

The Literature Program Newsletter

THE IRREGULAR LITTONIAN

Spring 2010, Number 42

Greetings Alumni and Friends:

As the spring term races to a close, we bring you news from the Literature Program.

We welcome our newest full-time faculty member to Stockton this term: Dr. Adeline Koh, Assistant Professor of Postcolonial Literature. Professor Koh received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University in Michigan, and her work focuses on African and Asian literatures, global feminisms, postcolonial political theory, and the digital humanities.

This term brings us to a milestone in Ken Tompkins' career at Stockton; Professor Tompkins will officially retire from Stockton as Professor of Literature this spring. We are glad to report, however, that Tompkins will continue to teach literature courses in the program next year and for the foreseeable future, and we wish him all the best as he makes the transition to retirement.

How about that snow? The snowpocalypse of 2010 had many of us dreaming of desert islands, and what's a desert island without some books to read? So, along with our regular teaching and research and alumni updates, this issue brings you the LITT faculty's answers to the burning question: "If you were stranded on a desert island, what five books would you want to have with you?" We hope you'll enjoy reading about our selections, and we encourage you to share your desert island books with us on our new Facebook page, The LITT Program at RSCNJ:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-LITT-Program-at-RSCNJ/245341072249>

Please read about our featured alumni, and do continue to send us your updates. We love hearing from you.

For the program,

Deb Gussman

Alumni Profiles



Patrice Hollrah, PhD ('92)

I graduated from Richard Stockton College in Spring 1992, with Highest Honors and Program Distinction in Literature and Language. I worked evenings and attended classes during the day, and all the while my husband, Gary Hollrah, called me Dr. Patty. At the time, I thought he was delusional because I had never considered a terminal degree in my future. In fact, continuing with my education after my BA was the farthest thing from my mind. On the other hand, I felt like the musical *Avenue Q* song, "What Do You Do with a BA in English?" I decided to apply to the Master of Arts Program in English at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Campus at Camden. I thought that with a MA, I would at least be able to teach English as a part-time instructor.

I was accepted into the graduate program at Rutgers, kept working nights in Atlantic City, and commuted to Camden two days a week. I can honestly say that my professors at Stockton did a wonderful job of preparing me for graduate course work. If not for what I learned from them, I might not have succeeded in earning my Master of Arts in English in 1995. About nine months before I finished my MA, Gary relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada, to open a new Cirque du Soleil showroom at Treasure Island Casino and Hotel. I remained in New Jersey, finished my coursework, sold our house, and then joined him.

When I arrived in Las Vegas, I had a part-time job waiting for me in the Entertainment Wardrobe Department at Treasure Island, a position I still hold; I sew pirate costumes on the weekends. Still, I decided that I wanted to apply to the PhD program in the Department of English at the University of Nevada (UNLV). By this time, I was used to working nights and going to classes during the day, and I still wanted to learn more about literature. My first class was a graduate seminar in the historical novel, taught by Dr. P. Jane Hafen (Taos Pueblo). The universe must have designed my meeting Dr. Hafen because she became my

major professor, chaired my dissertation, and today is my good friend, mentor, and colleague.

As an undergraduate at Stockton in Professor Ken Tompkins' Introduction to Literature course, I read works by two Native authors: "Lullaby," a short story by Leslie Marmon Silko (Laguna Pueblo); and selections from *American Indian Stories* by Zitkala Ša (Yankton Sioux). These stories made an intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and political impact on me unlike other literatures I had read. Consequently, meeting Dr. Hafen at UNLV provided the opportunity for me to follow a passion for Native American Literatures.

I graduated with my PhD in English in 2001, and under Dr. Hafen's direction, my dissertation won the UNLV Foundation and Graduate College Award for Best Dissertation of the Year, 2002. The dissertation focused on four Native authors: Zitkala Ša (Yankton Sioux), Leslie Marmon Silko (Laguna Pueblo), Louise Erdrich (Ojibwe), and Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene). Because I first read Zitkala Ša and Silko at Stockton, I credit my experience there as the beginning of my interest in Native American Literatures.

