



CAMPION'S BRAG

Catholic Learning in the Liberal Arts

www.campion.edu.au

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Lent Term at
Campion

GRADUATION ISSUE

Campion's largest graduation The Class of 2014

As Campion begins the 2015 academic year – its 10th year of operation – it looks back on the culminating event for 2014, its seventh Graduation ceremony.

This past year saw the College's largest graduation class - 29 students – since the first one held in 2008.

Attended by more than 200 guests, the ceremony took place on Monday, December 15, at the College's campus at Old Toongabbie.

It began with a Graduation Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Armidale NSW, Most Rev Michael Kennedy, together with five other priests, and the role of Master of Ceremonies was performed by the College Chaplain, Fr Luke Holohan SM.

Throughout the Mass, the College Schola, led by Campion's Director of Music, Mr Bernard Kirkpatrick, performed various pieces of sacred music, making the occasion especially memorable for the entire College community.

The formal Graduation then took place – for the 29 students who had completed their three-year degree in the Liberal Arts, and were now poised to embark on further studies in pursuit of various vocations, such as teaching, law, medicine, and nursing, or more specialized academic degrees, such as philosophy and economics.



The College's latest graduation class with new Campion President, Dr Paul Morrissey (centre)

The Chairman of the College's governing board, Mr Joe de Bruyn, highlighted the distinctive character of Campion as Australia's first institution of higher education to offer a foundational degree in the Liberal Arts.

He welcomed the large gathering of family and friends of the graduates, as well as the many guests who have supported the College financially and in so many other ways from its inception.

He also farewelled and thanked Dr Ryan Messmore for his service as Campion's President, and welcomed Dr Paul Morrissey as his successor.

The Occasional Address was delivered by Mr Tim Kirk, the CEO of Clonakilla Wines and the 2013 Australian Winemaker of the Year. Mr Kirk provided a revealing

comparison of the art of winemaking with the life of learning infused with faith. He focused on the ways in which what he called 'the miracle of fermentation' has a spiritual and not just a physical significance – that it applies, not only to the transformation of the grape to produce fine wine, but also, most profoundly, to the transformation of the soul as a result of the power of God.

A Campion graduate, Mr Robert van Gend, who shared the 2014 College Medal with a fellow student, Mr Mark Makowiecki, gave the Valedictory Address.

Edited versions of these speeches are published elsewhere in this issue of *Campion's Brag*.

Presidential Transition

Coinciding with the Graduation ceremony was a transition of Presidents at Campion.

Dr Ryan Messmore has left to take up the position of director of a newly established institute at the Christian Heritage College in Brisbane, while the incoming President, Dr Paul Morrissey, comes from the University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA) in Sydney.

Dr Morrissey taught at UNDA from 2007, most recently as Senior Lecturer in



Dr Paul Morrissey accepting the robes of office from the Campion Board Chairman, Mr Joe de Bruyn

Theology and Associate Dean of the School of Philosophy and Theology. He has a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Sydney College of Divinity/Catholic Institute of Sydney, and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Lateran University in Rome.

Dr Morrissey comes originally from Melbourne. He and his wife Soizic have seven children.

The liberty of the Liberal Arts

In his inaugural address as Campion President, Dr Paul Morrissey thanked the Trustees for entrusting him with the position, and went on to explain the special strengths of the College, including the contribution of the Liberal Arts to a renewed understanding of the true meaning of liberty.

This is an edited version of Dr Morrissey's speech.



It is for me a true privilege to be formally associated with Campion College in this important role.

Why is it a privilege? First because of Campion College's explicit mission: to form *future leaders of society and the Church through a broad program of learning in the Liberal Arts that integrates the insights of faith and reason.*

This, I know from personal experience, is already being very much achieved.

Many students have graduated from Campion in these past few years, prepared to enter the world and make a genuine contribution. I have met a significant number of them and been truly impressed with the formation they have received at this college.

They are making a difference in a wide variety of areas: medicine, law, teaching, business. Some have entered into significant administrative and pastoral roles in the Church and the wider world; others are excelling in further studies at Masters and PhD level; and most significantly, there are others pursuing vocations in religious life and those who have married and are beginning families of their own.

It is these graduates that give evidence of the importance of the unique Liberal Arts program offered at Campion.

