faculty update *followed by* Alumni of Distinction Awards

Professor Paul Kofman

Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics
Sidney Myer Chair of Commerce

Alumni of Distinction Awards recipient address

Rod Sims AO

Chair

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Student address

Heaven Mulugeta Hailu

Main course

Introduction of keynote speaker

Professor Nicola Phillips

Provost

University of Melbourne

Keynote speaker

Paul Perreault

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director

CSL Limited

Closing address

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp

Co-Chair, Dinner Committee

Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics

Roving Dessert



Tonight's student speaker

Heaven Mulugeta Hailu

Bachelor of Commerce

The Duncan and Jan Andrews First in the Family Scholarship recipient

I'd just like to start by expressing my thanks for your generosity with the scholarship.

As the first in my family to attend university, I was extremely nervous for what was to come. The scholarship has enriched my experience studying Commerce at the University of Melbourne. It has opened doors to internships, mentorships, and a community of inspiring people.

My cohort has had a very unique experience over the past 2 years, with much of our learning being online. It did have its own set of challenges and peculiarities but it was a time I hope to look back on with a certain knowingness of better times to come. As well as this, it does build up all the excitement for the final year of my undergraduate degree, as we return to face-to-face learning.

Throughout the year I was interning at River Capital which has been such an invaluable experience for me, as I was able to see the different paths a Commerce degree could take me.


In 2022, I look forward to taking a volunteer position as a Community Partnerships Coordinator at Books in Homes; a foundation that provides books to children who live in remote, disadvantaged and low socioeconomic communities. Books in Homes is quite special to me because it was a program that was running at my primary school, so it's incredibly humbling to be given the opportunity to give back.

The Impact of Your Support




As we move into the challenging post-COVID period, the Faculty of Business and Economics seeks to address the major questions of our time, while educating our students to become leaders of the future.

Through the Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics, philanthropy can help scholarship recipients to fulfil their potential, and researchers to address some of the major social, economic and environmental challenges of our time.



Funds raised through table sales and donations this evening will go directly to scholarships, student support and research.



Scholarships

Giving has so many benefits, for donors as well as recipients. Stories of scholarship recipients on the following pages are just some examples of the best and brightest scholars the Faculty of Business and Economics has to offer. Advancement staff are on hand to answer any questions you may have about supporting future leaders from all backgrounds through scholarships.

We are particularly keen in 2022 to highlight the importance of supporting students from backgrounds in rural and regional Australia, whose families may be experiencing hardship due to the pandemic.

All of our students have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in some shape or form. For many of our students who were already experiencing disadvantage, the pandemic has further exacerbated these hardships, or created entirely new challenges. The Melbourne Access Scholarship is offered to undergraduate students who are experiencing disadvantaged circumstances with the aim of easing the burden and removing barriers to study.



Drew Fitzsimmons

Bachelor of Commerce
Bertalli Family Foundation Scholarship recipient

I would like to thank the generous donors of the Bertalli Family Foundation Scholarship; I could not be more appreciative of your generosity. When I first received the news that I was the recipient, I was elated – firstly, to be recognised in such a way is a huge honour and secondly it has helped my situation immensely.

Like many, the pandemic has had a huge impact on mine, and my family's life. At the beginning of 2020, my living situation changed completely as my father's business went into liquidation and my parents became unemployed. From that point on I have been mostly financially self-sufficient while also trying to help my parents out financially when I can, through working a job in hospitality. This scholarship has helped me tremendously as it has given me the financial support that I so desperately needed and made my move to Melbourne for university possible.

My experience at University so far has been very interesting. In all honesty, it was quite challenging at times to focus on my studies as I felt quite disconnected from my friends and peers during lockdowns. However, I have learnt plenty about myself and the world. Although it has taken some time to adjust, I am really excited to immerse myself into university life and my studies.



Marko Golubovac

Bachelor of Commerce

Faculty Opportunity Bursary recipient

Throughout pandemic restrictions, the loss of a family member, and academic challenges from online learning, this Bursary has been a consistent reminder of the value in hard work and community leadership.

Both my parents are refugees who fled a civil war in Yugoslavia. They lived on a large farm within a close-knit town including family and friends and my mother aspired to study at a university. However, the war changed their lives and they found themselves alone with hardly any savings in Australia. Together they rebuilt their lives and navigated a complex visa system to reconnect their families. Their commitment to hard work has inspired and motivated me, whilst the Bursary has facilitated these aspirations to make them proud.

