

Our Distinguished Graduates

Pseudo-Dionysius

A Week of Philosophy & Theology Next June: "Wisdom Belongs to God" & "God Everyday and Everywhere"

Classics and Prison: The Liber Prison Education Alliance

Alumni & Faculty Notes

THREE GRADUATING MEDALS

Twelve Classics Degrees, Five with First Class Honours

& Five Classics Minors

Eleven Religious Studies Degrees, Three with First Class Honours

Five Minors Requiring Arabic

TORIN VIGERSTAD of Halifax, a graduate of the King's Foundation Year Programme, was awarded the **University Medal in Classics** for the best First Class Honours degree. His fellow First Class Honours graduates were **MICHELA D'ENTREMONT** from Canmore, Alberta, **ZOE VATTER**, from Grand Prairie, Alberta, **KATHRYN MIDDLETON**, from Toronto, and **LAUREN VANDERDEEN**, from Vancouver. Kathryn took joint Honours in Classics and Early Modern Studies. Lauren received First Class Honours in History and Classics and took the **University Medal in History**. She will begin a graduate degree in the Department next September after studying Greek at the University of Bologna this Summer. She was joined by her parents at the Classics Coffee Party for graduates and their friends before Convocation on May 31st. In 2015 Torin was presented with the Nicole Knox Award by the Department for his linguistic excellence and in the same year he stood First Place nationally in Senior Latin and Third Place in Senior Greek in the annual Sight-reading competitions run by the Canadian Classics Association.

JOHN LAST, who began in the Foundation Year Programme as a journalism student, became a star Arabist here, then studied for a year at Bogazici University, Turkey, graduated with First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Early Modern Studies and was awarded the **University Medal in Religious Studies**. His fellow honours graduates were **PHILIPPE MESLY** of Georgetown, Ontario, who took First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Philosophy, **KARIS TEES**, from Dundas, Ontario, with First Class Honours in Contemporary Studies and Religious Studies, and **SOPHIE KUIJPER DICKSON**, of Ottawa, also with Honours in Contemporary Studies and Religious Studies. All of our honours graduates in Religious Studies came to us from the King's Foundation Year Programme. As you see, our graduates combined a wide range of subjects with Religious Studies, others were French, History and Creative Writing. **KATHRYN MCCLUSKEY** from Exton, Pennsylvania, combined it with Biology in a Bachelor of Science.

MINORS in Classics and Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic Studies are new programmes at Dalhousie and it is good to see so many students making them part of their degrees. Among the **Ten** who graduated with minors from our Department this May we note **MONA BARGHOUT** from Halifax, who combined Arabic Studies with a Double Major in Religious Studies and History, and BSc graduate **NADIRA AL-NASLEH** from Lod City, Palestine, who majored in Microbiology & Immunology, minored in Arabic Studies, frequented our classes in Religious Studies, and who brought her family to celebrate with her at the Classics Coffee Party before Convocation on May 31st.

PSEUDO-DIONYSIUS

our student journal

PSEUDO-DIONYSIUS VOL 18 (2016) is now online, edited by two students from Western Canada entering our graduate programme this September, Justin Wollf and Matthew Vanderkwaak. The contents reflect the range of our classes, of our students' interests, and their excellent work.

KEITH KAMPEN On the Nature and Necessity of Odysseus' Deception in *Philoctetes*

HARRINGTON CRITCHLEY Nature, Logic, and Freedom in Eriugena's *Periphyseon*

MADISON LAW-BONVIE Imperial Rule in Tacitus' *Agricola* and Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Beyond Vietnam*

ALLISON GRAHAM Epicureanism and Cynicism in Lucian

WILLIAM C. CONEY Mulled Thoughts: *Mullus* and *Mugilis* in Pliny's *Naturalis Historiae* and the *De Re Conquinaria* of 'Apicius'

CRISTALLE WATSON 'A Pestilent Knave from Macedonia': Narratives of Culture and Ethnicity in Demosthenes' Third Philippic

MEG SHIELDS You Fight Like a Girl: Medea, Theano II and Diverging Articulations of the Heroic Code

BENJAMIN VON BREDOW The Superbia of the Platonists in St. Augustine's *Confessions*

JUSTIN WOLFF 'Leading the Way to the Beatific Fatherland!' Platonic Ascents, *Capax Dei*, and the Sceptical Self in Augustine's *Confessions*

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[Pseudo-Dionysius - Dalhousie University](http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/classics/journals/pseudo-dionysius.html)

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'Quid omnium agere te maxime iuvat, Pu?' 'Quod -' dixit Pu, 'quod me maxime iuvat -' et ei intermittendum erat ut cogitaret.'... 'Me quoque hoc iuvat,' dixit ...

