AUSTRALIA

Leader: Prime Minister Julia Gillard
Domestic Partner: Timothy Raymond Mathieson

Timothy Mathieson and Prime Minister Julia Gillard first started dating in March of 2006 and have been partners since. On November 24, 2008, he was appointed Men's Health Ambassador by Nicola Roxon, Minister for Health and Aging. The government's Men's Health Ambassador is a volunteer position that Mathieson is passionate about. He is also an ambassador for Kidney Health Australia. Mathieson is involved with the Indigenous Diabetes Association in Alice Springs and with the mental health group beyondblue, as well. He was appointed Patron of the National Portrait Gallery, Australia in December 2010. Mathieson has three adult children.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Leader: His Majesty the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah
Spouse: Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha

Her Majesty is the Patron to various organizations, including the Women's Institute (WI), which plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. She is also involved in the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam, which aims to develop character in children and young people by following Scouting principles, the Women Graduates’ Association, an organization of women with degrees or equivalent qualifications working to promote women's opportunities in education and public life. Because she is a lover of nature, Her Majesty has a fruit garden, a fish pond and a bird park.

She enjoys reading as a hobby. Her Majesty also enjoys playing badminton and Congkak and Pasang, of which the latter two are traditional Brunei games.

Her Majesty and the Sultan were married on July 29, 1965 and together they have two sons and four daughters and nine grandchildren.

CANADA

Leader: Prime Minister Rt Hon Stephen Harper
Spouse: Laureen Harper

Since arriving at 24 Sussex Drive, Laureen Harper has had an active public life, supporting causes such as the OHS (Ottawa Humane Society) and also the National Arts Centre, working as Honorary Gala Chair since 2005. In June of 2010, Mrs. Harper hosted the spouses of G8, G20 leaders in Toronto, Ontario. She also volunteers her time for Rockcliffe Elementary School’s annual book sale and the local library and the Ottawa SPCA by offering her home as a foster home for kittens. Her hobbies include riding her motorcycle, photography and gardening.

She and her husband married in 1993 and together have two children.
First Lady Cecilia Morel Montes entered the Instituto Profesional Carlos Casanueva, from which she graduated with a degree in family and youth counselor. She also holds a degree in Family and Human Relations from the Universidad Mayor.

In 1989, together with professionals from the Instituto Carlos Casanueva (Enrique Cueto), founded what later became “La Casa de la Juventud”, with the task of educating young Conchali with growth workshops and personal development. Later, the Women Embark Foundation was derived from this project.

Other involvements and organizations of First Lady Cecilia Morel Montes include CEMA Chile, which organizes fairs and workshops for the sale of the women’s handicrafts; Integra, a Chilean Trading company specializing in exports of frozen seafood; Promoción y Desarrollo de la Mujer, Prodemu, a women’s promotion and development effort; Fundación de la Familia, a family foundation; Matucana 100, which promotes theater; Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles de Chile, supports youth orchestras; and Artesanías de Chile, encouraging arts and crafts.

The couple has four children.

Liu Yongqing and Hu Jintao met at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Later she went on to work for Beijing city planning committee.

Liu Yongqing is involved with charity work with the Cheque/Check to Orphan Funds in Uganda, a not-for-profit non-governmental organization (NGO), providing holistic care and support to orphans, vulnerable disadvantaged children and youth in Uganda.

Hu Jintao and Liu Yongqing have two grown children.

Lien Fang Yu is the wife of Lien Chan, the Chairman of Taiwan's Kuomintang party from 2000 to 2005. Fang is a former Miss Republic of China.

Fang and Lien were married in 1965, the same year that Lien received a PhD in political science from the University of Chicago. In 2005 she and her husband went to visit mainland China.

The Lien's have two sons and two daughters.
**HONG KONG, CHINA**

**Leader:** Chief Executive Donald Tsang  
**Spouse:** Selina Tsang

The wife of Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Donald Tsang, Selina Pou Siu-mei Mrs. Tsang devotes much of her time as an artist and calligrapher. She is President of the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC), which was a part of the first Rehabilitation Center in Deyang that has provided holistic rehabilitation services for nearly 1,000 disabled caused by the earthquake. She has been named Honorary Patron of the Hok Yau Club, an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization in Hong Kong, which aims to provide support and guidance to students as well as organizing activities for youths. Mrs. Tsang’s involvement with Against Child Abuse Ltd., supports children of every race, creed and color should be given equal treatment.

She and her husband have two sons.

**INDONESIA**

**Leader:** President Dr. Susilo Bambang  
**Spouse:** Ani Bambang Yudhoyono

First Lady Ani Yudhoyono holds a political science degree from Merdeka University, and was the first vice chairman of her husband's Democratic Party. She is the eldest child of General (Ret.) Sarwo Edhie Wibowo, one of Indonesia’s high-profile generals. She was invited as a speaker for the UNESCO Regional Conferences In Support of Global Literacy, in Beijing, China.

