



GORDON
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Biblical Studies
and Christian Ministries
Fall Newsletter | 2016



Fall 2015–Spring/Summer 2016

Our department spent most of the year in denial that Roger would be retiring. It was a year of “lasts” that included students clamoring to take his final Dietrich Bonhoeffer seminar, Roger leading his signature American Christianity class on their final field trips into Boston in May 2016, with a stop at the African Meeting House (above)—and a retirement celebration. That “event” actually lasted all year, but the culminating celebration hosted by the College on May 6 was enhanced by presenting to Roger and Karen an artistic rendition of Roger’s home away from home, Frost Hall (right), by Gordon’s own Bruce Herman, and also by a few creatively rewritten musical numbers celebrating Roger! Enjoy our newsletter and we’d love to hear from you!

- Amy Hughes, assistant professor in theology



This department photo is a fitting accompaniment to our celebration of Roger Green’s retirement.



Now, we love this selfie so much (thanks, Bob) that we could not help but add it in.

Department Highlights

Graduation

Recent graduate Sara-Jean Lapitan '16 says, "My job as youth director of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's new campus involves working alongside a team to create programs that will serve and grow our congregation. Everything I am doing now directly builds on the ministry design I developed during my senior seminar. Watching four years of critical thinking put into action has been amazing."



Faculty Summer Activities



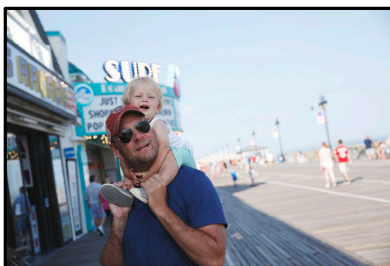
Elaine Phillips

Israel Seminar – taught the Israel Seminar field study at Jerusalem University College (May/June 2016).

Looking ahead – Join Gordon College students for three weeks of field study in Israel (May 21–June 11, 2017). Estimated cost (\$4950.00) includes four credits of tuition, international airfare, room and board, and all travel and entrance fees within Israel. *This is a bargain!* For more information, contact [Elaine Phillips](#).

Mark Cannister

Young Life – spent a week at Saranac Village, a Young Life camp in the Adirondack mountains of New York where thousands of teenagers have the opportunity to engage the transformational message of the Gospel each summer. One of the original donors who helped purchase the property said: "At that time in my life I invested in three major things: a jet, a yacht, and Saranac. The jet is rusting in a field somewhere, the yacht is transporting drugs off the coast of Cuba and Saranac is changing thousands of kids' lives for eternity ... I should have donated to three Young Life camps."



Steve Hunt

"Reading Romans—in Rome" – visited family on the south Jersey shore and up in the mountains outside of Denver and spent most his summer working on a new course for the "Gordon In Orvieto" program he will teach spring of 2017. The course, "Reading Romans—in Rome," seeks to understand the letter in light of the fact that the original recipients lived life in the shadow of Nero's empire. The central question which drove the research this summer was: how does Paul's letter deconstruct the empire's claim that Caesar, the one who has established the *Pax Romana*, is Lord?

Sharon Ketcham

Me to We: Moving Faith from Self to Community – worked on a book for InterVarsity Press that seeks to recapture a vision for a Christian's relationship with the larger community of faith. Sharon and Amy also worked together to introduce a new theology minor that includes new class offerings such as "Justice and Mercy: Theological Anthropology" and "Trinity and Christology." Check out the program here: <http://www.gordon.edu/theology>

Ted Hildebrandt

Legacy project – filmed leading biblical studies scholars and posted the lectures on YouTube to make classic biblical scholarship available worldwide. Notables include John Walton (Job); Leslie Allen (Ezekiel); Bruce Waltke (Psalms). Biblical Studies major Matthew Dunphy assisted in posting the lectures. See our new website: www.biblicalearning.org.



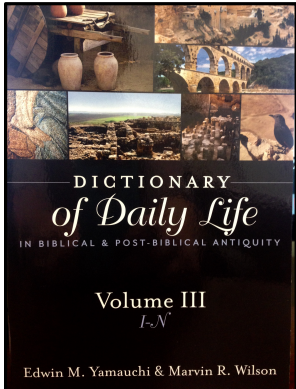
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Department Highlights



Marv Wilson

Volume III now available – saw the publication of the third volume of the *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity*, co-edited with Edwin Yamauchi (left).

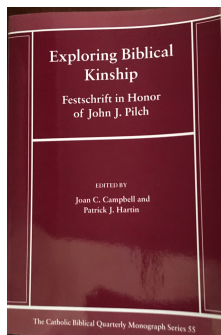
Amy Hughes

Lilly Summer Fellowship for College Teachers – joined a group of scholars in Orvieto, Italy, to engage in ecumenically rich and productive dialogue about art and theology. Click on the photo (right), taken in the Pantheon in Rome, to head over to the Center for Art, Faith and History’s blog to read about her experience.



Bob Whittet

Father of the groom – gathered with his entire family in Santa Barbara, CA for the wedding of his son, Justin Whittet, to Ellen O’Connell. In June Bob spoke at Camp Joy (amazing program for campers with cognitive disabilities) in Due West, N.C. Bob was also involved in missions during the summer taking two trips to the country of Bolivia, one to do some videography work and the second to lead a team of 14 to the village of Cotoca to partner with a church plant.



