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

Musselman Library

Summer 2019

You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2019)

Musselman Library Gettysburg College

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You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2019)

Abstract

Each year, Musselman Library asks Gettysburg College faculty, staff, and administrators to help create a suggested summer reading list. The result is *You've Gotta Read This!*—a booklet filled with fiction, nonfiction and film recommendations that we hope will offer a reading and viewing go-to list for the summer and beyond.

The 2019 collection has suggestions from **173 employees** who offer **258 recommendations** of favorite books, films, and television programs that will satisfy a wide range in reading and viewing tastes and genres.

This year's booklet includes several special features. Two of our regular columnists return once again: James Udden with his latest picks in film and TV, and Allen Guelzo who shares his recommended books on free speech in the context of the American college campus. Library staff share their favorite books of poetry; multilingual and international faculty recommend favorite works available in translation; Professors Joanne Myers (English) and Kathy Cain (psychology), and Kim Davidson and Jeff Rioux from the Center for Public Service, discuss literature by and about immigrants; and finally Professors Felicia Else (art history) and Kay Etheridge (biology) recommend their picks for the best books on unique and wonderful curiosity cabinets.

Everyone's curiosity is promised to be fulfilled in these many and varied recommendations. Happy summer and happy reading!

Keywords

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

Disciplines

Library and Information Science

You've Gotta Read This!

Summer Reading @ Musselman Library 2019

TTO ANY WELL



Camping in Hammersley Wild Area, Potter County, PA. Photo courtesy of Ian Clarke, adjunct associate professor of English, astronomy lab instructor, and director of Hatter Planetarium.

Dear Reader,

You are sitting on a beach. You are locked in a prison cell. You are walking in a forest. You are flying through space. You are huddling in a trench. You are in a hot-air balloon. You are in modern-day lvory Coast. You are in 1930s Poland. You are in fourteenth-century Russia. You are in the thick of debates over democracy, immigration, and free speech. You are discovering the most vital voices in print today. You are in communion with the greatest writers of the past.

You are reading a book.

The common denominator is you. We like to talk about "losing" ourselves in books. In truth, we're finding parts of ourselves—affinities, curiosities, obsessions—that can be reached by no other means. You do not disappear when you read; you simply take a new shape. Perhaps that shape wears a strange costume, or has an unfamiliar face. But the heart that is being reached and the mind that comes alive are yours and yours alone.

We invite you to find yourself in this panoply of your colleagues' literary and cinematic recommendations. Alongside dozens of wide-ranging titles in fiction, nonfiction, and film, sections are devoted to books in translation; the voices of immigrants; and the favorite poetry collections of library staff members. Allen Guelzo shifts focus from the Civil War to current controversies over free speech and the American college campus; and James Udden contributes a comprehensive roundup of last year's best viewing in film and television.

Choose a title, open it up, and say hello to a new voice, a new idea, a new world—and to a new part of yourself.

From the staff of Musselman Library May 2019

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FICTION EFICTION



The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

Along the lines of Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and Martha Hall Kelly's *Lilac Girls, The Alice Network* is historical fiction that grips the reader and is impossible to put down. The story takes place post-World War II, but flashes back to WWI. Follow three unlikely friends on their journey to find Charlie St. Clair's beloved cousin Rose... and learn more about themselves along the way.

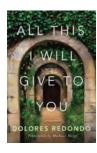
Pam Eisenhart, President's Office



All Our Wrong Todays by Elan Mastai

Tom Barren is from a more technologically-advanced 2016 than we had, thanks to the creation of a machine in the 1960s that produced an unlimited amount of clean energy. Technology developed at a rapid pace and, after years of research, time travel—as a form of entertainment—is about to become a reality. This story follows Tom through various timelines as he struggles to determine who he is and how the world should be.

Tim Funk, Chemistry

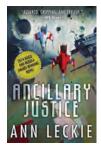


All This I Will Give To You by Delores Redondo, translated by Michael Meigs

A mystery that kept me on my toes until the very end! Vividly described scenery, compelling characters, and emotionally moving, this novel was so good I tried to stretch it out because once it was over, I would be in that "I read a good book and nothing else can top it" funk. Redondo won the 2016 Premio Planeta award for this work.

Eleanor J. Hogan, East Asian Studies





Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie

Ancillary Justice is the first novel in a trilogy that explores issues of technology, identity, politics, and gender from the perspective of Breq, the last piece of a destroyed military starship's artificial intelligence. Despite the weighty issues at its heart, the book is enjoyable and reveals characters' motivations and histories over time, keeping readers in suspense and encouraging them to continue.

Brent Harger, Sociology



Anna and the Swallow Man by Gavriel Savit

This is a folktale-like story about a seven-year-old girl in 1939 Poland. After her linguistics professor father suddenly disappears, a mysterious stranger shows up to accompany Anna out of Krakow. It is a beautiful, haunting story about trust and magic and survival in a difficult world.

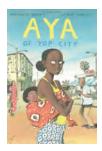
Lisa McNamee, Musselman Library



Arcadia by Iain Pears

Time travel, alternate history, pastoral fiction, mystery: Iain Pears creates an enjoyable journey as he weaves together three worlds and keeps you guessing until the very end. It's definitely worth the trip!

Eleanor J. Hogan, East Asian Studies

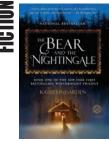


Aya of Yop City by Marguerite Abouet and Clément Oubrerie, translated by Dag Dascher

This lighthearted graphic novel follows a group of young women, and a few men, growing up in the Ivory Coast. Aya, the titular character, leads us through her daily life in Yop City, introducing us to the joys and sorrows of her friends and family. I recommend this graphic novel because it's an easy read (the artwork is stunning!) but is also full of subtleties about the relationships we treasure and the communities we build. Even better, if you like the first volume of Aya, there are five more that follow. Enjoy!

Charlotte Werbe, French

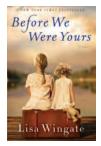
FICTION



The Bear and the Nightingale (Winternight Trilogy, Book 1) by Katherine Arden

If you're looking to escape the summer's heat, Katherine Arden's fantasy series set in 14th-century Russia is a good pick. Drawing upon Russian folklore, the first novel introduces the reader to Vasya, a young woman living on the wintry Russian wilderness. (Perhaps an icy drink and a fan will help the reader.) It's a world where Vasya can speak with spirits–protective *domovoi* of the hearth and some morally ambiguous spirits, like the blue-eyed winter demon, Morozko. (There's a love plot in there.) Although like in most of these novels, Vasya must overcome a central threat, Arden avoids the old fantasy tropes. Her writing is lyrical and cinematic, and she creates a wonderfully rich world—a perfect retreat during the hottest of days.

Clinton Baugess, Musselman Library



Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

This is an engaging and devastating book about the lives of foster children unlawfully separated from their parents and inspired by Georgia Tann, known as the mother of modern adoption before her crimes were revealed. The book moves between past and present, centering on a mystery that keeps both the protagonist and reader anxious to discover how the two connect.

Brent Harger, Sociology



The Best Place on Earth: Stories by Ayelet Tsabari

These extraordinary, award-winning short stories published in 2013 by Ayelet Tsabari, an Israeli-born writer of Yemeni descent who is based in Canada, illuminate surprising aspects of life in and outside of Israel. The highly-memorable protagonists are disillusioned soldiers, Arab Jews, Filipino caregivers, Israelis traveling abroad in India and Canada, and a girl with a Bedouin father. Most stories deal with relationships, including several about children and their parents. Each story can be read in one sitting—perfect for imagining faraway places without going anywhere. (Tsabari's memoir was also just published in 2019 and is on my summer reading list.)

Kerry Wallach, German Studies

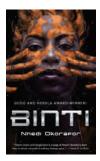
Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty



Even if you've watched the HBO miniseries, I highly recommend the book for a terrific summer read. The plot centers on an elementary school in a posh village on the Australian coast near Sydney. Some might say that the parents act about as maturely as their children—but it's all very entertaining and there are some serious issues (bullying and hidden domestic abuse) that are a sinister undercurrent. The framework of the novel is built around a fancy fundraiser at the school where a murder takes place. The novel jumps back and forth in time and is sprinkled with police interviews of witnesses. There are some significant plot differences from the miniseries and more information is revealed in the novel about the characters' motivations. Enjoy!

Allison Singley, Parent Relations

FICTION



Binti by Nnedi Okorafor

Binti is one of the best characters I've read in years. She's a mathematical genius of the African Himba tribe in the far future, and she leaves Earth and her disapproving family to go to a prestigious interstellar university. It's a thought-provoking page-turner with beautiful writing.

Jocelyn Swigger, Sunderman Conservatory

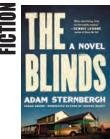


Blindness by José Saramago, translated by Giovanni Pontiero

This novel describes the transmission of a disease across society. While it perfectly describes the physical desperation of a society that cannot stop the spread, it also reconciles the feelings of compassion and solidarity that should always be part of a community.

Ivanova Reyes, Economics





The Blinds by Adam Sternbergh

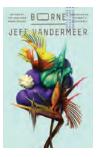
On one hand, this is a very genre book: it's a sci-fi tinged thriller/western about a town populated by vicious criminals and other people who have had their memories erased so they don't remember a time before they moved there, and the sheriff

... it's a sci-fi tinged thriller/western ...

trying to hold the town together when one of the residents is shot. But the setting and many of the characters are fully realized, and it prompts many thoughts about

memory and identity and how we define ourselves, so in some ways it is much deeper than that, although mostly it's just a heck of a ride. Ironically, I won't be forgetting this book.

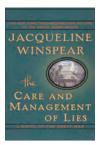
Darren Glass, Mathematics



Borne by Jeff VanderMeer

You might have seen the film *Annihilation* (starring Natalie Portman and Gina Rodriguez) recently. It draws on the work of author Jeff Vandermeer, whose books I recently discovered. While the film draws on the *Southern Reach Trilogy* collection, my personal favorite is one similar, but outside that series-*Borne*. A strange mix of moods that remind me of *Wall-E* and more dystopic genres, *Borne* is definitely for the sci-fi buff.

Salma Monani, Environmental Studies



The Care and Management of Lies: A Novel of the Great War by Jacqueline Winspear

An inveterate Maisie Dobbs fan, I came upon this novel by chance. Britain and World War I are the setting of this book too. Again, I was seduced immediately by Winspear's

I found it deeply touching without an ounce of squishy romance.

ability to draw me into this horrid and inspiring atmosphere. This is a hardy story of love and its power. I found it deeply touching without an ounce of squishy romance.

GailAnn Rickert, Classics

The Carrying by Ada Limón

Subtle, deft, smart and vivid, this is a wonderful poetry collection.



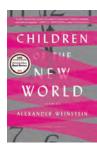




Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

This novel is thematically complex, structurally gripping, and timelessly insightful. It is a classic work of Native American literature that challenges readers to consider their privilege and the consequences of colonialism.

Anika Jensen, Musselman Library



Children of the New World: Stories by Alexander Weinstein

A collection of speculative near-future short-story fiction that wrestles with our growing dependence upon, and unease with, technology. If you struggle to consider the possible future implications of our social media culture, our growing interest in immersive artificial reality and robotic technology, or the social and environmental prices we may have to pay, then this dystopian fiction collection is for you.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



Circe by Madeline Miller

Circe is a novel for those who enjoy Greek mythology. The story follows the fate of Circe, a nymph and a daughter of Helios who is banished to an island of solitude for using her magical powers. While on the island, she is visited by Odysseus, which changes her life forever. Despite her magic and status as a nymph, she is always an underdog in the world of the gods, and Madeline Miller relates her encounters with humans and gods with details that bring mythology to life.

Kelly Whitcomb, International Student Services / Office of Multicultural Engagement

FICTION

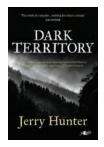


The Collected Stories of Colette by Colette, edited by Robert Phelps, translated by Matthew Ward

You'll find countless examples of Colette's genius among this selection of 100 works of short fiction in English translation (but don't expect anything mindless). In "The Pearls," enter the claustrophobic world of boudoirs and crumpled sheets portrayed in Colette's famous novel *Chéri*, inhabited by a middle-aged courtesan protagonist and her vain young lover. In "The Sick Child," written from the viewpoint of a feverish child (and definitely the best depiction of illness I've ever read), explore somatic and sensual impressions rather than dialogue. And in "Bella-Vista," pass part of your

summer at a country inn in Provence and discover its disturbing secrets. The book awaits you on the shelves of Musselman Library.

Barbara Sommer, History



Dark Territory by Jerry Hunter, translated by Robert Everett

This a powerful tale of a common Welsh solider and man of faith who was part of Cromwell's Army of the Saints and was traumatized by the battle atrocities he participated in. His life journey takes him to America where he is cared for by Native Americans and eventually must come to terms with a group of Calvinist zealots. Although not a purely chronological narrative, the book is the most compelling historical novel I have ever read. The brilliant combination of religion, war, Tudor politics, and the beauty of honest human interaction makes for a fantastic read.

The Welsh soldier, Rhisiart Dafydd, was from my ancestral village of Wrexham, Wales and this fact drew me in rather quickly! Author Jerry Hunter is American by birth but now teaches at the University of Bangor and writes only in Welsh (good luck with that). Fortunately for us, his mentor at Harvard, Robert Everett, provides an excellent translation.

