

# THE IRREGULAR LITTONIAN

Newsletter of the Literature Program of Stockton University

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## The Literary Life: So Little Sleeping and So Much Reading<sup>1</sup>

Spring is unfolding, with summer well-nigh upon us. I urge you to pour a glass of your favorite beverage, put up your feet, and sink into this issue of *The Irregular Littonian*, the alumni newsletter of Stockton's Literature Program. In these pages, we shall endeavor to acquaint readers with the latest faculty scandals and gossip, the glories and achievements of current and past students, and some of the various festivities

hosted by the Literature Program. Come, gather 'round, and hear tell of the wonders that have most recently transpired on the little campus beside the Lake of Fred in the big pine barrens that border the shores of the freakish Atlantic (where it pours bean green over blue).<sup>2</sup> We hope you enjoy reading about the diverse, talented group of students we are honored to teach.

Please note: due to our increased social media presence, *The Irregular Littonian* will now be (irregularly) published once during the academic year. As per tradition, the exact publication date will remain unpredictable.

Connect with LITT:

[blogs.stockton.edu/literature](http://blogs.stockton.edu/literature)

[www.facebook.com/LITTatStockton](http://www.facebook.com/LITTatStockton)

Twitter: @litrsu



Dr. Gussman, LITT grad Ayannah Polk, and Dr. August pose at December 2016 graduation.  
Photo credit: Ricky Epps-Kearney.

# Where Words Attract<sup>3</sup>

## Program Events 2016-2017

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Dr. Namorah Gayle Byrd  
"The Native American Oral  
Tradition: America's First  
Literature"



Visiting Writer's Series:  
Gregory Pardlo



*Left: Dr. Byrd engages students during her presentation on Native American and African American storytelling traditions.*

*Above: Poet Gregory Pardlo signs books after his reading.*



## James Baldwin Symposium

Co-sponsored by the Literature Program and the Africana Studies Program, this symposium examined the life and works of one of this country's most prolific authors writing on issues of race, sexuality, and injustice. The symposium was attended by Stockton students and faculty, as well as area high school students.

*Left: Literature faculty members Adalaine Holton and Nathan Long sit on a panel at the James Baldwin Symposium.*

## Alumni Career Panel

Each year, a different selection of Literature Program alumni return to campus to discuss their careers and offer advice to current students.

*Right: Literature Program alumni discuss how their major prepared them to pursue publishing, writing, freelancing, graduate school, and other endeavors.*



## Divergently Launch

*Divergently II*, the second issue of the anthology of Stockton Student Fiction (2010-2015), came out this spring and was launched on Feb 2, 2017—Groundhog Day. The anthology highlights the diverse work of twenty Stockton students who wrote fiction in the creative writing workshops between 2010 and 2015.



The anthology's co-editors, Ari Rosoff and Barbara Moroz, spent countless hours over the past two years selecting the stories, then editing and arranging them. Barbi also designed the layout of the interior. The cover was designed by ARTS alumnus Ryn Purdy, who won a class-wide contest to design the best cover.

About half the authors from the anthology read a section of their stories, which ranged from fishing stories to sci fi, horror to romantic, fantasy to dystopia, and all sorts of realism. Work is already in place for the next *Divergently* anthology, so if you wrote a story you'd like us to consider, email it to Nathan Long ([longn@stockton.edu](mailto:longn@stockton.edu)) along with a permanent email and home address. Selections will be made in 2020.



## Stockpot Launch

This year brought another successful launch of *Stockpot*, Stockton's student-run literary journal. Students and faculty attended the reading, which took place in the stunning setting of the L-Wing art gallery, pictured above.



## LITT Bash

At the end of the academic year, Literature majors celebrated with another instalment of the annual Bash, where faculty cook literary-themed potluck dishes for the students, and students engage in trivia, win prizes, and receive writing awards.

# On the Road of Knowledge<sup>4</sup>

## Current Students

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Name:  
Samantha Wyld



Minor: Holocaust & Genocide Studies

Why LITT?: I think it is interesting to be able to see different students' points of view on different aspects in a story. It gives us a chance to be able to interpret the culture of a time period, while seeing how that piece of literature might affect us in this time period. Literature is timeless because in each era it has a different interpretation.

Career Plans: Probably to become a middle school or high school English teacher. I'm keeping my options open though.

Most Proud Of: I'm most proud of the fact that I push myself to be able to do the best work that I can in school. I am proud of myself for going back to college after realizing that I was not in the right place.

