

# ASPIRE

The Community Magazine of CHC

## Capacity to Connect

Dr Herschell's Legacy

## Literacy & Leadership

CHC alumnus Dr Kathy Mills

## Christianity and the Public Square

Cardus visits CHC

May/June 2015



**CHC**  
Higher Education

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During May, CHC was privileged to have Ray Pennings, Executive Vice-President of Cardus share on Christian social engagement. Central to his erudite and thought provoking presentation was a challenge for believers to engage in the public square in ways that are public, credible and unmistakably Christian.

Such a response is of great importance to a learning community like CHC, where we value truth and scholarship and seek to intentionally frame all our courses, programs, research and endeavours from a Bible-based, Christ-centred worldview.

I recently observed a debate between two secular scholars on television, both trading facts and information in a frenzied flurry of claim and counterclaim. Information was evident; wisdom, however, was not and the entire exercise devolved into a verbal sledging match. We are daily confronted with oceans of information where facts are ubiquitous, driven by Google searches and 140 character tidbits of truth and trivia. Edna St Vincent Millay articulated the central problem of this information age:

*Upon this gifted age, in its dark hour  
Rains from the sky a meteoric shower  
Of facts . . . they lie unquestioned,  
uncombined.  
Wisdom enough to leech us of our ill is  
daily spun,  
But there exists no loom to weave it into  
fabric*

Where is the loom to weave it into fabric? In an age of fragmentation and threadbare thinking, only a grand narrative that is unified and coherent can suitably weave the disconnected bits into an integrated whole. This is why, at CHC, our core business for nearly three decades has been to weave into fabric a Christian worldview that unites faith with learning and belief with behaviour. For it is only on that loom that life's big questions find the credible answers that a frayed public square so desperately needs.



**PROF DARREN ISELIN**

# CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

CHC President, Professor Darren Iselin, and Dean Elect in the School of Education and Humanities, Dr Susan Starling, recently spoke at the Christian Schools National Policy Forum held in Canberra. The Forum represents one of the most significant annual gatherings of the Christian schools movement in Australia and is attended by numerous Christian School principals and leaders from across the nation. The annual Celebration Dinner, held in the Great Hall, Parliament House, is a highlight of the event, and is attended by many MPs and Senators mixing with the delegates.

Professor Iselin gave a Keynote address on the first day of the conference entitled "There Arose a Generation – Challenges for Second Generation Leadership" and also presented a workshop on a similar theme in the afternoon session that was filled to capacity.

Dr Starling presented a challenging workshop at the Forum in which she posed the question: *what would occur if the Christian school sector in Australia became a microcosm of best practice in nurturing novice teachers?* The workshop was in response to the recent Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG) Report, which clearly demonstrated the necessity for providers, school systems and schools to work together to improve all the elements of initial teacher education.

She suggested that the proposed national education reforms provide an ideal opportunity for the Christian school movement to show national leadership and develop more effective models of teacher education in which the silos between the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education providers are minimised. Sue linked the professional ethic of *giving back* with her research on *shalom* as a functional model for Christian education. *Shalom* is characterised by flourishing, giving from abundance, welcoming strangers and taking responsibility for what is ours.

Professor Iselin and Dr Starling also participated in a Christian Tertiary Symposium which drew together key



**DR SUSAN STARLING**

leaders from Christian schools and the Christian Higher Education sector to discuss a plethora of important issues and ways of working more collaboratively to further the cause of Christian education in Australia.

Dr Ryan Messmore, the Executive Director of CHC's Millis Institute, gave a keynote at the 8th Humanities Research Symposium for Youth (HRSY) held at Bond University. A joint project of Citipointe Christian College, Diocesan Girls' School, Hong Kong and Hwa Chong Institution, Singapore, the Symposium saw students present research papers on a range of humanities-related topics within the theme of Defining Moments. Dr Messmore spoke about the purpose and value of the humanities in his provocatively-titled speech "The End of the Humanities?"



