

# THE IRREGULAR LITTONIAN

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AREN'T NEWSLETTERS STRANGE? I MEAN....ONCE A YEAR WE GET THIS LISTING OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF FOLKS WE HAVEN'T SEEN FOR YEARS. AUNT JANE IS STILL KNITTING LIFE-SIZED CATS AFTER ALL THESE YEARS; A COUSIN NAMED PHILLIPA HAS NAMED HER TRIPLETS AFTER PLANETS AND AN UNCLE ON YOUR DAD'S SIDE HAS DECIDED TO MOVE TO FRANCE TO TEACH FAST-FOOD COOKING.

THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AMONG US MAKE FUN OF HOLIDAY NEWSLETTERS BUT, DEEP INSIDE, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE INCLUDED.

THIS IS SUCH A NEWSLETTER: IN ITS PAGES YOU WILL BE ABLE TO READ ABOUT OUR TEACHING, OUR SCHOLARSHIP, OUR TRAVELS AND ABOUT SOME PART OF THE MYRIADS OF THINGS WE DO. YOU'LL BE AMAZED AT WHO IS STILL TEACHING WHAT, WHO HAS INVENTED WHICH NEW COURSE AND WHO HAS GONE TO WHAT CONFERENCE. WE ARE STILL HERE AND STILL TEACHING AND FOR US -- AND WE HOPE, FOR YOU -- WE TAKE COMFORT IN THAT. WE KEEP CHANGING AND WE TRY TO KEEP THE BEST OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

WE IMAGINE YOU, READING THIS, SAYING: "OH, MY GOSH! IS HE STILL AROUND? IS SHE STILL TEACHING THAT COURSE? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY IN A LITERATURE CLASS?"

THE HEART OF SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDY IS TO INTEGRATE THOSE WHO ARE ON THE OUTSIDE BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY WITHIN. THAT INTEGRATION IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH KNOWLEDGE. CONSIDER THIS AS OUR POOR ATTEMPT TO BRING YOU BACK INTO THE LITT COMMUNITY. IT'S OUR WAY OF SAYING: WELCOME HOME!

## WHAT WE ARE DOING

AS USUAL, WE ARE ALL BUSY WITH OUR CLASSES, SCHOLARSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. HERE ARE SOME COMMENTS FROM LITT FACULTY:

### LISA HONAKER

THIS FALL LISA HONAKER APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2006. SHE IS CURRENTLY WRITING AN ARTICLE ON CANADIAN WRITER SUSAN SWAN. AFTER COMPLETING THAT PROJECT, SHE WILL RETURN TO A REVISION OF AN ESSAY SHE HAS HAD IN THE WORKS FOR SOME TIME ON ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S DR. JEKYLL AND MR.



HYDE. SHE ALSO PLANS TO DRAFT A PROPOSAL FOR AN EDITION OF STEVENSON'S NEGLECTED NOVEL PRINCE OTTO: A ROMANCE FOR THE BROADVIEW PRESS. SHE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WRITE SOMETHING ON HER NEW OBSESSION, BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, IN THE COMING YEAR. ON THE TEACHING FRONT, HER FALL DETECTIVE FICTION CLASS COMPLETED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ONLINE NOVEL THE CAPE MAY MURDERS (READ IT AT

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/DETECTIVEFICTION/.](http://caxton.stockton.edu/detectivefiction/))

CURRENTLY HONAKER IS TEACHING A SENIOR SEMINAR ON DICKENS, WHERE SHE'S PLANNING ANOTHER PROJECT "WHAT THE DICKENS!," MODELED ON THE ULYSSES FOR DUMMIES PROJECT

[HTTP://WWW.BWAY.NET/~HUNGER/ULYSSES.HTML](http://www.bway.net/~hunger/ulysses.html)

HER MODERN BRITISH NOVEL STUDENTS ENJOYED LOOKING AT DURING THEIR TREK THROUGH JOYCE'S OPUS LAST FALL. SHE CONTINUES TO RUN THE VISITING WRITERS SERIES AND THE ODYSSEY PROJECT, FOR WHICH SHE WILL ATTEND A CONFERENCE THIS JUNE IN SNOWBIRD, UTAH.

