A Word from...YOUR Library

Many thanks to all the faculty and staff who contributed to this issue of Bookwatch. There are many great choices for reading over your summer vacation.

Congratulations to this month’s winner of the Learned Owl gift certificate, Ralf Borrmann.

Have a safe and restful summer and read lots of good books!

FACULTY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Jeannie Kidera recommends:

Round Ireland with a Fridge by Tony Hawks

“A fun (and funny) memoir about British songwriter-comedian Tony Hawks’ adventure hitchhiking around Ireland for a month with a refrigerator, a journey that began (as all great journeys do) with a drunken bet.”

Dharmakaya by Paula Meehan

The fifth volume of poetry by the award-winning Irish poet.

Herb Haller recommends:

Iran Awakening: One Woman’s Journey to Reclaim Her Life and Country by Shirin Ebadi

The autobiography of the lawyer, defender of human rights, and 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Winner who has spoken out for the oppressed while facing political persecution in her native Iran.

Judy Israelson recommends:

Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West by Benazir Bhutto.

“The former Prime Minister of Pakistan who finished this book just days before her assassination had a bold vision for how to bridge the widening gap between the Islamic world and the West. Drawn from Bhutto’s experience living in both worlds, Reconciliation sheds light on the conflict from both sides, offering a unique perspective on the roots of terrorism and explaining her plan for reestablishing Pakistan as a model of democracy for the Muslim world. Unfortunately, because Bhutto and her ideas were so controversial, she was marked for death. Reconciliation is our chance to share her vision. The final legacy of a truly remarkable woman, it’s a must read for anyone interested in the future of global politics.”

Patty Campbell recommends:

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

This acclaimed story of fathers, sons, and friendship focuses on two boys raised in very different Jewish households who meet in 1940’s Brooklyn.
**FACULTY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS continued:**

**Carm Smith recommends:**

**Body Surfing** by Anita Shreve

After the sudden death of her husband, 29-year-old Sydney answers an ad to work as a tutor with the intellectually slow Julie, the only daughter in the prominent Edwards family.

**The Corrections** by Jonathan Franzen

Tragic, comic, satiric—all describe this highly acclaimed novel about a modern-day dysfunctional American family as they come together for Christmas.

**Burning Bright** by Tracy Chevalier

Chevalier’s latest historical novel, set in London, takes us into the world of poet and painter, William Blake (1757-1827).

**Ralf Borrmann recommends:**

**Pillars of the Earth** and its sequel **World Without End** by Ken Follett

“If you really feel like reading two nearly-one-thousand-pages-each historic novels, if you like stories with plenty of bad guys, lots of details, twists and turns, many plot lines, if you can keep track of huge family trees and events over several decades or, for both books, centuries, these books are for you!”

**Jill Evans recommends:**

**Paula** by Isabelle Allende

“I love anything by this author because she is descriptive and eloquent. She is also Chilean, and all of her books have a flare for the exotic. This [biography of sorts] is a book written for her daughter who has fallen into a coma. She is talking to her, telling her stories about her ancestors and native land—it is heart wrenching and wonderful at the same time.”

**Dan Dyer recommends:**

**Wild Nights** by Joyce Carol Oates

“A collection of short stories—fictions that imagine the final days of Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, Henry James, and Ernest Hemingway.”

**Havanas in Camelot: Personal Essays** by William Styron

“The late novelist—he died in 2006—was working on this collection when he died; included are pieces about the Kennedy Administration, Styron’s STD problem in the military, a walk with a dog, Mark Twain; wonderful writing by a wonderful writer.”

**Robert Aguilar recommends:**


Set in 1854, Johnson describes the deadliest outbreak of cholera in London’s history, focusing on Dr. John Snow, who pursued the theory that the outbreak was a result of contaminated water, a position spurned by the medical experts of the time.

**The Demon under the Microscope: From Battle-field Hospitals to Nazi Labs, One Doctor’s Heroic Search for the World’s First Miracle Drug** by Thomas Hager

The suspenseful true story of the development of sulfa-drugs is chronicled from the trench warfare of World War I to the Nazi labs of pre-World War II Germany.

