



Michaelmas Term  
at Campion

# CAMPION'S BRAG

Catholic Learning in the Liberal Arts

## Sport and Social Life at Campion – The building of a Christian culture

Campion College has seen a continuing growth since it opened in 2006, not only in student numbers but also in the variety of activities on campus.

Sporting and social events have multiplied, offering students an array of opportunities that underpin a balanced Catholic higher education – and testify to Campion's philosophy of fostering a Christian culture on campus in which there is an integration of mind, spirit and body.

This issue of 'Campion's Brag' offers a range of examples of this integrated approach to learning and culture.

In an inside page, two graduates reflect on the breadth of their experience at the College, noting the value of sporting and social activities as well as the intellectual and spiritual formation they received.

One popular event at Campion, which combines the enjoyment of sport with social benefits, is the annual soccer competition called the **President's Plate**.

This event brings together students, staff and alumni for a one-day, round-robin series of games. Each team is named after an English or French saint (such as Bede, Clitherow, Joan of Arc and De La Salle), and has its own distinctive colour.

The games are played on the main soccer pitch, which is also used throughout the year for recreational games and physical exercise, as well as for the annual Graduation ceremony when the surface is covered with a large marquee.

This much-used area requires constant maintenance involving significant staffing costs, and it highlights the need for other



Students and staff participating in the annual President's Plate soccer competition

sporting and social amenities for students which the College is not at present able to fund.

Such amenities include:

- an **outdoor pizza oven** (costed at **\$6,500**) and a **fire pit** (**\$500**), as part of a new space where students can gather in the evenings, particularly during winter;
- **outside seating** (**\$2,600**) at different spots on the campus – for students seeking a place for reflection or conversation;
- a properly laid **concrete-slab, basketball court** – available for games as well as individual exercise. Initially half-size (costed at **\$55,000**), the College would like to expand the court to full size as soon as possible.

Students currently make frequent use of the existing basketball nets, but they are located on the campus car park as the only paved area available.

These are examples of improvements which the College would like to make for its expanding community of students.

A special fund, the **Campion Culture Fund**, has been established, with an initial goal of \$150,000, to meet these kinds of continuing needs on campus, including staffing to ensure proper pastoral organization and support in these vital areas of service.

**The College would welcome as many contributions as possible to this new fund, and a separate box can be marked on the enclosed donation sheet for these donations.**

*Far left: A model of the pizza oven which the College would like to have available on campus. Hoping for the necessary funds, students are already working on the exact design and keen to assist in the building of the oven – itself a worthwhile learning opportunity for them.*

*Left: Students playing basketball in an area currently shared with the College car-park*



# The Student Experience

## – Graduates look back

As the number of Campion graduates increases, there are growing opportunities for them to reflect on their experience at the College and identify why it has been so important for them.

Two recent examples are graduates in 2011 – Paul O'Donovan from Brisbane, who spoke at a Campion Appeal Dinner last May, and Siobhan Reeves from Melbourne, who has penned an essay of recollection.

Left: Paul O'Donovan thanking The Hon. John Howard after the former Prime Minister gave the Occasional Address at Campion's 2009 Graduation



## Integration of Study and Faith

**P**aul O'Donovan has recalled that one of his first lectures at Campion, an 'Introduction to Classical Latin', revealed how different the College would be from what he had anticipated.

Instead of working through tables of verbs, he learnt about the historical roots of the Latin language – including its alphabet, grammar, and styles of rhetoric – and began to understand the underlying causes and inspirations of the long history of Western civilisation.

He was soon struck by the integration of the subjects offered at Campion:

'We were all studying the same books and faced with similar questions in life. So the hallways and dining room and soccer pitch became an extension of the classroom; and our conversations turned very quickly into debates filled with all manner of topics academic, political, cultural, spiritual and mundane.'

This integration, Paul further realised, extended beyond the curriculum to life on campus, so that it influenced the volunteering works undertaken by many students – such as acts of charitable help to elderly people in the community, or the teaching of catechetics in a local State school.

The integration was also evident in the students' love of music, art and the liturgy, leading to a transformation of religious faith in many cases that went beyond the individual students to the life of faith in their families.

## Campion – In and Out of the Classroom

**I**n her essay, **Siobhan Reeves** compared her experiences at other universities, both before and after studying at Campion, finding Campion's academic quality superior.