Ani received a golden pin award from Nobel Laureate, Muhammad Yunus. She was awarded for her relentless commitment in encouraging and developing small and medium enterprises and micro credits through the PERKASSA (Women and Healthy and Wealthy Family Program) and Indonesia Creative.

The couple has two sons.

**JAPAN**

**Leader:** Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda  
**Spouse:** Hitomi Noda

Hitomi Noda was born in Tokyo. Her family runs a small factory. She graduated from the University of vocal music and after graduation worked in Tokyo in the late 1980s. Hitomi is an organ enthusiast and has a pleasant singing voice. Hitomi has supported her husband’s political aspirations for 25 years, handing out leaflets in support of all his endeavors.

The couple has two children.
KOREA
Leader: President Lee Myung-bak
Spouse: Kim Yoon-ok

Kim graduated from Ewha Womans University in 1970 with a B.A. in Health Education and Management. She married Lee Myung-bak on December 19, 1970. In 2002, she became the President of the Alumni Association of the Women's Top Management Program at Yonsei University. She and Lee Myung-bak have a son and three daughters.

MALAYSIA
Leader: Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak
Spouse: Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah

Rosmah Mansor received her secondary education in Tunku Kurshiah College in Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan and had excellent grades and a stellar co-curricular performance. She has a Bachelors' degree in Arts, and Honours in Anthropology and Sociology from University Malaya and an MSc in Sociology and Agriculture from Gadjahmada University, Indonesia. She was also awarded an honorary Doctorate in Education by University Technology MARA Malaysia. She later worked as an executive with Bank Pertanian and subsequently as a business development manager with Island and Peninsular Bhd, a property developer company. Rosmah is active in various national organizations. She is currently the President of the Welfare Association of Minister’s Wives (BAKTI), the patron of other organizations like the Children in Hope Foundation, Puspanita Ministry of Defense, Heart to Heart Association of Malaysia, the Persatuan Warga Cinta Negara Malaysia and the Thalassemia Association of Malaysia; and member of the Board of Trustees, Malaysian Humanitarian Foundation. She married Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak in 1987 and the couple has two children.

MEXICO
Leader: President Felipe Calderon
Spouse: Madam Margarita Zavala

First Lady Margarita Zavala married President Felipe Calderón in January of 1993. Margarita’s primary objective in the changing Mexican government is to help her husband run the educational programs throughout the country. She’s the only first lady of Mexico to have served in Congress, and is very involved in her husband’s presidency. She is an attorney and currently serves as the president of an advisory board for DIF (el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia or the Integral Development of the Family), a government agency that helps to develop and strengthen families in Mexico, as well as a high-school teacher in the private school Asuncion. The couple has three children.
First Lady Bronagh Key met her husband Prime Minister John Key at Burnside High School. The 16-year-old was biking to a friend's house reflecting, purportedly, on a failed economics exam. She recalls, “I didn’t really know what I wanted to do in life. I was thinking I might join the airforce.” She is the girl who grew up in a working class Christchurch suburb. John Key was tutoring her friend's sister. There was, says one report, an instant attraction.

They married in 1984. Like her husband, she has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and worked as a personnel consultant before becoming a full-time mother. She says, she is a “bit of a tomboy actually”, who’s learning how to kickbox and avoids make-up during the day.

The couple has two children.

The Honourable O’Neill is the son of an Australian magistrate and his wife is from the Southern Highlands, where he represents the Ialibu-Pangia constituency. They now live in Port Moresby and has five children; two daughters and three sons, all of which are currently attending boarding school in Australia (except the youngest). Mr. O’Neill has promised free education to the students of Papua New Guinea, up to year 10 as part of the 2012 budget.

Nadine Heredia Alarcón studied one year at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and continued her studies in Communication Sciences at the University of Lima earning a Masters in Sociology. She is co-founder and member of the Peruvian Nationalist Party (now Earn Peru), the party of which her Ollanta Humala is president since July 28.

They married in 1999 and have three children: Illary, Nayra and Samina.
**THE PHILIPPINES**

**Leader:** President Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III

Aquino is the first president of the Philippines to be unmarried. He had a previous relationship with Shalani Soledad, a Valenzuela councilor and niece of former Senator Francisco Tatad. Aquino and Soledad first met around 2000 or 2001, when she interviewed him for a media project; they ran into each other some years later and began going out. Aquino confirmed that he and Soledad broke up in November 2010. Aquino is currently dating teacher, Bunny Calica. She specializes in early education and works with Korean students.

