

CLASSICS news

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Chairman's Message:
By the Numbers

New Minors

Pythian Games 2013

Proclus Conference 2012

Student Profiles

Arabic Programme

Faculty Profiles:

Michael Fournier
Jack Mitchell
Wayne Hankey

Alumni Profiles:

Barry Craig
Laurelle LeVert
Lawrin Armstrong

Classics in South Africa!

Alumni Notes

Last Words

We want to hear from you!
Please send all comments,
suggestions, ideas or inquiries
to fassalum@dal.ca

Chairman's Message

By the numbers

Mountains of Silver and Gold, *Maxima* of Enrolments and Graduates, *Thirty-five* percent of the Canada Graduate Scholarships for the MA awarded to Dalhousie, *Thirty of Dionysius*, our international scholarly journal, *Forty* of the Foundation Year Programme, which is both King's and ours, *Eighty-three* for Breakfast and Lunch at Noon. A last gift to our Graduates. *Two Hundred Twenty-five*, the oldest university teaching of Classics in Canada, another anniversary which both Classics and King's College celebrate, these form the pillars of my message to you.

MOUNTAINS OF SILVER AND GOLD

At this May's Convocations ("Encaenia" at King's College) our graduates added to the mountains of silver and gold they have constructed. At King's, Hilary Ilkay took the Silver Medal awarded to the student with the best degree in Arts and Science. This was the fifth of these medals taken by a graduating student from our Department in eleven years (no other department won it more than once in that period). At a Dalhousie Convocation on May 21st, Emma Curran (Whitney) took the Governor General's Gold Medal for the best Master's degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University. This was the third of these medals taken by one of our graduate students in eleven years.

Hilary graduated with First Class Honours and the Dalhousie University Medal in Clas-



Dr Wayne Hankey and Simcha Walfish, First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, King's Valedictorian, 2013 at the Classics Breakfast for graduates.

sics. Earlier this year she won the Nicole Knox Memorial prize for distinguished language abilities in an undergraduate student—this is due to her amazing record in both Latin and Greek, which she managed to take up to the fourth year-level in both languages. Her facility with the ancient languages places her among the very best language students we have seen in a generation. She began her Latin studies with Dr Grundke's intensive Summer Latin class, most unhappily cancelled this year by those who rule over us. Her presentations in Dr Diamond's ancient Greek class this year were breathtakingly thorough and exhaustive in their scope.

Beyond this achievement in the languages, Hilary has a very keen literary sense, excelling in all her literature classes (ancient poetry seems to have emerged as her passion) and she was at the very top of her philosophy classes as well. She has taken classes from every single member of the Classics Department and excelled in every one. Outside of the classroom she also used her literary talents as President of the Haliburton Society.

Hilary published in *The Watch*, and this year a brilliant essay appeared in *Pseudo-Dionysius* entitled: “Weaving the Great Web: Helen’s Poetic Perspective in the *Iliad*”. She is also widely known for her spectacular dancing ability—not only did she serve on the Executive of the King’s Dance Collective, she actually appeared on stage dancing with Prince himself at his Metro Centre concert in 2011!

Hilary worked as a research assistant for Dr Peter O’Brien and Dr Neil Robertson (separately) in preparation of recent publications, and her work was constantly praised by them. Hilary served last year as vice-president of our Classics student society *Res Publica*. (Our thanks to Dr Diamond for this tribute).



Hilary Ilkay and her father at the Classics Graduate Breakfast, May 16, 2013

Last year Gavin Keachie took the King’s Silver Medal along with the University Medal in Religious Studies for his First Class Honours degree in Religious Studies and French. He carried a Joseph Bombardier Scholarship awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, valued at \$17,500, to the University of Toronto where he is working on the figure of Melchizedek in the Epistle to the Hebrews.

In 2010, Emma Curran took the King’s Silver Medal along with her First Class Honours degree and the University Medal in Classics. See more on Emma below.

In 2007, Carolyn MacDonald took the King’s

Silver Medal along with her First Class Honours degree and the University Medal in Classics. She was awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship during her Master’s studies with us and took a SSHRC PhD fellowship off with her to Classics at Stanford University.

In 2002, Florence Yoon took the King’s Silver Medal along with her First Class Honours degree and the University Medal in Classics. She went off to Oxford for the DPhil in Classics as a Rhodes Scholar. She is now an Assistant Professor of Greek Language and Literature at the University of British Columbia.

Emma Curran (Whitney) graduated last October with a MA thesis on “Golden Age Imagery and the Artistic Philosophy of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*,” written under the supervision of Dr Peter O’Brien. This May she took the Governor General’s Gold Medal for the best Master’s degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University. In 2010 she took the King’s Silver Medal for the best Arts and Science degree awarded at King’s that year and shared with Ben Manson the University Medal in Classics. Both Emma and Ben received Killam Predoctoral Scholarships, Dalhousie’s best, for their graduate work with us. Ben has now received (for the second time, he did not take it up last year) a “super” SSHRC to fund his DPhil studies in Ancient Philosophy at Oxford. In 2012, Emma received a Canada Graduate Scholarship to help her complete her MA studies. As well as funding from Princeton University, she will take another SSHRC scholarship off to Princeton for a PhD. Emma won the Nicole Knox Prize for the best language student in Classics in 2010, and, in 2011, was awarded Dalhousie’s A.S. Mowatt prize, which goes to an outstanding first-year Master’s student in any discipline. This past year while planning her future studies Emma served as a Teaching Assistant in the Department. We shall miss both her and her husband Martin (also MA 2012 with a thesis entitled “The Immaterial Theurgy of Boethius,” supervised by Dr Fournier) and wish them well at Princeton.

In 2010, Timothy Riggs captured the Gold Medal with his 2009 thesis on “Eros as Cosmic and Hierarchical Principle: Christ and the Socratic Hierarch in the Thought of Dionysius the Areopagite,” which I had the pleasure of supervising. Tim is now completing a PhD while working with the SSALT (Subjectivity and Selfhood in the Arabic and Latin traditions) project, led by Dr Taneli Kukkonen at the University of Jyväskylä in Jyväskylä, Finland. This project is funded by the European Research Council and Tim has

a Doctoral Scholarship from the SSHRC.

In 2003, Dr Hans Feichtinger had taken the Governor General’s Gold Medal for “*Mediatorem ergo Quaerunt*: A Comparative Study of Iamblichus and Augustine on the Human Need for Mediation,” which I supervised. He went on to a Doctorate in Patristic Theology at the Augustinianum in Rome and to a post in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Monsignor Feichtinger is now pursuing a doctorate in philosophy from the Hochschule für Philosophie SJ in Munich. The working title of his new doctoral thesis is “(Bild und) Bildung bei Augustinus.”

In 2005, Dr Anitra Laycock received the Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2005 for a dissertation, “The Essential Polis: Bridging the Tragic Divide”, supervised by Dr Dennis House.

The Department is immensely proud of its students and their accomplishments and is pleased to see them so widely recognised.

MAXIMA. ENROLMENTS AND GRADUATES

The outstanding performances of our top graduates is not superficial froth. The Department has mountainous depth and breadth as well as height. Our graduating class in 2012 was the largest and most outstanding in our long history and so we gave it the title “*Plurimi Magnis cum Honoribus*”. It has been equalled this May!!! Twenty-seven graduated at the 2013 Spring convocations in Classics (seventeen) or Religious Studies (ten); of these, for a second year, seventeen new Bachelors of Arts received degrees with Honours in Religious Studies (eight) or Classics (nine). Twelve of these were First Class. Five graduates took First Class Honours degrees in Religious Studies and seven took degrees *Magnis cum Honoribus* in Classics. Seventeen of our twenty-seven graduates entered the University by way of the Foundation Year Programme at King’s; these students took their degrees at the King’s Encaenia. I shall have something more to say about our relation to King’s and the Foundation Year Programme in what follows.

The Department of Classics with its three programmes (Classics, Religious Studies, Arabic) also has a **growing base**. In the 2012-2013 academic year, whether you measured our enrolments by what President Cooper calls brains on seats (a messy image!), that is, full-time equivalent registrations, or by programme registrations, we had the highest enrolments ever and were the only department

in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to maintain its enrolment levels at their maxima. One major department in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has declined as much as forty percent from its *maxima*, others show declines in the range of twenty-five percent.

Our enrolments are a testimony to the excellent teaching of all my colleagues and to their hard work. Ours is the only Department in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences where there is a both a three / three teaching load (three classes taught in each of the two terms) and where every member has a major administrative responsibility, carrying it without any teaching relief. Our faculty are also splendidly productive scholars, as you will have seen from the profiles published in our Fall 2012 Newsletter which are continued in this issue. I suppose that we must also consider the law of thermodynamics: every hot button grows cold in time and what seems relevant today is a bore tomorrow. Finally, can we not detect a flight to quality? No doubt there will be future ups and downs in the numbers of students attracted to our work, but Classics **must** take the long term view, even if our administrators do not share our perspective, and by it we see mountainous stability.

THIRTY FIVE PERCENT OF THE CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE MA AWARDED TO DALHOUSIE TAKEN BY CLASSICS

In the Dalhousie competition for the Joseph Bombardier Master's Scholarships awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, valued at \$17,500 each, our Department came out well ahead of all the rest, taking thirty-five percent of those awarded to Dalhousie in 2013-14. Five Classicists took one of the fourteen scholarships awarded to Dalhousie and King's: Kaitlyn Boulding (see below), Aaron Higgins-Brake (First Class Honours 2012), Joseph Gerbasi, Kristan Newell (see below), and Bruce Russell (First Class Honours 2012) won fame and fortune!

THIRTY VOLUMES OF *DIONYSIUS*: SUBSTANTIALITY, INNOVATION AND RENEWAL

Thirty annual issues of an academic journal is an anniversary to be celebrated! Over the course of them we have published more than two hundred and fifty scholarly articles by more than one hundred and seventy authors. Our Editorial Council, our authors, and our readership is widely international. Distin-

guished scholars from Finland to Australia by way of Germany, Italy, France and North America and, on this continent, colleagues from Quebec to California help us find and adjudicate the best work in our focused area of research. We are especially proud to have published the first work of scholars who have become important authorities as well as continually cited articles by the great names in our field.

There is an especial reason for rejoicing, when, as with Classical studies in our Department, age goes with innovation and renewal. The Thirtieth Volume includes our first article with Arabic text. We are proud to bring from an alumna and a member of our Religious Studies Programme, "Philo's Odyssey into the Medieval Jewish World: Neglected Evidence from Arab Christian Literature," jointly authored by Emily Parker and Dr Alexander Treiger. Let us hope that this remnant from the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian *convivencia* in the medieval Middle East is another prelude to the founding of a Jewish Studies Chair in our Department.

The Thirtieth Volume announces that, beginning with the thirty-first, *Dionysius* will be published online as well as in paper. Subscribers will be able to choose. Thus from the December 2013 issue *Dionysius* will be accessible as an online journal via Dalhousie Online Journal Systems (OJS). Subscription rates will be the same for the print journal and online access. Details concerning payment and access for the online version will be available soon at <http://classics.dal.ca/>. Online subscribers will have access to the current year's journal and to the previous four years; earlier back issues will be accessible to all readers. For example, with the appearance of the 2013 journal, everything published prior to 2009 will be available at <http://ojs.library.dal.ca/>

This year brings us to the fifteenth annual volume of *Pseudo-Dionysius* published by the students of the Department. The level of our students' work is astonishingly high, and much of what appears in the little brother of *Dionysius* is well on the way to being publishable by journals of the first rank. A sign of the quality and enthusiasm associated with *Pseudo-Dionysius* XV (2013) is that it is now sold out! (but available online: <http://ojs.library.dal.ca/PseudoDio>) Both *Dionysius* and *Pseudo-Dionysius* are subsidized by the Department. Donations towards their cost are welcome.

Time also brings passages. Volume Thirty of *Dionysius* is dedicated to the last of its founding fathers. Patrick Atherton disappeared from our vision in September 2012 and it is

by a happy chance that we are able to honour his many contributions to our Department and to *Dionysius* in the same volume in which we are publishing papers delivered at an Academic Celebration of another of our founders, the Reverend Dr Robert Crouse.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE ET LUX
PERPETUA LUCEAT EIS.

FORTY YEARS OF THE FOUNDATION YEAR PROGRAMME

Following our Convocations I sent the following Congratulations to the King's Community. I have edited the text slightly for this Newsletter.

Congratulations on the Fortieth Anniversary of the Foundation Year Programme.

Since Simcha Walfish's superb Valedictory at Encaenia, I have felt more and more compelled to congratulate my colleagues at King's on the work of the Foundation Year Programme, sustained now for forty years, and on that of the Honours programmes in Contemporary and Early Modern studies and in the History of Science and Technology, also taught at King's. Simcha came out of the Foundation Year Programme and graduated with First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies (five students graduated in this Combined Honours programme this May, adding to the very many companions of my colleague in Classics Dr Eli Diamond). I am confident that there is not a better humanities degree to be had in the English-speaking world than this one and Simcha's address showed the splendid result of giving both sides of this combined degree equal weight.

Simcha was far from being alone in completing an excellent degree in Classics or Religious Studies having started here in the Foundation Year Programme. Of the twenty-seven graduates this May in Classics (seventeen) or Religious Studies (ten), seventeen took the Foundation Year Programme; eleven of those who made this splendid beginning took Honours degrees in Classics or Religious Studies, seven of them were First Class.

