Review

MAGAZINE 2022

CITIPOINTE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ALUMNI

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Cover: James Moriarty (Class of 2018) Commonwealth Games Medallist.
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Citipointe Christian College

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Please visit the College Alumni website for further details:
citipointe.qld.edu.au/community/alumni

From the Principal

As a community, we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our alumni and are grateful for God's provision and blessing over them.

Every success story includes challenges, and it is inspiring to read how our alumni have responded to tests and setbacks.

They allow themselves to be stretched beyond their comfort zone, confident in Father God as He helps them to grow, ready for the next level. They evaluate their performance, refine their process, and come back stronger as they press towards the goal.

Also impressive, are the stories of alumni who hear the call of God and respond, making a difference for good and for God in the lives of others.

Read on for exciting news of medallions, academic awards, and professional accomplishments.

God bless,

Mrs Ruth Gravestein
Principal

James Moriarty takes his turn on the front in the Men's 4000m Team Pursuit at the Commonwealth Games

James Moriarty

Class of 2018 Commonwealth Games medalist, cyclist, student

In a milestone year, cyclist James Moriarty (Class of 2018) represented Australia at the Commonwealth Games, winning bronze in the men's 4000m team pursuit, and earning fourth place at the World Championships in Paris.

Racing at a top speed of 70 km per hour, James describes the sport as exhilarating. His favourite moment is the final run where the lead cyclists race to the finish just seconds away from the win.

> **"To train the way we do, real honesty and accountability must be given to everyone, to your coach, to your teammates."**

He says competing at the Commonwealth Games before a crowd of more than 5,500 spectators was both exciting and overwhelming.

"Sometimes you are aware of every little sensation, how you're breathing, how your legs are feeling. Your focus for the whole race is just the delivery of your turn on the front. Then by the time you've done your first one, you're just hanging on recovering, ready for your second turn."

The team pursuit is a track cycling event, with two teams of four riders, racing over 4000m, performed in a velodrome.

"A lot of cyclists don't ever get to represent Australia at the Comm Games because it only comes around every four years, so I'm so very grateful for the experience. To actually be picked and get over there, that was really special. I think most of us had family over there. That was really, really special as well."

Winning a bronze medal is an incredible achievement. But as a gold-medal favourite, the team fell short of their expectations.

"We were disappointed not to make the gold medal final, but it was still awesome to go through the medal ceremony and actually have something to show for the work we did, in the bronze medal."

James was cheered on in Birmingham by his father Jon and mother Georgie Moriarty, Citipointe's Primary Learning Extension Coordinator, and at home by his brothers Lachlan (Class of 2018) and Thomas (Class of 2022).

James started cycling when he was eight years old, training with his brothers at the Balmoral Cycling Club.

"Once my parents and I started to see a future in the sport, they provided me every opportunity to succeed.

James describes the sport as very traditional with a lot of unwritten rules that you "just have to follow", making it difficult for newcomers without a family history in cycling to break into the sport.

"My dad learned everything he could about racing and cycling, and he taught me how to race as I grew up. I owe a lot of my best performances to my parents and their support."

As an elite athlete, James trains at the Adelaide Superdrome, home to the Australian Cycling Team. Here James and his team have access to the best cycling development Australia has to offer and the chance to learn from our top cyclists, including athletes from the Tokyo Olympics.

"We pick a couple of target events throughout the year because you can only do the race a few times a year at your peak."

"To train the way we do, real honesty and accountability must be given to everyone, to your coach, to your teammates."

James says the values he learnt as a student at Citipointe – honesty, patience and accountability – are crucial for effective team performance.

"The team aspect of the event, requires a lot of trust in your teammates, so it really is all about how you can present yourself in the best condition, knowing that all your teammates are doing the same, so you just get this sense of trust when it all comes together, that you've done all you can when you get on the start line."

Pressing towards the goal

After the Games, James and his teammates refined their process and prepared for the World Championships in Paris, with renewed confidence. The team included cyclists from the Commonwealth Games and the Tokyo Olympics, which gave James a chance to ride with and learn from Olympians.

Racing against a team from Germany in the first round, and Denmark in the bronze final, James and his team placed fourth in the event.

"I think it's always about refining your process, how you warm up, how you prepare for the race mentally. You always learn from it for next time."

The games and the tour are important steps towards James' ultimate goal: joining a road team in Europe, like famous Australian cyclists who have gone before him.

"It's a bit harder to break into that level from Australia, so it is quite common to do it through the track first, so you make a name for yourself on the track and then you can step into a road team to be a professional on the road."

In the meantime, he is grateful for every significant step on the journey, and faithfully and strategically trains for his future.

"The target now is the Olympics in Paris, so for the next year and a half, a lot of my work is going to be focused on that and how to get there in good shape."

Preparation is key, both on and off the track. While pursuing his best in sport, James is preparing for a future afterwards with his Bachelor of Commerce/ Bachelor of International Business at Griffith University. He is open to opportunities in finance as well as sport, in coaching or management.

Talent supported by Citipointe

James says the College was "very, very" supportive, and made special adjustments to his timetable to allow him to pursue cycling training and competitions while at school.

"I was at Citipointe from Prep all the way through to Year 12. All my teachers, especially during Years 11 and 12, made a big effort to relate to us as students and I think that really make a difference."

To students, James says: "Enjoy the time at Citipointe, I definitely did, and I hope a lot of people have a similar experience, because the staff do have your best interests in mind."

Follow James on Instagram @jameslmoriarty.

Romy Fulljames

Class of 2009
Lawyer, business owner

A lawyer with an inspiring Christian foundation, Romy Fulljames, née Stewart (Class of 2009) has a mission to make law accessible for everyone, offering help when needed and planning futures which honour families in her new law firm.

Romy was privileged to grow up in a Christian home, church and school where God and faith were intertwined in everything.