### DEBORAH GUSSMAN

DEBORAH GUSSMAN IS ENJOYING HER SECOND YEAR AS LITERATURE PROGRAM COORDINATOR. SHE CO-ORGANIZED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE ANTEBELLUM AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS AND THE CITY SYMPOSIUM, WHICH WAS SPONSORED BY THE CATHARINE MARIA SEDGWICK SOCIETY, AND HELD AT FORDHAM UNIVERSITY IN SEPTEMBER; YOU CAN READ ABOUT IT HERE:

[HTTP://WWW.SALEMSTATE.EDU/IMC/SEDGWICK/PROG.HTML](http://www.salemstate.edu/imc/sedgwick/prog.html)

SHE IS WORKING ON GETTING SEDGWICK'S FINAL NOVEL, "MARRIED OR SINGLE," BACK IN PRINT.

### TOM KINSELLA

TOM KINSELLA HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK CREATING PODCASTS AND A FEW SCREEN CASTS. KEN KEEPS ASKING, "DON'T YOU HAVE MORE TO SAY?" AND OF COURSE, KINSELLA DOES. YOU CAN HEAR PODCASTS FROM HIS MEDIEVAL IRELAND COURSE HERE:

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/IRELANDPODCASTS/.](http://caxton.stockton.edu/irelandpodcasts/)

YOU CAN SEE THE SCREENCASTS FOR HIS ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR CLASS HERE (IF YOU HAVE A FAST CONNECTION TO THE WEB):

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/ELG/STORIES/STORYREADER\\$20.](http://caxton.stockton.edu/ELG/stories/storyreader$20)

TOM JUST GAVE A TALK AT PENN ON "PHILADELPHIA BOOKBINDING: CRAFT TO INDUSTRY." HE DELIVERED ANOTHER PAPER IN LATE MARCH IN HONOR OF HIS RECENTLY DECEASED GRADUATE SCHOOL ADVISOR, PAUL J. KORSHIN. HE IS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ASKED AND WILL BE TALKING ON EDITION BINDING IN COLONIAL AMERICA. LIFE IS BUSY, BUT TOM KEEPS PLUGGING ALONG.

### KRISTIN JACOBSON

KRISTIN JACOBSON HAS ATTENDED OR WILL BE ATTENDING SEVERAL CONFERENCES ON THE EAST AND WEST COASTS:

"ANXIOUS MALE DOMESTICITY: GENDER TROUBLED CORRECTIONS." MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION. WASHINGTON, D.C., DECEMBER 2005.

"RENOVATING THE AMERICAN WOMAN'S HOME: THE DISCOURSES OF TECHNOLOGY AND HOME IN EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION." MID-ATLANTIC POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION. NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ, NOVEMBER 2005.

"DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIES: BEYOND THE SEPARATE SPHERES OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC FICTION" AMERICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION. SAN FRANCISCO, CA, MAY 2006.



THESE THREE CONFERENCES ARE ALL RELATED TO MY RESEARCH IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN DOMESTIC FICTION AND CULTURE.

I ATTENDED THE PHILADELPHIA AREA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, "TEACHING THE MILLENNIALS," AT HAVERFORD COLLEGE IN FEBRUARY WITH SEVERAL OTHER LITT AND COMM STOCKTON PROFESSORS.

MY ARTICLE, "THIS IS NOT A CHICK BOOK!: AMERICAN MASCULINITY AND JONATHAN FRANZEN'S GENDER TROUBLED CORRECTIONS," IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW. I AM WORKING ON A BOOK PROJECT FROM WHICH THIS ESSAY IS PART, \*DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIES: NEODOMESTIC AMERICAN FICTION\*.