Minor: Africana Studies

Favorite Book: John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*

Why LITT?: I transferred to Literature from Computer Science because I realized I wasn't enjoying it, and I had been thinking about majoring in Literature before coming to Stockton. I also really enjoy editing papers.

Career Plans: I want to go into publishing and editing. Preferably fiction, but I can do anything.

Most Proud Of: I'm most proud of two things. One, I am here. People from my town often don't continue their education past high school, so having the opportunity to go to college is something I can say I achieved. The other is that I can walk across the light path in under 10 minutes.

Name:  
Adira Fuller-Warren



Name: Aurora Rose Landman

Minors: Writing; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Favorite Book: Pauline Hopkins' *Contending Forces*

Extracurriculars: I lived in a Writing-Living-Learning Community my freshman year; I was a tutor at the Writing Center; I completed Dr. Kinsella's inaugural semester of the Editing Internship and issue of *SoJourn*; I worked with the South Jersey Culture and History Center with Dr. Kinsella working to create an online museum for Alliance Colony, for which I received a Distinguished Student Fellowship Grant; I was a copy editor for *Stockpot*; and I was Professor Emily Van Duyne's T.A. in her Spring 2017 Perspectives on Women course.

Career Plans: I would like to work full time for two years before going to graduate school for an MA in Composition/Rhetoric, then a PhD in English so I can teach literature and first-year writing in academia.



Name: Gabriela Siwiec

Minor: Visual Art

Favorite Book: Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*

Why LITT? I chose literature for my major because it's synonymous with "everything". So long as there are ideas, there are people to write it down, and we are here to learn it!

Favorite LITT course: "Spoken Word Poetry" began as a class and became a community for me. It is a safe space for all kinds of poets, experienced and not, to learn the craft of spoken word. Students grew as writers and came together in a place without judgement.

Career Plans: The dream is move to Krakow, Poland to teach university students. If that doesn't work, I still wish to teach in university somewhere. I plan to write and continue to make art into my adult life.

Most Proud Of: I prioritize friendships, staying empathetic and understanding, and helping others in need.



# Solving Our Own Equations<sup>5</sup>

## Faculty Updates

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CYNTHIA ARRIEU-KING edited and wrote the introduction to a 250 page Asian Anglophone issue of *duis* magazine this past year, available online. In spring of 2016, her collaborative book of poems written with Hillary Gravendyk was published by 1913 Press and she was able to travel to California and share the book with people in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Denver. She also finished up the editing and marketing work for *The Soluble Hour*, the posthumous book of poems by Hillary Gravendyk slated to come out from Omnidawn Books in November 2017. This year's section has Dana Duyk as the teaching assistant has been very tight-knit and open to the challenges of performing and memorizing. She also hiked in the redwoods near the Oregon border and on the beach at Assateague. Kenny says hi.

EMILY AUGUST thoroughly enjoyed her second year in the Literature Program. She taught Literary Research for the first time, as well as Detective Fiction, Intro to Creative Writing, and an upper-level seminar on British Romanticism. She also began teaching in the Honors Program this year. Her chapter "Gray Matters: Social Violence and the Victorian Surgical Textbook" has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming edited volume, and her poem "The Healer" was a finalist in *Southern Humanities Review's* 2016 Auburn Witness Poetry Prize. This summer, she will attend a writing conference in northern Minnesota.

DEBORAH GUSSMAN has been working on a digital project, an online collection of Catharine Maria Sedgwick's short stories and sketches called *Sedgwick Stories: The Periodical Writings of Catharine Maria Sedgwick* ([sedgwickstories.omeka.net](http://sedgwickstories.omeka.net)). Currently 28 stories are available online, and students in her Literary Research class are writing about them for their final papers, producing some of the very first critical analyses of these texts. Deborah is also excited to be presenting two new papers on Sedgwick this summer, one at the 20th anniversary Sedgwick Society Symposium in Stockbridge, MA, and another at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers International Conference in Bordeaux, France.

ADALAINE HOLTON is directing the third annual Why the Humanities Matter Summer Institute for Teachers July 10-13. This year's theme is *Social Justice and the Humanities*, with several Stockton faculty leading sessions: Christina Jackson, Emily Van Duyne, Nazia Kazi, and Nathan Long. All K-12 teachers are encouraged to attend. For more information, see [blogs.stockton.edu/humanities](http://blogs.stockton.edu/humanities), or contact [adalaine.holton@stockton.edu](mailto:adalaine.holton@stockton.edu). Adalaine also continues to work on her book manuscript on innovative archival projects in 20<sup>th</sup> century African American literary culture, tentatively titled *Counter-Archives*. She will begin writing the final chapter on black left feminist playwright Alice Childress this summer.



