

CLASSICS News

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

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Dr Hankey Retires, is Re-appointed and the "Wisdom belongs to God" Colloquium in 2017

Dr Hankey has been retired from his King's Chair as Carnegie Professor and is now appointed by Dalhousie to a post-retirement position. From the first of July, he has been Professor of Classics at Dalhousie University, teaching four and a half classes in 2015-16 and helping with administration tasks. He hopes to expand his writing and research.

Currently he has a monograph resulting from his Aquinas Medal and Lectureship at the University of Dallas, *Aquinas's Neoplatonism in the Summa Theologiae on God: A Short Introduction*, which he is seeing through the press, is preparing to open a colloquium celebrating the 750th Anniversary of St Thomas' *Summa theologiae* in Paris in December, with an address entitled: "*Secundum quod materia patietur*: le plan de la *Somme de théologie*", and is writing a book entitled *Christian Neoplatonisms: A Beginner's Guide*, due at the publisher next Summer.

In June of 2017 we shall host a retirement Colloquium for Dr Hankey entitled "Wisdom belongs to God". The title is from Plato's *Apology* 23a: τῷ ὄντι ὁ θεὸς σοφὸς εἶναι and refers to one of the principal continuing themes of Dr Hankey's scholarship, teaching, and publications: the self-criticism of reason within the Hellenic tradition.

Dr Hankey has observed that Hellenism is not so much characterized by critical or sophistic ratiocination as by the self-reflexive criticism of this. In his teaching he has tried to show how Hellenic self-criticism of reason has a beginning with Homer's treatment of the destructive endlessness of Odysseus' conniving and curiosity, achieves tragic depth in the Πολλὰ τὰ δεινὰ chorus of Sophocles' *Antigone*, founds Platonic and Aristotelian philosophy in its battle against sophistry, and rises in philosophical theology to the divine thinking as truth and being. His studies of the Platonic, Neoplatonic and Peripatetic traditions, especially as they are absorbed into the Pagan, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religious media also expose the self-overcoming of finite rationality.

Given the wide range of forms of this self-criticism, we hope that a great number of his former students working in many fields will participate. Dr Peter O'Brien has agreed to chair the organising committee.

Chairman's Message

By Dr Wayne Hankey

OLYMPIAN SUCCESS: GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE

May's Convocations cheered Classics Graduates as they took a Medal of Gold, another of Silver, and three of Bronze. In the vulgar language of the Olympians (as compared to the Pythians!), Classics "owned the podium".

GOLD

Joseph Gerbasi captured the Governor General's Gold Medal for the most outstanding Master's graduate in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Dalhousie. Our **Emma Curran** took it in 2013, **Tim Riggs** in 2010, and **Dr Hans Feichtinger** in 2003. The selection is made by the Faculty of Graduate Studies

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MA graduates, Jacob Glover and Joseph Gerbasi

A New Chair

Dr Michael Fournier, an alumnus, born and raised in Nova Scotia, has succeeded Dr Hankey as Chair of the Department. Michael is twice over a graduate of the Department (First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, 1999; MA, 2001, with a thesis “Language and Vision in the *Proslogion* of St. Anselm,” supervised by Dr Hankey). His dissertation for the PhD in Philosophy from Boston College (2007) is entitled *Cicero, Seneca and Boethius on Consolation*. In it Dr Fournier reinterpreted the traditional philosophical consolations found in Cicero and Seneca in order to re-evaluate their influence on Boethius’ *Consolation of Philosophy*. He holds the Chair in “Philosophy, Religion, and Culture in late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages” and will continue his heavy teaching load.

Michael’s teaching includes classes on Latin language at all levels, Ancient and Medieval Philosophy at all levels, “Magic, Religion and Philosophy,” and Latin literature. Dr Fournier co-ordinates, and lectures in, the Section on the Middle Ages in the King’s Foundation Year Programme. His current research includes an investigation of philosophical accounts of pity and mercy from Plato to Boethius, work on Boethius’ Greek and Latin sources, the importance of Neoplatonic poetics for the interpretation of the *Consolation’s* Homeric allusions, and the literary and philosophical parallels between the *Consolation* and Cicero’s *Tusculan Disputations*. Michael has also been working on the philosophical significance of literary presentations of the *quadrivium* in Cicero, Macrobius, Boethius, Alain de Lille, and Honorius of Autun.

Dr Fournier is engaged in discussions with Professor Jean-Marc Narbonne of Université Laval to determine whether a team with four colleagues (Doctors Hankey, O’Brien, Trieger, Diamond) which he would head will participate in an international research and publication project: “Raison et Révélation: l’Héritage Critique de l’Antiquité.” See the interview with Professor Narbonne and the Chairman’s Message for details of this project.



Dr Eli Diamond and Dr Michael Fournier

Chairman’s Message Continued...

and only one is awarded in the Humanities and Social Sciences each year. Having our graduates receive four in 13 years, almost one-third of those awarded in the period, is outstanding indeed. This award, Ne Plus Ultra, begins the story, with which this Newsletter is replete, of the wide recognition of the exceptional quality of the work of students and faculty of our Department and the distinguished accomplishments of its graduates. Joseph came to us from the University of Winnipeg, completed a MA thesis in 2014, under the direction of Dr Diamond. It treated the metaphysical grounding of Aristotle’s conception of the human self in the *Nicomachean Ethics*. In 2013, Joseph published “Aristotle at the End of Metaphysics: A Review of Pierre Aubenque’s *Le problème de l’être chez Aristote*”.



Ariel Weiner (right) and her friend and fellow Classics student Christine Orenstein (left) at the 225 & 70 celebration

This article in *Dionysius* 31 is a deeply thoughtful consideration of the effect of Heidegger on Aubenque’s understanding of Aristotle and took us back to Aristotle’s text through one hundred years of determinative pieces of German, French and English scholarship. Joseph

has begun PhD studies at the University of Toronto in Classics.

SILVER

Ariel Weiner, with First Class Honours in Classics and Religious Studies (only three As in her record, all the rest A+!), was awarded the King’s Silver Medal at Encaenia. This Medal goes to the student with the best degree in Arts and Science at King’s.

Our students regularly receive this recognition of academic leadership at King’s. Two years ago it went to **Hilary Ilkay** (BA First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, 2013). Immediately after graduation she was a *Lapham Quarterly* Intern in New York. Thus, Hilary will be moving *back* to New York, when in August she pursues a two-year MA in Liberal Studies at the New School for Social Research. Hilary has a Provost’s Scholarship from the New School and will further interests aroused while a student in our Department.

Gavin Keachie (BA First Class Honours and the University Medal in Religious Studies, 2012), now working on a PhD in Religious Studies at the University of Toronto, was the King’s Silver Medalist in 2012. **Emma Curran**, who has just finished her second year in the PhD programme in Classics at Princeton, took the Medal in 2010. **Dr Carolyn MacDonald**, received the King’s Silver Medal in 2007. She successfully defended her doctoral thesis, “Looking Roman, Looking Greek”, at Stanford University in January, and is taking up a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of New Hampshire. We hope to attract her

up for a talk now that she is nearer at hand. **Dr Florence Yoon**, with a DPhil earned while a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, now an Assistant Professor of Classical Literature at UBC, stood at the top of King’s with the Silver in 2003.

Six in thirteen years is close to half of these symbols of preeminence in excellence. Clearly, King’s and Classics have a mutually beneficial union, one well worth advertising in the wide world from where we draw the best and send them back bettered.

Ariel was nominated by Dalhousie for one of its 20 allotted SSHRC PhD Fellowships; another went to our **Aaron Higgins-Brake** (First Class Honours and University Medal in Classics, 2012; MA, 2015) now off to PhD studies at Duquesne. Like Joseph Gerbasi, Ariel is taking a year away from formal study to decide on her future direction. Ariel’s parents traveled from Toronto for her celebration and joined us for our King’s Encaenia Breakfast, the third of these now annual happy receptions.

This year’s toast to the Department was delivered by Vice President **Kim Kierans** of King’s, who graduated with Honours in Classics in 1983. She recalled the seminar she participated in when a student on Aristotle’s *De Anima*, jointly offered by Professors George Grant, James Doull, and myself. In the coming academic year, I shall teach the *De Anima* again, this time using Dr Eli Diamond’s book hot off the press. With her from King’s was Dean of Students, **Nicholas Hatt**, who graduated with Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies in 2003, a part



VP of King's, Kim Kierans; incoming Chairman of the Department of Classics, Dr Michael Fournier, and King's Dean of Students, Nicholas Hatt

time graduate student in the Department.

BRONZE

Tamara Watson, with First Class Honours in Classics, was awarded the Classics Medal. She came to us from the Foundation Year Programme where she received the Peggy Heller Prize as the best graduate in her year (2013). Her mother joined her from Victoria, BC for the Encaenia celebrations including the Classics Breakfast. Her brother, **Daniel Watson**, who graduated with a MA in Classics in 2013, is now working on a PhD in Celtic Studies at Maynooth University. Tamara is continuing in the Department for MA studies funded both with a SSHRC Graduate Fellowship and a Killam Scholarship.

Noor Awad, with First Class Honours in Religious Studies, was awarded the Religious Studies Medal. She is wide ranging in several ways. Coming to us from Palestine, Noor also achieved Honours in History and a Minor in Journalism.

Harrington Critchley, with First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Contemporary Studies and a Minor in Classics, was awarded the Contemporary Studies Medal at the King's Encaenia. Like Tamara, Harry came to Religious Studies and Classics after receiving the Peggy Heller Prize for leading the Foundation Year Programme in 2012.



At FASS convocation, May 25, 2015 (from left to right): Nael Abd El-Rahaman, Nour Awad (winner of the Religious Studies Medal), Dr Christopher Austin, and Emma D'Eon

His mother joined him from Toronto for the Encaenia celebrations including the Classics Breakfast. Although he was awarded an excellent scholarship for graduate study elsewhere, Harry is also pausing for a year so far as the pursuit of university degrees is concerned. He is staying in Halifax to continue and expand his admirable and dedicated community service work and will at the same time improve his Greek and Latin.

FALL CONVOCATION

October 2014 saw Fall Convocation and four new Masters of Arts in Classics: **Bruce Russell**, who is in the education degree programme at Mount Saint Vincent University, and **Paul McGilvery**, one of our Killam scholars, who moved into the Classics PhD programme at the University of Western Ontario, with SSHRC doctoral funding. **Justin Singer** was featured in the Convocation information with a "Grad Profile"; see it elsewhere in this Newsletter. He published a substantial part of his thesis in *Dionysius* 32 (2014): "The Root of All Dimensions: Examining Plato's Teachings on the Mathematical Foundations of Knowing and Being" and is well advanced in a degree in Combinatorics and Optimization at the University of Waterloo. **Joseph Gerbasi's** accomplishments we celebrated above.

KILLAM AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL SCHOLARS

The Killam is the highest Dalhousie scholarship award; two will be held in the Department next year. There will be four SSHRC Graduate Fellowships funding students in the Department in the 2015-2016 academic year: two held by MA students in their second (thesis) year, and two awarded to students entering our Graduate Programme. Classics will have 20% of the 20 SSHRC MA scholarships at Dalhousie, another stellar performance by this small Department.

NATIONAL PRIZE WINNERS

This Spring **Tamara Watson** shared the Department's Nicole Knox Prize for excellence in Greek and Latin with **Torin Vigerstad**. Our standard is high. Torin and Alison Graham performed brilliantly in the 2014-15 Canadian Association of Classics National Greek and Latin Sight and Translation Competitions. Torin, who will receive a First Class Honours degree in Classics at this October's Convocation, stood First Place nationally in Senior Latin and Third Place in Senior Greek; **Alison Graham**, a second year student with us, took Second Place in Senior Greek among the competitors from across Canada. **Benjamin von Bredow**, also in second



Ashley Promislow (left), Dr. Eli Diamond (center) and Harrington Critchley (right). Harrington graduated with First Class Honours and Contemporary Studies and a Minor in Classics and was awarded the Contemporary Studies Medal at King's Encaenia. Ashley graduated with Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies. She was delighted that her family came from Ontario to celebrate her graduation.

year, won Second Place in the CAC Junior Undergraduate Essay Competition. See the interview with Torin and Allison elsewhere in this Newsletter.

These prizes, together with the SSHRC and Killam awards, the admissions our students receive into the world's best graduate schools, accompanied by scholarships to support their studies, demonstrate that our standards and their accomplishments are at the highest international level. The extraordinary opportunities offered to Nova Scotians, citizens of the Atlantic region, Canada, and the world by Classics here deserve celebration and support.



Benjamin von Bredow

THE AQUINAS MEDAL IN TEXAS AND “SOMME DE THEOLOGIE” IN PARIS

Not all university prizes go to those enrolled for degrees. I am proud to report that, on the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas this year, I delivered the Aquinas Lecture and received the Aquinas Medal from the University of Dallas. I spent most of a happy and warm week at that University in seminars and discussions during some of our worst weather in Halifax and came home deeply impressed by the University, its Philosophy Department (which hosted me), and its Core Curriculum. A book which contains the lecture and a good deal else will come out shortly from St Augustine's Press. Its title is *Aquinas' Neoplatonism in the Summa Theologiae on God. A Short Introduction*. Another publisher, Cascade Books, has commissioned a related book on which I am now working: *Christian Neoplatonisms: A Beginner's Guide*. Since these another most welcome invitation has arrived.

