

CLASSICS news

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences newsletter for the Department of Classics

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The Department of Classics with the Programme in Religious Studies and Arabic invite you to a birthday party:

“225&70”

We honour

225 years of our teaching of
CLASSICS
which began in 1789 at
King's College in Windsor

and

70 years of professor
WAYNE JOHN HANKEY

on

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
4:30PM



Over the last year *Dr. Hankey* has started a new endowment fund for the department with a gift of **\$25,000** and these anniversaries provide an opportunity for alumni, friends, faculty and students of the department to match his gift.

The Programme:

4:30–5:30pm

Presentations highlighting Classics in Windsor and Halifax over four centuries in
ALUMNI HALL

University of King's College, 6350 Coburg Road, Halifax

5:30–6:30pm

Reception with alumni, friends, students and faculty in
THE UNIVERSITY OF KING'S COLLEGE LIBRARY

RSVP by October 22, 2014

(902) 494.3468 | donna.edwards@dal.ca

Kindly let us know how many guests you will be bringing

Please make a donation to our Classics' fundraising campaign

Chairman's Message For the 225th anniversary newsletter

Largest and Most Distinguished Graduating Class in 225 years of Classics

The graduation class in this anniversary year for Classics at Dalhousie and King's was appropriately outstanding. **We celebrated the largest and most distinguished class in 225 years of Classics:** 40 degrees, 27 in Classics, 13 in Religious Studies; 15 Honours degrees in Classics, 6 Honours degrees in Religious Studies; 13 First Class Honours degrees over all. Our top three students each took University Medals. Equal numbers received their degrees at the King's Encaenia on May 15th and at the Dalhousie Convocation on May 20th. As well as graduates in Religious Studies and Classics both celebrations included outstanding students of Arabic.

NEW: DIONYSIUS GOES ONLINE



(and you can purchase it online as well)

For the first time, with Volume 32 for 2014, *Dionysius* our international scholarly journal will be available both in online and in print versions. And you can purchase it online.

Founded in 1977 under the editorship of A.H. Armstrong, R.D. Crouse and J.A Doull, *Dionysius* is now edited by Dr Hankey. At present its Editorial Advisory Board has representatives from nine countries in twenty-eight distinguished universities and research institutes. Recent contributors come from five continents. Except for a five year

Be Our Guest - "225 & 70"

Celebrating 225 Years of Classics and 70 years of Professor Wayne Hankey

“The 225th anniversary of Classics at Dalhousie-King's provides an opportunity to ask for your assistance.”

Please consider becoming a regular donor to Classics.

Donations are eligible for Income Tax deduction as charitable gifts and appropriate receipts will be issued.

giving.dal.ca/classicsdept



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Classics

Every aspect of Classics in the Joint Dalhousie-King's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is strong. Indeed Classics with Religious Studies enjoys the highest level of Programme Enrolments in its history. Yet now, more than ever, we rely on the support of alumni, parents, and friends to continue giving students the kind of education that sets them apart. In their study of Classics at Dalhousie, students develop a deep awareness of their place in history, community, nature and the cosmos that prepares them for a thoughtful life. The 225th anniversary of Classics at Dalhousie-King's provides an opportunity to ask for your assistance.

Please recognize the importance of the department's ongoing mission with your financial support. Donations help us to assist students in need, to acquire books and other learning materials, to invite visiting speakers, to host our Pythian Games, and to sponsor collegial events that build our intellectual community. Cheques can be made out to Dalhousie University and sent to;

**Dalhousie University | Annual Giving, Office of External Relations
PO Box 15000 | Halifax, NS B3H 4R2 Canada**

Designate your support to a special area or need on the front of your cheque

More conveniently, donations can be made online at giving.dal.ca/classicsdept. There, you may direct your gift generally, or to a number of special areas of interest or need as indicated in the drop-down menu:

Ancient History | Classics General | *Dionysius* and *Pseudo-Dionysius* | Dr. Robert Crouse Fund | Languages and Literatures | Pythian Games | Religious Studies | Student Assistance – Classics | Wayne John Eisenhower-Hankey Endowment

(The Eisenhower-Hankey Endowment started with Dr. Hankey's gift will support the philosophical side of our work and what is essential to that like the teaching of Greek and Latin.)

Dionysius Continued...

hiatus in the 1990s, *Dionysius* has appeared annually since its foundation and Volume 32 for 2014 is now in preparation. The back-issues accessible with an online subscription contain three hundred articles.

The content of *Dionysius* reflects the character of the Dalhousie Classics Department, but from the beginning our journal has specialised in Ancient, Late Ancient and Medieval philosophy, theology, and religion and their *nachleben*. Leading work in the Aristotelian and Neoplatonic traditions will be found in its pages and *Dionysius* prides itself with having issued the first and often ground-breaking publications of scholars who went on to occupy important places in these areas of philosophy; it attempts to balance such initial work with articles by distinguished authors. In 2012, *Dionysius* published its first article using

Arabic script. Significantly the article was by a present member of the Department and a recent graduate.

Subscription rates will be the same for the print journal and online access. Online subscribers will have access to the current year's journal and to the previous four years; earlier back issues will be accessible to all readers. For example, with the appearance of the 2013 journal, everything published prior to 2009 will be available at <http://ojs.library.dal.ca/>. To subscribe and/or pay for the journal online, please visit: <http://stay.dal.ca/KxRegistration/Dionysius14>

The digitalization of *Dionysius* was done with a grant from Dalhousie for which we are grateful. The grant and supervision of the work are owed to Jennifer Lambert. Susan Harris has managed the *Dionysius* – Killam Library interactions with patience and skill

over more than two years to enable this and Donna Edwards was the absolutely *sine qua non* for online payment. Donna devoted two years of persistent patience, skill and diplomacy to securing this. *Gratias agimus vobis.*

FIND IT HERE:

<http://stay.dal.ca/KxRegistration/Dionysius14>

Chairmans Message Continued...

For the second year, the Classics Department Library hosted a light breakfast for the graduands and their families before the King's College Encaenia events. At it I announced that **Daniel Heide** from Manitoba, with First Class Honours in Classics and Religious Studies, had been awarded the University Medal in Religious Studies. **Kevin Walker** from Dartmouth, with First Class Honours in Classics and German, picked up the University Medal in German at the Encaenia ceremony. Both Daniel and Kevin are returning to the Department for Graduate Study. Daniel brings with him a SSHRC MA Scholarship and a Killam Scholarship, the latter being the highest awarded at Dalhousie.

The Dalhousie Convocation Luncheon was a great success for a second year. Here the Department honoured its Dalhousie graduates whose origins exhibited a stunning spread. We celebrated the accomplishments of **Daniel Gillis**, from Port Hawkesbury, in Cape Breton, who will take a SSHRC MA Scholarship to Religious Studies at McGill, with a First Class Honours degree and the University Medal in Classics. He very movingly replied to Dr Hankey's toast to the Graduating Class. **Tanisha Chakma**, from Dhaka, Bangladesh, with First Class Honours in Classics and a



Tanisha Chakma

Minor in Chinese Studies, the winner of the Nicole-Knox prize for excellence in Ancient Languages, came, as did **Tibet Kara** from Izmir, Turkey, also celebrating an Honours degree. Tanisha and Tibet are staying with us for graduate studies and Tanisha will bring a SSHRC MA Scholarship with her. After an outstandingly warm and happy gathering which included Dr Jack Mitchell's mother

Margaret and his elder son Caius, we trooped off to Convocation and heard a splendid and eminently memorable **Convocation address by Professor Mitchell, the holder of our Faculty's Outstanding Teacher Award.**

Programme Registrations in Classics and Religious Studies are at Historic Highs

These numbers of graduates and their quality are built, of course, on the outstanding numbers and quality of the students registering in our programmes. Dr Treiger drew attention to a bias negatively affecting us in the reported enrolment numbers. This was corrected. The new numbers showed what our two undergraduate advisors had intuited: **programme registrations in both Classics and Religious Studies are at our historic highs and have continued to increase.** This is in the face of large declines in the numbers of students enrolling in major departments of the humanities and social sciences. Our success is attributable to creative imagination in designing classes, to outstandingly excellent teaching, to high standards—our students are proud of their attainments and this attracts others—to the up to date recruiting techniques used by our faculty members and to an independent spirit, proud of the unique intellectual tradition of the Department and resistant to externally imposed criteria and inappropriate methods.

An indication of the quality of our students is their receipt of the **Dr Peggy Heller Award at King's.** Given annually since 2012 to the student with the highest marks in the Foundation Year Programme, both the first winner of the award, **Harrington Critchley** (FYP 2012) and the second, **Tamara Watson** (FYP 2013) have elected to do their degrees in our Department. Harrington has declared a Major in Religious Studies with lots of Greek and Latin as well as an introductory class in Mandarin. Tamara is working on an honours degree in Classics and will take 2nd year Greek and third year Latin in 2014-15.

Graduate Studies in the Department are in an Excellent State

In respect to numbers and quality Graduate Studies in the Department are in the same excellent state as our Undergraduate work. **Dr Eli Diamond** reports what may be the **largest number of excellently qualified applicants for Graduate Study** in the Department in our entire 225 year history! There is a good distribution between fields of study. Crucially, many of them are bringing their tuition costs with them. Our students took **twenty-five (25) percent of the SSHRC MA scholarships**, five (5) of the twenty (20), awarded to Dalhousie!

In addition, news is starting to come in about the awards to our graduates going elsewhere: **Joseph Gerbasi** received full funding for a PhD in Philosophy but is taking a year to decide where to go, **Peter Bullerwell**, three years of the highest fellowship for PhD study at McGill. **Daniel Gillis**, as indicated above, takes a MA SSHRC to McGill and **Daniel Watson** will be funded by a Hume Scholarship for a Master's degree in Celtic Studies at Maynooth. **Paul McGilvery** has a SSHRC PhD fellowship for a Classics degree at the University of Western Ontario. **Katelyn Abarbanel** with First Class Honours in French and Religious Studies takes a SSHRC MA scholarship to graduate study in History at Concordia. **Victoria Shipman** with First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Environment Sustainability and Society starting a funded MA in Chinese Buddhism at McGill. This is only a partial list.

Then, with former students, there are **Dr James Bryson's** postdoc at McGill, **Dr Simon Fortier's** successful Soutenance of his thesis on Proclus at Laval, the publication of **Dr Stephen Blackwood's** dissertation on the *Consolatio* of Boethius, and **Dr Colin Webster's** appointment to an Assistant Professorship in Classics at the University of California, Davis. As my lecture tours to Princeton via St Thomas University, Smith College and Yale and to McGill showed, the influence of our tiny Department is felt from Istanbul to San Francisco and the places in between.

Dionysius and Pseudo-Dionysius

An excellent peer reviewed issue of *Pseudo-Dionysius* under the editorship of **Aaron Shenkman** and **Joseph Gerbasi** appeared in time for the final *Res publica* party. Congratulations to the editors, reviewers, and authors. Our junior journal is digitalised and may be read online. There is good news regarding *Dionysius* which you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter. Dalhousie has found the means to manage online subscriptions. This will enable a move to an online edition and access to the digitalized back issues of our journal.

A BIG PARTY

Celebration. You will also see in this Newsletter we are having a BIG PARTY in November. Looking through the lens of this Newsletter, I suggest that we should celebrate two things.

First, the **wonderful diversity of the futures for which the studies in our Department help prepare.** We see, of course, further academic studies and careers in Philosophy: Ancient, Late Ancient, Medieval and

Contemporary; the whole of theology, that Greek invention; Greek and Roman Classics; History, Archaeology and Art; Chinese and Indian Religion; Jewish Studies; Celtic Studies; Arabic and Islamic Studies; Computerisation; and, if the witness of our married alumni couples is believed, Russian and German Studies, Humanities and the Liberal Arts generally. This list is always expanding. Then there are practical careers in teaching, journalism, politics, law, religious leadership and monastic life, librarianship, environmental advocacy, university administration, this list also continually expands.

