Welcome

The past year has proved to be a very satisfying one for the Classics Department. In July 2015, Dr. Gwynaeth McIntyre joined our ranks as lecturer (following the retirement of Prof. William Dominik) and has brought with her exciting new areas of expertise in research and teaching (see p.3 for further details). And in August, a university review of the department especially commended our achievements in the spheres of research, teaching and community outreach. (The review panel included several leading experts in Classics from New Zealand and Australia.) After a period of transition, the department thus seems well set to meet the challenges of the future.

As you will see in the following pages, we are very aware that the study of ancient civilizations and their languages may not seem – to some students, parents and politicians – an obvious educational choice. We are therefore very active in our outreach activities, organizing Classics quizzes for local schools, providing workshops for secondary school teachers, and helping with many of the activities of the Classical Association of Otago. Another initiative (see p.8) is our Alumni Interviews project, which aims to track the career paths that Classics graduates have undertaken in the past five to ten years (and more!). Please feel free to contact us if you’d like to get involved.

Jon Hall (HoD)

Department website:
http://www.otago.ac.nz/classics

Otago Classics on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/OtagoClassics

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A Year in Review

Arlene Allan

In 2015, Arlene Allan introduced a new 3rd/4th year paper on Ancient Greek Religion which is designed to complement her 2nd year paper introduced in 2014 entitled "Living and Dying in Ancient Athens." Her current research focuses upon two major projects. The first is a book-length study for Routledge’s Gods and Heroes series, examining the place of the god Hermes in ancient Greek culture, and his subsequent reception in later periods and cultures. The second project involves the co-editorship (with Evangelina Anagnostou-Laoutides, Monash) of a volume for Brill, tentatively entitled, Herakles Inside and Outside The Church: From The First Apologists to The End of The Quattrocento. Arlene is also writing a chapter for the volume analyzing how a person’s knowledge of Herakles might be called upon to make sense of the presentation of the salvific figure in Revelation 5.

Jon Hall

Following the 2014 publication of his book Cicero’s Use of Judicial Theater, Jon Hall is currently completing preliminary research on a new project examining the principles of Roman social etiquette. The work builds upon his previous study Politeness and Politics in Cicero’s Letters, but focuses primarily on face-to-face meetings between Roman aristocrats rather than their exchanges by letter. The new book will analyse matters of interactional etiquette (such as standing up in the presence of social superiors, and exchanging kisses when greeting), as well as the need to control facial expressions when engaging in socially awkward negotiations. In short, the study aims to bring to life the mini-social dramas that many ambitious Romans encountered in their daily lives. Jon was promoted to full professor on 1st February 2016.

Sean McConnell

Sean McConnell has been awarded a University of Otago Research Grant to launch a long-term project entitled "Reflections on the good life: the philosophical verse epistles of Horace." The project aims to assess Horace’s own novel contributions to Roman philosophy, and in particular his engagement with the philosophical legacy of Cicero. Sean has also recently published two journal articles. The first, "Plato’s critique of Antisthenes on pleasure and the good life (Philebus 44a-53c)", published in Ancient Philosophy, makes clear for the first time the full extent of Plato’s critical engagement with his great contemporary rival Antisthenes. (Antisthenes was a famous follower of Socrates whose austere ethical views inspired the Cynic and Stoic schools of philosophy.) The second, "Epicurean education and the rhetoric of concern", published in Acta Classica, assesses the coherence of Epicurean educational theory and practice in the light of their egoistic hedonist ethics.
Dan Osland

Dan Osland has spent the past year writing up some of his work on the Roman Spanish provincial town of Mérida, including an article on public space in the late antique city (published in the American Journal of Archaeology), one on the evolution of Late Antique housing (appearing in an upcoming issue of Oxford Journal of Archaeology), another on coins and kings in Visigothic Spain (appearing in the Spanish journal Anas), and an essay on Roman Lusitania for the forthcoming Black companion to the archaeology of the Roman provinces. He has been awarded a University of Otago Research Grant for his upcoming excavation work in Mérida in July/August 2016. He has also been busy giving lectures to the Classics students at Columba College, Otago Boys, and Logan Park and introducing a new 3rd/4th year paper on the Fall of the Roman Empire.