The Department and our King's graduates are especially grateful to President George Cooper, Dean Nicholas Hatt, and those adjunct members of the Department from King's (the Rev'd Dr Thomas Curran, Dr Neil Robertson, Dr Ian Stewart, the Rev'd Dr Gary Thorne), four of them graduates of the Department, who came to our Breakfast for our King's graduates and their parents on the day of Encaenia and helped make it a large and successfully celebratory beginning of the happy

day. One of the fourteen graduates (most with family members) who breakfasted with us (and brought her father) was the outstanding Hilary Ilkay. At the Encaenia ceremony Hilary was added to the four other winners of the King's Silver Medal from my Department over the last eleven years. All of them had taken the Foundation Year Programme, and all except one of these five were attracted from Toronto or Vancouver to Halifax by the Foundation Year Programme. Humanists must be grateful to the Foundation Year Programme for the numbers of excellent students it attracts from across Canada to their work here, and we in Classics are particularly appreciative.

The benefit is reciprocal. Classics played an essential role in establishing the Foundation Year Programme and giving King's a future after the complete collapse of the College in the 1960s, and it continues to make an indispensable contribution. A committee chaired by my late colleague Dr Patrick Atherton produced the proposal for the Programme adopted by King's and Dalhousie back when King's was bankrupt (yet again!) in every sense; the first Director, and three of the six initial section Co-ordinators, in 1972 came from Classics. Two of those first six Co-ordinators, the Rev'd Dr Robert Crouse and myself, share the distinction of being at the very top of the list of those who have given the most lectures in the Programme. Of the twelve Directors during its forty years, six were graduates or members of Classics here, altogether they served twenty-five years at the head of the Programme. In every one of its forty years at least two (and usually more) of the six section Co-ordinators has been a graduate or member of the Classics Department.

When we move on to the great host of lecturers and teaching fellows in the Foundation Year Programme (our splendid Archivist, Janet Hathaway, has given me a list of one hundred eighty-four names, as well as the list of Directors and Co-ordinators) over the forty years, forty-two of them have either been members or graduates of the Classics Department. All except two of the present ten members of the Department make contributions to the Programme (indeed, my colleagues Dr Peter O'Brien and Dr Michael Fournier will be section Co-ordinators next year, something done on top of full teaching and administrative loads in Classics). Two members of the Department are graduates of the Foundation Year Programme and contribute with a deep sense of obligation as well as pleasure and hope.

The best historian of King's has said that Classics has always been essential to our

College. Reciprocally, the last humanist to be Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, an historian who faced circumstances within Dalhousie much like the present ones, judged that, without King's, the Humanities would disappear in the Dalhousie multiversity dominated by the natural sciences and the technical and professional schools. The Foundation Year Programme is essential to the mission of King's, helping to preserve what little remains of authentic theoria at the universities in this Province and region. On the Programme are built, both at King's and within the joint Dalhousie-King's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, humanistic studies which match the best in the Anglophone world. For this I salute the Foundation Year Programme on its Fortieth Anniversary.

Ad multos annos.

Dr Wayne Hankey,
Director, Foundation Year Programme
(1972-1978)

EIGHT-THIRTY FOR BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT NOON: A LAST GIFT TO OUR GRADUATES

At the urgent desire of our splendid graduates, for the first time in our history, the Department hosted a Breakfast for those receiving their degrees at the King's Encaenia on Thursday, May 16th, and a Lunch for our Dalhousie graduates on May the 21st. With the dedicated assistance of Dr Eli Diamond, Dr Jack Mitchell, Elizabeth Curry, a graduate student who is Donna Edward's office assistant, and of Donna herself, we pulled off two excellent celebrations which pleased all present and created a new Tradition. For Breakfast we did our own catering which meant that the best of pastries, coffee, and fruit that Halifax can provide was elegantly laid out in our Library for more than fifty people under the benign gaze of Professors Doull and Crouse at the minimum cost to our great benefactor Professor Howard Murray.

Besides those of us organizing the party, Krista Armstrong, our Faculty Alumni Officer, Dean Nicholas Hatt, a graduate of and graduate student in the Department, now Dean of Residence at King's, Dean Robert Summerby-

Murray, and King's President George Cooper, Dr Michael Fournier, Dr Peter O'Brien, the Rev'd Dr Tom Curran, Adjunct member and MA of the Department and professor in the Foundation Year Programme at King's, the Rev'd Dr Gary Thorne, Adjunct member and MA of the Department who teaches our class on Orthodoxy and Eastern Christianity, Chaplain to the University, Dr Ian Stewart, Adjunct member of the Department and Director of the History of Science and Technology Programme at King's, and Dr Neil Robertson, Adjunct member and MA of the Department who directs the Early Modern Studies Programme at King's, were present to greet our graduates.

Fourteen of them came, most with parents and friends: Jonni Turner, taking a First Class Honours degree in German and Classics; Nevin Cussen, with Combined Honours in the History of Science and Technology and Religious Studies; Gabrielle Rekai, with Combined Honours in Contemporary

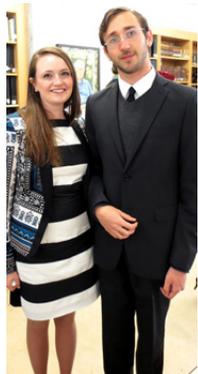


King's Encaenia was a family affair for this group. Yonah Sienna (second from left) received his degree, while mom Rabbi Elyse Goldstein (far right) served as Baccalaureate preacher.

Studies and Religious Studies; Tal Isaacson, with Combined Honours in Contemporary Studies and Classics; Hilary Ilkay, with First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, and the King's Silver Medal; Kristan Newell with First Class Honours in English and Classics, going on to graduate study at the University of British Columbia with a SSHRC predoctoral scholarship; Kaitlyn Boulding, with First Class Honours in Classics and German, a Killam and a SSHRC predoctoral scholarship, returning for graduate study in the Department; Yael Shier who majored in Religious Studies; Simcha Walfish, with First Class Combined Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, the King's Valedictorian, who later that day gave by far the best address to Encaenia; Sebastian Ennis, with First Class Honours in Contemporary

Studies and Classics; Jacob Glover, with First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, is returning for graduate study in the Department; Oliver McLaughlin, with a Concentration in Classics; Marybeth Osowski, a double major in Classics and English with Distinction, and Yonah Sienna, with a Concentration in Classics, accompanied by his mother, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, who broke her fast with us along with his father and two brothers, and who preached the Baccalaureate Service at King's at 10:30, setting the *terminus ad quem* for our time together. The graduates introduced their guests, I toasted them and King's and, in reply, President Cooper toasted the Department of Classics.

In my remarks I noted the blessed company our graduates were joining. I told them that at present, besides those doing graduate degrees with us, we have graduates in research degrees or postdoctoral research in Classics, Jewish Studies, Medieval Studies, Theology, Philosophy, or Religion now in Finland (Tim Riggs), Munich (Hans Feichtinger), Oxford (Ben Manson), Cambridge (Evan King), Dublin (Emily Parker), at the University of Toronto (Gavin Keachie & Grace MacCormick), at the University of Ottawa (Matthew Wood, Chris Gibson, & Conor Barry), Buffalo (Kristin Slonsky), Princeton (Emma Curran), at Northwestern (Will Cochran), at Marquette (Luke Togni), at Laval (Simon Fortier), McGill (Jennifer Otto,



Grace MacCormick & Adrian Ferri

Rebecca Coughlin, James Bryson), McMaster (Gerjan Altenburg), the University of Alberta (Megan Falconer), the University of British Columbia (Andrei Mihailiuk & Kristan Newell), Notre Dame (Martin Sastri), Stanford (Carolyn MacDonald), the University of Kentucky (Adam Labecki), at Columbia (Colin Webster), at Boston University (Bethie Baxter) and at Pittsburgh (Nic Thorne). A Splendid Party and Great Company.

At noon on the 21st, we held a similar celebration for our graduates at the Dalhousie Convocation that afternoon. The faculty who had come for Breakfast were supplemented by Dr Rodica Firanescu, Dr Alexander Treiger, Dr Christopher Grundke, and Dr Christopher Austin. Several of our graduates came with their very proud parents. Christian Sears, with a Major in Philosophy and Classics; Tara Antle, with a Major in International Development Studies and Religious Studies;

Caterina Migliore with a Major in Classics and English; Grace MacCormick, with First Class Honours in Religious Studies and English and the University Medal in Religious Studies, who is going on to graduate study at the University of Toronto; Adrian Ferri, with First Class Honours in Religious Studies and History.

We toasted our graduates and thanked their families. A very happy group!



Cat Migliore (in green) with family, friends, and Dr Peter O'Brien

TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF CLASSICS

I was recently asked how long Classics had been taught here? Of course, the answer came back, "from the beginning." From the foundation of the University of King's College in 1789 and at each of the periods when Dalhousie University made and remade its beginnings in the next century, Greek, Latin and their literatures have been studied among us, 225 years! We have been teaching Classics as a university for longer than anyone else in Canada and our continuing success seems to indicate that we have learned something about how to do it. Perhaps most importantly during these two hundred and twenty-five years, we have gained confidence in ourselves and ceased the colonial imitation of others with which King's began. Indeed, aspects of Classics here now serve as models.

Next year we shall have a celebration. Plans and consultations are now beginning. Study of our history is appropriate and we are getting help with this from Janet Hathaway the Archivist of King's College. There will be a lecture series "Two Hundred Twenty-Five Years of Classics" and, of course, a party. If you have stories to contribute or ideas to suggest, please get in touch. Donations towards the costs of the celebration are welcome.

Intellectual confidence has been the striking distinction of the students and graduates of this Department ever since I came to it fifty-two years ago. I can say, with the same pride that is characteristic of them, that our students have never been better nor happier to be part of our ongoing community.

A major EIGHT MINORS

By Dr Wayne Hankey

After a multi-year and laborious process pushed along among others by our Department, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has finally come into line with other universities and introduced minors for the Bachelor of Arts to go with our major and honours courses of study. When the gates finally opened, Classics was very well prepared, and submitted ten proposals. We rejoice that eight have been approved. They enable students to show a disciplined focus of studies other than that of the major or honours concentrations and I am told by our undergraduate advisors that they are proving popular. They should help strengthen the enrolments both in the Department and in Classics.

They make for eight new paths to degrees in all three of our programmes: Classics, Religious Studies and Arabic.

- **Minor in Classics**
- **Minor in Ancient History**, which includes classes offered by the Department of History
- **Minor in Classical Literature**
- **Minor in Classics: Ancient Philosophy** recognizes the philosophical side of Classical studies, as does
- **Minor in Classics: Medieval Philosophy**, which includes classes from Religious Studies and Arabic
- **Minor in Abrahamic Religions**, which is centred in Religious Studies and draws in classes from Classics and Arabic
- **Minor in Arabic Studies**, which is centred in Arabic and draws in classes from Classics, Religious Studies and History
- **Interdisciplinary Minor in Middle Eastern Studies**, centred in the Department of History, but draws on classes in Classics, Arabic and Religious Studies

Putting these eight new enriching and interdisciplinary programmes together required much cooperation both within our Department and with the Department of History. We are grateful to the Department and its Chair, Dr Ruth Bleasdale, for their open-minded support in this common effort.

As we go to press we can add news of a NINTH Minor, An **Interdisciplinary Minor in Medieval Studies** is being organized by Dr Jennifer Bain, Chair of Music. Working along with English, History, French, King's, and Music, Classics hopes to play a major part in this restoration of a medieval studies programme. Our university has outstanding resources in the field.

Pythian Games 2013

By Dr Jack Mitchell

On 15 March 2013, the Pythian Games were celebrated at Dalhousie for the third consecutive year. By now it is hard to imagine mid-March in Halifax without them! Coming between the grind of midterms and the stresses of the end of term, this celebration of Dal and King's students' literary and musical talents in performance again proved a highly cultured, rather joyous event, as students from across the university performed texts and staged short plays in ancient Greek, French, English, Latin, and Arabic before an enthusiastic audience of roughly 100. Your humble author emceed as *Praecentor*.

The evening was launched with a full-dress gladiatorial spectacle. Two veterans of the Fall class in Roman social history, Ian Danylchuk and Jessica Johnson-Mackinnon, suited up in authentic bronze gladiator gear as *secutor* (swordsman) and *retiaria* (net-fighter) respectively. While Dean Robert Summerby-Murray (kindly in attendance) was no doubt Googling the Faculty's insurance policy, the normally tranquil air of the Scotiabank Auditorium took on the savage atmosphere of Roman bloodsport. A timely intervention by Mr. Charles Fournier, age 7, redirected the gladiators to a friendly game of Scrabble.

The first literary performance was by Andy Post, an MA student in English, who shook the hall with his original work entitled "In the Words of the POET," summoning us to renew the heritage of the Romantics. Also in English, Adrian Hall bamboozled the audience with an original work entitled "Columbo," in which he described the absent-minded Peter Falk character while playing that character himself, while John Barnstead of Russian Studies -- a zealous classicist among his other talents -- read from Mary Renault's *The Last of*



Greta Landis performs Arlo Guthrie's "The Story of Reuben Clamzo"

the Wine, evoking the personality of Plato on the themes of war and loss. Later in the evening, Greta Landis brought Arlo Guthrie's "The Story of Reuben Clamzo" to life in a striking performance that earned her the *Dal Res Publica* Prize of \$100, while the David Etherington, Meg Shields, and Rebecca Singbeil won the Howard Murray Prize of \$250 for their curtailed "Compleat Comedies of Wllm Shkspr."