Second the really **exceptional ongoing success of the Department**. Excellent explanations by those who have had time, occasion, and experience to reflect come out from our married alumni couples and amount to this: the deep intellectual seriousness and conviction which characterise the studies in this Department. Our work is never an exercise in archaism. I quote. Our students learn to ask these questions of texts: “What is the author saying?” and ‘How is it possible to think this?’ ...The questions asked in the Classics Department [are not] simply academic exercises nor [are] the texts artefacts.” Ours are fully contemporary inquiries and this holds in this Department whether we are dealing with literature, history, politics, philosophy or religion.

The Flight to Quality, the Quest of Challenge

There is a further consideration: the flight to quality, the quest of challenge. The continuing willingness of students to undertake very difficult language study is indicative. A key to success in attracting students to the humanities is not to give in to student fear of language study, understandable because they are admitted to the university without a knowledge of grammar and without experience in memorization, or to short term thinking in respect to numbers, but to challenge the enthusiasm and abilities of our students by combining attractive undergraduate teaching with language study for students seeking serious work. This is one necessity of making the BA a degree worth acquiring. The valuable degree will be sought. Success at the difficult builds the self-esteem our students need and crave and can become pleasure, as the Pythian Games demonstrate. Only the hard disciplines of the most demanding thinking, that of our studies, build up the strength of spirit required by what is coming upon the earth. Our present generation of students sense this. It is our task to give bread not stones.

- WJH

Pythian Games 2014

By Dr Jack Mitchell



Dr Jack Mitchell, the founding Praecentor of the Pythian Games puts the 2014 celebration in context

When we first founded the Pythian Games — the Dal Pythian Games, that is, rather than the ancient ones so sadly extinguished in 394 AD — we were struck by many things. The first was the boldness of our students. We are a highly literary, highly philosophical department, and no slouches at grammar either for that matter; but a talent for close reading, abstract speculation, and the ablativ absolute is not associated, in the public’s imagination, with an eagerness to let it all hang out on stage. Well, the public’s imagination has been proven wrong: by now, after our fourth annual Dal Pythian Games, it’s almost taken for granted that our students will transform in mid-March every year into solemn poets, ferocious gladiators, raving Bacchantes, or hilarious comedians — and still be ready for exams at term’s end.

Ten Languages on Stage

The second thing that struck us was the *variety* of the languages our students chose to perform in. It’s all well and good to recite Sappho from memory in ancient Greek — who hasn’t? — but in the very first year we saw (apart from our native languages of English and French and our professional languages of Latin and Greek) German, Russian, Welsh, Middle English, Old Norse, and Old Elvish, soon joined by Arabic. Surely, I thought, we will never exceed the nine languages of our first programme, but this year (2014) we actually broke the record, with no less than

ten languages on stage: English, French, Latin, ancient Greek, Italian, Arabic, German, Russian, Coptic, and Sylphic (this last being an invented but by no means *ad hoc* language complete with original script, documents, and linguistic history). We are determined to include Chinese and (we hope) Hebrew next year, along with (no doubt) an unforeseeable surprise or two.

What accounts for Dal students’ zeal for performance in languages other than English? (For these, as Praecentor of the Games, I always devise and operate “surtitles,” like at the opera, that allows the audience to follow the meaning of languages they don’t know.) I have thought about this for some time, and I conclude that it’s essentially the same force that inspires students to compose their own original mini-epic about the 1972 Summit Series in *Latin hexameters*, as Mr. Bruce Russell did this year, or to set the events of Xenophon’s *Retreat of the 10 000* to a hit Miley Cyrus song, as the 2nd-year Greek class did this year. It’s the will to proudly prove that the world we study — at as high a level as in any undergraduate and MA programme in the world — is the polar opposite of the dusty, irrelevant, insipid continent that a philistine world sometimes imagines. Want to make a 20th-century Arabic poem come to life on its own terms, in its own language? At the Pythian Games, you can. Want to translate Henry David Thoreau into Latin? At the Pythian Games, we understand exactly what

you're talking about (marrying the most bucolic of thinkers with the bucolic vocabulary of Virgil and Tibullus). Want to cast a magic spell in Coptic? The stage is yours.

All the same, in spite of the great variety of languages on offer, Greek and Latin were well represented this year. **Mr. Torin Vigerstad**, who continues to burn up the track in his regular Latin and Greek classes and who placed second in the Canadian Latin sightreading competition this year, won the Alumni Prize of \$100 for his recital from memory of the first 52 lines of Homer's *Iliad*, a performance marked both by the performer's dramatic flair and skill with meter. **Mr. Aaron Shenkman** translated a popular song "Momma's Boy" (by Chromeo) into ancient Greek and took the stage dressed as Oedipus, in a ribald and somewhat haunting performance. **Mr. William Coney** translated a poem by Thoreau, "Nature," into Latin verse: a gentle and thoughtful performance which Thoreau himself would doubtless have appreciated. **Mr. Justin Singer** (who is graduating with his MA in ancient philosophy) put his devotion to the philosophy of mathematics into poetic form with an original composition, *Hymnus Mathematicus Minervae*, addressed to the goddess of wisdom, which brought down the house. **Mr. Bruce Russell** (also graduating MA with a thesis on friendship in Aristotle) won the Dr. Patrick Atherton Memorial Prize (\$100) for his astounding, lengthy, metrically perfect original Latin mini-epic (*epyllion*, if you want to get technical) about the 1972 Summit Series, featuring the heroic exploits of Esposito, Dryden, Tretiak, and Henderson, in a poem modestly entitled *Poema Epicum Canadense*. It will be a while before even Dal Classics sees anything like it!

Modern languages were also beautifully represented by a variety of remarkable texts.



"Cyrus the Lesser and the Barbarians" performing "Battering Ram." The group took the Chair's Prize (\$150) for this exhilarating spectacle.

Mr. Nicholas Foran opened the Games with the description of the Gates of Hell from Dante's *Inferno* (3.1-21), for which he won the Res Publica Prize (\$75) for best performance in a living language. **Mr. Hugo Janody** recalled us from epic loftiness with a plea for the simpler pleasures in life, with a striking rendition of Charles Simic's "My Weariness of Epic Proportions." **Ms. Elizabeth Jones** brought to life one of the most beautiful (and famous) of all French sonnets, one beginning "Heureux qui, comme Ulysse," by the Pléiade poet Joachim Du Bellay, a reflection on homecoming that resonated with every listener. **Mr. John Maize** and **Mr. Stephen Wright**, both graduating students of Dr. Firanescu's, memorably brought modern and contemporary Arabic poetry to the stage, Mr. Maize performing Nizar Qabbani's "Piano Concerto" and Mr. Wright performing Mahmoud Darwish's "Identity Card."

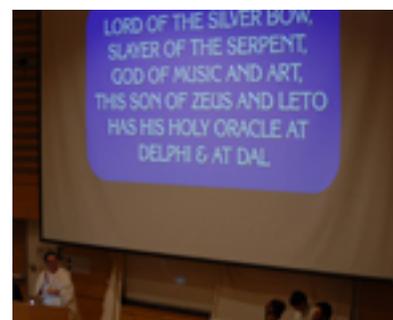
Plato On Hot Dogs

Some performances simply defy categorisation. **Mr. Dominic Lacasse**, who has owned the stage at several prior Pythian Games, surpassed himself with a magic spell in Coptic



Mr. Aaron Shenkman, assisted by Ms. Meg Shields, enacting "Momma's Boy"

(PGM 94FF 110-129), the purpose of which was to transfer pregnancies from one mother to another — though it was not immediately clear if this proved efficacious. **Europa's Ocean** (the stage name of Mr. William Alhadad) brought his resonant, evocative music to the Pythian Games with a reinterpretation



Who knows this one?

of Joyce Jonathan's "Passage Oublié" (with lyrics in French and German). **Mr. James Campbell-Prager**, winner of numerous Pythian prizes in the past, truly outdid himself with a text written in a language (Sylphic) that he himself had created, backed with manuscript evidence and a full historical backstory of its lost world, the translation of which was very moving: this was "P. Chron. 177 (Twilight's Lament)," authored in his last moments by a plague-stricken chronicler. **Mr. Bryan Heystee**, **Ms. Kate Jordan**, and **Ms. Meghan Shields** took home the grand Howard Murray Prize (\$250) for their as-

tounding three-person performance of a lost (though actually Bryan Heystee-authored) dialogue of Plato, *On Hot Dogs*: never was the Platonic philosophy so hilarious and insightful simultaneously. (Really, you should try and get a copy.) Last to take the stage was **Dal's Own 2nd-Year Greek Class**, a group performance

which married Miley Cyrus' hit *Wrecking Ball* ("You came in like a wrecking ball . . .") to the tragic career of Xenophon's protagonist (in the *Retreat of the 10 000*), Cyrus the Younger, to create "*Battering Ram* by Cyrus the Lesser," in English and Ancient Greek. This brought the house down and won them a well-earned Chair's Prize of \$250, their song entirely replacing (in this writer's inner ear) the original, for better or for worse.

As Praeceptor, I thank all our participants; all of the more than 100 audience members who cheered them on and laughed and wept; Dr. Emily Varto and Dr. Peter O'Brien who kindly served as Queen and King of the Games and judged the awarding of prizes; Dr. Chris Grundke, calligrapher extraordinaire; and Ms Donna Edwards and Dr Wayne Hankey. I say it every year, but the fact is that it will be hard to top these 2014 Games; but 2015 will doubtless have an answer to that challenge.

Graduate Studies Update

By Dr Eli Diamond, Graduate Coordinator



Bryan Heystee and Aaron Higgins-Brake, two graduate students hard at work

Quality and Numbers

These are heady times for graduate studies in Dalhousie Classics. Our incoming class of eight MA students together with our six continuing students might constitute the largest class of graduate students we have seen, and the most balanced in terms of its interests. There are equal numbers studying medieval philosophy, ancient philosophy, ancient history, and Greek and Latin poetry.

Our new Killam laureate Daniel Heide joins Kaitlyn Boulding and graduating student Paul McGilverly as holders of the university's most prestigious award for graduate study. Our students' excellence continues to be recognized by the federal granting agency SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Commission) – including our three Killam scholars, ten of our current students are holding or just held these hard to get SSHRC awards in the Department.

This year alone, three of our students were awarded SSHRC awards for graduate study: Daniel Heide, for his research on the influence of Greek mystery religions on early Christianity, Tanisha Chakma, for her proposed research on Homer and fate, and Kevin Gaul, for his work on Horace and transgressive mythological figures. All three are continuing in the Department after distinguished undergraduate degrees with us. Daniel Heide is this year's University Medalist in Religious Studies with a First Class Honours degree in Classics and Religious Studies. Tanisha Chakma, from Dhaka, Bangladesh, with First Class Honours in Classics is our first graduate to combine Classics with a Minor in Chinese Studies. Her linguistic excellence was exhibited when she won our Nicole-Knox prize for

excellence in Ancient Languages.

Diverse Graduate Seminars

Last year, even with several faculty sabbaticals and leaves, we still managed to offer a very fine roster of graduate seminars: besides our advanced language classes, there were classes on Philo's *Life of Moses*, Seneca, Thucydides, Ammianus Marcellinus, John of Damascus, and Platonic love and friendship. Some of the best work for these classes will surely appear in the next volume of *Pseudo-Dionysius*, all the volumes of which are now available to read online - this is a great way to keep up with the work being produced by our students. This coming academic year, with most of our faculty teaching seminars, our graduate offerings are even more varied, with graduate-level classes on Eriugena, Herodotus, Aristotle's *Physics*, Plotinus, Catullus, Patristic Greek, and a new class on ancient media ("From Bard to Manuscript").