**Delivered from Distraction: Getting the Most out of Life with Attention Deficit Disorder** by Edward M. Hallowell, M.D., and John J. Ratey, M.D.

Offers interesting insight into both authors’ personal struggles with adult ADD as well as the latest research in the field.
FICTION REVIEWS:

**People of the Book** by Geraldine Brooks

Enthralling fictionalized history of the Sarajevo Haggadah; a priceless illuminated haggadah that has survived since pre-Inquisition Spain. The author imagines how it traveled around Europe and was safeguarded from destruction during times of war from the 1500’s to the present day. Fascinating historical fiction, mystery, thriller and love story.  *(Review by Paula Campanelli)*

**Killer Heat** by Linda Fairstein

If you enjoy a good mystery combined with an unexpected and intriguing New York City history lesson, try Linda Fairstein’s novel *Killer Heat*. Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Cooper discovers a series of murders that may appear to be the work of a serial killer. Cooper and her two favorite detectives are lead to several smaller islands in the waters around New York City. While looking for the vicious killer, Cooper learns the historical value these islands played in defending the city during many wars. I did find it interesting that Fairstein has her characters discuss the fact that serial killers are more prevalent in the pages of a mystery novel then in real life.  *(Review by Holly Bunt)*

**Remember Me?** by Sophie Kinsella

One minute Lexi is standing in the rain, hailing a cab, after a night of clubbing in London with her friends, when she is hit by a cab. The next, she has awakened from another accident three years later. Lexi does not remember anything about her life in the last three years, including her millionaire husband, her high powered career, or why she no longer speaks to any of her old friends. This is a funny new novel, by the popular English author, of the *Shopaholic* series.  *(Review by Melissa Slager)*

**Out Stealing Horses** by Per Petterson

In this unforgettable, eloquent work, 67-year-old Trond Sanders retires and moves to an isolated cabin in Norway where he begins to reflect on his life, specifically the summer following World War II that changed his life. Spending that summer with his father in a small cabin near the Norwegian-Swedish border, Trond begins to see his father in a different light as he learns about his exploits during the war. At the same time, Trond meets local boy, Jon, and the two become inseparable until tragedy strikes. Profoundly moving, this novel is highly recommended.  *(Review by Jacque Miller)*

**Summer Reading** by Hilma Wolitzer

Three women’s paths cross during a summertime book club in the Hampton's as they ponder whether their own lives are as passionate and intoxicating as the fictional characters in their books. Hostess Lizzy Snyder, a young trophy wife, wants to connect with other wealthy socialites and hires solitary spinster Angela Graves, a retired English professor, to lead her reading group. Meanwhile resentful Hampton’s local Michelle Cutty, Lizzy’s housecleaner, eavesdrops when she’s not going through her mistress’s closets. Each of the woman hides secrets: Lizzy struggles with many insecurities and her new role as second wife and stepmother, Angela recalls a passionate affair that destroyed her best friends’ lives years before, and tough-girl Michelle recognizes her long-time boyfriend’s failure to commit is no longer making her happy. Inspired by their reading, the women are pushed to act and become the heroines of their own stories. A fast and fun read that keeps you turning the pages!  *(Review by Cathy Fahey-Hunt)*
**FICTION REVIEWS cont.:**

*Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson

Page-turning British literary mystery/thriller exploring the lives of the clients of private investigator Jackson Brodie and their families. Love, loss, murder, intrigue and more. *(Review by Paula Campanelli)*

*The Appeal* by John Grisham

In his latest novel, *The Appeal*, Grisham’s story centers on a corporate lawsuit. A Mississippi jury has just awarded one of the largest settlements in the state’s history but the multi-millionaire who lost the case is bound and determined not to pay a cent to the claimants. A scrupulous plan is formed to “buy” a seat on the Mississippi’s State Supreme Court, thereby insuring that the current judgment will be overturned. I recently saw an interview with Grisham where he stated that he wrote this fictional story in response to the growing problem in states that have elected instead of appointed officials on their Supreme Courts. *(Review by Holly Bunt)*

