

## Good Reads-2016

### **A Thousand Miles to Freedom** by Eunsun Kim

A true story of a woman raised in North Korea and her escape to South Korea and journey to America. Not the best written book I've read, but an honest and compelling story about how difficult it became to survive physically and emotionally in North Korea. I can't say that I liked it, but I certainly learned something from reading it.

### **Lightening** by Dean Koontz

I read lots of Dean Koontz novels when I was younger, and remembered this as a favorite. Rereading it again now, some 30 years later, it's not AS good as I remember, but it still kept me reading until the end. The other Koontz novel I remember loving was "Watchers". I'll probably report on that one next year.

### The **Louise Penny Inspector Gamache** series

Sarah Potter told me about this series, and I find myself going back to it when I need a familiar cast of characters and a mystery to escape into. Good call, Sarah, thanks!

*Lee Abrahamsen, Associate Professor of Biology and Biochemistry*

I recommend Lynda Barry's **Syllabus**, a wonderful book about teaching, students and the arts.

I also recommend Jeff Smith's book, **Mr. Smith Goes to Prison**. A first person account of a rising politician violating campaign law and ending up in prison in Kentucky and the lessons learned for the US prison system.

Finally, I recommend **Dear Mr. You**, by Mary-Louise Parker. She does a good job of writing about the men in her life without naming names.

*Áslaug Ásgeirsdóttir, Associate Professor of Politics*

Amazing book by a local author and friend (Bowdoin grad).

**NOT FOR SALE: Finding Center in the Land of Crazy Horse** is a unique iconoclastic memoir that traces one businessman's journey deep into Indian country, and even deeper into his own soul. In a corporate world hallmarked by the never-ending quest for bigger, better, more, this CEO of one of America's oldest family businesses contemplates an organizational structure where the goal is to do less, not more. In a 24/7 internet- wired world consumed with roles, responsibilities, and external accomplishments, Kevin learns to look inward for meaning and purpose.

*Jim Bauer, Director of Network and Infrastructure Services*

I could submit two entries by Erik Larson. **Devil in the White City**, and **Isaac's Storm**. Both nonfiction. Both good reads.

*Peter Beach, Professional Machinist, Carnegie Science*

My suggestion this year without reservation is for a Swedish novel, **A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman. It makes you laugh, it makes you cry and Ove becomes

part of your family. Great read for everyone since Ove is a grumpy man, but has a heart in spite of himself. It really is a must read.

Another book which I have not read yet but loved the movie, is also from Sweden...it is **The 100 Year Old Man Who Jumped Out of the Window**. Having seen the movie, I must read the book it was created from in 2013.

*Jane Bedard, Senior Admission Office Specialist*

Would recommend **Cozy Mysteries**. They provide a "fun read" that engages the mind, as well as provides entertainment and are considered "gentle" books - no graphic violence, no profanity, and no explicit sex. The crime-solver is usually an educated woman who is an amateur sleuth. The mysteries take place in a small town or village and makes it convenient for her to "casually overhear" things at the scene of a crime. Many themes, many authors to chose from: **Cozy Mysteries** website - <http://www.cozy-mystery.com/>

*Denise Begin, Academic Administrative Assistant*

**Wild: from lost to found on the Pacific Crest Trail** by Cheryl Strayed

**A Walk in the Woods** by Bill Bryson

These two books chronicle the hiking journeys of their authors, one on the west coast (Pacific Crest Trail) and the other on the east coast (Appalachian Trail). Thoroughly enjoyable reads... make me want to get out on those trails and test my endurance and abilities.

*Sarah Jane Bernard '75, Director of HRIS*

I took a few days over the winter to read the Imperial Radch trilogy by Ann Leckie - **Ancillary Justice**, **Ancillary Sword** and **Ancillary Mercy**. Leckie does a good job of creating a universe and having great fun with language and perspective. Just relax, suspend your disbelief and enjoy some sci-fi.

*Kendall Blake, Systems Analyst*

I was hesitating about mentioning this book, as I am sure this book and the author come up frequently on this list, but I've been reading **The Husband's Secret** by Liane Moriarty and it is blowing my mind. In fact, I am begrudgingly doing work right now rather than reading the last 75 pages or so. Once you find out his secret (about a 1/3 of the way in) you do not want to put this book down! Interesting, believable characters, great dialogue, and a wonderful reminder about how issues of right and wrong are not so black and white. I hope this helps!

*Helen Boucher, Associate Professor of Psychology*

Excellent reads for those who want to practice some self-improvements in their life.

Matthew Kelly: **Off Balance: Getting beyond the work - life balance myth**

Matthew Kelly: **The Rhythm of Life: Living everyday with passion and purpose**

*Jane Boyle, Innreach Coordinator, Ladd Library*

How does a great pro athlete know when to leave the game? Kobe Bryant, Willie Mays, Brett Favre, and others all stayed too long. So, read **For Love of the Game** by

Michael Shaara (**The Killer Angels**) with those cautionary tales in mind. It takes a sweet look at a pitcher's final weekend of major league baseball, capturing the rapid, head-spinning shift in identity that a great athlete must navigate, amidst great outside pressures, in trying to decide if now, or next year, is the right time.

*Jay Burns, Editorial Director and Bates Magazine Editor*

From my Ella for the reading list:

**Flipped** by Wendelin Van Draanen

*Ella Caron via Tammy Caron, Senior Visual Designer*

I am really enjoying **The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace** by Jeff Hobbs!

*Peter Casares, Head Coach/Swimming & Diving*

So glad to see the Good Reads list is still going strong and will be 20 this year! I wouldn't want to miss the occasion, so here is my humble submission:

Originally written in German, Ilija Trojanow's novel **The Lamentations of Zeno** is the story of a glaciologist whose world comes undone when his beloved alpine glacier dies. Desperate for a change, he retreats to the Antarctic, where he helps to explain ice to privileged cruise passengers. But Zeno is not quite up to handling what he believes to be simply disaster tourism. Or is he?

The novel alternates Zeno's diary with fragments from different discourses, whose blended voices act as a Greek chorus offering commentary on the novel's action. Alternately hilarious and heartrending, lucid and hallucinogenic, Zeno's lamentations question the line between sanity and madness in a world threatened with extinction.

The translation of Ilija Trojanow's **The Lamentations of Zeno** will be coming out just in time for the 20th edition of the "Good Reads."

*Raluca Cernahoschi, Assistant Professor of German*

I've recently revisited Virginia Woolf, who I adored in college; it turns out that hasn't changed.... **Orlando** is her genre and gender-bending account of four centuries of a life, with a whimsical sequence that involves a Russian princess. **Flush** is Woolf's "biography" of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, told through the eyes/consciousness of her cocker spaniel.

For something entirely different, Marc Bennett's **Kicking the Kremlin** gives an account of attempts to challenge Putin and the kleptocracy at the heart of Russian power – the back story of protests in the wake of his "election" in 2012. Vivid and readable account by a journalist who's written for both the *Guardian* and the *New York Times*. "Kleptocracy" is actually the term used by political scientist Karen Dawisha in a book I also read part of this year... (**Putin's Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?**) a meticulously researched book that was following the money long before the Panama papers. Deeply sobering, not to say depressing - hence the "part of" in my account of reading it.

And for those quiet summer mornings when there's finally time for more meditative pursuits, I'll be aiming to finish a book given to me last fall – Pat Schneider's **How the Light Gets In: Writing as Spiritual Practice** – a beautiful set of essays on life,

self, and words.

*Jane Costlow, Clark A. Griffith Professor of Environmental Studies*

**Tales of a Female Nomad** by Rita Golden Gelman has been a pleasure. I love a good travelog, and this has me traveling the world vicariously through someone who has flown away from her newly emptied nest. And a couple of very light beach books by an alumna: **The Love Wars** and **The Never Never Sisters** by L. Allison Heller, Bates Class of 1994.

*Marianne Cowan, Associate Director of Program Design/Purposeful Work*

My submission: **As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning** by Laurie Lee. Lee describes his walk from rural England to the Spanish Civil War. What's there not to like about a book that starts: "The stooping figure of my mother, waist-deep in the grass and caught there like a piece of sheep's wool, was the last I saw of my country home as I left it to discover the world."