I have used the funds provided to me to focus on my studies, particularly when faced with the pandemic lockdowns that made work within my retail assistant job near non-existent. It was also, following the passing of a family member, this Bursary that allowed me to take time off work to recover and grieve. Through the Bursary, I attended a leadership forum and heard from and networked with the CEOs of start-ups, learning from a primary source about the challenges facing leaders in a post-pandemic world. I met like-minded students and formed support groups to help one-another during Melbourne's lockdowns. Knowing that I was selected for such an award motivated me to work harder and equipped me with the confidence to join clubs and compete in case competitions.



Edison Ngu

**Bachelor of Commerce
Leaders in Communities Award,
Faculty Opportunity Bursary recipient**

Sincerest gratitude to the donors to the University – your philanthropy has certainly made a big difference in my life. Hailing from a small city in Sarawak, Borneo – Sarikei – the idea of studying in a top university seemed unobtainable. Your help in enabling my journey to the University of Melbourne has paved ways into many previously unimaginable milestones.

From June last year, I have been working at Boston Consulting Group in Malaysia, starting as a case team assistant and then a summer associate. Upon graduating, I hope to specialise in public sector practice; the opportunity to fulfil my goal of bringing about positive impact to the community.

Growing up in a remote region and attending public school, I have always believed that a strong support system and determination are key ingredients to success. At University, I am privileged to have found competent and supportive schoolmates as well as academics who inspire me to push forward. In return, I am seeking ways to pay it forward by developing the university community through mentoring and volunteering programs. In December last year, along with a few university schoolmates, I volunteered in helping to distribute food staples and essential supplies to the victims of severe floods in West Malaysia.

I look forward to the great surprises that the University and Melbourne itself have to offer.





Our research

The three streams of Dilin Duwa

Associate Professor Michelle Evans

Dilin Duwa means ‘everlasting flow’ in the Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri people whose lands the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership stands on. The name was easy to settle on, according to Director, Associate Professor Michelle Evans, because the Centre embodies the convergence of three flowing streams between Indigenous teaching, engagement and research.

Dilin Duwa took around 10 years to develop into the centre it is today. The MURRA Indigenous Business Masterclass Program – the Centre’s flagship course – was the instigator of it all. But to understand MURRA, we first need to understand its Co-Founder and Program Director, Associate Professor Evans.

Associate Professor Evans is Koorie, born and raised in the Hunter Valley, and an Associate Professor of Leadership at the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Business and Economics and Melbourne Business School (MBS). She completed a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management and graduated with a Master of Creative Arts in

2003. In that same year, she founded VCA’s highly respected Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, which has been connecting Indigenous Australian artists to industry for over 15 years. Associate Professor Evans then undertook her PhD in management where she discovered she was the only Indigenous Australian person in the program.

“When I came to MBS,” she says, “there were no Indigenous students. I was used to working with a whole community of Indigenous students, artists and cultural mentors.”

In partnership with Professor Ian Williamson, an African-American professor, the two started to think about how to encourage First Nations students into business education. They settled on a masterclass program for Indigenous entrepreneurs – a big vision that would invite Aboriginal students into the centre of the conversation surrounding the creation of an economically powerful Indigenous Australia.

“For Indigenous Australians, education is an important equaliser... and a key site of Indigenous activism. Education, however equal the access, does not always correspond with equal opportunities, though.”

Associate Professor Evans and Professor Williamson’s challenge was creating an education program that could contribute to greater productivity, better procurement and job opportunities, and economic growth for First Nations Australians, and they set about conducting widespread consultation. This resulted in the MURRA program whereby 187 First Nation graduates came to the program from businesses which employ over 3100 people, many of whom are Indigenous, indicating the flow-on effect of First Nations entrepreneurship.

Associate Professor Evans then had the opportunity to conceive of a centre that would bring MBS and the Faculty together in a joint venture and a national consultation with 50 Indigenous business leaders followed.

“Because the thing that the sector had identified as missing was an academy, if you will.”

In August 2021, the Centre was launched and with the support of major founding Centre partners including Indigenous Business Australia and Minderoo Foundation, Dilin Duwa has been able to develop a comprehensive research agenda that looks at building a national data infrastructure for the Indigenous business sector.

During its inception, Associate Professor Evans and her colleagues built the Native Title Operations and Management program in

partnership with the National Native Title Council, AIATSIS and RMIT and established the Future Forum bootcamp in partnership with Indigenous Business Australia. A huge driver of these programs’ successes is the MURRA program alumni community who create an environment where young Indigenous business leaders can gain access to venture capital and also become venture capital providers.

In April 2021, the first Indigenous business sector Snapshot Study was published from the research arm of Dilin Duwa. This annual Snapshot Study is part of the larger Indigenous Economic Power Project (IEPP) that aims to build rich longitudinal data infrastructure to help better understand the Indigenous business sector. Pivotal in this project is the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) which houses Australian business information, but doesn’t have Indigenous identifiers connected to the data. Associate Professor Evans is spearheading the IEPP that is working to illuminate Indigenous businesses in this data environment to allow for analysis and insights into the complex Indigenous business sector because, as Michelle emphasises, “research is vital to understanding the effectiveness and impact of policies.”