**DR RYAN MESSMORE**



# FEDERAL BUDGET BREAKFAST

Over 80 guests attended the annual CHC Federal Budget Breakfast on Wednesday 13 May. Held only hours after the release of the Budget Papers, the guests appreciated the expert analysis by Dean of Business Dr Rod St Hill and CPA Craig Dawson whilst enjoying the hot breakfast supplied by catering students from Citipointe Christian College.

Both speakers viewed the Budget through the lens of a Christian worldview, highlighting areas of interest for families and businesses. The challenge of reining in budget deficits whilst providing

incentives for business and support for the needy was clearly presented by both speakers, giving the audience an excellent summary of the coming financial year.

The School of Business is currently preparing for its next major event, the annual Missional Business Conference "Pressing On", to be held on Tuesday 11 August. This year's event will feature an inspiring array of stories from business people in a range of industries who are making a difference for the Kingdom through their business.



## CHC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS 2015 MISSIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE P R E S S I N G   O N

**Phil 3:12 "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."**

Speakers: Michael Choi  
John Gagliardi, Rebekah Strachan,  
Jeff Matt, Graham Leishman

**Tuesday 11th August, 8:45am-3:00pm**

Dress: Business attire

Venue: Citipointe Christian College  
322 Wecker Road, Carindale, 4152

Science Lecture Theatre

\$70 Conference & catering

\$22 Tertiary students

**RSVP and pay by 5th August 2015**

Register at [chc.edu.au/about-us/events](http://chc.edu.au/about-us/events)

# LOVE OF LEARNING

A 25 year journey has led Dr Kathy Mills from commencing her studies as an undergraduate at CHC to a position as a Senior Research Fellow in Education at QUT. In this interview she shares some of her early experiences and passion for education.

Do you have a favourite memory from your time at CHC?

I recall receiving the “Front Row” award from the student council at a formal dinner in first year for taking my study very seriously. I was given the “Dancing Queen” award in second year, as I was still 17 and starting to enjoy the fun side of college life. I also loved the Orientation camps at the beginning of each year, which included night walks by torchlight and swimming at Tallebudgera and Springbrook.

What made you choose CHC to begin with, and then to return for your Masters?

I enrolled at CHC in 1991 as a very young school leaver in regional Queensland. I saw that teaching would be one of the most important ways to leave a legacy for future generations of leaders. My schooling experience was a positive one, and my teachers had played a vital role in my own life. I knew other CHC students from my hometown, who shared their experiences of college life to me. I returned to complete an MEd at CHC in 2002 as a sessional lecturer looking for new challenges and higher qualifications fitting with a full time role in schools and curriculum leadership while also delivering evening lectures and tutorials in higher education.

How has CHC shaped you personally, and in your practice as a teacher and academic?

CHC particularly shaped my teaching experiences, as I felt very well prepared for my full time teaching positions in the independent schooling sector. Like most of the graduates in my year, I was employed in a full time and continuing position upon completion of the degree, and loved the opportunities to instil hope in young children.

As Senior Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer at QUT, I’ve continued to build on my CHC experiences with a degree from the Australian College of Theology, and Doctor of Philosophy from QUT, and a Graduate Certificate of Academic Practice (Higher Education) from QUT. I’ve also been awarded two post-doctoral research Fellowships with the Australian Research Council, and QUT which are three-year awards. I don’t think I’ve ever taken for granted the practitioner lens that my teaching experience brings to my educational research.

What are one or two of your greatest moments as a teacher or academic?

The greatest moments in both my teaching and career as an academic have not been the degrees, the positions, the awards, the publications, or the grants. It’s the moments when I’m properly centred on what counts for eternity, like the positive relationships with others across all spheres of my life. Life is always a temporary assignment.

What are your current passions or areas of interest?

My research interests include multimodal literacy practices using new digital media with disadvantaged groups, including students from Indigenous and low SES backgrounds. I create connections between schools and higher education, researching with teachers in classrooms to formulate new pedagogy, curriculum and assessment for literacy learning.

What is the place of Christian schooling and higher education in a pluralistic society, in your opinion?

It’s important for parents to have choices about the best schooling for their children, consistent with their values and worldview. I think now is one of the best times in Australia’s schooling history for parents to have a range of education options, though affordability often limits these choices for many families. It’s also important to have a choice of higher education providers to suit the needs of different workplaces and the diversity of life goals of graduates.