> **“There’s an incredible sense of purpose. This isn't just my job; this is my joy.”**

“I think I was blessed to be raised in an incredibly, not just Christian, but spiritual household,” she says.

Romy describes her mother as a prayer warrior, ready to pray for people day or night when she feels prompted by the Holy Spirit.

"When we renovated our house, she wrote scriptures all over the floor before the floor was laid."

Romy says both her parents, who are teachers, believe their work is their ministry. Her mother Caryl taught in Primary at Citipointe and her father, Mr William Stewart, is Secondary Head of Curriculum and has served at the College for over 20 years.

"They thoroughly believe that they were called to teaching, and that was, and is, their purpose."

Faith woven into every lesson

At Citipointe, faith isn't confined to one day of the week or one time of day. Each term a scripture guides the Christian worldview or the lens through which the curriculum is taught. This scripture is part of every lesson plan.

Romy says that when she was a student at Citipointe, it was powerful to see teachers and staff have moments or encounters with God during worship.

"Worshipping is an incredibly vulnerable act. I think when you see the teachers who are playing in the band raising their hands or having moments, encounters that you can see as a student, it teaches you that this isn't just normal at church, it's normal as a Christian."

Romy says Citipointe gave her endless opportunities. She, along with her peers, was given freedom to take initiatives to enrich school life. When students wanted to hold prayer meetings before school, this was encouraged and facilitated by staff, who also attended.

"It was a supportive community that we could bring our ideas to. You weren't disregarded because you were the student, which was incredibly empowering."

Romy was influenced by teachers who made subjects relevant. Secondary Business teacher Mr Lindsay Bettinson, who has taught at Citipointe for over 20 years, was one teacher who brought his experience in the corporate world to the subject and made it real for Romy.

"I always had teachers who weren't afraid to engage in debates. They were fighting for us to know more, to be better."

After working hard at her studies to earn a high OP, Romy chose a pathway in Law at the University of Queensland. It wasn't until her fourth year, after struggling to find fulfillment in the course, that she found her niche in private practice.

"I couldn't see how this would impact the everyday person until I got a job at a law firm. Then it all clicked, it all made sense. Private practice is for me."

Divine impact through Christian leadership

As an undergraduate, Romy landed a job at a law firm where Christian lawyers practiced. Here, she felt that God had provided the opportunity for her to learn from faithful leaders in business.

"It was just amazing, like when you look back and can see what God orchestrated. I am so privileged. I've never been in a position where I didn't have good Christian leadership."

She found a spirit of generosity in this firm where more opportunities were given to university students than the norm.

After completing her studies in Law, Romy seized an opportunity to interview for a position at Brandon & Gullo Lawyers, a firm on the Sunshine Coast. Here she enjoyed a "sea change", with beach walks at lunchtime, and spent six years learning from Christian law firm owners who were unapologetic about their faith.

Here she saw Christian leaders talk openly about praying for legal matters. This honesty gained respect among employees, irrespective of their faith. She saw leaders who were full of integrity and who had earned the esteem of a small, competitive legal community where actions were highly visible.

"It was wonderful to see them hold such an amazing reputation in their field, and to see that it all comes down to the consistency of their character everywhere they go."

A Christian law firm, putting people first

For Romy, starting her own practice, Fulljames Law with husband Ben, it is all about putting people first, including her own family.

When Hyperemesis gravidarum, a condition involving extreme morning sickness, made commuting from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast untenable with their second baby, Romy and Ben relocated to Carindale to be close to her parents, William and Caryl.

"We changed everything because we were just in this severe crisis mode. I think God's really good, and when you think that you're just scraping through, there are so many seeds being planted."

This survival strategy positioned Romy to fulfill her potential as a Christian lawyer, launching a law firm with godly principles, seeking to be accessible and intentional in helping people.

Lighting up the darkness

"I've worked really hard to make sure that our firm doesn't just provide legal answers, but we encompass a lot more than that."

One aspect of Law that Romy is passionate about is estate planning, which she describes as laying steppingstones for the future. She says it's a chance to be intentional about providing for your children and grandchildren and showing them how much they mean to you through meaningful planning.

A legacy journal, letters to loved ones, a heartfelt message on video and a workbook for executors are ways Romy helps clients to tell their story and ease the burden on loved ones.

"I've been the one to record the 18th birthday wish, the 'what I want for your marriage' message for the mum with the young child when she's been told she's dying.

"For me, as a professional, that connection with the person and being able to be a support when everything feels uncertain is such an immense privilege. There's also an incredible sense of purpose, there's an incredible sense of, 'This isn't just my job. This is my joy.'"

Uniquely placed to observe the final phase of life, Romy has seen how faith in God makes a difference.

"There's still uncertainty, there's still grief, there's still all those feelings, but there's that slight element of hope. All you need is the lightest flicker of the candle and it lights up the darkness. It's so true when it comes to these sort of situations. You really feel that difference."

When it comes to helping people who don't know God as their Saviour, Romy says she "rests on her faith" and prays. "I'm the lawyer in that situation, but at the same time, I do believe that the Holy Spirit is present. We have had amazing conversations in our line of work with people who are at a point in their life where they're going to ask every awkward question that they want to because it's the last chance."

Honouring families

Romy understands that life can be a juggle and wants to offer her team flexibility so that they can meet the needs of their families while working.

"It's very easy for me to say, "I run my own business, and I choose to finish work at 3:30 because I want to pick up my child from daycare early and have the afternoon with her. But what that really means is if I honour that boundary, I have a great time with my toddler, but then when she goes to sleep, I go back to work."

A benefit of running a business with her husband, who is general manager, has been making choices about their lifestyle, setting boundaries to support it and seeking to "produce fruit" which reflects their faith and family and professional values.

Reaching out for help

Romy says that it is common for people to delay asking for help because they are concerned about the cost of legal fees. She says consulting a lawyer before signing a contract or pushing aside an email can avoid more serious issues.