There are many priorities on Associate Professor Evans’s to-do list, but at the top is building a larger pool of First Nations researchers.

“I really do put my main aspirations in the importance of having Indigenous academics, because they are the reason people want to come to our University, be involved in our Centre’s programs and want to do research with us over time.”





Our research

Taking the Pulse of the Nation

Professor A. Abigail Payne

Taking the Pulse of the Nation (TTPN) is the brainchild of a team of university researchers who wanted to help Australians understand how COVID-19 was affecting their lives from an economic and social perspective. This team at Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (Melbourne Institute) used their substantive and analytical knowledge to establish a survey that would take the pulse of the nation. As the pandemic set in, they developed a range of questions that would provide answers about how lockdowns, fears of getting COVID-19, government policies, and working or studying from home was impacting our nation.

Melbourne Institute Director and Ronald Henderson Professor A. Abigail Payne explains, “In March 2020, everyone was thinking about the health consequences of COVID-19...but nobody was honing in on the other impacts of COVID-19.”

After turning to several senior researchers at Melbourne Institute, the concept for TTPN was born. The survey asks approximately six questions and centres around financial stress, mental distress, and satisfaction with government policies such as JobKeeper. These

responses coupled with information about the gender, family composition and employment situation of the respondents provided insights that supported a better framing of the national conversation around changes in circumstances during the pandemic and how Australians viewed government restrictions and initiatives.

“We’re not healthcare workers,” Professor Payne says matter-of-factly. “There’s nothing we can do to save lives. But there was something we could do to inform people about how their lives were changing.”

The framework for the survey was pre-existing: CASiE (Consumer Attitudes, Sentiments and Expectations in Australia) had been running since 1974 and provided a well-built infrastructure with a representative population. But they needed to self-finance the project because it “needed to be done,” Professor Payne says. Waiting, in her mind, was not an option.

With the endorsement of her business manager, Rachel Derham, and deputy director, Roger Wilkins, Professor Payne quickly established

a TTPN Steering Group, made up of herself, Guay Lim, Mark Wooden, Anthony Scott, Marco Castillo, and Ragan Petrie. More recently, Nicolas Salamanca and Kushneel Prakash joined the team and Anthony Scott stepped down.

Over the past two years the TTPN Steering Group has tailored questions and looked at attitudes surrounding public transportation and working from home to the uptake of the vaccine, and the subsequential trends surrounding vaccine hesitancy. The Group honed in on particular demographics, looking at the impact of the pandemic on families with young children or parents representing their children's first line of defence through vaccination.

"We'd run the survey from Monday to Friday – one of our researchers would get access to the data on Saturday – and by the following Monday, we would have a one-page summary of the key insights. So, we turned it around very quickly." Which, for a university context is exceedingly difficult to do.

By mid-2020, the TTPN survey was consistently producing three streams of outward-facing research communications through: regular summaries of key insights, shared across the University and media; new publication called Research Insights – a deeper dive into the patterns from TTPN data; and an interactive data tracker on Melbourne Institute's website, which revamped the data.

Today, as we pass the two-year mark of the pandemic's recorded existence in Australia, the TTPN data are released monthly. Consequently, the output of Melbourne Institute in 2020 and 2021 was at an all-time high. What has made this whole thing work?

