Humanity is experiencing its worst refugee crisis in generations, with a staggering 60 million people forcibly displaced either within or outside their countries of origin. About 86% of the world’s refugees live in developing nations, while the governments of most wealthy states look on in indifference or actively push asylum-seekers away from their borders. In some regions, refugees have become a human currency bartered for financial or political gain. Given all this, it seems as though the entire international protection system set up by the 1951 UN Refugee Convention is in peril.

As a researcher with the Refugee and Migrants Rights team at Amnesty International in London, U.K., these are the issues – daunting but critical – that I work on. The reports I write are based mainly on field research, in which I interview refugees as well as representatives of governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations. On the basis of this research, my colleagues and I then conduct advocacy at the domestic and international levels.

My training in History has been important to my current work in a number of ways. One way is through the knowledge I acquired. Although the scale of the present-day refugee crisis is unprecedented, it fits within a longer pattern of forced migration around the world, which holds crucial lessons for 21st-century activists and policy-makers. A breadth of perspective has helped me to grasp the root causes of today’s crisis, as well as the urgent necessity of taking action to address it.

Another way that studying History helps me in my present role is through the research skills I gained. The ability to research – to develop a hypothesis, start digging, uncover information, hit a wall, change tack, finally uncover what you need, and then start all over again – is incredibly useful and surprisingly rare. Historians excel at this.

Finally, understanding History comes with an awareness that the world has changed, and that individual and collective action has shaped the course of that change. I have found this knowledge tremendously empowering, particularly when the state of the world seems so bleak.

To quote the American historian Howard Zinn: “To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.”

Anna Shea graduated from McGill University with a First-Class Honours undergraduate degree in History with a Minor in Chemistry in 2002. She then did a Masters degree (2004) in our Department. She returned to McGill to train as a human rights lawyer (BCL/LLB 2011). She has worked at Amnesty International since 2012. She is currently Researcher/Advisor - Refugee and Migrant Rights at Amnesty's London office in the United Kingdom. She is on twitter @annalucyshea.
We are struck, as we contemplate the material gathered for this newsletter, at how much of the globe our Department covers. Former student Anna Shea writes to us from London, and works for Amnesty International’s Turkey desk, where she monitors conditions in overflowing refugee camps; within the Department, last year alone books were published on areas ranging from Ancient China to the South African present, through medieval Europe, modern Canada and nineteenth-century Latin America. Our colleague Allan Downey tells us how the 1920s Haudenosaunee took their grievances to the League of Nations, funding their campaign through the receipts gleaned through popular lacrosse games. Laila Parsons gives us a glimpse of worlds that might-have-been in the Middle East through her piece on the War for Arab independence after WWI. With characteristic visual panache, Lynn Kozak tells us how she and her students take the theatre of Ancient Greece to the people of Montreal. Through these examples and many more, we have tried to convey a sense of just how much collective energy drives research, study, and outreach in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill.

Remembering Professor Valentin Boss

Professor David Wright, Chair, Department of History and Classical Studies

It is with sadness that the Department announces the passing of Valentin Boss, our retired Professor of Russian History. He died on November 29, 2015, after a long battle with cancer. Valentin Boss was born in Germany in the early years of the Great Depression. As a young boy, he fled the Nazi regime with his mother, eastward into Soviet Russia, where he lived during the war years, before escaping again, this time to Scotland. For those of you unfamiliar with his early life, I urge you to read the obituary available online. His life story is remarkable.


Valentin was thereafter raised in Scotland and England, where he won an entrance scholarship to Cambridge. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given his childhood experiences, he was drawn to Russian History, and over time began to specialize in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He immigrated to Canada in 1954 and, later, entered Harvard, where he completed his PhD in Russian History in 1964. After teaching at several universities, Professor Boss joined McGill’s Department of History in 1974, where he taught Russian and Soviet history for almost forty years. I must acknowledge that I was one of his students when I arrived at McGill in 1984 as an undergraduate. I took all of his courses. Boss had a charismatic personality and was a mesmerizing lecturer.

When I continued at McGill as a graduate student, I TAed for Valentin on one occasion. It was 1987-88, the heady days of glasnost and perestroika. In those years, there were no course caps. Professor Boss decided to offer a 300-level course entitled “From Stalin to Gorbachev” and over three hundred students enrolled. Boss largely abandoned any standard curriculum and turned the course into an historical reflection upon the dramatic changes going on in the Soviet Union. It was a remarkable course that few would forget. Valentin’s academic contribution over four decades, however, was not just to the Department of History and Classical Studies. His courses were indispensable to the Department of Slavonic and East European Studies and, later, the minor in Russian Studies.

It was bitter sweet when, after 20 years of being away from McGill, I returned in 2011 and was, for the briefest moments, a colleague of Valentin. I ran into him and Militsa sitting outside of Leacock on a beautiful Fall day just before he retired. By this time the Parkinson’s from which he was also suffering had taken hold noticeably of his physical demeanour. But the wry and mischievous smile was still there, and the passion for academe that had inspired thousands of students at this University, including myself, was evident.

On behalf of the Department of History and Classical Studies, I would like to extend my condolences to Militsa and family. And I remind colleagues, former students and friends of the department that his legacy continues in the Valentin Boss bursary for graduate students in History.
On 13 September 2015, the first of thirteen teams arrived in central New York to compete in the men’s World Indoor Lacrosse Championship. As they arrived, the men lined up to have their passports stamped—a relatively un-noteworthy event were it not for the identity of the nation welcoming the visitors and stamping their passports. Indeed, for the very first time, an Indigenous nation not only competed in a world championship as a sovereign entity—the Iroquois Nationals lacrosse team had done so since 1990— but hosted one.

The arrival scene was not without its ironies. First in line was Team England, representing the country that had twice disavowed the national passports of their current hosts. During the 2010 men’s World Field Lacrosse Championship, England had refused entry to the Iroquois Nationals. In 2015, England further denied entry to the Haudenosaunee Nation women’s lacrosse team. Months later, in Haudenosaunee territory, two women would enact a different, powerful border ritual on behalf of their Confederacy: with each stamp on a player’s passport, Jeanne Shenandoah and Awhenjiosta Myers asserted the Haudenosaunee’s sovereignty and nationhood; each stamp likewise marked a refusal.

One of the more interesting connections between lacrosse and Haudenosaunee self-determination efforts that I have been exploring recently concerns “illegal” Sunday lacrosse games and a famous League of Nations appeal by the Haudenosaunee in 1923. A few years ago, I came across a reference to a “restricted” file from the Ontario Attorney General Central Registry Criminal and Civil Files. It was simply labeled “Complaint against Indian Lacrosse Club and Mohawk Stars.” After several weeks of attempting to secure the appropriate permissions from the Archives of Ontario (Toronto), I was finally given approval, and I subsequently opened a box that historians dream of. Within it were hundreds of documents, including posters, correspondence, prosecution letters, and newspaper articles, all concerning “illegal” lacrosse games held on Sundays in Indigenous communities. Making sense of this material, like researching and recording oral histories in the communities involved, became one of the most enjoyable experiences of my young career as a historian.

