



Summer 2016

You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2016)

Musselman Library
Gettysburg College

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You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2016)

Abstract

Each year, Musselman Library asks Gettysburg College faculty, staff, and administrators to help create a suggested summer reading list. Our goal is to inspire students and the rest of our community to take time in the summer to sit back, relax, and read.

With the 2016 collection, we again bring together recommendations from across our campus—the books, movies, TV shows, and even musicals that have meant something special to us over the past year. 124 faculty, administrators and staff offer up a record number of 226 recommendations.

We include five special features this year. Two of our regular columnists are back – James Udden has new recommendations for film and TV, and Allen Guelzo continues his Civil War sesquicentennial series with a new focus on the literature of Reconstruction. Caroline Hartzell contributes a “Focus on Food” feature tied to a new college program beginning this fall. Alexa Schreier recommends some of her favorite pieces of nature writing, and Janelle Wertzberger recaps the spring 2016 #GBCTalks reading series on race and racism as well as sharing additional titles for further reading.

Every reader is sure to find something tempting in this publication, which has become a campus favorite. Happy reading!

Keywords

Musselman Library, summer reading, fiction, non-fiction, film

Disciplines

English Language and Literature | Library and Information Science

A photograph of a child running across a grassy field under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A kite with a dark body and yellow accents is flying in the upper right, leaving a long, thin tail. The child is in the lower left, running towards the right. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, suggesting a summer day.

You've Gotta Read This!

Summer Reading @ Musselman Library 2016



Cover photo taken at Ocean City, NJ.
Courtesy of Kate Martin

Dear Reader,

As book lovers, we are by definition dreamers – and not only those of us who favor spy thrillers or exotic romances. Even weighty histories and scientific treatises depend on the reader’s ability to take up residence in an author’s consciousness, to open the mind and imagine a world beyond.

We dream through books to experience global currents and connect with other forms of life, to touch the transient and discover the eternal. One reason books and summer go together so well is that the approach of the warm months awakens kindred feelings: experiencing a great book harmonizes with the clearing of skies, the lengthening of days, and the ritual renewing of life.

Here is our annual collection of staff picks for essential summer reading and viewing – what we experienced this past year, and why we want others to know about it. In addition to fiction and nonfiction from across the spectrum of genres and approaches, we include five special features. Two of our regular columnists are back – James Udden has new recommendations for film and TV, and Allen Guelzo continues his Civil War sesquicentennial series with a new focus on the literature of Reconstruction. Caroline Hartzell contributes a “Focus on Food” feature tied to a new college program beginning this fall. Alexa Schreier recommends some of her favorite pieces of nature writing, and Janelle Wertzberger recaps the spring 2016 #GBCTalks reading series on race and racism as well as offering additional titles for further reading.

The recommendations are as broad in interest and eclectic in outlook as the faculty and staff who contributed them. One of them is certain to give you the adventure you’re looking for. Another may spark the curiosity you didn’t know you had. Some will send you off on clouds of pleasure, while others will root you in the soil of grim reality. In its own way each is, as one of our contributors puts it, “perfect for the dreamtime of summer.”

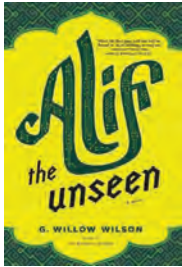
From the staff of Musselman Library

May 2016

TABLE of CONTENTS

Fiction.....	2
The Outside World on Your Shelf.....	30
Nonfiction.....	32
Great Reads from Guelzo.....	58
#GBCTalks – Reading Toward a Better Understanding of Race in America.....	60
Focus On Food	62
Film.....	64
Udden’s Outtakes.....	69
Index.....	74

FICTION FICTION



***Alif the Unseen* by G. Willow Wilson**

I read nonfiction and research articles for my work, but when I am relaxing (escaping?) I almost always turn to fantasy. I particularly love novels that weave fantasy into modern-day settings. In this novel, Wilson explores cultures that are invisible to most people going about their daily lives in an un-named emirate on the cusp of the Arab Spring: the nearly invisible culture of computer hackers and the truly invisible world of the jinn. The story is part political intrigue, part love story, part race against time and through multiple parts of the known and unknown world and thoroughly enjoyable.

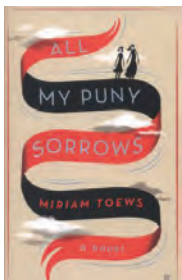
Chloe Ruff, Education



***All Fudged Up: A Candy-Coated Mystery with Recipes* by Nancy Coco**

I'm embarrassed to say that I really enjoyed this book (and the next two books in the series)! It's a great book for a simple summer day. The main character owns a hotel/fudge shop on Mackinac Island in Michigan. Readers learn all about fudge making and running a hotel in a busy tourist area. Although the setting is idyllic, our main character must become a sleuth when a body is discovered in her hotel/fudge shop.

Brian P. Meier, Psychology



***All My Puny Sorrows* by Miriam Toews**

One sister is an internationally famous pianist with a successful marriage, the other sister is a single mom struggling to make ends meet, and struggles just as much to maintain romantic relationships. Which one suffers from severe depression? Toews takes a very sensitive subject (based on her own life) and somehow makes it funny and moving throughout. It's impossible to read this book without feeling it inside.

Roy Dawes, Political Science



All the Birds in the Sky by Charlie Jane Anders

Two kids, one a natural witch, the other a tech wizard (and both outcasts) meet in school, and find themselves bound to one another as they try to save the planet from its doom, both thinking that the other is causing its demise. If you're looking for a mix of apocalyptic sci-fi and coming-of-age angst-y fantasy (think *A Canticle for Leibowitz* and *The Magicians* mashed together with the better parts of *Ready Player One*) then this is for you. And even if you're not looking for that, then you should probably reconsider.

R.C. Miessler, Musselman Library



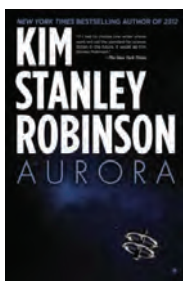
Arcadia by Iain Pears

Arcadia by Iain Pears is a strange mix of complicated and easy to digest, which makes it a perfect beach read. The three primary stories intersect over space

Science fiction, fantasy, and an exploration of the life of a mid-century Oxford professor are not usually good bedfellows, but the mixture works.

and time, and half the fun is figuring out how they are related. Science fiction, fantasy, and an exploration of the life of a mid-century Oxford professor are not usually good bedfellows, but the mixture works. Despite the number of primary characters, the range of settings, and the variations in style, this novel is a relatively easy read and leans a bit towards popular rather than literary fiction. Great fun!

Sharon Birch, Information Technology



Aurora by Kim Stanley Robinson

The story follows a group of humans on a 150-year trip to a new solar system that could potentially sustain life, and the book begins when the journey is almost complete. For me this book struck a satisfying balance between science fiction and a contemplation about what life is and what it means. It never gets too philosophical for a relaxing beach read, but it offers some things to think about.

Tim Funk, Chemistry



***A Banquet of Consequences* by Elizabeth George**

Usually I can narrow down the suspects in Elizabeth George's mysteries. This one I didn't see coming. That's not the reason for reading her series. Her plots are intricate and well thought out. Her characters are realistic and complicated, a mix of making choices and then being made over by the choices they've made. If you like novel series which are more about the deepening of understanding about the main characters, while offering a look into the minds and hearts of those brought into the plot, then this is one to try. They get longer each novel, but this one I finished in a long, enjoyably lazy weekend.

Christine Benecke, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations



***The Beekeeper's Apprentice, or, On the Segregation of the Queen* by Laurie R. King**

In 1915, long-retired Sherlock Holmes meets 15-year-old Mary Russell, who displays an intellect and a proclivity for deduction to impress even Holmes

*Not quite a cozy mystery, not quite a detective thriller,
this story displays a satisfying wit and mystery
that is sure to entertain.*

himself. He takes Russell as his apprentice despite the prodigious age difference, and they form a detecting partnership just as substantial as that of Holmes and Watson. Not quite a cozy mystery, not quite a detective thriller, this story displays a satisfying wit and mystery that is sure to entertain. If I could recommend all 13+ books in the Mary Russell series, I would!

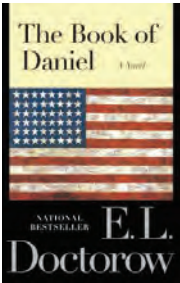
Klara Shives, Musselman Library



***Beta* by Rachel Cohn**

If you like dystopian science fiction, you might enjoy *Beta* by Rachel Cohn. It's a quick, beach-type read, filled with interesting premises. Clones? Check. Interesting heroines? Check. Teenage angst? Double check. Its sequel, *Emergent*, is not as engaging, but hopefully the third book will not disappoint.

Eleanor J. Hogan, East Asian Studies



***The Book of Daniel* by E. L. Doctorow**

Painful from beginning to end, E. L. Doctorow's *The Book of Daniel* draws on the perplexities of the biblical Daniel and of the Rosenberg trials triggered by Cold War hysteria to help us understand how completely and inevitably power corrupts. Caught in a web of hate and fear, the Rosenbergs (the Isaacsons in the novel) are easily scapegoated. Originally published in 1971, Doctorow's vision of panic and intimidation and of the possibility of redemption is still urgent and might help us understand why our present political process is so deeply divided and learn to use power differently to heal ourselves.

Temma Berg, English / Judaic Studies / Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



***The Book of Speculation* by Erika Swyler**

This is a gorgeously written, well-plotted magical-realist story of librarians, carnival sideshow travelers (including a family of “mermaids” who hold their

*As soon as I finished it, I immediately turned back
to the first page and read it again.*

breath under water), tarot cards, and the ocean. As soon as I finished it, I immediately turned back to the first page and read it again.

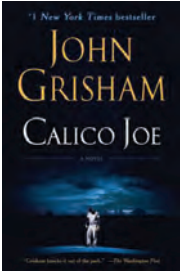
Jocelyn Swigger, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



***Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent**

This is a gripping but bleak story set in a bleak yet beautiful place: Iceland in the early 19th century. It is based on the true story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, who was convicted of and executed for murder. Agnes’s compelling story is largely reconstructed from historical documents, which are included in the text. But what captured me utterly was Kent’s language, which masterfully calls our attention to the smallest elements in a way that make you pause and consider everything around you. Every detail is beautifully delivered.

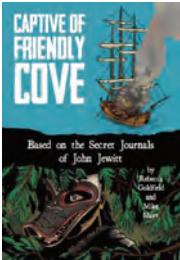
Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library



***Calico Joe* by John Grisham**

This is certainly not your typical John Grisham page-turning legal thriller, but it is certainly a compelling story. One does not need to be a fan of baseball (or sports) to love and appreciate this book. This touching story is narrated by the adult son of a professional baseball player but the book is so much more than about baseball. The son reminisces a lifetime of events about his family, love, his boyhood idol Calico Joe, heartache, broken promises, disappointments, tragedy, forgiveness and resilience.

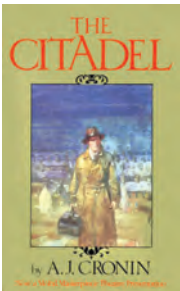
Susan Fumagalli Mahoney, Athletics



***Captive of Friendly Cove: Based on the Secret Journals of John Jewitt* by Rebecca Goldfield**

After his ship is burned and his shipmates killed in 1803, John Jewitt, a young British sailor and blacksmith, lived as a prisoner of the Mowachaht Indians for three years on the west coast of Vancouver Island. He kept a diary of his 851 days in captivity – learning the customs, language and ways of life of his captors and plotting his escape. Fortunately for us, Rebecca Goldfield found his account and made it the basis of her gorgeously illustrated graphic novel. This is an artful work of historical fiction and an adventure story that grips the reader from beginning to end.

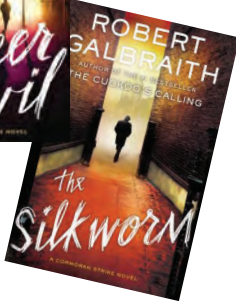
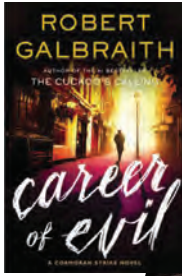
Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



***The Citadel* by A.J. Cronin**

This is an old chestnut from the 1930s and a delightful read at any time or in any place. Scottish author and physician A.J. Cronin paints an often bleak but moving picture about a young doctor assuming his first post in a small South Wales coal mining village with all the travails of a new life far from home. I adore all things Welsh and thoroughly enjoyed the vibrant characters he describes so colorfully.

Buzz Jones, Sunderman Conservatory of Music

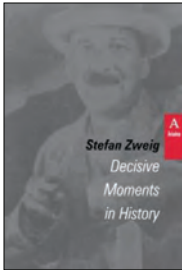


The Cormoran Strike novels by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling)

Last summer, when my then nine-year-old son was devouring the Harry Potter series, I decided to give J.K. Rowling's mystery series for grownups a try.

The books turned out to be wonderfully compelling, embracing many of the tropes and clichés of mystery writing (spoiler: the hardboiled detective is forced to confront his own past!), and yet still managing to feel fresh. Robert Galbraith has written the perfect series of books for the beach.

Rud Platt, Environmental Studies



Decisive Moments in History: Twelve Historical Miniatures by Stefan Zweig

Decisive Moments in History: Twelve Historical Miniatures brings us a series of miniature histories about events that changed the world. These events include the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, the birth of Handel's Messiah in 1741, and Vladimir Lenin's trip to Russia in 1917 on a German train while Russia is in the midst of fighting World War I against the Germans. In these 14 miniature histories, Zweig shows his incredible ability to entertain us while teaching us about moments that shaped the modern world.

Emilio Betances, Sociology



Doctor Sleep by Stephen King

Stephen King's *Doctor Sleep* is a sequel to *The Shining*. Ever wonder what happened to Danny? This book starts shortly after Danny and his mother escape from the Overlook Hotel. As an adult, Danny suffers from alcoholism and starts a new life in New Hampshire and joins AA. Danny must use his gifts to save a young girl from the clutches of the True Knot, a group that travels in RVs feeding off tragedies (think 9/11). The book's climactic ending is a return to the Overlook Hotel, where, in true King fashion, a battle of good versus evil ensues.

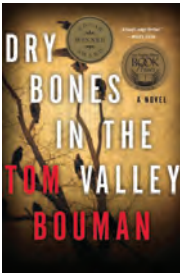
Deb Hydock, Dining Services



***The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman**

This historical novel, which details the lives of a group of women living in the fortress of Masada before and during the Roman siege of 73 CE, is an incredible and surprisingly fast-paced read. Hoffman's style is bold and poetic, and despite switching between narrators, each character stands as an individual. The work is set in ancient times but the way Hoffman allows each woman to tell her own story, set within the shared experiences of extreme violence, self-reliance, sexuality, and religion, makes it feel very modern.

Molly Reynolds, Musselman Library / Schmucker Gallery



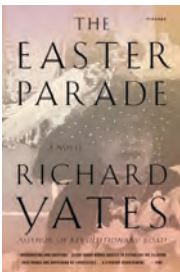
***Dry Bones in the Valley* by Tom Bouman**

Fracking, meth labs, and the long shadow of county history are all evident in Tom Bouman's debut novel, based in Northeastern Pennsylvania, the heart of gas extraction on the east coast. While not as wild as James McMurtry's *Choctaw Bingo*, but close in spirit, Bouman's novel displays the "virtue of

This novel is about rural America, full of achingly real characters, desperation, and issues that are close to home. Like good songs, wounded people make the best subjects.

slowness," which Henry Farrell, the detective at the center of this mystery, learned from his fiddle teacher. This novel is about rural America, full of achingly real characters, desperation, and issues that are close to home. Like good songs, wounded people make the best subjects.

Jack Ryan, Provost's Office



***The Easter Parade* by Richard Yates**

I think of summer reads as light, frothy concoctions worthy of the beach, something fructified and tasty and effortlessly consumed, but too often easily forgotten. Nothing wrong with a good umbrella drink, of course, but I'm suggesting an alternative that, while not without sweetness, carries a little more complexity and sting, like fine bourbon: *The Easter Parade* by Richard Yates, an author who loved his brown liquors... though never before 6:00 pm. A personal

(continued)

favorite, this relatively short, crisply told novel, which details a roughly 40-year period in the lives of sisters Emily and Sarah Grimes, is as devastating as it is perfectly executed. Yates lets you know immediately what you're in for emotionally with one of the most overdetermined openers in American literature, "Neither of the Grimes sisters would have a happy life..." But don't let that first sip dissuade you. Take another, and let this nuanced story reveal its poignantly tragic, deeply humane spirit, the taste of which will, I guarantee, linger long after you've imbibed it.

