

# CAMPION'S BRAG

CATHOLIC LEARNING IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

www.campion.edu.au

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## CAMPION COLLEGE AUSTRALIA

# Cultural & Intellectual Life at Campion



Above left to right: Campion College alumnus Peter O'Donovan; Campion College students Annalise Day, Felicity Cummins, Benjamin Hackett and Samuel Rebbechi; at the Campion Ball.

## Campion College Student Association

Captained by our one and only, Sam Rebbechi, supported the whole way by the lovely Chanel de Bono, and kept track of financially by yours truly, the CCSA has done great things this year.

Along with all of the annual events whose organisation falls to us – the beloved Saint Patrick's Day Party and the recent Melbourne Cup Day, to name just two – we have, led by Sam, initiated the wildly popular 'CCSA Leadership Series.' This year we hosted two speakers: the first, Damien Tudehope MP, the member for Epping, spoke about the realities, challenges (and perks!) of being a Catholic in political life; the second, the famous Australian Poet Les Murray, read some of his own poetry and signed books for his audience members. Both occasions were entertaining, informative and valuable. We look to continue this newly found tradition, and in general to facilitate the continued growth of the CCSA.

I would like personally to thank Sam and Chanel for their wonderful work this year: Sam, for his ability to combine charisma, boundless ambition and confidence, and a laid back and friendly approach to everything and everyone; and Chanel, for her eternally calm, determined and no-nonsense approach to every task entrusted to her – and, in particular, the amazing Ball we recently hosted here at the College – while still managing to be unfailingly friendly and kind to everyone around her. It has been an edifying and humbling experience to work with these two. Here's to hoping that future CCSAs will model themselves on such outstanding individuals who, together, make such a high calibre team! *By Nicholas Augimeri*

Below left to right: Students celebrating Melbourne Cup Day; Clare Cattell, Andrea Juanta, Seamus Coulson and Chelsea Fernandes.



## Public Speaking Competition

The art of rhetoric is central to a Liberal Arts education and the showpiece of this art at Campion is the Frank Sheed Public Speaking Competition. Congratulations to the following five finalists who in very different and creative ways spoke on the topic, **"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act"** (George Orwell):

**Jerome Shogren**, who in a very well crafted and spirited speech managed to articulate why speaking the truth is so counter cultural today;

**Katherine Turnbull**, who gave a very poignant, personal and beautifully delivered account that among many things demonstrated why personal honesty is indeed revolutionary;

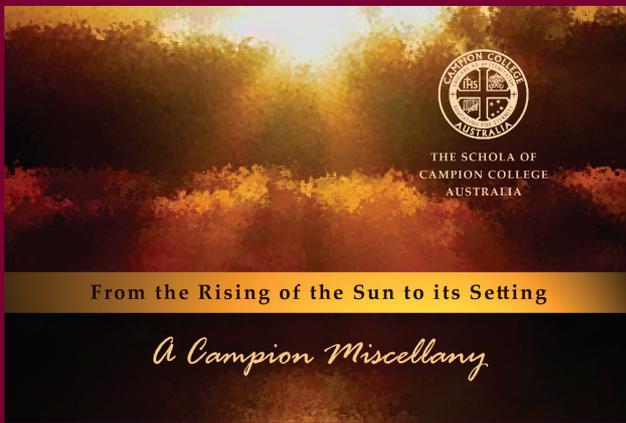
**Nicholas Augimeri**, who brilliantly addressed the topic using Plato's allegory of the cave;

**Julia Schumann**, who delivered a superbly constructed speech that commenced with a dramatic revisiting of Sophie Scholl's revolutionary act in Nazi Germany and concluded with a recounting of Julia's own truth telling revolution;

**Benedict Slee**, who encouraged the audience not to compromise on truth and to take inspiration from the revolutionary actions of the Incarnate Word, Truth Himself.