In 1906, a Protestant organization known as the Lord’s Day Alliance successfully lobbied the Canadian government to pass a federal law banning “unessential” activities on Sundays— including sports events for financial gain— seeing any form of “work” on the Sabbath as sinful. Initially, the Sunday law went largely unenforced in Haudenosaunee communities where Sunday lacrosse games, especially in Six Nations of the Grand River (just outside of Brantford, Ontario), drew thousands of non-Indigenous spectators each weekend. However, this all changed in the summer of 1921 when the Lord’s
Day Alliances were notified that Sunday lacrosse games were being hosted in the community of Six Nations. To preempt such games, and prosecute organizers and athletes alike, the Lord's Day Alliance summoned help from Ontario's Attorney General of Ontario and Canada's Department of Indian Affairs.

During that summer of 1921, the campaign began in earnest. Aware of an upcoming game featuring a visiting Onondowa'ga (Seneca) team from Cattaragus, New York, the Federal Indian Agent at Six Nations contacted the Immigration Officer. In direct violation of a two-hundred-year-old treaty, the team was blocked from entering Canada, never making it to Six Nations. Signed between Great Britain and the United States in 1794, the Jay Treaty ensures to this day the free passage of Indigenous peoples across the imposed international boundary line. Much to the annoyance of those attempting to stop the games, however, the organizers of the Sunday lacrosse games continued to host the exhibitions despite the threat of legal action. After Ontario's Attorney General drafted a series of prosecution letters, some queried whether a provincial court even had the jurisdiction to serve warrants on reserves. Under the Indian Act of 1876, after all, “Indians” were deemed to be a Federal responsibility. What ensued was jurisdictional squabbling between Canada's Department of Indian Affairs, provincial authorities, and local justice administrators. More interesting, however, was the response by community members.

Despite repeated warnings from the Indian Agent, Attorney General, and the Lord's Day Alliance, the organizers in Six Nations hosted progressively larger Sunday lacrosse games throughout the summers of 1921 and 1922, and charged admission. When we examine who organized the lacrosse events, it becomes clearer what was at stake. At the centre of the controversy was one of the most prominent Haudenosaunee sovereignty activists at the time, Ga yo goh no' (Cayuga) Chief Deskaheh (aka Levi General). Hosting lacrosse games had become a conscious public act to assert the Haudenosaunee's self-determination and contest the imposition of Canadian law in Haudenosaunee communities. With a number of supporters, Deskaheh further began to organize an international appeal for the recognition of the Haudenosaunee's sovereignty. After hiring a lawyer, Deskaheh called upon the federal government in Ottawa to recognize the Haudenosaunee's status as that of a sovereign nation, not as wards of the Canadian government. To further push such points, Deskaheh travelled to the Colonial Office in England in 1921 on a newly created Haudenosaunee passport. Unsuccessful but undeterred, Deskaheh initiated plans in 1922 to take the Haudenosaunee's case to the League of Nations the following year. A key to all of this was in fact the Sunday lacrosse games: the exhibitions, known to raise $500 at the time, funded the campaign and helped cover the legal fees and trip costs to Geneva. Although Deskaheh was ultimately unsuccessful in presenting the Haudenosaunee's case, his introduction of a Haudenosaunee passport, use of lacrosse, and legal arguments regarding the Haudenosaunee's treaty status and nation-to-nation relationships, all helped lay the foundation for others to follow.

In 1983, a new group of Haudenosaunee leaders looked to renew the activation of the nation's sovereignty on the international stage. Together, Oren Lyons, Rick Hill, Wes Patterson, and Carol Patterson set out to form the Iroquois Nationals men's lacrosse team that would not only address the century-old historical injustice against Indigenous athletes, but also represent the Haudenosaunee Nation in the quadrennial World Field Lacrosse Championships. This was a conscious political effort to publicly assert the Haudenosaunee's self-determination, just as it was an effort to promote the resurgence of Haudenosaunee socio-political and cultural traditions: the team was endorsed by the hereditary Confederacy Council (the traditional leadership of the Haudenosaunee), the players were required to sign a loyalty pledge to the Council (symbolizing a rejection of the imposed Band Council system within the colonial borders of Canada), and were to travel on the Haudenosaunee passport. Furthermore, the team refused to accept funds from either the Canadian or U.S. governments.

Over the course of the next five years, the Nationals organization set out to educate the representatives of the International Lacrosse Federation concerning the Haudenosaunee's treaty status and historic nation-to-nation relationships. The team's management was challenged by the Federation to demonstrate their athletic, financial, and most importantly, political capacity by organizing and competing in a series of international exhibitions and by successfully traveling on the Haudenosaunee passport. A major step towards meeting the Federation's challenge came when the team successfully travelled to England on the Haudenosaunee passport and further demonstrated their athletic proficiency against the English national
La lutte pour l’indépendance Arabe après la Première Guerre mondiale

Professeure Laila Parsons
Texte traduit de l’anglais par Martine Hardy


On évoque souvent aujourd’hui les effets à long terme de ces coups de scalpel cartographiques. La région aurait-elle été victime de tant de bouleversements si les cartographes avaient mené avec plus de dextérité leur opération chirurgicale? La Syrie se serait-elle enfoncée dans la guerre civile si une enclave alaouite avait été créée aux côtés d’une enclave sunnite? Puisqu’il aurait dû être divisé en trois états distincts (un Sunnite, un Chiite et un Kurde), l’Irak était-il dès l’origine condamné? Des interrogations de ce type passent cependant sous silence une option pour laquelle ont combattu de nombreux Arabes durant les années 1920 et 1930 : la création d’un état arabe uniifié, englobant les zones constituant aujourd’hui la Syrie, la Jordanie, l’Irak, l’ensemble israélo-palestinien et le Liban.

En Occident, on ne connaît généralement de la participation arabe à la Première Guerre mondiale que l’episode durant lequel le charismatique officier T.E. Lawrence réussit à convaincre certains Arabes de rejoindre la campagne britannique opposée aux Ottomans; un récit que le film Lawrence of Arabia, réalisé par David Lean en 1962, a rendu célèbre. Ce qu’il importe cependant de souligner sur l’action des Arabes durant la Première Guerre mondiale – une histoire qu’aucune superproduction hollywoodienne n’a portée à l’écran – c’est que la majorité des soldats et des officiers arabes sont restés fidèles à l’armée ottomane et ont, de ce fait, combattu bravement l’occupation française et européenne pour défendre leur état. Après la dissolution de l’armée ottomane à la fin de l’année 1918, les soldats et les officiers turcs ont utilisé ce qui restait de l’équipement militaire ottoman afin de poursuivre le combat contre l’occupation européenne pendant près de quatre autres années. On désigne généralement ces quatre années sous le nom de Guerre d’indépendance turque, mais on
Fawzi al-Qawuqji a été formé par le système scolaire militaire ottoman et a été reconnu comme le commandant des forces arabes pendant la Première Guerre mondiale. Il a ensuite servi dans l'armée ottomane et a combattu à cette époque les Britanniques en Palestine. Lors de la Première Guerre mondiale, Qawuqji a combattu en Syrie (1925-1927), en Palestine (1936) et en Irak (1941). Il s'est ensuite retrouvé à la tête d'une armée de volontaires durant la guerre arabo-israélienne de 1948.

Il a ensuite servi comme officier dans l'armée ottomane et a combattu à ce titre les Britanniques en Palestine. Comme la plupart de ses collègues officiers, il n'a pas joint à la révolte arabe en faveur des Britanniques dans le Hedjaz, tel que popularisé par T.E. Lawrence. Il est plutôt resté fidèle à l'Empire ottoman jusqu'à sa chute en 1918.

