



Summer 2011

# You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2011)

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# You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2011)

**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

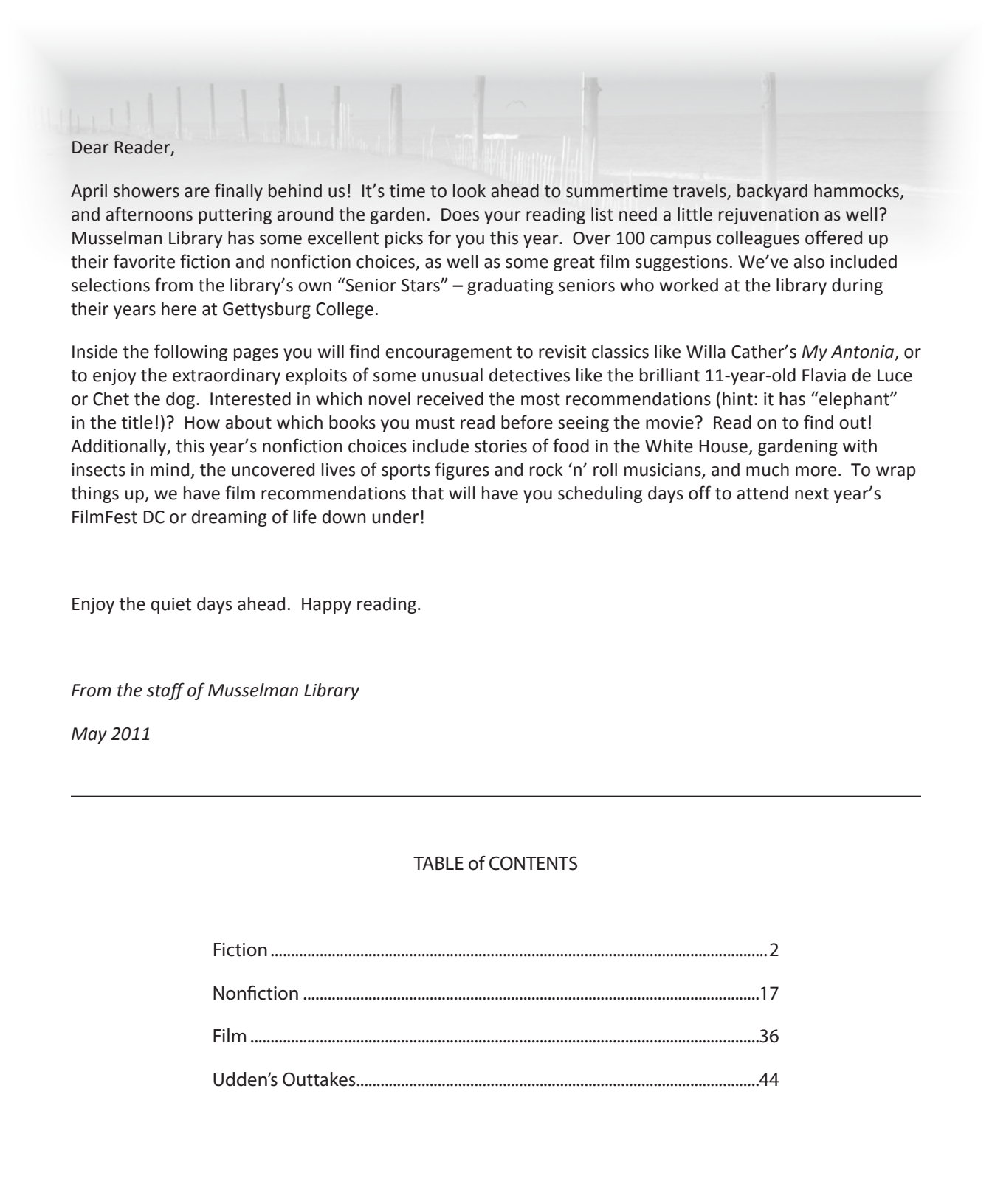
**Summer Reading  
@ Musselman Library**





Cover design by Kate Boeree  
Barbara Holley Library Intern  
Musselman Library, 2009-10





Dear Reader,

April showers are finally behind us! It's time to look ahead to summertime travels, backyard hammocks, and afternoons puttering around the garden. Does your reading list need a little rejuvenation as well? Musselman Library has some excellent picks for you this year. Over 100 campus colleagues offered up their favorite fiction and nonfiction choices, as well as some great film suggestions. We've also included selections from the library's own "Senior Stars" – graduating seniors who worked at the library during their years here at Gettysburg College.

Inside the following pages you will find encouragement to revisit classics like Willa Cather's *My Antonia*, or to enjoy the extraordinary exploits of some unusual detectives like the brilliant 11-year-old Flavia de Luce or Chet the dog. Interested in which novel received the most recommendations (hint: it has "elephant" in the title!)? How about which books you must read before seeing the movie? Read on to find out! Additionally, this year's nonfiction choices include stories of food in the White House, gardening with insects in mind, the uncovered lives of sports figures and rock 'n' roll musicians, and much more. To wrap things up, we have film recommendations that will have you scheduling days off to attend next year's FilmFest DC or dreaming of life down under!

Enjoy the quiet days ahead. Happy reading.

*From the staff of Musselman Library*

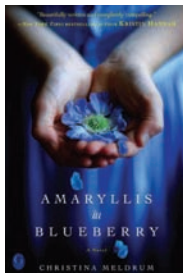
*May 2011*

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# FICTION FICTION



## ***Amaryllis in Blueberry* by Christina Meldrum**

Few books pull me in simply because of the beauty of the writing, but this one did just that. The story, told from a variety of perspectives, details a family's struggle not to fall apart under the weight of its secrets. It's actually a story I would like to read again.

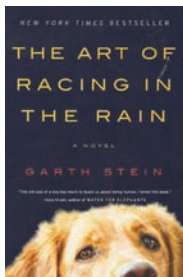
**Catherine Perry, Musselman Library**



## ***The Ambassador* by Bragi Olafsson**

This is an entertaining and (mostly) gentle satire. It recounts the adventures of the poet Sturle Jonsson who is selected as Iceland's delegate to an international poetry festival in Lithuania. The story of Jonsson's trip to Lithuania may strike a particular resonance with small college academics.

**Michael Wedlock, Chemistry**



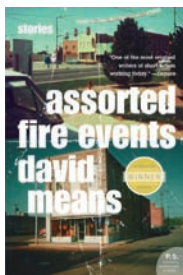
## ***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

Yes, I know another animal book -- but if you love animals, you will enjoy this quick read. A must for all dog lovers or those of us who really wonder what is going on in the minds of animals!

**Barbara Fritze, Enrollment & Education Services**

Written from a dog's perspective, this book provides a unique insight into human behavior. A poignant and humorous read, you will enjoy reading this book.

**Gail Jones, Sunderman Conservatory**



## ***Assorted Fire Events: Stories* by David Means**

Brilliant short stories, dark but hopeful. Many are online so go take a quick read.

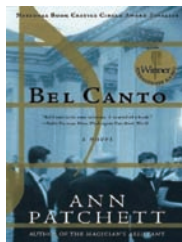
**Paul Fairbanks, Web Communications**



**At Swim, Two Boys by Jamie O'Neill**

"We are extraordinary people, we must do extraordinary things." The novel traces the relationship of two teenage boys—Jim Mack and Doyler Doyle—over the year preceding the Easter Uprising in Dublin in 1916. O'Neil parallels the boys' desire to claim a small rock off the shore for themselves, the search for Irish independence and national identity, and the movement for LGBTQA rights in a heart-breaking and powerful novel. I cried, but that shouldn't deter you from reading it.

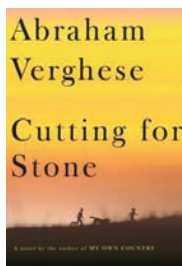
**Marc Beard, Religion**



**Bel Canto by Ann Patchett**

This book has the unusual setting of a hostage situation at an embassy somewhere in a Latin American country, but it is really a story about love and the transformative power of music. This is one of those books that lingers in your mind long after you finish reading it.

**Kay Etheridge, Biology**



**Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese**

Verghese is a physician whose non-fiction works on AIDS and drug addiction I have used in my First Year Seminar. This is his first work of fiction and it is simply magical. Using

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*The characters are vibrant and the plotting masterful.*

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internal medicine as his muse, he tells a remarkable story of twin boys, raised in Ethiopia during the reign and overthrow of Haile Salasie as they pursue their own medical careers and fragile identities. The characters are vibrant and the plotting masterful.

**Ralph Sorensen, Biology**

This sweeping saga starts with the birth of twins—attached by a blood vessel—and the death of their mother, a devout nun. Thus begins a lifetime of intrigue and passion of unforgettable characters with a huge focus on the medical world in Ethiopia. Be forewarned it's an extremely graphic novel but I found it mesmerizing. It's been over a year since I read this book and I still remember it vividly.

**Tina Grim, Civil War Institute**

Set in India, Ethiopia, and the U.S., this is the story of a family — biological and created — whose calling to serve others through medicine both unites and divides them. I devoured this book last fall and have been waiting for a decent interval of time to pass before picking it up again. I will definitely be re-reading it this summer.

**Caroline Hartzell, Political Science**



### ***Death with Interruptions* by Jose Saramago**

On New Year's Day, no one in a Western European country dies. Nor the next day or day after that. People continue to become ill. Those on the brink of death remain there. Death, portrayed as a woman, has taken a holiday, much to the dismay of life insurance companies and funeral homes. Curious read on what would happen to the world if no one ever dies.

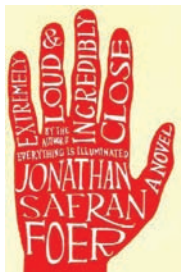
**Deb Hydock, Dining Services**



### ***Dog on It* by Spencer Quinn**

Are you looking for a 'beach book'? Want something that will not challenge your intellect? Even if you are not interested in the genre of mysteries and detective fiction you should try out the detective stories of Spencer Quinn. Sure, they are full of clichés: divorced, always broke, often drunk, private investigator Bernie Little and his partner, Chet, provide a good story full of car chases, gun duels, desert treks, and romance. But what makes this series of books different is that Chet tells the story. Oh, by the way, Chet is a dog — a former K9 trainee who failed his final exam. If you want some good laughs, lots of clichés, and a fun quick read look for *Dog on it*, *Thereby Hangs a Tale*, and *To Fetch a Thief*. And by the way, Spencer Quinn is a pseudonym.

**Dave Hedrick, Musselman Library**



### ***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

This is a wonderful piece of creative fiction—refreshing and inventive. The story concerns Oskar, a brilliant, odd nine-year-old boy in the months after his father's death in the World Trade Center on 9/11. Oskar finds a key in his father's closet and sets out on a quest to find the matching lock. The quest brings him into contact with an array of quirky and endearing characters across the boroughs of greater New York City. Sometimes unnerving, at times funny, and ultimately amazingly tender and touching, this book is a real treasure. One of the hardest challenges of a writer is to capture the authentic voice of a child, and Foer does an outstanding job of making the reader believe in—and come to care for—Oskar.

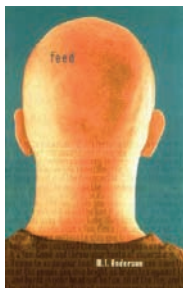
**Julie Ramsey, College Life**



### ***Fair and Tender Ladies* by Lee Smith**

I first encountered this wonderful novel when I was a college student, and have re-read it at least three times...and am due for another. The remarkable narrator Ivy Rowe tells her life story through letters, beginning when she is a young girl and continuing through decades of life in changing Virginia Appalachia. You'll find humor, suspense, heartbreak, and beauty, and Ivy will stay with you long after the last page.

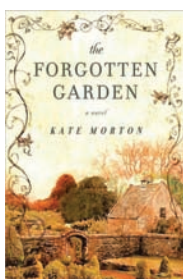
**Emily Clarke, Capital Giving**



***Feed* by M.T. Anderson**

Anderson does well to extrapolate and perhaps exaggerate current cultural trends into the not-too-distant future. Humans are hardwired to the internet at birth, corporations govern, consumerism supplants art (s) and intellectualism and civilization, despite vast technological advancements, is parochial and uninspired. Violet attempts to resist the feed's sensory tyranny but her efforts are futile and ultimately lead to her tragic demise. An interesting paradox is that instant access to information via the feed facilitates ignorance and illiteracy, that is, the artificial intelligence of the feed 'thinks' for them and communication is reduced to internet colloquialisms and nonsensical abbreviations, e.g., re;, lol, mal, null, etc.

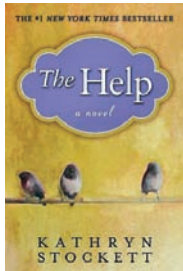
**Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library**



***The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton**

This is a wonderfully engaging story with characters you can almost picture sitting across the table from; and the scene descriptions are terrific. I didn't want this book to end.

**Maida Connor, Donor Relations and Special Events**



***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett**

I don't use the word poignant often; however, it's the right word to describe this book about the segregated South in the 1960s and three women whose lives and stories are intertwined. I understand it will be a movie soon; since it's hard to imagine that the depth of these characters could be portrayed fully on film, I would advise reading the book before the film tempts you.

**Janet Morgan Riggs, President**

The title is a euphemism for African-American domestic servants in the South, and the novel gives a moving, insightful look at the connected lives of women, white and black, in civil-rights-era Mississippi. Even if you experienced that time yourself, you'll gain from Stockett's book.