On a trip to Finland in 2001 for the Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference on North American Studies, Dr. Hafen introduced me to Dr. John R. Wunder, editor of a series published by Routledge on Native Americans: Interdisciplinary Perspectives. He agreed to read my manuscript and then recommended it for publication. *"The Old Lady Trill, the Victory Yell": The Power of Women in Native American Literature* was published in 2003.

Dr. Hafen also introduced me to a circle of Native and non-Native scholars in the field of Native Studies. In 1999, she assigned me as coordinator of the book, arts, and crafts exhibit at the annual Native American Literature Symposium (NALS), a role I continue to play today. My service to NALS led to becoming one of the Clan Mothers (steering committee), which offered a chance to help in the planning of the symposium. The Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL) holds its annual business meeting at NALS, and I have served as secretary, vice-president, and president of the association. I have tried to give back to the community that has allowed me to contribute to the scholarship on Native literatures.

As a graduate student at UNLV, I worked as the assistant director of the Composition Program and the assistant director of the Writing Center. In 2001, the director of the Writing Center, Sharon Fong, relocated to California and recommended me as her replacement. A few days after defending my dissertation, I began work as the full-time Director of the Writing Center, where I am today. I continue to teach courses for the Department of English, research and publish in the field of Native American Literatures, and serve on committees for UNLV. Looking back on my education at Stockton, I see how so much of what I do now began there, and I have to credit all the professors along the way who helped me arrive here.

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Daruis Klein ('89)

I graduated from Stockton's Literature and Language program in 1989, midway through the academic year. At the time I had been accepted into Rutgers' Comparative Literature grad program; however, my ultimate decision was to hold off on returning to school. I was unsure at the time whether I wanted to continue to study literature, and I felt it would be beneficial to do some growing up before I made any more important academic or career decisions.

A year after I graduated I moved to Portland, Oregon, where I lived for the next seven years. At that time I began working as a residential provider for developmentally disabled adults with severe behavioral challenges who were being diverted from the state institutional system into community placements. I worked with a number of groups of people, but the group that I clicked with the most were the adjudicated sex offenders. I found their powers of imagination fascinating, even inspiring, even if the content of their inner worlds was undoubtedly terrifying at times.

While living in Portland, I began to travel, which was a hobby that was to occupy me for the next several years. My longest trip was a nine-month jaunt in India and Southeast Asia in 1996. Thereafter I relocated to Seattle. I continued to work in the social work field, travel, write, and study languages - in this case, Latin and Arabic. I had two works of original fiction published in on-line journals - which I consider something of an accomplishment, especially since I wasn't entirely convinced of the quality of my work!

After the last trip that I took overseas (to Egypt) in 2001, I decided to return to school. I studied Classical languages at the University of Washington, and almost obtained a second B.A. in that field. Unfortunately, in 2005, I had to leave school because of on-going health issues, which remained undiagnosed. In 2007, I began working as a Latin language translator with a Seattle-area publisher of esoteric and Alchemical texts from the Renaissance and Middle Ages, Ouroboros Press. I translated two texts for Ouroboros: the first was *A Serious Joke*, a satiric verse drama in defense of Alchemy in which all of the characters were birds; and the second was *The Incantations of Circe (Cantus Circaeus)*, a treatise on memory by the famed Italian heretic and mathematician Giordano Bruno. *The Incantations of Circe* was finally published in September of 2009; the fate of *A Serious Joke* is still up in the air, although I believe it will be published within the next two years. In addition to working for Ouroboros, I also set up a blog site with my own translations of very obscure works in the Latin language - a labor of love which I hope to transform from a blog to a full-fledged website (my software skills are sadly lacking - an unbelievable anomaly in Seattle, but nevertheless true - so that may take some more time).

