

## Semester 2 OGM – President’s Report

It has been an honour to serve as the 108<sup>th</sup> UWA Student Guild President. 2021 has seen several challenges and achievements from the committed students and staff at the Guild. Our student representatives have worked hard towards improving our 25,000 strong UWA community, whilst navigating through a fast-changing environment of COVID-19 and university structural change.

I would like to congratulate my team, the 108<sup>th</sup> Guild Council and all other students who have worked hard to improve the experience of those around them. They are all strong advocates for their fellow students and have had an impact on the campus around them by putting on great events, and initiatives.

Looking back on the incredible hard work of the students and staff this year, I am proud of everything we have achieved. Our continued work towards improving student experience further cements us as one of the most effective and dynamic student organisations in the country. I am confident of a strong and prosperous future for the Guild.

Warm regards,



Emma Mezger  
108<sup>th</sup> Guild President  
UWA Student Guild



## The 108<sup>th</sup> Guild Council

*President:* Emma Mezger

*Vice President:* Jameson Thompson

*General Secretary:* Daudu Daj Janneh (until August), William Norrish (from August)

*Chair of Guild Council:* Bre Shanahan (until July), Adam Elyousef (from July)

*Deputy Chair:* Viknash VM

*Education Council President:* April Htun

*Societies Council President:* Eleanor White

*Public Affairs Council President:* Chloe Kam

*Postgraduate Students' Association President:* Joseph Chan

*Welfare Officer:* Amitabh Jeganathan

*Mature Age Students Association Chair:* Viknash VM

*International Students' Department President:* Abdul Rahman Abdul Rahim

*Women's Affairs Officer:* Floretta Susilo

*Environment Officer:* James Haley

*Sports Representative:* Thomas Cotter

*Pride Officers:*  
Avery Wright & Alkasim Ghanim

*Residential Students' Department President:* Vaishnavi RN

*WA Student Aboriginal Association Chair:* Lily Hayward (until September)

*Access Officers:*  
William Norrish & Lucinda Thai Le-tran

*Ethnocultural Convenor & Ordinary Guild Councillor:* Ridhima VN & Christopher-John Dauda (until July), Jerry Mathias (from August).

*Immediate Past President:* Bre Shanahan

*Volunteering Chair:* Jamie Dehouck (until July) Marcus Jih Jie Lim (from July)

### *Ordinary Guild Councillors:*

Viknash VM (from July)	Joey Nyuen (until July)	
Elise Anthony (from July)	Bre Shanahan (until July)	
Jacob Cerin	Esa Chrulew	Adam Elyousef
Franklin Lou	Lachlan McDonald	Jameson Thompson
Prakhar Bhandari	Armand Ruba	Constantinos Toufexis
Hala Salih	Omar MacIntyre	

## 2021 Strategic Achievements

In 2021 the Guild re-visioned its Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025. This plan has allowed us to remain adaptable to the changing environment while still focusing on the key objects of our organization.

Our new strategic plan aims to achieve our vision of ensuring that every UWA Student has the best possible student experience throughout their degree, and to be the leading student-run organization internationally.

Our pillars include increasing engagement within the student body, continuing to represent the student voice, building our community culture, and providing services for all students.

Some of the key achievements thus far are summarized below.

### Improving Student Support

- Secured ungraded passes for Summer School students impacted by COVID-19 lockdown.
- Secured 7-days no questions asked special consideration during the Sem 1 COVID-19 lockdown.
- Increased emergency funding and food pantry provisions during COVID-19 snap lockdowns.
- Increased the number of working counsellors in Student Assist.
- Coordinated a COVID-19 India Relief Fundraiser for Give India as well as support groups and listening circles for students impacted by crisis overseas.
- Expanded Student Leadership Training to include accessibility, inclusivity, and more comprehensive responders training.
- Initiated a Graduations Gowns Loan Assistance program to support more low-SES students exiting University.
- Advocated for the introduction of automatic speech recognition transcriptions for lecture capture system.
- Co-Design of the UWA Mental Health Framework in collaboration with the University & Students.
- Provided free tax help for students during August-September.

### Increasing Engagement

- Embedded Faculty Society Orientation videos into LMS.
- Weekly updates on social media by video to all UWA Students from the President.
- Refreshed the UWA brand via the Guild's Merchandise collaboration with Champion.
- Provided a 'Sundowners' package for clubs & societies via the UWA Tavern.
- Hosted weekly free breakfasts on campus in collaboration with clubs & societies.
- Hosted Night Markets at the Grove in Semester 1.
- Collaboration with the Indian Consulate to host the first ever India Week on campus.
- Expanded Guild Website to include Department Rules, Insurance policy and Ask Angela.
- Guild executive, sub-council, and department flow chart infographic.



Night Markets at the Grove, May 2021.

