



Summer 2012

You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2012)

Musselman Library
Gettysburg College

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You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2012)

Abstract

Each year Musselman Library asks Gettysburg College faculty, staff, and administrators to help create a suggested summer reading list to inspire students and the rest of our campus community to take time in the summer to sit back, relax, and read. These summer reading picks are guaranteed to offer much adventure, drama, and fun!

Keywords

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

Disciplines

Library and Information Science

Comments

Found on Musselman Library's website at <http://www.gettysburg.edu/library/information/general/browsing/index.dot>.

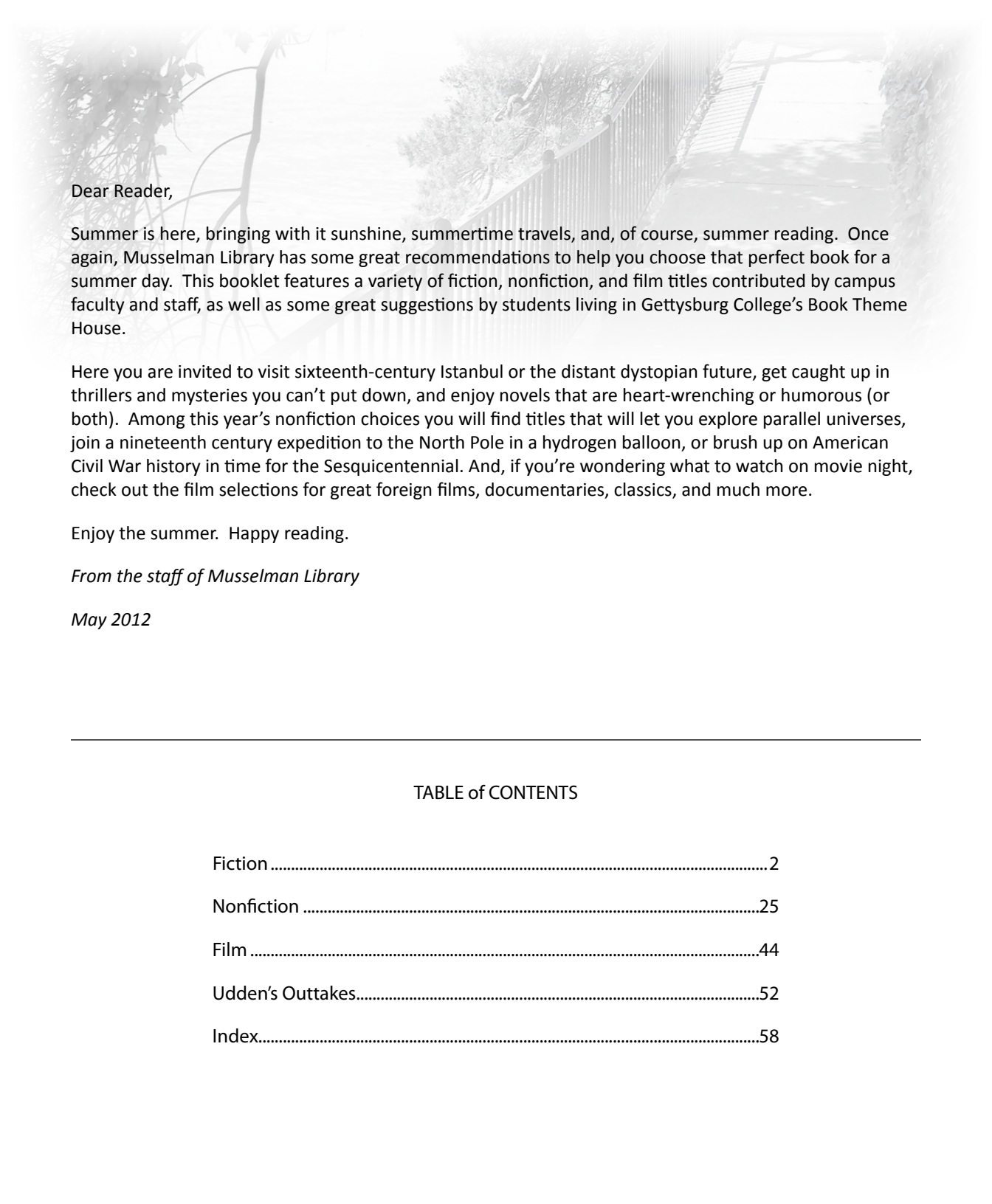


*You've Gotta
Read This*

**Summer Reading
@ Musselman Library**



Cover photograph taken
in Varenna, Italy
by Dan DeNicola.



Dear Reader,

Summer is here, bringing with it sunshine, summertime travels, and, of course, summer reading. Once again, Musselman Library has some great recommendations to help you choose that perfect book for a summer day. This booklet features a variety of fiction, nonfiction, and film titles contributed by campus faculty and staff, as well as some great suggestions by students living in Gettysburg College's Book Theme House.

Here you are invited to visit sixteenth-century Istanbul or the distant dystopian future, get caught up in thrillers and mysteries you can't put down, and enjoy novels that are heart-wrenching or humorous (or both). Among this year's nonfiction choices you will find titles that will let you explore parallel universes, join a nineteenth century expedition to the North Pole in a hydrogen balloon, or brush up on American Civil War history in time for the Sesquicentennial. And, if you're wondering what to watch on movie night, check out the film selections for great foreign films, documentaries, classics, and much more.

Enjoy the summer. Happy reading.

From the staff of Musselman Library

May 2012

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FICTION FICTION



11/22/63 by Stephen King

Maybe I loved this book because I lived through the Kennedy assassination and the ensuing mayhem, but I was captivated by this story of time travel to prevent Oswald's treachery. King's characters are superbly developed; I literally stepped through the wormhole with Jake Epping, a high school English teacher, and the main character, chosen to change the outcome of one of the saddest days in modern American history. King clearly completed extensive research for this book. Coupled with his skillful writing, King treats readers to a fabulously crafted historical fantasy. This guy can really turn a phrase! I hope you'll enjoy this one!

Jonelle Pool, Education

Time travel and "what if" scenarios may be hackneyed plot devices, but King pulls it off and really got me thinking about the Butterfly Effect. You can't go home again!

Ralph Sorensen, Biology



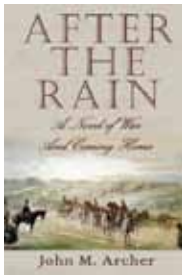
1Q84 by Haruki Murakami

An unusual story by an unusual writer. The genre is mixed; it is a combination of mystery, fantasy, sci-fi, political commentary, and romance. It also has two moons and references to Orwell's *1984* (naturally). I cannot explain more without confusing you! Murakami is being discussed as a possible (future) winner of the Nobel Prize for literature. I do not think *1Q84* is his best work, but it is a "hot topic" of discussion these days. It has been translated into several languages already. Murakami intended to end with Book 2, but was pressed into writing Book 3. I am interested to hear where you think he should have stopped. Or if you think he isn't done yet... P.S. It's about 950 pages.

Eleanor Hogan, Asian Studies

First published in three volumes in Japan, it is now one incredible ride through an experiential labyrinth. This is a complex and fabulous literary work that includes star-crossed lovers, secret cults, eroticism, murder and stories within stories. It is the longest book I have read in years and one of the most enjoyable. It was so big and heavy that I had to read it on Kindle, but it was well worth it.

Bill Jones, Counseling Services



***After the Rain: A Novel of War and Coming Home* by John M. Archer**

Good 150th Civil War anniversary read: novel follows a local soldier as he returns to Gettysburg in the aftermath of the battle.

Cathy Zarrella, College Life



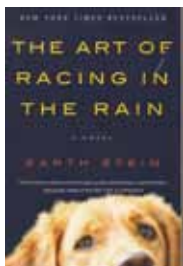
***The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach**

This book fell clearly into my sweet spot as I am a sucker for baseball novels and I am a sucker for books set inside the world of academia. So a novel which is largely structured around following a single season of baseball at a liberal arts college – well,

... it is a little bit about baseball, but mostly Harbach uses the setting metaphorically, and the book is really about love of various kinds ...

I would have probably have enjoyed this book a great deal even if it was only mediocre. But this was far from a mediocre novel. The characters are engaging and the world Harbach creates is fascinating, and it was one of those large novels that is very difficult to put down. And it is worth saying that this is not a book about baseball, so don't let that turn you off! Well, it is a little bit about baseball, but mostly Harbach uses the setting metaphorically, and the book is really about love of various kinds – platonic and romantic, gay and straight, healthy and unhealthy, love of people and love of baseball and love of books – and about coming of age (no matter how old you are) and about so much more. This was easily the best novel I read all year.

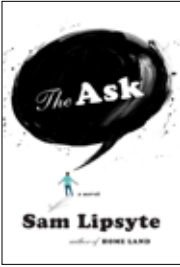
Darren Glass, Mathematics



***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

A beautiful tale of love and friendship between a man and his dog. Animal lovers will fall in love with this book.

Jen Cole, Academic Advising



***The Ask* by Sam Lipsyte**

Milo Burke works in a college development office. He wanted to be a painter. Funny, bleak, and a portrait of our financially unstable time.

Jack Ryan, Vice Provost / English



***An Atlas of Impossible Longing* by Anuradha Roy**

This superb Indian novel, set in Bengal, is beautifully written and tells an extended family tale, with multiple plots. Remarkable individuals in this dysfunctional family survive forbidden love, madness, Partition, and murder. Reviewers have called Roy's work "Dickensian." I couldn't put the book down.

Janet Powers, Interdisciplinary Studies / Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



***The Barbarian Nurseries* by Héctor Tobar**

This L.A.-based domestic drama stars a wealthy family and their live-in maid. Changing financial circumstances trigger a cascade of effects, some of which snowball into an alleged kidnapping situation. Through it all, misunderstandings are complicated and widened by class and race differences. I couldn't put this fast-paced book down. Tobar paints an astonishing portrait of contemporary U.S. society reminiscent of T.C. Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain* and Chris Cleave's *Little Bee*.

Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library



***Bliss, Remembered* by Frank Deford**

Frank Deford is best known as a long time writer for *Sports Illustrated* and commentator for NPR, but he is also a novelist. His latest novel, *Bliss, Remembered*, is written as if a son is conducting an oral-history interview with his elderly Mother who recounts her experiences as a swimmer at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. This is an exceptional novel that gets the history right, gets oral history technique correct, and is exceptionally well written. This is not just a novel for jocks or sports nuts. You start it and you won't want to put it down. Prediction: watch for this as a movie in a few years.

David Hedrick, Musselman Library



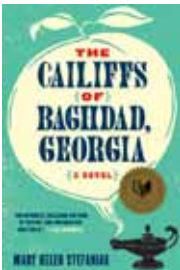
***The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka**

Simply: the stories of Japanese women who came to America in the early 20th century as “picture brides” for Japanese men already settled here and follows their

The stories and history are fascinating and captivating, but it was the writing style that completely seduced me . . .

stories through WWII. The stories and history are fascinating and captivating, but it was the writing style that completely seduced me: I found it lyrical and mesmerizing. Ms. Otsuka uses the first-person plural, so you never really know any one character, yet she managed to evoke caring in me for them all. She presents the whole picture by weaving together snippets of each of their stories. This book sucked me in from the very beginning with its quietness and dignity. My favorite quotation: “You will see: women are weak, but mothers are strong.” Though it is billed as a “follow-up” to another book (*When the Emperor Was Divine*), it stands alone on its own. Being a scant 129 pages, it is easily read in a few hours’ time.

Wendee Dunlap, Annual Giving



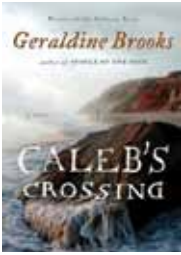
***The Cailiffs of Baghdad, Georgia* by Mary Helen Stefaniak**

At one level, this book presents a story about a girl in the 1930s. One day Gladys Cailiff enters her one-room schoolhouse in Threestep, Georgia and finds a lively, free-thinking new teacher. Miss Grace Spivey is a former student of John Dewey and wants to put his educational principles in action while challenging the racial boundaries of the Deep South. At another level, this novel is a meditation on the power of

. . . this novel is a meditation on the power of storytelling; it’s filled with stories-within-stories and is an homage to the 1,001 Arabian Nights.

storytelling; it’s filled with stories-within-stories and is an homage to the 1,001 Arabian Nights. There are stories about medieval Islamic inventions, genies, slaves in the Deep South, shipwrecks, camels, and eventually family histories. Miss Spivey is all too human, Grace is an endearing and funny narrator, and the stories do not always change lives in the ways one would expect. This book is creative, thought-provoking, and a lot of fun, too.

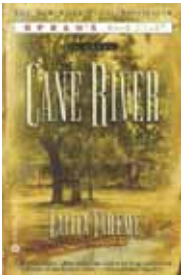
Kathleen Cain, Psychology



***Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks**

Bethia Mayfield is the teenaged daughter of a Puritan preacher living in a tiny settlement on what is now Martha's Vineyard. There she meets a Wampanoag boy her own age whom the settlers call Caleb. Ultimately, as a result of their friendship, Caleb becomes the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College in 1665. Caleb's character is based on a real historical figure. The book shows the world through the eyes of a sensitive girl in a very different time period from our own. At the same time, it allows us to imagine the experiences - strange, courageous, humiliating, exhilarating - of the young man who changed lives and worlds. Brooks' writing is beautiful, and the story will stay with you long after you finish reading the book.

