



Summer 2017

You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2017)

Musselman Library
Gettysburg College

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You've Gotta Read This: Summer Reading at Musselman Library (2017)

Abstract

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

With the 2017 collection, we again bring together recommendations from across our campus—the books, movies, TV shows, and podcasts that have meant something special to us over the past year. 118 faculty, administrators and staff offer up 218 recommendations.

We include five special features this year. Two of our regular columnists return once again: James Udden and his latest recommendations for the best film and TV, and Allen Guelzo with suggested readings on Civil War history. The #GBCTalks program has curated a series of recommended books that explore issues such as race and racism in America, social justice, and diversity and inclusion. Amy Dailey, Fritz Gaenslen, Caroline Hartzell, Salma Monani, and Jim Udden also present a "Focus on Health" feature in preparation for the next Gettysburg Cycle, and Devin McKinney remembers the 50th anniversary of the release of The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* with a selection of Beatles-themed films and books.

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

Keywords

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

Disciplines

English Language and Literature | Library and Information Science

You've Gotta Read This!



Summer Reading @ Musselman Library 2017



Sue Holz snapped this photo during the summer of 2016 in Aix-en-Provence, France where she spent three weeks studying photography through the College's study abroad program. Sue has been the administrative assistant for the economics department for over 15 years and is working towards a degree in Studio Art.



Dear Reader,

On the cover of this year's edition of *You've Gotta Read This!*, a woman paints a picture on a beautiful hill in the countryside. Our focus is on the artist and her endeavor, not on what she sees. We assume she's painting a landscape, but we don't know that for sure; we have to imagine it. That, in a sense, is the mystery and promise that lure us into reading. Our surrogate is the author, who has a longer, broader view of things than we do—who is close enough to us to relay her vision, and far enough away to see much that we cannot.

We look to books, probably more than to any other art form, to take us beyond our limited scope. No one who reads a historical western or Victorian romance today was alive at the time; most readers of military history have never fought in a war; most fans of murder mysteries have never caught a killer. Yet we who love books will always return to our figurative spot on the hill—that private vantage point where we watch the artist unfold the story she has fantasized, relate the history she has studied, and describe the events and people that have obsessed her.

As ever, this year's collection of staff and faculty recommendations encompasses books—in addition to films, TV shows, and podcasts—from every genre and style. The campus-wide "Year of Health" program is represented by several unique options, as is the ongoing #GBCTalks series on race and racism. In special columns, some of our own experts take the broad view of ever-popular subjects: Allen Guelzo on Civil War history, James Udden on the best in recent movies and television, and Devin McKinney on the golden anniversary of the Beatles' most famous album.

Awaiting you are 90 days of summer and, in the pages that follow, hundreds of suggestions for expanding your field of vision. All you have to do is choose your book, and find your beautiful hill.

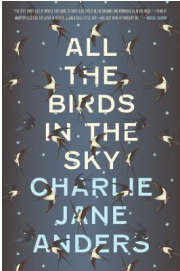
From the staff of Musselman Library

May 2017

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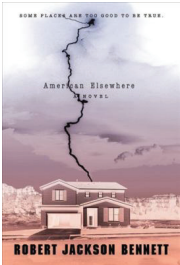
FICTION FICTION



***All the Birds in the Sky* by Charlie Jane Anders**

A girl who can talk to birds and a boy who invents a watch that doubles as a time machine—together they may (inadvertently) destroy the world or save it. This book bridges fantasy and science fiction while exploring the challenges of finding yourself in a world where we can easily spend more time with our phones than our friends.

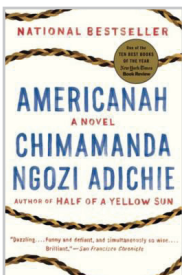
Chloe Ruff, Education



***American Elsewhere* by Robert Jackson Bennett**

Mona Bright just inherited a house from her mother. The only problem is that it's in Wink, NM, and she can't seem to find the town on any map. Curious to find out more, she moves into the house to discover the town is full of wonderful, albeit somewhat odd folks living out a life more in tune with the 1950s than today, with just a few secrets hidden away. *American Elsewhere* feels much like a cross between the writings of Ray Bradbury and Neil Gaiman; a book where ordinary people may not be so ordinary and a place might be far more (or less) than it appears.

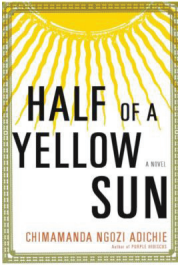
Eric Remy, Instructional Technology



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

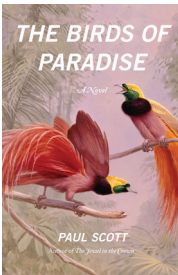
Americanah is a riveting novel about the immigrant experience in the U.S. Ifemelu is a beautiful, intelligent Nigerian woman who comes to America, and confronts racial politics here that cause her to think about her blackness in ways unknown in her home country. Her best friend and boyfriend, Obinze, stays behind in Nigeria hoping to join her later, but ends up with his own troubles in London, as he seeks to find his way. After finishing this amazing book, in which no one and nothing is spared in her critique of society, I wanted to read anything and everything Adichie has written.

(continued)



Next I read *Half of a Yellow Sun*, which is a rich and stunning portrayal of life in Nigeria, leading up to the Civil War. Once again, Adichie enthralled me with her deep and provocative character portrayals: this time, the story is told through a young boy, a successful Nigerian woman, and a white journalist. Reading this book was an unforgettable experience—one of those books that makes you forget where you are, and miss the characters when you're done.

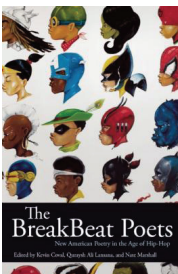
**Susan Russell, Theatre Arts /
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies**



***The Birds of Paradise* by Paul Scott**

As a long-time fan of Scott's *The Raj Quartet* and the BBC series based on it, *The Jewel in the Crown*, I was delighted to come across his coming-of-age novel, set partially in India and partially in England. It's the story of a boy and his childhood friendships with the daughter of a British diplomat and the son of a Raja, and it takes place at the moment in time just before Independence when everything came apart. Scott is a superb writer and manages the dual perspective of boy/adult with insight and grace.

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



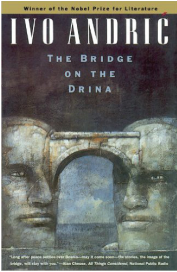
***The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop* edited
by Kevin Coval, Quraysh Ali Lansana, and Nate Marshall**

This is a great collection of contemporary poets, blending hip-hop influences with spoken word poetics. There are poems that will make you laugh, cry,

*There are poems that will make you laugh, cry, shout,
and they'll all make you think.*

shout, and they'll all make you think. It's a powerful collection that will stay with you long after you've finished the last poem. (Special shout-out to Nate Marshall, Danez Smith, and Mahogany L. Browne!)

McKinley E. Melton, English



***The Bridge on the Drina* by Ivo Andrić**

This is a fantastic novel in which the main character is the bridge over the Drina, a river that passes by the city of Visegrad (Bosnia). Visegrad enjoyed great splendor during the Middle Ages because it was a point of contact between Islam and Christianity, for which the bridge itself is a symbol. In fact, a great part of the city's cultural life took place around the bridge, which was built during the Ottoman Empire. What I find interesting is that the author weaves together many stories into a tapestry of the cultural development of Bosnia under both the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian dominations. Contrary to many European and Turkish narratives that give us the metropolitan vision; Andrić delivers a delightful provincial perspective into cultural life.

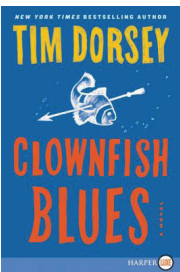
Emelio Betances, Sociology



***California* by Edan Lepucki**

A couple, Frida and Cal, live on their own after much of the country has been decimated by illness and extreme weather. When they find out Frida is pregnant, they venture out in search of other people. They find a community and tentatively immerse themselves in it, awaiting a vote to determine whether they will be allowed to stay. As time passes, they must negotiate their newfound comforts with what they learn about the history of the community.

Jen Cole, Academic Advising



***Clownfish Blues (Serge Storms)* by Tim Dorsey**

Tim Dorsey is the consummate writer of the comedic adventure novel. His main character, as always, under-medicated Serge A. Storms, is hilarious as ever and he runs roughshod over the Florida lottery and a multitude of bad guys, with his sidekick, over-medicated Coleman. I have read all the Serge books and once you read Dorsey, you never go back!

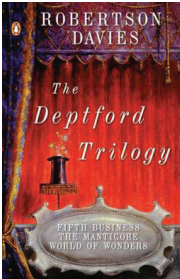
Pete Pella, Physics (emeritus)



***The Cutting Season* by Attica Locke**

Locke makes murder, race, and intrigue relevant . . . she makes fiction that matters.

Scott Hancock, History / Africana Studies



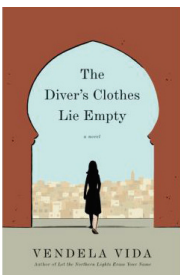
***The Deptford Trilogy* by Robertson Davies**

The magnum opus of one of Canada's greatest writers—comprising the novels *Fifth Business* (1970), *The Manticore* (1972), and *World of Wonders* (1975)—begins in Deptford, Ontario, in 1906. A stone is packed in a snowball by one boy and tossed at another; it misses, and strikes a minister's wife.

Engrossing, funny, robust, and complex, this 900-page miracle cannot be summarized—only experienced.

Over the next 60-odd years, the consequences of that freak accident spiral out and strike back at a small cast of characters as they pursue their interdependent fates across North America and Europe. Engrossing, funny, robust, and complex, this 900-page miracle cannot be summarized—only experienced.

Devin McKinney, Musselman Library



***The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty* by Vendela Vida**

Similar to her American heroine in *Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name*, “You” (Vida uses second-person singular throughout) finds herself far from home in Casablanca, wondering what to do, when her knapsack containing her identity (passport, laptop, wallet, etc.) is stolen. Simple: assume the identity of another crime victim whom the police chief confuses “You” with. “You” is in the process of divorce, and her twist of fates leads her tiptoeing down a path close to fraud as she becomes employed as a stand-in for a “famous American Actress.” A novel of self-discovery not to be missed.

Roy Dawes, Political Science



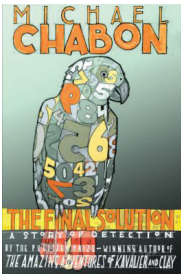
***The Dry* by Jane Harper**

Federal agent Aaron Falk hasn't been back to the place where he grew up in 20 years. Not since he and his father were run out of town. There is more wrong with Kiewarra, a parched farming community in rural Australia,

If you like a nicely-crafted plot with well-drawn characters that stay with you, this is a perfect summer read.

than there is right. For one thing, it hasn't rained for more than two years. At the center is the apparent double murder-suicide of Luke Hadler, Aaron's childhood friend, his wife, and young son. If you like a nicely-crafted plot with well-drawn characters that stay with you, this is a perfect summer read. One part mystery, one part history, you'll find yourself in one of the driest places on earth, where the prospect of an all-engulfing bush fire is a constant and looming threat. The drought has pushed residents to the brink as they try to hold on to their farms and insufficient livelihoods, all the while nursing grievances—new and old.

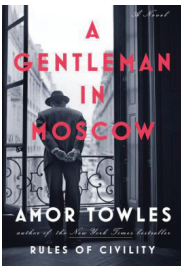
Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



***The Final Solution: A Story of Detection* by Michael Chabon**

The unnamed, elderly sleuth in this novella is (presumably) Sherlock Holmes. A mute Jewish boy and a German-speaking parrot wander along the train tracks across the street from the home of the long-retired detective. The old man would really rather focus on his bees but a problem looking for a solution is not something he can ignore and he begins to assist with the unraveling of the silent child's story. A haunting little book I would re-read.

Lisa McNamee, Musselman Library



***A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles**

Count Alexander Rostove is arrested by a Bolshevik tribunal as an "unrepentant aristocrat" who published a counter-revolutionary poem. He is sentenced to house arrest within the confines of a garret room in the Metropol Hotel. For this Renaissance man, his "prison" becomes a bastion of civility behind the bleak streets of Moscow. He quietly explores the majestic

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hotel, at times accompanied by a precocious girl (not unlike Eloise). He befriends staff; shares stories with diplomats; and spends time with a beautiful actress. The Count is a remarkable character, and yet you will also see the tragedy of post-Revolutionary Russia.

Bill Jones, Counseling Services (retired)

This is one of those books that draws you in immediately. The whole time I was reading it, I just wanted to savor every word and page, and when I reached the end, I felt that combination of satisfaction and regret that comes with reading a great book. I admit to having a particular interest in the Soviet era in which the book is set, but Amor Towles writes his protagonist so well that you cannot help but sympathize with his predicament. With every passing year, the Count becomes more endearing and the struggles of those who lost power under Lenin and Stalin better understood.

Kelly Whitcomb, Office of Multicultural Engagement



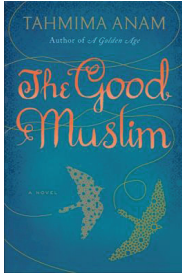
***Gods' Man: A Novel in Woodcuts* by Lynd Ward**

After a chance encounter with a box of Lynd Ward prints on a bookshop floor, I've taken a deep dive into his "wordless novels" from the late 1920s and 1930s. Considered the American father of the graphic novel, the library owns a wonderful two-volume reprint of six of his novels, but the one I've found the

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most compelling is Ward's 1929 novel, *Gods' Man*. Influenced by his time in Weimar Germany and the woodcut novels of Frans Masereel, *Gods' Man* is told in 139 dramatic black-and-white wood engravings, which reveal the influence of German Expressionism. Ward presents a dark Faustian tale—the young artist making a deal with a mysterious stranger, a rise to fame, a disillusionment with a corrupt capitalist system, a retreat to nature, and an ultimate downfall when the stranger comes to collect. This early work by Ward is melodramatic in parts (the section in nature is painfully earnest), but his illustrations have stuck with me and seem especially relevant after nearly 90 years.

Clinton Baugess, Musselman Library

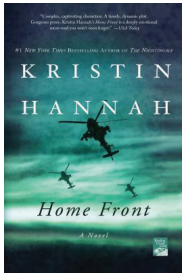


***The Good Muslim* by Tahmima Anam**

The Good Muslim is about a Muslim family in wartime Bangladesh and the social and cultural transformations that are involved in the violent Islamization of a once open Muslim society. It's beautifully written in a style that's sparse and yet evocative. Its central character is a secular-leaning Bangladeshi doctor who has witnessed her country transform into an Islamically conservative culture that she feels less and less comfortable in.

Through the story we see the complex interplay of issues of gender, religious politics, and violence, Muslim spirituality, Islamization, and loss and forgiveness in wartime. It is also a devastating portrait of the suffering experienced during the Bangladesh war for independence and through the abuses of religious authority.

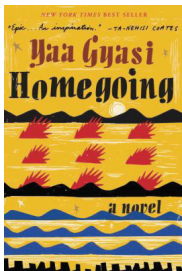
Megan Sijapati, Religious Studies



***Home Front* by Kristin Hannah**

Home Front is another excellent book by author Kristin Hannah that is difficult to put down. Family life with two careers, two children, and a home can be stressful. Add to this a mother's sudden military deployment flying an Apache helicopter during the Iraq War while her husband, a defense attorney, struggles to maintain a normal family life he knows nothing about. When the worst events happen, the family works together while leaning on a strong family and military support system. This story shares an inside view from character perspectives of love, loyalty, community, and honor, but most of all, finding your way home.

Jennifer Coale, Majestic Theater



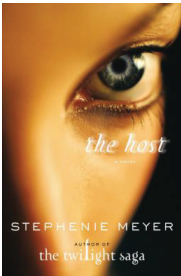
***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

Homegoing was recommended to me by my colleague, Chipso Dendere, who is a voracious and selective reader. The semi-autobiographical novel is Gyasi's first and is rich, complex, and rewarding. It is a multigenerational tale that begins with a pair of half sisters in the British colony that is present-day Ghana: one sister is from the Fante nation and marries a British official and the other is an Asante sold into slavery. The story spans 250 years, following the women's lives and those of their descendants ultimately to America and it

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details the ways in which black lives are shattered by the horrors of enslavement, colonialism, and Jim Crow segregation in the U.S. South. Each chapter is a vignette of a different character but the family history is woven throughout, providing the threads that connect one generation to the next. This is a novel that is largely consumed by slavery and racial injustice so it's not a breezy beach read, but it is thoughtful and eventually hopeful, but (thankfully) not artificially so.