John "Buzz" Jones, Sunderman Conservatory (emeritus)



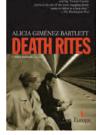
Darkness at Noon by Arthur Koestler, translated by Daphne Hardy

Concerning the party purges and show trials of Stalin's Russia, this classic manages to be suspenseful, though its ending is never in doubt; to be specific, though the relevant nations and leaders are never named; to be moving, though it is a novel of ideas. Finely unraveling the psychology of the purges from both sides—the Stalinists who conducted them, and the Old Bolsheviks who were sacrificed to them—it renders one of the great and horrible mysteries of the last century more comprehensible, yet no less horrible.

Devin McKinney, Musselman Library

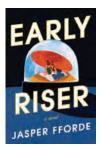
Death Rites by Alicia Giménez-Bartlett, translated by Jonathan Dunne





The first in a series of murder mysteries featuring Petra Delicado, a woman police officer who gets pulled out of the file room and partnered with a traditional machista detective to investigate a seemingly impossible case. Funny and entertaining.

Kerr Thompson, Spanish (emeritus)



Early Riser by Jasper Fforde

Jasper Fforde is a master of fantasy fiction, and his novels are always playful, while they also critique various kinds of social corruption. *Early Riser* is a dystopic novel in which humans hibernate in winter, and it follows the main character who gets a job working through the winter and finds his reality disrupted by a sequence of sleep dreams that actualize. Along the way, Fforde creates a variety of characters to make the story humorous, and he is a master of linguistic play as he relates the details of the plot and the quirks of the characters.

Kelly Whitcomb, International Student Services / Office of Multicultural Engagement



Eunoia by Christian Bök

Bök produces five chapters in this short book of constrained poetry: A, E, I, O, U. Each chapter contains poems that use only one vowel (a univocal lipogram if you

A fun way to spend a summer afternoon more fun to read out loud.

want to be fancy). The result is lines like "Loops on bold fonts now form lots of words for books. Books form cocoons of comfort—tombs to hold bookworms" and "Hassan

can watch, aghast, as databanks at NASDAQ graph hard data and chart a NASDAQ crash—a sharp fall that alarms staff at a Manhattan bank." A fun way to spend a summer afternoon—more fun to read out loud.

John Dettinger, Musselman Library

FICTION



Evening in Paradise: More Stories by Lucia Berlin

Lucia Berlin (1936-2004), daughter of a mining engineer, spent her youth in mining camps, El Paso, and Santiago, Chile. New York, Berkeley, the American Southwest, and Mexico figured prominently in her adulthood. She had three failed marriages

... you wind up wishing that the author was a friend of yours.

(to a sculptor and two jazz musicians). She raised four sons while struggling with alcoholism. Each of these story collections is greater than the sum of its parts—because the stories themselves are semiautobiographical, because of the extraordinary range of experiences they encompass, and because you wind up wishing that the author was a friend of yours.

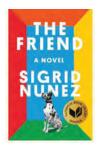
Fritz Gaenslen, Political Science



The Female Man by Joanna Russ

This book is a fascinating and, at times, disturbing feminist classic. It tells the story of four women from four different universes. Each woman crosses over to one another's universe and learns about different gender roles and expectations. A feminist utopia, a real "gender war," a never-ending depression, and the familiar world of the 1970s create a whirlwind of gender experiences. They find themselves transformed and facing new understandings of being a woman. One of the most important and foundational works of feminist science fiction.

Alecea Standlee, Sociology



The Friend by Sigrid Nunez

In this 2018 National Book Award winner, a woman is faced with the suicide of an exceptional friend, and what is more, his wish that she take care of his Great Dane in her small, no-pets-allowed Manhattan apartment. The narrative quickly becomes a moving examination of friendship, loss and grief. A quick read at 212 pages, it is a novel to read again and again.

Elizabeth Richardson Viti, French (retired)

Force of Nature by Jane Harper





A corporate retreat, designed to be a bonding exercise for colleagues, goes all wrong. One woman doesn't return after four days in the wilderness. Federal Agent Aaron Falk has a keen interest in the missing hiker; she's the whistleblower in his latest white-

A corporate retreat, designed to be a bonding exercise for colleagues, goes all wrong.

collar crime case. Harper invents characters who are so believable, that any one of them could be up to no good. And she creates such a tense atmosphere that you feel on the edge of catastrophe. Much like her first novel, *The Dry*, which also features Agent Falk, this is another page-turner.

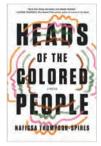
Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai

Set in Chicago in the mid-1980s and in Paris in 2015, *The Great Believers* can be described as both a chronicle, albeit fictionalized, of the early years of the AIDS crisis, and a novel about loss, trauma, memory, and the healing power of art. It focuses on the young men who died, but also on the women who cared for them and who preserved the memory of their lives. Without necessarily being a mystery novel (although a major plot line involves a search for a lost daughter), it keeps you guessing what will happen to unforgettable characters for whom you get to truly care.

Radi Rangelova, Spanish

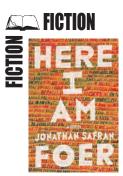


Heads of the Colored People by Nafissa Thompson-Spires

This collection of vignettes about Black identity in America defies the reader to delineate that experience. Thompson-Spires offers us scenes that make us laugh, make us anxious, make us angry, and more. Some characters appear in multiple stories and others only pop up once, but most are memorable. In one story, two mothers exchange letters via their daughter's school backpacks. Each believes her daughter to be the victim of the other's bullying (guess who the real bullies are?), and the tone of their writing moves from concern to indignation to outrage to lunacy. In another, a daughter uses her ASMR YouTube channel both to establish her own

physical and sexual identity and to rebel against her mother's rigid expectations. The YouTube voyeurs are creepy, but one can't help rooting for the girl. There is a lot happening in these pieces—as there is in 21st-century America.

Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library



Here I Am by Jonathan Safran Foer

At 570 pages, Jonathan Safran Foer's most recent novel (2016) will keep you enthralled on even a long trip. It starts off focused on a Jewish family of five in Washington, D.C. The oldest son has an upcoming bar mitzvah, does Model UN, and spends hours playing *Other Life*. The parents deal with the stress of a troubled marriage. Cousins visit from Israel. The novel's turning point comes when an earthquake in the Middle East forces American Jews to assess their position on Israel. Safran Foer poses no shortage of provocative questions about a world in crisis.

Kerry Wallach, German Studies



His Bloody Project: Documents Related to the Case of Roderick McRae by Graeme McRae Burnet

This novel is presented as a true crime case concerning a young man's murder of three neighbors in late 19th-century Scotland. It is written as a series of documents: eyewitness accounts, doctor reports, the memoir of the accused, transcripts from the trial, journalistic accounts of the trial, and police and forensic reports. These are the days of nascent criminal anthropology, and the overall intent of the book is to examine how we measure and conclude "insanity" on the part of someone who carries out murder. I read it purely for fun, because of my obsession with true crime, and along the way realized that it interested me intellectually as well!

Amy Young Evrard, Anthropology

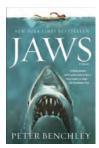


Islandborn (Spanish edition titled *Lola*) by Junot Díaz, illustrated by Leo Espinosa

This is a children's book. The illustrations are marvelous and will definitely trap any toddler (and a parent, too) in the discovery of some characteristics that define life in Dominican Republic. But the magic of this book is the introduction of the concepts of fear and defiance of a "monster." With this characterization being none other than that of the dictator that controlled the DR for 30 years. Junot Díaz does a wonderful job of introducing this historical episode so rooted in what it means to be Dominican, while keeping the magical component of a children's book.

Ivanova Reyes, Economics

Jaws by Peter Benchley



Because of Steven Spielberg's excellent adaptation, Peter Benchley's novel *Jaws* is sadly overlooked. Yet the scope of the book goes far beyond that of the movie: it deals with generalized corruption, arrogance, and loss of social position. The human

The human characters do not come across as particularly sympathetic, in fact the shark is by far the most likable...

characters do not come across as particularly sympathetic, in fact the shark is by far the most likable, and descriptions of its attacks are striking. It makes for a great summer read, which should, however, probably not be done on the beach.

Caroline Ferraris-Besso, French



The Jessica Christ Series by H. Claire Taylor

God's second child is born to a teenage mother in a small town in Texas. This series follows Jessica as she grows up and deals with normal coming-of-age issues in addition to learning how to (and how not to) smite others, how to perform miracles,

God's second child is born to a teenage mother in a small town in Texas.

how to identify angels, and how to avoid the temptations of the devil. A complex cast of characters surrounds Jessica in her journey, including a con-artist preacher, her half-brother (Jesus), and eager sorority sisters. The entire series (up to six books so far!) is modern, feminist, funny, and heart warming—a fantastic summer read!

Jen Cole, Academic Advising

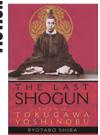


Judas by Jeff Loveness, illustrated by Jakub Rebelka

While the story of Judas Iscariot has been embellished through many popular works, this graphic novel recounts his post-suicide wanderings through Hell and his encounters with its dwellers. As we walk alongside Judas through the landscape of the damned, with its simultaneously terrifying and beautiful art, the book considers the concepts of betrayal and love, and what redemption truly means.

R.C. Miessler, Musselman Library

FICTION



The Last Shogun: The Life of Tokugawa Yoshinobu by Shiba Ryōtarō, translated by Juliet Winters Carpenter

This excellent novel unpacks the enigma of feudal Japan, an incredibly rigid society that might have taken much longer to change had it not been for strong external pressures. It tells the story of Tokugawa Yoshinobu, who epitomized the hopes of an epoch in Japanese history. He was a man of extraordinary qualities and lived in a time of great turmoil and political challenges. When he could not find a way out of the Japanese dilemma, he chose to end the 250-year rule of the House of Tokugawa. This book reveals the complexity of a country that adopted many aspects of western culture, yet remained profoundly Japanese.

Emelio Betances, Sociology



The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

Tom Sherbourne is a lighthouse keeper on a remote island, a half day's boat journey from the coast of Western Australia. When a baby washes up in a rowboat, he and his wife, who are childless, decide to raise the child as their own, rather than alert authorities. They rationalize that the baby is a "gift from God." Their decision has tragic consequences that reverberate throughout this complex story about good people who make a reckless decision. This is Stedman's first novel and I keep hoping for her next one.

Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



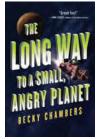
Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

I read this book rapidly over winter break. I just could not put it down! The story is told from multiple points of view, as two families become intertwined. After I read this novel, I had to find *Everything I Never Told You*, also by Celeste Ng—not sure how I missed that one in 2014. It is also fantastic.

Sarah Principato, Environmental Studies

The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet by Becky Chambers





I loved this and its two sequels—think *Firefly*, but with several alien species on board It has fun, engaging characters and plot, and I felt like I gained some perspective on neurodiversity: these creatures in this spaceship experience their worlds in different (and unbelievably imaginative) ways, and they figure out how to live and work together.

Jocelyn Swigger, Sunderman Conservatory

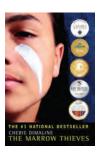


Marilla of Green Gables by Sarah McCoy

McCoy has managed to write a fresh prequel that is entirely true to the characters Lucy Maud Montgomery created 110 years ago, yet adds so many layers. She takes a few lines spoken by Marilla Cuthbert in *Anne of Green Gables* and spins them out into a full novel that is just as glorious as any of the Anne books. Those lines are: "John Blythe was a nice boy. We used to be real good friends, he and I. People called him my beau." The narrative is set in three main sections: 1837, 1838, and 1860 (with a prologue set in 1876 which is just before Anne arrives on the scene). Marilla's story is set against a backdrop of important political events of her lifetime, and McCoy uses

that opportunity to push some boundaries of conventional gender roles. American readers will learn more about the Canadian independence movement and also find that Marilla's story crosses important threads in our own history. An altogether lovely novel.

Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library



The Marrow Thieves by Cheri Dimaline

It you enjoyed *Station Eleven* (the Class of 2021 first-year common read), you'll find this book engaging too. It's a post-apocalyptic tale, but unlike *Station Eleven*, it's told from the point of view of an Indigenous boy.

Salma Monani, Environmental Studies

FICTION



Memoirs of a Spacewoman by Naomi Mitchison

An interesting read, this book is an artifact of a specific time and place, and has a fascinating cultural feminist aesthetic. Written in the 1960s, it is set in a future where alien communication is a female-dominated profession in a universe where alien contact without interference is a major goal. The protagonist in this sci-fi memoir explores the universe, meets new civilizations, and has fun doing it. It explores issues of culture, gender, and sexuality in interesting ways.

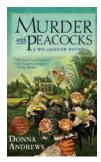
Alecea Standlee, Sociology



Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur

It's a great and easy read. The book includes a variety of poems on what many may consider hard topics. However, the author manages to find a silver lining in all the pain encountered.

Shantanique Johnson, Office of Multicultural Engagement



Murder with Peacocks (The Meg Langslow series) by Donna Andrews

This long-running series (26 books so far) features blacksmith Meg Langslow. *Murder with Peacocks* introduces them as Meg moonlights as a wedding planner and tries to organize the weddings of her ditsy best friend, slacker brother, and queen bee

... Meg deals with a drunken calligrapher, a last-minute request for peacocks, and a poisoned rehearsal dinner buffet.

mother over a summer in her small home town of Yorktown, VA. There's a lot of small town atmosphere and humor as Meg and her crime buff father try to figure out who killed the nasty relative of her mother's new bridegroom-to-be while Meg deals with a drunken calligrapher, a last-minute request for peacocks, and a poisoned rehearsal dinner buffet.