*David Das, Associate Director of Off-Campus Study*

My entries for this years list are:

**DEAD WAKE**-Erik Larson-the sinking of the Lusitania by a U-boat in WWI and all of the ramifications.

**THE BANQUET OF CONSEQUENCES**-Elizabeth George-excellent mystery by one of the best.

**HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN**-James Lee Burke-mystery & bloodshed at its best.

**PACIFIC**-Simon Winchester-excellent & thorough study of events shaping the Pacific Ocean.

**MIDNIGHT SUN**-Jo Nesbo-murder above the Arctic Circle.

**THE CROSSING**-Michael Connelly-Harry Bosch-(Det.)- on the warpath of LA criminals.

*Jerry Davis, Class of '61*

Elizabeth Gilbert, **BIG MAGIC: CREATIVE LIVING WITHOUT FEAR**

*Lavina Dhingra, Professor of English*

Here are mine for this year:

**Elizabeth is Missing**, by Emma Healey. What feels like a true portrayal of what it's like to be on the inside as dementia creeps up on you. The best book I've read this year.

**Leaving Time**, by Jodi Picoult. Elephants, love, memory. . .

**The Last of the Just**, by André Schwarz-Bart. Winner of the Prix Goncourt (it is translated from the French) in 1959. Follows a Jewish family through centuries up to Auschwitz; gripping, emotional, and reminds us to remember.

**Brooklyn**, by Colm Tóibín. I did not know this had been made into a movie, and still haven't seen it. The book felt slow while I read it, but I can't shake it. Post-WW II Irish immigration to the US.

In the YA section (I insist that there's a lot of great writing going unrecognized in the YA section): **The Truth Commission**, by Susan Juby; **Reality Boy**, by A. S. King;

and **Whirligig** by Paul Fleischman. All short(ish), all absorbing, all about change, toughness, and triumph.

And in the pop fiction section: **Every Fifteen Minutes**, by Lisa Scottoline (love, betrayal, doctor-patient confidentiality, and the Philadelphia area); and three by JoJo Moyes. I resisted reading her for a long time -- but her name is not her fault. These three to start: **One Plus One** (my favorite); **Me Before You**; and **After You**. Do NOT read **After You** until you have read **Me Before You**. Please.

*Elizabeth Durand, Class of 1976*

**Public Apology: In Which a Man Grapples With a Lifetime of Regret, One Incident at a Time** by Dave Bry. The book itself was just OK but what it really did was make me think back to some of the dumb stuff I did as I grew up and I could relate to some of the feelings and regrets the author relates.

*Ken Emerson, Senior Director of Human Resources Operations and Benefits*

**Season of Fear** - Brian Freeman

Very Timely. It's about an election, for Governor in Florida. Published in 2014, it's a Political Suspense Novel. Paralleling this election.

**Under the Tuscan Sun** - Frances Mayes

Reading this made me want to go to Italy. Movie from the book is good, but the book is better.

**Ramanov Prophecy** - Steve Berry

**The Templar Legacy** - Steve Berry

You can't go wrong with the fast action pace of Steve Berry's books.

Darkness Rising Series (Trilogy) - Young Adult

**The Gathering, The Calling & The Rising** - Kelly Armstrong

A Fantasy Paranormal Trilogy, set on Vancouver Island. Very fast reading.

**The Last of The Mohicans** - James Fenimore Cooper

A classic good book.

3 Novellas

**Brown Dog, Sunset Limited & The Woman Lit by Fireflies** - Jim Harrison

Each story is so different from the next. It is sad we lost Jim Harrison this year. He was such a good writer.

*Melinda Emerson, ILS-Purchasing, Sales and Accounting Specialist*

This hasn't been an adventurous reading year for me, but I do have cookbooks I can recommend!

**The Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking**, by Marcella Hazan

This book may look intimidating, but it has many very simple, delicious recipes.

This is one of my go-to books when I want something easy and wonderful.

**Afghan Food and Cookery**, by Noshe Djan

Reliably scrumptious.

*Carla Essenberg, Assistant Professor of Biology*

**The One-in-a-Million Boy** by Monica Wood. By a Maine author that I'm sure lots of people have already read.

*Paul Farnsworth, Senior Project Manager/Facility Services*

Rob Farnsworth suggests spending time with the poetry of C.K. Williams, brilliant American poet who died recently.

*Robert Farnsworth, Senior Lecturer in English*

Brad Gooch, **Smash Cut**

*Sylvia Federico, Associate Professor of English*

**How to Cook a Moose** - A love song to the state of Maine and food- two of my favorite things.

**Kitchens of the Great Midwest** - Another one about food; this one funny, poignant.

**All The Light We Cannot See**- Beautiful (a great audiobook option as well!)

*Kristy Gagne, Coordinator of Residence Life and Housing*

I recommend **The Martian** by Andy Weir. If you saw the movie and liked it, then you won't need to wait for a sequel. Astronaut Mark Watney has to use science in more life threatening situations that didn't make it into the movie. While the book is very similar to the movie, including a lot of the dialogue, there are differences and additional details that keep it interesting. If you haven't seen the movie, then it is fun to read it for either the survival adventure story of being alone many tens of millions of miles from home or the science of how hard it is to get to and survive on Mars.

*Bruce Hall, ILS-Network Administrator*

Angela Flournoy, **The Turner House**. It's odd to recommend a book that I have only read the first few pages of, but my wife, who reads more and more critically than I do, really enjoyed its exploration of age, family, and the presence of the past. I can't wait to start my summer with this book.

*Joe Hall, Associate Professor of History*

Fans of short stories should consider giving Mia Alvar's **In the Country** a try. It recently won the PEN/Bingham Award for Debut Fiction. A Filipino, raised in the Philippines, Bahrain and the U.S., she writes stories populated with Filipino characters from across society, most of whom have left their country to make a living or survive. The writing is lovely, and layers of detail and insight ignite plots, characters, settings and events. Next up for me are more stories, this time with sparse prose, in **A Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories** by Lucia Berlin, who died more than a decade ago.

*Judy Head, Formerly in the Dean of the Faculty's Office*

Charles G. Mann: **1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus**. A fascinating compilation of evidence of the huge populations of Native Americans who had successfully inhabited the Americas before the arrival of whites, before communicable diseases and other problems reduced populations to the very small numbers of today.

Bernard Cornwell: **Waterloo: The History of four days, Three Armies and Three Battles.** A very readable account for those not into the fine points of military history.

Tom Reiss: **The Orientalist: Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life.** Occasionally the minor flotsam of major historical times is fascinating. Lev Nussimbaum was born in 1905 into a family of Jewish oil well owners in Baku, then part of Russian Azerbaijan. As an adult he recreated himself as Essad Bey, a Muslim prince, and moved to Nazi Berlin, where somehow the Gestapo failed to trace his background. In a life spent a step ahead of many enemies, he lived with layers of deception, writing many books condemning Soviet communism that won him the protection of Goebbels' Ministry of Propaganda.

Viet Thann Nguyen: **The Sympathizer.** Now having won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, this book is part of the rewarding flood of modern Vietnamese fiction and film since the end of Vietnam's five back-to-back wars in the mid-1980's. This first novel from a Vietnamese-American professor in California is narrated by a Viet Cong mole sent to the US with the fleeing South Vietnamese general who had been his commander in Vietnam, to keep track of the former South Vietnamese who maintain their hostility to the new Vietnam.

Rafia Zakaria: **The Upstairs Wife: An Intimate History of Pakistan.** For those interested in South Asia, a fascinating blend of family and national history. Zakaria lays side by side over almost 30 years accounts of an aunt, who is obliged by the Islamic laws of Pakistan to accommodate a second wife her husband takes, with the increasingly tumultuous political and social life of people in Karachi.

Joseph Balkoski: **The Last Roll Call: The 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Victorious.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> volume in a series on the 29th in WWII. With a standing strength of about 14,500, they took 20,000 casualties between D-Day and crossing the Rhine. Very well written.

William H. Tucker '67: **Princeton Radicals of the 1960's, Now and Then.** Full disclosure: Bill Tucker was my roommate at Bates, and we have been good friends since 1965. That said, this is a fascinating book on multiple levels. It starts with an essay on Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) on various campuses, especially the unlikely, conservative, southern-oriented Princeton campus, where Bill did his Ph.D. in psychometrics. Bill brings to life the internal political struggles of SDS, without losing sight of the commitments of those who joined.

The second part of the book is riveting chapter biographies on Bill's fellow SDS members, whom Bill tracked down and interviewed. After all the struggles, some had moved to other worlds, while others found commitments to new versions of the struggles that had attracted them to SDS in the first place. I only wish Bill had done an autobiographical chapter, on his own life's commitment to progressive higher education, with important books on the misuse of social science to support oppressive social policies, and the influence of right-wing funding sources that paid for research supporting their views.

Robert Putnam: **Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis.** Putnam, the renowned Harvard sociologist and author of **Bowling Alone**, returned to his home town of Port Clinton, OH, to start his examination of the chances of success for young people coming of age now, compared to his own childhood in the late 50's.