Mark Drew, Gettysburg Review



***Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral* by Mary Doria Russell**

In an epic follow-up to her earlier historical novel, *Doc* (about Doc Holliday, one of my favorite books in the last few years), Mary Doria Russell brings the legend of the gunfight at the O.K. Corral to life. Most of the story is a detailed, extensive backstory of the character's lives and events leading up to the gunfight, and it doesn't have as much light humor as was in *Doc*, but Russell somehow manages to always make this historical period so relevant to politics today. I can't wait for whatever she decides to write next.

Roy Dawes, Political Science



***Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng**

This gripping 2014 novel by Celeste Ng opens by stating that a young girl has died; it becomes her family's task to discover how (and why). But the novel is far more than a mystery – through its poignant depiction of a Chinese-American family in 1970s Ohio, it also provides a deeper inquiry into issues of race and gender difference, as well as minority visibility. I am proud that I happen to know the author personally, though that's not the only reason to read this novel. This is truly an important story about families, parenting, and finding a sense of belonging.

Kerry Wallach, German Studies



***The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe* by Romain Puértolas**

How can you resist the title? I couldn't, which is why I read this very fun novel. The story begins at an airport in contemporary Paris and ends back in Paris with brief stops in England, Barcelona, Venice, and Tripoli. The engaging main character is unknowingly on a voyage of love and self-discovery. Of course, an Ikea wardrobe is a character of sorts, too. The story is also about the personal act of becoming a writer and the very timely plight of undocumented international travelers. There's lots of interesting word play and many moments when I laughed out loud.

Allison Singley, Parent Relations



***Final Jeopardy* by Linda Fairstein**

There are 17 volumes in the Alexandra Cooper Series written by real life, NYC retired sex crimes prosecutor, Linda Fairstein. *Final Jeopardy* is the first in the series and introduces readers to the gritty world of Alex Cooper, assistant DA, and her trusty, yet snarky, policeman buddy Mike Chapman, who make an unlikely pair to solve terrible crimes. Their banter lightens the heaviness of the storylines and they always catch the perpetrator. One need not read the lengthy novels in order as the stories stand alone, but the personal and profession growth of Alex and Mike over the years is worth witnessing as it unfolds.

Eleanor J. Hogan, East Asian Studies



***The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins**

If you liked Hitchcock's films *Rear Window* and *Spellbound*, you'll like this novel set in contemporary London. What is different from Hitchcock is that the main character, our narrator, is a woman. She's newly divorced and is having trouble accepting that her ex has moved on with a new wife and baby. She rides the train past her old house every day and ruminates about the life she's lost until one day she sees something happen two houses down from hers that changes her life.

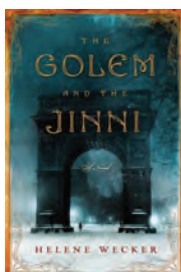
Maureen Forrestal, Provost's Office



***Girl Waits with Gun* by Amy Stewart**

This book was a gift from my sister so I moved it to the top of my “to be read” pile. I’m glad I did. It’s based on a true story and tells the story of a very impressive woman in a very oppressive town in 1914. She witnesses a crime committed by the wealthy silk factory owner, who employs most of the town and therefore always gets what he wants, and works with the local sheriff to find justice for her family and the poor factory workers.

Lauren Roedner, Musselman Library



***The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker**

I was recently recommended this book by a friend and was unable to put it down. A golem and a jinni find themselves in New York City (separately) and must adjust to life as an immigrant in turn-of-the-century America without giving themselves away as mythical beings. If you like historical fiction and fantasy, the Arab and Jewish folklore set against the backdrop of 1899 New York City will enchant you.

Klara Shives, Musselman Library



***Good Lonely Day* by John Clarke**

John Clarke, who left us earlier this year, made the kind of poems that count in our lives, because they record what counted in his. This collection, published in 2009, comprises 77 poems, enough to carry you through a good

John Clarke, who left us earlier this year, made the kind of poems that count in our lives, because they record what counted in his.

part of the summer at the rate of one a day. Yes, some are about what he finds in the other three seasons, but none are out of season. John was very much a poet of Adams County. Read his work, then look around you, and what you ask of a summer vacation could be right here.

Michael Ritterson, German Studies (emeritus)



***H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald**

H is for Hawk is an unusual book, blending memoir, history and naturalist writing. At its heart, it is a book about a young woman and her struggle with loss and grief. It is also about her love of hawks, one goshawk in particular whom she named Mabel. Her commitment to training this hawk, while she grieves her father's death, is the crux of this transcendent and moving story. The writing is simply gorgeous – sunsets, woods, sky, brambles as well as feathers, wings, beaks and talons – are described in beautiful detail. The book contains a well-researched history of the art and science of falconry, with a particular nod to T.H. White whose difficult life and love of hawks is particularly meaningful to Macdonald. All in all, a rewarding read.

Julie Ramsey, College Life



***Happiness for Beginners* by Katherine Center**

This is great for the beach – I read this almost entirely in one sitting. If you are looking for a light-hearted read, where you don't have to think too much, this is a fun book to pick up!

Shawna Sherrell, Communications & Marketing



***He Shall Thunder in the Sky* by Elizabeth Peters**

One of a series of detective stories written primarily in the voice of Amelia Peabody, an indomitable and very funny lady. A feminist of the early 20th century, she, like author Peters, is also an Egyptologist and archaeologist. The series has clever, convoluted plots and unusually sound historical information about Egypt. However, I read them because of the larger-than-life characters who expand the stories into issues of human nature: loyalty and trust, fear and greed, generosity and bigotry. And bless Peters. She builds it all on a foundation of humor. She makes me laugh a lot.

Carol Small, Art & Art History



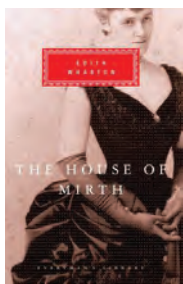
***House of Leaves* by Mark Z. Danielewski**

A novel about a book about a documentary about a house that is really a labyrinth leading to a void, this is an imaginative plunge and a physical workout. Some pages require a 180-degree turn to be read; others, a hand

An abyss and a funhouse, with distorting reflections and disembodied voices, inducing such delirium in a reader that even the typos begin to resemble clues, matches struck in a devouring darkness.

mirror. An abyss and a funhouse, with distorting reflections and disembodied voices, inducing such delirium in a reader that even the typos begin to resemble clues, matches struck in a devouring darkness. Uncanny, in the definition found on one of the upside-down pages: "not full of knowing, or conversely full of not knowing." Deeply unsettling. Enormously enjoyable.

Devin McKinney, Musselman Library



***The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton**

Grab a cup of tea and your best hat and settle in for a roller coaster of emotions as the lovely Lily Bart rides the ups and downs of her life on the edges of society. It's part love story, part social critique, part interior decorating handbook, all awesomeness. Top off your read with a visit to Edith Wharton's home in Lenox, MA, The Mount, and explore the ornate decor and lush gardens.

Jen Cole, Academic Advising



***In the Country* by Mia Alvar**

Mia Alvar's *In the Country* is a collection of nine vivid and unforgettable short stories that explore the experience of loss and the desire to have a place to call home. Set in New York, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, each story gives a unique perspective on the Filipino immigrant experience. Compassionate and from the heart – an excellent and thought-provoking read!

Kim Davidson, Center for Public Service



***Innocents and Others* by Dana Spiotta**

A tour de force about the intense friendship between two woman filmmakers who must surmount the industry's misogynistic tendencies, told in sterling prose and monumental gambits in technique. A can't miss for huge significant prizes, and she'll be here in the fall to sign your copy!

Fred Leebron, English



***Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal**

One of my favorite books from last year! This novel follows the life of Eva Thorvald, and different characters in the story are woven together nicely. It is funny, sad, and overall just really entertaining. I could not stop reading it, as I had to know what would happen in this rags to riches story. I also learned some interesting things about food, although the novel is definitely not a cookbook!

Sarah Principato, Environmental Studies



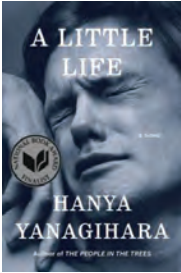
***Lila* by Marilynne Robinson**

Lila is the third book in a series by author Marilynne Robinson, the first of which was the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gilead* (also a must read). *Lila* takes place in the same small town in Iowa, but now the story is from the perspective of

The book is a crisp and lulling meditation on existential and moral questions, spiritual and physical suffering, and the power the past holds on the present.

the character Lila, the young wife of the elderly John Ames. She is a mysterious figure in *Gilead* and now in *Lila* we learn that she grew up as a drifting laborer during the dust-bowl era. Lila is emotionally and spiritually haunted by her past of grinding poverty, physical work, and abandonment. The book is a crisp and lulling meditation on existential and moral questions, spiritual and physical suffering, and the power the past holds on the present.

Megan Adamson Sijapati, Religious Studies / Globalization Studies



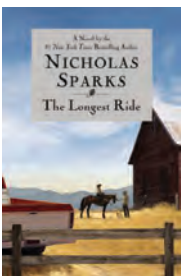
***A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara**

Hanya Yanagihara's latest novel is a baroque account of unimaginable violence and a beautiful narrative of friendship as the most affirming iteration of love. What begins as the story of four college roommates grows into an artful mystery at the center of which is Jude – a child raised in a nightmare, an adult haunted by memories, a lawyer feared for his ruthlessness, and a friend, son, partner and lover never truly known to those closest to him. By uncovering Jude's story, Yanagihara urges readers to question conventional definitions of love and relationships, of care and healing.

Radi Rangelova, Spanish / Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

Both a National Book Award and Man Booker Prize finalist, *A Little Life* is an exceptionally moving account of one man's emotional struggle to shed a past marked by horrific child abuse. An orphan, Jude, nonetheless attends the best schools because of his extraordinary mind and is ultimately a very successful New York City litigator. Yet he remains unreachable for those who care for him most, in particular, Willem, a former college roommate who loves Jude and devotes himself to Jude's well-being. At times very difficult to read – indeed, I challenge anyone to move through this novel without a tear or two – *A Little Life* is, as *The Washington Post* noted, affecting and transcendent.

Elizabeth Richardson Viti, French (emerita)



***The Longest Ride* by Nicholas Sparks**

Nicholas Sparks did it again – pulling you quickly in. Another wonderful example of love, life and how life makes turns you least expect. After being trapped in an isolated car crash, the life of an elderly widower becomes entwined with that of a young college student and the cowboy she loves. A book you won't want to put down until the very end.

Jennifer Coale, Majestic Theater

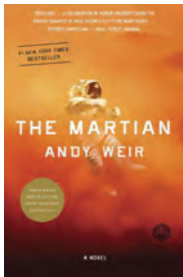


***The Magicians* by Lev Grossman**

The Magicians is the first book of a wonderful trilogy following Quentin Coldwater in a modern-day magical coming-of-age story. Quentin stumbles into a world of real magic when he arrives for a college interview. This book has been described as “Harry Potter for adults,” but you will find that Grossman draws more from C.S. Lewis than J. K. Rowling. The excitement, focus, and challenge of college lasts only for a finite (in this case five year) time period and then Quentin and his friends are left feeling superior to the

average person but also empty of purpose. When the malaise becomes too much, the group pushes the boundaries of contemporary magic and travels across dimensions to a country that was the setting for their favorite childhood stories. Are these books high literature? Of course not, but Grossman has a great sense of pacing and enjoys playing with the conventions of the fantasy genre.

Chloe Ruff, Education



***The Martian* by Andy Weir**

An astronaut is left stranded on Mars. Tech-filled, this is a fun look into human ingeniousness and creative problem solving. Stay away if you’re into deep existential insights.

Nathalie Goubet, Psychology

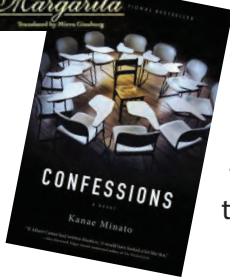
This past year, *The Martian* was nominated for several Academy Awards, including best picture – but guess what, the book is even better! Andy Weir’s best-selling novel tells the story of Mark Watney, an American astronaut stranded on Mars who needs to rely on his STEM knowledge and sense of humor to survive. Will Mark find his way back home or is the Red Planet just too much to handle? Check it out today!

Mike Baker, Communications & Marketing



***The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov and *Confessions* by Kanae Minato**

The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov is an extraordinary novel. Prepare to meet Pontious Pilate, the devil, Jesus, a talking cat, and women who transform into broomstick-riding witches by applying a magic skin cream. The extraordinary plot is eclipsed by the writing, which is stunning. I was moved so much by the book in ways having to do with my own faith that, because of separation of church and state, I'm not sure I feel quite right assigning it for my class.



This year I did, however, require the novel *Confessions* by Kanae Minato. Not since *Fight Club* have I assigned a novel that students find as readable – a lovely little gem in which two students kill their teacher's daughter and the teacher gets revenge.

Sheila Mulligan, English



***The Mechanical* by Ian Tregillis**

Set in an alternate history where the Protestant Dutch have developed sentient clockwork automatons and the Catholic French fight a valiant battle against the mechanicals with glue and acid guns, *The Mechanical* follows a heretic priest, a French spymaster and a rogue Clakker. Beautifully written, the book works on multiple levels – an exciting adventure story, an exploration of how a single invention can change history and society and finally deeper questions about free will and the nature of a soul.

Eric Remy, Instructional Technology



***Moon Shell Beach* by Nancy Thayer**

Two girls, Lexi and Clare, grow up together in the small beach town of Nantucket sharing their deepest secrets and dreams at their special beach hideaway. Life takes them both in directions they never expected, testing their friendship to the limits and beyond. Beautiful Nantucket imagery. Sometimes one needs a book like this, one that requires minimal thinking and not too much concentration. This book is a light, fast, summer beach read.

Jennifer Coale, Majestic Theater



***The Moonlit Garden* by Corina Bomann**

When antiques dealer Lilly is handed an antique, very unique violin and told that she is the rightful owner, her interest is piqued and she begins her search to find out its origins. This hunt will take her from Berlin to London to Sumatra in this story which is told in two timelines: in the 2000s during Lilly's search and turn-of-the-20th century Sumatra where we meet Rose, the original owner of the violin. This is a comfortable and cozy read that has a little bit of everything.

Celia Hartz, Musselman Library



***Mouthful of Forever* by Clementine Von Radics**

*Perfect for a rainy Sunday morning or sunny day
swinging in the hammock.*

Perfect for a rainy Sunday morning or sunny day swinging in the hammock. Short and uncomplicated, these poems are easily digested.

Abby Kallin, Admissions



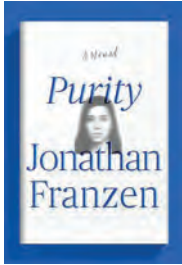
***The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah**

This book has spent many weeks on the *New York Times* Bestsellers list. It often is compared to *All the Light We Cannot See*, since both are set in France during World War II. I found the books to be quite different and I thoroughly enjoyed them both!

Kristin Stuempfle, Provost's Office

France, 1940. Two sisters approach the Nazi occupation in ways as different as their personalities. Vianne, the mother of a young daughter, wants only to keep her family safe. Isabelle, rebellious as ever, resists her loved ones and the Nazis with equal intensity. This novel may not be great literature, but it hooked me at page one and never let me go. You'll find adventure, tragedy, romance, betrayal, friendship, courage, cowardice, family drama, and suspense aplenty, and you'll stay up reading late into the night.

Kathy Cain, Psychology



Purity by Jonathan Franzen

I know there are a dozen reasons that we aren't supposed to like Franzen anymore, and I agree with a bunch of them. But oh boy can he write a novel. When it comes to sprawling novels that tackle big ideas while also portraying intimate details of the inner lives of dysfunctional families, I'm not sure anyone writes as well as Franzen. If that's the kind of thing you like (as I do) you will love *Purity*. It's the kind of 600-page novel you carry with you wherever you go because you want to squeeze it into every free moment you have.

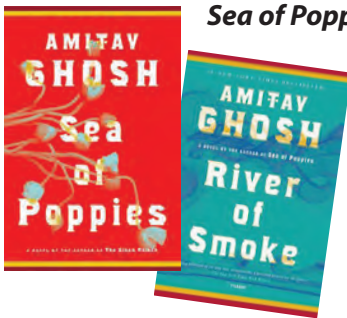
Darren Glass, Mathematics



Rapture, Blister, Burn by Gina Gionfriddo

A quick, funny and cutting play set in early summer.