Kathleen Cain, Psychology



***Cane River* by Lalita Tademy**

Unlike popular fantasies such as *The Help*, *Cane River* presents an authentic account of southern African American historical realities and actual black female strength. This is the story of generations of black women from slavery through Reconstruction who struggle to keep their family together and to achieve financial independence. Tademy's research on her own family inspired her to write this novel that unapologetically explores racism, sexism, and colorism in Black America.

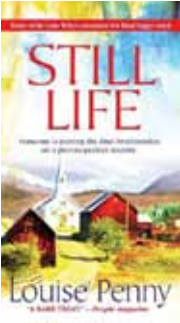
Jennifer Bloomquist, Africana Studies



***Charity Girl* by Michael Lowenthal**

From one of my favorite historical periods. Fiction, although not light-weight. During World War I, according to the author, young women who were thought to be a moral hazard and danger to our brave troops because they may have contracted an STD (probably from one of the aforesaid brave troops) were interned. An interesting reflection on the legislation of morality, what is truly fascinating about the book is the heroine's inner journey - how the experience changes her and the woman she becomes.

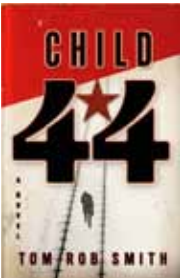
Christine Benecke, Research



Chief Inspector Armand Gamache Mystery Series by Louise Penny

If you're a Canadaphile, a mystery lover, or simply someone who likes to read about satisfyingly real and complex characters living in a small mountain village in the woods, you may love this series as much as I do. The author says it best: "The Chief Inspector Gamache books, while clearly crime fiction, are not in fact about murder or even death. They're really about life. And friendship. About belonging and choices. And how very difficult it can be, how much courage it can take, to be kind."

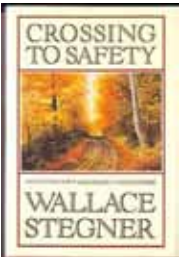
Cindy Helfrich, Interdisciplinary Studies / Globalization Studies



Child 44 by Tom Rob Smith

One of the best thrillers I've read in years. Smith's debut novel takes place in postwar Soviet Russia where a serial killer is on the loose. The deaths of his victims aim to send a message. Great writing, original plot, gripping.

Ralph Cavaliere, Biology



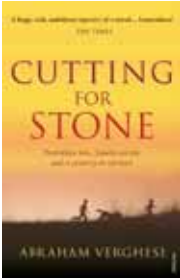
Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner

True friendship is rare enough – even more elusive is that pairing of two couples which is mutually satisfying to all four parties involved. Wallace Stegner traces the

*You'll hope with them, ache with them, rejoice with them,
and mourn with them over three decades of their lives.*

trajectory of just such a relationship. You will come to love Larry and Sally Morgan and Sid and Charity Lang as the men embark on their academic careers in 1930's Wisconsin. You'll hope with them, ache with them, rejoice with them, and mourn with them over three decades of their lives. And, if you have been very blessed, you will reflect on the sweetness and gift of just such friendship in your own life.

Sarah Kotlinski, Admissions



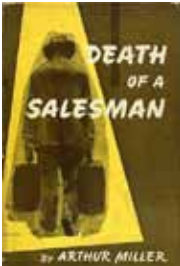
***Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese**

A complex story of love, medicine, friendship, and politics. This book tells the story of a small medical clinic, its staff, and the secrets they keep.

Jen Cole, Academic Advising

Follow the destinies of twin brothers born of the love between a beautiful Indian nun and a brilliant British surgeon whom she assists in the operating room of a mission hospital. You will find yourself living within the story, in Addis Ababa – the capital city of Ethiopia, among the people whose lives become entwined with the twins, Marion and Shiva, as they seek to discover their own story. Abraham Verghese, born in Ethiopia of Indian parentage, writes with grace and vividness. The novel is filled with his own spirit of love and compassion as well as his passion for medicine. Currently he is Professor and Senior Associate Chair for the Theory and Practice of Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine. *Cutting for Stone* has become an international bestseller, having been translated into at least twenty-three languages. You will not want to put it down!

Anna Jane Moyer, Musselman Library



***Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller**

Summer can be a time to revisit the classics! In the theatre, we revisit them all the time, just as actor Philip Seymour Hoffman and director Mike Nichols are doing with Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, now playing on Broadway to critical acclaim. If you can't get up to see it, reading it is the next best thing. Voted one of the best plays of all time in a recent poll of theatre professionals, Miller's play about an aging salesman at the end of his rope – trying to support his family and keep his dignity in tact – seems as timely now as ever.

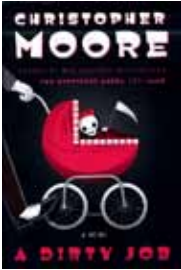
Christopher Kauffman, Theatre Arts



***Destiny and Desire* by Carlos Fuentes**

Sweeping story of passion, desire and magic in modern Mexico. A must read.

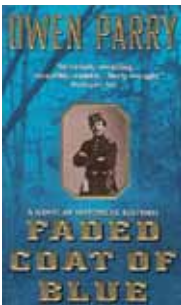
Peter Pella, Physics



***A Dirty Job* by Christopher Moore**

Christopher Moore's books are offbeat and always fun; *A Dirty Job* tells the story of Charlie Asher, a normal guy who never seems to catch a lucky break. He does just fine, but makes his way through life as the good friend instead of the center of attention. All this begins to change when his daughter is born; people begin to drop dead around him, and he begins hearing strange voices from beneath the streets. Before you know it, names start appearing on a notepad near his bed, and those people die as well. It seems Charlie has been promoted into a new job without knowing it: Death. As the author says on the book jacket, "It is a dirty job, but someone has to do it!"

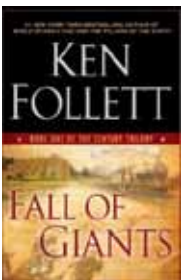
Russell McCutcheon, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



***Faded Coat of Blue* by Owen Parry**

This is not "just another book about the Civil War." Parry masterfully blends detailed history with vibrant fiction while telling an enthralling story about Abel Jones, a Welsh immigrant in the Union army who is asked to investigate the suspicious murder of a fellow soldier named Anthony Fowler. The investigation leads Jones from the gruesome battlefields to the filthy streets of war-time Washington, D. C., where the sinister web of secrets and back room dealings is exposed. Jones is a marvelous character with a limp, a war-torn past as a veteran of Britain's wars in India, and staunch morals that make him both endearing and unwittingly funny. This is the first of six books in the Abel Jones series. I highly recommend them all!

Chelsea Bucklin, Musselman Library



***Fall of Giants: Book One of the Century Trilogy* by Ken Follett**

This is the first volume in Follett's new *Century Trilogy*. It follows the fates of five interrelated families--American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh--as they move through the significant events of the early twentieth century. In his usual style, Follett creates layered characters and locations as different as a dirty and dangerous coal mine to the finest of European palaces. The historical background is well researched, the plot fast paced. See also *Le Sacre du Printemps* under the Film Section (p. 49).

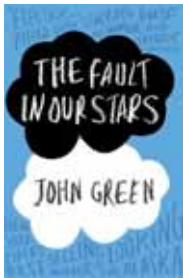
Marta Robertson, Sunderman Conservatory of Music / Interdisciplinary Studies



***Falling Home* by Karen White**

Falling Home is a coming home story about forgiveness and acceptance and finding love in the most unexpected of places. After 15 years of making a name for herself in New York City, Carrie is called home by her sister to be with her dying father. As hard as she tries to maintain her distance from family and friends, she quickly finds that what she has been avoiding, is exactly what she needs. There is hardly an emotion that isn't played on in this story about returning home, old hurts and heartbreak, growing up, letting go, learning what is really important in life, and finding one's heart. More than a beach book, this book is a keeper for my collection.

Jennifer Coale, Majestic Theater



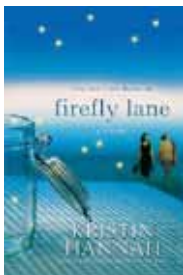
***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green**

This book is a surprisingly in-depth look at the parts of living with terminal disease as a young person that are not necessarily explored by typical literature. It provided me with a perspective I had not ever experienced before. It is best described as an

It is best described as an emotional rollercoaster; I burst out laughing on more than one occasion while reading it, only to be immediately sobered mere sentences later.

emotional rollercoaster; I burst out laughing on more than one occasion while reading it, only to be immediately sobered mere sentences later. Be prepared to set aside a day just to sit and read this book, because you will not want to put it down; and expect to continue to think about it for days afterward.

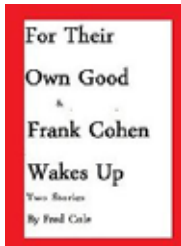
Ellen Henry, '14, Book House (Philosophy Major)



***Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah**

This is by far one of my favorite books! It's about two girls, Tully and Kate, who become best friends in middle school and how their relationship evolves as they get older. If you've ever had a best friend who knows you better than anyone else and has gotten you through thick and thin, then you will definitely relate to this book. It's written very well, and even though it is about 500 pages, it is one of those books that you will get through quickly because you will not be able to put it down.

Lauren Giorgio, '14, Book House (Sociology Major)



***For Their Own Good & Frank Cohen Wakes Up* by Fred Cole**

A compilation of short science fiction stories (available only as an Amazon.com e-book) that challenge the notion of what it means to be human.

Jen Cole, Academic Advising

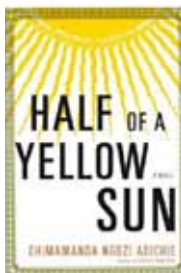


***Girl Genius Volume 1: Agatha Awakens* by Phil Foglio and Kaja Foglio**

In this gaslamp fantasy, mad scientists (called Sparks) run amuck throughout Europe, inventing crazy weapons and robots, constructing monsters, ordering around minions, and causing general mayhem as they vie with one another for power. Agatha is a failed student who cannot even build a decent death ray and is surprised to discover that she may be the only person capable of defeating the mysterious Other, a terrifying and evil Spark.

This story features airship fortresses, gadgets, plans for world domination, and the Emperor of All Cats, as any good mad scientist tale should. Agatha's adventures are exciting, and the plot is intricate without being convoluted, but the series' greatest strength is its humor. *Girl Genius* takes mad science to its logical extreme, and the Sparks have a hilarious worldview—they apply the same level of insane zeal whether they are brewing coffee or building a death ray to smite their enemies. This is the first print volume of the Hugo Award winning webcomic series. A fair warning—very little of the plot is actually resolved in this volume, but the series is so much fun you won't mind getting sucked in to read them all!

Kayla Lenkner, Musselman Library



***Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

This is a powerful novel which tells the story of the Igbo, who seceded from Nigeria in 1967 in response to ethnic violence and formed the short-lived nation of Biafra. It is an extraordinary account of the everyday realities of a set of people from the professional class in Nigeria who suddenly, and to their own shock and dismay, find themselves in the midst of a violent, tragic civil war. The book is in turns both horrific and inspiring.

Jennifer Bloomquist, Africana Studies



***Hark! A Vagrant* by Kate Beaton**

This collection of comics from Kate Beaton has been wildly popular within the independent comics world but has had immense crossover appeal for history and literature geeks. Beaton rewrites the classics with deadpan humor and an amazing wit.

Sharon Birch, Instructional Technology



***The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa**

This is the first book I've encountered in a long time that I read cover to cover in a day. I frequently stopped to read passages aloud to my husband, knowing he would enjoy the eloquent blend of math, science, and poetry. The narrator gives us a moving, thought-provoking story of an unconventional friendship, teaching some math along the way.

Emily Clarke, Development



***The Hunger Games* Trilogy by Suzanne Collins**

A great book about whether or not we will choose technology over humanity. For those raised on watching reality shows, this book will become all too realistic. Could you survive the Hunger Games? And what would you lose in the process?

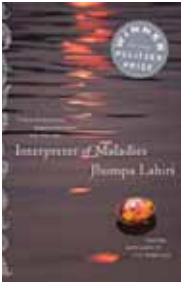
Rebecca Barth, History / Classics

This book took me completely by surprise! Suzanne Collins vividly describes the process of the Hunger Games and the characters that captivated my attention to the point that I had to read the second and third books immediately! In the ruins of a place known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shiny Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

Jean Grubesky, Majestic Theater

The story is set in the postapocalyptic country of Panem with a fierce competition that takes place similar to the gladiator matches of Ancient Rome. The heroine is physically strong and intelligent. My daughter and I couldn't put these books down. We were sharing one copy and would secretly hide away to finish a few more pages. These books will keep you up long past your bedtime!

Cindy Wright, Campus Recreation



***Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

So many of these stories are little gems, with sometimes funny, sometime heart-wrenching glimpses of immigrant experiences in America. The final story, “The Third and Final Continent,” is a near-perfect ending to a strong collection.

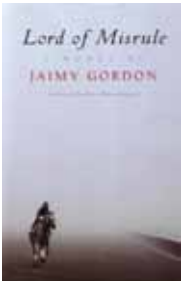
Emily Clarke, Development



***The Island of Doctor Moreau* by H. G. Wells**

I’ve really been into science fiction lately, and I decided to go back to some classic authors in the genre. This vivid tale’s details will stick with you long after you’ve finished it. Wells is an incredible author that I’m glad to have discovered!

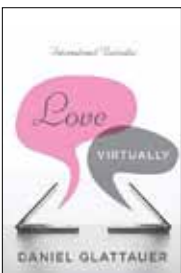
Jen Cole, Academic Advising



***Lord of Misrule* by Jaimy Gordon**

This novel follows five characters through a year of ups and downs at a third-rate racetrack in West Virginia. Gordon does a great job in getting inside these characters’ psyches, as well as those of the horses they are involved with. If you like the new HBO series *Luck*, you’ll love this book (and vice-versa).