The book is a painful confirmation of the central theme of Jonathan Kozol's **Savage Inequalities**, that socio-economic class has a far more powerful effect on young people growing up now than 60 years ago. (And an important NPR series that ran over April, 2016 on a similar theme: that the reliance on the local property tax to fund a significant portion of K-12 education has the effect of immorally stacking the deck for all of America's life-long benefits in favor of wealthy communities. )

Arlene Heyman, **Scary Old Sex**. An odd but accurate title for a collection of short stories about how love and desire play out in old age and as death nears. The author is a fine writer, and also a NYC Jewish psychiatrist, with all three of these facets coloring her stories, that are both sad and touching.

Erik Larson, **In the Garden of Beasts**. Larson, known for his **The Devil in the White City**, has found a niche of history writing dealing with social or political disasters. **In the Garden of Beasts** is the account of a principled but inexperienced history professor sent to be the American Ambassador to Nazi Germany in the early 1930's, just as Hitler was taking power. Like many books dealing with the Nazis, it details the lengths to which reasonable people tied themselves in knots trying to find some basis for dealing with a regime that from the outset was led by monsters and psychopaths

*Bill Hiss, Class of 1966, Retiree*

I've started a new series and love it. I got the books from Marsha Graef and since I only just started reading them, I was unable to tell her how much I am enjoying them, sad to say. It's the characters that make a great series, and these are definitely good.

The **Stephanie Plum series** by Janet Evanovich.

Also, **DEWEY** by Vicki Myron (an adorable cat that "adopted" a library

*Joan Houston, Administrative Assistant-Facility Services*

Here are my recs:

1. **The Summer Before the War** - by Helen Simonson. This is by the author of **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand**. It's a delightful, lazy, rainy Sunday afternoon kind of book set in Edwardian England. She's a keen observer of class differences and a delightful chronicler of small town feuds and friendships. There's a twist at the end that I didn't see coming.

2. I found Bryan Stevenson's book **Just Mercy** to be absolutely compelling. It's a memoir by a lawyer who devoted his career to representing prisoners and their families.

*Margaret Imber, Associate Professor of Classical and Medieval Studies*

I would recommend **Seed of Sarah** by Judith Isaacson & maybe since it is short it can be accompanied by the **Memoirs of an Amateur Spy** by her husband, Irving. **Seed of Sarah** was a great read. I have not read Mr. Isaacson's book yet but it should be just as interesting.

**Buddy: How a Rooster Made Me a Family Man**, by Brian McGrory, Bates '84

I have not read it yet but hear it is absolutely funny!

**The Beans of Egypt Maine** by Carolyn Chute

**Skeletons at the Feast** by Chris Bohjalian? I cried reading this one.  
He lives in VT. Wonderful writer, love all his books except *The Double Bind*.  
*Cynthia Jalbert, Administrative Assistant, Leadership Gifts*

**One of Us: The Story of Anders Breivik and the Massacre in Norway** by Åsne Seierstad  
Why? Why? Why? Why would Anders Behring Breivik commit these atrocious crimes? Why would I read about it? Why should you? Read this tome, literary journalism at its best, for the answers.

**Eve Arnold: Magnum Legacy** by Janine Di Giovanni  
Photojournalist Eve Arnold (1912-2012) started out as a 1950s housewife, was the first woman to join Magnum Photo, and emerged as one of the most talented documentarians of her time. Her images of famous and anonymous subjects alike are equally compelling, compassionate, and celebrated. I no longer buy books -- or so I try to tell myself -- but I couldn't let this one get away.  
*Phyllis Graber Jensen, Director of Photography and Video*

I've got a great good read-- Adam Johnson's **The Orphan Master's Son**. A beautifully written, fascinating and brutal tale of life in North Korea inspired, in part, from the accounts of those who have defected.  
*Bev Johnson, Professor of Geology*

I enjoyed Graham Moore's **The Sherlockian** (2010). Murder mystery and literary intrigue. First rate!  
*Michael Jones, Professor of History*

**Tsar of Love and Techno: stories** by Anthony Marra  
Though they can be read as individual short stories, these interwoven tales all circle back round to the first story of a 1930's Soviet censor. A bit bleak at times, but marvelously written.

**Bluebird Effect: uncommon bonds with common birds** by Julie Zinkefoose  
For anyone who enjoys birds, whether a birder or not, this book is a real eye opener to the individual characteristics of birds that are rehabilitated for eventual release into the wild. Wonderfully written and beautifully illustrated by the author.

**Wolf Hall** by Hilary Mantel as an audiobook read by Simon Slater.  
Even if you've see the well-done BBC production, the book is so much better and have it read to you by such an expert actor/reader as Simon Slater it is a delightful intrigue.

*Laura Juraska, Associate College Librarian for Research Services*

Here are a couple of fiction titles I've enjoyed as leisure reading, and a couple non-fiction titles I've enjoyed as sociological reading this year (although, of course, even the leisure reading is full of sociological insight). On the fiction side, I recommend **The Buried Giant**, by Kazuo Ishiguro, and **One in a Million Boy**, by our first-year common reading author of a few years back, Monica Wood. Though very different

from each other in many ways, both books offer intriguing ruminations on memory, love, and the complexities of human connection. On the non-fiction side, I've been reading a lot about family policy and poverty in the US, and I recommend two books on that topic that are both written in a lively and engaging way: **\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America**, by Kathy Edin and Luke Shaefer, and **Cut Adrift: Families in Insecure Times**, by Marianne Cooper.

*Emily Kane, Professor of Sociology*

### **Devil in a White City Thunderstruck**

anything else by Erik Larson

Erik Larson is extremely well written. He writes entirely non-fiction, which allows the reader to learn some interesting historical facts, but at the same time they're written in the style of a mystery novel that will satisfy those who enjoy suspense/thriller/standard murder mysteries.

*Jeff Kazin, Library Assistant-Public Services*

Coming out of the 6-month fog after having a newborn, I sought something substantial to read to ease back into my most treasured and coveted hobby. On my way home from work one night, I heard this story on NPR and for some reason, was captivated enough to immediately buy the first Neapolitan novel.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/09/01/436289199/in-new-neapolitan-novel-fans-seek-clues-about-mysterious-authors-past>

Thus began for me an over 1700 page, 4 book, five month journey into the grittiest that Italy has to offer; following two very different girls growing up together in post-war Naples of the 1950's all the way to almost present day. To call this journey a slog is accurate, however, not in a bad way. These books take commitment and effort. Effort in keeping the stories straight, effort in remembering who's who, and effort in remembering enough about the previous books to understand what's happening in the current one. As I approached the last few pages of the fourth and final book, I felt sadness that it was the end of me peering into the lives of Lila and Elena and the diverse cast of characters these books portrayed. But as journeys go, this one was well worth the time, the effort, and the slog.

The Neapolitan Quartet by Elena Ferrante are:

**My Brilliant Friend (Book 1)**

**The Story of a New Name (Book 2)**

**Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay (Book 3)**

**The Story of the Lost Child (Book 4)**

*Alison Keegan, Admin. Assistant/Dean of the Faculty's Office, Supervisor of AAS*

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini

and for fun... **Bossypants** by Tina Fey

*Brittany Longsdorf, Multifaith Chaplain*

Two books I've really enjoyed this year:

**Wild** by Cheryl Strayed

**The Wild Places** by Robert Macfarlane

Both great reads that take you out of your armchair ... far, far beyond! Both go well in small portions.

*Rebecca Lovett, Assistant Manager-Bates College Store*

Coates, Ta-Nehisi: **Between the World and Me**

Fitzgerald, Penelope: **The Beginning of Spring**

Ferrante, Elena: anything in the Neapolitan series

**Here**, McGuire

*Kathy Low, Professor of Psychology/Associate Dean of the Faculty*

**The Chess Queen Enigma** – A Stoker & Holmes novel, by Colleen Gleason

This recently released book is listed as a Young Readers category, but I found it entertaining and a good read for lunchtime or beach time relaxation. The story takes place in late-19<sup>th</sup> century England and follows the adventures of two young ladies, Evaline Stoker and Mina Holmes, members of the well-known families of Bram Stoker and Sherlock Holmes, as they work together to solve a mystery of a missing chess piece. The story includes intrigue and danger as Evaline fights off vampire attacks and Mina unravels various clues to solve the mystery and thwart an international crisis between England and Betrovia.

**Long Time Coming**, by Edie Claire

The story of a young woman returning to her home town in Kentucky to help her aging parents and how she had to come to terms with the tragic death of her best friend. The story is a romance mixed with a bit of supernatural interactions. I liked the story because it presented the main character as an empowered woman who tried to maintain her independence as she adjusted to life as a daughter/care-giver.