Eric Berninghausen, Theatre Arts



Sea of Poppies and River of Smoke by Amitav Ghosh

The first two novels of an historical trilogy by Amitav Ghosh are flat-out exceptional reading (I haven't read the third yet). *Sea of Poppies* is an exciting adventure story of opium growers in India who become destitute laborers and are transported on a doomed ship to the island of Mauritius. For lovers of language, Ghosh's rendition of the salty Creole slang spoken aboard early 19th century British sailing ships is a tour de force. *River of Smoke* continues the story of the opium trade just as China attempts

to shut it down prior to the Opium War (1839-1942). Set in both Mauritius and China, this novel paints a colorful portrait of Indian merchants and the trading colony of Canton. Again, there are ships and sailing slang, but also botany and reinvented lives as the original characters persist in their adventures. Read one or both – each stands alone, but the continuing saga is mesmerizing.

Janet M. Powers, Interdisciplinary Studies / Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (emerita)



***Secondhand Smoke* by Karen E. Olson**

As a police reporter for the *New Haven Herald*, Annie Seymour lives for the next big story. This time, however, a fire and a dead body in a local restaurant across the street from her apartment bring the headlines right to her doorstep. Her neighborhood “insider” connections, including her father and a charming former classmate turned private eye, aren’t talking, making Annie’s job even more difficult than usual in this second installment of the Annie Seymour Mystery series. Karen Olson’s work provides an engaging mystery steeped in local details with a touch of romance.

Carrie Szarko, Educational Technology



***The Shape of Water* by Andrea Camilleri**

This is but the first of many in the Inspector Montalbano Series of mysteries by Camilleri (about 20 available in English). The books are set in Sicily, full of memorable characters, and infused with the local atmosphere – the food, the ocean, the scenery, the customs, and the people. In Europe, a film version of the series was made for TV. This is not the dark, gruesome mysteries of Northern Europe: it’s the softer violence (deadly nonetheless) and endearing humor of Italy. Enjoy!

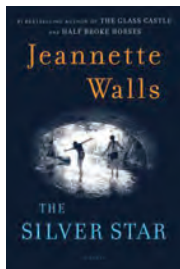
Dan DeNicola, Philosophy



***The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert**

This hefty novel traces the life of Alma Whittaker, born in Philadelphia in 1800 to Henry Whittaker, a self-made man whose gift for tending plants has made him fabulously wealthy. Alma is plain but brilliant. She pursues her love of botany at a time when science and religion were emerging as distinct, when marriage was the only career for a woman, and when adventurers made their mark by exploring the world. The book sparkled with ideas and surprises. I found rich food for thought in its pages and came to love Alma's honesty, courage, and imagination.

Kathy Cain, Psychology



***The Silver Star* by Jeannette Walls**

Two sisters abandoned by their self-centered mother take a cross-country Greyhound from California to a backwater town in Virginia, where they hope to find the only relatives they know. Bean and her older sister Liz arrive at Uncle Tinsley's dilapidated home and he agrees to take them in while their mother is AWOL. As the school year begins one sister thrives while the other becomes increasingly withdrawn for reasons that slowly unfold. Readers familiar with Wall's memoir *The Glass Castle* will recognize elements of her personal history in this moving novel about the injustices of the adult world.

Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



***Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiaasen**

I picked up a few books by Carl Hiaasen at a yard sale. I am currently reading *Skinny Dip* and it is a laugh-out-loud read with well-defined and likeable

Hiaasen writes great 'beach' books – something entertaining that just takes you away.

characters. It has a fun plot and I look forward to seeing where it leads. Hiaasen writes great 'beach' books – something entertaining that just takes you away.

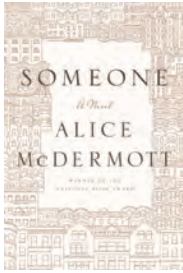
Cathy Bain, Center for Career Development



***The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* by Mira Jacob**

In the vein of other Indian American writers like Jhumpa Lahiri, Mira Jacob presents the nuances of Indian first-generation immigrant life in the U.S. Set in New Mexico, her story also has a suspenseful plot that made me want to learn more about the science of sleep. A quick, yet immersive read.

Salma Monani, Environmental Studies



Someone by Alice McDermott

McDermott beautifully captures the life and loves of one woman from Brooklyn. As time shifts back and forth between Marie's childhood, coming of age, and mature adulthood, we meet (among others) her parents, her brother, her funeral-home-director boss, her childhood best friend and her friend's lovable mother, her first romantic love and her last. The writing is read-aloud wonderful, and even the characters who appear only briefly leave a mark on Marie and on us.

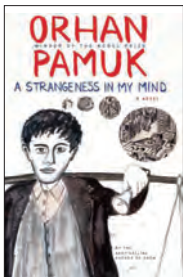
Emily Clarke, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations



The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult

A gripping work of fiction based on events of the Holocaust told by the perspectives of an Auschwitz survivor, her granddaughter who struggles with emotional and physical scars, and a beloved old man who turned out to be a Nazi guard. This intricately woven novel ties the three individuals together through meaningful stories of good and evil, love and hate, and finding out whether or not one can forgive. The subject matter makes this book hard to read but the nature in which it is written keeps you riveted page after page. It makes you think, "What would you have done?" The book has many complex moral questions, which makes it a perfect selection for a great book club discussion.

Susan Fumagalli Mahoney, Athletics



A Strangeness in My Mind by Orhan Pamuk

A Strangeness in My Mind is a novel about migration from Anatolia to Istanbul from the 1960s to 2012. It shows the transformation of Istanbul as seen

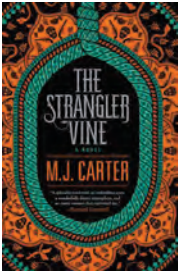
In this novel, Pamuk takes us to places where tourists, national and international, would never go while making us reflect on the life of migrants in a great metropolis.

through the eyes of the novel's central character, Mevlut Karatas. Mevlut makes a living selling Boza, a traditional Ottoman drink, in the streets of Istanbul. Right from the start, Mevlut is

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captivated by the great metropolis and, as most migrants, he dreams about prosperity, but fate seems to go against his wishes. It seems like everyone around him becomes prosperous while he only gets precarious jobs that lead nowhere. In this novel, Pamuk takes us to places where tourists, national and international, would never go while making us reflect on the life of migrants in a great metropolis.

Emilio Betances, Sociology



***The Strangler Vine* by M.J. Carter**

An intriguing and fast-paced historical novel about the Thuggee cult in 19th-century India. *Heart of Darkness* meets *Flashman* meets Arthur Conan Doyle. What's not to like?

Tim Shannon, History



***That Mad Ache* by Françoise Sagan**

For a heart-throbbing step back – even if you're too young to remember those times – try another romance by Françoise Sagan, author of that '50s sensation, *Bonjour Tristesse*. Lucile is torn between her love for a settled businessman in his 50s and a struggling, passionate 30-year-old, hence the wild beating of her heart – the “chamade” of the novel's French title (and anagram of the English *Mad Ache*). Revel in the romance, but don't skip Douglas Hofstadter's (yes, that Douglas Hofstadter) entertaining essay, *Translator, Trader*, on the creation of this lovely new (2009) version of the novel.

Michael Ritterson, German Studies (emeritus)



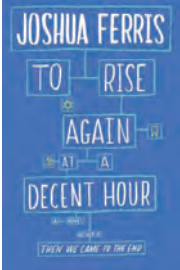
***Them* by Nathan McCall**

Nathan McCall's novel *Them* is an edgy, disturbing, and gripping exploration of gentrification and racial bias. Set in the historically black neighborhood of Sweet Auburn (Atlanta), the novel grapples with the complexities of a neighborhood nearing the tipping point, intertwining the stories of longtime

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residents, transients, and white newcomers. Set in the shadow of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s childhood home, the book probes 21st-century America's continuing racial, economic, and social fault lines, using the question of what it means to be neighbors to raise challenging questions about historical memory, economic inequality, and the dark side of historic preservation.

Jill Titus, Civil War Institute



***To Rise Again at a Decent Hour* by Joshua Ferris**

To Rise Again mixes mystery and suspense with reflective self-discovery. It is a combo I've never seen before, and it's a fun ride.

Sarah Jacobs, Art & Art History



***The Tombstone Race: Stories* by José Skinner**

Taste the grit behind the tourist façade of New Mexico – check out these stories, written by a friend of mine during a stint as a Spanish interpreter for the Albuquerque Metro Court. The plots play out pretty straight, but the characters, bent and vulnerable, and the messiness of everyday living stick with you. If you've been there, you'll recognize the Rio Grande Gorge near Taos, the Santa Fe foothills, and the eastern plains of Ft. Sumner where the *Tombstone Race* actually takes place (Google it with "Billy the Kid," if you don't believe me).

Barbara Sommer, History



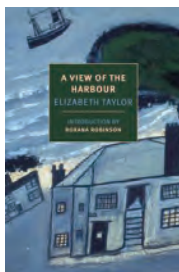
***Traveller Without Luggage* by Jean Anouilh**

I'm always surprised that more people don't turn to play scripts for pleasure reading. With that in mind, I offer this seriocomic gem from the man who gets my vote as greatest overlooked dramatist of the 20th century. The plot

... I offer this seriocomic gem from the man who gets my vote as greatest overlooked dramatist of the 20th century.

involves a soldier, more than 10 years after the First World War, still suffering from combat-induced amnesia. (There was such a man, in fact.) His benefactress, a delightfully wacky countess, has scoured the earth to try to locate his true family. What develops is a funny yet searching meditation on identity and redemption. It is a delightful read that holds one's attention from its farcical start to its sentimental finish.

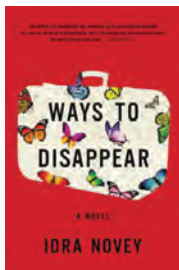
Richard Sautter, Theatre Arts



***A View of the Harbour* by Elizabeth Taylor**

From the jacket description, I feared something too generic, perhaps a variation on Terence Rattigan's *Separate Tables*. Yes, the setting is a faded English coastal town, early postwar, and the action follows the daily comings and goings of a handful of characters, most of whom are lonely. But the author (who is not the actress) is without doubt a deeply intelligent, wry, unsentimental, and generous observer of human foibles – and the writing is exquisite. This was a very satisfying read, another “rediscovery” by the folks who run *New York Review Books Classics*, the imprimatur that led me to pick up the book in the first place.

Fritz Gaenslen, Political Science



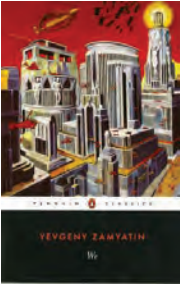
***Ways to Disappear* by Idra Novey**

A Brazilian writer is last seen perched on the branch of an almond tree, holding a suitcase in one hand and a cigar in the other. After her inexplicable disappearance, her American translator flies from Pittsburgh to Rio, to join a cast of similarly devoted, troubled, and endearing characters in the search of the missing author. An elegant, humorous mystery that is also a poignant

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exploration of the blurry lines between translation, invention and ownership, of translation as playfulness and judgment, of translation as familiarity and strangeness, as fortuitous faithfulness.

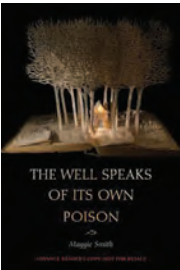
Radi Rangelova, Spanish / Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies



We by Yevgeny Zamyatin

We by Yevgeny Zamyatin is what I consider the original dystopian novel. Written in 1921 in the early phases of Soviet-censored Russia, the book was not found in the West until many years later. Decades before Orwell's *1984*, Zamyatin imagined a war-devastated utilitarian society controlled by strict logic and reason as mandated from the One State, the ruling authoritarian personality. What I find interesting about the novel is that it is set thousands of years in the future unlike its western counterparts. For those interested in Russian, I recommend finding it in the original, but *We* is a great read for fans of Orwell and Huxley.

Miles Rinehart, Educational Technology

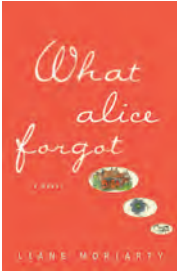


***The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison* by Maggie Smith**

This collection of poetry is perfect for the dreamtime of summer, mixing myth with contemporary life, for an entrancing reading experience.

This collection of poetry is perfect for the dreamtime of summer, mixing myth with contemporary life, for an entrancing reading experience. Read a poem, close your eyes while lying in the hammock, read another one.

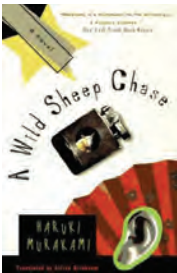
Kathryn Rhett, English



***What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty**

In 2008, 39-year-old Alice falls off a bike during a spin class and smacks her head so hard that, when she comes to, she thinks it's 1998 and remembers nothing about the past decade – including the births of her children, impending divorce, and nasty custody battle. Alice thinks she's the same non-descript person she's always been (she's not – she's fit and glamorous), pregnant (nope), and deeply in love with her husband (is she?). This might seem terribly tragic, but the writing is smart and full of energy, and the story is surprisingly upbeat and refreshing. A wonderful read.

Allison Singley, Parent Relations



***A Wild Sheep Chase* by Haruki Murakami**

So many mysteries in this book! Some of them are resolved before the end of the book (like why the picture of sheep is so important) and some are unresolved (like just who IS the Sheep Man?). Perhaps the biggest mystery is why the sheep invades people. I would love to hear your opinion! This book is a compelling read in both English and Japanese.

Betsy Lavolette, Language Resource Center



***William Shakespeare's Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope* by Ian Doescher**

You don't read this because you don't know the story. You read this because you LOVE the story and enjoy Shakespeare. I was thoroughly enthralled by this undertaking! This would be quite entertaining to read in a group (maybe performed as a stage reading?!) because I had too much fun sharing different parts, either in person or via Facebook.

LEIA: The desp'rate hour is now upon us - please,
I beg thee, Sir. O help me, Obi-Wan
Kenobi, help. Thou art mine only hope.

Wendee Dunlap, Alumni Relations



***Wyrd Sisters and Mort* by Terry Pratchett**

It's hard to believe that the first time I read anything by Terry Pratchett was a year ago after the 2015 edition of *You've Gotta Read This* was unveiled and I'd read Salma Monani's review of Pratchett's Discworld books. Inspired to start reading *Wyrd Sisters*, I was instantly hooked. Who could resist the crotchety, powerful Granny Weatherwax or her bawdy partner-in-crime Nanny Ogg? Or the equally delightful character Death in the Discworld novel *Mort* or the librarian who is an orangutan? Have fun!

Lisa McNamee, Musselman Library



***Zero World* by Jason M. Hough**

A spy thriller as much as a sci-fi story, this book very much feels like Jason Bourne in space. Peter Caswell is an assassin who works on such secret

A spy thriller as much as a sci-fi story, this book very much feels like Jason Bourne in space.

projects that he has an implant that will effectively wipe his memory after a certain time. This helps his employer ensure that secrets remain secret. As the story begins, he's about to embark on the most interesting mission he'll ever forget. A light, easy read with a lot of fun twists and turns.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library

'20 READS: CIRCUMSTANCES, CHOICES, CHALLENGES



**This summer, join
the Class of 2020
in reading *The Book of
Unknown Americans*
by Cristina Henríquez**

More information at:

libguides.gettysburg.edu/readforfun/20reads

Things to do this summer:

- ✓ Read the book
- ✓ Plan for the author visit on
September 13, 2016
- ✓ Questions?
Contact orientation@gettysburg.edu

Author photo by Michael Lionstar



Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Division of College Life

The Outside World on Your Shelf

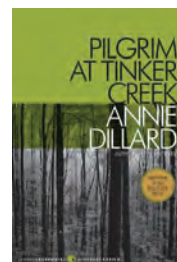


*Just in time for longer days, warming temperatures, and the beckoning of the great outdoors, Musselman Library's 2015-2016 Barbara Holley Intern **Alexa Schreier** shares why nature writing is so appealing to her and selects some of her favorite titles in the genre.*

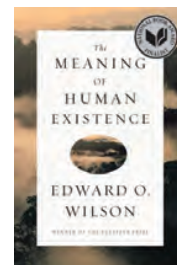
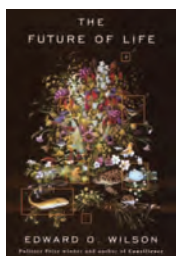
The genre of nature writing is incredibly widespread, encompassing nearly all written work on the natural world, from nonfiction to poetry and prose. Majoring in both English and Environmental Studies as an undergraduate at McDaniel College, nature writing quickly drew my attention and became the place where my two interests merged. Although nature writing generally retells the story of the physical world or describes the natural environment, it also often aims to do what science cannot – which is to illustrate the emotional and spiritual relationship that many people feel within a natural setting. For this reason the genre has something to offer anyone and everyone.