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF FIRSTS FOR ME: I'M BUSY WITH NEW STUDENTS AND MANY NEW CLASSES. THIS TERM I AM REALLY ENJOYING MY CLASS "CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FICTION." I HAVE FOUND THE CONNECTIONS STUDENTS ARE MAKING BETWEEN THE "REAL" AND "FICTIONAL" WORLDS VERY POWERFUL. (THIS CLASS IS FOCUSED ON CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FICTION THAT ENGAGES AMERICA'S COLONIAL HISTORY.) WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A SPECIAL CLASS VISIT FROM VISITING WRITING TONY D'SOUZA IN APRIL. A FORMER COLLEGE CLASSMATE OF MINE, D'SOUZA'S FIRST NOVEL \*WHITEMAN\* IS COMING OUT IN APRIL FROM HARCOURT. I'M ALSO GUIDING NEW LITT STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR FIRST CORE LITERATURE CLASS, "LITERARY METHODOLOGIES." YOU CAN CHECK OUT MY "LIT METH" WEBLOG AND LINK TO THE STUDENT BLOGS:

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/LITMETHJACOBSON/.](http://caxton.stockton.edu/litmethjacobson/)

## NATHAN LONG

NATHAN LONG JOINED THE LITT PROGRAM FACULTY THIS FALL OF 2005 AFTER TEACHING AT VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY FOR THE FIVE YEARS. OVER THE SUMMER OF 2005, HE TAUGHT AT THE VA SUMMER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR HUMANITIES

AND PERFORMING ARTS AND WROTE DURING A SIX-WEEK RESIDENCY AT THE UCROSS FOUNDATION RANCH NEAR BUFFALO, WY.

WITH THE HELP OF THE PROGRAM, HE HAS REDESIGNED THE CREATIVE WRITING TRACK, INTRODUCING TWO NEW COURSES, INTRO TO CREATIVE WRITING, WHICH IS OPEN TO MAJORS AND NON MAJORS ALIKE, AND POETIC FORMS. HE AND NEW FACULTY MEMBER KRISTIN JACOBSON ARE CO-DESIGNING A G COURSE, THE BODY ACROSS DISCIPLINES, WHICH WILL INVOLVE MOVEMENT EXERCISES AND RESEARCH PROJECTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND THE BODY FROM MANY PERSPECTIVES.

WITH THE HELP OF A JUNIOR FACULTY GRANT, LONG PRESENTED ON "THE FUTURE OF GAY AND LESBIAN LITERATURE" AT THE JAMES RIVER FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK, AND CHAIRED A PANEL OF TEACHER-ARTISTS DISCUSSING THE EFFECTS OF TAKING ON THE HOMEWORK THAT THEY ASSIGN, AT THE SOUTHERN HUMANITIES CONFERENCE IN ASHVILLE, NC.

LONG HAS A CHAPBOOK OF STORIES CURRENTLY BEING PUBLISHED BY POPULAR INK PRESS. HE ALSO HAS TWO STORIES FORTHCOMING IN THE TUSCULUM REVIEW, AND THREE SHORT STORIES ACCEPTED BY ON-LINE JOURNALS: "IN CHINA" AT DISPATCH ([HTTP://LITDISPATCH.NET/ONE/INDEX.HTML](http://litdispatch.net/one/index.html)), "BILLY TIPTON DAY" AT LODESTAR QUARTERLY ([HTTP://WWW.LODESTARQUARTERLY.COM/](http://www.lodestarquarterly.com/)), AND "JEALOUSY" AT FRINGE MAGAZINE ([HTTP://WWW.FRINGEMAGAZINE.ORG/](http://www.fringemagazine.org/)). FRINGE WILL ALSO BE PRINTING "JEALOUSY" AS A BROADSIDE TO DISTRIBUTE AT THE ASSOCIATED WRITING PROGRAMS CONFERENCE IN AUSTIN, TX IN MARCH.

LONG IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES AND HAS APPLIED FOR RESIDENCIES THIS SUMMER IN MAINE AND WYOMING TO COMPLETE THE BOOK. HE CONTINUES TO PARTICIPATE ON THE BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN HUMANITIES COUNCIL AND INTER ALIA, INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC JOURNAL ON QUEER STUDIES.

### **SCOTT RETTBERG**

THIS MARCH, SCOTT RETTBERG GAVE GUEST LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS AT THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THE HUMANITIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, AND BROWN UNIVERSITY'S E-FEST.

HE IS GUEST-EDITING AN ISSUE OF THE IOWA REVIEW WEB FOCUSED ON RECONFIGURING PLACE AND SPACE IN NEW MEDIA WRITING, DUE OUT IN MAY, AND ALONG WITH NICK MONTFORT, KATE HAYLES, AND STEPHANIE STRICKLAND ,EDITING THE ELECTRONIC LITERATURE COLLECTION, A CREATIVE-COMMONS LICENSED CD-ROM AND WEB PROJECT WHICH WILL FREELY DISTRIBUTE MORE THAN SIXTY SELECTED WORKS OF ELECTRONIC LITERATURE, TO BE PUBLISHED THIS FALL BY THE ELECTRONIC LITERATURE ORGANIZATION. SCOTT SERVES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ELO AS TREASURER.

ALONG WITH JILL WALKER, SCOTT IS COAUTHORING A CHAPTER ON TEACHING NARRATIVE IN NEW MEDIA FOR A FORTHCOMING BOOK, "OPTIONS FOR TEACHING NARRATIVE THEORY", TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE MLA NEXT YEAR. SCOTT WILL BE PRESENTING AT NEXT YEAR'S MLA CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA ON A PANEL TITLED "ELECTRONIC LITERATURE AND TEXTUAL SCHOLARSHIP."

SCOTT WILL BE ON LEAVE NEXT YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN IN NORWAY, WHERE HE WILL SPEND A YEAR AS VISITING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HUMANISTIC INFORMATICS.

SCOTT RECENTLY COMPLETED HIS ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE, FLYING INTO CHICAGO FOR ONE DAY IN ORDER TO ENJOY A CUBS' GAME IN THE FRIENDLY CONFINES OF WRIGLEY FIELD.



### THE BASH

WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS YEAR'S BASH WILL BE EVEN BETTER THAN BEFORE. IT WILL BE HELD ON THE **21ST OF APRIL** IN THE TRLC AT 4:30. FIELD MARSHALL HONAKER HAS ECSTATIC PLANS FOR FOOD TO OUT-DO HER ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAST YEAR. AS USUAL, WE WILL HONOR OUR CREATIVE WRITERS, OUR ESSAY WRITERS AND THE BEST BLOG. PLEASE COME BECAUSE THE BEST THING OF ALL IS THAT WE WILL MEET MANY OF YOU AND HEAR ABOUT YOUR LIVES AND EXPERIENCES! ALSO, WE WILL NOT HAVE MOOSE COOKIES.

### ONE OF YOU

YOU PROBABLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW DELIGHTED WE ARE WHEN WE HEAR FROM YOU; WE ARE LIKE GRANDPARENTS HANDING PICTURES OF GRANDCHILDREN AROUND TO VISITORS. WE SHARE YOUR EMAIL, YOUR ANECDOTES, YOUR PICTURES AND, MOST EXCITING OF ALL, YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

IN THAT SPIRIT, WE ASKED A RECENT GRADUATE TEACHING IN A CHARTER SCHOOL TO SHARE HER CURRENT EXPERIENCES WITH US. HER NAME IS MICHELLE WENDT AND HERE IS HER STORY.



## REACHING STRUGGLING STUDENTS THROUGH BLOGGING

LAST AUGUST, I FOUND OUT I WOULD BE TEACHING ALL SUBJECTS TO A SEVENTH-GRADE CLASS AT GALLOWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL. I HAD A NUMBER OF CONFLICTING EMOTIONS; ON THE ONE HAND, I WAS THRILLED THAT I HAD GOTTEN A JOB IN TIME FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR TO BEGIN. ON THE OTHER, I WAS TERRIFIED, BECAUSE I WAS A FIRST-YEAR TEACHER, A LITERATURE MAJOR, AND DECIDEDLY NOT A SCIENCE OR MATH MAJOR. WITHOUT ALL THOSE "EXTRA" G COURSES I WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD SUITABLE EXPERIENCE TO TACKLE THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS THAT I TEACH TODAY. ONCE I GOT OVER MY INITIAL DISMAY AT HAVING TO TEACH PYTHAGORAS AND CELL THEORY, I REALIZED I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH LITERATURE TO A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT FIRST-GRADERS. (I HAD PLANNED ON BEING AN EARLY ELEMENTARY TEACHER.)

I STARTED TO GET EXTREMELY EXCITED AND INSTANTLY SENT OUT E-MAILS TO PROFESSOR TOMPKINS ASKING HIM FOR WEBLOG SPACE FOR MY CLASSROOM, AND ESPECIALLY FOR MY STUDENTS. I THOUGHT THAT MY STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN BLOGGING RIGHT AWAY, AND THEN I FOUND OUT WHAT EVERY NEW TEACHER FINDS OUT; EVERY ONE OF MY STUDENTS HAD A DIFFERENT LEVEL OF READING, WRITING AND TECHNICAL ABILITY. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED SOME OF MY STUDENT'S WE-BLOGS ON STOCKTON'S MOSTREADSITES, AND WONDERED AT THE MISSPELLINGS AND THE TERRIBLE GRAMMAR OF THESE PEOPLE. THESE STUDENTS BELONG TO ME AND I AM PROUD OF EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM.

AT FIRST, THEY WONDERED WHY I WAS MAKING THEM TYPE EVERYTHING THEY HAD WRITTEN INTO THE SCHOOL SERVER. MOST OF MY STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE COMPUTERS AT HOME AND ARE USED TO HANDWRITING ALL THEIR REPORTS. I HAD TOLD THEM ABOUT BLOGGING AND I HAD A BLOG FOR OUR CLASSROOM. WE STARTED THE LAST DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS VACATION, POSTING THEIR CONTENT ON THEIR VERY OWN BLOGS. THEY ARE NOW SO THRILLED TO HAVE THEM. I HAVE STUDENTS THAT CANNOT SPELL, STUDENTS WITH BASIC DECODING PROBLEMS, AND OTHERS THAT READ ON COLLEGE-LEVEL. THEY ARE EACH MAKING THEIR PRESENCE FELT ON THEIR BLOGS.

FOR AT LEAST TWO OF MY MOST CHALLENGED STUDENTS, THE BLOGS HAVE BECOME A REWARD, A PLACE TO BE PROUD OF THEIR WORK AND A WAY TO SHARE WITH THEIR PEERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. I AM SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE THIS CHANCE FOR AN EDUCATIONAL BREAKTHROUGH. I AM FINALLY GETTING ALL THE HOMEWORK BACK; I JUST READ IT ONLINE. YOU CAN FIND THEIR WORK UNDER

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/LONYELLE](http://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/LONYELLE)

AND

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/NIKI](http://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/NIKI) .

LOOK FOR THEIR "ZEELY" LINKS AND YOU WILL FIND EXAMPLES OF CLOSE READING. IGNORE THE MISTAKES PLEASE. OTHER STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF CLOSE READING ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL; YOU CAN LOOK AT

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/WESLEY](http://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/WESLEY)

OR

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/RONALD](http://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/RONALD)

FOR OTHER PERSPECTIVES ON THE SAME STORY.

A FEW STUDENTS ARE JUST LEARNING ABOUT THE NEWS FEATURE AND I AM ENCOURAGING THE STUDENTS TO BLOG EVERY DAY AS A WAY OF FULFILLING THEIR DAILY JOURNAL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS. I EVEN HAVE ONE STUDENT WHO IS BRAVELY POSTING HER OWN POETRY. OTHER STUDENTS, WITH LESS INTERNET ACCESS, ARE MAKING SLOWER PROGRESS, BUT I WILL HAVE ALL THE STUDENTS GOING BACK AND EDITING THEIR MISTAKES BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AS AN ASSIGNMENT. THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO POST COMMENTS ON EACH OTHER'S SITES AND THAT HAS BEEN THE MOST CHALLENGING FEATURE OF BLOGGING. THEY STILL MAKE INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS THAT I PERIODICALLY DELETE.

