

**THE FIRST BLAST OF THE TRUMPET.  
CLASSICS NEWS FOR APRIL 2017**

**PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS,  
PUBLIC SEMINARS AND LECTURES, PUBLICATIONS,  
PLACEMENTS, SPLENDID GRADUATE STUDENT  
ADMISSIONS WITH FUNDING TO MATCH, GRADUATION  
HONOURS, A COLLOQUIUM, A CONFERENCE, AND MORE.**

We are overwhelmed with news, almost all good, too much for one Newsbulletin. So I am dividing all these good things between three. This one will emphasise faculty news, in May we shall concentrate on our glorious students, graduating and incoming, and in June on Dr Hankey's Retirement celebrations.

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**ELI DIAMOND WINS THE FACULTY  
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND BURGESS  
RESEARCH AWARDS**



Professors Diamond and MacLeod (PhD 1999) as King and Queen of the Pythian Games at the Judges' Table

This year Dr Eli Diamond, First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies and the University Medal in Contemporary Studies, 1999; MA 2001, our professor of Ancient Philosophy, joins Dr Peter O'Brien (2006) and Dr Jack Mitchell (2014) as recipients of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching. Both Dr Diamond and Dr O'Brien are graduates of the Foundation Year Programme and teach in it.

Astonishingly Eli's outstanding research accomplishments, as well as his teaching, are being recognized in the same year; he is also receiving the Faculty's Burgess Research Award.

Eli's book on Aristotle's *De Anima*, papers on Aristotle in Milan: "The Philosophical Structure of Aristotle's History of Psychology in 'De Anima' Alpha," invited lecture presented at the conference "Aristotele e le sfide del suo tempo," Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, November 2016, and at Georgetown University, teaching with Halifax and Burnside Humanities, have been mentioned in recent Newsbulletins. There is much more: "Pythagorean Mathematics, Platonic Dialectic, and the Incompleteness of the Second Sailing in Plato's *Phaedo*" presented to the International Plato Society at the annual Symposium Platonicum (Brasilia), July 4-8, 2016; "Aristotle's *Poetics* vs Plato's *Symposium*: Discovering the Logic of Tragedy and Comedy," keynote Address to the University of Windsor's Undergraduate Classics Conference, delivered on March 4, 2017; "Plato as a guide to understanding comedy and tragedy, on stage and in human life," Aquinas Lecture in Philosophy, delivered at St Thomas University (Fredericton) on January 26, 2017.

Eli is now working on a translation of Plato's *Symposium*, a paper for "Wisdom Belongs to God": "Productive, Practical, and Theoretical Reason in Aristotle: Human or Divine?" and an address for "God Everyday and Everywhere": "The trinitarian structure of Aristotle's living God and its mortal imitations". A report of his Foundation Year Programme extravaganza "Prince as 'Dionysian Christian': an *Itinerarium corporis in deum*" may be seen by going to Dr Hankey's "We have come to a certain end of Western Civilization: Endings and Beginnings" <https://dal.academia.edu/WayneHankey/Contemporary-Issues> At <https://dal.academia.edu/EliDiamond> you will find some of Dr Diamond's published work.

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### ORTHODOX AND ORIENTAL CHURCHES

The Burgess Award replaces a half class. As a result, Dr Gary Thorne will teach Classics / Religious Studies 2281 "Orthodox and Oriental Churches" in the Winter Term, 2018.

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### DR ANGUS JOHNSTON PASSES

On the Eve of Palm Sunday, Dr Angus Johnston, a beloved intellectual and convivial power at King's and in the Department, passed. He received his MA in Classics in 1974, with a thesis on Plato's *Meno*, and our PhD in the fall of 1985 with a dissertation on Aristotle's *Physics* directed by Professor Doull. Beginning in 1973, Angus instructed in the Department at every level from Teaching Assistant to Adjunct Professor, supervising theses as well as lecturing. In 1977 he began his thirty year loving connection with King's College, where, both, as Director of the Foundation Year Programme, and, as Vice-President, he left a permanent mark. His teaching career came to a close with the now legendary Final FYP Lecture on Bob Dylan, April 3, 2009. Angus was one of the founders of Halifax Humanities. On Easter Monday the King's College Chapel was packed to

overflowing for his funeral at which Dr Neil Robertson, MA, 1986, present Director of the Foundation Year Programme, delivered the Homily.

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### DR JACK MITCHELL'S SABBATICAL PRODUCTIONS

Dr Mitchell's aphorism book is out: *D, or 500 Maxims, Aphorisms, and Reflections* and available at your bookseller.

In May he will publish: \* a new Young Adult novel of historical fiction set in ancient Rome, *Chariots of Gaul*, about the adventures of a young British charioteer during Julius Caesar's conquest of Gaul.