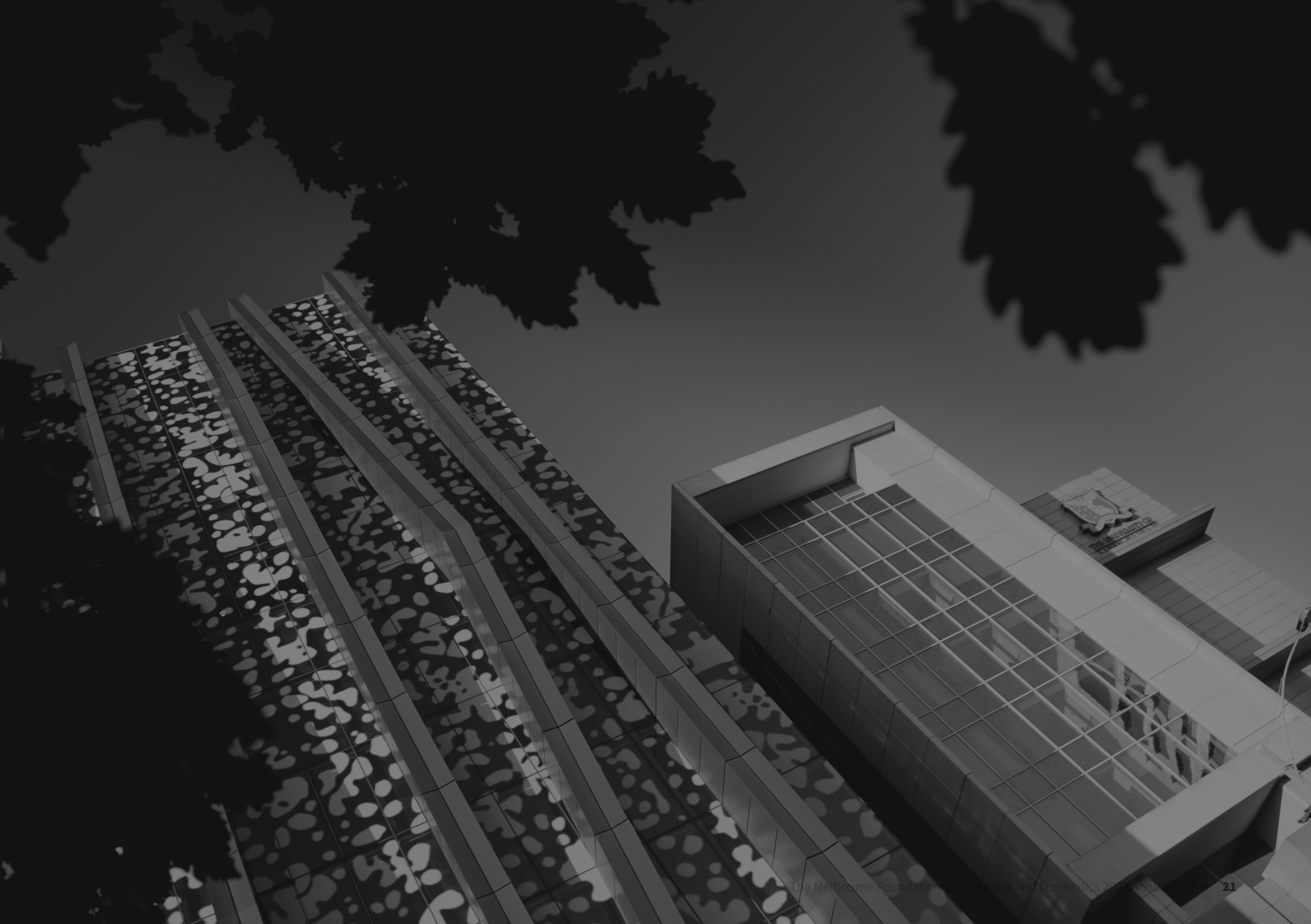
"Everyone was willing to step in and go beyond...and that's part of a bigger picture. What the TTPN represents is having faith in yourself. And self-investing."

TTPN has become one of the greatest generators of media coverage for Melbourne Institute, producing more than 200 stories across Australian print, online and broadcast media, which has led to Melbourne Institute achieving their goals. Melbourne Institute's biggest goal for 2022 is, however, to make the project financially sustainable. Of all the findings and discoveries to come out of the TTPN so far, Professor Payne says the biggest surprise is that they still have not received funding to support the work they are doing.

"We've solved half the problem – the running of the survey questions. Now we just need to cover the costs tied to developing questions, creating interactive visualisations and analyses of the data."

In two years, the TTPN survey has changed a lot of minds about where to find the latest information.

"We've demonstrated that we can turn analysis around quickly and that we can give insights about what's happening today. Our contributions demonstrate the value of using nimble surveys collected regularly to understand who we are and how we respond to situations out of our control. COVID-19 changed our lives irreversibly. Looking forward to this year, as Melbourne Institute celebrates its sixtieth anniversary, our questions are focusing on employment, family dynamics, education and training, social interactions, poverty and issues that are at the forefront of many Australian's minds."





Our research

Looking back through the dynasties

Professor James Kai-sing Kung

An economist (generally speaking) uses quantitative data to draw empirical conclusions; a historian (generally speaking) uses qualitative sources to draw literary narratives about the past. Professors of economic history are concerned with both and apply economic theory to periods of history to make better sense of the world we live in.

For instance, Professor James Kai-sing Kung, head of economics at HKU Business School, has applied his economic historian glasses to write papers about China's civil exam system (keju), examining how – over 600 years, or two dynasties – this system has influenced education outcomes and the social capital of the Chinese population today.

In January 2023, the University of Melbourne will welcome Professor Kung as the inaugural Griffin Chair in Economic History at the Faculty of Business and Economics. It's a post he is extremely excited to accept, having connected with several members of the Faculty in Melbourne in 2008.