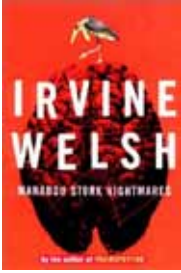
Roy Dawes, Political Science



***Love Virtually* by Daniel Glattauer**

A love affair by e-mail, first published in 2006 – what could be more antiquated than that, right? Read it anyway! This version is funny, bittersweet, fearless (most of the time), loving, and of course suspenseful: Will they meet face-to-face?? Awww!

Michael Ritterson, German



***Marabou Stork Nightmares* by Irvine Welsh**

The writing got me so high. Then the humor. But the horror is what sticks.

Sheila Mulligan, English



***Meridian* by Alice Walker**

A powerful evocation of the 60s. Caught in the intersections created by conflicting allegiances, as daughter, friend, and activist, the heroine Meridian seeks to understand herself and her relation to the world that is changing around her. As far as I know this is the earliest Movement novel. Full of paradoxical moments and odd juxtapositions of people and places, it vividly represents the spirit and the confusion of the times.

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



***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs**

Jacob, like many young people, dreams of an exciting life, but he sees no escape from a future laid out ahead of him filled with familial expectation to fall in line with the family business. Just as it seems all hope of leading anything except a normal life is

This book is a light and exciting adventure tale teaming with fantasy.

gone, Jacob's grandfather dies in a strangely mysterious fashion leaving a cryptic message that propels Jacob half a world away in search of the truth – the truth about his grandfather, his grandfather's past, and Jacob's own birthright. Suddenly Jacob's future looks anything but ordinary as he finds himself embroiled in a very peculiar situation.

This book is a light and exciting adventure tale teaming with fantasy. There are photographs scattered throughout the book that help to bring alive the people and places and offer a new level of immersion into the story. Although it is aimed primarily at young adult readers, the story and details are complex enough to entertain and delight any adult audience.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



***Model Home* by Eric Puchner**

Puchner's novel beautifully captures the archetypal lifestyle of a California family -- or at least what I envision to be the archetypal lifestyle of a California family. The first half of the book seems tender and true. Then things quickly get out of hand for the Ziller family, and the story takes a very dark turn, with disturbing, dystopian environmental undercurrents. Dad's a dope, of course, and that's probably why I felt so attached to him, being a dope myself. This book isn't a tragedy, but it's not *Everybody Loves Raymond* or *Modern Family*, either.

John Commito, Environmental Studies



***My Name is Red* by Orhan Pamuk**

A murder mystery told from the point of view of a corpse, a dog, the murderer, and the color red among many others. It sounds gimmicky and probably would be if it was not written by Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk. Whether you are interested in mysteries, the world of miniaturists, 16th century Istanbul, or just good writing, this is a great read.

Kurt Andresen, Physics



***Nectar in a Sieve* by Kamala Markandaya**

Old but gold classic that follows the gut-wrenching life of a woman in village India. Not for the faint of heart. This is a Frantz Fanonesque feminist page-turner that you will read in one sitting. Keep the tissues close at hand and be prepared to enter a world totally devoid of privilege.

Karen Pinto, History



***Never Look Away* by Linwood Barclay**

This book is about the disappearance of a small child from an amusement park. Or is it? When David Hardwood and his wife take their young son to an amusement park for the day, first Ethan disappears but is quickly found. Then, Jan, his wife, disappears. The finger is pointed at David, but his own investigation discovers his wife is not the woman he thinks she is. Barclay's twisting mystery takes you up to the end of the book thinking you know what is going to happen, or do you?

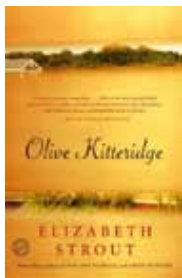
Deb Hydock, Dining Services



***Nightwatch* by Sergei Lukyanenko**

This science fiction novel is set in Russia. While the characters deal with the very entertaining fantastic, the situations they face provide opportunity for much reflection. This is a very well crafted novel.

**Alyson Hampsch, '14, Book House
(Environmental Studies / Spanish Literature Major)**



***Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout**

This novel, told in 13 interconnected stories, is set in tiny, coastal Crosby, Maine. At the center is Olive Kitteridge – an occasionally sympathetic, mostly disagreeable, but completely unforgettable retired junior high school teacher. She treats her husband badly, is estranged from her son, and harbors grudges against her neighbors. Olive is complex. She doles out bits of malice without regard for the feelings of others. She also can be thoughtful – even tender-hearted. This book will make you think of the unlikeable people in your life in a different way.

Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



***One Good Dog* by Susan Wilson**

What is truly important in life and relationships is captured by the struggles of one human and one dog. The coincidence of each of their paths at critical junctures is uplifting to the end!

Barbara Fritze, Enrollment and Education Services



***Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood**

A great not-too-distant future science fiction novel about corporations, scientific research, education, social castes, and the apocalypse. Exciting read.

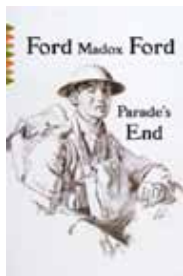
Tristan Gibbon, Dining Services



***Outside Wonderland* by Lorna Jane Cook**

This book weaves a wonderful story about family dynamics and the bonds of family love. In a creative and engaging manner, the story asks the question, “Do our loved ones ever totally leave us after they’ve died?” It’s an uplifting story which will bring smiles to readers.

Maida Connor, Donor Relations and Special Events



***Parade's End* by Ford Madox Ford**

Do you have an empty feeling in your life after the conclusion of the second season of *Downton Abbey*? Would you like to get ahead on the next big period drama? Ford Madox Ford’s *Parade’s End* tetralogy is currently being adapted into a miniseries by Tom Stoppard starring the indomitable Benedict Cumberbatch. I can’t say the BBC production will be fantastic. But I can say that these are darn good books written by someone who was actually in the war (apologies to Julian Fellows).

The series opens with Christopher Tietjens, a brilliant young bureaucrat with a passion for eighteenth-century furniture (interested yet?), who is rightfully despondent over the skedaddling of his wife to the Continent with her lover. Tietjens is downhearted in that old fashioned Yorkshire gentry kinda way: he doesn’t talk about it, but instead lets his wife’s infidelity eat away at his Tory soul. Miserable in marriage, Tietjens meets a young and spirited suffragette with a fun name, Valentine Wannop. He falls in love with her. Not the “kiss on a balcony to the setting sun” kind of love but more of a “let’s stare at each other from across a drawing room for the next six years” kind of unrequited-period-drama-love.

Complex emotional storyline, check. Lingering possibility of infidelity, check. Tories falling in love with suffragettes, check. What can happen next, you ask? Well, the Great War for Civilization, that’s what. And just in time too. Tietjens goes off to the trenches to recapture an English heroism that is literally drowning in the mud of France.

Before you rush out to buy the excellent Modern Library edition, bear in mind the following: First, you have to stick with Ford for at least 75 pages before throwing the book aside and wondering, “What does the internal monologue of a man with pathologically suppressed emotions have to do with the First World War?” Wait for it. Like the western front, *Parade’s End* is all about endurance. You will eventually crack the Hindenburg Line of Tietjens’s emotional reserve. Victory will be bittersweet. The second point is that you don’t have to read the fourth novel unless you really really want to. You will be perfectly satisfied after reading the first three and can come back from break feeling sufficiently modernist for the new academic year.

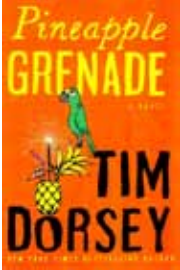
Ian Isherwood, History



***Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky**

This is a short, quick, and very easy read. I like this book because it keeps you intrigued, but at the same time, it is not a book that needs a great deal of thinking to be understood. The ending is unexpected and will make you think, "Wow I did not see this coming."

Brittany Clark, '14, Book House (Psychology Major)



***Pineapple Grenade* by Tim Dorsey**

Loveable serial killer Serge Storms, along with stoned side-kick Coleman is at it again dispensing justice to deserving souls and spouting reams of Florida trivia. Very light summer reading.

Peter Pella, Physics



***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline**

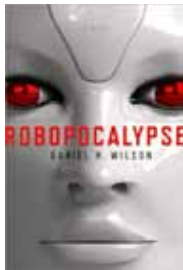
In the all too near future, the environment is wrecked and the economy even more so. Much of the world spends their time immersed in a virtual world, OASIS, designed by uber-geek/Hughes-like recluse James Halliday, who has built much of it to model his childhood in 1980s America. Wade Watts is an average teenager in 2044, going to

... this book is a love story to a time and place.

school and meeting his friends all within OASIS - it beats the hell out of his poverty stricken real life. When Halliday dies, he wills his massive fortune to the first person to figure out a set of virtual clues within his world, and the hunt is on.

Ready Player One isn't a great work of literature: the characters are pedestrian, the dystopian world has been done before, and the plot is predictable. But all that is secondary to the real point: this book is a love story to a time and place. It's about experiencing a new *Star Wars* movie on the big screen, walking into the dark arcade with your fist wrapped around a roll of quarters, or sitting in your friend's basement playing D&D and drinking cheap soda all night. For someone who grew up in that world, it brought back memories like no other book ever has. So grab your jean jacket, put on the all-Rush mix tape, fire up a copy of Defender and enjoy the ride.

Eric Remy, Instructional Technology



***Robopocalypse* by Daniel H. Wilson**

I'm not the robot type. By that, I mean I typically do not find myself searching for and reading books about robots. However, once I picked up Daniel H. Wilson's *Robopocalypse*, I couldn't put it down (and apparently Steven Spielberg couldn't either, as it's scheduled to hit the big screen in early summer 2013). Imagine if every machine that exists on earth - from smart cars to power grids, aircraft guidance systems to computer networks - turned against us. Set in the not-too-distant future, *Robopocalypse* is exactly about this scenario, and the ensuing global war between man and machine. *Robopocalypse* is a brilliantly conceived action-filled epic, a terrifying story with heart-stopping implications for the real technology all around us, and an entertaining and engaging thriller unlike anything else written in years.

Tracey Dukert, Communications and Marketing



***Running the Rift* by Naomi Benaron**

Set in Rwanda, the events leading up to the genocide in that country are narrated by a young man training to represent his country as a runner in the Olympics. I found

I found myself so caught up in the lives of the central characters that I, like them, kept hoping against hope that history would take a different course.

myself so caught up in the lives of the central characters that I, like them, kept hoping against hope that history would take a different course.

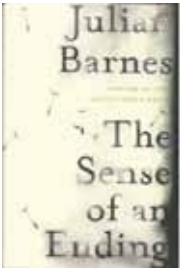
Caroline Hartzell, Political Science / Globalization Studies



***Secrets to Happiness* by Sarah Dunn**

This is a heart-warming novel about love and friendship and all the complications that come with it. It is also about a special dog that just may be the secret to happiness...

Kaitlyn Lyons, Musselman Library



***The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes**

The 2011 Booker Prize (UK) winner tells of a search for former friends and lovers. It's moving and exquisitely written, suspenseful too, but you won't realize how suspenseful until the surprising end.

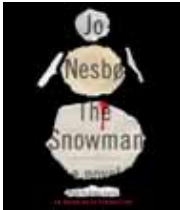
Michael Ritterson, German

Winner of the 2011 Man Booker Prize, *The Sense of an Ending* is, as one critic says, an "elegantly composed, quietly devastating tale about memory, aging, time, and remorse." This novel may not speak

... an elegant meditation on what one leaves behind in life.

to those who have yet to face the vicissitudes of growing older, but for those of us who have begun to contemplate this stage of life, *The Sense of an Ending* is an elegant meditation on what one leaves behind in life. However, because the novel reminds us that memory is not always dependable and that no two people recall an event in the same manner, the narrative is also suspenseful.

Elizabeth Richardson Viti, French



***The Snowman* by Jo Nesbø**

Harry Hole is to Jo Nesbø what Lisbeth Salander is to Stieg Larsson. *The Snowman* is an excellent thriller. Featuring diabolical twists and turns, character development, and a villain who appears well before the ending (unlike some authors' last second "surprises"), Nesbø's Scandinavian thriller delights as the story builds to its quickly paced finale. I can't wait for my next Harry Hole adventure.

Peter North, Auxiliary Services



***The Sojourn* by Andrew Krivak**

The Sojourn is a gripping tale of a Colorado immigrant family torn asunder by tragedy at the turn of the 20th century. The narrative focuses on a young man who becomes a sniper at the southern front during World War One. Vibrant prose and a compelling story make this an easy one-day read.

Buzz Jones, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



***Solar* by Ian McEwan**

Very different from *Atonement*, this somewhat dark satire will not be everyone's cup of tea. The main character is as self-centered and unlikeable as possible, yet I was greatly entertained by his misadventures. But what won me over was the wry view of science, society, and even sex. A favorite part was the skewering of ideologues who are passionate about the planet but unconcerned for actual humans with whom they share a limited resource.

Kay Etheridge, Biology



***Special Topics in Calamity Physics* by Marisha Pessl**

It is hard to describe this book without giving away any of the plot twists. Blue van Meer's mother died when she was quite young, and she has moved around with her father. He is a professor, and they move to a new location nearly every six months. The story focuses on her senior year of high school when she attends St. Gallway, and meets a unique teacher, Hannah Schneider. You will have to read this book to find out more! There are some slower sections of the book, but if you keep reading, you will likely be surprised at times. Also, there is a final exam at the end! Enjoy!