Julia Hendon, Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning

New and Selected Poems by Mary Oliver





The American poet Mary Oliver died in January. When I heard the news, I pulled my copy of her well-known book, *New and Selected Poems* (1992), from my bookcase and read it more carefully than I had in the past. It was slow going, not because her poems

Her poems seem as if they could have been written by Emily Dickinson, with Henry David Thoreau looking over her shoulder.

are difficult, but because over and over again I found myself stopping to re-read lines that stabbed me in the heart with their simple beauty. Oliver lived most of her adult life on the Cape Cod shore, which may help explain why a New Englander and marine biologist like myself enjoys her work. Her poems seem as if they could have been written by Emily Dickinson, with Henry David Thoreau looking over her shoulder. Infused with images of nature and death, Oliver's poetry brought the Concord transcendentalists quietly into the 20th and 21st centuries.

John Commito, Environmental Studies (emeritus)

Mary Oliver died this year, thus ending a life of unparalleled attention to the beauty of this wild world. This happens to be my favorite volume of her poetry, but really any selection of hers will do. Even one of her poems can forever change the way you see the world. For me, it was this phrase in "The Summer Day"—"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" That's Mary Oliver.

Julie Ramsey, College Life

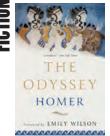


Night Road by Kristin Hannah

The perfect family. A loner. A parent's worst nightmare and the long road ahead. A gripping tale of love and loss. The question is, will there be forgiveness?

Pam Eisenhart, President's Office

FICTION



The Odyssey attributed to Homer, translated by Emily Wilson

This engaging, contemporary translation of the 10-year adventures of Odysseus following the Trojan War is beautifully rendered by Emily Wilson. The edition includes an extensive introduction, a set of maps, an informative translator's note, and brief notes on each of the 24 books of the epic, and a glossary. I suggest indulging in the immersive experience of pairing it with Daniel Mendelsohn's memoir.

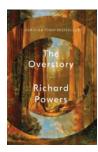
Kay Hoke, Sunderman Conservatory (emerita)



The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

If you are of a certain age, you probably have heard of Hedy Lamarr, even if you have never seen any of her movies. But did you know she was also a scientist and inventor? This is a fun book (historical fiction) about a woman who was underestimated because of her beauty, but was so much more than a pretty face.

Kristin Largen, Religious and Spiritual Life



The Overstory by Richard Powers

The best book I've read in years, decades, maybe ever. Powers interweaves human stories with the stories of trees, with whom we share 30-odd percent of our DNA, in a way both urgent and timeless. Moving and frightening, all at once.

Dustin Beall Smith, English



The Perfect Nanny by Leila Slimani, translated by Sam Taylor

Not for the faint of heart. I am still thinking about this spooky novel, which has been translated from French. I am not spoiling anything by saying that it opens with the murder of two small children, presumably by their nanny. The depiction is riveting of the family dynamic, the tension that comes with having children and pursuing demanding careers, psychological disorders (my words), the all-too-common inability to address problems head on, and the devastation that comes when obvious conflicts are ignored. The novel is set in common places—a Paris apartment, a neighborhood park, a nearby restaurant, the grandparents' home in the country, outside a

courtroom—where profound things happen. Perhaps most unsettling is the nanny's horrifyingly twisted relationship with her young charges.

Allison Singley, Parent Relations

FICTION A



The Red-Haired Woman by Ohran Pamuk, translated by Ekin Oklap

This novel depicts the relationship between a well digger and his adolescent apprentice. As they look for water outside Istanbul, they develop a father-son connection, which ends when the young man falls in love with a mysterious married woman. This affair leaves an indelible mark on the young man's life. The novel describes his return to Istanbul, how he grew up along with a city that transformed itself, and, ultimately, forced the disappearance of jobs such as well diggers. Pamuk constructs a narrative which confronts East and West mythologies and frames it using Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* and the story of Rostam and Sohrah, narrated by the

Persian poet Ferdousí in *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings*. Pamuk delivers a passionate story, which makes us reflect on the meaning of the paternal figure in the family, East and West.

Emelio Betances, Sociology

The Rim of Morning: Two Tales of Cosmic Horror by William Sloane



This volume, published by *The New York Review of Books*, packages two of Sloane's novels from the 1930s: *To Walk the Night* and *The Edge of Water*. They occupy a unique

These novels set an eerie mood, evoke character, sustain suspense, and awaken wonder.

position at the intersection of mystery, science fiction, the occult, and horror. Sloane is clearly a masterful writer (his text, *The Craft of Writing*, is still a popular guidebook). His

protagonists are remarkably self-aware and self-disclosing—even when they're misled or baffled. These novels set an eerie mood, evoke character, sustain suspense, and awaken wonder.

Dan DeNicola, Philosophy (emeritus)



A Simple Story by Elizabeth Inchbald

Most people won't have heard of this 1791 book, but it's a fun, daring novel likely to appeal to readers who enjoy Jane Austen. In the first volume the heroine, Miss Milner, inconveniently falls in love with her guardian—a Catholic priest. They do marry, but the story continues. In the second half, set over a decade later, the adulterous Miss Milner has been banished, and we follow her daughter, Matilda, as she strives to live more respectably than her mother. Published before Catholics regained full civil rights in England, the novel explores both religious faith and the possibilities and constraints for women and women's education.

Joanne Myers, English

FICTION

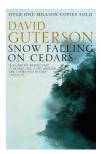


Slaughterhouse-Five, or, The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Vonnegut's masterpiece turns 50 this year. Reading it as a preteen, I was dazzled but confused. As a teenager, I was impressed by the formal shenanigans, but too pretentious to rate it as highly as it deserved, because it was the bestseller that had made Vonnegut a household name. In my twenties, I concluded it was merely a book for bright kids, not for thoughtful adults having thoughtful thoughts about thinky things. In my thirties, I discovered deep sadnesses in the book I'd been too callow to see before. In my forties, I gave in and wept the sweet tear of young middle age,

realizing how old I'd grown with this novel. Now I'm in my fifties, and almost scared of what it will do to me on the next reading.

Devin McKinney, Musselman Library



Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson

A fisherman is found dead in a small island community in the Pacific Northwest. Set during the ensuing murder trial, the story is primarily told through flashbacks, and explores the intricate web of relationships among the townspeople, the lingering trauma of the town's World War II veterans, and the deep wounds caused by the internment of the town's Japanese American community members, all of which informs the witnesses' testimonies. Despite the dramatic elements of the plot, the novel avoids relying on spectacle, and remains a quietly poignant, thoughtfully paced, and deeply atmospheric study of trauma in a small community.

Kim Longfellow, Center for Global Education



Someone Has To Set a Bad Example: An Anne Taintor Collection by Anne Taintor

Not in the right frame of mind to follow a complicated plot and don't have a phone handy to scroll through funny Instagram memes, but desperately need some laughs? Do I have the book for you! The juxtaposition of the 40's and 50's style art with the perfectly snarky aphorisms is hysterical and often spot on, especially if you're like a fine wine: aged and mature. Essentially, this is a picture book for awesome adults. One of the best gifts I ever received from my mom.

Wendee Lewis Dunlap, Alumni Relations

Naomi Novik Spinning Silver

Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik

Drawing loosely from the idea of Rumpelstiltskin and interweaving elements of Eastern European folklore, this captivating tale masterfully intertwines the lives of three young women who defy fairy-tale stereotypes to change the fate prescribed for them. The depth of the characters and well-crafted story is a refreshing addition to the fantasy genre.

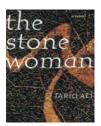
Klara Shives, Musselman Library



Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Narrator Leo Borlock experiences a life-changing encounter in his junior year. While others relentlessly conform to the adolescent acceptance code, "Stargirl" bursts on to the scene draped in an odd ruffled dress, strumming a ukulele, and overflowing with unbridled joy—and an apparent immunity to peer reviews. Leo is smitten, and so are others...at first. This book is filled with humor, delight, and life lessons that make me want to go back to high school for a second try. Oh, to be a Stargirl. But, I confess, when it comes to Jerry Spinelli, our wonderful alumnus and 2019 commencement speaker, I am more "star struck."

Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library

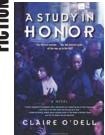


The Stone Woman by Tariq Ali

This book is the third novel of Tariq Ali's amazing Islam Quintet, but to my mind, it's one of his best, set in Turkey in the 19th century and again dealing with descendants of a family that made its appearance in his first novel, *Shadows of the Pomegranate Tree*. Muslims, cast out of Spain by Christians, took on an alien religious identity to survive and eventually thrive in the Middle East. The second and fourth novels, *The Book of Saladin* and *A Sultan in Palermo*, deal more straightforwardly with Islamic history and the family's role in it, but the remarkable women who share their secrets with a mythical stone figure are more engaging.

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





A Study in Honor by Claire O'Dell

This book was an unexpected read for me—I am not normally a reader of light mysteries. Then again, it's also speculative fiction—set in a near future with the U.S. caught up in an ugly civil war as the population and state governments veer ever farther to extremes. Or perhaps it is fan fiction, an homage to Holmes and Watson told from the perspective of the suffering Watson. Regardless of how you categorize it, it's a fun and interesting take on all these things, and more. Great for an easy afternoon sitting on the back porch.

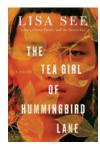
Sharon Birch, Information Technology



The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

The Tattooist of Auschwitz is categorized as historical fiction, but it shadows the true story of a young Slovakian Jewish man named Lale Sokolov. It is the spring of 1942 when Lale stumbles from a cattle car and finds himself under the oppressive gaze of Auschwitz's steely gate, Arbeit Macht Frei. Amidst the uncertainty and chaos in Auschwitz's early days, Lale quickly secures himself the prominent position as the *Tätowierer*, where he falls in love with a woman whose arm he has tattooed. It's an extraordinary story of war and freedom, death and survival, love and hate, and weakness, but most importantly, strength; all the things that make us human.

Lynn Garskof, Human Resources



The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

If you enjoyed Lisa See's novel *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, then you should definitely read *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*. The culture and traditions of a small tea farming community in China are brought to life through the unforgettable story of Li-yan. This book touched me in so many ways it stayed with me long after I finished it.

Pam Dalrymple, Civil War Institute (retired)

Tell the Machine Goodnight by Katie Williams



A Sci-Fi novel about happiness and unhappiness told through the stories of characters all connected to one another through the Apricity, a machine that tells you exactly what you need to do to be happy: cut off the tip of your finger, eat more tangerines, stop talking to your brother, etc. Williams' characters are painted carefully and we are drawn into their worlds as we come to understand their pains and their failures in their varying attempts to wriggle out of unhappiness—all of which are taking place in a cool futuristic world infused with technology and yet still bound by the limits of human embodiment, love, suffering, longing, and folly. So good it's worth a second read.

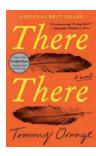
Megan Adamson Sijapati, Religious Studies



Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Long before the #MeToo movement, this novel by Thomas Hardy focused the reading public's attention on the ways a vulnerable young woman could be manipulated and assaulted—physically, emotionally, spiritually—by men who were both obviously and not so obviously villainous. Hardy felt protective towards this most tragic of his heroines, and he imbues Tess's story with both pathos and beauty. His designation of Tess as a "pure woman" brought Victorian vitriol down upon him, but she has outlived the critics to become his most memorable tragic figure.

Suzanne Flynn, English



There There by Tommy Orange

It may have been a little too on-the-nose that I read this book on Thanksgiving Day but it did make reading the book a more powerful experience. Not that it needed much help, as this debut novel is incredibly well written. It's the interlocking story of about a dozen Native Americans living in Oakland and making their way to a major urban powwow for a variety of different reasons. The book is told from different perspectives and jumps around in time, but most of the characters are compelling and fleshed out to the point where I could read a whole novel about them. These are stories of the urban Native experience that you don't read about in many places. It's

brutal at times, but it is a great story that is well told, and I look forward to seeing what Orange does next.

Darren Glass, Mathematics

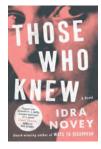
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The FICTION

There There follows the present time life of Native Americans in Oakland, CA, and highlights the longlasting impacts of injustices impacting this group of Americans. A very eye-opening and sobering read!

Daisy Chebbet, Counseling Services



Those Who Knew by Idra Novey

Those Who Knew tells the interweaving stories of several women, all survivors of gendered violence, and all looking for ways to cope with the past. Written just before the outset of the #MeToo movement, the novel anticipated many of the issues that have become prominent in the last year—toxic masculinity, the relationship between violence and political power, the trauma and silence of victims, and the liberating force of sisterhood.

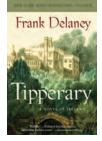
Radi Rangelova, Spanish



Three Bags Full: A Sheep Detective Story by Leonie Swann, translated by Anthea Bell

A murder mystery, being solved by, and told from, the perspective of a flock of sheep. Witty and amusing, with sheep that really seem to come to life, each with their own quirky, sheep-y personality. Being told from the flock's perspective also adds interesting twists in figuring out the murder as you read.