The liberty of the Liberal Arts

A Liberal Arts program is so important for Australia today, I think, because of the need for a renewed understanding of true liberty. We are a long way from an understanding and living of the liberty that the Liberal Arts are founded on.

There is today, as the theologian Servais Pinckaers OP has noted, 'a passion for freedom.' And while a passion for freedom is a good thing, when freedom is severed from everything else, it becomes mere personal license.

The philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre was perhaps the key endorser of this modern understanding of freedom: stating that freedom needs to be untethered to anything, especially from reason and truth, but also from memory, virtue and from any notion of the good.

We live and breathe this modern notion of freedom; but surely there is a nobler and a richer freedom. And it is to this

authentic freedom that the Liberal Arts are aimed.

This is a freedom not *from* restriction but *for* the good, the true, and the excellent. It is a freedom that enables us to know the true; to do the good; and to live well.

It is, in the Christian sense, the freedom of the Saints; and it is this freedom that Campion College aims to instill in its students.

How does Campion do this? Through its excellent academic program that has been built up and refined over the past nine years; a program that has been so ably led by a dedicated and professional academic staff.

Learning – integrated-vs-isolated

It is a program that is about Integrated Learning, a counter-cultural notion today. A characteristic of the modern university is the disintegration of knowledge; discipline by discipline; faculty by faculty, pursuing knowledge in an isolated sense.

The Catholic philosopher, Alasdair MacIntyre, has argued that modern universities are *multiversities* where philosophy and especially theology have been eliminated – and highly specialised research rules the day.

The role of the Liberal Arts, and of the program at Campion, is to help the university or higher learning institute to return to a more classical understanding of *scientia*: the cultivation of wisdom.

Knowledge is not just about empirical facts. Rather it goes deeper to seek out the truth of existence, the human person, and the cosmos.

The core curriculum – the studies at the heart of the Liberal Arts are intended to cultivate wisdom, a way of seeing knowledge and truth as symphonic.

Campion College also takes very seriously the relationship, and indeed the integration, of faith and reason in the pursuit of knowledge. Faith and reason are true partners in the pursuit of truth.

Standing on the shoulders of giants

Another characteristic of the program offered at Campion is its engagement with the key thinkers and texts of the Western tradition. Modern education, at least as practised in the Anglo world, is indebted more to the American

philosopher John Dewey, who saw tradition, in the description of Fr Benedict Ashley OP, 'as a dead weight of received dogmas blocking the solution to new problems.'

Contrary to this vision, the Catholic Liberal Arts sees education as standing on the shoulders of giants, conducting a genuinely searching conversation with the Western tradition and its greatest thinkers, so as to propose anew to our contemporaries the truth of the human person and of the common good.

It really is the beginning of a lifelong conversation.

Summer Week at the College



Students on one of the outdoor excursions in Campion's Summer Week.

Campion's latest Summer Week for senior school students, held in mid-January, attracted more than 40 participants – the largest number since the program was launched in 2011.

The annual camp provides an array of activities that gives students a foretaste of life at the College, including daily Mass, sessions on the core subjects that are taught – history, philosophy, theology and literature – and outdoor excursions, such as to the beach and the Blue Mountains.

The camp has proved to be an early recruiting ground for students.

Many parents have reported that their sons or daughters have been willing to attend a one-week camp that reveals the special value of a Campion education, and that this has led to their enrolling subsequently at the College.



Campion's Senior Lecturer in Literature, Dr Stephen McInerney, delivering a lecture to visiting students during the camp

Graduation Snapshots

RIGHT: Campion's new graduates celebrate their success in the customary way



The College Schola rehearsing prior to the Graduation Mass



Bishop Michael Kennedy
Principal celebrant, Bishop Michael Kennedy of the rural Diocese of Armidale NSW, preaching at the Graduation Mass.



The O'Donovan family

Campion Trustee Edmond O'Donovan and his wife Ann on either side of their son, Peter - with daughter Clare (who served as Development Officer for the Campion Foundation), another graduate son, Paul (right), and Michael (left), a current student at the College.



Robert van Gend & Mark Makowiecki


College Medallists in 2014 - Robert van Gend (left) and Mark Makowiecki (right). (Robert's eye injury on the day resulted from a car accident several days earlier.)