Besides the requirements in the ancient languages, which remain as demanding as they have ever been, one of the challenging joys of being an MA student in Dalhousie Classics is our modern language requirement. Students must be able to read French, and, depending on their topic, other modern languages in order to work with non-English scholarship in their research area. Acquiring or perfecting a modern language becomes the focus of the summer between the first and second year of the MA programme. Two of our students, Jacob Glover and Kaitlyn Boulding, received scholarships to study in Heidelberg Germany to work on their German this summer. Another, Aaron Higgins-Brake, is closer to home studying French in Pointe-de-l'Église (N.S.) at l'Université Saint-Anne with

funding from the federal *Explore* programme. Dr Matthew Furlong led a reading group in French philosophical texts throughout the Summer. Some of those preparing for Dr Hankey's seminar on Eriugena's *Periphyseon* found this very helpful.

Six of our MA students delivered papers at the annual Atlantic Classical Association conference, held this year at Acadia University and co-organized by Dalhousie Ph.D. alumnus Vernon Provencal. With papers on ancient rhetoric, Platonic psychology, ancient mathematics, self-knowledge in Plotinus, and two papers on the magnificent conclusion of Homer's *Iliad*, our students once again helped show to the outside world the intellectual vibrancy of Dalhousie Classics. Student travel to conferences like these is partially supported with Departmental funds, and our students are ever grateful for alumni contributions for this purpose.

Bright Futures

I am writing to you in that time of year when our graduating MA students and future alumni are in the process of submitting their completed theses, so allow me to report on the work they have done and their future plans. Bryan Heystee graduated this past May with a thesis on virtue in Plato's *Meno* and *Protagoras*, and in the coming year will be teaching English in Rimouski, Quebec while he continues to work on his French. Bruce Russell has written a thesis, deeply influenced by the work of Dr. Crouse, on Aristotle's conception of friendship, treating its ethical, political, metaphysical and theological significance. Bruce, a gifted teacher, has been accepted into the education programme at Mount Saint Vincent University starting this Fall. Paul McGilverly has explored

Classics Library

By Dr Wayne Hankey

the afterlife of a vanished text, Arrian's lost *Events after Alexander*, which survives only in a 10th-century Byzantine summary but remains essential for our understanding of one of antiquity's most historiographically complex periods. Paul, a Killam scholar at Dalhousie who came to us from Laurentian University, has been accepted into the Classics Ph.D. programme at the University of Western Ontario, with doctoral SSHRC funding. Justin Singer has written what is surely the most mathematically informed thesis in Dalhousie Classics history, investigating the ontological status of mathematical entities in Platonic philosophy and their causal functioning in the natural world, and tackling some of the most daunting mathematical parts of Plato's *Timaeus*. In September Justin starts a mathematics degree in Combinatorics and Optimization at the University of Waterloo, where he will also continue his philosophical studies. Joseph Gerbasi, who came to us from the University of Winnipeg, completed a thesis on the metaphysical grounding of Aristotle's conception of the human self in the *Nicomachean Ethics*, and plans to go on to doctoral study after a year back home in Winnipeg. Nathan McAllister, a graduate of St. Thomas University in Fredericton, is in the last stages of perfecting a thesis on the Neoplatonist Iamblichus' criticism of Plotinus. When finished he will be taking a year to travel and manage his highly successful cleaning business (which he operated even throughout his MA), as he considers possibilities for further study. We are tremendously proud of our graduates, both for the first-class theses they continue to produce, and for the diverse paths they pursue, academic and non-academic, after their graduate degree at Dal.

Be a Recruiter for Us

Things are obviously going well here and word must be spreading: we have an unprecedented number of excellent applications from students across Canada and beyond. Yet we are always looking for more talented new recruits. If you know of potential graduate students who would be well suited to Dal Classics, a recommendation from alumni of the Department can have a great influence on a prospective student. Interested students can contact me for any additional information. Please refer them to our new graduate studies webpage for Classics (<http://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/graduate/classics.html>). The website has profiles of current and recently graduated students, titles of their theses, and news about what these graduates have gone on to pursue and accomplish.

Classics is the only department in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences which has its own Library. It serves as our meeting place—the Department's public lectures and seminars are held there and houses our computers, digital data bases, and archeological artifacts, as well as our books. The books do not circulate, but when the Library is otherwise free, that is most of the day and into the small hours of the night, students will be seen working there. Its resources are tremendous aids to study, research, and seminars.

Completing Great Series

Over the past year it has received a wealth of new texts. We now boast a complete and completely up-to-date collection of the Oxford Classical Texts series, as well as of the Loeb Classical Library series. Additionally, Colin Starnes, who received one of the Department's first PhDs in 1976 and was the President of King's from 1993-2003, has graciously donated a large sum of books, ranging from the Septuagint and Al-ghazali to Kierkegaard and Karl Barth! In the coming year we hope to expand our collection of Flammarion editions, and acquire a selection of bilingual Arabic-English texts among other things. Your gifts are an enormous help in building and maintaining this elegant and useful collection.

There is other good library news as well. Over the last several years serious cuts in the funds available for the collections essential to our work had placed our advanced teaching and scholarship at risk. After some stirring up by the author of this piece, through the united efforts of the Dean and Associate Deans of our Faculty, our Library specialists, the Dalhousie student newspaper, and the students and faculty of the Department, we are getting real attention paid to the Killam collections on which we depend. The Dalhousie Librarian and Vice President Carolyn Watters came through with a substantial restoration grant



Photo credit: Nick Pearce

A few artifacts belonging to the Department of Classics at Dal.

enabling our specialists to fill in some of the most serious lacunae. In April we had an excellent consultation between the students and faculty of the Department and the Library leadership, in it we were joined by the new head of the Killam, our old friend Elaine MacInnis, formerly of the King's Library.

I cannot leave libraries without mentioning the tremendous cooperation we have had from the King's Librarian, Tasya Tymczyszyn, and the King's Archivist, Janet Hathaway. Tasya, who has been part of our library consultations, has acquired at King's books urgently needed for our advanced teaching and Janet is helping with material for a brief history of Classics to go with our 225th anniversary.

For a list of some of the new acquisitions, visit: http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/news-events/news/2013/09/13/new_additions_to_the_classics_library_collection.html

Arabic Studies Update

By Dr Rodica Firanescu



Dr Firanescu with Arabic students Stephen Wright (left) and John Maize (right) at the 2014 Pythian Games

Dr Rodica Firanescu is the sole faculty member teaching Arabic and takes responsibility for all the instruction in and the promotion of the programme. She has made Arabic at Dalhousie a really outstanding success.

Rodica teaches language classes at every level from introductory to advanced; besides these she offers each year a popular class introducing students to Arabic culture. There are no problems of diminished student demand for classes. She communicates her enthusiasm for Arabic study contagiously and students come to it from many backgrounds and for many purposes. Not the least important aspect of her work is the synergies created for students of western religions and of late ancient and medieval philosophy in our Department. Her work is one of the reasons that Programme

registrations have continued to grow in the Department of Classics. Dr Rodica Firanescu is also very active with research in her special field. She writes about her students, her teaching, her research and her hopes. WJH

The one-year old Minor in Arabic Studies has started attracting students; some have already declared this Minor, and there are good omens that more will come on board next year. My Advanced Arabic class this past year was exceptional. It included, among others, five senior students who developed a passion for Arabic, and took all the three levels: Charlotte MacKeigan, Joelline Girouard, Katherine Strynatka, Cameron Mitchell, and John Maize. Their love for Arabic inspired me as a teacher

to give the best I have. It is a notable change to have in Advanced level a number of students who have started Arabic from zero here, and see their interest evolve, becoming such a real passion that they think seriously about extending their knowledge of Standard Arabic and dialects, and making his an asset for shaping their future careers.

Some students who graduated this year will continue their Arabic study: Charlotte MacKeigan will start a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie, hoping to become a subject specialist for Arabic Studies. John Maize intends to integrate the knowledge of Arabic into his future profession. He writes: "I want Arabic

to remain a major part of my life, so I hope that it is included in some way, shape or form. My plans are to travel to the Arab world and remain there for as long as I am able in order to get a better grasp on the language. Basically, my short term future is surrounded with engaging more with the language". Stephen Wright plans as well to take Arabic to further levels, adding dialects, writing: "Arabic has played an important part in my undergraduate study, and will play an important part in my post graduate life, my immediate plans are to move to the Middle East and continue studying Arabic while teaching English. I hope to eventually pursue Arabic studies at the graduate level."



Students Cameron Mitchell and Charlotte McKeigan represent Arabic Studies at Dalhousie's Open House event

At the so successful Pythian Games, last March, the audience was impressed with the delightful performance of two students who have minored in Arabic Studies: Stephen Wright and John Maize, "veterans" of the Arabic programme, who are not only passionate about the language, but fond lovers of the Arabic culture and literature. With a double major in Philosophy and Religious Studies, and a Minor in Arabic Studies, Steve has taken extensively classes related to Islam and Arab culture with Dr Sasha Treiger and myself. John has a dual Honours degree in Contemporary Studies and Religious Studies, and has taken many classes that were cross listed with Religious Studies and Classics; his Classics

classes included Dr. Diamond's "Socrates on Trial" and "Plato" & "Aristotle", and Dr. Hankey's "Meetings Between Hellenism Judaism, Christianity and Islam".

It is important that their education was jointly shaped by a diversity of classes all within our Department of Classics. This explains their eagerness to participate in the Pythian Games, and to bring one side of their comprehensive formation to the spotlight, through reciting Arabic poetry. They presented poems in their own translation from Arabic, which emphasizes the excellent linguistic level they have acquired in years of struggling with this difficult language, and their intimate connection with the texts, which made their performance genuinely convincing and touching, and myself so happy and so proud of them!

Steve stirred the audience's emotion by reciting with expressivity, pathos, and subtlety the famous poem "Record! I am an Arab", by the most prominent Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish; it was a delightful surprise for myself to discover his artistic talent! John (for the second time at the Pythian Games) impressed this time by his skilful interpretation of the poem "The Piano Concert" by the most famous Arab poet of the 20th century, the Syrian Nizar Qabbani; his scenic presence, that aroused the public's admiration, is due to the fact that John has been active in the King's College Theatrical Society, as a talented stage director and actor.

My hope is that more students will take up the complete course of Arabic Studies at Dalhousie out of "interest growing into passion". Enthusiasm is a crucial condition for success on the path of acquiring this difficult, but so rewarding, language! I plan to discover my students' artistic talents and help them cultivate them, as I hope that an increasing number of students will work towards integrating Arabic into their professional plans.

Study in Arabic Lands

But they need to be helped to achieve this goal, and here comes my determination to create a study abroad program for Arabic, to help students to immerse, to acquire effective communication skills in Arabic, and to build their own cultural experience with this part of the world. To mention only recent examples, in the absence of a study abroad program, some students joined, by their own means,

language schools in some Arab countries (Steve Wright was in Alexandria, Egypt; John Maize was in Muscat, Oman, and Cameron Mitchell was in Amman, Jordan).

This summer, two students, who have taken the intermediate level, will go in immersion – also by their own – in Lebanon and Oman. It appears clear that a study abroad programme has become a necessity. I have started working on the project, and hope to realize it, with the indispensable help of the International Centre at Dal.

Read the complete story of their journey with Arabic, narrated by three exceptional students, on the Dal Arabic Web Page: <http://dal.ca/faculty/arts/arabic-studies.html>

My Most Recent Research

A paper in one of my research fields, the Syrian dialect, which I presented years ago, at the 9th International Conference of AIDA (Association Internationale de Dialectologie Arabe) whose member I am, has been published in January 2014 as an article: "Kballi 'alena! The Modal Kballa in Spoken Arabic from Syria" in *Alf Lahga wa Lahga (Proceedings of the 9th International Conference of AIDA)*, edited by Olivier Durand, Angela Daian Langone and Giuliano Mion, 2014, pp. 361-376, Wien/Berlin.

I attended with great interest and pleasure the very successful AIDA 10 International Conference, hosted by the University of Qatar, in November 2013, where I presented a paper in continuation of my research work on the Syrian dialect. Meeting with prominent researchers in Arabic dialectology was a great opportunity to keep updated with the evolutions in the field, and I am grateful to Dalhousie University for the grant I received to make this possible.