Latin is clearly flourishing at Dal Classics, as the largest category of entrants this year consisted of those performing ancient works in Latin, or original translations from Latin, or original works in Latin. This year, in honour of Dr Patrick Atherton, who passed away in September, we instituted the Dr Atherton Memorial Latin Prize of \$100, which went to Bruce Russell for his righteous, toga-clad accusation (in Cicero's own words) against the corrupt governor Verres (played by Dr Wayne Hankey). Katie Middleton performed the frightening storm scene from Virgil's *Aeneid* (Book 1), while Kevin Gaul performed his original translation into rhymed English of Horace's Ode 1.15 ("Pastor cum traheret"). Authentically dressed in *stola* and *palla*, Kaitlyn Boulding performed both Catullus 5, a famous love poem to the poet's girlfriend, and her own original response to the poet in Latin (in the strictest Horatian meter to boot). Finally, James Campbell-Prager delivered a unique slice of original cosmogonic myth of his own invention which he had translated into Latin: he took home the Alumni Prize of \$100.

Latin was not the only language on display, of course. John Maize performed the first work in Arabic to be seen at the revived Pythian Games, a segment from Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet* entitled "On Religion," while Emily Macrae, who has enriched the Games in previous years with a poem in Welsh and a sonnet by Mallarmé, had the audience bursting into laughter with her wonderful story by Fred Pellerin, told in flawless French, entitled "Il



Dr Emily Varto's 2nd Year Ancient Greek class performs musical parody "A Xenos That I Used to Know"

faut semer les uns les autres." In the universal language of music, Michaela d'Entremont took up the violin, performing Vivaldi's beautiful *Violin Concerto in A Minor*. And of course no Pythian Games would be complete without ancient Greek: Dominic Lacasse again tuned his authentic Homeric lyre, singing the episode of the blinding of Polyphemus from the *Odyssey*, while the philological talents of Bryan Heystee dug into obscure sources -- a surviving ancient Greek joke-book -- to make us laugh at 2000-year-old jokes: in his hands, they were as funny as they day they were composed. Finally, Dr Emily Varto's Ever-Victorious 2nd Year Ancient Greek Class proved victorious this year with an original musical parody of Gotye's "Somebody That I Used to Know": their harmonious "A Xenos That I Used to Know" took the Chair's Prize of \$150.

To conclude a splendid two hours of fable and frolic, your humble author called the gladiators back up on stage and proceeded to croon a sentimental "Song of the *Secutor*," in a musical episode without parallel which, it was agreed, would long live in the eardrums of his audience.

All in all, the Pythian Games continue to grow and to prosper, thanks to the support of our department, of our faculty, and most of all of our amazing students, whose enthusiasm for literature and creativity in bringing texts to life never ceases to astound. A video recording was made of the event, and by summer's end will be featured both on our department website and on the Pythian Games website (www.pythiangames.com). We would love to see you at the Pythian Games next year for our 225th anniversary!

Dalhousie Classics in Istanbul Proclus Conference 2012

Several generations of graduates of the Classics Department delivered papers at a conference held in Istanbul, “*Archai: Proclus Diadochus of Constantinople and his Abrahamic Interpreters*” (December 12-16, 2012), which marked the 1600th anniversary of Proclus’ birth in Constantinople. An international community of scholars met to discuss the determinative presence and transformations of the Successor’s thought within the philosophical theologies of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, with a public plenary lecture focusing on a particular religious tradition that brought the four evenings to a close. Stephen Gersh presented an encyclopaedic survey of the Christian reception, which brought out the variety and irreducible diversity of the Many interpreters of the One source. Tzvi Langermann found echoes of Proclus within Jewish Neoplatonism. Richard Taylor focused on the importance of Proclus for the doctrine of divine primary causality within the Arabic-Islamic tradition.

Most of the 47 papers were hosted by Boğaziçi University, which is set on a hilltop and faces south along the Bosphorus. The papers presented by our seven graduates participating in the conference traced this inheritance from the 5th until the 19th century.

David Butorac, [BA Honours in Classics 1999, MA 2011] (Fatih Üniversitesi, Istanbul): “What is this thing called thinking? The Procline descended soul,

science and its objects”

Rebecca Coughlin [MA 2006] (McGill University, Montréal): “Spiritual Motion and the Incarnation in Dionysius’ Divine Names”

Thomas Curran [MA 1975] (University of King’s College/Dalhousie): “Hegel on Proclus: the Dialectic of the One”

Evan King [BA First Class Honours in Classics 2010, MA 2012] (University of Cambridge): “Meister Eckhart’s Twofold Conception of the One and Procline Self-Constitution”

Torrance Kirby [BA First Class Honours in Classics 1976, MA 1978] (McGill University, Montréal): “Richard Hooker’s Neoplatonism and the Reform of the Elizabethan Church of England”

Gregory MacIsaac [BA First Class Honours in Classics 1992] (Carleton University, Ottawa): “An archaeology of Procline terms in Eriugena’s analysis of the trinitarian soul”

Tim Riggs [BA First Class Honours in Classics 2007, MA 2009] (University of Jyväskylä): “On the Absence of Henads in the *Kalām fi mahd al-khair*: Some consequences for Procline Subjectivity in an Abrahamic Translation”

In his introduction to the final public lecture of the conference, organiser David Butorac echoed the thesis of Thom Curran as characterizing the aim of the series as a whole: “to find the same in the different and the different in the same”. The vocation of the philosophical life, Butorac continued, consists in following that pattern of Platonic dialectic in all of its historical and spiritual depth.

The paper by Prof. Dominic O’Meara which followed was delivered in the Franciscan-run Santa Maria Draperis, which was filled to standing-room only. O’Meara outlined how the design of Hagia Sophia assumes the geometrical construction of the soul described in Plato’s *Timaeus*, and develops this according to the principles of geometry set out by Proclus; the cascade of increasingly complex forms from the simplicity of the point and the circle, from the dome suspended above to the square arrangement of pillars supporting it, is mirrored by the lightness and upward tension in the soul who enters this holy place. A public presentation of visibility of thought – the basis of recollection – was the appropriate conclusion to a conference concerning the *Archai*.

By Evan King

Evan is doing a PhD in Divinity at Cambridge University



Dalhousie Classicists in Istanbul for Proclus Conference. From left to right: Evan King, Gregory MacIsaac, Tim Riggs. December 2012.

Student Profiles

By Colin Nicolle

TANISHA CHAKMA, a native of Bangladesh, says she knew that she always wanted to study Classics. She took an interest in the subject

quite early but decided, upon arriving at Dalhousie in 2006, that she couldn't possibly study both Latin and Greek at the same time. However, "by the time I finished my BA, I had taken classes



Tanisha Chakma

in almost all languages offered at Dal [7 total, equalling a total of 13 years]... This gave me the courage to eventually return as a Classics student and tackle Latin and Greek side-by-side," she says.

Why languages? Tanisha says the most fascinating part of studying the ancient languages is our engagement with the ancient world. "We can read and comprehend works written so long ago in their original language and still be able to connect with them." Tanisha says Classics, the literature, and the language, are all still relevant: "it's essential in order to have a complete perception of the progression of Western (and Eastern) civilisation."

Tanisha is currently completing studies in Computer Science at Dalhousie, but says that the plan is to continue studying. "The next step," she says, "is a logical one: grad school."

HILARY ILKAY had no intentions of studying Classics when she arrived at King's from her native Toronto. However she, like many others, was converted by Section One of the



Hilary Ilkay

Foundation Year Program (The Ancient World Section). Her real introduction to Classics was a trial-by-fire: the intensive six-week summer Latin course.

While Hilary has explored many areas of Classical study, it is Greek and Latin literature which interests her most of all, "specifically Homeric poetry, Greek lyric—especially Sappho—and at the moment Catullus, Propertius, and Ovid." Hilary says that poetry is a way to explore the nuances of the language while encountering the writers face-to-face. Her main research interest is the poetic reflection on Eros in

ancient poetry and the development of motifs inherent in the experience of desire.

A crowning moment for Hilary was when, this year, she began to read Greek poetry in its original language. "It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my academic career. I still can't believe that after only two years of Greek I'm able to read these titans of the poetic tradition in their original language," she says.

Hilary is applying for a literary internship in New York City for Fall 2013 and will take the next year off from school before applying to Classics graduate programs in the U.K. for 2014.

TARYN MCKENNA first visited Nova Scotia with her parents when she was a young child. "Although I don't remember many details, I've always associated it with fond memories," she says. So much so, that Dalhousie was one of her top university choices, both for its academics and varsity athletics.

Taryn has played for the Dalhousie Women's Soccer team for the past four years, currently serving as both captain and goal-keeper. During her time on the team, they have won the Atlantic University Sport Conference twice and placed fifth nationally in Victoria, BC.

Taryn says that attending a Catholic school in her native Oakville, Ontario immersed her in religious practices and fostered a deep interest in the practice and philosophy of the Western church, "I was much more into it than most of my friends," she admits. This year, Taryn pursued research into the relationship between religion and philosophy, particularly in relation to Socrates. "I am constantly reflecting on the relation between philosophy and religion, and I have found that texts on Socrates' life (particularly Plato's and Xenophon's apologies) break down that relationship," she says.

She is currently pursuing a Double Major in Religious Studies and Music (her other passion), and intends on continuing her studies for another semester next year. After completing her BA, Taryn wants to pursue a teaching degree in Ontario and be able to teach religion, philosophy, and music, "and perhaps down the road revisit my earlier plan of being

a high school chaplain," an endeavour she put on hold to attend Dalhousie.

BRENDAN GEMMELL, a 3rd year student from Winnipeg, Manitoba, is another student who combines both classical and historical studies with athletic pursuits. "A big part of my decision to come to Dalhousie was its good reputation and that I had the opportunity to come and compete as a varsity athlete—in both cross country and track."

In addition to time in the classroom, Brendan spends an additional two to three hours each day split between team practices, the gym, and individual training on the track. "There are also races throughout the year when the team travels, as well as other team events. It makes things really busy for me," he says.

Brendan's main academic interests lie in ancient history. "I have always been interested in history and how the study of ancient history, specifically, can give you an insight into how our civilisation developed through time,"



Classics students shine on the athletics stage. L-R: Dean Robert Summerby-Murray, Taryn McKenna, Bruce Russell, Brendan Gemmell

he says. However, he has also studied and is interested in ancient philosophy, "especially Plato and the Socratic dialogues—but even just learning about the everyday life of these people, how their society functioned."

While Brendan says that he is already considering graduate work in his field, he has his long-term sights set on Law school.

Hailing from the far side of the Canso Causeway, **DANIEL GILLIS** originally came to Dalhousie with no intentions of studying Classics.

"I came to Dalhousie intending to be a music student and I pursued classical guitar for two years," he says. Daniel's pursuit of and skill in classical guitar culminated in him landing a full-time gig as a musician-in-residence at Trout Point Lodge, near Yarmouth, on Nova Scotia's southern shore.

Daniel's first encounter with the Classics came during the Islam section in a first year history class. He was so intrigued by what he was

learning that he registered for Dr Hankey's Meetings class. It was while finishing writing a paper on Philo Judaeus for that same class that the idea to study Classics took hold. "Dr Hankey asked me, 'Do you plan to study Greek?' It all came flooding in at once: the possibilities!"

Daniel says the language, poetry, mythology and divinity of the ancient world hooked him. "There was no going back," he says.

While his primary interests lay with the intersections between religion and mysticism, Daniel says he feels called to future study in other transitions, such as "that from Aristotelian to Plotinian metaphysics, and from the transition of philosophy in Arabic to Latin."

Daniel will be finishing his undergraduate degree in 2014, after which he plans on applying to graduate studies.

PAUL MCGILVERY hails from Englehart, Ontario—a small town in the North of the province. Paul had one year of Classical study under his belt before leaving Laurentian University to train as a paramedic. "The lure of Classical studies proved too strong to resist," he says, choosing Dalhousie's Classics Department for his MA after meeting some professors and learning about the department at a meeting of the Classical Association of Canada in 2011.

Paul is primarily interested in Greek historiography and Hellenistic history—that is, studying how ancient texts were transmitted and how they have come into our hands in the form they are in today, a study Paul believes to be every bit as important as the content of the texts. There isn't much in the way of windows into the early Hellenistic period that survived, and most of that is through secondary accounts. "Yet it is a period of incredible change in the Greek world, which follows closely on the heels of the death of Alexander the Great," says Paul. Studying the surviving records helps us to know how accurate our picture of the time period is.

For Paul, the question is very much *why*. "We must study what compels us to think, and fires us to learn more." The remnants of the Greek and Latin worlds are, in his words, "as close as we can come to entering a time machine and exploring the development of Western wisdom and culture. It is this recorded material that allows us to gaze into the experience of those who came before us and garner an insight into our own development—individually and collectively—and decide where we should go by where we have been." See *neighbouring piece at right on "Canada's Most Promising."*



Kaitlyn Boulding. Photo courtesy of the University of King's College

Canada's Most Promising

By Dr Wayne Hankey

The Department of Classics has just learned that, for the second year in a row, the undergraduate selected by the Classical Association of Canada as the most promising entering graduate research in Classics will pursue their graduate studies with us. **Kaitlyn Boulding**, who graduated with First Class Honours in Classics and German at the King's Encaenia this May, has been chosen this year's Desmond Conacher Scholar. When entering graduate studies here, Kaitlyn will join **Paul McGilvery** now going into the second (thesis) year of our two year MA. Paul was last year's winner of the Desmond Conacher.

