



GORDON
COLLEGE

Biblical Studies
and Christian Ministries
Fall Newsletter | 2015



Honoring Roger J. Green

After 43 years of unflinching excellent service to both Barrington and Gordon Colleges, Dr. Roger J. Green is serving in his last year at the College. Dr. Green has taught a wide range of theology courses as well as New Testament. His signature senior seminars on Wesley, Bonhoeffer, and Luther, along with his course on American Christianity, have consistently attracted serious students. He also served as the consummate department chair for 26 years, seeing a whole generation of Gordon biblical studies majors through their classes and welcoming them to more than 45 annual department lasagna dinners! In a very small token of our esteem, we devote the cover story of this inaugural issue to Dr. Green.

Dr. Green has long been a major figure in The Salvation Army. In fact, in 2012, he was granted the *Order of the Founder* (William Booth), an honor that has only been given to approximately 250 people since its establishment in 1917. He has written books on both William and Catherine Booth. Dr. Green was on sabbatical in the fall of 2014 and logged many additional miles in his tireless travel as an internationally known speaker for the Army. He was in Lagos, Nigeria, for a good part of the time.

Dr. Green's association with The Salvation Army came to the fore again this summer as he attended The Salvation Army's International Congress in London. Here is his description of that remarkable congress.

"This past summer Karen and I were privileged to be delegates to The Salvation Army's International Congress in London, England. That was a five-day celebration with 20,000 delegates from 126 countries. The celebration was held at the O2 Center, built for the Olympics. We had seven sessions when we all gathered for worship, and during those five days there were several smaller sessions—concerts, films, seminars—that we could attend. Part of the joy of those five days was meeting many of our friends from around the world." [What Dr. Green has modestly left out is that his own presentation was very well-attended, even though it was scheduled at the same time as one of the concerts!]



"Following the International Congress, a dear friend of mine and I, along with his wife and Karen, led 48 people throughout England on a Salvation Army/Wesley tour for ten days. We visited such sites as the East End of London where The Salvation Army began on July 2, 1865, the birthplace of Catherine Booth, and the birthplace of William Booth. We also visited such places as John and Charles Wesley's birthplace, the home and chapel of John Wesley in London, and the home of Charles Wesley in Bristol. Following those ten days, 24 of our people joined us for a five-day optional tour to Ireland. We returned home with great memories of our time in London and of the post-Congress tour of both England and Ireland."



In honor of Dr. Green's decades of teaching excellence, the BCM department, in conjunction with Gordon College and The Salvation Army, has established the **Roger J. Green Scholarship**. Already, more than \$25,000 has been raised toward funding this important endeavor. For further information, please contact the Development Office at Gordon.

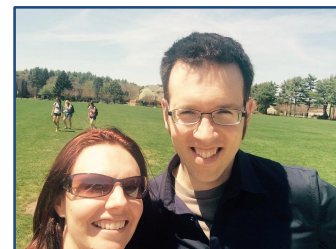
—Elaine Phillips, Department Chair

Faculty and Campus Updates

Our newest department member

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Amy Hughes to the department.

"I spent the summer saying goodbye to friends and life in the Chicago area and being excited about coming to Gordon. In between packing boxes, I plunged myself neck-deep into my chapters on Augustine's mother, Monica, and on Roman aristocratic women who helped fund scholarly enterprise and building projects in fourth-century Palestine for my book on women in early Christianity (co-written with Lynn Cohick, Professor of New Testament at Wheaton). My husband Benjie and I have been settling into life on the North Shore and are loving it so far! Here's our selfie from our first visit to Gordon's quad together."



Steve Hunt on sabbatical in Orvieto this fall



During the fall semester (2015), Steve is developing a course called "Early Christianity in Rome" for Gordon's Orvieto program. Placing Paul's letter to the Romans in its cultural context, the study will be made vivid for students by visiting many archaeological sites of ancient Rome and environs. Particular attention will be given to elements of Roman art, architecture, and history as they are encountered "on the ground." The course will extend Orvieto's focus on the medieval and Renaissance era to include early Christianity, while enhancing Steve's ability to provide the "dirt and dust" of Roman culture for future iterations of the yearly course "Romans and Galatians" at Gordon.