Seminar Series 2013-14

By Peter O'Brien & Wayne Hankey

This year, the Department continued its custom of hosting a number of stimulating, provocative, and entertaining guests in its Thursday evening Seminar Series. With a couple of exceptions, when guests presented on another night of the week or opted to read lectures in a traditional format, our procedure is to distribute fully written papers a week or two in advance of the guest's visit. The seminars based on these papers are held on selected Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Departmental Library. Participants in the seminar read the paper, come to hear the guest present a precis of his or her argument in 20-30 minutes, and then ask questions and engage in lively debate for at least an hour.

Guests from the very best places in academe are frequently astonished by the numbers of students and faculty drawn to take part, by the intensity of the discussion, and by the capacity of our students to sustain such high level of interchange for such extended lengths of time. The Department is not the home of the sound bite. After the formal discussion, conversation continues in relaxed circumstances over refreshments provided by our graduate students. Our Library is frequently filled to overflowing by students, faculty, alumni, and interested members of the public, and the evenings are always both intellectually edifying and convivial. In many cases, visiting speaker schedules have allowed guests to make extra appearances in upper-year undergraduate and graduate seminars in addition to presenting their papers—much appreciated by students and professors alike.

The following is a list of this past year's visiting speaker roster, which will give a good idea of the range of papers presented and of the personalities involved (some will be familiar names). We plan an equally full and interesting roster of visitors for the coming year. If you are in Halifax, you are most welcome to attend. If you are not, you are most welcome to subscribe to our email list (just send your name and address to Donna.Edwards@dal.ca) and to receive copies of the circulated papers, so that you can get an idea of what we're up to.

Thursday, September 26, 2013

"Displaying Roman Statues in a Late Antique City: Décor of the Colonnaded Street at Sagalassos".

Dr. Lea Stirling, Department of Classics, University of Manitoba.

Dr. Stirling visited as part of her Classical Association of Canada Visiting Speaker—Atlantic Region tour.

Thursday, October 17, 2013

"Some early 13th-century Latin interpretations of the Arab-Aristotelian agent intellect: William of Auvergne and the Franciscans."

Dr. Matthew Robinson (BA (Hons.) 2000, MA, 2002)

Assistant Professor (Philosophy), St Thomas University, Fredericton, NB.

Back in the Maritimes after completing his PhD in Philosophy at Boston College, Dr. Robinson not only presented this paper for us, but also delivered a lecture on Thomas for the Foundation Year at King's while in Halifax.

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

"The tall and terrible powers:" Is there any longer a place for a Classical education in the university curriculum?

Dr. Barry Craig (BA (Hons.), 1983, MA, 1985)

Vice President, St Thomas University, Fredericton, NB.

An award-winning teacher and administrator at St. Thomas, Dr. Craig gave us his talk on his "free day" between two Foundation Year lectures on Dante at King's.

Thursday, November 14, 2013

"La fonction de la rhétorique selon l'empereur Julien."

Dr. Dominique Côté

Associate Professor, Department of Classics and Religious Studies, Université d'Ottawa.

Dr. Côté circulated copies of his paper in both French and English, and also led a special session on Julian's "conversion" for Dr. O'Brien's fall seminar on Ammianus Marcellinus.

Thursday, January 30, 2014

"The forum politicum and the forum conscientia: Calvin's duplex regnum and the origins of the modern public sphere."

Dr. Torrance Kirby (BA (Hons.), 1976, MA, 1978)

Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Director, Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR)

Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University

Thursday, February 27, 2014

"Augustinian Economics: Gerard of Siena on Usury, Restitution, and Prescription."

Dr. Lawrin Armstrong (BA (Hons.), 1980, MA, 1985)

Professor of Medieval Studies and Economics, University of Toronto.

Dr. Armstrong gave a lively talk, richly illustrated by graphs and figures, on how Scholastic economics might help us to interpret current global financial crises.

Thursday, March 20, 2014

"How did Aristotle's Unmoved Mover come to Love Everything by the End of the Ancient Pagan Tradition?"

Dr. Kevin Corrigan (MA, 1978, PhD, 1981)

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities & Director,

Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Corrigan brought alive a most difficult and complex topic in a way that all present found compelling and moving. His paper will appear in the 2014 volume of Dionysius.

Donations through our annual fund are essential to maintaining these visits which sustain and stimulate our work. Thank you to everyone who gave in 2013-14.

Peter O'Brien

Assistant Professor – Classics



Dr O'Brien and graduating student Ian Danylchuk, May 2014

Dr Peter O'Brien is our specialist in Latin Language and Literature but, as well as our most advanced classes in these, he is now teaching senior seminars in Late Ancient History and the largest of our two writing classes (and one of the largest in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences "Gods, Heroes and Monsters: Ancient Mythology"). He has won all the awards for teaching for which full-time faculty are eligible at Dalhousie. He has just finished a three year term as Co-ordinator of the Ancient World Section of the Foundation Year Programme at King's, is the Department's co-ordinator of guest speakers (on which he reports in this Newsletter) and heads up the group organising the "225 and 70" celebration. He begins this note on his research with a report of a pleasant dinner with recent graduates. WJH

I dined with Evan King (BAH '11, MA '13) and Liz Curry (MA '13) following Evensong at King's College Cambridge in March, where I took part in a small colloquium called

"Changing Hearts: Performing Jesuit Emotions between Europe, Asia and the Americas." It was held at Trinity College Cambridge and was organized by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. My paper, "'Si potes exempla moveri non potiore potes:' Emotional Reciprocity in Le Brun's *Nova Gallia*," stemmed from ongoing work on a French Jesuit Neo-Latin poetic text on 17th century New France. In Oxford during the same trip, I met our former colleague Sarah Cohen and her family for dinner.

In late April, I gave a talk for an initiative of the *Chronicle Herald* newspaper, "Herald University": "Why Ancient Heroes Matter: Odysseus Reads the Ivarny Report." I was one of five professors from around the Maritimes presenting to an audience of about 70. The event was designed as an outreach/engagement

activity, both for academe and the paper and its readers. It was pretty well advertised both in print and online for subscribers.

At King's I continued to coordinate and lecture in the Ancient World section of the Foundation Year Programme and continue to serve as Public Orator. In the latter role, I administered a Latin oath to incoming students at a revamped Matriculation service, and provided orations at the fall installation of the College's new Chancellor, Kevin Lynch, and for five Honourary degree recipients at the May Encaenia, including former Premier John Hamm, Governor General David Johnston, former Senator and Chancellor Michael Meighen, and the Pakistani human and education rights campaigner, Malala Yousafzai. In late May I will give an outreach talk on Homer at Halifax West High School for 180 students.

PUBLICATIONS

The following articles have appeared since the last issue of the Newsletter.

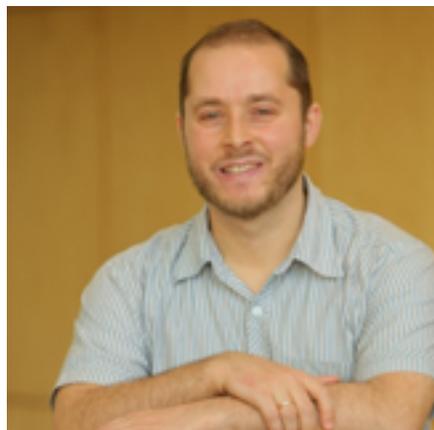
- O'Brien, P. (2013). "Ammianus Marcellinus, the Caesar Julian, and Rhetorical Failure." *Cahiers des Études Anciennes* 50, 139-160.
- O'Brien, P. (2013). "Constantian Rhetoric and Ammianus' Transformation of Political Discourse." In D. Côté and P. Fleury (Eds.). *Discours Politique et Histoire dans L'Antiquité* (pp. 211-248). Besançon: Presses universitaires de Franche-Comté.
- O'Brien, P. (2013). "Ammianus Marcellinus and *Historia Augusta*." In R. Thomas and J. Ziolkowski (Eds.). *The Virgil Encyclopedia* (Vol. 1, p. 69; p. 619). Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.
- O'Brien, P. (2012). "La Franciade De Le Brun : Poétique Ovidienne De l'Exil En Nouvelle-France." *Tangence* 99.35-60.

PSEUDO-DIONYSIUS

To find *Pseudo-Dionysius* online, go to <http://ojs.library.dal.ca/PseudoDio/index>

Updates from Religious Studies

By Alexander (Sasha) Treiger, Associate Professor, Western Religions



Dr. Alexander (Sasha) Treiger is our specialist in Western Religions, teaching classes on Judaism, Christianity and Islam. His doctoral dissertation at Yale (published by Routledge in 2012) was on *al-Ghazali* but recently he has returned to the area of his Master's work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, *Christianity in the Lands of Islam* (the title of one of his classes). This has led to a new book celebrated with a reception for Eastern Christians and in this Newsletter. As Undergraduate Advisor for Religious Studies he led in bringing forward an outstanding class of graduates and signing up record numbers for the Honours, Major, and Minor Programmes in Religious Studies. A year to be celebrated by Sasha includes the birth of son Alexey, born November 20, 2013. Sasha writes here about some of his research activities. He starts off with a conference which he jointly organised at Yale. WJH

The Yale conference (April 25-27, 2014) was co-organized by Dimitri Gutas, Sabine

Schmidtke, and myself in memory of Franz Rosenthal (1914-2003), one of the greatest scholars of Arabic, Islam, Graeco-Arabic translations, and Aramaic, of the 20th century (he was Dimitri Gutas' advisor at Yale). My paper was entitled "Christian Graeco-Arabica: Prolegomena to Future Research". Dimitri, Sabine, and I are now co-editing the volume of proceedings, provisionally entitled "New Horizons in Graeco-Arabic Studies", which will come out as a thematic issue of the journal *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World* 3 (2015). (I am also on the editorial board of this journal. It's edited by Brill.)

RECENT ARTICLES

"The Christology of the *Letter from the People of Cyprus*," *Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 65.1-2 (2013): 21-48

"Greek into Arabic in Byzantine Antioch: 'Abdallāh ibn al-Fadl's *Book of the Garden* (Kitāb al-Rawda)," in: J. Pahlitzsch and V. Tsamakda (eds.), *Monks, Merchants and Artists*, Mainz: Veröffentlichungen des Wissenschafts-Campus Mainz (forthcoming)

"Unpublished Texts from the Arab Orthodox Tradition (1): *On the Origins of the Term 'Melkite'* and *On the Destruction of the Maryamiyya Cathedral in Damascus*," *Chronos* 29 (2014) 7-37

"Palestinian Origenism and the Early History of the Maronites: In Search of the Origins of the Arabic *Theology of Aristotle*," in: D. Janos (ed.), *Ideas in Motion: Philosophical and Theological*

Exchanges between Christian and Muslim Thinkers from the Eighth to the Thirteenth Centuries CE, Leiden: Brill (forthcoming)

"Origins of Kalām," in: S. Schmidtke (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (in press)

"Syro-Arabic Translations in Abbasid Palestine: The Case of John of Apamea's *Letter on Stillness* (Sinai ar. 549)," *Parole de l'Orient* 39 (2014) (forthcoming)

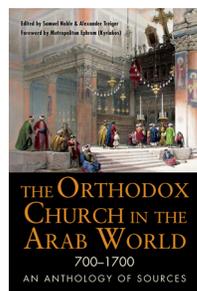
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

1. I have a close and steadily growing cooperation with the research unit "Intellectual History of the Islamicate World" at the Freie Universität Berlin. As part of this cooperation, this summer I taught an online Master's level seminar "Middle Eastern Christianity and Islamic Philosophy: Mutual Influences and Polemic" (which is part of their MA programme Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World).