Kaitlyn started her university education at the University of Winnipeg and was attracted here by the specific character of our work, especially by its union of literary and philosophical studies. With Katherine Strynka, Kaitlyn was an inaugural recipient of the Marjorie Mader Award in our Department of German, which took her to four months of language immersion at the University of Heidelberg. This Spring Kaitlyn was awarded first a SSHRC pre-doctoral scholarship to fund her MA in our Classics Department, then Dalhousie elected her to a Killam Scholarship, and, finally, it was announced that she had been chosen as this year's Desmond Conacher Scholar.

This Scholarship is awarded, in a tough national competition, by the Classical Association of Canada to the undergraduate going on to graduate study in Classics whom the CAC regards as the most promising in the country. The main criteria for the Desmond Conacher are "academic achievement, professional promise, and an appropriate under-graduate preparation."

In her two years here, Kaitlyn has been active in many aspects of the Department's life, participating in the Pythian Games and being an editor and contributor to both volumes XIV and XV of *Pseudo-Dionysius*, the Department's student journal.

With Kaitlyn, as well as the Desmond Conacher Scholarship, Paul shares the distinction of having his graduate work supported both by a SSHRC pre-doctoral, and a Killam, scholarship and of being a contributor to *Pseudo-Dionysius*.

Paul will write his thesis under the direction of Dr Jack Mitchell, the newly appointed professor of Roman History in the Department. His subject is the lost work of Arrian. Paul will use a sophisticated range of philological tools on the Byzantine scholar Photius along with contemporary scholarship on the Graeco-Roman historiographical tradition.

When applying to us, Paul wrote: "It is my hope to conduct my proposed research at Dalhousie University because its Classical Studies faculty is well known to be strong in the areas of literature and philosophy. Also, the department's specialists on theology, late Classical authors, and Arabic literature (there is debate as to whether the "Bibliotheca" [of Photius I] was written using libraries in Assyria) make the university an ideal place to study the works of Photius." A faculty member says: Paul "has excellent Greek and Latin, and his writing is superb. He was trained and worked as a paramedic before completing his BA. He was accepted into medical school and had to make the difficult decision between his two passions: Classics and Medicine."

For two years in a row, the truly exceptional undergraduate Canada's Classicists regard as the most promising has chosen to do their graduate study in our Department. We are proud of them and happy for ourselves.

Dal's Arabic program in the words of an alumnus

Interview with James Ross Anderson, BA 2013

By Dr Rodica Firanescu

James Ross Anderson graduated in May 2013 with a Major in Philosophy. He started learning Arabic at Dal (2009) taking Intermediate (2010) and Advanced (2012), doing very well at all levels. By the time he joined the Advanced class, he had already developed a passion for the language. He also took a number of classes in Classics and Religious Studies (Classical and Early Christian Philosophy; Gods, Beasts and the Political Animal; Philosophy on Trial; Buddhism; Hinduism, Vishnu & Krishna the Dark Lord) with good results. The following lines tell his story with the Arabic language and reveal the way in which knowing Arabic may marry with the study of Philosophy and Religion. I interviewed him before his graduation in May 2013.

1. Why did you decide to take the Beginner level in Arabic (ARBC 1020) in 2009 as a first-year student?

Early on, all students are looking for interesting courses to mix up their schedules and open up doors they didn't even know existed. So when I first looked at the academic calendar and noticed Arabic right at the top, I couldn't help but take a look. The first piece of fiction I ever fell in love with was *Dune* by Frank Herbert. This was the first in a large series of science fiction novels that feature a transformed Arabic culture and language in a science fiction setting, so certainly when Arabic presented itself as an option it was immediately of interest, and eventually a cornerstone of my degree.

2. Did you like Arabic in that first year? What did you like about it?

In my first year, taking Arabic was probably the most interesting and immediately fruit bearing course I took. Learning a foreign alphabet and becoming able to write and understand a fantastically beautiful script was the first real educational moment I had at Dalhousie. Beyond the script I found myself enjoying elements of the grammar, structure, and form of the language. Given the wide variety of conjugational forms and verbal forms, Arabic is a very concise and descriptive language. In a single word one can present a subject and verb, and, with certain verbs in a context, an object as well.

3. Did you take the Immediate level class because you loved the challenge of first year, out of curiosity, or had you already set a plan in motion for taking more

classes in Arabic in the future?

After only a few months of beginner Arabic I had already committed to myself to take the full array of Arabic courses. I had become smitten with the language and culture that is inseparable from it, and couldn't wait to explore the language further. I certainly enjoyed some of the challenges that arrived with the intermediate and advanced courses: a higher attention to detail and more and more complex grammar, in a very complex and systematic language.

4. Can you say that you took the Advanced level out of real passion?

Certainly by the time I arrived at the third year level Arabic course, my interest in the language and my handle upon it had reached its highest point. The new elements of the language we were learning expanded my ability to communicate and express myself (always with the ready dictionary nearby) with more elegance and greater breadth of meaning. With that in mind, my passion for the language and the course grew with the material it was involved with.



L-R: Dr Chris Austin, James Ross Anderson, Dr Rodica Firanescu, Dr Eli Diamond. Classics Graduation Luncheon: May 21, 2013

5. You are among a very small number of students who, at this time, have taken all three levels of Arabic at Dal. Was the advanced level planned for? Or did you take it by chance? Do you believe that you were fated to learn Arabic?

Looking ahead from early on I'd made subtle

commitments to take Arabic through all the levels at Dalhousie. Certainly the logistics of scheduling a number of courses over several years had me end up taking the third level in my fourth year (something I don't regret given the academic maturity that develops over the course of a four year degree.) The later courses were electives completely out of my curiosity and fascination with the language.

6. Say a few words about your Arab friends and if anyone helped you through the various stages of Arabic.

I could not have survived the challenge of the third level course if not for a number of the native speakers who were taking the course with me. Getting a handle on vocabulary is always difficult if attempted in a vacuum separate from its practical use. Certain words exist only in dictionaries, and certain words have denotative meanings that are misleading in a practical sense. With that in mind, many of my projects and assignments needed revision for proper vocabulary, simply to make sure that I got the right words for the job. Having the help of the native speakers who have a very intimate understanding of the practical uses of the words of their mother tongue

really kept me alive through the tougher parts of the courses. Again such a more intimate understanding and breadth of vocabulary really requires immersion with speakers to gain a handle.

7. Do you think that you could possibly use Arabic in your future profession or life?

I certainly intend at some point soon in my life to travel and perhaps live in the Middle East and convert a very theoretical understanding of the language to a practical one via immersion and regular communication in a dialect. I also wish to experience the Arabian culture and people first-hand; not as a tourist but really *dive* right in and find a way to be immersed directly in the culture, as I understand that learning a language out of a textbook is a sort of primer for learning a language via speaking and living with the native speakers of the language.

8. How does Arabic fit in with a degree and education focused on Philosophy?

Simply put, a great deal is lost in translation. The nuances of speech and the peculiarities of certain words are lost when they are nailed down in the process of producing a semantically similar version in another language. To fully appreciate a text or fully understand a philosophy, you must first have a grasp on a few things, the cultural context of the text is fundamentally important, and, if at all possible, experiencing something within the language in which it was drafted and understood by the author, the philosopher, well, that is really the best possible world. We owe some of the early Arabian scholars a great deal. From maintaining Greek texts we would have otherwise lost to commenting on and expanding those same texts, simply there is a great deal of philosophy we owe to Arab scholars, and much lost in translation.

To accompany an education in the world of philosophy, an ability to experience texts in their native form, to understand a philosophy within the context and language with which it was produced is essential. With a fairly advanced level in Arabic, and with the assistance of a specialized dictionary, you're opened up to an expansive world, from theology to commentary on Hellenic and Hellenistic philosophy and literature. The philosophical and theological work of Avicenna, Averroes, and many others are likely best experienced in their native language, and not when subject to the accidental bias of translation.

Hey, buddy...wanna learn some Greek?

Even as our enrollments grow and our number of Honours and Majors graduates continues to match or exceed historic highs, Dal Classics never loses sight of recruitment. Partly this is because we feel a duty to students who may not yet know what Classics is and who deserve a chance to encounter it; partly it's because our current momentum cannot be taken for granted; partly it's because we secretly aim to restore Classics to the virtual monopoly it enjoyed at King's and Dal in the late 18th and early 19th centuries (don't tell the President). As Publicity and Recruitment Officer in the Department, my job is to ensure a strong and engaging web presence; to make our class offerings easily accessible to current students, prospective students, and parents via attractive brochures; to invite and host visiting classes from Maritime high schools; and to organise Dal-wide events centred on Classics, first and foremost the Pythian Games.

The Pythian Games are described elsewhere in this newsletter; as to the brochures, graphic design has always been a hobby of mine, and I have been very happy with the results: please feel free to pick up a brochure if you stop by our departmental office. High school visits are always a joy, as we offer these young students a chance to see and touch real artifacts (mostly old finds from Selinus in Sicily), look at annotated medieval manuscript pages and antiquarian books (the forefathers of our own texts), try on replica gladiator and legionary gear (always a hit), and most of all experience the atmosphere of a whole unit dedicated full-time to the subject of their class (usually a class in Ancient History).

Online, thanks to the sterling efforts of Liz Curry and Donna Edwards in our departmental office, we have been at the forefront of embracing the new and beautiful Dalhousie web content-management system. The result is an attractive, easy-to-use, content-rich website: one of the best in the University. It also links to our frequently updated Facebook page, which (if you 'Like' it) will deliver a constant stream of engaging stories about



Classics in the news, together with updates on departmental events like Graduation and Encenia, guest speakers, and awards won. Dal Classics students have created a further page devoted to original jokes on classical themes, entitled (groaningly) "The Pun-ic Wars."

My colleague Eli Diamond and I are producing the finishing touch: short but lively publicity videos which we will upload to YouTube. These feature numerous current Dal Classics students, eloquent as ever, and are meant to appeal to new students by explaining what Classics is and why it's a choice of major that offers both intellectual adventure and a warm sense of community. Look for these new videos on our website!

This from our ever enthusiastic professor of Roman History, Dr Jack Mitchell, suggests some of the work on publicity and recruitment now being done in the Department. It mentions part of the imaginative and effective efforts of Dr Eli Diamond. In addition, at present, Dr Chris Austin is the superbly talented and effective publicist for Religious Studies, producing beautiful brochures, designing and maintaining the Religious Studies website, and working at the fairs and meet and greet events which are essential parts of recruiting students at Dalbousie-King's. Dr Rodica Firanescu does the same for Arabic. Her very effective spirited promotion of Arabic studies and excellent relations with her students comes out on its excellent website.

We must all be grateful for their work and that of our undergraduate and graduate advisors carried out imaginatively and painstakingly—Drs Emily Varto, Peter O'Brien, Michael Fournier, Eli Diamond and Alexander Treiger have recently or are now serving in these offices. The Department has five websites to check out and is adding a sixth; have a look. There are sites for Classics, Religious Studies and Arabic, the Pythian Games, Res Publica, and Dr Diamond is putting another together for Classics Graduate Studies.

Graduate Studies Update

By Dr Eli Diamond, Graduate Coordinator

The graduate programme in Dalhousie Classics had another spectacular year in 2013-14, with the excellence of our students receiving recognition both inside and outside our University. The work of our graduate students is absolutely essential to the flourishing of the programme as a whole: they serve as teaching assistants in our large undergraduate classes, leaders in our upper-year seminars, and they represent the Department through their conference presentations and publications. Below are just a few highlights of their work and accomplishments over the past year.

Two of our students have completed an unprecedented trifecta: both **Paul McGilvery** and **Kaitlyn Boulding** are the recipients of Joseph Bombardier Master's Scholarships, awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, valued at \$17,500; the Killam Scholarship (Dalhousie's most prestigious award for graduate students); and the Desmond Conacher Scholarship, awarded to Canada's most promising Classics student entering a graduate programme by the Classical Association of Canada. We are thrilled to have these distinguished young Classicists in our midst!

The variety and scope of the topics of the graduate work in the Department is remarkable. As usual, there is a significant amount of work being done in Neoplatonic philosophy. **Benjamin Lee** is working on his PhD dissertation, which treats the Neoplatonic Irish theologian Eriugena, supervised by Dr Michael Fournier. **Daniel Watson** (BA Trinity Western) is completing his MA thesis on Proclus' reading of Homer, having presented papers this year at both the Atlantic Classical Association in Charlottetown and the Classical Association of Canada in Winnipeg; **Liz Curry** (BA at St. John's College and Cambridge) is writing on the ethical virtues in the thought of Plotinus; **Nathan McAllister** (BA St. Thomas University) is working on theurgy in Iamblichus. All three were the recipients of the Joseph Bombardier Master's Scholarship, by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, valued at \$17,500, and are working under the supervision of Dr Hankey. **Dominic Lacasse** (BA in Classics 2008) is completing his thesis on Tertullian under the supervision of Dr Alexander Treiger. Another SSHRC winner, **Bryan Heystee** (First Class Honours in Classics 2010) is writing a thesis on the unity of the virtues in Plato's *Protagoras*, *Meno* and *Republic* under the supervision of Dr Eli Dia-

mond (he too presented a paper at the ACA Charlottetown conference this Fall). Bryan will continue our graduate student presence over at the University of King's College as a residence Don, following in the footsteps of Liz Curry who worked as a Don during both years of her MA. Both will have worked under the wise oversight of the Dean of Residence **Nick Hatt**, who is a part-time MA student in our Department writing on a thesis in Patristics supervised by Dr Fournier.