Sarah Principato, Environmental Studies



***Stolen Spring* by Hans Scherfig**

This classic Danish novel (published in 1940) tells the story of a reunion of a group of nineteen men who are getting together for the first time 25 years after they graduated from school. Set in Copenhagen, the novel opens with the sudden death by poisoning of the boys' Latin teacher on the evening before their final Latin exam. One of the students planted the poisoned malt drop, and the death has remained a mystery for 25 years. The novel takes off from there. Moving between the present of the men's reunion, at which the poisoner is present, and the past of the boys' schooldays, the novel quickly draws the reader in through the "who dunnit" element of the teacher's murder, the engaging descriptions of each of the men, and the biting commentary on the traditional elite education of the boys, the effects of which are seen in the career/life choices they have made and their perceptions of themselves and their classmates (both in the present of the novel and when they are schoolboys). What a great read. If you like *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, you'll love this.

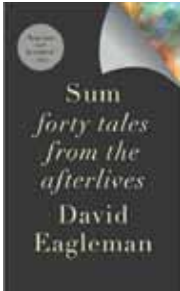
Allison Singley, Parent Relations



***The Submission* by Amy Waldman**

Two years after the 9/11 attacks, the committee appointed to select the World Trade Center memorial design has made its selection from among hundreds of anonymous submissions. When the envelope containing the designer's name is opened, he turns out to be a Muslim named Mohammad Khan. A media leak leads to a firestorm of distortion, political posturing, threats and violence. Waldman's background as a journalist is evident as she creates a cast of politicians, tabloid writers, activists, and commentators who manipulate events to further their own ends. This is a page-turner with a suspenseful plot. But the book also asks the reader to reflect on the larger themes of individual versus group rights, how people respond to grief, the definition of terror and the meaning of art in a public space.

Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



***Sum: Forty Tales from the Afterlives* by David Eagleman**

This book is beguiling. Its 40 vignettes on the afterlife are thought-provoking explorations of the many possibilities that may await us. My favorite is entitled "Mary" - when you get to Heaven you discover that God constantly rereads *Frankenstein* and believes that Mary Shelley is the only human who truly understands Him. *Sum* is a quick read and astonishing in its concise evocative storytelling.

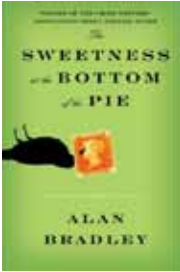
Carolyn Sautter, Musselman Library



***Swamplandia!* by Karen Russell**

The Bigtree alligator-wrestling farm is on its way out, and Swamplandia, the island home of the gator-wrestling theme park, is quickly being brought down by a new competitor called the World of Darkness. Ava Bigtree is the thirteen year old who tries single handedly to save the park. Her mom, the headliner, has just died and her sister, Ossie, and big brother, Kiwi, are the other members of the family caught up in this down turn. Ava's father, known as Chief Bigtree, has disappeared once again. I learned much about alligators and the swamps of Florida while being drawn into this family drama. *Swamplandia!* is not the name of a book I would normally pick up, but I was very glad I did.

Pam Dalrymple, Civil War Institute



***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie / The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag / A Red Herring Without Mustard / I am Half-Sick of Shadows* by Alan Bradley**

If you love that strain of British mysteries called cozies, you can't go wrong with any of the four Flavia de Luce books by Alan Bradley. I don't care if – as we argued in my

I don't care if – as we argued in my book group – a girl would have to be at least 14 to do what the 11-year-old Flavia does. I just want to keep reading these – and re-reading them.

book group – a girl would have to be at least 14 to do what the 11-year-old Flavia does. I just want to keep reading these – and re-reading them. Set in the early 1950s, when rationing was just ending and Britons were just realizing – wearily, once more – that their world was changed forever, the books follow feisty Flavia coping with no mother, distant father, outrageous sisters that cap any woman Jane Austen ever caricatured, and a man of all work prone to PTSD from the River Kwai. I simply love them, and they are a weekend's hoot to read, however, don't plan on getting any vacuuming done.

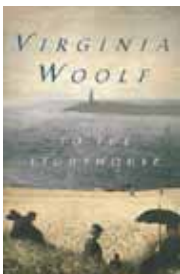
Christine Benecke, Research



***Thr3e* by Ted Dekker**

This book is a thriller that will keep you guessing until the very end. It takes me a while to read a book, and I had this one read in five days. I did not want to put it down and could not wait to see what happened next.

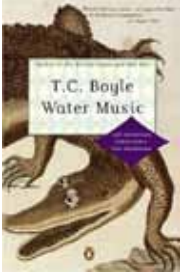
Elaine McCauslin, President's Office



***To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf**

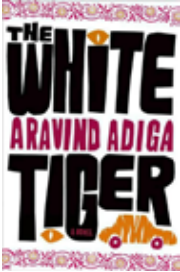
This novel is one of the most insightful evocations of family life I've ever read. The writing is also achingly beautiful.

Suzanne Flynn, English

***Water Music* by T. C. Boyle**

Everything a great summer read should have: great characters, great story, and possibly the funniest book you will ever read. You will be sad to reach the end but glad you went on the adventure.

Paul Fairbanks, Communications and Marketing

***The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga**

A riveting tale about a side of India rarely looked at closely. Issues of race, class, gender, religion, and globalism are told in a somewhat comical style, underneath which is a serious look at the glamorous new India of technology with its luxury and obliviousness and the crushing poverty that adjusts to the so-called success of the new India. Very insightful, moving, and thoughtful.

Charlotte Armster, German

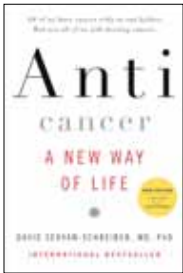
NONFICTION NONFICTION



***American Dreamers: How the Left Changed a Nation* by Michael Kazin**

Kazin writes as a political leftist, but as one without the usual defensive illusions which haunt the American Left. A swift-moving survey with some surprisingly acerbic judgments about his own ideological compatriots.

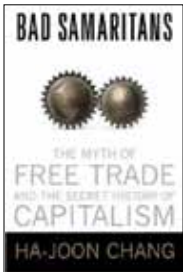
Allen Guelzo, History



***Anticancer: A New Way of Life* by David Servan Schreiber**

Written by a young doctor who developed cancer twice, this book focuses on how to change your life to significantly reduce your chances of developing cancer. It pulls together important and well documented research information on how what we eat and how we live predisposes us to cancer. It offers practical advice on how to change diet, stress and exercise for those who want to prevent cancer (and who doesn't!)

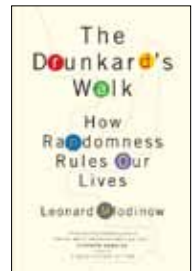
Julie Ramsey, College Life



***Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism* by Ha-Joon Chang**

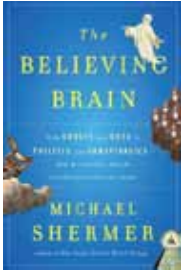
***The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives* by Leonard Mlodinow**

I read both of these books last summer at the same time, because, strangely, a year earlier both were reviewed together by Will Easterly in *The New York Review of Books*. The main focus of the



review is an issue that has long intrigued me: why has East Asia developed so successfully while other places have not? Chang's answer is thought-provoking: it is not neo-liberal, free market economics, but careful government intervention of a particular kind that makes these markets work to the benefit of the general population. Moreover, all the current economic powers, including Great Britain and the United States, followed that same general path with only small variations. Yet Easterly counters this idea by saying that we really don't know how development works in some places and not others. He says that Chang, just like the neo-liberal economists, are guilty of looking for patterns when really randomness is at play. He uses Mlodinow's book as his counter argument. To read both of these eminently readable books together was a delight. Moreover, both made me see certain things in a light I never knew existed. The last few pages of Mlodinow's book I will never forget.

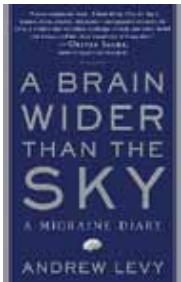
Jim Udden, Film Studies



***The Believing Brain: From Ghosts and Gods to Politics and Conspiracies—How We Construct Beliefs and Reinforce Them as Truths* by Michael Shermer**

Shermer plots the brain's way of working that explains believing and how ordinary folks can make themselves believe what they want to believe. As a person interested in the conventional talk about religious belief, I found powerful and informed explanations about how and why it is so easy for people to talk about what they "believe"—as though believing something made it so.

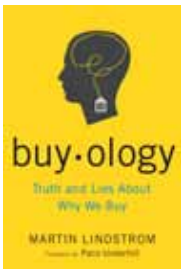
Lou Hammann, Religious Studies



***A Brain Wider Than the Sky: A Migraine Diary* by Andrew Levy**

A surprisingly beautiful and often astonishing book that traces the history of the migraine alongside the writer's own personal experience with this often devastating pain. You won't need any such experience yourself to enjoy and value this original and deeply thoughtful book.

Fred Leebron, English



***Buy·ology: Truth and Lies About Why We Buy* by Martin Lindstrom**

Does sex actually sell? Does subliminal advertising still surround us? Can "cool" brands trigger our mating instincts? Can our other senses -- smell, touch, sound -- be aroused when we see a product? Lindstrom explores the answers to these and other questions in this entertaining read about the field of neuromarketing.

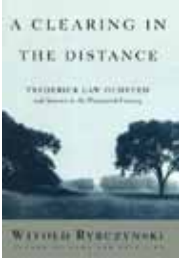
Bob Kallin, Development



***China in Ten Words* by Yu Hua**

In this work of nonfiction, the novelist Yu Hua combines reflections on Chinese history and society with his own personal experiences of living through the Cultural Revolution of his youth and the economic florescence of contemporary China. By reflecting upon just ten words from the Chinese lexicon and their changing connotations over the past fifty years, he opens up the complexities of China as few others have. This is a powerful, fascinating look into the changes China has undergone and continues to undergo.

Susan Chen, Asian Studies



***A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century* by Witold Rybczynski**

You have probably strolled through one of the gardens Olmsted designed and didn't even know it. Central Park, the U.S. Capitol grounds, the National Zoo, the list goes on and on. But Olmsted was more than a gardener. He was a journalist, a scientific farmer, a man deeply involved in the social issues of his time. His story could inspire you to visit some of the famous parks he designed, or maybe even to take up the spade and do a little landscaping of your own.

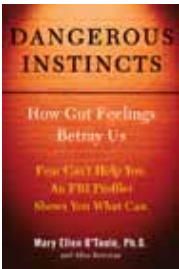
Ellen Hathaway, *The Gettysburg Review*



***Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff**

This was a case of judging a book by its cover (and the author's Pulitzer Prize helped as well). I was just so intrigued that I wanted to learn more about the Egyptian queen. I found the book to be a very engaging and sympathetic look into the life of this infamous woman - and it provided interesting insight into the Roman world as well.

Carol Rinke, Education



***Dangerous Instincts: How Gut Feelings Betray Us* by Mary Ellen O'Toole**

The author presents an objective and easy to follow decision-making process that is applicable from answering the front door late at night to analyzing career choices. Trusting our instincts fails us more often than it helps us.

Rod Tosten, Information Technology



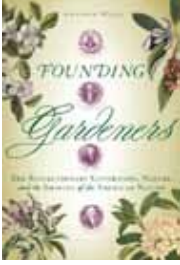
***Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72* by Hunter S. Thompson**

In an election year, I cannot think of a better read than this informative and entertaining account of the 1972 presidential race. It not only provides insights into this watershed election but also functions as a guidebook for following modern politics. Learn how to decipher the meanings behind the messages, the powers behind the politicians, and all the forces that shape American democracy.

Joseph Radzevick, Management



NONFICTION

***The Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation by Andrea Wulf***

In *The Founding Gardeners* Andrea Wulf (author of *The Brother Gardeners*) brings her garden historian's sensibility to the founding of the United States, with a focus on the first four presidents. In looking at the early history of the nation through the lens of Washington's, Adams's, Jefferson's, and Madison's horticultural interests, she not only brings us a new understanding of these founding fathers, she also gives us a new understanding of our history.

I found her argument that the origins of the modern environmental movement should rightly be traced back to these 'founding gardeners' particularly compelling. She notes that they preceded the transcendentalists (e.g., Thoreau) and the founding of the national parks by several decades. More importantly for our current understanding of environmentalism, she argues that their focus was not on a romantic connection with nature, but on the importance of environmental health as the foundation of a healthy economy. This book is for anyone interested in environmentalism, the development of scientific agriculture, the history of gardening, or United States history.

Jean Potuchek, Sociology / Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

***Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen**

Nonfiction books can be often be too long, too centered on teaching the reader something they normally would seek to discover on their own, and are simply not for everyone. Memoirs are not for everyone, either— often excessively revealing or excessively defensive if written (or ghost-written) by a political figure. And yet

*... in only 169 pages Susanna Kaysen successfully
sucks you into her complicated mind and her complicated
time in a mental hospital.*

here I go, boldly recommending a nonfiction book almost twenty years old, and a memoir at that. *Girl, Interrupted* is worth your beach/pool/backyard time for two reasons. First, in only 169 pages Susanna Kaysen successfully sucks you into her complicated mind and her complicated time in a mental hospital. The brief chapters are so well-rendered you can actually read nonfiction while out on the sand or in the lounge chair or hammock. Second, Susanna's way of telling her story is unique: she uses her actual case reports and letters from psychiatrists to add punch to an already disturbing question: what does it take to be considered crazy?

Sharon Stephenson, Physics



The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction by Linda Gordon

A really “must read” book; very readable, fine research and a story unknown to most Americans. This is about the forced trek of so-called orphans (really just the children of very poor women, primarily from New York City in 1904). The book uncovers details of American life at that time that helped to shape the development of 20th century American politics and understanding of migration and the development of enormous wealth through the copper mines of Arizona. The issues raised in this story still apply today. If you love American history, then this is the book to read this summer.