Cara Lladik & Liam Reeves

Chairman Joe de Bruyn awarding degrees to Cara Lladik (left) and Liam Reeves (right). Both students are the third members of their respective families to graduate from Campion - Cara following her sisters Hannah (2011) and Mariana (2012), and Liam succeeding Siobhan (2011) and Carmel (2012).

Campion's Brag

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The miracle of fermentation – wine and religious faith

Right: Mr Tim Kirk delivering the Occasional Address



The Occasional Speaker at the 2014 Graduation, Mr Tim Kirk, owns the family winery of Clonakilla near Canberra and was named Australian Winemaker of the Year in 2013.

Mr Kirk, whose daughter Madeleine is a student at Campion, spoke on the transforming power of yeast in the making of wine, comparing its effects, both positive and negative, in the realm of religious faith.

This is an edited version of Mr Kirk's speech.

I value Campion very highly - so highly that I sent my first-born here, with great joy, and she's loving it. I love to hear her reports about the things that she's learning.

I am a winemaker and a businessman. But my qualifications aren't in winemaking, but in theology, and I have a great love for the task of theological reflection and engagement. So we have wine, on the one hand, and theology, on the other, and today you will be receiving a dose of both!

I've called this little talk 'the miracle of fermentation'. For the last 25 years it's been my privilege to be a close observer and admirer of the work of a microscopic agent that appears to have the power to work miracles: yeast.

As chief winemaker at Clonakilla in the weeks leading up to vintage, I am trying very carefully to discern the exact moment in every particular section of our vineyard when the grapes growing there are at their most beautiful.

Hidden complexities

My job involves walking up and down the rows, picking grapes, squishing them, looking at the colour, looking at the seeds, putting them in my mouth, and doing my level best to discern the aromatic and flavour complexities that lie hidden in those grapes. It's not easy, but I have learned over many years to pick up - through careful listening, if you will - the rumours, the whispers, that a simple grape will give you as you try and discern that very important decision:



Campion Board Chairman congratulating Mr Kirk at the end of his speech

when do we pick it, when is it at its most beautiful.

The truth is with winemaking that you don't really see the glory, the power, the beauty and the dignity that are hidden within the grapes until you pick them and they've been fermented by yeast.

'Yeast is that secret agent which unlocks the goodness hidden in the grapes... The Kingdom of God is like yeast, taking what is essentially good and true and noble and wonderful in us and transforming it into something so much more.'

Yeast is that secret agent which unlocks the dignity and the truth and the goodness that are hidden in the grapes.

The task of the yeast is to take the substance of one good created reality, these beautiful grapes that we grow in our vineyard at Murrumbateman, and unlock its inherent potential. Yeast changes a good thing into something so much more. With its transforming action, we end up with a haunting elixir that, well-cellared, can mystify and delight the discerning drinker for

decades.

Grape juice will be off within the week. But add yeast – and we have an elixir that can last and delight for decades.

Negative effects of yeast

My other love is theology – and particularly the Scriptures. But I have to say that, in the New Testament, yeast does not receive quite so good a rap! St Paul refers to tension in the early Christian communities and notes that a little yeast leavens the whole dough. He highlights a negative quality of yeast, when wrong thinking takes hold and, like yeast in dough, does damage that grows in its effects over time.

The Gospels record Our Lord warning His disciples against the negative effects of yeast – when he speaks, for example, against the yeast of the Pharisees. Yet we also know that Jesus uses the image of yeast in an exalted sense – to explain the Kingdom of God. He says it is like the yeast a woman mixed with flour until it leavened. The Kingdom of God is thus a dynamic reality and, like yeast, is transformative. The reign of God as king is acting in us like those grapes, taking what is essentially good and true and noble and wonderful in us and transforming it into something so much more.

And so, Campion graduands, that's how I'm thinking about you. You are a fruity bunch. You're like grapes carefully grown. You're pleasing to the eye, sweet to the taste, brimming with potential. And yet if you are to be the men and women that God forever intended you to be, you need the transforming power of that divine yeast, the reign of God as king. The love of God, that great king, breaking in to your world and through you to the world at large.

Power of divine yeast

Whatever your personal vocation is to be – in education, law, the media, politics, religious life or raising the next generation of families – you are called to be, through the action of the divine yeast, the means of the transformation of this world.

That's what the kingdom of God is about, and it happens through us.

