

CAMPION'S BRAG

CATHOLIC LEARNING IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

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CAMPION COLLEGE AUSTRALIA

Celebrating 10 Years

*Merry
Christmas*

*Images from the
Campion College story (2013-2016).*

In the Beginning

Our 10th Anniversary Year has been a wonderful occasion to reflect on God's providence and the many achievements of Campion College. In this our last Brag of 2016 we continue to reflect on these achievements, highlighting the pursuits of four alumni as well as an insightful reflection from our Lecturer in Literature, Dr. Colin Dray.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to our upcoming Summer Program, a week long event that we offer to prospective students as a way of experiencing life at Campion College. If you know anyone who may be interested please invite them. This is one of our most crucial events for recruiting students and your support is truly appreciated. Thank you again dear friends of Campion for your ongoing generosity and prayers. I wish you and yours every blessing this festive season and a truly happy 2017.

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and much more...



Benjamin Hackett

Where Are They Now

After graduating in 2015, I moved back to Adelaide, South Australia and started working for Rachis Technology, an IT consulting company, as a System's Engineer. I assist the team in maintaining IT infrastructure and services for state and national companies. During my first few months, I completed my Microsoft Technology Associate certification. I intend to return to studying classics in the foreseeable future and I am investigating different post-graduate offerings. I also took a large step this year and asked Hannah Russell to marry me. Surprisingly she said yes! We are enjoying organising the start of this big step in both our lives as I settle into my job and Hannah completes her Arts/Law degree.

Exquisite Journey Narratives

Literature Lecturer, Dr. Colin Dray, reflects on studying exquisite journey narratives while watching the journey of our own students.

One of the great privileges of my position as a lecturer in literature at Campion College is that I get to revisit, yearly, some of the most exquisite journey narratives in the history of western literature. Whether they be treks in a literal sense – Aeneas overcoming adversity to found a new civilisation for his people; Odysseus travelling the seas to reclaim his homeland – or more introspective dives into the human psyche – Oedipus' descent into the mystery of himself; Nick Carraway's efforts to unpack the enigma of Jay Gatsby and the American dream – these artworks explore humanity in the act of pursuit. They show people undergoing trials, and by doing so, actively evolving themselves into something more than they were. Often more than they thought they could be.

Most frequently, when people think of journey narratives such as these,

Below: The plague of Thebes Oedipus and Antigone by Charles Jalabert 1842.

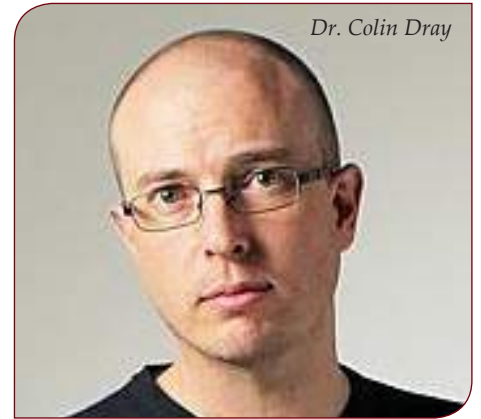


they think of the flashier sequences in the plot. Odysseus stabbing out the eye of the Cyclops. Tess d'Urberville sacrificing herself at Stonehenge. The ancient mariner shooting the albatross. But in our efforts to understand humanity – the purpose of all great art – it is worth keeping in mind the way in which these events hang together. The overarching journey through which the characters move.

In my time at Campion, going on five years now, I have had the honour of watching many dozens of extraordinary people embark on their own passages of enlightenment. And of course, like all journeys, when I reflect upon this time, the first things that often spring to mind are those idiosyncratic moments that, from afar, might border on the peculiar.

I recall being jolted by the clear, sombre melody of a student breaking out into spontaneous song during a discussion of William Butler Yeats; being charmed utterly by the stirring defence of a student arguing for compassion in the voice of Lady Macbeth. Watching a Pokemon sit for a philosophy final. In my earliest months working here I remember pulling into the car park to see two students accosting each other with fencing rapiers, joyfully quoting lines from the Iliad as the history lecturer applauded (that can all be explained very rationally); more recently, as I rushed back to my office between classes, I was embraced by two giggling inflatable tyrannosaurs in the hallway (that cannot).