Alice Brawley Newlin, Management

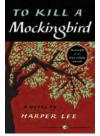


Tipperary by Frank Delaney

This romp through Irish history is centered on a magnificent country estate and an irrepressible hero whose fortunes fall and rise in unpredictable ways. Although this book is hard to put down, it's also truly memorable and offers fine insight into the rebellion that finally brought about a free nation.

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

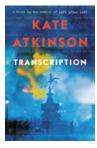




To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The story unfolds as seen through the eyes of a young girl in a small southern town in the 1930s where race, class, and gender intersect with justice and equality before the law. This is a great summer read because its telling is simple and it offers time and distance to reflect on a series of contemporary issues.

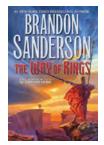
Gavin Foster, Information Technology



Transcription by Kate Atkinson

Kate Atkinson is an award-winning British novelist some call a modern Charles Dickens. Her latest historical fiction centers on the life of a BBC radio producer whose past as a spy during World War II catches up to her. The plot unfolds with Atkinson's unique precision. She consistently delivers delicious page-turners perfect for long summer nights.

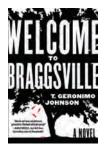
Sharon Stephenson, Physics



The Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson

For high fantasy that goes beyond repackaged Tolkienian tropes, check out *The Way of Kings*, the first book in Brandon Sanderson's epic *Stormlight Archive*. At over 1200 pages, this is a novel that rewards patience more than most books of its genre. Exposition comes slowly, allowing the reader to discover the barren world of Roshar through characters' interactions with it. A general sense of the stagnation that drives character development makes some sections feel slower than others, but multiple plot lines ensure that the story always feels like it is progressing. Throughout, Sanderson demonstrates his mastery of writing action and dialogue.

Kevin Lavery, Eisenhower Institute

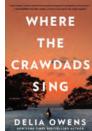


Welcome to Braggsville by T. Geronimo Johnson

Blending satire, irony, and social critique, *Welcome to Braggsville* frequently delivers its humor with a gut punch. I think it is essential reading for Gettysburg students, faculty, and staff as it wrestles with higher education, the student experience, political correctness, the Civil War, and memory, all the while ruminating on the complexity of race.

Nicholas Miller, Art & Art History





Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Delia Owens is a wildlife scientist and writer, based in Idaho. Thus, natural science plays a principal role in this stunning first novel set in North Carolina. An engaging read about people in a small fishing community, it ends with a wonderful twist. Perfect for summer reading!

Gail Jones, Sunderman Conservatory (retired)



Wilde Lake by Laura Lippman

This mystery kept me guessing even after the book ended. A tale of repetition and repression, the lawyer heroine Lu Brant learns many painful lessons; and the hardest was giving up her need to win and always be right. Truth, the heroine finally realizes, is not that easily determined. The plot turns on a rape that was covered up. Many years later, Lu must reopen the case and what she discovers forces her to reassess her relationships with her father and brother and her sado-masochistic relationship with a married man. The solution to the rape case involves a "Susanna and the Elders"-like ploy. Just as the two elders in the biblical story are found quilty because they identify

different trees as the site of Susannah's supposed seduction of them and are thus clearly lying, just so the defense of the accused rapist depends on his claim that he and his friends were playing a game together at the time of the incident. Even though one friend identified the game as Life and the other as Monopoly, the police and the attorneys believed the boy rather than the girl. Although I have given away significant plot twists, there is still much to gain from reading the novel slowly and with great care.

Temma Berg, English (emerita)



Last April, in celebration of National Poetry Month, library Peer Research Mentor Kendall Wright '18 asked librarians to identify their favorite books of poetry to feature them on a display. The variety of titles—from classic works to contemporary—inspired us to share these selections with you. Additionally, we asked English Professor McKinley Melton for his thoughts on the importance of poetry.

"Poetry, in my opinion, is important because it makes you stop, think, and process the power of words in an incomparable way. Poetry, like so many other literary forms, presents images, crafts narratives, and provides insight into the thoughts, lived realities, and imaginative worlds of others. Yet, there's something distinctive about the experience of reading poetry, reflecting upon it, and processing it both critically and emotionally. Allowing yourself to pause on a well-written poem and really sit with its meaning and its impact is really a feeling, and an exercise, unlike any other."

Prof. Melton recommends:

The Bones, The Breaking, The Balm: A Colored Girl's Hymnal by Dominique Christina The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop edited by Nate Marshall, Kevin Coval, and Quraysh Ali Lansana The BreakBeat Poets, Vol. 2: Black Girl Magic edited by Mahogany L. Browne, Idrissa Simmonds, and Jamila Woods [insert] Boy and Don't Call Us Dead by Danez Smith Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers by Frank X. Walker

Library staff recommend:

Clinton Baugess, Research & Instruction Librarian, Research & Instruction



American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin by Terrance Hayes The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson Howl and Other Poems by Allen Ginsberg Life on Mars by Tracy K. Smith Rita Dove: Collected Poems, 1974-2004 Selected Poems by Frank O'Hara



Ron Couchman, Special Collections Assistant, Special Collections In the Barn of the God and Trust Rust by Will Lane

Kate Martin, Cataloging & Collections Librarian, Technical Services And Still I Rise by Maya Angelou The Collected Poems of W.B. Yeats Selected poems, 1988-2013 by Seamus Heaney The World Will Follow Joy: Turning Madness into Flowers by Alice Walker

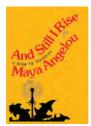
Devin McKinney, Archives Assistant, Special Collections The Collected Poems of Edward Thomas

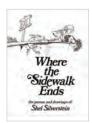
R.C. Miessler, Systems Librarian, Technical Services Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

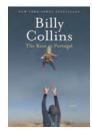
Robin Wagner, Dean of the Library Collected Poems by Jane Kenyon Kicking the Leaves by Donald Hall The Rain in Portugal by Billy Collins A Walk in Victoria's Secret by Kate Daniels

Janelle Wertzberger, Assistant Dean and Director of Scholarly Communications *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankin *New and Selected Poems* by Mary Oliver

Mary Wootton, Conservator, Special Collections The Complete Poems of Robert Service Idylls of the King by Alfred, Lord Tennyson





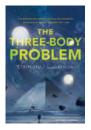




Titles in Translation

Expanding one's horizons through reading, means reading across the globe. We asked some of our multilingual/international faculty to recommend their favorite works available in translation. While several lamented about titles not yet translated, they also gave us plenty to whet our appetites...and to watch for in the future.

Quick fact: According to the Three Percent project at the University of Rochester (http://www.rochester.edu/College/translation/threepercent/), only three percent of the books published in the United States are works in translation, and only 0.7 percent are in literary fiction and poetry.



China

The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu, translated by Ken Liu (2014)

The Three-Body Problem represents Chinese science fiction at its best. A highlyengaging story, the novel is a stunning literary imagination of science and a sober reflection on our humanity. Cixin Liu is a prolific science fiction writer. The Chinese blockbuster movie, *The Wandering Earth* (2019), is based on another story by him.

Junjie Luo, East Asian Studies



France

I love Nancy Huston, she's a Canadian writer who lives in Paris and translates her own books. I liked *Fault Lines* (2008) and *The Mark of the Angel*

(2000). I really enjoyed her book *Losing North: Musings on Land, Tongue and Self* (2002), but it is not currently available in translation. It resonated with me because it talks about how it feels to be an immigrant, about having a foot in two (or more) cultures, and about belonging to both and to neither.

I also like Fred Vargas. She is a historian and an archeologist, and writes police thrillers. She's the queen of crime books in France and

has received numerous awards. A lot of her books have been translated in English. I don't have a particular recommendation—all her books are fun—especially those featuring her Commissaire Adamsberg.

I found an interview of her in *The Guardian* in which she explains: "Like her [Agatha Christie], I want to tell a story that identifies and deals with the dangers we face. It's no longer wild animals, but the fears are just as real, so I make a journey with the reader, confront the horror of humanity, and deliver them safely home. Instinctively we feel better and can sleep soundly. Then, in the morning when the sun comes up, we can again face the world and move forward."

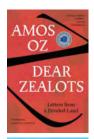
Titles in Translation _

Germany

Kruso by Lutz Seiler, translated by Tess Lewis

One of my favorite novels in German available in English is Lutz Seiler's Kruso. It's a book about the late GDR (East Germany), about being a student under pressure and desperately in love, and about how to escape from all this. Kruso a stunning piece of fiction that demonstrates how memory works (Seiler calls it the "nervous system of memory"), full of allusions to both deep philosophical questions and everyday life in East Germany just before the Wall came down. Eileen Battersby has described it as arguably "one of the major novels of the 21st century."

Henning Wrage, German Studies



Israel

Dear Zealots: Letters from a Divided Land by Amos Oz, translated by Jessica Cohen (2018)

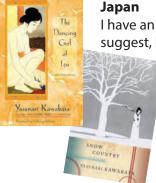
Stephen Stern, Judaic Studies

EIGHT MOUNTAINS

Italv

The Eight Mountains by Paolo Cognetti, translated by Simon Carnell and Erica Segre (2018). This is a story about a friendship between two boys who come from different backgrounds.

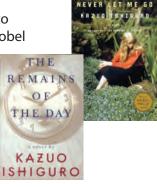
Lidia Anchisi, Italian Studies



I have an endless list of Japanese novels that I'd like to suggest, but here are a few of my favorite authors. Nobel

> Prize writers Yasunari Kawabata (The Dancing Girl of Izu, Snow Country) and Kazuo Ishiguro (The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go) write wonderful stories.

More recently, popular with young people writers are: Haruki Murakami,



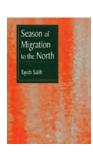
Titles in Translation _



Mariko Hayashi, and Ikeido Jun [the latter two are not yet available in translation]. Their work is fun and easy to read, and reflect the Japanese society well. Osamu Dazai's novels (*No Longer Human, The Setting Sun*) still grab the heart of the young generation in Japan.

In *Kwaidan: Stories and Studies of Strange Things*, Koizumi Yakumo [also known as Lafcadio Hearn] collected and translated into English, Japanese myth, folktales, and traditional ghost stories...everyone must read!

Yoko Nishimura, East Asian Studies



3

Sudan

Season of Migration to the North by Tayeb Salih, translated by Denys Johnson-Davies (1997)

I think this is a powerful novel as the narrative explores a sense of the postcolonial experience as it unfolds in Sudan in the 1960s. It tells the struggles between life in London and its opposite in Sudan to prove that the result does not go beyond the fact that we are similar at all times and places.

Abdulkareem Said Ramadan, Interdisciplinary Studies

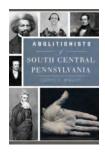


Turkey

Last Train to Istanbul by Asye Kulin, translated by John W. Baker (2006)

Ayse Kulin is one of my favorite authors. Unfortunately, my favorite pieces are not translated to English. Among her translated work my favorite one is *Last Train to Istanbul*.

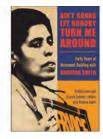
Yasemin Akbaba, Political Science



Abolitionists of South Central Pennsylvania by Cooper H. Wingert

This book will change the way you see Adams County and its history. The brave men and women who ushered terrified "runaways" through the night were seen as "radical abolitionists," and criminals in their day. They were the true heroes of Gettysburg. After reading this book, I couldn't help but question whether I was personally doing enough to continue their unfinished work.

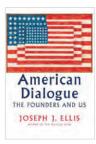
Ryan Kerney, Biology



Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around: Forty Years of Movement Building with Barbara Smith by Alethia Jones and Virginia Eubanks, editors with Barbara Smith

This book is a quintessential summer read for those looking to deepen their understanding of intersectional feminism, Black feminism, and the fundamental principles at the heart of authentic movement building. The Women's Center director highly recommends this book as a deep and personal summer read!

Valentina Cucuzza, Women's Center



American Dialogue: The Founders and Us by Joseph J. Ellis

Like many others, I read the daily newspapers with exasperation and sadness: how can these things be? Well, reading this book, I see I have been sleepwalking. Time to wake up and face the past that is our present. Ellis is a learned and eloquent guide.

GailAnn Rickert, Classics

NONFICTION



American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic by Victoria Johnson

After retiring, I planned to create a lovely garden in Central Florida, but Florida's soil, insects, fungi, and plant diseases defeated me. Desperate, I joined the Florida Master Gardening program and discovered an amazing botanical world. On really hot, humid days reading about that world is more fun than digging in it and an especially good read is Johnson's history of physician David Hosack and his creation of a botanical garden in early 19th-

century New York City to explore the medicinal properties of plants. In the process of narrating Hosack's experiences with his Elgin Gardens, Johnson provides a history of New York City and the budding Republic.

Ann Harper Fender, Economics (emerita)

BAD BLOODD Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Stactup John Carreyrou

Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup by John Carreyrou

John Carreyrou reports the story of bio-tech startup Theranos and its enigmatic founder Elizabeth Holmes. This tale of corporate fraud is almost too dramatic to be believed, but it compares to other infamous cases like Enron

This tale of corporate fraud is almost too dramatic to be believed ...

or Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme. It's a story of "fake it until you make it" gone bad. If you've already read the book, check out the podcast, "The Dropout," to hear more about the case.

Mallory Jallas, Musselman Library

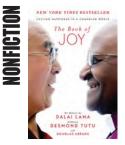


A Beautiful Work in Progress by Mirna Valerio

If this book doesn't make you want to get up off the couch and take a walk, I am not sure what would. It's a memoir by a distance runner—mostly trail running—who does not fit any of our images of runners. The book explores her background, what led to her life as a runner, and what it means to be a larger woman of color in a world that expects runners to be slim and white.