In 2008 my health problems were diagnosed and I began to receive appropriate treatment. I have subsequently recovered my health entirely, and have once again set my sights on returning to school. I was accepted into the University of Washington's Comparative Literature graduate program for the fall of 2010. So - after twenty years of vagaries and exploration, I've come full circle! Not exactly what I expected, but then, how often does life conform to one's expectations anyway?

I would like to end with a brief word to Stockton's current Literature majors. Recently, the departmental page on Facebook has been posting rather dire articles predicting the complete obsolescence of the study of literature and casting aspersion on the discipline for its failure to engage with the culture in the face of a recent and traumatic economic collapse and transformation. I was dismayed when I encountered these postings. This kind of apocalyptic rhetoric was already trite even before I entered college. Ignore it - it's pure, unadulterated horse doo-doo. As Literature majors, you're already at least one step up in terms of brain-power than 90% of the population, and I'm not exaggerating. You're intelligent and resourceful - you will get a job and you will survive. In fact, with the independent and digital publishing industry currently blooming, you're probably better off than ever. But even more than that, your choice of academic study is ensuring that our society continues to provide its members with something more significant than its material comforts. You're already doing more than your fair share of what it takes to make the world a more fulfilling and humane place for yourselves and those who will follow you. This isn't foolish idealism: it's the reality that is waiting for you when you graduate. Keep up the good work.

OTHER ALUMNI NEWS

We look forward to hearing from you and want to help keep you in touch with fellow LITT alumni. Please email any personal or professional updates to the LITT Program Coordinator, Deborah Gussman: Deborah.Gussman@stockton.edu, or any of the LITT faculty.

Connie Burzo was honored recently with the 2009 Rittenberg Middle School Educator of the Year award. (Many of our current Literary Research students work in Connie's classroom each term as service learning tutors, and can attest to her dedication and enthusiasm as well!]

Richard Chinery writes: I graduated from RSC in May 2006. After that, I applied to NJIT's MS program in Technical Communication. I was accepted and graduated with my master's degree last May. Luckily, I was able to secure a job as a technical editor for [CSC](#) in Marlton, NJ and am very happy with it! I can't tell you the number of times things have come up at work where I've thought, "Gee, we covered this in so-and-so's class!"

Lauren Muskett, currently enrolled in the MA program in journalism at Emerson, writes that "Emerson College has been treating me well and I would definitely recommend it for students looking to go to graduate school for journalism. I have already joined the school news station, WEBN, and have been able to produce and shoot a fashion show during Boston Fashion Week. It is a great graduate school with so many networking opportunities. I love my program, almost as much as Stockton's lit program :)"

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Faculty Updates

Deborah Gussman

Research is the theme of Deb Gussman's spring term. Students in her Literary Research class are working hard at their final papers on several of Nathaniel Hawthorne's tales, and have been blessed with the support of Deb's undergraduate research assistant, Samantha Neal, who has among other things introduced them to the wonders of Zotero (www.zotero.org). Her Senior Seminarists have been doing stellar research recovering "lost" or rarely discussed works of 19th century women's literature; several of them, with Deb, will be sharing their discoveries in a roundtable presentation at a symposium, "The Irrational, the Spiritual, the Romantic: Contested Discourses in 19th Century American Women Writers," sponsored by the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society at Salem State College this June. She is also researching and writing a paper on Catharine Sedgwick's and Edith Wharton's spinsters to be presented at the symposium in Salem. Deb will be going on a cruise with her family in August, and if she is shipwrecked, hopes the battery on her Kindle lasts until she is saved, so that she can read her Desert Island books, as follows:

1. Emily Dickinson, *The Complete Poems* (to which someone has miraculously appended the 1855 edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*)
2. The Dalai Lama, *How to Practice: The Way to a Meaningful Life* (I'll have lots of time to meditate)
3. The King James Bible (I crave those particular sounds and stories sometimes)
4. George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (I'll need a big fat novel with a whole society in it)
5. John Lofty Wiseman, *SAS Survival Handbook: How to Survive in the Wild, in Any Climate, on Land or at Sea* (I'm getting off the island, somehow.)

