



# The Literature Program

Texts & Technology

## Literature/Language Alumni Newsletter -- Fall 2001

Greetings and salutations! Here is the latest edition of the bi-annual Lit/Lang Alumni newsletter from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

The Fall term began normally on September 10th and was transformed totally on September 11th. Along with the rest of the nation, the faculty, staff, and students here at Stockton have spent much of the fall term trying to come to terms with this tragedy and its after effects. We know that many of you have been affected, directly and indirectly, by these events. Our thoughts are with you.

Believe it or not, the end of the semester is approaching and we are preparing for the annual LITT/LANG holiday Bash. We would love to have you join us, so save the date: Friday, December 7th at 4:30 pm in G-208. Though Lisa Honaker is no longer the caterer-in-chief, she is still cooking up a storm and doing a superb job of keeping the rest of us organized. There will be lots of great food, entertainment, prizes and good cheer. Tom Kinsella keeps threatening to bring back those wheat balls, but some of us are rooting for his spicy, pink-frosted pig-shaped cookies instead.

The bash is not the only thing changing at Stockton. If you haven't been on campus lately, you haven't seen the new signage, including large, red, flashing LED monitors that greet you on College Drive with information about campus events. Some folks, who will remain nameless, have suggested that this is not in keeping with our piney surroundings. Come see for yourselves.

Our curriculum is also expanding. Ken Tompkins developed a proposal this summer for a new track in Teaching English as a Second Language. We are very excited to be offering a new course this Spring--"Introduction to ESL"-- taught by Mary Steinacker. We have proposed an additional track in New Media writing and continue to look for support from the powers-that-be for additional faculty lines in Literature.

We are currently working on a five-year review of the Literature program, a document that will look at where we've been and chart new directions for the future. The college is interested in hearing about how we assess student progress and performance, and in knowing more about what happens to our students after graduation. As far as assessment, we have begun using Weblogs to create on-line portfolios in Litmeth, and hope to expand the use of these weblogs throughout our students' careers here, so that they document their progress and leave the college with a tangible record of their accomplishments. In terms of what happens to you after graduation--or outcomes, as it is now called--we still rely on your reports to us, via letters, email, visits and the like. So keep them coming!

Some events worth noting since the last update:

- Stephen Dunn received the 2001 Pulitzer Prize in poetry for his collection of poems, *Different Hours* (New York: WW Norton). We join with the college in congratulating him on this remarkable achievement.
- Stockton's newspaper, *The Argo*, has two editors majoring in Literature this year: Dan Grote, and Shaun Reilly. They are doing a great job.
- Tom Kinsella was awarded a Sabbatical leave for the Spring 2002 term. He will be continuing research and writing about the history of bookbinding in colonial Philadelphia.
- Lisa Honaker published an article, "The Revisionary Role of Gender in R.L. Stevenson's *New Arabian Nights* and *Prince Otto: Revolution in a Poison Bad World*," in *English Literature in Transition* 44:3 (2001).
- Students are raving about GT Lenard's Faulkner course.
- Deborah Gussman is completing revisions on an article on Catherine Maria Sedgwick's final novel, *Married or Single?* The article will appear in a collection of critical essays on Sedgwick in 2002.

We still have fewer than 100 alumni e-mail addresses. We would like to reach many more. If you know any graduates who have not received this letter, please ask them to write Tom Kinsella ([kinsella@earthlink.net](mailto:kinsella@earthlink.net)) or contact us through the web at:

<http://loki.stockton.edu/~ken/litt/littmajors.htm>

We are anxious to hear from you and to let you know how we are doing.

Stay well.

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