

IRREGULAR LITTONIAN

Spotlight on Students



Visiting Writer Series: Cynthia King and Emari DiGiorgio

This issue of *The Irregular Littonian*, Stockton University's Literature program alumni newsletter, focuses on updates on current and past students, as well as faculty updates and events.

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. When? As is the tradition, the exact publication date will remain unpredictable.

We always welcome updates (job and family news, etc.) from our alumni. Message us via Facebook or Twitter. Or, contact us individually with an update: be sure to note that you would like to submit your update for publication in the next *Irregular Littonian*.

Please join us for the annual *Really, Really Big LITT Bash* on April 15, 2016 from 4-6 PM at the Townsend Residential Life Center (TRLIC).

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1786137171607975/>

2015/2016 EDITION

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Official newsletter of the Literature Program of
Stockton University

The Literature Program: <https://blogs.stockton.edu/literature/>

Twitter: @litrsu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LITTatStockton>

Faculty Updates

Dr. **Emily August** is the newest member of the Literature Program, having joined the faculty in the 2015-16 academic year. She is thrilled to be teaching, mentoring, and researching in the exciting and supportive Stockton community. She teaches courses in nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature and culture, from *Frankenstein* to *Dracula* and beyond. As the daughter of an ER nurse, she developed an early fascination with medicine; thus, she also teaches courses in the subfield of medical humanities that examine literary representations of medicine and the human body. She is hard at work completing her book *Cadaver Poetics*, which investigates the relationship between literature, surgery, and the corpse in the nineteenth century. Dr. August will spend May 2016 abroad, delivering a lecture in London and poking around the archives of various strange and wonderful museums and hospitals in the United Kingdom that house documents and specimens related to nineteenth-century medicine.

Deborah Gussman's scholarly edition of Catharine Maria Sedgwick's 1857 novel, *Married or Single?*, was published by University of Nebraska Press in July 2015. She was thrilled to be able to teach and discuss the new edition with students in her 19th-Century American Women Writers course and to give presentations on the new book at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers conference and at Stockton during the fall term. She is also very proud of the [virtual exhibit](#) on "Recovering 19th-c. American Women Writers" students in her Senior Seminar created last spring. Dr. Gussman continues to develop the digital edition of Sedgwick's uncollected tales and sketches, [Sedgwick Stories](#), with assistance this term from students in her Literature by Women course, who are transcribing and sharing stories as part of the Sedgwick Society's [Just Read One Sedgwick Story](#) challenge.

Adalaine Holton returned to teaching this fall after being on family leave last academic year. In the Fall semester she taught a new Senior Seminar on representations of slavery in American literature and film. Students' seminar papers offered original and sophisticated arguments about the ways in which 20th century representations of slavery often challenge US perceptions of the historical past and sometimes reveal connections between chattel slavery and contemporary racial dynamics. In July 2016, Adalaine will lead the second annual Why the Humanities Matter Summer Institute for Teachers at Stockton's main campus. This year's theme is "Reading American Literature and Material Culture." While the institute is geared toward the needs of English/language arts and social studies teachers, other members of the community are invited to apply. If you are interested in participating, visit: <http://www.etc.net/calendar/> For more information, please contact Adalaine directly: adalaine.holton@stockton.edu or visit the institute's blog page: blogs.stockton.edu/humanities.

Marion Hussong is currently working on two substantial projects. In Fall 2016, she will curate the exhibit "Drawing Against Oblivion -- Children of the Holocaust" by Austrian artist (DrH's uncle!) Manfred Bockelmann (the film can be seen here: <https://vimeo.com/127400121>). The exhibition comprises fifty large charcoal drawings by on canvas of children murdered under Hitler, and will be on display at the Stockton Art Gallery for most of the fall term. An eponymous award-winning documentary film traces the project and will also be screened at Stockton, with panel discussions including the artist, and the film director and producer.

Dr. Hussong will be on sabbatical for the entire academic year 2015-2016 to write a book titled *Shaping the Nazi Woman: Propaganda for Girls under Hitler*. Her research will take her to various cities in Germany. She expects to spend a lot of time at "International Youth Library" in Munich, which holds a significant collection of National Socialist children's and young adult literature.

The Hussong family is thrilled to welcome a new granddaughter, Sarah. Daughter Jenny Hussong (BIOL '07) and her husband Shane provided Allison, age 2, with a little sister, last December. Opi Joe, Omi Marion, and Aunt Lillian (HIST '12/MAHG '14) are over the moon with joy.

Faculty Updates Continued

Kristin Jacobson with WGSS students and faculty Ellen Mutari and Besty Erbaugh have been sharing the Status Report on Women in Atlantic County with various groups, including the Atlantic County branch of the American Association of University Women. The report was commissioned by the Atlantic County Advisory Board on Women and the research was conducted by Stockton University faculty and students. As stated in Stockton's press release, "The pilot report shows current data on women and girls in Atlantic County and relevant comparison data for the state of New Jersey and the United States in six sections: basic demographics, political participation, employment and earnings; social and economic autonomy; reproductive health and rights; and general health and well-being." This fall Jacobson presented to program directors and administrators at the National Women's Studies Association conference about how they can complete their own county status reports. The status report is now available to the public by direct link: <http://www.aclink.org/pdf/StatusofWomeninAtlanticCounty12-14-15.pdf>. You may also find the report by going to the Atlantic County homepage and scrolling down to the bottom; look for "Online Publications:" <http://www.aclink.org/>. This spring the report will be presented to the public on April 22 at the Carnegie Center. Contact Kristin Jacobson if you are interested in attending this event. Jacobson also presented at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers' conference this past fall and continues to serve as the organization's Vice-President of Development. She also continues to work on her book related to extreme adventure and is looking forward to participating in a faculty exchange with Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece in May.

Dr. **Cynthia King** is working on the Asian-Anglophone issue of *dusie* magazine which she hopes will be published in April 2016 and her collaborative book of poems written with Hillary Gravendyk, *Unlikely Conditions*, was published at the end of March through 1913 Press. Michael McGarvey from Visual Arts helped her produce some beautiful broadsides of a few poems.

This term, Cynthia taught Spoken Word as a LITT 2155 for the first time. The students have really formed a tight community and working diligently have been producing amazing spoken word performances. They have taught her so much about how supportive a class can be, and how to use theatre exercises to keep the dynamic in the room comfortable.

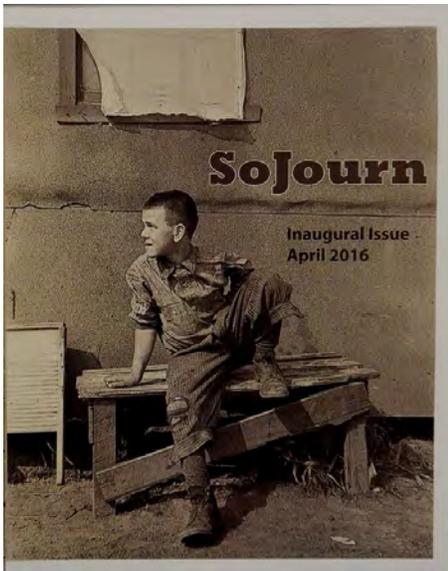
Tom Kinsella has been busy directing the South Jersey Culture & History Center and serving as interim director of DigitalHumanities@Stockton while Adeline Koh is on sabbatical. Here is a brief list of some of the student projects completed (or underway) under his supervision.

- Last semester we published a new edition of *Early Recollections and Life of Dr. James Still*, edited, typeset and designed by LITT major (now alum) Heather Ganiel, with the help LITT alum Eddie Horan. It chronicles the struggles and ultimately the great success of James Still, South Jersey's Black Doctor of the Pines (c. 1812 - 1878). Dr. Still was a medical genius who overcame poverty and racial animus to become one of the wealthiest men in South Jersey during his lifetime, and quite likely the best medical practitioner of his time and place.
- Last November Ashley Grubb (current LITT major) and Stephanie Allen (LITT alum) accompanied me to Seton Hall to give a brief introduction to Stockton's Digital Humanities program. Ashley spoke about the day-to-day work of the DH interns. Stephanie spoke about her work initiating the Hammonton History Project.
- In anticipation of the Town of Hammonton's sesquicentennial (taking place now), several LITT, American Studies, and one COMM student have worked diligently to create a digital repository of images of Hammonton, called the Hammonton History Project. Local historical societies and community members have donated images that the students have digitized, processed, and uploaded to Stockton's image database. Find the Hammonton History Project here: <http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=261&pageID=94>

Faculty Updates Continued

- During the current term 11 LITT students and 1 intrepid COMM major have worked with me as Editing Interns, developing the inaugural issue of *SoJourn*, our magazine of South Jersey history and culture. Eight essays written by local historians (one of them by our own Ken Tompkins) have been line and copy edited by the students, then designed and setup using InDesign. The magazine should be out right around the time of the BASH. If it is, I'll bring copies. Otherwise, visit blogs.stockton.edu/sjhc/ to learn how to get your copy.
- We have a number of other projects underway: a digital museum of the Alliance Colony near Vineland, a Jewish farming community begun in 1882; a publication of interviews with woman who worked in the local garment industry from the 1940s through the 1980s; a documentary of local archaeologist Budd Wilson (set to premier within two months); a publication of illustrated letters by Fred Noyes Sr. (father of Fred Noyes Jr, who along with Ethel began the Ram's Head Inn, Smithville Village, and the Noyes museum); a documentary of the impact of WW1 on South Jersey (underway, but with lot of work left to do); parts of older issues of Stockpot may be placed on line; and much more, all student driven.