Besides Paul McGilvery, three other students joined the MA programme this year. **Joseph Gerbasi** came to us from the University of Winnipeg Classics and Philosophy Departments with two national Greek sight translation awards under his belt. Joseph was just awarded a Joseph Bombardier Master's Scholarship by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, valued at \$17,500, and plans to write a thesis on the relation of soul and mind in ancient and late ancient Greek philosophy. He presented a paper on Plato's *Parmenides* at the ACA in Charlottetown and on Aristotle's *Metaphysics* at the CAC in his hometown of Winnipeg. **Justin Singer**, who came to us from the University of Guelph on the recommendation of Dalhousie Classics alumnus Padraig O'Cleirigh, is especially passionate about the place of mathematics in Ancient Greek thought, and presented some of his work on the ancient Pythagorean mathematician Archytas at the ACA this Fall. He will be writing a thesis on the status of mathematics and mathematical objects in Aristotle's thought under Dr Diamond's supervision.



Bruce Russell and wife Rachel welcome first child Luke to the family on June 18, 2013.

Our own **Bruce Russell**, an academic All-Canadian several times over for his combination of academic excellence and athletic accomplishments as a cross-country runner, joined the MA programme this Fall and plans to write a dissertation supervised by Dr

Diamond on Aristotle's idea of friendship. Bruce was just awarded a Joseph Bombardier Master's Scholarship, awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, valued at \$17,500.

From Bruce "Filium habemus, et ei nomen imponemus 'Luke Thomas'. Luke Thomas Russell was born at 1:11am, 18th June 2013. The labour was quite arduous, but mother and baby are in perfect health now."

While we are still accepting applications for this coming year at the time of writing, next year's MA programme already looks just as strong and varied as the past few years, with incoming students proposing to work on Plato, Plotinus, Horace, and the reception of ancient Greek philosophy in the thought of an old friend of the Department, German hermeneutical philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer.

Graduates of the Dalhousie Classics MA programme continue to distinguish themselves all over the world, both inside and outside of academia. Of particular note this year are **Emma Curran**, who won both the Governor General's Award for best MA student in the Social Sciences and Humanities at Dalhousie University and a doctoral SSHRC award for her PhD in Classics at Princeton University; **Will Cochran**, who also won a doctoral SSHRC for his PhD in Philosophy at Northwestern University; and **Ben Manson**, who won a doctoral SSHRC for his D. Phil. in Philosophy at Oxford. They will join other recent graduates in PhD programmes and teaching positions all over the world.

Next year should be an exciting one for the graduate programme. Our Graduate students are inaugurating a seminar, in which they will present their work in progress to one another for comment and criticism. We are also in the final stages of launching a new website for our graduate programme in Classics, which should appear online in the Fall of 2013 – we hope this will help us continue to recruit the best Classics students in the country. Of course word of mouth is crucial in this respect, so please do not hesitate to recommend us to promising young Classicists in search of a rigorous and dynamic graduate programme! The best place to read recent work by our graduate (and senior undergraduate) students is of course the departmental student journal *Pseudo-Dionysius*, which is now available for free online at <http://ojs.library.dal.ca/PseudoDio>.

Michael Fournier

Associate Professor – Classics

Research: Philosophy, Religion and Culture in late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

Acting Chairman (July 1, 2013)



Dr Michael Fournier (BA with First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics, 1999, MA 2001) received tenure with promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in 2011. Michael had returned to Dalhousie-King's in 2005 from doctoral studies at Boston College, first with a Teaching Fellowship in the Foundation Year Programme and then to take Robert Crouse's chair in Philosophy, Religion, and Culture in late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. Here he tells us about his current work.

Teaching

This Fall I return to teaching after a year-long sabbatical. I will be going back to the beginning, teaching the three classes that I not only taught in my first year as a faculty member in the Department in 2006, but that I also took in my first year as an undergraduate in the Department in 1997 (Classics/Philosophy 2061: *Ancient Philosophy*; Classics/Religious Studies 3381/Philosophy 2381: *Medieval Philosophy*; and Classics 1800/2810: *Introductory Latin*). In the Winter term, I will offer my *Magic, Religion and Philosophy* class (Classics/Religious Studies 2027) for the third time. This is a new class and so I am constantly rethinking my approach. This year I plan to give more extensive treatments of a number of texts that embody the complicated intersections of magic, religion and philosophy in antiquity, including the depictions of Circe and the *nekyia* in Homer's *Odyssey*, Gorgias' *Encomium of Helen*, the elaborate presentation of Erichtho's necromantic practices in book VI of Lucan's *De Bello Civili*, and the *Metamorphoses* and *Apology* of Aepuleius. In the Winter term I will also be

offering for the first time a seminar on Seneca's dialogue *De clementia* (Classics 4100/5042). I have been reading and thinking about Seneca for a number of years. His *Consolatio ad Marciam* was the subject of a chapter in my doctoral dissertation, and since then I have frequently returned to his dialogues when writing articles and preparing for seminars on Augustine, Boethius, and Anselm, for all of whom Seneca is an important mediator of Stoic and Platonic teaching. However, Seneca's dialogue concerning the distinctly Roman virtue of clemency is not only influential; it is extremely interesting in its own right from philosophical, historical and literary perspectives.

In the Fall I will be the coordinator of Section II of the Foundation Year Programme (FYP) at the University of King's College, and I will begin the section with a set of lectures on Augustine's *Confessions*. Like Section I of the Programme, the teaching of the Middle Ages in Section II of FYP depends upon the Department of Classics. This year is no exception, as I have designed a section in which current and past members of the Department will give lectures on Pseudo-Dionysius, Ibn Tufayl and Averroes, Bernard Silvestris, and Aquinas. The section concludes with six lectures on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, and all three lecturers are current or former members of the Department of Classics: Dr Thomas Curran, who will lecture on *Inferno*, Dr Barry Craig, now at St Thomas University, who will lecture on *Purgatorio*, and Dr Neil Robertson, whose lectures on *Paradiso* will close the section.

Research

I spent the first half of my sabbatical year doing preliminary work for a book project. This included giving papers at two regional conferences. In September, I presented a paper entitled "The Order of the Sciences on Erec's Coronation Robe" to the Atlantic Medieval Association conference at Acadia University, and in October I presented a paper, entitled "Cicero and Plato on the Education of Rulers," to a meeting of the Atlantic Classical Association at the University of Prince Edward Island. These papers outline the opening and closing chapters of a volume that will consider the

way that the mathematical education of the philosopher-rulers described by Plato in *Republic VII* is represented in Cicero's *Dream of Scipio*, the way both Plato and Cicero are reinterpreted by Macrobius in his commentary on the *Dream of Scipio*, how Boethius draws upon all three in his *Consolation of Philosophy*, and finally the way that all of these figures and texts form an important part of the Chartrean Platonism that influences Chrétien de Troyes' *Erec et Enide*.

The second half of my sabbatical I have spent on a variety of tasks, including final revisions of my article "Gorgias on Magic" (forthcoming in the journal *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*). This article began as a lecture in my *Magic, Religion and Philosophy* class, and I later presented an early version of it to the Departmental Seminar in Fall 2011. I am also putting the finishing touches on a paper for a collected volume on subjectivity and sociability in antiquity and the middle ages. My contribution focuses on Boethius' idea of pity (*miseratio*) as a fundamental political virtue. I argue that Boethius combines aspects of the notions of pity and mercy found in Plato, Lucretius, and Seneca with a Neoplatonic political philosophy.

Extra Curriculars

On July 1, I began a term as acting Chair of the Department. In addition to various Departmental and FASS committees, I am also a member of the Killam Lecture Committee and will begin a term on the SSHRC Doctoral Committee in the Fall.

My *extra-extra-curricular* activities this summer will include helping to coach my daughter's baseball team and trying to keep pace with my son on the violin (I was inspired to start playing when my son began Suzuki lessons, but I never guessed it would be so hard to keep up with him!).

Jack Mitchell

Assistant Professor – Classics

Research: Roman History, Greek & Latin Language

Publicity Coordinator, Classics

**STOP PRESS* As we were putting the Newsletter to bed, Dr Mitchell received this splendid news: “I am happy to inform you that your recent Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant application has been successful. You have been funded for the full amount requested, \$46,585.” Congratulations Dr Mitchell from us all!*

I joined the Department in 2010, and my main role here is to serve as the Roman historian. In my teaching, research, and literary work, I strive to integrate all aspects of the ancient world, from Roman society (my principal focus) to literary performance to theories on the uses & advantages of history for life.

I was born in Sackville, NB, grew up in Ottawa, and did my undergraduate degree at McGill. I received my PhD from Stanford University and have taught previously at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

Teaching

As a teacher, my main task has been to create new classes in Roman social history, even as we maintain our curriculum in Roman political history. Happily, the new offerings have proven very popular, as *Roman Legions and the Barbarians* and *Death, Sex, and Gold in the Roman World* (blushingly known as “DSG”) have each attracted more than 140 students so far, with another large cohort due in the latter next winter. *Roman Legions* is equally a sustained analysis of tactics, strategy, weaponry, and organisation in the Roman army and a survey of how the legions shaped Rome as a society, empire, and idea; it also shifts non-Roman societies (“the barbarians”) from the wings to centre-stage. *DSG* aims to present a complete picture of Roman society from the ground up: forsaking the usual orators, emperors, and philosophers (admirable though they are), we look instead to Rome’s merchants, pimps, and gladiators for the themes which most attract us to the ancients and most appall us. The standards in both remain rigorous, even as I build on popular enthusiasm for the dramatic side of Roman civilisation.

In addition to lecture classes in history, I thoroughly enjoy teaching classes on Greek and Latin language, and have taught Introductory Greek, Intermediate Latin, and Senior Latin at various points in the past three years. Authors read (besides the immortal *Athenaze*) have included Caesar, Cicero, Apuleius, St Augustine, and even St Thomas Aquinas; in the winter of 2012, we devoted a whole term

to reading Horace’s *Odes*, arguably the best lyric poetry ever written. For the Horace class, my students produced (and revised, and revised again) original Latin odes in complex ancient metres, joyously reviving a creative discipline such as has seldom been practiced anywhere in the world for several generations.

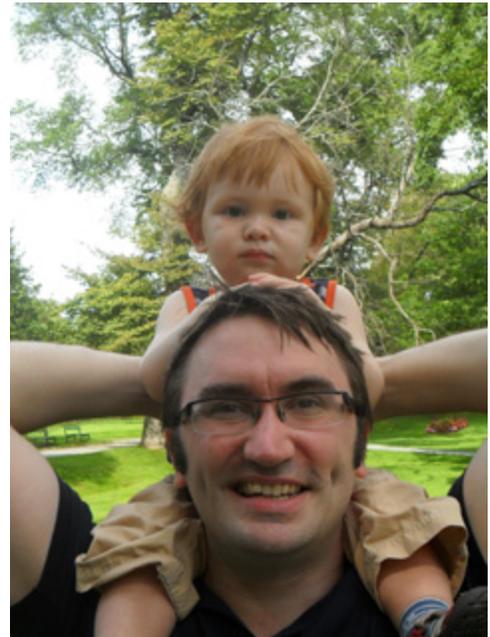
Finally, I have taken responsibility for the year-long survey of Ancient History. This is a “Writing Requirement” class, offering students new to the ancient world a chance to sharpen their skills in exposition and argument while roving the ruins of the world from Mesopotamia through Egypt, ancient Greece, Rome, and late antiquity. In these lectures I relish the opportunity to advocate for the ancients before a broad public. The nine TAs I have had in Ancient History over the past three years, all of them Dal Classics MA students, have done an extraordinary job with the students in their tutorials: here the university reaps the rewards of the Classics MA programme in a very tangible way each week.

Overall, my approach to lecturing can be defined as a combination of oral performance and careful preparation. The latter takes the form of slideshows, which I work hard to perfect, since I find the slideshow works well as a tool for teaching today’s Internet-savvy students, who are apt to expect an integration of text, image, and video; and personally I delight in sharing pictures of artifacts, maps of empires, and plans of archaeological sites. But what I most enjoy is the electric atmosphere of a performance-oriented lecture: there are few venues today where one can totally indulge in intellectual enthusiasm, so why not go whole hog?

Research

I actually began as a quiet, bookish person, and have been personally altered by my research. Initially I wished to be a novelist of the Flaubert type, but when, as an undergraduate, I was exposed to the performance traditions theorised by modern scholars as underpinning Homeric poetry, I cast off novelty and embraced epic poetry (as a creative artist) and the theory and practice of poetic performance (as a classical scholar).

As a graduate student, my interest in Greek epic drew me into the classrooms of the Roman Empire where, for many centuries



after Homeric poetry had ceased to be a fluid oral tradition, the daily dramatic performance of the written Homeric text was at the core of Greco-Roman education. The performer-audience relationship has thematic importance within ancient epic (a subject I have explored in my essay on “Theoclymenus and the Poetics of Disbelief: Prophecy and its Audience in the *Odyssey*”); the knowing audience helped shape the very structure of that poetic tradition, so that its characteristics can still involve the modern reader to contribute to it (as I argue in “The Culture of the Ancient Epithet: Gerard Manley Hopkins and the Translation of Imagination”); and it informed the way in which ancient audiences responded to any dramatic narrative, since the audience for literature, which is to say the educated class, had itself been thoroughly schooled in effective performance as teenagers. I offer one such rereading of a classic author in my treatment of “Literary Quotation and Literary Performance in Suetonius’ *Twehe Caesars*.”

My main work in this field, which I hope will contribute significantly to an understanding both of ancient education and of the scope and purpose of ancient literacy, is my book, *Anagnosis: Performance, Education, and the Canon in the High Roman Empire*, the manuscript of which I am currently circulating to publishers. Here I tie together the *Realien* of ancient classroom performance, as attested in half a dozen fairly obscure sources, with the concerns of ancient scholarship, arguing that ancient commentators and scholiasts from

Alexandria onward treated their canonical texts as performance events rather than papyrus objects, and indeed suggesting that post-Renaissance habits of silent reading have rendered ancient poetry as two-dimensional as the unplayed score of a Beethoven sonata.

