

CAMPION'S BRAG

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CAMPION COLLEGE AUSTRALIA Celebrating 10 Years

C O N T E N T S *WYD 2016*

Christopher Lee addresses over 3,000 people at World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland.

The Rome School

Latin and Literature were studied by participants attending the Campion College Rome School during July.

A Musical Place

A reflection by Dr Amitavo Islam, Philosophy Lecturer on the musical life at Campion College.

X-Gangster Visit

John Pridmore on the transforming power of God, visits Campion College and speaks about his journey.

Chesterton Conference

Chesterton was a literary artist, who evoked a world of wonder. The Chesterton Conference will be coming to Campion College.

and much more...

I n this edition of the Brag we continue to focus on our ten year anniversary. An important feature of this is highlighting stories from alumni, 'Where are they now'. Included in this edition is our very own Librarian Keziah Doughty. She describes her journey since graduating and her time at Campion College as being a formative experience for which she is very grateful for.



Images from the Campion College story (2010-2012).

Other stories include one by our philosophy lecturer, Dr Amitavo Islam, who has been with the College for over eight years and speaks about his many pleasures observing the musical talent at the College.

International journeys were made by some students to Rome for the Campion College Literature and Latin study programmes and to Kraków for World Youth Day. They came back joyous and inspired. We also feature Prof. Iain Benson who gave the annual St Edmund Campion Lecture entitled "Law & Religious Liberty Today". The lecture was preceded by Mass which marked the feast of St Edmund Campion, followed by a formal dinner.

The upcoming conference of the Australian Chesterton Society will be held in October. It will explore the many sides of his literary imagination. *Dr Paul Morrissey*

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Mary Winkels



The education I received at Campion was invaluable. Since graduating I worked as a policy research officer on behalf of Catholic health and social services at the Archdiocese of Sydney, while pursuing a Masters of Public Health at Sydney University. My critical thinking skills and comprehensive understanding of cultural and social history informed my ability to evaluate policy and research. After managing a publishing house for two years, I am currently a project manager in programme development, working in a federal government agency to support the aged care sector. The difference of my work in communication and problem-solving can be attributed to my foundational education in the Liberal Arts.

Campion: a Musical Place



Lecturer in Philosophy, Dr Amitavo Islam, reflects on working at Campion College since 2008, which includes his observation of the musical talent at the college.

One of the many incidental pleasures of being a lecturer at Campion is that, as I walk past the Perez De Sala Lecture Theatre, or give a tutorial in the Bromley Room, not infrequently I can hear the sound of one student or another practicing, with what appears to me to be great expertise, on the grand piano in the Dining Hall. The piece might be by Chopin or Rachmaninoff, or Debussy. Later, I might encounter the same piece, presented publicly as part of a musical interlude during Formal Hall. Sometimes, it will be one of our violinists I hear, or the interplay of voices of the Schola. And these are just one or two of the many contexts in which the musical talent of our students is manifested. So, from the first, since I began working full-time at the College in 2008, Campion has presented itself to me as a musical place.

But not just in the straightforward sense I've so far described. For the ancient Greeks – for Plato and Aristotle – for a person to be musical was closely related to his or her being more generally cultured or educated. (When Aristotle trots out his go-to example of the 'musical man', one should not imagine some Harold Hill-esque character twirling a baton.) To become musical in this broader sense is to develop a sort of harmony, order or proportion in the soul, a harmony reflecting in its structure and, turn and turn about, being reflected by, the sort of harmony perceptible by the ear. As Plato puts it in The Republic, the person who takes music and other activities and

brings them to his soul in the most proper measure is the one of whom we would most correctly say that he is the most perfectly musical and well harmonized.

At Campion even students who (as I do) lack literal musical training, become via an analogous process attuned to the treasures of their cultural heritage, learn to hear the interplay of voices that constitutes their cultural tradition. Moreover, I've found in my time here that the musicality of this place finds expression not just in thought but in the character of the students. There is a kindness, camaraderie, good humour and lack of cynicism in their dealings with each other - in other words, a harmony - that is lovely to observe. This applies not just to the students but also to my colleagues; we share what seems to me to be a rare unity of purpose deriving from our each being drawn freely towards the one good. It is a source of great satisfaction to me to have heard this music in its various forms and to have played a part in it, in concert with the other members of the Faculty, by helping young people orient themselves to the world of thought, and to things of eternal value. And it is particularly gratifying to know that there are many former students who evidently continue, whether it be in a formal academic capacity or in their everyday lives, to find meaning in that world and in such things.

