



Easter Term
at Campion

The Campion Vision

Perspectives of a New President

In February, the Australian Catholic Students' Association (ACSA) held its inaugural Cardinal Newman Dinner at St John's College, University of Sydney. The dinner was organised by a third-year student at Campion College, Jordan Grantham, who is the NSW President of ACSA.

The Occasional Address was delivered by Campion's new President, **Dr Ryan Messmore**, who explored the purpose of a university education. An edited version of his speech appears below.

What is the purpose of a university education?

Today the answer, most likely, would be offered in utilitarian terms – that the purpose is to enable students to gain employment. This is education viewed as job training.

Another common answer is research – the desirability of accumulating knowledge in a certain area.

These are no doubt good things, but they beg the question – 'research for what end', 'knowledge for what purpose'.

Useful knowledge, of course, is a good and noble pursuit, but a purely utilitarian mindset leads to an incomplete, narrowed-down education.

Subjects that are not seen to produce immediate benefits in the commercial marketplace are slowly pushed to the fringes of the university and stigmatized as curious, irrelevant hobbies.

A strictly utilitarian approach to education tends to ignore entire dimensions of the human person – such as the spiritual dimension.

Education as job training is not true to who we were created to be as human beings. And it is not even true to what employers say they want in an employee – ie, thoughtfulness, adaptability, innovation, discernment, and good communication skills.

'The end of education is not just to make a living, but to make a certain kind of life.'



Dr Ryan Messmore speaking at ACSA's Cardinal Newman Dinner

Citizenship

By contrast, I believe we should view the purpose of education not as mere training for a career but as training in *citizenship* — that is, participation in a certain kind of community. Every society needs to train its citizens in vision and virtue, which is what universities are particularly equipped to do. The end of

education is not just to make a living, but to make a certain kind of life.

The purpose of the university is to cultivate the *virtuous citizen*. For this we need to know the purpose of human life. And if the hope is to shape a *good society*, we need to understand the purpose for which God created society.

For universities to accomplish their full task, they must

address the higher questions of what it means to be human and what makes for human flourishing.

They must take theology seriously. Addressing theological questions – questions of origin and purpose – also helps education to be integrated.

A good university teaches how all things hang together. It teaches the connections between disciplines – the way different facts and fields and objects of knowledge relate to one other.

Vision

In addition to virtuous citizens, society needs to cultivate *citizens of vision*, citizens who see the world in a certain way; who develop an intellectual framework or worldview that helps us to see accurately. Education entails vision training.

A university that trains vision and virtue does not trap students in a single career track but prepares them to enter any field and be able to learn what is necessary for success. It does not trap students in trends and fashions of the day but helps them to understand the influence of their context and community. It does not enslave students to their own passions and urges but helps them to order their desires toward the good, the true and the beautiful.

This is the kind of education we offer at Campion College – an education in the 'liberal' arts. Campion is in the business of liberation – of setting people free to flourish as human beings, made in the image of God.

Education for the City of God will look different from education for the City of Man.

The purpose of education is training in citizenship. The question is, for which City?

A recording of Dr Messmore's address on CD can be requested from the College – via the enclosed donation flyer.



Peter Coleman Launches a Champion Book

Dr Peter Coleman speaking at the Champion book launch

In April, the distinguished author and former political leader, Dr Peter Coleman, launched a book consisting chiefly of papers delivered at a conference on the Liberal Arts, held at Champion College in December 2010.

Entitled *On the Purpose of a University Education*, the book was edited by the College's Senior Lecturer in History, Dr Luciano Boschiero, and published by Australian Scholarly Publishing. It was launched at the Sydney bookshop, Gleebooks.

In his address, Dr Coleman began by highlighting the image on the book's cover (reproduced here), which is a sketch from the 12th century encyclopedia, *Hortus Deliciarum*, by the Abbess Herrad of Landsberg.