What are the greatest challenges for teachers now, and in the future?

Some of the big trends influencing education now and I think into the future, are issues of rapid technological change, transnational movement of people across national borders, reregulation and standardisation of curriculum and assessment, and the commodification of education. These issues have implications for the changing nature of teaching and learning across all levels of education. This requires pedagogical innovation, respecting local diversity and the funds of student knowledge that diversity brings, and critically interrogating political and market-driven education agendas.



## ALUMNI PROFILE

A portrait of Dr. Kathy A. Mills, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a colorful, patterned top with a circular detail at the neckline. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building and a poster.

Dr Kathy A. Mills is a past undergraduate and postgraduate student of CHC and presently a Senior Research Fellow (Australian Research Council) at the Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Education. Dr Mills has 22 years of experience in the field of education, including 15 years in higher education and 7 years in primary school teaching and leadership. Dr Mills is an internationally recognised speaker and author of over 60 academic publications in literacy curriculum and pedagogy, including books, book chapters, journal articles, key note presentations and conference papers. Kathy has served in 3 leadership roles for the American Educational Research Association, Washington DC. She is an Associate Editor of the Australian Educational Researcher, and serves on literacy journal editorial boards in Australia, Arizona, and New Jersey.

# CALLED TO SERVE

Each year the CHC School of Ministries trains over 100 people who are looking to work professionally as pastors, chaplains, leaders, missionaries and more, but also Christians who simply want to go deeper in their relationship with God and be prepared for His call, whatever it may be. In this edition we meet three students working in different fields, but all with a heart to serve.



**CHRIS ENSBEY**

*“Preparing to Influence my World for Good and For God”*

Chris Ensbey is an athlete with his eyes set on competing in the decathlon at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. He is also a part-time Graduate Diploma of Ministry student and works at Citipointe Church in Young Adults Ministry.

“I have been studying part-time at CMC for the past two and a half years. I originally started the Diploma purely for self-development reasons to improve my Bible knowledge. It has now turned into my greatest ministry tool, equipping me to influence the world of sport through track and field.”

“For me, the lessons are not only academic but practical in helping me impact everyone I encounter, both on and off the sporting field. And I am unmistakably influencing my world for good and for God.”

“I started this course before I ever worked in a church and would recommend the study to absolutely everyone regardless of vocation, age or future ambitions.”

“It is 100% life-changing.”



**DEREK PETERS**

*“Growing as a Leader – Increasing My Influence”*

Derek Peters is Executive Pastor at Gateway Baptist Church and a part-time Master of Ministry Leadership student.

“Choosing to take on postgraduate study, with all the busyness of Monday to Friday ministry, work, family and a steady load of week-night and weekend ministry commitments was a big decision.”

“However, in order to grow as a leader, I need to grow in my knowledge and understanding of leadership – and then reflect that learning into my leadership style and approach. The Masters program is designed to do this through progressive, step by step coursework that promotes learning through the direct application of knowledge to my present leadership context.”

“Having new frameworks from which to think through real-time organisational issues has developed new leadership muscles for me in many areas.”

“Perhaps there will never be a perfect time to start - but the journey is worth the effort.”

# STUDENT PROFILES

**CRAIG ANDERSON**

Craig is on the national leadership team of the INC movement and a part-time Master of Ministry Leadership student. He is Senior Pastor of Plenty Valley Church in Victoria.

“Why do I keep on studying when I am so busy as a leader?”

“I am very aware that if a person stays within their own small world of experience and learning they will have a narrow view of God, life, truth and people. If they open themselves to learning from a wide and diverse knowledge from credible and reputable sources then they will have a rich, broad and deep engagement with God, life, truth and people. I continually desire to go deeper and be better.”

“The value of study at any age cannot be measured, it has unlimited potential to bring growth and change. I value lifelong learning and part of that is formal learning directed by trained and competent instructors because every person has ‘unknown unknowns.’”

“This is my Year of Reinvention. I want to make my next 20 years much more fruitful and rewarding than might otherwise be. I must continue to stretch and grow and rise above mediocrity.”

“Citipointe Ministry College (in partnership with CHC) is MY institution. I helped establish it and I see it has great staff, credibility and reputation.”

“The course is really helping me and the distance study/intensive format works for me as I still lead in a busy world.”





# CELEBRATING A LEGACY

It is difficult to measure the legacy of Dr Robert Herschell, the man who has guided CHC's School of Education and Humanities for 27 years.

Hundreds of graduates and countless lives have been touched by his influence, which has also extended to the preparation of teachers across the nation and around the world.

On Friday the 12th of June, the CHC community gathered to celebrate and honour the contribution of "Dr Rob" as he prepares to step down as Dean of the School of Education and Humanities, but will continue as a lecturer and professional guide and mentor for teachers.

Dr Herschell's association with Christian Heritage College began when he was working for the Queensland Department of Education. He was sent from the Curriculum Branch to oversee the accreditation of the fledgling College. He took up the role of Preservice Education

Programs Coordinator at CHC in 1988. Fast forward to 2015 when the School has forged an enviable reputation for scholarship and innovation as well as producing some of Australia's most awarded and successful teacher graduates.

His passion for teaching and developing Christian teachers remains undimmed.

His generational influence was attested to by the speakers at the dinner, who included past and present students, and many of Australia's most senior Christian schooling representatives.

In his life and teaching career, Rob vividly demonstrated the attitude expressed in one of his favourite quotes, by Parker J. Palmer in *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*.

"Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher."



## CONNECTING WITH SOCIAL SCIENCES

The very name "Social Science" carries the inference that we like to be social and connect with people, and it is true!

One of the regular gatherings hosted by the School of Social Sciences is "Common Ground", a monthly networking event where those who work in the helping professions join with like-minded others to make professional contacts and join in discussions around topics of interest – and of course, eat very nice soup!

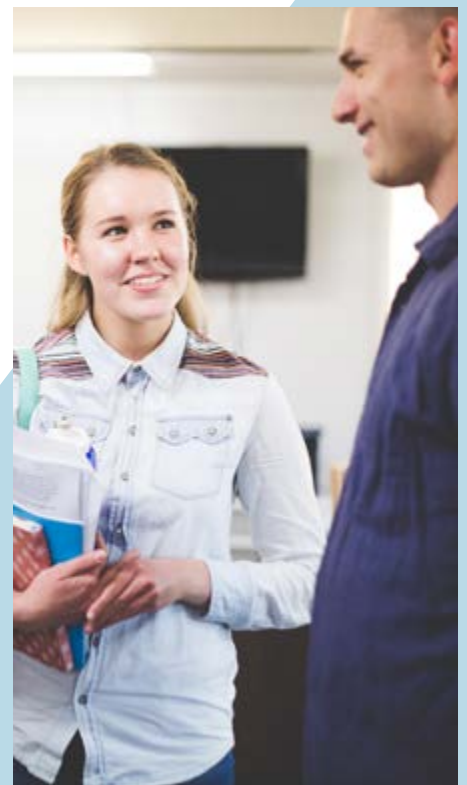
Social Science students especially enjoy this opportunity to meet with those in the people-helping professions as they find this time as a way of introducing them to practitioners in their chosen fields.

The topics we have covered so far this year have been: Youth Sexuality and the impact of Pornography on Young People, Experiences of a Palliative Care Nurse, Step Families and Couple Counselling and in July we are addressing the topic of

How Men Change, A Thin Time. All are welcome to join us the third Monday of the month at 5:30pm (for soup!). We try to wrap up the evening by 7pm. If you would like to be on our email list so you can check out the monthly topics, contact Gill Simpson at [gsimpson@chc.edu.au](mailto:gsimpson@chc.edu.au).

The CHC Counselling and Support Centre is becoming a busy place! Over the last few months we have been refurbishing the counselling rooms and now have new chairs and very nice lounges – a peaceful and friendly environment for our practicum students to meet with their clients.

There are also a number of professional counsellors who hire these rooms for their own counselling practice as they, like our students, find the Centre a pleasant place to work.



# SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

## A TASTE OF UNI LIFE



Fifty-five students from Brisbane Christian College came to CHC on 15 May for a CHC Experience Day. The students heard from CHC President Professor Darren Iselin and Millis Institute Executive Director Dr Ryan Messmore about finding their calling and life after school. They also received a short overview of each of the Schools at CHC from the Deans.

With many students struggling to maintain a vibrant Christian faith when they enter university, the students were encouraged to see their future university study as part of their God-given calling, not simply a path to a job.

Following the presentations and a tour of the campus by members of the Student Representative Council, the students enjoyed some lunch at Rivers Café and a chance to chat casually with CHC staff and students.

The students were brought by BCC Academic Director and CHC alumnus Christine Thomas. Schools can arrange their own customised CHC Day by contacting Mrs Mimi Stathis on (07) 3347 7900 or [dstathis@chc.edu.au](mailto:dstathis@chc.edu.au).

## TOOWOOMBA VISIT

Professor Darren Iselin and Dr Ryan Messmore visited three schools in Toowoomba on 20 May.

Speaking at Toowoomba Christian College, Christian Outreach College Toowoomba and The Glennie School, they encouraged the students to think broadly about their study options after secondary school and presented the option of CHC as a private, affordable, Christian alternative to the major public universities.

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS GATHER

The Associated Christian Schools (ACS) held their Annual General Meeting at CHC on Friday 22 May. CHC appreciated the opportunity to host the 20 Principals of the member schools, and continues to partner with Christian schools across Australia in the cause of Christian education.







## STUDENT AMBASSADORS

In a highly competitive market for tertiary enrolments, institutions must build a strong relationship with prospective students in order to be considered as an option when choosing QTAC preferences. Enter the CHC Student Ambassadors, who (with CHC staff) attend over 100 career events every year. Ranging from private visits to schools to hosting stands at major career events such as TS Expo at the RNA, the Student Ambassadors do a wonderful job in explaining to prospective students (and their sometimes anxious parents) the CHC difference, and how a degree from CHC can open up a world of opportunities.

Chosen from the current student cohort, the Ambassadors represent each of the four schools and are living embodiments of the CHC experience. They talk about their own reasons for choosing CHC initially, and about their own academic, social and spiritual journey as a CHC student. Their smiling faces and encouraging conversation are a major reason for CHC's continuing success, and they also gain skills in listening, public speaking and persuasion – all of which are essential elements of any future career beyond graduation.



# CHC RESEARCH FOCUS

# LONDON CALLING

Dr Sam Hey (School of Ministries) has been invited to present a paper *SocialChange and the Australian Megachurches* at the British Sociological Association – Sociology of Religion Conference, in London, UK on 7 to 9 July, 2015. Sam has been recognized as a leader in the understanding of megachurch developments in Australia and he has presented at a number of national and international conferences on developments in biblical studies, history, sociology, culture and megachurch developments in recent years.

Since its foundation in 1975, the Sociology of Religion Study Group has become one of the largest in the British Sociological Association (BSA). Its membership includes educators and researchers from across the UK and internationally, and in 2015 the Sociology of Religion Study Group will be celebrating 40 years! This conference will bring together scholars who have shaped and are shaping the discipline.

Drawing on insights from his PhD study and his recent book on Megachurches, this paper considers the ways in which sociological and historical insights can help to more fully understand the development of megachurches and their place in society.

Through case studies of Australian megachurches, it examines the ways in which large megachurch gatherings have aided the growth of Pentecostal and charismatic movement subcultures, the establishing of religious schools, political lobby groups, welfare programs and a range of other activities that promote new expressions of Christianity.

It investigates ways in which megachurches are providing resources to preserve and revitalize traditional forms of Christianity, and how they are also succumbing to social and secularizing pressures, and adopting consumerist, individualist, experiential and market oriented approaches to faith that endanger traditional forms of Christianity.

It also considers the contribution that studies of Australian megachurches can make to aiding a greater understanding of religious and social change, and secularizing and counter secularizing developments in Australian society the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

It seeks to assess the contribution that the study of megachurches can make to aiding a greater understanding of religion and society in the 21st century.