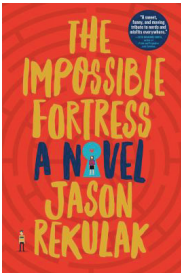
Jennifer Bloomquist, Africana Studies



***The Host* by Stephenie Meyer**

The Host is about Earth, in a post-apocalyptic time, being invaded by a parasitic alien race, known as “Souls,” that take over the human brain and make the body their own. They are a fully peaceful race and believe that they are making the planet better. There are still humans left in hiding and the story follows one Soul’s predicament when the consciousness of her human host refuses to co-operate with the takeover of her body and finds the family that she lost.

Leah Bernier, Athletics



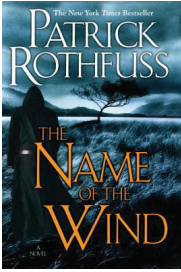
***The Impossible Fortress* by Jason Rekulak**

Many of us who grew up in the 1980s with a Commodore 64 remember messing around with programming in BASIC and trying to write our own games. This coming-of-age novel revisits those hours spent hunched over a

*This coming-of-age novel revisits those hours spent
hunched over a keyboard, mixing nostalgia
and angst with computer code.*

keyboard, mixing nostalgia and angst with computer code. Rooted in pop culture, but never heavy-handed with its references, *The Impossible Fortress* challenges us to save the princess, but subverts tropes along the way.

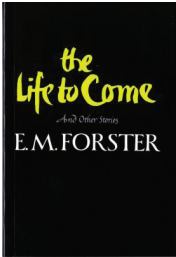
R.C. Miessler, Musselman Library



The Kingkiller Chronicle (Books 1-2) by Patrick Rothfuss

Two books into the series, there are still more mysteries than answers about the shadowed past of the once formidable Kvothe. Now a humble innkeeper, Kvothe recounts his grim tale, revealing how an orphan boy became a legend in his own time—a legend who disappeared when the world needed him most. Driven by his love of music and a sense of vengeance and ambition, Kvothe confronts poverty, magical creatures, resentful professors, and the forbidden secrets of his world. It's a bit like a dark and haunting Harry Potter. Lin-Manuel Miranda recently signed on as creative producer for an adaptation.

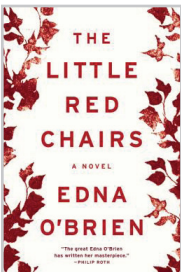
Kevin Lavery, Civil War Institute



The Life to Come and Other Stories by E.M. Forster

Forster, a gay literary icon, came out only posthumously, with the novel *Maurice* and this collection of stories written between 1902 and 1958. The best pieces are intense, haunting, and, even for his fans, revelatory: "Arthur Snatchfold," about a class-crossing gay encounter; "The Purple Envelope," a pristinely ambiguous ghost story as fine as anything by Edith Wharton; and "Dr. Woollacott," a tragic, tender tale of love and spirits which T.E. Lawrence called "the most powerful thing I ever read." For biographical context on Forster as a gay man and artist, see *A Great Unrecorded History*, by Dickinson College professor Wendy Moffat.

Devin McKinney, Musselman Library



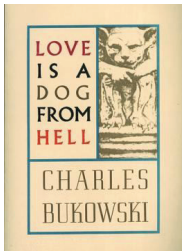
The Little Red Chairs by Edna O'Brien

A mysterious stranger arrives in an isolated Irish town and quickly becomes a welcome disruption to the monotony of village life. He is Dr. Vladimir Dragan, poet, mystic, and holistic healer. Townsfolk fall under his spell left and right, most notably the unhappily married Fidelma McBride. She turns to Dr. Vlad to cure her deepest pain with chilling consequences that leave her shattered. O'Brien is the author of the *Country Girls* trilogy, *The Light of Evening*, *The Love Object*, and many other books and short stories set in the Irish countryside. This novel is a departure from her usual storytelling, more focused on plot

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than character, darker and more unsettling. For example, the reader finds out quite early on that Vladimir is a wanted war criminal who has committed the most appalling atrocities in the Balkans. At its center, this is a novel about the human capacity for evil on one hand, and strength and endurance on the other.

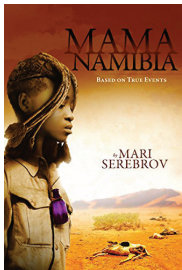
Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



***Love Is a Dog from Hell: Poems 1974-1977* by Charles Bukowski**

Short gritty poems, raw uncensored and inebriated. Crude, perfect antidote for the innocent mind...

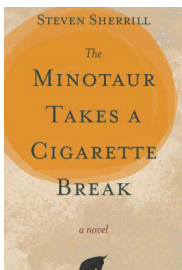
Eric Berninghausen, Theatre Arts



***Mama Namibia* by Mari Serebrov**

A powerful, at times haunting historical fiction of the Herero genocide. With two stories told side by side—one of a 12-year-old Herero girl surviving on her own in the desert while hiding from the German soldiers, the other of a Jewish doctor serving in the German army—the book describes one of the most telling stories in colonial history.

Kim Davidson, Center for Public Service



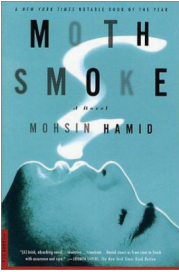
***The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break* by Steven Sherrill**

Turns out the immortal Minotaur of Greek mythology isn't a myth. He's real and working as a short-order cook in the American South. M, as he's known,

Turns out the immortal Minotaur of Greek mythology isn't a myth. He's real and working as a short-order cook in the American South.

lives in a trailer park and fixes old cars for fun. Both tragic and laughably absurd, M endears himself to the reader almost instantly as he wrestles with his dual nature while struggling to find fulfillment in contemporary society.

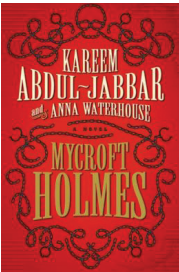
John Dettinger, Musselman Library



***Moth Smoke* by Mohsin Hamid**

A gripping and dark tale of a young banker in Lahore, Pakistan, named Darashikoh Shezad, whose downward spiral of lies, an affair with his best friend's wife, and drug abuse culminate in a brutal turn of events. Written in Hamid Mohsin's distinctive style, which I would characterize as sharp and suspenseful yet hazy in tone, and suffused with themes of socio-economic tensions between the wealthy and the non-wealthy.

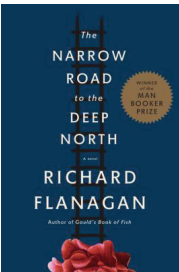
Megan Sijapati, Religious Studies



***Mycroft Holmes* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse**

The protagonist in this book is Sherlock's older brother Mycroft Holmes. Newly graduated from Cambridge and eager to begin a comfortable married life, Mycroft is interested in staying in England and advancing his government career. However, an urgent request from his closest friend sends a reluctant Mycroft to Trinidad to uncover the mysterious disappearances of children. I really look forward to more mysteries featuring the partnership of Mycroft and his Trinidadian friend Cyrus Douglas.

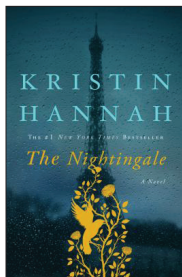
Lisa McNamee, Musselman Library



***The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan**

This 2014 Man Booker Prize winner is devoted in large part to the World War II Australian POWs who were forced to construct what was called Japan's Thailand-Burma Death Railway. The narrative moves backward and forward through the life of war hero Dr. Dorrigo Evans, a man marked by both his past struggle to save as many of his countrymen as possible from unrelenting brutality and death, and the loss of his one true love. What is indisputably war fiction makes for very difficult reading at times, and yet the writing is so extraordinary that it overwhelms any discomfort with this characterization.

Elizabeth Richardson Viti, French (emerita)



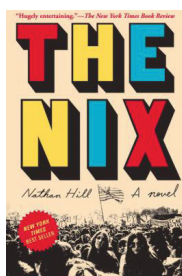
***The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah**

My daughter recommended this book to me because of the role women played in German-occupied France during WWII. The story is about two sisters who have the courage and insight to step up and make a difference.

Cindy Wright, Campus Recreation

A terrific novel—its plot and characters will hook you from the beginning. Set in German-occupied France during WWII, the narrative is tied to the lives of two sisters, and captures your imagination of love, loneliness, strength, and resistance in 1940s France. The sisters, Isabelle and Vianne, somewhat estranged and drastically different in their personalities, discover more about who they are as the war and occupation continues—and the author brings you on the emotional ride connected to their respective choices, priorities, and moments of self-reflection when it comes to survival and resistance in an engrossing way. A real page-turner.

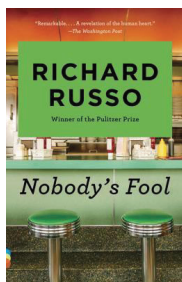
Kevin McGuire, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations



***The Nix* by Nathan Hill**

Those of you who check these lists each year might know that I am a sucker for big, sprawling novels about dysfunctional families that also tackle big ideas about society. *The Nix* is the best novel in this genre that I have read in years that was not written by Jonathan Franzen. On one level it is the story of a college professor whose estranged mother has been arrested for throwing rocks at a presidential candidate. But it also deals with issues of teenage love, political rebellion, family dynamics, video-game addictions, and much, much more. It's smart, but it's also very fun and filled with engaging characters.

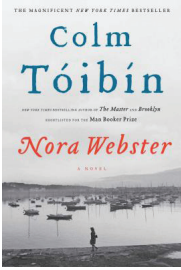
Darren Glass, Mathematics



***Nobody's Fool* by Richard Russo**

Though it's more than 20 years old, *Nobody's Fool* is just a great read. Wry humor, terrific scene-setting, evocative writing, solid storytelling and memorable (even if slightly unsavory) characters that stay with you long after you've finished the book are the appeal to me.

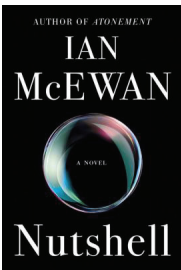
Joe Lynch, Alumni Relations



***Nora Webster* by Colm Tóibín**

This is a novel that takes us into the mind of a recently-widowed woman in Ireland who must face her new reality and remake her life. Tóibín captures all the nuances of Nora’s encounters with people in her community and her difficult role as a mother of three children. This author has a special talent for allowing the reader to see through the eyes of his protagonist.

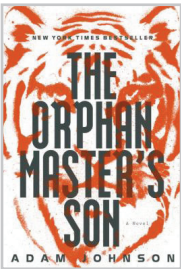
**Isabel Valiela, Spanish /
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies**



***Nutshell* by Ian McEwan**

A marvelous conceit; funny, deadly serious; sad. From the P.O.V. of a Hamlet-like fetus.

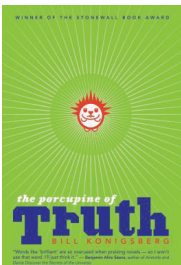
Dustin Beall Smith, English



***The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson**

A monumental literary achievement, intensely harrowing and humane at the same time.

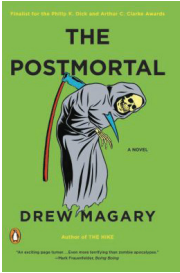
Fred Leebron, English



***The Porcupine of Truth* by Bill Konigsberg**

Teenagers on a spur-of-the-moment road trip! Young people creatively solving their own problems! Skeletons in the family closet sealed-up in boxes in the basement! Really bad puns! I picked this book based on the title. How could you go wrong with *The Porcupine of Truth*? Turns out, you can't.

Wendee Dunlap, Alumni Relations



***The Postmortal* by Drew Magary**

A quick read with a no-frills writing style, this book tells the story of what happens when a cure for aging is discovered, and people are able to choose the age they want to stay forever. You can still get shot or hit by a bus, so it's no guarantee, but the population quickly gets out of control, and people realize immortality isn't all it's cracked up to be. It poses questions about the meaning and purpose of life and relationships in an engaging way.

Kristin Johnston Largen, Office of Religious & Spiritual Life



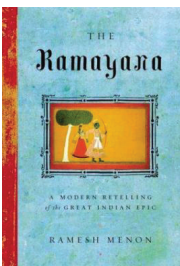
***Prater Violet* by Christopher Isherwood**

Every now and then I will pull a book at random off a library shelf to see what adventures ensue. Thus did the wonderful *Prater Violet* enter my life. The slim novella relates the experiences of a British writer laboring on a film project

Every now and then I will pull a book at random off a library shelf to see what adventures ensue. Thus did the wonderful Prater Violet enter my life.

in the early 1930s. The protagonist is the same self-named character that Isherwood used to narrate *Goodbye to Berlin*, which became more famous as the musical "Cabaret." However, soon the character of the film director, Bergmann, comes to dominate. A passionate artist with a keenly analytical mind, an Austrian Jew forced to live in London while Nazi sympathizers make inroads in his homeland, Bergmann is both bigger than life and all-too human. Both humorous and unnerving, Isherwood's observations on the unreal world of filmmaking set against the anxieties of the very real world of 1932 are a masterclass in short fiction.

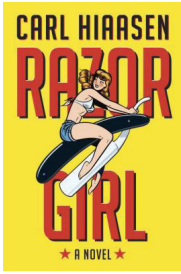
Richard Sautter, Theatre Arts



***The Ramayana* translated by Ramesh Menon**

There is a shorter version by R.K. Narayan, but this translation really does this classic Indian epic justice. The story of Rama (an avatar of the god Vishnu), his wife Sita, their loyal monkey companion Hanuman, and the evil Ravana, who kidnaps Sita and ignites a massive war with kingdoms at stake. One of the most beloved stories of Hinduism, told and retold around the world, it is a family drama, a cosmic battle of good and evil, and a morality tale all rolled into one.

Kristin Johnston Largen, Office of Religious & Spiritual Life

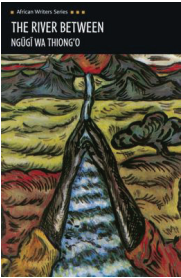


Razor Girl by Carl Hiaasen

... a hilarious tale set in the Florida Keys, with a wonderful cast of over-the-top characters that only Hiaasen could spin.

Razor Girl is a hilarious tale set in the Florida Keys, with a wonderful cast of over-the-top characters that only Hiaasen could spin. Hiaasen's unique blend of humor, satire, suspense, and intrigue grabs your attention at page one, and holds it until the very end.

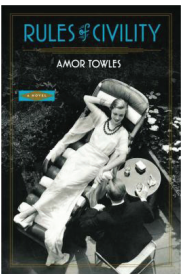
Peter Pella, Physics (emeritus)



The River Between by Ngugi Wa Thiong'o

An African literature classic, *The River Between* is a tale of two Kenyan villages that must choose between maintaining their culture and traditions or adopting new western traditions following the arrival of Christian missionaries to their land. Choices made have lasting consequences for villagers on either side of the river.

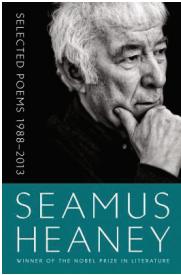
Daisy Chebbet, Counseling Services



Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

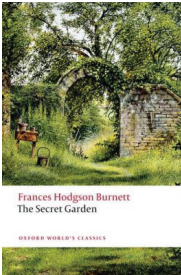
The heroine, formerly Katya but now known as "Katey," makes her way in pre-WWII New York. In the novel, she looks back from 1966 on those years in which she came of age, and a chance encounter with Tinker Grey on New Year's Eve 1938 catapulted her into the upper echelon of New York society. Towles writes with wit and grace about the mores and manners of a slice of American society on the cusp of change. A timely and great read, the novel, interestingly, takes its name from George Washington's *Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation*.