In December I shall give the Opening Lecture for a two day Colloquium in Paris, at the Couvent St Jacques, St Thomas Aquinas' Dominican House there. The Colloquium is devoted to the *Summa theologiae* and marks the 750th Anniversary of its beginnings at St Jacques. The conference will be part of the celebration by the French Republic of the 800th Anniversary of the founding of the Dominicans. This ranks along with the Aquinas Medal and Oxford University Press making my *God in Himself* an Oxford Scholarly Classic as the greatest distinctions given to my scholarly work. When I was starting my doctoral research on Aquinas, it was at St Jacques that I was given the guidance of the Rev'd Dr Henri-Dominic Saffrey, O.P., the great Proclus scholar, which determined its direction. In its superb library, Le Saulchoir, much of the research was done. My end is my beginning.

A LAST YEAR

This has been my last academic year as Chairman of Classics with Religious Studies and Arabic, and also my last year as a Carnegie Professor of King's College. Having been retired by King's, from the first of July, I have held a post-retirement post at Dalhousie University as Professor of Classics teaching four and a half classes in 2015-16 and helping my very welcome successor as Chair, Dr Michael Fournier, with a number of administration tasks. I hope to expand my writing and research. When closing this message, I shall leave you with some reflections, but, before these, let me share with you a survey of a most successful Anniversary Year. Several of these highlights will be treated at more length in the rest of this Newsletter and even more fully on the Department's website, splendidly kept up-to-date by the “Aarons Twain”: Aaron Higgins-Brake and Aaron Shenkman. <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics.html>. This is only one of our several websites. Other principal sites are <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/religious-studies.html>,

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/arabic-studies.html>, and <http://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/graduate/classics/graduate-life.html>

“225 AND 70”

November 7th vibrated with “225 and 70: A Birthday Party for the Ages.” Peter O'Brien, whom we thank for chairing the organizing committee, will tell you more about its splendid success. We are left with a better understanding of, and pride in, our history and character, up-to-date mailing and email lists of alumni and friends, now in frequent use, a boost in morale and sheer joy, memories of a happy party, more than \$40,000 in gifts resulting in topped up funds and a significant increase in our endowment, now yielding new income for the Department.

The 225 Lecture & Seminar Series, also organized by Peter, featured alumni of the Department and brought home to all the extraordinary outreach of the Department. We were reminded that our graduates can be found among university professors, administrators and postdoctoral fellows in a wide range of fields, as teachers, clergy and bishops, serving as journalists, librarians, judges and lawyers, in banking and business, and as political and environmental activists. Moving outside Nova Scotia, where many serve diversely, and only tracing a periphery, we begin to spot our alumni in New Brunswick, turn south and pick out graduates in Maine, New Hampshire & New Haven, New York & New Jersey, Pennsylvania & Ohio, Maryland, Georgia & Florida. Crossing by way of alumni in Texas and Oklahoma to California, we travel up to British Columbia, where our footprint is heavy, march across Canada through Saskatchewan, and richly interlarded Manitoba. Entering from the West, we are at home in the cities of Sault Saint Marie, London, Toronto, and Ottawa and in Montreal and Quebec. Both the Bahamas and Newfoundland have graduates and friends who point the way to Europe. There we start again in Ireland, and move via Newcastle, Cambridge, Paris, Belgium, Finland, and Vienna to Istanbul and ancient Smyrna. As is proper, the Department has an Alumnus, the Rev'd Ron Evans (MA, 1983) stationed in this ancient city associated with Homer, the origins of philosophy and St Paul. His MA thesis on Euripides is entitled: *Iphigenia taurica. A New Concept of Justice*. Just as the Ionians travelled to Egypt, so must we and remind ourselves of George Adolf (MA, 1976) who wrote *An Essay on the Stoic Categories*,



Dr Hankey speaks in the presence of Prof Robert Crouse, Prof James Doull, and Prof George Grant

which we number among our theses. Nor does Asia stop us and via India, Singapore, China, South Korea and Japan, Dalhousie Classics graduates circle the globe.

It was a great pleasure to see Dr Paige Hochschild (MA, 1998) now on the Faculty of Mount St Mary's in Maryland, Dr Bruce Gordon (MA, 1986), Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Yale, both speak at King's this year. We were happy to appoint Dominic Lacasse (MA, 2013 with a thesis entitled: “*Separatio Legis et Evangelii: Marcionism and Tertullian's Monotheistic Critique*”) to a position teaching the Introduction to Western Religions in the Department, and to receive a visit from Dr Carolyn MacDonald who introduced her fiancé and praised the strength of our Greek and Latin numbers and standards.

JOINT SCHOLARLY PROJECTS

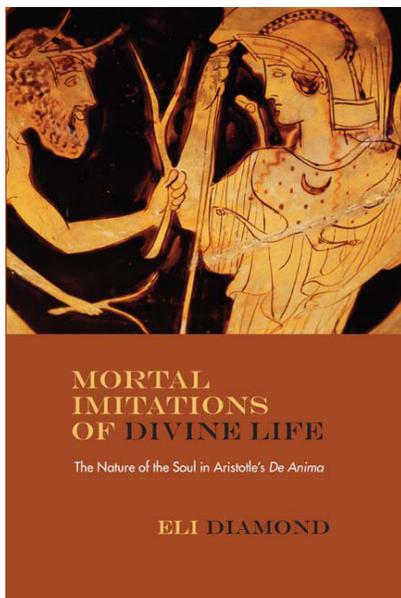
Following an invitation to me, five members of the Department (Drs Fournier, Diamond, Treiger, O'Brien and myself) are considering an international research and publication project “*Raison et Révélation: l'Héritage Critique de l'Antiquité*” with an overall budget of more than a million dollars, based in a large grant from SSHRC (subvention Partenariat 2014-2021). The centre of the project is Université Laval, but universities and publishers in France, Belgium, Canada, the USA and Brazil are partners. At least two of our alumni (Drs Simon Fortier, MA, 2009, and Kevin Corrigan, PhD, 1991) are among the more than 30 scholars already active in the project. Dr Fournier has undertaken the administrative work.

A group of present and former students of the Department who have studied with me, working here, in Montreal, in Cambridge, England, and places still unknown, will be employed in the “Jean Trouillard Translation Project”. Elizabeth Curry (MA, 2013), Dr Matthew Furlong, Aaron Higgins-Brake (MA, 2015), Daniel Gillis (First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, 2014), Evan King (MA, 2012), Dr Matthew Wood (MA,

2005), Michelle Wilband (MA, 2008), David Puxley (MA, 2005), Philippe Mesly, currently an undergraduate in the Department, will undertake translating the major books of the great 20th century French Neoplatonist, Jean Trouillard, into English and publishing them. Dr Fedor Gouverneur has undertaken this important project and found the funding for it.

BOOKS

Dr Eli Diamond, alumnus (First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies and the University Medal in Contemporary Studies, 1999; MA, 2001) and our professor of Ancient Philosophy in succession to Dennis House and James Doull, has just published his first monograph, *Mortal Imitations of Divine Life. The Nature of the Soul in Aristotle's De Anima* (Northwestern University Press). Eli's MA thesis, which I supervised, was entitled "Plato's Sophist and its Neoplatonic Interpretation". After a PhD with a dissertation entitled "God as the Paradigm of Life in Aristotle's *De Anima*" from the Philosophy Department of Northwestern University (2007), which is the basis of the book, he came back to us via teaching posts in Philosophy at Grenfell College of Memorial University and St Thomas University in Fredericton.



He has a stunning range of teaching from classes in introductory and advanced Greek, lecture courses and seminars on Ancient Philosophy, Plato, Aristotle, political philosophy, and Greek drama. He has co-ordinated the Ancient Section in the Foundation Year Programme. Eli has been a splendid successor of Dr Peter O'Brien who transformed our approach to Graduate Studies as Graduate Co-ordinator. Dr Diamond has constructed a superbly informative website on our graduate programme and its students and alumni. You will be proud, happy, and amazed when you consult it. Go to <http://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/graduate/classics/graduate-life.html>

Eli has been cross-appointed to the Philosophy Department. Kieva (BA, 1999) and Eli have three very active boys, Harlow, Abraham, and Simcha.

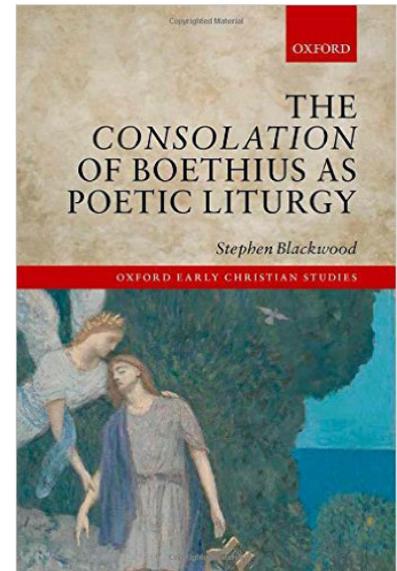
"And further, life belongs to God. For the activity of mind is life, and God is activity. And the essential activity of God is life, the best life and an eternal life. We say then that God is a living being, eternal and best, so a life that is always continuous and eternal belongs to God. For this is God."

καὶ ζωὴ δὲ γε ὑπάρχει: γὰρ νοῦ ἐνέργεια ζωῆ....

For me these are the most moving words to be found in philosophy and theology; Eli's book opens with them. I give you two slightly modified passages from it and leave the remaining great pleasures for your reading. "My argument in this book is that Aristotle's analysis of the 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.... I would argue it is precisely *through* the differences between contemporary and Aristotelian approaches to understanding life and soul that we may be genuinely instructed by the *De Anima*. Perhaps the chief reason for the strangeness of the *De Anima* lies in the fact that, like it or not, Aristotle is engaged in what we would now call the 'philosophy of nature,' and this philosophical genre is decidedly no longer in fashion." The pleasures you may anticipate include entering an authentic essay in contemporary philosophy.

The Department will formally Launch Eli's book at a Departmental Seminar on Thursday October 1st at 7 pm in the Department's Library where Dr Diamond will present and discuss it. All are welcome.

Dr Stephen Blackwood (BA, 1997; MA, 1999) has just published *The Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius as Poetic Liturgy* with Oxford University Press. His monograph began with his MA thesis entitled "The Role of Prayer in Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*," which I supervised and from which he published "*Philosophia's Dress: Prayer in Boethius' Consolation of Philosophy*" in *Dionysius* XX (2002). He took these studies with him to his PhD research at Emory University from which he received the PhD in 2010 for a dissertation written in the Department of Religion entitled: *The meters of Boethius: rhythmic therapy in the Consolation of philosophy*. Stephen is founding President and Vice Chancellor of Ralston College, Savannah, Georgia.



Dr Blackwood's book draws on, connects, and extends, often in surprising ways, the best and most imaginative multilingual and multidisciplinary scholarship. He then completes it through his own unprecedentedly full and precisely detailed analysis of the metres and how they function to draw the embodied soul step by step to its *Consolation*. The interconnection of form and content in the work, and the mode of their operation, has never before been so fully described. This book will be indispensable to all future scholarship.

Yet there is more. Properly explaining how the *Consolation* must be read, and showing us the way to do it, Stephen has produced the most reader friendly book of major scholarship known to me. It literally forces the reader to recite the poetry in the *Consolation* out loud and teaches how to do it. It is an interactive book, so to speak, and great fun (really).

The aim of poetic liturgy is salvation and Blackwood is zealously determined to open that to as many as possible. Oxford University Press has given Stephen the full means for doing this in a superbly produced book.

A year ago we were launching **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); you may read about it in the 2014 Newsletter.

In the same year **Dr Richard Upsher Smith, Jr** (PhD, 1991, with a dissertation entitled "The Liber de cardinalibus Christi domini nostri operibus of the Lord Arnold, Abbot of Bonneval : introduction and critical text with notes" supervised by Dr Crouse) is Associate Professor of Classics at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, also emerged

again in print. *Ecclesiastical, Medieval, and Neo-Latin Sentences Designed to Accompany Wheelock's Latin* (Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 2014) followed *Vade Mecum! A Glossary of Terms in Grammar, Rhetoric, and Prosody for Readers of Greek and Latin* (Bolchazy-Carducci, 2012), now in its third printing.

Richard writes that “the Glossary was written in an attempt to supply the deficiencies in grammar, rhetoric, and prosody most commonly encountered in contemporary students of the classical languages. The Sentences book was composed as a supplement to the *Sententiae Antiquae* and *Loci Immutati* in Wheelock's Latin, in the belief that ecclesiastical, medieval, and modern forms of Latin are worthy of study at the introductory level, and in hopes that those who already know Classical Latin may use the book to learn these later kinds of Latin.”

Dr Michael Sampson (BA First Class Honours and the University Medals in Classics and Early Modern Studies, 2001; MA, 2003), PhD University of Michigan is Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of Manitoba, where he specializes in the teaching of literature. Among his list of publications, there is, with C. Borges, *New Literary Papyri from the Michigan Collection: Mythographic Lyric and a Catalogue of Poetic First Lines* (University of Michigan Press, 2012). We have an interview with Michael and an account of his Departmental Seminar in this Newsletter.