Une fois la guerre terminée, Qawuqji devint un rebelle itinérant anti-colonialiste. Aux côtés d'anciens officiers et soldats arabes de l'armée ottomane, il a combattu dans la plupart des rébellions qui ont éclaté dans le monde arabo-oriental pendant la période de la domination européenne, en Syrie (1925-1927), en Palestine (1936) et en Irak (1941). Il s'est ensuite retrouvé à la tête d'une armée de volontaires durant la guerre arabo-israélienne de 1948.

En plus du matériel extrait des archives françaises et britanniques, mon livre puise largement dans des sources arabes. Celles-ci incluent des documents extrait des archives privées de Qawuqji, ainsi que du Centre des documents historiques de Damas et de l'Institut pour les études palestiniennes de Beirut. Le corpus des sources arabes comprend également les dizaines de mémoires rédigés par les hommes qui ont combattu aux côtés de Qawuqji. L'usage de ces sources m'a permis de placer le point de vue des Arabes au cœur de mon ouvrage, permettant ainsi aux lecteurs d'appréhender pour la première fois le monde post-Ottoman dans le Moyen-Orient arabe par les yeux de ceux qui ont combattu pour lui donner forme. Si ces officiers arabes étaient parvenus à expulser les troupes coloniales de leurs terres, la région prêterait au jourd'hui un tout autre visage. Au lieu des États-Nations que nous y observons aujourd'hui, un état arabe uni aurait peut-être émergé des provinces de l'ancien Empire ottoman. Les frontières coloniales, comme celles établies dans le cadre des accords Sykes-Picot, auraient été effacées et l'appellation « Sykes-Picot » aurait été reléguée à la note de bas de page d'un historien.

Note :
Le lancement du livre se déroulera le 18 octobre, 17h, à la Librairie Paragraphe Bookstore, 2220 McGill College, Montréal. Soyez les bienvenus.
http://us.macmillan.com/thecommander/lailaparsons

"The Commander brilliantly encapsulates the tragic, broken history of the modern Middle East in the extraordinary and little-told story of one man, Fawzi al-Qawuqji. His epic but ultimately doomed odyssey of Arab liberation weaves through the collapse of an empire and the creation of the contemporary status quo. Written in a fluent and compelling style, The Commander is essential reading for anyone wishing to understand both the tortuous history and the current tragedy of today’s Middle East."
—Carne Ross, author of The Leaderless Revolution and founder of Independent Diplomat
New Faces in the Department

**Dr. Travis Bruce** recently joined the Department as an Assistant Professor, specializing in Medieval Mediterranean History. He completed doctoral degrees at the Université de Toulouse and Western Michigan University. Before coming to McGill, Travis taught at Wichita State University. His research focuses on communications networks in the Western Mediterranean from the 11th to the 14th century. His first book, *La taifa de Denia et la Méditerranée au Xle siècle* (Toulouse: Méridiennes, 2013), examined relations between the 11th-century Hispano-Muslim kingdom of Denia and the Christian and Muslim ports of the Mediterranean. The project drew on written sources in Latin, Arabic, and Judeo-Arabic, and material sources such as ceramics and archaeological data. His new project examines relations between the ports of Pisa and Tunis during the 13th-14th centuries. This study specifically looks at relations between Italian and North-African merchants, and will lead to a larger project on the role of translators as cultural facilitators between various Mediterranean communities.

**Dr. Darian Totten** joins the department this Fall as an Assistant Professor of Classical Archaeology. She was formally an Assistant Professor of Classics at Davidson College. Darian completed her PhD in Roman Archaeology in the Department of Classics and the Archaeology Center at Stanford University in 2011. She is currently writing her first monograph, which explores the intersection of local and larger-scale economic activity southern Italy from the 1st c. BCE to the 6th c. CE. Darian employs archaeological, epigraphic and literary evidence to identify and analyze patterns of economic and social connection in rural and urban contexts, to elaborate and explain southern Italy’s experience internally and within the broader context of empire. She is currently co-director of the Salapia Exploration Project with two Italian colleagues from the University of Foggia, a comprehensive survey and excavation program concerned with exploring both the landscapes of the Salpi Lagoon on the Adriatic Coast in northern Puglia, Italy from ancient times to the modern day. At present, they are excavating the site of Salapia, an urban port center in the Roman and Late Antique periods, later reoccupied as a medieval castrum. This fieldwork offers specific evidence of economic, social and political life within a complex, materially and historically rich context over the long-term. Run as a field school, the Salapia excavations also enable her to teach archaeological methods to students in an interactive environment. In Winter 2017, Darian will be a Fulbright scholar at the University of Foggia, where she will concentrate on book writing and research on Salapia.

**Dr. Yoshina Hurgobin** has been awarded an Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) post-doctoral fellowship. She obtained her PhD, MA and MPhil in South Asian History from Syracuse University. Her doctoral dissertation examined the connections between indentured workers’ rights of citizenship and nation formation in Mauritius between 1834 and 1968. Her IOWC research project uses malaria as a portal to explore why and how the interactions of climate, diseases and environment influenced the health of labor migrants in three distinct nodes of the Indian Ocean World (Calcutta, Ceylon and Mauritius).

**Dr. Zozan Pehlivan** has also been awarded an IOWC post-doctoral fellowship. She defended her PhD dissertation in History at Queen’s University (Kingston, Ont.). Her research focuses on changing environmental conditions for peasants and pastoral nomads in late-nineteenth-century Ottoman Kurdistan. At the IOWC, she hopes to complete a monograph entitled “Climate and Conflict: Agrarian Transformation, Global Trade and the Effects of El Niño in the Western Indian Ocean.” (Kurdistan, Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, and Iran). It will look at how global (particularly British imperial) commerce and climate affected pastoralists between 1840 and WWI.
Back in April, I was privileged to attend two very special book launches for Tom’s book—the first in Kelowna, BC, his home town, with his family, the second at Paragraphe Books in Montreal. The book began as Tom’s PhD dissertation, under my supervision, and was completed in 2007. He had just begun to turn it into a book when he and his partner, Laura Nagy, were tragically killed in a road accident. Soon after, I promised Cathay Gibson, Tom’s mother, that I would see the book through to publication. This was rather a rash promise: I didn’t realize quite how long it would take. I was thinking that it might be two or three years, but in fact it took six or seven.

It would not have been possible without the diligent work of a number of people. First and foremost my co-editor, Hillary Kaell—then finishing up her PhD in Religious Studies at Yale—did the hard graft of whittling down Tom’s humungous 850-page dissertation into something more manageable. Second, Bob Tittler, Professor Emeritus of History at Concordia, provided the index. And third, the editorial team at McGill-Queen’s University Press produced a very handsome volume. I am also very grateful to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for helping to fund it (our tax dollars put to excellent use!). With all of this assistance, we have, I think (I hope!) produced a book that remains faithful to Tom’s distinctive voice.