**Michael Ritterson, German**

Some of my favorite hours this semester were spent sneaking off between classes with my new Kindle to read *The Help*. Having grown up in Houston about a decade after when *The Help* was set, the book left me with wonderful and disturbing shocks of recognition, from shaking battered chicken pieces in a brown paper bag for fried chicken, to memories of "Viney" ironing my grandfather's shirts in my grandmother's kitchen. Ultimately, *The Help* encouraged me to shine a light into the nooks and crannies of my relationships with people I may have underappreciated.

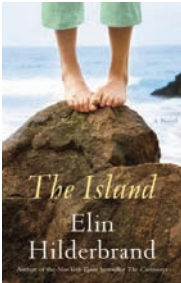
**Marta Robertson, Sunderman Conservatory**



### ***I'jaam: An Iraqi Rhapsody* by Sinan Antoon**

A beautifully written and haunting story about a young man imprisoned in Iraq during Saddam Hussein's regime. The story, told through journal entries, moves from prison life to the detainee's life before prison as a politically conscious university student. Although at times very difficult to read, the story is fascinating – I was completely devoted to finishing it within one or two sittings.

**Kerri Odess-Harnish, Musselman Library**



### ***The Island* by Elin Hilderbrand**

This is a lovely story about mothers, daughters, sisters and, of course, love. I found myself fully immersed in all of these women's lives. The four women will spend a month together at their family's summer home near Nantucket, in search of healing, sisterhood, peace, and self-discovery. You can guess what that means, there will be

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*It's light enough for a beach read but with enough genuine emotion and real life to pull you into the story.*

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laughter, joy, tears and plenty of sisterly and motherly fighting. Not only were the characters appealing in this novel, but Hilderbrand's depictions of Tuckernuck Island were marvelous. I enjoyed reading about the secluded private island, its inhabitants, and the rituals: "Life is Good."

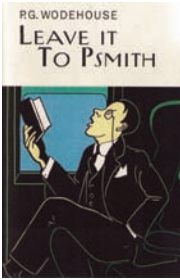
If you are a fan of Hilderbrand's brand of smart and fun women's fiction, this is a novel for you. It's light enough for a beach read but with enough genuine emotion and real life to pull you into the story. This is one to lay back and enjoy while relaxing at the beach or by the pool. A perfect summer read.

**Jennifer Coale, Majestic Theater**

This is a wonderful summer read. Pack it along with your beach towels and sunscreen and follow the long summer days of two sisters, Birdie and India and Birdie's two adult daughters, Chess and Tate as they spend a summer on an island off Nantucket. Chess' mother, sister and aunt gather with her to help her heal from her broken engagement and death of her fiancé. The novel is told from the rotating point of view of each of the two sets of sisters. It's a book light enough to take on vacation, but with some emotion to draw you in to the story.

**Patti Lawson, Communications and Marketing**





***Leave it to Psmith: A Comedy of Youth, Love, and Misadventure, in Three Acts* by P.G. Wodehouse**

Malcontented poets, eccentric Earls, alluring library cataloguers, and the debonair but utterly hapless Psmith (the 'p' is silent) feature in this 1923 comic romp set in an estate in the home counties of England. *Leave it to Psmith* is classic Wodehouse romance featuring the ridiculous lives of some of his most eccentric but endearing characters. Truly, your monocle will pop out of your eye socket with every erupting guffaw.

**Ian Isherwood, History**



***The Lincoln Lawyer* by Michael Connelly**

If you like fast moving drama which ends with a twist, you'll like this book. It is an easy summer read.

**Jane North, President's Office**



***Little Bee* by Chris Cleave**

I dare you to read twenty pages of this book and then close it. Chris Cleave gives us something shaken, not stirred, a literary cocktail of human violence and sadness tempered with grace and wit. It is rare and compelling.

**Sharon Stephenson, Physics**



***Little Women* by Louis May Alcott and *March* by Geraldine Brooks**

If you loved *Little Women* as a child, do yourself a favor and read it again as an adult. Which sister speaks to you now – womanly Meg, tempestuous Jo, sweet Beth, or artistic Amy? Grab a glass of lemonade and enjoy a trip down memory lane. Then, when you're done, pick up Geraldine Brooks' *March* and hear the story of Mr. March, away at war. Brooks paints a very human picture of the absent father, whose high ideals are frequently at odds with his own failings. A particular treat for *Little Women* lovers will be the backstory of Mr. March and Marmee's courtship, seen in flashback.

**Sarah Kotlinski, Admissions**



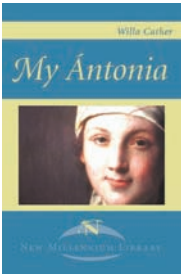


### ***Mornings in Jenin* by Susan Abulhawa**

This story follows three generations of a Palestinian family, from 1941 to 2002. Prior to reading it, I knew a lot more about the Israeli side of the Israel/Palestine conflict. Abulhawa's book helped me balance my knowledge without completely overwhelming me with detail and horror (as some of the other books I've read have done). Yes, terrible things happen to many of the characters, as you would expect. But many wonderful and life-affirming things also happen. The characters (both Israeli and Palestinian) are complicated and layered, human rather than caricatures.

The result is an extremely readable novel that is simultaneously informative and extremely moving. If you learn history better through fiction than nonfiction, I highly recommend this novel as an introduction to Palestinian history over the last 70 years or so.

**Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library**



### ***My Antonia* by Willa Cather**

Few books bear rereading as much as Willa Cather's *My Antonia* (1918). Having read it during the summer of my first-year of college, it is forever linked in my mind with the heat of high summer and the slow breezes coming off the fields around my

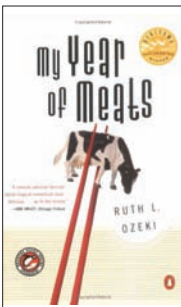
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*You'll fall in love with the strength of Antonia, dream of the American plains, and yearn for a simpler time.*

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parents' home. Told through the gaze of the American narrator, Jim Burden, Cather endears the reader to Antonia Shimerda, a Bohemian immigrant to Nebraska in the 1880s. We follow Antonia through the tragedies and joys of her life and see a vision of a lost America and the immigrant experience. You'll fall in love with the strength of Antonia, dream of the American plains, and yearn for a simpler time.

**Clinton Baugess, Musselman Library**



### ***My Year of Meats* by Ruth L. Ozeki**

Looking for a wry, witty, but deeply touching book that makes you think? This book should not disappoint. By far my favorite read from last year, this fictional (but somewhat autobiographical) story combined my two passions—film and food—in the most creative and extra-ordinary ways as it follows its lead protagonist, Jane Takagi-Little, a Japanese-American documentary filmmaker who's been commissioned to make a "wholesome" reality Japanese show about American housewives cooking beef (the show is sponsored by the beef lobby). Needless to say, Jane's tales and travails while full of humor also expose the dark underbelly of our global food systems and the idiosyncrasies of American and Japanese culture, especially as they intertwine with the story of the other lead protagonist, Japanese housewife, Akiko Ueno.

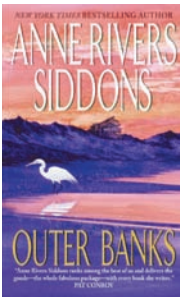
**Salma Monani, Environmental Studies**



**Next by James Hynes**

This novel takes place on one day in the life of a mid-level university administrator who is at a crossroads in his life. He travels from Ann Arbor to Austin to interview for a job in the private sector. He ponders his past, present, and future as he hurtles, unknowingly, to a startling and suspenseful conclusion.

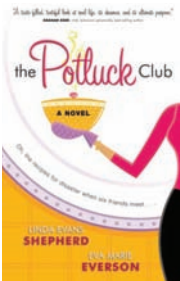
**Roy Dawes, Political Science**



**Outer Banks by Anne Rivers Siddons**

If you are like me, the whole time you are reading a book of fiction, you are predicting or guessing the ending. And I love it when I am so wrong and the author's ending gives me such as surprise that I let out a sound of shock, thinking, "Oh no, that didn't just happen!" Well, Anne Rivers Siddons' books do that to me. Some of the ones I have enjoyed are: *Outer Banks*, *Up Island*, *Low Country*, *Colony*, *Downtown*, *Off Season*, *Heartbreak Hotel* and more. Grab one from the library and let me know what you think.

**Regina Campo, Human Resources**



**The Potluck Club (Book 1) by Linda Evans Shepherd and Eva Marie Everson**

Six women who gather each month to share their insatiable appetite for good friends, great food, and a pinch of prayer. Their seemingly, unlikely friendship brings a little spice to life in Summit View, Colorado. But when they send up enough misinformed prayers to bring down a church, things get interesting...

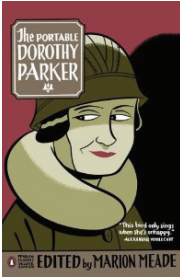
**Kelly Jones, Athletics**



**The Privileges by Jonathan Dee**

A brilliant novel about becoming rich via illegal means, getting away with it, and marching forth into philanthropy and alienation.

**Fred Leebron, English**



***The Portable Dorothy Parker (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition) by Dorothy Parker***

“There’s a hell of a distance between wise-cracking and wit. Wit has truth in it; wise-cracking is simply calisthenics with words.” Well beyond a collection of her famous quips and quotes, this fascinating compilation of Dorothy Parker’s iconic short stories and poetry also includes reviews and personal correspondence. Together they present not only an extraordinary talent, but an intriguing life of 20<sup>th</sup> century urban wit, biting humor, and acute observational loneliness among a crowd. This is a great get-to-know-her-and-love-her book. Glasses are optional...

**Sam Gregg Isherwood, Donor Relations and Special Events**



***Queen’s Own Fool by Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris***

This is actually “juvenile fiction” but I often find some of the best storytelling occurs in this genre. Jane Yolen is a prolific writer for children and this piece is a full length historical fiction work based on the life of Mary Queen of Scots. It’s well-written, interesting, and I admit, has enlightened me a bit on the life of this historical figure.

**Heidi Frye, Admissions**



***The Red Tent by Anita Diamant***

This book was so good, it’s worth reading a second time, and that’s not something I do very often. This historical novel is based on the rape of Dinah from the book of Genesis. It’s a fascinating story told by Dinah and the women around her; we learn much about the culture and society from the Biblical times. It’s a great story, written with such skill you can almost feel her emotion.

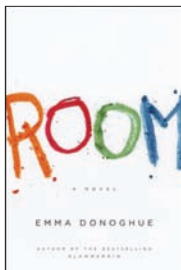
**Tina Grim, Civil War Institute**



***The Report by Jessica Francis Kane***

This novel uses as its setting an event that occurred in 1943 in London, during which 173 people were crushed to death in a bethnal Green air-raid shelter on a night when no bombs fell. The title refers to the task given to one of the central protagonists, a magistrate who must negotiate class boundaries and anti-Semitism to write a report about the incident.

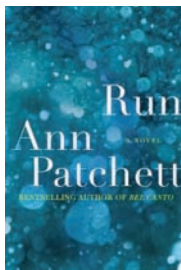
**Kim Dana Kupperman, *The Gettysburg Review***



**Room by Emma Donoghue**

A whimsical guide to good parenting, if you can stomach the backdrop of abuse and captivity.

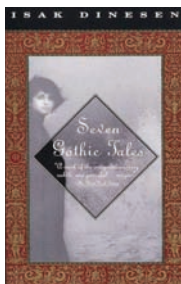
**Jennifer Cole, Academic Advising**



**Run by Ann Patchett**

This is a story about a strict single father trying to raise his sons after their mother's death. As the former mayor of Boston, he hopes his sons will find a career in politics. So, he continually drags them to hear politicians speak. Everything changes one night when there is a car accident and a snow storm. This book was one of my favorites because it is set in Boston, and there is a mystery woman that keeps you guessing. You won't want to put this book down!

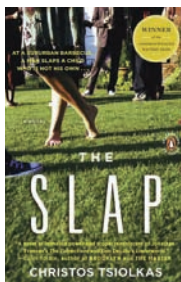
**Sarah Principato, Environmental Studies**



**Seven Gothic Tales by Isak Dinesen**

"Be not afraid of absurdity; do not shrink from the fantastic," says one of the characters in these truly fantastic short stories by a Danish aristocrat, Karen Blixen, who wrote under the pen name of Isak Dinesen. Her storytelling style is so captivating, you find yourself sort of hypnotized. If I were alone on a desert island, her books (any of her books) would be great company.

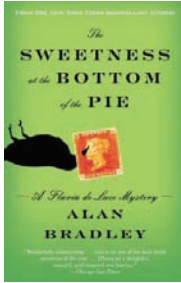
**Jose Montelongo, Spanish**



**The Slap by Christos Tsiolkas**

At a backyard barbecue a man loses his temper and slaps a child who is not his own. The incident unleashes a series of repercussions in the lives of the people who witness the event, pitting friends and families against each other. The story is told from the viewpoint of eight different characters, some particularly unlikable. The author puts a microscope to family life and presents a layered drama laced with male vanity, infidelity, tension and (warning to the squeamish) a fair bit of cursing. The story takes place in Melbourne, Australia but just as easily could be suburban America.

**Robin Wagner, Musselman Library**



### ***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley**

Like mysteries? This book unfolds a good one. But the best reason to read this book is to meet its protagonist: Flavia de Luce. She's an 11-year old, brilliant (and irrepressible), a lover of chemistry (especially poisons), independent (and lonely), and acerbic (often

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*She's an 11-year old, brilliant (and irrepressible),  
a lover of chemistry (especially poisons),  
independent (and lonely), and acerbic  
(often hilariously so).*

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hilariously so). In a huge, deteriorating, English estate, with a father who has emotionally retreated to his stamp collection, and two hostile older sisters, Flavia retreats to her chemistry lab and brews for readers an intriguing and captivating mystery. Bradley's debut novel for Flavia has won numerous awards and become an international bestseller. The really good news is: it is the first of a series, so you don't have to lose touch with Flavia. She also leads us through *The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag* and *A Red Herring without Mustard*—with more in the offing. You'll savor each one!