Kay Hoke, Sunderman Conservatory of Music

**Seamus Heaney: Selected Poems 1988-2013 by Seamus Heaney**

I have a soft spot for Irish poets, and I am so glad to have discovered Seamus Heaney. This collection of his poems from various works speaks to the small, quiet moments in a lifetime, and how those moments can change meaning with memory. Perfect for summertime—dip into this book, read a few poems, and take in his beautiful language.

Kathryn Martin, Musselman Library

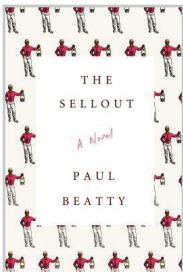
**The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Most people think of *The Secret Garden* as a classic work of children's literature, however, Frances Hodgson Burnett did not write the novel with children in mind (though a child is the protagonist). In fact the story is in many ways a re-telling of Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. A discontented 10-year-old orphan girl finds

A discontented 10-year-old orphan girl finds herself transplanted from India to a lonely and mysterious manor house on the North Yorkshire moors.

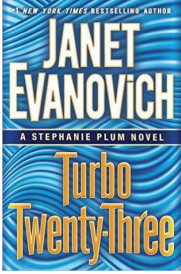
herself transplanted from India to a lonely and mysterious manor house on the North Yorkshire moors. Her transformation—and that of an equally discontented cousin—parallels the rebirth of nature in the spring. This novel is a perfect read for anyone (child or adult) who loves to garden, or for anyone whose heart opens up as the trees begin flowering and the daffodils begin blooming.

Suzanne Flynn, English

**The Sellout by Paul Beatty**

This award-winning novel lives up to its hype as a funny, profane, and provocative reflection on contemporary American race relations.

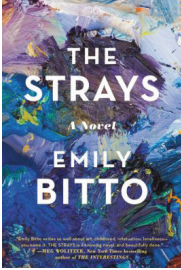
Timothy Shannon, History



Stephanie Plum Series by Janet Evanovich

This series has kept me entertained with each book I have read. If you are looking for a fun fictional book or books to read I would recommend this series. They are fun to read and sometimes you don't know what to expect next.

Stephanie Sanders, Instructional Technology



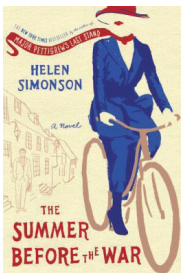
The Strays by Emily Bitto

This is a story about three sisters and their friend growing up around the edges of their parents' bohemian, artistic lives in the 1930s. The Trentham

The Trentham estate is a quasi-artist colony where young painters come and go, lounge in the garden, drink and smoke excessively, have affairs, party wildly, and stay up all night.

estate is a quasi-artist colony where young painters come and go, lounge in the garden, drink and smoke excessively, have affairs, party wildly, and stay up all night. Lily comes from an unremarkable working-class family and is befriended by the risk-taking middle sister, Eva, whose brash confidence and worldly knowledge immediately draw her into this unconventional family of strays. Lily is both awestruck by the Trentham lifestyle and repelled by the dysfunction of this invented utopia.

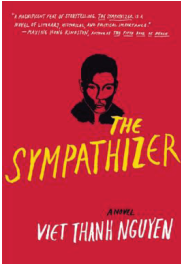
Robin Wagner, Musselman Library



The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson

At one level, this novel portrays several more and less conventional love stories set in Sussex, England in the hot months of 1914, and at this level, the book is compulsively readable. At another level, though, Simonson's novel offers a delicate and moving portrayal of a small part of the world at the exact moment that everything starts to change—women's rights, class distinctions, people's views of "the other," and most of all the onset of a devastating war. I read this book last summer, and the characters are still on my mind almost a year later.

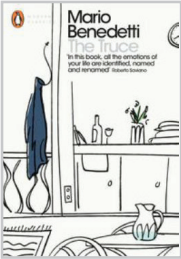
Kathleen Cain, Psychology



***The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen**

A stunning first novel. A sophisticated take on what Americans call the Vietnam War, and what the Vietnamese call the American War. A gripping eye-opener!

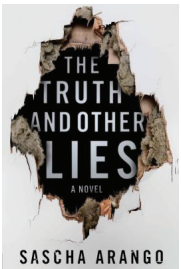
Dustin Beall Smith, English



***The Truce: The Diary of Martin Santomé* by Mario Benedetti**

The Truce is a short and light novel that will keep you engaged from the start. When I read it I could not put it down and it is simply because words fly with Benedetti. He has a fantastic way of describing how love and passion develops in a forbidden relationship. Read it and discover how he develops deep characters and in a subtle way depicts the pain that can arise when love cannot be expressed freely.

Ivanova Reyes, Economics



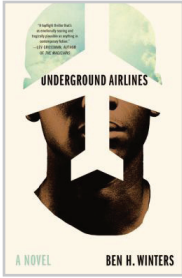
***The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango**

Henry Hayden is a fraud: his wife is the true author of the crime novels that have made him famous, his past is murky, and his character is questionable at best. When the editor with whom he is having an affair threatens to

This is a rather unusual crime thriller—fairly early on, the readers know the killer, the victim, and the motive.

unravel his meticulously constructed image and his comfortable life, Henry tries to address the situation all by himself—and promptly botches the solution in an unimaginable way. This is a rather unusual crime thriller—fairly early on, the readers know the killer, the victim, and the motive. What keeps them reading is Henry's ruthless and sardonic voice that guides them through the plot twists authored by his inventive, desperate strategies to cover up a lot more than crime.

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

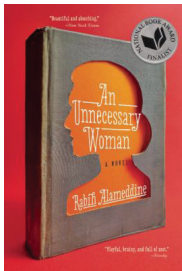


***Underground Airlines* by Ben H. Winters**

This novel is set in an alternative United States that deviated from our own history in 1861, when the Civil War was avoided by a legislative compromise in which slavery remained legal in the Southern states. In the present day, we learn about current conditions through our narrator, a “person bound to labor” who escaped the South at age 14. He was discovered by federal marshals, who instead of deporting him employed him to track runaways. The plot takes us in and out of the Deep South as our narrator pursues evidence that will secure his own safety. It also takes us on a journey from a place

where the narrator believes America cannot change to one where he does. This thrilling novel has much resonance for today’s reader.

Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library

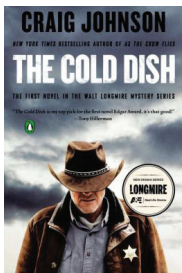


***An Unnecessary Woman* by Rabih Alameddine**

Aaliya Saleh, a 72-year-old apartment dweller in Beirut, Lebanon, was given in marriage at 16 to a repugnant man who announced just four years later: “Woman, you are divorced.” Nowadays she shares her bed with an AK-47 she obtained for protection during the Lebanese Civil War and continues to brandish as needed for discouraging would-be intruders—just the most visible sign of her independent spirit and determination.

Aaliya is a literary translator into her native Arabic and she’s widely read in 20th-century French and English literature, which she cites and quotes from constantly. But she owes the witty, charming, sometimes raw language of her narrative voice to Lebanese-American author Rabih Alameddine. You’ll have to judge for yourself whether his portrayal (impersonation?) of a woman 20 years older than himself is convincing. It’s certainly entertaining!

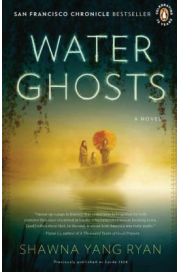
Michael Ritterson, German Studies (emeritus)



***Walt Longmire Mystery Series* by Craig Johnson**

Wide open spaces. Tough stuff mitigated with humor. A dog. These books pit man against man, man against himself, and man against the elements. There is an order to the books (and a TV series based on them), but I just read them as I find them. First up: *The Cold Dish*.

Cindy Helfrich, Math / Computer Science



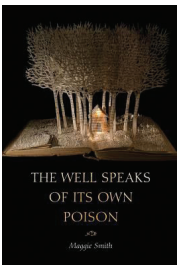
Water Ghosts by Shawna Yang Ryan

A blend of Chinese folklore and California history, this novel is set in a multi-cultural town in the Central Valley. A small boat comes down the river with three Chinese women in it in terrible condition. Where did they come from

Are they even alive or are they ghosts?

and how? Are they even alive or are they ghosts? Ryan switches among multiple characters whose combined experiences paint a vivid portrait of their town.

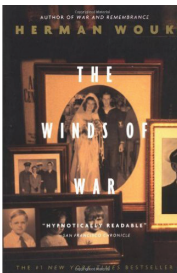
**Julia Hendon, Provost's Office / Johnson Center for
Creative Teaching & Learning**



The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison by Maggie Smith

I read this entertaining, haunting, gorgeous collection straight through the first time, and it's also ideal for reading a poem or two, then staring at the clouds for a while from a beach chair or hammock. Some of Maggie Smith's poems (including "Good Bones" from this collection) have gone viral! We're also proud to call her one of our own, as Maggie is a former emerging writer lecturer at the College.

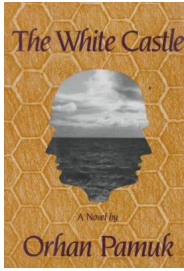
Kathryn Rhett, English



The Winds of War and War and Remembrance by Herman Wouk

These epic novels of World War II immerse the reader in the life of career Navy Captain Victory "Pug" Henry and his family, who are drawn into the center of the War. Do not let the length of the books scare you away from picking them up for the first time. Both are beautifully written, captivating from the first page and impossible to put down. Herman Wouk carefully places the reader in prewar and wartime Europe, and weaves true-life tragedies into this historical fiction. Both books are a must-read!

Susan Fumagalli Mahoney, Athletics

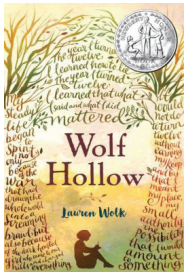


***The White Castle and The Black Book* by Orhan Pamuk**

In *The White Castle*, Pamuk narrates the story of a young Italian scientist who is captured by pirates while traveling from Venice to Naples. He is later sold as a slave to an Ottoman wise man who is interested in the scientific advancements of the West. The novel is really the story of these two men, and through its narration, Pamuk explores issues of identity, tradition, and modernity.

In *The Black Book*, Pamuk revisits the issue of identity in a rather complex way. Galip, the central character, starts to look for his wife, who disappeared leaving only a brief note. This is a mystery novel that takes twist and turns; and, in my judgement, as he searches Galip becomes more interested in establishing his own identity than looking for his wife. I recommend reading it twice to understand Pamuk's search for a Turkish identity. In my view, he is a writer who places himself between East and West and, as such, attempts to define Turkish cultural identity as a synthesis of two cultural regions.

Emelio Betances, Sociology

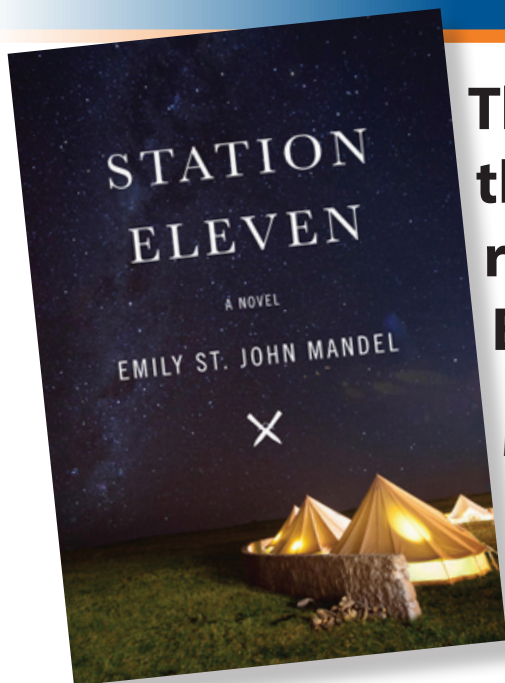


***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk**

I loved the voice of this novel's protagonist: she's pragmatic but also idealistic, slightly naive but also insightful into others' motives. The book is aimed at young readers but takes on big questions—bullying, but also the real evil that can lie behind it—with a full acceptance of the moral ambiguity they elicit. Its resolution is satisfying but not tidy.

Joanne Myers, English

'21 READS: CIRCUMSTANCES, CHOICES, CHALLENGES



**This summer, join
the Class of 2021 in
reading *Station Eleven* by
Emily St. John Mandel**

More information at:

<http://libguides.gettysburg.edu/readforfun/21reads>

Things to do this summer:

- ✓ Read the book
- ✓ Plan for the author visit on
September 12, 2017
- ✓ Questions?

Contact orientation@gettysburg.edu

Author photo by Dese'Rae L. Stage



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Podcast Picks

In our 2015 issue we did a brief overview for those new to podcasts and offered a few contributors' favorites to get you started. Since that time, the number of podcasts has skyrocketed. We thought we should revisit the subject and library staff enthusiastically volunteered to offer new suggestions.

2 DOPE QUEENS



2 Dope Queens

A live comedy podcast out of Brooklyn, hosted by Phoebe Robinson and Jessica Williams (who are most likely the two funniest humans alive). WNYC Studios. —**Molly Reynolds**

Accused: The Unsolved Murder of Elizabeth Andes

I'm not sure what makes true-crime podcasts so popular. Is it the desire to find the answers to mysteries that have escaped so many? To see justice delivered? Whatever the reason, as *Serial* and other podcasts have demonstrated, there is a broad interest for listeners. *Accused*, cohosted by *The Cincinnati Enquirer's* investigative reporter Amber Hunt and photojournalist Amanda Rossmann, focuses on the unsolved 1978 murder of Miami University student, Elizabeth Andes, in Miami, OH. While being sensitive to her family and friends, *Accused* does an excellent job at providing some insight into the work of an investigative reporter—the wild attempts to get interviews, the frustration of missing evidence, and how to write about a case that is still so painful for many. This one comes in eight chapters; get ready for a long ride. —**Clinton Baugess**



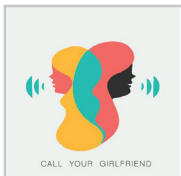
The Allusionist

If you've ever had an argument about the etymology of a word that could only be resolved by drawing upon the Oxford English Dictionary, then you'll enjoy this podcast, which is hosted by Helen Zaltzman. It sounds like a podcast focusing on the origin of words would be a bit of a hard sell, but this one is an etymological feast. It's informative and entertaining, and with each episode running only about 20 minutes, it's easily digestible while running errands around town. —**Clint Baugess**

The Broad Experience

Hosted by Ashley Milne-Tyte, this podcast tackles issues facing women in the modern workplace in a way that is extremely insightful for each episode being about half an hour. No-nonsense and positive. —**Molly Reynolds**



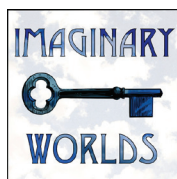


Call Your Girlfriend

Hosts Aminatou Sow and Ann Friedman discuss pop culture, politics, and feminism. Tagline is “A Podcast for long distance besties everywhere.” In later episodes they have excellent interviews with young women in creative fields and journalism. –**Molly Reynolds**

Criminal

Criminal is a true crime podcast unlike any other. Each podcast presents a completely different story about crime from the perspectives of criminals, victims, the criminal justice system, and more. The podcast takes on modern day crime stories and issues and covers historical topics as well. Some of my favorite episodes have touched upon subjects like identity theft, prison reform, Jane Toppan’s serial murders in 1850’s Massachusetts, counterfeit money, and the theft of Venus flytraps in North Carolina. The content is so far reaching that there really is something for everyone. –**Mallory Jallas**

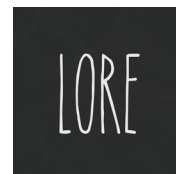


Imaginary Worlds

We probably each have books that we’d rather not be seen reading in public. For me, that includes fantasy novels—a hidden reading habit that dates back to an early introduction by a school librarian. *Imaginary Worlds* focuses on the fantasy genres. Or, in the words of host Eric Molinsky, “How we create them and why we suspend our disbelief.” I got sucked in by a series of episodes exploring Harry Potter, including a glimpse into an online fandom that I knew nothing about. One notable episode for me, “Workin’ on the Death Star,” which focuses on the economics of the Death Star in the Star Wars universe, has changed how I view the iconic attack by the Rebel assault squadron on that darn exhaust port. –**Clinton Baugess**