The Chair in Economic History position was made available through a \$5 million dollar bursary from the Peter Griffin and Terry Swann Foundation, who trusted the Faculty to expand this lesser-known area of teaching. For Peter Griffin, he hopes his donation will help to educate future generations on the mistakes of their predecessors, to mitigate similar economic missteps in the future.

"I am passionate about economic history and am very keen that students leave the University of Melbourne with a good understanding of business and finance, and also a deep awareness of previous mistakes made by governments, industry and the banking sector," he said.

An international search for the position was undertaken in 2021 and Professor Kung proved the perfect fit. With a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Guelph in Canada, a Master of Philosophy, and PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, Professor Kung's academic background is expansive. He has lived and worked across three continents and is eager to make Australia the fourth at the start of next year.

As a teacher, Professor Kung is driven by the purpose of uncovering his students' intellectual passions.

"They might be interested in something one week, and then move on to something else three weeks later. And that is fine. You have to help them strike a balance between what they say they are interested in and the feasibility of being able to acquire the necessary data to work on a particular project."

Finding a topic that sustains Professor Kung's students interest to endure the rigorous and lengthy economic analysis required is often the hardest part. The trick to success, he says, is to "read and read and read".

Professor Kung first became interested in economic history around 20 years ago. "My sense at that time was that historians made very powerful and very strong claims about certain views." He often found the work of historians deeply inspiring, but not sufficiently supported by data – not to mention the analysis of that data. "I was trained as an economist, so you have to back your argument up with good data and with good analysis." However, the issues being researched by his historian colleagues were usually more alluring. "With the past, nothing is going to change; things have already happened the way they did. So, it's up to the economic historians to take out the data and perform the analysis to work out why."

Professor Kung also published a paper on political connections in China, specifically looking at corruption at a senior level of government: 'Busting The 'Princelings': The Campaign Against Corruption in China's Primary Land Market', which was easily the "scariest" paper he's ever worked on. Published in Harvard

University's Quarterly Journal of Economics, the paper was compiled using the data of more than a million land transactions in China during 2004–2016 to uncover widespread corruption. Through their careful sifting and analysis of these records, the authors discovered "where local governments [were] the sole seller, firms linked to members of China's supreme political elites – the politburo – obtained a price discount ranging from 55.4% to 59.9% compared with those without the same connections. In return, the provincial party secretaries who provided the discount to these 'princeling' firms are 23.4% more likely to be promoted to positions of national leadership".

"So, what do you do? Do you publish the paper? Of course, we were nervous. We were basically suggesting that there was probably a great deal of corruption going on at this high level – not with the politburo members themselves, but with people they were closely related to."

The authors sat on their research while they contemplated what to do. With relatives living in mainland China, the risks of releasing their work felt immense. Then one day, Professor Kung had a lightbulb moment.

"I thought, why don't we extend the period of analysis to 2016?" This would incorporate data from the period when General Secretary, Xi Jinping, launched his anti-corruption campaign starting at the end of 2012.

"We wanted to see if his campaign had some dampening effect, and lo and behold, it turned out that it really did. So, we turned the focus of the paper from 'corruption', to 'anti-corruption'. Although people

in the know would realise, you can't have anti-corruption without corruption in the first place.”

Eventually the duo published their work, to widespread commendation. Professor Kung rejected interviews with several prominent media outlets after the paper was released, claiming the work was entirely academic in nature and could speak for itself.

More recently, Professor Kung's paper, 'Long Live Keju! The Persistent Effects of China's Civil Examination System', published in The Economic Journal, won the 2020 Royal Economic Society Prize. With his co-authors (and former students), Ting Chen and Chicheng Ma, Professor Kung set out to explain how the system of keju created China's distinct group of intellectual elites and – over the course of 10 centuries (c. 960–1911 AD) – fostered a 'cultural trait' that has persisted long after the exam was abolished. Judges praised the “important contribution to the understanding of why education, rather than material wealth, is considered important as a transfer to the next generation in some cultures, but not in others”.

Cultures are shaped by the centuries that precede them, and Professor Kung's research has been able to provide an explanation for the centuries-old traditions associated with this academic rigour. His paper goes further to explain the regional differences in educational attainment around modern-day China, based on the history of keju.

“It's a great example of how and why history matters,” Professor Kung explains.



Keynote speaker



Paul Perreault was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of CSL Limited in July 2013. Since then, CSL has grown to become one of the world's largest biotechnology companies, with 25,000+ employees providing lifesaving products to 100+ countries.