2. I've been in touch with colleagues in Moscow over the idea of preparing a 3-volume anthology of Arab Orthodox Christian literature in Russian (similar to *The Orthodox Church in the Arab World*, but with a different and more extensive selection of texts and continuing all the way up until the present, rather than just to 1700).

Tea for a Book

New book by Sasha Treiger & Launch event



On June 2nd, 2014, our department hosted a reception to celebrate the publication of Dr. Alexander Treiger's book (co-edited with Samuel Noble), *The Orthodox Church in the Arab World, 700-1700: An Anthology of Sources* (DeKalb: Northern

Illinois University Press, 2014) [<http://www.niupress.niu.edu/niupress/Scripts/Book/bookResults.asp?ID=705>]. The book offers a

representative selection of major Arab Christian works written between the 8th and 17th centuries, most of which are translated into English for the first time.

This collection of translated documents is the first ever for the Arabic Christian community which, since the last third of the Nineteenth Century, has been a growing and dynamic part of the Maritime region. In Halifax and the Maritime Provinces, Arabic Christians, and Eastern Christians generally, are political, economic and professional leaders; many of them are numbered among our students and alumni. Owing to the good offices of the

King's Bookstore the book was available for sale at the reception and all copies sold!

As well as a book launch, the reception was a special welcome to members of the local Eastern Christian communities and an introduction to the uniquely strong grouping of classes on Eastern Christianity offered by the Department. Classics with Religious Studies offers classes of interest to this community—they are headed by classes taught by Dr. Treiger; Dr. Firanescu, Dr. Hankey, and Dr. Gary Thorne add to these. Beyond the introductory classes on the "Abrahamic religions" and the "Cultural Introduction to the

Continued. p. 13...

Chris Austin Promoted, awarded Tenure

By Chris Austin, Associate Professor, Eastern Religions



Dr Christopher Austin is our specialist in Eastern Religions with primary research interests in Hinduism. This has been a stellar year for him. He received tenure, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, and, bought a house in Halifax (these often go together). He has been mounting new classes and getting his research before the academic world. Chris received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant three years ago. His funding enables his study of the extended family of Krishna in Sanskrit literature and Chris tells us about the outcome of this research. WJH

On the personal front, I have finally (after 5 years of renting a noisy-furnace-of-an-apartment), bought a house in Armdale near Chocolate Lake and moved in in June. I con-

tinue my work with JazzEast on the Halifax Jazz Festival Programming Committee, and am keeping my own skills as a jazz musician (drummer) alive -- the new house will provide an exciting new environment for this, to the chagrin of my girlfriend Jen, Ruby (cat) and Nikki (dog).

I am working on a book manuscript on Pradyumna, the eldest son of Krishna. This will be the principal outcome of the three year SSHRC grant which is technically now complete, although no significant advance on the manuscript will be possible until my sabbatical in 2015-16. The papers I have been presenting at conferences over the past 1.5 years (University of Copenhagen, Portland Oregon,

Madison New Jersey, and Madison Wisconsin) represent various chapters of the book. In July, I presented another paper connected with it at the European Association for South Asian Studies at Zürich University. I followed this with a short informal visit to Heidelberg and the Südasien-Institut at Ruprecht-Karls. Not connected with the SSHRC project or Pradyumna is a journal issue I am presently arranging for the *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* on the theme of Krishna and Govardhana mountain.

In terms of teaching, I designed a new class “The Mahabharata” this summer and will teach it in the winter semester. I am very much looking forward to teaching our Sanskrit classes in the 2016-17 year.

I have been working with people at Saint Mary’s on the third Study of Religion in Atlantic Canada Conference. I rounded up some money for them through the American Academy of Religion New England-Maritimes Regional Association, and led a workshop on May 21st for graduate students on scholarships and post-doctoral awards. I also gave a faculty research talk at Saint Mary’s this semester as well as more general invited talks on Hinduism and Buddhism at King’s (Feb.) and for the Halifax Humanities Seminar (April).

In Fall 2013, I sat for a second time on the SSHRC Post-Doc Committee 2 (Classical archaeology, classics, classical and dead languages, history, mediaeval studies, philosophy, religious studies), this time chairing the committee, and will serve as adjudicator again for the 2015 competition. Other committee work this year included chairing the Chair of Philosophy Nomination Committee and committee to establish the Mohini Mathur Scholarship in Indian Philosophical Systems. Coming up, I will take over again as Undergraduate advisor from Sasha on July 1st.

Tea for a Book (continued)

Arab World,” the Department offers seminars on the Orthodox and Oriental Churches, Catholicism, Christianity in the Lands of Islam, Meetings between Hellenism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Mystics of the Middle East, Philosophy of the Church Fathers, John of Damascus, as well as instruction in Classical and Patristic Greek, Latin, and Arabic. The Department is also considering renewing instruction of Coptic and Syriac.

FASS Dean, Dr Robert Summerby-Murray, the clergy and community members from four local Orthodox parishes—St Antonios (Antiochian Orthodox), St George (Greek

Orthodox), St Mena (Coptic Orthodox), and St Vladimir (Orthodox Church in America)—the monks of the Hermitage of the Annunciation (Orthodox Church in America) in New Germany, NS, and many colleagues and friends of the department attended the reception. Dr Wayne Hankey stressed the importance of forging close ties with Eastern Christian communities, so prominent in Atlantic Canada, and emphasized the central role our department has played in teaching languages, cultures, and the religious heritage of Eastern Christianity and thus providing an academic point of reference to Eastern Christians in Nova Scotia.

Dr Eli Diamond

Associate Professor of Classics, Graduate Coordinator

Dr Eli Diamond is our specialist in Ancient Philosophy, a post which goes with major responsibilities for the teaching of Greek language, now supplemented by him with a class in Greek drama. He is also our Graduate Advisor in succession to Dr Peter O'Brien whom he followed in making many improvements in these advanced studies in the Department, including growing the number of students and the classes for them. WJH

A Book, A Keynote Address, New Politics

After almost seven years of writing and re-writing, my book on *Aristotle, Mortal Imitations of Divine Life: The Nature of Soul in Aristotle's De Anima*, will finally be coming out in Spring 2015 with Northwestern University Press in a series called "Rereading Ancient Philosophy." Here is a brief summary from the preface: "My argument in this book is that Aristotle's analysis of the different types of soul and their characteristic living activities is quietly theological throughout. That is, rather than simply being a series of unconnected activities or distinct kinds of soul, the ascending scale of kinds of soul actually constitute degrees of realization of what it means to be alive, and so each is only properly understood when seen in the light of the most completely realized living activity. This complete life is the Aristotelian God." While such a reading of Aristotle will come as no shock to anyone who has studied Aristotle in the Dalhousie Classics Department, I anticipate that it will be an uphill battle convincing contemporary Aristotelians of its truth – we shall see!

In April I was honoured to have been invited to give a keynote address at Northern Arizona University for a conference called "Aristotle and the Animal with Logos." I was given a downright luxurious one-hour time slot, and delivered a paper called "For there are gods here too: Embodied Essence and the Rational Animal", arguing that Aristotle's interest in the parts of animals is grounded in his metaphysics, in particular the unity of form and matter in substance. In this way, his empirical interest in animal bodies is best understood as an intensification of Platonic idealism rather than a flight from it. In particular, I focus on why Aristotle uses the definition of human as "two-footed animal" in his discussion of definition and substance in the *Metaphysics*, and how this bodily definition is true (if only inadequately) precisely because our bodies are nothing other than expressions

of our intrinsic form, which for the human, is the possession of *logos* or reason. I am just in the process of preparing the paper for publication in a volume based around the conference, to come out in about a year.

After that, the rest of my summer has been completely devoted to preparing new lectures and courses. With Leona MacLeod, our Greek poetry specialist, on sabbatical, I am for the first time taking the opportunity to teach a class on Greek tragedy, an absolutely thrilling prospect. I am also teaching a brand new class called "The Ancient Origins of Political Thinking from Homer to Aristotle", which is cross-listed as both a Philosophy and Political Science class. One of the greatest delights of this summer has been re-reading the *Iliad*, which will serve as our key opening text for the class. Approximately half the class is devoted to pre-philosophical political thinking, while the second half will involve a reading of Plato's *Crito*, *Republic*, *Statesman*, and excerpts of the *Laws*, and will conclude with Aristotle's *Politics*. On top of this, I am also teaching a seminar on Aristotle's *Physics* for the first time, and taking over the coordination of section I of the Foundation Year Programme from my colleague Peter O'Brien. It will be a busy year, but I pinch myself regularly whenever I consider the wondrous things that keep me busy in the Classics Department.

RESEARCH

Dr Eli Diamond excellencies are to be seen in his teaching both within the Department and in the King's Foundation Year Programme, in his work as Graduate Advisor, and in his research, where he and Dr Jack Mitchell, followed in the footsteps of their Religious Studies colleague, Dr Christopher Austin, by winning Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funding. Dr Austin's funding enables his study of the extended family of Krishna in Sanskrit literature. Dr Diamond's and Dr Mitchell's funding enabled buying Macintosh computers for our Departmental library, as well as a departmental subscription to the online database Thesaurus Linguae Graecae. Even more importantly for our students, their two awards have brought over \$30,000 in student funding per year over two years, in the form of Research Assistant positions available to graduate students and senior undergraduates in the Classics Department. WJH

In my SSHRC-funded research project, entitled "Political Ontology and Ontological

Politics: Metaphysics and Politics in Ancient Greek Philosophy," I hope to show the extent to which, on the one hand, Greek metaphysics emerges as a response to certain political questions, and, on the other hand, how the conception of the political for the Greek philosophers is always determined by a theoretical conception of being in general.

The main focus of the project is to trace the development of Plato's political thinking from *Crito* to *Republic* to *Statesman* culminating in the *Laws*, and argue that this development can best be explained through connecting it with the ontology of the early, middle, and late dialogues. I will also look at Aristotle's ontological criticism of the relation of form and matter in Plato as a way of explaining his criticisms of Platonic political philosophy, and his view of substance as the foundation of his own political conception of the relation between city, family and individual. To do this, I have tasked my student assistants with searching Plato and Aristotle's metaphysical discussions for distinctly political vocabulary, and to search their political discussions for distinctly metaphysical vocabulary. This philological work 20 years ago would have taken months or years to complete, but now with our on-line (SSHRC-funded) subscriptions to certain Classics databases, students can perform comprehensive word searches of an author's treatise or entire corpus in seconds, which produce reliable and comprehensive results. Of course, thinking the significance of the philological evidence remains the task of human mind.

While the heart of this project is a re-reading of the main political works of Plato and Aristotle in order to show their connection to metaphysical principles, the project will also engage with pre-Platonic poetry and philosophy to show that a tight connection between political thought and metaphysics (in the form of theology) is already present in embryo in earlier Greek thought. As I will be primarily teaching pre-philosophical poetry this year (Homer, Hesiod, and Greek tragedy), I am particularly excited to begin writing and publishing on these literary texts in conjunction with the philosophical texts more intimately familiar to me. In 2015-16 I will have a full-year sabbatical, during which I hope to write up my findings and argument into a book.

Reflection on Committee Work

By Dr. Michael Fournier, Associate Professor – Classics

Dr Michael Fournier is the most modest of our faculty members and it is hard to get him to write about himself and his work. He did agree, however, to contribute this Reflection on Committee Service. He is very well qualified to do so having served as Chair of the Department for the Fall Term of 2013, while also being a member of the hardworking University Budget Advisory Committee. Like the present Chair and others in the Department holding major administrative posts, he did this without diminishing his 3/3 teaching load, the maximum in our Faculty. He has been or is a member of many of the committees he mentions here.

Michael is our specialist in Late Ancient Philosophy, Religion, and Culture and teaches a great range of classes in Classical, Hellenistic and Medieval Philosophy, using both Greek and Latin texts. In most years since his appointment, he has taught our introductory class in Latin and often offers an advanced Latin class. His class on “Magic, Religion and Philosophy” is popular and attracts students to our work who might not otherwise come to us.

