



CAMPION'S BRAG

CATHOLIC LEARNING IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

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CAMPION COLLEGE AUSTRALIA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Australia's 'Poet Laureate' visits Campion



Mr Les Murray inspires students, alumni, staff and guests on a sunny afternoon.

The celebrated Australian poet, Mr Les Murray, made a visit to the campus on 8 August. This event was organised by the Campion College Student Association (CCSA) to be held in conjunction with a Campion alumni reunion weekend.

Mr Murray is commonly regarded as Australia's greatest living poet – and has been dubbed our 'Poet Laureate' despite his down-to-earth nature which forbids pretensions of any kind.

He has received an array of international prizes and attracted the admiration of the world's leading poets, such as the Nobel Prize winner, Joseph Brodsky, who said of him that he "is, quite simply, the one through whom the language lives."

Mr Les Murray has had a long association with Campion College, well before it opened in 2006. In one of the first issues of *Campion's Brag*, published at Christmas 2002, he offered his endorsement of the plan to establish Australia's first college devoted to the Liberal Arts: "At Campion College, students will have the chance to study even the

humanities under scholars who believe there is such thing as truth."

The poet lives with his wife, Valerie, on a farm in Bunyah on the NSW mid-north coast, and while he has supported Campion in various ways over the years – including by providing donations of books and serving as a Patron at College Appeal Dinners in Sydney – he has not previously been able to visit the campus.

“[Les Murray] is, quite simply, the one through whom the language lives.”

On his recent visit, he met staff, students and graduates of the College, and recited a number of his poems before signing books, such as his *Collected Poems*, which were available for purchase.

Welcoming Mr Murray, Mr Karl Schmude read the introductory remarks that had been prepared by Campion's Associate Dean of Studies and Senior Lecturer in Literature, Dr Stephen McInerney, who was

prevented by illness from being present.

Dr McInerney, himself a published poet who has written extensively on Les Murray and taught his poetry at Campion, described him as "without doubt the most significant voice in Australian literature, and one of the masters of the English language..."

"The Australian landscape and its people are illuminated in his work by their dignity, their wonderful strangeness and their uniqueness as God's creatures." (Dr McInerney noted that Mr Murray dedicates his works to the glory of God.)

Dr McInerney also paid tribute to him for being "a great advocate of writers and enterprises that are often overlooked by prevailing fashions," and in giving "space to many writers who are otherwise ignored." He is "a generous person and a brave man, willing to take up unfashionable causes [including Campion College]."

As a convert to Catholicism, Mr Murray has said that the two best Catholic lines he has written – as part of a poem entitled *Church*, dedicated to the memory of Joseph Brodsky – are:

*the true God gives his flesh and blood.
Idols demand yours off you.*



From the left: Sam Rebecchi (CCSA President), Mr Les Murray, Dr Paul Morrissey & Mr Karl Schmude stand with a portrait of Murray that was donated to the college.



From the left: Dr Paul Morissey, Dr Felice and Mrs Margredel Zaccari, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Dr Matthew Tan before his book launch in Brisbane.

A new book by Campion lecturer, Dr Matthew Tan, *Justice, Unity and the Hidden Christ*, was launched by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in Brisbane on 11 July.

Dr Tan, who holds the 'Felice and Margredel Zaccari Lectureship in Theology and Philosophy' position at the College, gave a post-launch lecture on the book, entitled 'The Grammar of a Christian Act'. The book is available for purchase online, including Amazon and Book Depository.

Hildebrand's Highest



High Achiever, Julia Schumann, chose to attend Campion College over other esteemed universities.

The Hildebrand Scholarship is Campion's most prestigious scholarship, awarded to some of Australia's highest achievers as a result of the continuing generosity of the Eusebius Trust. Recipients can receive up to \$36,000 over three years to assist cover expenses in tuition and residential accommodation.

Julia Schumann (pictured above), who comes from Melbourne and received an ATAR of 99.3, chose to attend Campion College Australia over other universities because it had something special to offer: an integrated Catholic education that would provide preparation for any profession by giving her a thorough understanding of the Western world and her own Catholic faith and its traditions. Julia comments below on her experience at Campion College.

My two older sisters had both attended Campion, so I had heard about all of the exciting things that this college had to offer. I knew from their experience that this course offered not only a synthesised and chronological study of the Western tradition, but also an analysis from a Catholic perspective.

The possibility to learn about my faith and culture, in a Catholic environment, struck me not only as exceptionally rare, but infinitely valuable. I, therefore, decided to come because I

knew that this kind of education would stay with me for the rest of my life, regardless of which career I chose to pursue.

I have enjoyed so many aspects of my time at Campion, but my experience has been characterised by the centrality that God has in the course and the community. With the opportunity to attend daily Mass and say the Rosary with my fellow peers, God's presence in every aspect of college life means that the relationships formed here are strong and exceptionally valuable.