**RUSSIA**

**Leader:** President Dmitry Medvedev  
**Spouse:** Svetlana Vladimirovna Medvedeva

The First Lady of Russia began her studies at the Saint Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance in 1987. In her first year at the university, she changed to an evening curriculum and began working full time. Svetlana met her future husband in middle school in Kupchino, near Leningrad. The couple married in 1993, after they had completed their studies. In 2008 she headed the initiative for the institution of Family Day in Russia. After the couple moved to Moscow, Medvedeva directed several Russian-Italian programs, which intended to develop tourism between these cities. The couple has a son.

**SINGAPORE**

**Leader:** Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong  
**Spouse:** Ho Ching

Ho Ching is the Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Holdings (over US$100 billion in assets and owned by Singapore's Ministry of Finance. As a Chinese Singaporean, she is of Cantonese vernacular. In 1976, Ho graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical, First Class Honors) after completing her pre-university education at National Junior College where she emerged as a Student of the Year and was a President's Scholar. She also holds a Master of Science (Electrical) from Stanford University, USA. Ho was conferred the Distinguished Engineering Alumnus Award in 1995. She is also an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Singapore.

She married Lee Hsien Loong on December 17, 1985, who became Singapore’s third Prime Minister in August 2004.

In 2007, Fortune magazine ranked her third in the list of most powerful women in business (outside the United States). In 2007, she was picked as one of the “100 most influential men and women” who shaped the world by TIME Magazine.

Similarly in 2007, business magazine Forbes ranked her third in its annual list of the world’s most powerful women, leap-frogging a rank ahead of United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and falling short behind German Chancellor Angela Merkel and China’s Vice-Premier Wu Yi. Ho Ching was ranked 36th in the same list the previous year. In 2008 she was ranked 8th. In 2009, she was ranked 5th.

The couple has one daughter and three sons, including one daughter and son from Lee’s first wife.

---

*Brief written by Kathy Aldinger, UH Mānoa undergraduate student, and does not necessarily reflect the views of UHERO or the University of Hawai‘i.*
THAILAND

Leader: Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra
Spouse: Anusorn Amornchat

Anusorn Amornchat is the husband of the current Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra. He is a business executive from the Charoen Phokphand Group and is currently the managing director of M Link Asia Corporation, a mobile phone distributor. Shinawatra, who has been elected the first woman prime minister of Thailand in August 2011, is a Thai businesswoman and politician; member of the Pheu Thai Party. She holds degrees from the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Chiang Mai and from Kentucky State University, where she earned an M.A. in public administration.

Married in 1995, the couple has a nine year-old son.

THE UNITED STATES

Leader: President Barack Obama
Spouse: Michelle Obama

Michelle Robinson graduated from Princeton University in 1985, majoring in sociology and minoring in African American studies. While at Princeton, she got involved with the Third World Center (now known as the Carl A. Fields Center), an academic and cultural group that supported minority students, running their day care center which also included after school tutoring. In 1988, she earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Harvard Law School. While at Harvard she participated in demonstrations advocating the hiring of professors who were members of minorities and worked for the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, assisting low-income tenants with housing cases. She is the third First Lady with a postgraduate degree, after her two immediate predecessors, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Laura Bush.

As First Lady, she undertook her first lead role in an administration-wide initiative--“Let’s Move!” in an effort to reverse the 21st century trend of childhood obesity. She stated that her goal is to make this effort her legacy: “I want to leave something behind that we can say, ‘Because of this time that this person spent here, this thing has changed.’ And my hope is that that’s going to be in the area of childhood obesity.” Her other efforts include supporting military families, helping working women balance career and family, encouraging national service, promoting the arts and arts education, and fostering healthy eating and healthy living for children and families across the country. She planted the first White House vegetable garden since Eleanor Roosevelt served as first lady.

The Obamas have two daughters. Marian Robinson, Michelle’s mother, has moved into the White House to assist with child care. She has been called the “First Grandmom.”

VIET NAM

Leader: President Trương Tấn Sang

Trương Tấn Sang was appointed as Viet Nam’s new president Viet Nam’s lawmaking National Assembly on July 25, 2011. Sang, 62, a southerner who was a former mayor and party chief in Ho Chi Minh City, had most recently served as the de facto No. 2 in charge of the Communist Party, running the day-to-day affairs. He has a bachelor of law degree.