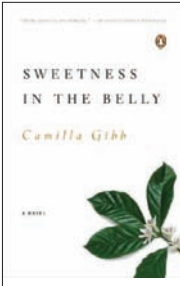
**Dan DeNicola, Philosophy**

This novel has a female protagonist as addictive as Lisbeth Salander from *The Millennium Trilogy*. Clever and unflappable, Flavia de Luce is an 11-year-old growing up in 1950s England who has two major interests—crime and chemistry. As a sleuth, she is capable of picking a lock with a wire loosened from her braces, and as a mad scientist, she is prepared to punish her older sister Ophelia, who incessantly claims that Flavia is adopted, by putting a poison ivy concoction in her lipstick. (Ophelia's lips looked like the south end of a macaque monkey, Flavia tells the reader.) Witty and endlessly entertaining, this novel is an elegant mystery that merits the many prizes it has won.

**Elizabeth Richardson Viti, Provost's Office**

This charming mystery introduces 11-year-old amateur sleuth Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist who is fascinated with poison and whose main means of transportation is her bicycle. She and her two older sisters live with their widowed father in a crumbling mansion in the village of Bishops Lacey, England, in the 1950s. When no one else seems willing to find out why a dead stranger turns up in their cucumber patch, Flavia decides to take matters into her own hands. The author, a 70-year-old first-time novelist, has produced a labor of love in this story of the feisty, acerbic, and brainy Flavia.

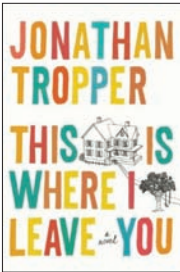
**Kathy Cain, Psychology**



***Sweetness in the Belly* by Camilla Gibb**

An engrossing and beautifully written novel about a young English woman raised by a Moroccan Sufi scholar after the death of her hippie parents. This work takes you deep into the Islamic world of North Africa and into the lives of Ethiopian refugees in London. Improbable as it sounds, the telling is an authentic exploration of memory and exile, unlike anything you've ever read before.

**Janet M. Powers, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies**



***This is Where I Leave You* by Jonathan Tropper**

After reading some pretty serious, heavy books this winter I picked up Tropper's *New York Times* bestseller. Judd Foxman's father has just died and his last request was for his family to sit shiva for seven days and seven nights. This comes right on the heels

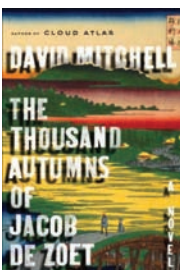
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*It's described as "sidesplitting" and "heartbreaking" in the same sentence by a reviewer. It would be a great summer read!*

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of Judd's wife having an affair with his boss (which he walked in on while carrying her birthday cake complete with lit candles). I found the story to be very funny, but also poignant at the same time. After all, who doesn't love a story about a dysfunctional family? You get the old high school girlfriend, family tragedies revisited, siblings falling into familiar roles, and everyone grappling with the death of a parent. It's described as "sidesplitting" and "heartbreaking" in the same sentence by a reviewer. It would be a great summer read!

**Ashlyn Sowell, Capital Giving**



***The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* by David Mitchell**

I really enjoyed this book. Set in Nagasaki in 1799, it weaves a detailed story about Japanese and European traders and the fascinating world that evolved around them. You'll certainly learn more about the Japanese interpreters of Dutch than you ever thought you'd want to know!

**John Commito, Environmental Studies**



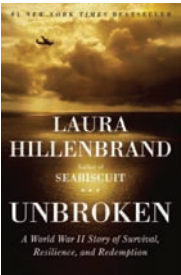


### ***The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas**

For a summer read, the dirty classification of *The Three Musketeers* as a “classic” should not put people off. It is an easy, engaging and entertaining read that provides moments of out-loud laughter. It has it all: sword fighting, a scrappy young upstart from the Provinces, friendship and more sword fighting. The engaging narrative can be appreciated at face value, but it can also be read as a post-revolutionary comment on the past by a 19<sup>th</sup> century Frenchman. All of this in one neat little package! And, don’t worry, it was originally written as a serial publication, so the chapters are short and ideal for on-again, off-again reading.



**Joshua Stewart (Anthropology major, History minor)**



### ***Unbroken: A WWII Story of Survival* by Laura Hillenbrand**

One of the best books I have read. A story told about Louie Zamperini, an Olympic runner turned soldier during World War II. His story of survival is amazing, and at times, inspirational.

**Susan Fumagalli, Athletics**

Hillenbrand’s second novel is as compelling as her first (*Seabiscuit*); in fact she became aware of Louis Zamperini while completing her research for *Seabiscuit*, and vowed to follow up on the lead for her next book project. Louie Zamperini’s story humbles, amazes, and inspires as it describes the capacity for human endurance. Louie ran in the Berlin Olympics, enlisted in the air force, trained as a bombardier, and crashed in the Pacific Ocean where he and three other survivors drifted on a rubber raft for 45 days. But that’s just the beginning of his test as he is

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*Louie Zamperini’s story humbles, amazes, and inspires as it describes the capacity for human endurance.*

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captured when his raft drifts into enemy territory. This book follows Louie into modern times, and he is still very much alive. While it’s difficult to know if some of Louie’s recollections were entirely accurate, his story is remarkable. And, did I mention that Louie ran a six minute mile (and change) as an 80 year old? Enjoy this book and the triumph of the human spirit over adversity!

**Jonelle Pool, Education**



### ***The View from Castle Rock: Stories* by Alice Munro**

This is an excellent collection of autobiographical short stories. It’s so good that I didn’t want to finish it. Who could imagine that the superbly articulate Munro was the daughter of fur trappers?

**Kathryn Rhett, English**

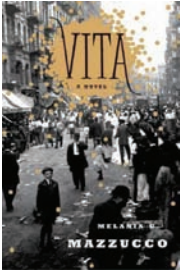




### ***The Vintage Caper* by Peter Mayle**

Peter Mayle is known for his novels and non-fictional tales of the entertaining life of an Englishman living in Provence, France. This book is a novel exploring the theme of wine, food, fame and high-profile thievery. Mayle's voice is always entertaining, easy to read, and brings the provencal attitude to life.

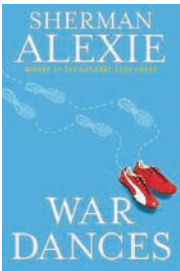
**Heidi Frye, Admissions**



### ***Vita* by Melania G. Mazzucco**

This is a wonderful novel about two Italian kids who arrive in New York in the early 1900s and their struggle to survive. It's powerful, painful, sprinkled with a touch of magic and beautifully written. It won a literary award in Italy. Although it's not quite light, it's difficult to put down once you start to read it.

**Lidia Anchisi, Italian**



### ***War Dances* by Sherman Alexie**

This is Sherman Alexie doing what Sherman Alexie does best, and I love it. A collection of stories and poems, this is at once hilarious, heartbreaking, and painfully incisive in its understanding of people and our frailties. Alexie is one of the greatest voices in American literature today (not to mention Native American literature), and

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*Alexie is one of the greatest voices in American literature today . . . I am consistently entertained and challenged by his view of contemporary American society.*

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I am consistently entertained and challenged by his view of contemporary American society. He gets it and presents it in ways that make you laugh and say "ouch!" all at the same time. One of my favorite pieces from *War Dances* is a poem about giving up a seat on an airplane. Go figure. If you like this, try anything else by Alexie, but I especially recommend *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which has one of the most moving and accurate passages about American identity that I've read in a very long time.

**Allison Singley, Parent Relations**



### ***Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen**

A romantic, historic novel that about human-animal bonds in a circus setting.

**Barbara Fritze, Enrollment & Education Services**

An unexpected romance develops as a veterinary school student abandons his studies and falls in love with Marlena, a star performer in a circus of a bygone era.

They discover beauty amidst the world of the Big Top, and come together through their compassion for a special elephant. Against all odds—including the wrath of Marlena’s charismatic but dangerous husband, they find lifelong love.

*Water for Elephants* captivated my attention with an interesting plot, riveting characters, compelling action, and a well researched background. I love it when I can read a book then see it as a movie!

**Jean Grubesky, Majestic Theater**

Set in the 1930’s, this is the vivid, sentimental story of a young man, Jacob, and how his love of a circus woman and elephant changed his future. In the book, Jacob is training to be a veterinarian when the tragedy of his parents’ deaths sends him reeling. He takes up with a traveling show that is trying desperately to be the next Ringling Brothers Circus but is working to fill many holes in their act. He travels with them as their veterinarian. Hopping from town to town, Jacob is swept up in the struggles of circus life, his love for the married Marlena, and his attempts to reach the latest addition to the circus menagerie – the seemingly impossible to train animal: Rosie the elephant. The mood of this story is almost bittersweet as it is told by Jacob as an old man in a retirement home; recalling the adventures of his youth.

**Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library**

Not only is it based in the history of U.S. traveling circuses, it’s an incredibly well-written and moving story. It was so easy to connect to the characters and I couldn’t put it down.



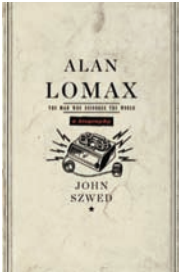
**Elizabeth Ungemach (History major, Spanish minor)**



### ***Wishin’ and Hopin’: A Christmas Story* by Wally Lamb**

What better time to read an unforgettable story that captures the winter joy of the Christmas season than when it’s summer and 90 degrees out. This hilarious Christmas tale centers on a parochial school fifth grader named Felix Funicello, a distant cousin of the famous mouseketeer Annette! This one made me laugh out loud.

**Pam Dalrymple, Civil War Institute**



## ***Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World* by John Szwed**

The career of Alan Lomax spanned the technology from wax disks to mp3s, and when he died in 2002, he left behind an enormous legacy of music that helped to define folk culture in America and the world at large. Lomax is most associated with his work collecting for the Archive of American Folk Song at the Library of Congress, but he also worked as performer, a radio host, and a record producer. Traveling to juke joints and prisons throughout rural America, he recorded early sessions by blues and jazz performers like Leadbelly, Big Bill Broonzy Muddy Waters, and Jelly Roll Morton, and,

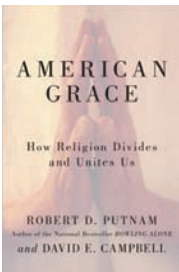
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*His work influenced, directly or indirectly, virtually every performer who drew on traditional culture in the latter half of the 20th century, figures as diverse as Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Bing Crosby and Carl Sandburg.*

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through commercial recordings and radio shows, made their work widely known to urban audiences. His work influenced, directly or indirectly, virtually every performer who drew on traditional culture in the latter half of the 20th century, figures as diverse as Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Bing Crosby and Carl Sandburg. You may not have heard of the man before reading this sprawling account of his life, but his influence on American music can be heard everywhere, in the songs we sing around the campfire, in the themes for dramatic and documentary films, and in the music of Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Eric Clapton, and a host of others.

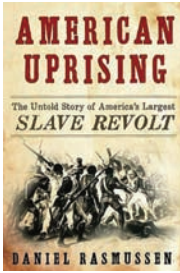
**Larry Marschall, Physics**



## ***American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* by Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell**

If you're shopping for a beach read, run away! *American Grace* is a real tome, almost seven hundred pages of data-filled descriptions of America's religious development since 1960, and the ways in which organized religion and politics have intertwined. It is laced with vignettes of religious groups which bring alive the statistical evidence of our recent evolution. For better or worse, Americans are by far the most religious among the developed countries in the Western World, and the impact of our beliefs on politics is profound. I know of no better way to get a grip on this phenomenon than to read this work—thirty pages at a time.

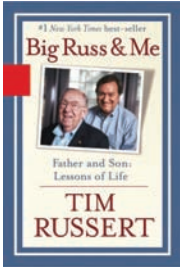
**Kenneth Mott, Political Science**



***American Uprising: The Untold Story of America's Largest Slave Revolt*  
by Daniel Rasmussen**

While not a great book, *American Uprising* is an interesting account of a significant slave revolt on plantations upriver from New Orleans in 1811. What makes the work of particular interest to the college and university community is that the author, Dan Rasmussen, began the book as his undergraduate thesis at Harvard.

**Charles McKinley Saltzman, English**



***Big Russ & Me: Father and Son, Lessons of Life* by Tim Russert**

Anyone who grew up in middle class America in the 1960's will love Tim Russert's book honoring his father. It is about the relationship between fathers and sons as well as growing up in working class America during that period. In many ways, it also honors all the men and women of the WW2 generation and the post war era of rebuilding our country's economy and parenting the Baby Boomer generation. A must read for all fathers as Tim recalls in great detail how his father - through his hard work, fatherly advice, and the example he set in living his daily life - profoundly affected and influenced him to be the man he grew up to become.