The Champion course as a 'permanent gift' – a new graduate reflects

VALEDICTORY SPEECH 2014

Right: Mr Robert van Gend



At each Graduation a Valedictory Address is given by the President of the Champion College Students' Association on behalf of the departing graduates. In 2014 the address was delivered by Robert van Gend, who was also a co-winner of the College Medal. This is an edited version of his speech.

Valedictory comes from the Latin 'vale dico', saying goodbye.

Today the third years are saying goodbye to the lecturers and staff, and to each other. But there is one thing that we are not saying goodbye to - the Champion course. That, we are taking with us, as a permanent possession and as a way of seeing the world that is richer and clearer.

Goodbye to the grounds, the buildings, the library.

- Champion is like the Shire in Tolkien's Middle Earth – it is protected in a bubble from the dangers of the outside world, where quiet Hobbits can tend their gardens in peace. There is a hobbit hole where we store our precious possessions and loot, there are bare and sometimes hairy hobbit feet, and there is no shortage of ale.
- Like the Shire, where gardeners are held in high regard, we so respect gardening that the well-paid job of weeding is only bestowed on the most patient and dexterous students.
- We all have memories of working in the grounds, of playing on the soccer pitch, volleyball court, of chariot races around the loop, of endless talent nights and music coming out of the dining hall. Most of us have memories of time well spent in the library. And the chapel, the centre of everything, that cozy and familiar quiet refuge.
- The Shire of Champion has been the ideal place, peaceful and green, to put down roots and begin a life long pruning process, and to be equipped for facing the challenges of the wider Middle Earth, even of Mordor.

Goodbye to our Lecturers.

- Only at a college like Champion do you get invited to dinner at the

President's family home for nourishing nights of '[C.S.] Lewis & Linguini', to the student life director's home for stimulating scripture studies, and get taken to the pub for tutorials by your lecturers. There is a classical precedent for the latter practice, in that Plato recommended that each great question of philosophy be considered twice – once sober and once drunk.

- Only at a college like Champion do you get known by name to all the staff, and treated with such generosity and respect.

Goodbye to the Students and fellow Third Years.

- Speaking of the students, one of the top reasons I recommend Champion to young people is that it has such a great community. At Champion I have found my favourite group of people in the whole world, and I will always be grateful for being part of the Champion family.

Not Goodbye to the Course.

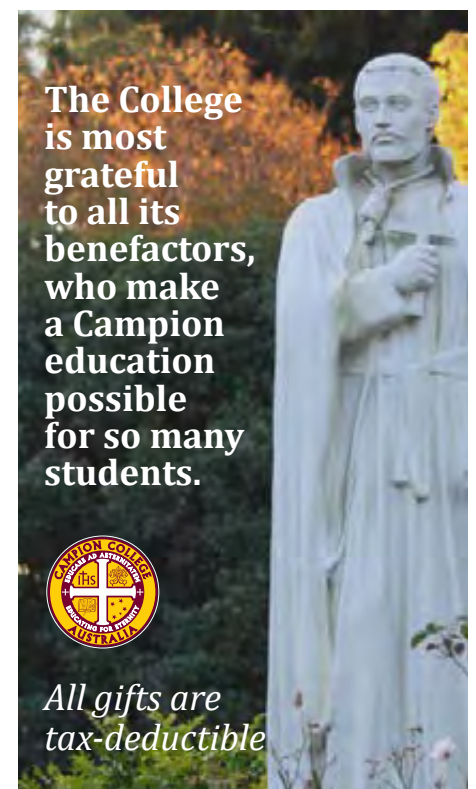
Let me give one small example of how our education in the liberal arts has enhanced and enriched our way of seeing the world:

- On our Rome trip in 2014 we visited Pompeii, and I recall stopping to look at a room in a ruined villa with mosaics covering the floor and faded paintings on the walls.
- Prior to my Champion education, this would have just been a pretty sight and I would have moved on. But now, this scene from the ancient world came alive.
 - » For a start, we could read the Latin inscriptions on the wall as communications from these lost people, not just unintelligible scribble.
 - » With the help of our scholarly guide, Dr Susanna Rizzo, we could place this room on the historical timeline, knowing that the oriental style of the wall paintings meant the room was home to Greek settlers before it was taken over by the Romans in 90BC.
 - » And more than Latin and history, we could appreciate the art and architecture of these people:

knowing that the particular arrangement of the mosaics on the floor was carefully chosen by the Romans to manipulate light. They put coloured tiles at the threshold of the tiny room, but white tiles further in to reflect light and 'lift up the room', giving it a bright, more spacious feel.