"You can call us for a chat. We don't do time billing. That's what we're really passionate about: helping people."

When to ask for help

When seeking to resolve an issue, should you proceed on your own or ask for advice?

Romy says a phone call to a trusted lawyer, early on, may help you avoid more serious problems down the track.

So, when should you pick up the phone?

- Business:
  - o Before you get an ABN
  - o Before you sign a lease/contract
  - o Before you hire/contract someone
- Estate Planning:
  - o If you have a child(ren)
  - o If you have super
  - o If you have a diagnosis
  - o If you own a home/assets
  - o If you run a business
- Deceased estates:
  - o If you have a terminal diagnosis
  - o If you have a diagnosis that impacts capacity
  - o If someone you love dies

For more information, visit fulljameslaw.com.au

Andrew Bonney competes in one of seventeen annual race events hosted by his company, On The Edge Events

Andrew Bonney

Class of 1982
Outdoor event manager, business owner, community and sustainability advocate

An adventurous life has led alumnus Andrew Bonney (Class of 1992) to host off-road adventure and endurance events in the Scenic Rim while promoting sustainability, healthy lifestyle and community engagement.

When the Kooralbyn Valley resort in Queensland's Scenic Rim closed in 2008, it lay unused and overgrown until outdoor enthusiast Andrew Bonney began caring for the trails and reinvigorating this ecotourism destination.

Andrew began his company, On the Edge Events, by hosting a trail running event in 2016. Since then, he has added more races to the event calendar

Andrew Bonney hosts off-road endurance events in the Scenic Rim

each year including mountain biking and the first e-bike race in Queensland.

While each event caters for serious competitors, there is something for everyone including junior development and fun family activities on race days.

The Kooralbyn Valley Bike Festival, in September, is a great event for first-time visitors. It features mountain biking races for athletes, veterans and juniors from 10 years old. Families can camp or stay at the resort and enjoy a family-friendly event focused around the competition.

On the Edge Events now hosts around 17 events annually, each attracting hundreds of competitors and spectators to the Scenic Rim.

Andrew's role in hosting significant outdoor events was acknowledged in 2021 when he was named a finalist in the Queensland Outdoor Awards.

"It's quite a large thing and it's organically growing," says Andrew, "And we're now trying to hold the reigns and ride the wave of it all."

Andrew runs the event company with Vicky, his wife of 30 years. Andrew and Vicky have two daughters, Hayley, 17, and Britney, 14.

He pushes himself out of his comfort zone to try something new. He says once the goal is achieved, it becomes his new comfort zone, allowing him to step out again and grow continuously.

Contributing to one of the top 10 regions world-wide

The Scenic Rim has become an important destination for ecotourism. Lonely Planet listed the area number eight of the best regions in the world to visit in 2022. It has been ranked number 50 in the top 100 global destinations, of more than 20,000, by the Tourism Sentiment Index.

It is an exciting region to be part of and Andrew's expertise is valued by the mayor and local council. He is often called to consult on sustainable trail building, rail trails and opening more areas of the region for tourism.

Andrew works with the topography of the land to minimise wear and tear, remove lantana and reduce rubbish at events. He promotes community participation by hosting "dig days" where the community is invited to help with trail building and land care.

"We're building walking tracks in the park as well, so the community can come out and walk. And now we're seeing more and more people coming out, walking the trails, [so we have tracks for] dual purpose. And we're creating little sitting areas up for them to [enjoy the] view."

Andrew partners with council, contributing to the strategic plan for adventure tourism and a month-long festival, Escape to the Scenic Rim.

"We've still got 300 acres we haven't touched, and where my goal for the park is to provide the best park in Queensland, if not Australia. We're the only one in Queensland that has it opened all the time, [with a resort] a hundred metres from the park entrance."

An unconventional pathway

Since leaving school in Year 11, Andrew says he has "lived an adventurous life", taking on many roles and gaining a range of experience.

As an Army reservist, he learnt attention to detail. As a personal trainer, he learnt to run a small business. As a funeral director, he learnt organisational skills. As a retail manager for Wild Earth, he learnt how to coordinate events.

Andrew's charisma and "can do" attitude made him an ideal candidate for MC (Master of Ceremonies) at events. This allowed him to develop hands on experience which became

the foundation for his own event management company.

Passion for endurance sport began at school

Searching for his place in sport while at school, Andrew eschewed cricket and soccer – where his hand-eye coordination let him down – for cross country.

While in Year 9, he competed in the 1989 Citipointe cross country carnival and placed 33 in the competition. Andrew determined to win the cross country the following year, and began training in September, aiming to beat the age champion's time.

In a testament to his determination and hard work, young Andrew won the race and broke the record for the course.

This was a turning point for Andrew. While he was social and happy with his peers, he was a student who pushed boundaries with teachers. However, this shift to focused training and achievement caught the attention of teachers, signalling that he was capable of more.

Secondary Teacher Mr Ric Guinane was one teacher who noticed Andrew's potential. While travelling to a cross country event, Andrew asked Mr Guinane to pray for him. Andrew asked for the same spirit that fuelled Asahel of the Bible, who could run like a gazelle [2 Samuel 2:18]. Mr Guinane prayed and Andrew won the race and went on to excel in the sport.

Interested in triathlons, Andrew made the state team, raced for Queensland at the nationals and was selected to represent Australia, aged 17, at the World Cup on the Gold Coast. At the competition, he ranked number five in his age group and 45 out of 600 competitors.

Andrew says he wasn't an academic student so left school in Year 11 to become a professional triathlete. However, his parents were unable to fund his aspirations and they urged him to find a job. This was a tough time for Andrew as he found it difficult to sustain training while working.

Setbacks became turning points

A significant injury, sustained while Andrew was mountain biking, led to an operation to fix a shattered lower disc. The recovery was challenging, including long periods of bedrest and powerful painkillers. It was a low point for Andrew, and he found a lifeline in a podcast where the speaker urged him to "just do it".

