



Connecting our community

It's what we do

Welcome to the November edition of our Connection Series – bringing our community together online.

In this edition we're announcing award winners, inviting you to a unique conference, challenging you to a virtual fun run and sharing some binge-worthy viewing.

Congratulations to our 2020 Alumni Award winners



We're very proud to announce the 2020 Alumni Awards winners. The [Distinguished Alumni Awards Program](#) was launched for the first time this year, and celebrates the remarkable contribution of our vibrant alumni community. We had nearly 100 entries submitted, with five winners chosen.

Alumnus of the Year – Professional Achievement
Alison Michalk

Alumni connections series – EDM template (Microsoft Dynamics)

[Ms Michalk](#) graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Communications) in 1997. She now lives in Avoca, NSW and is the CEO and Founder of Quiip, a leader in online community management and moderation services.

Alumnus of the Year – Professional Achievement (Research)

Kathryn Crowe

[Dr Crowe](#) completed her PhD studies in 2013, titled 'Multilingual children with hearing loss: Communication and choices' and was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue research at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in the United States. She is currently residing in Iceland as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Iceland.

Alumnus of the Year – Service to the Community

Andrej Verity

[Mr Verity](#) graduated in 2010 with a Master of Information Technology (with distinction) and is currently a disaster responder and information management officer at the United Nations. Born in Canada, he is currently living in The Hague, Netherlands, where he leads the Digital Service team within its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Young Alumnus of the Year

Sarah Verdon

[Dr Verdon](#) graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Health Science (Speech Pathology) (Honours) and obtained her PhD from Charles Sturt in 2015. Currently residing in Culcairn, Dr Verdon has gained two fellowships since 2015, each valued at more than \$300,000. Her research aims to inform the development of high quality, equitable and culturally-responsive health and education services for children.

Alumnus of the Year – Association Member

Simon Selvakumar

[Mr Selvakumar](#) graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts (Communications – Public Relations and Organisational Communications). Currently living in Singapore, he has been the Charles Sturt University Alumni Coordinator for Singapore since 2002, bringing the group together for social and networking opportunities. He is also the founder of Dark Glass, which helps disadvantaged communities gain access to resources.

[Read](#) more about our winners and their achievements.

Join us on a virtual run

Get active, talk about mental health and support students in need! To take part you just need to complete a 5-kilometre run, walk or cycle any time in the month of December. [Book your place](#) in the line up to get some freebies!

Binge-worthy viewing

Prefer a different sort of marathon? Grab your remote and a comfy spot on the couch – we've got you sorted with a list of our top recommendations of binge-worthy viewing according to the Charles Sturt Alumni team.

1. The Queen's Gambit – Netflix
2. Schitt\$ Creek - Netflix
3. Ozark – Netflix
4. Brave New World – Stan
5. Yellowstone – Stan

Let us know if there are any other binge-worthy shows for the team to get hooked on!

You're invited to the Early Childhood Voices Conference 2020

Our free, online Early Childhood Voices Conference began on Monday and runs through to the 20th November. Watch researchers from 17 countries share more than 90 presentations about ways to improve the lives of children, families and practitioners in the early childhood sector.

[Read more](#) about the conference and it's not too late to book your spot [book your spot](#).

Voices Doctors for the future of regional healthcare

Take a tour of our brand-new facilities for the Doctor of Medicine at Charles Sturt University in Orange. These clinical skills rooms and labs are where you'll get hands-on from day one of your studies. You'll learn how to examine a patient, do practical procedures and use the medical equipment in rooms set up to look like a real hospital room.



Connect

If you're an alum and keen to get involved in our Connection Series, get in touch! We'd love to hear from you if you've got a story or an opportunity to share. Please email us your ideas at alumni@csu.edu.au