**John Campo, Athletics**



***The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart*  
by Bill Bishop**

Drawing on economics, history, and political science, journalist Bill Bishop uses demographic data to demonstrate how Americans have been sorting themselves into extremely like-minded communities over the past 35 years. In the words of the author, "As people in like-minded communities grow more extreme and firm in their beliefs, we are left with a country of neighborhoods and towns that are so polarized, so ideologically inbred, that people don't know and can't understand those who

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*My thinking about contemporary American politics and citizenship has been challenged by this powerful book and I urge you to read it, especially as we approach the 2012 U.S. presidential election.*

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live just a few miles away." In this fascinating book that is both well-written and data-driven, Bishop provides a compelling and alarming portrait of America today. My thinking about contemporary American politics and citizenship has been challenged by this powerful book and I urge you to read it, especially as we approach the 2012 U.S. presidential election.

**Chris Zappe, Provost**



***The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World* by Jacqueline Novogratz**

This book tells the story of what happens when a blue sweater belonging to an American girl ends up on the back of a young boy in Africa. Basically, it is the personal narrative of Novogratz's path from college student to international banker to global social entrepreneur and founder of Acumen Fund, which uses philanthropic capital to make disciplined investments – loans or equity, not grants – that yield both financial and social returns.

**Richard Rosenberg, Foundation, Government & Faculty Grants**

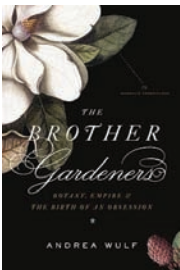


***Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas W. Tallamy**

In this book, Douglas Tallamy, professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at University of Delaware, argues that home gardeners can help to solve problems of ecosystem degradation and habitat fragmentation simply by growing more native plants. Tallamy is hardly the first to urge gardeners to grow more native plants, but two things make his book distinctive: First, he puts insects at the center of his argument, highlighting their importance in ecosystems and in the food chain and the way that they co-evolve with plants. One of my favorite lines from this book is

"A plant that has fed nothing has not done its job." Second, Tallamy is not a native plant purist. He does not demand that you rip out most of the plants in your garden and replace them with natives; rather he recommends a gradual approach that focuses on steadily increasing the proportion of native plants. This is a well-written, well-argued, practical and hopeful book. It will be of interest to anyone who is interested in environmental issues, and it is essential reading for gardeners.

**Jean Potuchek, Sociology**

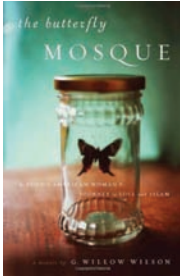


***The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire, and the Birth of an Obsession* by Andrea Wulf**

This book is a compelling account of the rise of ornamental gardening as a passionate pastime for the English middle classes and the spread of that passion from England to other parts of the world. Wulf ties the rise of gardening as "an obsession" to the rise of the British empire, to the 18th century philosophy of the Enlightenment, and to the development of scientific botany. She is trained as a historian of design, but writes with the sensibility of a novelist, organizing the story around the relationships between and among six "brother gardeners." If you are interested in gardens or

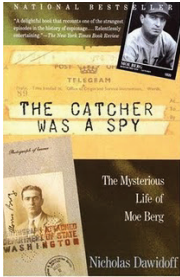
gardening, in the origins of our garden styles and the plants we grow, in botany, in history, or in the history of science, I think you will love *The Brother Gardeners*.

**Jean Potuchek, Sociology**

***The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam* by G. Willow Wilson**

This prose memoir by graphic novelist Willow Wilson recounts her decision to become a high school teacher in Cairo after her 2003 graduation from Boston University. Once in Cairo, as a new convert to Islam, she falls in love with an Egyptian teacher named Omar. The book is a delicate and heartfelt account of the year she spent getting to know Omar and his family and learning about an Egypt not seen by tourists.

**Kathy Cain, Psychology**

***The Catcher Was a Spy: The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg* by Nicholas Dawidoff**

I received this book as a birthday present a few years ago and could not help but become fascinated with this bizarre biography. Moe Berg was journeyman catcher in the Major Leagues from 1923-1939. It was not, however, as a player that Berg

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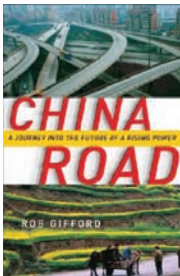
*The book is a wild ride through history, combining war heroes, brilliant scientists, lascivious outfielders, and hostile geisha girls.*

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earned his highest accolades, but as a dugout savant (it was said that Berg, educated at Princeton, the Sorbonne, and Columbia, could speak a dozen languages but couldn't hit in any of them).

The book is a wild ride through history, combining war heroes, brilliant scientists, lascivious outfielders, and hostile geisha girls. As a biography, it appears to lack only one element: a hero. But it has something better. It has Moe Berg!

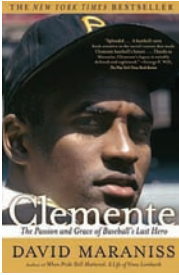
**Chase Straub, Athletics**

***China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power* by Rob Gifford**

This book recounts the author's experiences traveling on Route 312 in China—3000 miles from east to west, passing through factory towns, the rural interior, and the Gobi Desert—finally merging with the old Silk Road. The highway witnesses every aspect of the social and economic revolution that is turning China upside down. This is an adventure story told through a colorful cast of characters who the author meets, ranging from ambitious yuppies, cell phone salesmen and a garrulous talk show host, to impoverished peasants, AIDS patients and Tibetan monks. If someone wants to know more about contemporary China this is a great piece of travel writing.

**Jing Li, Asian Studies**





***Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero* by David Maraniss**

Growing up in Pittsburgh during the 1960's, baseball permeated the Steel City. From Forbes Field in Oakland to Three Rivers Stadium at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, Pittsburgh was a gritty baseball town. Hall of Famer players like Bill Mazeroski, Willie Stargell and Roberto Clemente played on those grassy diamonds through the years.

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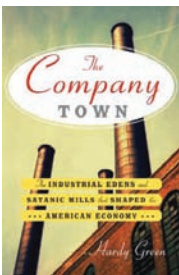
*Set up a hammock in the back yard, grab a bag of fresh, roasted peanuts, your favorite beverage and enjoy this story of one of baseball's purest heroes.*

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None was quite like Roberto Clemente. On the field he was a hero for his thundering bat, lightning speed and laser accurate arm in right field. Off the field he was more revered for his humanitarian deeds. This book chronicles Clemente's life: as a child growing up in Puerto Rico, becoming the 1952 draft choice of the Brooklyn Dodgers, his 17 years (1955–1972) with the Pittsburgh Pirates, the countless lives he touched in his native Puerto Rico and around the world. The tragic plane crash that occurred on December 31, 1972 ended his life while trying to fly relief supplies to earthquake victims in Managua, Nicaragua. This brings back a flood of memories for me even to this day.

Set up a hammock in the back yard, grab a bag of fresh, roasted peanuts, your favorite beverage and enjoy this story of one of baseball's purest heroes.

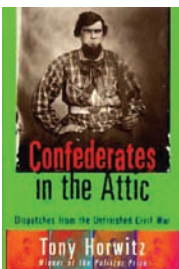
**Michael Kotlinksi, Bookstore**



***The Company Town: The Industrial Edens and Satanic Mills That Shaped the American Economy* by Hardy Green**

This work focuses on mill owners' utopian social vision and paradoxically their capitalistic greed and exploitation of workers. The author does well to juxtapose the competing interests (and perhaps irreconcilability) of industry and basic human rights not to mention equitable wages.

**Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library**

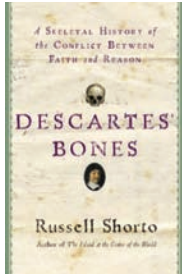


***Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* by Tony Horwitz**

A must read for Civil War buffs and American History enthusiasts. Through his travels, interviews, and visits of Civil War historical sites, Horwitz brings to light how the war has deeply affected our culture today, and is still very much ongoing in many areas of the country.

**John Campo, Athletics**



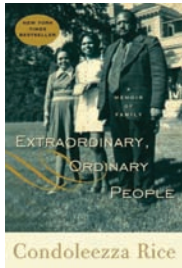


## ***Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict between Faith and Reason* by Russell Shorto**

I found this to be an utterly fascinating read about the life of the man whose contributions to mankind were central in our reach towards modernity. The book sketches the history of his bones as they traveled through many countries after his death, ("over six countries, across three centuries, through three burials") which is itself an entertaining story, but it is only a backdrop for Shorto's explanations of Descartes' philosophies of faith, reason, free will, duality, and on. "Cogito ergo sum" is but one famous legacy; his contributions to mathematics and the scientific

method may be less well known. The book covers a tempestuous period of history - including the Enlightenment, French Revolution, and I found the narrative to be written with grace and unusual clarity. Enjoy it!

**Dave Moore, Musselman Library**

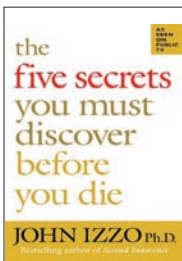


## ***Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family* by Condoleezza Rice**

A memoir of family by the 66th U.S. Secretary of State and the first black woman to hold that office. Condoleezza was also the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor. She tells of growing up in the late 50s and early 60s in Birmingham, AL in a middle class family. Condoleezza shares her close relationship with her parents: her father, John, a minister and educator, who instilled in her a love of sports (that's why you see her at all those football and baseball games) and her mother, Angelina, a teacher, who developed her passion for piano and exposed her to fine arts. This easy to read book was fascinating to me learning how her hard work, her family's selfless

and dependable support, and some unique circumstances created a pathway for her success, including Provost of Stanford University at age 39. Have you heard the rumors that she may one day be the commissioner of the NFL or was that the MLB?

**Regina Campo, Human Resources**



## ***The Five Secrets You Must Discover Before You Die* by John Izzo**

A dear friend of mine gave me this book after she lost her 18-year-old son to cancer. This book offers wisdom in learning to appreciate and embrace all the beauty and joy this world has to offer.

**Cindy Wright, Campus Recreation**



***The Gastronomical Me* by M.F.K. Fisher**

I discovered this book about 30 years ago. I do not know whether some portion of it was featured on the PBS program Reading Aloud, or if I read an excerpt quoted in another source, but it would definitely be one of my chosen dozen if there were a Desert Island Books. My copy is one section of the compilation, *The Art of Eating*, although it is available alone. I could have picked any one of the five books in the volume, because I have read and re-read them all. This book does not contain recipes, per se. I chose to suggest this one because Fisher's mindfulness about food and its place in life, which is neither obsessional nor heedless.

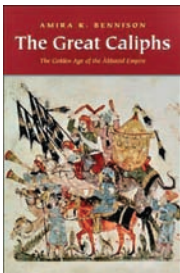
**Christine Benecke, Development, Alumni & Parent Relations**



***Good Calories, Bad Calories: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom on Diet, Weight Control, and Disease* by Gary Taubes**

I heard about this book while stuffing my face at a Super Bowl party. Especially if you are a lover of the science, this book will make you take a hard look at low-fat and especially low-cholesterol diets.

**Sharon Stephenson, Physics Department**



***The Great Caliphs: The Golden Age of the 'Abbasid Empire* by Amira K. Bennison**

This book examines the relationship between Islam and Western civilizations. Through conquest and imperialism, the Abbasid Caliphate translated and disseminated Greek and Roman knowledge, e.g., philosophy and science, throughout the Mediterranean world, North Africa and Spain. The author makes a compelling historiographical case for Greco-Roman-Islamic continuity, which challenges the artificial division of Oriental and Occidental spheres.

**Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library**



***Happens Every Day: An All-Too-True Story* by Isabel Gillies**

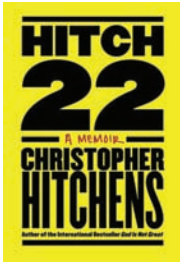
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*This is the most upbeat divorce memoir I've ever read . . .*

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This is the most upbeat divorce memoir I've ever read, and the irrepressible Gillies nails the culture of academia, from professors' preparatory rituals before class to the politics of the farmer's market. This is a smart book you can take to the beach.

**Kathryn Rhett, English**

***Hitch 22* by Christopher Hitchens, *Life* by Keith Richard and *Just Kids: From Brooklyn to the Chelsea Hotel, A Life of Art and Friendship* by Patti Smith**

Three significant memoirs were published this year, the same year former President Bush tried to retell his own life story. Christopher Hitchens, Keith Richard, and Patti

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*That Keith Richards can remember anything is a 20th century miracle. His stories, detailed in *Life*, however, are compelling and surprisingly enticing.*

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Smith are better at recapturing their past and present than W. Hitchens's *Hitch-22* traces the British bad-boy's journey from birth to his move to the United States. The book provokes, which is to be expected, and it illuminates. That Keith Richards can remember anything is a 20th century miracle. His stories, detailed in *Life*, however, are compelling and surprisingly enticing. He remains a bluesman, albeit a very rich one. Patti Smith, grandmother of punk rock, captures a time when Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe, the photographer, lived a bohemian existence in New York City in *Just Kids*. Smith presents herself as Steven Sebring does in his 2008 documentary *Patti Smith: Dream of Life*, a rock'n'roll figure who challenges fans' expectations.

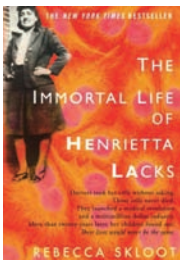
**Jack Ryan, Provost's Office**

***I'm Still Standing: From Captive U.S. Soldier to Free Citizen - My Journey Home* by Shoshana Johnson**

Not enough people know about Shoshanna Johnson – it would be great to spread the word. She is a remarkable woman and mother.