Sharon Birch, Information Technology



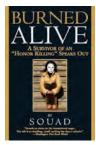


The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams

In 2015, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu arrived in Dharamsala, India for a week-long birthday visit with an old friend, His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Both these men have endured long adversity; both are Nobel Peace Prize winners. They had met several times before, but this was a different kind of meeting, a week spent in dialogue, sharing meals, trading personal stories, and reaffirming that a truly joyful—not merely happy—life is possible, even in

the face of life's inevitable suffering. And they have great fun in the process. The third author, Douglas Abrams, facilitates, moderates, and narrates the two old men's remarkable week.

Michael Ritterson, German Studies (emeritus)



Burned Alive: A Survivor of an "Honor Killing" Speaks Out by Souad, in collaboration with Marie-Therese Cuny

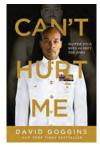
My recommendation is presented with gratitude to my WGS 120 student E.C. for recommending I read the book. The horror in this work is matched by the humanity of the aid worker, a woman who intervened to save not only the author but her infant son. After years and years, the author reunites with her son. One of her young daughters, after discovering her mother's truths, experiences intense rage to the extent of wanting revenge on the family and

townspeople and perhaps even on the country whose policies allow this practice to occur. The book is about forgiveness, intergenerational healing, domestic violence, and so much more. The author's mother is as complicit as anyone—this fact says as much about human nature as it does about the cruelty of traditions. This is a page turner that haunts the reader long after the book is over, but what stays with me as much as the terrifying hatred of women and girls is the reality of those people who intervene, as well as the strength and resilience of the survivors.

Sheila Mulligan, English

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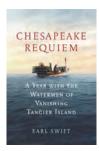
Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds by David Goggins

A remarkable and raw story about David Goggins, a retired Navy Seal and Army Ranger. David's life story is of struggle and hardship, determination and perseverance. He has accomplished many impressive feats. If you ever think about quitting or giving up—whether it be because of work, physical or life challenges, give this story a read. It will change your mindset!

Teresa Wax, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations

The author, David Goggins, shares his life experience and reflects on his pursuit of becoming a Navy Seal—and his career that followed. In part an exploration of the physical, mental, and emotional limits we impose on ourselves as one seeks to accomplish or overcome a task or goal (large or small), everyone can take something from this book.

Kevin McGuire, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations



Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island by Earl Swift

Like H. G. Bissinger's *Friday Night Lights*, the brilliant examination of a Texas town where high school football is king, *Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island* was written by a journalist who lived in one small place to find out what makes it tick. Earl Swift's book is a lively, lovely, even lyrical read, perhaps the best book I've ever read about the social, religious, and environmental linkages within a community, in this case the fishing village on Tangier Island, VA.

The island is a few feet above sea level and is eroding away at an increasingly rapid clip. The population is aging and declining in number. Young people are moving away. Attendance at the two churches is shrinking. Drug and alcohol abuse are on the rise. The residents love Jesus, Israel, and Donald Trump. They dislike government agencies, climate science, and Hillary Clinton. The folks who remain are proudly connected to their place by virtue of family, history, and a shared relationship with the Bay and its crabs and oysters. As their way of life literally washes away right before their very eyes, will the people of Tangier Island have the resilience to maintain their way of life?

John Commito, Environmental Studies (emeritus)

> NONFICTION

Habit Say Less, Ask More & Change the

Way You Lead

Michael

Forever

The Coaching

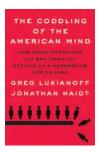


The Coaching Habit: Say Less, Ask More & Change the Way You Lead Forever by Michael Bungay Stanier

Say less? Ask more? Doesn't that seem counterintuitive when you are trying to help others become their best self? Surely they look to us to have all the answers? After reading Bungay Stanier's book, I am convinced that coaching is one of the most effective leadership development approaches available. This very quick and insightful read suggests the use of seven powerful questions leaders can use to help coach people towards personal change. Since reading

it, I've used the questions in almost every developmental conversation I have had. This book will change the way you lead.

Andy Hughes, Garthwait Leadership Center



The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt

It's not exactly what you'd think of as summer reading but it did make me think about what we've let higher education become—a place where students can no longer tolerate opinions different from their own, let alone engage with people who espouse them, without feeling threatened or victimized. The authors cover this age of protectionism across different age

groups as well—young children and teenagers, who spend a good deal of the time in front of a screen or in totally structured activities, college students, and even faculty. I didn't agree with all of their analyses but I did agree with most and, to tell the truth, it was unsettling. Important read for educators and those who have children getting ready for college.

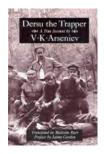
Maureen Forrestal, Provost's Office

The authors suggest that current college students are "fragile." They present multiple reasons for this state by examining viewpoints from psychology as well as our current political climate. The book is sure to make people either nod in agreement or shake their heads in disgust!

Brian Meier, Psychology

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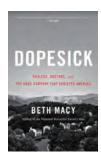
IONFICTION



Dersu the Trapper by Vladimir K. Arseniev, translated by Malcolm Burr

Dersu the Trapper (or *Dersu Uzala*, depending on the translation) is a memoir of unlikely friendship and an elegy for the wilderness of Far Eastern Russia. This 1923 book recounts the 1902-1907 journeys in the Ussuri basin made by Russian explorer V. K. Arseniev with the solitary, 50-year-old, pipe-smoking Nanai hunter Dersu as his guide. If you are like me, you will allow no 21stcentury skepticism to cloud your view of this sublime buddy story and classic of Russian nature writing.

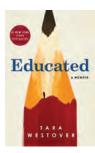
lan Clarke, Physics/English



Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America by Beth Macy

Drug overdoses killed roughly 72,000 people in 2017, more than car crashes, HIV or U.S. deaths in the Vietnam War. Macy takes us through Purdue Pharmaceutical's development and marketing of Oxycontin to the drug smuggling chains that run up and down the East coast and the impact on small towns where opioids are common and effective treatment rare. Equal parts gripping and depressing, *Dopesick* gives you a window into a modern tragedy.

Eric Remy, Information Technology



Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

It will most likely be submitted by dozens of people this year as it is a stunning book. That it is a memoir makes it even more so.

Paul Fairbanks, Communications and Marketing

This is a fascinating memoir by Tara Westover, telling the story of her isolated upbringing in a strict Mormon family in Idaho, and how she slowly found a way to liberate herself through her own desire to be educated.

Isabel Valiela, Spanish / Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

(continued)

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Okay, so I'm going to break the rules here—I haven't read this book yet. But my wife, Sally, has and she says she knows I'll like it. It's a memoir about freedom and education and selfdiscovery, and it's also about overcoming adversity, about intellectual awakenings, and about learning to love flawed people. Sally says it's so beautifully written that I won't find a thing to criticize about it—and that's saying something. So, it's at the top of my list. It should probably be at the top of yours, too.

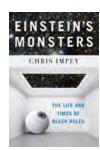
Dave Powell, Education / Interdisciplinary Studies



Eight Whopping Lies and Other Stories of Bruised Grace by Brian Doyle

A dear friend shared this book with me at Christmas. Each essay speaks to me on some level. I am currently reading this one for the second time in three-plus months. I have recognized differing perceptions the second time I encounter the essays. They are human to a fault. These glimpses into one man's perspective and evolution remind me of the fragility of our encounters and the beauty of everyday life. I am most grateful for this read.

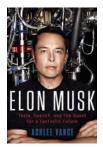
Natalie Hinton, Musselman Library



Einstein's Monsters: The Life and Times of Black Holes by Chris Impey

In the dark about black holes? Want to gravitate to a new read? *Einstein's Monsters: The Life and Times of Black Holes* isn't a dense physics textbook, but rather sucks you right in with the right blend of science and storytelling.

R.C. Miessler, Musselman Library



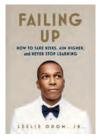
Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future by Ashlee Vance

If you enjoy biographies, *Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future* offers an insider's view into the life and mindset of one of the most inspiring, relentless, and at times, controversial innovators in our world today.

Mike Baker, Communications and Marketing

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Failing Up: How to Take Risks, Aim Higher, and Never Stop Learning by Leslie Odom, Jr.

Success is often a combination of talent, good fortune, and dedication. In the acting profession, as in life, it is a result of the freedom to take risks, the support from mentors and loved ones, and the willingness to transform failure. Leslie Odom, Jr. appeared to have burst onto the stage as the original Aaron Burr in Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*; but, in actuality, he was a seasoned actor/singer molded by mentors, opportunity, and a love of his

craft. *Failing Up* is a conversational foray into Odom's commitment growing as a performer and supporting the work of others.

Carolyn Sautter, Musselman Library

FOOLED BY RANDOMNESS The Hidden Role of Chance In the Hidden Role of Chance In the Markets International Chance International Chancel States

Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets by Nassim Nicholas Taleb

Nassim Taleb easily wins the award for author I love to read the most but would least like to meet. In this book, he uses his pompous self-importance

Nassim Taleb easily wins the award for author I love to read the most but would least like to meet.

and knowledge to tear down the "experts" of Wall Street. This should be required reading for all as Taleb teaches us how we constantly deceive ourselves by trying to find patterns where there are none. Much easier to read than his other books (e.g. *Black Swan*) this is his masterpiece that shows why the markets work the way they do, why you are better off putting funds in an index fund than trusting mutual fund managers, and why reading stock "advice" is a waste of time all while being hilariously funny.

Kurt Andresen, Physics





THE

The Foundling: The True Story of a Kidnapping, a Family Secret, and My Search for the Real Me by Paul Joseph Fronczak and Alex Tresniowski

This is the story of Paul Joseph Fronczak's complicated search for the most fundamental notions of his identity—where he was born, when he was born, who his biological parents are, what his real name is ... literally who he is. I read this book while waiting for my own DNA testing results. As an adoptee from a closed adoption state I was beyond riveted by this man's story, the questions that haunt so many adoptees, the painstaking use of genetic

genealogy to piece together answers, and the heartbreaking realization that perhaps it's better to let sleeping dogs lie.

Jackie Milingo, Physics



Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel

Visually compelling and emotionally searing; this graphic novel is an excellent summer read.

Eric Berninghausen, Theatre Arts



Furiously Happy: A Funny Book about Horrible Things by Jenny Lawson

In her second book, writer Jenny Lawson (also known as The Bloggess) tackles mental illness and severe depression with biting humor in a relatable and

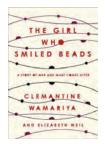
Through candid anecdotes involving her family, friends, and taxidermy roadkill raccoons, Lawson illustrates the value of embracing one's own weirdness...

accessible way. Through candid anecdotes involving her family, friends, and taxidermy roadkill raccoons, Lawson illustrates the value of embracing one's own weirdness and finding one's tribe in the midst of the cloud of depression. This book is a laugh-out-loud release for people with mental illness and those who love them.

Jess Rudy, Majestic Theater

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The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After by Clemantine Wamariya and Elizabeth Weil

Wamariya tells a painful and brutally honest narrative of the six years of her childhood that she spent as a refugee of the Rwandan Genocide. She also shares the effects of trauma on her and her family after she and her sister are granted refugee status in the United States. Though devastating, she shares a perspective so rarely heard, yet is so important.

Kim Davidson, Center for Public Service



How to Be a Happier Parent: Raising a Family, Having a Life, and Loving (Almost) Every Minute by KJ Dell'Antonia

I came to this book via a podcast about parenting multiple children after growing up as an only child. It's not revolutionary in its insights, but the overall tone is practical and down to earth, and Dell'Antonia organizes the book according to particularly challenging situations and suggests strategies for staying in touch with your main values as a parent when dealing with, for example, sibling rivalry, homework, endless activities, chores, or screens. She

also opens with some key "mantras" or formulas to help you keep perspective when things get tough—for example, "If you see something, don't always say something," and "Soak up the good."

Joanne Myers, English

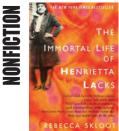


How to Create the Perfect Wife: Britain's Most Ineligible Bachelor and His Enlightened Quest to Train the Ideal Mate by Wendy Moore

A stranger-than-fiction tale from 18th-century Britain about a young gentleman's decision to cultivate his perfect mate by subjecting two orphan girls to his supposedly enlightened regime of mental and physical education. It's as if Jean-Jacques Rousseau introduced Henry Higgins to the Stepford Wives: male hubris, female resilience, and the incredible condescension of the British gentry to their social inferiors all wrapped up into one package.

Tim Shannon, History

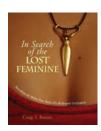




The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Whether you love science or mystery or history or "truth stranger than fiction" tales, this story of a poor Southern tobacco farmer, whose ancestors were slaves, who had her cells taken from her without her permission, will strike you as an amazing feat of reportage and a courageous journey of a family seeking historical truth. Henrietta Lacks's cells became part of some of the 20th-century's most important medical discoveries. Oprah Winfrey also made a film I'm looking forward to watching!

Susan Russell, Theatre Arts / Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies



In Search of the Lost Feminine: Decoding the Myths That Radically Reshaped Civilization by Craig S. Barnes

It discovers the first and earliest matriarchal culture in the islands of the Mediterranean and then traces its competition with the patriarchal (military, masculine) culture coming south from Greece, Rome and so forth. The author (a lawyer) claims to be "Decoding the Myths That Radically Reshaped Civilization."

