

## **Library Council Report for the Faculty Senate, 2010-2011**

Submitted by Chair Christine M. Probes, Professor

The following are highlights of Library Council meetings. Held monthly, these meetings typically included key library representatives as well as council members.

The Council, upon request, advised the Chair of the Publications Council on approaching the Provost and the Vice President for Research and Innovation for funding. There were at that time several proposals before the PC and no funding available. Funding was obtained and Graham Tobin will be involved in an advisory capacity.

In the Library's "Textbook on Reserve" initiative, hundreds of textbooks have been placed on reserve for courses with over 150 students. The initiative is on-going and includes e books and other on-line materials.

Considerable attention was given to building renovations, including circulation desk reconfiguration, media move, new furnishings, etc.

The Council heard of various travel by Dean Garrison to review collections and meet with donors. The Council understands and encourages the need for library development to serve needs of students and faculty as well as to meet ARL guidelines.

The Council aided throughout the year in sharing information and publicity about events such as the Armenian Symposium "Rediscovering Armenia: History, Memory and the Future." This event underscores the central role USF plays in transformational education and research as it highlights the importance of the Armenian Studies Initiative within the Libraries' Genocide and Holocaust Studies Center.

Merrell Dickey, the new Library Development Officer, shared his goals and ambitions for the Library in several areas and initiatives, including examples of how the Council can help with potential donor contacts and fundraising. Late in the AY, several council members were present at a major fundraising event, "Legacy Salute," and made contributions themselves.

At each Library Council meeting, Dean Garrison gave us updates: on hires (for example, in Academic Services), new placement of collections (such as the Confucius Collection which replaced the leisure reading books in the nook near Starbucks), library hours expansion, awards received from Student Success funding, status of materials budget, the Scholar Commons initiative (headed up by Todd Chavez), and meetings with regional library directors and budget officers regarding shared contributions, etc.

Faculty and Student concerns were brought to each meeting and included the following: kudos for improvements to Iliad (interlibrary loan requests), extended availability of the Tutoring and

Writing Center in connection with ongoing concerns from faculty regarding student literacy/reading capabilities, cleanliness of library restrooms, and, as possible, the purchase of more leisure reading materials for students, etc.

Council Member Eleni Manolaraki of World Languages presented to the Council her project “Students’ Book Experiences and Library Outreach.” She developed this project with her Classics students who are willing to help with any resultant library initiative. In a separate attachment to this report, you will find a capsule of her presentation. She suggested that if the library gives people some sort of forum to talk about their favorite books (electronic, open mic readings at Starbucks, BFA artwork that thematizes books, etc.) this might benefit its profile in the community and provide a service to students. At the February 3 meeting the decision was made to provide a link on the Library website for the contribution by students on their various “book experiences.”

The first-ever joint meeting was held March 24 of the Library Council and the Library Student Advisory Group. Library Webmaster Trusik presented the new website, including a “library channel,” LibGuides by colleges, etc. Monica Metz-Wiseman, Coordinator of Electronic Resources, discussed a new program that will combine databases and other resources to provide faculty and students a better and easier way to search. Several Council Members including Chair Probes volunteered to help in reviewing the sources under consideration.

At each Library Council meeting, Chair Christine Probes reported on the monthly Senate Executive Committee meetings as they relate to the library. The Council asked her to request a presentation of the Scholar Commons Initiative at a Faculty Senate meeting. She has done so and Todd Chavez is following up on that for fall 2011.

## “My Favorite Book” forum on [www.mylatinexperience.ning.com](http://www.mylatinexperience.ning.com)

- Posted by [Maria Callas](#) on September 16, 2010 at 11:28pm in [All Discussions](#)



One of the previous postings about Horace's poems and life got me thinking about my own crossing paths with him almost 20 years ago in a class at my alma mater in Crete. It was one of those turning points that led me to a love of Latin, to the US for grad school, and into the room that I am sitting right now to compose this message.

Which then leads me to this question: I would like to hear about books that you have read (classics or non-classics related) that have had a major influence in the way you see yourselves, the world, and your dreams and plans for the future. Chances are, there will be some classical connection there anyway, mark my words!



