



CAMPION'S

Brady

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Catholic Learning in the Liberal Arts



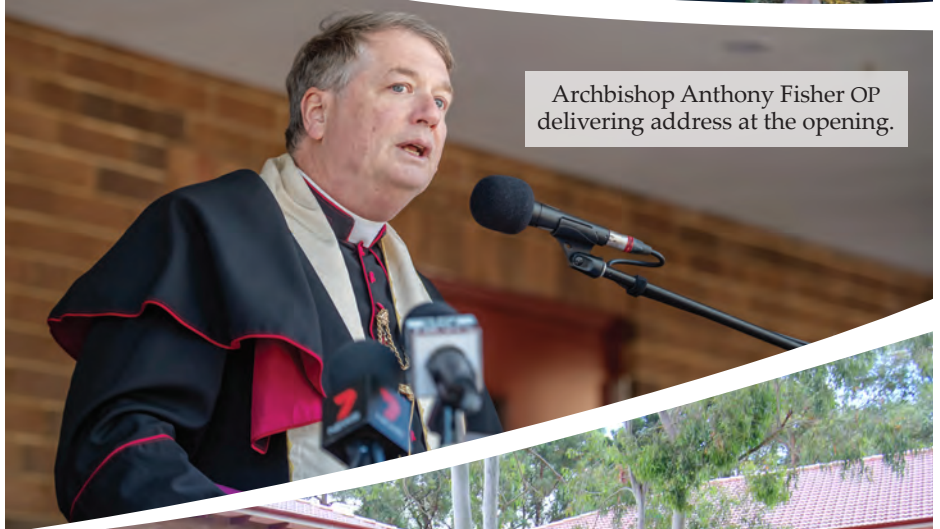
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Adoration under the stars,
at Campion College, 27 May.



The Hon John Howard OM AC
with Campion students.



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
delivering address at the opening.



The two new
residential buildings.

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Angela Schuman

After graduating from Campion College in 2011 I took a gap year before pursuing further studies in Literature. I completed my Honours in Literature at Monash University, and am currently working on a PhD looking at the influence of Medieval Catholicism on Shakespeare's conception of psychology. I am so grateful to Campion for giving me the skills and inspiration to pursue this topic. The Campion course, with its integrated approach to texts and traditions and the way they 'talk' to each other gave me the perfect foundation for my current research. I am also grateful for the college's holistic approach to the human person, which extends beyond the course and into each student's spiritual and social life, which encouraged me to pursue beauty, truth and goodness not only in my research but in every aspect of my life.



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and the Most Hon John Howard OMAC with Campion College students.

Opening an OF THE TWO NEW RE

By Tess Livingstone, used with permission from *The Australian*, 8 August 2018.

The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation and Campion College, a private Catholic Liberal Arts College near Parramatta are working towards a co-operative arrangement that would involve pooling resources, John Howard announced yesterday.

Mr Howard, chairman of the Ramsay Centre, opened two new residential buildings at Campion, which has 100 students. Its liberal arts degree, based on the study of the "great books" of Western Civilisation, covers History, Literature, Philosophy, Science, Latin, Maths and Theology.

"The Ramsay Centre and Campion share common values and a commitment to

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and the Hon John Howard OMAC unveiling the plaque.



The Hon Mr John Howard OMAC, chairman of the Ramsay Centre, at Campion College. He commented that the Ramsay Centre

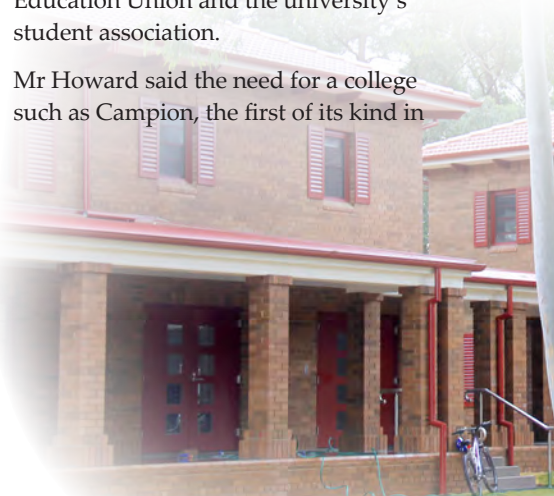
educate students in the tradition of the best of the great books," Mr Howard said.

An audit of 750 history subjects across 35 universities last year by the Institute of Public Affairs found the Campion College was one of just three institutions covering all essential core topics in the history of Western Civilisation.