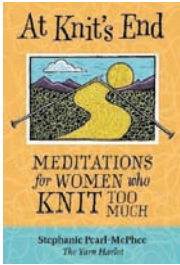
Publisher's Description: "On March 23, 2003, U. S. Army soldier Shoshana Johnson was captured after an ambush in the city of an-Nasiriyah, which killed and wounded many in her division. Shoshana herself suffered bullet wounds to both ankles. Along with four other members of her unit, she was held in captivity for 22 days, until a valiant rescue freed her and her fellow troops. Following this headline-making rescue, the courageous soldier returned to the States and received the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal and Prisoner of War Medal, and made numerous appearances. Now, the first-ever black female prisoner of war shares her poignant, inspiring story of bravery and strength in this candid and compelling memoir."

**Sheila Supenski, Eisenhower Institute**

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

I loved this book! It combines an important aspect of scientific history with issues of social inequality and the humanity of getting to know a family still struggling to make sense of it all. It raises ongoing and complex ethical questions about tissue culture while also being an accessible and enjoyable read.

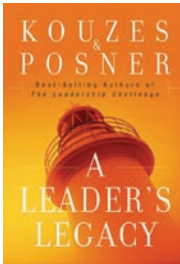
**Carol Rinke, Education**



***At Knit's End: Meditations for Women who Knit Too Much*  
by Stephanie Pearl-McPhee**

Filled with one-liners and one page humorous stories about knitting. Great book to keep in bag for times have a few spare minutes and no needles with you! Anyone who has uttered, "just one more row," this book is for you.

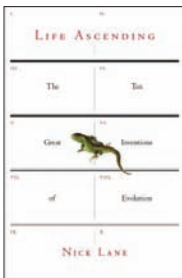
**Cathy Zarrella, College Life**



***A Leader's Legacy* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner**

This is the first leadership-oriented book that I believe can speak to everyone. I enjoyed how the book focused on one's outcomes and legacies. The book encourages the reader to think about the past in the future. In other words, how will history portray our future decisions and actions? Reflecting upon the impacts both short term and long term is a powerful activity for another to engage.

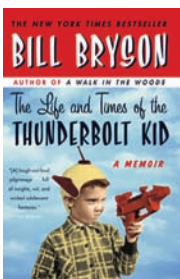
**Rod Tosten, Information Technology**



***Life Ascending: The Ten Great Inventions of Evolution* by Nick Lane**

Nick Lane takes us through a dizzying tour of some of the most fundamental processes of life and how they came to be. Everything from the first self-replicating molecules through photosynthesis to consciousness, sex and death gets detailed coverage, and the whole book does a wonderful job of explaining the enormous complexity of life and the simple mechanisms that created it. Be prepared for a fair amount of physics, chemistry and biology in the text, but all of it critical to the topic and carefully explained. Perhaps not the lightest of summer reading, but well worth the effort.

**Eric Remy, Information Technology**



***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir* by Bill Bryson**

I love Bill Bryson. *A Walk In The Woods* remains my favorite tome by this gifted writer but his side-splitting humor on growing up in America during the 1950s is also too much fun. His trusty sidekick Katz and a host of unforgettable characters -- the school principal, Mrs. Unnaturally Enormous Bosom, the devious Willoughby brothers, and a mom who once sent him to school in Capri pants -- fill the pages with a host of stories that anyone can relate to. Through humor, wit, and an unerringly observant eye for detail, Bryson paints a terrific picture of an America long gone but fondly remembered.

**Buzz Jones, Sunderman Conservatory**

**Louisa May Alcott by Susan Cheever**

For anyone who grew up reading about Jo March and her sisters in *Little Women*, *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys* you will enjoy the 2010 biography of Louisa May Alcott by Susan Cheever. It's a wonderful read filled with the life and times of Louisa May Alcott. It

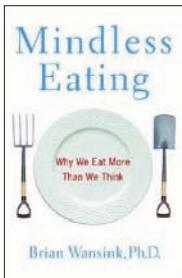
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*There have been many biographies written of Alcott,  
but I heartily recommend Cheever's.*

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chronicles her relationship with her peculiar father, her stint as a Civil War nurse in Washington, D.C., and the literary lions who were her neighbors in Concord, Mass. Louisa grew up in poverty that seemed much more genteel in the books she wrote. As an adult, the Alcott family depended on Louisa to support them. There have been many biographies written of Alcott, but I heartily recommend Cheever's.

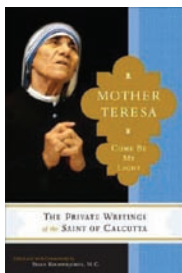
**Patti Lawson, Communications and Marketing**

**Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think by Brian Wansink**

Eleanor Pella recommended this book to me several years ago, but I didn't read it until one night a few weeks ago when I was contemplating several pints of Coffee Heath Bar Crunch. As I stood there by the book section of Giant, hoping to withstand temptation, I saw this book. Propinquity and the better angels won out. I was closer to it than to my buddies Ben & Jerry, grabbed it, took it home, and read it in two days. Like Dan Ariely's book *Predictably Irrational*, many of Wansink's studies show that what we think we do and what we do are not the same, even when we think we are too sophisticated to be fooled. I love the approachable and humorous text. The

suggestions about how to manage change in eating habits are incredibly pragmatic and within the realm of possibility.

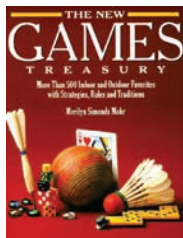
**Christine Benecke, Development, Alumni & Parent Relations**

**Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light - The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta edited by Brian Kolodiejchuk**

What is faith? Why Mother Teresa, one of the most faithful, a saint, experienced so many dark nights of the soul? What made her to question her faith? Why did she experience Christ's presence "neither in her heart or in the Eucharist"? Through private correspondence between Mother Teresa and her confessors and superiors over a period of 66 years, the book offers a rare glimpse of the journey of a believer known to the whole world.

**Suhua Dong, Institutional Analysis**





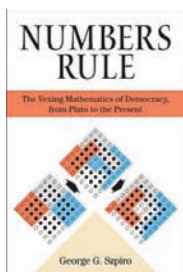
***The New Games Treasury: More Than 500 Indoor and Outdoor Favorites with Strategies, Rules, and Traditions* by Marilyn Simonds Mohr**

Although reading is an important solitary activity of reflection, meditation, and engagement with the author, I would propose a title that, in contrast, encourages us to interact and play with those around us. Although often dismissed as trivial or for children, game play is an ancient, culturally-universal activity that expresses a value for spending time with others. In an age where entertainment is often solitary and passive (TV, video games, etc.), I offer this title as a recipe book for richer memories

this summer, and seeds for growing a stronger community.

On a rainy summer vacation day, I recommend this book for a good time together indoors. In addition to presenting one of the best modern collections of game rules, Mohr delves into interesting history behind the games. (Did you know that croquet was once banned as an immoral sport?) From board games to outdoor games to party games, Mohr clearly and entertainingly presents a diverse set of excellent games.

**Todd Neller, Computer Science**



***Numbers Rule: The Vexing Mathematics of Democracy, from Plato to the Present* by George G. Szpiro**

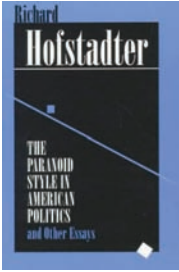
"Given that individual members of society have their preferences, how should we aggregate them to figure out what society as a whole prefers?" "How should we divide financial resources, pieces of cake, or congressional representation between people in a way that is as fair as possible?" These questions and similar questions related to social choice have many possible answers, and have been thought about for a long time by philosophers, political scientists, pundits, and, yes, mathematicians, with different groups each having their own take on the issues.

Szpiro's book is about the history and the people who have brought us various mathematical developments in the field, ranging from Plato's idealized democracy as described in *The Republic* to the people who have developed elaborate ranking systems like the BCS and voting systems like single transferrable vote. The second half of this book deals with the question of how congressional seats should be divided between the states, and Szpiro leads the reader through a series of congressional debates, special panels (featuring a cameo appearance by Gettysburg alum Luther Eisenhart, class of 1897), and politicking, explaining along the way the mathematical problems and "paradoxes" that the various solutions lead to. The book occasionally takes a detour into some equations, but it is definitely a book about mathematicians (and quantitative political scientists) more than a book about math, and it is very accessible to even the math-phobic reader.

**Darren Glass, Mathematics**

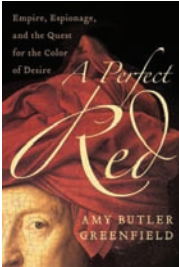


## NONFICTION

***The Paranoid Style in American Politics and Other Essays* by Richard Hofstadter**

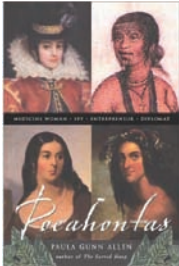
This work was written over a period of many years, and published during the rise of Barry Goldwater (first copyright 1963). The title piece reminds us that the Tea Party and Birthers and their ilk are not a new phenomenon on the American political scene, but are part of a recurring pattern of behavior that is found both domestically and on the international stage.

**Donald Tannenbaum, Political Science**

***A Perfect Red: Empire, Espionage and Quest for the Color of Desire* by Amy Butler Greenfield**

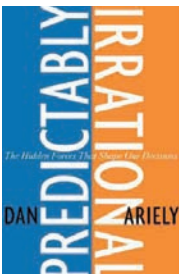
A Perfect Read. Follow the English, French, Dutch, pirates and others as they pursue the more desirable color on earth. Great for those who love history, and those who knit or sew!

**Cathy Zarrella, College Life**

***Pocahontas: Medicine Woman, Spy, Entrepreneur, Diplomat* by Paula Gunn Allen**

This book presents a totally new perspective on the story of John Smith and Pocahontas. We learn that she was a powerful member of her tribe and that in dream visions she predicted the coming of the English. To protect her people, she initiated Smith into native ways. Not only did she adopt and tutor Smith, but she also ushered in a new world of egalitarianism. A powerful force in the New World and Old, she negotiated complex identities. Linking manito aki and faerie, Allen argues that English spiritual voyagers in the seventeenth century and earlier and Native peoples then and now live in worlds alive with spirit. At the epicenter of two clashing cultures, Pocahontas formed a bridge between them. She was comfortable in both worlds; James I was not.

**Temma Berg, English**

***Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions* by Dan Ariely**

Ariely is a professor of Psychology and Behavioral Economics at Duke University. I found the book an enjoyable read and an extremely thought provoking look at how we think and how we think we think. Among the chapters are "The Cost of Social Norms: Why We Are Happy to Do Things, but Not When We are Paid to Do Them;" "The Cost of Zero Cost: Why We Often Pay Too Much When We Pay Nothing;" "The High Price of Ownership: Why We Overvalue What We Have;" and "The Problem of Procrastination and Self-Control: Why We Can't Make Ourselves Do What We Want to Do."

**Christine Benecke, Development, Alumni & Parent Relations**





***Rat Girl* by Kristin Hersh**

Another find this past year, which is written with similar wry and moving force, is *Rat Girl*, Kirstin Hersh's memoir. Drawing from her diary from 1985, Hersh, who is the lead singer and guitarist for the Throwing Muses, creates a dreamlike and poignant

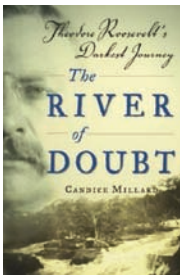
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*... Hersh's poetic prose and quirky humor beautifully highlight why life is worth living.*

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reflection on coming of age—playing music, becoming pregnant, and coping with bipolar disorder. None of these deeply emotional topics are wrought with heavy-handedness, instead Hersh's poetic prose and quirky humor beautifully highlight why life is worth living.

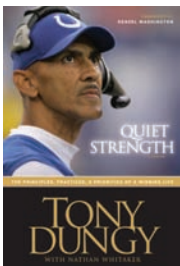
**Salma Monani, Environmental Studies**



***The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard**

A beautifully-written, true-life adventure story of the ex-president's descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the Amazon. Hostile Indians, voracious insects, flesh-eating plants and animals, disease, disaster, death, and final emergence from the jungle. You will not put it down.

**Peter Stitt, English and *The Gettysburg Review***



***Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, & Priorities of a Winning Life* by Tony Dungy**

Dungy, recently retired as a pro football coach, is deeply respected for his integrity, faith, and commitment to people in an environment that seems to strip those qualities from most participants. His book is an inspiring testimony that doing the right thing for the right reasons has merit in and of itself.

**Ed Cable, Planned Giving**



## NONFICTION

***Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer and *To a Mountain in Tibet* by Colin Thubron**

Earlier this year I'd stumbled upon Harrer's gripping memoir first published in 1953. It records the writer's arduous trek across Tibet with his mountain climbing partner, Peter Aufschnaiter, after they escaped from an internment camp in India on the threshold of WWII. They were among the first Europeans to record their impressions of this fascinating culture. The writer shares his experiences living in Lhasa where he was befriended by the then-young Dalai Lama. The chronicle ends with the Dalai

Lama's exodus in anticipation of the Chinese occupation.

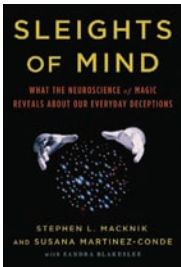
Had I not been so taken with this first book, I might not have been immediately drawn to the recently published *To a Mountain in Tibet* by Colin Thubron. His account of a trek he made in 2009 to Mount Kailas (altitude 22,000 feet), in western Tibet on the border of Nepal, provides commentary on the breathtaking natural beauty, culture, history, and religious expressions of the country intertwined with the writer's personal reflections on recent loss and grief.

