



Symposium Disputatio

E-Newsletter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Australia

AMDG

Issue

1

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To join the Fellowship
of Catholic Scholars
(FCS) Australia visit

www.fcsaustralia.org.au

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**Newsletter
contributions**

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Symposium Disputatio*. This e-newsletter is the culmination of the 2004 Annual Conference Member Meeting decision to establish an electronic publication. It aims to assist in connecting FCS Australia members and sharing their contacts and ideas.

The newsletter title represents a synthesis of the aims of the Fellowship by encouraging collegiality and fraternity in the quest for Truth. It also provides us with the opportunity for reflection on the best of the intellectual traditions of the classical and medieval periods.

My thanks on behalf of the Fellowship, to those who assisted graciously and quickly with material for inclusion in this Issue. A very special thanks to Catherine Althaus for taking on the job as editor and seeing us through to this first Issue.

The e-newsletter will be issued quarterly, so you are encouraged to provide regular contributions in the way of articles, member news updates, and details of activities of relevance to fellow scholars. If contacted by the Editor seeking Member Profile information, don't be shy in telling us about yourself and your work.

We also value your feedback and ideas on *Symposium Disputatio*. Suggestions are always welcome!

The newsletter is available for dissemination, so share it with your colleagues and encourage new members to join the Fellowship in the service of the Church in Australia.

M. A. Casey
CO-CONVENOR

"...Every truth attained is but a step towards that fullness of truth which will appear with the final Revelation of God: For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully" 1 Cor 13:12

Fides et Ratio (Paragraph 2)

Disputatio was a form of debating central to the life of the thirteenth-century university, and it embodies a vision of what a university should be.

In the disputatio, the aim was not so much to demonstrate that your opponent was utterly and in every way wrong, and to be derided and dismissed as a fool. Instead, you had to show the limited sense in which he was right. The aim was, through disagreement and mutual criticism, to arrive at **common truth**, that was able to accommodate what was true in each position.

[Today] we have been seduced by a competitive form of debate, which is as blind and violent as the struggle of species to survive in the Darwinian jungle, or as senseless as the struggle for mastery between Coca-Cola and Pepsi-cola. But we are called to be a place of **counter-culture**, of a different way of relating, through which one believes that one may learn something from those with whom one disagrees. This requires of us **compassion** and vulnerability.

From the Editor

Timothy Radcliffe OP, *Sing a New Song: The Christian Vocation*, Dominican Publications: Dublin, 1999, p246.





Dr Alistair Barros

Background in the faith

A traditional Catholic piety has been more or less in my bones, through my Goan heritage. My parents are from Goa, India, evangelised by St Francis Xavier, and I was born in Tanzania, East Africa, which had a large Goan community. My family immigrated to Australia in the mid 70s, and although I found the liturgy quite laid back by comparison, faith remained strong for me during my school years. A Christian brother of a strong Marian bent, Br Sherriff, was particularly influential in shaping me to love the Church, Our Lady and the Blessed Sacrament. Without this precedent, my faith might have irreparably mellowed, as it did, in my 20s when I became something of a child of the spirit of the age.

By the time I was 30, I experienced a strong re-conversion particularly through gaining intellectual traction with the faith from my friendship with David Quinn, today's leading conservative commentator in Ireland. At that time I also discovered books by George Weigel and Fr Richard Neuhaus, and for the first time I could appreciate that this 'faith thing' was indelibly connected with the real world - conversing with and illuminating natural reasoning, public affairs, science and so many issues I had thought were uncomfortable with faith. Since then I have been impelled to all sorts of faith development. In the end, I have to say the best witness of Christ-likeness in everyday living has come from my wife Kylie.

Academic background

I studied computer science at undergraduate and honours level, working in the commercial world for several years before returning to do a doctorate. Since then I've worked in applied research institutes as a senior research scientist.

Research Interests

My areas of specialisation are business process and e-service automation (distributed systems middleware). Much of this is playing out in the next generation of the Web, and involves high-level programming language extensions. "After hours", I'm inspired by theology, ecclesiology, religion and public affairs; in particular international affairs. The juxtaposition of science and religion is fascinating, particularly through strong and sustained scholarship which has resisted the winds of reductionism. As to other interests, I'm a dad of two babies. Apart from the nappy jungle, I'm State President of the Australian Family Association in Queensland, and occasionally write in *Newsweekly* and *AD2000*. I also love gardening (tropical foliage) and, until the babies, played squash.

Role of Catholic Scholars in the contemporary world?

