



MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNAE

Where are they now?

Annastasia Marchio Class of 2019

Mercy has the pleasure of introducing Annastasia Marchio.

Annastasia completed her secondary school education at Mercy College in 2019 and shares her reflection in an interview below of college days and her career path over the last five years.

The College theme for 2019:

Find your way with Mercy

Ms Lila McInerney, Principal:

'In reflecting on the 2019 College theme, "Find your way with mercy", we pray for and encourage our students to find their way in the world, and we hope that this may resonate for them, not only this year but as they go forward.'



Annastasia, what are your favourite College memories?



My favourite memories from high school always include the fun times I had with my friends. My friends and I were the group that always found humour in everything and admittedly sometimes got into trouble. However, we buckled down during VCE, which went by in a blur, and achieved so much in those final years whilst also being our goofy selves whenever we caught up at lunch or after school.

The year 12 formal was also another fond memory of mine. I really enjoyed the opportunity to bring my boyfriend, Dante, to meet all my friends and teachers at the formal.

Annastasia pictured with her boyfriend Dante on Family Day at work.



Did you set out with a career plan?

My passion for engineering began in year 9, inspired by a family friend who loved her job and shared my love for math. Motivated by her, I pursued mathematics at Mercy, taking Methods and Specialist Math with the support of my teachers, which helped me get into RMIT University to study engineering.

I completed my Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure) (Honours Degree) in 2023 and now work as a Graduate Track and Civil Engineer at John Holland.



What were the significant milestones that have impacted your life journey so far?

Starting university at RMIT was a massive shock to the system.

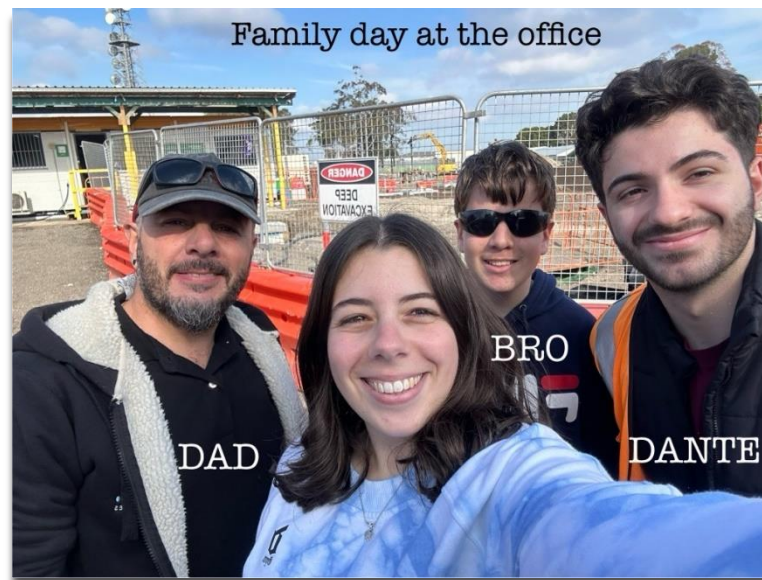
I went from an all-girls, small school with small classes with a single teacher to lectures with hundreds of students and only about 5% female classmates.

Despite the tough workload at university, I enjoyed the content and my passion for engineering grew.

In my third year, I applied for my first undergraduate role and was thrilled to get the job. It was a proud moment to work for John Holland, a company I had admired since high school.

I worked on significant projects like the level crossing removals for the Mernda, Upfield, and Craigieburn lines. These projects were fulfilling, and I take pride in pointing out the parts I worked on whenever I pass those train stations.

Becoming a graduate engineer at John Holland was another significant milestone, allowing me to work on various rail, civil, and transport projects.



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

In the industry, I've learned that building your network is as crucial as building your technical skills, always say yes to opportunities, and believe in yourself to push your limits.

Recently, I traveled to Adelaide and Sydney for work as part of a Safety and Wellbeing team within the company. Despite doubting my chances to get into this team, I applied and was accepted, and now am using the opportunity to grow my network with senior management.

Have you maintained any school friendships?

Yes, I am still very close with my best friends, Ivanna and Abbey, from Mercy. I keep in touch with other friends from Mercy, but it can get very hard to stay active in these friendships due to how busy we all are and my lack of social media being another challenge.

What's next for you?

I aim to become a Site Engineer and eventually progress to more senior and managerial roles.



What's next for you?

I also hope to inspire more young women to consider engineering or careers in the construction industry. The construction industry is full of amazing people and offers the chance to boast about the cool projects you've contributed to. Plus, no day at work is the same, and there's always something new to learn in this industry. Women make great engineers due to their incredible organizational skills and attention to detail.

So, if you have a passion for learning how things work, are good at Math, and enjoy problem-solving... Engineering might be for you.

***Annastasia,
thank you for your reflection and
valuable advice
for current students!***

We wish you continued success in your chosen field!