I have also found that most of the people at Campion College are living embodiments of faith, love and humility. They are constant examples of how to live in Christ. The culture here has nurtured my faith journey, and this experience has been life-changing.

I have been interested in studying law since I was in year 10, and I am still passionate about pursuing this when I have finished my degree at Campion. I have also been involved in the pro-life movement for some years now, and I would ultimately love to work as a lawyer in this area. Doing whatever I can to foster a culture of life in Australia is something I am passionate about pursuing.

My other great love is ballroom dancing. I would love to dance as much as I can and continue to do it well into the future.

“The possibility to learn about my faith and culture in a Catholic environment struck me not only as exceptionally rare, but infinitely valuable.”

Along with Schumann, Jerome Shogren and Ellen McCumstie are recipients of the Hildebrand Scholarship, which is awarded to those Campion students who received an excellent HSC mark.



Jerome Shogren, who is currently in his second year at Campion, received an ATAR of 97. He attended Centenary State High School in Brisbane. There he was awarded the place of dux in Ancient History, Modern History and English. He also received awards of excellence such as the University of Queensland Award for Excellence in the Humanities and the Best All-Rounder Award for active and successful engagement in all areas of school life.



Third year student, Ellen McCumstie, achieved an ATAR of 97.45. She received this mark from Sacred Heart Girls College in Oakleigh Victoria. There she excelled in Fashion Design & Technology, Business Management, English, History and Literature. She was very active in school events and community service, the National Association of Catholic Families, and various youth groups.

“Campion equipped me with the knowledge of the western world, and The Culture Project is the vehicle by which I can actualise my formation and transform our culture...”
 Frances Hopkins



Hopkins (back row, second from the right) takes part in a pro-life walk with Campion students and friends.

Alumna Launches Australia’s ‘Culture Project’

This year a Campion graduate, Frances Hopkins, has been responsible for a new educational project in Australia. She outlines her experience below.

I was twelve years old when I discovered what abortion was. I was shocked to learn of the unborn’s vulnerability, and the more research I did, the more horrified I became. These youthful discoveries ignited a flame within me that has been burning ever since. Now I’ve found a way to do my part to tackle this tragedy.

My studies at Campion College helped me come to grips with some of the deeper issues behind abortion.

Partway through, I took the chance to go on a study abroad program to Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Canada where I was able to study various encyclicals about life and society. This aided my understanding, which was further helped by my final semester at Campion College where we delved into Catholic social teaching.

Moreover, while I was in North America I trained with The Culture Project, which seeks to make relevant the riches of Catholic social and cultural thought, such as Theology of the Body and Natural Law, to our bereft world.

I graduated from Campion College on the warm summer’s day of 15 December, 2014. That very night I began meetings to launch The Culture Project in Australia. Our mission is to build a civilisation of love and a culture of life by engaging with young people on the issues of human dignity and sexual integrity.

Campion equipped me with the knowledge of the Western world, and the Culture Project is the vehicle by which I can actualise my formation and transform our culture.

The Culture Project works by talking with secondary school students on issues of human dignity and sexual integrity. It affirms their self-worth and value, and helps them see that there’s more to life and love than the media often shows.

I have already seen the fruit this work bears. Before graduating from Campion, I started speaking at schools, conferences and youth groups. After one of these talks a young girl messaged me: “I am pregnant. My mother and sister want me to have an abortion. Can you help me?” We got help for the girl, and her little boy has recently celebrated his second Christmas.

I am thoroughly excited to work full-time in the mission that my heart has been set on since I was twelve. Please keep The Culture Project in your

prayers, especially as we are going through this foundational period.

You can help by contacting Frances Hopkins:
 E-mail: fhopkins@restoreculture.com
www.facebook.com/cultureprojectaustralia



Hopkins graduated from Campion in 2014.

Students Launch Inaugural Leadership Series



Mr Tudehope gave students a new hope to enter politics as a Catholic.

On 22 May, the Campion College Student Association (CCSA) launched its inaugural leadership series with guest speaker Mr Damien Tudehope, a current member of the NSW Legislative Assembly.

As a former lawyer, and Chief of Staff to the NSW Attorney General, Mr Tudehope spoke on “Being Catholic in Politics”. Many people attended the event, including students, alumni, and friends of the college.

Reflecting on the presentation, the CCSA President, Mr Sam Rebbechi, said: “Mr Tudehope encouraged us to focus not only on the big moral issues, like abortion and euthanasia, but added the need to promote Catholic social teaching within society.

“We should all strive to instill Catholic Social Teaching, not just in politics, but in all areas of life – including employment

relations, education and law,” Tudehope said.

In discussing the Leadership Series, Rebbechi said its purpose was to both inspire and expose Campion students to leaders in various professions.

He hopes the forum will allow current professionals to explain how they integrate their faith and work, and allow students who are considering the profession the opportunity to interact and network. Questions about the professional pathways are also explored in preparation for life after Campion.