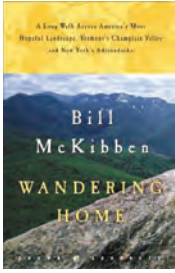
One of my favorite things about nature writing is that many of the pieces in this genre are autobiographical, as authors are not only observing the world around them, but simultaneously puzzling through the interconnectedness of life and the role of humans within such a framework. One book that illustrates this

relationship is Annie Dillard's ***Pilgrim at Tinker Creek***. Dillard chronicles her natural observations over a year in Virginia's Roanoke Valley while grappling with the simultaneous beauty and violence she witnesses.

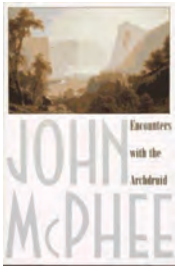


While I have a personal preference for more modern works in the genre, one classic I continue returning to in both my work and leisure is Aldo Leopold's ***A Sand County Almanac***. This book includes Leopold's famous essay, "The Land Ethic," where he develops and verbalizes the philosophy of respecting and valuing the land and natural resources in order for society to prosper. Similarly, another author I can't talk about nature writing without mentioning is the acclaimed biologist and two time Pulitzer Prize winner, Edward O. Wilson. Having written over 25 books, Wilson not only presents scientific facts and theories, but also writes on philosophy and religion, appealing to a wide range of readers. Though it's impossible to choose only one, or even two, a good place to start with Wilson is either ***The Future of Life***, or ***The Meaning of Human Existence***.



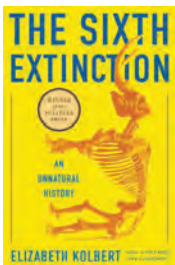
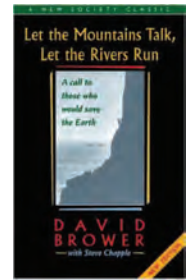


Bill McKibben is a fairly well-known name in the realm of environmental writing, yet most of his work is considered radical and extremist, far from traditional ideas of nature writing. However, one of McKibben's earlier works, ***Wandering Home*** illustrates McKibben's softer side as he journeys by foot from Vermont to New York. McKibben's account is similar to the perhaps more well-known walking story of Bill Bryson, ***A Walk in the Woods***, chronicling Bryson's attempt to complete the Appalachian Trail in an effort to reconnect with his American roots after living abroad for many years.



A great work of nature writing that not only encompasses a gripping narrative but accurately illustrates many of the challenges in managing the natural world is John McPhee's ***Encounters with the Archdruid***. McPhee's story features David Brower (1912-2000, prominent environmentalist and mountaineer, well known as an executive director of the Sierra Club) through highlighting three individuals representing ideologies of extraction and development

that Brower opposes. While McPhee presents an iconic portrayal of Brower, Brower's own autobiographical work, ***Let the Mountains Talk, Let the Rivers Run***, presents many of his awe-inspiring adventures in nature and his work to protect those same wild places.

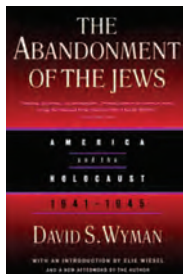


In the past few decades, as environmental issues have begun raising increasing concern, the face of nature writing has shifted from predominantly observational, praising nature's beauty, to authors instead drawing attention to the many alarming changes taking place. Though books such as these may seem a bit grimmer than the works of Leopold and similar classics, they often highlight many interesting facts and trends in the history of the natural world, while making simultaneous predictions for the future. Attracting much recent attention, two such books include Elizabeth Kolbert's ***The Sixth Extinction***, and Naomi Klein's ***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the***

Climate. Kolbert's book has a much broader focus on ecological history, focusing on the five main extinction events our planet has witnessed, and the projected sixth that many scientists argue is occurring right now because of human impact. With a narrower focus, Klein's book presents many thought-provoking connections between environmental sustainability and capitalism, arguing that a capitalistic economy is the true root of climate change and many ensuing environmental issues.



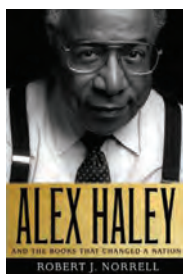
NONFICTION NONFICTION



***The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941-1945* by David S. Wyman**

This is a heartbreaking story – not for those who view summer reading as requiring suspension of their critical faculties. Wyman argues that a strong commitment by the United States could have saved at least several hundred thousand Jews from the Nazi killing machine during World War II. He documents how anti-Semitism in the government and in the public at large was the primary reason for our inaction and thus the loss of the lives of so many men, women and children.

Don Tannenbaum, Political Science



***Alex Haley and the Books that Changed a Nation* by Robert J. Norrell**

Professor Norrell lauds Haley's *Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *Roots* as the two most seminal works on African American history in the latter half of the 20th century, due largely to their mainstream appeal and to their movie and TV adaptations respectively. The book is a gripping history of Haley's efforts to write and publish both – how he overcame Malcolm's rise and fall within the Nation of Islam, struggled to complete the *Autobiography* after Malcolm's assassination, his often uneasy relationship with a racist publishing industry, and frequent research trips to Gambia are all of particular interest.

Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library



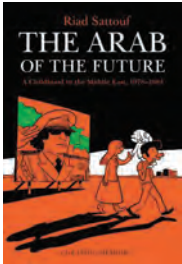
***At the Existentialist Cafe: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails* by Sarah Bakewell**

Sarah Bakewell, author of *How to Live: Or A Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography (2010), has authored another wonderful book. It's an intimate account of the leading intellectuals of France and Germany at mid-

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20th century: Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus, Heidegger, Husserl, Jaspers, and Merleau-Ponty. Sip apricot cocktails, smoke a French cigarette, and think about Being. Reads like a novel!

Dan DeNicola, Philosophy



***The Arab of the Future: A Childhood in the Middle East, 1978-1984*
by Riad Sattouf**

This graphic memoir follows Riad, born to a French mother and a Syrian father, throughout his childhood in Gaddafi's Libya, rural Brittany, and Al-Assad's Syria. A dark take on dictatorship, corruption, and poverty as seen through the eyes of this outsider child – not only is his mother French, but Riad also has “long, blond, silky hair” – it is also a tender look on family ties and a wonderful portrait gallery.

Caroline Ferraris-Besso, French



***AWOL on the Appalachian Trail* by David Miller**

When I was little, I always dreamed of having an adventure like David Miller described in his journey alone on the Appalachian Trail. His writing captures the pain, isolation and pure joy felt during this quest. He has inspired me to push beyond my comfort zone and explore deeper corners of the wilderness.

Cindy Wright, Campus Recreation



***The Baseball Codes: Beanballs, Sign Stealing, and Bench-Clearing Brawls: The Unwritten Rules of America's Pastime* by Jason Turbow and Michael Duca**

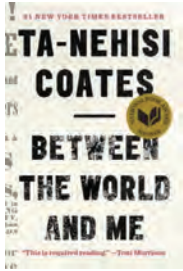
To some, baseball is a passion. To others, just a game. As with any game there are rules. Since the 1860s baseball has evolved as have the rules of the game. To date, over 282 pages of rules have been written. But what about the unwritten rules? Veteran sportswriters Jason Turbow and Michael Duca look at the etiquette of the game through *The Baseball Codes*. If you were born into the sport or just a passing fan, *The Baseball Codes* peels away the layers to expose the “unwritten rules.”

Michael Kotlinski, College Bookstore



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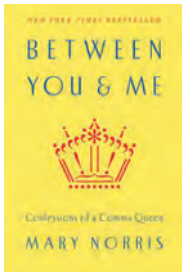
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***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

This National Book Award winner, constructed as a letter to Coates' son, is a powerful, sweeping indictment of white America and centuries of racism. It's also literary and achingly beautiful. I hesitate to call it a page-turner, since there is a lot to unpack on every page. It begs to be read slowly. And who can resist his declaration "I was made for the library, not the classroom. The classroom was a jail of other people's interests. The library was open, unending, free." Coates is an important voice in today's national conversation about race and how we live with one another in the U.S.

Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library



***Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen* by Mary Norris**

I have been a loyal subscriber of *The New Yorker* magazine since 1978 so I couldn't resist buying Mary Norris' memoir about her 30 years of sharpening pencils and prose in the hallowed halls of its copy editing department. It was

It was a delicious read from the first comma to the last period, full of charm, grammatical insights, naughty wit and wonderful anecdotes . . .

a delicious read from the first comma to the last period, full of charm, grammatical insights, naughty wit and wonderful anecdotes about the storied writers she edited. Auto-correct and spell-check will never replace the value of a brilliant copy editor.

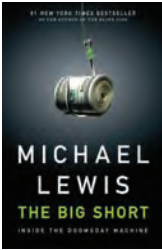
Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater



***Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear* by Elizabeth Gilbert**

This is a great read on what happens when you let curiosity take the reins and how to live a creative life. A must-read for entrepreneurs, artists, or anyone else who wants to be inspired to break outside your normal routine.

Shawna Sherrell, Communications & Marketing



***The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* by Michael Lewis**

Delusional investment firms, clueless regulators, and unwitting clients – a perfect storm that led to the collapse of the real estate market and the stock market in 2008. Michael Lewis knows the industry well and you will cheer for his unlikely heroes – a small band of contrarians who outsmarted the rest of Wall Street. At times I was astounded that this is nonfiction!

Bob Kallin, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations

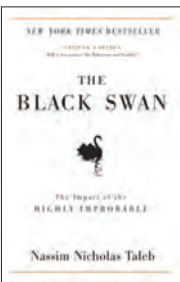


***Black Hole Blues and Other Songs From Outer Space* by Janna Levin**

This is the story behind the announcement, earlier this year, that LIGO, a system of two ultra-high-tech sensors in Louisiana and Washington state, had detected for the first time the faint tremors of gravitational waves passing through the earth. These waves are distortions in space-time predicted by Einstein's theory of General Relativity a century ago, but they are extremely difficult to detect. Though the waves detected were generated by the merging of two giant black holes in a distant galaxy, the distortions they transmitted to LIGO were about one thousandth the width of a proton. Janna

Levin, a professor at Barnard who worked on the project, and the winner of the PEN/Bingham Award for her last book *A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines*, writes lucidly for a general audience about one of the great scientific discoveries of the century.

Larry Marschall, Physics (emeritus)



***The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* by Nassim Nicholas Taleb**

If you were around me when I was reading this book, you would know I could not think or talk about anything else.

Nassim Taleb is arrogant, dismissive, and a generally unpleasant man, all of which comes through strongly in his book. His central idea in this book, however, will have you rethinking everything you think you know about the economy, politics, and society. It's a hard read and about 25 percent too long, but the ideas are revolutionary and nearly impossible to deny. Nobel Prize-winning economist/social psychologist Daniel

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Kahneman (author of my previous recommendation, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*) said it changed the way he thought about the world. I completely agree. If you were around me when I was reading this book, you would know I could not think or talk about anything else. I can think of few books (Kahneman's being one) that have so shaped my view of the world. If you can push through the arrogant writing, I promise the payoff is huge.

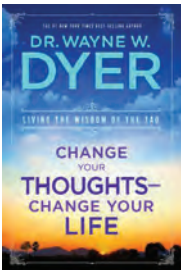
Kurt Andresen, Physics



***Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* by Jill Lepore**

Jane Franklin was Benjamin Franklin's younger sister, and the two siblings exchanged letters throughout their lifetimes. This work of historical detection reconstructs the obscure but fascinating life of Jane Franklin, who traveled a much different path than her more famous brother. You'll learn more about soap-making than you ever wanted to know, but there is an emotional depth here that is remarkable for a work of history.

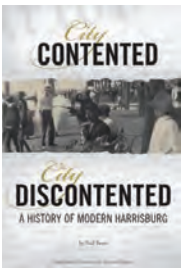
Tim Shannon, History



***Change Your Thoughts – Change Your Life: Living the Wisdom of the Tao* by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer**

If you have never read this before, it is a great read! If you have read it in the past, it might be a good time to pick it up again! Wayne Dyer passed away August 2015, but his writing is timeless. This book is something you can read slowly and take time to reflect.

Courtney Wege, Admissions



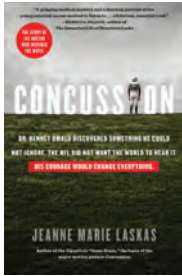
***City Contented, City Discontented: A History of Modern Harrisburg* by Paul B. Beers**

In the summer months in Central PA, all eyes are usually on Gettysburg's history. However, this summer, I encourage you to take a peek 40 miles north to Harrisburg. This book chronologically connects bite-sized yet important stories of the city's recent history in an accessible and interesting read. It's

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basically like reading a weekly newspaper over the span of 100+ years. As a new resident of “River City,” I have quickly grown fond of its charm and great potential. But to understand its future, one has to learn its past. This book can help you do just that.

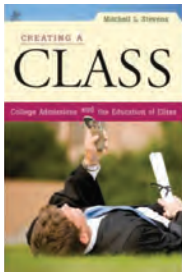
Andy Hughes, Garthwait Leadership Center



***Concussion* by Jeanne Marie Laskas**

If you enjoyed last year’s film adaptation starring Will Smith, check out the book. It goes into more detail about the neuroscience behind chronic traumatic encephalitis (CTE), about the cover-up efforts of the NFL, and about Dr. Bennet Omalu’s personal journey before and after he discovered the disease. It’s not exactly “uplifting,” but it’s well-written and an easy read.

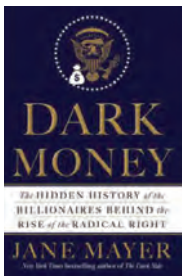
Kevin Wilson, Psychology



***Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites* by Mitchell L. Stevens**

Stevens studies the admissions practices of a small private college in the Northeast, providing a look at the ways admissions officers work to recruit students and how these recruitment strategies privilege students from particular backgrounds (hence the dual meaning of the title). Beyond the clear connection to colleges like Gettysburg, the book is well-written and enjoyable to read.

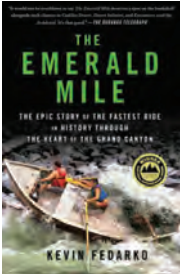
Brent Harger, Sociology



***Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right* by Jane Mayer**

We’ve witnessed the enormous, mostly negative impact of money on our elective and politics and party organizations of late. *Dark Money*, Jane Mayer’s excellent book, is a penetrating story of Charles and David Koch’s huge investment in American politics, and through her case study much is to be learned about how our post-Citizens United system operates. It is not uplifting, but most informative, a genuinely good and helpful read.

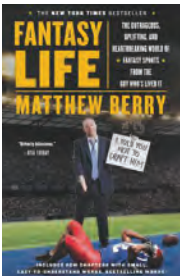
Ken Mott, Political Science



The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History Through the Heart of the Grand Canyon by Kevin Fedarko

Fedarko blends journalistic investigations of the political and engineering problems that arise when trying to control the mighty Colorado with impassioned portrayals of the gutsy river guides who develop their own form of mastery of the river. Like a seasoned river guide, he skillfully sets up each new bend in the story.

Bret Crawford, Physics



Fantasy Life: The Outrageous, Uplifting, and Heartbreaking World of Fantasy Sports From the Guy Who's Lived It by Matthew Berry

A must read for anyone who plays fantasy football. Written in a great voice that is very much like the author's blog. A great summer read that is a page-turner.

Paul Redfern, Communications & Marketing



The Fly Trap by Fredrik Sjöberg

This collection of essays about hoverfly-collecting in Sweden is, like the best literary nonfiction, about so much more. Charming, well researched, funny,

Charming, well researched, funny, and philosophical, these essays will transport you to a green summer island where slowness is not a trend but a way of life.

and philosophical, these essays will transport you to a green summer island where slowness is not a trend but a way of life.

Kathryn Rhett, English



***Forever Changed: How Summer Programs and Insight Mentoring Challenge Adolescents and Transform Lives* by Linda Mornell**

In 1989 Linda Mornell started a program called Summer Search for low-income kids in San Francisco. It has expanded to the East Coast and transformed many young people's lives. We have over 11 of these students on our campus today and this book tells their stories. Quick and awe-inspiring read! Enjoy!

