

DEPARTMENT OF
Classics

Newsletter 2018/2019



150 YEARS
1869-2019

Welcome

2018 was another very successful year for the Classics department. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and student-focused department, and once again we rank as one of the top-performing teaching departments in the university. Enthusiasm for the Classics shows no signs of abating. Our students have set up a flourishing Classical Society, with quiz nights, wine and cheese evenings, and other bacchanal pursuits. As well as partying, they are working hard: the fifth floor Research Room has never been busier! Staff achievements include promotions, teaching awards, and published books. We had a number of scholars from the UK and USA visit Otago this year, and the department continues to maintain its high international profile.

Finally, the University of Otago is celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary next year – and so are we! The Classics department is one of only four that can claim to have been here from the very beginning, with the Professorship of Classics being a foundation chair in 1869 (along with the chair of

Mathematics and Natural Philosophy and that of Mental and Moral Philosophy). George Samuel Sale was the first to hold this position and he remained Professor of Classics until his retirement in 1908.

More will be revealed with the history of the department currently being written by Emeritus Professor John Barsby - watch this space. We hope to see many of you at the 150th anniversary events next year!

Sean McConnell (Acting HoD)

Department website:

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

Otago Classics on Facebook:

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

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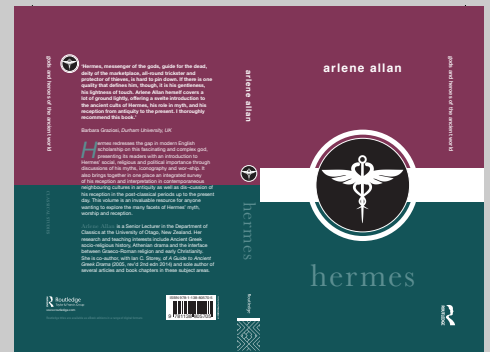
Back row: Angus Grant (BA), Dr. Sean McConnell, Dr. Dan Osland, Dr. Gwynnaeth McIntyre

Front row: Heather Hutchings (BAHons), Harriet Sanders (BA), Amberleigh O'Hagan (BA), Samantha Ball (BAHons), Dr. Arlene Allan, Matthew Watts (BAHons)

A Year in Review

Arlene Allan

2018 has proved to be a busy, but productive year. My book on Hermes with Routledge appeared in print in June; I completed a chapter as well as the introduction and epilogue for a volume on the early receptions of Herakles/Hercules of which I am also co-editor with Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides; a second chapter on the 1960s cartoon series, *The Mighty Hercules*, for another volume in the reception of Herakles/Hercules series was also completed, as was an article on Euripides' *Hippolytos*. I presented a talk to Classical Association of Otago on the visual changes Hermes has undergone from ancient to modern times and, as this academic year draws to its close, I am currently preparing a paper on Sophokles' *Oidipous Colonos* for presentation at a conference in Armidale, in February 2019.



Jon Hall

At the end of the first semester in 2018, Jon Hall completed his five and a half year tenure as Head of Department and embarked overseas on Research and Study Leave for semester two. During this time he completed a journal article (on nonverbal politeness in Seneca) and a book chapter (on banter in Varro); he delivered research papers in Spain, UK and USA; and he completed the first draft of a new book on Roman politeness.

Sean McConnell

In 2018 Sean co-organised a major international conference at the University of Durham in the UK, 'New Perspectives on Cicero's Philosophy'. The twelve papers, including his own which focuses on the role of old men in Cicero's political thought, are being organised into an edited volume. He also published a journal article in *Mnemosyne* on the etymology and chequered history of the Latin term 'spectrum'.

Gwynaeht McIntyre



2018 was an exciting year which saw the completion of Gwynaeht's co-edited volume *Uncovering Anna Perenna: A Focused Study of Roman Myth and Culture* (published in January 2019) as well as a short monograph on the *Imperial Cult* for "Brill Research Perspectives in Ancient History". She has devoted most of her time to the Roman coin collection at the Otago Museum, digitising the coins and re-developing the curriculum for her 300/400 paper (for more details see p. 9). As an exciting way to end the year, she was promoted to Senior Lecturer, effective February 2019.

