



MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNI

Where are they now?

<p><i>Introducing :</i></p>	<p><i>Class of 2007</i> <i>Name: Daniella Paidi</i></p>
<p><i>Questions :</i></p> <p><i>Hello Daniella!</i></p> <p><i>Thanks for sharing your story!</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>(Fears, aspirations, friends, what you took away from the Catholic ethos of our College)</i></p> <p><i>Mercy was a very happy time and place for me.</i></p> <p><i>When I was student, I would say that I liked Mercy because I had good friends and teachers. I loved our library and gym. Our canteen food was pretty good but the cake stalls at lunchtime were even better! The giant Freddo Frogs sold for \$1! Well, you can't get those anymore! Also, how could I forget the socials with St Jo's? Yes, they were fun too!</i></p> <p><i>But, if I fast-forward a decade and really think about why I liked Mercy, it was because I felt like I was valued and belonged there.</i></p> <p><i>Mercy was like my home and my friends and teachers were like my family. I always felt supported and encouraged and this gave me the confidence to believe in myself and pursue my dreams.</i></p> <p><i>Mercy also taught me the importance of being strong and determined, but tolerant and compassionate.</i></p>



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<p><i>Did you set out with a career plan?</i></p>	<p><i>(Further study: What did you do / where did you go?)</i></p> <p><i>Well, as best of a career plan that a 16-year-old could come up with! I did always want to go to university after high school so that I could pursue a professional career.</i></p> <p><i>After I graduated from Mercy, I attended university, obtained my qualifications and entered the workforce.</i></p> <p><i>I was admitted as a lawyer in 2014, and since then have enjoyed a wonderful legal career, practicing property law in private, inner-city firms, government organisations and establishing my own law firm, Highlands Lawyers.</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><i>What were the significant milestones that have impacted your life journey so far?</i></p>	<p><i>(Key pivotal points marking your inspirations, success) (family support, business success)</i></p> <p><i>I would say that graduating from high school and university, being admitted as a lawyer and opening my own firm are all significant milestones for me.</i></p> <p><i>As for inspiration, that's very personal to me but I do feel that having a supportive network of friends, families and colleagues, as well as having the self-confidence to take a chance on myself and constantly trying to improve is what has driven me to where I am.</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>(Did your career path include travel? What have other cultures taught you? Personal growth etc)</i></p> <p><i>My career has allowed me to travel extensively. In 2014, I volunteered in South Africa, where I worked on social and environmental projects. I have also been to countries where there is serious civil unrest, such as Egypt and Israel. I observed some tragic sights in these countries, however, it made me appreciate what I have so much more and being able to help people that are desperate and in need. This was very rewarding and motivated me to come back home and volunteer locally.</i></p>



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<p><i>Have you maintained any school friendships?</i></p>	<p><i>(College friends – maintaining friendships – what has this meant for you? Support?)</i></p> <p><i>Sure. I am still in touch with some of my friends from Mercy and have quite a few friends on Facebook and Instagram, as well as LinkedIn. It's great to see where everyone is after a decade and from what I can see, everyone is doing well for themselves. It's also an opportunity to network and to encourage business. I recently had a class mate refer some clients to me who were purchasing their first home and needed a lawyer to look over their Contract. Those clients then went on to refer three more clients to me!</i></p>
<p><i>What's next for you?</i></p>	<p><i>(What would you like to see / experience in the future?)</i></p> <p><i>I am currently undertaking further studies and working towards specialist accreditation. I've also got plans to open Highlands Lawyers in additional locations. But, for now, I just want to live a full and happy life, do what I love and what I am good at – property law.</i></p> <p><i>And once I have achieved global domination... maybe then, I'll get married!</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?</i></p> <p><i>The objective being a form of encouragement and interest for students and teachers alike.</i></p>	<p><i>(Connecting past students with present students)</i></p> <p><i>Sure thing!</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>(Would you be willing to speak briefly to those in attendance?)</i></p> <p><i>Sure thing!</i></p>