Appropriately Michael begins his Reflection by adapting famous lines from Aristotle’s theology. WJH

As scholars and teachers, the life of contemplation is the best which we enjoy. However, we enjoy it for but a short time, as we cannot always be in that state. For the faculty members of the Department much of the time that remains is taken up with matters which belong to the realm of practical wisdom, i.e. committee service not only within the Department, but in the Faculty and the wider University.

In recent years the Department has been almost conspicuously well represented on FASS and University wide committees. We have consistently had our people on the standing committees in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (the Academic Development Committee, Research Development Committee, Professional Development Committee, Student Affairs Committee, Information Technology Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the recently established Graduate Council), on various committees at King’s College, on Faculty of Graduate Studies committees which adjudicate Killam Scholarships and SSHRC awards for

all of Dalhousie, on the FGS Killam Lecture committee, and on the University’s Budget Advisory Committee.

This engagement serves the Department well by keeping us abreast of the virtually constant changes taking place around us, and it provides a lamentably necessary reminder to many that we in Classics are not merely carrying on but indeed thriving in a Faculty and a University that is almost completely changed since the days when Classics was part of the core curriculum of most degrees. But my reference to practical wisdom, to *phronesis*, is particularly apt because of the nature of committee work in the university. The Greek notion, which involves a capacity to act with regard to the good, is a crucial corrective to the idea, more and more prevalent in the university, that the practical is what is expedient. While the life of the mind is the essence of our work, the work of such committees is essential for preserving the conditions of intellectual life. It is this aspect of our faculty members’ practical activity which benefits not only the Department but the entire university.



Colleagues, classmates, friends:

The decision to put Dr. Diamond and Dr. Fournier side-by-side was no accident. These two, pictured above in 1999 as Classics students and at far-right in 2013 have a longstanding friendship and affiliation with the Department of Classics at Dalhousie.

Jack Mitchell

Assistant Professor of Classics, Publicity Coordinator



Dr Jack Mitchell offered the 2014 Dalhousie Convocation address to graduating humanities students. Above, a still from this address.

Dr Jack Mitchell is our specialist in Roman History and teaches a wide range of classes from a general introduction to Ancient History, which serves also as a course in writing, to very popular intermediate classes. His advanced language classes in both Greek and Latin delight students and this Fall he will offer a graduate seminar in his special area of research. In 2013, his research won him Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funding. He is currently leading a research project in the Digital Humanities, staffed by Dal Classics students, on 'Imagining the Mental Geographies of Roman Historians,' with a grant of \$46,585. With this award he, and Dr Diamond who also has his own grant, bought state of the art computers for our Departmental library, as well as a departmental subscription to Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, giving instantly searchable access to every Greek text in antiquity. Importantly for our students, these awards have brought over \$30,000 in student funding per year over two years in the form of Research Assistant positions.

This year Dr Mitchell was honoured with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Award. Only one of these is given each year and it is exceptional that this recognition of outstanding excellence should be given to

a professor so early in his career—in this he follows our Dr Peter O'Brien.

The members of the Department had only begun to compliment Jack on this well-deserved award when we learned that President Florizone had named him Convocation Speaker for the 2014 Dalhousie Convocation for humanities graduates. We have posted his much appreciated, simultaneously funny and profound, address on our website at <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/news-events/news/2014/05/26/graduation.html>. He begins with the formula terrible to students derived from "Justice so moves that they only learn who suffer". Jack's ludic activities as Praeceptor of the Pythian Games are described elsewhere in this Newsletter. WJH

As I now start my fifth year as the Roman Historian in the Dal Classics department, I grow reflective, if not pensive. It's been a wild ride, and I can say truly that I have never worked in a more intellectually stimulating, high-adrenaline, or comradely environment than this.

My first contact with Dal Classics long predates my appointment: it was early 1997,

and I was an adventurous first-year student at a major Canadian university outside Nova Scotia, one that shall remain nameless. The Classics department in my university was not in a sound state; in fact it was often compared by casual observers to ancient Greece in the wake of the devastating Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC), i.e. demoralised and depopulated. Of course such a Thucydidean state of Classics was the only one I knew, so it was a shock to reach Halifax, for a Spring Break visit with high school friends whom a happier breeze had wafted to Dal and to King's, and here encounter the Dal Classics attitude. (Naturally all my friends were studying Classics in one way or another.) I tagged along with a zealous student of ancient philosophy, a young man with a boundless appetite for abstract thought but a peculiarly Antisthenic practical philosophy of always sprinting around the campus and city, never ambling or sauntering. Struggling to keep up, I followed him gasping into a philosophy seminar on the *Republic*, led by Dr Dennis House; I vividly recall my amazement at witnessing students' eagerness to read Plato as a guide to real life's fundamental challenges, not to mention the impressive

capacity for close reading displayed by all and sundry. It's nice to think that my fleetfoot guide of yore, young Mr Diamond, has now taken up Dr House's own office and teaching responsibilities in the same department.

Years passed, and though I clung to the memory of a city by the sea in which the warmth of serious study blended with bone-chilling blasts of March sea air, it was not until early 2009 that I set foot in Dal Classics again. Invited by Alex Plumb, then president of our undergraduate society, Dal Res Publica, I came to perform my hour-long Canadian epic poem, *The Plains of Abraham*. English-language performance epic poets of the 21st century — and I believe I speak for all of them, since I may well be all of them — are used to small audiences, an intimate setting. I was reckoning without the Dal Classics zeal! Thanks to Alex and to the department as a whole, more than 100 people were on hand in the Ondaatje Auditorium in the McCain Building, and the poem has never had a warmer reception. I could hardly believe it when I learned that summer that they were looking for a Roman historian; and I still can't quite believe I got this, my dream job, the following winter.

Since joining the department, I have striven to continue its traditions, both in terms of the sincerity of the engagement with antiquity and in terms of rigorous learning, teaching, and research. In 2011, Chair Dr. Wayne Hankey and I co-founded the Pythian Games, a festival of literary performance by Dal students, the fourth celebration of which I describe elsewhere in this newsletter. In my teaching, especially of Roman social history for second- and third-year students, I likewise aim to make the Roman world come alive, first and foremost, by requiring in-depth engagement with choice texts and artwork of the period, second, by bringing replica materials and costumes (for Roman citizens, legionaries, gladiators) into the lecture hall and thus giving the texts and artworks a tangible reference point, third, and principally, by asking students to compare pagan civilisation with our own, the better to understand both. Together these three aspects of my teaching seem to work well, and my Roman history classes (especially *Roman Legions and the Barbarians* and *Death, Sex, and Gold in the Ancient Roman World*) continue to attract sizeable numbers of students as

they enter their third cycle of being offered. Though I truly love lecturing, in which my eagerness to share knowledge and my vanity cohere, for me the ripest plum of teaching at Dal remains our language classes, in which a hearty appetite for grammar and a second helping of literary beauty makes for a ceaseless feast in the *triclinium* of our Classics Library. This coming year, I am teaching *Roman Legions*, a yearlong survey of ancient history, a graduate seminar on ancient media (from oral tradition to manuscript), and the first half of Intermediate Latin (in which we are doing Caesar's *Gallie Wars*, a perennially underrated work by a great writer who had the misfortune to also be a great general).

While at Dalhousie, I have been active as a researcher, especially this past year. My article on *Literary Quotation as Literary Performance in Suetonius* was accepted by the *Classical Journal*; in this I argue that Suetonius' habit of making his twelve emperors quote from the literary canon at key moments of their lives — usually before their downfall — is a device for reminding his audience of their own training in literary performance in the Greco-Roman school system. That school training and its relationship with ancient scholarship is the subject of another long article, a compressed version of a book manuscript I have been working on for some years, entitled *Literary performance in the Imperial schoolroom as historical reënactment*, under consideration by the *American Journal of Philology*; in this article, I wade through some fairly obscure sources (ancient commentary on ancient school textbooks; bilingual Greek-Latin textbooks describing a schoolboy's routine; surviving marginal scholia to Homer from Byzantine manuscripts) to argue that ancient teachers and scholars all imagined the

definitive expression of ancient literature to be its reënactment, not least in the schoolroom, and that such reenactments aimed to recreate the historical original performance context as authentically as possible. Reënactment of another sort hovers over a third article, *William Morris' proto-postmodern Aeneids: Virgil as physical object*, which I have submitted to *Translation and Literature*: here I look at one of the most unusual translations of the *Aeneid*, which Morris undertook after personally writing out more than half of Virgil's Latin text in a beautifully illuminated vellum manuscript; I argue that the translation's layering of historical eras (Trojan, Roman, Beowulfian, Arthurian, and Elizabethan) is directly parallel to the layering of artistic and calligraphic styles of many different eras in the manuscript, and that in each case Morris aims to create an *Aeneid* that encompasses the whole impact of the text across 2000 years of Western literature. I was pleased to present this argument at a conference this summer on the translation of Virgil, which took place at the Villa Vergilliana in Cumae, just west of Naples.

I could go on, but I believe these summaries of my own experience with this wonderful department, of my teaching in it, and of my work as a scholar have a common theme: a belief that renewal of our cultural tradition is a perpetual struggle, sometimes an uphill battle but always vital to our shared future and always lit with joy.



Dr Jack Mitchell (left) accepting the 2014 FASS Teaching Award from Dean Summerby-Murray.

Sabbatical Activities

By Wayne Hankey, Teacher, Scholar and Department Administrator

My Sabbatical Term in 2013 effectively began in September after I edited last year's Newsletter and helped my MA students complete their theses. My research culminated in two trips: one during October and November when I drove from Halifax to Princeton via Fredericton, Northampton, Mass., Yale, and New York, lecturing along the way; the other in February when I drove to Montreal to lecture at McGill. Since both journeys brought me again and again to alumni and friends of the Department, I hope I can interest you in some of the details. At each of the five universities where I stayed I spent much time with former students who started university in the Foundation Year Programme and went on to MAs in the Classics Department. This served several purposes, but one of them is the celebration of the 225th Anniversary of Classics with the fundraising we are undertaking in association with that.

My first lecture, "All Given and All Received: *Deus in se* in Aquinas' *Summa theologiae*" was delivered for the Philosophy Department at St Thomas University in Fredericton at the invitation of **Dr Barry Craig**, Vice President at STU, who wrote his MA thesis under my supervision (1985), and **Dr Matt Robinson**, also a MA of the Department (2002), who was recently appointed to the chair in Medieval Philosophy there. It attracted the largest audience of my tour, including a splendid number of alumni of the Department and of King's, and provoked a very lively discussion.

At Smith College, Northampton, my lecture, sponsored by the Departments of Classics, English, Philosophy and Religion was arranged by **Dr Tory Kirby**, a member of the outstandingly distinguished FYP class of 1973-74 and MA in Classics 1980. "Convergences between Platonism and the Abrahamic Religions" mainly attracted faculty including the Chair of Religious Studies who had just interviewed for the Chair in Abrahamic Religions at Oxford (it went to Carlos Fraenkel our guest in September 2012). She and other members of the audience affirmed that my approach was a much needed corrective to prevailing scholarship. I shall have a MA student, **Daniel Heide**, writing a thesis in this area in 2015-16. He took the University Medal in Religious Studies for his First Class Honours degree in Classics and Religious Studies, and has SSHRC and Killam MA funding. I am using the material for this lecture to completely rework my class "Philosophy and God"

(offered again September 2014). At Smith, I represented King's at the Inauguration of the new President, a most instructive experience.

At Yale University my host was the **Rev'd Dr Bruce Gordon**, Titus Street Professor

of Ecclesiastical History, FYP alumnus, First Class Honours and the University Medal in Medieval Studies 1984; MA Classics 1986. During two packed days I had very useful meetings with the head of Yale's equivalent of FYP, a new appointment in the Philosophy of



Religion with whom I had conversations when I last lectured at Princeton, leading scholars in Islamic philosophy, the head of Graduate Studies in Classics, and several PhD students working on everything from Bonaventure to Plotinus and Dionysius. Owing to Bruce, to Sasha Treiger's connections, and to common interests with scholars at Yale, I expect much closer cooperation between Classics / Religious Studies / Arabic here and Yale.