Dan Darko

“Kinship in Discipleship” – contributed the essay “Kinship in Discipleship: The ‘Father’ Image of God and Disciples as ‘Brothers’ in Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount” for a monograph in the Catholic Biblical Quarterly Manuscript Series 55 (left) and wrote a number of reviews for *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* and *Bulletin of Biblical Review*. Dan is also continuing his busy teaching and public speaking schedule traveling to France, Ghana, Egypt, Nigeria and around the United States.

Faculty Presentations at Professional Meetings

Amy Hughes – “‘Equal to the Angels’: Virginitly as Eschatological Hope in Gregory of Nyssa” (North American Patristics Society, Chicago)

Dan Darko – “Kinship and Leadership in 1 Timothy: A Study of Filial Framework and Model for Early Christian Communities in Asia Minor” (Pastoral Epistles section of Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta)

Ted Hildebrandt – “The Temple Prayer of Solomon (1 Kings 8:1-9:9)” (Theology of Prayer Group of Institute for Biblical Research, Atlanta - IBR)

Elaine Phillips – “Where Do We Go Next? Boundaries, Intentions, and Theological Interfaces” (Theology of Prayer Group for IBR - Atlanta)

Faculty Sabbaticals

Dan Darko is currently on sabbatical. His first project examines the role of spiritual beings in the identity and moral constructs for the readership of Ephesians in western Asia Minor.

Mark Cannister will be on sabbatical during the spring term of 2017 working on a book that addresses faith formation of teenagers through contributions to the fabric of the community. The working title is *Contribution Matters: Engaging Adolescents in the Life of the Church*.



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Alumni Spotlights

Melinda Blasche Hendry (class of 1997) is currently serving as a Senior Minister at All Souls Church, a large evangelical Anglican church located in the heart of London. Her main role is to run the apprentice/intern program; equipping, training and nurturing the next generation of Christian leaders.

Ryan Groff (class of 2006) recently began studies for his JD at New England Law School. He remarks: "I will continue serving as firm administrator and paralegal at a nearby law firm in Wakefield. I remain grateful for my time as a student and employee [with the Center for Faith and Inquiry] at Gordon, even while I sense a true and long-term confidence in my new course of work in law."



Sarah Baker (class of 2001) writes: "Thanks to my Hebrew class with Dr. Wilson, the day after graduation found me on a plane to Israel to pursue an M.A. at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. I spent the next four years co-writing a Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic curriculum for eTeacher, an Israeli online education company associated with the Hebrew University. In 2011 I began my Ph.D. studies in Hebrew Bible at the University of Texas at Austin, where I've helped redesign and teach the department's undergraduate Biblical Hebrew language courses. As I write my dissertation on the psalms in ancient Israel, I continue to be grateful for the thoughtful and integrated grounding I received during my time at Gordon, and I look forward to discovering the next stage of this vocational journey!"

Joel Nolette (class of 2011) has been studying at Georgetown University Law Center since fall 2014 and is active in a number of student organizations, including the Federalist Society, the Equal Justice Foundation at Georgetown Law, and the Republican Law Students Association. He became editor-in-chief of the Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy in spring 2016. Joel has worked for Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) as a part-time law clerk in his Washington, D.C. office. He begins his third and final year at Georgetown this fall, after which time he intends to take the Massachusetts bar and begin practicing law in private practice at Mintz Levin.

Robin Smalt Sykes (class of 2008) taught elementary school for three years with Teach for America in Nashville, TN. "My students experienced many challenges in life - from poverty and racism, to homelessness and lack of role models. I was often frustrated that we focused so intently on reading and math to the exclusion of other skills my students needed. I started researching alternative holistic approaches to education. I briefly considered a PhD, but ultimately decided to join an education technology company called EverFi, which develops online programs to teach students critical life skills such as personal finance, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and social-emotional learning, at no cost to schools. I was recently promoted to Director of K12 Communications, so I now oversee communications to our 30,000 teacher-users in the U.S. and Canada. I got married in 2014 to my husband Kevin, a small-scale organic farmer and park naturalist. We recently purchased land, and are planning to build a home/intentional community with some friends of ours. Life in Nashville is rich with friends and community, and we are grateful for the life we are leading."

Jessica Rexroth Nutting (class of 1998) is currently serving with Youth for Christ in the Missionary Deployment division with a primary focus on providing resources for parents of MKs, counseling over the internet when needed, educating and advocating for MKs, and connecting with the MKs themselves. She and her husband, David, live in Denver, Colorado with their three-year-old daughter. They anticipate the joy of adopting a child from China in the near future.

Chelsea Revell (class of 2013) moved to Israel after graduation to manage the library at Jerusalem University College where she spent a semester in 2012. "This opportunity has allowed me to engage with a wonderful spectrum of faculty and students while coordinating academic resources for JUC's Biblical- and modern Middle Eastern-focused programs. I have now begun an MA in Intercultural Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL). In this program I hope to weave together a study of the natural sciences with Trinity's foundations of Christian thought in the social sciences, and through this intentional integration, to move toward thoughtfully contributing to human needs and rights, perhaps with a special focus on environmental issues or public health. I remain deeply grateful for the ways in which my experience with Gordon's Bible department truly continues to inspire and illuminate the ways in which I desire to 'let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'"

Keep your news coming! If you have an update, please email Amy.hughes@gordon.edu



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