He noted that it 'illustrates perfectly the great medieval understanding of the university,' with the Queen of Wisdom – Philosophy – at the centre of the circle, around which stand seven women representing the liberal arts.

Below the circle are four false prophets, depicted as men. 'They are,' remarked Dr Coleman, 'the professors of, let us say, atheism, relativism, anarchism and modernist poetry.'

Dr Coleman wondered whether the history of university education since the 12th century was 'the story of the gradual triumph of these false prophets over the Queen of Wisdom.'

At first imperceptible, this process quickened in later centuries. In Australia, it reached a watershed at the founding of Sydney University in the mid-19th century, when a secularist view prevailed – since which time, Dr Coleman noted, we have seen 'the gradual abandonment of the liberal arts and the closing of the Australian mind.'

What Dr Coleman called 'the calamitous consequences of the secular settlement in Sydney' forms the message of *On the Purpose of a University Education*.

Reanimating the ideal of a university

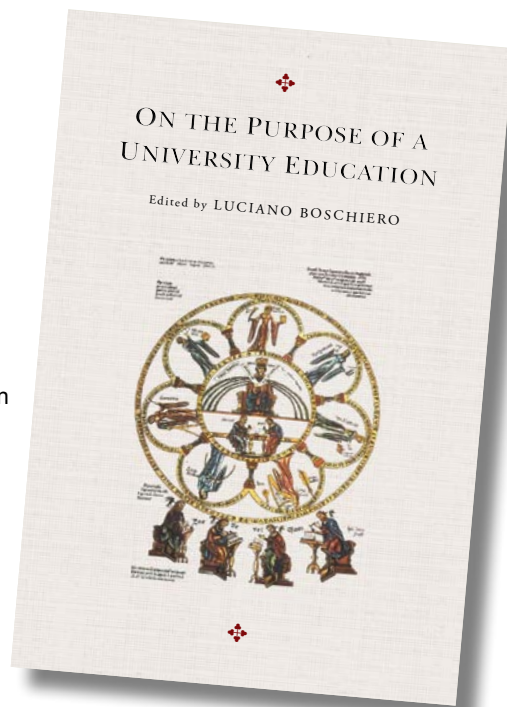
The secularists, he said, 'continued year by year to consolidate their triumphs. The liberal arts continued to decline. Vocationalism, commercial utilitarianism and political progressivism continued to supplant the cultivation of wisdom as the University's purpose.'

Yet a reaction has begun to set in – and Dr Coleman singled out Champion College as playing a key part in Australia in reanimating 'the old liberal and Christian ideal that the purpose of a university is the cultivation of wisdom.'

The contributors to the Champion conference, he observed, were aware of the historic challenge they face, but 'they have opened a conversation on first and last things,' calling for the restoration of the liberal arts and placing the Christian revelation at the centre of university education.

The book begins, he noted, with Luciano Boschiero's confident appeal to the ideals of John Henry Newman and calls for a return to those liberal and medieval ideals. It ends with Gregory Melleuish's cry from the wilderness: "We are standing in the ruins."

In between are major papers on the medieval ideal of a university (by Constant J. Mews), on the integration of disciplines (by Stephen McInerney), on the history of liberal education in Australia (by Geoffrey Sherington and Hannah Forsyth) and its decline (by Arran Gare).



Dr Coleman described *On the Purpose of a University Education* as a 'splendid book,' and strongly recommended it 'to anyone alarmed by the present condition and the future prospects of our secular universities.'

Copies can be purchased directly, at a cost of \$39.95, from Australian Scholarly Publishing in Melbourne. Please see its website for details: www.scholarly.info/book/329/



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Campion's Brag

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Campion student and the New Evangelisation

Ernest Cheung in the Yunnan province near Tibet at the time he was teaching English in China. The river in the background flows down to the Yangtze, and was in flood that year.



The College attracts an increasing variety of students, not only school-leavers but also those who have pursued studies and a particular career path elsewhere before coming to Campion.