Broadly put, to promote the spiritual and intellectual credibility of the faith through a scholastic deliberation which engages and gives living voice to the Church's saints, teachers and thinkers. It remains an irony that despite the Church's decline, Catholic and indeed Christian literature is flourishing, particularly from the US. So much rich stuff, and yet feeding a tiny fraction of the faithful. Even at the teaching level, it seems episcopal synod after synod barely draws reference to the cutting edge work of Pope John Paul II - possibly the most prolific teaching pontiff in the Church's history. Of the many ways that the value of Catholic scholarship

could be cast, I see the creation of an intellectual Catholic middle-class as an important one. By middle-class, I mean no formal Catholic education, yet finding more than Sunday mass to practice faith, actively reading journals and books, going along to conferences, and taking part in social action.

Your hopes/aims for FCS?

- Develop a Catholic intellectual culture by bringing together Catholic scholars and those dedicated to the study of their faith;
- Provide a channel for promoting Church teaching, by providing commentaries on emerging Church teaching documents;
- Develop a research agenda for study of "open" areas of the faith, and foster transitions into formal/further study;
- Develop an increased understanding of the Church in the Australian context, including Australian Catholic Church history;
- Disseminate publications to parishes, schools and university groups; and
- With special emphasis, to strengthen faith education for young people, particularly those in tertiary education and young Catholic groups.

Favourite book/author and reasons for selection?

Too much to choose from! Fr Richard Neuhaus, for depth as well as all-rounded Catholic intellectual scholarship. Apart from his regular, masterly column in *First Things*, consider the range in some of his books, all ground-breaking in their own right: on religious and secular tension (*The Naked Public Square*), ecclesiological tensions since Vatican II (*The Catholic Moment*), a periscope into how formal Church teaching comes about through a major deliberation - the American Synod (*Appointment in Rome*), his near death experience (*As I Lay Dying*), a meditation for Good Friday (*Death on a Friday Afternoon*), and his cultivation of a venture still unimaginable in ecumenism (*Catholics and Evangelicals Together*).