I spent 10 days in New York City largely at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Its new installation and publications in Islamica and an extremely important exhibition of medieval art from Hildesheim required repeated visits. I also used the opportunity to refresh my knowledge of Classical Greek, Roman, and Egyptian art and archeology and to expand my understanding of religion in the Far East. The quality of the exhibitions both in terms of content and presentation is *ne plus ultra*. I could not resist the Vermeer special exhibit at my favorite NYC museum, the Frick, Sabbath worship at the Park Avenue Synagogue, or Sunday Mass at St Ignatius Loyola, just further down Park Avenue. There I encountered a packed church for an orchestral Brahms Mass and Mozart Church Sonatas.

Classics at Princeton University was my host for eleven very full days. I repeated the lecture I had given at Saint Thomas University, spent good time with **Emma Curran**, FYP and First Class Honours and MA Classics (2012), just starting her PhD there, and with faculty in Classics including their person in my field, our recent guest Christian Wildberg, and our last unit review examiner Robert Kaster. My host at Princeton for a previous visit, Paul Rorem, the leading American scholar of Dionysius the Areopagite, and I renewed our friendship and he will visit Classics here and Religious Studies at McGill in 2016. Another renewed scholarly connection was with the head of Comparative Religion at Drew, a medievalist who introduced me to a brilliant young historian of 20th century Thomism.

Perhaps the most important meetings were with two PhD students. One, from Berlin, visiting Princeton, works on Proclus using my publications and those in *Dionysius*; he and his supervisor at the Humboldt University are writing a major article for *Dionysius*. The other is an innovative young Protestant student of Aquinas' ethics at the Princeton Theological Seminary; my writings on St Thomas have helped him establish an independent approach.

These visits made me even more conscious of the extraordinary reputation and influence of our tiny Classics Department and I was proud to extend these as its ambassador.

My other main impressions were of a deep interest in religion among students at the three leading American universities I visited and of the return to metaphysical philosophy and theology. Religion provided the most surprises during my trip not the least of which was the celebration of the Roman Catholic Mass daily in the Princeton Chapel for substantial congregations bravely worshipping under the eyes of the Presbyterian fathers of that University staring down from statue and stained glass.



The Chapel of Princeton University

McGill

While I was with him at Smith College **Dr Torrance Kirby**, alumnus of the FYP and MA of the Department, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at McGill, invited me to deliver two lectures there in 2014. Tory heads CREOR, McGill Centre for Research on Religion, which has received a multimillion dollar grant from the SSHRC to work on "Early Modern Conversions". This largely determined my major lecture in Montreal: "Conversion: Ontological & Secular from Plato to Tom Jones". It was exceptionally well attended and received; its broadcast led to further scholarly contacts—you may find it on YouTube. It is published in *Numero Cinq*, V: 7, July 2014 <http://numerocinqmagazine.com/2014/07/15/conversion-ontological-secular-from-plato-to-tom-jones-essay-wayne-j-hankey/>

While at McGill in February, I also presented to the "Franz von Baader", Independent Reading Group in the McGill Institute for the Public Life of the Arts and Ideas. This group is co-led by another alumnus of the FYP and MA (2007) of the Department, who wrote his thesis under my supervision. **Dr James Bryson** has a major two year SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at McGill. James' co chair will publish his excellent McGill MA thesis in *Dionysius*, and a major participant in it,

Dr Garth Green, will supervise the PhD thesis of **Peter Bullerwell**. Peter did the FYP in 2004-5 and graduated with First Class Honours in Classics in 2009. He wrote his MA (2012) thesis on Eckhardt under my direction and has received McGill's largest PhD scholarship for three years of study there, beginning this Fall. Dr Green will also supervise the MA work of a First Class Honours graduate this May, **Daniel Gillis**, winner of the University Medal in Classics, who will bring a SSHRC MA scholarship with him. Daniel and Peter will join **Victoria Shipman** who graduated in May with First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Environment, Sustainability, and Society, starting a funded MA in Chinese Buddhism. Eight graduates of our Classics Department are now either professors, postdoctoral fellows, MA or PhD students in the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill!

While in Montreal I had a happy visit with **Michelle and Daniel Wilband** (MAs 2007 & 2008, supervised by me). Michelle teaches at Dawson College while Daniel finishes an advanced degree in International Law at McGill. Montreal is full of Dalhousie Classicists and will be fuller yet!



Birks Building for Religious Studies, McGill

Future Lectures, Books and Classes

My second paper there "All Given and All Received: the Foundation of Mystical Union in the *Deus in se* of Aquinas' *Summa theologiae*" helped prepare my Aquinas Lecture for the University of Dallas in January 2015. This year I have committed myself to two books. One will publish that Lecture and its associated seminar, the other will be an introduction to Neoplatonism.

I shall offer a new class in the Winter Term of 2015: "Gods in the Flesh". We will read three texts arguing for the incarnation of divinity: Iamblichus' *De Mysteriis*, which bases its argument in the sensuous character of the human, Anselm's *Cur Deus-Homo*, which argues from the opposite perspective, the rationality of the human, and Bonaventure's *Itinerarium mentis in Deum*, which combines both. It will be a third year class and I have more than twenty students signed up at present.

Emily Varto

Assistant Professor of Classics

Since becoming a full-time member of the Department, Emily has taught an extraordinary range of very popular classes at all levels from introductory year history and mythology, through specialist classes in Greek history and Greek language, to graduate history seminars. The performances of the students in her Greek classes have repeatedly won prizes in the Pythian Games and are among the many testimonies of her excellence as a teacher. As you will have read elsewhere in this Newsletter, while she has been undergraduate advisor our programme registrations in Classics have reached beyond their former record levels. The advance in the number of our Honours students has resulted in the largest graduating class in our long history. In this short piece Emily tells us a little about her ambitious research programme. WJH

In the summer of 2013, I used some research development funding from Dalhousie to visit archaeological sites and museums in Greece. The research trip supports my ongoing work on kinship and state formation in the Greek early Iron Age, some of which is currently working through the publication process. The trip included time spent productively on the island of Chios, where I finally got to study a rare genealogical inscription first-hand. In the course of my travels, I explored several archaic Greek settlements and visited Bronze Age sites gathering information and images for teaching.

Much of that travel experience came in handy this winter, when I taught the department's



The genealogy of Heropythos in the Archaeological Museum of Chios



new advanced-level art and architecture course. The course, “Ancient Art and Architecture from the Pyramids to the Forum,” explores the material culture of the ancient Near East and Mediterranean thematically, rather than as a survey. This allows students not only to learn about the important pieces and buildings, but also to think about how we use them to understand the ancient world. Last winter, in addition to looking at great works of art, we explored such themes as urbanism and civilization, stylistic and cultural change, orientalism and philhellenism, reciprocity, and art, power, and politics. An overarching theme was how the meaning we give the ancient world and its monuments has changed over time and place. The course culminated in a poster session open to students and faculty, in which students presented academic posters on classical influences and manifestations of the classical tradition in the public art and architecture of Halifax. The course ran over full capacity, and it was a real joy to see the students embrace the material and the subject. I look forward to future iterations of the course, taking what I learned from the wonderful experience this past winter. Chapters are now coming in for my edited

volume on “Classics and Early Anthropology”, and it appears to be shaping up into an interesting project. I am organizing a panel on the theme for an large upcoming classics conference. In related work, a chapter on nineteenth-century ethnology’s use of early Greek and Roman kinship systems is set to be published within the year in an edited volume on ancient cities.

ALUMNI

Three love stories from the Department of Classics
Profiles by Bryan Heystee. Introductions by Wayne Hankey

THE CORRIGANS

Elena Glazov and Kevin Corrigan met while they were MA students in the Department and shared a supervisor, Professor Hilary Armstrong. Elena took her MA from us in 1980; Kevin had taken his in 1978 and went on to a PhD in 1981 on "Plotinus's implicit critique of Aristotle". Elena is currently Associate Professor in the Russian Department at Emory University while Kevin is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities & Director, Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts, there. Kevin gave a totally engaging and unforgettable seminar in the Department in March: "How did Aristotle's Unmoved Mover come to Love Everything by the End of the Ancient Pagan Tradition?" It will be published in the 2014 issue of Dionysius. One of Elena's brothers, Gregory, took a First Class Honours degree from us before going off to a DPhil in Jewish Studies at Oxford. He teaches Biblical Studies at Seton Hall University. Bryan Heystee writes of how what they took from the Department has permeated their life together. WJH



The Corrigans

For Kevin and Elena Corrigan, the study of Classics and philosophy has been a lived experience built upon friendship. The communities in which they studied and the relationships forged therein have been inseparable from their work. In fact, it is precisely these relationships that have made their studies so fruitful and wonderful.

This fruitfulness is above-all found in Kevin and Elena's 37 year marriage and the collaboration they have pursued throughout. They have been fortunate to always find

jobs at the same institution, teaching courses together, from a foundation course at Thomas More College in Saskatoon to a course on Dostoevsky at Emory University. In addition they have co-authored a book on Platonic love and intend to write one on Shakespeare. The community of scholarship they treasure so much began during their time in the Dalhousie Classics Department. It was there that they met – right in front of the Classics building (at that time, a house on LeMarchant Street) – and found a community of love and friendship. They came to know their professors very well. In fact, Hilary Armstrong "accepted [them] as a father" while supervising both of their master's theses: Kevin's on Plotinus and Elena's on the *Symposium*. Along with the other professors, Armstrong fostered a caring and nurturing community in which the couple flourished.

It was Armstrong, in particular, who drew Kevin to Dalhousie. Kevin began his studies of Plotinus as an undergraduate at the University

of Lancaster under Gerard O'Daly. Wishing to continue his Neoplatonic studies, he sought out the "world expert" and came to Halifax to do an MA. Kevin remained at Dalhousie for his PhD, for which he combined Classics and philosophy.

Elena, on the other hand, came to Halifax by virtue of her father's employment. She began her BA at Boston College, but when her father, Yuri Glazov, was hired by Dalhousie, she too came to Halifax. The prospect of taking Latin and Greek excited her, so she added Classics

to the English courses she had taken at Boston College. Elena succeeded her BA with two MAs: one in Classics and the other in English. So, within five years of their arrival in Halifax, Kevin and Elena together had five degrees – to say nothing of two children!

During these five years, Kevin and Elena did more than just start a family: they also learned the value of community and the necessity of "service and giving back." Kevin and Elena cherish the privilege of scholarship and teaching - as a result, they have taken numerous administrative positions wherever they have taught because "[one] cannot allow service to become the instrument of professional administrators" lest administration lose the academic vision that must ground it. One must do service in order to preserve what is good in community.

Elena feels that regardless of the text studied, there must always be friendship and - ultimately - love built around the text. Without friendship, with nothing but *skepsis* and rhetoric, there is only self-righteousness and emptiness, which inevitably kills the conversation. For Kevin and Elena, it is the importance of friendship that makes philosophy and scholarship only possible within the context of community and necessarily a lived experience.

THE KIRBYS

Margaret von Maltzahn and Torrance (Tory) Kirby came to Classics via the Foundation Year Programme at King's College which both took in its second year (1973-74). They went on to MAs in Classics after First Class Honours degrees. They married while they were graduate students and lived rather romantically (in my view) while studying at Oxford in the tower of the Deanery of Christ Church which played a role in the Alice in Wonderland stories (Alice was in real life the daughter of the Dean). Margaret is now Tutor at St John's College, Annapolis, and Tory is Professor of Ecclesiastical History at McGill. He commutes from their home in Annapolis. Bryan Heystee writes of what drew them to Classics and what they keep from their studies here. WJH

Although they are by profession professors of German literature and 16th century theology respectively, Drs. Margaret and Tory Kirby bear the Classics with them everywhere. Their formal study of the



Margaret and Torrance Kirby at Torcello

Classics ended with their MAs, but for both of them their time in the Dalhousie Classics Department could not have been more relevant to their later work. For as Margaret says, what they learned in the Classics department was not a particular subject matter, but *a way of reading*.