Dr Paige (Davidson) Hochschild (BA Honours, 1994; MA 1996), with whom we have an interview in this Newsletter, published *Memory in Augustine's Theological Anthropology* with Oxford University Press in 2011. Dedicated to Dr Crouse, under whom she wrote her MA thesis here, it continues the research Paige began with him. Paige teaches Philosophy in the Theology Department of Mount Saint Mary's University in Maryland.

We should be glad to hear of books published by our alumni.

LIBRARIES

Clearing the decks for the “225 and 70” celebration and beginning the fundraising associated with that, we held a giant Book Sale, organized by Aaron Shenkman. Happy shoppers went away with contributed volumes and books which had been replaced in the Department Library. The substantial funds raised passed to additions to our collection. Under the care of Aaron Higgins-Brake and Dr Jack Mitchell, the Loeb and Oxford Classical Texts series have been completed and updated. A very useful and inexpensive series of French texts with commentaries published by Flammarion, and Arabic / English bilingual philosophical texts from Brigham Young University Press, as well as important reference books, have been added, and the

giant beautifully bound *Index Thomisticus* was given to us by Mount St Vincent University. Together with the new computers loaded with digital scholarly indices bought with funds from the research grants of Professors Diamond and Mitchell, the Departmental Library is greatly enhanced.

In 2013-14, we worked with other departments and Faculty of Arts and Science officers to counter a planned reworking of



Dr Jack Mitchell

the Dalhousie Library budget in a way which would have permanently crippled humanities and social sciences teaching at Dalhousie. The library collections for Classics in the Killam and King's Libraries are envied internationally. Their destruction by neglect is unthinkable. The success of our joint campaign, in which our students played a crucial role, was indicated this year when the Dalhousie Librarian announced that she was forsaking the whole project. Happily she determined that the collections in the humanities and social sciences had been underfunded for a considerable period. Proper funding has been restored and great progress has been made in repairing the damage caused by underfunding. Hope blossoms.

Our thanks for help with this and very much else over two decades goes to Susan Harris, the Classics Specialist in the Killam who retired in June. Her brother (The Rev'd Dr) Peter is a graduate of the Department (First Class Honours, 1968) and, although Susan's own degree is in English, Susan has been a friend, as well as an ingeniously helpful library Specialist, helping us through hard times and leaving us with better ones.

CLASSICS AND THE FOUNDATION YEAR PROGRAMME

Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose.

Last year I lectured in the King's Foundation Year Programme (on *Oedipus Rex* and *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan*). The lecture list for 2015-16, is filled with Classics graduates and faculty: Dr Tom Curran (MA, 1975), Associate Director, Dr Kyle Fraser, Coordinator Ancient World (MA, 1996), Dr Peter O'Brien (MA, 1992), Dr Eli Diamond (MA, 2001), Dr Emily Varto (MA, 2004), Dr Gary Thorne (MA, 1983), Dr Michael Fournier, Coordinator Middle Ages (MA, 2001), Katlyn Boulding (BA First Class Honours, 2013; MA, 2015), Dean Nicholas Hatt (BA Honours, 2003, and part-time graduate student), Dr Neil Robertson (MA, 1987), Dr Roberta Barker, Coordinator Renaissance and Reformation (BA First Class Honours, 1996), Dr Michael Bennett (BA

First Class Honours, 2007). More than thirty lectures, well more than one-third of the slate, will be delivered by Dalhousie Classicists. Classics remains the *sine qua non* of the King's Foundation Year Programme.

APPOINTMENTS

Two crucially important appointments were made this Spring. **Dr Rodica Firanesescu** was reappointed to a fourth three year term as Assistant Professor of Arabic and **Dr Jack Mitchell** was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Classics, specializing in Roman History.

This is Dr Firanesescu's fourth appointment with us as the sole faculty member teaching Arabic. Rodica has taken responsibility for the development of the curriculum, all the instruction in, and all the promotion of, this highly successful programme. She teaches language classes at every level from introductory to advanced. Besides these, she offers each year a popular class introducing students to Arabic culture. Dr Firanesescu has helped develop two Minors to which Arabic is essential. She has created synergies for students of western religions and of late ancient and medieval philosophy in our Department. Rodica is active with research and publication in her field.

Rodica has shown that a permanent post in Arabic is an essential and we look forward to seeing one created.



Dr Rodica Firanesescu

In earlier Newsletters we have celebrated Dr Mitchell's research activity and SSHRC grant, his creation of the Pythian Games, his Teaching Award and Convocation Address, his work on the Departmental Library and as our Publicist, Webmaster and Recruiter, and this year he will tell you about his battle dioramas in this Newsletter. It is not surprising then that I can now invite you to celebrate with us his Tenure and Promotion as Associate Professor. The Department urged this with great enthusiasm.

First, because of the height, depth, breadth and width of his teaching capacities, interests and experience: Greek and Latin language, Hellenic, Roman, and Hellenistic Literature and History all the way through from introduction to graduate seminar. In a pinch, Jack can replace, and has actually replaced, teaching for more than half the members of the Department. Second, because of two of his fields of research and professional activity: the digitalization of the resources on which our work largely depends and ancient media. The former of these, to which Jack devoted himself between the PhD and academic work, takes us to much of the cutting edge present and to the certain future of Classics. Both are promising areas of externally supported

research.

Third, because both his performances and writing outside the strict limits of “Classics”, and all his promotional work from brochures, websites, the Pythian Games and battle dioramas, to gladiatorial armour, video production and social media get us out beyond the limits of literacy and ignorance to points of contact. At these points of contact potential students discover (and consider committing themselves to) unknown worlds, self-critical judgements and unexpected joys. The result for the Department is an astonishing influx of inquiring and committed students, increase in confidence, and hope for the future.

Our history classes with imaginative teaching by Jack, Peter O’Brien, and Emily Varto, together with the classes in Religious Studies, are proving to be a way of attracting very good students in strong numbers to the Department, in considerable part replacing the students lost because of the sharp decline in enrolments at King’s. As part of this effort, Jack and I will teach together a new class entitled “Paganism” in the Winter Term of 2016. Beginning with Homer, Hesiod, Pythagoras and the Mysteries, it explores the old religion from its origins to the present. All are welcome!

SUMMER LATIN & THE LANGUAGES

Dr Christopher Grundke’s Intensive Summer Latin class has attained the reputation it deserves. Both this Spring and last, it filled faster than it ever did in the past. We have a similar phenomenon with our first year classes this Fall in Arabic, Greek, and Latin. They are overfull.

As a cost cutting measure, the University reduced the Teaching Assistant budget for foreign language classes, thus endangering the standard of teaching which has made them, and the programmes in our Department, successful. We were required to cap the number of students admitted. The result is waitlists for admission to the introductory classes in Latin, Greek and Arabic. This is an extraordinary tribute to the reputation and teaching in the Department. As our graduates tell us when they come home to visit from the great centres of academe where they are doing further degrees and research, our numbers in Greek and Latin classes, and the standards in them, exceed those in some of the most prestigious research universities in the world. This discloses one key to the future.

If standards are maintained, and the classes are taught by those who believe in the importance of what they give, students will come. No one seeks to pay for a worthless qualification and utilitarian cynicism as an attraction has its limits, although the present is testing them. The numbers in our classes are down overall because the pools of students from which we draw are smaller—most notably at King’s. However, those who defy the prevailing dogmas and attempt our studies devote themselves as totally as our students ever

have. Those who do are equal to the best in my 50 years of teaching and their work to the best anywhere. My colleagues in the Department testify to the same. Prizes and scholarships, admissions to the world’s best graduate schools and the appointments our graduates receive, demonstrate that the world agrees.

THE FUTURE

Maintaining high standards is one key to the future. Dr Paige Hochschild indicated another. Speaking about her study of Greek here, she said “We did the language and we talked about the text. In most Classics departments you would never get that. It was wonderful.” The revolution in Classics here in the 1950s, which Peter O’Brien described during the “225 & 70” celebration, continues and continues its positive effect: philology, history and content all together. None of them educates by itself.

Languages are essential—more and more as a result of “globalization”. It is irresponsible cynical folly to reduce the curricular requirements and resources for them in the internationalized university. They enable the quality of our students’ work and they are what make our graduates so attractive to scholarship and fellowship adjudicators, graduate schools and employers. Having linguistic prowess among those increasingly illiterate precisely in respect to what is increasing needed is our graduates’ first great advantage. The confluence and agreement of the programmes in the Department: Classics, Religious Studies and Arabic on the essential place of language study is a huge benefit to all three and to their students.

Torin Vigerstad and the Pythian Games remind us of another feature of language study, one which always will, and always must, abide and be fostered in the university:

“It’s just something that’s beautiful and fun. It’s kind of painful to justify it to people, because the whole point is that it’s not justifiable in a utilitarian way.”

The heart of the humanities is in the love of beauty and truth. Nurturing this love is another key to the future of our Department, but, to quote Peter O’Brien: “those who can only conjugate will continue to decline”.

The last key is that, as I explained at the celebration in November, ours are fully contemporary inquiries, and all of them in some sense philosophical, that is, seeking present truth. As Dennis House reported, James Doull (and we can add Robert Crouse) thought that students could only be won to our studies: “if the way forward was understood to be at the same time the way backward.” Dalhousie Classics was remade in the 50s and 60s in a profound common critique of the dominant forces in the contemporary world. For its

current faculty, the criticism and presentation of alternatives for thought and action remains central to the presentation of history and literature and of philosophy and religion. Our work does, of course, provide tools, linguistic and methodological, but ours are not abstract meta reflections. We profess a content for contemplation, for enjoyment, for love, for judgment, and for practice.

If, together with demanding standards, we maintain the integration of languages, history and content, creative outreach to points of contact with contemporary students, and imaginative innovation, we shall both do our duty and succeed. After more than 50 years of intimate knowledge of Dalhousie and King’s, I know something of ebb and flow. I have seen Classics both much bigger (so far as faculty numbers are concerned) than it now is and smaller—we have never had more students than in the last five years. I have seen our Faculty increase relative to faculties then decreasing both relatively and absolutely. Now those comparisons have turned the other way. I have seen classes, subjects and fields of study in which it was hard for students to find a place, now reduced to a third of their former numbers. I have seen institutions go bankrupt, become pre-eminently successful, and then decline again. All on this campus. History moves in circles and spirals, not in straight lines. Government by projection is folly. Fidelity to the right principles through it all is the one essential. I have complete confidence in our Department in this one thing needful.

Classics belongs to the great tradition of Dalhousie University. The first class education and opportunities it has given students generally and rural Maritimers particularly—the latter are disproportionately numerous among the most accomplished Classics students and alumni—give reasons for the expenditure by our fiscally and environmentally ravished Province. Our Department provides opportunities unmatched in Anglophone universities East of Toronto, and hardly in Canada. Our work is essential to the present and crucial to finding the ways into the future. **ἡ γὰρ νοῦ ἐνέργεια ζωή.**



Celebrations at the 225 and 70 event

“225 & 70:” A Celebration for the Ages

By Meg Shields, with contributions from Dr Wayne Hankey and Dr Peter O'Brien

2014 marked the 225th year of King's College. Since the College's curriculum was devoted almost exclusively to Classics (along with Mathematics) for more than a century after its founding, and since the Department of Classics is the direct heir, and the thriving continuance, of that pedagogical tradition, it was fitting that we host our own celebration of the quasibicentennial. And what better day of the year for these festivities than Friday, November 7th, which marked the 70th year of the Department's eminent, then, Carnegie Professor and Chair, Dr. Wayne Hankey? More than one hundred fifty students (past and present), colleagues, family, and friends came out for the party, which progressed through two stages of learning and levity. We began with three lectures recording and lauding Classics' colourful and diverse history at King's College and Dalhousie and concluded with a lavish reception in the King's Library.

The evening started as a diverse crowd of alumni (from as far away as Ottawa and St Andrews, New Brunswick) honoured guests (led by President and Tia Cooper of King's and Dean Summerby-Murray of Dalhousie's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), family, students and professors filed into Alumni Hall in the New Academic Building at King's. While astute graduate students clumped together in the back, eager undergraduates of the Foundation Year Programme flocked to the front row. In keeping with King's technophobic tendencies, there were brief audiovisual difficulties which, once resolved, were punctuated with a familiar booming voice: “this is not a church – move forward!”

Dr Peter O'Brien, Chair of the “225&70” planning and fundraising committee, introduced the Capella Regalis Men & Boys



The Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir entertaining the audience

Choir, founded and conducted by Nick Halley. Their scarlet cassocks, owed to the Royal Foundation of King's, brightened the auditorium. They captivated the audience with Tomás Luis de Victoria's ‘O quam Gloriosum est Regum.’ Dr Hankey thanked the choir by way of a personal association. Their performance recalled for him memories of the Autumn Feast of St Frideswide, patron saint of Oxford, when the Men and Boys of Christ Church Cathedral sing this anthem while circling her tomb.