Each of the finalists demonstrated the importance of public speaking in a Liberal Arts education. The judges, who had a very difficult job indeed, awarded the prizes to the following:  
1) Nicholas Augimeri  
2) Jerome Shogren  
3) Katherine Turnbull. A special acknowledgment to Dr Andrew Foong for his generous sponsorship of the competition and to Dr Stephen McInerney for organising the event.

Left to Right: Nicholas Augimeri, Katherine Turnbull, Benedict Slee, Jerome Shogren, Julia Schumann.

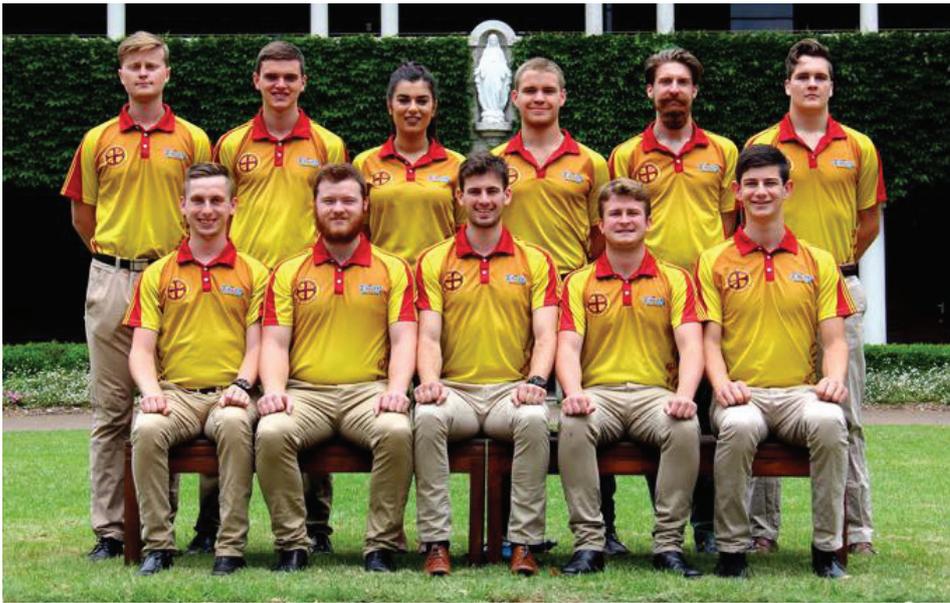


## New Champion College Schola CD

The New Champion College Schola CD - "From the Rising of the Sun to its Setting, A Champion Miscellany" was launched at Formal Hall on Thursday 20 August 2015 by Fr Peter Williams and Bernard Kirkpatrick. Fr Peter Williams, the administrator of Parramatta Diocese was the guest speaker of the evening. Bernard Kirkpatrick is the Music Director at Champion College and has the task of preparing and implementing the music programme for the college liturgies and training of the Champion College Schola.

This CD of sacred music was recorded in the Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy Convent, Parramatta, in November 2014. The artwork for the CD cover was designed by Champion College staff member Teresa Gambino. **The CD may be received by ticking a box on the enclosed donation flyer. Donations will support the Schola.**

## Campion College Rowing Club



Students participating in the Champion College Rowing Club: (back row, left to right), Andrew McLaurin, Benedikt Winkels, Grace Hesse, Anthony Boston, David McMahon, Seamus Coulson, (front row, left to right), Jerome Shogren, Michael O'Donovan, Joseph Rebbechi, Jacob Munday, Awtel Power:

*The Champion College Rowing Club was formed by Champion College student and rowing enthusiast Jacob Munday in 2014. An overview of the club's second season is found below.*

**W**e know that the best is yet to come. However the Champion College Rowing Club has enjoyed a stellar second season which has included much success in competition, our own fleet of boats, and the formation of a Ladies Crew.

In our second season, Champion oarsmen competed in the prestigious Head of the Nepean earlier this year, challenging Sydney University, UTS and other major clubs' in a 5km Time Trial on the Nepean River. The Crew also competed in the Scullers Head and the Annual Nepean Rowing Club Regatta. However the most successful regatta of the year was the University of Newcastle Regatta held on the Hunter River last month. We achieved three podium positions on the day, with Joseph Rebbechi (Club Captain) and Anthony Boston placing first, winning the James McDonald Medal, in the C Grade Double Scull.