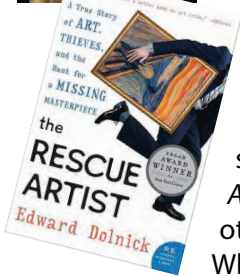
Courtney Wege, Admissions



***The Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century and The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece* by Edward Dolnick**

Edward Dolnick writes mysteries for smart people about things that actually happened; in these two books, the subject is art. *The Forger's Spell* traces the improbable story of a lousy artist who not only fools art-dumb Nazis, he also

Both books are great fun if you love art, love a good detective story, and love it even more if it's all true.



stumps the curators of some of Europe's most famous museums. *The Rescue Artist* focuses on the theft of Munch's "*The Scream*," a painting that, along with others of the same name by the same artist, has been stolen more than once. What makes this book so compelling is the central character of Charlie Hill, a rough-and-ready, Teddy Roosevelt of a guy, who schmoozes with criminals, takes huge risks, even gets shot at, in order to recover the masterworks he is enlisted to find. Both books are great fun if you love art, love a good detective story, and love it even more if it's all true.

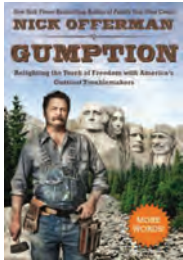
Ellen Hathaway, Gettysburg Review



***Future Crimes: Everything Is Connected, Everyone Is Vulnerable, and What We Can Do About It* by Marc Goodman**

Utterly fascinating and oft-scary review of the current state of computer hacking (Hint: everything is hackable and has been hacked), followed by predictions of crimes of the future when the Internet expands exponentially to become the Internet of Things (IoT). We have all accepted the “bargain” of trading our personal information for various “free” services...Google Search, Maps, and Documents; Facebook, Instagram, you name it. We all know about the ads we see, tailored for us, but that is just small stuff. Wait till you read what Crime Inc. does now and will do with our info!

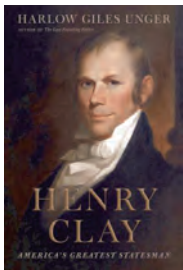
Dave Moore, Musselman Library



***Gumption: Relighting the Torch of Freedom with America's Gutsiest Troublemakers* by Nick Offerman**

In this book, Nick Offerman (who you probably know from his role as Ron Swanson on *Parks and Recreation*) writes profiles of some of his favorite Americans throughout history – those Americans who have, as he puts it, gumption. His choices range from George Washington and Teddy Roosevelt to Jeff Tweedy and Conan O'Brien. Offerman is a fun writer and you are likely to learn something about both history and some contemporary figures.

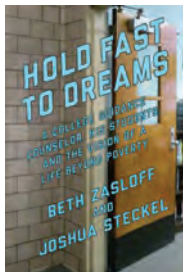
Darren Glass, Mathematics



***Henry Clay, America's Greatest Statesman* by Harlow Giles Unger**

In a political atmosphere of personal insults and ideological warfare, Henry Clay found common ground between the nation's free and slave states. Through his efforts, namely the Missouri and 1850 Compromises, Clay helped the country avoid civil war – to the detriment of his own presidential ambitions. Anecdotes of Clay's many vices and his grief over the deaths of his children paint a very human portrait.

Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library



***Hold Fast To Dreams: A College Guidance Counselor, His Students, and the Vision of Life Beyond Poverty* by Beth Zasloff and Joshua Steckel**

This book follows the lives of 10 students as they navigate the college search and selection process. These students are from under-resourced schools and communities. This book details in so many ways how our education system has failed so many students and provides insight to the important work colleges must address. The book will engage you from page one as you learn about the students, their challenges and the impact one person can have on shaping their future.

Barbara Fritze, Enrollment and Educational Services



***Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs* by Sally Mann**

In a beautifully-written memoir, photographer Sally Mann talks about her creative process, working with her family as subjects of her photographs, and her obsession with understanding and coming to terms with mortality. Mann also has a gift for expressing what she finds so magical and moving about the American South and how she translates that into her work.

Kathryn Martin, Musselman Library



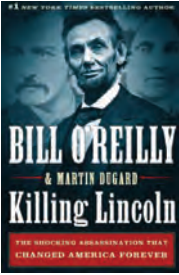
***Iran Awakening: From Prison to Peace Prize: One Woman's Struggle at the Crossroads of History* by Shirin Ebadi**

Shirin Ebadi is an Iranian lawyer, former judge, and human rights activist. She was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 2003. In this gripping memoir she recounts her life in Iran before and after the revolution.

Nathalie Goubet, Psychology

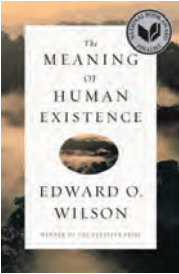


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***Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination That Changed America Forever* by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard**

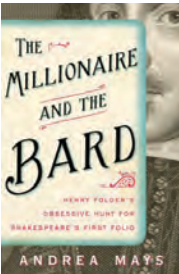
A great book for American/Civil War history enthusiasts. O'Reilly and his historian Martin Dugard delve into not just the singular act of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln by famous actor John Wilkes Booth, but the political climate at the time, the forces surrounding it, the depth of the conspiracy that included not only Lincoln, but Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward, and the many unanswered questions regarding the circumstances on that fateful night as well as the investigation that ensued.

John Campo, Athletics

***The Meaning of Human Existence* by Edward O. Wilson**

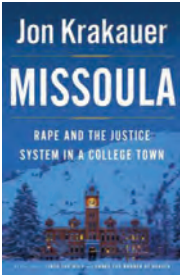
A fascinating take on our (human) ignorance in relation to other species and the planet we live on. A plea for the Humanities, by a scientist.

Dustin Beall Smith, English

***The Millionaire and the Bard: Henry Folger's Obsessive Hunt for Shakespeare's First Folio* by Andrea Mays**

We all have collectors in our lives – people who latch on to baseball cards, baskets, souvenirs of all kinds and varieties. Millionaire Henry Folger collected words – specifically the words of William Shakespeare. *The Millionaire and the Bard* is an extraordinarily readable literary detective story. The descriptions of Elizabethan England and late 19th and early 20th century America are so engaging you want to read them out loud. When you finish, you will feel like you have stepped from the world of William Shakespeare right into the literary and artistic riches of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. William Shakespeare, Henry Folger, and Andrea Mays – I applaud you all!

Carolyn Sautter, Musselman Library



***Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town* by Jon Krakauer**

If you're looking for something to keep your brain working over the summer, this might be it. It is not an easy read, especially if you have teenage daughters. My wish is that more people read this and take from it that our culture needs to change – it is a call to action. The book's title may be Missoula, but these things are taking place everywhere. It should be required reading for all teenagers: male and female.

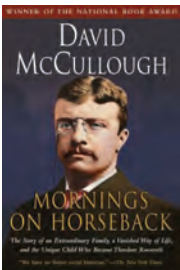
Wendee Dunlap, Alumni Relations



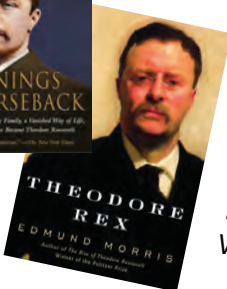
***Modern Romance* by Aziz Ansari**

As a fan of Aziz Ansari's Netflix series *Master of None*, I was drawn to his book, *Modern Romance*. While I expected a lighthearted comedian's look at dating and relationships, what I didn't expect was the serious collaboration with NYU Sociology professor, Eric Klinenberg. Together, they provide a fascinating glimpse into modern dating behaviors based on hundreds of interviews and focus groups. Although limited almost exclusively to heterosexual, highly-educated millennials, there are interesting observations relating to domestic and international dating scenes. Interviews with the parents of millennials offer inter-generational contrasts in dating and relationship expectations and behaviors. All of this is liberally punctuated by Ansari's special brand of humor. Funny AND informative/thought-provoking.

Harriet Marritz, Counseling Services



***Mornings on Horseback: The Story of An Extraordinary Family, A Vanquished Way of Life, and the Unique Child Who Became Theodore Roosevelt* by David McCullough and Theodore Rex by Edmund Morris**



In honor of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service system in August 2016 I am recommending two biographies of Teddy Roosevelt, often called the "conservation president." Roosevelt had a lot to do with preserving sites around the country and expanding the National Park System. The first biography is *Mornings on Horseback: The Story of An Extraordinary Family, A Vanquished Way of Life, and the Unique Child who Became Theodore*

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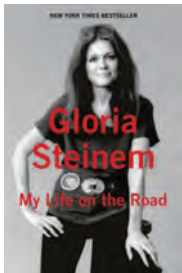
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Roosevelt by David McCullough who covers the first 28 years of Teddy Roosevelt's life. His sickly childhood, the loss of his father, and his love of the outdoors help to shape our 26th president.

The second TR biography I recommend is *Theodore Rex* by Edmund Morris. This is the second volume in Morris' three-volume series on Teddy Roosevelt. It focuses on his presidency. It gives more of a historical perspective than a political analysis of his presidency. I love biography and while I might have recommended *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* or *My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem – both excellent, I am suggesting these two on Teddy Roosevelt because we can thank him for the development and strengthening of the National Park Service, a wonderful legacy, on the Centennial anniversary this summer.

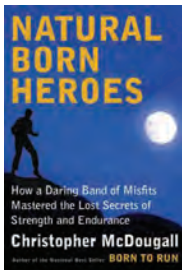
Patti Lawson, Admissions



***My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem**

Steinem's first book in more than 20 years is like meeting with an old friend and listening to her casually reflect on her life and career as an itinerant feminist organizer and founder of *Ms.* magazine. She writes with remarkable candor about people and events that have shaped, and continue to shape, our world.

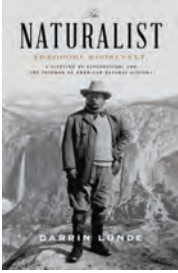
Gail Jones, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



***Natural Born Heroes: How a Daring Band of Misfits Mastered the Lost Secrets of Strength and Endurance* by Christopher McDougall**

McDougall recounts the story of how a small group of British commandos and resistance fighters native to the island of Crete kidnapped a Nazi general during World War II. He interweaves things like parkour, nutrition and the role of fascia to try and explain these heroic exploits and others. Some may find it disjointed, but I found it an interesting read, perfect for summer.

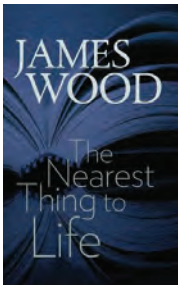
Rob Bohrer, Provost's Office



***The Naturalist: Theodore Roosevelt, a Lifetime of Exploration, and the Triumph of American Natural History* by Darrin Lunde**

Theodore Roosevelt lived life so fully that no single biography can do him justice. Darrin Lunde, a mammologist at the Smithsonian Institution, portrays Roosevelt as he himself might have preferred: as a natural historian and field biologist. Specimens bearing TR's name are in the collections of the American Museum and the Smithsonian, and the two-volume *Life-Histories of African Game Animals* that he co-authored several years after his presidency, is "a gem of a field study decades ahead of its time." Lunde's book is a gem, too.

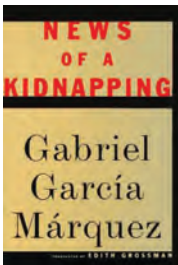
Larry Marschall, Physics (emeritus)



***The Nearest Thing to Life* by James Wood**

A beautiful evocation of the relationship between writer and reader (of fiction, in this case), and the importance of literature to a meaningful life.

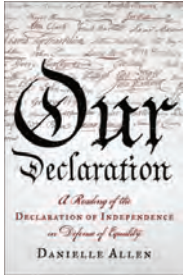
Dustin Beall Smith, English



***News of a Kidnapping* by Gabriel García Márquez**

News of a Kidnapping is a journalistic report about a series of simultaneous sequestrations in the city of Bogotá, Colombia. García Márquez delivers us not only a fantastic narrative of drug-related kidnappings, but also a description of what goes through the minds of both kidnappers and kidnapped. This short book brings clearly to our mind the human cost of the war on drugs and how it has affected Colombian society.

Emilio Betances, Sociology



***Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality* by Danielle Allen**

This book provides a close reading – sentence by sentence, word by word, punctuation mark by punctuation mark – of the Declaration of Independence

In a trying political year, I found Our Declaration to be inspirational and an antidote to the temptations of political cynicism.

and a history of how the Declaration was written, in order to analyze the logical argument that the Declaration is making. Allen shows the process of debate and compromise required to create the Declaration and argues that it made political equality the foundation for liberty. I was fascinated by the various revisions in what she calls “the art of democratic writing.” In a trying political year, I found *Our Declaration* to be inspirational and an antidote to the temptations of political cynicism.

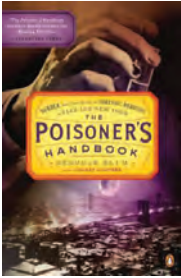
Jean Potuchek, Sociology / Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (emerita)



***Passport Through Darkness: A True Story of Danger and Second Chances* by Kimberly L. Smith**

Kimberly Smith shares her journey to Africa and working with orphans in an area that is not friendly to outsiders, let alone an American woman. The experience tested her faith, her marriage and her relationship with her family but, through it all, she sees God's work over and over in impossible situations. The book is a huge eye-opener to how much we have as Americans and shows, with the little that they have, the people in Africa can still be happy and trust God.

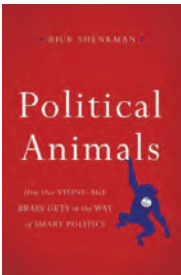
Elaine McCauslin, President's Office



***The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York* by Deborah Blum**

Drawing on actual criminal cases, Blum charts the development of forensic medicine and toxicology based on the work of New York City's chief medical examiner Charles Norris and toxicologist Alexander Gettler. Challenged by the baker who added arsenic to the rolls served at a famous restaurant, the disintegrating skeletons of the radium girls poisoned by the paint used on watch dials, the murderous spouses and rejected lovers, and the thrill-seeking ordinary people who during Prohibition poisoned themselves with an amazing array of bootleg alcohol, Norris and Gettler pioneered the detection of poisons. Blum weaves together science, history, and culture effectively.

Julie Hendon, Anthropology / Johnson Center for Creative Teaching & Learning



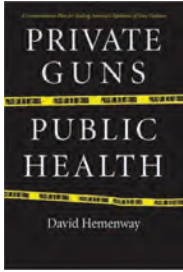
***Political Animals: How Our Stone Age Brain Gets in the Way of Smart Politics* by Rick Shenkman**

I read this book with the goal of getting a grip on our deteriorated political environment. It argues that we are "of two minds" when we approach politics

I read this book with the goal of getting a grip on our deteriorated political environment.

and that our more primitive one, which was developed for and functioned well in a stone-age setting, often blocks the higher-level thinking necessary in contemporary situations. It gives convincing examples from both sides of the political spectrum. It includes, I believe, a couple of factual errors. Despite these, it helped me understand some of the other "team's" (as well as my own "teammates") previously mysterious behavior.

Kerr Thompson, Spanish (emeritus)



***Private Guns, Public Health* by David Hemenway**

I read this book as part of a study group on the issue of gun violence; all of us were impressed by the good sense of a public health approach to the epidemic of shootings in our country. Arguing that we should follow the model of cars made safer in response to deaths on the highway, Hemenway explores the many things we can do to diminish suicides, homicides and mass shootings. Besides background checks, measures such as traceable guns, guns that can be shot only by their owners, magazine safeties, proper storage, trigger locks, and stricter regulation of assault weapons and ammunition,

are not only manageable but are already supported by many gun owners as well as non-gun owners. The idea is not to take anyone's guns away, but to make us all safer by putting in place the sort of common-sense policies described in this book. *Private Guns, Public Health* is essential reading both for those who care about their guns and those who sincerely want to do something about gun violence.

Janet M. Powers, Interdisciplinary Studies / Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (emerita)



***Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain**

A dense but fascinating view into the mind of the introvert. Written with historical and scientific perspective, this is an excellent choice for the

*A dense but fascinating view into the
mind of the introvert.*

extrovert as well to better understand the strengths of those who process the world differently than you. For the introvert, an empowering volume in a "world that can't stop talking."

Heidi Frye, Admissions



***Rain: A Natural and Cultural History* by Cynthia Barnett**

Rain may seem like a narrow subject for a book, but this book takes a sweeping view of rain, beginning with the origins of the solar system and ending with current issues of climate change. Barnett is a science journalist who is able to present fairly complex information in writing that is both engaging and accessible. I was particularly fascinated by Parts II and III, which look at the history of human attempts to measure, forecast, and control rain.

