

# SUPPORTING CHAMPION STUDENTS INTO THE FUTURE

## CONSIDER A BEQUEST TO CHAMPION

Campion's Chairman, Mr Joe De Bruyn, addresses students at Formal Hall, discussing topics in industrial relations and social justice.

Students Jean Seah (left), Christian Bergmann (centre) and Julie Schumann (right) are each awarded a \$300 book grant; these are funded from donated endowments.



Easter Term at Campion

# CAMPION'S BRAG

Catholic Learning in the Liberal Arts

www.campion.edu.au

Vol.14 No.2 Autumn 2015

## Prominent Sydney Biblical Scholar, Dr Robert Tilley, leads Annual Retreat

In early March, Campion held its annual retreat at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre in Gross Vale NSW. The weekend retreat gave students the opportunity to grow spiritually through theological talks, morning and evening prayers, daily Mass and adoration.

Dr Robert Tilley, a lecturer in biblical studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, led the

retreat and chose the theme "Reading Graciously: The Bible, the Church, and the Promise of Abundant Life". The weekend received positive feedback, and students are now calling for a second mid year retreat, which will likely focus on the Ignatian spiritual exercises.

Dr Robert Tilley speaking at the Campion Retreat



## A Campion Appeal - End of Financial Year Opportunities

### Assist Campion in Offering a First Class Library Experience

The Campion library, its facilities and services, are highly valued by the student body. It's where students delve, explore, and understand the great minds of the Catholic and Western Tradition, and where students conduct their research and complete their essays. A critical resource enabling and advancing the students' education is the array of scholarly databases available online. Unfortunately, many of the Library's computers providing this access are outdated, and due to the growing number of residential students, the library is now seeking to replace and acquire additional computers to maintain its current standard of service. To reach this end, the Campion Foundation is seeking a total gift of \$20,000 to enable the Library to replace its outdated computers and enhance its services to Campion students so that they remain on a par with other academic libraries across Australia.



Campion graduate, Keziah Doughty, is the new College Librarian. She also runs the Learning Centre, which assists students in developing study skills.

### Fundraising for the New Evangelisation of Australia, and the World!



Campion's Chaplain, Rev Dr Luke Holohan, says Mass at student retreat

In addition to forming students intellectually, Campion is also committed to providing ample opportunities for spiritual growth as part of the Campion experience. To facilitate this goal, the College now plans to offer two annual retreats for Campion students. To alleviate potential obstacles, Campion also subsidises many of the associated expenses, allowing students to attend at a fraction of the cost. To sustain and continue this commitment, Campion is looking to raise \$15,000, annually, to cover the retreat costs (2-3 nights' accommodation, food and guest speakers) for 50 students, twice a year. Your gift will deepen the faith of many young Catholics who are currently hungry to know and love God more fully.

### Campion's New Boats - a Naming Opportunity

Since the inauguration of the Campion College Rowing Crew (CCRC) last year, the Campion Foundation and the CCRC have successfully received 4 donated boats - 2 quad sculls and 2 single sculls - from the Sydney International Regatta Centre. The Foundation and CCRC are offering naming rights for the two quads, at \$10,000 each - of which, \$1000.00 of each purchase will be passed to the CCRC to assist refurbish and respray the quads (the names will also be added and will remain a permanent feature). In addition to helping the Foundation raise funds, the purchase of the naming right will allow the CCRC to prepare the quads for showcasing at upcoming competitions, further publicising Campion College. The crew are now training for their upcoming race against The University of Notre Dame Australia.



Andrew A. McLaurin, a second year student & rowing crew member, received the newly donated boats

## New Students Begin a Life of Integration and Formation



Campion's President, Dr Paul Morrissey (centre), welcomed new students into the College community on March 2, 2015. This year's Class is from different parts of Australia as well as overseas (two coming from Canada), and is a continuing sign of Campion's ability to attract young minds seeking an integrated Catholic Liberal Arts degree that provides intellectual and spiritual formation.