[Permalink](#) Reply by [Chris Copley](#) on October 19, 2010 at 1:18am

I am going to take this in two directions, although neither involves Greek and Roman literature.

The "old" book that has affected me the most is, undoubtedly, ***Great Expectations***. The way that Pip encounters all sorts of issues in the book and is constantly challenged, either by his own ambition or his circumstances, compels and reminds me to push on with whatever I am doing. That example has helped me get through many difficult times, seek out new things, and constantly evolve into a better person.

A recent book which has lingered in my conscious is ***Into the Wild*** by Jon Karkauer, which follows/retraces/fictionalizes young Alexander Supertramp's journey from college graduate at

Emory to the Alaskan wilderness. The main character pursues his dream, regardless of the opinion of those around him, and is savvy enough to teach himself what he needs to know in order to survive. The book further inspired me to move away from a situation where I had done all that I was going to accomplish and move into a new phase of my life and be in a place where I feel comfortable and able to accomplish a variety of things.



[Permalink](#) Reply by [Caleb Christy](#) on October 27, 2010 at 8:03pm

I think the most recent book I have read that has had an influence on me was ***For One More Day*** by Mitch Albom. It's a story about a guy who, in his mind, after a suicide attempt, gets to spend one more day with his mom who died some years before. It helped me realize to live life and love those around because as great as it was for the character in the book to spend one more day with his mom, we don't get that chance in real life.



[Permalink](#) Reply by [Kellie Brandenstein](#) 9 hours ago

Lesse, The book that influenced me the most has to be ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. I have a quote from the book tattooed on the inside of my wrist. I read it when I was going through a rough time, and it helped me more than anything else, to get through it. Even now when school is getting to crazy or my family drama is getting to be too much, I sit down and read it, and it relaxes me like nothing else.

Reply by [Michael Skeans](#) on October 13, 2010 at 6:21pm

The first book that I can remember reading and making me look at the world in a new light would be Dr. Seuss' ***The Lorax***. In my teen years Robert Heinlein got me really into reading, and his book ***Stranger In A Strangeland*** made me realize that just because a culture/way of life/society/etc. is different than mine does not mean it is wrong. The latest important book of my life would be by Carmel McCaffrey's ***In Search of Ancient Ireland*** this book renewed my interest in history and made me want to pursue it as a career. Another good one that effected me positively is ***Watership Down***.



[Permalink](#) Reply by [Luigi Di Mare Volio](#) on September 27, 2010 at 11:58pm

When it comes to books that have changed my life, I suppose that I can take two different paths. To begin, the first book I remember receiving as a child was the ***Travels of Marco Polo***. It was a gift from my godmother. Being only about 7 years old, I was mastering the craft of reading. Also being a child, it was a watered down version. The book helped me to develop a deep and passionate interest for the field of history, specially Medieval explorers and travelers. At the time, little did I know that the book would help to set what I would want to study as an adult. Then there is the writings of Umberto Eco. Umberto Eco has been my favorite writer for quite some time. His last novel, ***The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana*** struck a chord with me. At first I was quite displeased with the book due to the drastic subject change. I have always liked Umberto Eco ever since I read The ***Name of The Rose*** due to his historical intrigue and mysticism. His work is also filled with ways to alter your perspective of reality and what lies beneath what the human mind knows and handle. The Mysterious Flame is a story that I ended up taking very personally. The story involves the life of an older man who begins having memory lapses due to a stroke. He has moments in which he goes back decades to earlier moments of his life or remembers significant historical events from the 20th century. My grandfather suffered from something similar and the book opened my eyes regarding certain aspects of life such as the past, present and future. The final point being that all stories must come to an end..so it is good to enjoy them while you can.