The Ramsay Centre, funded by the income of a multi-billion dollar bequest from healthcare billionaire Paul Ramsay, is working to provide scholarships for students to undertake liberal arts degrees at Australia's sandstone universities.

In June, a proposed arrangement between Ramsay and the Australian National University fell over at the last minute after objections raised by the National Tertiary Education Union and the university's student association.

Mr Howard said the need for a college such as Campion, the first of its kind in



Mr Joe de Bruyn, chairman of Campion, giving an address.

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and Blessing RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Ramsay Centre, opened two new residential buildings
Centre and Campion share common values.

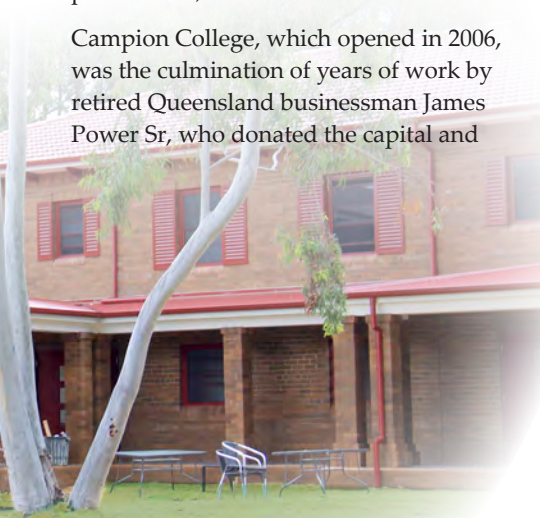
Australia, is greater than ever before, when the values and understandings of the Bible were under constant challenge from rampant political correctness.

"If Paul Ramsay had been alive he would be here today saying something very strongly in support of Campion," Mr Howard said.

In a barely disguised swipe at Education Minister Simon Birmingham, Mr Howard said he took pride in his government's close working relationship with Australia's Catholic education sector over the decade he was prime minister.

The sector, which made a vast contribution to Australian education, deserved the support of governments of all political persuasions, Mr Howard said.

Campion College, which opened in 2006, was the culmination of years of work by retired Queensland businessman James Power Sr, who donated the capital and



time to establish the project.

Its 200 plus graduates to date work in teaching, medicine, law, academia, business, journalism and religious life. Mr Power's family remain active on the board of the college, which is chaired by former union official Joe de Bruyn, who is also on the Ramsay Centre Board.

One of the new residential houses is named after Queensland Jesuit Fr Greg Jordan SJ, who died in 2015. The building was blessed yesterday by Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher, a student at Riverview when Fr Jordan was headmaster.

In his address, College president Dr Paul Morrissey quoted Greg Sheridan's book God is good for you, which argued if our civilization has a real future in Australia, it will be connected to Campion College.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP blessing a student's study area in one of the new residential houses.



Where are they Now?



Monica Vieira

Upon graduating in 2016 I began a Master of Nursing at the University of Sydney. It very soon became apparent to me that I couldn't just leave the liberal arts behind, not only did I want to keep studying, but I wanted to share with others the wonderful gift that Campion had given me. So I withdrew from Nursing and began further studies in theology at Notre Dame. I also began work at Augustine Academy, teaching history and grammar. I feel so very blessed to be in a work place in which I'm able to utilise all of the skills that I developed through my studies at Campion, whether that be through my teaching, having theological chats with the students, or applying those valuable critical thinking skills to work out how the food in the pantry can be stretched to feed twenty three ever-ravenous teenagers! Apart from that, I've been planning my future life with fellow Campion graduate, Robert van Gend, who I am to marry in September.

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The Banquet of Wisdom

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP delivered an address at the blessing of the two new Campion College residential buildings.

Given what an important demographic college and university students are for movie ticket sales, it is unsurprising that many films are in academic settings.

Many are comedies such as *Monsters University* (2013), *Legally Blonde* (2001), *22 Jump Street* (2014), *Pitch Perfect I, II and III* (2012, 2015, 2017), *Acceptance* (2009), *Animal House* (1978), *The Nutty Professor* (1963 & 1996), *Revenge of the Nerds* (1984) and *Back to the Future I, II and III* (1985, 1989, 1990). A few are thrillers such as *The Roommate* (2011), *The Skulls* (2000) and *21* (2008). And many are more serious dramas and social commentaries such as *Good Will Hunting* (1997), *Higher Learning* (1995), *The Social Network* (2010), *Admission* (2013), *The Great Debaters* (2007), *Rudy* (1993), *Lost in Translation* (2003), *Mona Lisa Smile* (2003), *A Beautiful Mind* (2001) and *The Theory of Everything* (2014).



