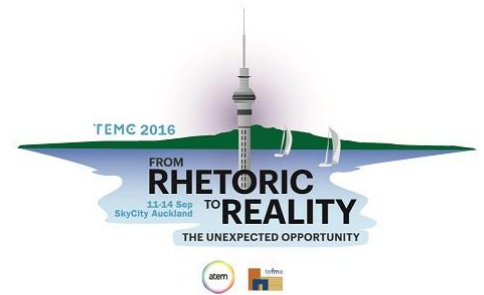


**Concurrent Session I**  
**Wednesday 14 September 2016**  
**10:15am – 11:05am**



**Session 6**  
**Tertiary Student Leadership & Australian Philanthropy**  
**Niki Calastas**  
**Monash University**

*Niki Calastas has been the Economics Department Manager in the Monash Business School since August 2014. She manages department operations and professional staff development, while collaborating on strategies to increase efficiency, transparency and staff engagement. From 2005-2014, she was the Administrative Director for Stanford University's Public Policy Program. In this role, she assisted with developing a new graduate MPP degree program, including 12 joint degrees across the University, creating a student career portfolio, including the development of a student/alumni mentoring database and social network strategy, and coordinating the Stanford in Washington student internship program. Niki received her undergraduate degrees from University of California, Irvine and a master's degree from University of Melbourne, where she later served as an inaugural member of their Alumni Council. Niki is an ATEM Fellow, a member and coach at Hawthorn Rowing Club and serves on the board of the Hurliman Scholarship Foundation, based in Colorado.*

Students engage with a variety of experiences outside of the classroom while at university. Whether focused on athletics, music, an academic discipline, or social justice, co-curricular and community engagement opportunities are important components of the higher education learning experience. Simultaneously, Australian universities are looking at strategies to better engage alumni for a variety of reasons, including developing and maintaining industry partnerships, degree promotion and student mentoring. The continued possibility of funding deregulation at the national level has meant that university management is also looking to engage alumni to serve as career advisors, to assist with marketing and recruitment, and as financial philanthropic contributors.

According to various studies, engaging in leadership roles while at University are the best predictors of successful managerial performance after graduation (Howard, 1986 and Pascarella & Terenzini, 1991). A 2001 study which assessed data on former students from fourteen universities in the United States found that, "Alumni who had leadership positions in extra-curricular activities gave more than those who did not" (Clotfelter, 2001).

However, there hasn't been any research conducted on the connection between student leadership at the undergraduate level and philanthropic tendencies after graduation in Australia. In particular, is there a correlation that exists between student leaders and alumni giving? Even more so, what types of student leadership activities (i.e. volunteering, sport, residential, political, degree/discipline based) strongly correspond to alumni giving and which are weaker? How would these results suggest opportunities for university programming and development initiatives?

This presentation would provide a historical context of Australian University philanthropy, especially in the context of a graduates 'alma mater'. What are the main differences between the American and Australian University philanthropic environments when it comes to student engagement and leadership? What are some key translatable strategies for the Australian University context (taking into consideration campus size, population and location), and which should not be replicated? Should student leadership initiatives be given additional financial resources if there is a return on investment from an alumni perspective?

Bringing in both qualitative and quantitative research on alumni engagement, this presentation will be particularly insightful for Australian university management and staff involved with student leadership.