A student who recently enrolled in First Year is Ernest Cheung who, though born in Queensland, spent his early life in Hong Kong before returning to Australia.

Now in his early 30s, he was educated at a number of Christian schools but not baptised a Christian until later at the Wesley Mission in Sydney. Subsequently he was confirmed a Catholic at St Ignatius Church in Toowong in Brisbane.

'Following my conversion,' Ernest has

said, 'I completed the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. These have influenced the choices I have made in seeking to follow the will of God rather than necessarily what I personally would have wanted.'

In 2002, Ernest completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) at the University of Queensland (UQ), working first in the stock market as an analyst and then at UQ as an Associate Lecturer.

After taking the opportunity to teach English in China for 12 months, he then decided to pursue the Liberal Arts. He was attracted to Campion, not only for its core program of studies but also, as he has mentioned, 'to continue my journey in seeking the will of God in my life.'

He would like to study philosophy or theology at the postgraduate level and eventually teach Catholic social doctrine and business ethics.

In particular, he has a deep interest in evangelising Chinese people.

Like many students at Campion, Ernest benefits from a scholarship generously provided by a supporter of the College – in this case, the Margaret Ann Bradley Scholarship given in her memory by her son Thomas.

Ernest has made clear that he could not have come to Campion without this financial support.

Life after Campion

– What our graduates do

Since 2008 when the College held its initial Graduation, there have been more than 80 students who have built on their foundational Liberal Arts degree to pursue a range of postgraduate studies and vocational pathways.

In these early years of Campion's history, the most favoured area is teaching (which around 30% of our graduates choose), followed by law, journalism, medicine, industrial relations, and international affairs.

Two students have entered Religious life as Sisters, and several among the current student body are discerning vocations to the priesthood.

A Campion marriage – and a career in business

One graduate who has followed a distinctive path is Tim Wallace.

Originally from Brisbane, he was part of Campion's inaugural class in 2006.

He recalls being interested in the College long before it started – for both religious and educational reasons.

He comes from a large family for whom the Catholic faith has always been a strong influence. As a teenager, he enjoyed reading about politics and religion and thought the Liberal Arts would offer a good beginning of his higher education.

Not only did he find the Campion program interesting, but the College's life provided

opportunities for him to deepen his faith while also nurturing leadership skills and a range of friendships.

One friendship in particular proved decisive. Tim met his future wife at Campion. In addition, he began to handle material – churchwares in the College chapel – that would prepare him for his future career.

As he explains:

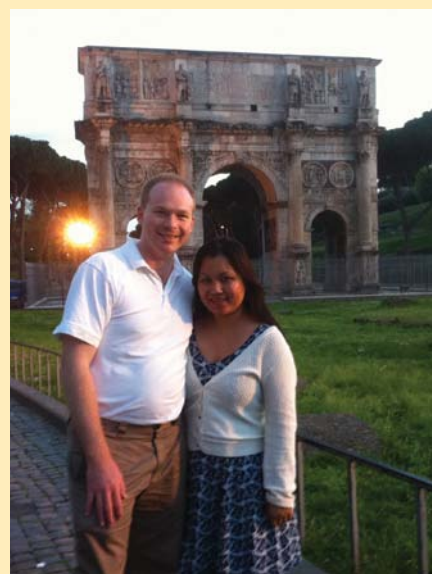
'In my second year I was appointed Sacristan, responsible for maintaining order and tidiness in the chapel. Through this role I met Ivy Marie, one of the new students, who came to assist me.'

After graduating in 2008, Tim enrolled in a teaching degree but, conscious of the need for income as he and Ivy contemplated marriage, he accepted a full-time job at Church Stores in Sydney. They were married a year later.

Tim found that his experience as a Sacristan in churchwares, as well as opportunities, in the small and personal environment of Campion, to develop leadership skills, especially in organisation and communication, gave him great advantages in retail and the provision of church supplies.

In less than three years, he has progressed from a sales assistant to General Manager.