The upshot is that Stockton Students, especially LITT students, are taking the opportunity to better understand the rich culture and heritage of the 8 southernmost counties of New Jersey. We're having a great deal of fun – in fact, it's a hoot.



Prof. **Adeline Koh** is on sabbatical for the 2015-16 academic year.

Nathan Long is finishing up being the LITT coordinator, ready to hand the position off to the capable hands of Professor Holton. Besides teaching his much loved Advanced Fiction this semester, he has been working with seniors Elizabeth Reed and William Swain on their great independent study novels.

When he's not teaching, he is sending out his two collections of short stories to be published. In the past year, a number of Nathan's stories have been published or are forthcoming in anthologies, including in the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* (Shepard U. Press), *Strange Tales V* (Tartarus Press), *Manifest West #3* and *Manifest West #4* (Western Press Books), and two volumes of *Turn: A Season of Short-Short Stories* (ELJ Publications).

Faculty Updates Continued

His stories have also recently appeared – or will appear – in the following journals: *The Baltimore Review*, *TQ Review*, *I-70 Review*, *Two Hawks Quarterly*, *Brilliant Flash Fiction*, *BlinkInk*, *101 Words*, *No Extra Words*, and *Dark Matter Journal*. Nathan’s story “Arctic” won first prize in the *Open Road Review* fiction contest and was recorded as a podcast by *The Portable Story Series* (<http://portablestoryseries.com/>).

“The Power of Story,” a short personal essay that appeared on *NPR* in 2006, was selected for the anthology *This I Believe: Philadelphia* (This I Believe Publications), and his essay

“Flying” appeared recently in the literary magazine *The Sun*.

In other news, he and his partner Courtney had a commitment ceremony in October and adopted a new dog, Laika, this past month. Laika was sent into space by the Soviet space program in 1957, and though rumored to have died in space, actually spent the last 60 years visiting distant planets, returning to earth on Christmas Day, 2015, as a puppy. She is adapting well to the news that the Soviet Union is no longer a political entity.

Adam Miyashiro has been teaching medieval literature and has offered a new Senior Seminar on the medieval romances of Alexander the Great in which students translated a Middle English poem called *Kyng Alisaunder*. He will be presenting his research on the Arabic Alexander romance at next year’s Modern Language Association convention in Philadelphia, as well as being on a roundtable on Globalization and Comparative Literature at the same conference. His article on periodization will be featured in the book anthology, *Futures of Comparative Literature*, to be published by Routledge later this year. He will contribute the chapter, “Postcolonial Malory,” to the book *New Companion to Malory* for Boydell & Brewer to appear next year. He is also finishing a two-year term on the Faculty Senate and as Secretary of the Delaware Valley Medieval Association. He recently co-organized a Digital Medieval Humanities workshop for the DVMA this February with Dot Porter (Curator of Digital Research Services, Univ. of Pennsylvania Libraries).



The Literature Program
wants to know . . .

What are you reading?
Writing?

Follow the Literature
program on Twitter: @litrsu
and Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/LITTatStockton>
to share
your news.

Student and Alumni News and Updates

Micah Dela Cueva and **Jade Fleming** are co-editing the Stockpot for this spring and doing a fantastic job. They are working in conjunction with **Rawan Abdallah** through the Digital Humanities course and with Thomas Kinsella to create a digital archive of the Stockpot Magazine. This is a really exciting project.

Micah Dela Cueva is interning with Emari DiGiorgio organize the World Above readings at Dante Hall in Atlantic City including the social media.

Amanda McConnon is working in freelance in New Jersey.

Amber Beatty continues to work in Cameroon through the Peace Corp.

Manar Hussein (2015) is working in schools in Newark and in the education program at NYU.

Emily Heerema recently got married to Kyle Smith. She's working as an occupational therapist Sub-Acute Rehab/Long Term Care Center in Old Bridge NJ and her husband is getting his doctorate in audiology, specifically in hearing rehabilitation after a stroke.