Charlotte Armster, German



Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men by Michael Kimmel

If you missed this book during the Fall 2011 semester, it’s definitely worth a second look! Kimmel offers a practical and unflinching look at the rites of passage (or lack thereof?) that young men in America today find themselves, adrift somewhere between adolescence and manhood, in the arena that he labels “Guyland.” If you

*If you know a young man between 16 and 26 and
find yourself completely lost as to what exactly is going
on in his head . . .*

know a young man between 16 and 26 and find yourself completely lost as to what exactly is going on in his head, this book may be able to offer you some clues to understanding him and breaking through the shield that our culture so frequently builds around them. There are many layers to any social phenomenon and Kimmel attempts to cover as many facets of the social construction of young men as he can through the course of this book, be it parents, role models, peers, our entertainment culture, and more. This is an interesting and thought-provoking look at the next generation of adults.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



NONFICTION



The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun
by Gretchen Rubin

The author of this book is a former law clerk for Sandra Day O'Connor. She left law to become a full-time writer and is raising two children with her husband. In this book, she reports on her efforts to identify ways to increase her happiness in her everyday life. Her strategies drew on sources ranging from research in positive psychology, to lives of saints, to recommendations for organizing. Some of her ideas will not work for you, and you may find some irritating. Nonetheless, she is unpretentious, curious, smart, honest, and willing to take chances. In the book, she translates big ideas into specific and often simple, practical changes in habits. Throughout the book, she grapples with the question of whether pursuing one's own happiness is a justifiable goal. The book is easy to read and will make you think. It may even lead you to make some changes in your life.

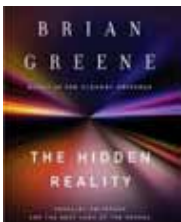
Kathleen Cain, Psychology



The Heart and the Fist: The Education of a Humanitarian, the Making of a Navy SEAL by Eric Greitens

While not superbly written, this is an interesting account of a young man's efforts as a humanitarian and as a U. S. Navy SEAL. The part about SEAL training is particularly interesting. Greitens believes that to protect freedom and decency, some people are needed with the knowledge and skills that programs like the SEALs and Army Rangers impart.

Charles Saltzman, English

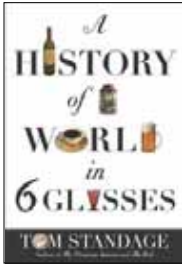


The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos
by Brian Greene

You don't have to be a physics guru, and there's no math in the book, just mind-boggling ideas, clearly presented and wonderfully entertaining!

You may have seen Brian Greene's series on PBS in one part of which he sketched the utterly fascinating, most-current ideas about the possibility of universes other than our own. This book elaborates that tantalizing summary in a most captivating and accessible way. You don't have to be a physics guru, and there's no math in the book, just mind-boggling ideas, clearly presented and wonderfully entertaining!

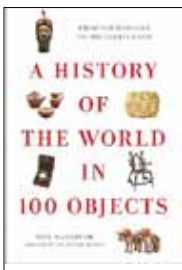
Dave Moore, Musselman Library



***A History of the World in 6 Glasses* by Tom Standage**

This was a fun book that really covered a lot of historical ground. As a pacifist, I've hated history for a very long time – mostly because history books tend to focus on war, misery, and mankind's worst moments. I love the growing availability of social histories like this one that look at history from a non-military perspective. This is one of the better social histories I've read because it covers such a wide range – from handing out Cokes at the fall of the Iron Curtain to paying pyramid workers in beer. Great read!

Denise Weldon-Siviy, Musselman Library



***A History of the World in 100 Objects* by Neil MacGregor**

This book is a perfect read for both a history buff or anyone who just wants to learn about the human race from the perspective of the objects we leave behind. Neil MacGregor is the director of the British Museum and he uses items from the museum's awesome collection to tell the story of everyday people throughout history. Overall this book is an interesting, funny, and educational read.

Katie Corsentino, '13, Book House (Anthropology and Art History Major)



***Hitch-22: A Memoir* by Christopher Hitchens**

The late Christopher Hitchens was our generation's George Orwell. Both men wrote extensively (books, essays, and reviews in almost uncountable numbers) on literature, cultural mores, and the burning questions of the day. Both tended to argue from the left, though neither was knee-jerk in his politics, as exemplified by their loathing

Hitch-22 provides access to a life lived to the limit in academia, editorial offices, watering holes and war zones.

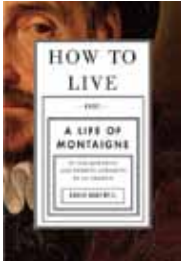
of cant and totalitarianism whether left or right wing. Part memoir, part a scratching of its author's intellectual itches, *Hitch-22* provides access to a life lived to the limit in academia, editorial offices, watering holes, and war zones. Hitchens even submitted to a test of water-boarding to see if it was as bad as critics said. (It was.) *Hitch-22* is an engaging if somewhat uneven read, offering an illuminating window into the history of our times. It's also a sad reminder that we don't have Christopher Hitchens to help interpret what comes next.

Michael Birkner, History

***The Horse Boy: A Father's Quest to Heal His Son* by Rupert Isaacson**

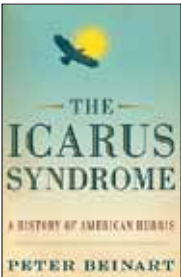
A delightful story of a father's journey across the outer reaches of Mongolia to find healing for his autistic son. The adventure and cultural insights are as moving as the personal story of his son's disability. GREAT!

Heidi Frye, Admissions

***How to Live, or, a Life of Montaigne: In One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer* by Sarah Bakewell**

I found this biography of the original "Renaissance Man" very engaging when I read it last summer. It is detailed enough to place you in the cultural and political world of sixteenth-century France, but also broad enough to stimulate your own reflections on what it means to live well.

Tim Shannon, History

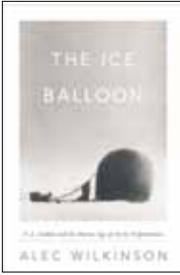
***The Icarus Syndrome: A History of American Hubris* by Peter Beinart**

This book is engaging, although non-fiction. Since my twenties I've been fascinated by how we seem to fight wars and make small and large decisions based on either past experience or on how we want to see the world, with the result that the bed we make for ourselves is Procrustean. I had a history teacher who told us we fought each war with modern technology and tactics from the previous war, particularly the Civil War and the First World War. I've always thought that the pacifism born of the

... Beinart makes an interesting case on foreign policy in four periods from Wilson's tragic idealism to our current situation in Iraq.

horrors of the Great War made World War II almost inevitable. In a book published in cooperation with the Council on Foreign Affairs, Beinart makes an interesting case on foreign policy in four periods from Wilson's tragic idealism to our current situation in Iraq. I'm no authority on politics, but the book does not strike me as polemical.

Christine Benecke, Research



The Ice Balloon: S. A. Andrée and the Heroic Age of Arctic Exploration
by Alec Wilkinson

At two-thirty in the afternoon of July 11, 1897, a hydrogen-filled balloon lifted off from Dane's Island, Spitzbergen, carrying three men into the pages of history. Brainchild of S. A. Andrée, an engineer at the Swedish Patent Office in Stockholm, the airship was designed specifically to provide fast and safe passage to the North Pole, the holy grail of Arctic exploration, which had not, to that date, been visited by explorers.

Ninety-seven feet tall and sixty-seven and a half feet around, the balloon and its associated trappings incorporated, by Andrée's estimation, seventy innovations, thirty of which were his own ideas. Four days after departure, a pigeon bearing a message from the balloonists landed in the rigging of a ship near Spitzbergen. All was proceeding well, it read, though the coordinates given in the note indicated that the balloon had only traveled 145 miles from Dane's island, and was headed east instead of north. And that, alas, was the last communication from Andrée and his crew.

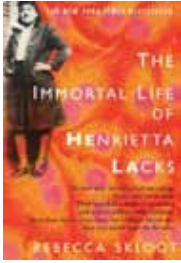
The last, that is, until 1930, when Norwegian seal hunters discovered a canvas boat half-buried in ice on remote White Island, about 250 miles northeast of the 1897 take-off point. Nearby were the remains of three men, still wearing what was left of their expedition clothing. Among the gear in the boat were cans of undeveloped photographs and sodden logs of the three men's journey---records of a few days in the air, followed by an arduous retreat over ice and water that ended several months later, in late October.

At two-thirty in the afternoon of July 11, 1897, a hydrogen-filled balloon lifted off from Dane's Island, Spitzbergen, carrying three men into the pages of history...

Wilkinson, a writer for the *New Yorker* whose subjects have been as diverse as Cape Cod policemen and folksinger Pete Seeger, has latched onto an eminently tellable story that is a perfect match for his sparse and evocative style. He places Andrée and his fellow-travelers squarely in the context of early polar exploration, inserting nail-biting narratives of some of the more than 1000 people prior to the 20th century who set out for the Pole---more than three-fourths of whom never returned alive. This is not only a tale of harrowing hardship but also of technology gone very wrong. Andrée's hope was to subdue brute nature with sheer ingenuity. Had he been born a generation or two later, he might have succeeded.

A little over a century after his demise, when icebreakers take tourists to the pole in sybaritic comfort and Gore-Tex-clad skiers tweet on their way among the floes, it's possible to forget that today's adventure tourists are following trails once traveled only by heroes, fools, and dreamers.

Larry Marschall, Physics

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

A fascinating exploration into the life of an African American woman living in Baltimore whose cells, illegally harvested, have led to dozens of scientific breakthroughs over the last century.

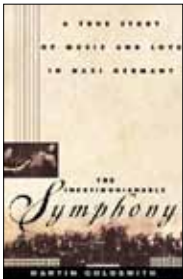
Cassie Hays, Sociology

Henrietta Lacks was a southern African American woman who moved to Baltimore with her husband. For decades she has been known as HeLa by scientists who used her cells for medical research. HeLa cells were grown in a culture and are alive today, having contributed to a polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and other important medical advances. The writer does an excellent job of moving from chapters on the HeLa cells to what Henrietta Lacks's life was like, and even more importantly, the impact on her family.

Patti Lawson, Government and Community Relations

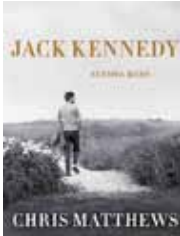
Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. The author is donating a portion of the proceeds to the Henrietta Lacks Foundation - www.henrietalacksfoundation.org.

Sheila Supenski, Eisenhower Institute

***The Inextinguishable Symphony: A True Story of Music and Love in Nazi Germany* by Martin Goldsmith**

The Inextinguishable Symphony is an engaging tale of love and triumph in one of the darkest periods in modern times: the rise of the Nazi party in Germany and the extermination of Jews and other “undesirables” in the 1930s and 40s. Goldsmith describes his parents' life, from how they met in the Berlin orchestra of the Jewish Culture Association (“Jüdische Kulturbund”), how music kept them together, and how this orchestra meant continued life and meaning for many Jewish musicians. Eventually the orchestra is disbanded, and the story continues with their miraculous escape to America. Though the circumstances of the time are horrific, the story is uplifting and an engaging view into a terrible time in our history.

Russell McCutcheon, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



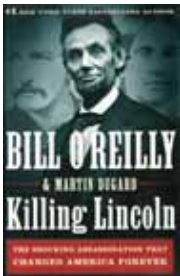
***Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero* by Chris Matthews**

I've read a lot of books on JFK, and Chris Matthews uncovered a lot of new information and details from the president's childhood and how he was far from his mother's favorite, to his hard-scrabbled politics. His bravery during the war on his naval boat PT 109 was riveting. I enjoy biography, and I especially liked this one. Read it on Cape Cod this summer.

Patti Lawson, Government and Community Relations

Having lived through, indeed, campaigned for Jack Kennedy, it was with more than passing interest that I read Chris Matthews's over-hyped most recent tome. Presented in a conversational style, Jack's life is told in rich detail by a man clearly devoted to him, but also by one who has been a Washington insider for all of his adult life. This is a good read, and not just for political junkies.

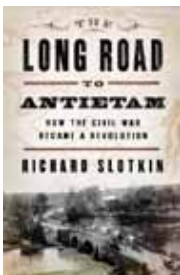
Ken Mott, Political Science



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

With the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War, *Killing Lincoln* is a timely read. The book is about history, but it reads like a mystery, captivating a a broad range of readers. *Killing Lincoln* is an engaging read that follows the events of Lincoln's final days. Whether you are a fan or not of O'Reilly, and the same goes for history, the book is a riveting page-turner.

Susan Fumagalli, Athletics



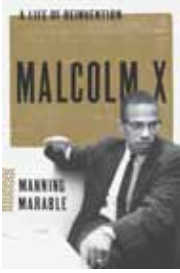
***The Long Road to Antietam: How the Civil War Became a Revolution* by Richard Slotkin**

Just in time for the 150th anniversary of the battle of Antietam and the Emancipation Proclamation, a history of the bloodiest day in American history which, for the first time, dramatically interweaves the military history of the battle with the political history of George McClellan's near-treason.

Allen Guelzo, History

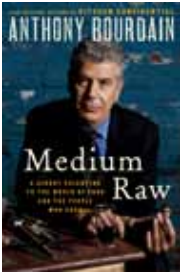


NONFICTION

***Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* by Manning Marable**

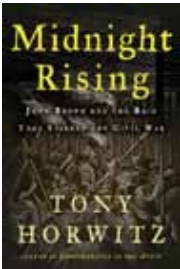
Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention by Manning Marable supplants Alex Haley's *Autobiography* as the definitive work on Malcolm X. Marable portrays Malcolm as a reluctant Civil Rights leader, devout Muslim and uncompromising advocate of African nationalism. He also paints Malcolm as immoral, self-righteous and petulant. Marable's extensive use of FBI records and internal Nation of Islam documents further distinguish it from previous biographies.

Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library

***Medium Raw: A Bloody Valentine to the World of Food and the People Who Cook* by Anthony Bourdain**

Nasty and foul-mouthed, Bourdain is not for everyone. Still, he is a writer with an eye, ear, and nose for detail. His chapter on Justo Thomas, a Dominican who cleans 700 pounds of fish a day, illustrates how Bourdain reaches the senses and the heart.

Jack Ryan, Vice Provost / English

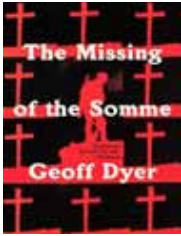
***Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid that Sparked the Civil War* by Tony Horowitz**

When I moved to Gettysburg two years ago, I was told that Tony Horowitz's book, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War*, is required reading for anyone living or working in Gettysburg. So, too, is the bestselling author and

Horowitz explores the mind of John Brown, who has been presented as terrorist, hero, and angel of freedom throughout history.

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist's newest book, *Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid that Sparked the Civil War*, an essential read as we near the Civil War's 150th anniversary. Focusing on Brown's 1859 raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Horowitz explores the mind of John Brown, who has been presented as terrorist, hero, and angel of freedom throughout history. Horowitz explores Brown's moral and religious convictions, what lead Brown and his followers to be prepared to shed blood for the abolitionist cause, and the role the raid had in the election of Abraham Lincoln and the country's fall into the Civil War. An easy and quick trip down to Harpers Ferry enriches this reflective and rewarding read on John Brown.

Clinton Baugess, Musselman Library



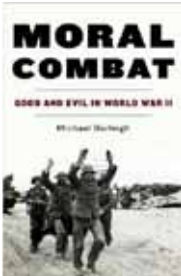
***The Missing of the Somme* by Geoff Dyer**

This book is a powerful and unusual meditation on the human tragedy of the First World War. Geoff Dyer reflects upon how we remember the Great War through poetry,

This book is a powerful and unusual meditation on the human tragedy of the First World War.

prose, film, photographs, and memorials. A relatively short but unforgettable book, which I highly recommend to you!

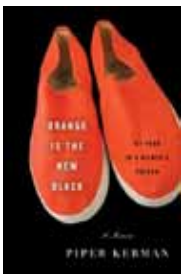
Chris Zappe, Provost



***Moral Combat: Good and Evil in World War II* by Michael Burleigh**

A terrific and provocative book about the moral dilemmas posed by various aspects of World War II, from whether the Allies should have bombed Auschwitz to whether the U.S. should have bombed Hiroshima. Do not expect conventional answers; but expect the answers to be put with unyielding clarity.

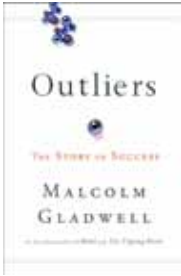
Allen Guelzo, History



***Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison* by Piper Kerman**

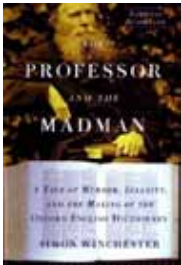
While in the Musselman Library Browsing Room, I was fortunate to stumble upon Piper Kerman's account of her year at the Federal Correctional Institution, Danbury, CT. As a recent Smith College graduate from a privileged background, Ms. Kerman carried drug money for her then girlfriend. Ten years later, having transformed her life, a knock at the door started a process that ultimately led to her 15-month prison sentence in a women's minimum security facility. The book offers us a fascinating glimpse into prison routine, friendships, families of prisoners, strip searches, birthday celebrations, culinary experiments, loss, love and resilience. Her description of flying within the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System ("Con Air") puts us in touch with a part of our country we never hear about. I am grateful for this book providing a glimpse into the lives of women coming together to survive against many odds.

Harriet Marritz, Counseling Services

***Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell**

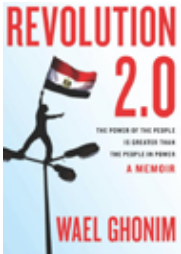
Besides being beautifully written, *Outliers* is a fascinating quick read of case studies of people who have succeeded in various professions and how, by altering our concepts of “talent” and acknowledging privileges, our society could find models where more people could more fully reach their creative potential. It’s truly a must-read for educators, creative artists, and people interested in social justice in the U.S.

Susan Russell, Theatre Arts

***The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester**

Once you pick it up, you can’t put it down. *The Professor and the Madman* is an extraordinary tale of madness, genius, and the incredible obsessions of two remarkable men that led to the making of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Chase Straub, Athletics

***Revolution 2.0: The Power of the People is Greater than the People in Power, a Memoir* by Wael Ghonim**

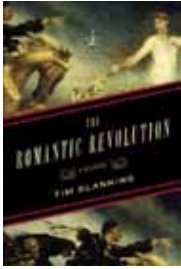
Revolution 2.0: The Power of the People is Greater than the People in Power, a Memoir by Wael Ghonim examines the role of the internet and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter in the Egyptian Revolution. Ghonim organized online forums and non-violent protests that culminated in the much televised Tahir Square rallies and the fall of the Mubarak regime. Part autobiography and part social commentary, *Revolution 2.0* articulates the internet’s transformative power and raises the prospect of peace in the Middle East.

Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library

***Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age* by Modris Eksteins**

This book probes the origins, impact, and aftermath of World War I, from the premiere of Stravinsky’s ballet *The Rite of Spring* in 1913 to the death of Hitler in 1945. It is written in a style that can be appreciated by the layman as well as the historian. See also *Le Sacre du Printemps* under the Film Section (p. 49).

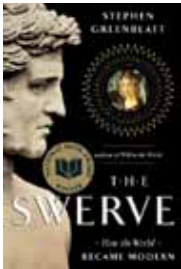
Marta Robertson, Conservatory of Music / Interdisciplinary Studies



***The Romantic Revolution: A History* by Tim Blanning**

A graceful and broad-based narrative of the 19th century movement which tried to overthrow the Enlightenment, and replace reason with emotion -- a struggle which, on the whole, has been more successful than we might wish.

Allen Guelzo, History



***The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* by Stephen Greenblatt**

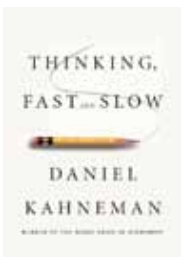
Six centuries ago, Poggio Bracciolini, former papal secretary and avid bookhunter, made a spectacular find in a German monastery: a copy of Lucretius' *De Rerum Natura*--a work that had been lost to the ages. The work, which we translate as *On the Nature of Things*, is a long poem presenting the philosophy of Epicurus. The genius of this non-fiction work, a National Book Award finalist, is to write this history as a suspenseful tale of discovery, illuminating four eras: the Hellenistic world of Epicurus, the Roman world of Epicurus, the rediscovery of classical works that helped fuel the

Renaissance, and the modern world. Bracciolini's find, soon condemned by the Church, introduced a striking modern, anti-religious outlook: atomistic theory, materialism, a world of natural causes, and a celebration of human pleasure and happiness as the center of a good life. Western history, like Epicurus's atoms, then unexpectedly took a "swerve." This is a lively, engrossing, graceful, and thoroughly satisfying book. A book Lucretius would have loved!

Dan DeNicola, Philosophy

This is a wonderfully vivid and lively book about the life and times of Poggio Bracciolini, the 15th century scholar, papal secretary, and "book hunter," who brought back to the light of day Lucretius's epic poem on Epicureanism: *De Rerum Natura*, and the profound effects on our intellectual history the recovery of the poem brought. I just couldn't put this book down. Mind you, if you want to know about the poem itself, you'll just have to read it: this is not really Greenblatt's story. But after you read *The Swerve*, you will surely want to read or reread Lucretius.

GailAnn Rickert, Classics



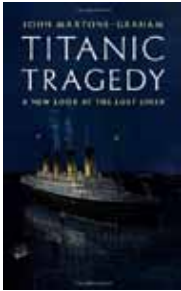
***Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman**

Kahneman is a psychologist who received the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2002. This book presents summaries of some of his research as well as that of others and shows that many decisions we assume are based on reasoning result from a propensity to reach quick conclusions that accord with previous understandings but are demonstrably wrong. It is a sobering read, but also an engaging and rewarding one.

Kerr Thompson, Spanish

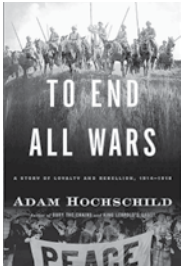


NONFICTION

***Titanic Tragedy: A New Look at the Lost Liner* by John Maxtone-Graham**

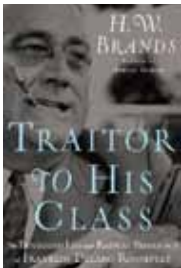
I admit: I have been a *Titanic* nerd since I first learned about the famous “unsinkable” ship at my grandfather’s knee. For those who want to squeeze a short, fast book on the *Titanic* into this centennial year of the *Titanic* sinking, Maxtone-Graham (a veteran writer on the great passenger ships of the 20th century) offers a quick and lucid introduction.

Allen Guelzo, History

***To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918* by Adam Hochschild**

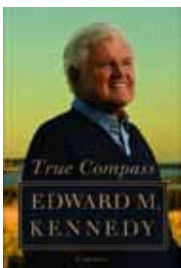
A captivating history of World War I written by the author of *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, which I also recommend highly to anyone who has not yet read it. Although Hochschild’s narrative of World War I includes the usual data about the conflict, it is enlivened by an engaging cast of characters: British citizens from multiple social strata who supported or opposed the war and whose lives it transformed. As eye-opening as it is compelling.

Kerr Thompson, Spanish

***Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt* by H.W. Brands**

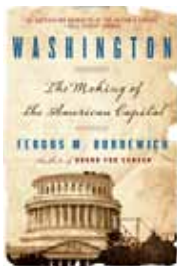
The book is a great read if you like biographies. Roosevelt is a president often talked about, but I knew very little about him other than some of the key facts. I appreciated learning about his youth, his time before the presidency, and his relationship with his wife.

Paul Redfern, Communications and Marketing

***True Compass: A Memoir* by Edward M. Kennedy**

On what would have been Senator Ted Kennedy’s 80th birthday, I began reading his memoir. This book, written very much in the “liberal lion’s” own voice, paints a vivid picture of the life of the youngest Kennedy child - from youthful summers on the Cape to adult years in the halls of Congress. It is clear that the Senator lived in the shadow of his older siblings for much of his life, but used the Kennedy dedication to public service to carve his own path.

Nikki Rhoads, Communications and Marketing



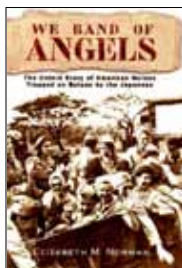
***Washington: The Making of the American Capital* by Fergus M. Bordewich**

A sprightly history of how very nearly Washington, DC, never came to be built in the first place, how it was eventually built on the cheap, and how George Washington

After reading Bordewich, you'll know why modern Washington functions the way it does -- because that's the way it always has!

pulled every string he could to make it happen. After reading Bordewich, you'll know why modern Washington functions the way it does -- because that's the way it always has!

Allen Guelzo, History



***We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese* by Elizabeth M. Norman**

These women were the first U.S. female POWs and their story is at once harrowing and heroic.

Gail Jones, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



***What Einstein Told His Cook: Kitchen Science Explained* by Robert L. Wolke**

This book explains EVERYTHING about the science of cooking, from which types of pans to use to what actually happens when you cook different foods. It's a great read for foodies and scientists alike.

Darryl Jones, Admissions



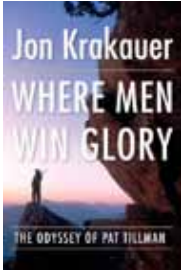
***What Einstein Told His Cook 2: The Sequel: Further Adventures in Kitchen Science* by Robert L. Wolke and Marlene Parrish**

This is a fantastic sequel to the original book-- and just as informative and entertaining.

Darryl Jones, Admissions

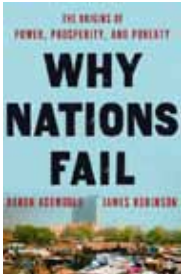


NONFICTION

***Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman* by Jon Krakauer**

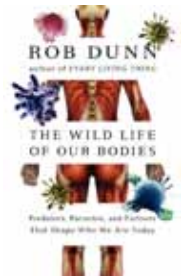
Where Men Win Glory details the life and death of Pat Tillman, an NFL star that walked away from a multimillion-dollar contract to become an Army Ranger post-9/11. Krakauer provides an exceptional account of Tillman's rise to NFL success, his decision to enlist in the Army, and eventual death in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Jim Duffy, Registrar

***Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson**

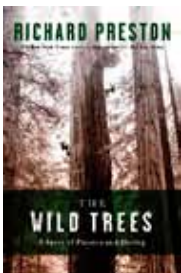
The book uses a combination of economics, history and political science to explain the differences in economic development (and decay) that have occurred across the globe.

Rob Bohrer, Political Science / Provost's Office

***The Wild Life of Our Bodies: Predators, Parasites and Partners that Shape Who We Are Today* by Rob Dunn**

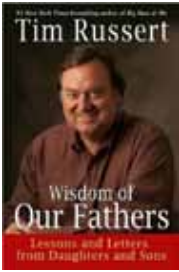
This book explores how parasites, pathogens, and predators have influenced the evolution of humans. Clean, modern living, argues Dunn, has removed many of these potential threats, giving rise to allergies, anxiety disorders, and other diseases. I found it a fascinating read that left me viewing the "bad guys" in a completely different light.