[Permalink](#) Reply by [Jeanna Revell](#) on October 16, 2010 at 9:11pm

I know that it is not a book, and it may be slightly over used, but a poem that has always inspired me is ***The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost***. From a very early age this poem made me realize that I wanted my life to be different in some way, that I wanted it to be meaningful and adventurous and exciting, even if that meant that it would be more difficult. I'm a Psychology major hoping to get a degree in family counseling, but I'm also hoping to travel the world doing mission work where I can help anyone who needs it, be it the hungry, the sick, the impoverished, whatever, I want to help and this poem reflects how I feel about life decisions. I'm a fan of most of Frost's work, but this poem especially touches me, and never fails to remind me that each choice we make effects our lives and so each one is important.

### [Children's Books in Latin](#)

Added by [Brooke Wade](#) on October 8, 2009 at 9:00am — [6 Comments](#)

I actually found it very interesting that modern children's books have started being translated into Latin. A friend of mine has ***Charlotte's Web*** completely in Latin. For those who are interested this link ([http://www.farid-hajji.net/books/lat/Carroll\\_Lewis/al-index.html](http://www.farid-hajji.net/books/lat/Carroll_Lewis/al-index.html)) has the book ***Alicia in Terra Mirabili*** (Alice in Wonderland). Enjoy!

Added by [Kristina Wright](#) on November 10, 2010 at 10:33pm

1. ***Servant of the Bones***, Anne Rice. This one encompasses so many parts of the ancient world, which I was introduced to when I took art history in high school, including Greece, Rome if I remember correctly, and Byzantium. I liked being able to recall the art and architecture as I read this book, which mentions vampire stuff only passingly (if at all).
2. ***Pandora***, Anne Rice. One of Rice's vampire chronicles, Pandora is a Roman woman in Augustan who flees to Antioch when her father's estate is conscripted. Much of the beginning of the storyline follows historical events in Rome, including the deaths of Augustus and Germanicus, the rise of Caesar and his territorial acquisitions. Even if you aren't into the vampire stuff, this book is worth reading just for the rising action that takes place in the Classical world.
3. ***Celestial Matters***, Richard Garfinkle. This one is my absolute favorite of all the science fiction I've read, and the reason I started this discussion. I'm a Classics major and an engineering major, so my civilization and mythology is interspersed with calculus and physics. This book is like alternative science. The Empire of Alexander never fell, in this universe, Athens is the seat of academia, Sparta breeds the men and women of war, and the Greek ideas of the universe as celestial spheres, the composition of matter and the elements, and Aristotelian physics reign. Overall, I loved this novel because I never thought I would read something like this that so perfectly melded both of my major interests together into a cohesive whole.

Added by [Megan Coplan](#) on November 15, 2010 at 3:41pm

I am taking a political philosophy class right now that has introduced me into a work by Montesquieu, called ***The Sprite of the Laws***. There is so many Roman stories in there, relating to their republic and how everything was ran back then. I was very interested to read about the ancient Roman times, because there are many connections with our own government today, however, noting several differences. I was also delighted to find the text using many of the same Roman names we use in our Latin textbooks as well as Latin phrases and words throughout the text.

I guess it goes to show that how much of the historical settings cross many disciplines.



Posted by [Nicole Oswald](#) on March 2, 2010 at 3:03pm

Over Christmas break I read the latest Dan Brown book, ***The Lost Symbol***. In it there were a lot of Latin words and references. I have noticed this with his other books but had not been taking Latin at the time. I annoyed the heck out of my Dad by telling him what all the Latin words were before he had a chance to read the book for himself.



Posted by [Mary Elizabeth Kounelas](#) on October 14, 2010 at 10:58pm

- I was so excited the other night to look at my bookshelves and find, nestled among textbooks and anthologies, my husband's version of ***A Wrinkle in Time***. Madeleine L'Engle was (and still is) one of my favorite authors, however, I never owned my own copy. Books, it seems, always take on a different context and life when they are read from an (semi-) adult perspective. As I began my journey with Meg, Charles, and Calvin, I was delighted to find (spoken from the mouth of a certain Mrs. Who) my favorite dead language! Mrs. Who is a character who finds it difficult to verbalize, and thus, she uses the words of others- Seneca and Vergil, I believe, among others.

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