AS AN EDUCATOR AND A STOCKTON ALUMNI, I HAVE FOUND THAT THE CONTINUING SUPPORT FROM MY PROFESSORS AT STOCKTON HAS BEEN WONDERFUL, AND I UTILIZE WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM EVERY ONE OF MY LITERATURE COURSES (AND G'S) ON A DAILY BASIS. BLOGGING MAY NOT BE A NEW CONCEPT, BUT IT ALLOWS ME ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH PARENTS AND KEEP IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH MY STUDENTS. THEY ARE ABLE TO ACCESS MANY OF THEIR ASSIGNMENTS THROUGH OUR CLASS BLOG:

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/MRSWENDT.](http://caxton.stockton.edu/mrswendt)

THE CAXTON SITES HAVE GIVEN ME A NEW DEVICE TO REACH STUDENTS, A INNOVATIVE TOOL FOR MY TEACHER'S TOOL BELT, AND A SUCCESSFUL METHOD TO INSPIRE STRUGGLING STUDENTS. MY STUDENTS ARE ALSO PROUD THAT THEY ARE PART





OF A BLOGGING COMMUNITY; THEY ARE ALWAYS LOOKING AT THE OTHER STOCKTON BLOGS.

### STEPHEN GNOJEWSKI

STEPHEN GNOJEWSKI HAS JOINED THE LITT FACULTY AS AN ADJUNCT TEACHING WRITING FOR STAGE AND SCREEN. WE ARE PLEASED THAT HE HAS AGREED TO DRIVE FROM RUTGERS TO STOCKTON TWICE A WEEK TO TEACH HERE. HERE IS WHAT HE WROTE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR.

HAVING RECENTLY RECEIVED MY MFA IN PLAYWRITING FROM RUTGERS UNIVERSITY'S MASON GROSS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, I CONSIDER IT AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO JOIN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES FACULTY AT THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY. AS THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE WRITING FOR STAGE AND SCREEN, I AM THRILLED TO INTRODUCE, TO SUCH A CREATIVE AND RECEPTIVE GROUP OF STUDENTS, THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND STRATEGIES OF SUCCESSFUL STORYTELLING.

IN ADDITION TO TEACHING AT STOCKTON, I AM ALSO SERVING AS THE LITERARY ASSOCIATE OF GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE, A PROFESSIONAL REGIONAL THEATER IN NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY. AS PART OF THE ARTISTIC STAFF, I AM ORGANIZING THE THEATER'S 2006 NEXT STAGE FESTIVAL, WHICH WILL FEATURE READINGS OF THREE NEW WORKS BY SOME OF THE NATION'S MOST TALENTED AND RESPECTED PLAYWRIGHTS, INCLUDING—I AM HAPPY TO REPORT—MY MENTOR AND HEAD OF THE PLAYWRITING PROGRAM AT RUTGERS, LEE BLESSING. I AM SINCERELY THANKFUL TO BE A PART OF THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY AT STOCKTON, AND VIEW THIS EXPERIENCE AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AS A WRITER AND TO HOPEFULLY IMPART MY PASSION FOR THEATER AND FILM.

### WHAT WE ARE READING

WHILE OUR TEACHING AND RESEARCH TAKES UP MOST OF OUR TIME, WE DO -- SOMEWHAT GUILTILY -- STEAL A FEW MINUTES DURING THE WEEK FOR SIMPLE, PLEASURABLE READING.

WHEN LISA HONAKER IS NOT READING DICKENS, SWAN, OR STEVENSON, SHE'S ALMOST ALWAYS READING SOMETHING ELSE. SHE RECENTLY FINISHED THE NOTORIOUS A MILLION LITTLE PIECES (SHE HAD HER SUSPICIONS FROM THE GET-GO; ASK DEBBY GUSSMAN) AND HAS JUST STARTED HERMAN WOUK'S INSIDE/OUTSIDE. SHE ALSO READS VANITY FAIR AND ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY AND A NUMBER OF BLOGS TO KEEP UP WITH POLITICS AND THE MORE SUPERFICIAL BUT NONETHELESS FASCINATING ASPECTS OF THIS MODERN WORLD WE LIVE IN. CATCH HER BLOGROLL AT

[HTTP://CAXTON.STOCKTON.EDU/BLUESKIES/](http://caxton.stockton.edu/blueskies/).