The College's Liberal Arts program, in its range and depth, was 'engaging and enlightening'. She absorbed an extraordinary array of truths in Campion's core curriculum of Theology, Philosophy, History and Literature. She recalled 'with particular fondness' learning about the Eucharistic Mystery, Augustine's expositions on the Psalms, Balthazar and the transcendental quality of Beauty, the empire of Charlemagne, Gothic architecture, Dante's Inferno, the ANZACs at Beersheba, and the poetry of James McAuley and Les Murray.

While these may seem rather disconnected subjects, Siobhan found the Campion program 'decidedly interconnected and chronologically thematic, providing a comprehensive worldview that is sadly lacking from many other degree programs.'

At the same time, Siobhan enjoyed the experiences available outside of the classroom.

She was a member of the Campion College Students' Association, the Creative Writing Club, the Classics Society, and the Debating Club; and even groups to which she did not belong, such as the Campion Schola, provided public performances at which she could be present, such as during Mass in Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral. She especially prized the opportunities for spiritual growth at Campion. 'The Chaplaincy,' she noted, 'was an important



Siobhan Reeves receiving congratulations from the Chairman of Campion's governing body, Mr Joe de Bruyn, for winning the College Medal in the year of her graduation (2009)

focal point of student life, and as well as daily Mass and Rosary, we organised all-night Eucharistic Adoration once a month.' Siobhan appreciated the annual Retreat held each year, as well as the chance to attend short courses elsewhere in Sydney on aspects of the Church's teaching.

She was also involved in various activities in the wider community – such as assisting at a soup van and in the teaching of catechetics. She helped organise a fund-raising week for Aid to the Church in Need, managing to bring in \$2,650, 'the vast majority of it,' she recalled, 'coming from cash-strapped students.'

Cultural activities of various kinds were also available, such as visits to art galleries, the Sydney Observatory and the Royal Botanical Gardens, attendance at plays and musical recitals, and excursions to Manly Beach and the Blue Mountains.

Siobhan looked back on her three years at Campion as 'those precious years', allowing her to experience 'a community of learning and a community of faith.'



Students and alumni assembling for this year's Campion Ball, organised by the Students' Association and held at the College on October 12.



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# Public Speaking and Debating at Campion

Learning the art of public speaking and engaging in debates both within and outside the College are a vital part of a Liberal Arts education, and Campion places strong emphasis on both.

Each year the College offers the Frank Sheed Prize in Public Speaking and provides opportunities for the students to participate in formal debates. These are reports on activities in 2013.



Right: Campion President, Dr Ryan Messmore, congratulating this year's winner of the Frank Sheed Prize, Evelyn Ballard.

## Frank Sheed Public Speaking Prize

Campion held its annual public speaking competition on August 28 – a specially fitting day as it marked not only the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech, but also the Feast Day of St. Augustine — himself an expert in rhetoric.

The competition is named in honour of Frank Sheed, the Australian Catholic layman who, among his varied accomplishments, was a prime figure in the public speaking group, the Catholic Evidence Guild.

This year's event featured five Campion students who each delivered a prepared, seven-minute speech, which was evaluated on such criteria as clarity, voice modulation, eye contact and the ability to inspire the audience.

The speeches were judged by two Campion alumni – Kieran Jackson and Norbert Neville – and Dr Andrew Foong, whose generous financial as well as professional assistance



Dr Andrew Foong, who sponsors the Frank Sheed Prize and assists with the adjudication of the speeches.

makes this annual competition possible.

As usual, Mr Paul Kennedy, a long-standing Campion staff member and amateur actor, worked personally with the students to develop public-speaking skills that will serve them well in the future.

## Debating Contests

From the earliest years at Campion, students have engaged in debates, but the scope of opportunity, both on and off the campus, has now grown to the point where an official Debating Society has been established.

The Society has 40 active student members and also keeps in contact with alumni who have participated in debating at Campion over the years.

Intramural debates help students to develop their debating skills. Such events as the St Peter Verona Intramural Debating Competition and the Ladies vs. Gents Debate offer opportunities for training and the refinement of skills, particularly speaking with clarity and confidence on one's feet.

Externally Campion has been instrumental

in organising annual debates with other tertiary institutions.

This year the Campion vs. Notre Dame annual debate was extended into a series which now includes Australian Catholic University (ACU).

Regular debates have also been arranged with the Lachlan Macquarie Internship (LMI), a scheme for developing Christian leaders in the field of public policy. Such debates give both Campion students and LMI interns an opportunity to strengthen their skills in a real-life situation.

