

## **Distinguished Alumni Award**

This preeminent award recognises the recipient's exceptional contribution to a chosen field of endeavour, and their pursuit of excellence in everything they do.

### **CHIAH Len Fong (Lenny)**

#### **Diploma in Advertising, Diploma in Management Master of Business Management**

With more than 20 years' experience as a media professional and current deputy manager of a leading Chinese language daily newspaper, Lenny pursues not only excellence in her career and personal life, but is also an advocate of lifelong learning. She is a strong believer in knowledge-sharing, regularly imparting her professional insights on organisational culture, branding, event management, leadership and corporate social responsibility through public talks, articles and books. She is also active in community service as an advocate for youth and senior citizens, and contributes to NGO fundraising activities. For her many achievements, Lenny was recognised as one of the 25 Star Alumni of the Sunway Education Group.

### **Frank Trimboli**

#### **Leaving Certificate, Footscray Institute of Technology**

Among his many professional and community contributions, Frank was a long-serving member of the early Victoria University Council, is a 40-year Legend of the Rotary Club of Footscray, and a generous community supporter. But Frank is best known for serving Victoria's real estate profession at the highest level, reflected by him being one of a select few agents to be awarded an Honourary Life membership of the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. He also generously serves the community, providing his time and funds to many deserving sporting, cultural and other charitable causes. Frank truly lives the community model of 'service above self' both professionally and personally.

### **Paul Constantinou**

#### **Diploma of Catering and Hotel Management**

With more than 35 years in the hotel industry, Paul is known as one of Australia's true hospitality professionals. He founded Quest in 1988, which is now the country's largest and most successful serviced apartment group. It has more than 130 properties and annual revenue of \$249 million due in large part to Paul's dedication to the core values of integrity, family values and commitment to the local community. Paul has also given up much of his time to mentor young people, including providing work placements for VU hospitality students. He has received many awards in his career including Australian Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst and Young in 2009.

## **Outstanding Alumni Service Award**

The recipient of this award will have offered exceptional service to their local community or the Victoria University, Alumni or student community. The award recognises the recipient as a lifetime friend of the University.

### **Ahmed Al Hajeri**

#### **Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic)**

Ahmed resolved to improve the health care system in his home country of the United Arab Emirates after he suffered a serious accident and personally experienced its pre-ambulance healthcare system. Once enrolling at Victoria University, Ahmed overcame language and cultural barriers and became actively involved with university life, volunteer work and the community. Since returning home in 2007, Ahmed has played a pivotal role in developing the UAE's ambulance service. As deputy CEO of the National Ambulance Company, he has helped guide the growth of the organisation from a single ambulance vehicle providing rudimentary care to an international-standard service employing 300 paramedics.

### **Campbell Rose**

#### **Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons) (Physical Education and Recreation)**

#### **Doctor Of Letters (*Honoris Causa*)**

Campbell has made outstanding contributions as an elite sportsman and a sports administrator. After representing Australia in yachting at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, he combined his sporting success with his entrepreneurial skills to take up the helm of many organisations including the Victorian Yachting Council and the Melbourne Major Events Company. Campbell joined the Western Bulldogs as its Chief Executive in 2002 and managed a successful major turnaround for the club that included the redevelopment of Whitten Oval. Under his leadership, the Bulldogs formalised a partnership with Victoria University, reflecting Campbell's strong commitment to education and to the use of sport as a vehicle to address economic and social disadvantage. He received an Honorary Doctorate from VU in 2005 for his services to sport, sports administration and the community.

### **Seah Kim Swee**

#### **Master of Business in Professional Accounting**

Seah Kim Swee has demonstrated a strong commitment to the alumni of Victoria University and the broader Singapore community. He is not only a proud Singaporean but a proud Australian graduate and celebrates this connection. He was instrumental in developing the Singapore Chapter of the VU Alumni in 1997 and dedicates enormous energy to raising the University's profile in Singapore. Kim Swee received the Australian Government's Distinguished Alumni Service Award for his services to the broader Australian Alumni community, and VU recognised him as one of its 90 Legends during the University's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Kim Swee is also a grassroots community leader whose volunteer work has been recognised by the Singapore Government with two public service awards.

**Tim Marchinton**  
**Bachelor of Recreation Management**

Tim is founder and director of Purple Soup – a unique internationally-recognised charity that offers challenging activity-based programs such as camps, day programs and hospital visits for children and their families affected by serious illness. He developed the organisation in 2002 after realising that the more than 75,000 young Australians affected each year by chronic illness were only partly being treated by health professionals who looked after their physical needs. Purple Soup's programs, designed to build confidence, self-esteem, trust and courage in a safe and supportive environment, have made it the leader in adventure therapy programs in Australia. It runs programs in more than 40 countries and is recognised internationally for its creativity and programming excellence.

**Young Achiever Alumni Award**

This award recognises Alumni aged 35 or younger who have demonstrated significant achievements early in their career or chosen field of endeavour.