Funding opportunities

TOPIC	SPONSOR	FUNDING	SYNOPSIS	DUE	CONTACT URL
Literature	Kalliope	Sue Sanial Elkind Poetry Contest – award of \$1000	Poem any style, any subject written by a woman	01/11/04	http://www.fcj.org/kalliope/kconst.htm
	Art Omi International Arts Center	Ledig House Residency – one week to two months	Encourages writers and translators from all fields to apply	30/11/04	http://www.artomi.org/ao/ledig.htm
	Merton (Thomas) Foundation	Thomas Merton Poetry of the Sacred Contest - \$500 prize	Recognizes poem which will be published in "The Merton Seasonal"	31/12/04	http://www.mertonfoundation.org/merton.php?page=programs_events_poetry_guide05.ext
	Pacific Rim Voices	Kiryama Prize - US\$30,000 shared equally each year by one fiction and one nonfiction book	Promotes books that will contribute to a greater understanding and cooperation among the peoples and nations of the Pacific Rim	18/10/04	http://www.kiryamapize.org/rules/index.shtml
Historical Studies	Hagley Museum & Library	Hagley-Winterthur Fellowships in Arts and Industries - \$1400 per month for 6 months	Supports serious scholars interested in historical and cultural relationships between economic life & the arts, including design architecture, crafts, & fine arts	1/12/04	http://www.hagley.lib.de.us/grants.html
	Davis (Shelby Cullom) Center for Historical Studies	Research Fellowships up to \$72,000 for an academic year and \$36,000 for one semester	Available for scholars to pursue in-residence research and attend a seminar for which the 2005-2007 subject is "Utopia/Dystopia: Historical Conditions of Possibility"	1/12/04	davisctr@princeton.edu
Medical	American Academy of Neurology	Potamkin Prize for Research in Pick's, Alzheimer's and Related Diseases - \$100,000	Recognition of major contributions to the understanding of causes, treatment, prevention, and ultimately cure of Pick's, Alzheimer's and related diseases	1/11/04	http://www.aan.com/professionals/awards/scientific/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.info&id=13
Education	National Academy of Education	National Academy of Education/ Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowships - \$55,000 (academic year research) or \$27,500 (two contiguous half years)	Promote scholarship in the US and abroad on matters relevant to the improvement of education in all its forms	12/11/04	http://www.nae.nyu.edu/spencer/
UK Studies	British Academy	Visiting Professorships and Fellowships – up to £700 per week plus contribution to international travel	Enables scholars from overseas to be invited to visit the UK to carry out research for between two and four weeks	31/12/04	http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/visprof.html
Community	Hilton (Conrad N.) Foundation	Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize - US\$1 million	Prize to an organization making extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering anywhere in the world	01/11/04	http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/main.asp?id=43&side=1
Misc	AT&T Foundation	Industrial Ecology Faculty Fellowships Program - 3 x 25,000 Grants support basic & applied research, & planning & development of new interdisciplinary research centers	Intended to stimulate interdisciplinary research and curriculum development that involves social issues, engineering, the sciences, economics, management, business, law, and public policy issues	5/11/04	http://www.att.com/ehs/ind_ecology/fellow_guidelines.html
	Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton	Visiting Member Awards in the School of Social Science	Support to visiting scholars at junior and senior levels to pursue research in the social sciences. Focus of this year's program is "Psychology and Economics"	15/11/04	http://www.sss.ias.edu/home/about.html
	Dumbarton Oaks	Fellowships for academic year - up to \$39,600 and travel expenses	In-residence fellowships in three areas of study: Byzantine studies, pre-Columbian studies, and studies in landscape architecture	1/11/04	http://www.doaks.org/fellowships/ann.html
Mathematics	IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center	Herman Goldstine Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mathematical Sciences – 1 year fellowship. Expected stipend between \$95,000 -115,000	In-residence research in mathematical and computer sciences	31/12/04	http://researchweb.watson.ibm.com/math/goldstine.html
Art	Metropolitan Museum of Art	Chester Dale, Theodore Rousseau Fellowships and Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Art History - stipends ranging from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and additional \$3,000 for travel	In-residence research related to the fine arts of the western world at the Metropolitan Museum of Art	05/11/04	http://www.metmuseum.org/education/fellow_application.html
Librarianship	Special Libraries Association	Mary Adeline Connor Professional Development Scholarship - \$6000	Support for post-M.L.S. certificate or degree programs in any subject area, technological skill, or managerial expertise relevant to the applicant's career needs and goals in special librarianship	31/10/04	http://www.sla.org/content/learn/scholarship/sch-index/index.cfm#macscholar
Jewish Studies	Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture	Fellowships in Jewish Culture	For individuals to enable them to pursue independent work in Jewish scholarship, Jewish literature, or Jewish art	31/10/04	http://www.memorialfoundation.org
Humanities	School of American Research	Weatherhead Fellowships and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships - apartment, campus office, stipends, small reference library & assistance, & other benefits during 9 month tenure	Available for either Ph.D. candidates or scholars with doctorates whose work is either humanistic or scientific in nature	15/11/04	http://www.sarweb.org/scholars/description.htm
Suicide	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	Standard Research Grants up to \$30,000 pa for 2 years, Distinguished Researcher Awards up to \$100,000 pa for 2 years, Young Investigator Grants up to \$35,000 pa for 2 yrs	Research in clinical, biological, or psychosocial research on the problem of suicide. Grants can be directed towards research on suicide from a variety of disciplines	15/12/04	http://www.afsp.org/research/grants.htm

Please note: These funding opportunities are for information only. Inclusion of any of these schemes in this newsletter should not be interpreted as endorsement by FCS Australia.

Dr Tracey Rowland

Dr Tracey Rowland's *Culture and the Thomist Tradition: After Vatican II* (Routledge, 168 pp. \$28.95 paper) has attracted reviews by Douglas A. Ollivant (2004) in the May edition of *First Things*, Jeremy Beer (2004) in *The New Pentagruel*, Volume 1, No 2, and in *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, (2004), Volume 11, No 1, February. A major review essay by Fr James V. Schall SJ is forthcoming in October.

Tracey has just returned from presenting at the conference *Scrutinising the Signs of the Times and Interpreting Them in the Light of the Gospel*, held at Louvain-La-Neuve, September 9-12, 2004.

She has also recently published the following articles:

(i) 'Reclaiming the Tradition: John Paul II as an Authentic Interpreter of Vatican II', *The Second Spring: Journal of the Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture*, Oxford, Vol V, Easter (2004);

(ii) 'Review Article: Divine Gifts to the Secular Desert: John Millbank's being Reconciled', *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, Vol 11, No 2, April (2004); and

(iii) 'Smuggling Stoic Cosmology into Western Christian Thought: A Review of Michael Hanby's Augustine and Modernity', *Oriens*, Winter (2004).

Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP presented with William E May on the topic of *Public & Personal Goods of Marriage* at the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars 27th Annual Convention held in Pittsburgh, United States on 24 September. It is great news that FCS Australia has been represented at this major conference by one of our leading scholars.



