

DEPARTMENT OF Classics

Newsletter 2017/2018



Welcome

2017 proved to be another successful year for the Classics department. Particularly pleasing was the news that the department ranks as one of the top-performing teaching departments in the university. According to the Student Opinion Survey conducted by the university in 2016, Classics scored better across most of the teaching performance criteria than the other twenty programmes and departments included in the analysis. This result is welcome recognition of the tremendous energy, flair and enthusiasm that the staff in the department consistently put into their lectures – whether these be large classes on mythology and history, or just a handful of students studying Greek and Latin.

Here are a few of the positive comments made by students who took part in the survey:

“Every teacher that I had in the Classics department was fantastic. I cannot praise them enough and they really increased my interest in the subject.”

“Academic staff are highly approachable and relatable, creating a relaxed class environment conducive towards better learning and facilitating ongoing learning.”

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“[The teaching staff] all bring their own unique and engaging personalities to the classroom. I'm proud to say that I have never had a 'bad' or uninteresting lecturer in the Classics Department.”

We are also pleased to be hosting Prof. Christopher Smith (University of St Andrews) as a De Carle Distinguished Lecturer in 2018. He will be giving a series of six lectures on the Rome's early regal period in May and June. Keep an eye on our Department website and Facebook page for dates, times, and topics.

Jon Hall (HoD)

Department website:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/classics>

Otago Classics on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OtagoClassics>



Department Christmas Lunch 2017

Back: Dan Osland, Sean McConnell, Jon Hall, Gwynnaeth McIntyre, John Garthwaite
Front: Shona Paterson, Charlotte Dunn, Katherine Hall, Arlene Allan
Absent: Pat Wheatley

A Year in Review

Arlene Allan

Arlene has once more been dividing her time across four projects over the past year. Her editorial work with Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides (Monash) has continued with five more authors added to the volume entitled, *Herakles Inside and Outside the Church: From the First Apologists to the End of the Quattrocento*, which will be the first volume in an edited series on the Reception of Herakles/Hercules. The second project was the completion of her manuscript for the book on Hermes for the Routledge series, *Gods and Heroes of the Ancient World*, anticipated to be available by late spring 2018. She also wrote two papers which were presented at separate conferences this year: 'Theory of Mind and Sophokles' *Antigone*' presented at the Drama V conference in Vancouver, Canada in July and earlier for ASCS in Wellington in February, "If I could turn back time": Further Thoughts on Phaedra's Delirium in Euripides' *Hippolytus* (208-227).'

Jon Hall

In 2017, Jon made good progress on his book on face-to-face aristocratic manners in ancient Rome, and was fortunate enough to attend a conference in Madrid that brought together leading scholars of Greek and Roman politeness. He completed a journal article on one facet of this project (entitled "Seneca's *De Beneficiis* and Nonverbal Politeness in Ancient Rome"), and is completing another ("Politeness and banter in Varro's *De Re Rustica*"). He plans to produce draft chapters for the book during his Research and Study Leave in semester two, 2018.

Sean McConnell

In 2017 Sean was promoted to Senior Lecturer, effective February 2018. During his Research Leave in Semester one, he visited Dartmouth College and the University of Pittsburgh in the USA, where he delivered research papers on utopian elements in Cicero's political thought. He also completed chapters for *Brill's Companion to the Reception of Socrates* and *The Cambridge Companion to Cicero's Philosophical Works*, and an article on love in Lucretius that will appear in the 2018 volume of *Antichthon*.



Sean and Dan celebrate their promotions to Senior Lecturer

Gwynaeth McIntyre

Gwynaeth has spent 2017 working through several projects in various stages of completion. She has two articles which will appear in 2018, one examining Livy's portrayal of Camillus in the *Journal of Ancient History* and one analysing Maxentius' use of Castor and Pollux on his coinage in *Antichthon*. She is continuing her work on the edited volume on Anna Perenna and has given two research talks related to her Suetonius and Invective project. She successfully applied for UORG funding (with Dan Osland) to digitise and study the Roman coin collection at the Otago Museum and a University Teaching Development Grant to incorporate the digital images of those coins into the course work for her 300/400 level paper on the Julio-Claudian emperors. Finally, she is honoured to have been named Supervisor of the Year (Humanities Division) and New Supervisor of the Year (University).