**Balendran Kandeban**  
**Master of Business Administration**

Kandeban's talents were evident since his early days at the Royal College Colombo in Sri Lanka where he was president of the dramatic society, editor of a school magazine and captain of the debating team. He launched his career as a radio jockey with the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation and is well known today as host of the Sri Lankan version of the TV game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* In 2010 Kandeban managed a leading radio station in India while completing his MBA at Victoria University – a testament to his energy and multitasking skills. He currently heads up the digital media division of Sri Lanka's Capital Maharaja Organisation.

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
**Bachelor of Art/Bachelor of Business**

Luba was one of the youngest Australians to be elected to a city council, aged only 23. Now 27, Luba is the city's deputy mayor and uses her position on the male-dominated council to encourage women to use their voices and acknowledge their achievements. Luba also helped develop the council's Youth Voice Committee into a vibrant community group. Her strong advocacy for women in her full-time role at the Rail, Tram and Bus Union was recognised when she was awarded the Australian Council of Trade Union's prestigious Jennie George Award. Luba shows through her energy, enthusiasm and leadership that young women can be passionate and effective advocates for their communities.

**Stacey Keating**  
**Bachelor of Applied Science in (Sport Science in Golf)**

Stacey was introduced to golf at age 12 and was hooked from day one. She showed immediate promise, scoring her first hole-in-one that same year, and soon reducing her handicap to 8. She moved to Melbourne at 18 to take her game to the next level and enrol at Victoria University. Stacey was named VU's Female Athlete of the Year in 2006 and 2010 for her many outstanding sporting achievements. In 2006, she won her first nationally ranked tournament. Since turning professional in 2010, Stacey has won the French Open and the Spanish Open in 2012, and was one of only five Australians to contest the 2013 US Women's Open.

## **Outstanding Student Alumni Award**

This award will be presented to a current student who has demonstrated outstanding qualities in one or more of the following: student leadership, academic success, business initiatives, volunteer or community related work or extracurricular pursuits.

### **Brittany Tolson Bachelor of Laws**

Brittany has excelled in her academic and professional pursuits since her first year as a Victoria Law School student. Her academic excellence was rewarded in 2012 when she was inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society which recognises the top 15 per cent of university students worldwide. As a legal assistant to a distinguished Melbourne barrister, Brittany has effectively and consistently raised the profile of the VLS among barristers she associates with at the Victorian Bar. She also participates in the VLS's mentoring program and is strongly involved in the Law Students' Society. Her passion for community service is demonstrated at Community Support Frankston and Peninsula Community Centre.

### **Jacinta Carroll Bachelor of Exercise Science and Human Movement**

Jacinta is among the world's top water-skiers as the current under-21 world champion as well as an outstanding student. Since joining the sport at age 10 and setting a goal to become a world champion at age 14, Jacinta has been determined to be the best in all she does. She was named Victoria University's 2012 Female Athlete of the Year for her sporting achievements, VU's highest sporting accolade. In June 2013, Jacinta won the 54th US Masters Waterski and Wakeboard Tournament, the equivalent of claiming golf's green jacket. Despite the considerable training she puts in to remain at the top of her sport, Jacinta is ably fulfilling the academic requirements for her degree with plans to pursue postgraduate studies.

### **Nilantha Gamage PhD Candidate (College of Engineering and Science)**

Nilantha has worked tirelessly to foster a vibrant postgraduate student community at Victoria University. He served on the executive of the VU Postgraduate Student Association, organising educational and social events to promote student engagement and encourage students to have a balanced university experience. Nilantha worked closely with the Office of Postgraduate Research, particularly in organising VU's popular 3-Minute Thesis Competition, and served as student representative on the Research Committee for the now College of Engineering and Science. He also provided volunteer assistance to develop undergraduate curriculum and helped introduce new technology for it. His academic research in hydrology has been crucial in setting up flood prediction models for Australia's Bureau of Meteorology.

**Rosie Collins****Bachelor of Arts (International Community Development)**

As president of the inaugural Victoria University student club, the Sustainable Living and Urban Gardening Group (SLUGG VU), Rosie plays a leading role highlighting issues of conservation and sustainability to the university community. She was a key driver in establishing the club and using it as a platform for a range of activities contributing to student life and collegiate networking. Her strong vision and project management skills were key in developing a community garden at Footscray Park Campus. Rosie received a Student Leadership Award in 2012 for her work with SLUGG VU and is also a VU Library Rover, mentoring new and current students.

**Sultan Sultan****PhD Candidate (College of Education)**

Sultan has made significant contributions to enhancing the student experience, particularly for international students. He has held executive roles with the VU Indonesian Student Association and continues to be involved in its committees. His contributions have built strong networks with staff and students from many areas of the university, as well as with external groups such as the Indonesian Embassy. Over the past four years, Sultan has contributed to activities ranging from doctoral colloquiums to student sporting competitions. He has served as an International Orientation Host for the past eight years and was recognised for his work in 2011 with a Victoria University Student Leadership Award.