**The Bette Davis Club**, by Jane Lotter

Great road trip story! Imagine being a groom, jilted at the altar and having to drive cross-country in an antique car with your missing bride's aunt in search of your missing bride. During their journey from southern California to Chicago and on to New York City, the two strangers find themselves in some unusual situations and ultimately discover new meaning for their lives. No spoilers here – read the book!

**The Wedding Dress**, by Rachel Hauck

I enjoyed the book, deservedly named “Inspirational Novel of the Year” by *Romantic Times*, because of the intrigue created as the story described the lives of two women separated by nearly a century. As the mystery surrounding a wedding dress found in a locked trunk evolves, two more women become part of the story as recipients and wearers of the special dress created in 1912. The book was a well-written romance novel that kept me reading way past my bedtime several times and had me wanting more when I reached the final page.

*Monica McCusker, Office Coordinator, Bates College Store*

**Istanbul Passage**, Joseph Kanon

Spy thriller set in post-war Istanbul

**The Water is Wide**, Pat Conroy

Memoir of Pat Conroy's teaching experience on Yamacraw Island, South Carolina

**The Last Train to Zona Verde**, Paul Theroux

Theroux revisits South Africa, Namibia and Angola to discover how he and this part of Africa have changed

**The Martian**, Andy Weir

"A mission to Mars. A freak accident. One man's struggle to survive."

*David McDonough, Director-Bates Career Development Center*

A couple of good books I have read this past year:

**The Martian** - Andy Weir (definitely better than the film adaptation)

**Live by Night** - Dennis Lehane (film version coming out soon)

**The Last Four Days of Paddy Buckley** - Jeremy Massey (great dark comedy)

*Richard McNeil '10, Bates Gift Officer, Office of College Advancement*

**The One in a Million Boy** by Monica Wood (my favorite local author!)

From her website - *The One-in-a-Million Boy* revolves around a friendship between a 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant woman and an 11-year-old Boy Scout obsessed with Guinness world records. For seven Saturdays, the boy has arrived promptly to do Ona Vitkus's yard chores, record her life story for a fifth-grade school project, and talk her into gunning for the record of Oldest Licensed Driver. On page two, the reader discovers that the boy has recently died. In his place, on the tenth Saturday, the boy's father reluctantly shows up to complete his son's good deed. A professional guitar player, Quinn was an absent father who was a little afraid of his sweet, strange son. Through Quinn's own friendship with Ona, the boy returns to life in ways that offer unexpected detours to people who believed they were through with second chances.

**One Summer: America, 1927** by Bill Bryson

From the website: Bill Bryson documents the "most extraordinary summer" of 1927, beginning with Charles Lindbergh's successful flight across the Atlantic. Even though we know many of these stories--Lindbergh's flight, Babe Ruth's 60-homerun season, the Mississippi River flood, Al Capone's bullet-ridden reign over Chicago--in Bryson's hands, and in the context of one amazing summer of twentieth-century ingenuity and accomplishment, they feel fresh, lively, and just plain fun.

**The Crossing Place** by Elly Griffiths

For all the mystery writers out there, this is the introductory novel to forensic anthropologist Ruth Galloway and a local detective Harry Nelson as they solve a local - and an ancient - crime. I enjoyed the series - be sure to start with this book.

*Mary Main, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources and Environmental Health and Safety*

**The Martian**, Andy Weir: Not a book I would have chosen off the shelf (and that's why I love Book Club!). It had me from page 2, and I couldn't put it down. In short, an astronaut is stranded on Mars. Then what? "Here's to the 'steely eyed missile men,'" is all I can say, in space and in life. Read the book first, then see the movie, which is also enthralling but leaves out some of the best parts.

A trip to Iceland is imminent this June, and as I started planning, our Greene Librarian introduced me to Arnaldur Indridason's series about Icelandic detective

Erlendur with **Reykjavik Nights**. Of course I had to go back and read the whole series, most recently finishing **Into Oblivion**, one of the best. Aptly described by one reviewer as "Nordic noir."

**River Thieves**, Michael Crummey. Set in the early 19th century, this historical novel is the story of European fishers and trappers settling in Newfoundland and their impact on the land and last remaining Beothuk people. It's a story seldom heard, written from various perspectives, and powerfully told.

**Answers to Questions Nobody was Askin,** Tim Sample. This was a gift when I ended my term as president of the Androscoggin Land Trust. Someone thought I'd have time to read more...but in small bites. As always, Tim Sample's pithy small bites are funny, engaging, and have a twist. The best? For me it was the title essay, where he discusses "improvements" "Oh joy! Just what this world really needs, a car you don't even have to drive....why it's only a matter of time before some genius develops the meal you don't have to eat. How about the thought you don't have to think? Carried to its logical conclusion, I suppose this techno-depravity will eventually culminate in the life you don't have to live--surely the ultimate answer to a question nobody was asking."

Recently, however, my reading (and waking) hours have been consumed by the best book ever: the **Bates '66 50th Reunion Yearbook**, thanks to Pris Clark '66, Sue Wagg Dye '66, and many classmates who shared their life experiences. I am fascinated with the people the notorious Class of 1966 seniors have become in the past 50 years. There's also a bit of regret--that I didn't get to know enough of them in college, and keep in touch with more of them, better, afterward. I guess that's what Reunions are for...trying to make up for that.

*Judy Marden '66, Bates Retiree and Advisor, Bates Outing Club*

I assume that others have recommended the Ferrante's Neapolitan novels, so I'll add this slim volume.

**The Odd Woman and the City: A Memoir** by Vivian Gornick

An unflinching yet lyrical memoir that is a meditation on New York city, walking, friendship, solitude, professional success, chance encounters, and the ways in which our youth (mothers, neighborhoods, social world) shape our identity.

*Lisa Maurizio, Professor of Classical and Medieval Studies*

This past fall I read **Man Up** by Carlos Andrés Gomez and loved it! I also recommend checking out his poetry - his talent for spoken word is amazing.

*Hannah Miller, Academic Administrative Assistant*

**The Invention of Nature**, Andrea Wulf

*Christine Murray, Social Science Librarian*

Dante's **The Inferno** - Pense's poetic translation. If you've never read the Inferno, try reading Pense's version aloud. It's a treat.

Kate Atkinson's **When Will There Be Good News**. A complex and very readable mystery.

Goodwin's **Team of Rivals** - Slow, but reveals 1850s-1860's parallels to current

times. A leisurely summer read.

*Michael Murray, Professor of Economics*

I would like to suggest **The Summer Before the War** by Helen Simonson.

*Suzy Nattress, Electronic Access System Manager*

Bernardine Evaristo, **Blonde Roots**. So what happens if the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade had been reversed and Africans had enslaved Europeans in the New World? It's a satire. Loved her earlier work **Mr. Loverman** about a thirty-year love affair between two Caribbean gents in London.

Kaitlin Greenidge, **We Love You, Charlie Freeman**. A Massachusetts institute with a past in white supremacist research hires an African American family to teach sign language to a chimpanzee. It's another satire.

Paul Beatty. **The Sellout**. Yet, another satire about race and racism. National Book Critics Circle Award (2016).

William V. Madison, **Madelin Kahn: Being the Music; A Life**. Biography of one of the screen's brilliant comic actors of the 1970s. Remember her scene-stealing moments in *Blazing Saddles*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Paper Moon*, and *What's Up, Doc?*

Gail Lumet Buckley, **The Black Calhouns: From Civil War to Civil Rights With One African American Family**. Lena Horne's daughter writes a followup to her excellent 1986 **The Hornes: An American Family**.

Randy Roberts, **Blood Brothers: The Fatal Friendship Between Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X**. A favorite boxing sportswriter (excellent bios of Joe Louis and Jack Johnson) deals with two 1960s icons.

Patricia Bell-Scott. **The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice**. Murray was a brilliant African American lawyer and later a pioneer religious cleric.

Margo Jefferson. **Negroland: A Memoir**. Bio about growing up black and elite in Post World War II Chicago by an excellent theater and arts critic. National Book Critics Circle Award (2016)

*Charles Nero, Professor of Rhetoric, American Cultural Studies*

Currently reading **Eligible** by Curtis Sittenfeld, and it is pitch-perfect Jane Austen in modern-day Cincinnati.

For readers of a certain age, **Our Souls at Night** by Kent Haruf is pleasing and infuriating at once.

If the present political situation has you up at night, and you like science fiction, try **The Three-Body Problem** by Ken Liu.

*Georgia Nigro, Professor of Psychology*

**Last Hundred Years Trilogy** by the great Jane Smiley tells the story of one Iowa family through from 1920 to 2020. Read them in chronological order: **Some Luck**, **Early Warning**, and **Golden Age**. The books are part family saga, covering four or five generations; part U.S. history lesson, as they chronicle America in the last century; and part *Forrest Gump*, in that these people uncannily manage to find themselves in the middle of key events. I did find the family trees at the front of each

book to be essential as it is sometimes hard to keep track of this clan, especially with their plain Iowa names.