So what is the book about? Charles Booth, a Liverpool merchant, came up with the idea of a comprehensive survey of poverty in London at the end of the nineteenth century—and followed through with a team of investigators, producing a 17-volume series and colour-coded maps. But Booth didn’t stop there: he also commissioned a whole series on Religious Influences—i.e. the role of clergymen, missionaries and churchwomen in the provision of charity and in combating poverty. The poverty series has been worked over extensively by historians, but the Religious Influences Series has been relatively neglected—until now. Tom painstakingly worked his way through the archives at the London School of Economics and produced an extraordinary account of how these religious folk morally mapped their fellow Londoners and segregated the “respectable” from the “unrespectable” poor—and, even more significantly, how the brutal effects of poverty forced the poor themselves to morally classify and segregate each other. It is an important antidote to the belief of many historians that poverty engenders solidarity and builds community.

I encourage you to buy a copy of this book. Tom’s voice—passionate, progressive and deeply humane, as was so memorably expressed by Cathay, Hillary and Bob at the book launches—rings out loud and clear to all who knew him. I hope it will be a lasting tribute to a fine scholar, a lovable character and a dear friend.

It is dedicated in memory of Tom and Laura. For those of you who would like to make a donation to the fund for student support named in their honour, please follow the donation link on page 16 of this newsletter.

Thank you.
"Tom Brydon"
Hillary Kaell (BA, Joint Honours, 2003)

“Tom was passionate about his work and about the project of doing history. He truly believed that learning and teaching could and should impact the world for the better. He was humble about his own accomplishments but also had a kind of fierceness when it came to advocating for ‘the little guy,’ both through his scholarship and in long (often late-night) conversations with friends over tea. Tom was also incredibly generous-spirited with his time and his ideas, and willing to seriously engage the ideas of (even!) undergraduate students.

“Fundamentally, Tom was passionate about people. In his work, it meant that he strove to write about real people, including the good and the bad, and to make even the seemingly remote worlds of the poor in Victorian London a reality for his students. In his life, it meant that he nurtured long-time friendships that followed him from Kelowna, as well as newer ones at McGill. Tom also loved Montreal—it was exactly his kind of town. He loved the layers of history in the city, its grit and charm. He took full advantage of its bars, music scene, and parks. Tom wrote about hard things—the deep and depressing poverty of the inner city—but he did so out of a love for life and the diversity of experiences that come with it. He will be missed by all who knew him, as a teacher and a friend.”

Hillary Kaell did a Joint Honours in History and International Development Studies at McGill, graduating in 2003. Tom was her TA in a number of courses, and they became good friends. She is now an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Concordia University.

Sarah Ghabrial, a student of Professor Malek Abisaab, and former holder of a Peter Cundill Fellowship in History, has won the John Bullen Prize of the Canadian Historical Association for her doctoral dissertation “Le Fiqh Francisé? Modernizing Personal Status Law in French Algeria, 1870-1930.” The John Bullen Prize honours the outstanding PhD thesis on a historical topic submitted in a Canadian university by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Allan Greer, has had his Canada Research Canada Chair (Tier I) in Colonial North American history renewed. His comparative work on the twin processes of colonial property formation and indigenous dispossession has led him to attempt a new, decolonized spatial history of early Canada.

James Krapfl, professor of Eastern European history, has received two awards honouring his book Revolution with a Human Face: Politics, Culture and Community in Czechoslovakia, 1989-1992 (Cornell University Press, 2013), and the George Blazyca Prize for best work in East European Studies, awarded by the British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies and the Czechoslovak Studies Association Book Prize. For more on Revolution with a Human Face visit here.

The Department swept up the Canada Prizes in the Humanities awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Federation: Caroline Durand (Ph.D 2011, supervised by Suzanne Morton), won the French-language prize for her Nourrir la machine humaine: Nutrition et alimentation au Québec, 1860-1945 (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2015). Brian Young (FRSC, James McGill Professor emeritus) won the English-language Prize for Patrician Families and the Making of Quebec: The Taschereaus and McCords (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2014). For more on the books and their authors, see http://www.ideas-idees.ca/events/canada-prizes#winners

Three colleagues received Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grants in the October 2016 competition: -Catherine Desbarats, “La monnaie de carte en Nouvelle-France, 1685-1770”, a global history of one of the West’s first paper monies; Lorenz Lüthi “A History of the Cold War without the Superpowers: Asia, the Middle East, Europe » re-interpreting the 1945-1990 period from the perspective of the three regional cold wars; Gavin Walker, “Global Japan in the Twentieth Century,” on global links in Japanese intellectual history, particularly in the political economy of capitalist development, critical theory, and the history of Marxist thought.

Marie-Claude Felton (Research Affiliate in the Department of History and Classical Studies) received an SSHRC Insight Development Grant in Spring 2016 entitled “Lauteur propriétaire et éditeur de ses œuvres à Paris et à Londres aux XVIe et XVIIes siècles ». This project will involve a new digital platform for a wide range of records pertaining to copyright in early modern France.

Congratulations to doctoral students who have won research fellowships. Michael Davis, has been awarded a Paterson/Bronfman fellowship at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. Andrew Dial will take up a Fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library in Rhode Island. Stephan Pigeon is spending a year in Britain on a London Goodenough Association of Canada fellowship. Luke Ryder, is a visiting fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Memorial.
Faith Wallis (McGill), and Calvin Kendall (emeritus, University of Minnesota) (eds), Isidore of Seville's On the Nature of Things (Liverpool University Press, 2016). The first English translation and scholarly edition of On the Nature of Things by the influential Bishop Isidore of Seville (560? — 636), a work that played a crucial role in the assimilation of ancient science into the emerging culture of the Middle Ages and the transnational movement of scientific ideas. http://liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/products/73647

Anthony Barbieri-Low (University of California Santa Barbara) and Robin D.S. Yates (McGill), Law, State, and Society in Early Imperial China: A Study with Critical Edition and Translation of the Legal Texts from Zhangjiashan Tomb no. 247, 2 vols. (Brill, 2015). This is the first detailed study and translation into English of two recently excavated, early Chinese legal texts, containing a wealth of information about slavery, social class, ranking, the status of women and children, property, inheritance, currency, finance, labor mobilization, resource extraction, agriculture, market regulation, and administrative geography. http://www.brill.com/products/reference-work/law-state-and-society-early-imperial-china-2-vols

Jon Soske (McGill) and Sean Jacobs (New School) (eds), Apartheid Israel: The Politics of an Analogy (Haymarket, 2015). Twenty scholars of Africa and its diaspora reflect on the similarities and differences between apartheid-era South Africa and contemporary Israel, with an eye to strengthening and broadening today’s movement for justice in Palestine. http://www.haymarketbooks.org/pb/Apartheid-Israel

Lorenz Lüthi, ed., The Regional Cold Wars in Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East: Crucial Periods and Turning Points (Stanford University Press, 2015). “How do we understand the Cold War if from one direction, we narrow the focus of inquiry from the superpower conflict to the level of regional struggles, and widen the focus from individual country case studies to the sub-systemic level of the Cold War?” “This is an outstanding edited work. The contributors are first-rate, and it brings much new information to the table.” Odd Arne Westad (London School of Economics) http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=25233

Laura Madokoro, Elusive Refuge: Chinese Migrants in the Cold War (Harvard University Press, 2016) “Elusive Refuge is path-breaking in its subject matter. Its interrogation of the history of refugee policy is bold and original, demonstrating the limits of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the consequences of the many shifts—legal, political, and moral—in the meaning of the term ‘refugee.’ Moreover, its concern with asylum seekers, refugees, and immigration policy could not be more timely. An extremely important work.”—Marilyn Lake, (the University of Melbourne) http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674971516

