



MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNI

Where are they now?

<p><i>Introducing :</i></p> <p><i>Questions :</i></p> <p>Hello Jala!</p> <p>Thanks for sharing your story!</p>	<p><i>Class of 2013</i></p> <p><i>Jala Moushi</i></p> <p><i>Responses:</i></p> 
<p><i>Do you remember what it was like at College and when you left?</i></p>	<p><i>College had its ups and its downs.</i></p> <p><i>It was a massive transition period in my life- and in the life of anyone else going through it!</i></p> <p><i>Looking back now, I can safely say I wasn't ever too caught up with the little things and I think that made my College experience much easier and smoother.</i></p> <p><i>What also made it easier was that I had the absolute best friends I could ever have imagined- we stuck together from term 1 of Year 7 right through to the last day of year 12!</i></p> <p><i>During school, I always loved learning and was constantly fascinated with what I was being taught- right through from history to science. Although I ended up with a career in the healthcare field, History and Literature were my most memorable and loved subjects.</i></p>
<p><i>Did you set out with a career plan?</i></p>	<p><i>If you asked me at College, what I wanted to study or work as in the future- I would have stared back at you with a blank face!</i></p> <p><i>My family are in the healthcare field and thus, naturally I navigated towards the maths and science subjects in VCE. I had a couple of amazingly inspiring and supportive teachers that contributed largely to my wellbeing in VCE and I will never forget that.</i></p> <p><i>My advice to all VCE students is to make sure you have a good support network- especially a senior such as a teacher or a tutor, who understands what you are going through and is there to support you through it.</i></p> <p><i>Five years later- I am in my final year of Pharmacy (Honours) and Commerce at Monash University. During my first year, I still wasn't sure if Pharmacy was what I truly wanted to undertake but I stuck it out- met the right people, got a job in a pharmacy and slowly my passion grew and blossomed into what it is now!</i></p>



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<p><i>What were the significant milestones that have impacted your life journey so far?</i></p>	<p><i>I believe that we are a product of our surroundings and as such, I am unable to highlight significant milestones that have impacted me to such a great degree. I am influenced everyday by what is around me- but you must learn to take the good in all that you encounter in life because you will be faced with positives and negatives.</i></p> <p><i>Completing year 12 with strong academic results is a milestone I like to remind myself of when I feel overwhelmed with my university studies- "if I was able to do it then, then why can't I do it now?" This resolve to pick myself up seems to always do the trick for me!</i></p> <p><i>I have also been fortunate enough to do lots of travel whilst being at university- Europe, America and the Middle East. It's through travel- meeting new people, exploring new cultures and being in the unknown that I learnt more about life and myself than through any textbook or degree.</i></p> <p><i>I highly encourage travelling wide and far to broaden your life experiences and knowledge! There is something magical you gain through travelling that you can't gain through anything else.</i></p>
<p><i>Where has your career path taken you in terms of connecting with wider organisations, meeting people of varying cultures; locally and internationally?</i></p>	<p><i>My involvement within the Pharmacy Student community has been strong since second year university and has had a great impact on my passion for Pharmacy.</i></p> <p><i>In 2016 I sat as the Australian chairperson on the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation. My position granted me the opportunity to meet other pharmacists and pharmacy students from all over the world, to discuss the leading burdens of disease in France, contribute to a HIV/AIDS health promotion campaign in Swaziland and host students from Argentina and Brazil. It was definitely a highlight of my university experience.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation</u></p> <p>Representing over 350,000 pharmacy students and young graduates from over 84 countries world wide, IPSF is one of the oldest international student volunteer organizations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IPSF aims to promote networking, education and also improved public health through provision of information. They do this through a number of public information services to promote professional services and campaigns.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IPSF also offers a Student Exchange Program (SEP) through a number of pharmacy industries such as community, hospital, clinical, wholesale, research and government. IPSF is also affiliated with World Health Organisation (WHO).</p>   <p>Jala Moushi (Monash) IPSF Chair</p> <p><i>I am currently writing this in my room in the remote town of Port Hedland, Western Australia where I have been for the past six weeks, undertaking my clinical pharmacy placement.</i></p>



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	<p><i>The gap between access to healthcare in metropolitan Melbourne and remote Port Hedland has been very confronting. I have been working with the Aboriginal Medical Services whilst being up here and seen a wide range of cases ranging from chronic and severe diabetes mellitus to antimicrobial-resistant sexually transmitted diseases. I hope to bring back to Melbourne all the knowledge I have acquired on this journey and use it in my practice in future.</i></p> 
<p><i>Have you maintained any school friendships?</i></p>  <p><i>Above is a photo of us at graduation</i></p> <p><i>Right is a photo of us at my 21st: Lauren Caccamo, Alanna Mitchell, (me) Jala Moushi, Carla Francione, Denise Dayoub, Linda Hosni, Erica Roccioletti, Lauren Serratore</i></p>	<p><i>I am still in regular contact with my best friends from high school- all seven of them! We are always there for each other and support each other through the highs and lows.</i></p> <p><i>Although we are out of Mercy College now and have all branched out and made new friends, nothing beats the feeling of turning to familiar faces (who now feel like family). We have a group chat in which we all rant on about our tough days at work, or try to organise what seems like near-impossible 'squad dates'- we recently decided to make it that every second Sunday is sacred and reserved for "squad time"!</i></p> <p><i>Besides, we are living in the world of social media which means it is quite difficult to avoid or lose contact with friends these days. The most exciting part is bumping into friends from school that I haven't heard from in a long time and catching up then and there for 10 minutes about all that's happened in the past few years!</i></p> 



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<p><i>What's next for you?</i></p>	<p><i>I am expected to complete my degree at the end of this year and graduate with a Bachelor of Pharmacy with Honours. Next year I am required to complete my internship year, which I wish to undertake within the hospital setting. Once I pass my two board exams, I will become a registered pharmacist (finally)!</i></p> <p><i>From there, I aspire to undertake research and/or further study or work overseas. There are so many options at my feet and so, for now I will take each opportunity that comes my way and make the decisions later!</i></p> <p><i>The future seems bright and exciting...</i></p>
<p><i>Mercy College are working on building the Alumni foundation network: past students and teachers.</i></p> <p><i>Would it interest you to give a short talk to current students at an assembly or career expo etc?</i></p> <p><i>The objective being a form of encouragement and interest for students and teachers alike.</i></p>	<p><i>Sure</i></p>
<p><i>Future Alumni reunions – past students and teachers, will take place every year on the third Sunday in October.</i></p>	<p><i>Sure</i></p>