Paul, who brings more than 30 years of experience in the global healthcare industry, joined CSL in 2004 when CSL Limited acquired Aventis Behring. Prior to his current role, Paul served as CSL Behring's President and Executive Vice President of Worldwide Commercial Operations and Business Development. He also held several executive positions at Aventis Behring, including, Vice President and General Manager of Plasma Operations and Vice President and General Manager Hospital Products in North America and Puerto Rico.

Harvard Business Review recognised Paul as one of its best-performing CEOs

in the world as part of the business publication's CEO 100 List in 2019. The annual ranking measures leaders across industries on financial performance as well as environmental, social and governance criteria. Paul was also voted the Business Daily 2019 CEO of the Year. Additionally, the Australian Financial Review named Paul its 2017 CEO of the Year and, in 2016, Paul was awarded Healthcare CEO of the Year from the Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies.

Paul serves on the board of directors of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), is a member

of Wall Street Journal's CEO Council and an inaugural member of the Penn State Provost's Global Advisory Council. He also served on the board of Bunker Labs Philadelphia, a network of military veteran entrepreneurs.

Prior to CSL, Paul spent more than 15 years in key senior roles at Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, now a part of Pfizer.

Paul holds a bachelors degree in psychology from University of Central Florida and completed advanced business management training at the Kellogg and Wharton schools of business.

Past Keynote Speakers*

2021

Panel discussion

Ross McEwan CBE

Group Chief Executive Officer and
Managing Director,
National Australia Bank

Professor Sharon Lewin AO

Infectious Diseases Expert and Director,
Doherty Institute

Moderated by

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp

2020

Shemara Wikramanayake

Managing Director and
Chief Executive Officer,
Macquarie Group Limited

2019

Professor Duncan Maskell

Vice-Chancellor,
University of Melbourne

2018

Sir Michael Hintze AM GCSG

Founder, Chief Executive and
Senior Investment Officer, CQS

2017

Jayne Hrdlicka

Group Chief Executive Officer,
Jetstar Airways Pty Limited

2016

John Fraser

Secretary to the Treasury

2015

James Gorman AO

Chairman and Chief Executive,
Morgan Stanley

2014

Sam Walsh AO

Chief Executive, Rio Tinto

2013

Professor Glyn Davis AC

Vice-Chancellor,
University of Melbourne

2012

Rod Sims AO

Chairman, ACCC

2011

Simon McKeon AO

Chair, CSIRO

*Role at the time of speech

Tonight's speakers



The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp

BCom 1991; LLB (Hons) 1991

Sally Capp became Lord Mayor of Melbourne in May 2018 and was the first woman to be directly elected. She began her career as a solicitor, held senior roles at KPMG and ANZ, and took the small business she co-founded to the ASX. The first female Agent-General for Victoria in the United Kingdom, Europe and Israel, Sally also made history as the first female board member of Collingwood Football Club. She sits on a number of for-purpose boards.

Sally's top priority is bringing the buzz back to Melbourne and driving the city's economic recovery following the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Alison Conn

BCom/BA 2000

Alison Conn is currently the Head of Go To Market at SEEK Limited. She is a former Principal at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where she worked across BCG offices, including 5 years in New York City. She has also played key roles in the strategy teams of Medibank, Diageo and Visy Industries.

Alison was appointed to the Faculty of Business and Economics Alumni Council with the University of Melbourne in 2015 and also served on The Nappy Collective Board from 2016 to 2021. Alison holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne. In addition, she holds a Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Ben Walsh

BCom (Hons) 1993; MBA 2002

Ben Walsh joined AIA Australia as Chief Life Insurance Officer in June 2020.

This role was broadened in November 2020 to include responsibility for AIA's Savings and Investment business and in December 2020 to include responsibility for AIA's Health business.

Prior to joining AIA, Ben worked for Mercer and its sister company Marsh for more than 25 years. He was the Managing Director and CEO of Mercer in Pacific, where he was responsible for delivering the firm's business segments of health, wealth and career. Ben was also the Australian Chief Country Officer of Mercer's parent, the global professional services firm Marsh & McLennan Companies (MMC) and a Director of seven Mercer Boards across Australia and New Zealand, including the Trustee of the AU\$25 billion in funds under management of Mercer Master Trust.

Ben was appointed to the Faculty of Business and Economics Advisory Board with the University of Melbourne in 2015, the Board of World Bicycle Relief (Australia) in 2019, and also served on the Board of the Financial Services Council from 2018 to 2020. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Business Administration from Melbourne Business School.

The Faculty of Business and Economics Alumni of Distinction Awards

Alumni of Distinction Awards are presented annually at the Melbourne Foundation for Business and Economics Dinner. The Faculty of Business and Economics wishes to recognise alumni and friends who have achieved excellence in their chosen professions and who have made a considerable contribution to the Faculty, the University and their communities through their endeavours.