B rian Lewis, Wolfenden’s Witnesses: Homosexuality in Postwar Britain (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). The 1957 Wolfenden report has long been recognized as a landmark. Less well known, the testimonials and written statements of witnesses before Wolfenden’s Committee provide the most complete perspectives on how homosexuality was understood in mid-twentieth century Britain. They included a broad cross-section of official, professional and bureaucratic Britain. This volume presents an annotated selection of their voices. http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137321497

L aurence Monnais (Université de Montréal) and David Wright (McGill) (eds), Doctors Beyond Borders: The Transnational Migration of Physicians in the Twentieth Century (University of Toronto Press, 2016). Combining social history, the history of health and medicine, and immigration history, this collection of essays provides an essential historical perspective on the transnational migration of health care practitioners, showing how foreign-trained doctors have challenged — and transformed — health policy and medical practice in countries around the world. http://www.utppublishing.com/Doctors-beyond-Borders-The-Transnational-Migration-of-Physicians-in-the-Twentieth-Century.html

L ucas and Calvin Kendall (emeritus, University of Minnesota) (eds), Isidore of Seville’s On the Nature of Things (Liverpool University Press, 2016). The first English translation and scholarly edition of On the Nature of Things by the influential Bishop Isidore of Seville (560? — 636), a work that played a crucial role in the assimilation of ancient science into the emerging culture of the Middle Ages and the transnational movement of scientific ideas. http://liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/products/73647

A nthony Barbieri-Low (University of California Santa Barbara) and Robin D.S. Yates (McGill), Law, State, and Society in Early Imperial China: A Study with Critical Edition and Translation of the Legal Texts from Zhangjiashan Tomb no. 247, 2 vols. (Brill, 2015). This is the first detailed study and translation into English of two recently excavated, early Chinese legal texts, containing a wealth of information about slavery, social class, ranking, the status of women and children, property, inheritance, currency, finance, labor mobilization, resource extraction, agriculture, market regulation, and administrative geography. http://www.brill.com/products/reference-work/law-state-and-society-early-imperial-china-2-vols

J on Soske (McGill) and Sean Jacobs (New School) (eds), Apartheid Israel: The Politics of an Analogy (Haymarket, 2015). Twenty scholars of Africa and its diaspora reflect on the similarities and differences between apartheid-era South Africa and contemporary Israel, with an eye to strengthening and broadening today’s movement for justice in Palestine. http://www.haymarketbooks.org/pb/Apartheid-Israel

L orenz Lüthi, ed., The Regional Cold Wars in Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East: Crucial Periods and Turning Points (Stanford University Press, 2015). “How do we understand the Cold War if from one direction, we narrow the focus of inquiry from the superpower conflict to the level of regional struggles, and widen the focus from individual country case studies to the sub-systemic level of the Cold War?” “This is an outstanding edited work. The contributors are first-rate, and it brings much new information to the table.” Odd Arne Westad (London School of Economics) http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=25233

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Chronos McGill
Jon Soske (McGill) and Shannon Walsh (UBC) (eds), Ties that Bind: Race and the Politics of Friendship in South Africa (Wits University Press, 2016) “Ties that Bind is an intriguing and long overdue book about race and friendship. It marks a time worldwide when virtual friendships are fast becoming the norm. And yet, after reading the chapters, one is left with a clearer sense of what it takes – or might take in the future – to actually be friends across race.” Sarah Nuttall (University of the Witwatersrand) http://witspress.co.za/catalogue/ties-that-bind/

Hans Beck (McGill) and Peter Funke (University of Münster) (eds), Federalism in Greek Antiquity (Cambridge University Press, 2015) The world of ancient Greece witnessed some of the most sophisticated, varied experiments with federalism in the pre-modern era. In that volatile interstate setting, federalism responded creatively to the challenge of establishing regional unity, while still preserving local autonomy. This book provides the first comprehensive assessment of the topic. http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/classical-studies/ancient-history/federalism-greek-antiquity?format=HB

Gavin Walker, The Sublime Perversion of Capital: Marxist Theory and the Politics of History in Modern Japan (Duke University Press, 2016) “[…] a brilliantly imaginative recovery of Marx’s worldly vocation and the original premises of historical materialism dedicated to combining the immediacy of local contemporary circumstances with the global reach of capital. He realizes this singularly vital program by reflecting on the writings of the economist Uno Kozo, especially his thinking on logic and history, as they intervened and culminated in the famous Marxist debate on capitalism in Japan’s 1920s and 1930s […]” Harry Harootunian (emeritus professor, NYU and University of Chicago) https://www.dukeupress.edu/the-sublime-perversion-of-capital


Bill Gladhill, Rethinking Roman Alliance: A Study in Poetics and Society (Cambridge University Press, 2016) Foedus is the Latin term for the ritual that cements alliance. It resonates beyond law and politics into private life, friendship relations between humans and gods, to the material cosmos itself. About poetic imagination as much as social ideology, Foedus provides a unique lens for understanding Roman culture. http://www.cambridge.org/mt/academic/subjects/classical-studies/classical-literature/rethinking-roman-alliance-study-poetics-and-society?format=HB

Lynn Kozak, Experiencing Hektor: Character in the Iliad (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2016) But who is Hektor? He has resonated with audiences as a tragic hero, great warrior, loyal husband and father, protector of a doomed city. Yet never has a major work sought to discover how these different aspects of Hektor’s character accumulate over the course of the narrative to create the devastating effect of his death. http://www.bloomsbury.com/au/expe-riencing-hekt-or-9781474245449/


Graduate Conference Gets “Past the Pages”

The McGill-Queen’s Graduate Conference in History, now in its thirteenth year, was a rousing success with 43 graduate speakers from 20 different departments across Canada, the United States and Britain, speaking at McGill’s Thomson House from Feb 25-27, 2016.

This year’s conference title was “Past the Pages”, which asked graduate scholars to both examine primary material beyond “the page”, and to consider how an historian’s lived experiences can interact with interpretations of the past. Stephan Pigeon and Tyler Yank, doctoral candidates in the Department of History & Classical Studies, organized and co-chaired the conference.

Two days of conference panels provided such varied topics as “Memory, Legacy, and Myths of Settler Colonialism” to “Sexualities in the Spotlight” and “History of Medicine”. McGill professors, post-docs, and senior PhD students chaired and commented on the panels.

Dr. Seth Koven’s (Rutgers) keynote address on February 26, “Economies of Conscience: The Hobhouses in War & Peace,” and Jeremy Tai’s (McGill) luncheon address on February 27, “Under the Gaze of Chinese Fascism” were conference highlights.

Special thanks go to the McGill University sponsors who made this event possible: Department of History and Classical Studies, Dean of Arts Development Fund, Post-Graduate Student Society (PGSS), Alumni Student Sponsorship Program, and the History and Classical Studies Graduate Student Association (HCGSA).

The McGill-Queen’s University Press also provided stylish tote bags for all participants.

Newly-Minted PhDs

Alexandre Dumas, “L’Église face à Duplessis: le clergé catholique face à la politique québécoise de 1930 à 1960, » (Dissertation advisor, John Zucchi).

François Gauthier, “ Financing War in the Roman Republic” (Dissertation advisor, Hans Beck).


Alex McAuley, “Basking in the Shadows of Kings: Local Culture in the Hellenistic Greek Mainland” (Dissertation advisor, Hans Beck).