## Captains Choose Campion

Several students, who were former School Captains, explain why they picked Campion amidst the various university options. In addition, they share their Campion experience, and what they hope to achieve moving into the future.



Nicholas Augemeri, Second Year - Former School Captain at Redfield College, Sydney

During year 11, I arrived at Campion for the Campion Knowledge Challenge. My jaw dropped when I saw what was on offer. First, all my favourite disciplines were taught. Second, the campus itself was stunning and conducive to study. Lastly, the fact it was Catholic was just wonderful.

One of the great things I've come to experience is the feeling of awe by the lecturers revealing the profound connections between philosophy, theology, history, literature and language. This is what I appreciate most about Campion.

My ambitions post-Campion are still forming, but so far I'm considering time in Europe for further research, perhaps completing a PhD in philosophy, and delving further into ancient languages.



Felicity Cummins, Second Year - Former School Captain at Mary Mackillop College, Wagga Wagga

During Year Twelve I was fairly certain that I would go to the University of Sydney to study Speech Pathology. However, after attending the Faith Formation Seminar in 2013, I decided to attend Campion because of its focus on History and the opportunities it presents to further one's personal character development.

I enjoy being able to build solid relationships with students and lecturers due to the small nature of the college. The networks I'm also exposed to at Campion are extensive and will offer many opportunities.

I hope to continue my education so I can become a senior Ancient History, Modern History and English teacher at a high school.



Annalise Day, First Year - Former School Captain at Mary Mackillop College, Jindera

During my time at school, Campion was the last place to which I thought I would apply. However, after attending the Summer Program last year and getting a taste of what Campion life was like, I knew there was no other place to be.

The lecturers' knowledge and enthusiasm for what they teach, complemented by the fantastic social scene, is what I most enjoy about Campion. Having a circle of friends where everyone shares the same values is hard to find in today's secular culture.

Although still pondering the future, at the moment I am hoping to pursue primary teaching or journalism after Campion.

Contributions to any of these funds would be especially welcome, and can be provided by marking the appropriate box on the enclosed donation flyer.

# The Champion Story

The planning of *Campion College* took place over several decades and culminated in the College's opening in 2006.

In this second excerpt from the *College's Founding Statement*, *The Champion Book*, **Karl Schmude** reflects on the conditions in Australia that gave rise to the nation's first Liberal Arts college and shaped its special character as a Catholic institution of higher learning.



## The Introduction of Greek to Complement Campion's Classics

Right: *Thomas Flynn, Campion's new tutor in the classical Greek language*



In the years leading up to the 21st century, the idea of a new Catholic Liberal Arts college in Australia began to assume practical possibility. Both positive and negative factors played their part.

On the positive side, the educational proposals of Christopher Dawson (outlined in the Spring 2014 issue of *Campion's Brag*) made clear that a grounding in Christian culture was crucial to sustaining a sense of Catholic identity. Furthermore, the new American Catholic colleges – such as Thomas Aquinas in California and Christendom in Virginia – showed that this model of Catholic higher education could work in a highly secularised society.

On the negative side, the condition of higher education in Australia had declined sharply since the 1960s. In an institutional sense, universities suffered a dimming of public support and government funding, reflected in troubling trends such as a perceived decline in professional integrity and the subversion of traditional disciplines by political and social ideologies.

University programs became increasingly fragmented and utilitarian, focused on vocational training rather than intellectual development and cultural initiation. They sought to prepare people for careers, no longer to cultivate citizens.