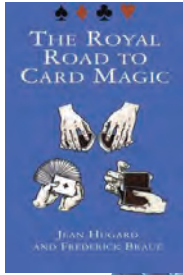
Jean Potuchek, Sociology / Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (emerita)



***Reading Dante: From Here to Eternity* by Prue Shaw**

I usually try to read two or three new book-length studies on Dante Alighieri's *Commedia* before I teach a semester-long analysis of the *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*. I knew that Prue Shaw, a professor Emeritus at University College London, is one of the foremost Dantistas of our day, and so I eagerly read her *Reading Dante: From Here to Eternity*. It offers a fantastic and highly accessible introduction to this work, one that resides at the center of the Western Canon. She divides her book into seven chapters – Friendship, Power, Life, Love, Time, Numbers, and Words – that examine how Dante played with the Florentine language (forgoing Latin), synthesized tremendous tendencies of the medieval mind, and explored questions of the human heart in incomparable ways. She provides a first-time reader a grounding to begin to explore this profound Christian epic. If one were to read her study, get an accessible English translation by Musa, Ciardi, or Hollander, and use Giuseppe Mazzotta's *Reading Dante* (The Open Yale Courses Series) to frame an actual reading of the poem, one could indeed engage all three *cantiche* and come away enriched.

Alan Perry, Italian



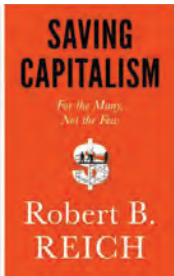
***The Royal Road to Card Magic* by Jean Hugard and Frederick Braué and *Teach Yourself Card Games* by David Parlett**



Last summer, I recommended my favorite introductory magic book, *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic*. Since our family was traveling much of last summer, I puzzled over what might provide the best family fun that would pack light. My conclusion? It's hard to beat the compact, cheap entertainment a simple deck of cards offers. Here are two excellent books for very different fun with playing cards. The first is *The Royal Road to Card Magic* by Jean Hugard and Frederick Braué. Originally published in 1948, many professional magicians recommend this as the best all-time introduction to card magic.

My second recommendation is *Teach Yourself Card Games* by David Parlett. Parlett is one of the foremost game (and especially card game) historians and writers. I could recommend many of his books, but I focus on this selection because Parlett takes a break from his encyclopedic reference volumes to give a more focused, strategic introduction to a carefully chosen set of 33 diverse card games so as to help a reader become familiar with and gain appreciation for all major families of standard (French) deck games.

Todd Neller, Computer Science



***Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few* by Robert B. Reich**

Reich first debunks the mythic opposition of "Government versus The Free Market" and the argument that the latter is always better. The 'Market' is created by the rules that govern five pillars – Property, Monopoly, Contract, Bankruptcy and Enforcement. These rules are created by government through laws, regulations, and judicial proceedings. Our elected officials create them... either for the good of all...or for, say the 1 percent! The pendulum has swung before...think TR's Trustbusting and nowadays the hollowing of the middle

class. How can we bring countervailing power to bear on today's lopsided situation? This is a very cogent analysis by a writer well experienced in both economics and politics.

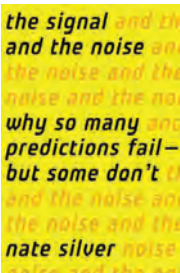
Dave Moore, Musselman Library



Sermons from Duke Chapel: Voices from “A Great Towering Church”
by William H. Willimon

I am not a regular churchgoer because I find most services as thin and tasteless as my Aunt Fannie’s oatmeal. Neither am I a heathen, so my spiritual practice includes pondering human nature, listening to music, walking in the great outdoors and reading, especially sermons by great theologians. I ordered this compendium because years ago after visiting a very ill friend at Duke Medical Center, I found comfort in the soaring architecture and luminous, stained glass windows of Duke Chapel. Happily, I was comforted and inspired by many of the sermons from America’s most prominent Protestant preachers including Peter J. Gomes, Paul Tillich and Billy Graham. Rather than checking this out of Musselman Library, I had to own my own copy because I find myself invariably underlining meaningful sentences and writing notes in the margins which I suspect Robin Wagner would not consider a blessing to other readers.

Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater



The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail – But Some Don’t
by Nate Silver

Why are 10-day weather forecasts so bad while hurricane predictions are so good? Why are most election predictions wrong? In his funny, entertaining,

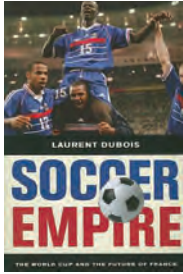
*I can’t recommend this book highly enough.
It will change the way you see the world.*

and well-written book, Nate Silver, author of the great blog FiveThirtyEight explains how statistics can be used correctly and what happens when they aren’t. No math required, just an interest in how we understand the world. I can’t recommend this book highly enough. It will change the way you see the world.

Kurt Andresen, Physics



NONFICTION

***Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France*
by Laurent Dubois**

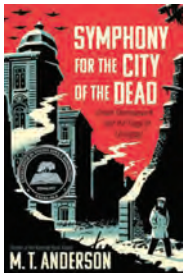
Dubois uses France's triumph in the 1998 World Cup as a way to explore its colonial past and its global future. A popular treatment and very lively account of the world's game on its biggest stage. One does not have to be a soccer fan to enjoy this tale of race, class, and the French national narrative.

William D. Bowman, History

***Suga Water: A Memoir* by Arshay Cooper**

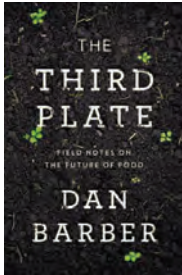
It is a memoir about an the first all-black crew team in the country, from Chicago's Westside, competing in a world of affluence in which no one would accept nor believe that this team could be successful. The author was a team member and captain, and the story is an interesting take on some greater issues in society.

Darryl Jones, Admissions Office

***Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad* by M.T. Anderson**

The 1941-1943 siege of Leningrad by Germany is the central event in this book. During the siege, Dmitri Shostakovich composed his Seventh Symphony which came to stand for the suffering of the city's residents and the importance of art as a symbol of their will to survive. Anderson gives us a portrait of a society in the throes of revolution, the problematic importance of art to the Soviet state, and the lengths to which ordinary people will go to survive horrific events while still trying to retain some shreds of their humanity.

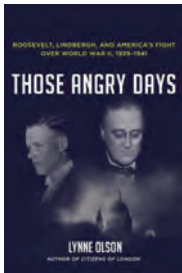
Julie Hendon, Anthropology / Johnson Center for Creative Teaching & Learning



***The Third Plate: Field Notes On a New Cuisine* by Dan Barber**

This book is by a chef from New York City who created menus that were known as “farm to table,” using lots of ingredients he would buy directly from farms or from farmers markets in NYC. Eventually, Dan wanted to learn more about how farming worked, and where our food came from. He ended up buying a farm in upstate New York and began to learn to grow foods which he could use in his restaurants. As time went along, he decided to open a restaurant on the farm. You learn about his struggles in being environmentally responsible and his struggles to not waste things, which meant he had to be creative in using the normally un-useable parts of plants and animals. Very educational reading.

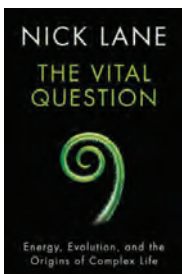
Mike Bishop, Dining Services



***Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh, and America's Fight Over World War II, 1939-1941* by Lynne Olson**

In *Those Angry Days*, Lynne Olson's finely rendered account of the debate over America's entry in World War II, it becomes clear that today's national security conversation pales beside vitriol spewed between 1939 and 1941. A popular historian who marries deft prose to exhaustive research, Olson portrays the main characters in this drama, among them Franklin Roosevelt, Wendell Willkie, and Charles A. Lindbergh, as well as a host of secondary characters, with zest and insight. This book is the opposite of dry-as-dust history. That it has resonance for our current foreign policy arguments makes it doubly worthwhile.

Michael Birkner, History



***The Vital Question: Energy, Evolution, and the Origins of Complex Life* by Nick Lane**

Most popular books on ancient life focus on the big – dinosaurs, Neanderthals and the like. Nick Lane introduces us to a far more complex topic – what was the first living thing? Where did simple and complex cells come from? What does it even mean to be living? We'll probably never know the true answer, but Lane gives plausible answers for all of these, in a complex but readable form. Not an easy read, but a rewarding one.

Eric Remy, Instructional Technology



***West with the Night* by Beryl Markham**

Markham was unique – an adventurous aviator, horse trainer, and the story of her youth and later life in Kenya is beautifully written. She was born in England in 1902 but moved with her family to Africa when she was a young child. Hemingway wrote to a friend after reading her memoir that “...She has written so well, and marvelously well, that I was completely ashamed of myself as a writer.” If you want to escape to another time and place, this is the ticket.

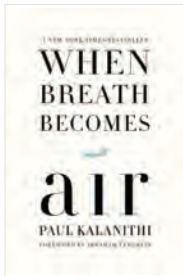
Kay Etheridge, Biology



***What We Think About When We Try Not To Think About Global Warming: Toward a New Psychology of Climate Action* by Per Espen Stoknes**

The author gives us a much needed guide to moving beyond the politics and paralysis that generally cripple action on climate change. He is Norwegian and that should tell you something.

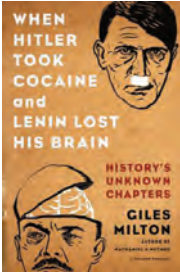
Lou Hammann, Religious Studies (emeritus)



***When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi**

This is a powerful book that stimulates your thinking and touches your heart. Paul Kalanithi teaches us a great deal about how to make the most of our lives and how to confront death. This book continues to impact you long after you finish reading it!

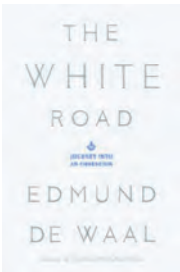
Christopher J. Zappe, Provost's Office



***When Hitler Took Cocaine and Lenin Lost His Brain: History's Unknown Chapters* by Giles Milton**

Milton offers short snippets to illustrate less well-known details of well-known historical events and individuals. These stories personify the idea that life is stranger than fiction! An interesting read for those who like nonfiction but want a quick read.

Heidi Frye, Admissions



***The White Road: Journey into an Obsession* by Edmund de Waal**

While not the first history of clay that I've read, this is the most personal. Edmund de Waal (*The Hare with Amber Eyes*) is a ceramic artist who works in porcelain. Exploring his connection to the material he's used for 40-some years, he sets out to visit five sites paramount in its story. Read past his occasional self-indulgence and preciousness to be absorbed in the science, history, sensuality, and metaphorical properties of clay.

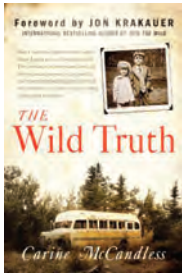
Sue Baldwin-Way, Communications & Marketing



***Why Size Matters: From Bacteria to Blue Whales* by John Tyler Bonner**

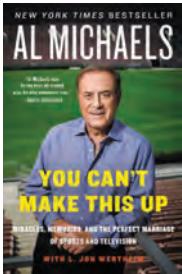
This is a fun, short read on a wide range of biological topics that relate to cellular and organismal size. Bonner's main thesis is that size is of central importance to physiological and evolutionary processes. He summarizes some of the deep historical thinking on this topic as well as recent research spanning microbes to mammoths. There are some big ideas in this small book. It is a terrific primer on these disparate approaches taken by integrative biologists.

Ryan Kerney, Biology

***The Wild Truth* by Carine McCandless**

I'll be honest: I hated *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. I found Chris McCandless bratty and privileged and selfish. Its only redeeming quality was when it was made into a film; Eddie Vedder put forth an amazing soundtrack. But when I saw that Carine McCandless had written a memoir to further explain the story, I had to read it. McCandless is an incredible writer, and she has a gut-wrenching but necessary story to tell. It changed my mind about Chris – lesson learned: there's often more to the story than meets the eye.

Jen Cole, Academic Advising

***You Can't Make This Up: Miracles, Memories, and the Perfect Marriage of Sports and Television* by Al Michaels**

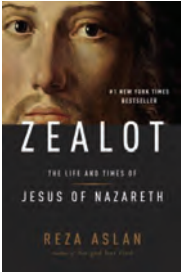
You Can't Make This Up: Miracles, Memories, and the Perfect Marriage of Sports and Television takes the reader on a journey through sports history as seen through the eyes of Al Michaels, one of the most seasoned sports broadcasters of our time.

Jim Duffy, College Life

***Your Best Destiny: Becoming the Person You Were Created to Be* by Wintley Phipps**

This book is aimed at Christians and non-Christians alike; it lays out a vision for a life beyond the superficial day to day. The author offers a path for a life that can make a lasting difference in the world.

Jean Grubesky, Majestic Theater



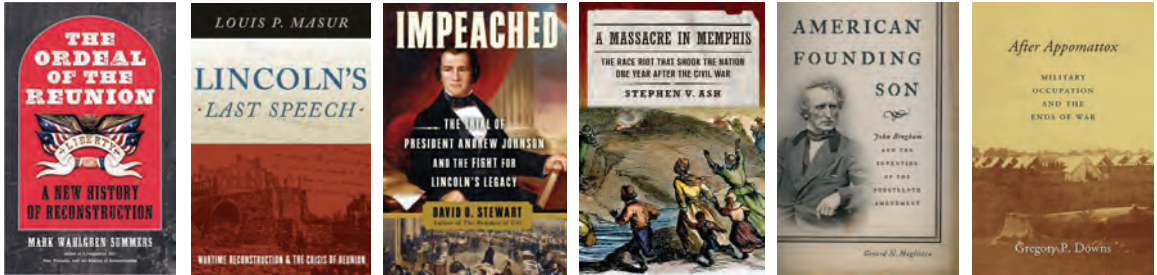
***Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan**

A fascinating glimpse into a period of history much like our own, as well as a description of what happens to institutions that no longer serve the best intentions of their founders. (Sound familiar this election year?)

Dustin Beall Smith, English

GREAT READS FROM GUELZO

Recommendations by Allen C. Guelzo
Henry R. Luce Professor and
Director, Civil War Era Studies



The summer of 2016 means that we're moving into the sesquicentennial (oh, yes! *that* again!) of Reconstruction – probably the period in American history people have the *least* interest in reading about. “Reconstruction” is the term slapped loosely onto the dozen years after the Civil War (from 1865 to 1877) when the victorious Union stumbled around, helplessly trying to establish a new South to replace the old Southern society which had led the nation into civil war.

Unlike the Civil War, there are no exciting battles, no outstandingly heroic leaders, no stirring music in Reconstruction. Abraham Lincoln, arguably the greatest president, gets followed by Andrew Johnson, arguably the worst. Emancipation, the greatest deed in American history, is followed by Jim Crow, the most shameful. So, why bother? Go get a mystery novel, right?

Except that Reconstruction is probably more relevant today than at any time since, well, Reconstruction itself. The sorry messes that have emerged from places like Iraq, Somalia, and Syria are timely reminders that reconstructing a society or a nation after a war is not just an easy afterthought. And the turmoil which has followed from Ferguson and the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement are direct legacies of the failure of Reconstruction to deal with issues of citizenship and equality.

The best overall summary is Mark Wahlgren Summers’ ***The Ordeal of the Reunion: A New History of Reconstruction*** (2014). Summers is a great wordsmith – the book’s title is a pun on the great Allan Nevins’ multi-volume Civil War history, *The Ordeal of the Union* – and he is remarkably open-minded in his assessment of what Reconstruction actually accomplished as well as what it failed in.

But maybe the best place to start is *before* Reconstruction. People were using the term “reconstruction” to describe what they hoped a future America would look like even before the Civil War began, beginning with Lincoln himself. Louis Masur’s ***Lincoln’s Last Speech: Wartime***

Reconstruction and the Crisis of Reunion (2015) gives us a good look at the various plans Lincoln considered, and especially the directions he hinted at in his final public speech on April 11, 1865.

All of this stands in unpleasant contrast to what his successor, Andrew Johnson, proposed, which was largely to allow the pre-war Southern white elite to regain control of the South. With an ineptitude bordering on genius, Johnson got himself impeached by Congress, and only survived conviction by a single vote in the Senate. If you like political thrillers, it's hard to beat David O. Stewart in ***Impeached: the Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy*** (2009).

What happened in Congress was laughable; what happened on the ground in the South was often horrific, as the newly-freed slaves struggled to gain a political and economic foothold for themselves in the teeth of ferocious white Southern opposition. Just how ferocious that opposition was is well-illustrated by Stephen V. Ash (GC '70) in ***A Massacre in Memphis: The Race Riot that Shook the Nation One Year After the Civil War*** (2013), and in the "Colfax Massacre" of 1873, the subject of Nicholas Lemann's ***Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War*** (2006).

Still, Reconstruction was not without its victories, the most important being the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. Gerard N. Magliocca's biography of John Bingham, ***American Founding Son: John Bingham and the Invention of the Fourteenth Amendment***, (2013) not only revives a nearly-forgotten champion of radical Reconstruction, but also the reputation of the man who was the chief architect of the 14th Amendment.