Dan Osland

In addition to his regular teaching activities (132 lectures in 2018), Dan also gave a pair of lectures (on Augustus!) at Otago Girls High School for two groups of year 13 students in Classical Studies. He had the good fortune to supervise three Honours students this year, two in Classics and one in Archaeology, in addition to the two internships that he managed through the Otago Museum (see p. 8). He presented some new findings from his 2016 excavation work in Spain at the ASCS 39 Meeting in Brisbane, and he presented on Augustan colonies at the Archaeological Institute of America meeting in San Diego in early January of 2019. He also read papers on Visigoths, epigraphy, and Spanish Christianity at the Meeting of the Pacific Partnership in Late Antiquity in Auckland in July and at ASCS 2019 in Armidale. Several articles from these projects are now at various stages in the publication process, and a completed draft of his book manuscript is imminent. He is now working through grant applications to build up funding for an archaeological field school/excavation project in Spain and Portugal in the next few years.

Pat Wheatley

Pat Wheatley continued the final stages of editing his book *Demetrius the Besieger*, in collaboration with Dr Charlotte Dunn, which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2019. In his role as Australasian Editor for *The Ancient History Bulletin*, he also worked with the editorial board to produce Volume 32 (2018), consisting of 8 refereed articles, 150pp.

Saying good-bye to our department administrator, Shona Paterson

In December we had to say good-bye to our phenomenal department administrator, Shona Paterson, who will be moving on to explore new challenges. The whole department got together on the 20 December to see her off. We all wish her the very best in her next adventure, and we look forward to hearing all about her new adventures in the coming year.



John Blackler



A little over two years ago I took Sean's paper on Socrates and Plato. Needless to say, I am still experiencing *aporia*. So, I thought I'd do an MA on the man who put me into this position. After completing my dissertation on the philosophy of Cynicism in the works of Lucian, how philosophers become the object of laughter and scorn, and the ways in which the ancients attached philosophical importance to laughter and ridicule still puzzles me. I have spent the last couple of months reading through the whole Platonic corpus looking for any such references.

Kara Braithwaite-Westoby



Kara is currently writing his thesis on the great Theban statesman and general, Epameinondas (c. 418-362 BC). He has

now nearly finished the chapter about the campaign that led to the death of the general, so he is hoping to be ready to submit very soon. During the year he has also presented some of his work at conferences including one at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, entitled 'Macedon under the Theban Hegemony 369-365 BC'. In addition to this he has had a paper accepted for publication from the peer-reviewed journal, *Classical Philology*, which is likely to be published early next year.

Joel Gordon



Joel has had to significantly improve his juggling abilities as the year has progressed, having become a first time father in June (to Caleb) as well as continuing to work on his thesis, publications, tutoring and holding a part time administrative job within

the University. This said, Joel is confident that he is nearing the final stretch with his PhD (hoping to submit sometime during 2019). He presented a paper at ASCS 2018 on his thesis entitled "Cartography vs. word painting: Eschatological topography and the Grove of Persephone."

Lila Knight



I have recently started my MA, having taken nine months off to travel after submitting my honours dissertation. Though still in the early stages my thesis will be focusing on the administration and function

of the Roman imperial mints from the death of Commodus to the reign of Constantine. The last few months have been spent looking at the revolt of the mint workers under Aurelian and the mint positions as shown by the Trajanic inscriptions.

John Matthews



John Matthews has been making progress on his MA thesis on the second book of Ovid's *Tristia*, a lengthy verse letter addressed to Augustus, the author of Ovid's

banishment, that defends the poet and his poetry and makes a plea for clemency. John is interested in Ovid's use of the epistolary form, including Ovid's persona as both the author of the poem and the victim of Augustus' anger as well as the persona of the Emperor as the letter's apparent addressee and recipient. He is also interested in exploring the influence of Ovid's rhetorical training on the poem's structure and content as well as attempting to articulate Ovid's wider intentions in writing the poem. The thesis will also examine the interface between Augustan ideology and the poem and the extent to which the poem may support a subversive reading of it.