MARION HUSSONG is on sabbatical this year and looks forward to returning to campus in September.

This academic year KRISTIN JACOBSON is directing the graduate program American Studies, and this spring she taught an elective in the program called "Contemporary America." She also enjoyed teaching the second half of the American literature survey (alumni may remember her text identification exams—she still does them), another elective course about the family and American literature (essay quizzes on every reading!), and senior seminar. (Remember what it felt like to submit your senior seminar paper?) This spring's senior seminar focused on contemporary American climate change fiction and ecocriticism. She is also at work co-editing a collection of essays about American women writers focused on hybridity and liminality, and recently submitted an article entitled "Radical Homemaking in Contemporary American Environmental Fiction." Work on her book related to contemporary extreme adventure narratives continues; she will present some of this work at a conference in France this summer. (She is looking forward to visiting France for the first time.) Jacobson is the current chair of the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women. Books on her summer reading list include Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*, Claudia Rankine's *Citizen*, and Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*. She wants to know your book recommendations.

A momentous shift has occurred in TOM KINSELLA's life. Fall 2017 will be the first time in a quarter century that he hasn't taught *English Language & Grammar* at least

once during an academic year. He has always suggested that colleagues are welcome to teach the course, but when proposed, most have backed off three paces and shaken their heads "no." A few years back, however, Professor Lois Spitzer, a linguist who teaches in the Education program, suggested that someday she might be interested. Kinsella smiled, figuring that the day would never come. But it has. In fall the course will be in Professor Spitzer's capable hands. While Kinsella mourns the temporary loss of the course he loves so very much, he believes he'll be back at it in the fall of 2018. He hopes so.

In the meantime he will continue to read and teach Shakespeare and the editing internship. Starting in spring 2016 with twelve intrepid LITT majors, he has been developing what in essence is a student-staffed university press. This year he is guiding 17 interns (including LITT, HIST, COMM, and PHIL majors). In the fall he will have 19 interns, with a good handful from outside of ARHU.

To date the interns have helped edit, design, and typeset (and sometimes written portions of) 14 excellent titles on South Jersey history. More will appear shortly. Do take a look at the latest sales catalog: [loki.stockton.edu/~kinsellt/sjchc/SJCHCSpring2017Catalog.pdf](http://loki.stockton.edu/~kinsellt/sjchc/SJCHCSpring2017Catalog.pdf).

Notable titles include the first two issues of Stockton's journal of South Jersey history and culture, *SoJourn*. The third issue is in the works and should be out by May of this year. The press is also publishing works by or about the South Jersey Still brothers. James Still, "the Black doctor of the Pines," wrote an outstanding autobiography in 1877. William Still, his younger brother, published the

groundbreaking *Underground Rail Road Record* in 1872, and the second edition was prefaced by an excellent biography of William. We have republished both of these texts and are working on the thrilling biography of Peter Still, the older brother to both James and William. We are hoping to publish the three together in a box set by the end of the year. Just in time for holiday presents.

Kinsella is proud of the work Stockton students are helping him to complete. The University is fast becoming known as the publisher of high-quality books (out of copyright or new titles) on a wide range of South Jersey topics.

NATHAN LONG began the academic year returning to teaching full time after trying not to sink the LITT Program ship as captain (coordinator) for two years. Doing so allowed him to teach one of his favorite courses, the Flash Fiction Workshop, in which students write fifty stories and win prizes and get published (hopefully). He also offered a new (to him) GAH course, Gay and Lesbian Literature. Nathan was also busy in the Fall preparing *Divergently II*, the anthology of Stockton student fiction. He served on the search committee for a new prose writer to add to the LITT Program faculty.

This spring has come with good news. The day before his 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday, Nathan was offered a contract for his collection of fifty flash fictions titled *The Origin of Doubt*. The name of the press, coincidentally, is Press 53. A week later, his story "Reception Theory," about a semiotician who is hit by a street sign and falls in love, won the international OWT Story Award out of the UK. Soon

after the Spring semester ends, Nathan and his partner Courtney will travel to Nepal and Bhutan to hike in the Himalayas and visit Buddhist monasteries.