And, as a Campion debating organiser, Margaret Gale, has wryly commented:

*'The value of a tertiary education in the Liberal Arts might be debated by some but the Campion College Debating Society would like to assure Brag readers that any claims to its irrelevance would be eagerly taken up and debated by our fast-learning and improving members!'*



Left: Elyse Burns speaking on behalf of the Campion team (to right of speaker) in its debate against ACU.

## Chesterton Conference – Giving New Life to the Moral Imagination

On Saturday, October 19, the Australian Chesterton Society held a one-day conference at Campion on the theme of the Moral Imagination.

The conference attracted more than 60 people. It focused on the need in today's culture for a rebirth of the moral imagination – as a way of illuminating the truth, offering a faculty of vision rather than invention.

A special focus was the life of the imagination on stage and screen, and a centrepiece of the conference was a presentation by various actors of a portion of Chesterton's play, 'Magic', first performed in London in 1913.

Among the papers presented were 'Moral Imagination – the Legacy of the Popes' (Tracey Rowland), 'The Joy of Artifice – The Metaphysics of Pantomime in G.K. Chesterton' (Robert Tilley), 'Evelyn Waugh – Novel into Film' (Donat Gallagher), and 'Chesterton and Spencer Tracy – Portraits of the Common Man' (Karl Schmude).

**The papers will soon be available on request, at a cost of \$12.00 (including postage), by ticking the appropriate box on the donation flyer.**



Dr Robert Tilley speaking at Chesterton Conference (Photo by courtesy of Campion student Marie Yeo)

## A Holy Land Crib for Christmas

Campion has previously offered a small crib for the feast of Christmas, produced by Christian families in Bethlehem who carry out this work of carpentry in their homes.

The plight of Christians in the Middle East has been worsened by the turmoil in Syria, and thus the purchase of a crib (pictured – 8 cm tall, 10 cm long and 4 cm deep) would provide an object of devotion in itself as well as an act of solidarity with fellow Christians in the place of Our Lord's birth.

The crib is available for an additional donation of \$10.00 (including postage), and can be requested by ticking a box on the donation flyer.



## The Voices of Champion

On Sunday, October 20, Campion Schola performed a special concert at a unique venue – the Jenolan Caves west of Sydney. The recital contended with the fire conditions prevailing at that time in the Blue Mountains, but the 21-piece Schola was undaunted, journeying west from Campion College and ascending all 252 steps to what is known as the 'Cathedral Chamber'.

The acoustics were impressive – and the Schola, clad in academic gowns and led by the College's Director of Music, Mr Bernard Kirkpatrick, performed a selection of sacred choir music. The concert was held in honour of Our Lady and the repertoire included Gregorian Chant settings of several Marian anthems, as well as some polyphonic works by sacred music masters: Palestrina, Victoria, and Lotti.

The Campion Schola and the fostering of musical culture at Campion are supported by a special fund named in honour of the 16th century Catholic composer, Thomas Tallis. The College also has available a Campion Schola CD, which includes a selection of sacred music.

**Gifts to the Tallis Fund and a request to purchase the Campion Schola CD may be made by ticking the appropriate box on the donation sheet.**



Left: The Campion Schola performing in the Jenolan Caves

### The Rome Summer School in Latin and History: The Eternal City: from Paganism to Christianity

Sunday, 29 June - Saturday, 19 July 2014

## Experiencing the Eternal City

Campion College is planning to hold a three-week residential school in Latin and History during the forthcoming European Summer – from June 29 to July 19, 2014.

The School, the second to be held by the College, will explore the Latin language and Roman history through guided readings from Cicero to St Augustine. Excursions will take place to major historical sites in Rome as well as to other centres of religious and cultural importance

such as the Abbey of Montecassino.

Enrolment is open not only to Campion students studying Latin but to anyone who has an introductory level of understanding of the language.

Further information can be obtained from Dr Susanna Rizzo, Polding Lecturer in Classics at Campion College:

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phone (02) 9896 9323.

## Campion's Brag

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*Campion's Brag is a quarterly newsletter named in honour of the manifesto of St. Edmund Campion's mission of faith. It is written and edited by Karl Schmude on behalf of the Campion Foundation, a non-profit company which has established Campion College Australia as a tertiary institution of Catholic inspiration.*

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## Summer Program for Young People

A special flyer is included with this Campion's Brag on the College's next Summer Program – to be held on January 12-17, 2014.

The Program is increasingly popular among senior school students as it offers a foretaste of life at Campion before they make any long-term tertiary decisions.

Further information is available from Michael Mendieta: on 0422 259 305, or m.mendieta@campion.edu.au



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