



WOMEN OF AVE MARIA COLLEGE

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AVE MARIA COLLEGE She Who Belongs. She Who Thrives.

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Front Cover: Photography by Cheryl Kerin

Back Cover: Photography by Ava-Jai Wroblewski (Year 10)





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Message from the Principal MS TANYA HUTTON

Dear Women of Ave,

Welcome to the 11th edition of our Ave Belong publication, formerly known as Women of Ave. Ave Belong aims to highlight inspiring members of the College community from the past and present, sharing the stories of our Alumnae, staff, and current students.

In this edition of Ave Belong, I would like to share insight into the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the College in 2023, which has provided a timely opportunity to reflect on the past and celebrate our pathways of the future. This edition also explores a focus on the environment through the lenses of education and design. We are fortunate enough to hear from two incredible Alumnae, Laura Caccamo (Class of 2011) and Stephanie Mulcahy (Class of 2010). Both past students share an insight into their careers in Urban Planning and Outdoor Education, respectively, looking back fondly on their time at the College that led them to their passions. This edition also includes a recap of our third annual Ave Alumnae Panel as a part of our Careers Week Program. This panel allowed our Year 10, 11 and 12 students to hear the diverse and interesting journeys from past students in a variety of industry fields.

Finally, in this edition we are proud to profile two of our College staff, Mr Dane Calleja (Executive Deputy Principal) and Ms Sharon Walsh (Digital Learning Leader) and reflect on our sporting carnivals, Mission Action Day and various programs, events, and camp experiences underway at the College in 2022.

I do hope you appreciate this edition of Ave Belong and may we continue to strive for truth through love.

Yours Faithfully, Tanya

SCHOOL REVIEW Q&A



60th Anniversary Q&A with Principal Ms Tanua Huto

How was Ave Maria College Founded?

Ave Maria College was officially opened on 20 March 1963 by Archbishop Simonds after he laid the foundation stone on 15 August 1962. Initially owned and operated by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the College grew quickly so that by 1969, students across six-year levels were enrolled. In 1978, the Catholic Education Office assumed responsibility for running the College following the sisters gifting it to the Archbishop of Melbourne. The College is now owned and operated by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). Much has changed since our early beginnings, though we are immensely proud of all that has been achieved during this time and the wonderful young women that our students become.

How is the College celebrating 60 Years?

In celebration of the anniversary and in collaboration with Truth Agency, the College has created a commemorative logo as pictured above, that captures both the rich Franciscan heritage of the College, as well as the contemporary achievements and bright future of our community. After an involved workshopping process, the final design was heavily inspired by Year 11 Student Sophie Smith's proposed design options. This logo has been developed into a commemorated banner and a badge design, which will be distributed to all students and staff at future occasion this year.

Celebratory events throughout the year include our annual Back to Ave Day event on Sunday, 19 March 2023, Whole School Celebration Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday, 22 June 2023, and our annual Ave Maria Day celebrations on Friday, 11 August 2023 Additionally, throughout the year the College will host 'Ave Across the Decades' themed dress-up days with gold coin donations to celebrate our history but to also raise money for our nominated charity. The inspiration for the dress up will be taken from the eras of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s and 2010s.

What do you look forward to about the future of the College?

There is much to look forward to about the future of Ave Maria College. As a College, we are just as rich in tradition as we are future-focused. I look forward to the future learnings, development, engagement and continued connection between staff, students and the wider community.

We are continuing to diversify the pathways on offer for student learning, with emerging pathways in our Senior Studies. Supported by state of the art facilities, pedagogy and resources, the programs, and pathways on offer for students incorporate core, specialist, elective and interdisciplinary modules as well as micro credentialing.

Emerging programs such as these, coupled with varied curriculum offerings in all Learning Areas, create endless opportunities for students at Ave Maria College to belong, engage, grow, and thrive for many generations to come.

Thank you for your time Tanya.