Recently Submitted

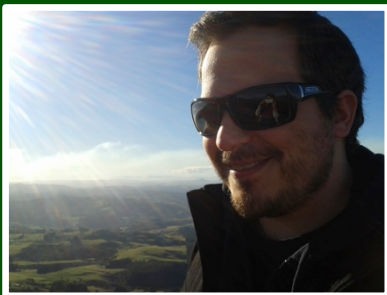
Maria MacKay

My thesis examined Greek literature, most especially the Klytaimestra-tragedies, for evidence that character and plot reflects the findings of evolutionary psychology on gender conflict grounded in reproductive politics and coevolutionary antagonism. The various depictions of Klytaimestra as daughter, sister, wife, mother, and aunt suggest that her representation as the literary embodiment of female evil in ancient fiction does indeed derive from her socially unacceptable resistance to her husband's reproductive agenda, and worse, her desire to exercise her own reproductive autonomy, both against the expectations concerning female compliance with male reproductive advantage within the real-world culture in which she was and is created, recreated, and received.

I have finally handed my thesis in, and am resolving my work-life balance. Thanks so much to wonderful supervisor Arlene, the Classics department, and the graduate office for all support, and especially for their patience with the long delay in bringing this project to fulfillment. Life after thesis now consists of completing the kitchen renovation, converting the garden to grow as much food as possible (cf. impending collapse of civilization), mending clothes and broken household items set aside for the last six years, 'for when I finish the thesis', and - at last - reading for fun rather than work. Leighton's "Clytemnestra from the Battlements of Argos Watches for the Beacon Fires" (1876), my favourite Klytaimestra painting, symbolizes the grim endurance I will forever associate with my PhD years.



Andrew Stopyra



My thesis was unanimously accepted on 29 October with only minor corrections/amendments, all of which should be completed by the first week of December. At the moment, my wife and I are looking at moving back to the States for a time. We've been overseas for most of the last 20 years and we feel like it would be good to reconnect with our families a bit. I've been applying to pretty much ANY job that pops up in North America. Our families are in Idaho and Pennsylvania, so as long as we're on the same continent and can drive there, that'll be "close" as far as they're concerned!

My thesis is entitled: "Diodorus Siculus *Bibliothēke* 17.1-61: A Translation & Historical Commentary". The title pretty much says it all... I have provided a fresh translation and commentary for the first half of Diodorus Book 17, which covers Alexander the Great from his accession to the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BC. Book 17 is an incredibly important and yet largely understudied source for Alexander's campaigns thanks to the heavy toll inflicted on Diodorus in general by the unbridled source criticism of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is my hope that the present work will perhaps give Diodorus a fair chance at being heard and demonstrate that he has far more to offer than has previously been thought.

In the near term, I plan to complete my translation of Book 17 in the hope of publishing a new and affordable edition. At present, the 1963 Loeb volume and a fragmentary edition from 1700 are the only English translations that exist. I have been in contact with OUP and they're keen to continue the conversation after my PhD has been conferred.

Honours Dissertations Completed in 2018

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

Samantha Ball, “...the Macedonians would never tolerate being governed by a woman” (Plut. *Alex.* 68.4).
The Macedonian royal women as successors’.

John Blackler, ‘Deface the philosopher: a consideration of Lucian’s contribution to Cynicism’.
(not pictured – finished in Semester 1, now MA student)

Robyn Cooper, ‘The archaeological evidence of Roman household religion’.

Heather Hutchings, ‘Form and function in Vergil’s *Georgics*’.

Charlotte Murray, ‘Mistresses, priestesses, and wives: an analysis of female power in fifth century Athens’.

Jessy Ruiter, ‘The development of the Roman military shield’.

Matthew Watts, ‘Silver and sand: economic policies of Ptolemy I Soter’.



Also pictured:
Joanne Jones (Archaeology)
Sashika Hendry (History)

Exceptional Honours and Awards



Congrats to **Kiri Lenagh-Glue** (4th year double degree student, BSc Computer Science and BA Classics) for being awarded the New Zealand Emerging Leader Award in the Digital & Technology field and for being awarded the John Barsby New Zealand Essay Prize by the Australasian Society for Classical Studies.

Congrats to **Lydie Leurquin** (2nd year Classics and Anthropology), who was awarded the Heilala Book Prize in Humanities (recognises the highest-achieving Pacific woman studying 200-level Division of Humanities papers).