Dan Darko in Accra, Ghana

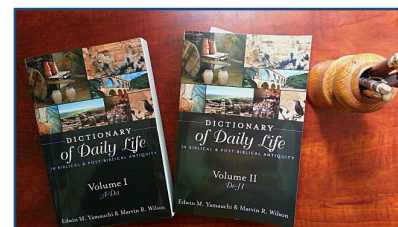
During June, Dan was in Ghana, consulting with schools to shape their curricula. These included the Divinity School of Regent University of Science and Technology and the Bible College at the National Office of the Four Square Gospel Church in Ghana. Dan was also a co-organizer for a three-day Pastors' Conference that attracted about three hundred pastors in the capital. He also found time for preaching and teaching in churches as well as developing partnerships with private high schools to recruit for Gordon. In addition to these activities, Dan distributed reference books for pastors and theological libraries and spent time in Cairo, teaching at the Evangelical Theological Seminary.



Marv Wilson's milestones



Members of the BCM department celebrated the 80th birthdays of both Marv and Polly Wilson this summer. What a joyous occasion! We also have reason to celebrate in the publication of the second volume of the *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity*, which he is co-editing with Edwin Yamauchi.



Ted Hildebrandt expands online course offerings



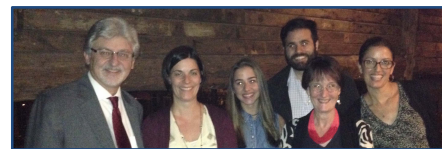
Ted traveled to his old stomping grounds in Winona Lake, Indiana, where he video-taped Dr. Herb Bateman doing 30 hours of teaching on the General Epistles. He then traveled to Asbury Seminary where he recorded Dr. Craig Keener (on right in photo) teaching about Matthew, Acts and Romans and acquired 15 lectures by Dr. Bill Mounce on the Sermon on the Mount. He spent the rest of the summer putting these instructional videos up online. He began researching Solomon's Temple Prayer (1 Kings 8) for a paper he will be presenting in the "Theology of Prayer in the Old Testament" section of the Institute for Biblical Research conference in Atlanta this November.

Check out his website: faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/

Faculty and Campus Updates

Sharon Ketcham: Investigating evangelicalism in Brazil

In August Sharon Ketcham traveled with faculty colleagues to São Paulo, Brazil, on a Templeton-funded planning grant. They met with pastors, seminary presidents, lay people and politicians to better understand the growth of evangelicalism in modernizing Brazil.



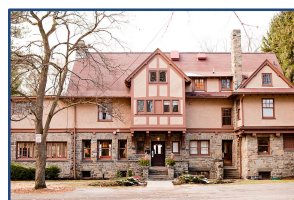
Mark Cannister and the blessings of practicum supervising



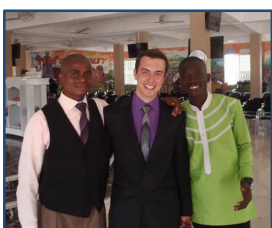
"This summer it was a special treat to visit Andi Casian who was serving with The Boston Project Ministries (www.tbpm.org), a Christian community development organization in Dorchester, Massachusetts, for her practicum. What made this visit special was that The Boston Project was started in 1995 by Paul Malkemes, my first teaching assistant, shortly after he graduated from Gordon College. It has been a true pleasure to see God at work through Paul and his team over the years and to see current students being mentored by former students like Paul who are passionately contributing to the redemptive activity of God throughout the world. Pictured on the right, a day of celebrating the neighborhood together, with a community cleanup, Jamaican lunch and recognition of the community's veterans."

Did you know? We have an affiliation with Cornell University

Gordon College has established a collaborative relationship with the Chesterton House (CH) Christian Studies Center at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, to serve as an academic resource and credit-granting host for this unique interdisciplinary program for Cornell University students. The CH program is designed to identify and nurture future leaders not only for church and para-church ministries but also for other areas of cultural leadership such as business, education, public service, journalism, law, and medicine. Cornell students may take up to four biblically and theologically focused courses taught on Cornell's campus while still pursuing their own Cornell programs. These courses provide opportunities for students to examine relevant intersections between faith and life and construct responses drawing on course content.