## CARDUS AT CHC

CHC was pleased to host Dr Ray Pennings from Canadian thinktank, Cardus, on Friday 29 May. Visiting Brisbane following his keynote appearance at the Christian Schools Australia National Policy Forum in Canberra, Dr Pennings presented two seminars to assist Christians working in academia and the public square with their work.

His first session, entitled *Developing Research Capacity through Dense Networking*, outlined the development of the Cardus Institute and the perceived need for believers to engage in policy development and a voice that is public, credible and distinctively Christian.

The afternoon session, *Christianity in the Public Square*, provided an insightful summary of Christian engagement in culture, politics and society.

He drew a historical thread through the work of church reformers like Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, and into modern approaches to Christian social engagement. He presented a sobering but hopeful picture of how Christians can move from simply consuming and condemning culture, to creating and cultivating culture.



## BREAKING GROUND

CHC's Undergraduate Course Coordinator (Counselling) from the School of Social Sciences, Mrs Karenne Hills, recently made her MPhil confirmation presentation at Griffith University. Her research, which is on the topic of *Spirituality in the context of non-verbal autism*, generated great interest among the examiners. As a result Karenne's thesis has been accepted without modifications allowing her to immediately 'upgrade' from a MPhil degree into a PhD.

Karenne also presented a paper at the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability conference in Atlanta, USA on May 26-30, 2015. Karenne has a growing research profile in the area of disability and has presented at a number of national and international conferences on the subject of spirituality, sexuality and disability in the past two years.

This conference is one of the few worldwide which focuses on the topic of disability theology and brings together experts in the field to disseminate emerging knowledge regarding this neglected research area.

Her paper, *Spirituality and people with a disability in the context of human sexuality*, explores historical religious and societal attitudes to sexuality. It provides an alternative biblical perspective which encompasses a fresh look at the God inspired purpose of sexuality as a valued ingredient of the human experience, including for people with disabilities.





## STAFF VS STUDENTS VOLLEYBALL

The recent Staff vs Student volleyball match brought forward predictable levels of pre-match bravado and claims of sporting prowess, but the final result yielded a convincing argument for the power of youth. Whilst the students would have enjoyed solid support from their classmates in any event, the provision of free pizza and soft drink ensured that they enjoyed a large and parochial following.

With only their wisdom and experience to draw from (and a couple of hastily co-opted Student Ambassadors), the staff competed valiantly but to no avail as the students took out all three games – Men, Women and Mixed. With rumours of a Semester 2 “re-match” on the cards, the participants will be wiser for the experience and with a knowledge of their opponents’ strengths and weaknesses, it is sure to be another classic.

## PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. STUDENTS

*by Morgan Feddes. Reprinted with permission from Advance, Spring 2015 – the magazine of the CCCU*

In response to the growing interest in practicum opportunities both domestically and abroad, the Australia Studies Centre (ASC) at Christian Heritage College is the newest BestSemester program to add a practicum option to its course offerings, making it the ninth to do so.

“Providing internships for students in Australia has been one of the ASC’s long-term goals, and I’m so pleased that we can finally offer this opportunity,” says ASC Director Kimberly Spragg. “Facilitating hands-on, international work experience is an effective way of helping students connect their purpose with their vocation and to see both of those rooted in community and place.”

“One of the highlights of our BestSemester programs is that they offer students a well-rounded educational experience,” says Leah Mullen, CCCU’s assistant director of student programs. “Our programs challenge students to step outside of the classroom and engage with local communities, service organizations and businesses. Internships are a big part of that offering as students learn about vocation and relate their faith to the work that they do.”

ASC students can select from the following internship placements: human services (which includes social work, child protection, community centre work and human resources), youth ministry, youth welfare, chaplaincy and community development. They will complete 100 placement hours throughout the semester and receive a professional mentor.

“This internship is allowing me to get an intercultural perspective on youth ministry, which will help me understand how to best reach youth to pursue a deeper relationship with Christ,” says Ashley Leggett, a student at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, who has an internship with Citipointe Youth ministry in Brisbane this semester. “[It] has greatly impacted my life already and my future as a youth minister.”

Students who register for an internship will also take a corequisite unit based on the placement they select. This is in addition to the required ASC core units, also known as the culture emphasis.