Dan Osland

In 2017 Dan published two outputs derived from the 2016 excavation he conducted in Mérida, Spain – the first a Technical Report for the local archaeological authority (Consortio de Mérida) and the second a monographic excavation report for the *University of Otago Studies in Archaeology* series published by the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology. He also published an article on late Roman and Visigothic period housing in the *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*. He continues to make headway on a book manuscript dealing with the evolution of urban space in Late Antiquity, and his recent promotion to Senior Lecturer should provide the breathing space needed to finalise this project.

Pat Wheatley

2017 proved to be an eventful year for Associate Professor Pat Wheatley. After a busy teaching period in first semester, Pat was granted Research Leave from July onwards in order to complete the manuscript for his long-term book project entitled *Demetrius the Besieger*, expected to appear with Oxford University Press later in 2018. For his study leave, Pat went on his own *Anabasis* and travelled extensively from October to December, meeting with international colleagues and collaborators, and giving seminars and invited talks in four countries (USA, Canada, UK, and Ireland). After meeting with his co-editor of the *Ancient History Bulletin*, Professor Tim Howe at St. Olafs College in Minnesota, and giving a guest lecture on the Alexander Mosaic, Pat headed north to Canada to meet up with his former PhD student, Dr. John Walsh (University of Guelph) and visit the Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies. Across the Atlantic, Pat took up his post as Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Exeter and gave two papers derived from his current projects. He was also invited to speak at Trinity College in Dublin.

Pat has relished the chance to get his teeth into some sustained research, to reconnect with his extensive international network of colleagues, and to publicise Otago's postgraduate programme. He is also especially pleased and proud of two of his PhD students, Charlotte Dunn and Bill Richardson, who completed their studies in 2017.



Pat joins in with the student re-enactment of Thermopylae at the University of Guelph (Guelphmopylae)

Graduate News

Kara Braithwaite-Westoby



Kara has been making progress on his thesis on the great Theban statesman and general, Epameinondas (c. 418-362 BC), while also expanding his research into other contemporary topics.

...ing a substantial study on a number of battles that occurred at the small Peloponnesian *polis* of Phlius, on which he presented two separate papers at the conferences ASCS 38 in Wellington and *Amphorae* XI in Sydney. He is now currently delving into some early Macedonian history with a paper so far entitled 'Macedon under the Theban hegemony 369-365 BC', which will be presented this year at a conference at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

Joel Gordon



Joel Gordon has continued working on his PhD thesis exploring underworld topography and is in the final stages of his section on *Odyssey* 11. Having been awarded the 'Claude McCarthy Fellowship', Joel spent several weeks during May-June in the U.K. presenting and attending various conferences.

He is currently working on a book chapter which resulted from this trip. Joel also partook in the Classics Department's annual exchange programme with the University of Queensland. His reception interests have continued, working as part of the Australasian contingent of the international 'Our Mythical Childhood' project under Dr. Elizabeth Hale. In other news, Joel and his wife are expecting their first child in a few short months and so Joel will be continuing in a part time capacity as he takes up a position within the Graduate Research School.

Honours Dissertations Completed in 2017

- John Matthews "The Eulogy of Augustus in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*"
- Lila Knight "Expressions of Caligula's Relationship with the Roman Army on Imperial Coinage"
- Tom Brown "Son, Citizen, Saviour: Examining the Augustan Persona through Time and Author"
- Mallory Heslop "Dying with Artemis: Greek women's lives, liminality, and encounters with death"
- Tabitha Moe "Minoan Prowess"



Congratulations to all our Honours students.
Wishing you all the best in your future endeavours.

Recently Submitted

Campbell Calverley



After taking a few more months to finalize his research, Campbell submitted his MA in Classics in September of 2017, which focused on the rhetoric of incest and the influence of Roman rhetorical education. He argues that the depiction of Agrippina the Younger in the narrative of Tacitus' *Annales* is influenced by Roman literary and declamatory stereotypes of mothers and powerful women, particularly those exemplified in the work of Seneca the Younger. This year, he presented parts of his thesis at Amphorae, the Otago Graduate Research School conference, and at ASCS.

During his MA research, Campbell also wrote for the *Scribbler* and *Critic* magazines and acted as the President of the Otago University Literary Society. He hopes to begin his PhD after spending a year or two improving his Latin and Greek.

Bill Richardson

This year, Bill successfully submitted his PhD thesis, entitled *Identity, Ideology, and Policy: Panhellenism and the Last Acts of Philip II*, which examined the development of political and philosophical influences upon Philip's conquest of Greece and subsequent planned invasion of the Persian Empire. He has also passed his oral defence and has submitted the hard-bound copies to the library. He will be graduating in May, 2018.

In addition, he received the Postgraduate Publishing Bursary, with which he produced an article on the structure and execution of the executive positions of the League of Corinth, which is currently under review at *Classical Quarterly*. He is planning to attend a conference in May at the University of Alberta on Macedonian monarchy and power, and has been planning some longer term projects, including research on Justin's account of the life of Philip. Finally, he is returning home to Tasmania for three weeks to get married in February.



Graduation December 2017

Lila Knight, BA(Hons); Tom Brown, BA(Hons); Dr. Gwynnaeth McIntyre; Tania MacKay, BA; Dr. Arlene Allan; Dr. Sean McConnell; Prof. Jon Hall; Dr. Dan Osland

Outreach and Classics in the Community

School Quizzes

In August, the Classical Association in conjunction with the Department of Classics staged the annual Classical Studies quizzes for local schools. The Senior Quiz was held on 15 August and had nine teams from three schools: Columba, Otago Girls' High School, and Otago Boys' High School. There was a three way tie for first which was decided in a tie breaker. Ultimately, the victors were Zeus Side Chicks from Columba College (featuring Lucy Beres, Zarah Read, Katie Morris, and Alice German), with Ranunculus (Otago Girls'; Renee Harris, Lydia McMillan, and Judith Thiel) and Crepitus (Otago Girls'; Kaila Jowsey, Dallas Bowler, Anna Dawes, and Renée Mullins) close behind. Following on last year's success with the Latin Reading Competition, we had two entrants this year both from Otago Girls' (Judith Thiel, Year 11 and Renée Mullins, Year 12).



The Junior Quiz was held on 22 August and involved eight teams from four schools: Logan Park, Columba, Otago Girls' High School, and first time entrants, Kings. Caesar Salad on a Plato from Columba (Abby Bowmar, Joanna Liu, Lara Seaton, Isobel Fraser) took first place with Heradactyls also from Columba close behind (Lauren Buttery, Sophie Baron, Hannah Clarke, Evie Ballantyne).

Thanks are due to George Morris for helping out with refreshments and communicating with the schools (as well as serving as Treasurer of the Classical Association). These events could never come off without a high level of volunteerism from the Classics community, and so special thanks for assistance on the nights of the quizzes are due to a whole host of current students and tutors in the Department of Classics: Joel Gordon, Bill Richardson, Nathan Watson, Kiri Lenagh-Glue, Gaby Magnuson, and Lydie Leurquin. Shona Paterson, the Administrator of the Classics Department, and Jon Hall, Head of Classics, have provided essential administrative help in coordinating the various events.

There was a tie for third between Cameleopardus from Logan Park (Ella Brittenden, Charis Bell, Sophie Davison, and Isabelle McMillan) and Nero to Hero from Otago Girls' (Katie Wong, Madeleine Gray, Maia Dean, Ella Rees).



The Intermediate Quiz was held concurrently with the Junior Quiz. Six teams in total competed from Columba College and Tahuna Normal Intermediate School. Easy as Π from Tahuna were victors (Liam Scott, Henare Te Morenga-Wakelin, Alex Moore, and Emily Gray), and the Senators from Tahuna (Emma Tasker, Sophie Smith, Dylan Hawker, Jilles Hoedemaker) and Allegra and the Argonauts also from Tahuna (Charlotte Campbell, Louisa Franklyn, Allegra Huband-Watson, and Lucy Mills) tied for 2nd.



Hands-On at Otago



In January, we once again welcomed a group of students to “plan games for Caesar” as part of the University’s *Hands-On at Otago* programme. Divided into the Julii and the Julio-Claudians the students had to compete to organize the various components of an ancient spectacle. Highlights this year included battle hippos for the naval battles, burning scenery for the theatrical event, a multi-stage beast hunt (complete with both land and sea animals), and some fantastic graffiti to advertise their events.