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at the Blessing of the two new buildings.

There are some important messages in these films: about the way college life throws you together with all sorts of new people and new ideas, about what brilliance really is, about needing to believe in yourself and really apply yourself, about deciding what matters most to you. I am not sure what life will be like in Jordan Residential Hall of Campion College – comedy, tragedy, romance, satire, drama or thriller, or a mixture of all of the above...

One of the films I named, *The Theory of Everything* (2014), is about Stephen Hawking, the most famous theoretical physicist and cosmologist in the world, who died earlier this year. The film is an adaptation of a memoir by Hawking's

first wife, Jane, and focuses especially on their years at the University of Cambridge where Stephen (played by Eddie Redmayne) was an astrophysics student. Although he excelled at mathematics and physics, his friends and professors are concerned over his lack of a thesis topic.

After attending a lecture on black holes, however, Stephen speculates that black holes may have been part of the creation of the universe, and decides to write his thesis on time. While pursuing his research Stephen's muscles begin to fail but his romance with Jane, a literature student (played by Felicity Jones) blossoms. He is diagnosed with motor neurone disease but the two marry and have three children together. While Stephen's fame grows his frame deteriorates, until he has to rely on an electric wheel chair and voice synthesiser.

Towards the end of the film, Stephen sees a student drop a pen; he instinctively tries to pick it up to return it, almost crying that he cannot. He goes on to give an inspiring speech, saying, "There should be no boundaries to human endeavour. We are all different. However bad life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. While there's life, there is hope." With such quasi-mystical thoughts we might wonder where Hawking stood on the question of God. He would ask: "What is it that breathes fire into these equations and makes there a world for them to describe?"

Here he appeared to line up with great scientists who believed in God such as Albert the Great, Copernicus, Galileo, Boyle, Bacon, Newton, Kepler, Linnaeus, Faraday, Mendel, the early Darwin, Marie Curie, Marconi, Einstein, Carl Sagan, Francis Collins and so many more.



Left to right: The Hon John Howard OM AC, students Simon-Pieter Doodeman, Joseph Elzerman and Bernadette Hunter.

Wise men and women through the ages, Hawking knew, had concluded that there are only two possible answers: either there is no reason, no ultimate cause, no ultimate sense to make of the cosmos, it just is, the way it is, until it isn't anymore; or there is some cause and sustainer of all that is, some 'necessary Being' that holds the cosmos in existence and gives it purpose, without which (or Whom) the world would not exist. The long-suffering Jane, who features so crucially in the film as Stephen's inspiration and carer, is a devout Christian and would certainly have given the second answer. But Stephen wasn't so sure.

For some years Hawking was ambiguous about the idea of a Grand Design and Designer. Sometimes he seemed to hint there was Something or Someone behind it all. At other times he would make comments like: "We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special." Finally, towards the end of his life, Hawking came out as an atheist, declaring that "Before we understand science, it is natural to believe that God

Continued on Page 5



Guests at the Opening and Blessing.



created the universe. But now science offers a more convincing explanation." With breathtaking confidence in human omniscience, Hawking said that as science progresses toward 'a unifying theory of everything' we'll "know everything that God would know, if there were a God, which there isn't." But he acknowledged that humanity will lack the wisdom of God, and so he feared we will probably destroy ourselves through nuclear war, a genetically-engineered virus or an environmental disaster. The comedy, tragedy, romance, satire, drama and thrills of university life can take you in many different directions...

Our Lord's direction to his disciples in our Gospel reading today (Lk 10:5-9) seems to be something of a blueprint for student life: eat and drink whatever's offered, party with whomever will take you! But I think this is perhaps taking things a bit too literally... A better exegesis of this passage might be an allegorical one – take heed those of you planning to Major in Theology. Christ's words might apply not to bodily food and drink so much as intellectual, moral and spiritual food. Our university years should not be spent hopping about from one house to

another, from one fashionable ideology to another, tasting this, that and the other thing from the academic takeaway stores, all with a nutritional value for our souls close to zero. Instead, says Christ, seek the nutritious knowledge and wisdom on offer, remaining in the one house – the House of Truth. Indeed as Blessed John Henry Newman put it in *The Idea of a University*:

If then a practical end must be assigned to a University course... it is [that] education... gives a man a clear, conscious view of his own opinions and judgements, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them, and a force in urging them. It teaches him to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought to detect what is sophisticated and to discard what is irrelevant.

