

**Yvonne Smith Charitable Trust
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**Florence Van Dyke
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Re: Interim Report

Dear the Trustees of the Yvonne Smith Charitable Trust,

I am studying a Master of Laws at the University of California, Berkeley. I am grateful to have received a Yvonne Smith Scholarship to contribute towards the costs of my degree. I have learnt more in the last four months than at any other time in my life. Academically, I have passed the Fall Semester with Honors. But it is the experiences and connections that have been life changing for me. It is impossible to speak to all the opportunities and doors that have been opened through this experience. Here is a short summary:

Berkeley Professors and Students

He Tangata, he tangata, he tangata. As with all of life's experiences, it is the people that are shaping my time at Berkeley the most. The Professors are leading scholars. Almost all have real-life experiences and are closely connected to the community. This adds depth to lectures and workshops. Leaders from across California are often invited to speak in classes. I have been lucky enough to have Jerry Brown, the former Governor of California, lecture a class on climate change and global policy, and Alice Waters, a world-winning chef and founder of the farm-to-table movement, speak at a plant symposium class on sustainable food sources.

I am learning equally from my fellow students who represent over forty countries. I am grateful to be building friendships with bright and diverse minds from across the globe and learning from them both in and outside the classroom. One of my favourite classes to date was a Pathways to Carbon Neutrality class where five students who had represented their country or organisation at COP26 reported back to the class. Their insights from the event were fascinating and covered issues such as the storage of nuclear waste in California to water rights in Chile. Outside the classroom I am learning just as much: social gatherings held by my peers include celebrations for Mexican Independence Day; Diwali and Día de los Muertos. Needless to say, I have made life-long friends.



University of California, Berkeley Law Class of 2022 representing over 40 countries.

Centre for Responsible Business | September

In September, I was elected to sit on the University of California, Berkeley, Centre for Responsible Business Advisory Board. The goal of the Advisory Board is to shape the Universities policies, teachings and opportunities regarding environmental, social and governance in business. The Advisory Board consists of leading global scholars in this sector. I have had the opportunity to discuss these issues alongside some of the greatest minds in this field like Anne Simpson, named on Times List of 10 Women to Watch in Climate and Viviana Alvarez, regarded as the leading corporate expert on sustainable business globally. They have opened my eyes to real life examples of best-practice corporate sustainability. This opportunity has provided a unique real-life addition to my academic learnings.

Arizona Global Sustainability Institute | October



At Arizona State University with Amanda Ellis (far right) the Chief Executive of the Global Sustainability Institute and students from her class. October 2021.

In October, a mentor, Amanda Ellis, invited me to travel to the Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University (**ASU**) to speak to and connect with leading professors and students on innovation and sustainability. ASU is ranked as the worlds' leading

university in innovation. At ASU I had the opportunity to present to staff; discuss sustainable entrepreneurship; and connect with women leaders. One of my favourite parts of the trip was speaking with and hearing from Rangina Hamidi; the former Minister for Education of Afghanistan. She fled Afghanistan and entered the USA on refugee status just three weeks before this event. Her emotional story gave me a deeply personal insight into the political tension in Afghanistan and the impacts of the Afghanistan-US relationship on Afghani civilians.



At the ASU Global Institute of Sustainability in Phoenix, Arizona, with Rangina Hamidi, former Minister for Education of Afghanistan. and Pamela deLargy Professor at the Institute of Sustainability.

Corporate Governance Symposium | November

In November, Amelia Miazad, the Professor of my Business in Society class spoke at the [Corporate Governance Symposium](#) in San Francisco and invited a number of students to attend. The two-day Symposium was fascinating. We heard from legal academics on corporate governance, but also experts from other industries like Eliot Brown from the Wall Street Journal who uncovered corporate governance scandals such as WeWork. I found the insights into climate competent boards and the impact of climate change on directors' duties particularly fascinating. I wrote a paper on my learnings that will be published at the Berkeley School of Law Business in Society Institute's Corporate Sustainability and Compliance Blog. In summary, the paper considers the financial risks associated with climate change that are quickly increasing for businesses. These financial risks must be considered and acted on by directors when fulfilling fiduciary duties. However, many directors, both in the US and New Zealand, lack the expertise to understand and respond to these risks.

Global Women San Francisco | December

In December I spoke at the [Global Women SF](#) Launch Event 2021 alongside female leaders in California, including the State Treasurer, Fiona Ma. The event, which focused on values-led women entrepreneurs, was hugely inspiring. I left feeling connected to the other attendees in the Bay Area which I now call home. I have support and comradeship from this community. Several of my Berkeley classmates attended and made connections through speakers and attendees. I have connected Global Women SF with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and a values-aligned group in New Zealand that I sit on the Steering Committee for: [Future Food Aotearoa](#). We are planning to hold an online event this quarter, hosted by Future Food Aotearoa, Berkeley Centre

for Responsible Business and Global Women SF for export-focused entrepreneurs in the food and beverage sector.

Speaking at the Global SF Womens' Entrepreneurship Event in San Francisco. 17 December, 2021.



The poster for the GlobalSF Women Launch Event 2021 features a dark blue background with white and gold text. At the top, it says "Global:SF Women - So Future". The main title is "GlobalSF Women LAUNCH EVENT 2021". Below the title, it reads: "Save the date for GlobalSF Women inaugural 'Ask Me Anything' event which will bring together female founders, funders, and allies for an evening of insight, connections, partnership building, and delicious food and drinks." The poster lists six speakers with their photos and titles: Fiona Ma (Treasurer - State of California), Chef Tanya Holland (Owner & Chef - Brown Sugar Kitchen), Julie Castro Abrams (CEO & Founder - How Women Lead, Managing Partner - How Women Invest), Florence Van Dyke (Co-founder - Chia Sisters), Ilaria Chan (Disrupt Advisor on Tech & Social Impact, Grab and Chairperson, Tech For Good Institute), and Miyoko Schinner (Founder & CEO - Miyoko's Creamery). At the bottom, it states "Thursday, December 16, 2021 - 5 pm - 7:30 pm PST - Hybrid (Virtual + In-Person)" and lists sponsors: MOSS&DAMS, FINANCE CENTER SBDC, SBA, and AFFILIATE PROGRAM SBDC.



Many thanks to Yvonne Smith, her whānau and the Trustees of the Yvonne Smith Trust for the opportunity to be here.

Best regards,

Florence Van Dyke



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "FV Dyke".

LLM Candidate; University of California, Berkeley.