It was then that Andrew got out his computer and organised his first trail running event.

"I've always known God was sort of watching over me and it was Him [who inspired me]. He always places things in front of you but it's up to you to see whether you pick it up or not. He placed that video that I watched, that got me going.

"I tend to listen to people that are go getters and not sitting back. They're taking every opportunity and they fail and then they keep going. Even through my darkest days, that's the thing that [keeps me going]. Just never give up because tomorrow is a different day."

Andrew says he is still learning every day to deal with anxiety. But he puts this into perspective, acknowledging that the pressure of running so many large-scale events is significant.

He offsets the demands of the job by taking time out, listening to music or podcasts and drumming. His love of drumming began in Year 7 and 8 at Citipointe, and led to studying at Peter Sweet's Drum School, Underwood, and drumming in local band Dynamix for five years.

Keys to success

Down-to-earth and honest, Andrew is open about his life experience.

"The whole time I've always had God just sort of guiding me through things even though I haven't always been fully in religion back [when I was] young."

He says it has taken time to develop the skills and experience necessary for this role.

"Don't think you have to be successful at 19, 20. I'm nearly 50 and it's only happening now. Finding that niche in life or what God has given you as your gift is; that's the art, [and] to never say no to an opportunity. If you fail, great because you're going to learn from your failings."

As a student, Andrew learnt the value of loyalty, friendship and respect and these values have allowed him to maintain friendships with Citipointe alumni years later, organising the 20- and 30-year reunions for the Class of 1992.

Christian connections are important, and Andrew says it's great to work with Christians who share the same values.

For students considering a career in event management, Andrew recommends volunteering.

"We struggle with volunteers. Standing on a checkpoint for two hours might be boring, but you get to talk to all the riders, so you get that into the scene. I know all race directors are looking for that person that we know is reliable, responsible and will do the job."

To find our more, visit www.ontheedgeevents.com.au

Evelyn Cook (née Holland)

Class of 2005
Mortgage broker, wife, mother

The Cook family has been helping Citipointe families with home loans for 30 years. Now Citipointe alumnus Evelyn Cook (née Holland, Class of 2005) is using her experience, training and empathy to continue the practice and help families find their way into a new home.

Evelyn loves getting people into houses and this motivates her as she works with people seeking to own their first, second or third property. She is openhearted and empathic and keeps in touch with clients to mitigate anxious waiting times.

> **"I will always be grateful to the school for the opportunity, because it made me feel empowered to choose my own path."**

"Taking the stress out of buying a property is the main goal, because you don't realise how stressful it can be."

As a working mum, with a flexible schedule, Evelyn understands that life can be a juggle and everyone's circumstances are different.

She says knowledge of lenders, loans and credit cards may not be acquired at school or at home, so some borrowers must navigate the world of finance on their own, unsure of who to engage for help.

Evelyn completed a Certificate IV in Finance and a Diploma in Finance while working in the family business and received invaluable on-the-job training and insights from her mother-in-law and mentor, Denise.

Denise Cook has helped many Citipointe families through her business, Astute Financial Management. Her late husband, Mr Laurie Cook, was Head of Science at Citipointe for many years. Laurie and Denise were well connected within the College community and, through this association, helped many Citipointe families achieve their financial goals.

Evelyn began working for her mother-in-law while she was a stay-at-home mum to Zoe, now 7 years old, and James, 6 years.

What began as a chance to get out of the house and try something new soon became a job Evelyn enjoyed and wanted to learn more about.

"I never thought I'd be working with numbers ever," says Evelyn, "but, I actually really enjoy this."

This came as a surprise to Evelyn, whose favourite subjects at school were Hospitality and Home Economics, not English and Maths.

Empowered by a school-based traineeship

"I wasn't academic at all, and my teachers realised this. At the end of Year 10, my parents and the guidance counsellor and I discussed other opportunities that I could take. So, for Year 11 and Year 12, I did a school-based traineeship at Rivers Café."

Evelyn graduated with seven TAFE certificates, a Year 12 certificate and the equivalent of an OP 12 without sitting the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test.

"I will always be grateful to the school that I was given that opportunity, because it made me feel empowered to be able to choose my own path."

Valued and supported

Evelyn's experience at Citipointe was enhanced by a special connection with Mrs Gill Williams, who was the Secondary staff secretary when Evelyn was at school. Mrs Williams, who passed away in 2007, saw that Evelyn needed a little more support.

A hereditary bone condition means that Evelyn couldn't play sport with her peers. Her fragile bones are more susceptible to fractures or breaks, so wearing a cast or navigating the campus on crutches was a part of life.

"Everyone was willing to help me," Evelyn recalls.

Mrs Williams advocated for Evelyn, liaising with teaching staff to allow her to use the study hall during sport. The two ate lunch together on these days and this helped Evelyn to feel supported and cared for.

"She's influenced my life in a big way. She showed me that if you can just make that little connection in someone's life, you don't know how much it will change them.

"She always made an effort to tell me it's okay to be different and that God's always going to love you. She was my favourite person in the world at school."

Motivated by empathy

Evelyn's experiences helped her to develop empathy and a desire to help others. This led her to roles as a disability youth worker and emergency care provider.

After working in hospitality and retail for many years and serving in church as a leader, Evelyn began working in residential care for clients with high medical needs.

"I worked with a young man with autism. I'd take him out on Saturdays for respite for his family, so they could just have a break. He was 17, so I taught him how to catch a bus, how to order food in a food court. Just simple things that were going to help him in life."

Evelyn also provided emergency care for children.

"Some nights we'd get little ones dropped off and they just wanted some love. So, I thought if I can do that, for however long we've got you, I will."