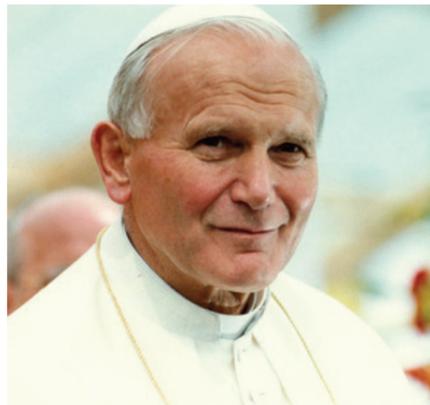
A development of vast importance was the collapse of a popular Catholic culture in Australia in the closing decades of the 20th century.

In the years following World War II, Australian Catholics underwent deep changes in social class and ethnic composition.

They moved from a largely working-class background shaped by Irish sensibilities and traditions to a middle-class culture that was ethnically – and even emotionally – diverse. The religious changes that took place in the wake of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s occasioned further upheaval, weakening the religious symbols, memories and practices that had previously animated a popular faith.

These changes served to expose the Catholic people, intellectually and spiritually, to the broad impact of the prevailing culture's secularizing tendencies. They gave an apparent religious imprimatur to the processes of modernisation and release from the past that were already taking place in the wider society.

In combination, these huge shifts underlay the diminishing impact of the family, on the one hand, and of the Catholic school system, on the other, in shaping the cultural identity and religious loyalty of Catholic children.



### John Paul II Generation

At the same time, a new generation of Catholics was emerging, influenced especially by the leadership of Pope John Paul II and the initiative of World Youth Day and other movements of evangelization.

Thus Campion came into being at a time of deep transition – between a traditional Catholic culture that was dissolving and a new one struggling to be formed.

Campion was conceived from the beginning as distinctive in two key respects –

- its *educational* offering (a broad, integrated program in the Liberal Arts) and
- its *religious* character (an institution with a clear sense of Catholic identity, neither triumphalist nor defensive).

In the long tradition of Catholic universities, Campion's founding vision was to provide an education of the whole person in the light of truth.

Its aim has been to offer a liberal education, characterised by academic rigour and quality and faithful to the mind of Christ as expressed authoritatively by the Catholic Church.

It seeks to prepare students for life, not only temporal but also eternal (hence the College's motto, 'Educating for Eternity'), fostering their intellectual maturity by a synthesis of natural reason and supernatural faith, and offering an environment of Christian culture conducive to the nurturing of spiritual life and the formation of moral character.

### Reconsecration of the Academy

Campion's response to the challenges of transition has been to foster a new culture animated by the perennial wisdom of Christian humanism. Its mission is nothing less than a *reconsecration of the academy* – a revival of learning and truth, both secular and sacred, for the good of the Church and of Australia.

Thus Campion does not view its mission in any narrow religious way, as though it could be content with addressing the confessional needs of the Catholic people and ignore the longing for spiritual depth and intellectual meaning on the part of the broader community.

The College has recognised the need to refocus and rejuvenate higher education generally in Australia, invoking the insight of Christopher Dawson, that Catholic education can only survive in a secularised society if the broader culture continues to be influenced by a Christian presence, which will secure an acceptance of Christian truth and tradition among the great mass of people.

Otherwise, in Dawson's belief, Catholics will become a sect rather than a people, and risk being consigned to a ghetto existence that is scarcely viable in a modern and pervasively technological State.

### Not a Better Version but a Different Model

Thus the Campion approach is undeniably ambitious. It is to offer, not a better version of the higher education programs available in Australia, but rather a different model of education – philosophically, religiously and culturally – which can progressively influence the education and culture of the society.

In the words of C. S. Lewis: 'The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts.' (*The Abolition of Man*, 1943)

## Campion's Brag

Vol.14 No.2  Autumn 2015

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

**Campion Foundation**  
 Postal Address: PO Box 3052, Toongabbie East, NSW 2146  
 Street Address: 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146  
 Tel.: 1300 792 747 | Fax.: (02) 9631 9200 | Email: foundation@campion.edu.au | Web Address: www.campion.edu.au

*Thomas Flynn* has recently joined the *Campion* faculty. He read classics at *Merton College, Oxford*, and worked for the *ProLife Alliance in the UK* and then *Australians for Constitutional Monarchy in Australia*. He recently finished his *Masters in Philosophy thesis on theology at the University of Notre Dame Australia*. He is married and has three children.