Lore

Listening to the podcast *Lore* is like gathering around the campfire to hear your friend (and host) Aaron Mahnke tell you a scary story. Mahnke explores the true and sometimes frightening reality behind folklore. The bi-weekly podcast has taken on such topics as the H.H. Holmes murder castle in Chicago, the New Jersey Devil, Danvers State Hospital in Massachusetts, and elves in Iceland. The podcast is being adapted for television and is set to premier on Amazon Video later this year. –**Mallory Jallas**



Missing Richard Simmons

This title caught my attention. Richard Simmons, the over-the-top, bundle-of-bouncing-to-the “Oldies,” enthusiastic weight loss icon of the 1980s... is *missing*? Yes. Apparently one day a few years ago he abruptly withdrew

(continued)

from the world leaving a trail of bewildered friends and fans behind. One of those friends has decided to find out what happened and why. –**Sunni DeNicola**

The Moth

True stories, as remembered by the storyteller and told to a live audience. Sometimes poignant, sometimes funny, always compelling, the stories cover the breadth and depth of humanity. Examples of recent stories include: Sylvia Earle explores the ocean's depths as a pioneering aquanaut. Abeny Kucha flees from violence in her village in the Sudan and finds a new home in Portland, ME. David Newell gets a job as Mr. McFeely on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. –**Betsy Bein**



Nerdist

Chris Hardwick, along with a few nerdy friends and the occasional guest celebrity, help to keep you updated on the latest happenings in movies, comics, games, and more as they review the scene of nerd happenings in pop-culture. –**Miranda Wisor**

NPR Politics Podcast

A regular panel of NPR's political correspondents discusses political topics in a more relaxed, but still incredibly informative way. –**Amy Lucadamo**



Presidential

From *The Washington Post*, this podcast explores how each former American president reached office, made decisions, handled crises, and redefined the role of commander-in-chief, starting with George Washington in week one and ending on week 44 with the (then) president-elect. Hosted by Lillian Cunningham, the series features Pulitzer Prize-winning biographers like

David McCullough and *Washington Post* journalists like Bob Woodward. It's fascinating, easy listening, and the information is well-sourced. –**Betsy Bein**

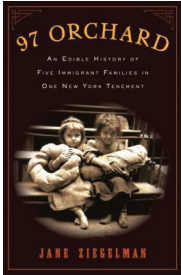
The West Wing Weekly

This is an episode-by-episode discussion of the TV show (yes, the one that aired from 1999 to 2006). The hosts serve up a heady mix of nostalgia, television geekery, and commentary on today's political landscape.

–**Janelle Wertzberger**



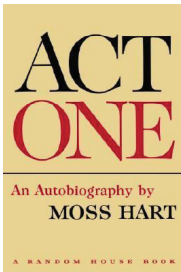
These podcasts can be downloaded via iTunes or by doing an internet search as they all have their own websites. Several are produced as part of Radiotopia, which has emerged as a collective to support producing high-quality podcasts at www.radiotopia.fm.



***97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement* by Jane Ziegelman**

This is the “Year of Food” at Gettysburg College, and the perfect time to bite into Ziegelman’s extraordinarily readable account about the foods eaten by five immigrant families who resided at 97 Orchard Street. Learn what their foods were, where they were purchased, how much they cost, and how they were prepared and consumed. Discover how immigrants ate in the old country, what they ate during the sea journey here, the food served on Ellis Island, and how their native foods evolved over time in NYC. Want to know how pushcart jobs worked? Saloons? The candy industry? It’s here. How did the cabbage for sauerkraut get sliced? When did Americans start eating “macaroni” *en masse*? Did you know Jewish immigrants raised geese *in* their tenement apartment buildings? A delicious read.

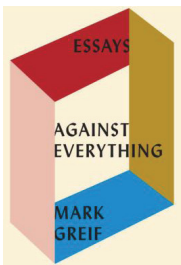
Janelle Wertzberger, Musselman Library



***Act One: An Autobiography* by Moss Hart**

Moss Hart was a celebrated American playwright and/or director of such Broadway shows as *You Can’t Take It With You*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *My Fair Lady*, as well as the Hollywood films *Gentlemen’s Agreement* and *A Star Is Born*. *Act One* is considered one of the greatest theater memoirs of the 20th century—not for its backstage tittle-tattle, but rather for how it richly details the *sturm und drang* of the creative process. Hart asserted, “Theater is not so much a profession as a disease.” His love of the theater is contagious, but you won’t get sick of its rags-to-riches story.

Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater



***Against Everything: Essays, 2004-2015* by Mark Greif**

Contrarians are generally not worth the bother. For their lack of originality they assume an oppositional position for the cause of self-promotion, and the satisfaction of usually being the loudest person in the room. If it had not been for a trusted friend’s recommendation, I would never have cracked open Mark

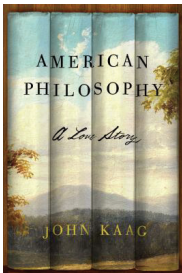
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Greif's Against Everything. As soon as I read the first chapter, I knew I was in the hands of a brilliant cultural critic, who is brutally honest in his assessment of American life.

Greif spares no one. Liberals and conservatives are dismantled by the author's powerful prose and wicked sense of humor. Topics range from exercise to Thoreau and the meaning of life. Greif does not simply slash and burn established ways of knowing and doing. He asks "if the usual wisdom is unwise." Is the gym a modern-day assembly line? Does the desire for a non-heroic war actually camouflage the killing and destruction of organized warfare? Are hipsters pawns of commercial elites, and is organic food-shopping nothing more than an exercise in self-esteem-building?

Through these questions and many others, Greif explores the contradictory consciousness of daily life in which our actions are often not in alignment with our professed beliefs. In the end, he wants us to be more aware of the world which we inhabit.

Peter S. Carmichael, History / Civil War Institute



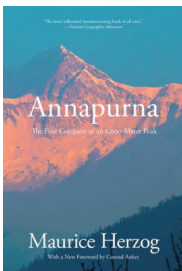
***American Philosophy: A Love Story* by John Kaag**

A troubled young philosophy professor discovers a wonderful library of rare books that embodies the history and spirit of American philosophy. In

*Open-hearted memoir, rich intellectual history,
and love story combined.*

salvaging it from deterioration, he saves himself and renews the possibility of love. Open-hearted memoir, rich intellectual history, and love story combined.

Dan DeNicola, Philosophy



***Annapurna: The First Conquest of an 8,000-Meter Peak* by Maurice Herzog**

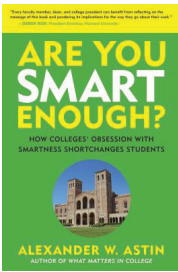
It seems counterintuitive to pick *Annapurna*, whose title refers to a mountain perpetually covered in snow, as a great summer read. Yet Maurice Herzog's account of the first ascent of a peak above 8,000 meters is so compelling that it'll make you forget about the snow. This classic of mountaineering literature is a tale of ambition, perseverance, sheer human folly, and perhaps hubris.

Caroline Ferraris-Besso, French



NONFICTION

NONFICTION



***Are You Smart Enough? How Colleges' Obsession with Smartness Shortchanges Students* by Alexander W. Astin**

Do we truly recognize the potential in our students? How does our work help students tap into their potential? How do we know what we do is working? Astin, a Gettysburg alumnus, asks these questions and many more in an honest and provocative book that makes you think about the purpose of higher education. This read provokes the type of reflective thinking that only summertime allows, and that is necessary for us to continue to challenge ourselves to Do Great Work.

Andy Hughes, Garthwait Leadership Center



***The Argonauts* by Maggie Nelson**

A refreshingly raw and exciting memoir that features vivid scenes of a queer relationship (Nelson's partner is fluidly gendered) and queer family-making. (Bonus: it also engages with critical theory—in a surprisingly good way!)

I have never read anything like this book: it is beautiful, intense, a little painful, and very memorable.

A friend first recommended it as one of only two books I absolutely needed to read about parenting, though that doesn't do the book justice. I have never read anything like this book: it is beautiful, intense, a little painful, and very memorable. It's not every day that a memoir makes a meaningful difference in how we think about gender and sexuality.

Kerry Wallach, German Studies



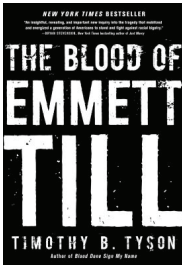
***The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir* by Thi Bui**

This is a graphic novel geared to adults, so it reads easily. But the author's illustrations also provide a deeper understanding of her experiences and those of her family, who immigrated to the United States in 1978 after the Communists took over all of Vietnam. The story is about her experiences as a mother, daughter, and wife, and includes chapters about her parents' lives as she's tried to understand their struggles and hopes. For those of us who know

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little of Vietnam apart from U.S. involvement during the War, this book provides a personal side to the struggles of everyday Vietnamese people and Vietnamese Americans.

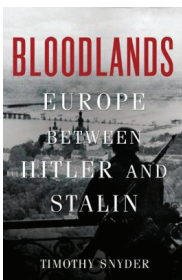
Kelly Whitcomb, Office of Multicultural Engagement



***The Blood of Emmett Till* by Timothy B. Tyson**

The tragic death of Emmet Till was the springboard for the great leap of activism during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. When travelling in Alabama and Mississippi, I noticed that every single person I met who participated in the Movement mentioned the profound effect the story and photographs of Emmett Till had on them. Most mentioned that they were near his age, and described what that meant to them as teenagers. I heard an interview on NPR with Timothy Tyson about his research, including an interview with the woman whose husband was one of Till's killers. For the first time, she told the truth about her encounter with Till, and how this story became a different one when faced with a public trial. The interview was riveting, and I'm looking forward to reading the book this summer.

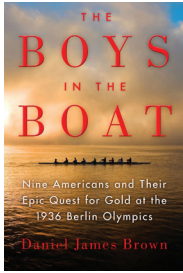
**Susan Russell, Theatre Arts /
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies**



***Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin* by Timothy Snyder**

Between 1933 and 1945, 14 million noncombatants were killed in the Bloodlands, an area Yale historian Timothy Snyder defines as stretching from central Poland across the eastern Soviet republics and into the western edges of Russia. Snyder provides detailed accounts and precise death statistics for Stalin's program of mass starvation and political murder in Ukraine, Hitler's starvation of Soviet prisoners of war, and Hitler's evolving process for ridding the world of Jews, first through mass shootings over pits, and later by mass gassing at killing facilities built in occupied Poland. Snyder complements this numbing history with stories of individuals and their fates.

Chuck Wessell, Mathematics



***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown**

A captivating account of the eight-oared United States Crew Team that competed at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Brown masterfully shares the story of how nine Americans found their way from the University of Washington to Hitler's Germany to compete against the best athletes in the world. A great summer read—you will find it hard to put it down!

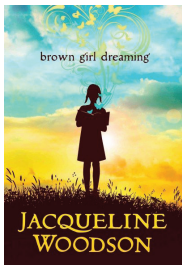
Jim Duffy, College Life

Much of the American collective memory of the 1936 Berlin Olympics has congealed around Jesse Owens and his amazing performance as a sprinter. This story is just as compelling. Against a backdrop of Hitler's rise to power in Germany, and the odious measures to cover up

If you love a great human interest story that involves an epic sporting event, this is the read for you.

the mistreatment of Jews in order to present a spectacular image of Teutonic superiority to the world, Brown traces the life of nine lower-middle-class Americans who formed a University of Washington varsity eight-man crew team that bested U.S. domestic competition to earn the right to row at Berlin. The particular story of Joe Rantz is heartwarming, and Brown's ability to describe the actual sport itself is brilliant, detailing how all the athletes in the shell, including the coxswain, have to come together in perfect synchronicity to sprint to the finish. If you love a great human interest story that involves an epic sporting event, this is the read for you.

Alan Perry, Italian



***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson**

Woodson's memoir, written in verse, is the first book of its kind I have encountered. The chapters are brief, each a small glimpse into a childhood of the 1960s, with the Civil Rights Movement as a backdrop. Many of the chapters were so beautiful or funny or poignant that I read them aloud to my husband. It won't be the last Woodson book I'll read.

Emily Clarke, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations

But What If
We're
Wrong?
Chuck
Klosterman

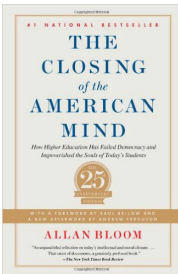
***But What If We're Wrong? Thinking About the Present As If It Were the Past* by Chuck Klosterman**

Several hundred years from now, when people look back at the era we live in, what will they think of us? Will they recognize the Beatles as the greatest rock band? Will there be scientific principles we take for granted that they

This book is a fun read, but it was also very thought-provoking, and I have brought it up at dinner parties more than any book I've read in years.

think are ridiculously naive or outright wrong? Will there still be books at all? Klosterman considers these and other questions with his normal wit, brains, and pop-culture sensibility. This book is a fun read, but it was also very thought-provoking, and I have brought it up at dinner parties more than any book I've read in years.

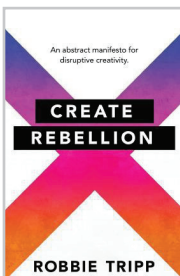
Darren Glass, Mathematics



***The Closing of the American Mind* by Allan Bloom**

In an era when we seem unwilling or unable to talk to each other because we do not want to listen to each other, Bloom's book seems relevant again. It is easy to read this book and see the danger of it merely upholding the white, male, western canon. However, I think it prompts us to think about big ideas, and anything that gets any of us to open our minds a bit more is desperately needed.

Brendan Cushing-Daniels, Economics



***Create Rebellion* by Robbie Tripp**

A short book bursting at the seams with little nuggets of wisdom and truth. It's extremely encouraging and upbeat, especially to creative types.

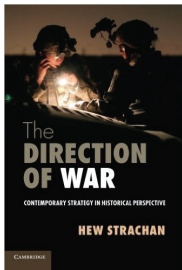
Jessica Ritter, Violence Prevention



***Creativity, Inc.: Overcoming the Unseen Forces That Stand in the Way of True Inspiration* by Ed Catmull**

This is a great read for anyone interested in the creative process. The way Pixar developed their culture was fascinating, and learning about the relationship with Steve Jobs was equally interesting. Also, if you are a fan of the Pixar movies, the stories about how storylines and characters are developed are reason alone to pick up this book.

Paul Redfern, Communications and Marketing



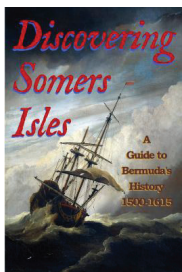
***The Direction of War: Contemporary Strategy in Historical Perspective* by Hew Strachan**

This essay collection is an important book for any and all who are concerned with international relations and war. Strachan defines the central issue

This book is sobering and elegantly argued, and offers the clearest analysis I've read of the challenges of our recent wars. Plus, you'll look quite clever reading it at the beach.

facing the United States and Great Britain during the so-called “war on terror”: strategy, or the lack thereof. Strachan dissects the strategic missteps made by the Bush, Obama, and Blair governments, which were intent on finding formulaic solutions to complex problems, solutions that often exacerbated the problems they were meant to solve. This book is sobering and elegantly argued, and offers the clearest analysis I've read of the challenges of our recent wars. Plus, you'll look quite clever reading it at the beach.

Ian Isherwood, Interdisciplinary Studies



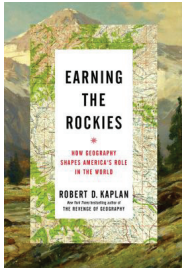
***Discovering Somers Isles: A Guide to Bermuda's History 1500-1615* by John M. Archer**

Bermuda is so famous for its beautiful beaches and friendly inhabitants that most visitors never learn how the islands first came to be settled, or the connection to our history! On their way to the Jamestown colony in 1609, a chance shipwreck marooned English settlers on the uninhabited islands, and

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the rest, as they say, is history. This part of Bermuda is shown through a tour of little known (but beautiful!) sites where it was first settled. Full of photos and maps. If you can't get to Bermuda this summer, this little guide might be the next best way to visit!