Pat Wheatley

Pat Wheatley’s main endeavour in 2015 was to create a new 3rd/4th year paper directly connected to his area of research interest on Alexander the Great’s Successors. The paper is a natural follow-on from the popular 2nd year Alexander the Great paper, and enables students to follow the twists and turns of this tumultuous period to its logical conclusion. Earlier in the year Pat’s long-running project of compiling a Festschrift honouring his former supervisor, Professor Brian Bosworth, was published (East and West in the World Empire of Alexander, OUP 2015). Pat also published a chapter entitled “Demetrius the Besieger on the Nile”, in Alexander in Africa edited by P. Bosman. He is also working towards securing a publishing contract for his current book project, ‘Demetrius the Besieger’, which he is preparing in collaboration with his PhD candidate, Charlotte Dunn.

Introducing new staff, Gwynaeth McIntyre

Gwynaeth McIntyre joined the department as a permanent lecturer in July of 2015. Her research focuses on the political, social, and religious history of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds and specifically the ways in which mythology and religion define particular communities or groups of communities. Her PhD (University of St Andrews) examined the development of religious practices dedicated to the worship of the imperial family and their spread through the western provinces of the Roman empire. Her monograph on this material will be published in 2016 with the University of Michigan Press. She has also completed a chapter on the use of rituals commemorating the emperor Tiberius’ adopted son, Germanicus (to be published in a volume on ritual and identity formation in the Roman world.) And she maintains connections with a Digital Humanities project entitled, From Stone to Screen based at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada and has two forthcoming publications relating to digital scholarship and pedagogy.

Gwynaeth has also taken on the important task of teaching the department’s CLAS105 paper on Greek mythology (following the retirement of Dr. John Garthwaite in 2014); and this coming semester, she will be introducing a new 3rd/4th year paper on the scandals and intrigues of the Julio-Claudian imperial family.
Graduate News

Charlotte Dunn

Charlotte Dunn has spent the last year working on her thesis, which examines the life and career of Demetrius Poliorcetes. Her study attempts in particular to impose some order and chronology on this especially problematic time period. She hopes to be ready to submit her thesis at some point during 2016.

He also presented a paper at ASCS 37 entitled "Who the Hell is Hades: Hades’ Reception within Modern Film," for which he won the Optima runner-up prize (for best postgraduate student presentation).

Joel Gordon

Joel Gordon has only recently begun his PhD journey, joining the University of Otago Classics department in August 2015 after completing his MA at Victoria University of Wellington. His PhD topic explores ancient Greek eschatology, particularly the topographical and geographical construction of Hades within the imagination of the Greeks. Joel hopes to utilize evidence which is often overlooked by modern scholarship such as real-world geographical locations associated with the underworld, the philosophies of the Presocratics, and artistic representations. As well as making steady progress on this study, Joel has served as the New Zealand postgraduate representative in the Australasian Society for Classical Studies, and has submitted an article entitled "When Superman smote Zeus: Analysing Violent Deicide in Popular Culture" to the Classical Reception Journal.

Amanda Macauley

Amanda Macauley has been working on her MA on female direct discourse in Plutarch’s Roman Lives and hopes that this will be ready for submission in a few weeks. She has had a busy year presenting papers at a variety of conferences. These include a paper entitled ‘Maternal Authority of Plutarch’s Volumnia’ at AMPHORAE IX in July; a paper entitled "Cicero’s republic and the sordid city: Time, space and the re\textit{presentatio} in the \textit{Pro Sestio}" at the 29\textsuperscript{th} PacRim Latin Literature Conference in Auckland, and "Flattery and \textit{Fides}: The Ethical Discourse of Plutarch’s Octavia and Cleopatra" at ASCS 37 in Melbourne. She is also is currently working on a co-authored piece with Dr. Gary Morrison at the University of Canterbury on the "Heroic Mortal", which will join a collection of essays as part of an upcoming exhibition catalogue of the Logie Collection (‘Gods and Heroes’).
Bill Richardson

Bill Richardson has had a busy 2015. In addition to continuing his PhD thesis, he has submitted several pieces for publication. He is waiting to hear back from Classical Philology about a short note on Justin’s epitome of Pompeius Trogus’s Philippic History, and, with an old friend and colleague from the University of Tasmania, had just resubmitted a joint article on the relationship between Antipater and Craterus to Classical Quarterly for final editorial approval. Bill also visited the University of Queensland in October, as part of the postgraduate exchange program between the Classics departments of UQ and Otago. There, he presented a paper related to his thesis, on the concepts and definitions of Panhellenism. Finally, he also got engaged to Isobel, his partner of 5 years.