Students have been busy recently as well...



Landon Butler, senior biblical studies and Christian ministries major, had a unique experience in Ghana this summer. "I spent 11 weeks in Ghana to fulfill my Christian ministries practicum. I was working with an independent Charismatic Christian denomination called Peace Chapel International under the leadership of one of Dr. Darko's personal friends, Bishop Michael Bright Adofoh. I spent my time shadowing the Bishop and learning from him as he worked while also engaging in preaching and teaching assignments every week while I was there."

Karim "Kika" Ghobrial, senior biblical studies and business administration major, traveled to Egypt this past summer. "Stepping foot back in Egypt, the country I once called home, and not knowing what to expect about what I was to learn, do, or share was nerve-racking but exciting at the same time. I spent my first few weeks sitting with Muslim converts and hearing their stories of coming to know Christ. I read books about how to answer questions that Muslims had about Jesus and about what it meant to live life as mission.

"Although I was involved in many different organized church and parachurch ministries, sharing my faith with Muslim taxi drivers in the Muslim world was the most exhilarating thing I did all summer. Conversations would start from a simple 'Hi, how are you?' and would end in an exchange of phone numbers so we could continue talking. The idea that the Divine Son of God came, died, and rose again so that all people would be forgiven by grace and not by works was mind-boggling to these men. The truth of God's love was enough to get my new Muslim friends to want to know more. I watched these grown men get excited as I told them of their opportunity to accept the free gift of salvation being offered by Jesus. What an honor it was for me to take part in sharing the love of Jesus!"



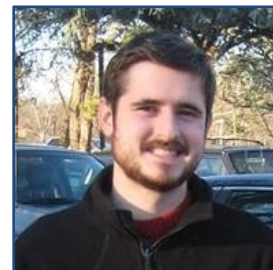
Alumni News

Our majors continue to impact the world in important ways. Here is just a selection from the past few years:



Matthew Percuoco (2010) “I entered Gordon College as a physics major, but an Introduction to Old Testament course in my freshman year changed my college career and vocational goals. Gordon’s Bible faculty not only helped me to discover my passion for the field of biblical studies, but also prepared me to succeed at a high level with further graduate work. Upon graduating, I completed an M.A. in biblical languages at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and an M.T.S. in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Harvard Divinity School. I am truly excited to begin a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University this fall.”

Andrew Pottorf (2011) “Since graduating from Gordon College, I have spent four years at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, earning an M.Div. and an M.A. in biblical languages. I have also spent these years serving in outdoor ministry positions with Gordon College’s outdoor ministry program and with Camp Brookwoods in New Hampshire, as well as in teaching ministry as a graduate teaching assistant in various capacities at Gordon College. I am now eagerly starting a Ph.D. at Harvard University in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations during which I will focus on Assyriology, particularly Semitic epigraphy and linguistics.”



Chelsea Revell (2013) “I serve as the Administrative Assistant and Academic Resource Coordinator at Jerusalem University College, managing the college’s library and academic resources and working with the institution’s social media presence, often accompanying classes on off-campus excursions to photograph education in the field. The two-year post is particularly special to me since I studied abroad at JUC in 2012. In some ways, my decision to return to Israel resonates with lessons I learned about texts as a biblical studies student; one is never finished with a text (especially a Scriptural text)—there is always some new detail to notice, an additional connection to make, another personal response to experience...

and I believe that places are much the same way. Here I am pictured at the Dome of the Rock in 2014 with two Gordon students, Josh and Jordan, who studied at JUC.”

We would love to hear updates from folks! Send a quick email to Elaine.Phillips@gordon.edu when you have a chance.

Opportunity to study in Israel

Join students from Gordon College in Israel (May 15–June 5) for three weeks of field study in the land of the Bible. The estimated cost (\$4,888 for Israel only; \$7,473 if you add two additional weeks in Jordan) includes four (or six) credits of tuition, all room and board, travel and entrance fees within Israel, international airfare, and course materials. *This is a bargain!*

For further information, contact Dr. Elaine Phillips (elaine.phillips@gordon.edu).



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