



Summer 2010

You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2010)

Musselman Library
Gettysburg College

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You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2010)

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

Summer 2010



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



Sun, the sound of surf, drowsy afternoons. Yep, it’s time for summer reading. And, once again, Musselman Library has recruited campus bibliophiles to help guide you to some wonderful, and occasionally wild, possibilities.

This booklet includes an array of fiction and nonfiction titles, as well as some film picks from faculty and staff. You’ll find can’t-put-down thrillers, laugh-aloud humor, historical fiction and classics like Jane Austen (with or without zombies!). The nonfiction choices this year will help you learn more about Chief Crazy Horse, or growing olive trees, or the “life” of a cadaver. And, if you’re in need of a night on the couch with a bowl of popcorn, sample the film selections which run the gamut from the silent era to contemporary, from more obscure foreign films to old favorites like “The Wizard of Oz.”



Interested in what students are reading? We’ve included some great suggestions from the library’s own Senior Stars – graduating seniors who worked at the library during their years here at Gettysburg College.

Enjoy the summer. Happy reading. See you in the fall!

From the staff of Musselman Library

May 2010

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FICTION FICTION



***Adam Bede* by George Eliot**

This novel, as the title suggests, follows the life of Adam Bede, a simple country carpenter in 19th century England. He endures various trials and tribulations from the death of his father to his rocky relationship with Hetty, a foolish yet beautiful coquette. Dinah, a female preacher, also plays an important role. She continually speaks the truth and does what is right even though it goes against her own self-interest. This book touched me because of its beautiful imagery and language as well as the strength of Adam and Dinah's characters. I truly felt as if I were wiser for having read it.



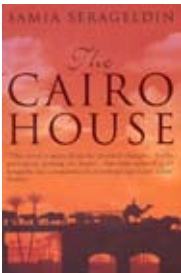
Cheryl Tevlin (English major, History minor)



***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

Death [used as the narrator] tells us the emotional story of Liesel, a young German foster child who learns to read after stealing books. The many characters – her foster parents, a Jewish man whom the family hides, her best friend and the inhabitants of this small German town – are brought to life in this magnificently written book.

Pam Dalrymple, Civil War Institute



***The Cairo House* by Samia Serageldin**

This semi-autobiographical novel depicts events in the 20th century history of Cairo through the eyes of an upper-class woman. The story brings to life the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, a time of tumultuous change in Egypt. At the same time, it's a moving story of a woman who makes a courageous decision and must come to terms with its consequences. It's also a reflection on exile, as the main character leaves Egypt for most of her adult life. The book is an easy read, but it's well written and offers a glimpse of life in Egypt.

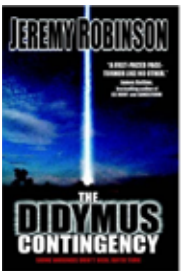
Kathleen Cain, Psychology



***Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* by Yu Hua**

Laugh and cry through this gripping book about a Chinese man who makes a career of selling his own blood first out of curiosity, then out of necessity, later out of desperation, finally out of habit. The chronicle of this blood merchant is the chronicle of modern Chinese history during its most chaotic and absurd times. A fast and easy read that will draw you back to a second and third reading to dig into the deeper layers of meaning that is palpable behind the simple words and sentences.

Anne Xu-Cobb, Asian Studies



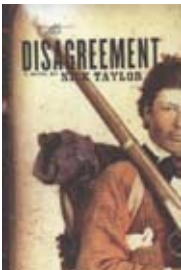
***The Didymus Contingency* by Jeremy Robinson**

If you could go back in time to any time and place to witness any event, where would you go? After discovering the secret to time travel and a few beers, Dr. Tom Greenbaum selects an answer to that question. He decides to travel back in time to witness the death and failed resurrection of Jesus Christ. As his friend and colleague,

*If you could go back in time to any time and place
to witness any event, where would you go?*

Dr. David Goodman follows shortly behind in an attempt to prevent a catastrophic rupture in time and space. Despite that the core foundation of the Christian faith is the backdrop to the story; this book does not beat the reader over the head with its religious agenda. Robinson's laid back and relaxed portrayal of biblical characters and events is refreshing. These people are real, strong, hardworking, and believable individuals that you might imagine befriending if given the chance. It's easy at times to forget that we should already recognize most of them. This book is stuffed with science, religion, action, and romance – it really does have something for everyone!

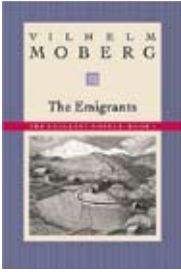
Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



***The Disagreement* by Nick Taylor**

When this title was first published in 2008, I told a librarian that it was “the best Civil War novel since *Cold Mountain*.” Evidently the Shaara Prize committee agreed with me as it won the 2009 Michael Shaara Award for Excellence in Civil War Fiction.

David Hedrick, Musselman Library



The Emigrant Novels by Vilhelm Moberg

The first installment of this four-part work was published in Sweden (in Swedish) in 1949; English translations began to appear in 1951. I happened across the Minnesota Historical Society Press 1995 reprint in our library stacks. I've always been a fan of the pioneer narrative, and this epic story about Swedes migrating to America quickly drew me in.

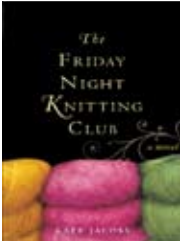
Part 1, *The Emigrants*, introduces the main characters and describes the lamentable conditions in Sweden which drove people toward drastic change in the mid-nineteenth century. Part 2, *Unto a Good Land*, covers the journey out of Sweden, across the Atlantic, and overland to Minnesota. Part 3, *The Settlers*, focuses on the opportunities and hardships encountered in the new homeland. And Part 4, *The Last Letter Home*, depicts life during the Civil War and Native American-European encounters during that time period.

*Many nights I read too late because I was worried that a child
might not live or that a crop wouldn't survive...*

The storyline is compelling. I always wanted to know what would happen next with this cast of characters struggling to better their lives. Many nights I read too late because I was worried that a child might not live or that a crop wouldn't survive; I fretted about the lure of Western gold and the loneliness of a wife and mother. This is a story we've all read before, at once a universal story and an American story, but it's worth reading again because it is THE story and it's well told.

Moberg never emigrated himself, but he spent periods of time in the U.S. to see the places he describes and to conduct research in archives. His attention to detail comes through beautifully. I have a clear picture of social stratification in Sweden, forests in Minnesota, the Lutheran church of the period, and the impact of emerging technologies (cookstove, kerosene lantern). At times the writing rises above the day-to-day detail of the storyline, as Steinbeck's sometimes soars - lyrically descriptive, often poetic, and deeply moving. If you're ready to settle into a long yarn, I recommend this series!

Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library



***The Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs**

I loved this book and the two that followed. The characters are warm, wacky, and well developed. I didn't want the books to end because I got caught up in the characters.

Maida Connor, Donor Relations & Special Events



***The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played with Fire and The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest* by Stieg Larsson**

These international bestsellers feature a particularly fascinating character, Lisbeth Salander, and are addictive for anyone who loves intricately plotted mysteries that are impossible to put down!

Elizabeth Richardson Viti, Provost's Office / French and Italian

It grabbed me and trapped me into its mystery and intrigue.



Last summer, during those lazy, lovely June days, I was in the hospital. A friend sent me a pile of books to get me through the sleepless hospital nights when they wake you every twenty minutes. At the top of the stack was *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. It grabbed me and trapped me into its mystery and intrigue. The content being filled with references to clinical psychology didn't hurt. And the book's gripping, page-turning story kept me from my body's longing for sleep anyway. When I got out of the hospital, I immediately ordered the sequel, *The Girl who Played with Fire*. Larsson, a Swedish journalist and authority on right-wing extremism, died in 2004. Before he died, he gave a third manuscript of this "millennium trilogy," *The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* to his publisher. For great summer reading get into the pages of all of them!

Bill Jones, Counseling Services



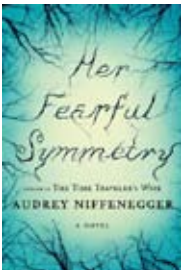
***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows**

[This book] details the German occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II. The story unfolds through letters, and while it may be slow going at first I guarantee you will quickly be intrigued by the characters who come to life in the book. I don't want to give anything away, but the way in which the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society comes about is charming and life saving. I hope to one day visit the Channel Islands between England and France. My book club enjoyed this selection, too.

Patricia Lawson, Communications & Public Relations

The story of post WWII Guernsey, a small island near England, is told entirely through letters; a correspondence of a village and a writer determined to tell their story. This novel is engaging, captivating, at times laugh-out-loud funny and warm all at the same time. You become invested in their lives and stories and get to find out what exactly a potato peel pie is and how it sparked a literary society. Excellent book and well worth a read!

Sarah Grandstaff, Residence Life



***Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger**

Many reviewers have written that Niffenegger's sophomore attempt (she also wrote *The Time Traveler's Wife*) disappoints. I beg to differ! This novel contains beautiful characters, intriguing scenery, and surprising twists. I felt drawn into the story and was sad to see it end.

Jennifer Cole, Academic Advising

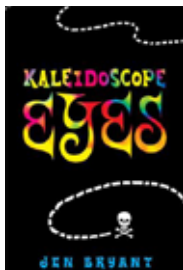


***I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith**

Written in post-World War II Britain, this book details [the life of] seventeen-year-old Cassandra and her experiments with journal writing. She narrates the story of her impoverished family who live in an old castle where one day, a pair of rich brothers moves in close by. Cassandra and her sister quickly discover another way of life. It is an entertaining and poignant coming-of-age story much overlooked by current readers.



Natalie Cardamone (Political Science major, History minor)



***Kaleidoscope Eyes* by Jen Bryant**

A wonderful summertime read for young adults and not-so-young adults by one of Gettysburg College's own, Jen Fisher Bryant '82. This verse novel has great "section" or "poem" titles, like "I've Had Enough Surprises Lately," "Never Underestimate Your Neighbor," and "Sweet-Talkin'." It's 1968 and three thirteen-year-old kids in New Jersey discover pirate treasure. But that's just the BIG story; there is lots of other stuff going on, too – family problems, brothers in Viet Nam, and racial tension to start. This book is moving, funny, and clever. If you like it, I also highly recommend *Ringside, 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial* (also by Jen Bryant) and *Summerhouse Time* by Eileen Spinelli. Both are also verse novels for young adults that, like *Kaleidoscope Eyes*, are terrific, fun reads for everyone, and you might be rather surprised by what you learn from reading them. I love the fact that Eileen Spinelli mentions Biglerville.

Allison Singley, Parent Relations

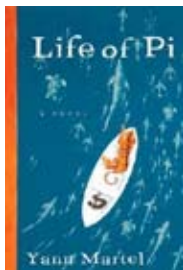


***The Lady in the Tower: the Fall of Anne Boleyn* by Alison Weir**

I chose this book because I am interested in Tudor history and enjoy reading historical fiction.



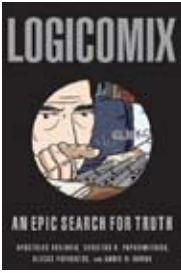
Stephanie Daugherty (History major, Art History minor)



***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**

[This was] my favorite book from last year. From India to Canada, this book takes you on quite a journey. What a fun adventure! If you haven't already read it, I highly recommend this book.

Sarah Principato, Environmental Studies



***Logicomix: an Epic Search for Truth* by Apostolos Doxiadis, Christos Papadimitriou**

In recent years, we have seen several novels which combine mathematical history, a fictional narrative, and some actual honest-to-God mathematics. The authors of two of these books, Apostolos Doxiadis (who wrote *Uncle Petros and Goldbach's Conjecture: A Novel of Mathematical Obsession*) and Christos Papadimitriou (who wrote *Turing*) have now joined forces on the great *Logicomix*, which takes all these elements and adds one more: it's a graphic novel. The mathematics is explained pretty well, the real life biographical stories of logicians such as Russell and Whitehead are compelling,

and the postmodern device of having the creators of the graphic novel appear to comment on the story as well as the issues involved in writing the graphic novel are not nearly as annoying as they could have been (and in fact are relatively clever). The book is a pretty fast read while still being more intellectual than your typical comic book fare, and I certainly recommend it as a good summer read.

Darren Glass, Mathematics



***Look to Windward* by Iain M. Banks**

So what happens when a bunch of idealists in a powerful civilization set out to make things better for those in another civilization oppressed by their government – and fail? Five billion deaths later, Banks' novel traces the results through several characters: a composer who fled his oppressors before the war, a war-widower sent to repatriate him and the sentient recording of a general installed in his mind to keep him on his true mission. A study in the meanings of loss, revenge and atonement, the parallels between Banks' far future galaxy-spanning super civilizations and current events are obvious - and intended.

Eric Remy, Information Technology



***Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones**

A marvelous story about the importance of teaching and the impact of Dickens on the children of a copper-rich island off the coast of New Guinea – told through the indigenous voice of 13-year old Matilda.

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



***The Neighbor* by Lisa Gardner**

I really enjoyed this book. I think it's a very well written mystery with twists and turns to keep the reader engaged.

Maida Connor, Donor Relations & Special Events



***On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan**

Not only is the book written with beautiful subtlety, but the tolerance of the characters kept me reading until the perfect climax.



Chelsea Jones (majors in Art History and Sociology)



***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

This book is the reason I fell in love with 19th century British literature. Despite reading it countless times and analyzing it in several classes, it remains one of my favorite books to this day.



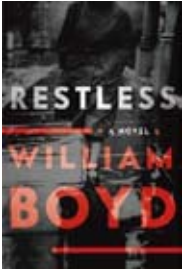
Meghan Kelly (majors in History and English)



***Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by Jane Austen & Seth Grahame-Smith**

If you know and like Austen, this will definitely intrigue you. Victorian England has been overtaken by a plague of zombies and who better to help the fight than the Bennet sisters? Zombies are seamlessly woven into this classic romance in such a way that you hardly realize it could be construed as odd! For an additional hoot, check out the book club questions at the end. Definitely a delight!

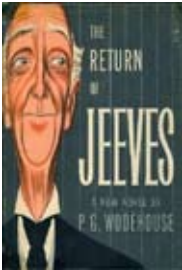
Sarah Grandstaff, Residence Life



***Restless* by William Boyd**

If you like historical fiction try out author William Boyd. His novel, *Restless*, begins in Paris in 1939 at Kolia Delectorskaya's funeral. He has been murdered. Eva, his 28 year old sister meets a stranger at his burial and is soon recruited as a spy, sent to Scotland for training and then shipped off to New York City where she is involved in manipulating the press to help shift American public sentiment toward involvement in WWII. The novel moves from the 1940s to the 1970s where Eva is now Sally Gilmartin, an English widow, with secrets that are increasingly difficult to hide. Boyd writes a gripping espionage novel and paints an unforgettable portrait of a female spy.

Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



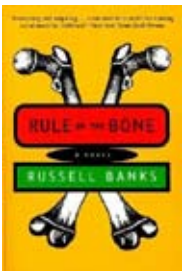
***The Return of Jeeves* by P.G. Wodehouse**

This was the first book of his I read recently, but having read another (*Bertie Wooster Sees It Through*) and being most of the way through a third (*Spring Fever*), I really can

... I am constantly laughing out loud.

say that I simply recommend Wodehouse. The characters in his books get into such crazy predicaments (often of their own making) that I can't wait to find out how they manage to get out of them. The books are easy to read, but not "simple," and I am constantly laughing out loud. These books are on the shorter side, which is great for those of us with little time...and not so complicated to jump back into if they sit unread for awhile.

Wendee Dunlap, Foundation & Corporate Support



***Rule of the Bone* by Russell Banks**

Described as a modern day *Catcher in the Rye*; but Banks writes circles around Salinger. All of his books deserve a read but this one is the best. First sentence of book: "You'll probably think I'm making a lot of this up just to make me sound better than I really am or smarter or even luckier but I'm not."

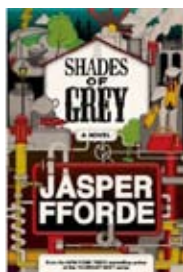
Paul Fairbanks, Web Communications & Electronic Media



Run by Ann Patchett

If you liked *Bel Canto*, you'll love *Run*. Ann Patchett creates memorable characters and wraps us up in their world. It will keep you up until wee hours of the morning or give you a delightful way to avoid those pesky summer tasks.

Harriet Marritz, Counseling Services

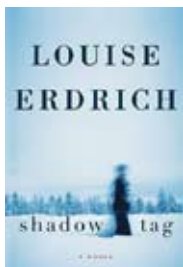


Shades of Grey by Jasper Fforde

Interested in an easy-read mystery novel that on one level seems wholly fantastical and on the other is a keen critique of social structures? If so, look no further– *Shades of Grey* provides a sharp yet entertaining read for those who want to be transported to Chromatacia, a society that exists 500 years in the future where our present societies are known vaguely as The Previous. Chromatacia might not seem quite so distant even as it's ordered along color lines, and Eddie Russett, a Red, finds himself being eaten by a yataveo tree when he tries to find out why society is the way it is.

Follow his shenanigans as he also pursues the lovely but socially lower class, Jane Grey.

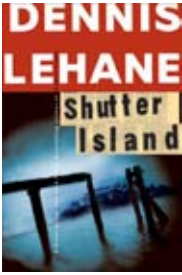
Salma Monani, Environmental Studies



Shadow Tag by Louise Erdrich

I have always admired Louise Erdrich's graceful writing and layered stories. If you like character and plot, she's an author for you. Her latest novel, *Shadow Tag*, is a departure from her usual storytelling that has centered around multiple generations of Native American and mixed blood relatives, who inhabit upper Midwestern cities and North Dakota reservations. In this new novel, failed graduate student Irene, and her accomplished painter husband, Gil, already have a rocky marriage when Irene discovers that he has been reading her diary. So she records the truth about her marriage and her sorrows in a secret notebook, which she locks in a bank deposit box. She uses the other diary to weave a torrid fiction, which Gil continues to read as the truth. Irene's recordings in this "shadow" book lead to devastating consequences for Gil, Irene and their three not-so-oblivious children.

Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



***Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane**

Suspense and plot twists abound in this can't-put-down novel.

A U.S. Marshall is sent to a remote island to investigate the disappearance of a prisoner from a hospital for the criminally insane. With a fierce storm brewing and no way to leave the island, the hunter becomes the hunted. Suspense and plot twists abound in this can't-put-down novel.

Deb Hydock, Dining Services



***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See**

This was a book that I missed when my book group read it, but I was intrigued enough to pick it up later. The story of two young girls who are "arranged" to become best friends was fascinating. I was drawn in reading about the custom of foot binding, but stayed for the love and misunderstandings that marked this relationship. It was a definite learning experience to read about this culture and its traditions through the eyes of young women.

Ashlyn Sowell, Development

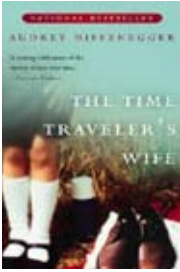


***A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams**

This play holds a special place in my heart for several reasons. As a theatre and literature enthusiast, Southern Gothic is my favorite genre of dramatic literature. Tennessee Williams is one of my favorite playwrights, and *Streetcar* is my favorite of his plays. Participation in our production of *Streetcar* here at Gettysburg in February of 2008, the spring semester of my sophomore year, proved a pivotal experience in my college career and a highlight of my time here at Gettysburg. Serving as the production dramaturge under the guidance of professor and director Chris Kauffman, I was able to latch onto something I really love and developed a skill set and self-confidence that has carried me into the world of professional theatre as well as enriched my engagement with other areas of study and research that I have explored as an undergraduate. Wherever life takes me through the years, I will always keep my original copy of the play, tattered and worn beyond repair as it is, tucked on my bookshelf for safekeeping.



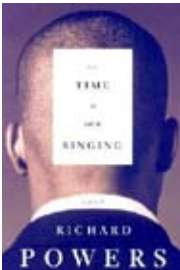
Rebecca Lausch (majors in English and Theatre Arts)



***The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger**

The old cliché is true in the case of *The Time Traveler's Wife*; you will laugh and cry. This book does have certain science fiction like elements, but it is believable and absolutely enjoyable. This was Niffenegger's first novel, but it is written as if it was her hundredth.

CaseyAnn Decker, Musselman Library



***The Time of Our Singing* by Richard Powers**

This is an RGR – a really good read: absorbing, disturbing, insightful – the story of music in the souls of a family making its way through a racist world.

GailAnn Rickert, Classics



***The Tin Drum* by Gunter Grass**

Grass's later-life confessions have sullied him, but it's hard not to find *Tin Drum* an extraordinary novel of emotion, movement, and life.

Jay White, Provost's Office



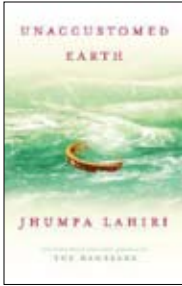
***Tropic of Night* by Michael Gruber**

For gripping, scary, summer fun, this is a dark, intense, psychological thriller with richly nuanced characters. A series of bizarre crimes set in Miami plunge Detective Jimmy

*... a dark, intense, psychological thriller with
richly nuanced characters.*

Paz, a Black Cubano, and his Florida Cracker partner, Cletis Barlow, into the witchy world of Santería and its African origins, and into the double life of a strange woman, Jane Doe. Michael Gruber, the author of *The Book of Air and Shadows* and *The Forgery of Venus* has written another intelligent page-turner, this one about alternative world-views. He might have called it "When Anthropologists Lose Their Distance."

Dan DeNicola, Philosophy



***Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

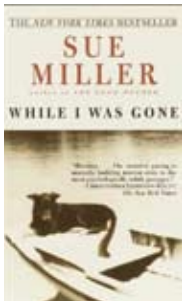
I read this selection of short stories for my book group and it was the one reading experience that was unanimously admired by the group. These short stories explore the cultural experiences of Bengali Americans and the entire book is a remarkable example of how daily life can teach us so much about ourselves and our relationships.

Carolyn Sautter, Musselman Library

*This is one of those perfectly satisfying reading experiences
that happens only once in a while.*

I think this was my favorite read of 2009. Last year I recommended *The Namesake*, and *Unaccustomed Earth* is equally as good. This collection of short stories picks up with many of the same themes Lahiri explores in *The Namesake* but is always fresh and enticing, and sometimes alarming and devastating. The stories center on Bengali Americans and their family dynamics, love affairs, and complicated identities. The writing is contemporary, polished, and rooted in the richness of American literature (as evidenced by the title's nod to Hawthorne). The collection ends with a natural phenomenon that stunned the world and this reader; in spite of the suspense that built with each page and that I wanted to break, I was sad (for many reasons) when I reached the end. This is one of those perfectly satisfying reading experiences that happens only once in a while.

Allison Singley, Parent Relations



***While I was Gone* by Sue Miller**

A wonderful, suspenseful summer read, Miller writes masterfully about the emotional and psychological lives of her characters, capturing moments in time with crystal clarity. Her narrative pacing is impeccable, and I was hooked after the first three pages. Her main character, Jo, is a middle-aged woman with a successful veterinary practice in a prototypical New England village. Circumstances force her to contrast her somewhat placid life as a mature woman with the intensity of her experience as a young person living in Boston in the late 1960s. There are lots of poignant details about her relationship with her minister husband and her struggles with the growing

independence of her three young-adult daughters. I enjoyed this one so much I went back to read more Miller who's best known for *The Good Mother*.

Judith Lindquist, Communications & Public Relations



***The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig**

Another superb novel about how teaching transforms a community, this one in rural Montana, circa 1909, just before the Board of Education gets its hands on things and totally unqualified teachers of the best kind vanish from public schools.

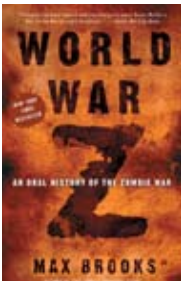
Janet M. Powers, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



***Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah**

A captivating, heart-wrenching story of a mother who is haunted by her past, surviving horrific war-torn Leningrad. The book focuses on her relationship with her two daughters and their effort to truly embrace and understand their mother and come to grips with her history. Riveting, excellent book – I literally could not put it down.

Tina Grim, Civil War Institute

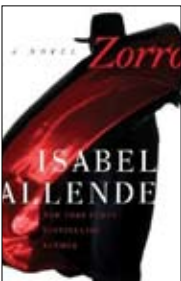


***World War Z* by Max Brooks**

*A gripping, funny, gory, insightful analysis
of modern society ...*

A gripping, funny, gory, insightful analysis of modern society (both American and global) as it responds to the threat of zombies. A must read!

Julie Keenan, English



***Zorro* by Isabel Allende**

Whether you are reading this on the beach in paper, on your Kindle or listening to it on your iPod, I think you will enjoy the wonderful storytelling of Isabel Allende. She brings to life the story of how Zorro became the masked man. In fact, several Zorros, of different genders, appear in her story. The book takes you from Spain to the missions of early California. It is a page turner that families might enjoy listening to on long road trips this summer.

Patricia Lawson, Communications & Public Relations

NONFICTION NONFICTION



***At the Bottom of the Garden* by Diane Purkiss**

This book is a history of fairies and hobgoblins and I have always been fascinated by folklore, which includes fairies and goblins of all sorts. This book also goes into the psychology behind such stories, which is even better.



Megan Gray (History major, Political Science and Classics minors)

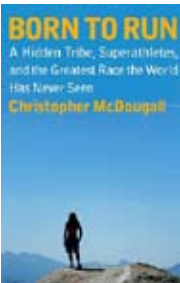


***Blink: the Power of Thinking without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell**

Gladwell explains how we make snap judgments in a way that is interesting and easy to understand. I found the book to be an easy read and very enjoyable. I had trouble putting it down.



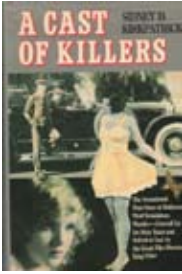
Andrea Ricca (Psychology major, Neuroscience minor)



***Born to Run* by Christopher McDougall**

Christopher McDougall sets out to unlock the mysteries of running without injury. In his quest for information, he discovers the Tarahumara Indians who win ultramarathon (150 mile!) footraces in Leadville, Colorado competing in thin leather sandals. To uncover their secrets for running uninjured, he travels to Mexico and becomes a participant in the "greatest race that the world has never seen." If you like books about sport, this one certainly raises some interesting questions about the American penchant for high tech equipment. Anyone for running barefoot?

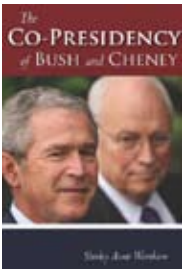
Jonelle Pool, Education



***A Cast of Killers* by Sidney D. Kirkpatrick**

In 1922, silent-film director William Desmond Taylor was murdered in his Los Angeles bungalow. The headline-grabbing scandal went unsolved, but it haunted the famous director, King Vidor. Decades later, he decided to solve the mystery himself but his findings were so explosive, he felt he could not make them public. After Vidor's death, Kirkpatrick reconstructed the murder and Vidor's investigation. The cast of suspects includes a famous actress; an ingénue and her domineering mother; a gay houseman; and others.

Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library



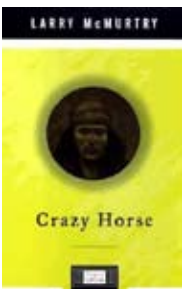
***The Co-Presidency of Bush and Cheney* by Shirley Anne Warshaw**

Our colleague, Professor Shirley Anne Warshaw, has written extensively on American presidential politics. Her latest effort, and one of her best, provides both strong

For those who want to understand what the hell happened in those eight years, this book is a must read.

description and analysis of the Bush/Cheney administration. As the title suggests, the uniqueness of the relationship between these men was that the President focused on some policy areas while inviting the Vice President to assume leadership over others. The conversion of exhaustive research (aided by some very bright Gettysburg College students) into a solid, readable story, is an art form which Shirley Anne has mastered. For those who want to understand what the hell happened in those eight years, this book is a must read.

Kenneth Mott, Political Science



***Crazy Horse* by Larry McMurtry**

I've enjoyed few books more in the past year than Larry McMurtry's short biography of the legendary Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull's right arm in the demolition of George Armstrong Custer's troops at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. A legend in his own right, and the subject of a monument in the Great Plains that will dwarf Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse was also an enigma, even to his own people, who nonetheless admired him not merely for his courage and sagacity but for his philanthropic spirit. McMurtry deftly walks us through the life of this scantily documented American original, setting it against a backdrop of what we used to call "the winning of the West." He debunks misconceptions and hyperbole about Little Big Horn— for example, asking how Stephen

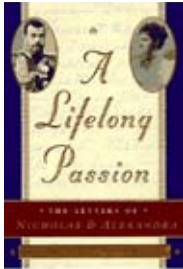
Ambrose (in his book on Custer and Crazy Horse) could know that 40,000 arrows flew that day; who, after all, would have been counting? McMurtry also provides readers with a sense of Crazy Horse's foibles as well as his prowess. Above all, he carries us a little closer to the historical Crazy Horse, and to a better understanding of the tragedy embedded in the expansion of America.

Michael Birkner, History

***Down and Out in Paris and London* by George Orwell**

I read this book while visiting England and France this past summer, in part because I like travel literature and in part because I wanted to read something by Orwell that wasn't *Animal Farm* or *1984*. The book's charm is in Orwell's descriptions of his companions, fellow "down-and-outers" scraping by in two of the world's great cities.

Tim Shannon, History

***A Lifelong Passion: Nicholas and Alexandra* by Andrei Maylunas and Sergei Mironenko**

This collection of letters and diary entries from the Romanovs represents morbid curiosity at its sickening best. The tragic unraveling of Russia's imperial family is told through primary documents, including Tsar Nicholas Romanov II's diary entry on the day of his assassination. The documents are personal, poignant, human, gripping. (Doorstop alert: the book is over 600 pages!)

Sharon Stephenson, Physics

***Lords of Finance: the Bankers Who Broke the World* by Liaquat Ahamed**

My candidate for the summer reading list just won a Pulitzer. It is an interesting study of several of the titans of money in the early twentieth century. Since we seem not to learn much from the past, it makes uneasy, but rewarding, reading.

Charlie Saltzman, English

***March of the Microbes: Sighting the Unseen* by John Ingraham**

Become a microbe watcher! Though individual microbes are too small to be seen with the unaided eye, they produce collective effects that are easily visible in the world around us. The mildew on bathroom walls and the yeasts that make our bread rise represent the dark and bright sides of microbial action. On a larger scale, the Black Sea owes its name to sulfur-eating bacteria that inhabit its depths, and certain desert bacteria can actually modify climate by providing the microscopic kernels around which raindrops form. John Ingraham, emeritus professor of professor of microbiology at the University of California, Davis, provides a host of such entertaining and informative examples of the teeming hordes of tiny creatures that affect our lives and shape our planet every day.

Larry Marschall, Physics

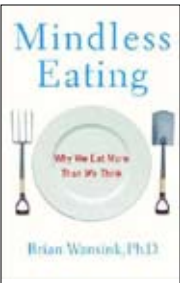


***Math for Mystics* by Renna Shesso**

In our modern society, it is easy to lose sight of our connection with nature and our spirit. Mathematics is no exception; the very origins of math are deeply rooted in the earth and the stars. The book explores math lore, combining both my love of math and of folklore, and takes one back to what our ancestors once understood to be math.



Amanda Kroft (majors in Mathematics and Computer Science)



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

A fascinating and humorous examination of studies that indicate we routinely eat more calories than we think.

Brian P. Meier, Psychology



***The Muslim Next Door: the Qur'an, the Media, and that Veil Thing* by Sumbul Ali-Karamali**

This book is an accessible and enjoyable introduction to Islam. The author, an American Muslim of East Indian descent, has a traditional American law degree as well

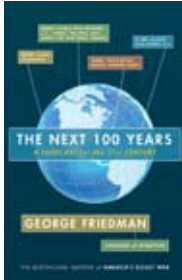
This book is a great way to go beyond headlines about Islamic terrorism and learn about the sister religion to Christianity and Judaism.

as a degree in Islamic law. She explains the basic tenets of Islam and addresses common misperceptions, presenting Islam as fundamentally concerned with equality and justice. The author shares many stories from her own experiences – everything from what it was like to not be allowed to date in high school to how she reacted when she watched Disney's *Aladdin* with her young daughter. This book is a great way to go beyond headlines about Islamic terrorism and learn about the sister religion to Christianity and Judaism.

Kathleen Cain, Psychology



NONFICTION

***The Next 100 Years: a Forecast for the 21st Century* by George Friedman**

I do not usually care for futurology, but the basis of analysis in this book is quite solid, and the book, oddly is reassuring.

Peter Stitt, Gettysburg Review

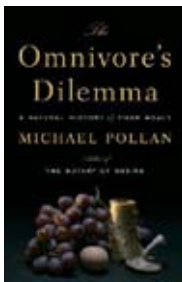
***The Olive Trilogy (The Olive Tree, The Olive Farm, The Olive Season)* by Carol Drinkwater**

Have you ever seen the BBC television series *All Creatures Great and Small* which follows the life of British veterinarian James Herriot? Ever wondered what happened to Carol Drinkwater the actor who played his television wife, Helen? I found her!

...you will fall in love with her just from her writing.

After a variety of other acting gigs, Drinkwater turned to writing and moved to the south of France where she still lives on an olive farm. I received *The Olive Trilogy* (*The Olive Tree, The Olive Farm, The Olive Season*) as a gift from my husband this year and have loved reading all three books! They follow Drinkwater's life from buying the farm property, to learning about olive farming, to adjusting to life in France. They are vivid, easy-to-read books with enough factual detail for those of you interested in operating an olive farm, and enough personal detail to learn about the interesting life path this actor/writer decided to take. If you know Drinkwater from her television series, you will recognize her on every page of these books. If you don't, you will fall in love with her just from her writing.

Rebecca Bergren, Off-Campus Studies

***The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan**

[This book] was an eye-opening and life-changing experience for me to learn about where the majority of our mass-produced food comes from in the USA. It also helped me understand why our food system is the way it is, which has led me to make drastically different choices in what food I will buy.

Irene Hawkins, Environmental Studies

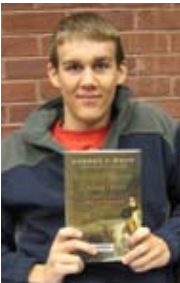


***The Rape of Europa* by Lynn H. Nicholas**

I used this book extensively for my Historical Methods research paper about why Hitler looted Europe of its artistic treasures. It is a great book – well-researched, well-written – everything a historian could hope for in a source. And while it appeals to both of my majors, it really highlights the importance of art to understanding our past and just how much we lost during World War II.



Bethany Thompson (majors in History and Art History)

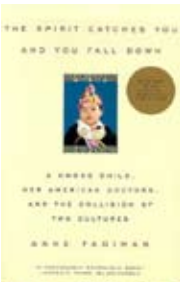


***Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different* by Gordon S. Wood**

America's founding generation was composed of an extraordinary number of great leaders and visionaries. In his book, Wood illustrates many of the factors that set these men apart, reinforcing their continuing importance to America and its citizens.



Matt Gross (History major, Civil War Era Studies minor)



***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman**

Lia Lee is a young Hmong child with severe epilepsy who lives in Merced, California. Both Lia's parents and her physicians want what is best for her. This engaging book describes the clash between Hmong culture and Western medicine and the tragic results for Lia.

Kristin Stuempfle, Health Sciences



***Stiff: the Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach**

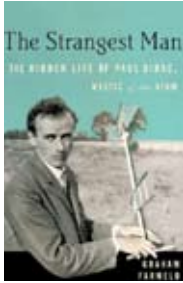
Anyone interested in the "hereafter" might be curious to discover what happens (and what might happen) to one's remains after one departs. A fascinating book.

Jay White, Provost's Office



NONFICTION

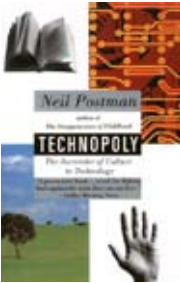
NONFICTION



***The Strangest Man: the Hidden Life of Paul Dirac, Mystic of the Atom* by Graham Farmelo**

One of the most creative minds in 20th century physics, Paul Dirac, was also one of the strangest. Known for his brilliant mathematical formulations, among them the equation that first predicted the existence of antimatter, Dirac was also legendary for his terse responses to questions and his complete inability to engage in small talk. Graham Farmelo more than makes up for this reticence with a rich biography that eloquently traces Dirac's odd childhood in England, and the deeply human ideas and emotions that shaped his personal life and his scientific work.

Larry Marschall, Physics



***Technopoly: the Surrender of Culture to Technology* by Neil Postman**

Almost any book by Postman will make one want either to follow King Ludd or dismantle and rebuild our educational system. *Technopoly*, like Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, is powerful.

Jay White, Provost's Office



***The Voice of Hope* by Aung San Suu Kyi**

One of the greatest evils about oppression is that the hope for a positive change is taken away from one oppressed. Among the hopelessness that covers over Burma like scorched ashes, Aung San Suu Kyi is a bright red coal that keeps on burning. She has dedicated her life for freedom and justice for the Burmese, and her voice truly is the voice of hope.



Lamin Oo (majors in Psychology and Philosophy)



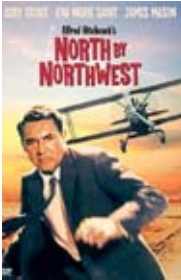
***The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* by A.J. Jacobs**

This book is hilariously entertaining as we watch the author attempt to do exactly what the title explains. It is impossible to put down because his unique approach to this wide variety of rules is both amusing and educational as it provides insight into the Jewish faith and its diversity.



Allison Bryk (Religion major)

FILMS / FILMS



Alfred Hitchcock movies

My teenage daughter set a goal to see each and every Alfred Hitchcock movie that Musselman Library holds in our DVD collection. My family spent many fun winter evenings with each other and a bowl of popcorn watching old Hitchcock films.

Natalie Hinton, Musselman Library



***Bliss* directed by Abdullah Oguz (aka. *Mutluluk*, 2007)**

What a wonderful film from Turkey! Meryem is a 17-year-old girl who is found unconscious near a lake. Her family believes that she has been assaulted and her chastity lost. To uphold the family honor, Cemal, a distant cousin, is ordered to kill Meryem. Instead, the two run away traveling throughout Turkey hoping to start a new life. The Turkish countryside was stunning; the story moving! *Bliss* has won 12 awards in festivals around the world. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

Nancy Bernardi, Musselman Library



***Bright Star* directed by Jane Campion (2009)**

The film documents the romance between the 19th century poet, John Keats and Fanny Brawne. This movie is very passionate and beautifully made—it has faint hints at underlying social norms that are often overlooked today woven with a story that is quite captivating.

CaseyAnn Decker, Musselman Library



***The Cove* directed by Louie Psihoyos (2009)**

Animal activists film a secretive operation in Japan that provides captive dolphins for the tourist industry. This documentary combines fascinating footage of “Flipper” (1960s TV dolphin show); and environmental, health, and moral issues; with a hair-raising adventure. You might want to avert your eyes when they attack the “extra” dolphins.

Charles F. Emmons, Sociology



***Crossing the Bridge: the Sound of Istanbul* directed by Fatih Akin (2005)**

A wonderful introduction to the musical diversity of Turkey – told by German and Turkish filmmakers and musicians – and a tribute to Istanbul.

Charlotte Armster, German



***Distant* directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan (aka. *Uzak*, 2002)**

A lyrical story of urban/rural identity. Beautifully filmed and framed. Take your time to see this.

Charlotte Armster, German

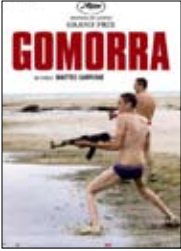


***Doc Martin* created by Dominic Minghella (2004 - present TV series)**

I like this quirky, unpredictable, somewhat understated comedy ...

British TV series about a London surgeon who moves to a country practice in the Cornish hamlet of Port Wenn. I like this quirky, unpredictable, somewhat understated comedy because it presents flawed characters in clever ways. It's a cut above the usual British TV comedies in my opinion.

Charles F. Emmons, Sociology



Gomorra directed by Matteo Garrone (2008)

This film from Italy is definitely not *Under the Tuscan Sun, Part II*. Based on the book by Roberto Saviano, it portrays the role of organized crime in a Neapolitan

*It's definitely not going to get your local book club
to sign up for a tour of sunny Napoli!*

neighborhood of modernist low-income housing blocks more reminiscent of blasted, hollowed-out Detroit than of the sweet, romantic villages and cities we are used to seeing in many films (especially American films) about modern Italy. This film will fascinate you, but it will disturb you, too. It's definitely not going to get your local book club to sign up for a tour of sunny Napoli!