Recently Submitted

Susan Pelechek

Susan Pelechek had a very productive twelve months or so. She presented a paper at ASCS 36 entitled "Petrarch, Machiavelli, and Milton on Scipio Africanus" and worked as a research assistant on a research project undertaken by Prof. Dominik. In July 2015, she successfully submitted her PhD thesis entitled, "Representations and Receptions of Scipio Africanus from the Second Century BCE to the Present" and will be graduating in May 2016. In the meantime, she is looking for work in the Dunedin area so she can test for her 1st degree black belt in ITF Tae Kwon Do at the end of this year.

Jon Rolfe

Jon Rolfe has recently completed his MA (entitled "Politics and Priesthoods in Late Republican Rome") whilst also working in Wellington at Tenancy Services (part of MBIE), giving advice on housing legislation in New Zealand. He has now moved to Palmerston North to take up a job at Massey University's International Office in marketing and recruitment. The position involves the analysis of applications from international students wishing to study in New Zealand. Jon reflects that, although his new job does not seem at first glance to have much connection with his degrees in Classics, his study in the department equipped him with important research and analytical skills, while also helping him to pursue his own personal interests in historical and political inquiry.
Outreach and Classics in the Community

School Quizzes

On two stormy winter nights in September, our department, in conjunction with the Classical Association of Otago, had the pleasure of hosting a total of eighteen teams of school students battling it out for the coveted School Quiz trophies (and accompanying bragging rights). First up was the Senior Quiz, which featured seven teams from four local schools (Columba, Logan Park, Waimate High, and Otago Boys). Victory went to ‘Centaur of Attention’ from Columba College (featuring Eleanor O’Neil, Elizabeth Yarnall, Kaia Bishop, and Caroline Morath). Runners-up were ‘The Praetorianerds’ from Logan Park, while third-place went to ‘Straight Outta Sparta’ from Otago Boys. Dr. Dan Osland served as the congenial quiz-master for the evening.

The Junior and Intermediate Quizzes were held concurrently the following week. The Junior Quiz, involved five teams from three schools (Logan Park, Otago Girls’, and Otago Boys’) with Logan Park proving victorious (with team ‘Grumeo est Rex’, featuring Danny Barton, Jack Wing, Silas Wynlaegan, and Henry Ruan). Joint second-place teams were ‘#Caesar Salad’ of Otago Girls and Otago Boys and ‘Supreme Meme Team’ of Logan Park. Columbia College and Tahuna Normal Intermediate School provided three teams each for the Intermediate quiz. ‘The Argonauts’ of Columbia College were the victors (Maia Joseph, Allison Lebuffe, Evie Ballantyne, and Madi Loudon); the second-place team, ‘Julius Rulius in Perpitulius’ came from Tahuna. Nathan Watson, a former postgraduate student in the department, served as quiz-master for the evening and did a fantastic job guiding scores of children high on classical allusions and jelly beans through the questions.

These events could not be staged without the help and energy of numerous volunteers from both inside and outside the department. Thanks are due to George Morris for helping out with refreshments and liaising with the schools. And to a whole host of current and former students in the department for assistance on the nights of the quizzes: Bill Richardson, Charlotte Dunn, Emily Willis, Gaby Magnuson, Jo Winters, Joel Gordon, Kiri Lenagh-Glue, Susan Pelechek. Shona Paterson, the Administrator of the Classics Department, and Jon Hall, Head of Classics, also provided essential administrative help in coordinating the various events.

In a new venture, the department also assisted schools in Invercargill to host their own quiz night. (The bad weather at this time of year often makes it difficult for students to travel up from Southland for our local quiz in Dunedin.) Using the same quiz materials that we had put together Mike Bishop from Southland Girls High School was able to coordinate with great success a competition for the classics students in Invercargill. Ten teams participated in the quiz far more than would have been able in the past to travel up to Dunedin. The competition was won by a team from James Hargest College; second place went to Southland Girls High School; the third place team was also from James Hargest College.

If you are a school teacher and would like to enter a team in the quizzes, please contact Shona Paterson (shona.paterson@otago.ac.nz).