Assuming the podium, Dr O'Brien launched into an account of the character of Classical Studies at King's and Dalhousie universities from their origins to the midpoint of the 20th Century, in his illustrated talk “From *exemplum virtutis* to *instrumentum utilitatis*, or ‘those who can only conjugate will continue to decline’: Classics at King's and Dalhousie from 1789-1950.” In particular, he attended to the similarities and differences in approach to studies which, along with mathematics, were the first subjects taught at institutions. He focused on the crisis facing classical studies in the 20th Century, when, step by step, Greek and Latin were dropped from the school curricula, from the entrance requirements for university, and finally from the requisites for degrees. He spoke eloquently of:

The process that saw philological attainment fall away from content, the idea that the classics could meaningfully inform a 'lived' reality, happened only latterly, in the 20th century. As people began to doubt the Classical measure of the good life, the bad cultural memories of those who wielded Greek and Latin merely as aristocratic club memberships, or as indices of abstract intelligence, or as abstruse skill sets, or as exquisite aesthetic code have, one suspects, unfairly coloured the earlier period before the philological fundamentalism took root.

Dr O'Brien stunned the audience with the fact that, in the late 1950's, Dalhousie Classics pushed for the dropping of the languages as degree requirements. It did so because its leaders wished to orient students to the content of Classical culture rather than preoccupy them exclusively with its linguistic medium, what Dr O'Brien had called “philological fundamentalism”. Dr O'Brien concluded by recalling instances



Dr Jack Mitchell toasting Dr Hankey for his lifelong devotion to the Department

and artifacts, some still with us, in which the lived experience of students in 19th and 20th century King's College was organically informed by the Classics. He stressed Classics' resilience for adaptation and the levels and varieties of interpretation these studies encourage, gesturing at the end to the classically influenced Library at King's, where the reception was to take place.

Dr O'Brien then ceded the podium to Dr Hankey, appropriately introducing him as “celebrated and celebrant.” Dr Hankey's talk was entitled “Not Colonial: From James Doull and Robert Crouse to ‘The Position of Classics is Unassailable’” and was accompanied by a PowerPoint outline of the major moments and appointments in the Department from 1920 to the present. He began with his answer to Dean Summerby-Murray when asked to explain the Department's outstanding success both within Dalhousie-King's and in Canada (where East of Toronto it is now the only Anglophone university offering full undergraduate and graduate programmes in the Classical languages, literatures, and histories, and in Classical and Medieval philosophy, theology, and religion): “Because we are not colonial”. He went on to expand this answer and concluded with the Dean's judgment during this year's budget meeting: “The Position of Classics is Unassailable”.

According to Dr Hankey, crucial to the Department's long history of success was the arrival together in 1947 of James Doull (a Dalhousie Classics graduate) as member of the Department, of George Grant, as Head of Philosophy, and of Robert Crouse, as their student. This signaled the importance philosophy would play in remaking Classics here, thus cutting it away from a “colonial” emulation of the dominant Anglo-American model enthroned in Oxbridge and the Ivy League. Nonetheless, for Dr Hankey, philosophy was just one aspect of the key to

this successful independent mentality: “ours are fully contemporary inquiries”, he said. He quoted Dr Dennis House on what James Doull brought: “[I]he Dalhousie Department acted in the confidence that... students, who sought to understand their world, were prepared to step outside of the skin of their immediate age, so far as was possible, in order to understand their world in its literary, philosophical and historical origins. [Students] could only be won if the way forward was understood to be at the same time the way backward.” Dalhousie Classics was remade in a profound common critique of the dominant forces in the contemporary world; this criticism and presentation of alternatives for thought and action remains central to its presentation of Greek and Roman history and literatures and of Classical and Medieval philosophy and religion. He admitted that Classics was vulnerable in the current turn against the humanities. Yet he affirmed that today’s Department, with the largest number of programme registrations and the most robust graduating classes in its 225 years, is unassailable, because continually innovating, stimulating practical activity, and homegrown. It is a vibrant community proudly carrying forward a tradition of thought and life.

David Curry, an alumnus of the Department (BA 1977, MA 1978, and father and father-in-law of two more Masters of the Department!), now Chaplain and Master at King’s-Edgehill Collegiate School and Rector of Christ Church, Windsor, rounded off the evening’s speeches. He testified to knowing Dr Hankey “as a teacher and mentor, a colleague and friend, and, no doubt, like so many of you, a co-conspirator in many an escapade and enterprise, about which, perhaps, it would be wise to say not too much. Enough to say that it has been a riot!” He went on:

It is a kind of wonder, a marvel really, to think how Classics at King’s and Dalhousie produced such outstanding intellectual figures in the 20th and 21st



Dr Wayne Hankey

centuries... And so it has continued and in a most remarkable and important way. In the culture of passive nihilism which can only breed active nihilists, whether jihadis for ISIS or technocrats bent on destroying our universities by making them subservient to the market-state, it is the Classics and Religious Studies Department, I hope, which continues to challenge and to produce serious and engaged students, ... committed to the ideas that really matter.

With speeches concluded, a hungry and thirsty Dr Hankey urged the company to the Library for food, drink and celebration.

The Library designed and built under Dr Hankey’s supervision when he was King’s Librarian, provided a beautiful setting for a happy reception fitting the scope of the occasion. Copious libations and refreshments fueled conversation as guests milled about, enjoying the space and each other’s company: a fulfilment of Dr Hankey’s earlier depiction of an academic tradition where thinking together builds community. King’s students Thomas McCallum (BA 2014) and Alexandria Samson supplied delightful music on tin whistle and harp.

On the diversity of those in attendance, who ranged from Dr Hankey’s 90-year-old Aunt Mildred Eisenhower to babies at the breast, Dr Laura Penny put it well, exclaiming: “You guys know how to live! [I’m] looking around at everyone from babes to blue-hairs.”

Soon, Dr Jack Mitchell, after thanking departmental secretary Donna Edwards and Celine Beland’s catering staff for organizing the feast, toasted Dr Hankey for his lifelong devotion to the Department, and for the love and dedication he has exhibited in its service. Dr Mitchell graced the cheerful throng with a delightful and heartfelt poem dedicated to Dr Hankey.

Dr Hankey, resplendent in his Oxford doctoral regalia, proceeded to give thanks, first and foremost to his grandmother, mother and to the strong rural women who communicated sacrificial work as a satisfying way of life. He continued with the Sisters of Charity who trained his mother in nursing and cared for her to the end of her fatal illness and with the women teachers who maintained high standards in the rural schools of Nova Scotia from which he came to university. He gave thanks for the rural priests who inspired him and the bishops who ordained him, to



Students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends and family enjoying the presentation

Professors Doull, Crouse, and Friedrich in Classics, for King’s and the opportunities it gave to create the Library and the Foundation Year Programme, Trinity College, Toronto (“most helpfully for the knowledge of what I was not and did not wish to be”), Ian Macquarrie, his thesis supervisor at Oxford (“[who, as he said,] tried from time to time to get a word in edgewise”), among others. Concluding, Dr Hankey gave a moving thank you to his peerless colleagues, and his myriad of students, like him *DIADOCHOI* (successors) in a great tradition, and to all present to whom he expressed every obligation and gratitude.

The anniversary of Classics and of Dr Hankey was an unabashed success, both in terms of the party on November 7th, and of the fundraising campaign tied to it: we are most grateful to the many alumni, students and friends who helped us raise over \$40,000 for our various pedagogical causes. We appreciate the donations that helped to bolster the new Eisenhower-Hankey endowment for the study of ancient and medieval philosophy established by Dr Hankey, which now exceeds \$45,000 and is yielding annual income for our work. The Department is indebted to the efforts of Dr Peter O’Brien, the Honorable Peter Bryson, Dr Eli Diamond, Dr Michael Fournier, Donna Edwards, Dean Nicholas Hatt, and Karis Tees on the organizing committee and to all those who helped realize the momentous occasion. We are fortunate to have so many gracious friends and colleagues to join us in honoring, what is for so many of us, a setting of unparalleled community. We thank all those who attended, and shared with us in this exceptional celebration of our Department.

Photographs and links to the texts of talks presented at “225 & 70” are available at the Department of Classics website:

http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/news-events/news/2014/11/18/225___70__an_educational_and_fantastic_celebration.html

Battlefield Dioramas

By Dr Jack Mitchell

This Winter, I taught my class on Roman Legions & the Barbarians for the third time, so I thought I would spice things up a bit.

Admittedly, that class was already fairly spicy, since it's been my habit progressively to bring in a full replica Roman legionary kit (with sword, belt, plate armour, helmet, javelin, tunic, sandals, and shield) and let the students try it on. This year, too, we had the enormous good fortune of having in the class Christian Niles, a choreographer and internationally ranked fencer who has just graduated from the Theatre department, and he kindly gave a guest lecture in which he demonstrated the practicalities of Roman legionary sword-fighting. So we weren't lacking for spice, but the Dal Classics attitude is, "Never enough of a good thing!"

Whence the battlefield dioramas. On March 23rd and 30th, with great help from our enthusiastic students and fearless TA Marybeth Osowski, we recreated first the Battle of Telamon (225 BC) and then the Battle of Cannae (216 BC). Our battlefield was a 10'x 6' table in the Classics Library, complete with hills, fields, coastline, towns, roads, vineyards, and even a very small Temple of Poseidon. Our armies were miniature lead soldiers, each foot soldier being about 6mm tall; there were probably about 1000 soldiers on the battlefield for each battle, happy to see the light of day after 20 years in my closet. We moved the miniatures around the table to illustrate how each battle unfolded, as I gave a brief lecture on the armies involved, on the campaign, and on the sources (sometimes contradictory) of our knowledge of historical events. We topped it off by listening together to the audiobook versions of Polybius (for Telamon) and Livy (for Cannae) on the most climactic moments in the two battles.



Dr Mitchell giving a brief introductory lecture on the Battle. This may have been slightly too effective, as virtually every student (in a class of 100) wrote on Hannibal for one of the exam essay questions

The Battle of Cannae needs no introduction: it was Hannibal's greatest victory, in which his mercenary army not only beat a Roman army twice the size of his own, but destroyed it completely by enveloping it. Famously, Hannibal ordered his Gallic and Spanish troops to retreat step by step before the Roman onslaught in the centre, while his cavalry was victorious on the wings; then his Libyan spearmen, on the flanks of the Gauls and Spaniards, sprang the trap and sent panic through the Romans' eight legions. Hannibal's victory was so complete that he nearly won the war on the spot - the whole of southern Italy went over to him - and thus nearly destroyed the Roman Empire at its inception.

The Battle of Telamon is less well known but in its way just as important. Fought eight years before Hannibal invaded Italy over the Alps, it was a major Roman victory over the Gaulish tribes of the Po Valley: without it, Hannibal might well have succeeded in overrunning Italy when he first appeared, since his basic strategy was to raise the Po Valley Gauls and other subject peoples of Italy against their Roman overlords; thanks to the Battle of Telamon, however, the Po Valley Gauls were much reduced by the time Hannibal appeared. The battle unfolded in a narrow defile near the coast of Tuscany, where two Roman armies cornered an Gallic force of perhaps 70 000 troops (including war chariots) that had undertaken a major raid of Etruria. Initially the Romans had little success, being well matched against the ferocious mercenary Gaesati (who fought naked) and other Celtic warriors, but a cavalry battle on a hill eventually turned in the Romans' favour (though at the cost of one consul's head, which was brought in triumph to the Gallic king) and their cavalry rode down into the Gauls' flank, routing them.

Student response was overwhelmingly positive, and my intention is now to expand the number of dioramas (and include some famous Greek battles) when I next teach the class, in 2017-2018.



Departmental Seminars and Visiting Speakers

By Dr Peter O'Brien, Co-ordinator, with contributions by Meg Shields and Dr Wayne Hankey

The Department's approach to hosting guests who visit and share their ideas is broadly sympotic. In most cases, the text of a full paper is pre-circulated amongst our email list of Seminar participants so that its ideas can percolate and settle. On the evening of the seminar itself (usually a Thursday at 7pm), the guest will offer a 20-30 minute précis of the paper. Then a round of lively and probing conversation ensues, as we go around the tables in our own Classics Library/Classroom and our audience of students, faculty, alumni and others engages the guest as they will with questions and debate. After forty-five minutes or so, we pass to a more casual phase of interaction. Tables pushed aside, our graduate students enact the rites of *xenia*, bringing heaping platters and brimming kylikes to fortify the various discussions taking place in small groups around the room. This year, we hosted six such symposia which show the extraordinary range of the work of our alumni and of the interests of the Department.

I list them below, noting the title and date of the presentation, as well as other interesting details of the speaker's CV and activities in Halifax beyond the seminar. In some cases, I add interesting comments and observations as recorded by our intrepid reporter, Meg Shields, who was able to interview many of our guests after their talks.

All readers are cordially invited to join us for one or several seminars during the coming year—feel free to email donna.edwards@dal.ca and ask to be added to our seminar list, or watch our website for notifications.



Dr Rainer Friedrich and Dr Eli Diamond

Thursday, September 18, 2014

"Conversion: Ontological & Secular from Plato to Tom Jones."

Dr Wayne Hankey

Dr Hankey got our anniversary year public seminars started with an extraordinarily wide-ranging paper which he had delivered at McGill University in February of 2014. Published as "Conversion: Ontological & Secular from Plato to Tom Jones", Numero Cinq, V: 7, July 2014 <http://numerocinqmagazine.com/2014/07/15/conversion-ontological-secular-from-plato-to-tom-jones-essay-wayne-j-hankey/>, it provoked a lively discussion.

Thursday, October 2, 2014.

"Audience Memory in Athenian Theatre."

