



The Literature Program

Texts & Technology

Literature/Language Alumni Newsletter -- Spring 2001

Here it is! The bi-annual Lit/Lang Alumni newsletter from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (fondly remembered by many as Stockton State College).

The Literature faculty have made it through another Fall term and are ready for the big push toward summer. We ended last term in fine style with a festive Bash. Lisa Honaker provided her wonderful catering skills as she has done for the past several years, so we had great food--the menu this year was Italian. It came as a serious blow to learn that Professor Honaker declines the honor of catering our next Bash. It came as considerably less of a blow to learn that Tom Kinsella (the author of this missive) will NOT serve wheat balls next Bash. Yes, many things are changing at Stockton.

Last term marked the first time we used Weblogs in Literature courses (a first for the campus as well). We have been teaching HTML coding to our students for several years now and wanted to move beyond simple hand-coded webpages. Weblogs, powered by software on one of the Literature program servers, makes the creation of good looking, technically sophisticated websites quite easy.

Weblogs sprang up on the Internet about two years ago, and there is a considerable community of users. The sites are easily dated and archived, so they are often used as personal on-line journals and as E-zines.

If you care to see examples, look here:

We are still working on the Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs asking that they assign another faculty line to Literature. We would like to expand our offerings in electronic textual studies. Some of you will remember Ken Tompkins' Desktop Publishing Track. We would like to start a new effort along similar but updated lines. We are also pushing for a Humanities computing lab. So far the administration has not seen fit to fulfill our needs. We'll keep pushing.

A few news-worthy events since the last update:

Stephen Dunn was named Trustee Fellow in the Arts by the Stockton Board of Trustees. The distinction is well deserved. This semester Stephen is on leave, teaching creative writing at the University of Michigan. He will return in the fall.

The new Trustees Multipurpose Athletic Recreation Center opened in the fall. It is up-to-date and quite large. It will hold its first graduation on January 26th.

Over the break, Professors Deborah Gussman and Lisa Honaker performed their professional duties by attending the Modern Language Association annual conference. Debby delivered a paper and Lisa attended administrative meetings in her capacity as an MLA director. Last November, Professors Tompkins and Kinsella, also performing their professional duties, attended what was possibly the worst literature conference ever. Imagine High Theory meets Gomer Pyle (and Ken & Tom were not Gomer). It was a very strange experience. As part of their recovery process Ken and Tom will join Deb and Lisa to deliver a panel discussion on teaching pedagogy at Seton Hall in March.

At the moment we have about 85 alumni e-mail addresses. We are missing several hundred. If you know any graduates who have not received this letter, please ask them to write Tom Kinsella (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.

Bletter Update is published by OnSports Online, Inc.