Poetry and Fiction

Parallel to my work as a scholar is my work as a writer and poet. I have published two historical novels for young adult readers, both set in the last decades of the Roman Republic: *The Roman Conspiracy* (2005) dramatised the Catilinarian Conspiracy of 63 BC, while *The Ancient Ocean Blues* (2008), a story set in 62 BC, is an extended parody of the ancient Greek novel. I hope to continue in this vein at some future date, since I see the 12-14 age bracket, to which these books are geared, as crucial for the ongoing renewal of Classics as a field of study and point of reference for Western civilisation.

In addition to light prose fiction, I have for more than a decade been developing and performing an original work of Canadian epic poetry, entitled *The Plains of Abraham*. This year, I had the pleasure of performing it for the Haliburton Society at King's College, while in 2009 I performed it at Dalhousie. Firmly modelled on the *Iliad* but adapted to 18th and 21st-century themes, this scriptless, hour-long performance tells the tale (in iambic octameter) of the Siege of Quebec and subsequent death in battle of Wolfe and Montcalm, in one of the most striking episodes in Canadian history. I am currently working on a tragedy, conforming to Aristotelian precepts and composed in iambic trimeter, about the trial of Louis Riel, which I hope to convince Dal and King's students to perform in due course!

Extra Curriculars

My extra-curricular role in Dal Classics has been to serve as Recruitment and Publicity Officer. In this capacity, I have designed several colourful brochures advertising our offerings, shot a number of short publicity videos for the department (soon to appear on our website), and most of all organised and hosted the Pythian Games, our annual celebration of literary performance by Dal and King's students. Future promotional efforts will feature the complete kit of legionary arms & armour I've assembled for Roman Legions & the Barbarians and the two complete sets of gladiatorial apparel accrued for DSG. I am on the editorial boards of *Phoenix*, the journal of the Classical Association of Canada, and of the *Literary Review of Canada*, to which I am a frequent contributor of reviews and translations.

Family

Both my sons have been born in Halifax, Caius in May 2011 and Silvan in March 2013. My wife (Luba) and I love living here; we're at North & Agricola in the North End.

PUBLICATIONS (ACADEMIC)

Anagnosis: Schoolrooms, Scholarship and Performance in the High Roman Empire. Monograph. (Under review.)

"Suetonius' Twelve Caesars as Literary Performers." (Under review.)

"The Culture of the Ancient Epithet: Gerard Manley Hopkins and the Translation of Imagination." In *Translation and Literature* 22.2 (2013), pp. 149-166.

"Theoclymenus and the Poetics of Disbelief: Prophecy and its Audience in the Odyssey." In *A Californian Hymn to Homer*, Harvard University Press (October 2011), pp. 49-72.

BOOK REVIEWS

"Doing as the Romans Do." Review of *Imperial Republics: Revolution, War, and Territorial Expansion from the English Civil War to the French Revolution* by Edward G. Andrew. *Literary Review of Canada*, December 2011, pp. 22-23.

"Quebec's Anti-Hero." Review of *René Lévesque* by Daniel Poliquin. *Literary Review of Canada*, April 2010, p. 12.

"A Loaded Anniversary: Books and pundits tackle the Plains of Abraham, but do they go far enough?" Review of several books about the siege of 1759. *Literary Review of Canada*, September 2009, pp. 20-21.

"Dying in Hell: Canada's Great War comes alive on film and in print." Review of *Passchendaele*, a film by Paul Gross, and related books on WWI. *Literary Review of Canada*, March 2009, pp. 14-15.

Review of P. A. Draper, *Iliad: Book I: A Commentary* (Michigan 2002) in *Classical Outlook* 81.2 (Winter 2004), p. 38.

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Translation of "Who Gets In?" by Martin Provencher, a review of *Citizenship and Immigration* by Christian Joppke. *Literary Review of Canada*, December 2011, pp. 51-52. From the French.

Translation of "A Radical Shift: Why have Quebec sovereigntists become so keen on Canada?" by Jean-François Simard. *Literary Review of Canada*, April 2010, p. 14.

The Ancient Ocean Blues. Toronto: Tundra, 2008. A Young Adult novel set in 62 BC.

The Roman Conspiracy. Toronto: Tundra, 2005. A Young Adult novel set in 63 BC.

"Athens on the Hill: a Plan for a Neo-Athenian Parliament in Canada." Op-Ed in the *National Post*, 22 September 2005.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

"The Impact of Comparative Evidence from Thai on our View of Ancient Scriptura Continua." Paper delivered at the Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference in London, Ontario (10 May 2012).

"Verse Performance in the Late Antique Classroom." Paper delivered at the Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia (11 May 2011).

"From the Mouths of Polite Youth: Artistic Performance as the Foundation of Citizenship in Ancient Rome." Presentation to the Faculty of Arts and Social Science Crosscurrents Seminar on Children and the Arts at Dalhousie University (Thursday, 3 March 2011).

"Louis Riel, Daniel Paul Schreber, and the nature of madness." Haliburton Society, University of King's College (Tuesday, 22 March 2011).

"Pedagogy and Performance: A Social History of the Homer Scholia." Dept. of Classics, Dalhousie University (12 March 2009).

"Performance Styles and Genre in Dionysius Thrax." Paper at "Hellenistic Poetry and Philodemus," a joint Cincinnati-Stanford-Michigan seminar on Hellenistic literary aesthetics (16 September 2006).

"Bacchylides, Hopkins, and the Compound Epithet: Can Traditional Greek Verbal Culture Be Translated?" Paper delivered in "Translations and Transformations of Classical Texts," a Stanford Humanities Workshop, Dept. of Classics (19 October 2005).

"Aristarchus and the DVD: the Visual Nature of the Homeric (and Tolkienian) Lemma." Paper delivered at Visualising Epic Conference, University of Nottingham, UK (6-8 September 2005).

"Homeric Medium and Homeric Message." Comparative Orality and Literacy Seminar, McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto (27 June 2005).

"Foreboding the Abroad: the Narrative Resonance of Odyssey 9.21-36." UNC Graduate Student Colloquium (9 April 2005)

"The Singing Scholiast: aural and signes de renvoie in two Homer codices." Paper delivered in "Words and Things," a Stanford Humanities Workshop, Dept. of Classics, Stanford (9 March 2004).

INVITED PERFORMANCES OF THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM, MY CANADIAN EPIC POEM

Haliburton Society, University of King's College, 3 April 2013.

Vassar College, 17 October 2011.

Dalhousie University, 11 March 2009.

Furman University, 27 April 2006.

University of Toronto, 29 June 2005.

Stanford University, 9 June 2005.

Rhapsodic Tour 2005 (across Canada, April-June 2005)

Rhapsodic Tour 2000 (across Canada, June-August 2000)

Trying to Maintain a Balance: Teacher, Scholar, and Administrator Wayne Hankey

My former students would be surprised by my teaching at present, not so much by *what*, but by *how*. Having, at one time or another over almost fifty years of teaching, co-ordinated and lectured in each of the six sections of the Foundation Year Programme from Ancient to Contemporary, and taught everything in the Department from second year Greek (my first course) and Euripides to medieval Latin texts and Ancient history, as well as the range of our classes in ancient and medieval philosophy and religion, what I now do is, unsurprisingly, in a somewhat narrower range. However, of the several new classes I have delivered, and taught in, over the last five years, all except my class in Medieval Philosophy and my seminar are delivered primarily by way of PowerPoint lectures.

This was true of a new class five members of the Department directed to the College of Sustainability on “Nature, the Human,

Community and the Divine in the Pre-Modern West”, of my contributions to the class I offered with Drs Treiger and Austin on “Topics in Religious Studies” for the honours students and majors in Religious Studies, it remains true of my class “Meetings between Hellenism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam to the Renaissance”, and of my recently added classes “Philosophy and God” and “Catholicism.” Using this format enables me to mix art and architecture with text, and primary sources with commentary. It also allows dropping books from some classes or reducing the number of them, thus saving students their cost. All the lectures can be downloaded from a Teaching Resources site, so that students can use them when and where they want. This kind of use of recent technology is characteristic of our Department and helps explain its excellent enrolment numbers.

Strong numbers continue for Medieval

Philosophy and my seminar, where careful and critical reading of texts is the heart of the matter. My seminar alternates between post Classical Greek and Latin philosophy. In recent years it has focused on texts and topics from Philo, Plotinus, Proclus, Eriugena, Maimonides, Aquinas, Eckhardt and Cusanus. It was a great privilege to work again through the first forty-five questions of the *Summa theologiae* with fourteen students each Wednesday night for three hours over the last academic year. Philo will recur next Winter after my sabbatical.

In the past five years I have supervised these PhD and MA theses: Benjamin Lee, “The Discovery of *Mens* and the Unity of Self-Cognition in St. Augustine’s *De Trinitate* X,” M.A. 2008; Marie

Michelle Wilband, “*Ingenium Veterum Mirabile Laudet: Eriugena’s Reception of the Aristotelian Categories and Their Role in the Periphyseon*,” M.A. 2008; Seamus O’Neill, “Towards a Restoration of Plato’s Doctrine of Mediation: Platonizing Augustine’s Criticism of ‘The Platonists’,” PhD 2008; Timothy Riggs, “*Eros* as Cosmic and Hierarchical Principle: Christ and the Socratic Hierarch in the Thought of Dionysius the Areopagite,” M.A. 2009; Simon Fortier, “The Proclan Theodicy,” M.A. 2009; Emily Parker, “Swiftly Runs The Word: Philo’s Doctrine of Mediation in *De Vita Mosis*,” M.A. 2010; Peter Bullerwell, “The Distinction of Indistinction and Meister Eckhart’s Way of Life,” M.A. 2012, Evan King, “*Bonum non est in Deo*: on the Indistinction of the One and the Exclusion of the Good in Meister Eckhart”, M.A. (2012). I am supervising three more, on late ancient philosophy, at present.

Administration

I shall not bore you with accounts of the administrative side of my work. However, it is worth noting that it now involves supervising three distinct programmes: Classics, Religious Studies and Arabic (I also teach in two of them), fundraising and public relations (as in this Newsletter), and dealing with the ever-increasing numbers of university bureaucrats whose full-time jobs end up creating work for those of us who must also do the teaching and research for which the university actually exists. As St Anselm says: “Ye have not as yet begun to consider how great is the weight of sin.”

Scholarship

As a scholar, I seem to have reached the stage where, as an established authority in some fields, I am increasingly called upon for chapters in handbooks and other reference sources as well as for focused conferences or established lecture series. I list some of those which I suppose will be most indicative of the character of my recent and present work. It is not by any means a complete list of my publications in the period.



The Archangel Michael balances souls in the Last Judgment of Rogier van der Weyden which presided over the patients of the Hotel Dieu in Beaune.

EDITED VOLUMES

My two most recent books are edited volumes, the first of which published the papers, almost all given by members or graduates of the Department, at a conference I organised at the invitation of the Atlantic Theological Conference.

Changing our Mind on Secularization. The Contemporary Debate about Secular and Sacred in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Proceedings of the 29th Annual Atlantic Theological Conference Charlottetown, June 23rd to 26th 2009, edited Wayne J. Hankey and Nicholas Hatt, both online and printed (Charlottetown: St Peter Publications, 2010).

Perspectives sur le néoplatonisme, International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Actes du colloque de 2006, édité par Martin Achard, Wayne Hankey, Jean-Marc Narbonne, Collection Zétésis (Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 2009).

JOURNAL

I continue to be the Secretary and Editor of *Dionysius*. With the forthcoming volume 31 (2013), I shall have served in these offices for half the published issues.

Dionysius 16 (1998) to 30 (2012). Secretary and Editor.

CHAPTERS AND SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

"Re-evaluating E.R. Dodds' Platonism," *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 103 (2007): 499–541.

"Thomas Aquinas," Chapter 12 in *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Chad Meister and Paul Copan (London and New York: Routledge, 2007), 128–37. Second edition 2012.

"Reading Augustine through Dionysius: Aquinas' correction of one Platonism by another" *Aquinas the Augustinian*, edited by Michael Dauphinais, Barry David, and Matthew Levering (Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 2007), Chapter 10, 243–257. Proceedings of a conference on this subject for invited scholars.

"The Ineffable Immediately Incarnate. Interplay between 20th century French Neoplatonism and Heidegger" for a conference on Heidegger and Theology at The Oxford Centre for Theology and Modern European Thought, Christ Church College, Oxford University, May 24, 2008 online at the Oxford University Research Archive [<http://ora.ouls.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid%3A05c4da8d-d3f0-44c2-b29c-12f8392b00e9/>] Proceedings of a conference on this subject for invited scholars.

"*Recurrrens in te unum*: Neoplatonic Form and Content in Augustine's *Confessions*," *Augustine and Philosophy*, ed. Phillip Cary, John Doody, and Kim Paffenroth, *Augustine in Conversation: Tradition and Innovation*, (Lanham/ Boulder/ New York/ Toronto/ Plymouth, UK: Lexington Books / Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), 127–144. This

chapter originated as an invited public lecture for Seton Hall University in 2008.

"John Scottus Eriugena," (with Lloyd Gerson), *Cambridge History of Late Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy*, edited Lloyd Gerson (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2010), vol. II, 829–840 + bibliography.