Carrie Szarko, Instructional Technology

***The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring* by Richard Preston**

Preston describes the coastal redwoods and the people who know and study them. The stories of the people and their lives could have been more succinct. But in general, Preston effectively used their fascination--in some cases obsession--with the redwoods to convey how unique, amazing, and special these trees are. It makes me want to see the trees. But, unlike the people profiled in this book, I'm happy to have that view from the safety of the ground.

Jessica Howard, Musselman Library



***Wisdom of Our Fathers: Lessons and Letters from Daughters and Sons*
by Tim Russert**

An outstanding follow-up to Tim Russert's best seller *Big Russ and Me*. Russert shares with the reader many of the letters he received from those who wrote to him about the lessons they learned from their own fathers after being inspired by *Big Russ and Me*. A great read that emphasizes the impact of lifelong lessons that parents impart to their children.

John Campo, Athletics



***You Were Always Mom's Favorite!: Sisters in Conversation Throughout Their Lives*
by Deborah Tannen**

Great insights into sister dynamics. Found myself laughing, nodding, and crying as I read it.

Cathy Zarrella, College Life

FILMS / FILMS



***(500) Days of Summer* directed by Marc Webb (2009)**

Tom, a would-be architect turned greeting card writer, falls completely in love with Summer (the girl who doesn't believe in love) the moment he meets her. This movie takes you on a journey through the ups and downs of their relationship as Tom attempts to convince Summer that love is indeed real.

Meghan Kelly, Musselman Library



***50/50* directed by Jonathan Levine (2011)**

This funny 2011 film about...well, um...cancer is pitch perfect. Based on the director's experience with The Big C, it stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Bryce Dallas Howard, and Anna Kendrick (of *Up in the Air* fame). The language is realistically crude,

This film is sublime AND ridiculous.

just the way I like it. Rogen's character is totally freakin' awesome, my idea of a best friend. He does what needs to be done to push his sweet, gentle buddy to make life-affirming decisions. Kendrick held up well against bigger-than-life George Clooney in *Up in the Air*. She does it again here, not allowing Rogen to suck all the air out of every scene. This film is sublime AND ridiculous. Yes!

John Commito, Environmental Studies



***Angry Monk: Reflections on Tibet* directed by Luc Schaedler (2005)**

A documentary film tracking the life history of Gendun Choephel (1903-1951), one of the most remembered Tibetan intellectuals in the 20th century. The juxtaposition of news footage from the first half of the century with more recent images is impressive, tenderly leaving the task of reflection to the beholders.

Susan Chen, Asian Studies



***Cave of Forgotten Dreams* directed by Werner Herzog (2010)**

This is a documentary written, directed, and narrated by Werner Herzog, well-known German director of both feature films and documentaries. The Chauvet Cave in Southern France was discovered in 1994 by a group of scientists. It contains the earliest known human paintings that were done over 30,000 years ago! Herzog and a small crew of four were given limited access inside the cave to film these beautiful paintings that include horses, rhinos, lions, bears, and mammoths. What wonderful paintings! You will especially love the last 10 minutes of the film. It left even me speechless!

Nancy Bernardi, Musselman Library



***Un Cuento Chino* directed by Sebastián Borensztein (2011)**

First, yes, this is available as a DVD with subtitles. The Spanish title is hard to translate, though. It literally means "A Chinese Story," but in Argentina it refers to a preposterous tale. Despite being politically incorrect, the title is appropriate for a movie in which cows fall from the sky and a Chinese immigrant gets stranded in front of the home of an Argentine who collects newspaper stories that are stranger than fiction. The movie is humorous and touching. It is perhaps a useful metaphor for coping in a world that may seem increasingly unfamiliar.

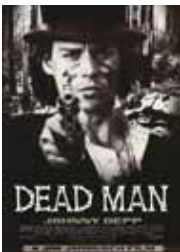
Kerr Thompson, Spanish



***A Dangerous Method* directed by David Cronenberg (2011)**

About the interaction between Freud and Jung.

Lou Hammann, Religious Studies



***Dead Man* directed by Jim Jarmusch (1995)**

If you are looking for an independent film that celebrates and subverts the Western genre, this is a film for you. Gorgeously typical of its auteur with slow building suspense, and arresting cinematography, wonderfully acted by its two leader actors, Johnny Depp and Cayuga American Indian, Gary Farmer, and darkly humorous, *Dead Man* is a classic.

Salma Monani, Environmental Studies



***Intermission* directed by John Crowley (2003)**

This 2003 film is set in a gritty, urban Ireland with accents so thick I needed to click on the subtitles. The characters are terrific, some sleazy, some charming, some sleazy AND charming. Them's my peeps! Well, except that they're Irish. You'll recognize Colin Farrell and Colm Meaney, but the other actors may be new to you. If you liked *The Commitments*, you'll enjoy *Intermission*, too!

John Commito, Environmental Studies



***The IT Crowd* created by Graham Linehan (2006 – present)**

This British sitcom is for anyone with a love for quirky Brit humor. Not quite *The Office*, not quite *Monty Python*, *The IT Crowd* creates its own niche of sitcom entertainment,

Not quite The Office, not quite Monty Python, The IT Crowd creates its own niche of sitcom entertainment . . .

getting especially good in its second season as the writers develop the three main characters and generate surprising plot lines. For the viewer who was despairing of sitcom triteness, this show is a breath of fresh air.

Salma Monani, Environmental Studies



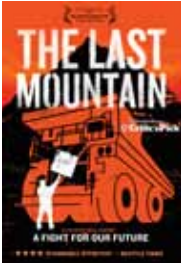
***Lars and the Real Girl* directed by Craig Gillespie (2007)**

This film is about a lonely man named Lars who buys a sex doll for companionship. If that premise sounds quirky enough and you are ready to see the film, perfect. If it turns you off, know that the film is not about sex at all. It is about family and community and grace and healing. It is funny and sad and hopeful. Ryan Gosling and Emily Mortimer (among others) are outstanding and will make you laugh and cry. I love this film and watch it once every year.

Jeff Rioux, Center for Public Service

When socially awkward Lars begins introducing a mail-order sex doll as his girlfriend, his family and friends react in exactly the right way. A sweet movie that demonstrates the power of confronting a problem with love.

Chuck Wessell, Mathematics



***The Last Mountain* directed by Bill Haney (2011)**

As a child of Southeastern Ohio in the foothills of Appalachia, the face of which has been forever altered by strip mining, the effect of Big Coal on small communities is not news. Directed by Bill Haney, this 2011 documentary focuses on a battle in Coal River Valley, West Virginia between large, politically influential coal companies, such as Massey Energy, and a dedicated group of local residents who want to stop the practice of mountain top removal, which they argue has destroyed the natural beauty of their home, poisoned their water, and damaged the health of their neighbors.

The documentary explores the power of Big Coal in developing government policy, the environmental impact of mountaintop removal, and how the United States can meet its energy needs while still protecting the environment and health of communities like Coal River Valley.

Clinton Baugess, Musselman Library



***Magic* directed by Richard Attenborough (1978)**

Long before he scared the world as Hannibal Lecter, Anthony Hopkins scared the beejeesbers out of me as the mild-mannered Corky Withers. Corky is a painfully shy ventriloquist who gains fame performing with his opposite personality dummy, Fats. With the help of his agent (Burgess Meredith), Corky is about to have a shot on national TV. But his nerves get the better of him and he decides to retreat to the country, at a resort run by the unhappily married sweetheart of his youth (Ann-Margret). Their love is rekindled, but someone has other plans for their future...

Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library



***Megamind* directed by Tom McGrath (2010)**

Not just another kid's movie! As one of the best and most witty movies that I have seen in a long time, *Megamind* is elaborate in creating a perfect family-friendly movie that has the most intricate animated story I have ever seen. What makes a super villain "evil?" What makes a hero "good?" Can one exist without the other – would one exist without the other? And what exactly would happen if the villain ever actually won? Megamind was a genius villain who was misunderstood as a child, bullied, and felt that because people TREATED him as bad then he must BE bad. He quickly develops a slap-stick struggle with the city's hero in a dynamic *Megamind* describes

in his own words, "Our battles quickly got more elaborate. He would win some, I would ALMOST win others!" Until one day, despite all of his blunders, it seems that Megamind has succeeded in beating his nemesis. There are several good lessons to be learned throughout the film, but none of them beat you over the head with it (*Shrek 3*, anyone?). This is definitely a movie whose previews really didn't do it justice. *Megamind* will keep adults or children laughing for the entire 95 minutes of the film.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



***Midnight in Paris* directed by Woody Allen (2011)**

The engaged Gil and Inez are on a trip to Paris with Inez's family. While Gil falls in love with the city and its connection to the past, Inez has different views. Time travel, idealism, and love are all wrapped up in this unique film which reflects on the idea that another life is more desirable than the one you currently have.

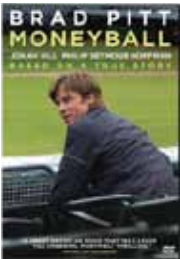
Meghan Kelly, Musselman Library



***The Mill and the Cross* directed by Lech Majewski (2011)**

This 2011 film by Polish director Lech Majewski stars a painting: Peter Bruegel's "The Procession to Calvary." There's little dialogue. The film's perspective for the most part is the visual imagination of Bruegel as he observes life in 16th century Flanders and plans his masterpiece. The scenes, often living reproductions of Bruegel's paintings, are jaw-droppingly—and sometimes savagely—beautiful. Rutger Hauer, Michael York, and Charlotte Rampling are part of this dream-like film's ensemble.

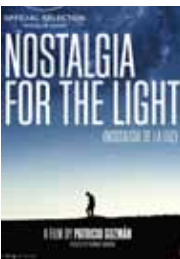
Kerry Walters, Philosophy



***Moneyball* directed by Bennett Miller (2011)**

Most baseball fans are aware of the way the game has changed in the past couple of decades thanks to the "sabermetric" revolution, but even casual fans (and—dare I say it?—even a non-fan or two; this is what happens when Brad Pitt lands in the lineup) can find something to enjoy about Bennett Miller's adaptation of Michael Lewis' bestseller about how the Oakland A's attempted to build a team around these new ideas. This is a film about squandered opportunities (on the field and off), about bucking tradition in the name of innovation, about why sports mean so much to so many people. It's about money, and it's about baseball. My advice: read the book first, then play John Fogerty's song "Centerfield" a couple of times, then watch the film. Then catch a game yourself.

Dave Powell, Education



***Nostalgia for the Light* directed by Patricio Guzmán (2010)**

This poetic documentary juxtaposes two seemingly different activities currently taking place in Chile's Atacama Desert: the activities of astronomers working with the telescopes in the area and the search by citizens for the remains of family members who were murdered by the Pinochet dictatorship. The results are moving and thought-provoking. Possibly the best film I've seen in the last year.

Kerr Thompson, Spanish



***Le Sacre du Printemps [The Rite of Spring]* by Igor Stravinsky**

While the library has two renditions of this famous ballet, the film to watch is the YouTube version (Search under *Rite of Spring* Joffrey Ballet). Next year marks the centenary of the *Rite of Spring*, first performed in 1913. The Joffrey Ballet's recreation of the historic performance that caused a riot is not to be missed. One hundred years later you may still be shocked.

The Joffrey Ballet's recreation of the historic performance that caused a riot is not to be missed. One hundred years later you may still be shocked.

For context you might also enjoy the book *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age* by Modris Eksteins. His cultural history moves fluidly from the scandal of *The Rite* to a graveyard of smashed cars neighboring the memorial cemetery of Verdun. Likewise Ken Follett's *Fall of Giants: Book One of the Century Trilogy* is a good read. His historical fiction addresses the same time period with an army of characters stretching across four countries. In truth, reading the two books simultaneously, I sometimes had difficulty remembering which was "fiction" and which was "history."

Marta Robertson, Sunderman Conservatory of Music / Interdisciplinary Studies



***Samurai Fiction* directed by Hiroyuki Nakano (1998)**

A tribute to classic samurai films as well as to Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, *Samurai Fiction* is self-reflexive and takes itself only that seriously. With its exaggerated violence, which is more cinematically graceful than gory, and its tongue-in-cheek response to the revenge narrative, this is a film for both the Japanese film and Tarantino aficionado.

Salma Monani, Environmental Studies



***Sarah's Key* directed by Gilles Paquet-Brenner (2010)**

This is a compelling film about the Holocaust in France. It concerns the investigation by a French journalist into what happened to a young girl whose family was part of the notorious Vel' d'Hiv roundup of Jews in Paris in 1942.

Don Tannenbaum, Political Science



***Sherlock* created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat (2010 – present)**

This BBC television series updates the adventures of the great detective and his assistant, Dr. Watson, to 21st century London. Sherlock solves crimes with just the perfect mix of aloofness, brilliance and eccentricity, and Watson (since this is the 21st century...) blogs about their adventures. Both seasons are great, but the show really shines in the second season as Holmes faces his greatest adversary, Moriarty. This is a fantastic take on Sherlock Holmes, and fans will love catching the clever nods and allusions to the original Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stories that are scattered throughout the series.