Dr C.W. (Toph) Marshall, Professor of Greek, Wall Scholar, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies University of British Columbia

Dr Marshall visited as part of his Classical Association of Canada Visiting Speaker—Atlantic Region tour, on which he also made Nova Scotian stops at St. Mary's and Acadia to present papers on Roman comedy and theatrical masks, respectively.

Dr Marshall's lecture blurb: How do previous productions shape the interpretation of a given play? To what extent is the Theatre of Dionysus "haunted" by its history? This paper explores how props, costumes, actors, and masks evoke previous performances, creating allusions that may be undetectable from the words of the script, offering a new perspective on how ancient theatre communicated with its audiences.

While at Dalhousie, Dr Marshall also graciously gave a noontime talk on "How Sandman Comics Make us better Readers of Ovid," attended by a number of students.

Thursday, October 17, 2014

"Deleuze's Concept of 'Quasi-Causality' and its Greek Sources."

Dr Michael Bennett

An alumnus of the Department (BA, First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, 2007) and recent graduate of McMaster University with a PhD in Philosophy, Mike is lecturing in the History of Science and Technology Programme at King's, where his wife, Kait Pinder, is a Teaching Fellow in the Foundation Year Programme. Mike's paper investigated ancient philosophical resonances in the 20th century French philosopher, Giles Deleuze.

Thursday, January 29, 2015

"The Polis in Nietzsche: The Purged Politics of The Birth of Tragedy and the Genealogy of 'Grand Politics'"

Dr Rainer Friedrich, Professor Emeritus

Our very own Rainer Friedrich argued, with his inimitable panache, that Nietzsche's earliest well-known work was purged of some of his more overtly anti-democratic politics. Dr Friedrich notes that this paper is an extension of the Nietzsche section in his 2012 essay "The Enlightenment Gone Mad. The Dismal Discourse of Postmodernism's Grand Narratives I & II" in ARION. A Journal of Humanities & the Classics (19.3 [Winter 2012] pp.31-77; and 20.1 [Summer 2012], pp. 67-111).

Thursday, March 19, 2015

"Papyri, Geography, and the Interpretation of Sappho 44."

Dr C. Michael Sampson, Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, University of Manitoba
*Mike Sampson is an alumnus of King's and the Classics Department. He entered through the Foundation Year Programme (BA First Class Honours and the University Medals in Classics and Early Modern Studies, 2001, MA Contrast in Sophokles' Trachiniai, 2003), PhD University of Michigan. While a student in the Department, in 1999, Michael was one of the founders of Pseudo-Dionysius, our student journal, now available online at <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/journals/pseudo-dionysius.html>. Michael established the layout and design which have remained substantially the same for all seventeen issues. Dr Sampson enjoyed short-term positions at St. Olaf College, Minnesota, and a research fellowship held at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and now has a permanent post at the University of Manitoba. Among his growing list of publications, we find, with C. Borges, *New Literary Papyri from the Michigan Collection: Mythographic Lyric and a Catalogue of Poetic First Lines*. Ann Arbor: U Michigan Press, 2012.*

Departmental Seminars and Visiting Speakers CONTINUED

Thursday, March 26, 2015

“Lucian’s Critical Spirit and Irreverent Laughter.”

Dr Jean-Marc Narbonne, Faculté de Philosophie, Université Laval

Jean-Marc Narbonne, long a friend of the Department and collaborator with Dr Hankey, presented to us a talk translated from the French by his former PhD student, Dr Simon Fortier, an alumnus of our Department (BA First Class Honours, 2007; MA, 2009), Laval doctorate with a thesis on Proclus, 2014. Dr Narbonne’s paper emanates from his latest research concern, Raison et Révélation: l’Héritage Critique de l’Antiquité. This seven-year project, which includes dozens of collaborators in Canada, France, the USA, Belgium and Brazil (and which may involve the associated participation of Drs Fournier, Diamond, O’Brien, Treiger and Hankey from our Department), was recently awarded more than \$700,000 in funding by SSHRC. It is based on the broad premise that the rationalistic tradition is not an invention of the 18th century, but in fact has deep roots in Graeco-Roman antiquity.

Post-Seminar Conversations

Meg Shields interviews Dr Rainer Friedrich, Dr C. Michael Sampson, and Dr Jean-Marc Narbonne

Conversation with Dr Friedrich

Your current project, is that the second volume? [i.e. following “the first volume” Dr Friedrich’s *Formular Economy in Homer. The Poetics of the Breaches. Hermes Einzelschriften, 100. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2007.*]

Yes, what I call the second volume. I took one part out of my big project which is called ‘Post-Oral Homer.’ The reigning theory is that Homer was an oral poet and I think he was a post-oral poet. He started out as an oral poet and acquired the technology of alphabetic literacy and that allowed him to create work like the Iliad. So I have a lot to do with the oral-ness and I compare Homer to the oral poets of Yugoslavia.

What do you think is the biggest issue in Homeric scholarship today?

I think that we really should solve the problem of orality and literacy. That’s the subtitle of my book: ‘the role of orality and literacy in the origins of the Homeric epic.’ So that’s, for me, currently the big issue.

Do you see any overlap between Homeric thought and Nietzsche?

I really don’t see how you can apply Nietzsche’s categories of the Apollonian and the Dionysian to Homer. Plato thought that Homer was the first great tragedian. And there’s something to it, because his epic becomes a dramatic epic, the Iliad, and it transcends the limits of the epic.

Elaborate on your comment that we have to protect Nietzsche from the Nietzscheans, please.

I think it’s an insult to him - that he needs this kind of defense. It falsifies his thought. Actually, I remember a statement by Dr Hankey years ago when he was talking about Kaufman, he said “Nietzsche would spit at that man,” because he is really neutering Nietzsche. But you find, with many great people, that they have to be protected from their followers and admirers. Because today’s Nietzscheans want to be comfortable with their philosopher and all this stuff about eugenics and the extirpation of the weak and so on, that doesn’t fit into their comfort zone.

Many students divide their academics between Contemporary and Classical studies – what advice would you have for them?

Well I did the same. When I studied I had so many classes of all kinds that Classics was only 20% and I was studying philosophy and psychology and sociology and so on.

What is the reason for the interest which makes students who study the contemporary go to the Classics as the other part of their degree?

In a way the Classics laid the foundation for the modern world. That was always the view of this Department. Look at Dr Hankey and James Doull, very modern philosophers. Classics gives you a nice basis to branch out in all directions and that’s what our students actually do here. They do a MA here but then they go into Law or Theology or Philosophy, and that’s a great strength of Classics.

Conversation with Dr Sampson

What was the Classics Department like here when you were an undergraduate?

Many of your professors – Varto, Diamond, Fournier – were students at the time. So I was an undergraduate or a graduate student while they were graduate students as well. So the people that populate the Department now I remember quite fondly. Dr Hankey was still as active at that time as he is now, and while I was here Dr Friedrich retired and Dr MacLeod was hired to replace him; she became my MA advisor. Peter O’Brien is fond of telling the story of how I was in his very first intermediate Latin class in the Department when he was hired. So you could say that I remember the generation where Dr Crouse was around and Dr Starnes and Dr Friedrich – but I also sort of knew the new generation as well, as a student and as a colleague.

What got you into papyrology at the University of Michigan and how does it help you with your study of poetry and tragedy?

Michigan is one of the world centers for papyrology and as a PhD student you’re encouraged to take advantage of that by taking a course or a seminar and learning the basics of the field. Michigan also has a tradition of being a philologically rigorous place to do your graduate work. So the languages are not just emphasized, but you work at them all the time. The prose composition courses are taken very seriously, the language exams are taken seriously, and it’s one of the things they do really well. As a philologist I was encouraged to do papyrology, and, in order to do papyrology,

your Greek has to be very good. Not only are you trying to read somebody's scribbling from 2000 years ago, but you need to make Greek out of it too. You need to know the language, and you need to have expectations when you're reading so you know what's coming next, or what should be coming next. That takes time, and I'm still developing as a papyrologist.

In terms of its effect of my work on literature and drama, I think about papyrology as a handmaiden to textual criticism and philology. Consider how important it is for any scholar working on literature to understand the text and where it came from, how it has changed, and how it's been edited over two millennia. Papyrology and a command of that manuscript tradition really lets you set the bar and establish the framework, the context in which you're going to undertake a literary interpretation.

The talk I gave on Sappho at the Departmental Seminar very much depends on the poem beginning at a certain point, ending at a certain point, and having so many lines missing at a certain point. People who don't know that those are the boundaries of the poem have made what, to me, are fairly amusing mistakes in their interpretation; they think that we could have a hundred lines missing when in fact we have six. We think that the poem may have gone on for several books, or hundreds of lines, when, in fact, we are only missing three lines from the beginning. Knowledge of the papyri and of the manuscript tradition has certainly helped me contain and formulate what I think is a fairly stable interpretation of the poem, and how Sappho organized it.

What's it like teaching in Manitoba, and what can we at Dalhousie learn from how they teach Classics out in the West?

I love Manitoba. I was really lucky to get a job back in Canada and at a department that balances the various aspects of Classical studies really well. Two of my colleagues are internationally renowned field archeologists who are experts in their fields. I work with a scholar who works in the manuscript tradition of Plato and is sympathetic to what I'm doing with papyrology...so our department is really neat in as much as we do history and we do language and literature and we do material culture as well. In terms of what we can teach you guys about teaching classical studies, I think it's probably the other way around. We can look at Dalhousie and the commitment to having a historian on both sides and an awareness of the importance of language and

literature for literary interpretation. That's something that's always been a great tradition of Dalhousie to begin your study of antiquity with the texts, with the languages. That's the way I was brought up and it shows I hope to this day in the kind of work that I'm doing. [Dr James Chlup (MA, 1998) teaches Ancient History in Michael's Department.]

What's your favourite line of Sappho?

"That man seems to me to be an equal to the gods." It's the start of fragment 31 I believe and it's the one that Catullus translates in one of his poems. It's one of the most precise and imprecise bits of poetry out there. With the demonstrative 'that guy' - you can essentially see Sappho pointing at somebody in her audience, but, as readers, we don't know who it is and we're left to imagine it. The same way the 'me' is left unspecified, is it Sappho herself, is it a chorus...we're totally unsure sort of who the key players are and what exactly Sappho's talking about. The context is completely lost to us, which makes it just this wonderful mystery.

Conversation with Dr Narbonne

Could you describe your relation to the department?

I organized many years ago now, I think it was in 1998, a big conference on the topic of metaphysics [XXVIIe Congrès de l'Association des Sociétés de Philosophie de Langue Française. La métaphysique: son histoire, sa critique, ses enjeux]. And at this conference...I met Wayne Hankey. I talked to him, but I didn't know who he was. I just met him... and later on we got in touch again through Neoplatonism, because I work on Plotinus and Neoplatonic tradition and all that...Since he was coming regularly to Quebec, we would meet. As there is also a Neoplatonic tradition here because of Armstrong and so on, we had some things in common and we started to have some exchanges from then on.

Am I right in thinking that you have some relation to *Dionysius*?

Yes, I have published in *Dionysius*, maybe four or five times all-together. *Dionysius* is a well-established periodical and it publishes many articles and studies in the field where I'm active.

You were introduced as a scholar of Neoplatonism. What prompted you to turn

to the very different subject matter you treated this evening?

What I presented about, Lucian, comes out of a new field of research that I am working on now for about 5 years. I developed a new project of research in the frame of a SSHRC 'partnership grant' and we got at Laval, under my guidance so to speak, this grant for seven years. The subject is "Raison et Révélation: l'Héritage Critique de l'Antiquité", "The Critical Heritage of Antiquity"... This project tries to develop the idea and show that this critical heritage which we have from the Greeks, and then from the Romans, has made us in many ways; it's not something dead or something past - it's some sort of active process, and this active process is still going on. [For example] the secularizations that we talked about today in the context of [Charles] Taylor, for me, this secularization...is a long shot effect of this critical ethos.

What sort of involvement with this project can be expected from the Dalhousie Classics Department?

It's coming, we'll see how it develops. I don't know exactly yet. I'll be very glad if there's some sort of possible development with Halifax because we already have in Canada colleagues in the University of Montreal, Concordia University, Emory...and other universities abroad. But I think that it is a very important thing that there are some good roots here in Canada in different places. And, because of this, if Halifax were to be part of it, that would be a good thing.

To learn more about our Departmental Lecture Series, please go to:
http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/news-events/lecture_series.html

Graduate Studies Update

By Dr Eli Diamond, Graduate Co-ordinator, with contributions from Dr. Wayne Hankey

As Graduate Coordinator in the Department, I have a unique view of the health and vitality of our grad programme, and it's one of the pleasures of Spring to report on it to our Alumni and friends. Graduate students play an indispensable role in every facet of our intellectual community, and it's nothing short of amazing how much they accomplish collectively and individually in the course of one year.

Perhaps our biggest news this year was that one of our most recent MA graduates, **Joseph Gerbasi** from Winnipeg, won the Governor General's Gold Medal Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences for 2015. This award goes to the top MA student at Dalhousie – there is one medal for Sciences and Engineering and one medal for Humanities and Social Sciences. I supervised Joseph's thesis on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, a remarkable piece of philosophical scholarship and one that wholly deserved such university-wide recognition. Some of Joseph's insights into Aristotle can be found in Volume XXXI of *Dionysius* (2013), in an article entitled "Aristotle at the End of Metaphysics," a piece I count among my favourite recent articles on The Philosopher.