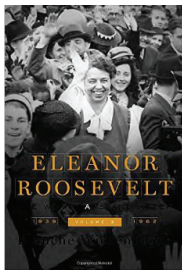
Cathy Zarrella, College Life



***Earning the Rockies: How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World*
by Robert D. Kaplan**

Sometimes rambling, Kaplan travels the U.S. to better understand how the continent's diverse landscape engendered a pioneering spirit and pragmatic worldview. His anecdotes challenge red state-blue state hyperbole, and his observations of regional economic privilege and their polar opposite(s) nationally are prescient.

Jeremy Garskof, Musselman Library

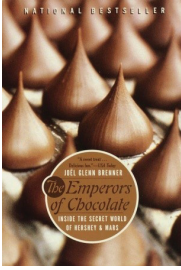


***Eleanor Roosevelt, Volume 3: The War Years and After, 1939-1962*
by Blanche Wiesen Cook**

This concluding volume of Blanche Wiesen Cook's trilogy on America's greatest first lady resonates even more powerfully with present-day concerns than did its worthy predecessors. As first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt consistently and eloquently championed social justice and minority rights. A preternatural pacifist, she nonetheless spoke out early and often in support of national preparedness before World War II. She bucked the State Department in advocating European refugees' access to the U.S., refusing to back down despite periodically annoying her husband. She was a resolute friend of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, unavailing so in the case of interned Japanese-Americans.

Perpetually in motion, Eleanor served as her husband's eyes and ears along many tracks, from meeting with Appalachian coalminers to wounded American GIs recuperating in Australia. Postwar, she was an effective advocate of human rights at the United Nations. Domestically, she continued to proselytize for a kinder, more expansive democracy. She was, Cook notes, happiest when busiest; one might add that the bigger the challenge, the happier she was. Prodigious research and written with verve, this volume felicitously rounds out one of the great American biographies—perhaps the best—published so far in this century. What a book. What a woman.

Michael Birkner, History



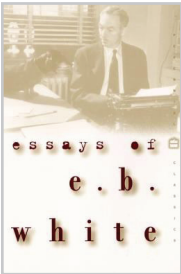
***The Emperors of Chocolate: Inside the Secret World of Hershey and Mars*
by Joël Glenn Brenner**

Former *Washington Post* reporter Brenner spent eight years researching the chocolate-business empires of Forrest Mars and Milton Hershey. The result is a unique story comprising equal parts biography, cultural history, investigative

*... a unique story comprising equal parts biography,
cultural history, investigative reporting,
and literary journalism.*

reporting, and literary journalism. Both men came from humble origins and succeeded in building huge empires out of chocolate. It is fascinating to read of their failures and successes, as well as their penchants for secrecy. You will never look at candy displays in quite the same way after reading this.

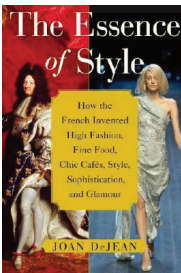
Gail Jones, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



***Essays of E.B. White* by E.B. White**

This is perfect summer reading. You can leaf lazily through and stumble across an essay that appeals to you, for whatever reason, and almost certainly not be disappointed. Written between 1934 and 1977, the essays capture times, places, people, and animals in impeccable prose. They are often wistful, funny, and moving, all at the same time. "Death of a Pig" and "The Geese" are two of my favorites.

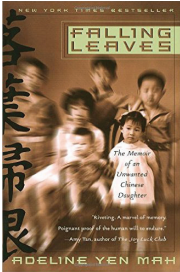
Allison Singley, Parent Relations



***The Essence of Style: How the French Invented High Fashion, Fine Food, Chic Cafés, Style, Sophistication, and Glamour* by Joan DeJean**

This book transports you to Paris as it becomes the city of style that we know today. King Louis XIV transformed France into a modern nation and a mercantile superpower. During the rule of the Sun King, France became the center of elegance. A few chapter titles: "The World's First High-Priced Lattes," "The Night They Invented Champagne," "Cinderella's Slipper and the King's Boots." Order a latte and pastry, find a comfy chair and enjoy.

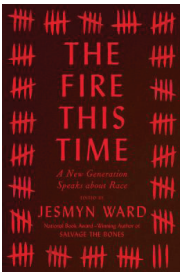
Cathy Zarrella, College Life



***Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*
by Adeline Yen Mah**

A compelling story of a young girl born in 1937, *Falling Leaves* is more memoir than novel. It is, the author tells us, a true story. But so does Jane Eyre tell us her tale is an autobiography. And, in many ways, this book is a Chinese *Jane Eyre*, as heartbreaking and compelling as Brontë's novel. The book narrates the difficult life of a girl whose mother died of puerperal fever three days after she was born. Her stepmother, an angry young woman herself, made life miserable for her husband's children by his first wife. Nonetheless, like Jane, Adeline survives and thrives. Nurtured by aunts who defied Chinese customs like foot-binding and marital bondage, Adeline excels in school, travels to England and America for her education, and ends up, like Jane, where she wanted to be all along.

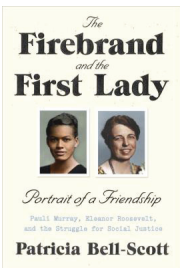
**Temma Berg, English / Judaic Studies /
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies**



***The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race* edited
by Jesmyn Ward**

This collection of essays, poems, and personal reflections offers a thoughtful way of engaging with race, politics, identity, and justice in the 21st century. The title takes its cue from James Baldwin's 1963 *The Fire Next Time* (which everyone should also read), but offers contemporary perspectives on these issues, and makes a great read for anyone looking to gain insights into the current state of the world in which we live.

McKinley E. Melton, English



***The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship*
by Patricia Bell-Scott**

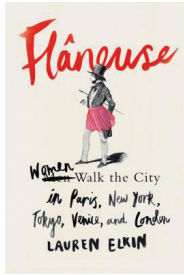
This autobiography captures the friendship that grows between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and a young African-American woman, Pauli Murray, and the struggle for social justice. Bell-Scott's book is a finalist for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, and was long-listed for the National Book Award.

Patti Lawson, Admissions



NONFICTION

NONFICTION

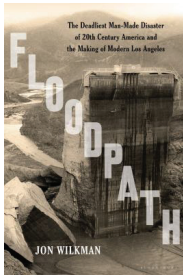


***Flâneuse: Women Walk the City in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Venice, and London* by Lauren Elkin**

This irresistible book is both a narrative of Elkin's personal love affair with cities, and a cultural history of women walking in the city. Taking as a starting point the traditionally male figure of the *flâneur*, Elkin sets out to uncover how women—including artists like Jean Rhys, Virginia Woolf, Agnès Varda, Martha Gellhorn, Sophie Calle, and their female characters—are both invisible and hyper-visible in the city, how they inhabit it, piece it together, invest it with

meaning, make it their own. Full of enthralling stories of historical and fictional women, the book captures the exhilaration of walking in the city and the joy of being a *flâneuse*.

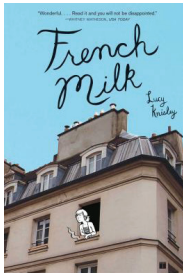
Radi Rangelova, Spanish / Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies



***Floodpath: The Deadliest Man-Made Disaster of 20th Century America and the Making of Modern Los Angeles* by Jon Wilkman**

A fascinating account of the desire to bring water to Los Angeles and how this ambition combined with hubris, leading to the collapse of the St. Francis Dam in 1928. With climate change, water scarcity, and infrastructure challenges, the lessons of this disaster have great contemporary relevance.

Rob Bohrer, Provost's Office



***French Milk* by Lucy Knisley**

A few years ago I recommended *Relish*, and this year I'd like to recommend an older graphic novel by this talented artist/illustrator/writer. *French Milk* chronicles Lucy's trip to Paris with her mother in January 2007, before her final

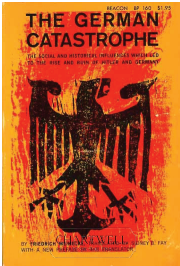
Because this is a graphic novel, one can be looking at a lake, ocean, mountain, city scene, etc. with one eye and enjoying Lucy's adventures with the other.

semester in college. Through her illustrations and accompanying words, she captures much that defines Paris, including food, art, architecture, markets, and so on; but she also explores

(continued)

her own feelings of inadequacy as an artist and her uncertainty about her future. Because this is a graphic novel, one can be looking at a lake, ocean, mountain, city scene, etc. with one eye and enjoying Lucy's adventures with the other. But do take the time to pay attention to the details in her drawings.

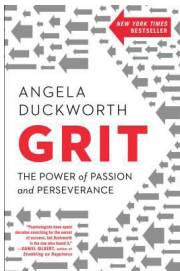
Allison Singley, Parent Relations



***The German Catastrophe* by Friedrich Meinecke**

Reading this book slowly, a chapter at a time, may often feel like reading the opinion page of *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*. It may help you make sense of the recent national election and its current outcome.

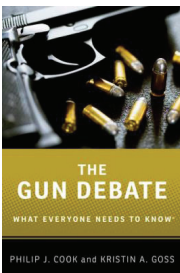
Louis J. Hammann, Religious Studies (emeritus)



***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth**

If you are looking to change your perspective on the way you motivate yourself with the backing of high-level social-psychological research, this is the book for you. Duckworth writes well and in an incredibly approachable way. She digests her own research for you and presents real-world examples of how grit presents itself. You'll walk away feeling inspired, knowing you can achieve your loftiest goals, regardless of innate "talent," with the tools to apply grit to your life.

Valerie Martin, Admissions



***The Gun Debate: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Philip J. Cook and Kristin A. Goss**

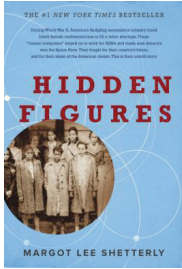
This was the second book selected by our Gettysburg for Gun Sense study group and is probably the best even-handed survey of gun history, gun laws, and gun technology available today. It's just chock full of information, yet is very readable. You owe it to yourself to be informed on this issue, and this book will do the job!

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



NONFICTION

NONFICTION

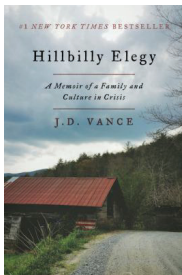


Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

As a lifelong student of the U.S. space program, I was fascinated to learn about the invaluable contributions that African-American mathematicians and physicists, especially Katherine G. Johnson, made to the development of human spaceflight. Regardless of whether you are a student of applied mathematics and physics, you will be inspired to learn how these African-

American women transformed our efforts to place human beings into space and return them safely to the earth. If you have not seen the film *Hidden Figures*, based on this remarkable book, I encourage you to view it with a child or loved one this summer!

Christopher J. Zappe, Provost's Office



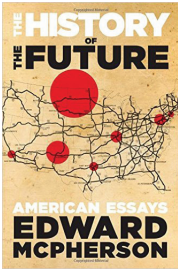
Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance

After listening to the podcast of J.D. Vance's *Fresh Air* interview, I knew I had to read this book. It is a moving memoir of a young man's journey from poverty in an Ohio Rust Belt town to Yale Law School. This book goes a long

This book goes a long way toward helping readers better understand the effects of generations of poverty, family disconnection, and loss of hope for the future.

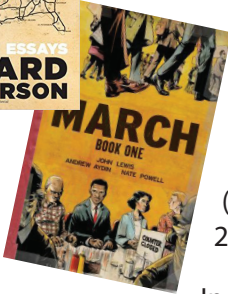
way toward helping readers better understand the effects of generations of poverty, family disconnection, and loss of hope for the future. It sheds light on the history and culture of the Rust Belt as well as its impact on our last presidential election. Most of all, it helps remind us of the incredible power of having at least one person in our corner as we grow up.

Harriet Marritz, Counseling Services



***The History of the Future* by Edward McPherson
March by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell**

For some time now, two books—one a collection of essays, the other a memoir trilogy—have been competing for my attention with the stacks of submissions to *The Gettysburg Review*. Edward McPherson, who incidentally has Gettysburg roots, takes readers to various locales—among them Dallas, Los Alamos, North Dakota, and, yes, Gettysburg—offering New Journalism-style reportage on the version of America that has evolved and is evolving in each place. (By the by, an excerpt from this collection appears in the Spring 2017 volume of *The Gettysburg Review*.)



In *March*, John Lewis, a U.S. congressman from Georgia, recalls in graphic-novel form his participation in the Civil Rights Movement, from the Nashville sit-ins to the Freedom Rides to the March on Selma.

Obviously, neither of these suggestions is a light read; each provides intimate, arresting, often chilling assessments of our country's past, present, and possible future. But by weaving the historical and political with the personal, both works speak cogently and compassionately to the anxieties of the present moment.

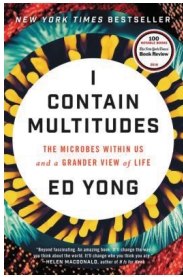
Mark Drew, *The Gettysburg Review*



***How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World* by Steven Johnson**

Johnson examines six intriguing topics—glass, cold, sound, clean, time, and light—and presents compelling arguments for how the evolution of each had far-reaching effects on humankind. As a musician, I was particularly taken with how the primitive sounds in the caves of Burgundy could ultimately lead to the study of physics and anatomy, Edison's phonograph invention, the explosion of jazz on the radio, and even ultrasound to determine the gender of our children. The "hummingbird effect" in all its glory!

Buzz Jones, Sunderman Conservatory of Music



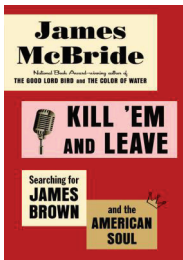
I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grander View of Life by Ed Yong

Submitting a non-fiction biology title as “summer reading” may seem insufferable and a little self-serving, but I *promise*, this one is a page-turner that will keep you as gripped as the most beach-ready romance or thriller.

... this one is a page-turner that will keep you as gripped as the most beach-ready romance or thriller.

Yong summarizes the incredible advances in the life sciences that have revolutionized our flimsy notions of “individuality,” and does it with terrific writing throughout.

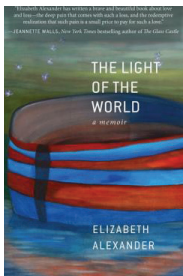
Ryan Kerney, Biology



Kill 'Em and Leave: Searching for James Brown and the American Soul by James McBride

The book offered an interesting look into the life and history of James Brown before he was famous, during the height of his fame, and when he was on the decline. It offered an interesting angle on civil rights in the U.S., and the joys and pitfalls of being associated with one of the greatest entertainers who ever lived.

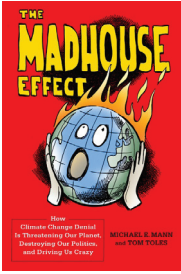
Darryl Jones, Admissions



The Light of the World by Elizabeth Alexander

A memoir by the poet Elizabeth Alexander about her life following the sudden death of her husband. The writing is beautiful and their story is better than any fictional romance I've come across. Though his life was short it was nothing short of incredible.

Lauren Craley Ballas, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations

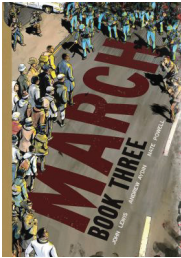


***The Madhouse Effect: How Climate Change Denial is Threatening Our Planet, Destroying Our Politics, and Driving Us Crazy*
by Michael E. Mann and Tom Toles**

I am going off my usual path of recommending fun novels, as this is nonfiction. The subtitle of the book summarizes it well. The book is informative and entertaining at the same time. You have likely heard of both authors before—Michael Mann is a famous scientist, professor of atmospheric science, and director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State, and

Tom Toles is the Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist from *The Washington Post*. It is a quick and easy read, and even non-scientists are likely to enjoy it!

Sarah Principato, Environmental Studies

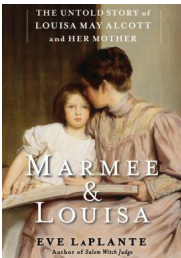


***March: Book Three* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell**

The conclusion of the graphic novel trilogy *March* ties up the story of John Lewis, Civil Rights leader and Georgia congressman, perfectly. Each book in the trilogy tells part of Lewis' life story in a series of flashbacks during President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration. All of the books are masterfully illustrated by Nate Powell. You might ask, why tell this story in a graphic novel? The illustrations add so much impact to the storytelling. They are

beautiful and haunting, all at the same time. This book will engage readers of all levels and will leave you inspired to get in to some "good trouble."

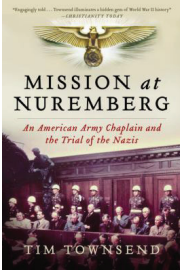
Mallory Jallas, Musselman Library



***Marmee & Louisa: The Untold Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Mother*
by Eva LaPlante**

NPR called this one of the top books in 2012. It chronicles the lives of author Louisa May Alcott and her mother. In Alcott's *Little Women*, Marmee was depicted as a dutiful and somewhat meek woman of the 19th century. In reality, she fought for women's right to education and believed in women's professional and maternal satisfaction and power.

Patti Lawson, Admissions



***Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis* by Tim Townsend**

This book brings a new dimension to the story of the Nuremberg trials, focusing its storyline around the efforts of U.S. Army chaplains Henry Gerecke and Sixtus O'Connor to minister to the 21 imprisoned Nazi leaders who were on trial for crimes against humanity. Bringing questions of repentance and justice to the fore, and placing Gerecke and O'Connor's pastoral relationship with these men against the backdrop of the hideous content of their

crimes, the book effectively places readers in the shoes of two chaplains who were handed responsibility for a ministry that would push them to the limit, profoundly challenging their own understandings of justice, empathy, divine forgiveness, and pastoral care.

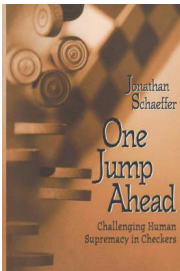
Jill Ogline Titus, Civil War Institute



***Modern Romance* by Aziz Ansari and Eric Klinenberg**

Aziz Ansari draws upon psychological and sociological research to examine "modern" romance, including how technological developments such as smart phones (and read receipts!), online dating, and social media sites have influenced conceptions of dating and love in heterosexual relationships. He teams up with Klinenberg, a sociologist from NYU, and conducts several interviews and focus-group discussions with various participants from the U.S. The book is not only informative but also reflects Ansari's skills as a comedian: I often found myself (literally) laughing out loud while reading certain excerpts. A fun and informative read!

Sahana Mukherjee, Psychology / Globalization Studies



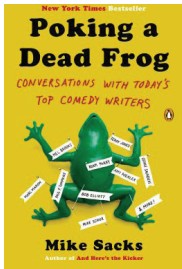
***One Jump Ahead: Challenging Human Supremacy in Checkers* by Jonathan Schaeffer**

"Checkers will be easy!" When Artificial Intelligence researcher Jonathan Schaeffer decided one day to take a short break from his work in computer chess to develop a program for checkers, he figured it wouldn't take too long. It was just a children's game... Partly a story about developing Chinook, it's also a sociological look at the tiny community of professional checkers players and a paean to Marion Tinsley, the world checkers champion. Tinsley, who lost

(continued)

a grand total of five games in 45 years, resigned his championship to play Chinook in two matches which tested the limits of a near-perfect human against a tireless machine.

Eric Remy, Instructional Technology



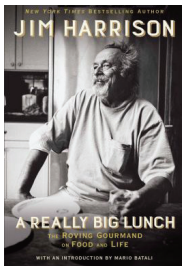
Poking a Dead Frog: Conversations with Today's Top Comedy Writers
by Mike Sacks

The author interviews 44 comedy writers—whose work ranges from *Monty Python*, *National Lampoon*, and *The Onion* to *Conan*, *Cheers*, and *Saturday*

You'll giggle and snicker from front cover to back as you congratulate yourself on how normal you are.

Night Live—about their craft. The book is broken down into three categories: Full Interviews, Ultraspecific Comedic Knowledge, and Pure, Hard-Core Advice. It is entertaining to crawl inside the psyche of some of the most creative writers of comedy. You'll giggle and snicker from front cover to back as you congratulate yourself on how normal you are.

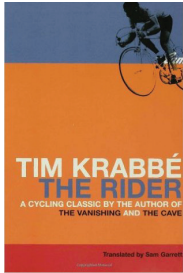
Bob Kallin, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations



A Really Big Lunch: Meditations on Food and Life from the Roving Gourmand
by Jim Harrison

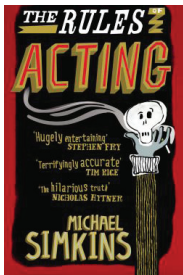
First published in *The New Yorker*, the title essay of this posthumous collection chronicles Harrison's experience with a 37-course lunch that included "only nineteen wines." Marked by his wit and irreverent independence, these essays, previously published in *Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant*, *Smoke Signals*, and *Brick*, trace Harrison's eating and drinking life from his days as a Michigan-based upstart to his later years in Montana and Arizona while struggling against infirmities brought on by his keen pursuit of pleasure of the senses, typically found in the kitchen and the wine cellar. Free in form, Harrison's beat-like prose is rich with humor and trenchant observations.

Jack Ryan, Provost's Office

***The Rider* by Tim Krabbé**

We join Tim just before the start of a bike race in 1970s Italy. We ride with him through the agony and ecstasy of the race, through friendship, hatred, and hallucination. It'll make you want to get outside and ride—but only once you've passed the finish line!

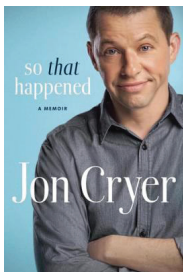
Gavin Foster, Instructional Technology

***The Rules of Acting: How to Survive and Thrive in the World of Hams, Luvvies, Thesps, Turns, Twirlies, Hoofers and West-End Wendies* by Michael Simkins**

The Rules of Acting makes the human experience of auditioning, performing, finding your light, and taking your bow a giggle and half.

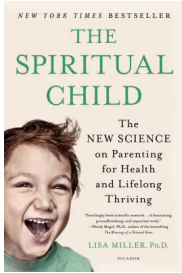
Michael Simkins is an actor of talent, experience, and an infectious sense of humor. *The Rules of Acting* makes the human experience of auditioning, performing, finding your light, and taking your bow a giggle and half. With wit and heart, this book is your insider's guide to the British entertainment industry and those who have given their lives and their self-esteem to it!

Carolyn Sautter, Musselman Library

***So That Happened* by Jon Cryer**

When this book opened with a story from the movie *O.C. and Stiggs*, well, I knew it would be great—and it was. Cryer's sense of humor aligns nicely with mine (I laughed out loud quite a lot), plus I am in awe of his resilience and positivity. If you're a fan of Cryer (Duckie Dale in *Pretty in Pink!*), you'll enjoy the anecdotes. Get the audio version as he reads it himself!

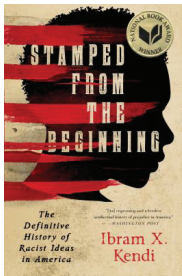
Wendee Dunlap, Alumni Relations



***The Spiritual Child: The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving* by Lisa Miller**

We all struggle with our own spirituality today, and with how we approach or do not approach our children/grandchildren on this issue. Lisa Miller provides a scientific as well as holistic approach to the positive influence spirituality has on our children, and how they naïvely discover it from toddler through teen. She provides a fascinating study for watching your child develop in this area, and the positive outcome it can have on their lives as well as yours.

Dian Cramer, Health Services



***Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi**

Many people will be recommending *The Underground Railroad* this year, and for good reason—it's a compelling read. This book might best be thought of as a companion piece. It's not an easy read, in either length (500 pages)

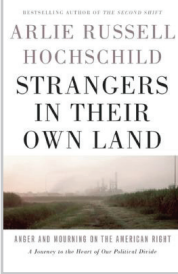
If you are looking for an important book that will challenge you to rethink what you know of American history, this should be on your short list!

or content, but it is a comprehensive and well-documented intellectual history of racism in America, told through the life and times of five individuals in American history—Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. DuBois, and Angela Davis. Together they illustrate the contentious debates regarding assimilation, segregation, racism, and anti-racism that have shaped so much of American history. If you are looking for an important book that will challenge you to rethink what you know of American history, this should be on your short list!

Julie Ramsey, College Life



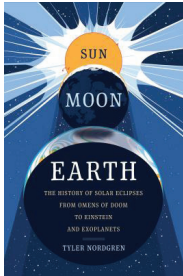
NONFICTION

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

Sociologist Arlie Hochschild's latest book explores what she calls the "deep story" of working class whites in Louisiana in an effort to understand the apparent paradox between a strong connection to the environment and a disdain for stronger environmental policies and regulations. Although written and published before the recent presidential election, Hochschild helps readers whose politics are more in line with those of a liberal sociologist from

Berkeley understand the feelings and beliefs of those who filled the yards of rural Pennsylvania with Trump signs.

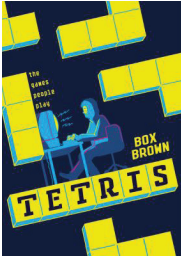
Brent Harger, Sociology

***Sun, Moon, Earth: The History of Solar Eclipses from Omens of Doom to Einstein and Exoplanets*
by Tyler Nordgren**

If you have ever experienced a total eclipse of the sun, you will understand why James Fenimore Cooper wrote, "I have passed a varied and eventful life, that it has been my fortune to see earth, heavens, ocean, and man in most of their aspects; but never have I beheld any spectacle which so plainly manifested the majesty of the Creator, or so forcibly taught the lesson of humility to man as a total eclipse of the sun."

The last time totality graced the U.S. was in February 1979, when the moon's shadow passed briefly across the far Northwest on its way into Canada. On August 21, 2017, however, the long American eclipse famine comes to an end. Viewers along a strip running diagonally from Oregon to South Carolina will be able to experience the full disorientation of totality as the shadow of the moon crosses the nation from west to east over the course of about an hour and a half. Tyler Nordgren's new book is a welcome source of information and inspiration. As August nears, it's hoped that readers will plan their own expeditions to totality just for the unparalleled experience itself. During totality, Nordgren concludes, "for a brief moment each one of us is aligned with the heavens."

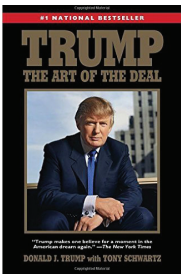
Larry Marschall, Physics (emeritus)



***Tetris: The Games People Play* by Box Brown**

Tetris is one of the most iconic and bestselling video games in history. While a seemingly simple game with the premise of stacking blocks to make lines, the quest to transform Tetris into a worldwide phenomenon is one fraught with intrigue. Box Brown's graphic novel starts with Tetris's beginnings in a Soviet Union computer lab and takes us across the globe as video game companies battle each other to see who scores the rights to bring Tetris to gamers everywhere.

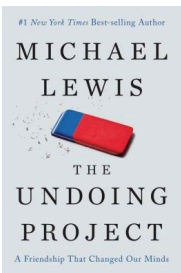
R.C. Miessler, Musselman Library



***Trump: The Art of the Deal* by Donald J. Trump with Tony Schwartz**

This work shows why most American businessmen, even those who may have gotten very rich (and there is some question about Trump's wealth), are unsuitable as government leaders. Read his (ghostwritten) words, ponder them, and realize the great mistake a minority of voters in a few key states made, assuming they had an idea of something called the public interest.

Don Tannenbaum, Political Science (emeritus)



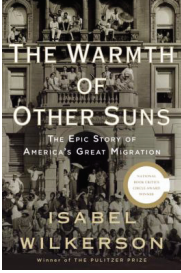
***The Undoing Project: A Friendship That Changed Our Minds* by Michael Lewis**

I first heard an interview with the author on *Freakonomics* and knew that I had to read the book. If you think people make rational decisions, think again. Two Israeli psychologists studied human decision-making and won a Nobel Prize for their efforts, but their story is much more interesting than that.

Paul Fairbanks, Communications and Marketing



NONFICTION

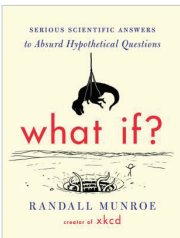
***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*
by Isabel Wilkerson**

This book tells the story of the millions of African Americans who fled the Jim Crow laws in the 20th-century South and migrated to the North and Midwest. The story of the Great Migration is told as a gripping account of three Southerners leaving everything behind to attempt to rebuild their lives.

Nathalie Goubet, Psychology

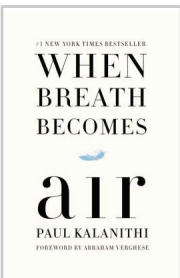
Wilkerson conveys the history of the Great Migration by telling the life stories of three individuals born in different decades in the South. We see their lives under Jim Crow, their reasons for migrating, and their efforts to build new lives in the North and West. Through it all, we witness the indignities they endured, and cheer for their successes. At the same time, we gain a new understanding of the complex racial history of our country and see more clearly the roots of our current challenges. It's no wonder this book has won so many literary prizes; it's magnificent.

Kathleen Cain, Psychology

***What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions*
by Randall Munroe**

Science has never been more entertaining. Even if you follow Munroe's weekly web articles, this book offers answers to never-before-published questions as well as updated and expanded classics from his website. "Which has a greater gravitational pull on me: the Sun, or spiders?" "If I dug straight down at the speed of one foot per second, what would kill me first?" Without a doubt, this book is the epitome of scientific inquiry, proving that science is both beautiful and applicable to even the most ridiculous of hypothetical situation.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library

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

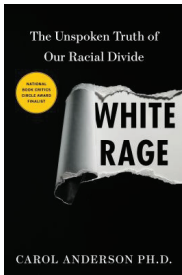
Paul writes beautifully about his experience with being both a doctor and a patient. Brilliant and heart-wrenching, this memoir will remind you to live life a little more fully.

Abby Kallin, Admissions

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Paul Kalanithi was a brilliant neurosurgeon and scholar, happily married, expecting a child; but at 36, he was stricken with stage IV lung cancer. In this powerful memoir, he shares his life of courage and love while learning how to die. He uses “breath” to go beyond the accordion-like function we take for granted to see the breath-taking beauty of a majestic waterfall or the birth of a child. After each setback, he re-defines himself, recognizing his mortality yet constantly sharing his gifts with others. While at times painful to read, he invites us to see death as a part of nature, showing us how to live with our will, not our fears.

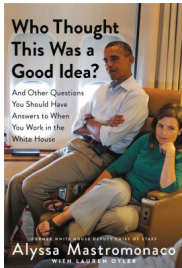
Bill Jones, Counseling Services (retired)



***White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson**

This is a lucid and timely scrutiny of the post-racial American nation that the election of Barack Obama in 2008 supposedly indexed. Rather than solely focus on the spectacular that sensationalist writers prize, Carol Anderson attends to revealing the everyday soft violence that U.S. institutions (at national, state, and/or local levels) mete out to contain the progress of blacks and other people of color in the United States. Her analysis looks at both the past (since Reconstruction) and the contemporary workings of a certain idea of whiteness and its negative impact on the advancement of African Americans.

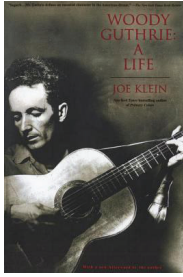
Abou B. Bamba, History / Africana Studies



***Who Thought This Was a Good Idea? And Other Questions You Should Have Answers to When You Work in the White House* by Alyssa Mastromonaco with Lauren Oyler**

Former Deputy Chief of Staff for President Obama, Alyssa shares behind-the-scenes anecdotes from the campaign trail to the White House. Her sense of humor will make you laugh out loud. As a fan of the HBO show *Veep*, I came away believing the show may be closer to fact than fiction.

Lauren Craley Ballas, Development, Alumni and Parent Relations

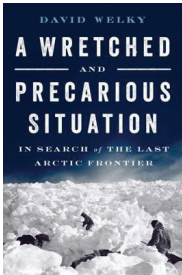
**Woody Guthrie: A Life by Joe Klein**

This is the classic biography of the original wandering American troubadour. It's compelling, comprehensive, thoroughly engrossing—and, more

If you seek a better understanding of what America was, is, and could be, studying the life of Woody Guthrie is a great place to start.

importantly, it sheds valuable light on parts of our past that are often obscured in school history. If you seek a better understanding of what America was, is, and could be, studying the life of Woody Guthrie is a great place to start.