### Representing the Student Voice

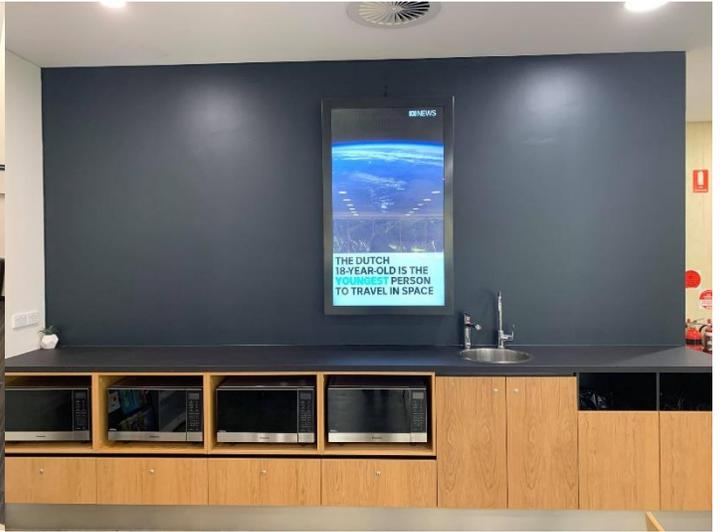
- Re-location of the Semester 2 mid-semester break to week 6.
- Brought in minimum 7-days' notice for assessment changes.
- Advocated for a Welcome to Country embedded into Blackboard.
- Advocated for re-introduction of a comprehensive supplementary assessment policy.
- Continued work with the university to reform online assessment processes to make them fairer for students.
- Submissions to the University on the Underpass tunnel refurbishment.
- Submissions to the University & State Government on a Ferry Node.
- Enabled UWA students to partake in education activism.
- Advocated for the transition of preferred names on UWA Campus Cards.
- Hosted the class representative system that was developed by the Guild's education portfolio in 2018.

### Better Spaces on Campus

- Refurbished furniture in the Catalyst Café
- After-hours access to microwaves & hot water installed into Catalyst Café
- Refurbished furniture in the Business School Cafe
- Event-lighting in the Grove area for evening events.
- Re-location of Guild Student Centre and Guild Volunteering for increased visibility.
- New rooms for Pelican Magazine, International Students Department and Women's Department.
- New Venture Centre room for student entrepreneurs.
- Development and upgrade of retail space in Guild Village.
- Initiated work on a new café corner in the Guild Village.
- Renovated Bob Nicholson Student Representatives room.
- Worked with ALVA and Campus Management to organize maintenance of the ALVA building.



Guild Volunteering. February 2021



Catalyst Cafe. July 2021.

## Other Key Projects

### Venture Student Innovation Centre

We have continued to develop our own Venture Innovation Centre for young entrepreneurs. The centre is designed to address the changing nature of the future of work, as well as equip students with resilience, agility, and awareness to tackle life's challenges. Venture has worked extremely hard with our clubs and societies to build a community of innovators, utilising peer to peer learning and creating industry partnerships which present real world problems for students to tackle.

I am so proud of the work Chloe Bull and the Venture Committee have put in to providing a platform of growth and opportunity to so many UWA students. In addition to running entrepreneur workshops and ideation sessions, Venture has hosted many other notable functions for the Guild. This includes innovation & research workshops during India Week- attended by the Indian Consulate; and the 2021 Grand Challenges Hackathon with ENACTUS- attended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education.

This year, the Venture Centre also hosted the annual *Student Leader Summit* in Western Australia, aiming to help student leaders at Western Australian Universities to develop. The event was held at the UWA Business School, with over 100 students in attendance. Students had the opportunity to hear from leaders in the Western Australian Community through keynote and panel discussion, as well as learn practical skills from their peers through workshops discussing the future of work. The event was well attended, and we received great feedback from all participants.

The Centre fills an important need for many UWA students, each year it continues to grow and develop to meet the changing demands of student expectations.



Student Leader Summit. August 2021.

## **Underpass Tunnel Renovation**

This underpass embodies the Guild's purpose for student advocacy and symbolizes an important era of the Guild's history, as well as the history of students at the University of Western Australia. It is my honor to report that this year we were fortunate to secure the refurbishment of the iconic Underpass tunnel.

With the support of the Vice-Chancellor, we lobbied the City of Perth and Main Roads to secure improved lighting, installation of security cameras and the addition of an Indigenous mural. This project will contribute greatly to arts and culture within the City of Perth and the local Crawly and Nedlands communities, and I am extremely excited to see this project take place in 2022 and beyond.

## **UWA Merchandise Collaboration with Champion**

In 2021 the Guild released its official UWA Merchandise in collaboration with Champion. The collaboration has proved extremely popular with staff and students, with large lines for its O-DAY launch. The merchandise is set to expand in 2022, with an online shop being opened for students who are unable to be on campus. The branded merchandise increases the Guild's presence and fosters a community on campus.



UWA X Champion Launch, February 2021.

## Improved Student Leadership Training

We have sought out to expand the services and facilities offered by the Guild. In 2021 we have updated and expanded our Student Leadership Training for club executives to include more information for first responders. We have also integrated sessions regarding accessibility and inclusivity as well as increasing the availability of sessions. As of 2021, four executive club members must complete the student leadership training to host events on campus. This project will allow us to go on hosting high-quality and safe events for all UWA students.

## Digital Upgrades at UWA

The University is currently going through a process of digital transformation, much of which has focused on the online experience of students at the university. It has been a pleasure to be involved the development of these programs, and I am confident that the new blackboard Ultra, and the Connected Campus Initiative, which have launched, are already making a substantial impact on the student experience. This area is still one of ongoing work and is important for the continued improvement of the online experience to meet growing expectations of our students.



The 108th Guild Council, March 2021