Evelyn found the role rewarding, but emotionally demanding, and after a seven-year-old client passed away, she decided to reassess and look for other ways to help people.

Today Evelyn and her husband Caleb Cook (Class of 2006) focus on their young family while growing their careers. Caleb graduated with an OP1 and is now National Sales Director for Gigafy, an Australian company delivering WiFi to apartments and hotels.

Evelyn and Caleb connected after high school when they served in leadership together at church. United in friendship, faith and service, their relationship flourished, and they married in 2011.

Evelyn is proud of Caleb's achievements, and as a couple they support each other through the challenges of professional life. Just as Laurie

Evelyn with son James, husband Caleb Cook (class of 2006) and daughter Zoe

supported Denise as she built her financial management company, so too does Caleb support Evelyn.

"As I have had a lot of experience working with clients and lenders, I have found that communication is the main key to successful outcomes. I pride myself on the way I communicate with my clients. It doesn't matter if it is the first or fiftieth time you have purchased or sold a property, it can always be a stressful time in your life. I make sure I keep my clients updated at all times even if it is as simple as letting them know we are still waiting on the lender. My goal is to always take the stress out of the transaction and make everything as easy as possible."

Evelyn's steps to securing a home loan

- Contact broker
- Share your goals
- Complete online profile
- Meet to explore options
- Review and accept proposal
- Submit to lender
- Keep in touch
- Review outcome
- Reassess or celebrate!

Contact **evelyn.cook@loanmarket.com.au**

Andrew Khoo

Class of 2013
Interior designer, postgraduate student, volunteer

Interior designer Andrew Khoo (Class of 2013) is discovering how to create spaces for people affected by disasters and volunteering in design projects for victims of abuse.

Hospitality, missions, music, and interior design have been part of Andrew's journey towards his current project: a Master of Disaster, Design and Development.

The degree sees Andrew apply his design knowledge to the humanitarian field and learn from guest lecturers from the UN Refugee Agency and the Red Cross, and meet with specialist private companies like Architects Without Frontiers.

Designing for life

Andrew began his career as an intern while completing a Bachelor of Design and Interior Design at Griffith University. The small design firm, Character Interior in Spring Hill, employed Andrew to work on commercial projects after graduation.

"I think in a lot of these creative arts areas, you do need someone in the inside for you to get in."

Grateful for this opportunity, Andrew practiced his skills and brought his creative spirit to projects. However, he found the reality of designing to a budget, within the commercial space, disheartening at times.

"We had a lot of clients where budget constraints, time constraints and preferences led to a big flip on our design, which is quite heartbreaking at times.

"I think commercial is very much driven by money because when people are acquiring a lease, they want to pay as little money as possible. I think we overlooked a lot of good design practices, a lot of design principles, and I think sustainability is one of them."

Even so, Andrew saw this as a chance to learn from an experienced mentor, until the impacts of Covid led to fewer business start-ups and less work.

Soon after, Andrew began working as a consultant for Freedom Kitchens, and later, became a kitchen designer for the Australian owned and made furniture company.

Working closely with clients, Andrew asked questions to discover how they function in their home and their kitchen.

"What sort of priorities do they have? What sort of movements do they make? What's important to them? From the answers that they provide, you get to piece together a picture of what they like and what they do in the kitchen, how they move."

"I think for me, what's rewarding, is being able to enrich their lives, actually benefit them in the way that they need it the most."

A freelance project which Andrew found rewarding, was for a bubble tea store, Teaology Lab in South Brisbane, owned by a friend from church.

"It was a small project, it's a small store, but I enjoyed it because it was for a friend who was close to me. And I think it's just nice to see people appreciate your work. It's quite rewarding to see people function in the space that you designed as you intended."

Design for vulnerable groups

Motivated by a desire to do more to help clients, Andrew took on further study, a Master of Disaster, Design and Development at RMIT online, full-time for 18 months.

The degree will equip Andrew with the skills and understanding to create spaces for vulnerable groups, such as people who are homeless, or people who have suffered trauma, such as refugees or internally displaced persons.

"There's a lot of research and care into the way we should design these things. We don't want to design the sort of spaces that trigger their trauma and bring about panic attacks or anxieties."

"We look at the culture, we look at the way people interact with the things around them. When we start to put ourselves in their shoes, we better understand what the political, economic, cultural, social landscape is for them."

A heart to help others

Andrew volunteers his time to help at a local level, working with a Christian charity, Habitat for Humanity Australia, to renovate crisis accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic or family violence.

"The program's called Brush with Kindness and you just go there and paint the space. So corporate organisations can volunteer their staff and they take in a bunch of people to help."

Andrew's interest in volunteering was nurtured while a student at Citipointe. He went on mission trips to the Philippines to visit orphanages and share the Gospel. The trips were led by Mr Nathan Wheeley, who was Secondary Coordinator of Learning Areas at the time, and Andrew's hospitality teacher.

Every opportunity to succeed

While at school, Andrew was keenly interested in hospitality, and had dreams of pursuing a career in fine dining. He received inspiration, support and industry insights from his teachers, such as Mr Peter Hollyock.

Mr Hollyock is a Citipointe alumni (Class of 2000), parent and staff member, who is the Secondary Head of Technology, overseeing design, digital, food and engineering technologies. He identified Andrew's skills and talents in hospitality and encouraged him to pursue excellence in the subject.

"I think my teachers were the ones who really grew me the most," Andrew says.

A brush with kindness

Opportunities to compete in cooking competitions throughout Secondary allowed Andrew to develop and refine his skills, and consider a pathway in hospitality.

"I wanted to reach to the top and open my own restaurant. But my parents said once you do that, you're probably not going to have much of a life for the next five to ten years. And I was heavily involved in church so I just felt like I didn't want to give all that up. Mr Wheeley also helped me understand the industry more and that helped me make my decision."