John Commito, Environmental Studies



Grey Gardens directed by Michael Sucsy (2009)

Grey Gardens with Drew Barrymore and Jessica Lange is a beautiful and deeply moving tribute to a couple of women whose lives might have been forgotten if it weren't for a pair of documentary filmmakers. The two eccentric women, relatives of Jackie Kennedy Onassis, abandoned their life of privilege and society and were living in disgusting conditions at their dilapidated Long Island home, "Grey Gardens." When international tabloids learned of a health department raid on their home, Jackie jumped in to save her relatives. The deterioration of these women's lives was an incredibly sad and slow process as their grasp on reality diminished. What the two actresses bring to the screen is absolutely remarkable and demonstrates what compelling people they were.

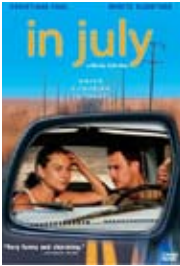
Gale Baker, Musselman Library



**Hollywood: a Celebration of the American Silent Film
(1980 documentary series by Thames Television)**

If you like history and silent films; dust off your VCR and check out these gems in the Musselman Library collection. The 13 one-hour episodes tell the story of the birth of the Hollywood studios and its impact on our culture. It mixes film clips, rare early footage, historic photos, and interviews to tell about the stars, the power-broker producers, the films, the filming process, the behind-the-scenes scandals and more. A few titles include: *Single Beds and Double Standards*, *Hollywood Goes to War*, *Comedy: a Serious Business*, and *Out West*.

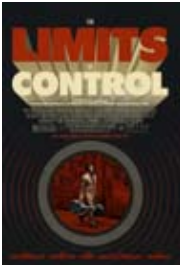
Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library



***In July* directed by Fatih Akin (2000)**

A light but serious film road trekking from Germany to Turkey.

Charlotte Armster, German



***The Limits of Control* directed by Jim Jarmusch (2009)**

Jim Jarmusch is a stylistic provocateur who does not attempt to reach everyone. That is, this film is not for fans of *The Blind Side*. Instead, it's designed for people

The film is ripe with off-beat characters, familiar landscapes (if you crave spaghetti westerns), acid jazz, and beautiful art that comes to life on screen.

who like films "when people just sit there, not saying anything," as Tilda Swinton's character, decked out in a garish white wig and matching cowboy hat, says early in the film. Jarmusch deliberately draws on Jean- Pierre Melville's *Le Samourai* and John Boorman's *Point Blank* to create "The Lone Man," his protagonist played by Isaach De Bankolé, a familiar figure to Jarmusch fans. The film is ripe with off-beat characters, familiar landscapes (if you crave spaghetti westerns), acid jazz, and beautiful art that comes to life on screen.

Jack Ryan, Provost's Office / English



***North Face* directed by Philipp Stölzl (2008)**

Philipp Stölzl's climbing drama deals with actual events, and it brings new life to a genre returning to popularity. The title refers to Eiger Norgwand, the north face of the Eiger. Set in 1936, this picture revolves around men facing extreme conditions. But the climbers make mistakes, placing themselves in territory familiar to readers of Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*. *North Face* is not a great man film; rather, it is a stunningly mesmerizing look at why people test their endurance and ingenuity. The physical world, though, stands as an inscrutable foe.

Jack Ryan, Provost's Office / English



***Sherlock Holmes* directed by Guy Ritchie (2009)**

This isn't any ol' Basil Rathbone movie type Holmes and viewers expecting a predictable detective yarn will be disappointed. This is the manic depressive, prize-fighting, cocaine-addicted genius that regularly annoyed his roommate, Dr. Watson, by conducting experiments in their shared flat that Doyle originally penned. It is as fun to watch the verbal sparring between these two brilliant men, Holmes and Watson, as it is to experience the fast-paced adventure that the two are tangled in.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



***Stalker* directed by Andrei Tarkovsky (1979)**

This Russian film is for the cinephile and the ecophile. I recommend it as an experimental and environmental tour de force. Described as a science fiction story about the "zone," the film follows a day in the lives of three men who enter the "zone," a ruined industrial wasteland that is being reclaimed by nature. Eerily beautiful and hauntingly unsettling the film will leave you with questions and thoughts about the relationships humans have with each other and the rest of nature. When considered in the actual context of locational setting and Russian reception and history, the film

becomes all the more powerful.

Salma Monani, Environmental Studies



***Twin Peaks* created by David Lynch (1990-91 TV series)**

*It gets weird, then it gets dumb, then it gets sublime,
and then it's just weird again.*

What do you get when you combine *Lost*, *The X-Files*, *Blue Velvet*, and *Laverne & Shirley*? You guessed it: *Twin Peaks*, just recently re-released on DVD. It gets weird, then it gets dumb, then it gets sublime, and then it's just weird again. See it, at least until Laura Palmer's killer is revealed. Ah, but if you stop there you'll miss a young David

Duchovny in drag and Heather Graham's pre-rollergirl stint as a nun.

Rud Platt, Environmental Studies

FILMS

FILMS



***Waking Life* directed by Richard Linklater (2001)**

Very insightful film, offers a new perspective on life/consciousness – a welcome divergence from Hollywood filmmaking. Spends times talking about lucid dreaming, a very compelling subject.



Miles Riemer-Peltz (Psychology major)



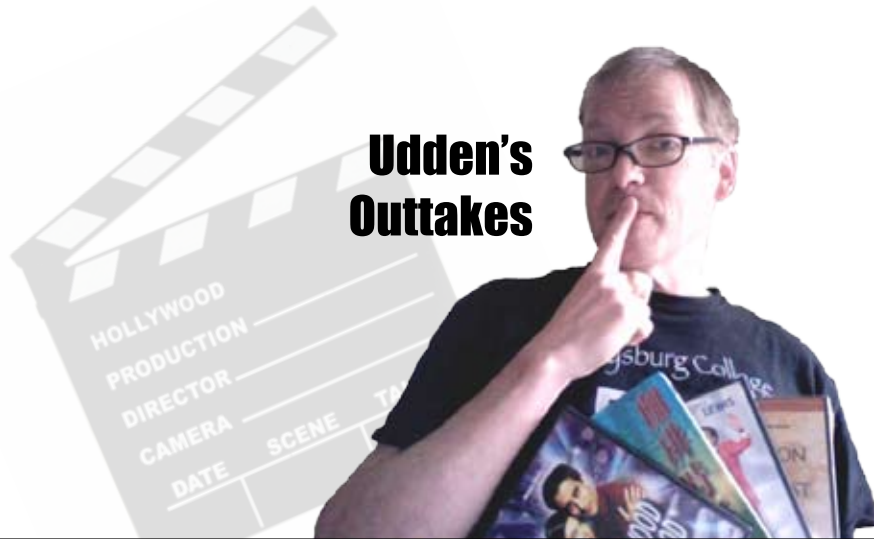
***The Wizard of Oz* directed by Victor Fleming (1939)**

Ever since I was a child, I have been obsessed with the fanciful land of Oz. It is a wonderful reminder to always keep your mind open and be imaginative.



Kaitlyn Lyons (majors in Classics and Religion)

Udden's Outtakes



Resident film guru (aka. associate professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and head of the Film Studies Program) Jim Udden weighs in on his picks for films and TV shows.