Lessons From the Elusive Archive
Vincenza Mazzeo (PhD candidate in African history)

During the summer of 2016 I eagerly boarded a flight to Johannesburg where I would mine the University of Witwatersrand’s Historical Papers (HP), one of Southern Africa’s largest independent archives, for sources from which to narrate a history of women’s health activism. In South Africa, the archive, like the past, is a site of struggle.

When one imagines an archive, familiar images come to mind: innumerable wooden shelves crowded by aged and odorous texts or boxes mounted precariously from floor to ceiling. It can be arduous to see beyond the objects on display. An archive might be better thought of, however, as a site of knowledge production which is influenced by political processes and onto which power is inscribed.

While probing this contested and dynamic space, I learned two lessons. First, archives are more than the sum of their parts – they do not constitute a modular body, but a complex system shaped by a wealth of people with a wealth in knowledge. In my case, I experienced candid encounters with archivists (Michele Pickover, Zofia Sulej and Gabriele Mohale), meaningful discussions with colleagues once unknown, and sightings of renowned health activists (such as Mark Heywood).

I also found the archives to be a space in which the “cross pollination” of ideas is possible, knowledge networks proliferate, and new archives emerge. One day, a chance conversation led to a weekend of exploration in a “golden garage” on the fringes of Johannesburg. As a nurse, member of the Primary Progressive Health Care Network, and anti-apartheid activist, GG has amassed a remarkable collection of documents and photographs from her work in South Africa during the 1980s. GG generously offered me use of her personal resources, housed in her garage, for my dissertation.

Secondly, the archive is a political space whose structures, processes, and technologies are shaped by the entanglements between the local and global, the past and present. The HP bears the hallmarks of the post-apartheid state’s rapid undertaking to assemble an accessible collection of materials from which to redeem South Africa’s past – the arrangement of documents, details of inventory lists, and collections selected for digitization suggest which histories merit commemoration and celebration.

A microcosm of the local and global, the HP is reflective of and shaped by struggles over the paradoxes of a post-apartheid South Africa. Encircled by frequent protests, such as #feesmustfall, #decolonizededucation, and #endoutsourcing, the archivists battle to maintain the infrastructure of the archive, to safeguard open access to information, and to protect the very existence of the archive from the encroaching reach of the privatization of education and the drive to monetize knowledge.

The archive is not, in sum, simply a neutral repository of historical truths or an artifact of history, but a dynamic and contested site in which unexpected encounters occur, in which the line between ordinary and spectacular dissipates, and where becoming a “local of” and finding “home” is not guaranteed, but possible. Part of the magnificence of the archive is precisely its elusiveness; against the backdrop of a multi-territorialized world, the archive is whatever your imagination will permit it to be – microcosm, home, or golden garage.

The 2015 McGill Classical Studies field program
Émilie Lucas (MA in Classics)

In summer 2015, the Classics field program took us to the Peloponnese in Southern Greece. For 16 days, we got to explore the wonders of this country and the sheer beauty of its cultural heritage. We began our journey in the vibrant capital city, Athens. For a lot of us, this was a first, and what an incredible first! There were the monuments and places we had studied for years. Standing on the Pnyx hill, overseeing both the agora and the akropolis, we could finally experience Athens in its full majesty. Suddenly, the concepts and theories learned in the classroom became reality, and, more than that, they made sense. With the Piraeus on our right and the agora on our left, the reality of what actually was ancient Athens was vividly brought back to life.

In the evenings, the lively neighbourhood streets and the taste of mezzes from a small taverna brought us even closer to this reality. The local culture can only be understood fully when experienced first hand. For us, ancient historians, this is both thrilling and essential. Trips to Delphi and Olympia helped us to grasp the mystical aspects of these sites and the reason why they were chosen as home of the gods becomes crystal clear. In Sparta, the sight of the vast and open Laconian plain hemmed in by two enormous mountains helps the modern student understand Sparta’s peculiar nature to an extent that cannot be portrayed through course books alone. As a graduate student, I believe that the chance to feel this connection, not only to the subject, but also to the people I study, is priceless. Their quotidian interactions, daily struggles and bigger dreams become entwined with our own. History can thus indeed be a lived experience. By walking streets which are now just ruins and touching the walls of what was once a great Mycenaean palace, we were able to experience it from within.
This year, five students in our Department were awarded Arts Undergraduate Research Internship Awards. Established by Dean Christopher P. Manfredi in 2010, the ARIA program supports undergraduate students who undertake research during the summer under the direct supervision of a faculty member. [http://www.mcgill.ca/arts-undergraduate-research/getting-involved-research](http://www.mcgill.ca/arts-undergraduate-research/getting-involved-research)

Hortense Chauvin (History), "Sex in the City: Gender Relations between the Allied Armies of the Orient and Civilians in the City of Salonica’ 1916-1918" (Prof. Anastassios Anastassiadis)
David Douglas (Classical Studies) “The Influence of Didactic Poetry in the Italian Renaissance” (Prof. Bill Gladhill)
Macha Jauvert (History and Pol.Sci.), “Sites of Sanctuary” (Prof. Laura Madokoro),
Alexis Lemonde-Vachon (Classical Studies and History) “Paleography and Transcription of Early Modern French Colonial Counterfeit Trials” (Professor Catherine Desbarats)
Avital Li (Sustainability) “Alternative Development Initiatives in the Ngobe-Bugle Comarca” (Professor Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert)

Undergraduate Student Associations

The History Students’ Association (HSA)
Sajdeep Soomall

Recipient of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) Most Outstanding Departmental Association (Large) and Most Outstanding President in 2015, the HSA represents and provides services for undergraduates pursuing studies in History at McGill.

Academic Support
We publish an annual open-access, peer-reviewed journal, Historical Discourses that provides a forum for the best undergraduate writing and inquiry. Our most recent issue, Spring 2016, took up questions of violence, trauma and the politics of witness.

Next spring, the HSA will be launching an annual conference for undergraduate history students at McGill. Topics considered for our first gathering include: transnationalism, disability studies/crip theory, and the digital humanities.

Public Engagement
The HSA organizes public lectures designed to bring together students, faculty and members of the wider community to learn about hidden histories. Last year, the lectures uncovered the origins of hip hop music, explored queerness during the Harlem Renaissance, and told us about Marxist vampires!

In the fall, the HSA will be developing a workshop series for undergraduate students to learn how to adapt their in-class research into forms that will reach a wider audience, such as radio documentaries, participatory events, infographics, and short videos.

Community-Building
Throughout the academic year, the HSA holds engaging events designed to bring together our community of young historians. We host fun events such as wine and cheese, trivia nights, guided tours of local museums and open forums to debate current events. We are working to create more opportunities for young historians at McGill to engage with independent historians working outside of the university at local organizations such as the MMFA, McCord Museum, and BAnQ.
Un été comme récipiendaire ARIA. Par Alexis Lemonde-Vachon

Alors que pour plusieurs l’arrivée des vacances signifie le soleil, les sorties entre amis, la détente, il en va tout autrement pour l’historien débutant; l’été, pour lui, est passé en recherches, le nez dans les manuscrits et l’esprit perdu dans les couloirs du temps! Grâce à un ARIA, une bourse accordée par la Faculté des Arts, voilà déjà quelques semaines que je travaille en collaboration avec Professeur Catherine Desbarats à l’étude du développement de la monnaie de carte en Nouvelle-France. =>

En clair : je suis paléographe. Vous n’arrivez pas à déchiffrer l’écriture de vos collègues? C’est mon travail. Détarant de vieux procès de contrefaçon du XVIIIème siècle des archives de Montréal, je les analyse, je les décide, je les retranscrit. C’est ensuite par l’étude des arnaqueurs de cette époque qu’il nous sera possible de se visualiser plus nettement l’économie de cette époque.