WYD 2016

The World Youth Day Pilgrimage I embarked upon was one of the most challenging yet fulfilling experience I've had in my life. Before heading to Poland for the World youth Day week, we first stopped at the Philippines to take part in mission work. After the Philippines we headed into Poland. I felt privileged and blessed to speak in front of three thousand young people at the Australian gathering in Poland. I gave my testimony on faith. While I was standing on stage I had a moment where I was able to reflect on how far God has brought me in my life. From being someone who had major insecurities and made bad decisions to then being

asked to give witness was a moment of clarity, where I saw in myself the Man God wanted me to be. It was an experience which I will never forget and one which I encourage all young Catholics to take part in. *Christopher Lee, first year student*

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BBQ-A Gift

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Bunnings Seven Hills generously donated a Jumbuck – Black 4 Burner Hooded Barbecue with Side Burner. The Barbeque will be put to good use by our Chef and students. If you or a friend can assist the College in donating new goods please contact Yvette Nehme Director of Development – ph: 02 9896 9300 email: foundation@campion.edu.au



Mark Makowiecki



Landing a job at the Australian Christian Lobby can be put down to three things: the providence of God, a desire to combine my passion for faith and politics, and having studied at Campion College. I have always sought to synthesise seemingly disparate elements into a coherent whole; three years at Campion refined this and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in both faith and politics, not one to the exclusion of the other. An equally important synthesis is the possession of a reasonable faith, such that the Christian voice is credible in the political sphere. This too is something Campion imparts to its students: a gift that gives me the confidence to speak the truth in the public square.

SEC Lecture

ampion College Australia was proud to host Prof. Iain Benson as the featured speaker for the 2016 St. Edmund Campion Mass, Lecture & Dinner held on Thursday 23rd June 2016.

Prof. Benson's lecture was entitled "Law and Religious Liberty Today". In it, he unpacked the issue of religious liberty and showed how this issue orbited around the theme of language and the current phenomenon which strips words of their intrinsic meaning. From there, Prof. Benson showed how political discourse can function as a stream of nice sounding platitudes, commonly referred to as values, with little



Above: Guest Lecturer Prof. Iain Benson at the St. Edmund Campion Mass, Lecture and Dinner.

substantive content to undergird them. Thus the cultural system based on universal virtues has been replaced by one based on undefined and particularist values. Students, staff and the board of governers packed into the lecture theatre for the highly engaging lecture, and it was standing room only.

The lecture was preceded by a sung Mass, presided by the college chaplain, Fr. Peter Kruk OP. The Mass was accompanied by the wonderful singing of the Campion College Schola and marked the feast and martyrdom of the college's patron, St. Edmund Campion.

Rome School Reflection

Third year student Monica Vieira attended the Rome School in July and highlights the adventure of spending time studying and touring the ancient places of Italy.

I cannot imagine a better way to spend two weeks than on the Campion Rome School. My favourite aspect about the Rome School was that it gave all that I've learnt so far in my degree at Campion College a sense of tangibility and reality. Walking around the streets of the ancient city, we were constantly coming across something that we had studied about, whether it be the place where Julius Caesar was stabbed by the senators, the tomb of St Peter or the paintings in the Sistine Chapel. As the birthplace of Western civilisation, learning about the history of Rome also gave me a clearer understanding of the modern world. In addition to the amazing educational experience that it was, the Rome School was also in many ways like a spiritual retreat. As we visited magnificent cathedrals and basilicas, or climbed the Holy Stairs on our knees, we were constantly aware of the significance of Rome for the Church. In connection with this, one of the highlights



Above left to right: Campion College students Celeste Burns, Madeleine Kirk, Monica Vieira and Elise McDonald.

of the trip for me was the dinner we had with Cardinal Pell. I was lucky enough to be on his table, and it was a wonderful opportunity to listen and talk to such a wise and holy man. And on top of the wonderful spiritual and intellectual journey that it was, the Rome School was just a fabulous holiday! Who would not love spending two weeks in an Italian summer with a great bunch of people, eating pasta and gelato to our heart's content and seeing some of the greatest artefacts of the Western world? I for one have never enjoyed anything more.

Below: Campion College students with Cardinal George Pell in Rome.



Please consider a bequest to Campion College Australia



Keziah Doughty



Prior from graduating from Campion College in 2012, I was accepted into the Lachlan Macquarie Internship in Public Policy which I entered the following year. This was a highly valuable experience which allowed me to build on the knowledge I had gained at Campion and apply the skills I had learned during my studies. Following the internship, I completed a Masters in Teaching before returning to work at Campion College managing the Library and Learning Centre. In addition to working, I have also been able to continue my education in information science and pursue my interests in education, policy and politics. My time at Campion College was a formative experience for which I am very grateful.



A Visit by an X-Gangster

hursday evening on 4th August 2016, in collabortion with Parousia Media, Mr John Pridmore, an X-Gangster turned Catholic Evangelist came to Campion College and spoke to students and visitors on his amazing story of coming out of a life of crime through the grace of God.

John is the author of the international bestselling book 'From Gangland to Graceland'. He spoke powerfully about the wonder of choosing God and the power that God has in transforming our lives.

A World of Wonder: G. K. Chesterton and the Literary Imagination

A CONFERENCE of the Australian Chesterton Society at Campion College Australia

- Saturday, October 29, 2016 -

Chesterton was a literary artist, a painter in words, who evoked a world of wonder in his vast range of writings. His vibrant imagination brought new life to truths and realities that are of permanent importance but often deadened and distorted by familiarity.

Speakers Will Include:

Greg Sheridan John Young Gary Furnell Symeon Thompson Karl Schmude

> *Further Details:* Karl Schmude

> > 0407 721 458



We are very pleased to announce that we now have a fundraising page on GiveNow website https://www.givenow.com.au/ campioncollege - share the link with your friends and family. For further information contact foundation@campion.edu.au

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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 Yvette Nehme (Director of Development) 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.

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