But above and uniting all of these sometimes surreal incidents, the one constant, is the journey itself. I get to watch, eagerly, the progression that each student undergoes from flustered, wide-eyed first year, to assured graduate, eager to confront the world anew. In the



dawning of ideas. In the formulation of arguments that dance unspoken on the tip of the tongue. In periods of introspection. I get to see it play out each day. See those incremental moments accumulate. Until, over three years, they result in a profound transformation of self.

Because that's what journeys are. Often you don't precisely know where you're going, even as the voyage is being undertaken. Occasionally there are fits and starts and misdirections along the way. Sometimes you need the support of your fellow travellers, sometimes you blaze your own path, but no matter what the circumstance, your mettle is tested, and you are changed. You start as one person, and end as another. Better, more capable, more self-aware.

In my time here, I have found Campion to be a spectacular, inspiring place. Everyone – from staff to students to faculty – is enthusiastic and supportive. They believe in the mission of the college, the self-evident truth of the liberal arts model, and the virtue of the Catholic faith. To that end, they work together, respect each other, and trust that everyone is striving together toward the same goals.

It is a reminder, each day, that although we are all on our own journeys, we are elevated by the one that we share.

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On at least two occasions during my studies at Champion College I wanted to leave. First, because I missed my hometown of Melbourne, second, because 'in the trenches' I struggled to gain a sense of perspective of both the purpose and importance of my degree and third, because I was unaccustomed to such challenging material. With nearly eight years of hindsight, I am so thankful that I did not leave. Indeed Champion College was the best decision I have ever made. It advanced me intellectually in a way that no other degree could have and was personally enriching. A number of times I've described having a Liberal Arts degree as having a library in one's head. While I don't necessarily recall what is in all the books, I know where they are on the shelf and can retrieve them whenever need be. After Champion, I completed Honours in English and a post-graduate qualification in teaching at the University of Melbourne. Subsequently, I got a job at a Catholic boys' school, Mazenod College where I have taught Religious Education, English, History and Literature for the last six years.

The Champion College Rowing Club

The Champion College Rowing Club's (CCRC) year in review. The Rowing Club is a successful growing student initiative.

2016 for the CCRC has seen a small, but strong expansion in the number of rowers in the crew, and has been profitable for all involved. The 'Learn to Row' program – an eight week beginner's guide to rowing – initiated the Champion Rowing year. This is where promising and enthusiastic novices presented themselves to be brought up in the now established rowing culture between Champion College and Nepean Rowing Club. The first semester is where skills were forged, rowing partners were formed, and the dynamic of the crew coming into the regatta semester was solidified.

Special mention must go to Marie van Rensburg and Lucy Crees who won their Women's U19 Open Double Scull at the Newcastle Uni Pre IV. Other commendable efforts go to Michael O'Donovan and Andrew McLaurin, along with Jerome Shogren and John Haydon, for their podium finishes in the Men's Lightweight Open Double Scull at the Nepean Rowing Club



Regatta. In addition, David McMahon, Sean Reeves, Elijah van Rensburg and Awtel Power finished second in the Men's Coxless 4x by less than two seconds at the Nepean Rowing Club Regatta.

Just recently, the CCRC enjoyed its own regatta on the banks of the Nepean River. All rowers competed and enjoyed a competitive day. Rowers competed for the Champion Cup, which is awarded to one male and female rower who showed excellence and dedication not only in their personal rowing prowess, but also in their

commitment to the CCRC. The year was bookended by a presentation dinner, where we looked back on the successful year for the crew, publicly rewarded hard work, and announced the CCRC executive for next year. I personally wish rowing at Champion all the best for next year, and I am glad to have served in my final year as Men's Captain. Onward and upward. Rip and Roar! If you are able to support the CCRC financially, please contact Yvette Nehme at foundation@champion.edu.au/02 9896 9318. *President of the Rowing Club, Awtel Power.*

Frank Sheed Public Speaking Competition



Above (left to right): Champion College students, Jerome Shogren, Jessica Buchanan and Nicholas Augimeri, Champion College President Dr. Paul Morrissey, and Associate Dean of Studies/Senior Lecturer in Literature Dr. Stephen McInerney.

