



Remembering Campion Please consider a bequest



Lent Term at
Campion

CAMPION'S BRAG

Catholic Learning in the Liberal Arts

www.campion.edu.au

GRADUATION ISSUE

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The value of an Internship

Campion has begun to develop a program of professional internships, covering a range of vocational areas which Liberal Arts students and graduates will enter.

One such opportunity is the Lachlan Macquarie Internship (LMI), which is offered annually by the Australian Christian Lobby for selected graduates who have an interest in public policy and would like to develop a foundational understanding of the intersection between religion and politics before they go into public life.

A Campion graduate, **Keziah Doughty**, undertook the 14-week intensive course last year aimed at developing a deep appreciation of a Christian worldview to public policy. She offers these reflections on the ways in which a Campion degree prepared her for the internship and the benefits she gained from it:

Following my graduation from Campion in 2012, I couldn't have imagined a more fitting transition to further study than the Lachlan Macquarie Internship.

The theology and biblical studies, history of the early church, political ideologies and philosophies, and modern Australian history and politics, were integral parts of the LMI course, and I felt as though everything I had done at Campion had been paving the way for this.

One year on from beginning my adventure at LMI, I look back at that time as one of the most memorable, rewarding and challenging of my life.

The rigorous academic study, practical

workshops and the experience in Parliament, the theological grounding and priceless conversations I had with many amazing people during the internship, have shaped my worldview, challenged my thinking and deepened my faith.

Living in community was perhaps the greatest learning experience, opening up new doors through which to serve, listen, love and grow.

Upon reflection, I am amazed at the journey God has taken me on over this last year. As the Proverb says (16:9): "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

For this, I am so grateful.

Campion is keen to create as many professional internships as possible, offering its senior students and new graduates special opportunities for experience in such vocational areas as law, journalism, medicine and the health sciences, and international relations.

A recent appointee at Campion is the Student Life Director, Mr Peter Pellicaan. A key part of his role is to develop a program of internships, establishing contact with professional organisations to arrange training opportunities for Campion students and graduates.

Such an initiative will involve staffing costs at the College, and require a scheme of financial support for students to enable them to undertake a sustained period of mentoring, away from the College and often away from home.



Keziah Doughty in front of Parliament House in Canberra

Any contributions to the College's Internship Scheme would be greatly appreciated, and can be marked by ticking the appropriate box on the donation flyer.



Campion is most grateful for your generosity.

ALL GIFTS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Campion's Sixth Graduation

A giant marquee provided the campus setting for the College's most recent Graduation.

Held on 11th December 2013, the ceremony attracted over 200 guests.

It began with a Graduation Mass, celebrated by the Most Rev. Barry Hickey, Emeritus Archbishop of Perth, and the Occasional Address was given by The Hon. Murray Gleeson, former Chief Justice of Australia's High Court.

This was the sixth occasion on which the College farewelled a class of students who had completed their three-year study for a BA in the Liberal Arts.

Campion now has more than 100 graduates who have gone on to a variety of vocational paths – such as teaching, law, medicine, journalism, business and international relations.

Several graduates are studying for the priesthood or as religious sisters.

At the 2013 Graduation, testamurs were awarded to 19 students, 10 males and 9 females.

Five are pursuing a teaching qualification, while the remainder are planning careers in such areas as medicine and the health sciences, marine biology, journalism, film studies, and the defence forces.

The Chairman of the College's governing body, the Institute Board, Mr Joe de Bruyn congratulated the new graduates for choosing what is a highly distinctive education in Australia – a broadly based Catholic education in the Liberal Arts.

He quoted Australia's new Governor-General, Peter Cosgrove, who said, after



Emeritus Archbishop Hickey celebrating the Graduation Mass with visiting priests.

one of his visits to the campus, that Campion graduates will increasingly 'bring to bear on their society the spiritual beliefs and values which the College is striving to foster.'

In his Occasional Address, Mr Murray Gleeson stressed the benefits of a Liberal Arts education in developing an independent and critical mind - and thereby challenging 'the spirit of the age'.

He analysed the cultural atmosphere of contemporary society, which tends to be dominated by an assertion of individual rights. Such an emphasis, he suggested, has led to a confusion of 'rights' with 'interests', and is often not balanced by an acknowledgement of responsibilities.

A Valedictory Address on behalf of the graduates was delivered by Miriam Thompson, the President of Campion's Student Association.

The edited versions of the various speeches appear elsewhere in this *Campion's Brag*.