"God's Care for Human Individuals: What Neoplatonism gives to a Christian Doctrine of Providence" Keynote Address for "Neoplatonism and its Legacy: the 2009 Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy" Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 24th and 25th 2009, *Quaestiones Disputatae* 2: 1 & 2 (Spring–Fall 2011): 4–36. Proceedings of a conference on Neoplatonism for which I was one of three invited scholars.

"Aquinas, Plato, and Neo-Platonism," for the *Oxford Handbook to Aquinas*, edited Brian Davies & Eleonore Stump (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), Chapter 4, 55–64.

"Visio: the Method of Robert Crouse's Philosophical Theology," a paper for the 2011 Atlantic Theological Conference, Recognizing the Sacred in the Modern Secular, University of King's College, June 26-29, 2011, published in the proceedings, *Recognizing the Sacred in the Modern Secular. How the sacred is to be discovered in today's world*, edited by Susan Harris and Nicholas Hatt (Charlottetown, St Peter Publications, 2012), 115–148. Reprinted in *Dionysius* 30 (2012): 19–40.

"Philosopher-King, Legislator, Mystic, Prophet, Cosmic Priest: the Moses of Philo Judaeus and his Islamic and Christian Successors," *Philosophy and the Abrahamic Religions: Scriptural Hermeneutics and Epistemology*, edited by Torrance Kirby, Rahim Acar and Bilal Bas (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2012), 1–18. Proceedings of a conference on "Philosophy and the Abrahamic Religions: Scriptural Authority and Theories of Knowledge," Istanbul, 9-11 December, 2010, at which many members or graduates of our Department were invited participants.

"Natural Theology in the Patristic Period," Chapter Three of the *Oxford Handbook of Natural Theology*, edited by Russell Re Manning (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 38–56.

"*Memoria, Intellectus, Voluntas*: the Augustinian Centre of Robert Crouse's Scholarly Work," a paper for an Academic Celebration of Professor Robert Darwin Crouse, Dalhousie Department of Classics, October 14 and 15, 2011, *Dionysius* 30 (2012): 41–76.

"Augustine in the 20th century Revival of Neoplatonism in France" for "Augustine and Augustinianism," the School of Philosophy Fall 2006 Lecture Series at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., November 10, 2006 to be published by Catholic University of America Press, in press.

"Pseudo-Denys and Later Platonic Traditions" for *Oxford Handbook of Catholic Theology*, edited by Lewis Ayres and Medi Ann Volpe, Oxford University Press, in press.

UNPUBLISHED INVITED LECTURES

"Aquinas' New Aristotle and the Platonists: *Plotinus unus de magnis... inter commentatores de Aristotilis* (Aquinas, *De unitate intellectus contra Averroistas*)," A lecture for the Medieval Institute of the University of Notre Dame, April 15, 2010. Part of a series of annual lectures delivered at the invitation of the students of the Institute.

In January 2015 I have been invited to deliver one of the distinguished annual Aquinas Lectures at the University of Dallas. My Sabbatical Term this Fall will be substantially devoted to preparing this lecture.

COLLOQUIA

I contributed to three colloquia organised by the students of King's College on my celebrated predecessors.

"James Doull" for 1st A.T.O.M. [Approaches to Origin and Meaning"] Colloquium at King's College on James Doull, February 13th, 2010.

"James Doull and Emil Fackenheim," for Would Hegel Be an Hegelian Today? Philosophy, Religion, and History, 2nd Annual A.T.O.M., Colloquium at King's College on Emil Fackenheim, February 5th, 2011.

"George Grant" for 3rd Annual A.T.O.M., Colloquium at King's College on George Grant, March 3rd, 2012.

SERMONS AND TRIBUTES

Finally I have had the duty and honour of preaching or writing the tributes at the passing or weddings of beloved students and teachers.

"Robert Darwin Crouse," *Dionysius* 28 (2010): 9–14.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life," A Sermon for the Requiem of Dr Jane Veronica Curran, the University of King's College Chapel, August 4, 2011.

"They were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" Sermon for the Solemnization of Matrimony between James Bryson and Kristi Assaly, St George's Round Church, August 20, 2011.

"Behold thy mother!" Sermon for the Requiem of Petronella Neish, St George's Round Church, December 6, 2011.

"Joseph Patrick Atherton, KHS," *Dionysius* 30 (2012): 11–14.

Classics Across Canada: Catching up with three Classics alumni

By Colin Nicolle

Dr Barry Craig

BA First Class Honours Classics 1983; MA Classics 1985
Associate Professor, Philosophy
Vice President Academic & Research
St. Thomas University

It was largely by his own thumb and some kindness that Dr Barry Craig first found himself at Dalhousie. Dr Craig was born in Woodstock, New Brunswick and hadn't given much thought to King's or Dalhousie until an alumnus of the Classics Department told him that he should check it out, so he stuck out his thumb and hitchhiked to Halifax. Following his introduction to King's he decided to enroll in the Foundation Year Programme.

The lectures on Dante given by Dr Robert Crouse made him realize he was in the right place and was destined to study Classics. It was the first months devoted to the Ancient and Medieval worlds that interested him most. "As soon as we read the ancient texts in FYF, I was hooked," he says. "In fact, it was the discussion of the divided line in the Republic that showed me clearly for the first time the difference between opinion and knowledge — and that completely changed the way I looked at the world."

Following his undergraduate degree in Classics, Dr Craig went off to complete a Master's of Divinity, but was convinced by Dr Hankey to return and complete an MA in Classics. "My interests at the time were centred around the Christian philosophical tradition. Thus, courses on Augustine with Colin Starnes, Dante with Robert Crouse, and Aquinas with Wayne Hankey were my focus," he says. Dr Craig would go on to take classes from James Doull, Dennis House, Hillary Armstrong and George Grant—all studies which he says became profoundly important to him later in life. Dr Craig wrote his thesis on Boethius and Aquinas under the direction of Dr Hankey, "and the rigour of that project developed habits of a lifetime."

Dr Craig, who is currently the Academic & Research Vice President at St Thomas University in New Brunswick first arrived there to teach Philosophy, and eventually ended up chairing the Philosophy department. He credits his education in the Classics Department



Dr Barry Craig

for enabling him to reform the Philosophy programme at St Thomas University: "We were able to re-create the curriculum of our Department here to be centred around a serious and historically structured exposure to original philosophical texts, from antiquity to the contemporary period." Dr Craig says that the Dalhousie Classics Department helped him to envision what a truly challenging and exciting liberal arts education could look like, "it convinced me that engagement with difficult and original sources was possible for undergraduates and could inspire students to become rigorous and critical thinkers."

Dr Laurelle LeVert

BA Combined Honours Classics and English 1989; MA Classics 1991
Associate Vice President (Saint John)
University of New Brunswick



Dr Laurelle LeVert

As is often the case for students who study in the Classics department, it isn't always a conscious choice that they describe, but a sort of calling or seduction. This was certainly the case for alumna Dr Laurelle LeVert.

Dr LeVert initially came to King's from Sydney, Nova Scotia, drawn in by both the journalism and the Foundation Year Programmes. "FYF changed my life," she recounts. "The entire experience, from the readings to the lectures, the tutorials, the discussions, the all-nighters, the mind-blowing concepts, all influenced me greatly. It felt a bit like my DNA was being re-written." Dr LeVert's first year had not yet

ended before she transferred out of Journalism (without ever taking a journalism course) and into Classics.

Her transfer to the Classics department eventually led to her completing a combined honours degree in English and Classics. She was also a member of the first ever intensive six-week summer Latin course. "After this, the next logical step seemed to be a Masters in Classics," she says.

Dr LeVert's thesis was on Roman Law, specifically the role of Augury in Roman Politics, which she wrote under the supervision

Dr Lawrin Armstrong

BA First Class Honours Classics 1980; MA Classics 1985

Professor, Post-Classical Latin at the Centre for Medieval Studies

Fellow and Public Orator of Trinity College

University of Toronto

After a PhD in Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto on the controversy about usury and public finance in late medieval Florence, Dr Lawrin Armstrong spent ten years teaching History and Classics at Simon Fraser University. In 2002, he returned to Toronto as professor of post-classical Latin and diplomatics, which he combines with seminars in legal and economic history. For five years he served as Associate and then Acting Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies, was a fellow of the Harvard Villa I Tatti Centre for Renaissance Studies in Florence in 1999-2000, and is currently Fellow and Public Orator of Trinity College. He has just been awarded a four-year SSHRC Insight Grant for a study of civic humanists as the organic intellectuals of early quattrocento Florence.

For Dr Armstrong it was, in part, King's' deep Anglican ties which brought him from rural Nova Scotia to Halifax. While his original intent had been to go through King's and then seek Ordination in the Anglican Church of Canada, he decided in the mid-1980's to pursue an academic career instead. Through the King's Chapel, Dr Armstrong became acquainted with the Classics Department and professors Wayne Hankey and Robert Crouse. "I decided that Classics was a good preparation for Theology," he recalls.

While he was first taken up with the study of ancient philosophy, it was Latin literature on which he would come to focus, especially.

This in turn led him to study Roman law with Dr Peter Kussmaul. Although Dr Armstrong wrote his MA thesis in Classics on "Virgil the Platonist: an examination of some fourth and fifth century commentators on Virgil's *Aeneid*" under the supervision of Dr Robert Crouse, he credits his time studying Roman Law with laying the foundation for his PhD studies at the University of Toronto. "This determined the shape of my later studies, because my doctoral research focused on the medieval revival of Roman law and its influence on classical canon law in the period after 1150," he says.

Dr Armstrong is currently a professor of post-classical Latin at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto but he also researches and teaches legal and economic history. He has held two tenured positions at different Canadian institutions since 1992 and credits Classics with helping him get there. "In both, it was my background in Classics and classical languages that provided the crucial factor in my hiring... it has been critical at every stage," he says. He says the transition to graduate medieval studies was made all the easier by his earlier language study.

Classics' importance for students, Dr Armstrong says, is unique in that it offers them a different way of viewing modernity. "Students are seeking a perspective from which to critique the sterile instrumentalism that seems to dominate so much of our public discussion of tertiary education. Education

is not training; it's about wisdom." He says that this perspective is better gained through disciplines like Classics and Medieval Studies. "Classics matters if only because the study of antiquity is a prolegomenon to the study of the Middle Ages, early modernity, and modernity."

Thinking back to his days in the Department, Dr Armstrong fondly recalls the seminars. "My warmest memories are of the small-group seminars (often of only two or three students along with the teacher) and intense discussions with our professors, all of whom, I now realize, were remarkably dedicated to their profession."



Dr Lawrin Armstrong completed his MA thesis on Platonist readings of *Aeneid VI* under Dr Robert Crouse

Laurelle LeVert continued...

of Dr Peter Kussmaul. Eventually though, the Medieval world sunk its claws into her and she moved into Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, "though having been pretty appalling at Greek sort of helped seal the deal," she remembers.

Dr LeVert credits the rigour of her Classical studies at Dalhousie for helping her develop the stamina and study habits to make it through a PhD. "The interdisciplinary nature of the field and the rigour of studying languages have continued to contribute to my professional

life since. I look at the world through a variety of filters because of the Classics training I received." For the same reasons, LeVert sees Classical study as beneficial to any student. "I believe that when exposed to the level of expectation that being a successful Classicist entails, many students would embrace that challenge wholeheartedly. Critical exposure to philosophy, literature, history, religion and languages that form the foundation upon which western civilisation is built is a pretty wonderful thing to experience."

Our Classics grads
can be found
teaching all
around the world,
as close as in the
Department itself,
and as far away as
Istanbul, Turkey.

Classics in South Africa

Three Platonist Classics students reunited in a most unlikely location!

By Marie-Claire Klassen, Ian Whytock and Carla Whytock (née George)

So it all started when Ian and Carla fell madly in love amidst the dialogues of Plato...

No. It all started when we graduated with Classics degrees, got married and moved to South Africa.

No, that's not right either. It all really started when Marie-Claire's aunt asked her friend to ask her friend to ask her daughter to look out for Marie-Claire when she went to South Africa. That makes sense, right?

Neither Marie-Claire, nor the aunt, nor the friend, nor the mum, nor myself realized at the time that we three (Ian, Carla, and Marie-Claire) all knew each other from the joys of studying Plato with Dr Diamond, the terrors of learning (or in some cases, not learning) Greek, and from the trials and tribulations of the Foundation Year Programme.

Due to Ian's interest in Africa, Carla and Ian chose to do their MA degrees at Stellenbosch University. Carla was writing her MA thesis on Platonism in Scottish children's literature, Ian was working on his MA in South African political history, while Marie-Claire happened to be on an exchange semester at the very same university with the Erasmus Mundus Global Studies Program. The Fates, it would seem, were on our side.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Marie-Claire Klassen, BA with First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics 2011

Since finding each other once again on a rainy day in Stellenbosch, South Africa, we have had more than our fair share of adventures. We have partied with baboons and elephants; drank pinotage beneath the blazing African sun; taken planes, trains, boats and automobiles so we could snorkel in Mozambique; hiked some of the tallest sand dunes in the world on a trip to Namibia; and, in short, fallen in love with Africa.

It might seem like we three have journeyed far away from Athens. However, in spite of the fact that we are on the other side of the world, studying entirely different things, the great Greek philosophers and poets continue to inform our lives and studies. As we work on completing our MA theses, we are still engaged in distinguishing the puppet shadows from the light—that is to say false sophistry from true knowledge, as Plato describes in his analogy of the Cave. And, as our deadlines quickly approach, it has become more tempting than ever to simply plagiarize Socrates and write $\epsilon\nu\ \omicron\iota\delta\alpha\ \sigma\tau\iota\ \omicron\upsilon\delta\epsilon\nu\ \omicron\iota\delta\alpha$.