Alumni and friends of this Faculty reflect our legacy, with more than 72,000 alumni around the world and many engaged supporters. The Alumni of Distinction Awards program raises awareness of our alumni, friends and supporters and honours their outstanding contribution to government, business, education and the non-profit sector.



A portrait of Rachel Yang, a young woman with short dark hair, wearing glasses and a light-colored blazer, smiling against a background of green leaves.

Rachel Yang

BA, BCom, DipML 2011

Rising Star Award for Young Alumni Recipient 2022

Rising Star Award for Young Alumni

The Rising Star Award for Young Alumni is presented to an individual aged 35 and under who has demonstrated an outstanding level of professional achievement and community involvement since graduating from the University of Melbourne and/or recognition by colleagues and peers of outstanding leadership and impact as a global citizen, over a period of at least five years.

This award recognises Rachel's outstanding level of professional achievement and community service to date. Becoming Partner at Giant Leap while consistently being a supporter and builder of the Victorian entrepreneurship ecosystem, shows her commitment to not only her own success, but that of her peers and the wider community. She is a truly deserving recipient of the Rising Star Award.

Rachel is a Partner at Giant Leap, Australia's first 100% impact venture capital fund. Giant Leap invests in rapidly scalable tech startups that deliver a social or environmental benefit alongside financial returns.

Giant Leap has invested in over 20 companies to date across three themes: health and wellbeing, sustainable living, and empowering people. Investments include Seer Medical, Australia's largest epilepsy diagnostic service; Who Gives A Crap, a sustainable toilet paper brand that donates 50% of its profits to build toilets in the developing world; Amber Electric, an electricity retailer shifting the world towards renewable energy by providing wholesale prices directly to energy

consumers; and WORK180, the only jobs platform that pre-screens employers to empower women to find workplaces that support them in their careers.

Giant Leap is performing alongside top quartile venture capital funds in Australia, demonstrating that providing solutions to our biggest social and environmental problems presents the greatest business opportunities, with no need to trade-off financial returns for positive impact.

Rachel is also the Co-Chair of Startup Victoria, a non-profit, grassroots organisation with a network of over 60,000 people dedicated to supporting founders through their startup journey. Rachel was also selected as an inaugural member of the Victorian Government's Innovation Taskforce in 2020.

Rachel previously worked at KPMG in management consulting and corporate finance, working on major infrastructure transactions, including the Metro Tunnel Project. Rachel also co-founded a non-profit organisation to raise funds and awareness for motor neurone disease in 2012.

Rachel completed a Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Modern Languages (Italian) at the University of Melbourne in 2011.



Robin Bishop

BA, BCom 1994, LLB(Hons) 1995

Leadership Award Recipient 2022

Leadership Award

The Leadership Award recognises an individual who has achieved significant and recognised impact in business, government or the non-profit sector through leadership in career to date.

This award recognises the outstanding passion and leadership that Robin has demonstrated throughout his career. His role as founding partner of BGH Capital, along with his experience at Macquarie Capital, demonstrate his excellences in business. Robin's Directorship at the Burnet Institute and ongoing work as Commissioner on the Australian Football League Commission demonstrates his commitment to community. He is a truly deserving recipient of the Leadership Award.

Robin is co-founder of BGH Capital, which was established in 2017. It is headquartered in Melbourne, Australia and is an independent private equity firm, owned and managed by its founding partners. At AU\$2.6 billion, BGH Capital Fund is the largest private equity fund focused on Australia and New Zealand. BGH Capital partners with entrepreneurs, business founders and management teams to help them build strong, sustainable, market-leading businesses.

Previously, Robin was Head of Macquarie Capital, Australia and New Zealand, overseeing the region's largest investment banking team. He has led over AU\$125 billion in M&A mandates and over AU\$40 billion in capital-raising assignments across a range of sectors and markets.

Robin is a Commissioner on the Australian Football League Commission and a non-executive director of the Burnet Institute for Medical Research. He currently serves on the Australian Takeovers Panel.

Robin received a Bachelor of Commerce, a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne.



Rod Sims AO

BCom(Hons) 1973

Outstanding Achievement Award Recipient 2022



Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award is given to an individual who has achieved long-term, sustained and outstanding achievement and leadership in business, government or the non-profit sector.

This award recognises the outstanding passion and leadership Rod has demonstrated throughout his distinguished career. As Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), he leads one of the most challenging enterprises in the country. In addition, he has advised some of Australia's largest companies in his role as Director of Port Jackson Partners Limited and has been involved at a high level in numerous government and private roles. Rod's achievements in each of these roles makes him a truly deserving recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Rod was appointed Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in August 2011 for an initial five-year term, reappointed for a further three years in August 2016, and reappointed again for a further three years until July 2022, making him the longest serving Chair of the ACCC.