Congratulations to General Cosgrove

The Campion community extends its warmest congratulations to General Peter Cosgrove on his appointment as Australia's Governor-General.

General Cosgrove has shown a strong interest in Campion College from its earliest days of planning. He was quoted in the first issue of Campion's Brag (Autumn 2002), affirming his support for the development of the College, and he subsequently made various visits to the campus.

In 2010 he was the Occasional Speaker at Campion's third Graduation.

Summer and Winter Programs

Campion makes increasing use of vacation periods on campus – in the summer and winter months – to offer special events for young people.

Last January, the College hosted its largest ever **Summer Program**, which lasted five days and attracted 40 senior school students from various parts of Australia, including Melbourne, Wagga, Albury, Newcastle, Brisbane, Perth and Tasmania.

In July the College will again conduct a **Faith Formation Seminar** for senior school students – on **Wednesday-Friday,**

9-11 July 2014. The seminar was launched last year and attracted more than 30 young participants. It is designed to foster intellectual and moral formation – the development of a Catholic mind and of a virtuous character.

Speakers in 2014 will include Campion's President, Dr Ryan Messmore (on 'The Trinity and the Divinity of Christ') and Rev. Dr John Flader ('God and Science'), as well as Campion lecturers providing historical and theological perspectives on such topics as 'The Reformation' and 'Transubstantiation'.

The cost (including all meals) is \$110 (day participants) or \$220 (including accommodation).

The next Summer Program will take place in January 2015, and an attractive **Early Bird rate** (reduced from \$490 to \$220) is available until July 31, 2014.

For more details on the Faith Formation Seminar and the Summer Program, please contact Michael Mendieta at Campion:

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Campion's 19 new graduates



Challenging the Spirit of the Age

The Occasional Address at Campion's recent Graduation was given by The Hon. Murray Gleeson AC QC, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. He congratulated the graduates and their families and friends, and singled out for special acknowledgement those who, like Mr Gleeson himself, are in the first generation of their families to have had a tertiary education.

This is an edited version of the former Chief Justice's speech.

Left: The Hon. Murray Gleeson AC QC



The Class of 2013 with Campion's President, Dr Ryan Messmore (centre, back row)



Miriam Thompson

Valedictory Address

At each Campion Graduation, a Valedictory Address is delivered by the President of the Student Association.

On this occasion, **Miriam Thompson** spoke on behalf of the graduates. She expressed thanks to the lecturers and other staff of the College, her fellow students and their families and friends, as well as all of the benefactors who have made it financially possible for them to experience a Catholic Liberal Arts education in Australia.

Miriam highlighted a key feature of the tragic hero in Aristotle's *Poetics* – that he aims high, and yet he still falls – as reflective of the Campion experience.

'Our time at Campion,' she said, 'in all its aspects gives us the strength to see ourselves as we really are: to recognise all those things which form us: to know better our lives and the lives of those who've gone before, and to realise that frailty is as much a part of our nature as the divinely inspired beauty that is us.'

'After all, the tragic hero, despite the tragedy, is still a hero.'

Miriam went on to consider the value of the Liberal Arts and of the community life at Campion College, which have equipped graduates with a rich way of understanding and coming to terms with the human condition.

The College's integrated curriculum, comprehended in the light of faith and reason, allows the students' minds to be more fully integrated with the world and the Western Tradition, that they might better understand themselves, and better know the Author of all things.

Thus we should reflect with gratitude, Miriam concluded, 'to have had the privilege to spend the last three years of our lives in this way – devoted to the pursuit of truth.'

'For in three years we have been given so much, and having now graduated, it is fair to say we have done much, even if not as much as we could have.'

What is it that you will take with you from your successful completion of the study of the liberal arts?

I should hope, a way of thinking, independent and critical.

The Romanian playwright Eugene Ionesco attributed these words to one of his characters: 'to think against the spirit of the age is heroism, to speak such thoughts is madness.'

That's a very pessimistic point of view, but there are some uncomfortable elements of truth in it.

What is the spirit of the age? It has many things that are good – in some respects, better than the spirit of former ages; but in other respects it requires critical and independent thought and evaluation.

Right and Interests

One obvious example – fostered, of course, by my own profession of law – is the emphasis upon individual human rights.

The reason is related to the recent history of mankind; to the unspeakable conduct in the middle of the 20th century of some people who – to use the words of a French commentator – 'abandoned themselves to their natural inclinations', and in so doing forgot the importance of individual human rights.