KRISTIN JACOBSON IS LOOKING FORWARD TO READING ARLENE BLUM'S \*BREAKING TAIL: A CLIMBING LIFE\* (2005) AND JENNIFER JORDAN'S \*SAVAGE SUMMIT: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE FIRST WOMEN OF K2\* (2005). I LOVE TO READ ADVENTURE TALES, ESPECIALLY ABOUT MOUNTAINEERING. THIS TERM IN MY GENERAL STUDIES COURSE ABOUT AMERICAN POPULAR AND FOLK CULTURE WE ARE READING JON KRAKAUER'S \*INTO THE WILD,\* ANOTHER LIVELY READ THAT IS SURE TO SPARK DE-

BATE ABOUT PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY. IF YOU HAVE NEVER PICKED UP ONE OF THESE ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE TALES, I WOULD SUGGEST STARTING WITH KRAKAUER'S \*INTO THIN AIR.\* I HOPE TO TEACH A CLASS ON ADVENTURE STORIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE (SO MUCH FOR BEING "NON-SCHOLARLY").

DEB GUSSMAN SAYS: I'VE JUST STARTED READING "THE GOLDEN COMPASS" BY PHILIP PULLMAN WITH MY SON--WE ARE BOTH ENJOYING IT THOUGH WE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT AN "ALETHIOMETER" DOES YET! I'M ALSO READING MARK EPSTEIN'S "THOUGHTS WITHOUT A THINKER"--AN EXPLORATION OF THE INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN BUDDHISM AND PSYCHOTHERAPY--VERY EYE-OPENING FOR ME.

JUST FOR FUN, TOM KINSELLA IS CURRENTLY READING "THE CONFESSION OF SAINT PATRICK".

KEN TOMPKINS JUST FINISHED THE FIVE "THURSDAY NEXT" NOVELS OF JASPER FFORDE WHO IS A QUIRKY WRITER FEATURING ALL SORTS OF LITERARY CHARACTERS IN HIS PLOTS. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR LITT MAJORS. HE ALSO RECENTLY READ STEPHEN GREENBLATT'S "WILL IN THE WORLD: HOW SHAKESPEARE BECAME SHAKESPEARE", JAMES SHAPIRO'S "A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF SHAKESPEARE: 1599" AND PETER ACKROYD'S "SHAKESPEARE: A BIOGRAPHY".

### HERE IS A LIST OF LITT'S MOST RECENT GRADUATES -- FALL, 2005

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!

Shalini Basu	Lisa Donato	Jennifer Meister
Shawna Beals	Sean Donley	Susan Morrison
Darcy Brandt	Douglas Estrada	Olivia Petetti
Jill Britton	Amy Furman	Alexis Plotkin
Susan Brosman	Brooke Garofalo	Jamey Roberts
Cassandra Bunje	Robert Geise	Jennifer Russoman
Lillian Camano	Carlene Graham	Angela Santoriello
Christine Carleton	Allison Harris	Sara Schudde
Matthew Conover	Louis Harvey, Jr.	Lauren Shauger
Michael Delelio	Christine LaFemina	Anastasiya Stoyneva
Kimberly Davis	Patrice Leatherberry	Louisa Vain
Michael Della Franco	Laura Linton	Abigayle Winter
Erika Di Renzo	Adam McGinnis	Michele Yacovino

**THERE YOU HAVE IT**

AS THEY USED TO SAY ON THE RADIO: “THAT’S ALL THERE IS FROM HERE, FOLKS”. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE LITT PROGRAM IS VITAL, SAVVY AND CHANGING. WE ARE, IF ANYTHING EVEN MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH TEACHING AND WITH THE TEXTS THAT BAFFLE US AND HOLD US IN AWE.

WE HOPE THAT YOUR LIVES ARE AS FILLED WITH WORK, WITH SHARING, WITH LOVE AND LIVING AS OURS ARE.

TELL US WHAT YOU ARE DOING, WHERE YOU ARE AND WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO YOU NOW.

AS BOB AND RAY USED TO SAY: “WRITE IF YOU GET WORK AND HANG BY YOUR THUMBS”

(KT)

[THE PICTURES WERE TAKEN BY TOM KINSELLA AND LISA DONATO]