Louis J. Hammann, Religion (emeritus)



Killing Patton by Bill O'Reilly

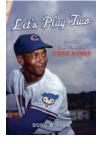
A great read for American history/World War II enthusiasts. O'Reilly and his historian, Martin Dugard, delve into the life of American 5-star General George S. Patton, as well as the dubious circumstances surrounding his death in an automobile accident shortly after the end of the war. Patton, who was the only Allied General the Nazi's truly feared, was not only a brilliant field commander who lead the 3rd Army's sweep across France into Germany after the Normandy invasion as well as the relief of the surrounded

American troops at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, was also a very complicated and controversial figure in both American and world politics. O'Reilly and Dugard bring all of these areas together in this great book.

John Campo, Athletics

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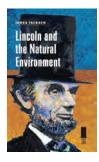
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Let's Play Two: The Life and Times of Ernie Banks by Doug Wilson

One of the most beloved men in baseball, *Let's Play Two* is a tribute to Mr. Cub. From his start in 1950 with the Kansas City Monarchs to his 18 seasons with the Chicago Cubs, Ernie Banks is one of baseball's most humble players and greatest fan of the game.

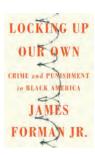
Michael Kotlinski, Bookstore



Lincoln and the Natural Environment by James Tackach

Tackach explores how Lincoln impacted and transformed America's natural landscape, as a Whig championing internal improvements, as an opponent of slavery's expansion, as Commander and Chief of the Civil War's environmentally destructive campaigns, as architect of the Department of Agriculture, and as author of the Morrill Act. Tackach aptly demonstrates Lincoln's profound environmental legacy but lets the reader be the ultimate judge.

Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library

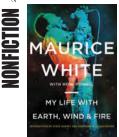


Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America by James Forman, Jr.

Recently, there has been an increased focus on criminal justice reform with a goal of making the system more just and less biased. Forman's book provides a nuanced account—often firsthand from his experience in the Washington, DC public defender's office—of how the nation's capital engaged in mass incarceration despite being a "minority-majority" city. This book moves beyond simple explanations and examines the complex systems (legislation, policing, public opinion, education, socio-economic status) and pressures individuals and communities face in dealing with crime and public safety.

Rob Bohrer, Provost's Office

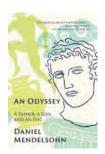




My Life with Earth, Wind & Fire by Maurice White and Herb Powell

It is all about the trials, tribulations, and successes of the mastermind behind one of the greatest bands of all times; what inspired Maurice White, and how he was not afraid to make unpopular decisions for the good of the band. It is an easy read for the music lover in your life!

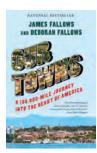
Darryl W. Jones, Admissions



An Odyssey: A Father, a Son and an Epic by Daniel Mendelsohn

Although the book appears to be a memoir, it has been described, rightly, as a combination of categories: a memoir, a classroom drama in which the author's father sits in on his son's undergraduate seminar on Homer's *Odyssey*, and a piece of literary criticism about the epic. After the course has ended, father and soon embark on their own odyssey. For those of us, like me, who had not read the *Odyssey* in many years, or for those who have never read it, Mendelsohn's book provides a rich introduction to this famous epic.

Kay Hoke, Sunderman Conservatory (emerita)



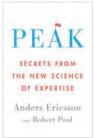
Our Towns: A 100,000 Mile Journey into the Heart of America by Deborah Fallows and James Fallows

In a time of partisan rancor at the national level, Deborah and James Fallows look to what is working in small cities across the U.S. Based on over five years of flying across the country to multiple places, they point to the importance of civic engagement, pragmatism, and innovation that are key to renewal and community building. The positive message of this book on local community building is a welcome antidote to the partisan sniping at the national level.

Rob Bohrer, Provost's Office

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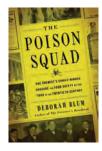


Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise by Anders Ericsson and Robert Pool

At the heart of academia is the idea of expertise. Many of us are considered experts in our field and we are constantly trying to teach our students about how to develop the skills of an expert. This book is about how experts are created. Anders Ericsson is an "expert on experts" who has spent his life studying experts and expertise. This easy-to-read book gives us insight from his research and helps to inform us about how we might become better

experts and how we can help our students do the same. For those familiar with the "10,000 hour" rule from Malcolm Gladwell, this is its origin (and Ericsson also explains why Gladwell got it wrong). I use the lessons from this book every day in my teaching, my advising, and in trying to learn to play the piano!

Kurt Andresen, Physics



The Poison Squad: One Chemist's Single-Minded Crusade for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century by Deborah Blum

Did you know that it was once standard practice for milk producers to water their product down, add chalk to make it white again, then throw in some sautéed calf brains and a good measure of formaldehyde to keep it from spoiling? This book gives an engaging account of how that and other troubling practices were stopped. Not recommended for reading right before a meal.

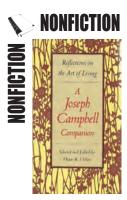
Kerr Thompson, Spanish (emeritus)



Raven Rock: The Story of the U.S. Government's Secret Plan to Save Itself— While the Rest of Us Die by Garrett Graff

This book will have your jaw on the floor. There is a colossal not-so-secretanymore bunker in Fairfield, PA called "Raven Rock" where a chosen few in our government were planning to wait out future nuclear winters in luxury. Graff gives the history of this and other efforts for "continuity of government" following a nuclear holocaust. You cannot help but wish that the powers that be had a little more skin in the game after reading this one.

Ryan Kerney, Biology



Reflections on the Art of Living: A Joseph Campbell Companion selected and edited by Diane K. Osbon

While relaxing poolside, enjoy the beautifully-crafted and thought-provoking writings of Joseph Campbell. The book highlights reflections from his well-known works, including *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* and *The Power of Myth*, as well as unpublished writings, and much more.

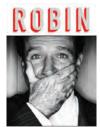
Mike Baker, Communications and Marketing



The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion by Jonathan Haidt

If you can get beyond the score-keeping (the author asserts that conservatives operate on more moral foundations than liberals do), the book not only is a path to peace with the inability to convince "the other side;" it is a guidebook for overcoming that inability. Make connections first.

Brendan Cushing-Daniels, Economics



Robin by Dave Itzkoff

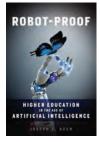
BAYE ITZKOFF ____

Dave Itzkoff, a culture reporter for *The New York Times*, presents an exhaustively researched biography of Robin Williams. From stand-up comedy, to his television debut on *Happy Days* that led to *Mork and Mindy* to his wide-ranging film career, Itzkoff reminds us of Robin's incredible talent and his hyperkinetic, pinball-machine-on-overdrive brain. The author also portrays Robin's self-doubt, his addiction and depression struggles, and his intense need for affirmation. Friend Tom Hanks said it best: "If we never forget how people make us feel, we'll remember Robin forever." A great read.

Bob Kallin, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations (retired)

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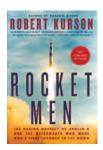


Robot-Proof: Higher Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence by Joseph E. Aoun

Robot-Proof encourages the reader to consider the future of work and the best way to prepare students for an ever-changing professional world. Aoun attempts to identify how higher education can prepare students for their professional lives in a world where professions are disappearing. He shares, "Our greatest teacher is experience." *Robot-Proof* provides the framework of a new discipline, humanics, which includes data literacy, technological literacy,

and human literacy to better prepare students for their futures.

Jim Duffy, College Life



Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man's First Journey to the Moon by Robert Kurson

This past December was the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 8 lunar launch. It was 1968. NASA was in a race to the moon against the Russians. Three astronauts—Commander Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders, were the first men to race to enter a lunar orbit on Christmas Eve. It was a risky and dangerous mission that had never before been attempted. In what would normally take 18 months to prepare, NASA launched Apollo 8 after only four

months in their race against the Russians. *Rocket Men* is as exciting as Tom Wolfe's *The Right Stuff* so many years ago. Even though you know the outcome, this book will keep you on the edge of your seat. Borman, Lovell, and Anders were true American heroes.

Patti Lawson, Admissions



SECOND

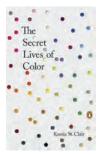
INHARD

The Second Kind of Impossible: The Extraordinary Quest for a New Form of Matter by Paul J. Steinhardt

Behold the elements of a great tale: a mysterious stone whose very existence is doubted; a fellowship of searchers who discover the stone through wit and luck; and a perilous expedition to a mountain at the edge of the map. Remarkably, it is not a Tolkien-inspired fantasy, but the true story of some rather recondite research by a noted theoretical physicist at Princeton University and an international band of his colleagues. The stone is a form

of matter called a "guasicrystal," composed of clusters of atoms that interlock in patterns that never repeat. In the 1980s, Paul Steinhardt and his student Dov Levine worked out the 3-d geometry of guasicrystals, but it wasn't clear that such materials could exist in nature. Steinhardt's subsequent quest, the page-turning unraveling of the mystery, involved a retired Soviet apparatchik, a Romanian smuggler, the secret diary of a deceased mineral dealer in Amsterdam, the reluctant assistance of several skeptics, the identification of a Russian geologist who knew of a likely mother-lode, and a nail-biting expedition to the Koryak Mountains, in far Eastern Russia. I can reveal no more, other than that, whether you are a science nerd or not, this is one heckuva great read.

Larry Marschall, Physics (emeritus)



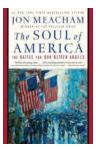
The Secret Lives of Color by Kassia St. Clair

If you love color like I do, you will love this book! The author recounts the history of a wide variety of colors ranging through the spectrum from white through fluorescent pink, magenta, and absinthe to black. It is full of interesting facts and brief historical snippets. Not only will you enjoy the book, but you will gain a new appreciation for all the beautiful colors that surround us all the time.

Kristin Largen, Religious and Spiritual Life

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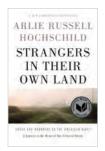
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The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels by Jon Meacham

Jon Meacham's latest book, *The Soul of America*, is a terrific review of America's most trying times, such as McCarthyism in the 1950s, the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, and the country's ability to "battle for our better angels." He describes our successful efforts to emerge a stronger nation, and those uplifting experiences pose an excellent hope and foretelling of our current days. Meacham is a fabulous writer and he has not let us down this time around. A must read if you need to feel better.

Ken Mott, Political Science (emeritus)



Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right by Arlie Russell Hochschild

In the last few years, I have grown more and more frustrated by the political divide in our country. In this nonfiction work, a Berkeley sociologist reports her findings from five years spent getting to know Tea Party supporters in Louisiana. Hochschild's analysis is empathetic. She portrays the challenges her informants face, ranging from severe environmental destruction to difficulty getting ahead in jobs. Although my own political views haven't changed, the

book gave me a greater understanding of another segment of our country. One of the most thought-provoking books I've read in years.

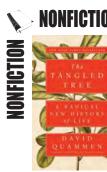
Kathleen Cain, Psychology



The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit by Michael Finkel

If one is feeling like unplugging from the contemporary world, one might read *The Stranger in the Woods*, the story of a man who survives alone in the woods of Maine for 27 years. Christopher Knight constructed a world for himself only minutes away from the rhythms of American daily life. No spoilers here, but without the internet revolution, social media

William D. Bowman, History



The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life by David Quammen

A fascinating account of genetics and the recently burgeoning study of Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT), and how this study is revising all we know about what it means to be "human." This book is both informative and intimate, balancing the science of recent discoveries with the lives of the scientists. Couldn't put it down.

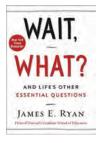
Dustin Beall Smith, English



Theft by Finding: Diaries 1977-2002 by David Sedaris

Through diary entries, *Theft by Finding* shows David Sedaris transform from a lost drug abusing 20 year old to NPR icon and famous author. The early entries of *Theft by Finding* are short and tentative, but quickly Sedaris finds his voice and the reader is treated to the hilarious backstory of the *Santaland Diaries* and other early Sedaris books.

Rud Platt, Environmental Studies



Wait, What? And Life's Other Essential Questions by James E. Ryan

Wait, What? is one of those rare books that really can prepare any reader for navigating life more humanely and adroitly. It derives from a speech Ryan (now president of the University of Virginia) delivered at a Harvard Education School graduation ceremony several years ago. The speech went viral, a publisher came calling, and this book is the result. In five short chapters, each of them featuring a telling story from Ryan's own experience, he charts a path to happier relationships and sharper thinking by asking these basic questions:

"Wait, What?""I Wonder. . .?""Couldn't We At Least. . .?""How Can I Help?" and "What Truly Matters?" You'll have to access this short, wise book to appreciate what Ryan has on offer. It's worth it.

Michael J. Birkner, History

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WALKING IN WONDER

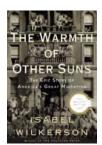
Walking in Wonder: Eternal Wisdom for a Modern World by John O'Donohue

The book is a collection of ruminating conversations John O'Donohue, Irish poet, priest, and philosopher, had on the radio with his close friend John Quinn, exploring topics such as wonder, landscape, the medieval mystic Meister Eckhart, aging, and, of course, death. O'Donohue believed "the soul is freed into a world where there is no more darkness and indeed no more space and time as we knew it in this world. The eternal world is not some faraway

galaxy that we haven't discovered yet. The eternal world is here. The dead are here with us, invisible to us, but we can sense their presence. They are looking out for us." He continues "For us time is linear, but for the dead it is more a circle of eternity" which is "pure presence, pure belonging. When you are in the eternal, you are outside of nothing. You are within everything, enjoying the fullest participation. You are everywhere and you are nowhere, but you are in complete presence."