Campion College seeks to provide a staged banquet of knowledge and wisdom from within the household of Christ. It demonstrates how literature, history, philosophy, theology, the classics, music and technology can be joined in service of high human and spiritual goals. When we meet the graduates of the College it is even more evident that immersing them in a long and valuable tradition of learning frees their minds and expand their hearts to take to the world knowledge and skills, talents and wisdom, nurtured in this unique environment.

It is a privilege to be invited today to bless and open the two new residential buildings of Campion College, including one named for Father Greg Jordan SJ. Fr Jordan was my first headmaster as a boy at St Ignatius' College, Riverview, and a friend thereafter. A great fighter of the faith, he did not move from house to house, but instead stood undeflected by the ideological fashions of modernity. A great fan of the Christian humanist project of uniting the arts and sciences with faith and reason, he was a great friend to this College. Indeed, he was

hugely encouraging to many young adults through ACSA and otherwise. He aptly died 'in the saddle', so to speak, collapsing in the ambo while proclaiming the Gospel and dying soon after.

Jesus today send out into our world not just The Twelve – the first Christian priests – but the Seventy-Two in our Gospel passage, the first lay preachers. They too were charged with preaching, healing, interceding, above all proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is very near. And to be the missionary disciple Christ calls you all to be, you must have an intelligent faith, an educated faith, a cultured faith, such as this College can give you.



Enjoy your time here, my young friends, at Monsters University, with your teachers and roommates The Nutty Professors, the Legally Blonde and the Pitch Perfect, in a residential hall that I trust will be known not as Animal House so much as the home of Higher Learning for those with A Beautiful Mind and perhaps even A Theory of Everything! God bless all those who live and study here in the years to come!

This was the address by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP on the occasion of the opening and blessing of two residential halls including Jordan Hall at Campion College, Toongabbie, 7 August 2018.

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Sky News Interview

On 5 June 2018, Dr Paul Morrissey was invited on Sky News for an interview with Peta Credlin for a discussion on the study of Western Civilisation.

Dr Paul Morrissey and Peta Credlin discussed the opposition of some Australian universities and students to the study of Western Civilisation and how Campion College is acting as a corrective to such an attitude.

Asked about the solution to the problem, Dr Morrissey said:



"Well I think Campion College, for example, is a small move – we're completely private, privately funded, independent from government; we're Catholic but independent from the Church as well; we are a small but growing Liberal Arts college, and we see ourselves as a corrective to what's happening in higher education. It is somewhere where you can study Western Civilisation from the three cities – Athens, Rome and Jerusalem – and how those cities and the ideas that flowed from them forged the West, from those ancient cities, right up to the present day, in History, Literature, Philosophy and in Theology. We're a unique institution in that, all our students go through that program and they come out the other end not just having known about the West but having become critical thinkers, being able to look at the situation in Australia today, the situation in the world today, and understand it because they know where it's come from."

Follow this link for the full interview: <https://www.campion.edu.au/sky-news-interviews-campion-president-dr-paul-morrissey/>

St Edmund Campion Mass, Lecture & Dinner ~ 21 June

A very successful first semester was concluded in the traditional way by honoring our patron saint with Mass and the annual Saint Edmund Campion Lecture. This year's lecture was delivered by The Hon John Anderson, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. The lecture was entitled, "Civil Society in Australia". Mr Anderson discussed the difficulties the country is facing, in politics, in the public square and across social media, with the gradual disappearance of Western values.

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.



Winter PROGRAM

Like the signature bonfires which characterised it, the Winter Program was a roaring success! July 18 – 20, 2018 Campion hosted Year 11 and 12 students from across Australia to get a taste of the Liberal Arts and life at the college.

Each day, the students were treated to a lecture or a discussion in one of the core subjects: Literature, Theology, Philosophy and History. One of the most popular events was a movie night, in which students watched *The Truman Show* before delving into the philosophical underpinnings and insights in a discussion led by Philosophy Lecturer Dr Amitavo Islam. The days were also packed with activities, sports, games and, of course, bonfires.

It was a busy three days but the feedback from the program was overwhelmingly positive, with many students indicating they enjoyed the experience so much they're keen to return in January for the Summer Program. To apply or to find out more about the Summer Program, please contact Chris Cox at c.cox@campion.edu.au / 02 9896 9301.



COME AND SEE DAY

To register or for more information contact:
Campion College at study@campion.edu.au or on 02 9896 9300

Wednesday 10th October 2018 from 10:00am

- Guided Tours
 - Attend Lectures
 - Learn About the Liberal Arts Experience
- Registrations close Friday 5 October 2018

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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.