Adalaine Holton

Of late, Adalaine Holton has been working on her book project on archives and black literary activism, tentatively titled *Counter Archives: The Politics of Knowledge Production in the Black Atlantic*. She is particularly interested in the ways in which black intellectuals have challenged conventional understandings of the form and function of the archive by engaging in experimental archival projects. As part of an independent study she conducted with LITT majors Hanna Lomonaco and Lech Studzinski during the spring semester, she began researching the folklore collections of Zora Neale Hurston for a new chapter in the book. Along with Hanna and Lech, she received a grant from Stockton to travel to the Library of Congress to study Hurston's Federal Writers' Project fieldwork and other archival materials over spring break. Holton's article on the logic of iteration (repetition with a difference), in W. E. B. Du Bois's genre-bending work *The Souls of Black Folk*, will be coming out in the journal *Arizona Quarterly* later this year.

Just to be difficult, Holton limited her desert list to books published in the 21st century:

- Zadie Smith, *White Teeth* (2000)

- Edward P. Jones, *The Known World* (2003)
- Edwidge Danticat, *The Dew Breaker* (2004)
- Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* (2005)
- Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007)

Lisa Honaker

Lisa Honaker has had a busy spring. In March, *Stephen Dunn: Poems, a Retrospective*—a project on which she had been working with LITT and ARTV students, faculty and staff for over a year, opened in the Stockton Art Gallery. The exhibit's opening, which included readings by Stephen Dunn and seven of his former students, was well attended and received some positive press. Honaker also helped bring artist-activist and 2002 ARTV graduate, Naomi Natale, to campus in March for a presentation on art and activism. Natale spoke to a crowd of eighty about her work on The Cradle Project (<http://thecradleproject.org>) and One Million Bones (<http://www.onemillionbones.org>). Both projects use art to raise awareness of poverty and genocide around the world and the funds to combat them.

In the fall, a chapter on “Suicide in Detective Fiction” that she wrote with Fred Mench came out in the volume, *Suicide in the Creative Arts*, edited by David Lester. Two American Democracy Project monographs to which she has contributed, with other Stockton faculty and administrators, *Educating Students for Political Engagement: A Guide to Implementation and Assessment for Colleges and Universities* and *Stewardship of Public Lands* are forthcoming this year. She will take another group of students to Yellowstone National Park this June as part of a collaboration with Patrick Hossay and Tait Chirenje, whose classes also attended a lecture series on environmental issues in South Jersey sponsored by the three faculty. Honaker and Chirenje will give a presentation on their work with students in Yellowstone again this year at the American Democracy Project conference in Providence, Rhode Island in June.

Honaker was also granted a sabbatical leave for the 2010-2011 school year to work on a study of contemporary British Commonwealth fiction through the lens of the Man Booker Prize.

Five Desert Island Books:

1. Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (because it is my favorite, plain and simple)
2. *The Riverside Shakespeare* (because I'm on a desert island and will presumably have the time to read and reread all of Shakespeare's plays)

3. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* (Usually, I'm not big on anthologies. I like complete works, but I'll need some poetry, and I don't want to limit myself to individual poets or volumes. A wide selection is what I'll need.)

4. Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead* (best book I've read in the last decade. When I read it, it affected me as a spiritual book. I'm actually going to pretend that *Gilead* and its sequel *Home* have been bundled into one volume by the time I'm shipwrecked and take both—but only count them as one book.)

5. Library of America's *William Faulkner: Novels 1936-1940* (which includes *Absalom, Absalom!*, a book I consider the best of the 20th century, and three other novels. If I'm on a desert island, I want a lot of bang for my buck—as I suggested above. Though I had toyed with something by Henry James—maybe taking the Library of America's *Henry James: Novels, 1901-1902*, that volume only includes *The Wings of the Dove* and I'd like all three of his major phase novels—*The Wings of the Dove*, *The Ambassadors*, and *The Golden Bowl*. Since the other two haven't yet been issued in a single volume, I'm going with Faulkner.)