- » And the use of this room as a place for the household gods brought to mind all we had learnt of the changing religious landscape of that most significant first century after the birth of Christ.
- » **Archaeology, history, art, theology... There were all these different layers of significance revealed in this one ruined room in Pompeii. We have been given at Champion new eyes with which to see everything, access to new layers of understanding, and that is a permanent gift.**

It is a precious gift, and a heavy burden too; for since much has been given to us, much is expected from us as we leave the Shire of Champion and enter a troubled world.



The College is most grateful to all its benefactors, who make a Champion education possible for so many students.



All gifts are tax-deductible

Please help to form future generations

CONSIDER A BEQUEST TO CAMPION

New graduate Sarah Park receiving her testamur from Mr Joe de Bruyn



The tradition continues

A noticeable feature of life at Campion is the extent to which, in the course of their three years of study, students meet their future spouses.

There is already a significant number of marriages that have taken place among graduates – more than 10 at this stage - or of a graduate who met his or her future spouse through a Campion family connection.

A recent example is two graduates from the Class of 2012, Hugh McLaurin and Fenelle Crimmins, who were married in November in the chapel of St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. The celebrant was Campion's Chaplain and Lecturer in Theology, Fr Luke Holohan SM.

Hugh works for the SDA trade union, while Fenelle is a research and administration officer for the Life, Marriage and Family

Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

A second wedding was that of Monica Ochudzawa (Class of 2013) and Mark Aarts, which also took place in November, at the Polish Catholic Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa, in the western Sydney suburb of Marayong. Mark is the brother of former Campion student, Lisa Chua (nee Aarts).

Monica has recently completed a Graduate Diploma in Publishing at Sydney University, while Mark is a teacher at a Catholic school in Sydney.

TOP: Fr Luke Holohan SM presiding at the marriage of Fenelle Crimmins and Hugh McLaurin

BOTTOM: Monica Aarts (nee Ochudzawa) and Mark Aarts



A Rowing Club at Campion

The sport of rowing, which is an Olympic event, is also known as 'the sport of the Academics', and has an historical connection to many prestigious universities - including Campion College!

For nearly two centuries, it has received international acclaim through the famous 'Boat Race' between rival universities, Oxford and Cambridge.

In the United States, the Harvard-Yale Regatta is the oldest collegiate sporting fixture, and in Australia, both the NSW and Victorian Rowing Associations were formed in the early colonial days, with Melbourne University founding the first official rowing club in the country, closely followed by Sydney University.

Last year the enrolment at Campion of Jacob Munday, an experienced rower and rowing coach, led to the founding of the College's first rowing crew.

The team currently rows out of Nepean Rowing Club, situated on the banks of the Nepean River in Penrith NSW. In 2014, it trained three times a week – both mornings and afternoons - in preparation for competitions at the NSW Regatta Centre.

In addition, a generous benefactor bought



Members of Campion's inaugural rowing crew, filmed in front of Victoria Bridge at Penrith – At back - from left: Awtel Power, Michael O'Donovan, Joe Rebecchi. In front - from left: Jacob Munday (Founder and Captain), and Jerome Shogren.

a rowing machine for the College so that the crew could train on the campus, as well as on a nearby river.

In September the team enjoyed its first success, receiving a Gold Medal for its performance at the Annual Nepean Regatta.

Rowing is a good, clean sport that encourages a lifestyle of discipline and

order. It has engaged many Australian leaders, including former Prime Ministers Edmund Barton and Gough Whitlam. The South Australian Senator, Cory Bernardi, was a member of the Australian rowing team in the late 1980s.

Campion College has now joined the tradition linking universities and participation in public life.

The Campion rowing team has had an impressive start in 2014 and looks forward to 2015. It hopes to recruit new members from the incoming class, as well as supporters from the growing Campion community.

The College has established the Campion Culture Fund as a way of supporting a range of student needs on campus, covering sporting and social activities of various kinds that complement the intellectual and spiritual formation that Campion students receive.

Contributions to this Fund would be especially welcome, and can be provided by marking the appropriate box on the enclosed donation flyer.