While on the topic of Aristotle and *Dionysius* XXXI, I should mention that Joseph's paper is directly followed in same volume by an alumnus **Dr Matthew Wood's** (Honours, 2003; MA, 2005) excellent article "Aristotelian Ontology and its Contemporary Appropriation: Some Thoughts on the Concept of Analogy." At the beginning of June 2015, Matthew successfully defended his doctoral thesis on "Aristotle and the Question of Metaphor" for the Philosophy Department at the University of Ottawa: our warmest congratulations to him. Congratulations, somewhat belated, are also due to **Dr**



Tamara Watson at Encaenia

Lawrence Bruce-Robertson (MA, 1998) who received a PhD in 2014 from Cornell University in Philosophy for a dissertation entitled "The Project of Speculative Thinking in Hegel's Philosophy." Bruce's thesis on Hegel depended in part on an interpretation of Plato's middle dialogues. Dr Bruce-Robertson is now an Assistant Professor in Humanities at the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University where one of his colleagues is our own **Dr Bernard Wills** (BA, 1990; MA, 1993), whose thesis for us was devoted to Plato, as Bruce's MA was devoted to Aristotle.

Next year, we have two new students joining the MA programme. **Keith Kampen** is the latest in a growing line of talented Manitobans who have journeyed toward the rising sun to join our graduate programme. He has won a SSHRC award to work on philosophical topics in the Department. Coming to us from

King's/Dal is our own **Tamara Watson**, winner this year of the Classics Medal for best Classics graduating student. Tamara too won a SSHRC award, and is also our newest winner of a Killam Scholarship, the most prestigious and lucrative award at Dalhousie for graduate students within Dalhousie. With this distinction she joins returning Killam Laureate **Daniel Heide** and graduating Killam Laureate **Kaitlyn Boulding**. Tamara is torn between literary and philosophical interests: like many of our students before her, she will (I expect) find a way of bringing the poetic and philosophical together in a wonderful MA thesis. Two of our returning students, **Kevin-William Walker**, who is working on Meister Eckhart with Dr Hankey, and **Aaron Shenkman**, who is working on Catullus with Dr O'Brien, also won SSHRC awards for their final year in our programme.

Some of our senior MA students had the opportunity to present their work at conferences around North America. **Aaron Higgins-Brake** (First Class Honours, 2012; MA, 2015), who has just completed a thesis "Freedom and the Good: A Study of Plotinus' *Ennead* VI.8 [39]" with Dr Hankey, is off to start his PhD in the Philosophy Department at Duquesne University, to which he has been attracted in part by the work of an alumnus **Dr Michael Harrington** (MA, 1997). At a conference in the Dominican College, Ottawa, *Aristotle and the Peripatetic Tradition*, Aaron presented a paper entitled "Plotinus' Dialogue with Aristotle in *Ennead* VI.8" alongside some of the leading scholars of ancient philosophy.



Students: Harrington Critchley, Daniel Heide, Tibet Kara, and Aaron Higgins-Burke

Jacob Glover (First Class Honours, 2013; MA, 2015) travelled all the way to Los Angeles to present a paper on “Rhetoric as Seduction: Sex in Plato’s Phaedrus” to a Classics conference at UCLA, *Bodies in Revolt: Erotics, Metaphor, and Materiality in the Ancient World*. Jacob completed a MA thesis entitled “Re-Reading Isocrates: Why Does Socrates Prescribe a Divine Impulse for Isocrates at the end of *The Phaedrus*?” under me and will graduate at the October Convocation.



MA graduates, Joseph Gerbasi and Kaitlyn Boulding

This year at the Atlantic Theological Conference in Charlottetown, P.E.I., **Kaitlyn Boulding** (First Class Honours 2013; MA, 2015), who has finished a MA thesis, working under Dr Mitchell, entitled “*γαστήρ, νηδύς, and θαύμα*: Feminine Sources of Generation and Deception in Hesiod’s *Theogony*,” responded to Classics alumnus **Dr Stephen Blackwood**’s (Honours 1997, MA 1999) paper on Boethius’ *Consolation*. She is already moving forward in academe. Kaitlyn will teach a 3000 level seminar on Greek and Latin Epic at St Mary’s University this Fall



Mairead Murphy (far right) with her family and Classics faculty members Dr Michael Fournier and Dr Peter O'Brien

and will lecture on “Textual Culture in Late Antiquity” in the King’s Foundation Year Programme. See Meg Shields’ interview with Kaitlyn in this Newsletter.

Nathan McAllister, who finished a MA thesis entitled “Systematic Theology: Iamblichus’ Reception of Plotinian Psychology” with Dr Hankey, replied to our alumnus and current Rector of St. George’s Round Church, **Fr Christopher Snook**, on the topic of beauty in ancient Greek thought. Another Classics MA (Honours, 1977; MA, 1970), the Honourable Justice **Peter Bryson**, delivered a paper at the Conference on beauty in the Renaissance and Reformation. This year Charlottetown hosted a veritable synod of Dalhousie Classics minds past and present!



MA graduates Paul McGilvery, Justin Singer, Joseph Gerbasi, Bruce Russell and Classics faculty

As usual we were also well represented by our graduate students at the annual meeting of the Atlantic Classical Association at UNB in Fredericton, with papers by **Jacob Glover** on Isocrates, by **Aaron Higgins-Brake** on Plotinus’ *Ennead* 6.7, by **Aaron Shenkman** on *nostos* in Plato’s *Symposium*, by **Tanisha Chakma** (First Class Honours in Classics and a Minor in Chinese Studies, 2014) on Zeus and Fate in Homer’s *Iliad*, and by **Kevin Gaul** (First Class Honours, 2012) on *Aeneid* Book I.

This year our first-year MA students were busy with course work, including seminars on Aristotle’s *Physics*, Eriugena’s *Periphyseon*, Book I of Plato’s *Republic*, Herodotus, Catullus, Plotinus, Patristic Greek, and a new class on ancient media (“From Bard to Manuscript”). Next year graduate students will be taking classes on Greek Tragedy, Aristotle’s *De Anima*, Augustine’s *Confessions*, Myth and Inquiry from Homer to Herodotus, and a new class from Dr Mitchell enticingly titled “Authors Outside the Canon.” In addition, we are very happy that the Chaplain at the University of King’s College, the **Revd Dr Gary Thorne** (MA, 1983), for the first time will be teaching a graduate seminar in the Department on John of Damascus.

I put down my pen with my annual plea by reminding you that one of the greatest gifts alumni and friends can give to us is spreading the word about the graduate programme in Dalhousie Classics. As rigorously demanding and scholarly as we are in our standards and expectations of students, we are absolutely committed to the MA not only as a preparation for further doctoral studies (a domain in which we are extremely successful), but also as a culmination and capstone to academic study for students planning on pursuing non-academic projects or careers. We remain an extraordinarily tight-knit intellectual community, and if you know anyone who you think might be well suited to join it, please do invite them to contact us, as we are always happy to answer any questions.

Dr Diamond has constructed a superbly informative website on our graduate programme and its student and alumni. You will be happy and amazed when you consult it.

Go to www.dal.ca/academics/programs/graduate/classics/graduate-life.html

Graduate Profile: A Classic Case Of Academic Success, Fall Convocation 2014: Justin Singer

One of our Fall Convocation Graduates was featured both in *Dal News* and in the 2014 Fall Convocation Keepsake, distributed at the Convocation ceremonies. This story was written by Erin Casey and adapted for our Newsletter by Dr Hankey.

Justin Singer is likely to challenge everything you think you know about students of classics and philosophy. Given that he specializes in ancient mathematics and astronomy, one could be forgiven for thinking Justin might spend his time alone with dusty books and manuscripts. Instead, his studies drive him to understand how mathematical laws are revealed in nature and to apply this knowledge to environmental issues like climate change. His desire to apply classical and philosophical studies to modern problems led Justin to pursue an MA in Ancient Philosophy in the Classics Department. He completed what his supervisor, Dr Eli Diamond, calls a “first-class thesis” about mathematics in ancient philosophy: “The Root Of All Dimensions” based in a study of the mathematics of Plato’s *Timaeus*. “Justin is passionately interested in understanding better how mathematical laws and principles express themselves in the natural world, and what this means ethically for the way we should relate to our natural environment.”

For Justin, it’s worked this way: “Dal really got me thinking about the way I think. The way the Department of Classics teaches Philosophy—it becomes something in which we actually engage. Part of that is being aware of how the political state of one’s community relates to the activity of intellectual inquiry in that community. If there’s a problem, if that inquiry is threatened, we have to act.” To put his beliefs into action, Justin organized an on-campus rally for the national movement Stand Up for Science, which speaks out about funding cuts and limits to what scientists can say about their findings. Addressing the crowd, he stated, “Through my academic work here, I have learned that the nearness of humans to the highest degree of excellence is measured by their mastery in the activity of reason. Scientific knowledge is essential to the survival of life on earth, for if we do not understand the system of which we are a part, we will be unable to function properly within it.”

Studying at Dalhousie immersed Justin in a community of people as passionate as he is about knowledge, scholarship and the ethical responsibilities that go with it. “I was able to engage in discourse about Ancient Philosophy and the Classical world with other people who were dedicated to understanding those topics and interested in working as a team to answer difficult questions.” During his studies, Justin has published academic articles, spoken at conferences and worked as a teaching assistant. An article based in his MA thesis: “The Root of All Dimensions: Examining Plato’s Teachings on the Mathematical Foundations of Knowing and Being,” was published in *Dionysius* for 2014 (available online <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/journals/dionysius.html>).

Aside from academics, Justin is also a much-loved and valued member of the Classics community at Dalhousie. As part of KYLIX, the Classics Graduate Student Society, he created and maintains “The Pun-ic Wars”, a Facebook page dedicated to wordplay and puns related to the Classical World. In the Pythian Games, Justin’s contribution was an original 48-line hymn to Minerva, Roman goddess of wisdom and military strategy, which he wrote and performed in Latin. In part, the poem speaks of the connection between the two aspects of Minerva’s domain based on the idea of military strategy as a pattern of mathematical order within the natural world as well as the political community.

Originally from Toronto, Justin has an undergraduate degree from the University of Guelph, where he double majored in History and Classical Studies. He is now pursuing a joint degree in Mathematics and Philosophy at the University of Waterloo, focused on combinatorics and optimization. “I’ve always been interested in environmental issues,” he says, “and that’s where I see myself in the future. Where my work would come in is in mathematically examining the effects of different solutions for environmental problems, looking at current practices and technology and developing better and more efficient solutions.”



Classics Graduate Justin Singer.
(David Cyr photo)

A Year End Celebration of Student Success

At the conclusion of the term, the Department celebrated a year of achievements including the completion of an excellent edition of *Pseudo-Dionysius*. **Tamara Watson** and **Torin Vigerstad** were presented with the **Nicole Knox Award** for their linguistic excellence. **Aaron Higgins-Brake**, **Aaron Shenkman** and **Jacob Glover** were congratulated on their superb work on the undergraduate and departmental journals. And **Allison Graham** and **Torin Vigerstad** were recognized for their remarkable accomplishments in the CAC National Greek and Latin Sight and Translation Competitions. Torin, who completed an Honours degree in Classics this summer, stood First Place nationally in Senior Latin and Third Place in Senior Greek; Alison Graham, a second year student with us, took Second Place in Senior Greek among the competitors from across Canada. **Benjamin von Bredow**, also in second year, won Second Place in the CAC Junior Undergraduate Essay Competition. Dr. Hankey noted that their results are best ever achieved by the Department.

Meg Shields sat down briefly with two of the national prize winners: **Torin Vigerstad** and **Allison Graham**.

Tell me more about the CAC language competition.

Torin: It's run by the Classical Association of Canada, so it's national and all of the universities in Canada with a Classics Department participate. There are the junior levels, which enable anyone who has had one full year of a Classical language to compete, and, if you've had two or more years, then you do the seniors.

And you both did exceptionally well.

Allison: I got second in the Greek one.

Torin: I got first in the Latin and third in the Greek.

What's been the favourite part of your language study?

Allison: In general, I like Classics and I like languages, so Greek is both of those together.

Torin: I enjoy the challenge of it. There is the technical challenge of all the memorization, but then, once you get that stuff down, it's linguistic too – it really taxes you on all fronts.

What is the most practical application of your language study?

Allison: When I read Classical texts in English it's always interesting to be able to go and approach them in Greek and Latin and compare the translation.

Torin: Sometimes, the translation is almost boring, like Classical texts can be. But, it's different when you read the actual thing. For

example, I find with the Iliad, that Homer is so interesting in Greek. Also, it's fun because it's not practical, that's the main thing. It's just something that's beautiful and fun. It's kind of painful to justify it to people, because the whole point is that it's not justifiable in a utilitarian way.

What is your best pro-tip for first year language students who want to improve?