On Thursday 6th October Champion College held the Frank Sheed, Public Speaking Competition. The annual competition was held at Formal Hall with three student finalists competing. Each participant spoke for seven minutes on the topic of "Error has no rights versus freedom of speech and religious liberty." The speakers were all well prepared and presented with great passion. Congratulations to the winner, Nicholas Augimeri and special thanks to Dr. Stephen McInerney for organising the competition. The standard of the speeches highlighted the importance of developing critical thinking and communication skills.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I say I have loved teaching and have found my Liberal Arts degree ideal for this profession. Australian Catholic Education is crying out for good Catholic teachers who know and love the Faith and are well educated in the Arts' disciplines, which in particular are suffering from the startlingly low literacy of a majority of students, a lack of academic rigour and the pervasive and undue influence and bias of Marxist and socialist ideologies on text selection and curriculum content. To current students I would say, make the best of your years at Campion; form solid friendships, nourish your faith and learn, learn, learn. 'The Campion years' are in many respects the best years of your life, and in turn allow you to go on and 'make better' the rest of your life. The degree you are undertaking has the potential to make you the smartest person in the room, and advance you personally and professionally, regardless of the field you choose. So don't waste the opportunity with which you have been blessed!



A Gift For The Future

A gift in your Will is a gift for the future. You can truly make a difference to the lives of young people, for generations to come, by considering leaving a bequest, a living legacy, to Campion Foundation Ltd for the development of Campion College Australia.

Campion College does not rely on government funds. Seeking to safeguard its identity as an authentically Liberal Arts institution of higher learning, it relies instead on the generosity of those who believe and support our Mission - To provide a foundational education in the Liberal Arts that integrates the insights of faith and reason.

The Foundation works closely with the College in building up a solid financial base for Campion and directing gifts to the College's most important needs.

There are a number of ways in which a bequest to the Campion Foundation can be formalised. For example:

- You can give a specific amount of money or other assets.

- You can donate a percentage of your Estate. This ensures your family and friends are not disadvantaged by changes in the size of your Estate or by inflation.

We ask you to join hands with those who will make a lasting contribution to the education of young people in the Liberal Arts. Including a bequest is not an alternative to looking after your family, it's a part of it. Read why some of our supporters are leaving us a gift for the future.

Rhonda's Gift for the future

When Rhonda updated her will to include a gift to Campion College Australia recently, she was thinking of her children and grandchildren, of how they can make a difference in the world. She was inspired by Campion College's desire to affirm the dignity of learning and provide a broad education that prepares students for life as well as any vocational path.

I want to encourage you, just like Rhonda did, to talk to Campion College Australia about leaving a gift in your will so

we can continue to provide a foundational education in the Liberal Arts that integrates the insights of faith and reason.

Malcolm's Gift for the future

When Malcolm first heard of Campion College, he was immediately attracted by its education and spiritual philosophies. His long experience in business made him aware of the advantages a broad education such as the Liberal Arts provides, avoiding a concentration on functional training that is too narrowly focused.

Malcolm was impressed by Campion College's recognition of spiritual values and the great need in our society for spiritual and moral direction. He believed a Campion College education would make a strong contribution to the educational and spiritual developments, which are of such importance for the future of Australia and the wider world.

Supporters of Campion College Australia leave a legacy, not simply to a cause, but to a future. If you would like to give a gift for the future, please complete the attached form below and return to the office in the replied paid envelope, alternately you can contact Yvette Nehme, Director of Development foundation@campion.edu.au Phone: 02 98969318.

A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE (Please complete and return in reply paid envelope enclosed.)

We would be delighted to know that you have acknowledged Campion Foundation Ltd for the development of Campion College Australia in your Will. This will enable us to recognise your generosity during your lifetime and to invite you to special events and functions. Please tick the appropriate box:

- I have already made a bequest to Campion Foundation Ltd in my Will.
 I would like to discuss making a bequest to Campion Foundation Ltd. Please contact me.

Fr/Sr/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (circle one)

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Email:	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>
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Privacy statement: The information provided by you will only be used for the purpose of giving you information and activities about Campion Foundation Limited & Campion College Australia.