With the help of a generous benefactor, the limits of our dreams have been exceeded, having secured funds to restore two quad racing sculls. The two boats have been named after the founders of the College: Mr Karl Schmude and Mr James Power Senior. Our small fleet has been proudly stamped with the College crest and striped in maroon and gold. The committee is planning to showcase these boats to the College community at some stage in the near future.

The recently formed Ladies Rowing Crew has also had a great start, The Crew is led by Grace Hesse (1st Year) who passionately took on the reigns earlier this year as our first Ladies Captain. The Crew includes Dominique Matuszek, Felicity Cummins, Celeste Burns, and Grace Nichols (who comes from a rowing family and is doing them proud here in Sydney). This is another exciting development for the Champion rowing programme!

Moving into the future, the Champion Rowing Crew provides interested students with the opportunity to participate in a good, clean sport which encourages a lifestyle of discipline and camaraderie. The Crews look forward to welcoming new members and supporters for the 2016 season.

## Alumni Formal Hall

Over wine and a fine meal, twenty three alumni and over fifty current students, staff, and guests (including two babies) gathered for the Alumni Formal Hall. This annual dinner encourages alumni to reconnect and also meet and share with the current students. Elanor Barr (nee Hitchings), Norbert Neville and Frances Hopkins spoke to the full-house about their time at Champion, the nature of the degree and the challenges that await graduates in the future. Elyse Burns, Benjamin Kroon and Daniel Vieira then joined the speakers on a Q&A panel, sharing



*Campion College Alumna Elanor Barr speaking on the profession of Teaching and the Champion College experience.*

their insights and advice: the power of prayer and the importance of being Christ-like was reinforced. Illustrating from their own experience, the alumni showed how going through Champion equips students with the tools needed to deal with the challenges they will face, and allows them to pursue many various goals.

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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 edited by Dr Paul Morrissey and compiled by Teresa Gambino on behalf of the Campion Foundation, a non-profit company which has established Campion College Australia as a tertiary institution of Catholic inspiration.

“ The various speakers at the Chesterton Conference, explored the connections between major Catholic figures, and highlighted the ways in which they gave new life to the intellectual and social traditions of the Church. ”

Mr Karl Schmude, speaking at the recent Chesterton Conference at Campion College.



## Conference on Chesterton & the ‘Convert Cardinals’

A regular event in the Campion calendar is the Chesterton conferences held every second year at the College.

On October 31, the Australian Chesterton Society organised a conference on the theme, ‘A Third Spring,’ which focused on Chesterton and the two famous ‘convert Cardinals’ of the 19th century, Newman and Manning.

The various speakers explored the connections between these major Catholic figures, and highlighted the ways in which they gave new

life to the intellectual and social traditions of the Church.

Paul Morrissey, President of Campion College, gave the opening paper on Chesterton himself, exploring his understanding of the human person, after which Garrick Small, Associate Professor in the School of Business and Law at Central Queensland University, spoke on Chesterton and Manning. He compared the respective contributions they made to the forging of a Catholic social tradition, bridging the 19th and 20th centuries.

A musical interlude took place after lunch, in which a group of Campion students and

graduates, led by Robert van Gend, sang a number of items relating to Newman, in particular his well-known hymns, such as ‘Lead, Kindly Light’.