Our dutiful volunteer markers, hard at work.
(from left to right) Sean McConnell, Bill Richardson, Charlotte Dunn, Isobel Andrewartha, and Susan Pelechek
New Zealand Association of Classical Teachers Day

In November, the department hosted a workshop day for school teachers from the Otago and Southland regions. The day consisted of a series of lectures given by Jon Hall, Sean McConnell and Gwynaeth McIntyre, and culminated in a trip to the Otago Museum led by Dan Osland where everyone had the opportunity to examine some of the ancient artifacts from the collection up close and in person. The workshop provided a great opportunity for the department lecturers and school teachers to get to know each other. Mike Bishop told us that on the journey home, there was a real buzz in the car about ideas that the teachers had never thought of before which had come out of the lectures. We are planning to make this an annual event and NZACT is planning a conference for 2019.

A big thank you to Mike Bishop, Dan Osland, and Shona Paterson for organising a successful day!

Classical Association of Otago

In addition to the Classical Studies quizzes for schools organised in conjunction with the Department of Classics, the Classical Association of Otago schedules public lectures on Classical topics every month or so during the teaching semesters. In 2015, the programme comprised both lectures and performances. It began with a lecture by our very own Sean McConnell entitled "Democrats and Philosopher-Kings: Thucydides and Plato on the ‘Political Class’" and Semester 1 was brought to a close with a final farewell lecture from William Dominik entitled "The Middle of Vergil’s Aeneid and its Ideological Significance."

On 30 April, Harry Love and a select team participated in a reading of Iain Lonie and Karl Stead’s translation of Euripides’ Alcestis, an event that coincided with the release of a University of Otago publication of the collected poems of Iain Lonie, edited by David Howard. The Classical Association also welcomed visitors from overseas. Victor Castellani, of the University of Denver, gave a lecture on "Athena and Lysistrata" and on 22 September, we hosted, "Comparative Clytemnestras", a remarkable combination of performance and lecture by Professor Rush Rehm of Stanford University and actress Courtney Walsh (Stanford Repertory Theatre). This event was supported by a generous grant from the University of Otago Continuing Education.

For more information about the Classical Association of Otago and our 2016 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).
Alumni Matters

Gwynaeth McIntyre has taken over as alumni officer within the department and, together with Louise Lawrence and her team from the alumni office, she is undertaking a new initiative entitled, “Where to from here? The Alumni Interviews Project: Alumni talk study and career paths”. This project aims to provide students with details about the types of jobs that Classics alumni have taken up and how they have succeeded on their chosen career path. We hope the project will encourage students to think laterally about their degree choices and have confidence that studying Classics can lead to a variety of jobs.

An Alumnus Profile

My name is Grant O’Kane and I had the pleasure of studying Classical Studies at the University of Otago, obtaining my BA in 1991 and going on to do a Postgraduate Diploma in 1992. After graduating I worked in various jobs, gaining experience in a number of roles relating to Human Resources. This experience has culminated in my current role of Human Resources Manager (Operations) with a staff of ten Human Resource professionals located in Dunedin and Invercargill.

As a Classics graduate I learned the valuable skills of research and the interpretation of historical events, as well the appreciation of classical art and architecture. In particular, my studies allowed me to view the modern world through a framework of the ancient world. The expansionist policies of ancient Athens or Rome are mirrored today by the growing international influence of America and China. While technologies may develop over the centuries, cultures still go to war because of ideologies and economic ambitions – and from these clashes often come great works of art and literature (whether they be plays by Aristophanes or Banksy street art).

I still use in my job today some of the skills that I learnt in my degree – especially research, data analysis and the understanding of other cultures. I apply these in my role as an HR professional through shaping an organisation’s workplace environment, as well as being able to recognize what motivates people to succeed in their jobs.

I found the Classics Department an extremely friendly and social place to study and made some great life time friends while there. My advice: whatever their activities, get involved! You won’t regret it.

Over the next few months, the team will be initiating several interviews and developing promotional material to help foster an on-going relationship between departments, students, and alumni. As well as sending a survey to our alumni, we hope to organize a career event at which students can speak with alumni about their workplace experiences and opportunities after university.

If you would like to be involved in any of these initiatives, please contact Gwynaeth McIntyre (gwynaeth.mcintyre@otago.ac.nz)

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