Meet the

MR DANE CALLEJA

Dane Calleja joins the Ave Maria College community in 2023 as the Executive Deputy Principal (Learning and Operations). Dane brings with him a wealth of experience, having served in Catholic Education as a Deputy Principal, Assistant Principal (Learning and Teaching) and Director of Learning and Teaching as well as in various other leadership roles. Dane has completed a Masters of Educational Leadership and is currently studying a range of leadership development courses offered through Harvard University. Dane has experience teaching Legal Studies, English, Humanities, Business Management, Religious Education and Inquiry.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I have dreamt of being a teacher since I first commenced school at 5 years old. As a student, I was always fascinated with how my teachers knew exactly what I needed to grow, develop and be my best version of self. I found school such an exciting place to be and I loved how my teachers had the capacity to inspire me and to make me feel confident so that I could reach my full potential. I was always so keen to be able to provide this opportunity to others, ensuring that they received the same positive experiences that I was lucky enough to have at all levels of my education.

What is your favourite aspect of being a teacher?

My favourite component of being a teacher is having the opportunity to establish positive relationships and create learning environments that are safe, engaging and inspiring. I love having the opportunity to design and execute learning experiences that cater for the needs and interests of each individual. It is such a privilege to be able to learn alongside students as they engage in the process of exploration, discovery and the acquisition of new knowledge, skill and understanding.

What did you study in VCE?

In VCE I studied English, Legal Studies, Further Mathematics, Psychology, History Revolutions and Religion and Society.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I love spending time with my family, friends and puppy Freddy. I also have 6 beautiful nieces and nephews that I take every opportunity to hang out with. I also enjoy surfing, swimming, stand up paddleboarding and spending time at the beach. I love reading anything related to education/teaching.

Best advice to your younger self?

Life is an amazing adventure - Embrace each day and the wonderful opportunities provided.

Thank you for your time Dane.

2023 SEMESTER ONE EVENTS

House Swimming

On Friday, 17 February the College enjoyed a wonderful community celebration at our 2023 House Swimming Carnival, held at Queen's Park Pool in Moonee Ponds.

The 40-degree day was hot, both in and out of the pool. Students were filled with enthusiasm, as we saw high levels of participation and lots of house spirit led by the House Captains. The Ave 100m sprint was won by Sienna Scodella (Year 9).

The overall 2023 House Champions were Clare House, claiming back-to-back Swimming carnival victories over the last two years. Congratulations to all students who participated on the day and to the Clare House captains, Ava Carrick and Alessia Torcaso for leading their house to victory!









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House Athletics

PRO NIKE

It was great to see so many students participating in our 2023 House Athletics Carnival on Friday, 31 March at Moonee Valley Athletics Track in Aberfeldie.

The carnival was a huge success, with hundreds of students earning points for their house. Team spirit and encouragement was at an all-time high across all the track and field events.

Congratulations to Mary for winning the Junior and Intermediate, and to Helene for winning the Senior division. Well done to Clare on taking home the title of overall House Champions, led by their captains Ava Carrick and Alessia Torcaso. A special mention to Georgia Benton (Year 9) for taking out back-to-back victory in the 100m Ave Sprint.







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2023 SEMESTER ONE EVENTS

Mission Action Day

On Tuesday, 20 May 2023 all students and staff got involved in our annual Mission Action Day Walkathon to raise awareness and funds for our sister school, St Maria Mazzarello in Venilale, Timor Leste - a school that educates young women, providing practical training in the areas of tourism and hospitality.

All those involved participated by walking a lap around the Maribyrnong River with the support of sponsors such as parents or guardians who donated online.

This longstanding College tradition is a great initiative which teaches our students to acknowledge our privileges, to give generously and to support girls' education. Thank you to all those who participated in the walk, and those who generously donated to the cause!











STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROFILE



MIA REDDIE AND EMILIA MORDA

Meet our Leaders Franciscan Leaders

The College is proud to offer a diverse range of student leadership opportunities across all year levels. Student Leaders will be expected to complete the duties outlined in their leadership position description, as well as act as positive role models within the College community. One of these leadership roles is a Franciscan Leader.

The primary purpose of a Franciscan Leader is to be a positive role model, promoting awareness about faith and social justice, increasing student awareness of injustice, and engaging students in action for positive change. The position requires an understanding of student interests, and the capacity to lead others towards common goals.