*The Redbreast* by Jo Nesbo

Recently translated into English, and listed on Booklist’s Top Ten Mysteries of 20007, this is a suspenseful thriller that you won’t be able to put down. The recent acquittal of a Neo-Nazi skinhead sends Norwegian Security Service Inspector Harry Hole on a mission to find evidence to put the man behind bars, but instead he finds himself tracking down an assassin. The story then switches back and forth to the Eastern Front of World War II where Norwegians fight for the Nazis and a plot for revenge that takes nearly 50 years is carefully begun. A look at historical role of Norway in World War II is an added bonus. *(Review by Jacque Miller)*

**NON-FICTION REVIEWS:**

*Whatever You Do, Don’t Run: True Tales of a Botswana Safari Guide* by Peter Allison

This short biography is fun to read. If you don’t have time for an African Safari this summer, you could read this little book instead and imagine that you are along on one of Peter’s Allison’s guided safaris through the jungles of Botswana. You will meet people, some annoying, some comical, in addition to envisioning elephants and tigers coming up to your tent in the middle of the night. You might get caught in a jeep in Hippo waters with curious and angry beasts ready to take you on. Every day in the jungle is an adventure. Here is a book that will make you laugh and amaze you. *(Review by Sue Donnelly)*

*High Crimes: The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed* by Michael Kodas

Connecticut journalist Kodas offers this interesting commentary on the climbers of Mount Everest and their quest for the summit. Writing for the *Hartford Courant*, Kodas recounts his first summit bid in 2004 with his wife and fellow climbers from Hartford, Ct. During this first adventure they encountered all elements of danger, greed, dishonesty and corruption on the mountain among the Sherpa guides (including their own) as well as the climbers desperate to reach the top. They did not reach the summit in 2004 and returned in 2006 to try again. This story shifts back and forth between the two climbs, but focuses on the second attempt in 2006, which by the end of the climbing season became the deadliest year since the infamous 1996 season. *(Review by Melissa Stager)*
Faith, Reason, and the War Against Jihadism: A Call to Action by George Weigel

Weigel provides a concise, insightful summary of the points he believes are essential in understanding the necessity of the current war against jihadism. The short volume is broken into 15 “lessons” and offers cogent, thought-provoking arguments for his assertion that the current conflict is truly a war of ideas and ideals. Regardless of your political perspective, this is a book everyone should read. (Review by Jacque Miller)

Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations...One School at a Time by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

After a failed attempt to reach the summit of K2, Greg Mortenson is nursed back to health by villagers in Korphe, Pakistan. When he learns that there is no school for the children of Korphe to attend, he vows to return with funds to build one. With the cooperation of his friends in Pakistan, he is able to do this and much more. Mortenson’s story is a powerful example of the good that can be accomplished when we take the time to learn the language, culture, religion and history of the people we wish to help. (Review by Paula Campanelli)

Kitchen Literacy: How We Lost Knowledge of Where Food Comes From and Why We Need to Get It Back by Ann Vileisis

When my oldest daughter was five, I asked her if she knew where French fries came from and she replied “McDonalds.” Sadly, I don’t think she was alone in her thinking, and this is the basis of the book Kitchen Literacy by Ann Vileisis. In addition to a complete history of American’s disconnect with the origins of their food source, Vileisis chronicles the introduction of chemicals into our food supply caused by the distance between “farm and table” as well the commercialization of food preparation. Vileisis, however, talks optimistically about the resurgence of many consumers wanting to get back to basics and thus the popularity of organic and locally produced foods. (Review by Kim Barsella)

Professional Reading Over the Summer!

The John D. Ong Library has an extensive Professional Collection with materials on education and instruction for the teaching professional. Come in and see what we have! Now located on the first floor in the reference area.