**All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr. I think appeared a lot on last year's reading list. The stories of a heroic blind French girl, and orphan turned Hitler Youth with a conscience, and a German gemologist after a lifesaving rock run parallel across war-torn landscapes, until they don't. Evocative recreations of the siege of Saint Malo make you realize that it is amazing that Europe ever moved forward after World War II.

**The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance**, by Edmund de Waal, a renowned ceramist but also an amazing writer. De Waal inherited a large collection of tiny Japanese netsuke and began to study their provenance, in the process unearthing the history of his storied family, a Jewish banking dynasty in Vienna and Paris. He recounts the rise of this refined family of collectors and chronicles what happened to them and their collections through the tragic 20th century. De Waal wonders who held these little carved figures, why they mattered so much to his family members, and, with the eye of a ceramic artist, "what space they displaced."

*Kerry O'Brien, Assistant Dean of the Faculty*

I'm going to recommend the **Fablehaven** series by Brandon Mull. It's a fun romp through magical creatures and mysteries with some interesting characters. I picked up the first book on a whim from the library (judging it by its cover, I'm sure) and promptly finished the full series within a month or so.

*Zane Omohundro, College Store Stock Assistant*

Jane Smiley: **Early Warning , Some Luck , Golden Age**

I received the 3rd in her "hundred-year trilogy" as a gift for Christmas, and wanted to read the first two before. Enjoyable.

I used to read Ellen Gilchrist and after a long hiatus have recently picked up and read :

**Nora Jane : a life in stories** (2005). I'm reading **A Dangerous Age** (novel) (2008), and will probably also read **Acts of God** (stories) (2014). I still love her writing.

If one likes police procedurals, I recommend **Archer Mayer's Joe Gunter series** (<http://archermayor.com>), although I've only read the first two (he's up to 26).

Also, **Tana French's Dublin Murder Squad series**

(<https://www.goodreads.com/series/51639-dublin-murder-squad>) of which I've read three. Also, Isabelle Allende just came out with a new novel: **Japanese**

**Lover** (2016) Also, a new English translation of her 1987 **Eva Luna: a novel**; trans by Margaret Sayers Peden.

*Carole Parker, Ladd Library Acquisitions*

**No Mud, No Lotus**

**The Art of Transforming Suffering** by Thich Nhat Hanh

*Nicole Pelonzi, Multifaith Chaplaincy Program Coordinator*

I'm currently reading Robert Massie's **Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman**

and am enjoying it very much. Maybe it's Massie's accessible style, but it could also be Catherine's life itself that reads like a suspenseful novel. This is an incredible story about how an obscure Prussian girl rises to become one of the most brilliant and powerful monarchs of her age. (And Empress Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the Great, is no less fascinating.) A really engaging read.

*Sonja Pieck, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies*

This suggestion would be for any Bates students who might be heading out to find wide open spaces in the west (as I did post college!). I loved reading **Lonesome Dove**; it's a bit hefty, but it was a worthwhile read for me. I felt that it just captured the spirit of the west!

*Liz Pinnie, Assistant Director of Admission*

I'm just going to list a few titles that I've read in the past 6 months, suggested by past Good Reads submitters. Since I am newly "retired," these were all reads that *mostly* entertained:

Louise Penney-**Nature of the Beast**. Such engaging mysteries this woman writes! Brown-**The Boys in the Boat**. What a great story of determination against significant odds. And my first electronic read!

Ivan Doig-**The Last Bus to Wisdom**. Doig is a compelling storyteller.

At Martin Andrucki's suggestion last year, I tried Maeve Binchy, reading **A Week in Winter** and **Whitethorn Wood**. Big-hearted tales, and they end well which I seemed to need especially this spring.

And finally, I have Book 4 of the **Neapolitan series** by Elena Ferrante still to read. The first three in the series were terrific. Thank you, Ali Keegan, for getting me hooked.

And I am eagerly anticipating Liz Strout's **My Name is Lucy Barton** along with Monica Wood's **The One in a Million Boy**.

*Sarah Potter, Bookstore Retiree*

Penelope Lively, **Consequences** (2008). A novel tracing three generations of women from WW II to recent times, mostly in London. Nicely written as each woman makes different decisions on how they want to live their lives. You never know where the story is going, but it's always interesting. Fun to read as we traveled in England last year.

Edwin Way Teale, **North with the Spring** (1951). The book that got me hooked on birds when I first read it in 1968 with Peterson's Field Guide next to me. Teale travels 17,000 miles with his wife Nellie from Florida (first day of spring) meandering northward in the eastern United States arriving in New Hampshire's Mt. Washington on June 21st. I'd forgotten how much he also wrote about flowers. This may be the first time I've read a book from cover to cover a second time.

David McCullough, **The Wright Brothers** (2015). They were amazing and deserve every accolade they received. Smart, excellent mechanics, disciplined, hard working, and didn't just go once to Kitty Hawk in 1903. For several years they kept improving their designs, from gliders to motorized planes, until they really had something that would reliably fly. And, of course, McCullough's writing keeps the

Wright family story and that of the development of airplane moving forward and interesting.

*Jack Pribram, Professor Emeritus of Physics*

I recommend Rebecca Scherm's 2015 novel **Unbecoming**, a bit of a thriller about making objects precious and relationships perverse, in all the best and worst senses of all of those terms.

*Erica Rand, Whitehouse Professor of Art and Visual Culture and of Women and Gender Studies*

### **The Code Book: Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum**

**Cryptography** by Simon Singh. Heavy on the math but Mr. Singh is a great story teller rendering much of the math involved in encryption accessible. A particularly great chapter on the breaking of the Nazi Enigma machine.

**Deal Breaker** by Harlan Coben: light, quick murder mystery with some fun comic dialogue.

*John Rasmussen, Energy Manager*

Okay, here are a few I enjoyed this year, some of which were probably drawn to my attention by prior years' Good Reads.

**A Land More Kind than Home** - In this haunting debut novel, Wiley Cash's story of two young brothers trying to navigate the religious wilds and family cruelties of the rural South broke my heart.

Laila Lalami, **The Moor's Account** - Storytelling is a portal to survival and salvation in this riveting account of cultural contact, Old World tragedy, and New World comeuppance. Inspired by a single mention, in a travelogue of the Spanish conquest of Florida, of "an Arab negro from Azamor," Lalami conjures this full-bodied account of America's first black explorer. An amazing feat of narrative imagination and skill.

**Station Eleven** by Emily St. John Mandel is at the same time an edgy, post-apocalyptic page-turner, a quirky caress of days gone by, and a testament to the humanizing impact of the arts.

Katherine Boo, **Behind the Beautiful Forevers** - I cannot stop thinking about this book -- the heart-rending, infuriating ravages of global capitalism; the exquisitely-narrated stories of the children and families of a Mumbai slum; the Indian water crisis. . . There is so much here to be moved by.

*Darby Ray, Director-Harvard Center for Community Partnerships*

Here is my favorite book from this past year.

**The Fields of Home**, by Ralph Moody

I stumbled upon this book as it arrived at Ladd for the Featured Works display. The cover art work drew my eye and then I realized the story was set on a farm near Lewiston in 1912. As I was reading I was envisioning what my grandparents lives were like during that time period. I enjoyed the characters and story line so much that I purchased the first in book in the series which is titled: **Little Britches: Father and I Were Ranchers**. The entire series will eventually end up on the Bates Kindles. Here is Amazon's description of **Little Britches**.

Ralph Moody was eight years old in 1906 when his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Through his eyes we experience the pleasures and perils of ranching there early in the twentieth century. Auctions and roundups, family picnics, irrigation wars, tornadoes and wind storms give authentic color to *Little Britches*. So do adventures, wonderfully told, that equip Ralph to take his father's place when it becomes necessary.

*Julie Retelle, Assistant College Librarian for Access Services*

**The Sixth Extinction** by Elizabeth Colbert

*Michael Retelle, Professor of Geology*

**Inside the O'Briens**, by the college's very own Lisa Genova... powerful story about a family struggling with Huntington's Disease. Great character development, fun family dynamics throughout and written in a very smart manner. I could not put it down. As a parent, this made me stop and think about all the things I could be passing along to my children.

*Jennifer Richard, Assistant VP for College Advancement*

Here is the Boston Alumnae Book Club's list of reads this "school year".