That's just two brief paragraphs in a book of 171 pages! This book is truly mind-blowing. O'Donohue died suddenly in 2008 at the age of 52.

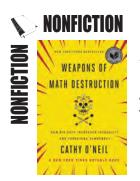
Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater



The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson

From 1916-1970, six million African Americans migrated from the rural South to the urban Northeast, Midwest, and West. Isabel Wilkerson's history of the Great Migration comes to life via the lives of three individuals, their families, and communities. It combines the best of meticulously-researched non-fiction and gripping story-telling, while helping us to better understand the migration's direct impact on all of our lives to this day. Highly enjoyable and informative.

Harriet Marritz, Counseling Services (retired)



Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy by Cathy O'Neill

A fascinating exploration of the power and seduction of Big Data. It is easy to think of computer algorithms as unbiased, but the author shows that

A fascinating exploration of the power and seduction of Big Data.

algorithms include basic assumptions that are often full of bias and are not grounded in fact. Because they seem "fair," these computer models create their own feedback loop and perpetuate injustice. The author gives many examples of the destructive power of these Weapons of Math Destruction (WMDs) across a spectrum of critical life moments—going to college, borrowing money, getting sentenced to prison, finding and holding a job.

Betsy Bein, Musselman Library



We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War by Doug Bradley and Craig Werner

It seems like every film or documentary about the Vietnam War uses a short list of songs to establish the setting ("Fortunate Son," "Purple Haze," etc.). This book illustrates that the music defining the era was even richer than those clichéd classics would suggest. Best of all, it contextualizes the music within the experiences of the soldiers and other military personnel who lived the war firsthand. Those stories do not transport readers only on a musical journey,

but one connecting old favorites and newly-discovered songs to issues of politics, class, race, and technology as intricate as the conflict itself.

Joseph Radzevick, Management

When: The Scientific Secrets to Perfect Timing by Daniel H. Pink



This book was full of highly interesting information about something that we don't always think about—timing! It also helped my spouse and I figure out and solidify better work schedules for ourselves. Excellent read!

Jessica Ritter, College Life

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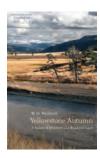


The Wild Bunch: Sam Peckinpah, a Revolution in Hollywood, and the Making of a Legendary Film by W.K. Stratton

Is *The Wild Bunch* the best western every made? One thing is for sure, the film rejuvenated a sagging genre. *The Wild Bunch* remains a lavish achievement, every frame rich with detail and it remains thrilling and disturbing. W.K. Stratton revisits Sam Peckinpah's passion for Mexican history and Mexico, the history of the Western, Peckinpah's turbulent biography, and the narrative behind the film, including sound information about everyone involved in the

production. Despite Peckinpah's intentions, many still find fault with this film. Released along with *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Wild Bunch* has aged better.

Jack Ryan, Provost's Office



Yellowstone Autumn: A Season of Discovery in a Wondrous Land by W.D. Wetherell

Facing the reality of his approaching 55th birthday and the onset "late middle age," W.D. Wetherell sets out on a retreat from the hustle and bustle of the world to spend three solitary weeks in one of America's last wild spaces. During his three weeks of solitude in Yellowstone National Park, Wetherell spends his time fishing, and pondering life to that point. Set against the backdrop of one of America's oldest spaces, Wetherell muses over history,

ecology, and his personal philosophy, as he seeks to understand the past, present, and future of his life.

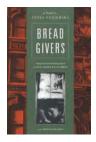
Kevin Aughinbaugh, Musselman Library

Immigrant Voices

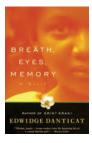
The topic of immigration is at the forefront of national and worldwide political conversations. On campus, students have the opportunity to learn about immigrant experiences through a variety of classes and programs. Several first-year seminars (FYS) offered this past fall featured literature by and about immigrants. Here we share with you some of those titles and insights from the teaching faculty.

English Professor Joanne Myers says she offered the FYS "Immigrant Stories," "because I feel like 'the American dream' is a key American myth, but that it's a myth that has embedded in it the point of view of the native. I wanted to be exposed, and to expose my students, to voices of people looking at America from the outside, and coming to terms with the opportunities and costs that immigration brings with it."

Here are three titles she recommends:



The Bread Givers by Anzia Yezierska. At the heart of this book is a struggle between Reb Smolinsky, a deeply religious Orthodox Jewish patriarch, and his youngest daughter Sara, who wants to live "like a person" despite her poverty and lack of opportunity in the slums of the Lower East Side. But is Sara trying to live the American dream of freedom and self-determination, or is she really her father's true heir, as passionate and driven as he is? If you've visited the Tenement Museum in NYC, this novel gives a vivid voice to the kinds of lives that unfolded in those cramped rooms.



Breath, Eyes, Memory by Edwidge Danticat. Danticat's first novel, this follows the story of a young Haitian girl, Sophie, as she reunites with her mother in New York City. Rather than a straightforward immigration story, it shows how the protagonist must continue to move back and forth between her different homes to make sense of her identity and her relationship with her mother and the other women in her family. Readers glimpse bits of Haiti's difficult history, but the past appears here as a family story that is not resolved by the impulse to emigrate.



MRS. SPRING FRAGRANCE SUI SIN FAR

Mrs. Spring Fragrance by Sui Sin Far. Born Edith Maude Eaton, Far was an Anglo-Chinese author who lived and travelled in the US and Canada as an adult. A young woman when the first law banning all immigration to the US from a foreign country—the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)—came into effect, Far writes about the everyday lives of Chinese immigrants living in Seattle and San Francisco. The stories interweave related characters and include tales for both adults and children. Subtle and playful, the stories can give insight into a chapter of the history of US immigration that feels at once distant and relevant.

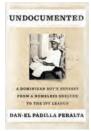
Psychology Professor Kathy Cain taught "Crossing Boarders: Immigration, Identity, and Development." Here are her recommended readings:



A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza

This beautifully written novel tells the story of a Muslim family, including three children born in the United States and their parents who are immigrants from India. At one level, it is simply the story of a family weathering the joys and pains that many families face, and trying to do so with love, wisdom, and limited understanding. The story is given depth and texture, though, as it is set in an immigrant community and is enriched and complicated by the

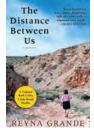
complexities that immigration entails. A sensitive and gorgeous story of family and identity, and possibly the best book I read this year.



Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the *Ivy League* by Dan-el Padilla Peralta

This memoir tells the story of a boy who came to the United States with his parents when he was four years old. Dan-El is a gifted and driven student who is ultimately given many advantages. In some ways, the rags to riches tone of the story grated on me as I read this book and taught it in class. However, his memoir provides a searing account of the terrors and obstacles that

undocumented individuals face even when they are given exceptional advantages. It's an eye-opening story that portrays vividly the harrowing nature of undocumented status and the byzantine quality of the legal system for immigrants. It also depicts the determination of a young man who loves learning and builds on his academic success as a way to move forward.



The Distance Between Us by Reyna Grande

One of the most widespread and little recognized aspects of our current immigration system, especially for undocumented immigrants, is that it results in years of separation for parents and their children. Reyna Grande's memoir portrays such a story with depth and insight. When Reyna was a young child in Mexico, first her father and then her mother traveled across the border to live and work and the United States. In the first half of the book, we learn about Reyna's life without

her parents and the disruptions caused by the separation. In the second half, we see Reyna and her siblings adjusting to life in the US. Reyna possesses wisdom and steadiness of purpose beyond her years, and her story is a nuanced and compassionate account of multiple stages of the immigration process.

The Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship, and Hope in an American Classroom by Helen Thorpe

Helen Thorpe, a journalist, tracks the progress of students in an English-languagelearners high school class for those who have just arrived in the US. As we read the story, we get to know the many teenagers in the classroom, including refugees, asylum-seekers, and ordinary immigrants from all over the world. The book portrays first-hand the early challenges of immigration, from learning to negotiate

a high school cafeteria to appearing in court for asylum hearings. The students are for the most part lively and eager to learn, although many of them have traumatic stories leading to their decisions to leave their home countries. The stories of the students and their families, which convey the diversity, complexity, and tenuous hopefulness of immigrant experiences, are set in the context of "ordinary" high school transition and the daily drama of teen relationships. My students loved, loved, loved this book.

Kim Davidson, director of the Center for Public Service, and Jeff Rioux, associate director, co-taught "(En)Countering Narratives: Storytelling, Identity and Social Change" where students start the semester by reading The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henríquez. Says Davidson, "As students share their family's immigration story and begin analysis of popular narratives about immigrants and the notion of the 'American Dream', this book immediately grasps their attention. It enables the class to have constructive conversations about the realities and challenges of opportunity in the United States."

After sections focused on race and gender, with the final book being For Today I am a Boy by Kim Fu. "The main character's parents are Chinese immigrants to Canada," says Rioux." Their experience and accompanying expectations are a major part of the story, though the book primarily focuses on Peter, their only son among three sisters. Peter identifies as a girl though doesn't have the words or community (and certainly not the parents) to help him figure out what this means. The book shares the experience of a transgender individual while demonstrating how immigration, gender, masculinity, bullying and

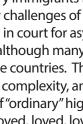
sexuality intersect in complex ways. It wraps together course concepts while leaving students with a strong message about acceptance of self and others."

Davidson also recommends these titles which the CPS summer fellows and those in immersion projects have read over the years.

Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions by Valeria Luiselli The House of Broken Angels by Luis Alberto Urrea Across a Hundred Mountains by Reyna Grande









GREAT READS FROM GUELZO

attractive.

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





HE CODDLING OF THE AERICAN MIND GREG LUKIANOFF JONATHAN HAIDT *****

confrontations over campus speech. None of these confrontations have turned out well, either for the reputations of the institutions or the individuals involved. Accusations of censorship and bullying have clashed with complaints of racism, sexism, and simple personal offense. And they point to a heightened sense of tension over what can and should be said, publicly and otherwise, under the dome of Academe. Those looking for a compass with which to navigate these roiled waters

should take some time this summer to look at four recent books which speak with enviable reasonableness on the subject. The first is Keith Whittington's Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech

argues, speech is central to the mission of academic life; colleges

and universities are to be incubators of ideas, not mobilizers of social

(2018), and a swift read it is at 179 pages. Within the university, Whittington

movements. True, speech can cause harm; but words are not the equivalent

result. So, on the one hand, Whittington describes free-speech provocateurs

as parasites on free speech; but disruption and obstruction, which seek to make a campus ungovernable, are examples of coercion, not persuasion. Only those, he warns, who plan to monopolize power find censorship

of violence, and when they are misconstrued that way, censorship is the

The past two years have seen higher education rocked by a series of

THE SOUL OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT FLOYD ABRAMS

Alongside Whittington, **The Coddling of the American Mind** (2018), by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt, offers another view of the harm done by restricting campus speech. Neither Lukianoff nor Haidt have specific political axes to grind. They are worried more about the consequences for students whose campuses cultivate fragility on political and cultural issues. In a spirit of what they call "vindictive protectiveness," a raft of unhealthy psychological habits are developed—emotional reasoning, catastrophic thinking, labeling, mind-reading, negative filtering.

Expanding the context beyond campuses, Floyd Abrams, in The Soul of the First Amendment (2017) offers a vigorous primer in defense of the First

GREAT READS FROM GUELZO



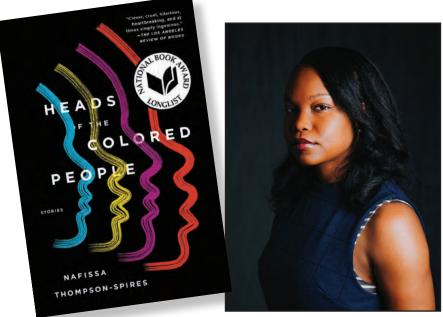
Amendment's free-speech guarantee. As a prominent litigator, Abrams, in a brief (137 pages) but vivid overview, explains the history of federal free-speech cases and underscores that the principal goal of the First Amendment is the protection of a "liberty interest."

But the most sweeping warning against the temptation to silence others comes from Mark Lilla, in *The Once and Future Liberal* (2017). I regard Lilla as one of the shrewdest of commentators on cultural issues (and at 141 pages, it's another fast read), and so it's worth taking seriously his warning that too many campuses have replaced argument with taboo, and converted political discussion into scapegoating.

Take them singly or together, these books will make your summer into a worthwhile exploration of our deepest needs as academics and citizens.