ADAM MIYASHIRO has been busy with his continuing work on teaching medieval literature, and has also devised a new course for Spring 2018, tentatively entitled the Literatures of Asia/Pacific, which will be a lower-level course on pre-modern and modern literary texts and cultural studies in the Pacific Rim (including Polynesia, East and Southeast Asia, and the Americas). His entry on "Periodization" has been published in the volume *Futures of Comparative Literature* (Routledge, 2017) and a chapter called "Postcolonial Malory," about postcolonial readings of *Morte d'Arthur*, is underway for the volume *New Companion to Malory* (Boydell & Brewer). In January 2017, he presented a paper at the Modern Language Association (MLA) entitled "The Arabic Alexander Romance in Europe," for the panel on "Arabic in Europe" organized by the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies—Medieval division committee of the MLA. He also presented on a roundtable organized by Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature called "How Difficult (or Easy) is it to be Global — and Comparative?" This summer, he will participate in a roundtable called "Decolonize the Middle Ages," at this year's International Medieval Congress, in Leeds, England. He continues to serve as the faculty advisor to the Literature Club and the Honors society, Sigma Tau Delta, as well as serving on the Executive Committee of the Delaware Valley Medieval Association.

# I'ma Smash Outta This Choir<sup>6</sup>

## Alumni Updates

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The digital literary journal *Intrinsick* published a short story by ARRON BURROWS, who originally wrote the piece in Nathan Long's flash fiction workshop. Read the story at [www.intrinsick.com/stories/greatness](http://www.intrinsick.com/stories/greatness).

KRISTEN CORLEY graduated in spring 2014 and currently works as a staff writer/author for Thought Catalog's website, for which she writes relationship, lifestyle, and mental health awareness articles across the internet. March 2017 saw the publication of her first book, *But Before You Leave*, a collection of quotes and article excerpts written over a three year period. Since graduating, Kristen has written over 2,000 articles for websites including Huff Post, Elite Daily, Teen Vogue, Mogul, and Puckermob. She credits her Stockton Lit Program education with giving her the fundamental tools to improve her craft and make it as a freelance writer in New York.

MARK-ALLAN DONALDSON has completed a Master of Arts (MA) in English Literature at the City College of New York, and has been accepted with funding to the Ph.D. program in Comparative Literature at the City University of New York (CUNY)-Graduate Center.

KIMONE HYMAN was accepted into the MA in Linguistics program at Florida International University.

KAITLIN WARWICK completed her MLIS with a Digital Libraries specialization at Rutgers University, and has accepted a position as Teen Services Librarian at the Lakewood Branch of the Ocean County Library.

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Send us your news! We always welcome updates (job, family news, &.) from our alumni. Message us on Facebook or Twitter, or contact us individually with an update!

[www.facebook.com/LITTatStockton](http://www.facebook.com/LITTatStockton)

Twitter: @litrsu

[blogs.stockton.edu/literature](http://blogs.stockton.edu/literature)

# The Gaps Between the Stories<sup>7</sup>

## Endnotes

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1. From Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's novel *Don Quixote*: "Finally, from so little sleeping and so much reading, his brain dried up and he went completely out of his mind."
2. From Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy": "You died before I had time— / Marble-heavy, a bag full of God, / Ghastly statue with one grey toe / Big as a Frisco seal // And a head in the freakish Atlantic / Where it pours green bean over blue / In the waters off beautiful Nauset. / I used to pray to recover you."
3. From Kay Ryan's poem "Bait Goat": "[T]here is a / distance where / words attract. / Set one out / like a bait goat / and wait and / seven others / will approach."
4. From Joy Harjo's poem "A Map to the Next World": "An imperfect map will have to do, little one. // The place of entry is the sea of your mother's blood, your father's / small death as he longs to know himself in another. // There is no exit. // The map can be interpreted through the wall of the intestine—a / spiral on the road of knowledge. // You will travel through the membrane of death, smell cooking / from the encampment where our relatives make a feast of fresh / deer meat and corn soup, in the Milky Way. // They have never left us; we abandon them for science."
5. From Audre Lorde's poem "Fog Report": "In this misty place where hunger finds us / seeking direction / I am too close to you to be useful. / When I speak / the smell of love on my breath / distracts you / and it is easier for me / to move against myself in you / than to solve my own equations."
6. From Tyehimba Jess's poem "harris county chain gang": "i'ma smash outta this choir, come up gasping new breath, my / name burned clean, made mine."
7. From Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*: "We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories."