From the President:

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone as we begin the 2015 academic year. I hope it is a good year for you. Our time here is characterised by several dimensions. Most obviously, there are the studies we do, the course units that are taken, the knowledge that is gained, and the reading and personal reflection that study entails. But our time here also puts us in contract with others who are studying with us. In many cases those studying beside us have the same goal in view. But we also meet people who have different reasons for undertaking studies at a theology faculty. This adds to the richness of our academic community. I would encourage you to get to know the people in your class, those you see in the common room and the library. Get to know what has led them to CIS. A further aspect of our time here is that the very nature of our studies leads us to reflect on our personal faith and to seek spiritual enrichment. Faith itself is never just a private matter, but always orients us outwards, to the wider church and to the world. I hope that CIS can give you the resources to work with these two dimensions.

At the beginning of each academic year we celebrate Mass to invoke God’s blessing on our work this year. The Mass this year will be on Sunday 8 March at 5.30pm in the auditorium. I would encourage you to make an effort to join us for this Mass. We don’t have many occasions where we can worship together, so let’s make this an important occasion.

CIS has a new Chancellor, with the appointment of Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP as the archbishop of Sydney last year. Unfortunately, the archbishop won’t be able to join us for the opening Mass this year, but I hope that there will be other occasions when we might hear from him.

Last week we said farewell to Paul Wei, who has worked in the Veech Library since 2011. His association with CIS goes back earlier than this, both as a student and with work placements in the Veech Library. He takes up a new position at Macquarie University. We wish him well in this new position and acknowledge the significant contribution he has made in the Veech Library. Thank you, Paul!

One change to our academic life in 2015 is that the CIS Senate has approved the appointment of a student to the CIS Academic Board. This will assist the Academic Board to hear the student voice in its decision-making. I will discuss with the CISSA Council the nomination of someone to this position. As you are probably aware, we already have student representation on the CIS Senate and on the Library Committee. Moreover, each class chooses a class representative to facilitate communication in the classroom.

When it comes to communication, please make sure that you take a copy of The Institute News (TIN) each week. It is published on Mondays. Copies can be found near the notice boards in the common room and in the main foyer. You can also access TIN on the CIS website.

Have a good 2015 academic year!

Fr Gerard Kelly

Opening Mass

A Eucharistic Liturgy will be held in the Auditorium of the Catholic Institute of Sydney to celebrate and open the Academic Year

Sunday, 8th March 2015 at 5:30 pm

Following Mass, refreshments will be held in the courtyard.

LIBRARY NEWS

Over the semester break the Library Staff reviewed borrowing conditions for various categories of borrowers in preparation for the introduction of a new Library Management System (ALMA) in July 2015. Students enrolled at the Catholic Institute of Sydney will now notice the loan period for books is 21 days; previously the loan period was 14 days. All other conditions of borrowing for CIS students remain the same.

Also on Friday 27th February we said farewell to Paul Wei our Systems Librarian. Paul was a great asset to CIS his information technology skills, helpfulness and commitment to the Veech Library will be greatly missed, but we wish him well as he takes up a promotion at Macquarie University. Best wishes Paul.

A reminder for students and that Mass will be held in the chapel Mondays—Thursdays at 12:40pm
From the Academic Registrar:

Welcome back to a new year of study! A special welcome to those beginning their studies with us. We hope the weeks, months, and years ahead will be most fruitful for you.

As it is Week 1, there are a number of items to which I need to draw your attention:

1. In the first couple of weeks of lectures often there is ‘housekeeping’ to do with student class lists. Should your name not appear on the list your lecturer has, please notify your lecturer so that they can then let Mrs. Mary Cassar, the Registry Secretary, know.

2. For non-intensives/extensives, a student may withdraw from / drop a course unit before census date. That is, before 5:00pm on the Friday of week three. In such cases, the course unit does not appear on the student’s record. Should you wish to drop a course under these conditions a “Dropping a Course Unit Form” is to be fully completed and submitted to the Registry. It is available from the Registry shelves. The same form can be used if you wish to change from one course to another, which is possible up until the end of Week 3.

3. Attendance is a very significant element of the successful completion of any course unit. The SCD has a policy of 80% attendance required to pass any course unit. Your lecturer will keep a detailed record of attendance throughout the semester.

I also bring to your attention the following practical matters.

1. New or renewed CIS Student Identification Cards are available from Mrs. Mary Cassar, the Registry Secretary. For those students eligible for Student Travel Concession, the Student ID card is issued with a RailCorp logo. By law, concessions cannot be given to:
   - Students who are on Australian visa
   - Part-time students

2. The hire of lockers for students can also be arranged through the Registry Office.

Academic Results from Semester 2, 2014 were posted to students prior to Christmas. Should you not have received your results please bring this to the attention of Mrs. Mary Cassar and check that the address on the database is the correct one for you.

Please feel welcome to contact me with any enquiry related to your course of studies. My phone no. is 97529522 and my email is rcurnow@cis.catholic.edu.au.

With every good wish for your studies in the year ahead,

Dr Rohan Curnow
Academic Registrar

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**STUDY SKILLS MORNING**

Led by Fr Mark Kenny and Dr Rohan Curnow

**SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2015 (Lecture Room 3) 9.30am — 12.30pm**

RSVP by Friday 20 March at the Registry.

All welcome! A great opportunity for new students. Content will include how to write an essay through every step of the way, from the essay question to the finished product, analysing the essay question, preparing a mind-map, researching the essay, planning to use the material to answer the question, proper documentation of sources and editing the essay and computer use in essay writing.

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**STUDY SKILLS MORNING**

I will be attending the study skills morning on Saturday 21 March 2015

Name ________________________________

Phone No ______________________________

Please return to Mrs Mary Cassar (Registry Office) by Friday 20 March 2015