Caesar came back to check on the teams’ progress and rewarded the students with some much envied tokens of his appreciation (pins of replica Julius Caesar coins to be worn on their school uniforms).

Special thanks to Gwynaeth McIntyre, Arlene Allan, Dan Osland, Sean McConnell, Bill Richardson, Charlotte Dunn, Serena Gold, and Shona Paterson for all their help with the week’s festivities and to Jon Hall who once again expertly played the part of Julius Caesar!

Dan takes the students on a tour of campus to help them visualise space and discuss how you might plan the route for a triumphal procession.



Classical Association of Otago

2017 started off early (and with a bang) in the first week of classes with a lecture entitled “From Pirate Haven to Roman Capital: Antiochia ad Cragum in Rough Cilicia” by Timothy Howe (St. Olaf) in the first week of classes (2 March). Andrew Stewart (Berkeley) returned to Otago to give a talk “Go tell the Spartans...’: War and the Warrior in Archaic and Early Classical Greek Art.” We were delighted to host Andrew Wallace Hadrill (Cambridge and former director of the British School at Rome), who gave a lecture to our largest ever crowd (95 people) on “ ‘What did the Roman City do for us?’ From Rome to Dunedin”. Semester 1 ended with a talk by Evangelina Anagnostou-Laoutides (Monash) entitled “Gardens and power in the Ancient Near East and Greece.

We began Semester 2 with a talk by our very own Dan Osland (27 July), entitled “Augustus, Otago, and the Foundations of a Roman Colony: Otago

Excavations in Mérida, Spain.” After our break in August for the quizzes, we then resumed for two final events, a lecture by Lisa Bailey (Auckland) entitled “Revolting Nuns: Space and Authority in Late Antique Poitiers (an event supported by a generous grant from the University of Otago Continuing Education Fund) and another by Elizabeth Hale (University of New England, and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Classics, University of Otago) entitled “Our Mythical Childhood: Classical Antiquity in Contemporary Children’s Culture.”?”

For more information about the Classical Association of Otago and our 2018 programme, please email the secretary, Sean McConnell (sean.mcconnell@otago.ac.nz) and check for notices of upcoming lectures on the Department of Classics Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/OtagoClassics>.

An Alumna Profile



My name is Kaitlyn (Kaity) Wylie. I graduated from Otago University in 2013 with a BA in History and Classics, and a BA(Hons) in Classics. I became enthused by the idea of Classics when I was about 10 years old, while being mesmerized by a BBC or Prime (I can't quite recall) documentary about the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE. A few years later, I was lucky enough to attend a school in Christchurch where Latin was offered. I started studying Latin from the 3rd form and was eager to pick up Classics in the 6th form. This love of the Latin language led me to complete my honours dissertation on the theme of *Creation and Destruction in Lucretius' De Rerum Natura and Virgil's Georgics*. I was able to get up close and personal with Virgil and Lucretius' poetry and the Roman culture. The very knowledgeable tutors and lecturers at Otago were invaluable in this process.

Following university, it took me a while to decide what I wanted to do, although I did know I wanted to use my Classics degree. After travelling to the places I had read, written and heard about over the other side of the world, I came to the conclusion that my teachers at school were quintessential in my love of the Ancient World. So here I am. Two years down the track of teaching 13-17 year olds about Social Studies, History and Classics at Cashmere High School in Christchurch. I really enjoy teaching Classics. It gives you a buzz when current social media-obsessed teens take a strong interest in ancient culture and even want to celebrate Augustus' 2080th birthday party by performing a sacrifice and consuming olives et sparkling grape juice. I also always make sure I read aloud Book II of the Aeneid in Latin poetry, ensuring that I point out enjambed lines and imagery where relevant.

I use the skills and knowledge gained from my Classics degree everyday. Whether I am trawling for primary and secondary evidence, reading SPQR by Mary Beard for enjoyment or entertaining questions and queries about Alexander the Great, Spartacus, Leonidas or Odysseus. The discipline is still growing on me and I learn more with every lesson I teach. So it is a win-win really. I find the students who choose to study Classics at school engaging, passionate and exceptional people, which is exactly my experience of studying Classics at Otago University. Who knows, maybe one day I will be back!

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