Also congratulations to all of this year’s prize winners!

OU Graduates Assn Prize in Classical Studies 100-level: **Hannah Schmierer**

UBS Prize in Classical Studies 200 level: **Emily Hicks**

Atticus Prize for Classics at the 300 level: **Tyler Broome**

Prize in Classical Studies, 400 level: **Heather Hutchings**

Elizabeth M Henderson Prize for Latin at 200 level: **Jingyu (Ruth) Li**

James Clark Prize in Greek: **Malcolm Moncrief-Spittle**

James Clark Prize in Latin: **Lesley den Toom**

University of Otago Classical Society


Late in 2017, our undergraduate students decided to re-establish the University of Otago Classical Society. 2018 was a busy year as they organized a number of social events. These included a series of movie nights (following the movie clips shown in CLAS105: Greek Mythology), two pub quizzes, a series of post-de Carle lecture drinks, and an informal Q & A session following the performance of *An Iliad* starring Michael Hurst. 2019 is looking to be another great year, so like their page (<https://www.facebook.com/UOCLASSOC/>) to find out more details about upcoming events.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
CLASSICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

DISNEY'S HERCULES

17.03.18 | 5:30 | Evison Lounge, Clubs & Socs building, 84 Albany Street

FREE ENTRY for members
Gold coin donation for non-members
Membership can be paid at the event






THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO

RUM-ULUS AND THE EARLY KINGS

WHERE:
EUREKA CAFE AND BAR

WHEN:
AFTER THE DE CARLE LECTURE 'ROMULUS
AND THE EARLY KINGS' BY PROFESSOR
CHRISTOPHER SMITH



CLASSICAL SOCIETY MOVIE NIGHT

ARISTOPHANES' LYSISTRATA

CLUBS & SOCS BUILDING, EVISON LOUNGE
FREE FOR MEMBERS
GOLD COIN FOR NON-MEMBERS

SATURDAY 28 APRIL
6:00 START TIME
WITH AN INTRODUCTORY TALK BY
DR ARLENE ALLAN

WE PROMISE THERE WILL BE SNACKS AND LOTS
OF LAUGHS!!

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
CLASSICAL SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO OUR

Pub Quiz

Register individually to be put in a team, or
as a team of 3-5!

August 16
6:30 pm
Starters Bar

TICKETS ARE \$5 FOR MEMBERS OR \$7 FOR
NON-MEMBERS
EMAIL: UO.CLASSICALSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM
TO REGISTER
DOOR SALES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE
NIGHT





JOIN CLASSOC

FOR A MEMBERS ONLY WINE AND
CHEESE NIGHT!

FREE!
BRING A +1!

FRI 28 SEPT
OUSA AQUATIC
CENTRE
56 MAGNET ST
7 PM

RSVP:
uo.classicalsociety@gmail.com




Classics at the Museum

Hums 301: Humanities Internship

In 2018 the department had two students working on internship projects in the Otago Museum. In Semester One, Classics student Madeleine Fountain worked closely with BAHons (Archaeology) student Joanne Jones to catalog and photograph a substantial portion of the Roman pottery in the Museum collection. In Semester Two, Classics and Art History student Nina King worked with a large selection of the Museum's figurines from the ancient Mediterranean, which included a number of clay, stone, and metal figurines from Greece, Italy, Cyprus, and Egypt. Through this work, both Madeleine and Nina have gained invaluable hands-on experience with ancient materials housed in the Otago Museum collection and not currently on display. Their work has helped to create detailed new catalog entries accompanied by photographic records that will make these materials much more accessible to scholars and interested members of the community as the Otago Museum moves forward with a large-scale effort to digitise their entire collection.



Madeleine and Jo sort through items to photograph

Easy does it! Jo inspects and lifts a Roman 'olla'



Pictures say a thousand words
Madeleine photographs some pottery fragments

Roman Coins

This year Drs. Dan Osland and Gwynnaeth McIntyre have been busy working through the 1100 Roman coins housed at the Otago Museum. With the help of a number of Research Assistants, the entire collection is being digitised and catalogued. This work is being undertaken through a University of Otago Research Grant and they hope to have a complete catalogue by the middle of 2020. The copious museum records have also shown that our department has had a hand in this collection (and also the Greek coin collection) since the very beginning, and notable former faculty such as Isabel Turnbull, Guy R. Manton, James R. Hamilton, and Christopher Ehrhardt, and recently Robert Hannah have all contributed to our understanding of the collections!