Today, Andrew joins his church mission trips to Thailand where he teaches drums to budding musicians in emerging churches. He says equipping music teams is a powerful and practical way to build the Kingdom of God.

"You see them elevate their worship and if you are part of that, that's rewarding."

Andrew finds inspiration for design in nature and websites featuring the work of top designers from around the world, such as Yellowtrace.

"I like to think quite deeply. So, I reflect on a lot of things around me, things about friends, how people operate in spaces, little things that they do. This is what sort of inspires me to think about how they interact with things. I think the main focus should be on helping the client."

For more information about Brush with Kindness, visit:
habitat.org.au/qld.

Alvin Chye (Citipointe parent), Grace Bennett (Alumnus – Class 2007)

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Sam Ayling

Class of 2015
Singer/songwriter, teacher, surfer

Sam Ayling (Class of 2015) is the singer/songwriter behind This New Light, releasing singles and touring from the Sunshine Coast where he teaches music at a local Christian school and brings Christian surfers together to fellowship.

A life of music and surfing on the Sunshine Coast sounds idyllic. How do you spend your time?

Yes, you're absolutely correct! Life on the Sunny Coast is pretty dreamy, and I definitely love the routine I've got going here. As a modern-day musician, I've had to diversify how I earn money and how I keep busy. Two days I week, I work as a music teacher at Caloundra Christian College, and this is an absolute joy of mine. I take only high school classes and also have a strong involvement in the Chapel ministry. Outside of school, I write music and play shows under the name This New Light, and I also play in three other bands (some original, some covers). And whenever I'm not teaching or making music, I'm parked up by the beach with my van scoping out the next wave.

> "Contentment is found right where we are, when we look at all the blessings around us and find peace and comfort knowing that the future isn't in our hands."

Can you describe *deepwater* and give us an update on this project?

So *deepwater* is my latest single from This New Light and I'm super stoked with it. I wrote it a year ago up in Agnes Water when I was deflated and running low on savings. To me the song is a reflection on how we so often lean on other things to help us find contentment (the next job, the next relationship, the next purchase), but actually the paradox of the matter is that contentment is found right where we are, when we look at all the blessings around us and find peace and comfort knowing that the future isn't in our hands.

In 2023, I'm looking to gig as much as possible and release heaps of tunes to Spotify and the like. I'll start the year off well with an East Coast tour playing shows in Byron, Brisbane and Sunny Coast, and I'm already looking to line up another headline tour mid-year.

Highlights from your musical career?

My music career thus far has been a series of slow but incrementally important achievements. I've supported bands I know and love (like Winterbourne, Patrick James, Alivan Blu, Hollow Coves and The Dreggs) and I've had new releases get played on Triple J and added to New Music Friday, but I'm starting to realise that, although these milestones are important, they shouldn't be the focus. As an aspiring creative, it's so easy to think that one day, when I'm a full-time gigging, touring and recording artist, I'll be proud of what I've done. But what's even more difficult is being stoked with where I'm at right now. If I never got any bigger or more well known, would I be stoked just being me?

I'm also pretty chuffed that my first ever headline tour back in 2021 sold out in all three locations!

Sam Ayling This New Light

Why did you choose CHC for your Master of Secondary Teaching?

Pursuing a career in the creative industries is never secure. You have to work really hard and play a bunch of free gigs or work for almost nothing, and there's never a guarantee of financial freedom round the corner. Teaching for me has always been a key element in my future-planning. I want to share my experiences with younger musicians and do absolutely anything I can to help them kick start their career now.

So teaching was a no brainer, and likewise with CHC. I knew that the Christian worldview would shape every decision I would make in teaching, so being trained in this Christian approach to teaching made so much sense. Plus, all the lecturers know you by name (especially my mum, [Debra Ayling, Education Lecturer]) and teaching is tailored to your needs. Big brownie points in my book.

Are you involved in Christian ministry or outreach?

Absolutely! I am the Christian Surfers (CS) Caloundra coordinator, which means I oversee a weekly surf and coffee meet, bringing together Christian and non-Christian surfers in the local community. We also collaborate with other CS missions, running camps and day trips, and we're all going down to Tassie this year for the national gathering. I love CS because it is all about local surfers having the opportunity to meet Jesus. You don't have to travel to a third world country to be "on mission".

Listen to This New Light perform deepwater:

Find Sam's music on Spotify and follow him on Facebook: www.facebook.com/thisnewlightmusic/.

Antiga Jones Class of 2018

Academic and mooting award winner, law graduate, contract analyst

An award-winning law student of Bond University, Antiga Jones (Class of 2018) shares how mooting at Citipointe led to success at an international moot court, accolades as an oralist, and fortified her promising career in law.

Twenty-one-year-old Antiga Jones has much to celebrate. This year she completed a dual degree at Bond University where she received numerous prestigious awards for academic excellence and has begun her professional career in one of the world's best consulting firms.

> **"when I put in my all and do my best, I feel so energised."**

The future is bright for this alumna, whose interest in law began with an extra-curricular activity in Year 11 at Citipointe called mooting. Mooting is a simulated court proceeding where student teams are presented with a legal problem which they are required to argue before a judge or panel.

"I love public speaking," says Antiga. "I find it invigorating and exciting. It's important, especially for law firms, to see that you've done mooting because it demonstrates not only that you are a good oralist and that you can perform in that space, but also that you put the work in for it because mooting can be very difficult, with very long hours."

Antiga continued mooting at Citipointe in Year 12 and was involved in competitions for high school students organised by Bond University. She excelled and was awarded Best Oralist Runner Up.

It was Secondary Business Teacher Mrs Heather Kenyon who encouraged Antiga to try mooting at Citipointe. Antiga says Citipointe was a great starting point for mooting and studying law.

"What we had studied at school was exactly what I was learning in first year at university. I think when you study legal studies at high school, you don't expect it to be something that you're really using in a law degree, but it is the foundation of that. It's what you need to know."

