Women in Business: Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship

19 October 2023 | 12.00 - 14.00

Paula Burgess
Non-Executive Director – Henley Business Angels

Paula is a senior executive with almost 25 years’ experience in the fund management industry, operating across both traditional and alternative asset classes. As a founding director of Pensions Infrastructure Platform, she oversaw the establishment, scale-up and eventual sale of the platform to Foresight Group.

She currently works for the professional services firm Langham Hall, where she is developing their ESG/sustainability strategy, including the measurement of the firm’s carbon footprint and setting their net zero target.

Paula completed her MBA at Henley Business School in 2012. In 2017 she became a member of the Henley Business Angels (HBA) network and has been steadily building her investment portfolio since then. She is currently the HBA non-executive director. The HBA network’s aim is to facilitate opportunities for members to invest in and mentor early-stage businesses launched by entrepreneurs who graduated from or are connected with Henley Business School and the University of Reading. She advises entrepreneurs on areas such as commercial terms, pitching, risk management and financial management. Paula has also been a regular contributor to the HBA Investment Readiness Workshop, where she offers advice to entrepreneurs on how to approach angel investors’ due diligence.

Jane Duscherer
Senior Product Manager – Trading Technologies

Jane is an experienced senior product and relationship manager in the global financial sector, with a proven track record of delivering products and services based on a strong understanding of financial markets, clients’ needs, technology and infrastructure. She has in-depth knowledge of fixed income, derivatives and market/credit risk.

Jane spent her early career in trading of futures and options. She ran and led the futures trading desk at Yasuda Trust. She was a fixed income/derivatives subject matter expert at Bloomberg from 1992 to 2012, where she built out the functionality used on a day-to-day basis by front-office traders and risk management. Jane was also Senior Director at S&P Global Investment Management, managing a team of 18 business analysts globally. She is currently Senior Product Manager at Trading Technologies (FI) for fixed income and interest rate derivatives.

Jane has a keen interest in sustainable finance, ESG, gender equality and youth development. She co-writes articles aimed at the ‘ordinary investor’ advising about ESG. She is an active member of the ICMA (International Capital Market Association) Women’s Network committee. She is also a trustee at the prestigious Esher Sixth Form College and a Level II coach for the Rugby Football Union.
Kanika is a senior executive leading the Cloud and Network Services Business Group at Nokia for the UK and Ireland.

At Nokia, she is also the lead ambassador for the company’s gender equality programme #StrongHer. She is a prolific campaigner and advocate for more significant involvement and participation for women in senior roles within technology.

Born, raised and educated in India, Kanika specialises in large and complex global business transformation programmes across intricate matrix organisations, solving business problems through a combination of business process management, systems redesign, technology enhancements and bridging the gap between the business and technology teams.

She is an ambitious and outcome-driven leader with experience in running a £200m+ business spanning 23 countries, leading a 500+ member global team. She held a senior position with the UK Department of Health and Social Care, working with NHS Test and Trace during the COVID-19 pandemic and managed major business and digital transformation programmes for HSBC.

Marva is an experienced director and entrepreneur with a demonstrated history of working in the cosmetics and wellbeing industry.

Embodying the multifaceted scope of modern female interest, Marva’s career began in the telecommunications business. By her late 20s she had already formed two telecommunications companies. However, her deep desire was to excel in the field of her passion – natural skincare and wellbeing for women.

Pioneering and specialising in botanical solutions, Marva’s entrepreneurial mission in the skincare and women’s wellness industry to empower and prolong women’s health and self-esteem led her into founding Shhh… Menopause Wellness, an enterprise that now successfully delivers a range of products into popular UK stores like John Lewis and Boots to provide genuine help for improved women’s wellness.

Active in this passion for over a decade, Marva’s growing sphere of expertise is in forging the holistic relationship of healing through natural formulations alongside educating, counselling and coaching women going through the peri-, menopause and post-menopause transitions.

Location:
ICMA Centre - Lecture Theatre 150
University of Reading - Whiteknights Campus

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