Olivia Meese

Where Are They Now

Upon graduating in 2008 I took a 3-month cobblestone-pounding trip of Western Europe. I wandered kilometres along the Appian Way, visited the Cathedral of the Council of Trent, prayed on the site of St. Edmund Campion’s martyrdom... it was an unforgettable trip! Then I completed a degree in medicine at the University of Notre Dame, worked as a junior doctor at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital for a couple of years, started my training as a General Practitioner, married and am now the proud Mum of a gorgeous baby girl. My studies at Campion gave me a greater appreciation of my Christian heritage, a warmer love of my faith and, a sharper intellect, as I strive to bring Christ’s healing to each of my patients.

Chesterton Conference

The annual conference of the Australian Chesterton Society was held 29th November at Campion College on the theme of Chesterton’s literary imagination.

Called ‘A World of Wonder’, the conference featured the Foreign Editor

of ‘The Australian’, Greg Sheridan, who spoke on Chesterton’s journalism and its impact on his own career as a journalist.

Other papers reflected on the philosophical insights of Father Brown, Chesterton’s priest-detective, and compared Chesterton with a range of literary figures,

such as Dostoevsky, Flannery O’Connor, and Georges Bernanos. A special highlight was a paper by Iain Benson, Professor of Law at Notre Dame Australia, on his personal collection of Chesterton books and archival material.

The conference papers were video-taped and are available on the Society’s website, www.chestertonaustralia.com. A printed set can be purchased for \$18.00 (incl. postage) from Campion College Australia. Please contact reception on 02 9896 9300 to arrange.

Reflection from College Chaplain



It was a beautiful year journeying with the students and nurturing their faith. How amazing it was to see God’s grace helping them grow and transforming them through learning and responsibility.

I especially enjoyed seeing the student’s hearts during the sacrament of reconciliation and the talks we had on the deck and I was inspired many times by their creativity. They truly are the future of Australia. In 2017 I look forward to encouraging the students to share their faith more openly at Campion and in the neighbourhood.

Father Peter Kruk OP



Above: (clockwise from top left) Mr Greg Sheridan, Mr Karl Schmude and Dr Paul Morrissey.

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Thank you for your generosity!

Monthly Donation

A Gift for the Future (Bequest)



Peter O'Donovan

Where Are They Now

I graduated from Campion in 2014 and began a postgraduate Juris Doctor at the University of Sydney the following year. I am currently working part time as a paralegal in the insolvency and restructuring team of the law firm Colin Biggers & Paisley. I have been very fortunate to be given the opportunity to work alongside solicitors with decades of experience in commercial law and on matters that have been subsequently published about in the news. Campion's emphasis on critical analysis, particularly in my major of philosophy, has enabled me to clearly understand and articulate complex legal principles and I'm sure will continue to serve me as my career progresses.

Annual Campion Ball



Saturday 15th October, the Campion College Student Association hosted the annual Campion Ball. 230 young people attended and it was wonderful to see that so many travelled from interstate, including many alumni, for what has become a premier social event for Catholic youth in Sydney. They enjoyed an evening

of fine food and amazing entertainment. The evening started with Mass before a welcoming address from the College President Dr. Paul Morrissey and the opening of the double doors signifying the Ball's commencement. The campus looked stunning and the event was a huge success. Thank you to the CCSA for their hard work.

GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

MON 9 JAN TO FRI 13 JAN

Registration Cost \$390 includes a non-refundable \$50 administration fee. For group bookings and for those experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the Prospective Student Coordinator by email: h.wagner@campion.edu.au

Registrations close 3rd January 2017
 Register at www.campion.edu.au/summerprogram

Anniversary Mass

On Sunday 11th September the Campion College community gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta to give thanks to God for the fruit of the first ten years of Campion College.

It was a splendid occasion with the Dean of the Cathedral, Fr. Robert Bossini as principle celebrant and the Campion Schola, past and present under the direction of Bernard Fitzpatrick, singing the Mass beautifully. After Mass, during refreshments, the Chairman of the

College spoke about the achievements of the past ten years as well as the challenges that lie ahead. Many thanks to everyone who made the day such a befitting tribute and celebration.



Above: (clockwise from top left) Fr. Robert Bossini, Mr Joe de Bruyn, Miss Yvette Nehme, and trustees: Mrs Leesa Meese & Ms Kerry Jones.

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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.