**Life After Life** by Jill McCorkle (NOT the Kate Atkinson one)

**Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?** by Roz Chast

**Trapped Under the Sea** by Neil Swidey

**We Are Not Ourselves** by Matthew Thomas

**The Wright Brothers** by David McCullough

**The Baker's Daughter** by Sarah McCoy

**What She Left Behind** by Ellen Marie Wiseman

**The Lowland** by Jhumpa Lahiri

Thanks for including us in your list.

Not all of them were universally enjoyed by everyone but overall it's been a good year. Sometimes we have a better discussion when we don't like the book!

Personally, I really enjoyed Nathan Englander's collection of short stories: **What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank**

*Lisa Romeo/Boston Bates Book Club*

I haven't read it (on my list...) but everyone who has raves about it: **The Boys in the Boat** by Daniel James Brown.

One of my all-time fave's (and probably on the list before): **We Took to the Woods**, Louise Dickinson (Rich).

*Kelsy Ross, Head Women's Soccer Coach*

**Kindred**, by Octavia E. Butler

This book introduced me to Octavia E. Butler and Afrofuturism, which has expanded my mind in ways I hadn't predicted. Kindred is less sci-fi than her other works and is typically described more as "dark fantasy."

from Amazon: "Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin."

**Backyard Foraging: 65 Familiar Plants You Didn't Know You Could Eat**, by Ellen Zachos

Thanks to this book I now know we can eat the Japanese Knotweed that grows like crazy in our side yard (strawberry knotweed pie is delicious!). Also helped me identify 10 other edibles growing on our property. So exciting!

from Amazon: "There's food growing everywhere! You'll be amazed by how many of the plants you see each day are actually nutritious edibles. Ideal for first-time foragers, this book features 70 edible weeds, flowers, mushrooms, and ornamental plants typically found in urban and suburban neighborhoods. Full-color photographs make identification easy, while tips on common plant locations, pesticides, pollution, and dangerous flora make foraging as safe and simple as stepping into your own backyard."

*Ree Russell, Administrative Coordinator-Writing at Bates*

**The Aesthetic Brain** by Anjan Chatterjee

*Bronwyn Sale, Lecturer in Education*

I read soooo much this winter, much by non- U.S. authors or placed in other countries.

**Size of the World** by Joan Silber. Several expats speak about what brought them to various Asian countries. The different voices are great and there is a connection among some of them by the end. Lovely writing.

**Destiny** by Carl Howe Hansen (Maine author) about an eco-disaster. Placed in Maine and Washington, D.C. A wooden sailboat named Destiny is important in potential survival.

**Waiting for Snow in Cuba** by Carlos Eire. "Confessions of a Cuban Boy" about his privileged life pre-Castro and life in U.S. This one was hard to get into because of the writing but I enjoyed it from about halfway to the end. He became a more sympathetic character for me.

**Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness** by Alexandra Fuller who also authored **Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight** about her parents surviving and thriving in Africa as farmers during apartheid.

A bunch of John Grisham mysteries - I've never really enjoyed mysteries (real life is mysterious enough) but have enjoyed these mostly set in my southern homeland region. The ones I've read are a real expose' of the prison system and a lot of racism shows up in many of his books (duh, the South, racism.)

*Nancy Salmon, Bates Retiree*

**The Great Turning : From Empire to Earth Community** / David C. Korten.  
Korten does a marvelous job, clearly laying out the frame in which "civilized" humans live. Once seeing this frame--the story that shapes what we believe about our nature, our society, and our relationships--we can walk away from it. We can live a new story, one that aligns with our values. In this time of climate change, peak oil, and the accompanying collapse of food production, this book shows how we can create lives and communities aligned with Earth and its processes.

**Waking up White : and finding myself in the story of race** / Debby Irving  
An engrossing story of one woman's experience as she started to learn of the racism built into United States institutions and how her perspectives and unacknowledged beliefs were hindering her relationships and interactions.

**Move into Life** / Anat Baniel

Is there some diminished capability, some ache or pain that you attribute to "getting old"? Anat Baniel combines experiences from clinical psychology and movement therapy with knowledge from neuroscience to show how attention to movement can give the brain new information to change habitual patterns. Laid out in nine essentials that can be easily incorporated throughout the day.

*Sharon Saunders, Assoc. College Librarian for Systems and Bibliographic Services*

My recommendations for this year are the following:

1. **The Snoring Bird** by Bernd Heinrich
  2. **Mosquitoland** by David Arnold
  3. **The Last Season** by Eric Blehm
  4. **Kingbird Highway** by Kenn Kaufman
- 5 and 6- and I will put them up again, because I am worried that the screen adaptations won't do them justice: **Good Omens** by Gaiman and Pratchett and **American Gods** by Gaiman.

*Paula Schlax, Professor of Chemistry*

I am only part of the way through, but I am loving: **The Girl With All The Gifts** and, I am not sure if it is in print anymore, but **Room for One More** was wonderful, especially as a new parent!

*Johie Farrar Seltzer, Interim Director of Admission*

H.P. Lovecraft created the Copernican Revolution of the horror genre, recasting the supernatural as esoteric alien science. Although his creepy writing is singularly stylized and full of the bigotry one might expect in early 20th century literature, it remains essential reading for anyone seeking to a. have a great, spooky read, and/or b. gain insight into the lineage of influence in horror and science fiction literature and film. He led a group of other writers including Robert E. Howard (of Conan fame), and screenplay writer Robert Bloch (*Psycho*). Lovecraft's novellas, **At the Mountains of Madness** and **The Call of Cthulhu**, his longest work and most recognizable works, respectively, and are part of an oeuvre that directly- or indirectly inspired a multitude of films (*Alien, Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Re-*

animator), music, board and card games, radio plays, comic books and graphic novels, and body art. Read his stories, and New England will never seem quite the same.

***The Call of Cthulhu and Other Weird Stories*** (Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics) Paperback – October 1, 1999 by Howard Phillips Lovecraft (Author), S. T. Joshi (Editor)

**At the Mountains of Madness: and Other Weird Tales** Paperback – July 17, 2009 by H.P. Lovecraft (Author), Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock (Introduction)

*Anthony Shostak, Education Curator-Museum of Art*

**The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East** by Sandy Tolan.

This is an amazing book about the Israeli-Palstinian conflict. It's based on a segment the author did for Fresh Air in 1998, the story of a 20-something Palestinian, Bashir, who, during a calm before the next storm, was able to make a visit to his ancestral home in Palestine/Israel. Surprisingly, he was welcomed in (unlike his cousins who had less positive experiences) by Dalia, daughter of Holocaust survivors, who had been living in the home he was born in, for 20 years. Thus begins a 35-year friendship that is repeatedly tested by the ongoing conflict between their two nations. The author did a thorough job of researching these events from many sides, and provides no easy answers. But there is a very human face on these events that both underlines the tragedy, and still gives hope for redemption and reconciliation, if not now, in future generations. It's also extremely well written.

*Bonnie Shulman, Professor Emerita of Mathematics*

**Americanah** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Rachel Cusk, **Outline**

*Clayton Spencer, President*

**Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement**, John Lewis (memoir of this year's commencement speaker)

*Stacy Smith, Lecturer in Education*

**Liveship Traders Trilogy by Robin Hobb** - Excellent fantasy trilogy and good entry point into the many books Robin Hobb has written in this world.

<https://amzn.com/B000FC0XV4>

**Dresden Files Series by Jim Butcher** - Fantasy series set in modern-day Chicago. Fun, easy reading series.

<http://amzn.com/0451457811>

**Red Rising by Pierce Brown** - First book in an engaging and fun dystopian, sci-fi trilogy.

<http://amzn.com/034553980X>

**Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America by Jill Leovy** - Powerful non-fiction work discussing the epidemic of black-on-black homicide in America and how it might be stopped.

<http://amzn.com/0385529996>

**Hologram for the King by Dave Eggers** - A quirky and somewhat odd story about a struggling, middle-aged man trying to sell a piece of technology the king of Saudi Arabia. A bit strange, but enjoyable.

<http://amzn.com/0307947513>

**The Nine by Jeffrey Toobin** - I'm a Supreme Court nerd. If you are as well, you will enjoy this exploration of the court with a particular focus on the modern era through the start of the Roberts court.

<http://amzn.com/1400096790>

**Redshirts by John Scalzi** - A fairly humorous satirical novel poking fun at the Star Trek universe.

<http://amzn.com/0765334798>

*Carl Steidel, Associate Dean of Students*

Fiction: **Margaret the First**, Danielle Dutton; **The Wallcreeper**, Nell Zink

Poetry: **The Empty Form Goes All the Way to Heaven**, Brian Teare

*Robert Strong, Lecturer in English, Director of National Fellowships*

Alec Guinness, **My Name Escapes Me**

At 81, Sir Alec recounts some memorable personalities and events in his long career, with a quirky undertone to remind us all that our time is coming.