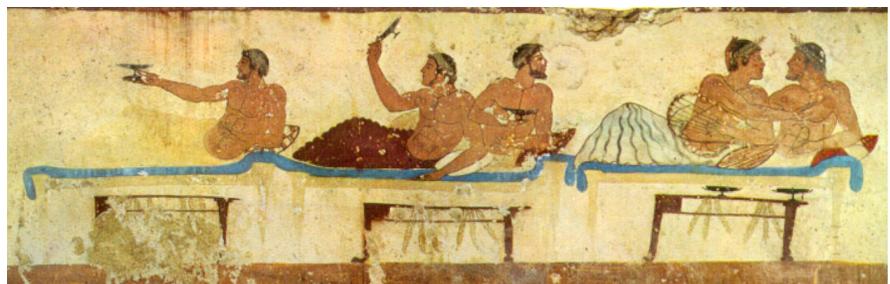
Torin: Say the paradigms out loud. Memorize the sound rather than the written aspect.



Torin Vigerstad presenting in the Scotiabank Auditorium in the Marion McCain Building

Dalhousie Classics Hosts the 2015 ACA Conference

The Department of Classics is pleased to be hosting this year's meeting of the Atlantic Classical Association on Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, 2015. Dr Emily Varto is organizing the Conference. We anticipate that many of our students and faculty will join Classicists from around Atlantic Canada in this important annual gathering. Two days of academic papers and discussions will help us keep abreast of what is happening in our fields of work and interest.



Symposium from the Tomb of the Diver Paestum 475 BCE

Kaitlyn Boulding Presents for the Killam Trust

An Interview with Meg Shields

Kaitlyn Boulding (First Class Honours 2013), has just finished a MA thesis working under Dr Mitchell entitled “γαστήρ, νηδύς, and θαῦμα: Feminine Sources of Generation and Deception in Hesiod’s Theogony.” An article deriving from her thesis will be published in the next Dionysius. She is already moving forward in academe. Kaitlyn will teach a 3000 level seminar on Greek and Latin Epic at St Mary’s University this Fall and will lecture on “Textual Culture in Late Antiquity” in the King’s Foundation Year Programme. During the Winter Term she spoke with Meg Shields and Meg has written up the result.

Though she began her undergraduate studies in theater at the University of Winnipeg, a keen interest in Platonic philosophy led Kaitlyn Boulding to the Classics. Discovering an affiliation for Greek and Latin, Kaitlyn decided that being able to continue to study philosophy in the texts’ original languages was what she wanted to do. After a year in Halifax as a visitor in the Classics Department, Kaitlyn elected to stay, and enrolled as a student at King’s College.

In the final year of her undergraduate studies Kaitlyn chose to continue on in the Department and pursue an MA, and was encouraged to apply for the SSHRC and Killam scholarships. Kaitlyn describes her gratitude for those who supported her in her applications, paying particular thanks to Dr Eli Diamond. Kaitlyn received not only the SSHRC and Killam scholarships, but also a prestigious award recognizing her promise as an undergraduate Classics student. Kaitlyn acknowledges that this could not have been achieved without the help of the Department. “There’s a lot of support,” explains Kaitlyn, who went on to describe how, when her professor in Winnipeg initially approached her about the SSHRC, it seemed far off and impossible to attain. “But here everyone does it together,” continued Kaitlyn, “it’s made very possible for you.”

In the Fall Term of 2014, Kaitlyn attended the annual celebration of the Killam laureates, an event recognizing past and present recipients of the Trust. The scholarship awards, stemming from the trusts of Dorothy, and her husband Izaak Walton, Killam, recognize exceptional individuals pursuing advanced education at the graduate and postgraduate level. The Killam Trusts are one of the few private, philanthropic scholarships offered for higher education in Canada and there are currently over 6,000 Killam laureates world-wide. A member of one of Canada’s most successful entrepreneurial families of the 20th Century, Nova Scotian Izaak Killam amassed a fortune. Upon his death, half of Killam’s estate was used to help set up the Canadian Council of Arts, established to foster and promote the study, enjoyment and production of works in the arts. Over the course of her life, Dorothy Killam was successful in her own right and devoted much of her fortune to scholarships upon her passing in 1965. Mrs. Killam’s hope was to create a scholarship in line with the core values of the Council of Arts, and that these scholars would come together to support one another.

At the celebration Kaitlyn gave a presentation on her upcoming Master’s thesis. With subject matter echoing her SSHRC proposal, Kaitlyn’s prospectus outlined her intent to unravel the metaphor of weaving in Plato’s works *The Statesman* and *The Sophist*, and how the action of this metaphor is taken up in statecraft, the individual, and the cosmos. Kaitlyn describes how in a field with so few primary texts by women, weaving is unique in that it is a feminine *techné*, and an art that permeated the lives of ancient women. Kaitlyn describes her interest in this topic as stemming from a fascination with the dichotomies of the ancient world, and how, within the root of patriarchal systems, we can uncover the origins of past and present prejudice. “What I want to be looking at” explains Kaitlyn, “is the way in which philosophy and political science can be understood as the same thing through [this] metaphor.” At the time of this interview, Kaitlyn was working on the presence of weaving and female *metis* as metaphor in pre-platonic epic, tragic and comedic literature. She will be looking at everything from Hesiod, to Homer to Aeschylus; from Penelope’s tapestry, to Clytemnestra’s weaponized crimson cloth.

Kaitlyn explained that, while she initially began her philosophical studies dutifully reading as much in the original as possible, more recently she has become interested in the presence of gender, as well as what it means to be a modern woman studying the Classics. When asked as to what she would say to younger female classicists, Kaitlyn explained that just as interpreting Plato is to do philosophy, “being a woman in the Classics Department is a feminist act in itself.” Kaitlyn says that she is looking forward to engaging people with this material.



Kaitlyn Boulding
(photo courtesy Dal News)

Paige Hochschild

An Interview with Meg Shields

Dr Paige (Davidson) Hochschild is an alumna of the Department (BA Honours 1994; MA 1996) with a thesis written under Dr Robert Crouse entitled “Et ex qua parte stet victoria nescio: A Commentary on Book X of Augustine’s Confessions”. She teaches Philosophy in the Theology Department of Mount Saint Mary’s University in Maryland. Her monograph, Memory in Augustine’s Theological Anthropology, was published by Oxford University Press in 2011. Dedicated to Fr Crouse, it continues the research Paige began with him. I caught up with her during Holy Week, when she was giving addresses in the King’s College Chapel.

What was the subject of your Masters’ thesis?

Book 10 of Augustine’s Confessions written for Dr Robert Crouse. But I did a lot of seminars. Dennis House was really formative for me, I studied Greek with him; it was perfect because [House] was a philosopher so we did the language and we talked about the text. In most Classics departments you would never get that. It was wonderful. I just did as much as I could with Hankey, Starnes, House, and others.

What are you working on right now?

I’m working on a chapter for a book on university education, more specifically on Catholic documents on education since the 1920s. It’s been a great historical study. I just finished a paper on Augustine on nature in his Commentary on Genesis; that’s going to be a chapter in a book. Those are the two main things I’m finishing up right now. And then I’m writing a paper about natural theology.

How’s teaching in the States?

The cost of education all over the western world is just going up; so there are more jobs in the States than anywhere else, but we’re all a little on edge waiting for the bubble to burst. Institutions which do not have some clear sort of mission identity, or do not have their financial house in order, are closing. Probably there are too many.

I love my country and I miss being away from it but I accept that this is just the way that it is now. I’m a Torontonian and when I came [to Halifax] I fell in love with the Maritimes. That was partly because I made good friends with people from the area, and they welcomed me into their homes. There’s a warmth and hospitality and I love this place. I think that King’s in particular needs to remain a place that really is for the Maritimes. I’m not totally sure what that means. But I think it has forgotten some of its intellectual roots, some of its local commitments.



The interior of the King's College Chapel
(photo courtesy kingschapel.ca)

Emily Parker

An Interview with Meg Shields

Emily Parker (BA 2007, MA 2010) wrote her MA thesis "Swiftly Runs the Word: Philo's Doctrine of Mediation in De Vita Mosis" with Dr Hankey and published "Philo of Alexandria's Logos and Life of Moses" in Dionysius 28 (2010). She went on to a PhD with a dissertation entitled "The Ideal Statesman in The Political Philosophy of Philo of Alexandria" presented to the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, supervised by Professors Zuleika Rodgers and John Dillon. Emily was profiled in the 2011 Newsletter.

Tell us more about your doctoral thesis.

I looked into Philo's political philosophy in the figure of Joseph, the patriarch in Genesis. Philo writes a biography of Joseph, and in it Joseph seems to be a really positive figure, which is actually at odds with Joseph elsewhere in Philo's writings. Most of the scholarship dealing with Philo's Joseph is addressed to this apparent contradiction. I started looking at it and I thought, well, this biography is actually not very positive at all, and in fact, if you look at the words he borrows from Plato, and the ideas he uses from the Stoics, there's absolutely no way that it could be a positive portrayal. So I endeavored to show that Philo makes him out to be an ideal *politikos* or statesman.

What was the transition like from Dalhousie to Dublin?

With a PhD there's a lot less supervision so it's more independent. I was really lucky I was working with Professor John Dillon, a friend of the Department. Although he is retired, he works out of the Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition at Trinity. My first day in Dublin he took me around and showed me everything and I had a desk in the basement of the Plato Centre, so I got to meet people that way. The transition was pretty easy.

What influence did the Dal Classics Department have; did it make things easier?

Oh absolutely. I found that the emphasis on careful reading and the ability to put your thought in a coherent way was absolutely formative. It made me feel that I could work with anybody, anywhere, and do a good job. The emphasis on close reading of texts here was absolutely key. I'm looking at what Philo says and I would say that I've read him closely. If you read him closely, certain things become obvious, and I think that a lot of scholars have missed them. It's obvious to me that people should just read him, but maybe that's just the really good habits that have been instilled in me from the Classics Department. I miss the seminars here.

Was this topic on your mind during your undergraduate years?

I knew I wanted to work on Philo when I was an undergraduate, and then I started reading Eriugena and my mind was sort of blown, and Dr Hankey said, "stick with Philo." And I did and I wasn't disappointed. I'm looking at turning the dissertation into a publication and a smaller article for *Studia Philonica*.



Emily Parker

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have an interesting story to share?
Know of a former classmate who is doing something exciting and newsworthy?

Please send all comments, suggestions, ideas or inquiries to fassalum@dal.ca

Elizabeth Jones

We were shocked to learn that our friend Elizabeth Jones died suddenly and unexpectedly on August 20th. Dr Peter O'Brien delivered the Eulogy at her Funeral in St George's Round Church on the 27th. This memorial is constructed from that and from what he wrote for this Newsletter.

Well-known in Nova Scotia literary circles, Elizabeth was the author of three books of original poetry as well as *Gentlemen and Jesuits: Quests for Glory and Adventure in the Early Days of New France* (Toronto, 1986). She gained a love for poems in French and English (which she would quote extensively from memory throughout her life) as a schoolgirl in her native South Africa. Later, as a student at the University of Edinburgh, she turned her attention to Latin and Greek.

After retiring from a career as a public school teacher-librarian in the late 1990's, Elizabeth began a habit of auditing advanced Latin classes and seminars, first with Patrick Atherton, and then, after 2000, with me. Elizabeth continued this practice right up to the spring of 2015, interrupted only by a five years' hiatus between 2001-2006, when she lived in Rome as a private tutor to a Libyan family--an opportunity she used both to enrich her Classical learning and to add Italian to her languages and loves.

I know that her life and mine intersected in only one of the many, many circles of friendships she cultivated in this city, in this province, and indeed all over the world, but I am constrained to speak about her only as I knew her. I am nevertheless hopeful that what I say will include elements of the familiar as well as the exotic. Indeed, one of the great charms of Elizabeth's character is that she could unite the exotic and familiar, conveying strange truths and perspectives to all who would listen in an attractive, approachable way.

The circle Elizabeth and I shared was the Classics circle, and more specifically, the Latin literature one. Our acquaintance dates to the winter of the year 2000, when I was interviewing for the professorship at Dalhousie I now hold. The topic of my sample public lecture was the Roman lyric poet Horace. Had I known that there was such a keen and devoted an expert on that author in my audience that day, I would certainly have been far more nervous than I was. As it happens, I distinctly remember a silver-haired woman raising a question, in a not quite place-able accent, on my "curious" rendering of a Latin

adjective, and then, when the lecture was over, the same individual, now jauntily chapeaued in the gendarme's cap she then favoured, marching up to lectern and demanding, "do you have a few moments to chat about Horace?"

In this tiny vignette, the beginning of my personal friendship with her, I think may be found the core attributes of the friendships of various kinds and intensities Elizabeth shared with so many others. In evidence here is the inquisitiveness and sure-footed discrimination of a scholarly mind, but so too is the highly cultivated sensibility that yearns for words to mean and sound just right, to carry the nuances and complexities that soften the hard edges of truism. And above all there is the warm intensity, not just for the subject itself (and Elizabeth could interest herself in, and speak with authority about, many subjects), but for sharing and receiving ideas about it in genial, spirited, forgiving exchange. For the mutual edification Elizabeth craved, she needed friends, and the kind of friends she needed would learn, inevitably, to need her.