The final two papers were delivered by Stephen McInerney, Senior Lecturer in Literature at Campion College, speaking on Newman’s *Idea of a University* and his serving as Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland, while Karl Schmude, President of the Australian Chesterton Society, explored the similarities between Edmund Campion and Newman. *The papers are available on request. Please tick the appropriate box on the donor flyer.*

## CSWT Events

“ Dr. Jeremy Bell shines in CSWT Seminars and Conference... ”

The Centre for the Study of Western Tradition has wrapped up what has proven to be a highly varied and eventful year. First semester featured book-themed seminars on Christian Platonism, political biography and even a philosophy of conspiracy while second semester featured the work of Catholics in Psychology. The year ended with a day conference to mark the eighth centenary of the Magna Carta which was held at the plush Menzies Hotel in Sydney’s CBD. Speakers included Julian Burnside, Augusto Zimmermann, Tim Wilson, Patrick Quirk, Keith Thompson and Campion College’s own Dr Jeremy Bell, who started lecturing in History and Philosophy at Campion College this year. Dr Bell has proven to be a highly valued colleague, with his work on Thomism and punishment featuring in the CSWT seminar series in the second semester and with his speech at the conference, touching on jury nullification, catching the attention of Sydney’s *The Catholic Weekly* newspaper. We look forward to what the centre has in store in 2016.



## Recently Mentioned...

Campion College was recently mentioned in the July 27 edition of *The Australian Financial Review* - lauded for its undergraduate history program, as part of a review by the Institute of Public Affairs. The excerpt below is from p.12:

Most Australian universities fail to teach proper undergraduate history courses, offering instead a “range of disconnected subjects on narrow themes and issues focusing on imperialism, popular culture, film studies, and ethnic/race history”, a new study from the Institute of Public Affairs shows.

The study, which reviewed 739 history subjects offered by 34 tertiary institutions, found that only three universities – the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, and Monash University – came close to matching the “historical comprehensiveness” offered by Oxford and Cambridge, which were regarded as the benchmark.

It reviewed the history subjects offered by each institution, awarding one point for coverage of each of 16 topics: ancient Greece, ancient Rome, medieval Europe, renaissance/reformation Europe, early modern British history, later modern British history, early modern European history, later modern European history, US history, Asian history (India, China, Japan, south-east Asia or Asia at large), Australian colonial history, 20th century Australian history, 20th century world history, religious history, intellectual history and economic history.

### Score awarded for range of subjects offered in undergraduate history courses

Institution	Score
Uni of Sydney	13
Macquarie	12
Monash	12
Aust Catholic Uni	11
Campion College	11
Uni of New England	11
UNSW	11
Uni of Melbourne	11
ANU	10
Edith Cowan	10
Uni of Adelaide	10
Uni of Queensland	10
Uni of Tasmania	9
Uni of WA	9
La Trobe Uni	8
Uni of Western Sydney	8
Uni of Newcastle	7
Uni of Notre Dame	7
Flinders Uni	6
Uni of Wollongong	6
Murdoch Uni	5
Victoria Uni	5
Curtin Uni	5
CQUniversity	4
Charles Sturt Uni	4
Deakin Uni	4
James Cook Uni	4
Uni of Southern Queensland	4
Avondale College	3
Charles Darwin Uni	3
Uni of SA	3
Uni of the Sunshine Coast	3
Griffith Uni	2
Southern Cross Uni	1

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# Rome Summer School 2016

Campion College Australia will hold a Summer School in Latin & Literature in Rome from 8-24 July 2016. The course will explore the Eternal City through its language and its legacy. It will trace the evolution of the function and meaning of the city of Rome through the examination of key public spaces and monuments. Students will read pagan and Christian Latin texts in their original home and explore the visions of Rome through the eyes of writers across the centuries. Information on the School is available on the Campion website: [www.campion.edu.au](http://www.campion.edu.au)

*The 'Church of Saints Luca & Martina' (left in the photo) is located in the 'Forum Romanum' next to the 'Arch of Septimius Severus'.*



## Shortlisted for The Australian "Vogel's Literary Award"



*Campion College's literature lecturer, Dr Colin Dray (above far right), was this year shortlisted for The Australian Vogel's Literary Award.*

*The competition is open to those under 35, and awards its winner with \$20,000 and their manuscript published by Allen & Unwin. Dr Dray's piece, Sign, revolves around a young boy who loses his voice after a serious operation...*