**Harriet Marritz, Counseling Services**

***The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* by Naomi Klein**

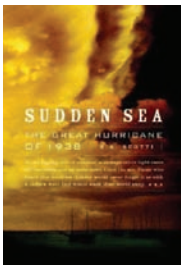
This book goes way beyond ordinary journalism in exposing who are the "managers" of the world economy. And who profits from their "expertise."

**Lou Hammann, Religion**

***Sleights of Mind: What the Neuroscience of Magic Reveals About Our Everyday Deceptions* by Stephen L. Macknik and Susana Martinez-Conde**

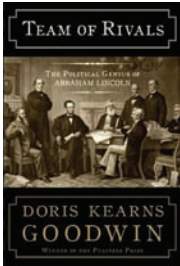
The authors are neuroscientists who explore the science behind magic, particularly sleight-of-hand tricks, and why the human brain allows us to be fooled. A very readable and entertaining book for anyone who wonders, "How did they do that?"

**Bob Kallin, Development, Alumni & Parent Relations**

***Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938* by R. A. Scotti**

My wife suggested this book to me as an example of great historical storytelling. The author weaves a fascinating tale of unbelievable but true events, and reminds the reader how ordinary life can be changed in an instant. In the wake of all of the recent weather related tragedies it is good to remember how far we've come and yet how much Mother Nature is still in control.

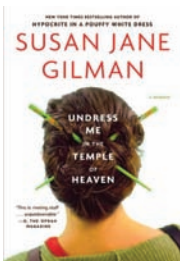
**Brian Falck, Capital Giving**



***Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin**

How did you do in history class? My grades were always very good in history because I could memorize dates and events well enough to complete the multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank tests given by my grade school and high school teachers. But it wasn't until I began reading historical fiction, that I became interested in the "story" part of history, learning about the people and how their lives were affected by events — long after my school days. Doris Kearns Goodwin makes history come alive for me. She gives insight into the people and their feelings and emotions. Don't be afraid to delve into this book of history (despite how thick it is). You will be glad you took the time to turn these pages!

**Regina Campo, Human Resources**



***Undress Me in the Temple of Heaven* by Susan Jane Gilman**

In 1986, two Ivy League grads decide to go on an around-the-world trek starting in newly-opened Communist China. Adventurous but ill-prepared, the author and her friend quickly find themselves in over their heads. The story becomes a real nail biter! Their naiveté and hubris are astounding, yet not unexpected given their backgrounds. The author doesn't hesitate to show her own dark side: American arrogance, selfishness and even her sexual proclivities. Their friendship feels real; as does their lack of perceptiveness about what they are witnessing around them, and with each other.

**Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library**



***The Way of the Human Being* by Calvin Luther Martin**

***What is History?* by Edward Hallet Carr**

At the risk of talking shop, I will recommend two books that I have read recently on the philosophy and practice of doing history. Edward Hallet Carr's *What is History?* (1967) is a classic explication and defense of the historian's craft. Originally delivered as a series of lectures, it has the breezy, confident tone of a BBC broadcast, and manages to be learned and engaging at the same time. Calvin Luther Martin's *The Way of the Human Being* (2000) engages the same question asked by Carr but with a brooding post-modern discontent about the limits of western

rationalism when it comes to comprehending the past. Martin, who made his professional name as a historian of the early American fur trade, gave up his academic career to live among the native peoples who are the descendants of his historical subjects. While Carr projects confident erudition, Martin expresses heartfelt humility before the big question of just how much historians and history can tell us about ourselves.

**Tim Shannon, History**

***We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson**

This is a really terrific baseball book that I've shared with my son, Jackson, who can't get enough baseball in his life. It tells the story of the "shadow major leagues" that

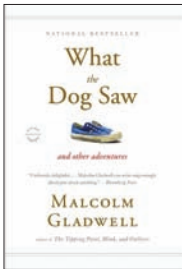
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*Put a ballgame on a small radio next to the beach chair  
you're sitting in and you'll be set for hours...*

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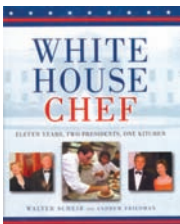
operated in parallel to major league baseball in the first half of the twentieth century. We've all heard baseball referred to as "America's Game" or as "America's Pastime," but nothing makes those terms more meaningful and resonant than stories about the great Negro League players most white people have never heard of—players like Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, Satchel Paige, and Buck Leonard—guys who, in so many respects, paved the way for players like Jackie Robinson, Hank Aaron, and Jackson's favorite ballplayer, Jason Heyward. More than that, the book offers yet another view of the cruel, inane, and heartbreaking system of racial segregation that, in many ways, defined American life right through the 1970s and continues to haunt us today. But it's the paintings—all rendered by the book's award-winning author—that really make the book worth reading. Nelson's original artwork adds so much texture and nuance to the story he wants to tell that it's hard to imagine the story being told without them. Put a ballgame on a small radio next to the beach chair you're sitting in and you'll be set for hours...

**David Powell, Education**

***What the Dog Saw: And Other Adventures* by Malcolm Gladwell**

I read this on my vacation to the Dominican Republic in January. It's a collection of his short stories that were originally printed in the *New Yorker* magazine. Each story lasts 15-30 pages, which is great for someone cannot dedicate a significant amount of time to read. What I liked most about this book is how the author approaches each story. Whether it's a topic, issue or biography, the author does a great job of engaging you and not presenting just one side.

**Fred Brown, Development**

***White House Chef: Eleven Years, Two Presidents, One Kitchen* by Walter Scheib**

I recommend this book by Walter Scheib, who was executive chef for the Clinton and Bush II administrations. It has wonderful personal stories and, for the would-be chef or the adventurous, there are GREAT recipes throughout the book. On a local note, last year the author was involved with the culinary aspect of the Gettysburg Festival.

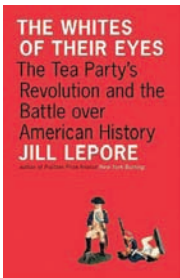
**Darryl Jones, Admissions**



***Whiter Shades of Pale: The Stuff White People Like, Coast to Coast, from Seattle's Sweaters to Maine's Microbrews* by Christian Lander**

From the author/blogger of “Stuff White People Like” comes this hilarious trip across the country describing things white people like (obviously). Told as a guide to befriending white people, this short book will make you laugh as you certainly will know someone that does the things Lander describes (e.g., “promising to learn a new language” or peacoats). He divides the tendencies white people have by cities, making this an easy book to pick up and put down. It is a funny view of Caucasian society.

**Kaitlyn Lyons, Musselman Library**



***The Whites of their Eyes: The Tea Party's Revolution and the Battle over American History* by Jill Lepore**

Not since the 1960s has history seemed so relevant to the culture wars. You know, little old ladies wearing tea bags streaming from gaudy hats, attending political rallies at which leading politicians and media celebrities thunder about the need to interpret the Constitution the way the Founding Fathers intended. Tea Partiers and their political allies have, in short, been enlisting the Founders in their cause. Not so fast, says Jill Lepore. A distinguished scholar of early American history, who moonlights writing essays for *The New Yorker* (yes, *The New Yorker*) Lepore argues that a cohort of Americans is harkening back to an America that never was. In its recapitulation of some of the iconic episodes of our Revolutionary history, from the Boston Tea Party through the making

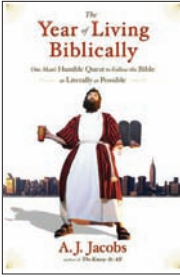
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*Lepore reminds us that Constitutions are living documents, not sacred writ and that the Founders had pretty divergent views on a wide variety of issues.*

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of the Constitution in 1787, *The Whites of Their Eyes* takes us back to a messier (and more interesting) historical reality than Tea Partiers will acknowledge existed. Lepore reminds us that Constitutions are living documents, not sacred writ and that the Founders had pretty divergent views on a wide variety of issues. You don't need to be politically liberal to find value in this book. You just have to recognize, as Lepore's Harvard colleague Laurel Ulrich once wrote, that “history isn't about simplicity, it's about depth and complexity.” Don't get the wrong idea, though. *The Whites of Their Eyes* offers a pithy primer on Revolutionary America, making history not merely relevant to today's issues, but enjoyable to engage for its own sake.

**Michael Birkner, History**

***The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible by A. J. Jacobs***

A humorous but sincere attempt of a writer for *Esquire* magazine to, as the subtitle suggests, follow the Bible as completely as possible for an entire year. From not

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*A well-written and well-researched book that is full of humor, wit, and insight.*

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shaving his beard or cutting his hair to keeping dietary restrictions and purity laws, Jacobs (who adopts the biblical name of “Jacob” during the year) shows that obeying the Bible completely results in some strange behavior and that that even the most literal Bible reader is selective in their literalism. But Jacobs also finds that by intentionally practicing the religion of the Bible he gains a new appreciation for religious life and its practitioners. Written as a month-by-month diary, you can follow “Jacob’s” most remarkable journey throughout his biblical year. A well-written and well-researched book that is full of humor, wit, and insight. A great read for believer and skeptic alike.

**Charles (Buz) Myers, Religious Studies**

***Zeitoun by Dave Eggers***

Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-born naturalized American citizen, runs a building and painting business in New Orleans with his American-born wife Kathy. When Hurricane Katrina strikes, Zeitoun decides to stay and watch their property while Kathy brings their children to safety. This account of Zeitoun’s experience during the hurricane and its aftermath, which connects ultimately to the war on terror and a hunt for Al Qaeda suspects, is shocking, in part because it is told with such restraint. The book is based on Eggers’ interviews with the Zeitoun family and many of the people they knew or encountered during that time. It reads like a novel but is far more disturbing, precisely because it’s not a work of fiction.

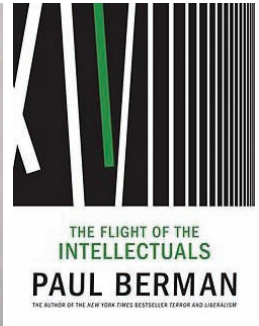
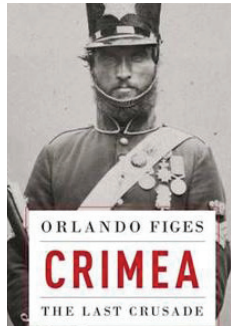
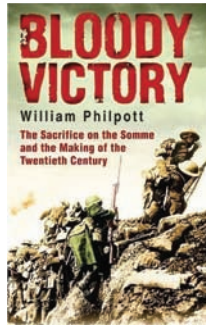
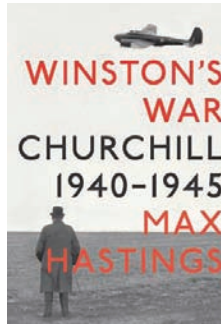
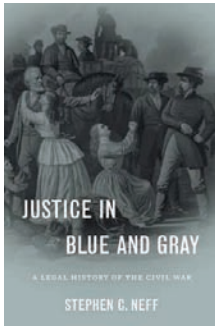
**Kathy Cain, Psychology**





## GREAT READS FROM GUELZO

Recommendations by Allen C. Guelzo  
Luce Professor of Civil War Era Studies  
and Professor of History



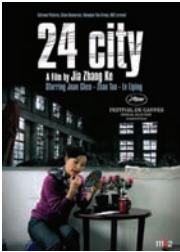
This being the Sesquicentennial of the outbreak of the Civil War, it's only fitting and proper that I should point out Stephen C. Neff's survey of *Justice in Blue and Gray: A Legal History of the Civil War* (2010). Not just for those interested in law in the Civil War era, Neff reviews how a handful of court cases could have swayed the outcome of the war more than many of its battles.

Winston Churchill keeps getting written about and written about, but the subject never goes cold, and Max Hastings' *Winston's War: Churchill, 1940-1945* (2010) is a terrific example of a great journalist/historian saying great things about a great subject.

Or, if you're inclined to push your curiosity back a little further, try William Philpott's wonderful re-imagining of the World War One battle Churchill just barely missed, in *Bloody Victory: The Sacrifice on the Somme and the Making of the Twentieth Century* (2009). Take one more step backwards, and you'll be reading Orlando Figes' vivid chronicle of the war which was a real "clash of civilizations" and which cost Britain and France more lives in two years than our Civil War did in four, in *Crimea: The Last Crusade* (2010).

In terms of a modern "clash of civilizations," a prime candidate for serious readers is Paul Berman's *Flight of the Intellectuals* (2010), a spirited attack on the the failure of Western writers to confront the intellectual challenges of Islamism. In case you're wondering whether the over-digitized West still counts as a "civilization," consult Mark Bauerlein's *The Dumbest Generation* (2010) for a genuinely appalling survey of the dumbing-down of the electronic-gadget generation.

# FILMS FILMS FILMS



## **24 City, directed Jia Zhangke (2008)**

This film by one of China's most thoughtful and thought-provoking directors blends facts and fiction together to bring you a collection of moving stories in the lives of a group of Chinese workers who, in the span of half a century, experienced many vicissitudes that accompanied the country's economic, social, and ideological changes in those tumultuous decades. Jia Zhangke's ambition is to record these changes through folk memory and offer it as an alternative and legitimate way to bear witness to history. Once again, he succeeds beautifully in this astonishing HD picture.

**Anne Xu-Cobb, Asian Studies**



## **84 Charing Cross Road directed by David Jones (1986)**

A beautiful blend of letter writing and book buying in a pre-Amazon world, I recommend all instances of *84 Charing Cross Road*. You can experience it as the original 1971 book containing 20 years' worth of wry, witty, insightful letters between the feisty New York screenwriter Helen Hanff and the rare and wonderful Frank Dole of the Marks & Co. bookshop located at 84 Charing Cross Road, London. You can read the play, cleverly adapted for the stage by James Roose-Evans which in 1982 featured Ellen Burstyn as Helen. Or, best of all, you can view the remarkable one of a kind film version (1986) with Anne Bancroft as Helen and Anthony Hopkins as Frank. It is as classic as the books that it lovingly recommends.