Associate Professor Patrick Quirk

Patrick Quirk is Associate Professor at Ave Maria Law School. On August 13, Patrick delivered a scholarly paper on the life of Robert Schuman, the "Blessed Father" of Europe at the 2004 meeting of the German/American Colloquium held at St John Center for Youth and Family, Plymouth MI (Detroit).

The Colloquium was organized by Professor Emeritus Jude Dougherty of the Department of Philosophy, Catholic University of America, and was attended by various scholars from both Germany and America. Professor Rauscher hopes to publish a volume based on the conference through the Berlin publishing house, Duncker & Humblot.

Patrick also prepared a paper on *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* for presentation at the Ave Maria Law Faculty Retreat held on 19 August.

Rev Paul Stenhouse MSC

In mid-2003, *Tsehai Press* in California published Fr Paul Stenhouse's translation of the *Futuh al-Habasha* [*The Conquest of Abyssinia*] written by Shihab ad-Din Ahmad bin 'Abd al-Qader bin Salem bin Uthman in the middle of the 16th century. The annotations to the translation were provided by Professor Richard Pankhurst of Addis Ababa. The book [428pp] is available from Amazon. This is the first time this important Arabic work has been available in English.

Fr Stenhouse also leaves on 1 October for London to present a talk entitled: *Islam: Wake-Up Call for the West*.

Another significant achievement is that *Annals Australasia* (edited by Fr Stenhouse, except for a break of five years, since 1966) celebrates its 115th birthday on October this year. The first issue appeared in November 1889. It is the oldest surviving Catholic periodical in the country, and after *The Bulletin*, one of the oldest magazines in Australia. A special birthday dinner is being held to celebrate in Sydney on 27 October. Details from *Annals* on 02-9662 7894.

Dr Garrick Small

Dr Garrick Small, Head of the Property Studies Department at the University of Technology in Sydney, attended last September the International Congress on *Christian Humanism in the Third Millennium: the Perspective of Thomas Aquinas* held at the Angelicum in Rome. His paper, *Contemporary Problems in Property in the Light of the Economic Thought of St. Thomas Aquinas*, continues his work on demonstrating the soundness of Catholic Social Thought in dealing with contemporary economic problems, particularly regarding property. The paper can be found at: www.optusnet.com.au/~garricksmall along with other publications for Catholic and secular audiences.

On 24 April, Garrick also presented to the Sydney Ave Verum Apologetics Group on the topic "Contraception and the Future of the West" (the original research for the presentation focused on the origination and implications of the ageing population problem and can be sourced from: www.optusnet.com.au/~garricksmall/Publications/02FertEc/FertEc.htm)

Rachael Patterson

Deakin University Law Lecturer Rachael Patterson is to commence a High Court Associateship with Justice Dyson Heydon in February 2005.

Papers recently published or accepted for publication by Rachael include:

(i) 'Regulating Public Reason: A Critique of Rawls' Political Liberalism and the Idea of Public Reason' (2004) 4(4) *Deakin Law Review*;

(ii) 'The Eradication of Compulsory Retirement and Age Discrimination in the Australian Workplace: A Cause for Celebration and Concern' (2004) *Elder Law Review*;

(iii) 'Social Coordination and the Moral Authority of Law' (2003) 7 *UWS Law Review* 73; and

(iv) 'Transferring the Burden of Risk in Private Health Care: Medical Indemnity Insurance Reform' (2003) 11 *Journal of Law and Medicine* 214.

Campion College Australia – Progress Report

The College is progressing on various fronts towards its anticipated opening in early 2006. Recent months have seen the following important developments:

- ❖ The appointment of the inaugural President, the Rev Dr John Fleming, formerly Director of the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute in Adelaide, and of the College Registrar, Mr Tony Heywood, previously a senior administrator at the University of Technology Sydney.

In addition, Karl Schmude, who has served since 2000 as Executive Director of the Campion Foundation which is establishing the College, and was formerly University Librarian at the University of New England, Armidale NSW, is assuming the role of Deputy President for the next twelve months.

- ❖ The College has made formal application for accreditation as a higher education institution, offering, in the first instance, an undergraduate degree in the Liberal Arts. This process is conducted through the NSW Education Department and expected to take six months. It will entitle Campion to award academic degrees in its own name, and provide a basis for applying for university status – a separate and subsequent stage – within several years of the College's opening.
- ❖ A comprehensive Master Plan has been prepared for the development of the College campus at Toongabbie (a suburb located close to Parramatta in Sydney's west). It proposes a ten-year program of development for various parts of the campus – including a new chapel, library, lecture theatres and residential accommodation. The application is currently being considered by Parramatta Council.