Si cela vous paraît simple, détrompez-vous! Prenez ce passage par exemple : Qu’y voyez-vous? Je vais vous aider, voici la transcription : “21 Janvier 1752; A Monsieur le Lieutenant général civil et criminel de la juridiction royale de Montréal.”

La prochaine fois que vous aurez de la misère à lire les notes de votre médecin, vous saurez quoi faire; allez voir un paléographe!

Classics Students’ Association of McGill University (CSA)
Alexis Lemonde-Vachon

Run by passionate students, the CSA is the link between Professors and all the students who study in Classics, or ever took a class in this Department.

Recipient of the AUS Award of Most Outstanding Departmental Association (Small) for 2015-2016, the CSA publishes an annual journal, Hirundo, and runs many different activities and lectures related to Philology and Ancient History. For example, last semester, in collaboration with the Université de Montréal, Concordia, and UQÀM, it held the VIIIth Classics Colloquium. For two days, students shared the results of their research.

Next semester’s events:
For the coming year, the CSA will hold a variety of events on campus to brighten up the fall and early winter! Apart from movie nights, “special” Latin or Greek translation evenings and other small events, the executive team has already started to plan two major events:

1. Regrouping the classicists and ancient historians of McGill: students, professors, staff members, alumni et alter, the fashionable Wine and Cheese evening is to be held in the beginning of the semester to start the year in grand fashion.

2. The Halloween Lecture, in collaboration with the HSA, will once again be organized for the end of October. Prepare for an evening of frightening historical facts explained by a small group of invited professors!

For more details about these coming events, or for any questions you might have concerning the CSA or the Department in general, you can consult our website, write us, or come directly to our office.

Contact details for the HSA and CSA

Stephen Leacock Building
855, rue Sherbrooke ouest
Montréal, Québec
H3A 2T7
Canada

Classics Students’ Association of McGill University:
Room 817
History Students’ Association: Room 629

www.Mcgillcsa.com
 classics.students.mcgill.ca@gmail.com

www.mcgillhsa.com
 mcgill.hsa.president@gmail.com
Fundraising for Students

In September 2016, the Department of History and Classical Studies is launching a fundraising campaign aimed at supporting students in a number of ways.

We have five key objectives:

1. A graduate fellowship to attract and support a top-flight Indigenous student

Why does this matter?
The recent final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued a number of Calls to Action, including calls to action to build capacity in post-secondary education for Indigenous peoples and to commemorate and investigate Indigenous history. The Department would like to create a fellowship for an Indigenous student to pursue an MA or a PhD. This initiative complements McGill’s recent creation of an Indigenous Studies Program and its ongoing commitment to integrating Indigenous perspectives and experiences in all facets of McGill’s academic mission.

2. A bursary to enable a graduate student to obtain language training in a language not offered at McGill but essential for his or her research

Why does this matter?
Historians need to read sources in their original languages, and to talk with people from the communities they are studying. No one university can offer intensive training in all the languages that students may need for their research. Modelled on language bursaries available at comparable institutions, this fellowship will enable a student to travel to attend intensive language training programs. It will enable us to support graduate students in fields such as the history of a variety of African and Asian regions, or to support training in Indigenous languages in the communities themselves. To give but one recent example among many, current PhD student Jessica Rose travelled to Pune, India, to undertake immersive study in Marathi, a regional language without which her research would be impossible. The program included homestays, and social engagement with the local community.

3. Student research travel

Why does this matter?
Every year many of our students, both undergraduate and graduate, travel to carry out field research. Some of the archives they must visit are located in areas where money is short for basic preservation and access, let alone digitization. In other cases, field research is essential to carry out oral history or to locate source material outside institutional archives. The understanding of a society’s history remains vital to understanding it and its relationship with other societies today.

4. Support for doctoral students

Why does this matter?
McGill attracts top graduate students from Canada and around the world. Donations can help us provide competitive scholarships in a global environment. Canadian universities generally, and Quebec universities in particular, often have fewer funding sources for graduate students than do comparable institutions elsewhere: in many comparable American universities, for example, higher undergraduate tuition rates ultimately benefit graduate programs. Government graduate scholarships do exist in Canada, but are confined to domestic students, and are limited in number. Private funding can thus make a major difference. The Department has identified graduate funding as a priority and is seeking to develop private and institutional partnerships and to raise funds more broadly. Doctoral fellowships will help the Department attract top international students and train the next generation of historians and classics.

5. A fund to support teaching innovation and the enhancement of undergraduate learning

Why does this matter?
McGill has extraordinarily talented undergraduates who have the capacity to seize opportunities. This fund would support specific projects created by our professors to enhance the classroom experience and to respond to student initiatives. Projects might include organizing field trips to diverse communities, cultural events or museum exhibits; inviting guest speakers from outside the academy; experimenting with new technologies in the classroom; renting independent films with limited commercial distribution (and where possible bringing in the director to work with students); creating opportunities for students to go backstage in archives, museums, film studios and other places where public history happens. Small research travel grants from the same fund would be made available to students to work in archives and other venues for class essays and projects. We also hope to fund student prizes for academic achievement.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Make a donation now. Please donate to the Tom Brydon and Laura Nagy fund for student support (research, language training and teaching innovation), or to the Carman Miller fund for graduate entrance scholarships or to support the general academic mission of the department. If you would like to specify the goal of your gift more precisely, please send an email to Scott Corbett (contact details below)

- Join the Friends of History and Classical Studies and receive regular invitations to department events, such as lectures and book launches, as well as occasional news about the department and a hard copy of the annual newsletter if desired. Please join HERE.

- To discuss individual donations and Department plans in more details, please contact Scott Corbett, Senior Development Officer, Faculty of Arts (Scott.Corbett@mcgill.ca; (514) 398-5005) or Lorenz Lüthi, HCS Outreach Chair (Lorenz.Luthi@mcgill.ca)

- If you would prefer to make a donation by cheque, please make it out to the Department of History and Classical Studies, McGill University, and send it to the attention of the Outreach Committee, Department of History and Classical Studies, 855 Sherbrooke West, Montréal, Québec, H3A 2T7. (outreach.hcs@mcgill.ca). Thank you
Prof. Tassos Anastassiadis, in collaboration with colleagues from York University, Simon Fraser University and the University of Patras (Greece), has received a major grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to develop a Centre for the Study of Greek Immigration and Diaspora at McGill. The scope of the project is global, but Canada will be the focus of the pilot studies. The size and diversity of Montreal’s Hellenic community will allow the team to map patterns of settlement, gather oral histories, and study the impact of the Canadian milieu on the Greek language and culture. A major goal of the Centre is a Virtual Museum for Greek Immigration.

Building on this « Greek » connection, the Department has pioneered a McGill Summer Studies in Greece program which has just completed its second season. Looking forward to the third year in 2017!

