



MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNI

Where are they now?

	<p>I was offered a place in the Bachelor of Design Arts majoring in Fashion and Costume Design for 2014 before I had received my ATAR. The course also had the opportunity to study abroad in your second year. This sealed the deal for me, and for the next year and a half I kept this goal at the forefront of my mind.</p> <p>The fashion industry is so multi-faceted that I didn't know exactly what area I would like to be involved in. I don't think having an exact career plan is vital, as this way I was able to completely immerse myself and explore the industry to find out exactly which path I would like to take.</p>
<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>My study abroad experience at Paris College of Art is by the far the most significant milestone of my life and career, to date.</p> <p>My class was filled with international students from America, Sweden, Korea, Scotland and France and one of my teachers was the former Artistic Director for Dior.</p> <p>I was immersed in the world of fashion, croissants and endless opportunities. During Paris Fashion Week, Paris College of Art has partnerships with major fashion houses such as Zac Posen, Alexander Wang and Victoria Beckham.</p> <p>I put together a resume and cover letter that was sent off with a batch of other students. I had no idea which fashion house would receive my application. Two weeks later, and suddenly my path had lead me to the glamorous steps of La Reserve Hotel located directly across from the Eiffel Tower, I was the newest showroom intern for Oscar De La Renta.</p> <p>I worked alongside the New York sales team in merchandising the showroom and dressing models for international clientele. It was an absolute dream. Whilst at Paris College of Art, I also took an Introduction to Accessories class which partnered with luxury French jewellery company Mauboussin.</p> <p>I was involved in a competition for designing a piece of jewellery for the "Woman of Tomorrow". The winner would receive 10,000 euro and have their design made and distributed throughout Europe at Mauboussin stores.</p> <p>I made it to the top 3 in an award ceremony that was judged by Barbara Bui and Caroline Vreeland (grand daughter of Diana Vreeland who was the editor-in-chief of Vogue from 1962-1971).</p>



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Where has your career path taken you in terms of connecting with wider organisations, meeting people of varying cultures; locally and internationally?

(Did your career path include travel? What have other cultures taught you? Personal growth etc)

Aside from Paris, I was also lucky enough to intern with Harper's Bazaar Magazine in Sydney!

Upon returning home to complete my final year at the Australian Academy of Design, I was confused as to what exactly I wanted to do once I finished my degree. I had a class that was all about job hunting, where we needed to source job descriptions and prepare mock cover letters and resumes that would one day help us secure our dream job.

I came across an advertisement for a Wardrobe Coordinator Intern position with Harper's Bazaar Magazine in Sydney. The internship was for 3 months with an immediate start. It was the start of August at this point and I obviously live in Melbourne, but I thought I would email the intern coordinator anyway to find out if these sorts of internships come up often and if there would be a position available in the new year once I had finished my degree.

Three months went by and I had no reply.

I was on my way to my Graduate Showcase in November when I just so happened to check my emails. Aubree Smith, the Intern Coordinator had sent an email saying

"Hi Alanna, Can you come in for an interview on Thursday?"

I had even forgotten I had sent this email! A few emails back and forth, I told Aubree I actually lived in Melbourne but I would love to still be considered. She offered me a month long internship for 4 days a week and suddenly my path looked more like a red carpet as I felt as though I was in a scene from the Devil Wears Prada. On my first day of the internship, I was handed over 6 Prada bags and given the directions of Prada Head Office to drop them back safely because the contents was too expensive to be delivered in the mail!

This was my first time in Sydney and I quickly learnt my way around the city, from Prada Head Office to Louis Vuitton and all the stops in between. I ended up working alongside the Beauty Editor Anna and Market Editor Caroline who happens to be the sister of The Daily Edited founder.

On my final day in the office I built up the courage to ask Aubree how she was so trusting of offering me an internship without even seeing a resume or cover letter, and basically knowing nothing about me.



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	<p>She said, "One of the interns recommended her friend who is also called Alanna. I went into my emails and typed in her name but it ended up being your email instead. When you said you were from Melbourne I realised I had emailed the wrong Alanna, but when you followed up to find out more about the position, you sounded too excited for me to say no."</p> <p>From my travels I have learnt to value cross-cultural competency as a priority. It is important to step outside of your comfort zone and network as much as possible.</p>
<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>Yes absolutely! I still regularly see my friends from high school. They have become family and we have shared so much of our lives together.</p> <p>We are each other's biggest cheerleaders and have been there for one another since our first year at Mercy College. I love how we have all taken different career paths yet still remain each other's biggest support. My network of friends have continued studies in design, teaching, human resources, bio-med and pharmacy, legal studies and psychology. Friendships don't end when you finish Year 12, they only become stronger!</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>At the moment, I am working as a Category Buyer's Assistant and Allocation Analyst for the Designer & International Designer Women's Department at Myer.</p> <p>In the future, I hope to continue to travel and work overseas. I hope to continue to explore the fashion industry whilst loving the job I am in and leave a positive mark on the world.</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>Yes</p> <p><i>Alanna's parting message of encouragement as guest speaker at the Mercy College Night of Excellence 2017...</i></p> <p><i>'The best advice I can give to you is to not be afraid to step off the path to go after something you really want. Don't limit yourself to new experiences because you think it is too hard or you won't be accepted. Be ambitious and take every opportunity you can, because there may not be another one.'</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>Yes</p>