First in class

Antiga undertook a Bachelor of International Relations/Bachelor of Laws (with Honours) at Bond, where she made the Executive Dean's List for Academic Excellence four times, as well as achieving First in Class for Administrative Law and Vice Chancellor's List for Academic Excellence in January 2022.

She also received Bond University's Excellence Scholarship, which is awarded to students who demonstrate high academic achievement, leadership skills and community involvement.

Antiga is driven by the reward and sense of accomplishment that hard work brings.

Antiga was awarded First in Class for Administrative Law at Bond University

Antiga won Best Oralist for the virtual Wilson Moot

Antiga has competed in the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition, and participated in virtual moots in the Netherlands, Canada and the Asia Pacific. Mooting topics have included homelessness in Canada and Covid. She was awarded Best Oralist in the Wilson Moot in Canada, which attracts high achieving law students from around the world.

"After you finish the moot, even if you didn't get to the finals, you still have an inner sense of achievement."

The amount of time required for mooting is like a university subject, although students often devote much more. Antiga says the university places a heavy emphasis on mooting for the law program and that it's one of the biggest extracurriculars. Her team worked up to 18 hours a day on the moot in the lead up to the competition.

In addition to mooting, Antiga has extended her experience through several internships. One internship was at a mental health legal clinic, which she found challenging and fulfilling, aware that she was making a difference for those without a strong voice. Another at a criminal law firm offered real-world experience and involved working on cases and going to court. Another for a judge's chambers involved summarising judgements which was difficult but helped to develop skills in writing and reading legal documents.

"I definitely intentionally selected a diverse range of internships. I wanted to be sure that when I went into the workforce, I would enjoy what I was doing and wouldn't have to change five years down the line because I wasn't finding it fulfilling or enjoyable."

Driven to succeed

Antiga is motivated by a love of studying law, and fascinated by problem-solving, learning the rules and applying them to new scenarios.

"I feel an inner sense of achievement when I do well. I like pushing myself. I like working hard and when I finish a semester and I know that I put my all in and did my best, no matter what grades I get back, as long as I know that I did that, I feel so energised and really happy with myself."

She says the Christian values taught at Citipointe play an important part in the basis of morals and ethics and the legal profession. Having the right to be heard is fundamental to the practice of law.

"There are definitely easier degrees you can do and easier places to work, but if you do it right, and if you put the work that's needed in, and if you branch out and try different things like internships and mooting and other extracurriculars, it can be rewarding and exciting."

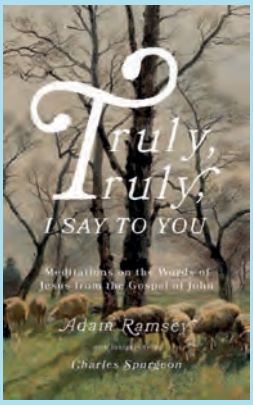
Antiga has begun her first professional role as a Contract Analyst in Accenture's Contract Management team in Canberra. Accenture is number six on Forbes' list of the world's best management consulting firms.

Adam Ramsey

Class of 2002
Pastor of Liberti Church, Gold Coast, and author

Adam Ramsey leads Liberti Church on the Gold Coast, which has churches in Carrara, Coomera and Mermaid Beach. He also serves as the network director for Acts 29 Asia-Pacific in Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Acts 29 is a Christian organisation committed to church-planting and equipping church leaders. Adam is the author of *Truth on Fire: Gazing at God until your Heart Sings,* and *Truly, Truly, I Say to You: Meditations on the Words of Jesus from the Gospel of John.*

For more information about Adam's books visit ***www.thegoodbook.com.au***



Adam Ramsey (Class of 2002) shares an excerpt from his latest devotional, "Truly, Truly, I say to you."

"It is I; Do Not Be Afraid."

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. (John 6:16-21).

After miraculously feeding a crowd of five thousand with the bread and fish from a young boy's lunchbox, Jesus withdrew to be alone and sent the disciples across the sea ahead of him (John 6:1-5; Matthew 14:22-23). During the crossing, the wind whipped the sea into a frenzy and the disciples were forced to row against the wind, until the figure of Jesus suddenly appeared to them like an apparition off in the distance, walking on top of the waves. Understandably, they became even more frightened.

Now take a moment and try to put yourself in the boat with these disciples. John says they had rowed "about three or four miles" into a strong headwind before the figure of Jesus appeared, walking across the water. In Matthew's account, his appearance was in "the fourth watch of the night" (Matthew 14:25), which means sometime between 3 am and 6 am. In other words, these men had been rowing into the wind, through dark and menacing waters, for roughly 6-8 hours. Not a few minutes of rowing through circumstances beyond their control. Not an hour or so. Nearly an entire night of trauma that had no discernible end in sight. It is not hard to imagine the disciples wondering, "Has Jesus forgotten us?"

And then in his own timing, Jesus appears. Never once in his earthly life do we find Jesus in a hurry, and that is no less true here. In fact, John's recording of this miraculous moment paints Jesus with a surprising casualness. He is not panicked; he is walking. In the midst of nature's fury, he strolls with supernatural calm. Is it any wonder that the disciples were terrified that they were seeing a ghost (Matthew 14:26)?

It is here that Jesus announces himself with three simple words: It is I. And in his presence, their fears are exchanged for gladness. Interestingly, the whole encounter carries prophetic echoes from God's promise to his people through the prophet Isaiah. Look at these lines from within the first five verses of Isaiah 43:

> *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you …*
> *When you pass through the waters,*
> *I will be with you …*
> *For I am the LORD your God,*
> *the Holy One of Israel, and your Saviour …*
> *Do not fear, for I am with you … (v 1-5, CSB)*

How would your life change if you remembered, and kept on remembering, that no matter what is happening around you, Jesus has not abandoned you? Martyn Lloyd-Jones has given one of my favourite definitions of what it looks like to trust in Jesus in the gritty moments of life: "Faith is the refusal to panic." After all, Jesus never promised us easy sailing. Just the opposite: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). In other words, if Jesus really is with us—truly, fully, inseparably, and eternally with us—then for the rest of our lives, you and I will never have a single good reason to panic.