This way of reading was defined by the kinds of questions Tory and Margaret learned to ask of texts, such as, ‘What is the author saying?’ and ‘How is it possible to think this?’ They learned Plato’s and Aristotle’s questions are still fundamental and central today. For them, these questions were not simply academic exercises nor were the texts artefacts. Under the guidance of their professors, they approached them seriously and judged them as genuine philosophical inquiries.

This kind of inquiry defined their time in the Classics Department, but it began before that: in the Foundation Year Programme. During FYP, the distinction between classroom time and the rest of the day was often blurry at best. Discussions in their tutorials – conducted in the suite of their tutor, Dr. Hankey – often extended into the Dining Hall and well into the afternoon. In FYP, much as in their later studies, philosophy was a ‘lived’ pursuit.

In fact, it was his studies in FYP that led Tory

to philosophy that convinced him more than anything.

Margaret, however, took a little longer to join the Department: she took no Classics courses in her second year, only auditing Prof. Doull’s *Physica* seminar. The daughter of Dalhousie botany professor Kraft von Maltzahn, she audited the course because she wanted to study natural philosophy in a “speculative” way. Her ‘wake-up’ moment came while the seminar was reading Book 2 of the *Physica*. Prof. Doull opened a seminar with the question, “What is nature?” The prospect of asking such a question had never struck her before. Moved by this, Margaret enrolled in Classics the following year.

It is precisely this kind of genuine questioning that Tory and Margaret feel distinguishes the Classics Department from most other institutions. In particular, this kind of questioning distances itself from the professionalization that Tory feels is plaguing the study of the humanities. “The way in which [the humanities] are currently taught,” remarks Kirby, “is to turn people into historians or philosophers as some kind of professional category.” With so few people getting jobs in the academy – Kirby puts it

to take up the Classics. While he had no moment of ‘conversion’, the Programme as a whole moved him to join Professor James Doull and company in the Department. By the holiday break, he had a sense he wanted to study Classics; by the end of the year, he was fully decided. It was not so much a question of subject matter, he says, but a question of people. It was the professors of the Classics Department and their commitment

at just 15% of humanities doctorates – this is not simply ironic, but absurd. By contrast, the Classics Department treats the questions of Plato and Aristotle as legitimate, thereby cultivating a “free relation to philosophy.” It is this ‘free relation’ that Tory and Margaret find so admirable and which has allowed them to pursue other studies eagerly and with great success.

THE KINGS

The marriage of recent Master’s graduates Evan (2012) and Elizabeth King (2013) was made possible by shared friendships and the ideas which had the Classics Department as their home.

Natives of Shelburne and Windsor (by way of Sherbrooke), Nova Scotia, respectively, Evan and Elizabeth first met in the summer of 2010 at the *Capella Regalis* colloquium on Praying and Thinking organized by Dr Hankey. Although this meeting was brief, it was followed by a trip to the South Shore with a number of their mutual friends. Each was chuffed to discover a fellow Nova Scotian who liked to talk about Dante and Sophocles while tossing around a frisbee. Puzzled and intrigued, they decided to translate Greek together in preparation for a seminar on Homer’s *Iliad* that Evan was to take in the fall. The following summer Evan and Elizabeth ran into each other again at the Atlantic Theological Conference in Halifax. Once Elizabeth began her MA in the fall of 2011, following her father David Curry (Classics BA 1976, MA 1978), their coincident studies and seminars allowed them to collaborate and further nurture a budding relationship amidst a community of mutual friends in Classics and Religious Studies and at the Chapel at King’s College.

Although it began with the unexpected coincidence of genuine shared interests, their friendship has become more than academic collaboration. Throughout their courtship, and especially on their wedding day, their teachers, colleagues, friends and family have helped them to see that what is at stake is more than beauty, but an integral paradigm of the good life, discerned just enough to be desired.

They were married by the Rev’d Dr Thom Curran (MA Classics 1975) at St George’s Round Church in Halifax in August 2013, with the Rev’d Canon Dr Peter Harris (First Class Honours in Classics 1968) as celebrant. A number of graduates and students of Classics were servers at the altar, and Dr Wayne Hankey who had supervised their MA theses preached on the text “Have ye not read” (Matthew 19:4). Liz and Evan live in Cambridge England where Evan is doing a PhD in the Faculty of Divinity.

ALUMNI NOTES

From 2001 when all three made their distinguished beginnings in the Foundation Year Programme, for the six years of undergraduate and graduate study in Classics, **Colin Webster** (Honours in Contemporary Studies and Classics 2005, MA 2007), **Ross Gower** (Honours in Early Modern Studies and Classics 2005) and (Peter) **Ben Frenken** (Honours in Contemporary Studies and Classics 2005, MA 2007, LLB 2012), made every Classics party happier with their music. “The Fiona Tinglies” mostly played Irish music, some bluegrass and contemporary songs in their own Irish-bluegrass style. We told you about Ben’s ongoing career in the 2012 Newsletter— Litigation Associate at Norton Rose Fulbright in Toronto. Now we have heard from Ross and Ross led us to Colin. A feast of good news.

Ross Gower

Ross is now a JD having graduated at the University of Ottawa Law School after an exchange in Graz, Austria, where he studied International and European law and he has a most interesting job. He writes: “My job is working for The Law Society of Upper Canada’s Equity Initiatives Department and Office of the General Counsel. The Equity Initiatives Department is policy driven and promotes equity and diversity within the legal profession, as well as promoting access to justice.” He goes on “There aren’t many articling opportunities that arise at the Law Society, so I consider myself quite fortunate to be able to work here and to be part of such an old society (founded in 1797). Our building, Osgoode Hall, is also a beautiful sight to see each morning!” He is hoping too that he and Ben will start making music together again and that they will be joined by that Irishman from Saint John, NB, **Dan Wilband** (MA 2007).

Dr Colin Webster

Colin finished in New York in a most distinguished way, as “Mellon Interdisciplinary Fellow and Lane Cooper Fellow at Columbia University” publishing “Euclid’s Optics and Geometrical Astronomy” in *Apeiron*. <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/apeiron>. ahead-of-print/apeiron-2014-0007/apeiron-2014-0007.xml Ross who attended the wedding in Sleepy Hollow

NY this Summer put us in touch and I received this from Colin: “I’ve just completed my PhD at Columbia with a dissertation titled ‘Technology and/as Theory: Material Thinking in Ancient Science and Medicine.’ It focuses on how shifting technological contexts produced different scientific assumptions about nature. I’ve also just taken up a position as an Assistant Professor in the Classics department at UC Davis and will be teaching courses on both Plato and ancient Science in my first year. Along with these career changes, I’ve recently gotten married. My wife, Christina Houghton and I are very much looking forward to living a new Californian life in the East Bay of San Francisco!”

Now all he needs is a band—you will discover from the Columbia Classics website that Colin was responsible for the music in some of the Greek and Latin drama recently produced at Columbia / Barnard.

Additions to our family.

Bruce Russell (now finishing a MA on friendship in Aristotle) reports a son Luke Thomas Russell born 18th June 2013.

Dr James Bryson (BA 2005, MA 2007), now a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow at McGill, has a son Matthew Richardson-Bryson born November 22nd 2013 who was baptised during the Easter Vigil in the King’s Chapel. **Benjamin Lee** (First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, 2006; MA, 2008) and Andrea have a son Brendan Birch Isaiah who joined Ellianna on June 11th of this year. **Silvan Mitchell** joined Caius in the family of our Roman historian, Jack Mitchell and his wife, Luba, in March 2013. Alexey Treiger joined Anna in the family of Ksenia and **Sasha Treiger** on November 20th.

William Cochran (First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics 2009; MA 2011), now in the PhD programme in Philosophy at Northwestern University in Evanston (funded both by Northwestern University and by a SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship) married Lindsay Fancy in All Saints Cathedral Halifax on October 26th 2013.

Gerjan Altenberg (First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Classics, 2012) who took a MA SSHRC to Religious Studies at McMaster University will begin his PhD studies this Fall in Indian Buddhism.

Kathleen Allen (First Class Honours in Contemporary Studies and Classics, 2007) writes on science and technology for *The Star* (Toronto). See http://www.thestar.com/authors.allen_kate.html.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Murray (MA 1994 with a thesis on Aquinas’ commentary on *The Divine Names of Dionysius*) has been appointed Supervisor of Music for the Canadian Forces. He writes “not the usual career progression for Artillery colonels, but proving to be a great opportunity”.

Ian Robson (Honours Classics, 2007) is now head of Collection Development at the University of Waterloo.

Dr Torrance Kirby (Honours BA, 1976, MA, 1978) published three books this year *Persuasion and Conversion: essays on religion, politics and the public sphere in early modern England*, *Paul’s Cross and the Culture of Persuasion in England, 1520-1640* (edited with P. G. Stanwood) and *Mediating Religious Cultures in Early Modern Europe* (edited with Matthew Milner).

Dr Simon Fortier (BA First Class Honours 2007, MA 2009) successfully sustained his PhD thesis in the Faculté de Philosophie, Université Laval. He writes “It was a rather long affair (four and half hours), but apparently that is normal for a five-member French jury. I received a “mention” of “excellente”... so I am pleased with the outcome... I suppose that the department is doing well... My performance ... owed much to the education I received there.”

Dr Lindsay Ann Reid (BA, First Class Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies and University Medal in Early Modern Studies, 2003) has been appointed Lecturer in English at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She received an MA in Comparative Literature from the University of

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Toronto in 2004 and a PhD in English and Book History from the University of Toronto in 2009. She worked as an Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Koc University in Istanbul prior to taking up her current position. Having first discovered the *Metamorphoses* in her undergraduate Latin classes, she has gone on to study the reception and adaptation of Ovid's poetry in late medieval and early modern England (she has a forthcoming monograph on the subject entitled *Ovidian Bibliofictions and the Tudor Book*).

Ashleigh Gaul in 2009 took both a honours BA in English and a BSc in Marine Biology and Classics. She is online editor with Up Here magazine about life in the northern territories and won the Greg Clark Award for early-career journalists for 2013. Ashleigh, who has worked as a reporter for *Baffinland Witness*, spent her Greg Clark experience in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, investigating the influence of mining developments on the region. <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1154863/the-canadian-journalism-foundation-announces-ashleigh-gaul-as-the-greg-clark-award-winner>

Evidently a lover of St John, the **Rev'd Dr John Paul Westin** BA MA 1983 has moved from the Rectory of St Thomas' St John's Newfoundland to the Rectory of St John's (the Stone) Church St John, New Brunswick.

Dr David Mirhady, Professor and Chair of the Department of Humanities at Simon Fraser University, wrote to congratulate us on our "wonderful achievements" and to remind us that he is "a Dal alumnus of sorts, having had a post-doc there" in '92-94. He recalls that "Richard Smith was a post-doc with me".

Richard Upsher Smith took his PhD from us in 1991 and is now Associate Professor of Classics and Chairman of the Department at the Franciscan University in Steubenville. His most recent publication is *Vade Mecum! A Glossary of Terms in Grammar, Rhetoric, and Prosody for Readers of Greek and Latin*, Mundelein, IL: Bochazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. He generously sent us a copy which has been added to the Department's Library.

Daniel Watson (MA 2013) has been accepted by the National University of Ireland Maynooth for a Master's degree in Celtic Study and received a Hume Scholarship to fund it: "This will pay my fees and give me 8,000 Euros a year to live on." His research grows out of his thesis on the *Platonic Theology of Proclus* supervised by Dr Hankey, from which an article has been published in *Dionysius*. He and his Irish supervisors hope that his Master's work will show the viability of a PhD dissertation which would involve a radically new approach to Early Irish literature.

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