We spoke to the Year 8 Franciscan Leader, Mia Reddie and Year 10 Franciscan Leader, Emilia Morda, to gain an insight into their roles.

What are you looking forward to/ what do you hope to achieve in your leadership role?

Mia: I am most looking forward to working with my peers to address sustainability opportunities around the school. I am passionate about social justice issues, such as poverty and gender equality and as a Franciscan leader, I hope to reach out to social justice charities and help support their cause with the school community's help.

Emilia: I'm looking forward to opening another point of view on religion for myself by working with the school and the other Franciscan leaders.

Who is an inspirational leader to you and why?

Mia: My Dad is an inspirational leader. He always supports and guides me to be a successful leader and person. As a leader, he is resilient, positive, empathetic and a great communicator, which he spends time teaching me how to adopt these qualities. When I experience difficult situations he works with me on how to respond and behave to achieve the best outcome for all. **Emilia**: I was inspired by looking at the other leaders as they contributed to the school through their leadership roles and that inspired me because it made me want to be just like them in the sense of being a role model to other student who may want to become leaders themselves.

What is your favourite thing about being an Ave student?

Mia: I love the sense of community and belonging at Ave Maria College. Their motto "She Who Belongs, She Who Thrives" is certainly true and I can see it and feel it when I walk down the corridors of the college.

Emilia: My favorite thing about being an Ave student is being able to form a group of people who understand me and make me feel welcomed and loved while at school.

Thank you for your time Mia and Emilia.

Welcome to the Ave Team

As the Ave Maria College community continues to grow, so too does our incredible team of staff. We thank all new members of teaching and non-teaching staff who have transitioned seamlessly into their roles in 2023.



70F ANDERSON

Teacher - Tertiary Preparation Program, Careers





Youth Counsellor



DFBORAH **BRADSHAW**

Director of Learning and Pathways. Teacher - Health and Human Development



DANE CALLEJA

Executive Deputy Principal, Teacher - Legal Studies



MARVITE CINI

Library Technician



GABRIELLE DEVLIN

Visual Arts & Textiles Technician



MADELINE **DI SALLE**

Learning Support Officer



DEBBIE

FLAHAVIN

School Nurse



SONIA GEORGE

Teacher -Chemistry, Science, Mathematics



ANNE-MARIE HEALY

Teacher -Commerce. Careers, English



JOSIE IANNAZZO

Finance Officer Accounts Receivable and Purchasing



DOMINICA MATINA

Personal Assistant to the Assistant Principal



ANASTASIA MURRAY

Teacher - English



GENEVIEVE MURRAY

Teacher - Art, Visual Arts, Textiles



LARISA PERERA

> Teacher - English, **Humanities**



EMILY SAINTY

Teacher - Health and Physical **Education**, Science



GABRIELLA **SILVESTRO**

Learning Support Officer



MORGAN **SKIBA**

Teacher - Health and Physical **Education**, Science



SINCLAIR **Teacher - Business**

Studies, Commerce, **Humanities**



JEEVANI SUGATHADASA

Learning Support Officer



NAGA **TADEPALLI**





Teacher -Legal Studies, Commerce,

Humanities



NGAIRE WALLACE

Domain Leader Visual Arts and Textiles. Teacher -Visual Arts





Meet the Teacher

MS SHARON WALSH

"If you put your heart and mind into it, you can do anything."

Since beginning teaching at Ave Maria College in 2007, Sharon Walsh has taught thousands of students across the subjects of Health and Physcial Education, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Digital Technology and STEM.

Sharon graduated from the University of Ballarat (now Federation University) with a Bachelor of Education (Physical Education) and Post Graduate Diploma of Outdoor and Environmental Science. Sharon began her teaching cateer at Sebastopool College in Ballarat, before travelling to West Hatch High School in Chigwell, United Kingdom to teach overseas.