**A WEEK OF PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY
NEXT JUNE
"WISDOM BELONGS TO GOD" & "GOD EVERYDAY AND
EVERYWHERE"
YOU ARE INVITED**

From Sunday June 18th, 2017 to June 24th, two conferences will be held back to back in Halifax: "Wisdom Belongs to God", Dr Hankey's Retirement Colloquium, will be succeeded on Wednesday the 21st by the 37th annual Atlantic Theological Conference exploring the metaphysical and theological ground of "God Everyday and Everywhere", an idea recently treated by Professor Hankey. Dr Peter O'Brien and Dr Eli Diamond are organizing the Colloquium. At present they are settling on the guest speakers.

All are invited to this week of philosophy, literary study and theology. Mark your diaries now. Details will go out in the next issue of this Newsbulletin.

This July Oxford University and the University of Athens are bringing Dr Hankey to Oxford to participate in the "International workshop *Corpus dionysiacum areopagiticum: Ancient and modern readers*". His paper is entitled "The Concord of Aristotle, Proclus, the *Liber de Causis* & St Dionysius in St Thomas Aquinas, Student of St Albertus Magnus."

**CLASSICS & PRISON
THE LIBER PRISON EDUCATION ALLIANCE**

HALIFAX HUMANITIES was started 11 years ago by, among others, the REV'D DR GARY THORNE & DR ANGUS JOHNSTON, both graduates of the Department and teachers in it (MA 1983 & PhD 1985, respectively). This free, year-long humanities course for Haligonians living on low incomes has been an important part of the work of the Dalhousie Classics Department ever since. Professors, students and alumni of the Department have volunteered for HH 101 in all kinds of capacities: as teachers, section coordinators, board members, student assistants, writing tutors, and fundraisers. These volunteers share the conviction that the transformative power of a humanities education should not be the exclusive privilege of certain economic and social classes, and that the study of great texts should not and need not be confined within the walls of the university.

The list of DALHOUSIE CLASSICISTS who have taught in the programme is long. Among professors: DR COLIN STARNES, DR ANGUS JOHNSTON, DR GARY MCGONIGALL, DR PETER O'BRIEN, and DR ELI DIAMOND, as well as adjunct faculty members DR NEIL ROBERTSON, DR GARY THORNE & the REV'D DR TOM CURRAN, have all taught regularly. Among our Classics graduates and undergraduate alumni: DR ROBERTA BARKER, DR VERNON PROVENCAL, PROF. KIM KIERANS, the REV'D NICHOLAS HATT, DR RON HAFLIDSON, DAVID PUXLEY, HARRY CRITCHLEY have all taught in the programme. BEN FRENKEN, after completing his MA with us in 2007 and going on to study law at Dalhousie, helped organize what has become the longest standing and most successful fundraising activity for Halifax Humanities, the **Weldon literary moot**, where characters from important works of fiction are put on trial in hilarious and memorable performances. The only fundraising event that has been more successful was a spectacularly attended 24 hour live reading of the *Odyssey*, in its entirety!

One wonderful effect of this close relation between the Classics Department and Halifax Humanities is that several graduates of the HH 101 have gone on to take classes in the Department and have become valued members of our intellectual community. For instance, Shari Clarke has now taken three years of Latin and two years of Greek (among many other classes), and recently volunteered her prodigious talents as a violinist at a reception celebrating with recent graduates and their families.

THE LIBER PRISON EDUCATION ALLIANCE THIS YEAR, ON THE INITIATIVE OF HARRY CRITCHLEY, AN OFFSHOOT OF HALIFAX HUMANITIES WAS BORN, EXTENDING THE TEACHING OF HUMANITIES INTO THE NOVA SCOTIA PRISON SYSTEM. Harry helped initiate and organize Burnside Humanities, running Humanities classes which met once a week for 1.5 hours over several weeks at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Dartmouth. Because of his training in Classics and his connections to Classics professors and students (as well as the suitability of the material), Harry organized three classes, all focused on Classical themes and texts. The classes were a stunning success, a memorable and meaningful experience for teachers and students alike.

In the first class in the Fall, "Ancient Conceptions of Justice", TAMARA WATSON, KAITLYN BOULDING, JACOB GLOVER, DR MATTHEW FURLONG & DR ELI DIAMOND taught Sophocles' *Ajax* and *Philoctetes*, as well as Plato's *Laches*, *Apology*, and *Crito*. This class was such a success that two more classes were introduced in the Winter. DR PETER O'BRIEN and his Mythology Teaching Assistants (ALEXANDER EDWARDS, TANISHA CHAKMA, KEVIN WALKER & KEITH KAMPEN) taught an entire class devoted to Homer's *Odyssey*. A class called "Friendship in the Ancient World" studied selections from the *Iliad* (KAITLYN BOULDING & TANISHA CHAKMA), Plato's *Lysis* and *Republic* Book I (AARON SHENKMAN & HARRY CRITCHLEY), and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (ELI DIAMOND). On top of these three classes, an Introduction to Creative Writing class was also offered, taught by KAITLYN BOULDING, BETHANY HINDMARSH & MARY-DAN JOHNSTON. At the end of the academic year, in recognition of the tremendous success of these two programmes, HARRY AND MARY LU REDDEN, the long-time director of Halifax Humanities, were invited to give the final lecture to the Foundation Year Programme class at King's. They rose to the occasion with profound and moving reflections on their work and experiences.