For fifteen years--with the Romans hiatus--Elizabeth attended all of my advanced Latin courses and Latin literature seminars. The last was a course on Catullus this past spring. To say that she was a "student" in these courses is true only in the broadest sense. Elizabeth was a fixture in these classes, and could always be relied upon to turn a beneficent gimlet eye on the words of ancient authors, students--and professor. Though her attendance was mandated only by her love of learning and appreciation for bright, youthful company, she shared erudition and delight freely. I learned more about poetry from Elizabeth than from any formal training I ever received, and over the years dozens of students have enjoyed her maternal

(but never censorious, and certainly not prudish!) interventions. She was their tutor and coach outside of class, and she was a willing, perceptive, and constructive critic of written work by junior and senior scholars.

Though the suddenness of Elizabeth's disappearance is difficult to fathom, it is somehow fitting that this vigorous woman should leave us *in medias res*, in the middle of her fascinating story. It is indeed heartbreaking that she left many of us in the midst of prolonged, lively conversations, but one feels that it is in her spirit to continue them, rather than let them trail off. We shall cherish the memory of what she has taught us, and look to her example in learning to come.

Early in our acquaintance, Elizabeth shared with me a memoir about her private Latin studies in Edinburgh while a university student. Though she had caught the poetry bug early, and could quote verse from memory in English and French throughout her life, she came to the Classics relatively late. In this passage, she describes her growing attraction for the ancient language as she learned:



Elizabeth Jones, 1934-2015

I SCRUNCHED dry leaves underfoot and later slithered along wet snow chanting to myself the various conjugations and declensions as they presented themselves in my grammar book: “*Amo, amas, amat, amamus amatis amant*,” and exhilarated by these chants that took me back through the centuries, felt that I was in love with the universe.

How characteristic of Elizabeth to find the vital sap in the dry and dead, and for her to feel in that discovery an immediate connection with others past and present, and to express that connection in the form of love! The same memoir also mentions her first reading of Horace, and of her habitual return to several “sustaining poems” at difficult times in her life. In my view, one of Elizabeth’s most impressive literary achievements is her complete verse translation of Horace’s *Odes*. I want to leave you with her rendering of the eleventh poem of the first book. This is the famous *carpe diem* ode, but you’ll notice that she rightly avoids any whiff of the brutal popular mistranslation that would have us “seize the day.” It is ostensibly an ode of Epicurean abnegation, but Elizabeth, a woman of faith who saw the deep connections in disparate things and could join them together in love, makes of it a pious and sustaining solace even for our present grief:

I.11 TU NE QVAESIERIS

Don't ask, Leuconœ—the gods forbid it—what end they have in store for me, for you; don't try to work out Babylonian horoscopes. It is far better to take whatever comes, whether Jupiter grants us other winters or whether this winter is our last

now pitting that weary Tyrrhenian Sea against the defiant pumice of the shore. Be wise: filter the wine; prune back your hopes to a short span. There, even as we speak, envious time has already streaked past. Pick the fruit of today, don't trust in tomorrow.

Dr Peter O'Brien

ALUMNI NOTES

Dr Roberta Barker

(First Class Honours in Classics and English, and the University Medals in Classics and English, 1996) has been



appointed to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars.

The new College is intended to provide a national system of 'multidisciplinary recognition' and to promote 'Canadian achievement in the arts, humanities and sciences around the world'. Dr Barker is an Associate Professor in the Fountain School of Performing Arts and a warm friend of the Department.

Dr Stephen J. Blackwood

(BA, 1997; MA, 1999) has just published *The Consolation of Boethius as Poetic Liturgy* with Oxford University Press. Stephen is



President and Vice Chancellor of Ralston College, Savannah, Georgia. See Dr Hankey's enthusiastic note on Stephen's book in this Newsletter.

Kaitlyn Boulding

(First Class Honours, 2013) who has completed her MA will teach a 3000 level seminar on Greek and Latin Epic at St Mary's University this Fall and will lecture on "Textual Culture in Late Antiquity" in the King's Foundation Year Programme. See the interview with Kaitlyn in this Newsletter.

Dr Lawrence Bruce-Robertson

(MA, 1998) received a PhD in 2014 from Cornell University in Philosophy for a dissertation entitled "The Project of Speculative Thinking in Hegel's Philosophy." Dr Bruce-Robertson is now an Assistant Professor in Humanities at the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University

Dr James Bryson

(Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies, 2005; MA 2007) conducted a Quiet Day at King's College Chapel on October 18th 2014 on "What Does Love Know?" James holds a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship and is Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Research on Religion at McGill University.

Dr Ron Hafidson

(BA First Class Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies with the University Medal in Early Modern Studies, 2004) has finished an appointment as Senior Fellow in the Foundation Year Programme at King's and has taken up an academic post at St John's Annapolis.

Nicholas Hatt

(Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, 2003), part-time graduate student in the Department writing a thesis on Augustine under Dr Fournier, and Dean of Students at King's College, will be ordained Deacon in All Saints' Cathedral on the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude. On Saturday October 25th Dr Hankey will lead a Quiet Day in the King's Chapel for Nicholas and those who wish to join him. The Quiet Day will consist of mediations on Book XIII of Augustine's *Confessions* and Aquinas' *Summa theologiae* 1.43.3, and will centre on Genesis 1.2: "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Dr Paige (Davidson) Hochschild

(BA Honours, 1994; MA 1996) delivered addresses in the King's College Chapel during Holy Week this year. Paige teaches Philosophy in the Theology Department of Mount Saint Mary's University in Maryland. See the interview with Paige in this Newsletter.

Hilary Ilkay

(BA First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, 2013) is beginning a two-year MA in Liberal Studies at the New School for Social Research supported by a Provost's Scholarship from the New School.

Dora Kemp passed away in October of 2014 after a battle with Leukemia. Dora graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Honours in Classics and Archeology, in 1988. She went on to a MPhil in Archeological

Heritage Management and Museums from the University of Cambridge in 1991.

After graduating from Cambridge, Dora worked at the University of Cambridge in the Division of Archeology where she rose to be production Editor of the *Cambridge Archeological Journal*. A Remembrance and Thanksgiving for her life was held in the King's College Chapel on November 15th.

Elisabeth Hope Kleven

(BA Honours in Classics and English, 2009)

& Matthew Daniel Brian Stones were married at Saint George's Round Church on Saturday, the twenty-second of August.

Dominic Lacasse

(BA, 2008; MA, 2013) has been appointed to teach the Introduction to Western Religions in our Religious Studies Programme this Fall.

Max (Zhicheng) Ma

(Honours in Early Modern Studies and Classics 2012) having served as an Intern at the High People's Court of Zhejiang, Max is now an articulated Student at DLA Piper, Vancouver.

Dr Carolyn MacDonald

(First Class Honours, the University Medal in Classics, and the King's Silver Medal, 2006; MA, 2008) successfully defended her doctoral thesis, "Looking Roman, Looking Greek" at Stanford University on Tuesday January 14th. In her dissertation, MacDonald surveyed the Roman adoption of Greek art, and how this came to inform 'Greek' and 'Roman' methods of engaging with visual culture. Carolyn is taking up a Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Associate at the University of New

Hampshire, in the Department of Classics, Humanities, and Italian Studies.

Kate MacKeigan (BA, 2009) and **Chris Gibson** (Honours 2009; MA, 2011) were married in the King's College Chapel in May. Alumni from their years in the Department gathered to support and celebrate. Chris is well advanced with a PhD programme in Philosophy at the University of Ottawa.

Alex MacNeil

(First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Social Anthropology, 2014) is doing a MA in Social Anthropology at York University, with a focus on modern Japan.

Dr Emily Parker

(BA 2007, MA 2010) has completed her PhD at the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, supervised by Professors Zuleika Rodgers and John Dillon. See the interview with Emily in this Newsletter.

Kevin Powers

(MA, 2006) has returned to his career in music. He played professionally in Toronto before he turned to Classics. He is now back with "Zen Mira" a "Trending New Song on ReverbNation." For his playlist go to http://www.reverbNation.com/playlist/view_playlist/-4?page_object=artist_4656978

Luke Togni

(BA First Class Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies, 2009; MA, 2012) wrote that in his doctoral studies in theology at Marquette, he has passed his examinations and is at the proposal stage of his dissertation which he hopes to write on Bonaventure.

Stella Josephine Wilband, daughter of Marie Michelle (MA, 2008) and Daniel (MA, 2007) was baptized at St Bartholomew's Church in Toronto by the Rev'd Dr **Walter Hannam** (First Class Honours, 1994; MA, 1996) on Sunday July 18th. Walter is Associate Priest at St James Cathedral in Toronto and Vicar of St Bart's. He received the PhD from Boston College in 2013 for a thesis entitled: *The Inevitable* of Honorius Augustodunensis: A Study in the Textures of early Twelfth-Century Augustinianisms. Michelle is on leave from her teaching post at Dawson College in Montreal. Daniel recently finished a joint degree in Civil and Common Law at McGill and is articling at Cavalluzzo, a labour law firm in Toronto. The godfather for Stella Josephine was King's Dean **Nicholas Hatt** (Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, 2003).

Dr Matthew Wood

(Honours 2003; MA 2005) successfully defended his doctoral thesis on "Aristotle and the Question of Metaphor" in the Philosophy Department at the University of Ottawa. Matt is now in a 3-year post-doctoral research position in the Programa Pós-Graduação Lógica e Metafísica, at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil. He will lecture in October at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro on Aristotle's theory of metaphor.

For details on the degrees and theses of some of our graduates see

<http://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/graduate/classics/research/student-theses.html>

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Four Gold Medals in 13 years, almost one-third of these top awards at Dalhousie! Six King's Silver Medals in the same period, close to half of these symbols of preeminent excellence at King's! Another three Bronze Medals in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. More students seeking places in introductory Arabic Latin and Greek than we can accommodate.

Every aspect of Classics in the Joint Dalhousie-King's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is strong. Yet the University funding which enables our teaching continues to be cut. Now, more than ever, we rely on the support of alumni, parents, and friends to give our students the excellent education they want and need.

Please celebrate our students' successes, build on your generosity during our "225&70" Celebration, and assist our urgent need with your financial support.

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 Classics or to a special area or need on the front of your cheque.*

Online Donations can be made at <https://alumniapps.dal.ca/giving/giving.php?gift=classicsdept>. There, you may direct your gift as indicated in the drop-down menu: Ancient History | Classics General | *Dionysius*

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Many of our donors during the "225&70" celebration year were first time supporters, many were students or recent graduates, many gave from very limited resources. Whether you are a long time faithful supporter or are becoming a new one, you strengthen the hope which makes us anticipate our future eagerly.

We thank you!

Dionysius Online

Beginning with *Dionysius* 32 for 2014, our Departmental journal is available both online and in print. Now, for the first time, you may purchase it online with your credit card. All subscriptions made online for the digital version are only \$20. Our website, though which you can find the online subscription form, is <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/journals/dionysius.html>. *Dionysius* is still available in print for the former prices: \$30 Institutional, \$25 Individual. Online subscribers will have access to the current year's journal and to the previous four years; back issues totalling 300 articles are becoming accessible to all readers. Recent contributors come from five continents.

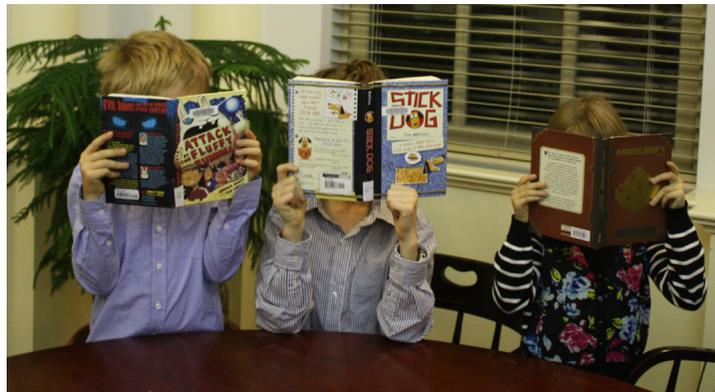
The 2014 issue opens with a mathematical account of the cosmos by Justin Singer, "The Root of All Dimensions: Examining Plato's Teachings on the Mathematical Foundations of Knowing and Being"; see the interview with Justin in this Newsletter. Then follow articles on gentleness in Aristotle's Ethics, Cicero and Philo on Divination and "Lucretius on Swerves and Freedom". Next it treats Light Metaphysics in Suger of Saint-Denis, Knowledge and Love in Plato and Spinoza, and "Henry Corbin and Russian Religious Thought". In the midst, from Dr Kevin Corrigan, a distinguished alumnus, is: "How did Aristotle's Unmoved Mover come to love everything by the end of the ancient pagan tradition?"—received with much enthusiasm and long discussion at a Departmental Seminar.

The 2015 volume is now in preparation. It will include the second part of "Henry Corbin and Russian Religious Thought", and articles treating topics as diverse as Isocrates and Neoplatonic academic politics, pedagogy, religion, and interpretation of myth, written both by senior and emerging scholars. *Dionysius* prides itself in having published the first work of scholars who went on to become major figures in their fields.

On the technical side, *Dionysius* is now being produced by our graduate students, Jacob Glover and Aaron Shenkman, taking over from Jennifer Lambert to whom we owe much. Susan Harris, just retired from the Killam Library, where she has been replaced by Jennifer as Classics Subject Specialist, was of great help, together with Jennifer, for our coming online. We are most grateful to them and to Donna Edwards, who was indefatigable in getting what we needed for this important step forward.



The Department's Future: Our Children



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