By the way, if I am shipwrecked on a desert island, though I wouldn't wish shipwreck on my colleagues, I'm hoping that either they are there with their books or that somehow their books have washed ashore unharmed after their rescue to enhance this desert island library.

Marion Hussong

The current academic year has been full of excitement for Marion Hussong as she embarked on her first sabbatical experience. Marion spent about two months in Austria conducting research for her new digital book about the Austrian writer and Resistance fighter Franz Kain. The book, titled *Franz Kain. Short Stories and Essays. A Critical Digital Edition* is accessible at www.franzkain.net. The edition represents the first English translation of Kain's texts and provides an intimate portrait of the struggles that political resisters faced during National Socialism. Art by the Austrian painter and photographer Manfred Bockelmann accompanies each short story and essay.

While in Austria, several radio stations conducted and broadcast interviews about Marion's work. She also presented a paper at the Concentration Camp Memorial Ebensee. An article about Franz Kain: "Swimming Against the Current" appeared in the December issue of *Betrifft Widerstand (Regarding Resistance)*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Ebensee Concentration Camp.

Back on campus in January, Marion thoroughly enjoyed reconnecting with students and colleagues and looks forward to a busy two-year stint as coordinator of the Literature Program.

Dear alumni: Stop by my office and visit whenever you have occasion to return to campus! I always enjoy hearing from my former students.

5 books to take to the island:

US Army Survival Manual

How To Make Your Own Fishing Lures: The Complete Illustrated Guide
How To Build and Sail Small Boats: Canoes, Punts, and Rafts
Celestial Navigation For the Clueless
 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: *Gesammelte Werke in einem Band (Collected Works In One Volume)*

Kristin Jacobson

Kristin Jacobson is enjoying training another set of students in her Spring term literary boot camps: both "Domestic Dramas" and "Literary Methodologies" run students through the fundamentals of close reading and literary analysis. She is also teaching a pilot course dedicated to engagement. The literature students in this course are completing amazing projects, working as research and teaching assistants as well as editors. You can follow the work in this class on our Facebook page, "The LITT Engagement Seminar at RSCNJ." Her general studies course in feminist theory means she is also busy equipping a fresh army of feminist theorists. Between grading marathons, Kristin Jacobson squeezes in time for her research projects. Her book manuscript is on schedule for publication with The Ohio State University Press in December. The summer will be dedicated to completing the project's final editing stages. She presented aspects of this work at both the Society for the Study of American Women Writers and the Modern Language Association's conferences in the fall. This spring she will attend the American Literature Association's conference to present new research looking at environmentalism and contemporary domestic fiction. She will also present, along with several other Stockton faculty members, at the American Democracy Project National meeting in Providence, RI on "Integrating Political Activism and Service Learning into Women's Studies Courses."

Desert Island Books:

Kristin Jacobson figures that--being of Nordic descent--she will not survive long on a desert island. Heat stroke or spontaneous human combustion will likely be her fate without access to a refreshing supply of iced lattes (in which case the island would also likely have a bookstore) and ample sunscreen and shade. As a result, why re-read something?! So, she has selected five books that she has not, but hopes to read, before being burnt to a crisp: Chang-rae Lee's *The Surrendered* (2010); Heidi W. Durrow's *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* (2010); Elizabeth Strout's *Olive Kitteridge* (2008); Louise Erdrich's *Shadow Tag* (2010); and Karen Tei Yamashita's *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (1990).

Cynthia King

Cynthia King's students continue to excel in their discussions of world poets, exiles, and politics, including Wole Soyinka and Agnes Nagy. Her Collaboration in the Arts course is volunteering their new expertise with art to help autistic children, hospice patients, and the elderly; the Hammonton Arts Center is extremely pleased to have students from the course as interns. And finally, her creative writing workshop has produced many great pieces, including a villanelle about the zombie apocalypse, a stripper who dresses as Cinderella and blackmails a senator into passing healthcare reform, and a quiet piece about a son who

realizes he's making the same mistakes with women that his father did.