Shannon Brownlee, **Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine is Making Us Sicker and Poorer**

Brownlee offers a heavily documented account of the fraud and waste in the American medical system. Thousands of lives are lost or damaged by faulty testing and unnecessary treatment. And all this is fed by a cabal of physicians, hospitals, and drug manufacturers.

Fareed Zakaria, **In Defense of a Liberal Education**

Zakaria reminds us that, at base, the liberal arts aim to teach us how to think, speak, and write correctly and persuasively, and that these skills transcend the more career-oriented programs that have come to dominate much of higher education today. Graduates from the latter may soon find themselves "fit in an unfit fitness."

Yuval Noah Harari, **Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind**

Harari begins by describing Sapiens as "an insignificant animal minding its own business in a corner of Africa," and chronicles the advance of that animal to the present through a process of chance, good luck, and development of a shared ability to believe in fictions.

Daniel Silva, **The Confessor**

This is another of Silva's mysteries involving the Israeli intelligence agent and art restorer, Gabriel Allon. It's a closely written and complex novel about efforts to discover (and to conceal) the part played by Pius XII in the Holocaust.

Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik, **Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsberg**

Arguably the most interesting justice on the United States Supreme Court since Harry Blackmun, is here portrayed in what could best be described as both a

biography and a scrapbook. There's even a photograph of RBG riding an elephant with (*mirabile dictu*) Antonin Scalia.

Richard Morris, **The Last Sorcerers: The Path from Alchemy to the Periodic Table**

Morris recounts the fits and starts of modern chemistry in the ancient practice of alchemy. It seems much of the effort involved bizarre attempts to manufacture gold. For example, because of its golden color, Hennig Brandt is said to have boiled down gallons of human urine to produce gold. Regretfully, he only managed to discover phosphorus. *Tant pis*.

Sherry Turkle, **Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less From Each Other**

A spring day, a gentle breeze, and no one sees, smells, or feels a thing. Faces glued to the tiny phosphorescence of the cell phone, they trudge alone together. Turkle writes of the poverty of the virtual self as it minimally interacts with the virtual other.

Richard A. Posner, **Divergent Paths: The Academy and the Judiciary**

Judge Posner writes of the gulf between the judiciary in America and academia in the form of the law schools. Judges in America occupy a system born out of a jurisprudence of practitioners, and far less influenced by legal academics than in continental legal systems. Legal academics, on the other hand, divorced from practice, increasingly occupy the abstruse realms of legal theory. Hence, neither adequately informs the other.

Lawrence Goldstone & Nancy Goldstone, **Used and Rare: Travels in the Book World**

Finding the charms of retirement fading, the authors embark on a quest for second-hand books. The firm limit of twenty dollars each soon evaporates, and they fall headlong into the world of book sellers, book collectors, and the science of book identification and evaluation, and the inevitable problem – where to put them all.

Edgar W. Smith, **Profile by Gaslight: An Irregular Reader About the Private Life of Sherlock Holmes**

Zach Dundas, **The Great Detective: The Amazing Rise and Immortal Life of Sherlock Holmes**

This is a brace of books of Holmesian scholarship. The first is a classic in which a series of well-known mystery writers each in turn takes up one or more arcane elements of the Sherlockian canon. The second is a very recent work, engagingly written and a full and detailed analysis of the tales in their historical settings. It also recounts the intricate relationships between the characters in the stories and the biography of Arthur Conan Doyle.

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

The “Thunderbolt Kid” is the heroic alternate identity assumed by Bryson as a youngster growing up in the 1950's to ward off the daily annoyances of other children and especially adults. The book is a delightful chronicle of middle-class mid-western life told with characteristic Bryson hilarity. It's even a better read for those born no later than the 1960's.

Jack Lynch, **You Could Look It Up: The Reference Shelf from Ancient Babylon to Wikipedia**

At the last, there is a book about books, reference books, from *Corpus Juris Civilis* to the OED and beyond. Fifty reference books, in related pairs, with their own brief history. If you're into compendia, this one's for you.

Sheila wishes to add to the list **A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman. She insists that Ove, quite the curmudgeon, does not remind her of anyone she knows. The book is charming and like no other she has read. One minute she found herself laughing out loud – the next, in tears. A must read.

*Sawyer Sylvester, Professor Emeritus of Sociology*

**H is for Hawk**, by Helen Macdonald. Memoir by a daughter who, grieving for her father, decides to train a goshawk as part of the healing process. What I especially loved was her homage to T.H. White, also a lover of goshawks (very scary birds).

**Flood of Fire**, by Amitav Ghosh. Final volume of a trilogy about the British-Chinese opium wars. A novel, but I learned a lot about the infamous history of this period.

**Can't and Won't**, by Lydia Davis. A novel, I guess, almost indescribable. Short pieces, partly true, partly made up. The one recounting anxiety about teaching was both funny and painful — it's over the top but funny, painful, and true all at the same time.

**If This is a Man**, by Primo Levi. Reread this when the complete edition of his writing was published last year. The best account of incarceration in Auschwitz that I have ever read. Harrowing, but never sentimental or judgmental.

**My Name is Lucy Barton**, by Liz Strout. One of her best, really needs no recommendation from me.

*Anne Thompson, Professor Emerita of English*

This winter I read Ta-Nehisi Coates's **Between the World and Me**--a tragic, beautiful letter to his son that tries to make sense of racial injustice. This isn't a hopeful read; Coates sees racism as a permanent part of American society and the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown and Eric Garner and Tamir Rice and his own friend, Prince Jones, as products of an American history of slavery and racial exploitation. But it is a call to action. As Coates tells his son, "And still you are called to struggle, not because it assures you victory but because it assures you an honorable and sane life."

*Mara Tieken, Assistant Professor of Education*

I read a lot of very good books in the last year, so for now I'm only recommending the absolute best of them.

Non-Fiction:

Svetlana Alexievich, **Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster**. Brilliantly curated and organized oral history of a horrific event, by a Nobel Prize winning author who earned it on the strength of this work alone. (Though she has much more work, which I would like to read.)

Catherine Bestman, **Making Refuge: Somali Bantu Refugees and Lewiston, Maine**. Yes, the author is a Colby professor, but let's not hold that against her, especially since the informants include many Bates faculty, alumni, and community partners. While reading an ethnography of the town you call home can be at times

disorienting, the book serves fantastically well as a handbook on how to stop "seeing like a state" and start "seeing like a refugee".

Collections of Short Fiction:

Richard Lange, **Sweet Nothing: Stories**. My favorite short story collection of the last year. The stories range in quality from almost-perfect to flawless. Where other writers would be happy to pull off a few great sentences, Lange constructs great paragraphs, then works them into fugal structures that would make J.S. Bach nod in recognition. The final story, "To Ashes," left me gutted.

Novels:

Cixin Liu, **The Three-Body Problem**. Probably the best science fiction novel published in English in 2014. An all-too-rare case of such a novel where the sociology is as rigorous as the physics--and both are rigorous. Also recommended, though not quite as vigorously, is the second novel in the trilogy, **The Dark Forest**. The third is due out later this year.

Kim Stanley Robinson, **Aurora**. Probably the best science fiction novel published in English in 2015. Possibly the best English-language novel of any genre published that year. What do you look for in science fiction? The sublime beauty of Newtonian mechanics? Got it. Metafictional digressions on the fuzzy inadequacy of human language, as told by a collective of artificial intelligences? Got it. A timely exploration of the tenuousness of ecological homeostasis? Plenty of that too, and more. Left me gutted.

*Joseph Tomaras, Director, Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance*

I loved Anthony Doerr, **All the Light We Cannot See**. It is beautifully written and artfully constructed.

*Tom Tracy, Phillips Professor of Religious Studies*

I recently enjoyed **An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth** by Chris Hadfield. He's a retired Canadian astronaut and former commander of the International Space Station.

*Katie Vale, VP of ILS and Librarian*

1. Celeste Ng's **Everything I Never Told You**. A "literary thriller", says the NY Times reviewer, and I agree. It begins this way: "Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet." Then it takes off, with first person accounts of members of the family who, clearly, haven't communicated in any meaningful way with one another ever. Lydia drowned, but how, why, and by whose hand. Thriller. But just as important, the language the author uses is superior: wonderful allusions, descriptions.

2. Jonathan Lee's **High Dive**. This is a novel about the attempted assassination of Margaret Thatcher in Brighton, England, by Irish terrorists. The story is told primarily through three characters: a hesitant Irish terrorist, a key functionary of the hotel that the terrorists have targeted, and the functionary's highly competent daughter. The story is really about the three characters more than about the actual bombing.