Dave Powell, Education

**A Wretched and Precarious Situation: In Search of the Last Arctic Frontier by David Welky**

Thanks to high-tech gear and modern communications, going Polar has become something of a sport, so much so that, on Christmas Eve 2016, a Swedish woman, Johanna Davidsson, completed a solo overland trip to the South Pole in a record 39 days, blogging all the way. But in July 1913, when a band of seven men headed north on an exploratory mission funded by the American Museum of Natural History, they expected to spend several years completely cut off from civilization.

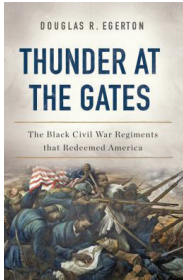
The goal of the expedition was Crocker Land, a territory spotted by explorer Robert Peary several years earlier. Now, Crocker Land did not exist—Peary had been deceived by a *fata morgana*, a kind of mirage common over icy oceans, but the explorers did not discover the truth until a year into the frigid journey, well past the point of no return. Troubles followed: harrowing dogsled journeys in blinding snow, illness and near madness, and a probable murder by a team member of one the Greenland natives who assisted them in their travels. The planned year-long expedition stretched to four before the last of the band straggled back home.

The story of Crocker Land has long been forgotten, which is regrettable given its place as one of the last great treks into unknown regions of our globe. This seamless narrative, chilling at times and always thought-provoking, transports the reader to a time when the Arctic was virtually as harsh and inaccessible a place as the moon or Mars.

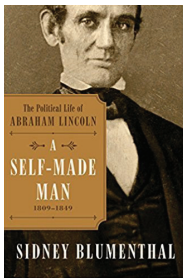
Larry Marschall, Physics (emeritus)

GREAT READS FROM GUELZO

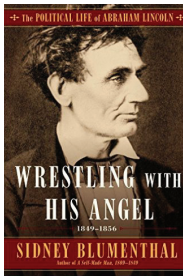
Recommendations by Allen C. Guelzo
Henry R. Luce Professor and
Director, Civil War Era Studies



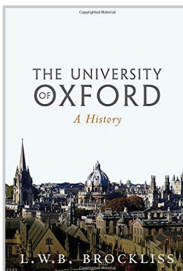
The story of the first black soldiers recruited for the Union Army took a back seat in most histories of the Civil War until Edward Zwick's 1989 movie *Glory*, about one of the first African American regiments, the 54th Massachusetts. Since then, the balance has swayed entirely in the other direction, and Douglas Egerton's ***Thunder at the Gates: The Black Civil War Regiments that Redeemed America*** is a vivid marker of how much we have learned after *Glory*, not only about the 54th Massachusetts, but about its all-black sister regiments, the 55th Massachusetts and the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry.



And if that “other” Civil War movie we all went to see—Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*—did anything to make the intellectual taste buds water, then this is a good moment to reach for Sidney Blumenthal's ***A Self-Made Man: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1849*** or its sequel, ***Wrestling with His Angel: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, 1849-1856***. Ignore the heavy-sounding titles. Blumenthal is a veteran political operative who served in the Clinton White House, and who not only knows what political terrain looks like, but also has the style to make the vast panorama of politics in Lincoln's America light up like the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Get ready to be hooked, since Blumenthal has two more volumes as further sequels ready to slide down the construction-ways over the next two years.



Of course, you can't do Lincoln and the Civil War all the time. So what else should an academic turn to for summertime amusement but...a book about academics. It may be true that Oxford, “that sweet City with her dreaming spires...needs not June for beauty's heightening,” but a summer in Oxford beats January there, and an undisturbed June will be an ideal time to digest L.W.B. Brockliss' new history of the fabled university, ***The University of Oxford: A History***. From its origins in medieval times to the successive reshapings imposed by the Reformation, the invasion of the sciences in the 19th century, and the waning of class-based elitism in the 20th, Brockliss takes measured, mighty, and delightfully readable strides through the world's most remarkable monument to the scholarly life.



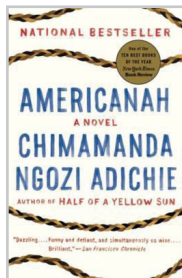
#GBCTalks

#GBCTalks - Engaging in difficult dialogues through book discussion

The #GBCTalks program began in 2016 and sprung out of our national conversation about race, race relations, and racism in America. Members of the campus community read *Waking Up White*, and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving and *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Due to positive feedback about book-based discussion of difficult issues, we continued the program.

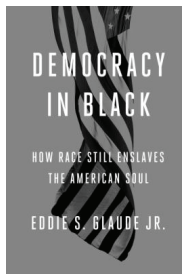


In fall 2016, we turned our attention to poetry and 31 people joined us to read Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Participants attended one or more of four discussions—two were billed as “start here” gatherings for those newer to exploring facets of race and racism in American, and two were described as “dig deeper” opportunities for readers ready to discuss how race intersects with other elements of identity for American citizens.



We chose a novel for the spring 2017 reading—Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah*. Because the book is long and readers seemed hungry to develop more sustained conversation about our books, we scheduled a four-part lunch hour series. We thought the increased time commitment would limit interest, but 49 participants signed up! Again, we had a healthy mix of different campus members.

To learn more about these books and the #GBCTalks program, see libguides.gettysburg.edu/gbctalks/home. There you'll also find suggestions for other books offered by participants. Here are just a few samples with publisher descriptions.



Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul
by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

From headlines such as the killing of black youth by the police to the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act, black America faces an emergency—even though the election of the first black president prompted many to believe we've solved America's race problem. The author argues that we live in a country founded on the premise that white lives are valued more than others, and this still distorts our politics today. He offers thoughts on a better way forward.



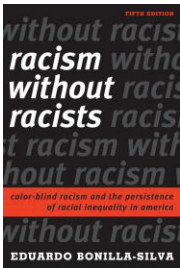
***The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande**

This memoir describes a childhood torn between two parents and two countries. As her parents cross the Mexican border in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna Grande and her siblings are left behind with their grandmother. Her mother returns to bring Reyna and her siblings to America and a new life in a new country.



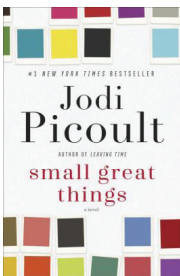
***Loving Day* by Mat Johnson**

Warren Duffy inherits his father's half-renovated mansion in the heart of black Philadelphia and decides to move in after having lived overseas for years. There he happens to encounter a teenage girl in whose mingled features he sees the faces of deceased white father and black mother. The girl is his daughter and she thinks she's white. Warren sets off to remake his life with a reluctant daughter he never knew. In their search for a new life they struggle with an unwanted house and its ghosts, fall in with a utopian mixed-race cult, and inspire a riot on Loving Day, the unsung holiday that celebrates interracial love.



***Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America* by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva**

This book documents how, beneath our contemporary conversation about race, there lies a full-blown arsenal of arguments, phrases, and stories that whites use to account for—and ultimately justify—racial inequalities. It explodes the belief that America is now a color-blind society.



***Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult**

A couple admitted to a hospital to have a baby requests that their nurse be reassigned—they are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is black, to touch their baby. The hospital complies, but the baby later goes into cardiac distress when Ruth is on duty. She hesitates before rushing in to perform CPR. When her indecision ends in tragedy, Ruth finds herself on trial, represented by a white public defender who warns against bringing race into a courtroom.

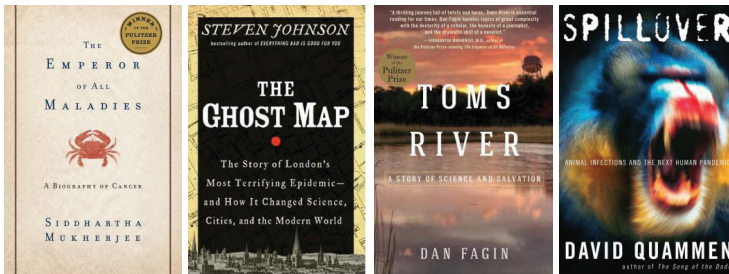
FOCUS ON HEALTH

The College is designating 2017-2018 as the “Year of Health” during which the campus community will gather to explore all aspects of well-being—physical, mental and social—and will examine what it means to be healthy, the health impacts of societal inequities, and how individuals and communities can achieve wellness.

This is the second theme in the Gettysburg Cycle (the first was Year of Food), a series of themes that engage in a policy issue of local, national and global importance. Here, Professors **Amy Dailey, Fritz Gaenslen, Caroline Hartzell, Salma Monani** and **Jim Udden** share a healthy list of related books and DVDs.

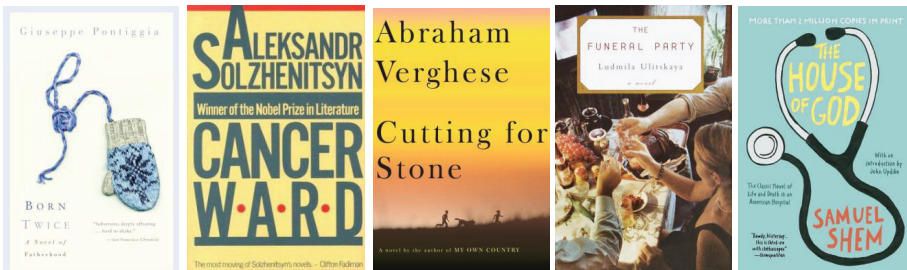
Nonfiction:

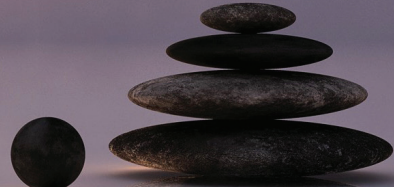
Emperor of All Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee; ***The Ghost Map*** by Steven Johnson; ***Tom’s River*** by Dan Fagin; and ***Spillover*** by David Quammen.



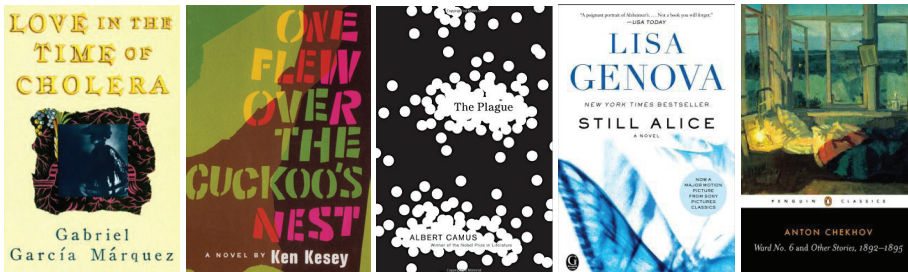
Fiction:

Born Twice by Giuseppe Pontiggia; ***The Cancer Ward*** by Alexander Solzhenitsyn; ***Cutting for Stone*** by Abraham Verghese; ***The Funeral Party*** by Ludmila Ulitskaya; ***The House of God*** by





Samuel Shem; ***Love in the Time of Cholera*** by Gabriel García Márquez; ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** by Ken Kesey; ***The Plague*** by Albert Camus; ***Still Alice*** by Lisa Genova; and the short story ***Ward No. 6*** by Anton Chekhov.



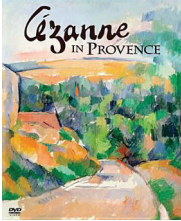
Films:

The Barbarian Invasions (2003, Canada); ***Blue Vinyl*** (2005); ***The Death of Mr. Lazarescu*** (2006, Romania); ***Erin Brockovich*** (2000); ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** (1975); ***Red Beard*** (1965, Japan); ***The Return of Navajo Boy*** (2000); ***Shock Corridor*** (1963); ***Sicko*** (2007 documentary); ***Silkwood*** (1983). There are also two Native short films: the social realism ***Barefoot*** (2012) and the science fiction ***Wakening*** (2013).



FILMS FILMS

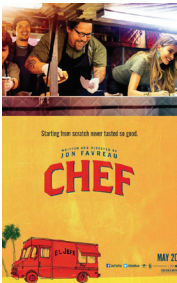
PBS HOME VIDEO



***Cézanne in Provence* produced by Jackson Frost (2006)**

This PBS documentary gives insight into the life of the artist Paul Cézanne. I spent three weeks studying in Aix-en-Provence, France last summer (the photo on the cover of this booklet was taken there, not far from Mont Sainte-Victoire), and I had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Cézanne, witnessing the beautiful landscapes he painted many times. This film captures the struggles he faced as an artist attempting to establish himself, and the devotion he felt towards his hometown of Aix-en-Provence.

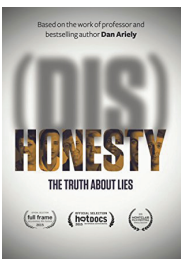
Sue Holz, Economics



***Chef* directed by Jon Favreau (2014)**

I recently discovered this Jon Favreau gem and cannot believe I missed it when it came out. Jon Favreau plays a frustrated chef stuck in the rut of cooking safe, fan favorite dishes. After a terrible review by a prominent critic, he quits his job (in Favreau comedic fashion) and buys a food truck in an attempt to recover his creativity, while reconnecting with his estranged family. A stellar cast completes this feel-good comedy, entertaining you with a story of family, friends, and great food—perfect for summer viewing.

Klara Shives, Musselman Library



***(Dis)Honesty: The Truth About Lies* directed by Yael Melamede (2015)**

Dan Ariely, the James B. Duke Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Economics at Duke University, examines lying through a series of behavioral experiments. Interspersed with explanations of the experiments are personal narratives from individuals discussing how their lying has affected their lives in personal, legal, and financial ways.

Jen Cole, Academic Advising



***The Eagle Huntress* directed by Otto Bell (2016)**

For centuries, nomads in Mongolia have used golden eagles to hunt for food and fur that are needed to survive the harsh winters. This is a tradition handed down from father to son. *The Eagle Huntress* follows Aisholpan, a

The aerial cinematography is breathtaking. You won't be able to take your eyes off the screen!

13-year-old girl, who breaks tradition and trains to become the first female eagle hunter. What an incredible and strong girl! The aerial cinematography is breathtaking. You won't be able to take your eyes off the screen!

Nancy Bernardi, Musselman Library



***Hello, My Name Is Doris* directed by Michael Showalter (2016)**

Sally Field (as Doris) makes this movie. She falls in love with a man in her office who is about 30 years her junior. Her character is shy, vulnerable, and passionate, all emotions showing poignantly on her face. I loved her fantasies and the plot surprises, which took me in every time. Also brilliant are her outfits, and the scene in which she is unexpectedly lionized at an electropop concert. My favorite movie of 2016.

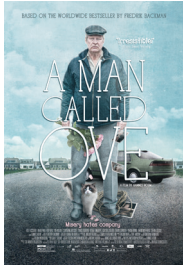
Charles F. Emmons, Sociology



***The Kettering Incident* directed by Rowan Woods and Tony Krawitz (2016-)**

This is a great TV series for lovers of mystery, sci-fi, haunting geography, and eerie feelings of confused fascination. It puts *Twin Peaks*, *Lost* and the like to shame. Set in Tasmania, the series conveys its "ends of the earth" location. Amazing cinematography with minimal special effects; the power is in the acting and the story. Lead actress Elizabeth Debicki is amazing. Don't read about it, just watch it.

Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library



***A Man Called Ove* directed by Hannes Holm (2015)**

This Swedish film, based on the novel by Fredrik Backman, is about a grumpy retiree who watches over his neighborhood and enforces the association's rules. He makes daily visits to his wife's grave and keeps to himself. When a new family moves in next door, an unexpected friendship develops. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film this past February. A wonderful feel-good movie!

Nancy Bernardi, Musselman Library



***River* directed by Richard Laxton (2015)**

In this six-part BBC mini-series, Stellan Skarsgård plays British Detective John River, a detective for whom there is a fine line between the living and the dead. To say the character is "haunted" is literal as well as figurative. Nicola Walker and Adeel Akhtar are equally stellar as his partners and friends, who look past River's propensity to talk to people who are not there and embrace his brilliance.