Finally, Gregory Downs' ***After Appomattox: Military Occupation and the Ends of War*** (2015) underscores how the fundamental problem underlying Reconstruction's failures was the unwillingness of even the most radical Reconstructors in Congress to use military force to create "regime change" in the South. The very term "regime change" is a reminder that Americans have never been entirely easy with the use of military force to achieve political goals, and Downs candidly deals with the question of whether an instinctive American distaste for imposing "regime change" in Iraq was responsible for the failure of Reconstruction, too. A provocative question – one of among many provocations that Reconstruction continues to provide us.

#GBCTalks - Reading toward a better understanding of race in America



As part of the national conversation about race, race relations, and racism in America, the Library was involved in a campus initiative designed to promote conversation through a shared reading experience.

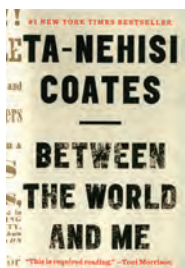
The #GBCTalks book discussion series was co-sponsored by Gettysburg College's Office of Diversity & Inclusion and Friends of Musselman Library. In spring 2016, members of the campus community gathered four times to discuss these books:



Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race

by Debby Irving

Irving shares her personal journey from racial unawareness to a nuanced understanding of her own racial history and privilege. Now an antiracism activist, Irving “works with other white people to transform confusion into curiosity and anxiety into action” (book jacket). Her story is humorous, touching, and motivating, an excellent entry point for readers struggling to articulate the problem or take positive action.



Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Coates tells the history of America from the perspective of those who lived outside and in service of “The Dream.” Constructed as a letter to his teenage son, the book also describes Coates’ own journey from the streets of West Baltimore through Howard University to his current life with a longer view. This powerful indictment of white empire won the 2015 National Book Award for nonfiction.

It's never too late to join the discussion online – use Twitter hashtag #GBCTalks to jump in and share your thoughts. The Library has multiple copies of each book available for checkout.

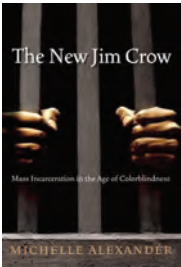
The series was co-facilitated by Janelle Wertzberger (Musselman Library) and Zakiya Whatley (Biology). Additional discussion facilitators included Diversity Peer Educator Liz Berriman '16 (Health Sciences major) and Scott Hancock (History), Chloe Ruff (Education), and Susan Russell (Theatre Arts).

Keep reading! Additional titles on this topic:



"Multiplication is for White People": Raising Expectations for Other People's Children by Lisa Delpit

One of the aspects of *Between the World and Me* that I have continued to process is the author's condemnation of the educational system. School did not save Ta-Nehisi Coates or provide him with encouragement to develop his curiosity. Lisa Delpit's book provides further food for thought about urban schooling. She weaves together her own experiences as a student, teacher, mother, and professor with contemporary scholarship on teaching, learning, and motivation to expose a variety of myths about learning that have shaped educational reform. —Recommended by Chloe Ruff, Education



The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Michelle Alexander explains how the criminal justice system created a new hierarchy in America. From the War on Drugs to biases in policing and sentencing, she discusses the life lines of mass incarceration. This book is a must-read for those who don't understand or believe the power of institutional racism.

—Recommended by Zakiya Whatley, Biology



All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

This young adult novel begins with a misunderstanding that suddenly escalates into a violent arrest. The story is presented alternately by two characters: Rashad, a black teen who is beaten for allegedly resisting arrest, and Quinn, his white classmate who witnesses the incident. Complicating the narrative is the fact that the white cop is a close family friend of Quinn and has a reputation for being "a great guy." Soon both families, the school, and the entire community are drawn into the controversy about what really happened. This book is a great entrée to discussing systemic racism and the #BlackLivesMatter movement with teens. It has already won 10 awards since its September 2015 publication, and more are being named.

—Recommended by Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library

FOCUS ON FOOD

Photo by Michael Stern

The Gettysburg College community will engage in a “focus on food issues” program during the 2016-2017 academic year. The “Year of Food” will be the first in the Gettysburg Cycle, a series of annual themes that have global, national and local implications. A central goal of the program is to promote integrative learning by providing opportunities for our college community to learn about a theme from a variety of perspectives and through a number of experiences.

With that in mind, Political Science professor **Caroline Hartzell**, along with others spearheading this year’s program, recommend the following novels and feature films. They represent a range of cultures and will leave you hungry for more.

Novels:

Heartburn by Nora Ephron (1983); **Like Water for Chocolate** by Laura Esquivel (1992); **Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe** by Fannie Flagg (1987); **The Mistress of Spices** by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (1997); **Chocolat** by Joanne Harris (1999); **My Year of Meats** by Ruth L. Ozeki (1998); **Mangoes and Quince** by Carol Field (2002); **The Book of Salt** by Monique Truong (2004); **Crescent** by Diana Abu-Jaber (2004); and **Pomegranate Soup** by Marsha Mehran (2005).



Feature Films:

Babette's Feast (1987); **Big Night** (1996); **Chef** (2014); **Chocolat** (2000); **Eat Drink Man Woman** (1994); **The Hundred-Foot Journey** (2014); **Jiro Dreams of Sushi** (2011); **Julie & Julia** (2009); **Like Water for Chocolate** (1992); **The Lunchbox** (2013); **Soylent Green** (1973) (creepy alert on this one!); and **Tortilla Soup** (2001).



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FILMS FILMS



***The 33* directed by Patricia Riggen (2015)**

This U.S.-Chilean co-production starring Antonio Banderas, Juliette Binoche, and Rodrigo Santoro, is about the 33 miners who were trapped underground for 69 days after a mine in the Atacama Desert collapsed in August 2010. Since it is no secret that they were rescued, the movie's suspense depends on the behavior of the men and their family members, who did not know whether they would survive. Of special interest is the relationship between the 32 Chilean miners and the remaining one, a Bolivian immigrant.

Kerr Thompson, Spanish (emeritus)



***Amy* directed by Asif Kapadia (2015)**

This wonderful documentary is about six-time Grammy winner, Amy Winehouse, the British songwriter/singer who died in 2011 at the age of 27 from alcohol poisoning. Her music was a mix of soul, rhythm and blues, and jazz. With the use of home movies, newsreel footage, and previously unheard music tracks, you see the real Amy – her childhood in London, her early depression and bulimia, her introduction to heroin and cocaine by her husband, and her rise to fame. Her talent shined even at her lowest moments. Amy won the 2015 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. A must see!

Nancy Bernardi, Musselman Library



***Anzac Girls* directed by Ken Cameron and Ian Watson (2014-)**

I'm a Great War devotee. This Australian miniseries (available through Acorn or Amazon) shows the war from the perspective of a unit of Australian and New Zealand nurses battling disease, serious injuries with limited medical resources, and Britain's military lunacy and colonial prejudices. The stories are compelling and unlike video games, don't show war as a gallant exercise. While some of the plot is fictionalized, the series is based on experiences of

(continued)

real nurses, all of whom were deeply and permanently affected by their service. There is an update at the end of the series on what the women did with their lives after the war.

Christine Benecke, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations



***Bloodline* created by Todd A. Kessler, Glenn Kessler, Daniel Zelman (2015)**

A slow-burning noir about a Florida Keys family of grown-up kids and aging parents, consumed by a family secret. Ben Mendelsohn was justifiably nominated for several awards for his menacing portrayal of the “black sheep” son, but the whole cast is excellent. A second season is scheduled for release in summer 2016.

Andy Wilson, Environmental Studies



***Bridge of Spies* directed by Steven Spielberg (2015)**

The film begins when a suspected Russian agent, Rudolf Abel, is arrested by the FBI. The defense case is assigned to lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks) whose previous experience is centered in insurance law. A complicated trial becomes an extremely complex international affair after a U.S. spy plane crashes in Russia. Hanks perfectly portrays the “everyman” lawyer with a deep-seated conviction of what it means to be American beyond superficial flag waving. Donovan’s interactions with Abel and his unwavering commitment to justice are inspirational in this masterfully adapted dramatic story from the Cold War.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



***Everest* directed by Baltasar Kormákur (2015)**

Everest, a drama based on true events, is a story of two different expeditions attempting to climb Mount Everest in 1996. On their final ascent toward the summit, a violent snowstorm occurs. The teams must battle freezing temperatures and strong winds to survive against all odds. This film makes you feel that you are on that mountain with them. Wonderfully done!

Nancy Bernardi, Musselman Library



***Hinterland* created by Ed Talfan and Ed Thomas (2013-)**

Something that makes European detective dramas so appealing is the mysteriousness of the detective himself (herself). He can be dark, brooding, hard to fathom...and totally engaging. A new series fits that bill, this time set in Wales. *Hinterland* stars Richard Harrington as DCI Tom Mathias, who has arrived in town for reasons he has, thus far, kept to himself. He teams up with a female colleague, Mali Harries as Mared Rhys, to methodically solve complex murders without all the American gunplay and car chases. Use subtitles to fully catch the Welsh brogue. A second season is in the works.

Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library



***Murdoch Mysteries* created by Maureen Jennings (2008-)**

This police drama set in Victorian Toronto features Inspector William Murdoch (Yannick Bisson), Dr. Julia Ogden (Helene Joy) and Constable George Crabtree (Jonny Harris). Aside from the humorous character interactions, the cleverest element is anachronistic foreshadowing of technology, like sound movies (heard through headphones) and forensic use of "finger marks." Historic figures like Emma Goldman and Arthur Conan Doyle are also woven into the action. At first I thought that the episodes were too fast-paced and superficial, but the series has grown on me, and I think that it keeps improving. "Making of" features on the DVDs show fascinating technical details in the show's preparation.

Charles Emmons, Sociology



***Respire* directed by Mélanie Laurent (2014)**

Mélanie Laurent belongs to a wave of new directors that focus their art on characters' feelings and relationships, as much with the actors' performance, through the techniques they use. Her latest movie, *Respire* (the U.S. release title is *Breathe*), is about a toxic friendship between teenagers with two family situations that are as different as they are similar. The cinematography definitely supports both the drama of the general situation and the more specific feelings of the two main characters, with such different personalities, Sarah and Charlie. The title of the movie takes on its full meaning from the first second to the last lingering minutes.

Hanan El Khadir and Thomas Vaillant, French



***The Seventh Continent* directed by Michael Haneke (1989)**

Michael Haneke has been among the world's top filmmakers since the 1990s, and this was the year for me to experience him. It's been ages since I fell so hard for an artist. Free of predictable narratives or tired emotional appeals, his films combine a musical resonance with the accumulating force of disaster. They're about misery, mystery, and misunderstanding; they're tough to watch; and they might take over your world as they did mine. Musselman has nearly all of Haneke's movies. Watch them in sequence. Track the development of his themes. This movie, his debut, is where you start.

Devin McKinney, Musselman Library



***Suffragette* directed by Sarah Gavron (2015)**

This film captures a moment in the 20th century when the suffragette movement in Britain is coming to a fever pitch. It chronicles a few women's stories and experiences as they fight for their right to vote. Ultimately, the film will leave you with a greater appreciation for those that laid the groundwork for modern-day voting rights and women's equality movements.

Mallory Jallas, Musselman Library



***Thirteen Conversations About One Thing* directed by Jill Sprecher (2001)**

Happiness is the subject of *Thirteen Conversations About One Thing*. For that matter, happiness is the subject of every conversation we ever have: the search for happiness, the envy of happiness, the loss of happiness, the guilt about undeserved happiness. In the best sense, this is a Serious film – and entertaining.

Lou Hammann, Religious Studies (emeritus)



***Where to Invade Next* directed by Michael Moore (2015)**

A great documentary film by Michael Moore exploring how other countries, governments and societies work. This movie will make you laugh, cry, amaze you and get you angry when you see how other countries do things compared to how the USA does things.

Brandon Staub, Facilities



***Hamilton* (musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda; original Broadway cast recording by various artists) (2015)**

Okay, it's not a book, but it's the most compelling narrative I've encountered in a while. It's a Broadway hip-hop musical, with a multi-racial cast, about founding father Alexander Hamilton. The characters are unforgettable, the storytelling will keep you on the edge of your seat, the music and performances are great, and the internal rhymes are brilliant. Listen to the recording (on Spotify and YouTube) and you'll never look at a \$10 dollar bill the same way again.

Jocelyn Swigger, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



Resident film guru aka Associate Professor of Film Studies, Jim Udden, weighs in on his picks for films and television shows.

Every year with these “outtakes,” some people must be thinking: “Why this guy? After all, is not taste a rather personal thing?” I agree – taste is a personal thing. Moreover, a film/media scholar’s taste is not necessarily any more legitimate than anyone else’s. (In fact, it could be warped beyond repair by too much theory and history!) Just to be clear, I still search through my Netflix account like the next guy; I even let my better half – who is not a trained media scholar – find things to watch. The only difference is that I see so much more than most people do, because that is my job. (Tough life I lead.) So think of me as sort of like a scout charting unfamiliar territory.

Many recommendations I have made in years past still stand; some I would now change. For example, I would advise you continue watching *The Americans* and *Louie* as always. But *The Walking Dead*? In that case I am waiting for everybody to be consumed so it can all be done with! (It is a problem when zombies are better-rounded characters than the living – at least in my view.)

Still, it amazes me how every year the *new* TV programs I can recommend now outnumber the films – something unfathomable a decade ago.

On network TV, no show impressed me more than season two of **American Crime** on ABC. The range of sensitive issues it dealt with, and how they dealt with them, rivals that of any cable program out there. (I am told that season one was equally compelling, not to mention devastating by the end – no happy endings on this show, and not all questions are answered either.)

On basic cable, FX continues to lead the pack with shows such as **Fargo**, whose second season rivals its unforgettable first. The biggest surprise on FX



UDDEN'S OUTTAKES



is ***Baskets***, an offbeat comedy about the saddest clown you will ever meet. I am not a fan of Jack Galifianakis, but this show makes me laugh every time, except it is also so sad. (Louie Anderson as the Costco-obsessed mother is a tour de force!) AMC at least has one newcomer to boast about called ***Humans***, a thoughtful take on artificial intelligence. But the biggest surprise bar none was USA network's ***Mr. Robot***, a show that combines computer hacking, mental illness and corporate malfeasance into one jaw-dropping mix.



On premium cable (which basically means you have to pay a premium to watch them unless you figure out when the shows are offered for free – see me personally for details on how to do that legally; see my students if you prefer to do that illegally), the heaviest yet most unforgettable program was HBO's ***The Leftovers*** followed by Showtime's ***The Affair***, both of which a year ago I had only seen the premieres of. Two seasons into both programs by this point, I can only say they hold up – way up.

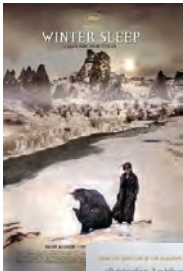
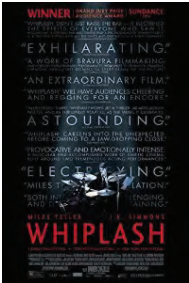


Meanwhile Netflix continues to provide many new offerings worth checking out. For fans of Judd Apatow who like films such as *Trainwrecked* (love that Amy Schumer!), there is a new series called ***Love*** that loses some steam but has its moments. Much better is the comedy ***Master of None*** with Aziz Ansari, who has his own parents in the show, neither of whom can act one iota, and yet it is hilarious! Those of you who are fans of documentaries should not only see ***Making a Murderer*** (which makes me glad I managed to graduate from the University of Wisconsin without ever being arrested in that state), but also the four-part ***Chelsea Does ...*** where the first two topics (marriage and technology) are downright hysterical, while the latter two (racism and drugs) are more disturbing. Of course, Netflix allows you to easily escape our



borders with compelling shows from abroad such as ***Narcos***, ***Black Mirror***, ***White Christmas*** and the second season of the French show, ***The Returned***. (Okay, I have to confess I have not seen this yet, but the first season was so good that I am going to recommend this second season anyway.)