- Marie-Claire, Carla and Ian

This epistle to Dr Diamond came from three of his former students Marie-Claire Klassen, BA with First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics 2011, Ian Whytock, BA 2010, and Carla Whytock (née George), BA English and Classics 2010, and came with two photos one of Carla, Ian and Marie-Claire in Mozambique and the other of Archbishop Tutu and Marie-Claire. Eli Diamond writes: "Marie-Claire turned down a SSHRC predoctoral scholarship to study with us to do an International Development Studies MA in Vienna. During an exchange term in South Africa, she met up with two other former Classics grads—Ian Whytock and Carla George—who are now married and work in South Africa. All three took my Plato seminar together one year, and they have been spending a lot of time together thinking back fondly on their days with us."



From Dalhousie's Classics Department to a beach in South Africa. L-R: Marie-Claire Klassen, Carla Whytock, Ian Whytock

ALUMNI NOTES

GERJAN ALTENBURG

(First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Classics, 2012) reports from McMaster University, where he is taking a Master's degree in Religious Studies: "Things are going well at McMaster. I thought I would let you know that as part of the prestigious Numata lecture series I was able to see Matthew Kapstein both at McMaster and U of T this week. Dr Kapstein holds the Numata chair for Philosophy and Religion and one of the projects he is involved with currently is reading Indian and Tibetan Buddhist philosophy through a [Pierre] Hadotian (rather than an analytic) lens. . . . I wanted to thank you for the training I received from you at Dalhousie as it allowed me to be one of the few people in the room who seemed to have any idea of what he was talking about." Gerjan has won a Joseph Bombardier Master's Scholarship (valued at \$17,500) for 2013-14 awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to help him to complete his MA at McMaster.

JAMES BRYSON

(Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies, 2005; MA, 2007 with a thesis in Medieval Philosophy supervised by Dr Hankey) took his PhD in Divinity from Cambridge this April. His dissertation, "The Christian Platonism of Thomas Jackson", treats the Neoplatonic sources of Thomas Jackson's philosophical theology. This has become the basis for a stunning two year SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded on the basis of a near perfect score in the competition. James will carry out his research as a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Research on Religion at McGill University which is headed by our Alumnus Dr Torrance Kirby, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at McGill.

WILL COCHRAN

(First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics 2009; MA 2011, with a thesis on the *Statesman*, supervised by Dr Diamond) has been accepted into the PhD programme in Philosophy at Northwestern University in Evanston. His studies will be funded both by

Northwestern University and by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Scholarship which he can hold for up to four years.

IAN CRYSTAL

(Foundation Year Programme, 1984-85, First Class Honours in Classics and German with the University Medal in Classics, 1989, Governor-General's Gold Medal for King's 1989) passed away November 14, 2012. At the time he was Associate Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Louisiana State University. He and his brother Michael came to us from Montreal and his passion for Ancient Philosophy was ignited in the Foundation Year Programme. After Ian's degree with us, he took a PhD at King's College, University of London, in 1996 and joined the faculty at Louisiana State in the same year. His *Self-intellection and its Epistemological Origins in Ancient Greek Thought* (Ashgate 2002) is one of the few treatments of this central philosophical idea in English and is authoritative. He published on Plato and Plotinus, and produced translations of Proclus and Elias. For several years he did extensive editorial work on the series *Ancient Commentators on Aristotle*. A new book on Plato's *Gorgias* was in progress at the time of his passing. Ian was a superb scholar whose contributions to philosophy had only begun when he disappeared from our view. He is sorely missed.



Dr Eli Diamond with fellow alumnus and incoming Classics Chair, Dr Michael Fournier. May 2013.

ELI DIAMOND

(First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies and the University Medal in Contemporary Studies, 1999;

MA 2001), our professor of Ancient Philosophy in succession to Dennis House and James Doull, has been granted Tenure, and Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Just before the decision was made Eli heard from Northwestern University Press that it would publish his manuscript on Aristotle, *Mortal Imitations of Divine Life*. This Winter, Kieva and Eli added a brother, Simcha, for Harlow and Abraham. Eli will be on parental leave during the Fall 2013 term.

Along the same lines, **JACK MITCHELL**, our professor of Roman History, had his appointment renewed this Winter so that he now confidently enters the phase when he will be considered for tenure. He and his wife Luba have given a brother, Silvan, to Caius. Jack will also be on parental leave during the Fall 2013 term.

BRUCE GORDON

(First Class Honours and the University Medal in Medieval Studies 1984; MA 1986 with a thesis "Deus caritas est": Four Latin Sermons of Meister Eckhart" supervised by Dr Crouse) has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Zurich in April 2012. Bruce is Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History Yale Divinity School. His latest book is *Calvin* (Yale University Press, 2009).

RONALD HAFIDSON

(BA First Class Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies with the University Medal in Early Modern Studies, 2004) will be returning from the University of Edinburgh to the King's Foundation Year Programme where he had been a Teaching Fellow. At Edinburgh, Ron has been working on a PhD in Theology under the Supervision of Oliver O'Donovan and Sarah Parvis. Ron's new position at King's is as a Senior Fellow. Ron will bring with him Tom Clement with whom he was united in a Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving on the occasion of their Civil Partnership at Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh on the 11th of May 2013. Ron and Tom will live in the Don's Suite of North Pole Bay in the King's residence,

ALUMNI NOTES

a favourite of married couples. Our own Daniel, (MA 2006) studying international law at McGill, and Michelle Wilband, (MA 2008) teaching at Dawson College, lived in the North Pole Bay Suite while serving as Teaching Fellows in the Foundation Year Programme at King's.

PAIGE HOCHSCHILD (DAVIDSON) from whose MA thesis on Augustine (1996) a book published by Oxford University Press, *Memory in Augustine's Theological Anthropology*, dedicated to Dr Crouse, developed which appeared in the Fall of 2012, now reports that she has moved from the Philosophy Faculty to the Theology Faculty at Mount St Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and into the tenure stream.

MARGUERITE KUSSMAUL (BOURBEAU) (MA 1981 with a thesis on Dante supervised by Dr Crouse) and **DR PETER KUSSMAUL** formerly Professor of Ancient History in the Department welcomed Dr Hankey warmly when he dropped in on them unannounced in Baie Saint Paul in the Charlesvoix just before Christmas. Peter was successfully recovering from surgery under the loving care of Marguerite and her sister Anne-Marie who studied natural science here. Peter and Marguerite are restoring a house in nearby Saint Hilarion and plan to return

to it when Peter no longer needs to be close to a hospital.

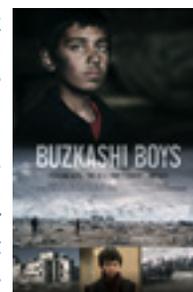
CAROLYN MACDONALD (BA First Class Honours and the University Medal in Classics and the King's Silver Medal 2007; MA 2009) reports she is doing well in the PhD programme at Stanford. "I completed my coursework and comprehensive exams last year, and successfully defended my dissertation prospectus at the beginning of February. My thesis, tentatively titled "Looking like a Greek: Cultures of Viewing in 1st century Rome", is a study of how texts and visual objects construct 'Greek' and 'Roman' ways of appreciating art. I'm also co-organizing a conference—"Cargo Culture: Literary and Material Appropriative Practices in Rome"—scheduled for March 2014.

BENJAMIN MAX MANSON (First Class Honours and a shared University Medal in Classics, 2010; MA, with a thesis on Aristotle's ethics supervised by Dr Diamond, 2012) tells us that he has been re-awarded a Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship (informally known as a "super-SSHRC"), valued at \$35,000 per year for three years to support his study for a DPhil in Ancient Philosophy at Oxford. He had been forced to turn down

the initial offer of the scholarship last year because of the programme in which he had enrolled at Oxford.

CHRISTOPHER MCKELVIE OFM (MA 2010 with a thesis entitled "The Cosmic Christian Vision of Prudentius' Liber Cathemerinon, and the Inculturation of Augustan Vatican Poetry" supervised by Dr O'Brien) has been a seminarian in Ottawa at the Dominican University and was ordained a transitional deacon on June 13th at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Halifax.

ARIEL NASR (First Class Honours in the History of Science and Technology and Classics, 2005) had his film *Buzkashi Boys* nominated for an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film this year.



SEAMUS O'NEILL (PhD, 2009) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Memorial University, and Coordinator of the Medieval Studies Programme there. He reports that his education with us is

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

Snapshots from Classics Graduate Breakfast and Lunch

A New Tradition

Photo credit: Katherine Manhire

...serving him well in his teaching and that he and his wife have started to build a family. Seamus writes: "The baby and the family are doing very well, and now that the semester is over I have been able to spend a lot more time at home with the family. She's growing very quickly, and it's nice to be around to be a part of everything. Our daughter's name is Anne Cynthia and she was born on February 18th at 10:54 am and weighed 6 lbs, 13 oz. My wife's name is Catherine. We had her baptised in our parish, St. Patrick's in St. John's, on Saturday, April 20th. I've attached a picture of the baptism." (below)



MATTHEW (MATT) ROBINSON

(First Class Honours in Classics, 2000, Killam Scholar and MA 2002, with a thesis on Augustine's treatment of time) former Foundation Year Programme Teaching Fellow has successfully defended his PhD dissertation in Philosophy at Boston College and is now teaching Medieval Philosophy at St Thomas University, Fredericton. He will return to King's to deliver the lecture on Aquinas in the Foundation Year Programme and to the Department to give a seminar.

IAN ROBSON

(Honours Classics, 2007) has an appointment at BlackBerry in Kitchener. Ian went on from his studies with us to a Masters degree in Library and Information Science at the Robert Gordon University in Scotland. He writes: "My wife gave birth to our first child, Henry Joseph Robson, at the end of March.

Mother and baby are doing quite well. Just a week before that, I was promoted to the position of Corporate Librarian at BlackBerry. All in all, 2013 has started out rather well!"

SAMUEL SUTHERLAND (First Class Honours in Classics 2009; MA with a thesis on the *Philebus* supervised by Dr Diamond) has been accepted to study law at Osgoode Hall, Toronto

GARY THORNE (MA, Classics, 1983), Chaplain to the University, adjunct professor in the Department, teaching our class on "Orthodoxy and Eastern Christianity", has just retired as Military Chaplain after more than twenty-four years of service. Dr Thorne has a BA from Acadia University (1978), BA and MA from Dalhousie (1981, 1983), a M. Div. from the Atlantic School of Theology (1981), and a PhD in Byzantine theology from Durham University (2003). He is an honorary doctor of King's College and the now defunct College of Emmanuel and St Chad. Fr Thorne closed his career as a Military Chaplain by celebrating a Requiem Mass in the King's College Chapel for all those killed in action, whether friend or foe, during his ministry.
Dona Eis Requiem.



Above L-R: Jonni Turner (First Class Honours, Religious Studies and German); Dr Thorne; King's President Dr George Cooper; Dean Nicholas Hatt (Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, 2003), and current graduate student in the Department of Classics.

At right. Top to bottom: Kaitlyn Boulding and family; Kristan Newell and her brother; Talia Isaacson with grandmother and mother; Sebastian Ennis (First Class Honours in Contemporary Studies and Classics) from Ontario and Jacob Glover (First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies) from New York, who is returning as a graduate student; Christian Sears from Cape Sable Island and Dr Diamond re-enact Raphael's School of Athens with Christian as Aristotle and Dr Diamond as Plato.





GRATIAS VOBIS AGIMUS

Your Generous Support

Many of the activities of our Department, including this Newsletter, depend upon the generous support of our friends, alumni, and faculty members. Very recent additions to our programme like the Pythian Games with their prizes, the Breakfast on Encaenia Day for our King's graduates and Lunch for our Dalhousie ones, and our literature publicising our classes are in urgent need of funding. We have increased our visiting lectures at a time when the university is providing less support for them and more and more of our students turn to us when they travel to a conference to deliver a paper or participate in a panel. *Dionysius* and *Pseudo-Dionysius* are supported entirely from the gifts of benefactors. Our Departmental Library also depends on gifts—at present we would like to add a collection of classics in Arabic with translations. Please think of making the Department and its programmes in Classics, Religious Studies and Arabic part of your annual charitable giving.

A gift can be made online <https://alumniapps.dal.ca/giving/giving.php> or by post. Always remember to specify the Department and the programme or activity in it you wish to support.

Classics News is published periodically by the Department of Classics at Dalhousie University in cooperation with FASS Alumni Relations, Dalhousie University.

Editors: Dr Wayne Hankey,
Ms Krista Armstrong

Contributors: Dr Eli Diamond
Dr Rodica Firanescu
Dr Michael Fournier
Dr Wayne Hankey
Mr Evan King
Ms Marie-Claire Klassen
Dr Jack Mitchell
Mr Colin Nicolle
Ms Carla Whytock
Mr Ian Whytock

Design: Ms Krista Armstrong
Ms Kat Manhire

FASS Alumni Relations:
Krista Armstrong, 902.494.6288
krista.armstrong@dal.ca

FASS Director of Development:
Ben McIsaac, 902.494.1790
ben.mcisaac@dal.ca

Stay Connected

Department of Classics

Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building
Room 1172, 6135 University Avenue
PO Box 15000, Halifax NS B3H 4R2
902.494.3468 | claswww@dal.ca | www.dal.ca/classics

Visit www.alumniandfriends.dal.ca to update your contact information and stay connected with Dalhousie University

For information on events within the Faculty or to plan a reunion, visit www.dal.ca/fass or email fassalum@dal.ca