“We are thrilled to commence offering internships to ASC students this semester,” says Judy Fay, social sciences practicum manager at Christian Heritage College. “These excellent students are engaging well and are providing a cross-cultural understanding in the lectures. We look forward to welcoming more ASC internships in the coming years and the reciprocal benefits this presents.”







# ONCE UPON A TIME

CHC BALL September 5  
Doors Open 5:30pm Dinner Starts 7pm

Diana Plaza Hotel  
12 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba Queensland 4102

Early Bird \$50 (Ends August 2)  
Normal \$60 (Closes August 28)

Tickets online at [facebook.com/christianheritagecollege](https://facebook.com/christianheritagecollege)





## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16	Semester 2 Orientation
July 19	Common Ground
August 11	Missional Business Conference
August 22	CHC Open Day & Uni Games
September 5	CHC Ball (Diana Plaza Hotel)

Refer to [chc.edu.au/about-us/events](http://chc.edu.au/about-us/events) for more event details



Apply Now  
for Semester 2

Courses include:

- Graduate Diploma in Management
- Graduate Certificate in Christian Education
- Master of Education
- Master of Counselling
- Graduate Diploma in Ministry Studies
- Master of Ministry Leadership

[chc.edu.au](http://chc.edu.au)



Business

Education  
& Humanities

Social  
Sciences

Ministries



# CALLING AND EDUCATION ARE ABOUT MORE THAN JUST A JOB

LAST WORD

"Hi! It's good to meet you. What do you do?"

The first words exchanged when meeting someone new often elicit the same response. "I'm a dentist (or dolphin trainer or drag-racer or other currently-held occupation)." In other words, the answer usually has to do with a career.

Although this may be harmless enough as introductory small talk, there's a danger in defining ourselves or others in terms of a particular job. One problem is that we can begin to think that our identity is tied to what we do to earn a pay cheque—that we are what we do for a living. A related problem is that we collapse the notion of vocation into occupation.

*Vocare*, which is the Latin root of the word vocation, means "to call." Thus, our vocation refers to our calling, which is a much larger notion than our occupation.

Os Guinness reminds us that a sense of calling—a sense of what we are each created and gifted to be—should precede a choice of job and career. "Instead of, 'You are what you do,' calling says: 'Do what you are'—that is, seek to express in your life and work the passions, abilities and gifts that make you truly alive.

In a fallen world, there is no guarantee that our giftedness will find full expression and alignment with our current career. But whether or not our work employs "the deepest gifts that are truly us," we need to recognise that our calling has to do with more than just our job.

The same is true of education. A good education should equip students to find their way in the world, including securing gainful employment. But it should do much more than that. The purpose of education is not just to make a living, but to make a certain kind of life—to become a certain kind of person.

Christian Heritage College is committed to helping students wrestle with questions of calling and higher education from a Christian worldview perspective. Toward this end, the Millis Institute is offering a unit in Semester 2 of 2015 called "Foundations of Faith, Learning and Vocation." Dr Ryan Messmore will facilitate the unit, which is open to current CHC students as well as Year 11-12 students (as a LAUNCH unit). The latter can enrol for free and, if they pass, receive automatic entry into CHC.

To learn how CHC can help you form a framework with which to analyse your own sense of meaning and purpose during university and beyond, contact [enquiries@chc.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@chc.edu.au). Stay up to date about other Millis Institute initiatives by subscribing to the fortnightly e-newsletter *The Pillar*.

*Dr Ryan Messmore is the Executive Director of The Millis Institute at CHC, which is dedicated to the study and application of the liberal arts.*



## STAY IN TOUCH

Name (maiden name, if applicable)

Home Address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Postal Address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Telephone

(home)

(mobile)

Email

Job Title

Organisation

Years at CHC (eg 2002-2006)

CHC Course

Tell us your news

Please send this form to [enquiries@chc.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@chc.edu.au) or CHC, PO Box 2246, Mansfield BC, Qld, 4122

# OPEN DAY AUGUST 22 2015

CHC  
LEARNING HUB



1986

CELEBRATING  
30 YEARS

2016