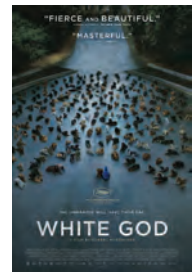
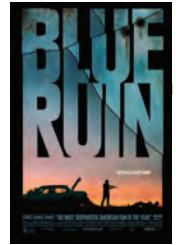


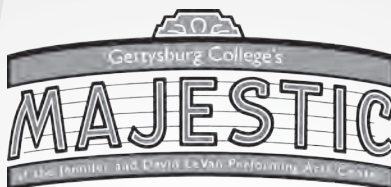


Of course, I am a trained film scholar. Did I see movies worth seeing this year? On the American front I can recommend **Whiplash**, which was nominated for an Oscar a year ago and yet despite that troublesome fact (which usually makes me wary), this was a rather intense film to watch when I finally did see it. Same with a little-known indie film called **Blue Ruin**. Those looking for good indie comedies cannot go wrong with **Your Sister's Sister** and what was by far the funniest film I saw this past year (and the only comedy with a five-star rating using the Netflix meter): **People, Places, Things** starring the inimitable, deadpan Kiwi, Jemaine Clement.

But please venture into other lands and languages, my friends! From Hungary there is **White God**, a film that will never let you see Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody" – or canines – the same way ever again. From Italy there is **The Best Offer**, a film a couple year's back by the same director of *Cinema Paradiso*, which should serve as a stern warning to older men who love even older art – but also younger women. From Turkey, 2014's top prize-winner from Cannes, **Winter Sleep**, will not disappoint despite its bleak yet beautiful landscapes. From the two cinemas now nearest and dearest to my heart – Taiwan and Iran (since they are central to my current research) – I have two new suggestions. Hou Hsiao-hsien from Taiwan (whom I wrote my first book about and saw again in Belgium this summer) just premiered his latest film, **The Assassin**, after a seven-year hiatus. This film was so difficult to follow that people scratched their heads, yet so astonishingly beautiful that the jury at Cannes in 2015 still gave Hou the prize for Best Director. From Iran, many of you may remember the unforgettable **A Separation** from 2011. What you should also see is an earlier film by the same director Asghar Farhadi called **About Elly**. Nobody in the world handles such devastating interpersonal situations as Farhadi does. You will not forget it, I can promise you that.

Until next year, happy summer viewing!





2016 SUMMER CLASSIC MOVIES

WEDNESDAYS • 7:30 P.M.
On the Giant Screen

JUNE 1

Brigadoon (1954)

JUNE 8

The Palm Beach Story (1942)

JUNE 15

Back To The Future (1985)

JUNE 22

The Prince and The Pauper (1937)

JUNE 29

This Is The Army (1943)

JULY 6

Jaws (1975)

JULY 13

High Noon (1952)

JULY 20

No Classic Movie

CONCERT: St. Paul & The Broken Bones

JULY 27

Harvey (1950)

AUGUST 3

Goldfinger (1964)

AUGUST 10

STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KAHN (1982)

AUGUST 17

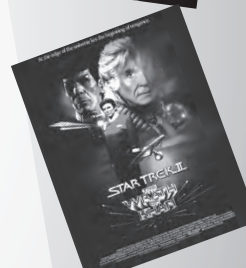
Goodbye Mr. Chips (1939)

AUGUST 24

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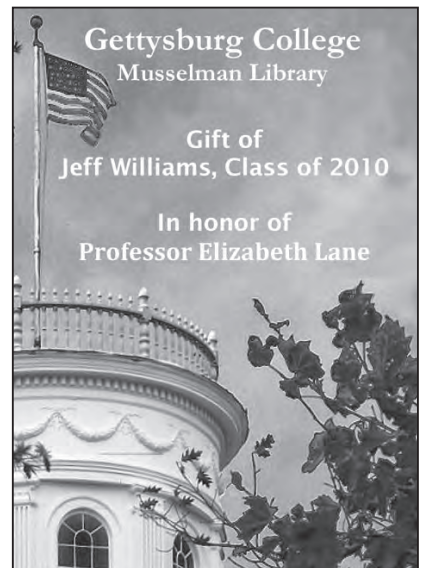
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INDEX

INDEX

Contributor Index

A

Andresen, Kurt, 35-36, 51

B

Bain, Cathy, 21
Baker, Mike, 16
Baldwin-Way, Sue, 55
Benecke, Christine, 4, 64-65
Berg, Temma, 5
Bernardi, Nancy, 64, 65
Berninghausen, Eric, 19
Betances, Emilio, 7, 22-23, 45
Birch, Sharon, 3
Birkner, Michael, 53
Bishop, Mike, 53
Bohrer, Rob, 44
Bowman, William D., 52

C

Cain, Kathy, 18, 20
Campo, John, 42
Clarke, Emily, 22
Coale, Jennifer, 15, 17
Cole, Jen, 13, 56
Crawford, Bret, 38

D

Davidson, Kim, 13
Dawes, Roy, 2, 9
DeNicola, Dan, 20, 32-33
DeNicola, Sunni, 66
Drew, Mark, 8-9
Duffy, Jim, 56
Dunlap, Wendee, 27, 43

E

Emmons, Charles, 66
Etheridge, Kay, 54

F

Ferraris-Besso, Caroline, 33
Forrestal, Maureen, 10

Fritze, Barbara, 41

Frye, Heidi, 48, 55

Funk, Tim, 3

G

Gabel, Jeffrey, 34, 51
Gaenslen, Fritz, 25
Garskof, Jeremy, 32, 40
Glass, Darren, 19, 40
Goubet, Natalie, 16, 41
Grubesky, Jean, 56
Guelzo, Allen, 58-59

H

Hammann, Lou, 54, 67
Harger, Brent, 37
Hartz, Celia, 18
Hartzell, Caroline, 62
Hathaway, Ellen, 39
Hendon, Julie, 47, 52
Hogan, Eleanor J., 4, 10
Hughes, Andy, 36-37
Hydock, Deb, 7

J

Jacobs, Sarah, 24
Jallas, Mallory, 67
Jones, Buzz, 6
Jones, Darryl, 52
Jones, Gail, 44

K

Kallin, Abby, 18
Kallin, Bob, 35
Kerney, Ryan, 55
Khadir, Hanan El, 66
Kotlinski, Michael, 33

L

Lavolette, Betsy, 27
Lawson, Patti, 43-44
Leebron, Fred, 14

M

Mahoney, Susan Fumagalli, 6, 22
Marritz, Harriet, 43
Marschall, Larry, 35, 45
Martin, Kathryn, 41
McCauslin, Elaine, 46
McKinney, Devin, 13, 67
McNamee, Lisa, 28
Meier, Brian P., 2
Miessler, R.C., 3
Monani, Salma, 21
Moore, Dave, 40, 50
Mott, Ken, 37
Mulligan, Sheila, 17

N

Neller, Todd, 50

P

Perry, Alan, 49
Platt, Rud, 7
Potuchek, Jean, 46, 49
Powers, Janet M., 19, 48
Principato, Sarah, 14

R

Ramsey, Julie, 12
Rangelova, Radi, 15, 25-26
Redfern, Paul, 38
Remy, Eric, 17, 53
Reynolds, Molly, 8
Rhett, Kathryn, 26, 38
Rinehart, Miles, 26
Ritterson, Michael, 11, 23
Roedner, Lauren, 11
Ruff, Chloe, 2, 16, 61
Ryan, Jack, 8

S

Sautter, Carolyn, 42
Sautter, Richard, 25
Schreier, Alexa, 30-31
Shannon, Tim, 23, 36
Sherrell, Shawna, 12, 34
Shives, Klara, 4, 11
Sijapati, Megan Adamson, 14
Singley, Allison, 10, 27

Small, Carol, 12
Smith, Dustin Beall, 42, 45, 57
Sommer, Barbara, 24
Staub, Brandon, 68
Stuempfle, Kristin, 18
Swigger, Jocelyn, 5, 68
Szarko, Carrie, 20

T

Tannenbaum, Don, 32
Thompson, Kerr, 47, 64
Titus, Jill, 23-24

U

Udden, James, 69-71

V

Vaillant, Thomas, 66
Viti, Elizabeth Richardson, 15

W

Wagner, Robin, 6, 21
Wallach, Kerry, 9
Wege, Courtney, 36, 39
Wertzberger, Janelle, 5, 34, 60-61
Whatley, Zakiya, 61
Wilson, Andy, 65
Wilson, Kevin, 37
Wisor, Miranda,

Z

Zappe, Christopher J., 54

Title Index

The 33, 64

A

The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941-1945, 32
About Elly, 71
The Affair, 70
After Appomattox: Military Occupation and the Ends of War, 59
Alex Haley and the Books that Changed a Nation, 32
Alif the Unseen, 2
All American Boys, 61
All Fudged Up: A Candy-Coated Mystery with Recipes, 2
All My Puny Sorrows, 2
All the Birds in the Sky, 3
American Crime, 69
American Founding Son: John Bingham and the Invention of the Fourteenth Amendment, 59
Amy, 64
Anzac Girls, 64
The Arab of the Future: A Childhood in the Middle East, 1978-1984, 33
Arcadia, 3
The Assassin, 71
At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails, 32
Aurora, 3
AWOL on the Appalachian Trail, 33

B

Babette's Feast, 62
A Banquet of Consequences, 4
The Baseball Codes: Beanballs, Sign Stealing, and Bench-Clearing Brawls: The Unwritten Rules of America's Pastime, 33
Baskets, 70
The Beekeeper's Apprentice, or, On the Segregation of the Queen, 4
The Best Offer, 71
Beta, 4
Between the World and Me, 34, 60
Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen, 34
Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear, 34
Big Night, 62

The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine, 35
Black Hole Blues and Other Songs from Outer Space, 35
Black Mirror, 70
The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable, 35
Bloodline, 65
Blue Ruin, 71
Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin, 36
The Book of Daniel, 5
The Book of Salt, 62
The Book of Speculation, 5
Bridge of Spies, 65
Burial Rites, 5

C

Calico Joe, 6
Captive of Friendly Cove: Based on the Secret Journals of John Jewitt, 6
Change Your Thoughts – Change Your Life: Living the Wisdom of the Tao, 36
Chef, 62
Chelsea Does..., 70
Chocolat, 62
The Citadel, 6
City Contented, City Discontented: A History of Modern Harrisburg, 36
Concussion, 37
Confessions, 17
The Cormoran Strike novels, 7
Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites, 37
Crescent, 62

D

Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right, 37
Decisive Moments in History: Twelve Historical Miniatures, 7
Doctor Sleep, 7
The Dovekeepers, 8
Dry Bones in the Valley, 8

E

Eat Drink Man Woman, 62
The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History Through the Heart of the Grand Canyon, 38
The Easter Parade, 8

Encounters with the Archdruid, 31
Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral, 9
Everest, 65
Everything I Never Told You, 9
The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe, 10

F

Fantasy Life: The Outrageous, Uplifting, and Heartbreaking World of Fantasy Sports from the Guy Who's Lived It, 38
Fargo, 69
Final Jeopardy, 10
The Fly Trap, 38
Forever Changed: How Summer Programs and Insight Mentoring Challenge Adolescents and Transform Lives, 39
The Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century, 39
Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café, 62
Future Crimes: Everything Is Connected, Everyone Is Vulnerable, and What We Can Do About It, 40
The Future of Life, 30

G

The Girl on the Train, 10
Girl Waits with Gun, 11
The Golem and the Jinni, 11
Good Lonely Day, 11
Gumption: Relighting the Torch of Freedom with America's Gutsiest Troublemakers, 40

H

H is for Hawk, 12
Hamilton, 68
Happiness for Beginners, 12
He Shall Thunder in the Sky, 12
Heartburn, 62
Henry Clay, America's Greatest Statesman, 40
Hinterland, 66
Hold Fast to Dreams: A College Guidance Counselor, His Students, and the Vision of Life Beyond Poverty, 41
Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs, 41
House of Leaves, 13
The House of Mirth, 13
Humans, 70
The Hundred-Foot Journey, 62

I

Impeached: the Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy, 59
In the Country, 13
Innocents and Others, 14
Iran Awakening: From Prison to Peace Prize: One Woman's Struggle at the Crossroads of History, 41

J

Jiro Dreams of Sushi, 62
Julie & Julia, 62

K

Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination That Changed America Forever, 42
Kitchens of the Great Midwest, 14

L

The Leftovers, 70
Let the Mountains Talk, Let the Rivers Run, 31
Like Water for Chocolate, 62
Lila, 14
Lincoln's Last Speech: Wartime Reconstruction and the Crisis of Reunion, 58-59
A Little Life, 15
The Longest Ride, 15
Love, 70
The Lunchbox, 62

M

The Magicians, 16
Making a Murderer, 70
Mangoes and Quince, 62
The Martian, 16
A Massacre in Memphis: The Race Riot that Shook the Nation One Year After the Civil War, 59
The Master and Margarita, 17
Master of None, 70
The Meaning of Human Existence, 30, 42
The Mechanical, 17
The Millionaire and the Bard: Henry Folger's Obsessive Hunt for Shakespeare's First Folio, 42
Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town, 43
The Mistress of Spices, 62
Modern Romance, 43
Moon Shell Beach, 17

The Moonlit Garden, 18
*Mornings on Horseback: The Story of an
Extraordinary Family, a Vanquished Way of Life,
and the Unique Child Who Became Theodore
Roosevelt*, 43
Mort, 28
*Mouthful of Forever*s, 18
Mr. Robot, 70
“*Multiplication is for White People*”: *Raising
Expectations for Other People’s Children*, 61
Murdoch Mysteries, 66
My Life on the Road, 44
My Year of Meats, 62

N

Narcos, 70
*Natural Born Heroes: How a Daring Band of Misfits
Mastered the Lost Secrets of Strength and
Endurance*, 44
*The Naturalist: Theodore Roosevelt, a Lifetime of
Exploration, and the Triumph of American
Natural History*, 45
The Nearest Thing to Life, 45
*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of
Colorblindness*, 61
News of a Kidnapping, 45
The Nightingale, 18

O

*The Ordeal of the Reunion: A New History of
Reconstruction*, 58
*Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of
Independence in Defense of Equality*, 46

P

*Passport Through Darkness: A True Story of Danger
and Second Chances*, 46
People, Places, Things, 71
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, 30
*The Poisoner’s Handbook: Murder and the Birth of
Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*, 47
*Political Animals: How Our Stone Age Brain Gets in
the Way of Smart Politics*, 47
Pomegranate Soup, 62
Private Guns, Public Health, 48
Purity, 19

Q

*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t
Stop Talking*, 48

R

Rain: A Natural and Cultural History, 49
Rapture, Blister, Burn, 19
Reading Dante: From Here to Eternity, 49
Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War, 59
The Returned, 70
*The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and
the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece*, 39
Respire, 66
River of Smoke, 19
The Royal Road to Card Magic, 50

S

A Sand County Almanac, 30
Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few, 50
Sea of Poppies, 19
Secondhand Smoke, 20
A Separation, 71
*Sermons from Duke Chapel: Voices from “A Great
Towering Church”*, 51
The Seventh Continent, 67
The Shape of Water, 20
*The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions
Fail – But Some Don’t*, 51
The Signature of All Things, 20
The Silver Star, 21
The Sixth Extinction, 31
Skinny Dip, 21
The Sleepwalker’s Guide to Dancing, 21
*Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of
France*, 52
Someone, 22
Soylent Green, 62
The Storyteller, 22
A Strangeness in My Mind, 22
The Strangler Vine, 23
Suffragette, 67
Suga Water: A Memoir, 52
*Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri
Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad*, 52

T

Teach Yourself Card Games, 50
That Mad Ache, 23
Them, 23
The Third Plate: Field Notes on a New Cuisine, 53
Thirteen Conversations About One Thing, 67
This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate, 31
Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh, and America's Fight Over World War II, 1939-1941, 53
To Rise Again at a Decent Hour, 24
The Tombstone Race: Stories, 24
Traveller Without Luggage, 25

V

A View of the Harbour, 25
The Vital Question: Energy, Evolution, and the Origins of Complex Life, 53

W

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, 60
A Walk in the Woods, 31
Wandering Home, 31
Ways to Disappear, 25
We, 26
The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison, 26
West with the Night, 54
What Alice Forgot, 27
What We Think About When We Try Not to Think About Global Warming: Toward a New Psychology of Climate Action, 54
When Breath Becomes Air, 54
When Hitler Took Cocaine and Lenin Lost His Brain: History's Unknown Chapters, 55
Where to Invade Next, 68
Whiplash, 71
White Christmas, 70
White God, 71
The White Road: Journey into an Obsession, 55
Why Size Matters: From Bacteria to Blue Whales, 55
A Wild Sheep Chase, 27
The Wild Truth, 56
William Shakespeare's Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope, 27
Winter Sleep, 71
Wyrld Sisters, 28

Y

You Can't Make This Up: Miracles, Memories, and the Perfect Marriage of Sports and Television, 56
Your Best Destiny: Becoming the Person You Were Created to Be, 56
Your Sister's Sister, 71

Z

Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth, 57
Zero World, 28



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