Most recently, he was sent to Italy



Tim and Ivy Wallace standing before the Arch of Constantine in Rome

for a Church Services conference. Accompanied by Ivy*, he visited Rome and other European cities.

'Having been exposed at Campion to the riches of the Western tradition,' Tim has remarked, 'these cultural centres, with their churches and art, held a particular significance for us.'

'Campion's degree in the Liberal Arts might only require three years,' Tim concludes, 'but it is a sure foundation for finding fulfillment in life.'

**Earlier this year, Ivy joined the staff at Campion College as the Foundation's Development Officer.*



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future generations*

Consider a bequest to Campion

Campion Scholarship for Catholic Media

A special scholarship is now available at Campion as the result of a generous gift from the Confraternity of Christ the Priest (CCS).

Established as a permanent endowment, the scholarship is designed to support the College's evangelisation activities, particularly by fostering Catholic participation in the media.

It is named in memory of Br Michael McMurray CCS, a Religious brother in the Confraternity who was well known in



From left: Sam Rebbechi and Jordan Grantham standing before the statue of St Edmund Campion

Catholic publishing as a journalist and editor. In the past two years, the scholarship has been awarded to two students who are active in Catholic journalism and media – Jordan Grantham and Sam Rebbechi.

Financial support for students

In addition to various scholarships, Campion provides financial aid to many students – in the form of bursaries and on-campus work opportunities.

The work scheme is extensive, covering such areas as the library, the kitchen and the campus grounds. It gives students the chance of working a limited number of hours each week, compatible with their primary need to have adequate time for study.

Campion students come, in the main, from modest backgrounds and the great majority require financial support in order to study and stay at the College.

Any contributions to the Bursary and Work Scheme would be gratefully received – and help to ensure that Campion's growing number of students can manage financially during their years of study.

Campion's Summer Program – January 2014

In mid-January each year, the College holds a week-long Summer Program for senior high school students and other young people interested in sampling the Campion experience.



Audrey Kuhn with fellow student Sarah Byng

The Program is diverse – comprising a mixture of academic, social, religious and recreational activities geared for students who are soon to leave school or have recently done so. The university-level classes include sessions on learning skills that have been found to be especially useful for Year 12 students.

Audrey Kuhn came to the 2013 camp and enrolled subsequently at the College. She offers her reflections on how the Summer Program influenced her decision:

Growing up in Brisbane, Campion College was always an option at the back of my mind. My parish, and later on my friends, extolled it to the skies. They painted it in such glowing colours that I thought, perhaps, it was a thing too good to be true. I was sure it was lovely – marvellous, even – but it couldn't be quite as good as they said.

Then in January 2013, I attended Campion's Summer Program. In a word, it was amazing. The college was just as good as everyone had claimed, if not better.

It was a full-on week of learning and fun, but what really struck me was the warm sense of community. It felt like everyone cared about everyone, and I think it was that feeling of belonging and love that led me to enrolling as a student. It felt like home.

Now a student at the college, I can gladly say that my time with Campion has been wonderful. I truly believe that no other institution in Australia can offer such a well-rounded experience, whether it be academic, spiritual, or social.

It is, simply put, an incredible place to be.

Chesterton Conference at Campion

– 'Reviving the Moral Imagination'

A one-day conference will take place on Saturday, October 19, at Campion College on the theme, 'Reviving the Moral Imagination'.

Organised by the Australian Chesterton Society, the conference will address the need in today's culture for a rebirth of the moral imagination – as a way of opening the mind and the heart to truth.



A special focus will be the contributions of G.K. Chesterton and other writers in revealing reality through the media of the imagination – novels, stories, poems, plays and movies.

Speakers will include Professor Tracey Rowland ('Moral Imagination – the Legacy of the Popes'); Karl Schmude ('G.K. Chesterton and Spencer Tracy – Portraits of the Common Man'); and Professor Donat Gallagher ('Evelyn Waugh at the Movies').

Further information can be obtained by ticking the appropriate box on the donation sheet.