At Ave, Sharon has held numerous positions of leadership, including; Year 9 Coordinator, Year 10 Coordinator, Duke of Ed Coordinator, Co-Curricular Leader, Digital technologies Leader and her current position as Digital Learning Leader.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I always loved coaching junior sports when I was younger, and teaching was a natural progression from that. However, I wanted to teach more than just sports and felt it really important to be able to teach life skills to students and being a HPE teacher has allowed me to do both.

What is your favourite aspect of being a teacher?

My favourite aspect of being a teacher is the diversity it brings everyday. No two days are ever the same, whether its teaching different classes and topics to attending camps, excursions and Co-Curricular activities.

How have you found teaching Outdoor and Environmental studies has changed over the years?

Teaching Outdoor and Environmental studies has changed dramatically over the years, especially around the commercialisation of many outdoor experiences due to the ever-tightening risk and compliance regulations imposed on the industry. The focus of the subject has also changed from that of outdoor recreation pursuits to a more environmentally conscience course that looks at the societal impacts on natural surroundings and ways to reduce this in the future. However, students choosing the subject have remained the same with a passion for learning more about themselves, the community and the environment.

What is your favourite camp destination to go on with students?

My favourite camp destination to take students is up into the Alpine environment. Many students have never seen snow before and being able to experience their excitement and curiosity within this environment is unbelievable.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I play premier league soccer as a goalkeeper and enjoy having all the benefits that come with playing a team sport. I also enjoy escaping the hustle and bustle of the city and exploring new places by method of hiking, kayaking or 4WDing.

Best advice to your younger self?

Don't let anyone tell you that you cannot do something. If you put your heart and mind into it, you can do anything.

Year 10 Outdoor and Environmental Education Camp

From Wednesday, 15 March 2023 to Friday, 17 March 2023, Year 10 Outdoor and Environmental students participated in a 3-day camp to Wilsons Promontory and surrounding areas, staying at the Tidal River Campground. The purpose of this camp was for students to apply content and skills learnt during the semester in a natural setting. Students were involved in adventure activities, participating in a surfing lesson in open water, a Mt Oberon hike and a Pennicott Wilderness Tours Boat Ride.





Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies Camp

From Monday, 15 May 2023 and from Wednesday, 17 May 2023 -Friday, 19 May 2023 as part of Unit 1 Outdoor and Environmental Studies, two groups of Year 11 students participated in a 3-day camp at Phillip Island. The purpose of this camp was to enable students to have sufficient environmental experience, in which to successfully reflect upon and apply to questions on assessments. Students camped in tents each night, and during the day were involved in a variety of activities. Instructors from Trees Adventure and Phillip Island Nature Parks, lead the students in the specialised activities including high ropes and ziplining, eco high speed boat ride and ranger activities.







Year 12 Outdoor Environmental Studies Camp

From Wednesday, 8 March to Friday, 10 March 2023, as part of VCE Unit 3 Outdoor Education, students participated in a 3-day camp in the Anglesea and Torquay area. The purpose of the camp was to enable students to have sufficient environmental experience, in which to successfully reflect upon and apply to questions on their SACS and end of year examination. Instructors from the adventure companies, Go Ride a Wave and Ecologic, lead the students in specialised activities including Surfing, Stand Up Paddle Boarding and a Team Challenge.





Year 9 Geography CERES Excursion

On Friday, 3 March 2023 students studying Year 9 Geography participated in an excursion to the CERES Community Environment Park, Brunswick East. Throughout the day, students were involved in a Farming for Our Future education session supporting their knowledge in the unit of Biomes and Food Security.









Careers Week Panel

As part of National Careers Week from 15 - 21 May 2023, the College welcomed back five past students as part of an Ave Alumnae Panel presentation for students in Year 10 - 12.

The panellist from various graduating years, working in different industries all shared insight into their career paths after high school and answered questions from current students.