Desert Island Booklist:

- 1) *Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor
- 2) *The Bible* (rape, murder, poetry, miracles, metaphors)
- 3) *If You Want to Write* by Brenda Ueland
- 4) *Selected Poems* by Larry Levis
- 5) *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* by Alice Munro

Tom Kinsella

Tom Kinsella is on sabbatical this term. He is working on his colonial bookbinding project. Currently he's trying to wrap up a study of about 20 German-speaking binders who worked in Philadelphia from around 1710 to 1790. He'll be back on campus September 1st, raring to teach more grammar.

Adeline Koh

Adeline Koh joined the Literature program in Spring 2010, a semester that has seen one of the harshest winters in the history of the Northeast. She worries that this may be payback for spending two years in a sunny tropical location for her postdoctoral fellowship at the National University of Singapore. She has, however, been thoroughly won over by the energy and down-to-earth nature of Stockton students, who have on dreary days been some of the warmest points of winter.

In Spring 2010, Adeline has been revising one of her book manuscripts, "Dangerous Women: Revisiting the Social Contract in Postcolonial Literature," a book which considers the representation of education, gender and the polity in the postcolonial world. Her book is an attempt to reassess the importance of aspects of second-wave American feminism to global feminism around the world today. She has also started work on an edited collection of essays on women, gender and sexuality in Singapore and Malaysia. She intends to continue working on these projects this coming summer, and to take a breather with running, kayaking and yoga.

Adeline's Desert Island books:

1. Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
2. Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*
3. James Joyce, *Ulysses*
4. Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*
5. Karl Marx, various works (e.g. *The German Ideology* and *Das Kapital*)

Nathan Long

Nathan's large project for the semester is compiling an anthology of 21 student stories from the Stockton creative writing workshops over the last five years. With the help of two great student editors, and many others, the project is coming along nicely. It's exciting to be responsible for getting a book into publication, from conception to completion, and he's learning a great deal in the process. He's also been enjoying teaching his senior seminar on short story cycles (collections with a unifying element to them). Many students in that class are also taking his fiction workshop and creating short story cycles of their own. That has inspired Nathan to follow suit, and he's been working on a cycle that centers around sleep tentatively titled *The Sleep of Reason*. If the cycle goes well, he might work it into a sabbatical project for the 2011-2012 school year.

Nathan's Desert Island List:

1. *Moby Dick*. Really, if you are stuck on an island (I'm taking the premise of this game seriously), surrounded by water, and contemplating doing some serious fishing, what better companion to remind you not to go overboard--figuratively and literally.
2. *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*: I suppose it's a bit of a cop out, but I'd definitely say this would be one of my five books, mostly because there are a number of plays and poems I haven't read, and secondly, I know it would help maintain my vocabulary (but to what end? and for whom?) as well as my memory of humanity, both the positive and negative aspects of it. I could even imagine memorizing plays or at least roles and acting them out on the beach, between hunting and gathering for food.
3. *The Book of Luminous Things*. This is a lovely world anthology of meditative poetry edited by Czeslaw Milosz. I think the title alone would make me feel I had everything I needed.
4. *The Essential Rumi*--poems of the Afghan/Turkish mystical Sufi poet of the 13th century. I know, it's hard to imagine that I teach fiction writing, since only one of my five selections is fiction, but while I can list 20 favorite novels and short story collections, not one stands out as an essential book to have with me for all time in the same way Rumi poems do.
5. A large, blank journal. This too may seem like a cop out--or a sign of arrogance--that one of the five great books would contain my words! Ha! But really, I would want to write, need to write, and the worse think I could imagine would be writing over the words on a printed book (which I would do, if I had no choice), so a blank journal would serve me well. And a pencil, of course.