Students at Campion have always studied Greek and Latin Literature in translation. They have also been able to learn the Latin language. Campion's Classics department now offers students the opportunity to learn Ancient Greek. Campion's students and supporters should welcome this for three reasons.

Firstly, it fills a gap in Campion's study of Classics. The Classical world is different enough from our own to provide a bracing challenge to our own assumptions and complacency. But it is not so different as to be utterly incomprehensible. For example the very words "moral" and "ethical" derive from words in Latin and Greek. But the concepts they describe in modern languages do not map precisely onto those concepts in

ancient thought. They are like and yet unlike. Secondly, while Latin literature (in particular Virgil, Horace and Ovid) was the model and inspiration for writers in the Western Middle Ages, the Romans themselves acknowledged the Greeks as their own source.

Greek tragedy, with its highly stylised structure of chorus-dialogue-chorus, and using no more than three actors and no special effects, achieves a greater and more satisfying drama than you are likely to find on TV or at the movies.

Homer's epics have rarely been equalled and never surpassed in their presentation of the totality of a story. The 2004 Wolfgang Petersen film *Troy* gives us characters who look crudely drawn and primitive compared to their originals in the *Iliad* from twenty-nine centuries earlier.

Thirdly, at first sight, studying Classical texts in translation appears to be an easy shortcut, but in the end it amounts to casting a veil over your own sight. The shortest and broadest way into the understanding of any foreign culture is to learn its language. A metaphor from Classical literature will help understanding.

Homer describes Odysseus' visit to the realms of the dead in *Odyssey XI*. The gibbering ghosts come to him but they are unable to talk until they drink from a trench filled with the blood of animal sacrifices. The great German Classicist, Wilamowitz, used this as an image for the great enterprise of studying, assimilating and understanding ancient culture: "...the spirits which we evoke demand the blood of our hearts. We give it to them gladly; but if they then abide our question, something from us has entered into them; something alien, that must be cast out in the name of truth!"

The first alien thing which must be cast out is our own language with its own idioms giving rise to our particular cast of thought. In its place we strive to put the ancient Greeks' own language so that they can speak to us in the very words they used.

### Change of Editor

The founding editor of *Campion's Brag*, Mr Karl Schmude (pictured on right), has recently retired as Executive Director of the Campion Foundation.

He has been succeeded by a graduate of the College, Mr Michael Mendieta (left), who has been appointed as Director of Development and will serve as editor of the *Brag* as the College's quarterly newsletter.

Karl will continue to be actively involved in the life of Campion, serving as a Director of the Foundation and a Trustee of the College's governing body.

### Classics Society celebrates Annual Ancient Greek Olympics

Earlier in March, Campion's Classics Society held the annual Classics Week, which included Olympic games – such as chariot racing, wrestling and sprints – displays of oratory and a toga party tying up the week.



This is an annual event, and the society's executive – Frank Winkels (President), Michael O'Donovan (Event Organiser), Felicity Cummins (Treasurer) and Jean Seah (Communications Officer) – hopes to further extend the festivities into the broader community, by collaborating in events with other university clubs.

According to Winkels, the society aims to, "cultivate a general appreciation of

classical culture and expose the students to the richness of ancient, Western culture – mostly Roman and Greek." Furthermore, he states that, "there is a big revival in an appreciation of classical culture, and revival of Latin courses in high schools. This year we want to branch out to other classical societies in different universities to get involved in the wider movement of it all." After Campion, Winkels himself hopes to pursue ancient Greek classics in conjunction with either philosophy or teaching. Evidently, its members have a particular love for the ancient languages, Latin and Greek, and so its practice and study are encouraged.