Three caveats before I give you my recommended picks for this year (or any year). One, when I make a pick, it is usually something that I suspect most people just miss. Or have never heard of. It is not that I do not like mainstream fare – I just assume that it has already been introduced to you through millions of marketing dollars. Two, I do not guarantee you will like my picks. I tend to recommend things that are unconventional in some ways, and sometimes very intense, perhaps too much so for certain people. (I tend to like things I cannot get out of my mind.) Three, ideally I would give you my picks from Filmfest DC from this year, which I attend every year. But these are always due before I can see those films in mid-April.

So here goes:

Picks from Last Year's Filmfest DC



There are two films I remember above all else from last year's festival. One I now use in one of my courses for a paper: *Tulpan* (2008, Sergey Dvortsevov). I have always read about the steppes, but until this film I never felt I had "been there." Although fiction, this film is so close to documentaries that it has small miracles, including a live birth of a lamb and dust devils so perfectly timed that one suspects they were orchestrated. *4 Nights with Anna* (2008, Jerzy Skolimowski) was a most unexpected surprise by a veteran Polish director who had not made a film in over 20 years. It is similar in tone to the late Kieslowski, only this almost transcends such national labels. Unfortunately, you will be lucky if you can locate the DVD.

Picks from Musselman Library's DVD Collection



My area of specialization is Asian cinema. For years I have been partial to films from Hong Kong and Taiwan over mainland China. But in the last couple of years I have noticed a real shift among newer filmmakers who are not treaded the well-worn path of older directors by pandering to western tastes. Instead, these young filmmakers like to look at China as it really is today, without blinkered, overly sentimental touches. Over this past year I finally got to see two films by Li Yang, a former documentarian who now makes fictional films with devastating results. Check out *Blind Shaft* (2003) and *Blind Mountain* (2007). Even more impressive are the films of Jia Zhangke, whom I have loved since I saw *Platform* (2000). Yet his stand out in my mind (but this is debated by others) is *Still Life* (2006), a poetic paean to the Three Gorges area at the very moment it is going to be lost to the Three Gorges Dam Project. It won the top prize at Venice that year. (Warning, this is a slow and extremely poetic film. You need to be in the right frame of mind to appreciate it.) If you have not yet seen the animated documentary by Ari Folman, *Waltz with Bashir*, see it this summer. (During the school year I use it in my 101 course, so it will be on reserve.)



My Oscar Pick



Sure, I am glad *The Hurt Locker* won over *Avatar*. But my personal pick was *Inglourious Basterds*, by Quentin Tarantino. It is violent, I'll warn you, but I don't know of any other American director who can have dialogue scenes lasting over twenty minutes, and yet build that much suspense and intensity. Like him or not, this is one skillful filmmaker.

TV Series I Highly Recommend

I love *Lost*, but that is now ending. I also love AMC's *Mad Men*, but everyone seems to love that. But here are some other shows I watch religiously:

- *Breaking Bad* (AMC): arguably the best series on AMC, and maybe on TV. It is certainly a show of almost unrelenting tension, coupled with dark humor. See it only from the beginning, or you will miss how this impossible situation of a family man/teacher turning to make crystal meth came to be.



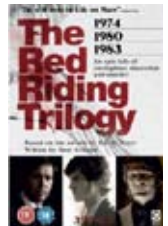
- *Southland* (TNT): the closest thing we have to *The Wire* still on the air.
- *Men of a Certain Age* (TBS): really sweet, but not at all sappy. In fact, a very heartfelt look at middle-aged men. (You started to think I don't like things like this, huh?)
- *Weeds* (Showtime): Once again, see it from the beginning. But don't watch it with your kids. Surprisingly funny show, and always ends every season unpredictably. (Predictably, I then have to watch the next season.)
- *Dexter* (Showtime): This show never lets up. The most recent season with John Lithgow is as good as they have done. Once again, unrelenting tension and dark humor.



On the Horizon

Look for these at the Majestic or on DVD. (I plan to see these myself, and may have seen them all by the time this is in print. For now this is based on trusted hearsay.)

- *Red Riding Trilogy* (1974, 1980, 1983): I have been reading about this series of films for months, and now have seen the first one, which takes place in 1974 (it is a recent mini-series on British TV — the stories take place in 1974, 1980 and 1983 respectively). Warning: the Yorkshire accents are so thick that you may want to see this with subtitles on a DVD or closed-captioning on IFC On Demand.
- *The White Ribbon*: Not a big Haneke fan, but this one I cannot miss.
- *A Prophet*.



So if you don't like any of the above, don't blame me. (oh wait ... I guess you *should* blame me!)



Movie Memories on Summer Nights

June 2, 2010 • Ben Hur (1959)

June 8, 2010 • Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948)

June 16, 2010 • The Wizard of Oz (1939)

June 30, 2010 • Mrs. Miniver (1942)

July 7, 2010 • 1776 (1972)

July 14, 2010 • Trail of the Lonesome Pine (1936)

July 21, 2010 • Destry Rides Again (1939)

July 28, 2010 • White Heat (1949)

August 4, 2010 • Sabotage (1936)

**August 11, 2010 • Flying Deuces (1939)
Kino and My Little Chickadee (1940)**

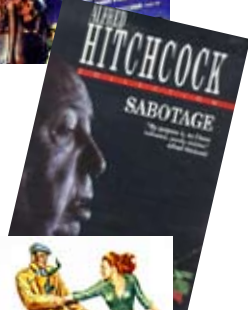
August 18, 2010 • The Quiet Man (1952)

**August 25, 2010 • Seven Brides for Seven
Brothers (1954)**



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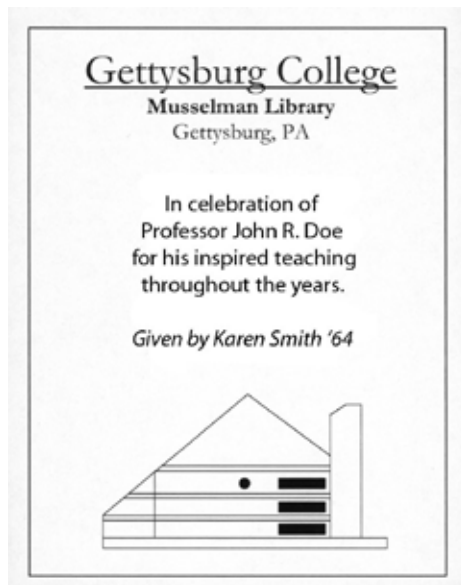
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Preferred book subject (optional) _____

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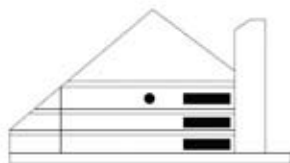
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Attention All Readers!

In early 2011, Musselman Library will present a reading and film program focusing on the Middle East. The program is still in development, but we're considering fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, memoirs, feature films, and documentaries ... anything that will help us better understand this region of the world and how we relate to it.

To learn which books and films have been selected for this series, email Kerri Odess-Harnish (kodessha@gettysburg.edu) to be added to our mailing list. You will be among the first to hear when the program is finalized!



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