But in the legal instruments, international and national, that have since been developed to foster and protect those individual rights, there are social and collective rights that are at risk of being neglected.

One of the obvious dangers of the extravagant pursuit of individual rights is that interests begin to masquerade as rights.

A right is a trump card to be played in an argument. If you can identify what you want as a right rather than what it often is – that is to say, an interest – then that is conclusively the argument.

Another difficulty is that rights often conflict with one another. Consider, for example, the right of privacy and its relationship to the right of freedom of speech. Plainly these two collide.

We also have the problem of individual human rights colliding with social or collective rights. Consider the collective

right that we have to security. How is that measured against the individual rights which may be at risk when terrorists are pursued by the arms of the State?

A problem about our emphasis on individual human rights is that we tend to lose sight of responsibilities. What about the responsibilities that are normally regarded as the corollary of the rights that people assert?

What would happen if the following words lost their meaning: husband, wife, father, mother? If the assertion of individual rights is to produce the ultimate consequence that those words were deprived of their meaning, then, in truth, we are in the middle of an enormous uncontrolled social experiment.

Values and the Meaning of Words

Another difficulty is that we tend to modify our language in the interests of yielding to the asserted rights of individuals who claim them. Dame Leonie Kramer, while Chancellor of the University of Sydney, wrote a paper about the connection between words and values, and the loss of values that can accompany the loss of the meaning of words.

She gave as an example the word 'disinterested', which is now normally corrupted in ordinary

speech to mean 'uninterested'.

Yet 'disinterested' meant impartial, not having a personal interest in the outcome of a particular case. Disinterested service to the community was regarded as something to be applauded. But the word has now almost lost its meaning, and with it, Dame Leonie said, has gone an important public and civic value.

What would happen if the following words lost their meaning: husband, wife, father, mother? If the assertion of individual rights is to produce the ultimate consequence that those words were deprived of their meaning, then, in truth, we are in the middle of an enormous uncontrolled social experiment – the outcome of which cannot be foreseen.

Mercantilism and Professionalism

Another aspect of the spirit of the age against which you may, from time to time, want to think critically is mercantilism, which affects my profession particularly.

It has been proposed that the community would benefit if lawyers behaved less like members of an elite profession and more like business people. Yet the values of professionalism, of elitism, are values worth keeping.

Another problem arising from the assertion of individual rights and relentless mercantilism, in which people only have value in their capacity as consumers, is that people who aren't capable of asserting themselves and their rights, and people who have not much money to spend in their capacity as consumers, are marginalised. They don't have any value at all.

Our society is one in which we value managerialism and – although it's a word that isn't often acknowledged – bureaucracy.

We live our lives now surrounded by bureaucracies, public and private. The government, private businesses, large institutions, even the churches, are bureaucracies.

You'll observe, as you go through life, certain pathologies that are typical of bureaucracies: a response to trouble by closing ranks; a denial of the undeniable, a concealment of the unconcealable.

I hope that what you will take with you from your time at Campion College, and in consequence of your success in your studies, is this: that you will constantly think against the spirit of the age, and perhaps even from time to time, speak against it.

Campion's Brag

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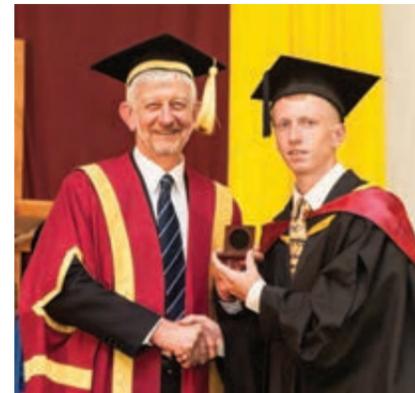
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Graduation snapshots



Campion's first graduate from East Timor, Helena de Jesus (centre), with family and friends. Helena's mother, Vitoria de Sousa Soares (fourth from right), travelled all the way from East Timor for the special occasion.



Campion Board Chairman Joe de Bruyn awarding degrees to Dylan Littler (left) and Lucie Nejman (right). Dylan was the College's first graduate from Tasmania and won the 2013 College Medal for superior academic achievement. Lucie's studies at Campion coincided, for at least some of the time, with the enrolment of two other family members – her brother Anthony and sister Veronica.



Brendan Smith (centre) accompanied by his family at the Graduation. Brendan, the second member of the family to graduate from Campion, has applied to enter Duntroon; his older sister Jacinta was awarded her degree in 2010.