These classes worked so well that the programme is in the process of being expanded beyond the Classics Department. As Harry moves away from Halifax to start a PhD in Philosophy at Boston College, he is leaving behind him an administrative structure that will allow the programme to continue and expand in his absence. Renamed the “**LIBER PRISON EDUCATION ALLIANCE**”, the programme is now making ties with various other Departments: English, Contemporary Studies, Political Science, Gender & Women’s Studies, and Philosophy. Yet even with this expansion, the tie with Dalhousie Classics will continue to remain strong, and the Classics Department will be responsible for organizing another class next year.

For more information on Halifax Humanities, please visit the website: <http://www.halifaxhumanitiesIOI.ca>. An anthology of writings by teachers and students of Halifax Humanities (*Each Book a Drum*) was published last year as a fundraiser on the 10th anniversary of the programme, and is available for sale at Bookmark, King’s College Bookstore & [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca). For information about the Liber Prison Education Alliance, email messages can be sent to liberpea@gmail.com.

(*Eli Diamond wrote this for us.*)

ALUMNI & FACULTY NOTES

HARRINGTON CRITCHLEY (First Class Honours in Religious Studies and Contemporary Studies with the University Medal in Contemporary Studies, 2015) writes “Beginning in Fall 2016, I shall start a PhD in Philosophy at Boston College. Keeping in mind the excellent (and oft-repeated) advice of Dr Wayne Hankey, I plan to continue to work away at improving my Greek, and also hope to learn to read manuscripts under Dr Stephen Brown in the Theology department. At that time, I shall also begin working as a part-time instructor for the Boston University Prison Education Program, one of the largest and oldest correctional post-secondary education programs in the United States.”

JACOB GLOVER (First Class Honours in Classics and Contemporary Studies, MA 2015) writes “I shall be attending law school at Dal. The first year is full of mandatory courses, but I am interested in eventually studying privacy, free expression, and labour law. I also hope to be involved as much as possible with the Liber Prison Education Alliance as well as the Legal Aid Clinic. I will continue working on *Dionysius* (for which Jacob handles the production) and continue serving as a member of the board for the Nova Scotia Weightlifting Association. I enjoyed every second of my work as a Classics student both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student. The content we study is rewarding and intuitively interesting. As I think back now, it strikes me that the work never felt like a means to an end. Studying Classics, at Dalhousie and with our professors, was an end in itself.

DR PETER O'BRIEN writes “Eli Diamond gave a paper in French at the Classical Association of Canada annual meeting in Quebec City: “*Le proton philon: le bien ou le soi?*” I gave one on Latin poetry I've dredged up in the King's archives an extension of what I wrote for our 225/70 celebration: “*Nec, Nate, It I Comes Ire Recuso: Classical Formation And Latin Verse in 19th Century Nova Scotia.*”

Aaron Shenkman reports that his conference paper in Maine last month ‘was just chosen to be a part of *Epoché* this year, which is super exciting!’

The first issue of *Mouseion*, of which I've become Joint General Editor, appeared in March. On June 13th I'm giving a talk at the 36th annual Atlantic Theological Conference in Sackville NB “Contemporary Companies outside the Civitas Dei: Augustine's Pagan Adversaries” to which Tamara Watson is responding.”

OTHER ALUMNI AND STUDENTS PRESENTING AT THE 36TH ATLANTIC THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE IN SACKVILLE NB JUNE 12TH TO 15TH “The Church Visible and Invisible: The Blessed Company of all Faithful People”: Daniel Watson & Benjamin Lee, Dr Torrance Kirby & Peter Bullerwell, Dr Roberta Barker & the Rev'd Dr Thomas Curran. See <http://www.stpeter.org/conf.htm>.

DR ELI DIAMOND is presenting a paper in early July in Brasilia to the annual meeting of the International Plato Society entitled: "Pythagorean Mathematics, Platonic Dialectic, and the Incompleteness of the Second Sailing in Plato's *Phaedo*" and will present "The Philosophical Structure of Aristotle's History of Psychology in Aristotle's *De Anima* Alpha" in Milan at an international conference celebrating the 2400th anniversary of Aristotle's birth, November 9th to 13th. He is just completing a new edition for Broadview Press of Plato's *Symposium*, writing an introduction and commentary, and providing translations of other works from Plato's time which help shed light on the dialogue. This will accompany a new translation of *Symposium* by James Redfield of University of Chicago.

DR CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN reports that during his sabbatical just ending he spent 2 months in Berlin researching at the Staatsbibliothek and an intensive workshop on the Rgveda at Humboldt University. In April he read a paper at the Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions in Cardiff. "My monograph is on track for my self-imposed August deadline to submit for review. The title is *Pradyumna: Lover, Magician and Scion of the Avatara*; this work will conclude my SSHRC project (2011-2014). A book chapter for a volume on *Divinization in South Asia* is now under review and may appear as early as 2017." This Fall Chris will add Sanskrit to his teaching.