Gwynnaeth McIntyre also received a Committee for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching (CALT) Teaching Development Grant from the University to incorporate experiential learning and digital teaching methods into her 300/400-level paper on the Julio-Claudian emperors. As part of this restructure, she divided the 300-level students into groups and each group then had to create a digital exhibition of five of the coins. The 400-level students worked on their own to design research posters for three of the coins. They also were able to spend a tutorial learning how to photograph coins using the coin collection housed in the department. The two best posters were printed and are now on display in our department. If you are interested in the digital exhibitions done by the 300-level students, go to: <https://julioclaudiancoinage2018.omeka.net/>



Many thanks to Dr. Charlotte Dunn, Dr. Bill Richardson, Nathan Watson, Lila Knight, Phoebe Powell-Moore for all their help with the collection. Special thanks must go to the Otago Museum, and specifically Anne Harlowe (Collections Manager, Humanities), Moira White (Curator, Humanities), and Robert Morris (Director of Collections, Research and Education) for all their help in accessing the collection, and their helpful expertise and guidance.

Outreach and Classics in the Community

School Quizzes

In August, the Classical Association (with assistance from postgraduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Classics) staged the annual Classical Studies Quizzes for local schools and hosted one of the biggest crowds in recent years. The Senior Quiz was held on 14 August and had twelve teams from four schools: Columba College, Logan Park, Otago Girls' High School, and first time participants at the Senior Quiz Kings High School. Mythamphetamine (year 12 from Columba College) took first place with the Hedonists (year 12 from OGHS) and Alexander the OK (year 13 from Columba College) close behind in second and third.

The Junior Quiz was held on 21 August and involved eleven teams from five schools: Bayfield, Logan Park, Columba College, Otago Girls' High School, and Kings High School. There was a two-way tie for both first and second places. Just do it (year 10 from Columba College) won the tie-break over Hades' Angels (year 9 from OGHS) to take first place. Hadrian's Bawl (year 10 from Columba College) won their tie-break to take third place over Veto (year 10 from Logan Park).

The Intermediate Quiz was held concurrently with the Junior Quiz. Five teams in total competed from

Columba College and Tahuna Normal Intermediate School. It was a close race with last place and first place only separated by four points! Nike came out victorious (year 7/8 from Tahuna) with the Eureka's (year 8 from Columba College) in second by one point!

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 and former students: John Blackler, Charlotte Dunn, Lydie Leurquin, Ruth Li, Sarah MacManus, Gaby Magnuson, Jacqui Moate, Tom Royal, Fiona Seal, and Nathan Watson. Thank you to Bill Richardson for being an excellent MC for both events, Dan Osland for score-keeping for the Senior Quiz, and a special thanks to Shona Paterson, our Department Administrator, who provided essential administrative help in coordinating the various events.

Hands-On at Otago

Once again we welcomed students from all over the country to "plan games for Caesar". This year, we did things a little differently and teamed up with the Politics department to run a session on ancient and modern campaigning. The students also got the opportunity for some true hands-on experiences as on the final day, we went to the museum to work with some of the Julio-Claudian coins from the collection.

Special thanks to Bill Richardson, Lila Knight, and John Blackler, Gwynnaeth McIntyre, and Arlene Allan for all their help with the week's festivities.



Joint group photo with Politics and Classics

Grace Turipa and Chloe Turner looking at a silver denarius minted by Octavian (31-29 BCE)



Classical Association of Otago

We began this year's programme in the first week of classes (1 March) with a lecture entitled "What's new about the new Sappho poem" by Laura Swift (The Open University). On 19 April, our very own Arlene Allan gave a talk entitled, "What Becomes of Hermes? From Late Antiquity to the Present". We then had a break from May to June to promote the de Carle Distinguished Lecture Series and we encouraged all our members to attend.