The Yan P. Lin Centre for the study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds was established at McGill in the 2015-16 academic year by virtue of a generous gift from Dr. Yan P. Lin (McGill PhD, 1992). The Director is Jacob Levy (Political Science, McGill). The Centre includes five research groups, “Global antiquities”, “Transitions and global modernities”, “Constitutional studies”, “Global justice” and “Democracy, space and technology”. The group “Global antiquities” is dedicated to the comparative study of ancient Greece, Rome and China and is coordinated by Hans Beck and Griet Vankeerberghen of the Department of History and Classical Studies. The “Transitions and global modernities” team is coordinated by Lorenz Lüthi and Anastassios Anastassiadis of the Department and explores the history of democracy and its challenges in the modern period. Acclaimed historical sociologist, Dr. Orlando Patterson of Harvard, delivered the inaugural public lecture for the Yan P. Lin Centre. Scenes from the St. Andrew’s Ball, Montreal, 2014, including the piping in of the haggis. The profits from the ball were generously donated to the Scottish-Canadian Chair.

In April 2016, the Department finalized a partnership with the Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation that will send one to two doctoral students per year to Ottawa for three-month fellowships. Fellows will use the Museum’s rich collections in the history of agriculture, medicine, and industrial technology while also presenting their work to Museum curators and staff and visitors. Each fellowship is worth $5,000 and will help the students make progress on their dissertations while also making valuable contacts with potential colleagues and partners at the Museum and in Ottawa. We hope to also add a full-year scholarship once the program is up and running.

The Peter Cundill doctoral fellowships at McGill were created through the generosity of Peter Cundill, who also founded the prestigious Cundill Prize in Historical Literature. Jeannette Greven, currently a Cundill fellow in the Department, studies the dynamics of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations between 2000 and 2011. Urvi Desai has also been awarded a Cundill Fellowship, and will enter the Department’s doctoral program in the Fall to begin a project entitled “Morality and Domesticity in Western India: Examining Social Reform and Quotidian State Response in Late Colonial India.”
The McGill Classics Play was founded in 2010 and has produced six annual plays: Aeschylus’ *Agamemnon*, Euripides’ *Hippolytos*, Sophocles’ *Philoctetes*, Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata*, Seneca’s *Thyestes*, and Euripides’ *Hekabe*. The main point of the Classics Play is to bring people together around ancient drama as drama (the done thing), rather than just as literature (the read thing). We aim to create fruitful exchange between students, professional artists, and the general public in Montréal. Students are involved in every aspect of the production, from translating the play to designing, directing, and performing in the play, giving them valuable experience outside the classroom and a real sense of teamwork: over 150 students have participated in the programme so far, from several Faculties at McGill, UdeM and Concordia. Students’ experience also involves interacting with local professionals in each production, such as venue techs, DJs (*Hippolytos*), musicians (*Philoctetes*, *Lysistrata*, *Thyestes*), and comedians (*Lysistrata*). With these six shows, at off-campus venues all over Montréal, the McGill Classics Play has brought ancient drama to over 1,800 audience members, and has received press coverage from student papers and national theatre blogs. Our shows have included a fundraiser for the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal and free shows as part of the Westmount City Winter Festival. The McGill Classics Play also holds public lectures and events each year at McGill featuring scholars and professional performance practitioners to provide further insight into the performance of ancient texts today.

ABOUT US

The McGill Classics Play operates independently, and has no stable source of funding from McGill. We have received contributions from the John MacNoughton Chair in Classics and the Phrixos B. Papachristidis Chair in Greek and Greek–Canadian Studies and we have also won small grants from the Dean of Arts Development Fund. But the majority of our income is still from ticket sales, which means that the production team puts up money for the play before (not always) making it back. Any financial contribution would be greatly appreciated; you can donate and receive a tax receipt through our website.

Apart from financial support, we are always interested in teaming up with artists and musicians and in creating new community partnerships. Please get in touch!

GETTING INVOLVED
τον οὖν Παυσανίαν ἔφη λόγου τοιοῦτοι τινὸς κατάρχειν. ἦν, ἀνδρεῖς, φάναι, τίνα τρόπον ἡσστα πώςει ήν, ἐν γε μὲν
οὖν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι τῷ ὑπὲρ πάνω χαλεπῶς ἔχω ὑπὸ τοῦ χθεσί πότου καὶ δέομαι ἀναφυχῆς τινὸς—οἶμαι δὲ καὶ ὑμῶν
τοὺς πολλοὺς.

So Pausanias began with this sort of speech: ‘Well guys,’ he said, ‘what way can we drink easily? Because I’m telling you, that I am pretty bad off because of yesterday’s drinking, and I need some respite—and I think it’s the same with many of you. He said that Pausanias started like this: ‘Well, men,’ he said, ‘I think we are in deep trouble. Too! I say to you that in truth I am having some difficulty from last night’s drinking, and I need some restoration—so I think with many of you. He said that Pausanias started talking like this: ‘Men!, what’s the best way to drink moderately? Because if for one, am really pretty hungover from drinking last night, and I think a lot of you all are too. So he said that Pausanias began his speech in this way: ‘Well,
You Are Invited.... Fall 2016 Public Lectures and Events

Colleagues, Students, and all Friends of the Department of History and Classical Studies, you are warmly welcomed to join us at the following public events during the Fall 2016

Opening Night Event: McGill’s Annual Indigenous Awareness Week
The Pass System: Screening and Panel chaired by Allan Downey, with Director Alex Williams
Monday, September 19th, 2016
Room 26, Leacock Building, McGill University
6pm-9pm

For more on the film that tells the story of Canada’s "silenced history of racial segregation", see http://www.tamarackproductions.com/the-pass-system/

Annual Cundill Prize Winner Lecture
Susan Pedersen (Columbia University)
"Why Look Back at the League of Nations?"
Thursday October 6, 2016, 5PM
Théâtre Armand Bombardier
McCord Museum/Musée McCord
690 rue Sherbrooke ouest, Montreal

The 2015 Cundill Prize in Historical Literature was won by Susan Pedersen for her book The Guardians: the League of Nations and the Crisis of Empire. Established in 2008, and administered by McGill University, the Cundill Prize is the world’s largest prize for historical literature, and covers all fields of History. Each year, the previous year’s winner gives a lecture at McGill University.
http://www.cundillprize.com/

Global Antiquities 2016 Annual Outreach Lecture
Irad Malkin (Tel Aviv University)
"It’s a Small World: Networks in Ancient Greece" (Yan Lin Centre)
Thursday, October 20, 2016 5PM
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts/ Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal
Maxwell Cummings Auditorium
1379 rue Sherbrooke ouest, Montréal

McGill Homecoming Lecture and Reception
Faith Wallis (McGill University),
“How the Twelfth Century Invented Academic Medicine”
Saturday October 29, 4-6PM
Théâtre J. Armand Bombardier
McCord Museum/Musée McCord
690 rue Sherbrooke ouest, Montreal

For more information on our Fall and Winter public lectures and our ongoing seminar series, please contact Meena Mohan, Administrative Coordinator: meena.mohan@mcgill.ca or (514) 398-6543, or Professor Elsbeth Heaman, Chair, Speaker’s Committee: Elsbeth.heaman@mcgill.ca.
For Montreal History Group seminars, see: https://www.mcgill.ca/ghm-mhg/activities
For French Atlantic History Group seminars see: http://mcgillaatl-paquindesign.com/activites/
For Montreal British History Group seminars see: https://www.mcgill.ca/history/events/
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