Recently, President Trương Tấn Sang sent a letter to children nationwide on the occasion of the mid-Autumn festival which falls on Sept. 12, 2011, expressing his love to them: “On this occasion, I would like to extend my best regards to children both in side and outside the country as well as foreign children living in Vietnam. I wish you enjoy a cheerful mid-Autumn festival full of love,” the President said in his letter dated September 8.
1 Information regarding Timothy Mathieson was compiled from the following:


Photo of Prime Minister Julia Gillard retrieved from: http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2011/06/17/australian-pm-julia-gillard-faces-gay-marriage-grilling/

2 Information regarding Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha was compiled from the following:

Photo of His Majesty the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah retrieved from: http://www.2space.net/news/article/368944-1310706002/
Photo of Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Haja Saleha retrieved from: http://www.bruneiresources.com/raya_pertama_istana_2006.html

3 Information regarding Laureen Harper was compiled from the following:


Photo of Prime Minister Rt. Hon Stephen Harper retrieved from: http://www.topnews.in/law/people/stephenharper?page=2

4 Information regarding First Lady Cecilia Morel Montes was compiled from the following:


Photo of His Excellency Sebastian Pinera Echenique retrieved from: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archivo:Fotograf%C3%ADa_oficial_del_Presidente_Sebastián_Piñera_-_2.jpg
Photo of First Lady Cecilia Morel Montes retrieved from: http://www.latina.com/cecilia-morel-montes-cote-de-pablo

5 Information regarding Liu Yongqing was compiled from the following:

Information regarding Lien Fang Yui was compiled from the following:


Photo of Special Envoy Dr. Lien Chan retrieved from: http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/7225684.html

Photo of Lien Fang Yui from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lien_Fang_Yu

Information regarding Selina Tsang was complied from the following:


Photo of Selina Tsang retrieved from: http://www.hkfw.org/eng/council.html

Information regarding Ani Bambang Yudhoyono was compiled from the following:


Photo of President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono retrieved from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susilo_Bambang_Yudhoyono

Photo of Ani Bambang Yudhoyono retrieved from: http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susilo_Bambang_Yudhoyono

Information regarding Hitomi Noda was compiled from the following:

http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/national/archive/news/2011/09/03/20110903p2g00m0dm005000c.html


Photo of Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda retrieved from: http://jp.reuters.com/article/topNews/idJPA-PAN-14511820100325


Information regarding Kim Yoon-ok was compiled from the following:


“Kim Yoon-ok, First Lady of the Republic of Korea,” Cheong Wa Dae: Office of the President, the Republic

Photo of President Lee Myung-bak retrieved from: http://vtc.vn/10-262350/quoc-te/tin-tuc/tong-thong-han-mong-don-trung-thu-cung-dan-trieu-ten.htm
Photo of Kim Yoon-ok retrieved from: http://www.samrao.com/samraoblogarchivesJANJUNE2010.html

Information regarding Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah was compiled from the following:


Photo of Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak retrieved from: http://www.malaysialeader.com/malaysia-cabinet/minister-profile.html

Information regarding Madam Margarita Zavala was compiled from the following:


Photo of President Felipe Calderon retrieved from: http://www.crawfordsworld.com/rob/apcg/Mexico/Unit4mexico.htm
Photo of Madam Margarita Zavala retrieved from: http://www.womensconference.org/margarita-zavala/

Information regarding Bronagh Key was complied from the following:


Photo of Bronagh Key retrieved from: http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2008/10/bronagh_key.html

Information regarding Peter O’Neill was complied from the following:
Pacific Media Center--http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/articles/png-vote-new-leader-weakens-link-michael-somare-era


Information regarding Nadine Heredia Alarcón was complied from the following:
http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nadine_Heredia

http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=es&tl=en&u=http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nadine_Heredia&ei=66x3TvCuMobiAK-7NrzAg&sa=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CEUQ7gEwBg&prev=/search%3Fq%3DNadine%2BHheredia%26hl%3Den%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us:IE-
Information regarding President Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III was compiled from the following:
http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/ Philippine Daily Inquire; May 19, 2011
Photo of President Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III retrieved from: http://wilddivine.tv/rhinestones-pagbabagong-kultural-sa-sining-at-panitikan-panahon-ng-kastila/

Information regarding Svetlana Vladimirovna Medvedeva was compiled from the following:
Photo of President Demitry Medvedev retrieved from: http://kremlin.ru/accreditation/photo

Information regarding Ho Ching was compiled from the following:
Photo of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong retrieved from: http://benhanan08.blogspot.com/2011/02/gaji-presiden-tertinggi-di-dunia.html
Photo of Ho Ching retrieved from: http://connect.in.com/ho-ching/photos-1952641-23455789.html

Information regarding Anusorn Amornchat was compiled from the following:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yingluck_Shinawatra
http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20110807-293228.html
Photo of Anursorn Amornchat retrieved from: http://www.daylife.com/photo/0dQJer55pj3ZI?q=Thaksin+Shinawatra
Photo of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra retrieved from: http://warmestnews.blogspot.com/2011/08/yingluck-shinawatra-became-prime.html

Information regarding Michelle Obama was complied from the following:
Photo of President Barack Obama retrieved from: http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-obama