3. Anthony Doerr's **All the Light We Cannot See**. I probably recommended this last year. I re-recommend it because it's the best novel I've read in the past half dozen

years.

*Dick Wagner, Professor Emeritus of Psychology*

**Cuckoo's Calling**, by Robert Galbraith (JK Rowling) - When it comes to vivid characters you can't beat JK Rowling. This time she turns her considerable talents to the murder mystery genre. If you enjoy the first book you can continue with the sequels: **The Silkworm** and **Career of Evil**.

*Laura Webb, Gift Planning Administrator*

In no particular order...

**Pacific**, by Simon Winchester. The great travel writer is at it again, with a companion to his book **Atlantic**, from 2010. If you like Winchester's writing, and his ranging far and wide over multiple topics, then pick this one up. You won't be disappointed.

**Ancillary Justice/Ancillary Sword/Ancillary Mercy** (trilogy), by Ann Leckie. Very good sci-fi trilogy that has won multiple awards over the past few years. A nice mix of "hard" sci-fi with character studies and solid world-building.

**Three-Body Problem**, by Cixin Liu. Recent translation of Liu's 2008 novel. First of a trilogy, wherein scientists on Earth discover that we are indeed not alone...

**Ghostwritten**, by David Mitchell. Episodic novel about a variety of loosely-connected characters across the world, and from the 1800s to the present. Mitchell's first novel.

*Pat Webber, Director of Archives and Special Collections*

I'm currently enjoying Barbara Kingsolver's latest novel **Flight Behavior**.

*Beth Whalon, Assistant in Instruction-Biochemistry*

**The Wake**, by Paul Kingsnorth

A "post-apocalyptic" novel set after the Norman invasion of England, language sets this book apart. Written in a hybrid "shadow" language of modern and old English, the novel is a challenging read. But ample rewards await the patient reader.

*Andrew White, Director of Academic and Client Services, ILS*

Readers of earlier editions of Sarah's fine publication will have heard of my dedication to following the antics of Virgil Flowers, investigator for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in southeastern Minnesota. The setting is close to my home in Iowa, though a bit rougher around the edges. This year I've been following William Kent Krueger's creation Corcoran O'Connor, the sheriff (off and on) of Tamarack County, adjacent to the Boundary Waters—what passes for Vacationland to an Iowa boy. Being a "retired gentleman" I don't have as much time to read as I'd like. You'll find out about that when the time comes. I'm about halfway through this list, in order:

**IRON LAKE** (Atria Books, 1998; paper, 2009)

**BOUNDARY WATERS** (Atria Books, 1999; paper, 2009)

**PURGATORY RIDGE** (Atria Books, 2001; paper, 2009)

**BLOOD HOLLOW** (Atria Books, 2004; paper, 2009)

**MERCY FALLS** (Atria Books, 2005; paper, 2009)  
**COPPER RIVER** (Atria Books, 2006; paper, 2009)  
**THUNDER BAY** (Atria Books, 2007; paper, 2009)  
**RED KNIFE** (Atria Books, 2008; paper, 2009)  
**HEAVEN'S KEEP** (Atria Books, 2009; paper, 2010)  
**VERMILION DRIFT** (Atria Books, 2010; paper, 2011)  
**NORTHWEST ANGLE** (Atria Books, 2011; paper, 2012)  
**TRICKSTER'S POINT** (Atria Books, 2012; paper, 2013)  
**TAMARACK COUNTY** (Atria Books, 2013; paper, 2014)  
**WINDIGO ISLAND** (Atria Books, 2014)

Another series of books evoking settings and people I know well. And you thought there's no crime in the wilderness, eh? Keep reading.

*Gene Wiemers, Librarian Emeritus*

Non-fiction

Adam Benforado, **Unfair, The New Science of Criminal Justice**. Exposes poorly understood biases and problems with legal system. A good companion to **The New Jim Crow**.

Daniel Kahneman, **Thinking Fast and Slow**. Very dense, deals a lot with understanding behavior in the face of risk. I especially liked the part about whether we are our experiencing selves or remembering selves.

Jamie Holmes, **Nonsense, the Power of Not Knowing**. Complements Kahneman's Thinking Fast and Slow, but Holmes writes in a livelier and more accessible way.

Anna Lyndsey, **Girl in the Dark**. Memoir re: sanely coping with debilitating illness.

Steinem, Gloria, **My Life on the Road**. Fascinating childhood as well as adult life, with interesting insights.

Fiction

Elizabeth George, **A Banquet of Consequences**. Classic Lindley and Havers, now back on track after the crazy kidnapping in previous book.

John Grisham, **The Confession**. Horrors of the legal system in the south.

Laurie King, **The Beekeeper's Apprentice**. Imagining Sherlock Holmes in retirement with a new protégé.

Frederick Ramsay, **Impulse**. Three parallel unexplained deaths.

Gregory D. Roberts, **Shantaram**. Expats and gangsters in Bombay circa 1980.

William Safire, **Sleeper Spy**. Witty, good characters, many double crosses.

Graeme Simsion, **The Rosie Project**. Hilarious, more than one colleague fits this mold.

Fredrik Sjoberg, **The Fly Trap**. Whimsy, obsession, bugs.

*Anne Williams, Professor Emerita of Economics*

**A Tale for the Time Being** by Ruth Ozeki. "Entwining Japanese language with WWII history, pop culture with Proust, Zen with quantum mechanics, Ozeki alternates between the voices of two women to produce a spellbinding tale." says Oprah.

*Laverne Winn, Bates Retiree*

**My Brilliant Friend**, by Elena Ferrante (is the first of four in a series about family

and relationships in Naples, Italy in the 1950's.)

**The Relic Master**, by Christopher Buckley (a compelling and hilarious adventure featuring a sixteenth-century relic hunter and his best friend, Albrecht Dürer, who conspire to forge the Shroud of Turin)

**Wolf Hall** and **Bring up the Bodies** by Hilary Mantel (Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII, great as audio books if you have along drive this summer!)

**The Wave**, by Susan Casey (about colossal, ship-swallowing waves, and the surfers and scientists who seek them out. Does not sound like a page-turner but it is FASCINATING!)

**All the Light We Cannot See** by Antony Doerr. Amazing book about WWII.

*Rachel Wray, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations*

My recommendation is for the Robert Galbraith (aka J.K Rowling) Novels. The 3 are a series of detective stories about a private eye named Cormoran Strike.

### **The Cuckoo's Calling**

After losing his leg to a land mine in Afghanistan, Cormoran Strike is barely scraping by as a private investigator. Strike is down to one client, and creditors are calling. He has also just broken up with his longtime girlfriend and is living in his office.

Then John Bristow walks through his door with an amazing story: His sister, the legendary supermodel Lula Landry, known to her friends as the Cuckoo, famously fell to her death a few months earlier. The police ruled it a suicide, but John refuses to believe that. The case plunges Strike into the world of multimillionaire beauties, rock-star boyfriends, and desperate designers, and it introduces him to every variety of pleasure, enticement, seduction, and delusion known to man.

### **The Silkworm**

When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, Mrs. Quine just thinks her husband has gone off by himself for a few days--as he has done before--and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home.

But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine's disappearance than his wife realizes. The novelist has just completed a manuscript featuring poisonous pen-portraits of almost everyone he knows. If the novel were to be published, it would ruin lives--meaning that there are a lot of people who might want him silenced.

When Quine is found brutally murdered under bizarre circumstances, it becomes a race against time to understand the motivation of a ruthless killer, a killer unlike any Strike has encountered before...

*and my favorite:*

### **Career of Evil**

is the third in the highly acclaimed series featuring private detective Cormoran Strike and his assistant Robin Ellacott.

When a mysterious package is delivered to Robin Ellacott, she is horrified to discover that it contains a woman's severed leg. Her boss, private detective Cormoran Strike, is less surprised but no less alarmed. There are four people from his past who he thinks could be responsible--and Strike knows that any one of them

is capable of sustained and unspeakable brutality.

With the police focusing on one of the suspects, Strike and Robin delve into the dark and twisted worlds of the other three men. But as more horrendous acts occur, time is running out for the two of them...

*Erin Foster Zsiga, Associate Dean of Students*

Submissions are listed alphabetically by surname of the submitter. In an effort to conserve paper, we have condensed the list with very little regard for design or spacing! We apologize for overcrowding, typographical errors or other misrepresentations.

Our annual thanks to our friends in Office Services for co-sponsoring this effort and getting this list into booklet form with blazing speed.

And thanks to my former bookstore colleagues who graciously allowed me to trip blithely through this 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bates College Store Non-required Reading List.

Hastily (and finally) compiled by Sarah Potter, Bookstore Director Emerita 5/16