CHANTAL TRIMBOLI (CLASS OF 2004) Venue and Event Operations Manager

STEPHANIE MORELLO (CLASS OF 2008) Merchandise Buyer for Jewellery and Accessories

MONIQUE FATMOUS (CLASS OF 2015) Science Research Assistant (presented virtually)

MAGGIE ATTALLA (CLASS OF 2016) Lawyer

CORRINA MEROLLI (CLASS OF 2018) Consultant in Supply Chain and Operations Team







Industry Focus: Environment

Outdoor Education and Urban Planning

At Ave Maria College, we are proud to boast a variety of diverse domains, subject offerings and pathways personalised to each student and their strengths, interests and goals. Many of these domains and subjects, particularly those offered in senior studies, often have an interdisciplinary cross over with combined skillsets and knowledge that can lead to a specialised career.

We have reached out to Ave Alumnae, Stephanie Mulcahy and Laura Caccamo who both created specialised careers for themselves by following their strengths and passions. Stephanie is inspiring students through teaching outdoor education, while Laura is strategically shaping the environment through urban planning



STEPHANIE MULCAHY (CLASS OF 2010) Outdoor Educator

What advice do you wish to share with the current students of Ave Maria College?

One piece of advice I'd give to the current students and community is to give everything a try and that if it's not working for you, find something that you truly love regardless of how long it takes you.

How would you describe your path after graduating from the College?

After I left school in 2010, I went on to study my Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology, where the course went for 2 years. I then spent another year completing my Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology at Kangan Institute. After this I worked as an assistant designer for Engine Swimwear. My career wasn't really taking off, so I decided to go down another avenue.

I enrolled in the Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education, I did this for a few years while working in the industry where I made the discovery, that teaching was not for me. I took 6 months off, continued to work and travelled to America. While in America, I was Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake. I had the best time and thought to myself, why not look at making something like this my career. I have always loved the outdoors and really enjoyed doing Outdoor Education at Ave. When I returned home, I did some research and found the course I have 1 subject to complete. When I finish, I will come out with a Bachelor of Outdoor Leadership. I have been working in the outdoor industry for the past 3 years and have had the pleasure of taking some Year 7's from Ave on camp.

Where are you currently working? What is your role?

My current position is Outdoor Educator, where I faciliate all camp activities for groups from Year 3 to Year 12. It's a very rewarding position, where I get to impact young people's lives by teaching and enjoying the bush with them.

How do you look back on your time at the College?

I loved my time at Ave, all the teachers were really supportive, especially in the later years of my schooling, when I was trying to work out what I wanted to do for my career. They taught me that just because the first option didn't work there is always other options you can take.

Industry Focus: Environment



LAURA CACCAMO (CLASS OF 2011) Principal Urban Planner at KBR

What advice do you wish to share with the current students of Ave Maria **College?**

Life after high school can be uncertain and daunting. Success won't happen overnight and opportunities may not fall in your lap. Instead of focusing on the end goal, prioritise planting seeds wherever you go. Network, cultivate relationships, stay curious - flowers will bloom at the right time.

How would you describe your path after graduating from the College?

Just before graduating high school, I was an aspiring architect, and my university preferences reflected my career aspirations. Despite my relatively high ATAR score, the entrance requirements to an architecture degree were extremely competitive and I wasn't accepted. This left me with my 8th preference, a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning. A degree I added to my list without much thought. I embarked on what I thought would only be one year before transitioning into an architecture degree. Undertaking a degree I never set out to do was extremely challenging and took a mountain of discipline and deliberation on what might be my next move.

Despite my plans to transfer at any opportunity, I was curious about a career as an urban planner. I sought out many opportunities such as volunteer and casual work in the planning industry to help me understand what a career as an urban planner might like look. I found work at a local council, then with a developer and eventually at a small planning consultancy firm. My dreams of becoming an architect had begun to fizzle. A profession in urban planning would allow me to influence more than just a building, I could shape a whole town.

With this new found perspective, I went on to complete the urban planning degree with Honours and continued working as a planning consultant. I spent 7 years at this firm



Artist Impression Only



where I eventually led a small team and worked with a range of clients from private developers to local and state government. I contributed to the planning of various housing estates, prepared strategic land use and development plans for regional towns, formulated planning policy and overall contributed to creative solutions for urban and regional issues. During this period, I was recognised by the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) as Victoria's Young Planner of the Year in 2019.