**Carolyn Sautter, Musselman Library**



## **Adventureland directed by Greg Mottola (2009)**

Written and directed by the brother of Gettysburg's own Tom Mottola, this movie is great. I didn't even have to suspend disbelief--I was immediately transported back to the mid 1980s, complete with stone-washed jeans and big hair. The story of a group of college-aged kids (and then some) working at a local amusement park for the summer is more complicated than you might think. The acting is superb, the writing is excellent, and the story ends happily for most (when it could have been a complete disaster). The scene where Bobby (played by Bill Hader) scares off "thugs" with a baseball bat is one you may want to watch several times over--I know I did; in

fact, this was the only movie I've seen recently that I've watched twice in succession--it's that good, that entertaining, and perfect for the summer!

**Allison Singley, Parent Relations**



**Cherry Blossoms (Kirschblüten - Hanam) directed by Doris Dorrie (2008)**

This German film is a wicked satire on family dynamics in a postmodern world, but also a beautiful call to joy and tolerance. The wife of rural Rudi the garbage bureaucrat keeps secret his diagnosis of terminal illness from him and the rest of the family, but tries to bring them all together before it is too late. Full of poignant surprises.

**Charles F. Emmons, Sociology**



**Crank directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor (2006)**

The movie is not for everyone. If you go into the viewing of *Crank* thinking of it as a satire of action movies and extreme masculinity you will enjoy this film. However, if you expect something serious you will be disappointed. Take the film tongue-in-cheek and you won't be offended.



**Robert Jamieson (Political Science major)**



**The Devil's Playground directed by Lucy Walker (2002)**

This documentary is a fascinating look at the step into adulthood of Amish; the tradition of the rumspringa. This is the period of a teenager's life where they are set free to explore life outside of the Amish faith. While the title might evoke images

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*... "The Devil's Playground" is a surprisingly sober and thought provoking look at this coming of age tradition.*

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if hellions run amuck, there's more than that in this documentary. Several teenagers are followed as they move through their rumspringa; indulging in all of the debauchery that modern life can afford, and make the decision to leave their families and live a modern, "English" life or to return home and commit to their faith. Despite the wild lives portrayed, "The Devil's Playground" is a surprisingly sober and thought provoking look at this coming of age tradition. If your knowledge of the Amish is limited to the movie "Witness" and passing the occasional buggy on the side of the road while driving through Lancaster County, you'll be surprised and mesmerized at this uncommon look inside the life and commitment of the Amish.

**Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library**



***Everything is Illuminated* directed by Liev Schreiber (2005)**

It is a wonderful and beautifully depicted journey, as witty as it is touching. No matter how many movies one has seen, this is without a doubt one of the films you will never forget.



**Justina Poskeviciute (Political Science major)**



***The Fighter* directed by David O. Russell (2010)**

*The Fighter* isn't really about boxing; it's about family dynamics, and Micky Ward's family, a clan featuring seven sisters, a powerful mother, and a crack-addled half-brother, needs him in the ring. Micky is the family meal ticket. Mark Wahlberg portrays Ward as a quiet man surround by noisemakers. Christian Bale received an academy award for his performance as Micky's half-brother, but he has the over-the-top role, which matches his acting style.

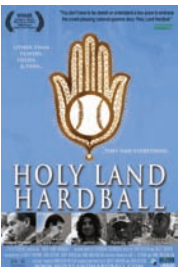
**Jack Ryan, Provost's Office**



***Four Lions* directed by Chris Morris (2010)**

This film is a dark comedy and satire about five British Muslims who dream of jihad. These would-be suicide bombers embark on various schemes to wage jihad, but they are completely clueless and make a mess out of every attempt. To say they are not very smart is putting it mildly! As quoted in one review, this film "shows that while terrorism is about ideology-it can also be about idiots." *Four Lions* is funny!—if you don't believe me, read the 15 reviews on the front of the DVD case!

**Nancy Bernardi, Musselman Library**



***Holy Land Hardball* directed by Brett Rapkin and Erik Kesten (2008)**

*Holy Land Hardball*, a hilarious documentary about Larry Bara's quixotic quest to bring professional baseball to Israel, offers an inside look at the bagel baron's crackpot attempt to change himself by giving something back to his religious homeland. The film opens with Baras in Israel, visiting the Wailing Wall, among other places, in 2007. He explains his passion for the country, for his religion, and for baseball. At the end of this travelogue credit sequence, Baras admits that he was wrong to combine his three passions, for his hope and yearning have been tested. *Holy Land Hardball* then retells how Baras ended up in this uncomfortable position with comic aplomb.

**Jack Ryan, Provost's Office**



### ***Lilies of the Field* directed by Ralph Nelson (1963)**

I find it interesting that my favorite film was released the year I was born. I first saw the movie around the age of 8 on TV. I immediately fell in love with the music from the movie and with the message to me of strength that comes from a community built from diverse perspectives. Again, for me, that message surfaces in the music, the food, the various cultures in the movie, the perspectives and quotations from the Bible, and the culminating event of the chapel being built. For me, the eloquence of the movie appears in the simplicity of the Arizona setting and scenes of mostly dialogue. The movie is realistic in the sense that a true community of

diverse backgrounds comes together through a process of struggle, openness, intention and especially persistence. In order to build a chapel of community, no one can give up on the dream and everyone must persist. I remember searching the TV guide for when the movie would run again. Once, I even placed the microphone from my cassette recorder at the speaker of the TV so I could record and listen to the music. Almost forty years after first seeing the movie, I still look for it on TV and find myself humming the music.

**Rod Tosten, Information Technology**



### ***Star Trek* directed by J. J. Abrams (2009)**

As a Trekkie, born and bred, I was both excited and hesitant with the announcement of a new *Star Trek* movie, directed by famed *Lost* director, J. J. Abrams. My main concern was that there would be blasphemy! How dare anyone mess with the Trek-trinity of Kirk, Spock, and McCoy? I had to admit that this movie made it work. There was enough of the traditional *Star Trek* to appease the old-timers like me, but a fresh arch to convert a new generation of fans. When a Romulan mining ship travels back in time on a quest for revenge, it is up to the crew of the USS Enterprise – changed but still the same – to once again save the universe (for the first time). This movie is fast

paced and fun with an excellent story line and plenty of humor. Chris Pine did a fabulous job of stepping into the wildly famous role of Kirk, but for my money, Karl Urban stole the spotlight as the older and crotchier Bones a.k.a. Dr. McCoy.

**Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library**



### ***True Grit* directed by Ethan Coen, Joel Coen (2010)**

*True Grit*, featuring our own Barbara Sommer as an extra, suggests that we all will end up in a snake pit sooner or later. Borrowing from Charles Laughton's *The Night of the Hunter* and Jim Jarmusch's *Dead Man*, among other films, the Coen Brothers challenge Henry Hathaway's 1969 John Wayne vehicle by returning to Charles Portis's novel. The Coen brothers now have an excellent western full of vengeance and absurd humor.

**Jack Ryan, Provost's Office**





### ***Winter's Bone* directed by Debra Granik (2010)**

This film is a scary, tragic tale that was brilliantly written. Jennifer Lawrence's performance as Ree Dolly was just incredible! With an absent father and a withdrawn

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*This film is a detailed exploration of the strength of character required when confronted by ugly truths.*

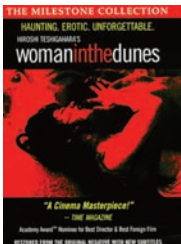
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and depressed mother, seventeen-year-old Ree Dolly sets out to track down her father who put their house up for his bail bond and then disappeared. If she fails to find him, she and her family will be turned out into the Ozark woods. Challenging her outlaw kin's code of silence, she pushes on, putting her own life in danger, for the sake of her family until the truth, or enough of it, is revealed. This film is a detailed exploration of the strength of character required when confronted by ugly truths.

**Gale Baker, Musselman Library**

Ree Dolly (played superbly by Jennifer Lawrence) needs to find her missing father, a crystal meth dealer out on bail, before her family's small farm is seized. As authentic as possible a depiction of the hard life of a teenage girl in poverty-stricken southern Missouri. Many of the actors were locals with little or no acting experience. It was outstanding!

**Roy Dawes, Political Science**



### ***Woman in the Dunes* directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara (1964)**

How does a director adapt a book about an entomologist who has been kidnapped by a bunch of unruly villagers to help a widow keep her house from being consumed by the dunes? There's one primary setting--the house in a pit, which is constantly threatened by the steep advancing wall of the dunes. There are two primary characters. And the film is over 2-hours long. Teshigahara uses exquisite cinematography and exceptional acting to imbue the one setting and the two characters with a hypnotic beauty and force. Worth a watch for anyone who enjoys

the tension of slow-paced plot builds and just-below-the-surface commentaries on the nature of humans as well as nature.

**Salma Monani, Environmental Studies**





## FILMS FROM DOWN UNDER

Recommendations from Robin Wagner, Musselman Library

*There is nothing like a zany Australian movie to keep you entertained on a hot summer night. When I lived in Australia I came to appreciate the Aussie brand of humor. For a sampling of life down under, skip the commercial films like Crocodile Dundee, or the recent Hollywood release, Australia, with Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. Check out these lesser-known titles, all available at Musselman Library.*



***The Castle*** (1997): Darryl Kerrigan has an airport practically running through his backyard but that doesn't bother him a bit. When plans for an airport expansion threaten his home, he refuses to move from his "castle"—in actuality, a shabby suburban tract house—and takes his battle to the highest court in Australia.

***Danny Deckchair*** (2003): A loopy truck driver hatches a novel way to escape his humdrum life after a fight with his girlfriend. He ties large helium-filled balloons to his deckchair and floats away. A violent thunderstorm sends him hurtling out over the Outback, where he lands in a small town where no one knows him. He starts a whole new life—until the old one catches up with him.

***The Dish*** (2000): Based on real events, a small sheepherding village in Australia is thrust into the spotlight when NASA employs its massive satellite radio dish to serve as a backup transmitter for the 1969 *Apollo 11* moon mission. Right before the landing, the dish flatlines and the unconventional Aussie crew must repair the dish before the landing occurs.

***Dunera Boys*** (1985): You wouldn't think a film about prisoners of war would be fun summer viewing, but *Dunera Boys* is joyful from start to finish. Viennese Jews seeking refuge in England during WWII, are suspected of being German informers, and are shipped to a prison camp in the Australian wilderness, where they develop a friendship with the men guarding them.

***Look Both Ways*** (2005): Meryl is a lonely artist who envisions disaster around every corner. Nick is a photojournalist whose work keeps him emotionally distanced from the tragedies he documents. The two meet in the aftermath of a real train accident, and their lives, and the lives of a handful of witnesses and victims, are transformed.

***Muriel's Wedding*** (1994): This film is almost 20 years old but still makes me laugh out loud. Misfit Muriel (Toni Collette) has always escaped life by listening to ABBA tunes and dreaming about marriage. She and her friend Rhoda (Rachel Griffiths) decide to leave behind their humdrum life in Porpoise Spit and head to the big city where certain elements of her fantasy start to come to life.

***My Year without Sex*** (2009): In the wake of a near-fatal brain aneurysm, thirty-something suburban mom, Natalie, and her affable spouse, enter a period of doctor-ordered abstinence and wrestle with countless problems in the bedroom and out.

***The Rage in Placid Lake*** (2003): Placid Lake has always had trouble fitting in. His “brilliant ideas” often get him in trouble with others and he’s constantly taunted at school. Tired of being a non-conformist, he decides to make a stab at a normal life, cuts his hair, buys a suit, gets a job in insurance and embraces corporate success—not too successfully! This is a quirky drama with characters that will charm you.

***The Sum of Us*** (1994): Jeff (Russell Crowe) is a young gay man living with his widowed father Harry. Their relationship becomes complicated when Jeff brings home a potential lover and Harry gets involved with a divorcée he meets through a dating service.

***Two Hands*** (1999): This is an edgy, crime thriller tinged with comedy. Strip club promoter Jimmy (Heath Ledger) lands in dangerous waters after botching a routine job for a gangster. Nothing goes as planned which is part of the fun.



***Animal Kingdom*** (2010): When his mother dies suddenly, seventeen-year-old Jay is drawn into the clutches of a diabolical criminal family in Melbourne, while a good-hearted detective attempts to change the boy’s fate. Jacki Weaver, nominated for best supporting actress this year, plays his particularly malevolent grandmother.

***Black Balloon*** (2008): This is an Australian version of adolescent angst. Sixteen year-old Thomas tries to make his way in a new school, while also charged with keeping tabs on his autistic older brother, whose behavior thwarts every attempt at a “normal” teenage life.

***Black and White*** (2002): This true-life legal drama set in the 1950s follows the efforts of small-town public defender to exonerate an Aboriginal man accused of raping and murdering a young white girl.

***Cry in the Dark*** (1988): Based on a true story, Lindy Chamberlain (Meryl Streep) finds herself under suspicion of murder after her infant daughter is carried off by a dingo during a family camping trip.

***December Boys*** (2007): This film is set in the 1960s at a seaside resort in Western Australia. After living together for years at a Catholic orphanage four teenage boys face the likelihood of never being adopted. They are sent to the beach for a vacation and the former friends become rivals as they compete for the affections of two prospective parents. Daniel Radcliffe plays one of the teens in his first major film role outside the *Harry Potter* series.