Rod has extensive business and public sector experience. Immediately prior to his appointment to the ACCC, he was the Chairman of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales, Commissioner on the National Competition Council,

Chairman of InfraCo Asia based in Singapore, Director of Ingeus Limited based in London, and a member of the Research and Policy Council of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. As a Director of Port Jackson Partners Limited, he advised the CEOs and boards of some of Australia's top 50 companies on commercial corporate strategy over many years. He relinquished all of these roles on becoming Chair of the ACCC.

Rod is also a past Chairman of the NSW Rail Infrastructure Corporation and the State Rail Authority and has been a director of a number of private sector companies. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, he worked as the Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet responsible for economic, infrastructure and social policy and the Cabinet Office. He also worked as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Transport and Communications. Between 1988 and 1990 Rod was the Principal Economic Advisor to Australia's prime minister.

Rod was awarded the Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia in 2022 for his service to public administration in economic policy and regulatory roles. Rod holds a first-class honours degree in Commerce from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Economics from the Australian National University.



Paul Bassat

BCom 1989, LLB 1990

Entrepreneurial Leadership Award Recipient 2022

Entrepreneurial Leadership Award

The Entrepreneurship Leadership Award is presented to an individual who has achieved significant and recognised impact in the entrepreneurial ecosystem over time.

This award recognises the innovation and leadership Paul demonstrated throughout his career. Paul is a co-founder and partner of Square Peg, which is a venture capital fund focused on empowering exceptional founders across Australia, Israel and South East Asia. He has served on the AFL Commission since 2012 and is a director of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation and the P & S Bassat Foundation.

He co-founded SEEK in 1997 and served as CEO and then as joint CEO from 1997 to 2011, and served as a director of Wesfarmers from 2012 to 2018. He started his career as a lawyer and practised for six years.

SEEK has become one Australia's most widely used and well-known brands, and Square Peg has grown quickly to become one of Australia's most successful venture capital firms.

He holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne.



Professor Margaret Abernethy AM

Faculty Award Recipient 2022

Faculty Award

This award recognises the significant and sustained contribution Professor Margaret Abernethy (Maggie) made to the Faculty. In particular, we recognise the impact Maggie had on the student cohort throughout her Deanship. Maggie has been a champion for providing the brightest minds with access to a world-class education, regardless of socioeconomic disadvantage or circumstance. For these reasons, she is a truly deserving recipient of this award.

Maggie was committed to enhancing the student experience and increasing opportunities for students and developed numerous initiatives including volunteering opportunities, new student clubs and associations, numerous case competitions and business practicums that continue to this day.

Maggie holds the Sir Douglas Copland Chair of Commerce. She provided distinguished service to the University through her leadership positions within the University. In 2004 Maggie was appointed as Dean of the Faculty. She held this position for eight and a half years before returning to her department. Maggie built a strong leadership team within the Faculty which enabled her to implement major changes. Among these was the implementation of the Melbourne Model, which was no doubt the most significant change in higher education in Australia in the last 50 years and established a high-quality graduate school. During her time as Dean, the Faculty was ranked No. 1 in Australia on published teaching

and research criteria and established its position as one of the finest business and economics schools in the world. She also was successful in obtaining funding for the new building (The Spot) and participated in its design and commissioning.

Maggie recognised the importance of philanthropy to the development and advancement of the Faculty. One of the objectives of her commitment to philanthropy was to ensure that the Faculty/University was able to provide scholarships for students in need. The Faculty was very successful in raising funds for this purpose. It did so by increasing the Faculty's engagement with the community and alumni. She established the Industry Board with a broad cross-section of industry leaders, a Foundation Board with the purpose of fund raising and an Alumni Council with the objective of ensuring that past and future alumni of the Faculty remained engaged. The first Faculty of Business and Economics Foundation Dinner was held while she was Dean. On the completion of her term as Dean, the Faculty Industry Board, raised \$1 million to create the Abernethy Leadership Scholarship to be awarded annually to two students who have made significant contributions to leadership through their engagement with industry and the community. The Margaret Abernethy Scholar Program was also established following Maggie's time as Dean for those students who receive a scholarship under the University's Access and Equity Scheme. She mentors all students in the program.

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The University of Melbourne acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which our campuses are situated; the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples (Parkville, Southbank, Werribee and Burnley campuses); the Yorta Yorta Nation (Shepparton and Dookie campuses); and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus). We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge and respect our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff, Elders and collaborators, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who visit our campuses from across Australia.





Contact us for further information and expressions of interest

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