- ❖ The College is rapidly developing its library, based initially on its acquisition of the collection of the Dominican Priory in Canberra. It is also incorporating significant gifts, including a major collection in literature and history provided by Fr Hilton Roberts of Canberra. The splendid timber shelving which housed the Dominican library was transferred to Toongabbie and re-erected on the campus, thereby providing an appropriate continuity of form and content with its previous incarnation.

- ❖ The College has launched a \$5 million Capital Appeal to establish a sound financial base for its operation and development. The Appeal covers such needs as building refurbishment, library and computing development, and initial staffing. A strong response has already occurred to the Appeal, but a major effort will be necessary to attract the remaining funds.

Of particular interest to the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars will be the College's plan for making academic appointments. Both full-time and part-time staff will be sought in 2005 in the various areas of teaching – history, language (Latin), literature, philosophy, theology, science (both physical and biological), and mathematics. Advertisements will be placed following accreditation approval, with the intention of staff commencing progressively from July 2005, in preparation for the initial intake of students in February 2006. Further information on Campion College is available from the President's Office – on (02) 9896 9300 – and by consulting the website, www.campion.org.au

Karl Schmude
Deputy President, Campion College Australia
22nd September 2004

Sydney Campus of University of Notre Dame Australia

FCS Australia member and Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell announced on 1 August that the University of Notre Dame Australia will establish a campus in Sydney, offering courses in law, medicine, nursing, business and teaching.

The announcement was made on the site of the new campus at St Benedict's Parish Broadway, with the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, who committed the Federal Government to providing \$4 million in funding and 200 HECS places in medicine, nursing and teaching.

The Vice-Chancellor of Notre Dame Australia, Professor Peter Tannock, said the archdiocese would contribute more than \$20 million in the form of the value of existing land and buildings and \$5 million in direct cash support.

Cardinal Pell said the announcement was excellent news. He said there was plenty of room for growth in the Catholic tertiary sector and the new campus of Notre Dame was a further step in responding to that challenge.

Notre Dame, he said, would complement the good work of the two campuses of the Australian Catholic University in Sydney, and work to foster co-operation with ACU and Campion College.

The official opening of the new campus is due for the beginning of the 2006 academic year. The medical school is likely to be located on the Sacred Heart parish site in Darlinghurst opposite St Vincent's hospital, and the University and the Archdiocese are in discussion with St Vincent's and other hospitals about their possible involvement.

The combined venture will represent the first Catholic law school and medical school in Eastern Australia, providing needed Catholic tertiary choice to match the distinguished record of Notre Dame in Western Australia.

An avenue the Cardinal is keen to have explored is the development of a specialty in indigenous health drawing on the expertise of Notre Dame's Broome campus and its strong connections with indigenous communities in that region.

In making the announcement, Cardinal Pell said: "A Catholic university pursues knowledge and understanding, not just as an exercise of reason or freedom alone, but to serve and defend the indivisible unity of freedom, reason and love that makes us human and provides the basis of human dignity".

The University in History

Although the name *university* is sometimes given to the celebrated schools of Athens and Alexandria, it is generally held that the universities first arose in the Middle Ages. In the calmer appreciation of modern historians the medieval university was a potent factor for enlightenment and social order. It aroused enthusiasm for learning, and enforced discipline. Its training sharpened the intelligence, yet subjected reason to faith.

It was the centre in which the philosophy and the jurisprudence of antiquity were restored and adapted to new requirements. From it the modern university has inherited the essential elements of corporate teaching, faculty organization, courses of study, and academic degrees.

Catholic Encyclopedia <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

FCS Australia

The primary functions of FCS Australia are:

- to provide the means and opportunity for fellowship and support among like-minded scholars. The main vehicle for this is the annual FCS Australia Conference.
- to study and clarify challenges to the credibility of the faith and evangelisation. FCS Australia is at the service of the Church in our country, and works to explain and defend the Magisterium, especially as it has been elaborated by Pope John Paul II, to all.
- to disseminate its work to the Church's hierarchy and to its own members. All members are welcome to contribute to the FCS Quarterly (produced by the US chapter), and to take part in the annual conference.

Prayer

Consecration to Mary, Seat of Wisdom

O Mary, Seat of Wisdom, so many persons of common intellect have made through your intercession admirable progress in their studies.

I hereby choose You as guardian and patron of my studies. I humbly ask You to obtain for me the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that from now on I can understand more quickly, retain more readily, and express myself more fluently.

May the example of my life serve to honor You and your Son, Jesus.

Amen.