Kayla Lenkner, Musselman Library



***The Skin I Live In* directed by Pedro Almodóvar (2011)**

This bizarre Almodóvar film lacks the optimism that characterized some of his earlier ones: *Volver*, *Live Flesh*, and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. Don't see it if you're feeling down. On the other hand, its weirdness makes it difficult to confuse what's on the screen with everyday reality, and it won't bore you. Like all of Almodóvar's movies, it's thought-provoking. If you see it, it may help you to know the meaning of the words— unfortunately not translated by the subtitles— painted on the graffiti-covered wall behind Elena Anaya's character about two-thirds through the movie: "Art is a guarantee of health." Yeah.

Kerr Thompson, Spanish



***Tabloid* directed by Errol Morris (2010)**

Am I allowed to laugh at this movie? Documentary filmmaker extraordinaire Errol Morris (*The Thin Blue Line*) has outdone himself. Joyce McKinney, beautiful genius, kidnapped her Mormon boyfriend in England in 1977, was prosecuted for indecent

Joyce McKinney, beautiful genius, kidnapped her Mormon boyfriend in England in 1977, was prosecuted for indecent assault, and became a tabloid sensation in the UK.

assault, and became a tabloid sensation in the UK. There's more (cloning puppies). I found the film fascinating and hysterically funny. Some see it as cruel to McKinney (interviewed three decades later), but the tabloid editors satirize themselves.

Charles Emmons, Sociology



***The Tree of Life* directed by Terrence Malick (2011)**

This wonderful, inspiring film features Brad Pitt as a severe, authoritarian father of three boys growing up in 1950s suburban Texas. The cinematography is beautiful in this film, and the music score is very moving and provides real emotional weight to the scenes. The director conveys the feeling of youth and innocence so completely that you feel a real connection to the family portrayed in the film, especially the three young brothers.

This movie is not your straightforward film about growing up in 1950s America – there are many questions left unanswered and many choices the director makes that may leave you pondering “why?” But these questions only leave the door open to your own interpretation of what the real message the film is trying to convey. Watch this with some friends and get their take on what the film is about. Why the universe creation sequence in the beginning of the movie? What is your interpretation of the ending of the film?

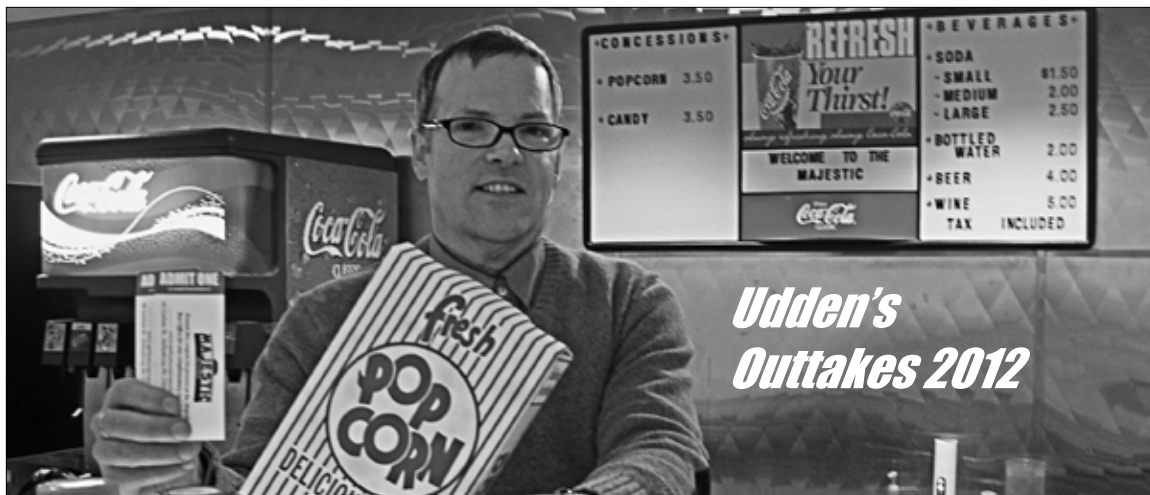
Kate Martin, Musselman Library



***Up* directed by Pete Docter and Bob Peterson (2009)**

The movie reminded me that our best adventure is life itself.

Rod Tosten, Information Technology



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

Are Germans funny? If you think you already know the answer to this question, read on to the end. But, first, I will digress.



After attending two very different film festivals in 2011, four films stand out, although there is no guarantee that all four will be out on DVD by this summer.

At the Berlin Film Festival in 2011, I saw the world premiere of the Iranian film, **A Separation**. Since then this film has had a remarkable global run, winning not only the top prize in Berlin, but more recently becoming the first Iranian film to win best foreign language picture at the Oscars. How such a frank portrayal of both divorce and religious/secular divides got made in Iran is miraculous enough, especially since clerics on Iran television declare this to be a "dirty movie." Yet that they allowed a wide release and high box office returns is further proof of how divided Iran is today.

Another unforgettable premiere at Berlin (and runner up to *A Separation*) was Bela Tarr's final film, **A Turin Horse**. This is an allegorical/apocalyptic work based on an apocryphal story of a horse that Nietzsche reportedly wept over. However, I warn you, this is extremely slow and philosophical, not for those wary of such rarified form. (Do not adjust your television at the end or toss the DVD in disgust – the world really does go black!)



In Vancouver there are too many titles to recommend, since I was able to see nearly thirty in a week's time. (You have to be in really good shape to do that – or a bit out of your mind.) Still, there were two titles I would say you must see, provided DVDs for this region become available.



The first is an endearing Japanese work, *I Wish*. This is the story of two young brothers separated by divorce who conspire to reunite their parents using a superstition they pretty much know will not work. (Another recent Thai film has the same title, but that is an erotic film. Of course, if you want an excuse to see a Thai erotic film, you could always blame me, "Well, Jim Udden said this was an art film!")

Asian art films in recent years have specialized in using minimalist long takes, and this might dissuade some of you. Yet rarely has this style been put to such moving effect.

In *Tee Rak*, a ghost returns to a spot of the happiest moment of his life: when he courted his wife and convinced her to live in his home village.

For any new TV show, I would have to recommend *Boss*. Although it is about a Chicago mayor, this is not exactly a docudrama about any of the Daley clan, none of whom I am certain actually killed off members of their own staff. Yet it is truly Shakespearean in tone, further evidence for the recent claims that if Shakespeare were alive today, he would write for TV, not the stage. After all, today the groundlings – and nearly everyone else – tend to converge on their sets for some, if not most, of their narrative needs.



What has fascinated me more recently, however, is how TV shows and films represent actual historical events and/or milieus. Many scholars have written on this issue, and the best note that both written and filmed history are highly mediated representations of the past, not the past itself, and each are done through drastically different means requiring different historical criteria to judge.

To me, the best shows are rich in historical "texture," for lack of a better term, that sense of sort of "being there" wrought by artifice.

This is not to say they are always accurate in these details – but who can verify every detail to begin with? So for example, recently the British have nicely rendered the Cold War, whether through a TV Mini-series, *The Hour*, which takes place during the Suez Crisis of 1956, or the recent film, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*.



Meanwhile, HBO continues to excel in this field, whether in its harrowing and revelatory depiction of the Pacific campaign in WW II (*The Pacific*) or its view of the early days of Prohibition (*Boardwalk Empire*). Certainly I have read about both events in the past, but I never quite understood the existential and psychological threat (arguably much worse than in Europe) the Pacific campaign actually posed for individual soldiers who lived through it; nor have I ever quite seen at once all the complex layers of social and political forces that were unearthed by a single policy that defined the Roaring 20s.



Few films over the last year intrigued more than *The Sun*, by the Russian director, Alexander Sokurov, and made just a few years ago. This is his take on the Japanese Emperor over the last days of the war and the first days of the American occupation. Sokurov often employs an uncanny temporal elasticity in his films.



UDDEN'S OUTAKES



For example, in **Russian Ark** he covered two centuries of Russian history in a single, uninterrupted shot almost ninety minutes in duration! In this case, one is not exactly sure when the war actually ended for the Emperor, yet what comes across is his humanity – and his sheer relief that the Americans are forcing him to now be human, not divine.

There is one final way to look at history in film, and this is where the Germans come in. In addition to films made about the past, what about films made in the past, that now serve as a sort of historical document? I saw two stellar examples this past year, both of which are comedies, both perfect for anyone's summer viewing list. Hence

my opening question: if the Germans are supposedly not that funny, why is it that many of the greatest Hollywood comedies ever were made by German émigrés?



Ernst Lubitsch is one of the greatest comedic directors of all time, one whose career spanned the silent and sound eras. But a particular surprise was a scathing satire of the Nazis he made during the war in 1942, **To Be or Not to Be**. If you don't think it could possibly be funny that somehow Hitler was on the streets of Warsaw *before* the invasion of Poland, well, see this film. (While you are at it, check out other Lubitsch films from our library collection. This will answer the question as to why I disliked **The Artist**.)



Billy Wilder is another German émigré director who is credited with what is often called the funniest Hollywood film of all time, **Some Like It Hot** (1959). But until this past year I had never seen **One, Two, Three**, (1961) a rip-roaring Cold War satire shot in Berlin in part. The film includes a car chase that goes through the Brandenburg Gate. However, the Berlin Wall went up through the middle of this set before they could shoot this scene, so they had to recreate the scene and the gate in Munich!

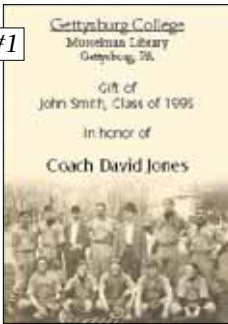
Sure, we can blame the Germans for a lot of history's worst turns, but at least some of them have been able to make us laugh at it. And I mean really laugh!

Enjoy.

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HONOR WITH BOOKS

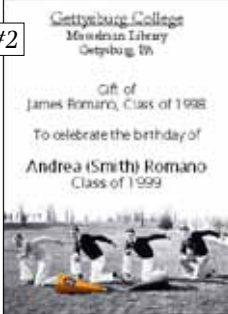
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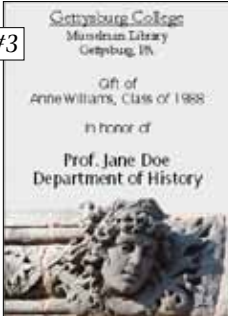
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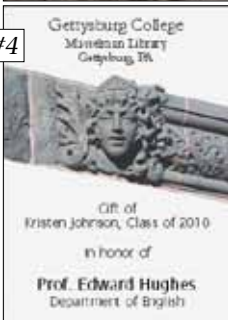
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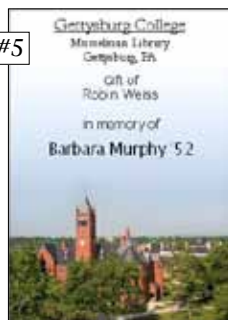


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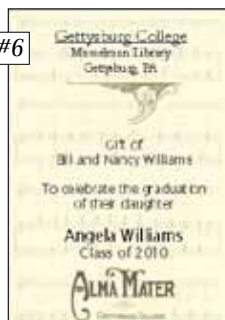
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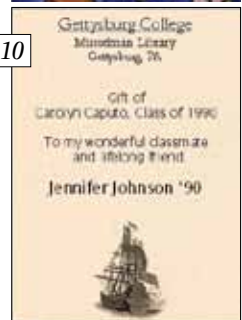
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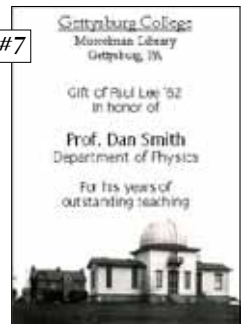
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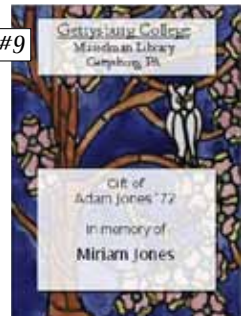
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#9



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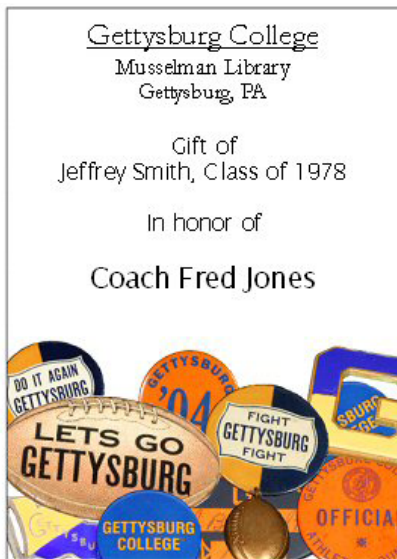
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Sample Bookplate



Movie Memories WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

June 6, 2012

Gunga Din (1939)

June 13, 2012

Oklahoma! (1955)

June 20, 2012

**Willy Wonka & the
Chocolate Factory (1971)**

June 27, 2012

Born to Dance (1936)

July 4, 2012

Closed for Holiday

July 11, 2012

Double Indemnity (1944)

July 18, 2012

Strike Up the Band (1940)

July 25, 2012

Red River (1948)

August 1, 2012

Bringing Up Baby (1938)

August 8, 2012

Tarzan the Ape Man (1932)

August 15, 2012

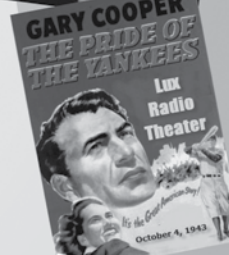
State of the Union (1948)

August 22, 2012

Pride of the Yankees (1942)

August 29, 2012

Annie Get Your Gun (1950)



Show Time 7:30 p.m. • Tickets \$6.00

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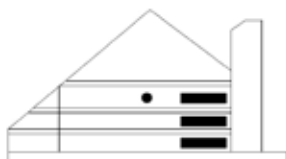
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