***Flirting*** (1991): Set in 1965, the story follows Danny, a free-spirited young man who's an outcast at an Australian all-boys prep school. He meets a sophisticated but ostracized South African girl, Thandiwe, attending the girls' school across the lake. Their interracial romance blossoms despite the intense prejudice they face. A very young Nicole Kidman plays the icy, cliquish alpha female at the girls' boarding school.

***Japanese Story*** (2003): Sandy Edwards, an ambitious geologist (Toni Collette), is marooned in the Pilbara Desert with a Japanese businessman, Hiromitsu, she cannot stand. She learns his feelings for her are just as contemptuous. They soon encounter life or death situations, which change them both forever.

***Jindabyne*** (2006): A group of men discover the murdered body of an Aboriginal girl in a fishing hole when off on a "weekend with the boys". Instead of reporting the homicide right away, they wait until they've filled their coolers with fish. Their inaction sets off a scandal that threatens to tear them apart. This story is set in rural Australia but is based on a short story, "So Much Water So Close to Home" by Raymond Carver.

***Ned Kelly*** (2003): Ned Kelly was a real-life Australian outlaw who travelled by horse, hid in the woods, robbed banks and defied the law. He and his "gang" were always on the run, waging a personal war against police, rural constables and corrupt authorities. This is the only film on my list that is a Hollywood-style movie, with big names like Orlando Bloom, Naomi Watts and Heath Ledger. It is based on Peter Carey's *The True History of the Kelly Gang* which won the Booker Prize for Fiction in 2001. Personally, the book is way better than the film.

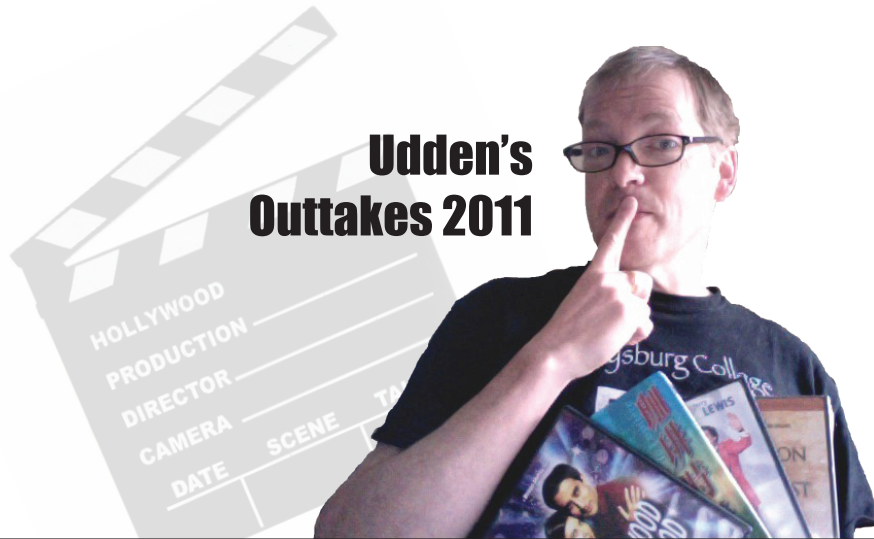
***Rabbit-Proof Fence*** (2002): Three half-caste children are taken from their parents under government edict and sent to a mission school, where they are taught to forget their families and become members of "white" society. They escape and travel 1,500 miles on foot, navigating by following a fence built to keep rabbits out of grazing land. This film is based on true events.

***Romulus, My Father*** (2007): Romulus Gaita (Eric Bana) is a flawed yet deeply committed father who immigrated to Australia from Yugoslavia with his wife Christina and son Rai. Romulus works as a blacksmith and farmer and struggles to raise his son in the face of his wife's mental illness, promiscuity and neglectful ways. This film is beautifully acted with memorable characters. It is also altogether tragic and often unhopeful.

***Samson and Delilah*** (2009): Samson and Delilah are two unwanted fourteen year olds growing up in an isolated Aboriginal community in the Central Australian desert. When tragedy strikes they leave home and embark on a journey of hardship and survival. This is not a "feel good" movie but well worth seeing.

***The Year My Voice Broke*** (1987): This is a prequel to *Flirting* (above) and is the story of Danny, before he is sent to boarding school and his friendship with a troubled girl. The story is set in a small town in the 1960's and chronicles the bittersweet ache of leaving childhood behind.

# Udden's Outtakes 2011



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

## Why You Should Attend Film Festivals

In this day and age, people hardly need to leave their homes to see a film. Over the last year, Netflix, coupled with a new plasma HD TV connected to the internet, has allowed me to shred my Blockbuster card (good riddance!), and to rely less on our library collection than in the past. While the improvements of HD have been better than advertised (if you shop carefully), many other people even watch movies on their iPhones. (Excuse me while I vomit.) Ironically, all of this is why film festivals are more important than ever.

Over the past year I, for the first time, attended a film festival with accreditation, which allowed me even easier access to films. Vancouver is the best festival I have ever attended, and I averaged about five films a day, with quick bites in between showings on the new hot street food – Jappadogs (no room to explain here). Berlin was simply Berlin, a huge festival in a city that can still overshadow even an event of such magnitude. (Instead of Jappadogs they have Turkish kabobs – equally wonderful...well that and the beer, the strudel, and everything else ... sigh...)

Yet one lesson now is clear to me: I have seen films, including great films, at film festivals over the last few that I otherwise would never have seen. In the past, I have recommended here that you see films that in fact you might not have any way of seeing – unless you found it at some other film festival. I even have considered such films for future paper topics in my own courses, only to find they are never made available on DVD. The global film industry is a hit and miss proposition, and you can't just blame that on Hollywood alone.

The best place to “hit” what you would otherwise miss is clearly at film festivals. Yet it is not just that you can see films that you otherwise could not see; nor is it simply that many such films are even more reliant on film festivals than ever before. There is a certain charge in the air at a film festival, a collective feeling that with the anonymous crowd you are together a temporary community about to see not just a film, but somehow an *event*. Moreover, I find that when I see films at film festivals, my memories of such films are especially vivid, including specific shots and sequences that even years later I can recall in my head with precision.

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*... I find that when I see films at film festivals, my memories of such films are especially vivid, including specific shots and sequences that even years later I can recall in my head with precision.*

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The film festival that I have most regularly attended is Filmfest DC, which occurs every April. While hardly the world’s best festival, often “late” in the game by getting films long after other festivals, this doesn’t lessen the impact of seeing a film there. Filmfest DC has one distinct advantage: it has an abundance of local communities who show up in droves for particular films from their homelands.

Now of course, not every film at a film festival is a hit, and that is why you should plan to see more than one on any one day you attend. But here are five films I saw last October in Vancouver I think you should see, but which in some cases you may never get a chance to.



Three films in particular show that East Asians are becoming masters of deadpan humor. ***Sawako Decides*** (2010) is described as being a “comic drama” in the festival catalog, but for this reviewer this was perhaps the funniest Japanese film since ***Sumo Do, Sumo Don’t*** (1991). Li Hongqi’s ***Winter Vacation*** (2010) is set in Inner Mongolia during a extremely uneventful winter vacation. However, soon the jokes begin, culminating in the least heated argument two teenagers can ever have and a five-year-old boy so world-weary that his declared dream is to be an orphan when he grows up! As offbeat as this film is, even more surprisingly offbeat

was ***Thomas Mao*** (2010), a film by Zhu Wen. This is a difficult film describe outside of its basic premise of a western artist/traveler in a remote area of China who speaks no Chinese, lodging with a lone Chinese man who speaks no English.

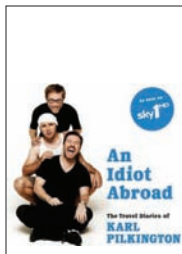


The most haunting, however, was ***A Film Unfinished*** (2010), by Israeli director, Yael Hersonki. Based largely on found footage of a German film shot in the Warsaw Ghetto just before its famed uprising, this film adds to its uncanny effect by including both former residents and the cameramen, causing them to face a past that they may have just as well forgotten.



The film you will likely be able to see – and should see – is the latest from the Iranian, Abbas Kiarostami, whose remarkable ***Certified Copy*** (2010) is now having a limited release. While listed as a European film and completely filmed there and starring Juliette Binoche, this is truly a Kiarostami masterwork, as if ***Through the Olive Trees*** (1994) had been translated to new languages and climes, this time starring older, mature, European adults.





## What you should do in the comfort of your own home!

This past year reaffirms my belief that television is still in a new Golden Age. While **The Office** should now be put out of its misery along with most NBC comedies (although for some reason, I really started to like **Parks & Recreation**), other shows have made me wanting for another season to begin right away.

Which new series should you definitely *not* watch with your kids? The show on FX by comedian Louis C.K. called **Louie**. This is an edgy show, but what I like about it is how it is edgy – there is no telling when a scene will be uproariously funny or actually very serious, sometimes unexpectedly touching. I showed a scene of Louie to my genre class and the students were stunned: “Why have we not even heard of this show?”

Another surprise is what has now become the highest-rated show in the history of the Science Channel. **An Idiot Abroad** is not a science show, and it is not even quite a travel show. Instead it is an eight-episode travelogue/character study/practical joke. Imagine sending a real-life Homer Simpson to the Seven Wonders of the World to see if the wonders would have any impact on the man, and yet also purposefully having each trip made more difficult than it would be for the average person. I became more and more fascinated by Karl Pilkington, the “star,” in part because of how he reacts to everything, but also that sometimes he does notice something, only to then revert back to his hidebound self. While in Bethlehem, for example, he does not understand while people cry at a religious shrine. He instead points at the walls separating the Palestinians and Jews and says, “Now that’s depressing.” It was a rare moment in an even rarer show.



Otherwise, my advice is that you watch any original series on AMC, even when they cancel it after one year. This year they still have

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... my advice is that you watch any original series on AMC ...

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kept **Mad Men** and **Breaking Bad** going strong, but AMC also tried a very thoughtful (perhaps too thoughtful, since they axed it) show about the privatization of foreign intelligence gathering called **Rubicon**. Then again, don’t feel sorry for AMC: their all-time biggest hit is **The Walking Dead**. It has only six episodes thus far, but even months later I still think about it, in part because never has a TV show made such an effort to make its characters so ordinary, and yet the situation itself so apocalyptically extraordinary. In the meantime, I will watch their latest series which premiered in April, **The Killing**, simply because it comes from AMC. (Even HBO at its hottest never got me with every single show.)

Happy viewing everyone – but please, at least use your *big* screens at home. (Size does matter!)



# HONOR WITH BOOKS

## HONOR WITH BOOKS

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In honor of

Coach David Jones



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To celebrate the birthday of

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In honor of

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Department of History



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Gift of  
Kristen Johnson, Class of 2010

In honor of

Prof. Edward Hughes  
Department of English



#5

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Gift of  
Robin Weiss

In memory of

Barbara Murphy '52



#6

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Gift of  
Bill and Nancy Williams

To celebrate the graduation  
of their daughter

Angela Williams  
Class of 2010



#7

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Gettysburg, PA

Gift of Paul Lee '62  
In honor of

Prof. Dan Smith  
Department of Physics

For his years of  
outstanding teaching



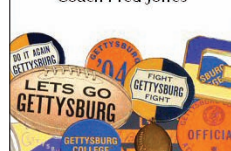
#8

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Gift of  
Jeffrey Smith, Class of 1978

In honor of

Coach Fred Jones



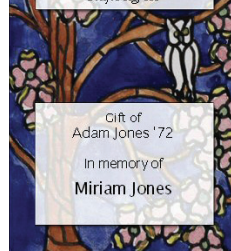
#9

Gettysburg College  
Musselman Library  
Gettysburg, PA

Gift of  
Adam Jones '72

In memory of

Miriam Jones



#10

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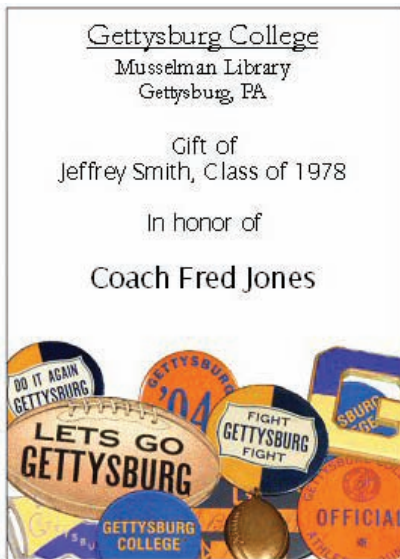
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# Movie Memories

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

### 7:30 PM

June 1, 2011  
**SAN FRANCISCO (1936)**

June 8, 2011  
**ARSENIC & OLD LACE (1944)**

June 15, 2011  
**RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (1981)**

June 22, 2011  
**GOING MY WAY (1944)**

July 6, 2011  
**SERGEANT YORK (1941)**

July 13, 2011  
**INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS (1958)**

July 20, 2011  
**SHOWBOAT (1951)**

July 27, 2011  
**THE SEA HAWK (1940)**

August 3, 2011  
**FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT (1940)**

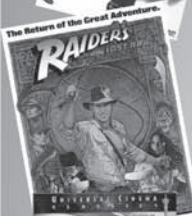
August 10, 2011  
**YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU (1938)**

August 17, 2011  
**THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALENCE (1962)**

August 24, 2011  
**LASSIE COME HOME (1943)**

August 31, 2011  
**STATE FAIR (1945)**

Show Time 7:30 p.m. • Tickets \$6.00  
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Web: [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org)



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