Sunni DeNicola, Musselman Library



***RWBY (Vol.1-3)* directed by Monty Oum (2013)**

America's first anime export to Japan—for good reason! The world of Remnant is Tolkeinesque in its depth of development. *RWBY* begins with a group of young people headed to Beacon Academy to complete their training to become Huntsmen and Huntresses, and devote their lives to protecting their world from the creatures of Grimm. Although each of the main characters follows an anime archetype, they break out of that mold quickly and offer a viewing experience with female characters that can be strong, bubbly, girly, emotional, wear "combat skirts," be leaders, and kick butt while dealing with racial discrimination, homework, and unadulterated evil.

Miranda Wisor, Musselman Library



***The Young Offenders* directed by Peter Foott (2016)**

This Irish film is perfect to watch in the summer. The storytelling is simple, matter-of-fact, and lighthearted. It's a coming-of-age story disguised as a get-rich-quick comedy about two lazy teenage boys.

**Molly Reynolds, Schmucker Art Gallery /
Musselman Library**



*Even if you aren't a College employee or student you can still check out DVDs by becoming a **Friend of Musselman Library** for only \$50 a year. You will have access to more than 12,500 films and documentaries and your gift will help support this publication and other programs.*





IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO TODAY: THE BEATLES' *SGT. PEPPER*

Devin McKinney

Musselman Library

Author of *Magic Circles: The Beatles in Dream and History*

Among the many things that were possible 50 years ago and are impossible today is the unanimity that welcomed *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, the Beatles' eighth album, as a culminating event in cultural history—if not History. “The closest that Western civilization has come to unity since the Congress of Vienna in 1815,” critic Langdon Winner wrote at the time, “was the week that the *Sgt. Pepper* album was released.”

Tuneful, inventive, hallucinogenic, *Pepper* was embraced by both pop fans, who kept it at #1 throughout the Summer of Love, and highbrows previously dismissive of popular taste. Wagner and Eliot, Monteverdi and Joyce were invoked for comparison. Composer Ned Rorem believed the album announced “a new and glorious renaissance of song,” while literary scholar Richard Poirier called it “an eruption ... for which no one could have been wholly prepared.”

Much of which reads today like hype—enthusiasm magnified by mass response and deprived of long reflection. It's since been asserted that *Pepper* was not even the best album of 1967, which also saw groundbreaking work from Jimi Hendrix, Aretha Franklin, the Velvet Underground, the Doors, Frank Zappa, Procol Harum, Buffalo Springfield, the Moody Blues, and The Who. The current consensus (to which this author has, in his small way, contributed) is that, as a Beatle work, *Pepper* is neither as penetrating as its predecessor, *Revolver*, nor as oceanic as its successor, *The Beatles*, aka the White Album.

Yet *Pepper* remains a touchstone not only for how it was received, but also for the backlashes and rediscoveries that have followed it through five decades. Hype or not, that early praise expressed the feelings of millions caught up in what Norman Mailer called “an extremely apocalyptic time,” who found in *Pepper* an affirmation upon which nearly all could agree.

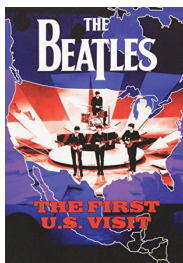
Today, it still sounds wondrous. Most songs are average by Beatle standards, but all are sustained by felicities of performance and production. “Lovely Rita” is irresistibly sexy and funny, “Getting Better” both convincingly optimistic and eerily dissonant, “With a Little Help from My Friends” the song Ringo Starr was born to sing. But these and others are mere foothills before the visionary Everest of “A Day in the Life.” With its flat John Lennon vocal, minimal imagery, stalking drum fills, and atonal crescendos, the performance is a modernist masterpiece to which absence is as crucial as presence.



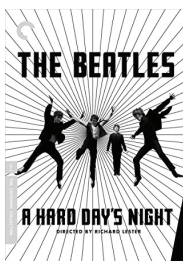
Years ago, a Manhattan auction house offered Lennon's holographic lyrics for sale. I was invited to talk about the song and to be filmed examining the original. It was the closest I've ever come to an artifact touched by Beatle hands, and until that day, I'd never known that the famous closing line—"I'd love to turn you on"—was first written this way: "I love to turn you on." Ever since, I've been haunted by the change of verb from indicative ("I do") to conditional ("I would"). It transforms a material fact into a promise of illicit pleasure which is also, in the song's apocalyptic context, an invitation to something far scarier.

Maybe it takes an old English major like me to notice, or care about, the little universe of meanings created by such an alteration. But it's their subtle negations as much as their grand affirmations that continue to make the Beatles timeless, and that makes *Sgt. Pepper* both thrilling and chilling to hear, even 50 years later.

BEATLES PICKS: MOVIES AND BOOKS



The best documentary about the Beatles is their own ***Anthology***, 10-plus hours of magical interviews and clips. ***The First U.S. Visit*** combines cinema-vérité footage from New York, Washington, and Miami with the initial "Ed Sullivan Show" appearances. Ron Howard's ***Eight Days a Week***, while nostalgically soft, climaxes with the magnificent 1965 Shea Stadium concert. **1+** collects the dozens of music videos created by or for the Beatles, with the "Hello Goodbye," "Hey Bulldog," and "Hey Jude" clips as highlights. There are, of course, the group's own movies, starting with 1964's ***A Hard Day's Night***: the cinematic techniques haven't always aged well, but the Beatles have.



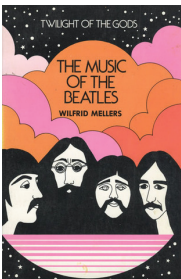
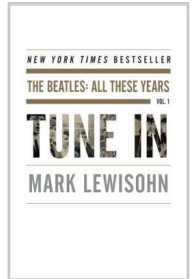
Most of the best Beatles books are readily available. Others are out of print, but obtainable through used booksellers or interlibrary loan. These are a few of the titles that rise above:



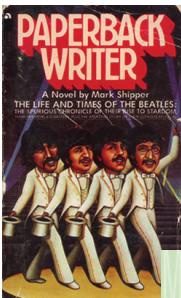
Michael Braun's ***Love Me Do! The Beatles' Progress*** (1964) is a tart journalistic account of embryonic Beatlemania. ***The Beatles Book*** (1968, edited by Edward E. Davis) collects commentary



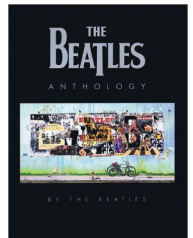
both favorable and cranky from Sixties notables; ***Reading the Beatles*** (2006, edited by Kenneth Womack) is a more recent anthology of feminist, literary, and historical perspectives. Scholar Mark Lewisohn is writing a three-volume biography whose first part, ***Tune In*** (2013), vindicates every faith that his will be the definitive chronicle.



Musicologist Wilfred Mellers's pioneering ***Twilight of the Gods*** (1973) has been succeeded by ***The Beatles as Musicians*** (two volumes, 1999 and 2001), a vast yet readable analysis by Gettysburg graduate Walter Everett '76. Robert Hemenway's "The Girl Who Sang with the Beatles," an O Henry Short Story Prize winner in 1970, and Mark Shipper's ***Paperback Writer*** (1978), an absurdist revision of the band's history, stand out in the thin field of Beatles fiction.



Finally, ***The Beatles Anthology*** (2000), a coffee-table companion to the documentary, is a mammoth oral and pictorial history. Dense, novelistic, and graphically astonishing, it's the only book that has put the Beatles on paper with anything like the fullness of expression they achieved on record.



*When we decided to celebrate the Beatles in this issue, we turned to our resident expert on the subject, Archives Assistant Devin McKinney. McKinney is the writer of three books, including ***Magic Circles: The Beatles in Dream and History*** (2003), which the publisher, Harvard University Press, describes as "a uniquely multifaceted appreciation of the group's artistic achievement, exploring their music as both timeless expression and visceral response to their historical moment."*



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

One question that can be asked is whether recommendations such as these made every year stand the test of time. In other words, are these endorsements I offer “timeless” or “timely” in nature? Ideally my recommendations should be both, even if I know full well this will not always be the case, since not everything ages well, and pressing issues can change overnight.

This year, however, is a bit different for me, given the corrosion of public discourse about both timely and timeless issues. It seems clear that large swaths of our population live in an alternate existence based on fake news—where mere opinion suffices as fact, and where reality is only what one wants things to be. I do not subscribe to the defeatist postmodern trap where everything is relative and truth is elusive. Too many media scholars have walked into that black hole and never come out. Truth is difficult to arrive at, but not impossible.

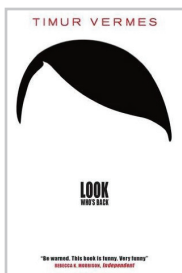
Still, why is it that people are so easily deceived, even taking positions that will do themselves harm, not good? This is not a recent question, but an age-old one that runs across cultural and historical lines. Having been to Germany more than once, it always astonishes me: how did such a *thing* ever happen there? (I am sure you all know what “thing” I am referring to.)

If it could happen there, it could happen anywhere given the right set of circumstances.



Four recent films I have seen over the past year all speak to these pressing questions. The first two are timely films that I do not think will be timeless; they are just okay as actual films, but most revealing in what they say to us today. **Experimenter** is a fictional film about the famed Yale psychologist, Stanley Milgram, who proved not only how easily people are deceived, but

UDDEN'S OUTTAKES



also how easily people succumb to authority even if they feel what they are being asked to do is morally wrong; **Look Who's Back!** is an outlandish German comedy about Hitler suddenly reappearing in present-day Germany. Everybody laughs, thinking he is merely a good actor in disguise, but Hitler becomes a media star who realizes how much he can manipulate the media to possibly fulfill his still unrealized ends.

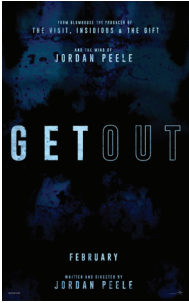
The Lobster is a bizarre film about people living in an alternate reality where we as viewers can clearly recognize how ridiculous the scenario is, but the characters in the film do not, instead accepting their ridiculous state of affairs as simply how things are. Yet the most timeless of the four, in my view, and the most haunting, is the Hungarian film, **Son of Saul**. This film takes you directly into the bowels of the gas chambers in Auschwitz, following a Jewish man who is forced to clean up in the daily ghastly aftermath of those chambers, until one day he sees one of the victims is his lost son. This utterly devastating film sets a standard that no other fictional film on the Holocaust will likely ever surpass.

On a much lighter note, we all need enjoyment and entertainment no matter what the times. The best "indie" films over the last year were not only **La La Land** and **Manchester by the Sea** (I still have yet to see *Moonlight*), but also the overlooked **Sicario**. Notable foreign offerings I recommend include **Little England** and **The Salesman**, the latest foreign-language Oscar winner by Iran's master storyteller, Asghar Farhadi.

The best documentary bar none was by the always profound Werner Herzog and his meditations on the Internet, **Lo and Behold**.

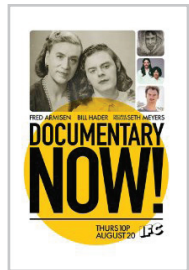
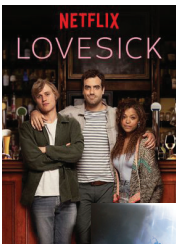
Since this semester I am doing a course on comedy and horror, I would say the best new comedy was **Hello, My Name Is Doris** (fantastic performance by Sally Field), and the most notable new horror film (for me anyhow) was **It Follows**, which relies more on a precise style and intelligence than





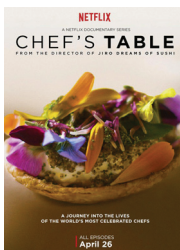
gore and the recent hit, **Get Out**, yet another timely but very intelligent horror film with racial undertones that I believe will stand the test of time.

Five television shows continue to not disappoint: **The Americans**, **Mr. Robot**, **Orphan Black**, **The Returned**, and **Black Mirror**. Yet there are several new shows to recommend. **Lady Dynamite** stars Maria Bamford, which includes a funny yet pointed episode on race I used in my *Media & Cultural Theory* course; **Easy** is a television venture by Joel Swanberg, known for his “mumblecore” films; **Lovesick** is what would happen if Judd Apatow were British, not American; **People of Earth** is arguably the funniest show about aliens, especially since the aliens are as funny as the humans; **Documentary Now** is a hilarious spoof (and history lesson) of the most famous documentaries over time; **Hibana: Spark** is a touching show that not only explores a distinctively Japanese form of comedy called *manzai*, but also beautifully captures what it is like to live in a densely populated Asian city; **Sneaky Pete** is an Amazon show that features arguably the best ensemble cast possible, largely because Bryan Cranston not only acts in it, he is also an executive producer. (Who would turn down a call from Bryan Cranston?)



Two other shows are not new, except for me, both of which turned out to be pleasant surprises: the American version of **Shameless**, which features believable people in not so believable situations (but I could care less about the latter fact—it is funny); **Crazy Ex-Girlfriend** with its ingenious, satirical musical numbers, is yet further proof that in this day and age comedy is ruled by women, not men.

UDDEN'S OUTTAKES



Finally, there is food—or rather “The Year of Food” which we just had on our campus. I could recommend the usual food-centered films of specific food cultures such as *Big Night*, *Haute Cuisine*, *Tampopo*, *Eat Drink, Man Woman* or *Like Water for Chocolate*, but that is trite. Instead I offer you two other distinct possibilities. First are two surrealist masterpieces by Luis Buñuel, ***The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*** and ***The Phantom of Liberty*** where food is a central motif used for surrealist ends. The other possibility is an incomparable Netflix series about world-renowned chefs called ***Chef’s Table***. As compelling as the chefs being profiled are, even more compelling is how well this show conveys their creations. Yes, this may be “food porn” to use a favorite term of Anthony Bourdain, but make no mistake about it—it is culinary/cinematic art at its finest.

Bon appetit!



2017 SUMMER CLASSIC MOVIES

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

JUNE 7

The Unsinkable Molly Brown (1964)

JUNE 14

Alien (1979)

JUNE 21

Now, Voyager (1942)

JUNE 28

**The Russians Are Coming.
The Russians Are Coming. (1966)**

JULY 5

The Horse Soldiers (1959)

JULY 12

Grease (1978)

JULY 19

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)

JULY 26

A Clockwork Orange (1971)

AUGUST 2

The Godfather (1972)

AUGUST 9

South Pacific (1958)

AUGUST 16

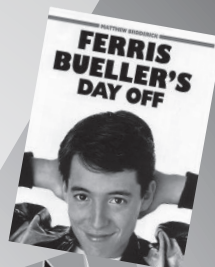
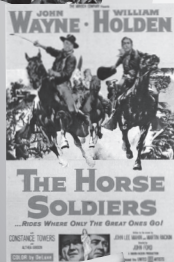
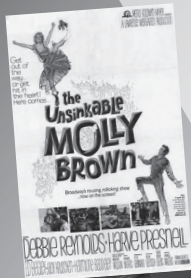
Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid (1969)

AUGUST 23

The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

Show Time 7:30 p.m. • Tickets \$6.00
Visit the Box Office at 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, PA or
phone 717.337.8200.
Web: www.gettysburgmajestic.org

*Note movies subject to change





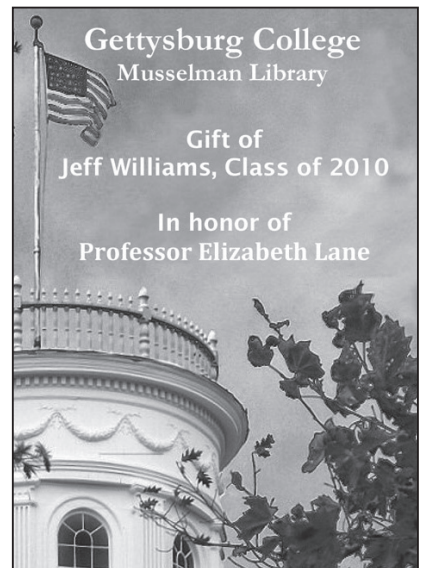
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Sample Bookplate

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