Dettie's operation had not gone so well as Sam's, and she told him so. The next morning, lying in his hospital bed, his entire body somehow tender, lips cracked and dry, his neck throbbing beneath its bandages, Dettie sat on the edge of the mattress, one hand cupping his knee, as she told him the whole of her story — or at least all that she remembered. She spoke slowly, her voice warm and measured, as if reading him a bedtime story. From the first pinch in her chest, to the searing down her arm; from the thunder and sway of the ambulance; through the stench of ammonia in the operating room; until she woke on the other side of the anaesthesia, bruised and sliced and

nauseous, a burning sensation still eating down into her heart. Sam sat in place trying to nod, his head still cloudy, a sting rising up from his jaw, thinking he saw the faintest smile creep at the corner of her mouth.

She'd been lucky, she said. And so had he. And together they would both be stronger than they'd been before. "See, people break sometimes, Sammy," she said. "Like a toy, or a car, or a bone. Things come apart. But that's not the end of them. They can be put back together. Fixed up. And you know what? Afterwards, those things are stronger, always, in the broken places."

Sam blinked, trying now not to move his head at all. She was probably right, he thought, but he didn't feel stronger yet. What he felt instead was the tape tugging on the skin of his throat. He felt stitches beneath the gauze pulling at his flesh in a hot, itchy throbbing. He could feel the other stitches that were still inside him — string holding his body in place — the ones that the doctor said would disappear over time. He already had the strange chalky taste of them dissolving at the back of his throat. And beneath all of that was a hollow that he had never known before, a cold, empty ache where his voice had once been. Every time Dettie would tell her story, Sam would sit in place, nodding his head as she spoke. He would peer out into the hallway, unable to speak even if he had anything to say, wondering where in that cavernous building his own operation had occurred. Whenever Dettie left he would roll back over on his side, feeling the tape around his bandages tug at his throat, feeling the unseen stitches beneath pull tight at his flesh.

It had started when he was nine years old, after his father moved to Perth. Sam had been having trouble swallowing and started feeling a sharp pain in his ear. By the time he was 10, and his father had stopped sending postcards, he was bald, silent, and blistered with radiation. Long before the surgery, a doctor had explained his condition by showing him a goofy cartoon filled with sneering blue monsters and sword-fighting white blood cells, but as Sam had watched their colours tremble and dance he forgot what all of it meant. His mother had joked about how important he must be to see so many specialists, and Sam felt tall in their waiting rooms when the nurses would

smile and wave hello. He was stage two, the doctors decided at last, which meant the cancer had spread and he would have to lose his voice.

A week before the operation he'd almost won a class alphabet game by spelling the words larynx, lymph nodes and laryngectomy. But Mrs Fletcher had made him sit down when he started describing the procedure with a red-tipped pencil. Two months later, after an upper endoscopy that made him gag, two CT scans, four ultrasounds, and an oral surgeon who kept prodding his neck and dipping his greylflecked eyebrows in disapproval, Sam's final words were, "Batman, because he doesn't have any superpowers," as a gas mask slid over his face. Weeks later the liquids, exams and radiation had condensed his saliva into snot.

In his mother's dresser drawer there was a yellow cassette from when he was younger. On it was a recording of he and his father singing Mary had a Little Lamb. Sam had been thumping the microphone and his father had to keep breaking the melody to get him to stop. "You had the sweetest little voice," his mother told him once, as though remembering some distant birdcall.

## Upcoming Events

### Graduation

Campion College will celebrate its 8th graduation on **Thursday 10 December**.

This will be the first graduation where students who have nominated to study the one year Diploma of Liberal Arts will graduate with that award.

### Summer Week

Campion College's annual Summer Week program will be held in **January 2016**. It is a unique opportunity for young people to experience the Liberal Arts program while learning leadership skills and nurturing their personal, spiritual and social development.

### Matriculation

Campion College will commence the 2016 academic year and welcome its new students at the Matriculation Ceremony on **29 February 2016**. The ceremony will

begin with Mass and be followed by a BBQ luncheon for all guests, students and staff.

Please consider a bequest to Campion College Australia