Adam Miyashiro

Adam Miyashiro, who joined the faculty in Literature at Stockton College last fall, has been teaching our Literature majors the language and literatures of medieval England. In spring, his class, "The Medieval Romance," a new offering in Literature, focused on the transmission of French Arthurian material into the English language in the 14th and 15th centuries. To his utter disbelief, after only one semester, his students can tackle texts written in various Middle English dialects! In Fall 2010, he will continue in this vein, when he teaches an upper division seminar on the Middle English writer Geoffrey Chaucer. He intends to emphasize Chaucer's influence from French and Italian literatures, and to introduce students to the literary world of London in the late 14th century. This summer, Dr. Miyashiro will participate in an NEH Institute seminar entitled "Cultural Hybridities in the Medieval Mediterranean," an intensive four week seminar in July, to be held in Barcelona, Spain. He continues to write about cultural and linguistic encounters in medieval Europe, and has recently presented his work at the American Comparative Literature Association and will present at International Medieval Congress this May.

Five desert island books (and this must be taken with a grain of salt as my reading tastes differ day to day!):

1. Jorge Luis Borges, *Collected Works*. Arguably the best writer in the 20th century.
2. Guaman Poma, *Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno (The New Chronicle and of Good Government)* -- Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala (or Guaman Poma) was a half Incan/half Spanish chronicler of the 16th century, who created a hybrid understanding of time and space -- between Andean cultures of Peru and the European Spanish tradition.
3. Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel* (the epic farce of 16th century French culture)
4. 平家物語, *Heike Monogatari (Tale of the Heike)*, a 15th century chronicle narrating the 12th century Genpei War between the Minamoto and Taira clans of Japan.
5. Usama ibn Munqidh, *الاعتبار كتاب (Kitab al-I'tibar, trans. as The Book of Contemplation)*. Usama was a 12th century Syrian chronicler of the Crusades -- recently translated in a Penguin edition, this is a fantastic account told by a local contemporary about the triangulation of Arab, Frankish, and Turkish struggles in the aftermath of the First Crusade.

Ken Tompkins

Ken Tompkins continues to teach a Shakespeare class each semester. He has agreed to teach for the LITT Program as long as he is able and as long as he can contribute to the Program's offerings. He has also been asked to co-edit -- with the Dean of ARHU, Rob Gregg -- an history of the College. The text should be published in time for the 40 anniversary celebrations of the College in the Fall of 2011. It will contain essays spanning the period

from 1971 to the present as well as anecdotes, photos and audio and video files. At present, Ken reports that he is deeply immersed in the Archives reading old issues of the ARGO and the Board of Trustee's minutes.

Finally, he wants to thank all of his former students who contributed remembrances of their classes with him. He was deeply, deeply touched with the anecdotes so much so that, when he was given the booklet, he spent the evening both laughing and weeping about the kindnesses that former students shared.

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Announcements

Stockton Anthology: A launch party for the newly released anthology of the best of Stockton student fiction in the last five years, edited by Prof. Nathan Long, will be held on April 28th, Wed, at 8 pm, in the Arts & Sciences Building, Room 102. We will have readings from authors from the collection, food and drink, and a display of the design entries for the cover. Copies will also be on sale for a mere \$10. Please join us.

Listserv: To sign up for our Literature listserv, go to:
<http://fsmac1.stockton.edu/mailman/listinfo/litt-majors>.

LITT on Facebook: Become a fan of the LITT Program on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-LITT-Program-at-RSCNJ/245341072249>

LITT Bash: April 23, 2010, TRLC, 4-6pm: Our annual Bash celebrates student achievements and our alumni. As always, the faculty will provide the food and drink. Just bring yourself. Please plan to join us.

Giving to ARHU: Make your tax deductible donation here:
<http://inraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=69&pageID=172>

If you would like to earmark your donation to support the Visiting Writers Series, contact Nathan Long (nlong@stockton.edu).

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Be not afeard. The isle is full of noises,
Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments
Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices
That, if I then had waked after long sleep
The clouds methought would open and show riches
Ready to drop upon me, that when I waked
I cried to dream again.
~ William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

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