\* three new reader-friendly editions ("ad usum lectoris") of Virgil's *Aeneid*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and the works of Horace. (*Vergili Aeneis, Ovidii Metamorphoses, Horati Opera.*)

Dr Mitchell is currently working on: \* an English-language poem about the Halifax Explosion in alliterative Anglo-Saxon metre;

\* a satirical novel called *Now That I'm Dead*, about the author's imagined experiences in the pagan afterlife, in the tradition of Lucian and Fontenelle, featuring dialogues with (thusfar) Socrates, Jane Austen, a group of *Homo erectus*, Rhadymanthus, and Dr Samuel Johnson and Dr Hunter S. Thompson;

\* a verse tragedy about Louis Riel.

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### DR CAROLYN MACDONALD BECOMES PROFESSOR MACDONALD

In the current circumstances news that our graduates have gained permanent appointments is very welcome indeed. Dr Colin Webster (First Class Honours in Contemporary Studies and Classics 2005; MA 2007) is well placed at the University of California Davis since 2014 where he is Assistant Professor of Classics specialising in Ancient science, medicine and philosophy, a delicious King's - Classics mixture. A graduate one year later, Dr Carolyn MacDonald (First Class Honours, the University Medal in Classics, and the King's Silver Medal, 2006; MA, 2008) is now in a tenure track post in our neighbourhood, the Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. There she is on the same campus as Dr Matthew Robinson (First Class Honours, 2000; MA, 2002), Associate Professor of Medieval Philosophy at St. Thomas University, Matt will speak on "Augustine's *Confessions*: Intellectual Quest and Divine Grace" at "Wisdom Belongs to God" in June. Drs Robinson, Webster, and MacDonald are graduates of the Foundation Year Programme.

At UNB Carolyn will specialize in Latin literature and Roman art, and pursue her interests in cross-cultural interaction and appropriation between Rome, Greece, and Italy; the invention and reinvention of Roman cultural memory; and the representation of the city and its monuments in Latin poetry and prose. This past year she taught Introductory Latin, Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and a class on Pompeii and Herculaneum. See her site: <http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/arts/departments/classics/people/cmacdonald.html#Carolyn> MacDonald. It is splendid to have Carolyn permanently established on the East Coast.

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## TWO ALUMNI, DR FLORENCE YOON AND DR MATTHEW WOOD, DELIVER DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

On visits back to the Department this Term two alumni gave us the results of their current research. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, our most recent Rhodes Scholar, now Assistant Professor of Greek Language and Literature at the University of British Columbia, Dr Florence Yoon (First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, 2002) delivered a seminar "Stop calling them 'messengers': distinguishing character identity and function in Greek Tragedy". She was preceded on January 23, by Dr Matthew Wood (Combined Honours, Classics and Early Modern Studies, 2003; MA, 2005) Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow at the Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, on "Moving Images: An Interpretation of Rhetoric 411b 2-4." In June, Matthew will present "Similarity and Difference in Proclus' Theory of the Symbol" during the Wisdom Belongs to God Colloquium.

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## FAMILY

Duncan Patrick was born to Seamus (PhD 2009) and Catherine O'Neill on April 5<sup>th</sup>. His big sisters Annie and Jane are very excited. Dr O'Neill, Associate Professor of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy at the Memorial University of Newfoundland will deliver "Augustine on Curiosity: What Superstition and Natural Science Share in Common" at "Wisdom Belongs to God" in June. Some of his publications may be found at <https://mun.academia.edu/SeamusONeill>.

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## "WE HAVE COME TO A CERTAIN END OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION: ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS" CONCLUDING LECTURE FOR THE 2016-17 FOUNDATION YEAR PROGRAMME

Dr Wayne Hankey delivered the FYP Final Lecture on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>. It may be accessed at

<https://dal.academia.edu/WayneHankey/Contemporary-Issues>

In the Winter Term of 2018 Dr Hankey will teach a seminar on Augustine's *Confessions*. Classics / Religious Studies 3413 and 5070.

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## "WISDOM BELONGS TO GOD" COLLOQUIUM WITH "GOD EVERYDAY AND EVERYWHERE": REGISTRATION AND WEBSITE

Go to its [website](#) for details of this week long festival: Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to be held at and co-sponsored by the University of King's College. Inquiries to Justin Wolff at [wollfjustin@gmail.com](mailto:wollfjustin@gmail.com). All are invited to this week of philosophy, literary study and theology. See

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/wisdom-belongs-to-god.html>

Colloquium materials, including drafts of Dr Hankey's papers will also be found on his Academia.edu site

<https://dal.academia.edu/WayneHankey/Conference-Materials>

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**HELPING SUCCESS TO KEEP HAPPENING**  
Donations for the work of the Department may be made at  
<https://alumniapps2.dal.ca/giving/index?gift=classicsdept>

Wayne J. Hankey  
April 24, 2017