Mr Rebbechi would like to encourage the students to remember that “whichever profession students pursue, they have the responsibility to live Christian virtue in every aspect of life. Everything studied and experienced at Campion should be expressed in all that we do.”

The next leadership series will be held on the 23rd of September at 7.30pm with special guest, Mr Cory Bernardi.

All gifts to Campion College Australia are tax-deductible



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 and compiled by Monica Aarts on behalf of the Campion Foundation, a non-profit company which has established Campion College Australia as a tertiary institution of Catholic inspiration.

Consider a Bequest

Campion College Student Association executive.
From the left: Sam Rebecchi (President), Chanel de Bono (Secretary) and Nick Augemeri (Treasurer).



Advancing Catholic education: The need for "Schooling Catholic"



Bishop Comensoli gives his lecture in the PDS lecture theatre.

On 25 June, Bishop Peter Comensoli, of Sydney's Broken Bay Diocese, delivered the 2015 St Edmund Campion Lecture. After celebrating Mass, the Bishop spoke on "Schooling Catholic: A Vision for Catholic Education", addressing the ways in which aspiring teachers could advance Catholic education in Australia. The evening concluded with dinner, attended by special guests, including College benefactors, as well as staff and students.

Bishop Comensoli began by encouraging Campion students to think about what it means to 'school Catholic' in 21st century Australia. Citing St. Paul, Cardinal Newman and St. Augustine, the Bishop suggested that we require three things in order to 'school Catholic':

- an anthropology that is theocentric;
- a framework for teachers and learners that is explicitly Catholic; and
- an environment that is conspicuous in Christ.

Cardinal Newman: Theocentric and Integrated
Cardinal Newman's idea of a 'common unifying principle' informs the need for a vision of the human person that is God-centred.

Newman's belief was that the various disciplines of education should have God as their reference point and should develop a common language. This would foster a broader, integrated learning experience for students, ultimately serving a higher purpose.

Quoting Newman, Bishop Comensoli said: "...[T]he unifying principle would be the gathering up of all knowledge around God, [and] relating all knowledge to each other. This provides a structure within which an economist and ethicist can communicate effectively,

because it provides a common worldview. Each would have a responsibility to the other in the pursuit of an integrated worldview for the sake of transforming the lives of their students."

St Augustine: A Catholic Ethos and Worldview

The need for a framework for teachers and learners that is explicitly Catholic is also important. This idea is inspired by St. Augustine's famous City of God, which made clear how human beings are in the world, yet not of the world, and that this understanding is achieved by the use of Christian faith and reason.

In Catholic education, we need to nurture a Catholic worldview among teachers and learners who hold differing perspectives of the world. It is this which can bring coherence to what is being taught and learnt, and give meaning and purpose to one's human life. If human beings can pursue the supreme good in God, they will ultimately find their own expression of the true good in every aspect of life.

St Paul: Start by Imitation

Bishop Comensoli then asked the audience: "If you are called to introduce Christianity into a society that has never heard of it before, where would you start?"

He explained that a possible temptation would be to introduce the tenets of faith, such as the Resurrection, as St. Paul did with the Greeks in the Areopagus. What Paul soon found out, however, was that the philosophies and worldview of the Greeks had not prepared them for these ideas.

For this reason, the Bishop noted, "A message of good news will be conveyed most powerfully when what is being communicated,

and to whom it is being communicated, are given careful attention." To do this most successfully, we must imitate and be the crucified Lord, to create an environment that is conspicuous in Christ, just as St. Paul did.

Bishop Comensoli concluded his lecture with the powerful words of St. Paul in Corinthians 4:9-10: "For I think God has displayed us, the apostles, in last place, like men condemned to die: We have become a spectacle to the world and to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ!"

With these words the Bishop sought to emphasise the importance of our developing a way of schooling that is infused with being Christ – a way to 'school Catholic'.

Upcoming Events

Chesterton Conference

A 1-day conference organised by the Australian Chesterton Society will take place at Campion College on **Saturday, 31 October**. Called 'A Third Spring: G.K. Chesterton and the Convert Cardinals,' the conference will focus on the contributions made to Catholic thought and action by Chesterton and the two great English Cardinals of 19th century England, John Henry Newman and Henry Edward Manning.

Campion to Celebrate Magna Carta Anniversary

The Centre for the Study of Western Tradition will hold a multi-disciplinary conference commemorating the 8th centenary of the Magna Carta on **Saturday, 28 November**. The keynote speakers include Julian Burnside (QC AO) and Dr Augusto Zimmermann from Murdoch University. For more information visit our website page on: www.campion.edu.au/magnacarta

Summer Week in Break

Campion's annual Summer Week program will be held on **11-15 January, 2016**.

The week aims to showcase Campion's unique Liberal Arts program, along with training students in leadership, personal, spiritual and social development.

For more information contact admin on info@campion.edu.au or call (02) 9896 9301.