Where are you currently working? What is your role?

I've recently made a career move into major infrastructure, working for a global engineering firm called KBR. In my new position I currently lead the planning approvals of major transport infrastructure projects (involving trams and rail). I work with a large multi-disciplinary team to obtain statutory approvals required to enable the delivery of these major infrastructure projects. My day-today requires extensive collaboration with different teams (environment, ecology, engineering, construction, communications), problem solving and risk mitigation.

I've recently contributed to the Keon Parade Level Crossing Removal Project on behalf of LXRP (see Figure 1) and am currently leading the planning and heritage approvals for a Tram Maintenance Facility on behalf of the Department of Transport & Planning (see Figure 2).

The process to obtaining approvals for major projects is by no means a linear one. It is fast paced, requires critical thinking and quick solutions. It also requires the ability to balance often competing factors, whether that be functional requirements, environmental considerations, or 'good' design to deliver a project that will have a positive impact. I'm extremely passionate about my career and have found it highly rewarding so far. I look forward to working with the next generations of planners.

How do you look back on your time at the College?

Upon reflecting on my time at Ave, the last 3 years of my high school education stand out. It is where I learnt to establish a good work ethic, to be resilient, curious, and hard working. I recall my teachers being encouraging and supportive, but also firm and regimented. That approach really set a foundation for me to succeed in the 'real world'.



TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2023

As part of the College's 60th Anniversary celebrations, there will be a dress up day each term, celebrating 'Ave Across the Decades' from the 1960s to present day.



1980s and 1990s

MONDAY, 5 JUNE 2023











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Back to Ave Day 2023

On Sunday, 19 March 2023 the College was honoured to welcome back Alumnae across six graduating years from the Class of 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2018 for our annual Back to Ave Day event! The event was particularly special as we celebrate the College's 60th Anniversary this year.

It was lovely to see old classmates reconnect and reminisce over their time at the College, looking back through past uniforms, photos and yearbooks. Current student leaders assisted in running tours of the grounds, sharing insight into life as an Ave student today.

Thank you to guest speakers Corrina Merolli (Class of 2018), Briana Petrocco (Class of 2013) and Brenda Bain (née Scully, Inaugural student in 1963), who all spoke fondly about their experiences as students at Ave over the years.



















Mother's Day Breakfast

On Thursday, 4 May 2023 the College was delighted to hold our annual Mother's Day Breakfast in Francis Hall, enabling our students to recognise and appreciate the special women in their lives.

Students and their mums, grandmothers or special women enjoyed a pancake breakfast before hearing from guest speakers and Ave Alumnae Vanessa Singarella (2010) and Rachel Singarella (2008) who spoke to our community about their life since graduating. It was great to hear how each has pursued their passions. We appreciate them sharing challenges and highlights of growing into adulthood and acknowledging those who have supported them along the way, especially their mum Nella.

It was great to have involvement from student leaders, particularly College Captains Chelsea Atkins and Madeline Piccione who both delivered a touching speech to their own mothers. The College Choir performed two lovely musical numbers, led by Ms Sophie Maclure. Thank you to all who attended in making this a wonderful event.



UPCOMING *Nents*

Term Three Dates 2023 Monday, 10 July 2023 – Friday, 12 September 2023 Ave Maria Day

Friday, 11 August 2023

Term Four Dates 2023

Monday, 2 October 2023 - Friday, 24 November 2023 (Year 10 and 11 students)

Monday, 2 October 2023 - Tuesday, 5 December 2023 (Year 7, 8 and 9 students)

For all magazine enquiries contact media@avemaria.vic.edu.au

To contribute a story and photo

For all alumnae enquiries please email alumnae@avemaria.vic.edu.au

- Change of contact details
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- To contribute to alumnae events

"Ave taught me how to be an independent learner and to challenge myself. I always felt encouraged to pursue my goals and make the most of my opportunities."

She Who Belongs. She Who Thrives.

– Khalia, Class of 2020



Discover more:

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She Who Belongs. She Who Thrives.









Join Ave Belong to reconnect with classmates, expand your professional network and give back to the College community.







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