Trouble is going to come. When it does, where will you fix your gaze?

Fix your eyes on the storms around you, and your heart will be battered by despair. Fix your eyes on the resources within you, and your hope will extend only as far as your creaturely limitations. Fix your eyes instead upon Jesus, and you will discover sufficient grace woven into every present and future trouble.

He commands your fearlessness by announcing his presence. *It is I; do not be afraid.* There is no storm in your future that he will abandon you to face alone. There is no night so dark or wind so strong or wave so high that will separate you from the ever-present and invincible nearness of Jesus.

How could it be otherwise? The One who called the elements of the physical universe into being rules them still. Jesus walked on top of the waves, because even the waters recognised their rightful place under the feet of their Maker.

[i]Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure* (Eerdmans: 1965), p.143.

Farewell Mr Rodney Webb

A group of alumni returned to surprise Mr Rodney Webb, long-time volleyball coach and program coordinator, at a training session on the eve of his retirement.

Alumni returned to honour Mr Rodney Webb's 19-year contribution to volleyball before his retirement

Alumni from the Class of 2008 through to the Class of 2021 attended to honour Mr Webb for his 19 years of leadership and service to the sport. Many more sent expressions of gratitude, as work commitments prevented them from attending.

Completely surprised by the turnout (well done to everyone involved), Mr Webb shared his love for the College and the joy he found in coaching and training Citipointe's volleyball players. The group presented Mr Webb with a gift of appreciation and joined in prayer, led by volleyball coach Mr Justin Chan.

Alumni enjoyed the chance to reconnect with their coach and fellow players and to play volleyball at Citipointe once again! Thanks to everyone who took time to attend or send messages to honour Mr Webb.

Mr Webb is retiring to the Sunshine Coast where he will spend time with his family. We wish you God's blessing and joy in retirement Mr Webb!

Mr Webb's contribution in numbers:

- **46 teams**
- **57 tournaments**
- **171 days of competition**
- **342 games**
- **855 sets**
- **42,000 points**
- **Over 100,000 rallies**

Volleyball coach, Edison Percy, Class of 2021

Alumni who are passionate about their sport, giving back and inspiring young athletes, often return to campus as coaches. Volleyball coach and former student vice president, Edison Percy (Class of 2021), explains why he coaches for Citipointe.

Why coach?

Coaching has been a great way to give back to a program that gave so much to me. I developed so much from the input given to me through the volleyball program.

Best coaching advice?

Listen to others.

ATAR Achievement Class of 2022

"Goals are good for setting a direction, but systems are best for making progress." James Clear, Atomic Habits

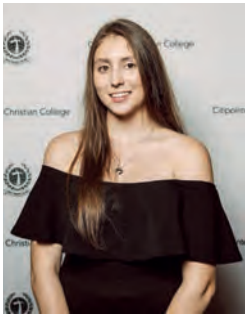
Congratulations to our high ATAR achievers from the Class of 2022 who received a special commendation from the College. Well done to the 2022 Dux of the College, Ashleigh Lohr, who received an ATAR of 99.05.

"Once I knew what I wanted, learning to overcome the feeling of being overwhelmed was essential," says Ashleigh.

"Clear forward monthly and daily planning and routines helped by narrowing my focus to what was currently highest priority. Learning to "just start" also helped. If you plan to only make one per cent progress, it's still progress."

Ashleigh will study Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Data Science at QUT.

Scan for Citipointe Class Of 2022 ATAR results



What helped you succeed?

"Succeeding in high school is not just about getting good grades or a high ATAR. It's about setting a foundation for the rest of your life. It's about learning how to overcome challenges, how to work hard, and how to be resilient. It's about discovering who you are and what you want to achieve."

Angelina Verkman,
Bachelor of Veterinary Technology, UQ

"Being surrounded by like-minded people, people who are willing to become better and strive for success. Moreover, I was blessed to have teachers who knew my potential."

Shaurya Dua,
Bachelor of Business (Accounting)/Bachelor of Laws (Honours), QUT

Favourite memory from school?

"I really enjoyed Tuesday and Wednesday sport. It was also a great chance to socialise with people and make new friends. Never sit out during sport! You'll miss having it."

Cathy Chi, Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours), UQ

Top ATAR achievers from Class of 2022 return to campus for a commendation

Reunions 2022

Class of 1992 30 Year Reunion

Class of 1992 – 30 Year Reunion

The Class of 1992 gathered for their 30-year reunion at the Story Bridge Hotel in August. Alumnus Andrew Bonney, who also organised the 20-year reunion for the group, said it was great to catch up with so many people from school.

Class of 2012 – 10 Year Reunion

The Class of 2012 gathered for their 10 Year Reunion at the Osborne Hotel, Fortitude Valley in October, organised by Sophie Maguire.

Class of 2013

Reconnect with classmates at the following 2023 reunions.

- Class of 1993 – 30 Years
- Class of 2003 – 20 Years
- Class of 2013 – 10 Years

Thinking of planning your reunion?

Citipointe's Alumni Officer can help with contacting classmates, promoting the reunion, securing a venue and more.

To register your reunion and receive support for your event, email: **devoffice@citipointe.qld.edu.au**

Celebrations

Congratulations to Amy (née Stafford, Class of 2005) and Andrew Densmore who married in May and celebrated at The Lighthouse Restaurant, Cleveland

Congratulations to Stephanie (née Jenkins, Class of 2011) and Tom Schad welcomed baby Daniel in March

Share your special moments with us! Email news of engagements, weddings, and babies to: **devoffice@citipointe.qld.edu.au**

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