Semester 2 began with a talk by Diana Burton (University of Victoria Wellington) on 27 July entitled "Hades: the ruler, the farmer, the god of death." This event was supported by a generous grant from the University of Otago Continuing Education Fund. Immediately following the quizzes in August, we had our 4th talk, Cynthia Damon (University of Pennsylvania) on 23 August entitled "Writing the fighting: Caesar's *Civil War*". This season wrapped up with a lecture from Lee Brice (Western Illinois University) "A Question of Terminology: Terrorism

and Insurgency in the Ancient Mediterranean World". Our average attendance for our program this year was up on last year (around 50, to last year's 40; and not counting Christopher Smith's lecture series which had the average attendance of 106), with Diana Burton as our outlier at 96! I am delighted to announce that three of our five speakers came from outside of New Zealand and this has provided an excellent opportunity for our students, members, and the wider community to hear from scholars from around the globe on their most recent scholarship.

For more information about the Classical Association of Otago and our 2019 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>

de Carle Distinguished Lecture Series

In 2018 the Department was honoured to host Professor Christopher Smith, FSA, FRHistS, FSA, FRSA, of the University of St Andrews as the De Carle Distinguished Lecturer. Professor Smith was never seen without a suit and tie, and he also delivered a highly engaging six-part series of lectures on the Roman kings to large and appreciative audiences (ranging from 73-163!).

1. Thinking about kings
2. The archaeology of archaic Rome
3. Romulus and the early kings
4. The Tarquins
5. Roman attitudes to kings
6. Theories of sovereignty



All of the lectures are available to view on the Division of Humanities' Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClA17YftDyUQuJI4v8WidLQ>

In 2020, the Department of Classics will be hosting the Annual Meeting of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies.

Registration will open to all interested members of the public, scholars, teachers, and students in August 2019, and we expect several full days of papers ranging across the entire field of Classics (28-31 January, 2020). We are especially keen to offer financial support to postgraduate students attending, so recommendations for potential sources of funding are most welcome. Please contact the conference convenor, Dan Osland (dan.osland@otago.ac.nz) for any matter related to ASCS 2020.

Alumni Matters

It is always a pleasure to hear back from our alumni and our previous newsletters have sparked many alumni to get back in touch with us. As we are heading into our sesquicentennial anniversary (150th!), we thought we might do something a little different for next year's newsletter. We would like to compile pictures, stories, personal reflections, etc. from our alumni to celebrate 150 years of studying (and teaching) Classics at the University of Otago. So this year, instead of profiling one of our alumni, we have taken excerpts from the letter of an alumnus who got in touch this year as a prompt to encourage others to share their own experiences and stories. Please send pictures and stories to Gwynaeth McIntyre (gwynaeth.mcintyre@otago.ac.nz) or by mail to the department address (see below).

The following comes from a letter of Keith Williamson who attended the University of Otago beginning in 1938, with his studies continuing on-and-off until 1946.

"Thank you for continuing to send me your newsletter; as I read it with interest I always reflect on how much the teaching of Classics has changed from my time as a student at Otago some eighty years ago. In 1938 when I began my teacher training I also enrolled in the Stage 1 Latin class at OU. The courses consisted almost entirely of the teaching of Latin and Greek languages, but there was also a unit called Greek History, Art and Literature taken by Miss Turnbull. Latin I was a requirement in the Law degree and so was a large class almost filling the Upper Oliver room."

Mr. Williamson then goes on to provide delightful anecdotes about his experiences with each of the three staff - Professor T.D. (Tommy) Adams, who studied under the founding professor Professor Sale, Miss M.I. Turnbull (and some speculations about why she was known to her students as *Ariadne*), and Mr. H.R. Minn. He also details the types of homework and texts that were required of students, the declining of student enrollments during the war, and returning to study after having joined the Navy. He concludes his letter with the following:

"Looking back I feel a tremendous gratitude for my time at Otago University, and especially to the Department of Classics. I wish you all every success now and in the future."



Thank you Mr. Williamson for getting in touch! It is great to hear about our students' experiences. We look forward to receiving other such letters and please do include copies of any photographs you might have.

Contact Department of Classics:

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Fax 03 479 9029
Web <http://www.otago.ac.nz/classics>

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