Tania Rivera (B.A. in Literature 2012, M.A. in American Studies 2014) was recently promoted to the position of full time copy-editor, staff member and writer at *The Hammonton Gazette*.

Cameron Glover (B.A. in Literature/Creative Writing 2015) received an Editorial Fellowship from Tech.Co.

Roni (Bier) DiGenno (2010) currently a teacher at Coolidge Senior High School in Washington, D.C., was accepted into the Teaching Shakespeare 2016 Institute with the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Sarah Baginsky (2015) has been admitted to the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate program in Classics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mark-Allan Donaldson (2015) is currently enrolled in a Master's degree program in English literature at the City College of New York.

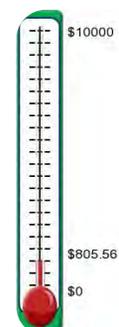


*Timothy Liu, Visiting Writers Series
Fall 2016*

Donate to the Literature Program

You can donate to the Literature program by selecting “Previously established Restricted Fund” and naming “Literature Program” in the blank. (Donations are tax deductible.) [Click here to donate.](#)

We have a goal to raise **\$10,000** by **2020**. Once we achieve this goal, the program will establish the “**Ken Tompkins Literature Scholarship.**” The endowed scholarship honors Prof. Tompkins’ **fifty years** of teaching in higher education and will be given to a Literature major.



Alumni Career Panel

On Thursday, February 11, 2016, the Literature Program, with the Career Center at Stockton, hosted Literature alumni to speak to our current students about the variety of careers available to our graduates. **Kirsten Corley**, Writer and Editor, Sequel Media International - PuckerMob, **Corey Labruzzo**, law student, Rutgers-Camden, **Michael Duke**, Content Manager, Equinix in NYC, **Eddie Horan**, Adjunct Professor in First-Year Studies at Stockton, **Alexis Plotkin**, English Teacher, Atlantic City High School, and **Toni-Anne Idzinski**, English Teacher, Cedar Creek high school joined us for presentations on their current careers and took questions from the audience on subjects like working in education, digital writing and editing positions, and freelance writing and editing. A workshop on how to apply to graduate school hosted by Professors Jacobson, Long, and Miyashiro immediately followed our alumni panel. Thank you to all of those who participated and attended!



In Memoriam

We are saddened by the tragic loss of a beloved alumna, **Marquita Cabrera** (LITT, 2011), on April 2, 2016, after a long battle with cancer. Marquita, known to her friends and family as Quita, was a Literature (Creative Writing) major at Stockton, and she is remembered by the Literature faculty as bright, creative, kind, and talented. Her classmate, **Steven McPartlin** (LITT, 2010), had this to say about her:

“Marquita and I go back to a few Literature classes together back in 2009 and 2010. We shared in the fact that we both hailed from New York, and that connected us. We shared our laughs and frustrations with those times in those classes. When she shared the fact that she had become afflicted with cancer a few years ago, whether she asked for prayers and needed help to bear whenever she felt weak, I would make it a point to ask how things were. When I did, she remained optimistic. She kept the faith, even when things weren't going well. Quita may have lost her battle, but she didn't go down without a fight. She didn't give up. She will be missed sorely by me and many.”

Quita had a piece of flash fiction published in the online flash fiction journal 52 | 250. Below is a reprint of her flash fiction story, “Air Freshener.” It can also be found here:

<https://52250flash.wordpress.com/category/marquita-cabrera/>

“Air Freshener”

by Marquita Cabrera

“I can't sleep,” I say.
“Why?” asks the bull.
“I got too much on my mind.”
“You really should shut your eyes.”
“I just told you I can't sleep.”
“Well, just try,” the bull says.

I flick off my bedroom switch and watch the curtains sway as the wind from the open window hits the edges. I roll over to my right side and close my eyes. The bull rolls over facing my side and grabs my hips. His fierce nostrils spray hot air on my neck. I immediately open my eyes, sit up, and stare at him. “What are you doing?” He stares back with an amused smile on his lips. “I'm rocking you to sleep.” I scratch my head and look around for anything I can hit him with. I look back at him. He still has that amused smile on his lips.

“I was just helping you out,” the bull says.
“I was on my way to Lala Land, thank you,” I say.
“What's wrong with cuddling?”
“You're aggressive. You don't strike me as the sensitive type.”
“You need to stop being racist!”
“What? That doesn't even make sense,” I say.

We turn to opposite sides of the bed. The bull faces the open darkness next to the dresser. I face the window where the wind continues to blow the curtains. He plays with his nose ring while his horns puncture the pillows under him. I rest my eyes again. The cool air feels good.