23 READS: CIRCUMSTANCES, CHOICES, CHALLENGES

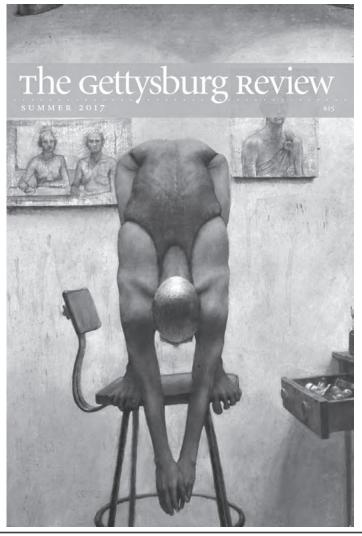
This summer, join the Class of 2023 in reading *Heads of the Colored People* by Nafissa Thompson-Spires



Photography by Adrianne Mathiowetz Photography

More information coming soon at: https://libguides.gettysburg.edu/readforfun/23reads Questions? Contact orientation@gettysburg.edu

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Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story directed by Alexandra Dean (2017)

A sympathetic look at "the most beautiful woman in Hollywood" (Hedy Lamarr, 1914-2000). She was complex and perhaps contradictory (look her up), but this portrayal is best for showing how she was not allowed to be both pretty and smart. She invented "frequency hopping," rejected by the Navy in World War II, a technology that has impacted cell phones and wifi, with an estimated value of \$30 billion, from which Lamarr never received royalties.

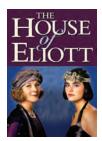
Charles F. Emmons, Sociology



Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists directed by Jonathan Alter, Steven McCarthy, John Block (2018)

HBO's *Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists* is an elegy to the metro-columnist, the city voice and the reason people read a specific newspaper. As the documentary makes clear, those days are gone. Now, people speak proudly about not reading newspapers and look where we are. Hamill and Breslin were anchored to New York City and were able to tell stories of city people because they were of the city. Breslin was bombastic; Hamill reflective. Each sought out the lesser story, which isn't taught in journalism school.

Jack Ryan, Provost's Office



The House of Eliott created by Eileen Atkins and Jean Marsh (1991-1993)

This BBC drama was the brainchild of Jean Marsh and Eileen Atkins, who created the iconic *Upstairs, Downstairs*. Set in 1920s London, the series focuses on the Eliott sisters. Although brought up in high society, they suddenly find themselves destitute after their controlling father dies. They turn to their love of dressmaking to survive. The women fight constant obstacles to be taken seriously in the business world as they work to build a major fashion house. Well-acted, stunning costumes. Fair warning: the show was abruptly cancelled at the end of the third season, so some storylines remain unresolved.

Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library

JIII FILMS



Ip Man 2: Legend of the Grandmaster directed by Wilson Yip (2010)

Although the title of the film is *Ip Man* and the main character is named Ip Man, the story is only loosely based on the real-life kung fu grandmaster and mentor to Bruce Lee. This is not a movie to turn to if you'd like to learn more about Ip Man or Wing Chun. This is a fun movie to watch if you enjoy martial arts films. In fact, the whole trilogy is fun, but #2 is my personal favorite and is a stand-alone story. The choreography of movement is mesmerizing and

the acting is good. Overall, the story is reminiscent of a martial arts version of *Rocky* with just enough early 19th-century history of China to understand what is going on in the film.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library





Mission Impossible meets *Mad Men* meets *Get Smart*. Cold War Paris in 1960 could be treacherous, but rest assured that the fate of the world is in good hands. As long as the crisis doesn't start on a Friday afternoon because the team doesn't like to work weekends. And be sure the proper forms are filled out. Break out the drink cart and the 45 records to celebrate every success!

Roy Dawes, Political Science



Won't You Be My Neighbor? directed by Morgan Neville (2018)

I grew up watching first-run episodes of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* on my local PBS station. The life lessons the show taught me more than 45 years ago hold true today for my children as well as adults in our society. This documentary shows how powerful someone can be, even when mildmannered, polite, and thoughtful. A must-see film!

Marc Goldman, Center for Career Engagement

FILMS III



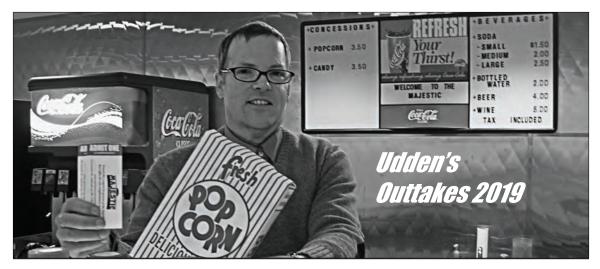
Video Game: Enderal: Forgotten Stories by SureAI

"We began to study the history of the Pyreans, and the parallels are extraordinary. And just like that, the Pyreans vanished." You, a stowaway looking for nothing but a fresh start in the land of Enderal are thrown into a conflict that

might end civilization—but why you? Are you and the others around you nothing but pawns doing the bidding of vastly greater powers, or is that just what they want you to think? Are you actually special, or even who you think you are?

Not a traditional novel, *Enderal* is a free "mod" that installs over and replaces the world and story of the well-known game *Skyrim*, yet surpasses it in every way.

Eric Remy, Information Technology



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



On Christmas Day, my wife and I did something neither of us had ever done before: we saw a Netflix film in a movie theater. Alfonso Cuaron's **Roma** was undoubtedly the best cinematic experience of this past year bar none, and no doubt the best film the Mexican-born director has ever helmed, even surpassing *Children of Men*.

Yet for me the film only reinforced what an epochal year 2018 was for the future of media, and how Netflix is now causing everyone else to react. Disney's astonishing purchase of 21st Century Fox after a heated battle with Comcast, and AT&T's merger with Time Warner, were both a direct response to the rise of Netflix and its very different business model. Netflix is proving to not only be a global provider of boundless content—they can now underwrite a prize-winning piece of cinema on par with anyone else that will stand the test of time. (From what I hear, *Green Book* will be forgotten in about a year.) Moreover, unlike many other films, this was one film I knew I *had to see in a theater*. (Ironies abound in my line of work.)





I do regret *not* having seen two other films in the theater: *The Favourite* and *Cold War*. But there are several other films I saw over the past year either via Blu-Ray or streaming I can wholeheartedly recommend such as *I*, *Tonya* and *Last Flag Flying* (the latter by the always understated Richard Linklater). Sofia Coppola may have ruined *Godfather III* with her selfacknowledged lack of thespian prowess, but she proves once



again that directorial prowess may be genetic: **The Beguiled** is the darkest (both figuratively and literally) and most beautiful film ever about the Civil War. (Let's just say that a wounded Northern soldier at a Southern girl's boarding school is not going to end well.) **Call Me By Your Name** really surprised me, a touching love story despite the age differences involved. **Loving Vincent** is one of the most astonishing technical feats ever, and one must see the DVD extras to realize why there will likely never be another animated film like it.





AICHAEL MOORE'S

As for documentaries, **Three Identical Strangers** is harrowing, while Michael Moore once again proves in **Fahrenheit 11/9** (not to be confused with *Fahrenheit 9/11*) that his films are always about something more than they first appear to be. In this case, it is not so much an anti-Trump tirade as it is a complex condemnation of the entire system that makes Trump its logical conclusion. (The section on Obama was not all that kind to him or the Democrats in general.)

This year also marked an epochal shift for us in how we personally consume television. We are now officially "cord-cutters" (look it up) who got rid of the last vestiges of cable TV, now completely reliant on the internet trifecta of Hulu+ (which includes live TV), Amazon, and of course Netflix. (One caveat however: we remain slaves to Comcast since they are the only ones to provide the high-speed broadband we require ... sigh, utopia still awaits ...) By far the single best show I saw this past year was Amazon's *Homecoming*, a series so stylistically rich that it became central in my current capstone course. (My students LOVE me for this choice!)

But there is so much else worth watching. Amazon's **The Man in the High Castle** continues to provide a haunting yet mind-boggling version of an alternative history where the Nazis won WWII, while Hulu's **Handmaid's Tale** does the same for a possible bleak future of the USA being replaced by a



Nazi-like theocracy. Amazon also provides quirky gems: the first couple of seasons of **Corner Gas** (set in Saskatchewan) should remind everyone how funny Canadians can be, while **Diablo Guardian** answers the question (that I never thought to ask) as to what happens when you take a ridiculous telenovela plotline yet give it good production values and excellent acting. Also worth checking out is **Kyoto Love Story** (which I decided to use in my Japanese media class),





UDDEN'S OUTTAKES

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which is a conventional Japanese *dorama*, but a charming one as well. Hulu offers a compelling composite Stephen King universe in *Castle Rock*, and understated comedy in *Casual*, which suggests one can do yet another show about a dysfunctional family and still be fresh.

But Netflix? Where do I begin. since they are buying up so much content from everywhere while also producing their own? **Ugly Delicious** is a fascinating documentary series about the deeper cultural ramifications of cuisines around the world; Christiane Amanpour's **Love and Sex Around the World** is about exactly that. Combined, both shows reveal that exploring sex and food are the best ways to understand cultures in our globalized era.



Penny Dreadful (originally from Showtime) is a remarkable pastiche of all the great horror tropes of the 19th century, while reminding one of the high literary roots of the horror genre. (The final speech of the highly articulate Frankenstein monster is heart-breaking.) **The Rain** proves that Danes do not just make good crime shows, but can also dabble in post-apocalyptic scenarios as well.



Then there is all the original programming by Netflix. Want entertaining, family-friendly sci-fi? Then binge on *Lost in Space*. Want to see some of the most frightening horror ever on TV? Then watch *The Haunting of Hill House* (at least for the first eight episodes). Want have to your mind bent? Enjoy *Russian Doll*. Want to learn about how the drug trade developed in Mexico and be entertained at the same time? See *Narcos: Mexico*. Want to just laugh? Try watching *GLOW, The Kominsky Method*, and *Sex Education* in a single week and you might literally die laughing.

Come to think of it, I've been talking about Netflix A LOT this year. I'm starting to think they should be paying me. I am almost certain they can afford me.



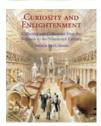
Wonders of Nature and Artifice

"Wonders of Nature and Artifice: The Renaissance Quest for Knowledge" is a cross-disciplinary course designed by Professors Felicia Else (art history) and Kay Etheridge (biology). Their course explores the quest for knowledge by Renaissance naturalists and collectors whose "wonders" often were displayed in curiosity cabinets. Such collections featured an astounding variety of works juxtaposed in ways we no longer see today.

Here Professors Else and Etheridge recommend a wide mix of books that allow readers a peek into these wonders. The books detail the history of these cabinets, what they contained, and why they so allured collectors and viewers alike. Throughout, the beauty and intrigue of both art and nature combine into compelling stories and visuals.

You can also view the cabinets their students created at *http://wonder-cabinet.sites.gettysburg. edu/2017/* and *https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/cabinet/.*





Amazing Rare Things: The Art of Natural History in the Age of Discovery by David Attenborough

Collector's Cabinet with Miniature Apothecary's Shop by Paul Van Duin

Commercial Visions: Science, Trade, and Visual Culture in the Dutch Golden Age by Dániel Margócsy

Curiosity and Enlightenment: Collectors and Collections from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century by Arthur MacGregor

Curiosity and Wonder from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment edited by R.J.W. Evans and Alexander Marr

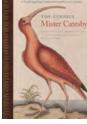
The Curious Mister Catesby: A "Truly Ingenious" Naturalist Explores New Worlds edited by E. Charles Nelson (includes chapter co-authored by Etheridge)

*Darwin's Pictures: Views of Evolutionary Theory, 1837-***1874** by Julia Voss

The Hummingbird Cabinet: A Rare and Curious History of Romantic Collectors by Judith Pascoe









John James Audubon: The Nature of the American Woodsman by Gregory Nobles

The Magic Circle of Rudolph II: Alchemy and Astrology in Renaissance Prague by Peter Marshall

Maria Martin's World: Art and Science, Faith and Family in Audubon's America by Debra J. Lindsay

Martin Lister and His Remarkable Daughters: The Art of Science in the Seventeenth Century by Anna Marie Roos

The Marvelous Hairy Girls: The Gonzales Sisters and Their Worlds by Merry Weisner



Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder by Lawrence Weschler

Tulipmania: Money, Honor, and Knowledge in the Dutch Golden Age by Anne Goldgar

Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower and the Extraordinary Passions It Aroused by Mike Dash

A Parisian Cabinet of Curiosities: Deyrolle by Prince Louis Albert de Broglie



Oversized Illustrated Beauties

Cabinet of Natural Curiosities by Albertus Seba

Cabinets of Curiosities by Patrick Mauries



Cabinets of Wonder: A Passion for Collecting by Christine Davenne

Collecting the World: Hans Sloane and the Origins of the British Museum by James Delbourgo

Company Curiosities: Nature, Culture and the East India Company, 1600-1874 by Arthur MacGregor

Endless Forms: Charles Darwin, Natural Science and the Visual Arts by edited by Diana Donald and Jane Munro

Knowing Nature: Art and Science in Philadelphia, 1740-1840 edited by Amy R.W. Meyers





Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium... by Maria Sibylla Merian (includes chapter by Etheridge) Note: Due to the size of this title, it is held in Special Collections.

Origins of Museums: The Cabinet of Curiosities in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Europe

Ashmolean Museum

Oudry's Painted Menagerie: Portraits of Exotic Animals in Eighteenth-Century Europe edited by Mary Morton

A Rothschild Renaissance: Treasures from the Waddesdon Bequest by Dora Thornton



And, finally, for a taste of fiction there is: *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton.



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*Note movies subject to change





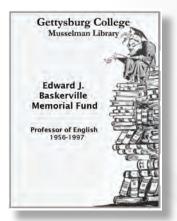
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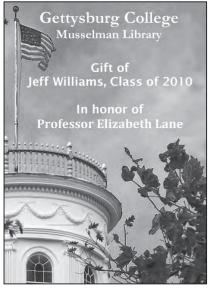
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